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SYNOPSIS

The novel "The Heart of The Matter" by Graham Greene talked about Major Henry Scobie, a Catholic policeman respected by the people in the town. He had a wife, Louise, who loved art and poetry. Louise used to call him Ticki, a nickname that Scobie hated very much. Scobie had been a policeman for fifteen years.

The conflict begun when he went to see the Commissioner. The Commissioner told him that he would soon be retiring, and the man who would be replacing him was not Scobie, but another man -- a younger one -- who would be sent from Gambia.

He knew that Louise would be disappointed because he wasn't going to be the new Commissioner: and she was. She wished that she could go to South Africa, because she could not stand the gossip. Scobie felt that it was his responsibility to make Louise happy, yet in fifteen years all that he gave her were dissatisfaction and disappointment. The less he needed Louise, the more conscious he became of his responsibility for her happiness.

The next conflict can be seen when Louise wanted to take a trip to South Africa and Scobie did not have enough money. In the morning, Louise forced him to get her a passage to South Africa. But Scobie failed to get some money from the

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bank for her passage. So he went to the dock, and perform his duty to check for smuggled diamonds in "Esperanca", a ship that had got in that morning. He found a letter in the Captain's cabin, who then begged him not to report it and tried to bribe him. Scobie kept the letter, and after reading it in his office, he burned it, and then went home. Louise cried disappointingly when she knew that Scobie didn't get the money for the passage. They quarrelled that night; Louise thought that he wanted her dead like their daughter so he could be alone, but Scobie defends himself that all he wanted is her happiness and at last he promised her to fix it.

On his way to Bamba, he got a fever. He kept awake and sleeping, and Ali took a good care of him. In his fever, he dreamt about the 200 pounds that he should get for Louise's passage. When they arrived at Bamba, Scobie decided to go to the missionary first, and had a talk with Father Clay about Pemberton's death. After that they went to the D.C.'s bungalow. Pemberton left a note in his office for his father, and the signature was "Dicky". Scobie arranged Pemberton's burial and then went to sleep, and again dreamt about the 200 pounds and Louise and a letter which signed "Dickv" and sometimes "Ticki". And finally he got a solution that he have to borrow the money from Yusef, the most corrupted man in the colony.

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Scobie got home that night, felt satisfied that he had done his duty: to make Louise happy. Then Yusef came. Here, we know that Scobie borrowed the money from Yusef with four percent interest. Then Yusef talked about diamonds. He said that the police hunted the wrong Syrians. He said that Tal-lit's cousin was sailing in the next Portuguese ship, and he would hide the diamonds in the crops of the parrot that he brought.

On his way home, Scobie went to the Catholic Church for a confession. He confessed to Father Rank that he had missed one Mass and one holiday obligation. He also said that he felt tired of his religion, and he tried to love God, but he didn't sure that he even believe, and that he felt empty. The words of absolution didn't make him feel relieved, and the prayer after the Confession was just a routinity for him.

Part three of the second book started with the scene of Helen's hut. Scobie was there. They had a quarrell, because Scobie kept their relationship a secret. She was tired of all his caution. He came and went in the dark every night. She was also jealous of Louise, because Scobie was married to her, and he couldn't marry Helen, because he was a Catholic: a Catholic couldn't have two wives. At last, Helen told him to go away, and never to come back. Scobie did as she wished. When he arrived home, he wrote a short letter to Helen, telling her that he loves her more than God, then slipped it

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under her hut's door.

At midnight, in the rain, Scobie went to Helen's hut. At first he hesitated to knock the door. If he didn't come, he would have his simple good life again; the good life tempted him in the dark like a sin. Yet, he knocked, and Helen was so glad that he came. But Scobie didn't stay that night. She didn't receive his letter and felt that somebody was watching. When Scobie got home, he found a telegram from Louise, saying that she was on her way home.

The next night, Scobie was invited to have dinner at the club. There he met Helen, but they pretended that they didn't really know each other. He told Helen, when he got the Helen said in her letter that if Scobie wanted to leave her, she would accept it. Then Yusef threatened Scobie: either Scobie helped Yusef by giving the captain of "Esperanca", which would be in the day after tomorrow, a package for him, or Yusef would give the letter that Scobie had written to Helen, to Louise. When the "Esperanca" was in the harbour, Scobie did as he was told by Yusef and gave the package to the captain.

Louise told Scobie that Wilson was in love with her. Then she asked Scobie to go to the Mass again with her the next morning. Then Scobie went to the Church for the Confession. He was so confused, whether to leave Helen, and

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resign his job, or to leave Louise. In the box of Confession, he said to Father Rank that he had committed adultery. The answer that Father Rank gave him was predictable to him, and he knew it wasn't the way out to solve his problem.

In Yusef's office, Scobie told him about his worries about Ali. Scobie was afraid that maybe Ali would tell his step-brother, who worked for Wilson, about his relationship with Helen, and so Wilson would know about it too. Yusef told him that he would take care of the problem for Scobie, and told Scobie that he would send his boy to fetch Ali. Yusef made Scobie drunk while they were waiting for Ali. Suddenly, Scobie heard Ali's scream outside. When he got out, he found that Ali was already dead. Scobie cried in pity and regret. He felt that he had killed the God that he loved that had been faithful to him for fifteen years.

After that, he drove to the Church. There, he prayed: he said to God that he preferred to die and give Him pain rather than give pain to Helen or Louise, because he couldn't observe His suffering. But another voice in his heart replied that he could go on with his life, and choose Louise or Helen, either one of them wouldn't suffer too great, and as long as he lives, he still had hope that he would change his mind about committing suicide.