

PART ONE

CHAPTER 1

destitute adj lacking money or possessions; impoverished

SENTENCE: In the little mortuary he told me that he'd come to the home because he was destitute.

pallor noun extreme paleness

*SENTENCE: Strange, floppy, thick-rimmed ears stuck out through his fine, white hair, and I was struck by their blood-red color next to the **pallor** of his face.*

CHAPTER 5

vaudevilles noun stage entertainment of mixed various acts such as comedy, song, & dance

SENTENCE: When he was young, he'd wanted to go into the theater; in the army he used to act in military vaudevilles.

furtive adj done in a quiet and secretive way to avoid being noticed

SENTENCE: For the first time since I'd known him, and with a furtive gesture, he offered me his hand, and I felt the scales on his skin.

PART TWO

CHAPTER 1

snide adj insulting in a sarcastic way, disparaging

SENTENCE: He told me in an almost snide way that in any case the director and the staff of the home would be called as witnesses and that "things could get very nasty" for me.

taciturn adj not inclined to be talkative

SENTENCE: He started out by saying that people were describing me as a taciturn and withdrawn person and he wanted to know what I thought.

CHAPTER 3

pince-nez noun eyeglasses held in place only a clip over the bridge of the nose

SENTENCE: To my left I heard the sound of a chair being pulled out and I saw a tall, thin man dressed in red and wearing a pince-nez who was carefully folding his robe as he sat down.

rostrum noun a raised platform for public speaking

SENTENCE: Three judges, two in black, the third in red, entered with files in hand and walked briskly to the rostrum which dominated the room.

reproach noun an expression of disapproval or blame

verb to express disapproval or blame

SENTENCE: The judge had him clarify whether she used to reproach me for having put her in the home, and the director again said yes.

debauchery noun implied, but not openly expressed

SENTENCE: It was an open-and-shut case, a fixed arrangement, a tacit agreement that there was no question of going back on.