

## ION CONTAINING AN USEFUL CASE OF CONSCIENCE CONCERNING ASSOCIATIO

She wanted to tell him not to say these queer things, not to talk this way, yet she couldn't speak those words. When Barty asked her why, as inevitably he would, she'd have to say she was worried that something might be terribly wrong with him, but she couldn't express this fear to her boy, not ever. He was the lintel of her heart, the keystone of her soul, and if he failed because of her lack of confidence in him, she herself would collapse into ruin..Bartholomew might be a teenager living with his parents or a dependent adult residing with family; if so, he wouldn't be revealed in this search, because the phone would not be listed in his name. Or maybe the guy loathed his first name and never used it except in legal matters, going by his middle name, instead..Although a believer, Agnes was not at the moment able to spread the flowers and ferns of faith over the hard, ugly reality of death. Cowled and skeletal, Death was here, all right, scattering his seeds among all her gathered friends, one day to reap them..The birthmarked man identified himself as Detective Thomas Vanadium. He did not use the familiar, diminutive form of his name, as had the doctor, and his voice was as uninflected as his face was flat and homely..The white Buick glided through the tides of fog like a ghost ship plying a ghost sea..Lipscomb shifted his gaze from the street below to the source of the rain. "Phimie was not gone long, perhaps a minute-a minute and ten seconds at most-and when she was with us again, it was clear from her condition that the cardiac arrest was most likely secondary to a massive cerebral incident. She was disoriented, paralysis on the right side ... with the distortion of the facial muscles that you saw. Her speech was slurred at first, but then something strange happened. . .The car shuddered, wrenched steel screamed, and a cry of triumph rose from the rescuers..A quick review of these book spines revealed that the treasured Zedd collection wasn't here.. "Then you only have to wait eighteen years," he said, opening the apartment door and stepping aside once more, allowing Celestina to precede him..These weren't lakes of blood, just smears, so Junior could wipe them up quickly, once he got the corpse out of the hallway, but the sight of them further infuriated him. He was here to bring closure to all the unfinished business of Spruce Hills, to free himself from vengeful spirits, to better his life and plunge henceforth entirely into a bright new future. He wasn't here, damn it, to do building maintenance..Five days later, on Barty's birthday morning, when Agnes and Edom were in the kitchen, making preparations for the visits that had earned her the affectionate title of Pie Lady, Barty was in his highchair, eating a vanilla wafer lightly dampened with milk. Each time a crumb fell from the cookie, the boy plucked it off the tray and neatly conveyed it to his tongue..Everyone thought the mop-tops were the coolest thing ever--ever but to Junior, their music was just all right. He wasn't stirred to sing along, and he didn't find their stuff particularly danceable..The expectation with which Tom had been greeted on his arrival was as thin as the air at Himalayan heights compared to the rich stew of anticipation now aboil..Junior opened his eyes and saw that only the second of the two rounds had found its intended mark. The first had cracked through the center of a cabinet door, surely shattering dishes within.. "Tom," Kathleen said, "I know why you became a cop, I guess. St. Anselmo's Orphanage ... the murders of those children." "No, the more I think about it, the more it feels like this is just kids. Some kids goofing around, that's all. I- guess Vanadium got deeper under my skin than I realized, so when this came up, I couldn't think straight about it." These statements sounded so convoluted and so bizarre to Agnes that they nourished her growing fear for Barty's mental stability..A cheer went up from family and friends, and Agnes could only imagine what it must feel like to be Barty, both blind and blessed, his heart as rich in courage as in kindness..On the two-chair bed beside her mother, Angel issued small cries of distress in her sleep. Whatever presences flocked around her in the dream, they weren't baby chickens..Jacob had been born with the requisite dexterity and more than sufficient memory function. His personality disorder-which made him unemployable and guaranteed that his social life would never involve endless rounds of parties-ensured that he would have the free time needed to practice the most difficult techniques of card manipulation until he mastered them..The sound-suppressor didn't render the pistol entirely silent, but the three soft reports, each like a quiet cough muffled by a hand, wouldn't have carried beyond the hallway..Tom didn't attribute supernatural powers to this killer. Enoch Cain was mortal, not all-seeing and all-knowing. Evil and stupidity often go together, however, and arrogance is the offspring of their marriage, as Tom had earlier told Celestina. An arrogant man, not half as smart as he thinks, with no sense of right and wrong, with no capacity for remorse, can sometimes be so breathtakingly reckless that, ironically, his recklessness becomes his greatest strength. Because he is capable of anything, of taking risks that mere madmen wouldn't consider, his adversaries can never predict his actions, and surprise serves him well. If he also possesses animal cunning, a kind of deep intuitional shrewdness, he can react quickly to the negative consequences of his recklessness and can indeed appear to be more than human..Waking from a bad dream, he sometimes thought he heard the ratcheting of gear-wheel feet. The scrape and creak of rusted iron joints. The clink of rake-tine fingers rattling against one another..He pushed on the door, but still it resisted, and he surprised himself by letting out a bellow of frustration that expressed quite the opposite of self-control, though no one listening could have the slightest doubt about his determination to commit and command..Nevertheless, Junior was thrilled to hear the name Bartholomew, and to know that the boy of whom Celestina spoke was the Bartholomew of Bartholomews, the menacing presence in his unremembered dream, the threat to his fortune and future that must be eliminated..He went directly to the kitchen and drew a glass of water at the sink faucet. He swallowed two antiemetic tablets that he had brought with him, to guard against vomiting..As Sinatra began to sing "I'll Be Seeing You," Junior stepped around the bloom and the Merlot. He cautiously peeled back two inches of the curtain at one of the sidelights..Dessert was on the house. The waiter brought the four best items on the menu, to spare them the need to make two small decisions after having made such a big one..On the short return trip to the ophthahnologist, Agnes crazily considered driving past Chan's office building, cruising onward--ever

onward-into the sparkling December night, not just back to Bright Beach, where the bad news would simply come by phone, but to places so far away that the diagnosis could never catch up to them, where the disease would remain unnamed and therefore would have no power over Barty..Edom carried the honey-raisin pear pie, and Agnes toted Barty across the neatly cropped yard, to the front door. The bell push triggered chimes that played the first ten notes of "That Old Black Magic," which they heard distinctly through the glass in the door..Crouching beside the boy as he rubbed a brighter shine onto the granite, Agnes said, "Barty, honey, why are you ....Max hung up. The Ansaphone made a series of small robot-mouse noises and then fell silent..Agnes hadn't asked him to keep his strange feat a secret from his uncles. In truth, she had come home in such a curious state of mind that even as she'd worked with Jacob to prepare dinner and even as she'd overseen Edom's setting of the table, she hesitated to tell them what had happened on the run from Joey's grave to the station wagon. She fluctuated between guarded euphoria and fear bordering on panic, and she didn't trust herself to recount the experience until she had taken more time to absorb it..Celestina looked out a kitchen window and saw Agnes in the Lampion driveway, where the three-vehicle caravan was assembled. She was loading her station wagon..body on the flight out of San Francisco. When finally her obligations were met, she..This device, which could automatically pick any lock with just a few pulls of its trigger, was sold strictly to police departments, and its distribution was tightly controlled. On the black market it commanded such a high price that Junior could have bought the better part of a small Sklent painting for the same bucks..Friday night, he slept more soundly than he'd slept since coming home from the pharmacy to discover Joshua Nunn and the paramedic in solemn silence at Perri's bedside. He didn't dream of trekking across a wasteland, neither salt flats nor snow-whipped plains of ice, and when he woke in the morning, he felt rested in body, mind, and soul..Maria set aside two cards before turning another faceup. This was also an ace of hearts..Celestina met them at the front door and flung her arms around Wally. He let go of his cane-Tom caught it-and returned her embrace with such ardor, kissed her so hard, that evidently residual weakness was no longer a problem.."The girl's baby," said Nolly, "was placed with Catholic Family Services for adoption."..Curiosity brought him here. Curiosity and a talent for self-preservation. Earlier, Vanadium had not come to Naomi's graveside as a mourner. He had been there as a cop, on business. Perhaps he had been at the other funeral on business, too..Tears burst from Junior, stinging torrents, a salt sea of grief that blurred his vision and bathed his face in brine. "Get out of here, you disgusting, sick son of a bitch," he demanded, his voice simultaneously shaking with sorrow and twisted by righteous anger. "Get out of here now, get out!"..Lined up on the kitchen table were green-grape-and-apple pies. The thick domed crusts, with their deeply fluted edges, were the coppery gold of precious coins..He moved the shaker across the tablecloth, rocking it back and forth to convey that he was strolling without a care in the world..The way one does research into nonexistent history is to tell the story and find out what happened. I believe this isn't very different from what historians of the so-called real world do. Even if we are present at some historic event, do we comprehend it-can we even remember it-until we can tell it as a story? And for events in times or places outside our own experience, we have nothing to go on but the stories other people tell us. Past events exist, after all, only in memory, which is a form of imagination. The event is real now, but once it's then, its continuing reality is entirely up to us, dependent on our energy and honesty. If we let it drop from memory, only imagination can restore the least glimmer of it. If we lie about the past, forcing it to tell a story we want it to tell, to mean what we want it to mean, it loses its reality, becomes a fake. To bring the past along with us through time in the hold-alls of myth and history is a heavy undertaking; but as Lao Tzu says, wise people march along with the baggage wagons..Maria's belief in the efficacy of this ritual was not as strong as her faith in the Church, but nearly so. As she leaned over the votive glass, watching the final fragment dissolve into ashes, she felt a terrible weight lifting from her..Piano music drifted into the restaurant from the adjacent bar, so soft and yet sprightly that it made the clink of silverware seem like music, too..No sign of Vanadium. Some of the taller monuments offered hiding places on both sides of the cemetery road, as did the thicker trunks of the larger trees..In bed, lights out, Junior marveled at his daredevil spirit. He never stopped surprising himself.."I only told you about that," said Grace, "because it was a very handsome shirt, and I thought you might want to get one for Wally."..Junior's heart knocked so hard and fast that he wouldn't have been surprised if Vanadium, at the far end of the room, had begun to tap his foot in time with it.."Yes, I was." She didn't tell him that her fear had not been allayed by his assurances or by his second walk in the rain..Junior shuddered. Vanadium hadn't invented the name. It had genuine if inexplicable resonance with Junior that had nothing to do with the detective..Later, in early '66, out of his coma and recovering sufficiently to have visitors, Vanadium spent a most difficult hour with his old friend Harrison White. Out of respect for the memory of his lost daughter, and not at all out of concern for his image as a minister, the reverend had refused to acknowledge either that Seraphim had been pregnant or that she'd been raped-although Max Bellini had already confirmed the pregnancy and believed, based on cop's instinct, that it had been the consequence of rape. Harrison's attitude seemed to be that Phimie was gone, that' nothing could be gained by opening this wound, and that even if there was a villain involved, the Christian thing was to forgive, if not forget, and to trust in divine justice..Junior closed his weary eyes and gratefully submitted as the paramedic wiped his greasy face and his crusted lips with a cool, damp cloth..Every nerve in Junior's body was a tautly strung trigger wire. If something set him off, he might explode so violently that he'd blow himself into a psychiatric ward..He was in the kitchen at 11:20, spreading frosting on a large chocolate sheet cake while the reverend expertly frosted a coconut-layer job..stubbornly withholds them is to take a bitterly cold shower while pressing ice against one's genitals, until the desired facts are recalled or hypothermic collapse ensues..Celestina, surprised by Lipscomb's arrival, was still mentally numb from Neddy's harangue. "Doctor, I didn't know you were coming."..Tossing the knave onto the table, Agnes said, "Barty doesn't seem too impressed with this devil."..Although Paul had seen Tom Vanadium's clever coin trick, he didn't understand the

rest of their conversation, and he assumed that for everyone else-except Angel's mother-it was equally impenetrable. But taking their clue from the risen Celestina, all those present had fallen silent..Besides, the possibilities repulsed him. The very thought of a splendid-looking woman like Victoria submitting to a grotesque like Vanadium would have withered his soul if he had possessed a soul..Assisted by Edom and Jacob, Agnes-in a wheelchair-was rolled across the grass, between the headstones, to her husband's final resting place. Although no longer in danger of renewed hemorrhaging, she was under doctor's orders to avoid strain..FOR AMERICANS OF Chinese descent-and San Francisco has a large Chinese population-1965 was the Year of the Snake. For Junior Cain, it was the Year of the Gun, though it didn't start out that way..By the time he put his suitcase and three boxes of books--the collected works of Zedd and selections from the Book-of-the-Month Club-in the Suburban, Junior had rushed twice more to the bathroom. His legs were shaky, and he felt hollow, frail, as if he'd lost more than was apparent, as if the essential substance of himself was gone..The silence on the line was not merely that of a caller holding her tongue. It was abyssal and perfect, as no silence on a telephone ever can be, without the faintest hiss or crackle of static, no hint of breathing or.He had dragged Ichabod halfway across the threshold when he heard someone say, "No..".That won't do it..Vanadium couldn't know the whereabouts of the quarter. Besides, even when he'd swung the lunch tray over Junior's lap, the detective hadn't been close enough to pick the pocket of the robe..The moonlight had faded and the gentle waves had ebbed out of his mind's eye. He concentrated, trying to force the phantom sea to flow back into view, but this was one of those rare occasions when a Zedd technique failed him".AFTER THE ENCOUNTER with the quarter-spitting vending machines, Junior wanted to kill another Bartholomew, any Bartholomew, even if he had to drive to some far suburb like Terra Linda to do it, even if he had to drive farther and stay overnight in a Holiday ay Inn an eat steam-table food off a buffet crawling with other diners' cold germs and garnished with their loose hairs..She proceeded down the shadowy center aisle, genuflected at the chancel railing, and went to the votive rack..Agnes was so weary, her eyes so sore and grainy, that even this soft radiance stung. She almost closed her eyes and gave herself to sleep again, that little brother of Death, which was now her only solace. What she saw in the lamplight, however, compelled her attention..As they savored the icy martinis, she asked about the client, and Nolly said, "He bought the story. I won't be seeing him again..".Why are you here?" "Where else I should be and for why? I watch you over." As the tears cleared from Agnes's eyes, she saw that Maria was sewing. A shopping bag stood to one side of the chair, and to the other side, open on the floor, a case contained spools of thread, needles, a pincushion, a pair of scissors, and other supplies of a seamstress's trade..Outside, he realized he hadn't paid for his juice and waffles. When he turned back to the coffee shop, he saw, through one of the windows, an associate of Salk's picking up the check from his table..No pie!" Agnes agreed. She parenthesized his head with her hands and punctuated his sweet face with kisses..Mommy, did you know, every day on Mars is thirty-seven minutes and twenty-seven seconds longer than ours?".The funeral was at two o'clock, after which family and friends of the deceased would gather here in the parsonage for a social, to break bread together and to share their memories of the loved one lost..When the police operator answered, Junior shrieked, "I've been shot! Jesus! Shot! Help me, an ambulance, oooohhhh shit! Hurry!"., Heart jumping like the heart of a fox-stalked rabbit, she ran from the driveway into the yard. She would have cried out if her throat hadn't seized up with terror at the sight of her boy at neck-breaking height. By the time she could speak, she realized that a shout, or even the unexpected sound of her plaintive voice, might unnerve him, cause him to misstep, and bring him caroming down, limb to limb, in a bone snapping plunge..Would you pretend to wake up if I tried to smother you?" asked Detective Vanadium..Drawn one after the other, two knives of spades didn't signify two deadly enemies, but meant that the enemy already predicted by the first would be unusually powerful, exceptionally dangerous..Tom plucked the quarter off the glass, folded it into his right fist, and then at once opened his hand, which was now empty..Nevertheless, with Gein in mind, how easy it was to imagine that a monstrous evil lurked nearby. Watching. Scheming. Driven by an unspeakable hunger. In a century torn by two world wars, marked by the boot heels of men like Hider and Stalin, the monsters were no longer supernatural, but human, and their humanity made them scarier than vampires and hell born fiends..They were married in September of that year, much later than even Grace White's wager date. As Grace's guess had been closer than her daughter's, however, Celestina paid with a month of kitchen duty..Only one member of the distant funeral party did not disperse toward the line of cars on the service road. A man in a dark suit headed downhill, between the headstones and the monuments, directly toward Naomi's grave..Wrong about what, sugarpie smooosh--smooosh?" Celestina asked as Wally pulled to the curb again and parked..Could you throw an Oreo someplace you weren't blind or maybe someplace Wally wasn't shot?".After a while, a voice broke the vacuum-perfect silence. Bob Chicane. His instructor..A matronly nurse arrived, alerted to the patient's return to consciousness by the telemetry device associated with the heart monitor..Rubbermaid container from his own pantry. Junior would never again use it to store leftover soup..Sure they do," Barty said. "But I think Maria embroidered the birds just because they were pretty..".Whether or not the visitor in the client's chair had ever known much romance, he unquestionably had experienced too much adventure and more than his share of tragedy. Thomas Vanadium's face was a quake-rocked landscape: cracked by white scars like fault lines in a strata of granite; the planes of brow, cheeks, and jaws canted in odd relationships to one another. The hemangioma that surrounded his right eye and discolored his face had been with him since birth, but the awful damage to his bone structure was the work of man, not God..As outgoing as his twin uncles were introverted, Barty didn't withdraw from the festivities. Agnes never needed to remind him that family and guests took precedence over even the most fascinating characters in fiction, and the boy's delight in the company of others pleased his mother and made her proud..Easter still lay a few weeks away, but already Celestina had begun decorating more than a hundred baskets, so that nothing would need to be done at the last minute except add the

candy. Her living room was a warren of baskets, ribbons, bows, beads, bangles, shredded cellophane in green and purple and yellow and pink, and decorative little plush-toy bunnies and baby chicks..At the stream Serrenen, where it runs within the north wall of the city, the midwife gave Otter his true name, by which he is remembered in islands far from Havnor..Leashed like a dog, he walked along, sullen and shivering with sickness and rage. He stared around him, seeing the stone tower, stacks of wood by its wide doorway, rusty wheels and machines by a pit, great heaps of gravel and clay. Turning his sore head made him dizzy..At eight o'clock in the evening, Junior parked two blocks past the target house. He walked back to the Prosser residence, gloved hands in the pockets of his raincoat, collar turned up.. "So where he threw the quarter," Barty said, as Angel listened intently and nodded her head, "wasn't really into Gunsmoke, 'cause that's not a place, it's just a show. See, maybe he threw it into a place where I'm not blind, or into a place where he doesn't have that messed-up face, or a place where for some reason you never came here today. There's more places than anybody could ever count, even me, and I can count pretty good. That's what you feel, right-all the ways things are?!" His words echoed back to her from July: My cold's just here, not every place I am..Through miles of worry, natural beauty, imagined omens, and the iron-red sands of Mars, they drove at last to Franklin Chan's offices in Newport Beach..Urgency gripped the paramedics. The rescuers' equipment and the pieces of the car door were dragged out of the way to make a path for a gurney, its wheels clattering across pavement littered with debris.. "Your dad didn't just like Christmas, he loved Christmas. He started planning for it in June. If there wasn't already a Santa Claus, your father would have taken on the job." "When the Iroquois Theater in Chicago burned on December 30, 1903" he said aloud, testing his memory, "during a matinee of Mr Blue Beard, six hundred two people perished, mostly women and children." "And after Phimie was gone ... he still hoped to learn the rapist's name, put him in prison. But then something changed his mind ... oh, maybe two years ago. Suddenly, he wanted to let it go, leave judgment to God. He said if the rapist was as twisted as Phimie claimed, then Angel and I might be in danger if we ever learned a name and went to the police. Don't stir a hornet's nest, let sleeping dogs be, and all that. I don't know what changed his mind." Precisely what type of prodigy Barty might be was initially not easy to deduce. He revealed many talents rather than just one..With his mother, his uncles, and Maria hovering just two steps behind, Barty followed the driveway, not bothering with the cane, keeping his right foot on the concrete, his left foot on the grass, until he came to a jog in the pavement, which apparently he'd been seeking. He stopped, facing due north, considered for a moment, and then pointed due west: "The oak tree's over there." Thick fog distorted all sense of time and place. At each end of the block, pearly hazes of light marked intersections with main streets but didn't illuminate this narrower passage in between. A few security lamps-bare bulbs under inverted-saucer shades or caged in wire--indicated the delivery entrances of some businesses, but the dense white shrouds veiled and diffused these, as well, until they were no brighter than gaslights.. "It's what?" asked the detective, for with the exception of his teeth, he was not a self-improved individual..The ninth card was a jack of spades. Maria called it a knave of and at the sight of it, her bright smile dimmed..His waitress was a cutie. She flirted with him, and he knew he could have her if he wanted..As the unwanted change pinged against the concrete at his feet, Junior-snap, snap-saw the source of the next two rounds. They spat out of the vertical pay slot on a newspaper-vending machine; one hit his nose, and the other rang off his teeth..He was nearly forty years old, and a life spent fearing nature could not be turned easily into a romance with her. Some nights he still stared at the ceiling, unable to sleep, waiting for the Big One, and he avoided walks on the shore in respect of deadly tsunamis. From time to time, he visited his brother's grave and sat on the grass by the headstone, reciting aloud the gruesome details of deadly storms and catastrophic geological events, but he found that he had also absorbed from Jacob some of the statistics related to serial killers and to the disastrous failures of manmade structures and machines. These visits were pleasantly nostalgic. But he always came with roses, too, and brought news of Barty, Angel, and other members of the family. When Paul sold his house to move in with Agnes, Tom Vanadium settled into Jacob's former apartment, now a fully retired cop but not yet ready to return to a life of the cloth. He assumed the management chores of the family's expanding community work, and he oversaw the establishment of a tax-advantaged charitable foundation. Agnes provided a list of fine-sounding and self-effacing names for this organization, but a majority vote rejected all her suggestions and, in spite of her embarrassment, settled on Pie Lady Services..Such behavior as hers was unlikely to lead to self-discovery, self improvement, and fulfillment. We make our own misery in this life. For better or worse, we create our own futures..Shortly after nine-thirty in the morning, they landed in Eugene, and the cab driver who conveyed Junior to the town's largest shopping center spent more time staring at his afflicted passenger in the rearview mirror than he did watching the road. Junior got out of the taxi and paid through the driver's open window. The cabbie didn't even wait for his fiery-faced fare to turn completely away before he crossed himself..voice was flat, a drone; he had delivered not an emotional threat, but a quiet promise..Because he hadn't heard Victoria Bressler speak in so long-and then only on two occasions-and because the woman on the phone had spoken so softly, Junior couldn't tell whether or not their voices were one and the same..For a moment," Lipscomb continued, "her voice became clear, no longer slurred. She raised her head from the pillow, and her eyes fixed on me, all the confusion gone. She was so ... intense. She said ... she said, 'Rowena loves you.' Returning his attention to his own shoes, Jacob said, "So ... what am I supposed to do about this?!" This morning, Damascus had left the house early, before Vanadium came downstairs, which was perfect for Junior's purposes. While the maniac cop was finishing his shave and shower, Junior crept upstairs to check his room. He discovered the revolver in the second of the three places that he expected it to be, did his work, and returned the weapon to the nightstand drawer in precisely the position that he had found it. Narrowly avoiding an encounter with Vanadium in the hall, he retreated to the ground floor. After some fussing over the most effective placement, he left the quarter and the luggage-just as Vanadium, the human stump, clumped down the stairs. Junior experienced an

unexpected delay when the detective spent half an hour making phone calls from the study, but then Vanadium went into the kitchen, allowing him to slip out of the house and complete his work.. "Well, the blood wasn't dark and acidic, so it didn't come from his stomach. It was bright and alkaline. It could have arisen in the esophagus, but most likely it's pharyngeal in origin." A nurse fussed over him as she helped him into bed, concerned about his paleness and his tremors. She was attentive, efficient, compassionate but she wasn't in the least attractive, and he wished she would. Fifteen feet separated them, with guests intervening. Yet this stranger's attention could have felt no more disturbingly intense to Junior if they had been alone in the room and but a foot apart. Music played within. An up-tempo number. Possibly swing. He couldn't quite identify the tune. To his surprise, when Naomi expressed an interest in romance, Junior was a bull again. He would have thought he had left his best stuff at Reverend Harrison White's parsonage. The modulated electronic brrrrr was similar to the sound of the telephone in Vanadium's cramped study, on Sunday night. Junior was transported back to that place, that moment in time. Although first-rate, the surgical team wasn't able to reattach the badly torn extremity. Tissue damage was too extensive to permit delicate bone, nerve, and blood-vessel repair. "Each life," Barty Lampion said, "is like our oak tree in the backyard but lots bigger. One trunk to start with, and then all the branches, millions of branches, and every branch is the same life going in a new direction." From a distance and through a scattering of trees, Junior wasn't able to discern much about the other funeral, but he was pretty sure many if not most of that crowd were Negroes. He surmised, therefore, that the person being buried was a Negro, too. In his car, currently a Mercedes, he made three trips between his apartment and the garage in which he'd stored the Ford van under the Pinchbeck name. He took precautions against being followed. This is, of course, the purpose of art: to disturb you, to leave you uneasy with yourself and wary of the world, to undermine your sense of reality in order to make you reconsider all that you think you know. The finest art should shatter you emotionally, devastate you intellectually, leave you physically ill, and fill you with loathing for those cultural traditions that bind us and weigh us down and drown us in a sea of conformity. Junior had learned this much, already, from his art appreciation course. They could be patient. Their self-denial and sweet anticipation ensured that their lovemaking, when at last they were able safely to indulge, would be shattering in its intensity, like the coupling of mortals raised to the status of demigods by virtue of their passion, its power and purity. Thrilled to have inspired this awe in her, he closed the book. "Remember what we talked about a long time ago? You asked me how come, if I could walk where the rain wasn't. . .". When Angel came in search of Barty, breathless with excitement, he was chatting with Tom Vanadium in the foundation's office above the garages. Years ago, the two apartments had been combined and expanded when the garages under them were doubled in size, providing better living quarters for Tom and working space, as well. NED--"CALL ME NEDDY"--Gnathic was as slim as a flute, with a flute-quantity of holes in his head from which thought could escape before the pressure of it built into an unpleasant music within I his skull. His voice was always soft and harmonious, but frequently he spoke allegro, sometimes even prestissimo, and in spite of his mellow tone, Neddy at maximum tempo was as irritating to the ear as bagpipes bleating out Bolero, if such a thing were possible.

[A Digest of the Statute Law Being an Abridgment of All the Public Acts of Parliament Now in Force and of General Use in the Ninth Year of King Henry III to the Thirtieth Year of His Present Majesty King George III Inclusive of 2 Volume 1](#)

[The History of England from the Earliest Accounts of Time to the Death of the Late Queen Anne in Four Volumes of 4 Volume 1](#)

[A Philosophical and Political History of the Settlements and Trade of the Europeans in the East and West Indies Revised Augmented and Published in Ten Volumes by the Abbi Raynal Newly Translated from the French in Six Volumes of 6 Volume 6](#)

[The Modern Part of the Universal History Compiled from Original Writers By the Authors of the Antient of 16 Volume 14](#)

[A Commentary Upon the Fourth Book of Moses Called Numbers by the Right Reverend Father in God Symon Lord Bishop of Ely the Second Edition Corrected](#)

[A Digest of the Laws of England by the Right Honourable Sir John Comyns the Fourth Edition Considerably Enlarged and Continued Down to the Present Time by Stewart Kyd in Six Volumes of 6 Volume 3](#)

[The Novelists Magazine Vol XXII Containing Lydia and Sidney Bidulph of 23 Volume 22](#)

[A New Abridgment of the Law by Matthew Bacon the Fifth Edition Corrected With Many Additional Notes of 5 Volume 1](#)

[The Great Book of Tarzan](#)

[The Roman History from the Building of Rome to the Ruin of the Commonwealth Vol I by N Hooke Esq The Third Edition of 1 Volume 1](#)

[A Commentary Upon the Second Book of Moses Called Exodus by the Right Reverend Father in God Symon Lord Bishop of Ely the Second Edition Corrected](#)

[The History of Modern Europe Part II from the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 to the Peace of Paris in 1763 with a View of the Progress of Society in a Series of Letters from a Nobleman to His Son of 2 Volume 2](#)

[An Impartial Report of the Debates That Occur in the Two Houses of Parliament with Some Account of the Respective Speakers and Notes and Illustrations by William Woodfall of 4 Volume 4](#)

[The Works of John Locke Esq In Three Volumes the Fourth Edition of 3 Volume 1](#)

[The General Gazetteer Containing a Description of All the Empires Kingdoms States Provinces Cities Towns Forts Seas Harbours Rivers Lakes](#)

[Mountains and Capes in the Known World the Ninth Edition](#)

[Dictionarium Anglo-Britannicum Or a General English Dictionary Comprehending a Brief But Emphatical and Clear Explication of All Sorts of Difficult Words by John Kersey the Third Edition Corrected and Enlarged](#)

[P Virgilii Maronis Opera Varietate Lectionis Et Perpetua Adnotatione Illustrata a Chr Gottl Heyne Accedit Index Uberrimus Editio Tertia Emendatior Et Auctior of 4 Volume 3](#)

[by Robert Richardson the Sixth Edition with Large Additions in Two Volumes of 2 Volume 1](#)

[Gradus Ad Parnassum Sive Novus Synonymorum Epithetorum Phrasium Poeticarum AC Versuum Thesaurus AB Uno i Societate Jesu Editio Novissima Emendatissimi Excusa](#)

[English Etymology Or a Derivative Dictionary of the English Language In Two Alphabets the Whole Compiled from Vossius and Other Etymologists by the Reverend George William Lemon](#)

[Ciceros Select Orations Translated Into English With the Original Latin from the Best Editions in the Opposite Page And Notes Historical Critical and Explanatory](#)

[Roman Conversations Or a Short Description of the Antiquities of Rome and the Characters of Many Eminent Romans in Two Volumes of 2 Volume 1](#)

[Philonos Tou Ioudaiou Ta Heuriskomena Hapanta = Philonis Judii Opera Qui Reperiri Potuerunt Omnia Textum Cum Mss Contulit](#)

[Interpretationemque Emendavit Universa Notis Observationibus Illustravit Thomas Mangey of 2 Volume 2](#)

[The New Universal Etymological English Dictionary to Which Is Added a Dictionary of Cant Words by N Bailey the Fifth Edition Corrected and Much Improved Throughout by Mr Buchanan](#)

[Memoires de Messire Philippe de Comines Seigneur dArgenton Oi IOu Trouve lHistoire Des Rois de France Louis XI Charles VIII Nouvelle idition Revie Par Messieurs Godefroy of 4 Volume 2](#)

[A Companion for the Festivals and Fasts of the Church of England With Collects and Prayers for Each Solemnity the Fifteenth Edition](#)

[Farriery Improved Or a Compleat Treatise Upon the Art of Farriery Together with Many Necessary and Useful Observations and Remarks Concerning the Choice and Management of Horses by Henry Bracken](#)

[A Dictionary of the English and Italian Languages by Joseph Baretti to Which Is Prefixed an Italian and English Grammar a New Edition of 2 Volume 2](#)

[Theologia Reformata Or the Body and Substance of the Christian Religion Comprised in Distinct Discourses or Treatises in Two Volumes by John Edwards of 2 Volume 2](#)

[The Clergy-Mans Law Or the Complete Incumbent Collected from the Thirty-Nine Articles and Common-Law Cases Relating to the Church and Clergy of England by William Watson the Fourth Edition with Large Additions and Alterations](#)

[Dizionario Delle Lingue Italiana Ed Inglese Di Giuseppe Baretti Accresciuto Di Piu Di Diecimila Vocaboli Seconde Editione Veneta Diligentemente Reveduta Ricorretta E Riordinata of 2 Volume 1](#)

[Parergon Juris Canonici Anglicani Or a Commentary by Way of Supplement to the Canons and Constitutions of the Church of England by John Ayliffe](#)

[T LIVII Patavini Historiarum AB Urbe Condita Libri Qui Supersunt XXXV Recensuit J B L Crevier of 6 Volume 6](#)

[Memoires de Messire Philippe de Comines Seigneur dArgenton Oi IOu Trouve lHistoire Des Rois de France Louis XI Charles VIII Nouvelle idition Revie Par Messieurs Godefroy of 4 Volume 3](#)

[Memoirs of the Life and Administration of Sir Robert Walpole with Original Correspondence and Authentic Papers Never Before Published in Three Volumes by William Coxe of 3 Volume 2](#)

[A Treatise on the Commerce and Police of the River Thames Containing an Historical View of the Trade of the Port of London by P Colquhoun LLD](#)

[The Parliamentary Register Or History of the Proceedings and Debates of the House of Commons of 45 Volume 7](#)

[Acts and Statutes Made in a Session of Parliament at Dublin Begun the Twenty-First Day of January 1794 Being the Fifth Session of the Fifth Parliament in the Reign of His Present Majesty](#)

[The Philosophical Transactions and Collections to the End of the Year 1700 Abridgd and Disposd Under General Heads in Three Volumes by John Lowthorp the Second Edition of 3 Volume 1](#)

[Gazette Nationale Ou Le Moniteur Universel 1792 of 4 Volume 1](#)

[Institutes of Natural Law Being the Substance of a Course of Lectures on Grotius de Jure Belli Et Pacis by T Rutherford Second Edition of 2 Volume 2](#)

[Acts and Statutes Made in a Parliament Begun at Dublin the Twenty-Second Day of October 1761 and Continued Until the Eleventh Day of October 1763 Being the Second Session of This Present Parliament](#)

[Looking Unto Jesus A View of the Everlasting Gospel Or the Souls Eying of Jesus as Carrying on the Great Work of Mans Salvation from First to Last Vol I by Isaac Ambrose of 1 Volume 1](#)

[Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis Voll. Second Edition of 1 Volume 1](#)

[Elegant Extracts Or Useful and Entertaining Pieces of Poetry Selected for the Improvement of Youth the Second Edition](#)

[Plutarchs Lives Translated from the Greek by Several Hands in Five Volumes to Which Is Prefixt the Life of Plutarch of 5 Volume 4](#)

[Pharmacopoeia Universalis Or a New Universal English Dispensatory by R James MD the Third Edition With Very Large and Useful Additions and Improvements](#)

[Elements of the Theory and Practice of Chymistry Translated from the French of M Macquer the Fifth Edition](#)

[The Statutes at Large From Magna Charta to the End of the Last Parliament 1761 in Eight Volumes by Owen Ruffhead Esq Of 8 Volume 3](#)

[Parliamentary Papers Consisting of a Collection of Kings Speeches Messages to Parliament from the Restoration in 1660 to 1796 a Complete and Correct Collection of the Lords Protests of 3 Volume 1](#)

[Tracts on the Subject of an Union Between Great Britain and Ireland](#)

[Les Pseaumes de David MIS En Vers Franois Avec La Liturgie Le Catechisme La Confession de Foi Des Eglises Reformies Nouvelle idition Corrige Sur Les Precedentes](#)

[Domestic Medicine Or a Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Diseases by Regimen and Simple Medicines with an Appendix Containing a Dispensatory for the Use of Private Practitioners by William Buchan the Twelfth Edition](#)

[Domestic Medicine Or a Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Diseases by Regimen and Simple Medicines with an Appendix by William Buchan the Ninth Edition Corrected and Enlarged to Which Is Added a Copious Index](#)

[The Practising Scrivener and Modern Conveyancer Being a Collection of Presidents Used in the Modern Practice Taken from the Original Draughts of an Eminent Practiser with a Large and Compleat Index by G Bird](#)

[Demonologia Sacra Or a Treatise of Satans Temptations in Three Parts by Richard Gilpin](#)

[Oeuvres Complettes de M Helvitius Nouvelle idition Corrige Et Augmentie Sur Les Manuscrits de lAuteur Avec Sa Vie Et Son Portrait of 2 Volume 2](#)

[Gradus Ad Parnassum Sive Novus Synonymorum Epithetorum Versuum AC Phrasium Poeticarum Thesaurus AB Uno i Societate Jesu Cum Novissimi Editione Sexcentis Testimoniis i Thomi Morell Aucti Consorti Recensiti](#)

[A New Universal and Impartial History of England from the Earliest Authentic Records and Most Genuine Historical Evidence to the Summer of the Year 1786](#)

[Kleine Davidische Psalterspiel Der Kinder Zions Von Alten Und Neuen Auserlesenen Geistes Ges ngen Allen Wahren Heyls-Begierigen S ugliedern Der Weisheit Das](#)

[Twice Bitten An Argeneau Novel](#)

[Pharmacopoeia Officinalis Extemporanea Or a Complete English Dispensatory in Four Parts Containing I the Theory of Pharmacy II a Description of the Officinal Simples III the Officinal Compositions IV Extemporaneous Prescriptions](#)

[The History of the Council of Constance by James Lenfant Translated from the New Edition Printed at Amsterdam 1727 Which the Author Has Not Only Revisd and Corrected But Considerably Augmented of 1 Volume 1](#)

[Q Horatii Flacci Opera Interpretatione Notis Illustravit Ludovicus Desprez in Usum Serenissimi Delphini Huicedi Access re Vita Horatii Cum Dacerii Notis Ejusdem Chronologia Horatiana Praefatio de Satyra Romanaeditio Quinta](#)

[The Reports of the Most Learned Sir Edmund Saunders Knt of Several Pleadings and Cases in the Court of Kings Bench in the Time of King Charles the Second of 3 Volume 1](#)

[Historia Placitorum Coron = the History of the Pleas of the Crown by Sir Matthew Hale Now First Published from His Lordships Original Manuscript and the Several References to the Records Examined by the Originals with Large Notes V 1 of 2 Volume 1](#)

[The Statutes at Large from the Ninth Year of the Reign of King George the Second to the Twenty-Fifth Year of the Reign of King George the Second Volume the Sixth of 14 Volume 6](#)

[A Collection of State Tracts Publishd on Occasion of the Late Revolution in 1688 and During the Reign of King William III to Which Is Prefixt the History of the Dutch War in 1672 of 3 Volume 1](#)

[A General Treatise of the Dominion of the Sea And a Compleat Body of the Sea-Laws The Second Ed with Large Additions and Improvements and a New Appendix Containing Several Eminent Lawyers Opinions in Important Marine Cases](#)

[A New and General Biographical Dictionary Containing an Historical and Critical Account of the Lives and Writings of the Most Eminent Persons in Every Nation a New Edition in Twelve Volumes Greatly Enlarged and Improved of 12 Volume 12](#)

[A Collection of Welsh Tours Or a Display of the Beauties of Wales Selected Principally from Celebrated Histories and Popular Tours with Occasional Remarks Third Edition Corrected Embellished with Seven Engravings](#)

[A Dissertation Upon the Epistles of Phalaris with an Answer to the Objections of the Honourable Charles Boyle Esquire by Richard Bentley to Which May Be Added a Chronological Account of the Life of Pythagoras](#)

[The History of the Civil Wars of France in Which Are Related the Transactions That Happened During the Reigns of Francis the Second Charles the Ninth Henry the Third And Henry the Fourth of 2 Volume 2](#)

[The Works of the Most Reverend Dr John Tillotson Containing Fifty Four Sermons and Discourses on Several Occasions Together with the Rule of Faith Being All That Were Published by His Grace Himself and Now Collected Into One V 6ed](#)

[Theedinburgh New Dispensatory Containing I the Elements of Pharmaceutical Chemistry III the Pharmaceutical Preparations and Medicinal Compositions of the Neweds of the London \(1788\) Andedinburgh \(1783\) Pharmacopoeias](#)

[A Compendium of the Laws and Government Ecclesiastical Civil and Military of Great Britain and Ireland and Dominions Plantations and Territories Thereunto Belonging with the Maritime Power Thereof Ed 2](#)

[A Collection of State Papers Relative to the War Against France Now Carrying on by Great-Britain and the Several Other European Powers Containing Authentic Copies of Treaties Conventions Proclamations Manifestoes Declarations of 11 Volume 8](#)

[Comprehending the Most Approved Precedents and Forms of Practice With an Index Incorporating and Making It a Continuation of Townshends and Cornwalls Tables by John Wentworth V 7 of 10](#)

[The History of England as Well Ecclesiastical as Civil by Mr de Rapin Thoyras Vol IX Containing I the Last Twenty-Three Years of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II the Reign of King James of 9 Volume 9](#)

[The History and Antiquities of the Colleges and Halls in the University of Oxford By Antony Wood Ma Now First Published in English from the Original Manuscript in the Bodleian Library With a Continuation to the Present Time](#)

[The Works of Sir James Ware Concerning Ireland Revised and Improved in Three Vs Vol I Containing the History of the Bishops Vol II Containing the Antiquities of Ireland Vol III Containing the Writers of Ireland in Two Books VI of 2 Volume 1](#)

[Comprehending the Most Approved Precedents and Forms of Practice With an Index Incorporating and Making It a Continuation of Townshends and Cornwalls Tables by John Wentworth V 8 of 10](#)

[A Botanical Arrangement of British Plants Including the Uses of Each Species in Medicine Diet Rural Oeconomy and the Arts with an Easy Introduction to the Study of Botany Illustrated by Copper Plates the Second Edition of 3 Volume 3](#)

[Harrisons British Classicks Vol III Containing the Tatler of 3 Volume 3](#)

[Compiled from Original Authors And Illustrated with Maps Cuts Notes Chronological and Other Tables of 20 Volume 2](#)

[Containing the Interpretation and Definition of Words by Giles Jacob Gent the Second Edition](#)

[New Improvements of Planting and Gardening Both Philosophical and Practical in Three Parts I Containing a New System of Vegetation Illustrated with Copper-Plates by Richard Bradley the Seventh Edition with an Appendix](#)

[Dictionaire Royal Franois-Anglois Et Anglois-Franiois Tiri Des Meilleurs Auteurs Qui Ont icrit Dans Ces Deux Langues Par Mr Boyer Nouvelle Edition of 2 Volume 2](#)

[The New Testament with Moral Reflections Upon Eery Verse in Order to Make Ther Eading of It More Profitable and the Meditation More Easy Written in French by Father Quesnel and Now Translated Into English Vol IV Part I of 4 Volume 4](#)

[Anglii Notitia Or the Present State of England by Edw Chamberlayne LLD and Continud by His Son John Chamberlayne the Two and Twentieth Edition with Improvements in Three Parts](#)

[An Ecclesiastical History Antient and Modern from the Birth of Christ by John Lawrence Mosheim Translated from the Original and Accompanied with Notes and Chronological Tables by Archibald Maclaine in Four Volumes of 4 Volume 3](#)

[The Annals of the Church from the Death of Christ of 5 Volume 4](#)

[The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent Containing the Antient and Present State of It Civil and Ecclesiastical Illustrated with Maps Views Antiquities c the Second Edition of 12 Volume 12](#)

[The Old and New Testament Connected in the History of the Jews and Neighbouring Nations by Humphrey Prideaux of 2 Volume 2](#)

[The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy by William Paley](#)

[A Commentary Upon the Books of Joshua Judges and Ruth by the Right Reverend Father in God Symon Lord Bishop of Ely](#)

[The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent Containing the Antient and Present State of It Civil and Ecclesiastical Illustrated with Maps Views Antiquities c the Second Edition of 12 Volume 7](#)

[The Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer by Richard Burn the Nineteenth Edition Corrected and Considerably Enlarged in Four Volumes of 4 Volume 1](#)

[An Authentic Account of an Embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China Taken Chiefly from the Papers of His Excellency the Earl of Macartney Sir Erasmus Gower by Sir George Staunton of 2 Volume 2](#)

[With Collects and Prayers for Each Solemnity the Twelfth Edition](#)