

Blacktop Wasteland

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Quotes	Significance to the Story	Interpretation
“Talk didn’t mean anything. Talk didn’t drive the car. Talk was just noise”(9).	As we are still trying to understand Beaugard’s morals and ideals this gives us some great insight. He hates people that would rather talk than actually do something and words have some meaning behind them for him.	Beaugard is annoyed at this cocky guy, he has no respect and is purely judging him off of the look of Beaugard’s car.
“Progress had left this part of town behind. It was abandoned just like the store. A blacktop wasteland haunted by the phantoms of the past”(12).	This is an example of the narrator using Beaugard as an observant person to set the scene and explain the story. He is also doing this as he is about to have an intense race explaining what is going on in the collected mind of Beaugard.	He is about to start the race in an abandoned part of a town and he calls it a blacktop wasteland, portraying it as a vast space filled entirely of blacktop, that is a paradise for him but he still calls it waste. He does this to explain that while it is not most people paradise and actually most people and to stay away from it he wants to be here, It is also haunted by the phantoms of the past meaning it has been this way for a way and they are not the first drivers here.
“The secret ain’t about the motor. That’s part of it, yeah, but that ain’t the main thing. The real thing, the thing most people don’t want to talk about, is how you drive. If you drive like you scared, you gonna lose. If you drive like you don’t want to have to rebuild the whole engine, you gonna lose. You gotta drive like don’t nothing else matter except getting to that line.	Still a build-up into the mind of Beaugard and that he is not scared while he drives but more focused on driving and driving only and he finds that same tranquillity when he steals.	We can not live in fear there are always things to fear like breaking down from stress and having a predetermined idea of failure you will fail but if you set your mind to total dedication and enthusiasm you will have success no matter your situation.

<p>Drive like you fucking stole it”(13).</p>		
<p>“Beauregard hit the clutch and shifted into third. There were no numbers on the gearshift knob. It was an old 8-ball his Daddy had fixed to fit on top of the shifter. He didn’t need numbers. He knew what gear he was in by feel. By sound. The car shivered like a wolf shaking its pelt”(14).</p>	<p>Establishing more ethos for the character. The car is his dad’s and he is experienced enough to not have to have numbers on the stick shift.</p>	<p>Shows the amazing description of this author even in the middle of a car chase. He also uses simile was he compares the car to the shivering of the wolf pelt as it is about the get ready to attack.</p>
<p>“A mistake is a lesson, unless you make the same mistake twice”(43).</p>	<p>As Beauregard is explaining the first mistake he made of getting into the life in the first place and how he calls it a mistake or more a lesson but if he tries to get back into this life it will be a mistake.</p>	<p>Making mistakes is nothing to frown upon. We as a society oftentimes wish their mistakes but mistakes are lessons that and even though it says that if you make the same one twice it is a mistake, it is not. Instead, it is another lesson while repetitive it needs to be understood somehow.</p>
<p>“He had a gun in every room of the house. They were like good friends who were always down to do bad things”(81).</p>	<p>As he starts to plan his heist he thinks about his guns and says this catchy line.</p>	<p>He uses this simile to show his relationship with people like Kevin and all empathize and make us realize that he does not think this is right</p>
<p>“Explanations were like assholes. Everyone has one and they are all full of shit”(88).</p>	<p>Beauregard again does like just throwing words, especially in this situation. This is to his duster and he does not want him to think that is all he can do is make excuses.</p>	<p>We should be more like this in the world. Less excuse and start owning up to what we did wrong.</p>
<p>“Them good ol’ boys always telling us to get over slavery, but they can’t get over having their ass handed to them by</p>	<p>These are the thoughts of uncle Boonie as a guy walks out of his junkyard wearing a civil war flag.</p>	<p>Why does the guy think that it is cool for him to wear that hat? He has the freedom to but can he not find a better</p>

<p>Sherman,”(140).</p>		<p>symbol for the redneck way. One that does not also symbolize the desire to keep slaves.</p>
<p>“there was no honor among thieves. Boys in the game only respected you in direct proportion to how much they needed you divided by how much they feared you”(149).</p>	<p>As we are first introducing Quan a member of the group that is supposed to be a part of the heist. Beaugard is not a fan of this goof-off talking “gangster”.</p>	<p>That is why Beaugard leans heavily on the fear of other people he wants to make sure that people know that if they mess with him it will not end up well. This is also apparent when Roonie first approaches him with the job offer and he sticks a gun down his pants.</p>
<p>“Listen, when you’re a black man in America you live with the weight of people’s low expectations on your back every day. They can crush you right down to the goddamn ground. Think about it like it’s a race. Everybody else has a head start and you dragging those low expectations behind you. Choices give you freedom from those expectations. Allows you to cut ’em loose. Because that’s what freedom is. Being able to let things go. And nothing is more important than freedom. Nothing. You hear me, boy?” Beaugard said. Javon nodded his head. “Alright”(166).</p>	<p>Beaugard shows his son that his consequence has more weight on their future than most people because they have “the weight of people’s low expectations on your back”(183). On top of that, Beaugard wants a better future for his family and lineage. He knows that it is unlikely for his family to one day be upper class, but it takes one generation after another.</p>	<p>It is more like a relay race; if someone already has a lead, your goal is to run your best and fastest race, so when you pass on the baton, your member will be closer. To have a good race, the choices you make will determine your speed, and with more good decisions, the more freedom you will get.</p>
<p>“It’s like my Daddy used to say. While they picking apples, I’m planting seeds”(278).</p>	<p>This is what Lazy says has the last words of intimidation. He uses it to explain his plan, of using Beaugard’s crew to</p>	<p>Lazy, a white man, is also showing that he is slightly racist and that his father taught him that. That he will</p>

	steal back money because they owe him for taking the diamonds.	just let the slaves pick the apple and you will plant the seeds.
“He pushed the van up to 65 and aimed it at the ramp. He felt it then. Felt it for the first time tonight. The high, the juice, the symbiotic relationship between man and machine. The thrumming vibrations that worked their way up from the blacktop through the wheels and suspension system like blood moving through veins until it reached his hands. The engine spoke to him in the language of horsepower and RPMs. It told him it yearned to run”(312).	It has been a while in this book since Beauregard has had a good feeling of peace while driving but as he pulls the van into the mild truck he feels the adrenaline felt peace.	In this decrepit getaway it talks about the relationship between him and the motor. Comparing his body to the van like the engine’s roar is his language and the bumps that went through the suspension were like his nerves.
“The truth had a strange way of ending an argument”(339).	As Ronnie and Reggie (his brother) are having an argument about betraying Beauregard that then turns into insults that are personal and Reggie tells Roonie that you are white trash and you will also be.	It is crazy how the truth does end arguments but what is sad is that is just a tactic. Not a lot of people want to use that as a first option, they would rather sugar coat it or over embellish.
“The only person who knew your weak spots better than the woman who raised you was the woman who shared your bed”(395).	Beauregard and Kia (his wife) are having an and by using pure truth she is able to hit Beauregard right where it hurts because she feels betrayed and no longer wants him in her life.	That is something scary about relationships is that everyone knows everything about you whether you want them to or not.