

Prompt: In chapter twenty-six Babette spills the beans about Dylar. She reveals why she sought access to the drug and what she had to do to get a steady supply. Both the “why” (fear of death) and the “what she had to do” (adultery) parts are upsetting to Jack, but which is most upsetting and why? (One paragraph minimum).

Jack’s Fear of Death

Upon learning the terrible truth to Babette’s secret medication, Jack’s reaction is peculiar. He found out that his wife had been exposing herself to a very dangerous and untested drug, and that she agreed to go to such lengths as to have an extra-marital affair to be able to take it, yet Jack is somewhat distanced from these discoveries. He is certainly upset, but the expected magnitude of his devastation is hushed by something else. Through Jack’s responses and internal dialogue it is eventually learned that he is focusing on a separate issue: his own fear of death. This is perhaps unclear for a few chapters, but his actions eventually reveal his obsession. Jack admits to this in a later conversation with Denise: “I just need to try the medication. There are four tablets left. I’ll take them and that’ll be the end of it” (238). He shares these alarming words with a child after being caught rummaging around in the girl’s closet while she sleeps. His desperation is pronounced again when he later inspects the contents of the trash compacter in his garage looking for the crumpled Dylar tablets.

It’s important to note how irrationally Jack behaves. Somehow he has convinced himself that Dylar represents a way to possibly escape from his fear. However, what he actually knows about the medication should only convince him of the opposite. The medication is dangerous, barely tested, and (perhaps most importantly) it did not work on Babette. Even if he did take the few remaining tablets and they worked, the experience would be limited to at most a few days; he would have no way to obtain more.

His wife’s fear of death was so great that she made a number of terrible decisions that impacted her life and the lives of her family members. The way that Jack handles his crisis is by succumbing to his own fear of death and, in doing this, he begins acting in the same ways that she did. Again more terrible decisions are made.

Re: Ch.26 (by Amber Mason)

Out of the two parts Jack is most upset by the news that Babette has a fear of death. This was a bigger concern of Jack's than the adultery because he also shared this fear with his wife.

After reading the above I started thinking that Jack's fear of death was only enhanced upon discovering the great lengths to which Babette went in order to address her own fears. It's almost as if he was able to peak into her mind and see all of the horrible things she must have been thinking about. In a way this legitimized his own horrible thoughts.

Re:

Quote

Response