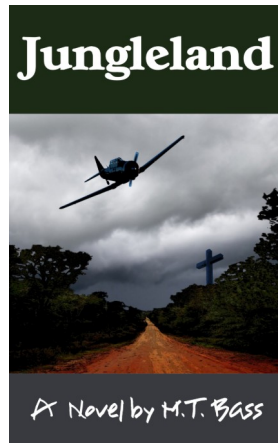


# *My Brother's Keeper Study Guide*

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*Jungleland Paperback*

Sweating it out in the former Belgian Congo as a civil war mercenary, with Sparks turning wrenches on his T-6 Texan, Hawk splits his time flying combat missions and, back on the ground, sparring with Ella, an attractive young missionary doctor, in the sequel to *My Brother's Keeper*.

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## Character Analysis:

### Hawk

- Hawk's transition from a WWII Mustang pilot and bush pilot in Alaska to a mercenary in the Congo presents a complex character arc. How do his experiences and decisions reflect on the themes of survival and morality in conflict zones?

### Hawk and Ella

- Ella, as a committed doctor working in challenging conditions, brings a perspective of humanitarianism to the story. In what ways does her character challenge or reinforce the moral choices of other characters, particularly Hawk?

### Father Bob

- Father Bob's role as a missionary with a background in engineering and business is unusual. Discuss how his dual identity impacts his mission work and interactions with the local community and the mercenaries.

### Roscoe Pettis

- Roscoe Pettis, representing the CIA's interests, adds layers of political intrigue to the narrative. How do his actions and motivations provide insight into the broader geopolitical implications of the Congo Civil War?

## Plot

### Conflict and Survival

- The novel depicts various forms of conflict, from the personal to the political. Discuss how these conflicts intersect and what they reveal about the characters' internal and external battles.

### Interpersonal Dynamics

- Discuss the impact of the relationships and interactions between Hawk, Ella, Father Bob, and Roscoe Pettis on the story's progression. How do these relationships influence the decisions they make?

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## Critical Decisions

- Each main character has a moment where they must make a difficult decision. Choose one of these moments and discuss its implications for the story and what it reveals about the character's values and priorities.

## Themes

### Moral Ambiguity and Ethical Dilemmas

- How do the characters' experiences in the Congo Civil War explore themes of moral ambiguity and ethical dilemmas? Discuss specific examples where these themes are most apparent.

### Cultural and Ethical Clashes

- The novel presents moments of cultural and ethical clash. How do these moments contribute to the exploration of themes such as colonialism, independence, and personal versus collective morality?

### Environment as Character

- Discuss how the setting of the Congo during the Civil War influences the characters and the thematic exploration of the novel. How does the environment act almost as a character in its own right?

### Reflections on Humanity and War

- Considering the novel's conclusion and the fates of the characters, what commentary does the story provide on humanity, war, and the quest for personal redemption in the face of historical upheaval?

## Additional Study Questions

1. How does Hawk's longing for his World War II combat glory days influence his actions in the Congo? Is he chasing ghosts or something more tangible?
2. Ella and Hawk share a complex relationship. What do you think initially draws them together, and how does this dynamic evolve with the plot?
3. Father Bob seems to be a jack-of-all-trades. How do his engineering and business skills unexpectedly contribute to the mission in the Congo?

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4. Roscoe Pettis is the man in the shadows. What do his clandestine dealings reveal about the underbelly of geopolitical strategies during the Congo Civil War?
5. Imagine a day in the life of Sparks before the events of the novel. How do you think his past experiences shape his decisions and relationship with Hawk?
6. If Hawk had a theme song for his adventures in the Congo, what would it be and why?
7. Ella faces numerous challenges in the novel. Which moment do you think was her toughest, and how did it affect her character growth?
8. Father Bob's unconventional methods are fascinating. Can you think of an instance where his unique approach directly impacted the community or mission's success?
9. The intrigue with Roscoe Pettis thickens the plot. What's one moment where you found his actions surprisingly ethical or unethical?
10. The novel's setting is rich and evocative. How does the Congo itself act as a character influencing the story's event?
11. Choose a pivotal plot twist that took you by surprise. How did it change your perspective on the characters or story?
12. Hawk's decisions often walk a fine line between bravery and recklessness. Discuss a scene where you felt he crossed this line.
13. Ella's medical work is critical in the novel. How does her commitment to healing play into the larger narrative of conflict and survival?
14. Father Bob's past as an engineer and businessman is unique. Discuss how this dual identity aids or complicates his mission work.
15. In a movie adaptation of "Jungleland," who would you cast as Hawk, and why?
16. The themes of morality and survival are central to the novel. Discuss how these themes are explored through Hawk's and Ella's relationship.
17. Colonialism and independence are potent themes. How does the story reflect the tension between these opposing forces through its characters and plot?

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18. The moral ambiguity in "Jungleland" is palpable. Discuss an instance where you were torn about a character's decision.
19. War's impact on personal identity is a recurring theme. How do the characters' experiences in the Congo shape their views on who they are?
20. Looking at the novel's ending, what are your thoughts on the resolution for the main characters? Do you think they found what they were searching for, or is there an element of unresolved conflict?