

## MISSION STATEMENT II.PHASES

The mission of this book is to tell the story of a chapter in Simon Wise's life. Up to this point, Wise has been a successful detective inspector lauded for his bravery, dependability, and ingenious solving of challenging crimes. However, as the book opens, Simon has been professionally ineffective for the last three years since the death of his wife Rachel. He is increasingly perceived by family and colleagues as emotionally detached and withdrawn.

Wise himself, however, is in a state of denial about this withdrawal, which is a self-protective mechanism based on his dichotomous thinking about people as either good or evil. Wise has always seen himself on the side of the angels, sympathizing with the common man in the revolutions of 1848, espousing his father's emancipationist philosophy, courageously risking his life in the Crimean War, as a policeman protecting the righteous and apprehending the guilty, and in general bringing order out of chaos in the universe. Unconsciously, however, Wise fears that the apparent successes of his life (his heroism in the Crimea, his investigation of the Clerkenwell bombing, his creation of a happy marriage and family life) are in reality fatally flawed by shortcomings in his character that make him an evil monster rather than the good man he appears to be. In the Crimea, he tried to (and perhaps did) kill a fellow soldier for his boots and blanket. At Clerkenwell, his cowardice and desire for advancement caused him to accept a cover-up of the role of powerful government officials in the bombing. Toward Rachel, his inability to control his sexual appetites may have contributed to her death. With Leah, his grief over Rachel's death and his professional preoccupation made him less attentive toward her illness than he should have been. This book shows the evolution and transformation of Simon Wise through stages of denial, bargaining, obsessive anger, and depression, ultimately resolving in greater self-understanding, acceptance, and hope about the future.

MOTIVATION	PSYCHOLOGICAL	INTERPERSONAL	WORK
		Family      Love/Sex	
self-protection Murdoch	DENIAL	Family observes,	Nothing; numb Walker,
preserve good image less	withdrawal	confronts remoteness Wise denies	Wise denies this is a problem      criticize; Simon denies he is
engaged			successful,

Wise: Life is fine, I'm fine, I've recovered from the loss of my wife and child, I'm performing adequately at work, my home life is as good as can be expected, and I am still a good person.

be left alone preserve good	BARGAINING	Superficially nicer to kids, H.	Hint of feeling for Penelope	Focuses on Fairhaven case
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self-image  
find true love

still an emotional  
void

and Sir Gregory  
positive memories of  
Crimea, Clerkenwell

Wise: If I try harder at home and at work, people will leave me alone, and I can prove to myself and others that I am a good person. Tiny hope that he might deserve a renewal of love

why do people toward keep demanding Murdoch, impossible things of him? toward can't prove competence suspect maybe not a good person increase	ANGER  (engaged)	Kids, H still criticise  lack of emotional  availability; he responds with anger	Passion, not love  Tries to force  relationship Anger	Anger  Walker,  Sir G; obsessive  F case; assaults nightmares
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Wise: I'm trying harder, but no one is satisfied, Henrietta still complains, I can't get Penelope to love me, I can't solve Fairhaven murder, Murdoch keeps pestering me about dead babies

Murdoch's death makes him realize his direct guilt	DEPRESSION	sickness  awareness of failure	despair  unworthiness of love of another	contemplates suicide
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Wise: If I had not been so obsessed with Fairhaven case, with Lady Penelope, I might have prevented Murdoch's death. I do not deserve love, I do not deserve to live.

He admits cases partial guilt for Crimea, Rachel Clerkenwell, Rachel, Leah, Murdoch; realizes he is neither exclusively good or evil; recognizes he needs to be part of healing the world regardless of imperfections	UNDERSTANDING  ACCEPTANCE  HOPE	apologizes  to kids, H; reaches out to kids; accepts Emily	confesses to P  redefines relation with P	reconsiders  sees Talbot as suspect; rescues Emily and
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Wise: I am an imperfect person who has committed sins of commission and omission; people are not wholly good or evil; all I can do is continue to try to repair the world

## ANALYSIS OF EACH PHASE

### PHASE 1: DENIAL

1. Why is Simon in denial?
  - a. He feels he "should" have coped with his feelings by now
  - b. He is afraid to face his deeper guilt that he has evil inclinations
  - c. He cannot face the fact that his wife and child's deaths challenge his view of a righteous universe where evil is punished and good triumphs
  
2. How do we learn Simon is in denial?
  - a. Simon keeps referring to himself as reconciled, but we see indications of unhappiness, stress, nightmares
  - b. On the home front, both the children and Henrietta note and challenge his emotional detachment
  - c. Although Simon professes to be reconciled to having lost the love of his life, he may occasionally consider, then reject, the possibility he could fall in love again
  - d. At work, Murdoch criticizes Simon, first to his face, then to Brown, and ultimately to Walker, for lack of involvement in his cases; Walker criticises Simon directly for a similar reason
  
3. Why does Simon dislike Emily?
  - a. He blames Emily for Rachel's death; this other-blame, however, enables him to hide from his own deeper, and at this point unconscious, self-blame
  - b. He is repulsed by her physical and mental differences, which he sees as imperfect and "bad" (opposite of good)
  
4. Why is Simon remote from his other children and Henrietta?
  - a. Unconsciously he is afraid of discovery, ie., that they will realize he is really "bad" not "good" and judge him
  - b. He is afraid they will realize he failed them by not preventing Rachel's and Leah's deaths
  - c. Fear of incompetence - involvement with family will burst his illusion of control
  - d. Henrietta's feminism threatens him because it implies strong women who do not subordinate themselves to men, therefore don't acquiesce to men's passions
  
5. Why does Simon feel he cannot have another intimate relationship?
  - a. Overtly, he says this would be disloyal to Rachel
  - b. Unconsciously, he feels he doesn't deserve it; he is a "bad" man, who failed Rachel
  
6. Why is Simon just going through the motions at work?
  - a. Unconsciously, he feels fraudulent, that his reputation as a great detective is built on misconceptions
  - b. He fears making mistakes, fears that the actions he takes will be incorrect, and will lead to more suffering

c. He sees himself as "bad," no longer distinguished from the criminal class, therefore with no right to pursue them

## PHASE 2: BARGAINING

1. What does Simon's bargaining consist of?
  - a. Home - I will try to be nicer to the children, to win approval from Henrietta and thus shore up my image as a good father
  - b. Work - I will solve the Fairhaven case, to win approval from Walker, Murdoch, and prove I am still a competent policeman
  
2. Why does Simon start to bargain?
  - a. To get his tormentors, at home and at work, to leave him alone
  - b. He is no longer completely able to fend off the criticism, so attempts to prove his attackers are wrong ("I'll show you I'm a good father and a good detective")
  - c. To maintain his denial
  - d. To show himself, and Lady Penelope, that he might be worthy of love
  
3. Why aren't Simon's efforts at home satisfying?
  - a. He is only going through the motions; he is not ready to face anything "real" at home, i.e., children's anger, grief, Henrietta's desire to be seen as more than a governess
  
4. Why is Simon able to feel something for Penelope?
  - a. This is the first crack in his shell of denial: he has some inkling that his life is not completely in order, that there is something missing
  - b. The fact that he is attracted to a very different kind of woman than Rachel also suggests his illusion of the "perfect" family hid some dissatisfactions, that he is looking for something more in his life
  - c. He hopes that by winning her love, he can quiet any doubts that he might not be a "good" man (thus, her love would be redemptive)
  
5. Why does the Fairhaven crime become the focus of his attention?
  - a. This is the crime of concern to Superintendent Walker and the Home Office
  - b. Solution of this crime might impress Lady Penelope
  - c. Begins to see Lady A through Penelope's eyes as someone worthy of receiving justice
  
6. Why doesn't Simon bring the same interest to the baby deaths?
  - a. Not a high profile case; less ability to make a mark
  - b. Reflects his own partially acknowledged desire for Emily to have died
  - c. Sees these infants as "imperfect," therefore on some level deserving of death
  
7. Why does Simon recall positive images from the Crimea, Clerkenwell?
  - a. He is reassuring himself that his basic framework is holding
  - b. He is reminding himself of his basic bargain with life - he will take heroic and noble actions, if he is allowed to forget about his bad deeds, excise them from his book of life

### PHASE 3: ANGER, OBSESSION

1. Why does Simon begin to feel rage?
  - a. Ostensibly, he cannot solve the Fairhaven case, so feels increasingly frustrated
  - b. Murdoch and Walker are both bird-dogging him
  - c. He begins to feel that he cannot solve the case because of some fatal flaw in him
  - d. His guilt about the past begins to obtrude more insistently in the form of nightmares and flashbacks
  - e. He starts to suspect that "trying harder" is not going to solve his problems
  
2. Why does Simon show anger toward his family?
  - a. They are still challenging him to change, and he resists changing
  - b. He is trying to defend against recognizing his own sense of guilt and imperfection through outward blaming
  
3. Why does Simon feel anger in his relationship with Penelope?
  - a. As he expresses more of his sexuality, he comes closer to his guilt that this very sexuality may have contributed to Rachel's death
  - b. He begins to realize the social impossibility of their relationship, even as it intensifies
  - c. Even her caring/love cannot save him from nightmares, self-doubt
  
4. Why does Simon become obsessed with the Fairhaven case?
  - a. Fixates on Sir Gregory as the guilty party, so by bringing him to justice, is indirectly punishing himself
  - b. If he could solve this case, he can reclaim his role as a competent male, which seems to be receding
  - c. He is trying to redeem himself by "trying harder"

### PHASE 4: DEPRESSION

1. What triggers Simon's depression?
  - a. Simon is unable to hide from his direct culpability in Murdoch's death; this forces him to confront his culpability for other losses in his life
  - b. When he admits his multiple flaws and imperfections, his defenses crumble, and he is overwhelmed by sickness and depression
  - c. He suspects that Brantley was not the perpetrator of either the Fairhaven or the baby death crime
  
2. How is his depression manifest?
  - a. Sickness
  - b. Withdrawal from family, Penelope, work
  - c. Contemplation of suicide

## PHASE 5: UNDERSTANDING, ACCEPTANCE, HOPE

1. How does Simon move forward from despair?
  - a. Sense of duty to those whom he has injured
  - b. Paradoxically, to commit suicide would be to abandon and injure them even further
  - c. Confession of his "sins" to Penelope brings not rejection, but acceptance and understanding; he is then able to forgive himself
  - d. Abduction of Emily and Rebecca forces him to realize that even imperfect men must not abandon their duty to try to do good in the world
  
2. What makes Wise reconsider Talbot as a suspect?
  - a. He thinks about the ambiguity in Murdoch's last words
  - b. He reviews all the evidence in the case, now able to "see more clearly"
  - c. By realizing that men are neither wholly good or bad, he also sees Talbot, whom he had labeled "good," in a new light, and therefore capable of evil
  
3. Why is Simon able to feel increased acceptance of Emily?
  - a. Once he acknowledges his own sense of guilt, he no longer needs to see her as the responsible party for Rachel's death
  - b. He no longer needs to have a perfect child, he can accept her imperfections
  
4. What changes in his feelings toward Lady Penelope?
  - a. He feels love for her as a woman, not as a symbol of his hoped-for redemption
  - b. He has abandoned his need to be "perfect" and "good" in her eyes
  
5. How is Simon able to recommit to work?
  - a. Simon is no longer paralysed by fear of making a mistake, and the need for perfection
  - b. By facing the mistakes and shortcomings of his past, he is able to assume a more realistic goal of just trying to do his share of repairing the world