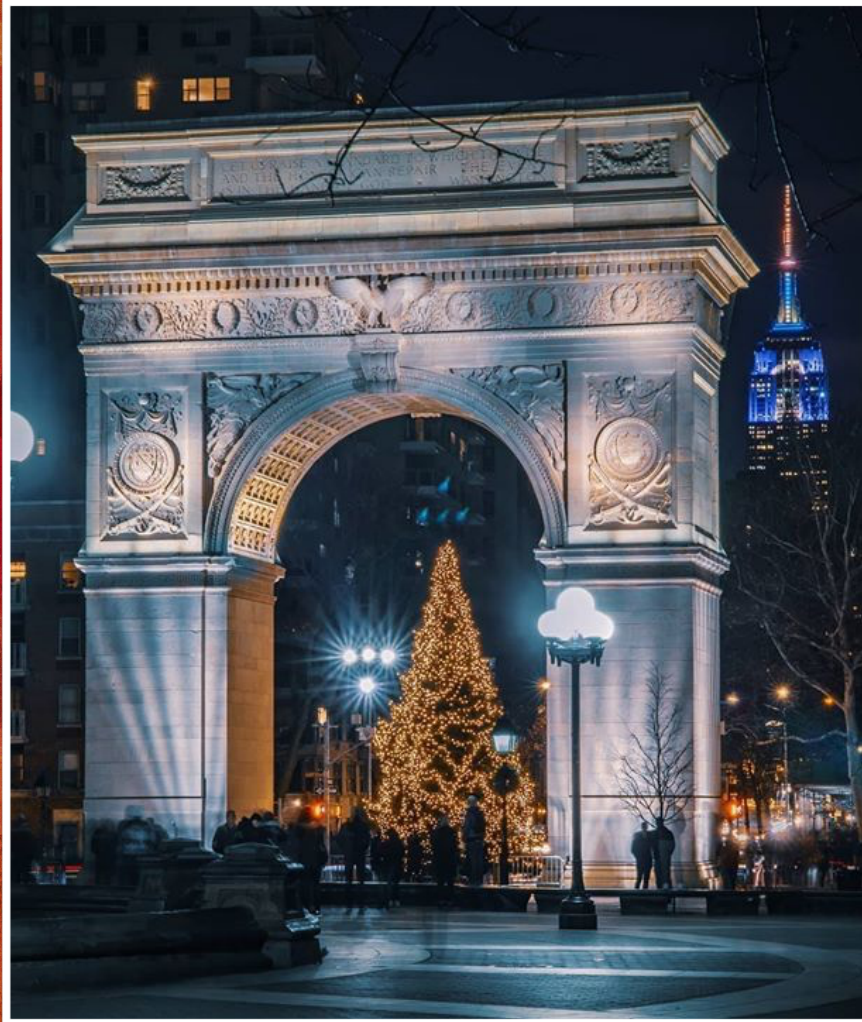




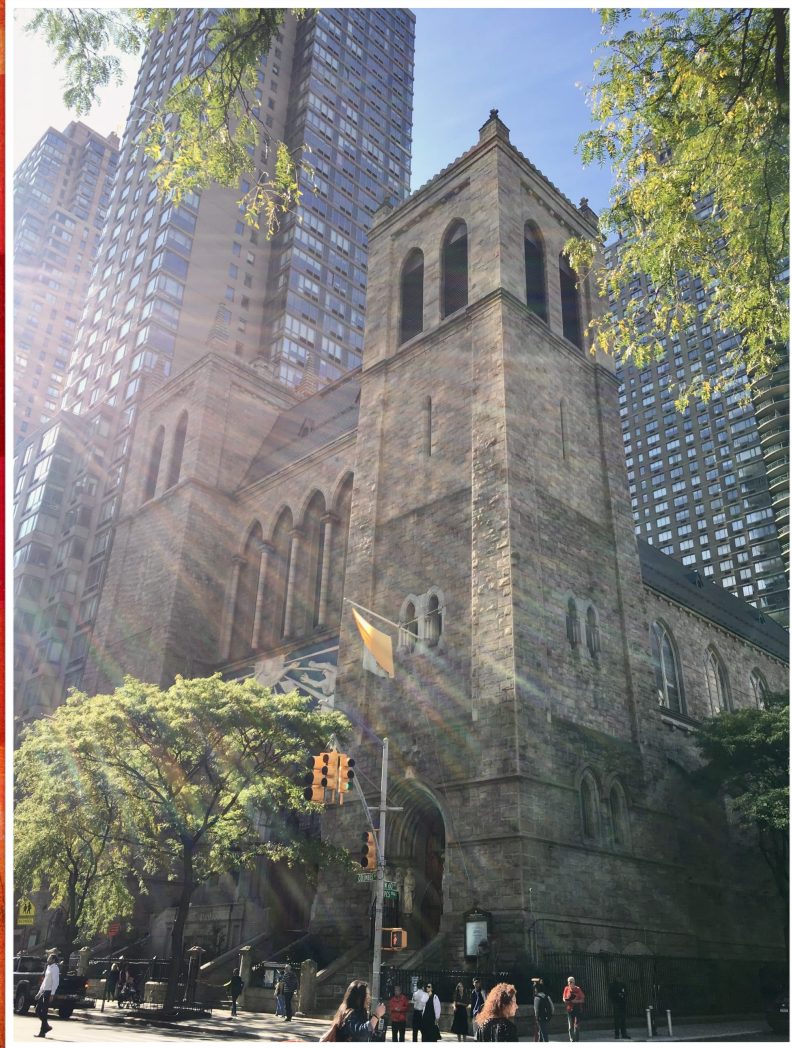
CHAPTERS 27–33

- ▶ Review Cindy’s conversation with Cheri. How will their lives be impacted by the coming recession in comparison with Leah’s? What does this tell you about life in America?
- ▶ What does Jende’s comparison of biblical Egypt with America reveal about him?
- ▶ What is interesting about Clark’s choice of the Chelsea to meet prostitutes?
- ▶ Is Jende’s anxiety about the tie based in concern for Clark’s welfare, or his own? Does the issue of morality figure in at all?
- ▶ What’s your reaction to the discussion between Winston, Jende, and Neni?
- ▶ What’s your opinion about how Jende decides to handle the issue with the Journal? Is this genius, or cowardice?
- ▶ Why does no one seem particularly concerned about Cindy’s weight loss?
- ▶ Why does Mbue include the account of the Thanksgiving weekend and the gala at the Waldorf?
- ▶ What upsets Cindy the most: the confirmation that Clark has been seeing prostitutes, the fact that it has been made public, or the knowledge that Jende has deceived her?



CHAPTERS 34-40

- ▶ Is Mighty a spoiled rotten brat, or just a troubled child?
- ▶ Analyze the Jongas' conflict over the church. Which side are you on here?
- ▶ Look up Judson Memorial Church. How does Judson's ministry compare to other churches you have known? What's your opinion of Natasha?
- ▶ Note the protests at Washington Square Park. What is your position on the issue? Are such things worthy of protest?
- ▶ Neni concludes that Jende has become "a grotesque being created by the sufferings of an American immigrant life." Do you agree? Is Mbue getting preachy here?
- ▶ Is Cindy justified in demanding that Clark fire Jende? Is Clark right to do it? Do you approve of how he handles it? What can be learned from Jende's reaction?
- ▶ What's your opinion of Bubakar?

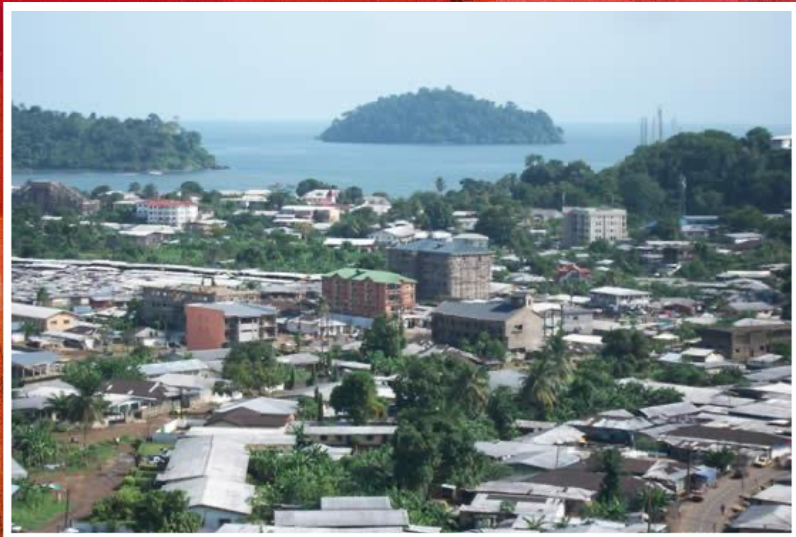


CHAPTERS 41-47

- ▶ “Our boy did it.” Unpack the ramifications of this statement in its context.
- ▶ Why does Mbue include Neni’s detailed observations of the Edwards’s Upper East Side living room?
- ▶ Do you support Neni’s blackmail scheme?
- ▶ Is Jende’s acceptance of the money a turning point in the story? If so, why?
- ▶ Compare and contrast the experiences of shopping at Pathmark and the Limbe Market. What’s the significance of this section?
- ▶ Why is Neni’s appraisal of the man in the wheelchair ironic?
- ▶ What do you think of Neni’s marriage idea, and Natasha’s response to it? What would Jende think?
- ▶ Is Cindy Edwards a victim? What stands out to you about the funeral?
- ▶ What is your assessment of Dean Flipkins’ advice?

CHAPTERS 48–55

- ▶ Jende has a lot of good reasons for wanting to return to Cameroon. Neni is determined not to leave New York. Which one, if any, has the stronger argument?
- ▶ “How man go do?”
- ▶ Neni tells Natasha about her newest idea of offering Lio to her professor and his husband in adoption, then remarks that she thinks she may be becoming a “different person.” Is she?
- ▶ How do you feel about Neni’s response to Jende’s abuse? Let’s take a brief time out to discuss domestic violence in America.
- ▶ Has Clark changed since Cindy’s death, or has he simply reverted to the person he should have been all along?
- ▶ Would you interpret Vince’s offer as a dramatic change of fortune for the Jongas? Why does Neni decide not to accept? What do you think Jende would have said or done if she said she wanted him to consider it? Is it simply too late, or not? What factors are in play here?





CHAPTERS 56-62

- ▶ Jende quotes a proverb: “My people say if God cuts off your fingers, He will teach you how to eat with your toes.” How would an American view this statement?
- ▶ Has America changed Neni? If so, how? What about Jende?
- ▶ How might you compare entrepreneurial opportunities in Limbe, as Jende describes them, with those in America? Is Jende serious about the Jonga Enterprises slogan?
- ▶ The Jongas’ savings of \$21,000 will make them rich in Limbe. Comments?
- ▶ What do you think Mbue is suggesting by Neni’s pros and cons of living in NYC vs. Limbe on pp. 361-2?
- ▶ Review Natasha’s sermon about Abraham based on Genesis 18 and the behavior of Judson’s members towards the Jongas. In what ways do you think this scene reflects the prevailing American Christians’ attitudes towards immigration?
- ▶ What message might Mbue be sending to Americans in the portrait of Clark and his sons in Chapter 60?
- ▶ What does the final word of the novel seem to mean?
- ▶ What are your emotions upon finishing the book?