

# Introduction to Crime Fiction

Prof. Andrew Goldstone

([andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu](mailto:andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu))

Office hours: Wednesdays, 12–1 p.m. or by appointment

April 20, 2023. Mosley (5) and conclusion.

## review

- ▶ Mosley's background
  - ▶ oblique path to genre fiction
- ▶ the figure of Mouse

## the big reveal

- ▶ What's the earthquake?

## the big reveal

- ▶ What's the earthquake?

I had only been in an earthquake once but the feeling was the same: The ground under me seemed to shift. I looked at her to see the truth. But it wasn't there. Her nose, cheeks, her skin color—they were white. Daphne was a white woman. Even her pubic hair was barely bushy, almost flat. (204)

- ▶ What does this suggest about the significance of Daphne/Ruby's secret?

“That’s just like you, Easy. You learn stuff and you be thinkin’ like white men be thinkin’. You be thinkin’ that what’s right fo’ them is right fo’ you. She look like she white and you think like you white.” (209)

- ▶ Is Mouse right?

## love story

I never felt drawn to a woman the way I was to Daphne Monet. Most beautiful women make me feel like I want to touch them, own them. But Daphne made me look inside myself. She'd whisper a sweet word and I was brought back to the first time I felt love and loss. I was remembering my mother's death, back when I was only eight, by the time Daphne got to my belly. (184)

“They don't have names. They're just the ones who won't let us be ourselves. They never want us to feel this good or close like this. That's why I wanted to get away with you.” (186)

- ▶ How can we compare Easy's feelings toward Daphne and Mouse?
- ▶ What is the significance of the parallels?

## the detective explains it all

“Anyway,” I continued, “he [Matthew Teran] wanted Howard and Frank of the kill Mr. Carter and make it look like a robbery. But when they got in the house and found that thirty thousand dollars they got so excited that they just ran without even doin’ the job.” (213)

“All I know is what I just said,” I said as innocently as I could. (215)

## the detective explains it all

“Anyway,” I continued, “he [Matthew Teran] wanted Howard and Frank of the kill Mr. Carter and make it look like a robbery. But when they got in the house and found that thirty thousand dollars they got so excited that they just ran without even doin’ the job.” (213)

“All I know is what I just said,” I said as innocently as I could. (215)

“You could try Junior Fornay against that print.” (216)

# bodies

---

Howard Green	Joppy Shag
Daddy Reese	Mouse
Navrochet Reese	Mouse
Coretta James	Joppy
“my share of them”	Easy
Richard McGee	Junior Fornay
Matthew Teran	Daphne Monet
Frank Green	Joppy Mouse
Joppy	Mouse
Daphne's father	Frank Green
DeWitt Albright	Mouse

---

All the dead men that I'd ever known came back to me in that instant. Bernard Hooks, Addison Sherry, Alphonso Jones, Marcel Montague. And a thousand Germans named Heinz, and children and women too. Some were mutilated, some burned. I'd killed my share of them and I'd done worse things than that in the heat of war. (95)

I felt cold then. Joppy had been my friend but I'd seen many men die and I cared for Coretta too. (205)

- ▶ Is justice served?

back to the beginning

- ▶ What do you know about crime stories that you didn't before?