

In cold blood analysis  
pages 87-88



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Pages 87-88 The townspeople's reaction to the news of the killings is one of "amazement, shading into dismay; a shallow horror sensation that cold springs of personal fear swiftly deepened" (70). The Clutters' demise has larger significance for this sheltered little part of western Kansas: it amounts to the infiltration of an "other" – a "poor, rootless, misbegotten" other – into their peaceable and prosperous little universe. The Clutter killings symbolize a collision of the two sides of America: the prosperous, self-assured "haves" with the disappointed and destitute "have-nots. The ideology of the American dream is forced to confront those it has left behind. The town of Holcomb, following the initial trauma of the grim discovery, begins to confront the longer-term implications of the murders: "This hitherto peaceful congregation of neighbors and old friends had suddenly to endure the unique experience of distrusting each other" (88). That the town of Holcomb has experienced a loss of innocence is a point that Capote continues to explore in this section.

Disillusioned by the crime, the residents are fraught with feelings of fear and mistrust, and many set off to settle elsewhere, hoping to regain their sense of security and well-being. The town of Holcomb then Ironically realizes that evil is everyone and they only people they should specifically trust is themselves. This is not only an awakening to the people, but a time to realize that they must take everything into consideration and take care of themselves and only themselves.

Using metaphor, Capote shows that there is an evil inside of all of us, they may not be able to be tamed always, causing us to do bad things. "Imagination, of course, can open any door-turn the key and let the

terror walk right in” Capote also gets at how some of the townspeople in Holcomb were oblivious to the fact that not everyone is good, and that yes bad things can happen if you leave your house wide open to everyone.

Imagination yes lets us open our minds and think and do new things, but at the same time evil can come and shoot, both physically and metaphorically kill the imagination (our brain) also. One big topic that I feel Capote is getting at is how some may not be trusted and how the only person who truly could be trusted is the trust within yourself. In the way of Nature, the animals don’t listen to each other and trust themselves and only themselves to survive in this angry and not perfect world.

The shared loss and subsequent distrust towards one another shared by members of the Clutter’s community, the investigators’ obsessive search to find the killers, and, particularly, the exposition of correspondences — adeptly juxtaposed, if maybe a tad manipulatively, during a lonely early-morning packing session — to Perry Smith from his father, his sister, and Willie-Jay. Capote also throughout gets at another huge topic, He gets at how its ironic that to wake up a town to realize whats around them and what evil is actually in them, death of lives has to occur. It might happen again. “ People in life also today only act a specific way after something tragic or hurtful happen, they do not want to be the next one up to experience the hurt and dismay. I think personally is it kinda of pathetic that they only way to wake up the town and for them to realize that this town isn’t perfect, death must occur tragically and then none of them really know what to do with themselves after besides “ sit the whole night wide awake, watchful and listening” I feel people, and especially towards the people in Holcomb... hat

we should always be awake and aware of what is around us and alert because you never know what may happen in the blink of an eye. “ This hitherto peaceful congregation of neighbors and old friends had suddenly to endure the unique experience of distrusting each other; understandably, they believed that the murderer was among themselves. ” The Clutter killings wreak havoc on the security of Holcomb, fragmenting the community and sowing the first seeds of doubt and suspicion.

In allegorical terms, the residents of Holcomb experience a kind of fall from grace, and a loss of their former innocence, as for the first time they are forced to confront the unseemly reality of the killers and the world they represent. Syntactically showing everything in order in which it happens, Capote shows that through time and through events/traumas, people then finally begin to realize who they truly are and take a closer look at who is around them at all times. “ When this is cleared up, I’ll wager whoever did it was someone within ten miles of where we now stand. Capote gets at ironically that evil lingers, and even though we may think its not there, it really is and will never truly go. We have evil inside of us, and it lingers just like how the killers linger around the town. The book, well more specifically this section, takes on a life of its own and unravels as naturally (though far from predictably) as digestion after a hearty banquet or tragedy, figuratively and literally. Capote shows that truth trauma, one than realizes who they truly are, to trust no one and that evil lingers on with each and everyone of us for the rest of our lives.