

IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS

- “The future is just more of the past waiting to happen.” (Pg. 1) the opening line of the novel.
- “I don’t want to remember. Memory hurts. Like crying. But still and deep. Memory rises to the skin then I can’t be touched.” (Pg. 2) Whitechapel expresses the pain of the memory of the death of his son.
- “I forget as hard as I can.” (Pg. 2) Whitechapel does not want to remember the death of his son.
- “He needed to know his station sooner rather than too late.” (Pg. 12) Whitechapel explains that his son needed to be punished for running away, but he did not deserve the one that he got.
- “He was born owned by another man, like his father before him, and like his son would be born. This sounds straightforward enough, but from the increasing number of runaways you wouldn’t think so.” (Pg. 12) Whitechapel explains the way life has always been for a slave and that it can’t be changed.
- “It was my view that a slave could like a good, long life if he worked hard, and presented to his master the most dignified aspect of himself, in order to reciprocate the same manner from that master, the same civility, fairness and even kindness once the relationship grew warm and cordial.” (Pg. 13) Whitechapel describes how he believes a slave/master relationship should work.
- “There are two types of slave: the slave who must experience everything for himself before coming to an understanding of anything and he who learns through observation.” (Pg. 14) Whitechapel’s theory of slaves.
- “To use my name in anger was the severest verbal form of disapproval my master could have shown me. For me, it was the verbal equivalent of a whip last, what we call a tongue-lashing. I winced and bowed as if a whip had boiled the air around my back.” (Pg. 17) Whitechapel being spoken to while in the master’s house. While he sees this treatment as unusual it is probably quite normal for a slave to be spoken to in this way.
- “...I would serve my son best if I remembered my place in the affairs of the estate.” (Pg. 20) the deputy overseer does not view Whitechapel as positively as his master.
- “My son, whose dreams were such that he argued his children would be free.” (Pg. 21) Whitechapel is shocked that his son would expect such drastic change in society to occur by the time he had children.
- “He ordered me to shut up or be lashed.” (Pg. 23) Whitechapel was threatened with violence for not following orders.
- “There is no way this nigger is not going to face the usual punishment for his crime. An example must be set. Not to punish him now in the appropriate way would be an outrage against this entire plantation. I am the overseer. In the absence of the master I do what is best for the plantation. I do not take orders

from a nigger..." (Pg. 24) The overseer telling Whitechapel that he will punish Chapel as he sees fit, regardless of the orders that were issued by the master before he left.

- "Is that what I have become? The master of my fate. No longer in need of control or supervision. One so accustomed to his existence that he impinges on his own freedom and can be left to his own devices. A master of his own slavery. Slave and enslaver. Model slave. Self-governing slave. Thinks freedom is death. This paradise is the afterlife." (Pg. 27) Whitechapel has the realisation at the end of the first chapter that by always following the rules and being polite and respectful to the master and not questioning his position that he has in fact reinforced his own slavery.
- "You yourself have said that a slave who has tasted liberty can never be a proper slave again." (Pg. 28) Mr Whitechapel repeating Whitechapel's own words about slaves who try to escape.
- "My acquaintances tell me I am too lenient. They tell me I fatten up slaves too much with large, regular meals and decent quarters and I work them too little. No, I argue back, on the contrary, a satisfied slave is a happy slave and a more productive worker. Treat them like equals and they respond with nobility." (Pg. 29) Mr Whitechapel's logic about how he treats his slaves.
- "Remember, were it not for you seniority, there would be charges of subordination brought against you for your behaviour towards Mr Sanders." (Pg. 29). Mr Whitechapel talking to Whitechapel about his behaviour the night his son was killed.
- "I see from your behaviour that the argument of my acquaintances, that slaves should always be shown a stern, distant hand, appears to triumph on my plantation over my own view..." (Pg. 31) Mr Whitechapel talking to Mr Sanders after he whipped Chapel to death for running away, despite instructions to do otherwise.
- "Whitechapel would not have knowingly stood back and allowed you to whip your own brother to death." (Pg. 34) Mr Whitechapel talking to Mr Sanders about the fact that Chapel was actually his brother and it was assumed that he already knew.
- "The day was cold beyond measure and the slaves full of tricks to evade their duties. Had it not been for the cold would have unfolded my arms more often and swung my stick on the back of their lazy legs with force." (Pg. 37) Sanders Senior is clearly not averse to physically punishing slaves.
- "Argued with Mr Whitechapel about the treatment of his slaves. He thinks I'm too severe with them." (Pg. 37) Sanders Senior being spoken to about his use of physical punishments against slaves.
- "Cattle need fattening, not slaves." (Pg. 38) Sanders Senior's view when Mr Whitechapel increases the rations to be given to the slaves.
- "She said...it was forbidden for a slave to know how to write and read." (Pg. 60). Chapel recounts a conversation with Lydia when she begins to teach him how to read and write. This sentence demonstrates how slaves were kept illiterate.

- “There are two types of slave, son, the first Learns from mistakes which earn him whip and fist, the second listens when he is told the facts, sees what works and what does not, then acts.” (Pg. 63) Chapel recalls the first fight he had with his father.
- “My slave, Whitechapel, is noble, honourable, true. He has been tested in ways that would break most men. He is living proof that slaves are our equal in every way.” (Pg. 75) Mr Whitechapel talking about Whitechapel as he is about to tell the other plantation owners of the relationship between Chapel and the overseer who whipped him.
- “He swears because he is prepared to do whatever is asked of him in order to learn.” (Pg. 82). Lydia knows just how much Chapel wants to learn how to read and write.
- “You would tell my son that he cannot read – that books and slaves do not agree. You would hold up your glorious life as an example of the slave who has done all the proper things to survive and earn the respect of the master and overseer.” (Pg. 85). Cook decides not to tell Whitechapel about Chapel being able to read because she knows she will take it away from him.
- “By teaching little Whitechapel to read and write when he can never use it you have done him the gravest injustice.” (Pg. 88) Mr Whitechapel telling Lydia off for teaching Chapel to read and write.
- “They are, quite literally, not like us. They do not feel what we feel. They do not value what we value. They will exhibit habits of attachment not unlike those observed among other kinds of stock on the plantation: a cow’s to its newborn calf; a mare’s to its foal.”(Pg. 106) From an editorial in *The Virginian* demonstrating the common view of the day that slaves were not the same as white people.
- “The literacy of slaves is generally frowned upon, nay positively discouraged in most quarters. I am of the opinion that if it benefits the plantation to have literate slaves then so be it.” (Pg. 116) From an editorial in *The Virginian* which reinforces the view that slaves should be kept illiterate.
- “...it [literacy] filled a slave with discontent when he can read about the world but must live on a plantation as a slave and see nothing of that world. He added it was unethical to instil in a slave such an outlook and he went so far as to claim it was detrimental to the workings of a plantation.” (Pg. 117) From an editorial in *The Virginian* about how wrong it is for a slave to be literate. We can assume this is the view of Mr Whitechapel given what we know about Chapel being taught to read.
- “One is free, the other is not. One is white, the other black. One comes from the less fortunate portions of our ancestry, the other is not our equal nor derived from our race. The interests of these whites should therefore supersede those of the slaves and free blacks whenever the two come into conflict. (Pg. 119) From an editorial in *The Virginian* about how whites should always be looked after above blacks and slaves.
- “This is a business, not a charity. You don’t work for your own living. You work to make Mr Whitechapel richer. Your lives aren’t yours, but his. My father’s son, the son you reared, forgot that.

Granted, you never did. You knew your place, old man.” (Pg. 132) Mr Sanders talking to the dead Whitechapel about the death of his son.

- “My son, you have to answer the call of your blood. You were born half a slave, half the master of your own destiny.” (Pg. 135) Whitechapel reflecting on the life of his son and how he was unable to prepare him for all it may entail because he has only experienced life as a slave.
- “Memory is pain trying to resurrect itself.” (Pg. 138) the final sentence of the novel is Whitechapel accepting his death because it means he will no longer be living with the pain of the memory.