

## Kite Runner: Chapter 21

| Element             | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Plot summary        | <p>Amir and Farid drive to Baba's old house in Kabul and Amir gets out of the car and climbs the hill. He notices the old cemetery and the now-dead pomegranate tree with Amir and Hassan's inscription on it. They then drive to a small Kabuli hotel and stay the night before setting off for Ghazi stadium the next day. At the stadium, Farid and Amir join spectators in watching a football match. At half time, Talib officials are driven out with "criminals" in their trucks, who are stoned to death on the pitch. Farid sets up a meeting at 3pm with the bespectacled Talib official, in order to try and find Sohrab.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Characters          | Farid - Amir's driver.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Themes and features | <p>The shocking details at the beginning of the chapter set the tone for the chapter with the dead, hanging body - covered in bloody clothes - near the restaurant. We also see two amputees haggling over an artificial leg as well as learning that the Taliban are occupying Baba and Amir's house in the now desirable Wazir Akbar Khan district.</p> <p>Amir flashbacks to the joy of his childhood, symbolising how the house is now a place of fear rather than a place of love and family. Weeds have overtaken the garden and the poplar trees have been cut down too - everything is either dead or neglected. The gate was rusted and the Wall of Ailing Corn is now corn-less. The once beautiful house appears smaller and unfamiliar as a Jeep, as opposed to Baba's Mustang, is parked on the driveway. Paint is peeling and windows are broken.</p> <p>The dead pomegranate tree, which is "<i>wilted, leafless</i>", symbolises the lack of fertility and new beginnings in Afghanistan. However, the carving ("<i>Amir and Hassan, the Sultans of Kabul</i>") suggests that where there is life there is hope - Sohrab carries on Hassan's legacy. Amir's detail about the cemetery, where Hassan buried his mother, is particularly poignant, suggesting that the family will always stay in Kabul. The pair of crows also symbolise death.</p> <p>The hotel room is portrayed as disgusting, as there is no hot running water, the toilet didn't flush, a ragged blanket, worn mattress and a sinister bloodstain on the wall. This suggests that someone has died in the room, perhaps foreshadowing the violence that Amir will experience at the hands of Assef. The hotel owner is exploitative, as he charges far too much for the room, but Amir remarks that he doesn't mind. Kabul has also been without electricity for several days, showing the country's</p> |