

Introduction to Crime Fiction

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

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review

- ▶ not just different narrators, but **embedding** of both **narrators** and **focalizers**
- ▶ interpretive questions:
 - ▶ how is this part of the history transmitted?
 - ▶ why does the story start / stop where it does?
 - ▶ (Wanja's privacy; secrets; confusion)
- ▶ Inspector Godfrey and the limits of "objectivity"

What was the meaning?

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- ▶ Answer the question after reading the paragraph. Consider who focalizes.

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Karega felt that the man was not telling all. But the talk had aroused in him a curiosity, an excitement, as if his mind was about to reach, grasp, grapple with, an elusive idea, as if indeed a coherent structure of outlook was forming in the bewildered universe and chaos of his own experience and history. (199)

pilgrims' progress

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- ▶ Rev. Jerrod Brown's (175–79)
- ▶ Raymond Chui's party (179–181)
- ▶ Kimeria's (182–88)
- ▶ the lawyer's (189–208)
 - ▶ Siriana: the lawyer (197–99); Karega (201–9)
- ▶ Nderi wa Riera (210–16)
- ▶ Jevanjee Gardens...and jail (216–20)

entering the city: Rev. Jerrod Brown's

From there Karega could just manage to see the workers' houses of mud-walls and grass thatch in two lines. And all along Abdulla was thinking: and we fought to end red fezes and red bands on our bodies. Munira was imagining his own father in fervent prayers of devotion. (172)

Chui's

Through the window Munira could see several ladies in long dresses holding glasses, talking in high animated voices. A group started singing a few native cultural songs. They were female voices. (179)

The men took over and sang the juicy sections of songs normally sung at circumcision. (180)

It was a truly culturally integrated party and Munira lost courage. (181)

and then?

“Kimeria! If you come near, I shall scream.” (185)

They were taken to a room in the big house and locked up in darkness.
(182)

Wanja’s eyes and his met and for a few seconds they surveyed one another in silence. Karega and Njuguna did not notice the little drama. (183)

“I am a life member of KCO. So is Nderi. I’m telling you this to show you that Nderi is no stranger to me. But he has not told me of a drought, let alone a famine, in Ilmorog! I am sure he would have organized a Harambee there—you know, self-help—he has many friends—and they all would have contributed something. Charity begins at home, ha! ha! ha!” (184)

“Do you think I believed your little story, Wanja?” (184)

“You ruined my life once. Is that not enough?” (185)

apologue

“It is sad, it hurts, at times I am angry, looking at the black zombies, black animated cartoons dancing the master’s dance to the master’s voice. That they will do to perfection.” (195)

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“What then is the meaning of it all? Then I saw in the cities of America white people also begging . . . I saw white women selling their bodies for a few dollars. In America vice is a selling commodity. I worked alongside white and black workers in a Detroit factory. We worked overtime to make a meagre living. I saw a lot of unemployment in Chicago and other cities. I was confused. So I said: let me return to my home, now that the black man has come to power. And suddenly as in a flash of lightning I saw that we were serving the same monster- god as they were in America.” (196)

episode	target	how critiqued?
Rev. Jerrod Brown	religion/hypocrisy	satire: heartlessness; pathos: disappointment
Chui's	mockery of tradition	Munira's embarrassment; slapstick
Kimeria's	gender roles; political power	W's inner monologue; pathos
the lawyer's	the law; education; the "monster-god"; racism; irresponsibility	explicit critique
(more TK)		

man of the people

- ▶ how does the novel explain Nderi to us?

man of the people

- ▶ how does the novel explain Nderi to us?

Then he was flooded with offers of directorships in foreign-owned companies. (208)

He had not yet worked out a coherent plan. But a politician was a politician and the sight of the growing crowd excited him (217)

victory!...?

Donations poured in from every quarter. (221)

- ▶ What is the tone of the description of the villagers' triumph?

next

- ▶ keep reading, through the end of Part Three if you can
- ▶ *Decolonising the Mind* (excerpt on Canvas)
- ▶ exercise due next Fri.