**TSOTSI BY ATHOL FUGARD**

**Chapter Summaries**

**Chapter 1**

Tsotsi, Boston, Butcher and Die Aap sit around the Tsotsi’s room drinking beer in silence, waiting for him to specify what job they will do that night. Tsotsi decides they will head to the train station where their unsuspecting victim, Gumboot Dhlamini, begins to head home to his wife. Tsotsi targeted Gumboot for three reasons: he smiled, he wore a flaming red tie, and he bought his ticket with money from his pay packet. After everyone does their part in the murder and robbery they leave gumboots lifeless body on the train to be discovered by the other passengers.

**Chapter 2**

Tsotsi, Butcher, Boston, and Die Aap head to Soekie’s house after the murder to have a few drinks. As they start drinking they begin to talk about Boston getting sick and throwing up during the murder of Gumboot. Boston claims that the only reason he got sick and the others didn’t was because he has decency unlike the rest of them. As the conversation advances Die Aap and butcher take Rosie, a girl who was also in Soekie’s house, outside to rape her. When the others leave Boston begins to question Tsotsi about what he feels. This breaks one of Tsotsi’s rules: never ask questions. Tsotsi begins to get irritated by all the questions about Tsotsi’s personal life. Tsotsi eventually has enough and brutally beats Boston leaving him in Soekie’s place beaten half to death.

**Chapter 3**

After beating Boston, Tsotsi leaves the she been and takes a walk through the street. As he walks he begins to have a flashback, he sees a boy named Petah being taken away by the police, as he is being taken away he looks down the street and recognizes Tsotsi as David, his name before he changed it to Tsotsi. Tsotsi does not acknowledge the fact that Petah recognized him and just continues his game of dice. As Tsotsi lay under a tree he begins to hear what he recognizes as footsteps, as he hears them come closer and closer he moves to get a better vantage point and sees a young woman as. As he studied her more he began to recognize the symptoms of fear and sees that she was carrying a small parcel and kept checking over her shoulder. Tsotsi grabs her by one arm and swings her into the darkness of the trees, as he pins her against the tree she takes the parcel and thrusts it into the hands of Tsotsi and runs off. The lid slips off and Tsotsi finds himself looking at the face of a young baby boy.

**Chapter 4**

Tsotsi heads straight to Cassim’s shop in search of milk for the baby, before he gets courage to go up and talk to Cassim he exits and renters the store multiple times waiting for it to empty. Nervously Cassim sends his wife into the back room to round up their children in case Tsotsi tries to mug them, Tsotsi goes up to the counter and asked to buy some milk. After buying the condensed milk Tsotsi takes the baby back to his room to clean it and feed it, after the baby is all clean and fed he takes him to the ruins to hide him. After hiding the baby in the ruins Tsotsi begins to remember the “yellow bitch,” the dog that he had when he was a kid. Tsotsi just broke one of his three rules: never ask questions about the past

**Chapter 5**

Gumboot Dhlamini is buried and the pastor who is doing his burial is sorely troubled after burying another man whose name no one knows. Boston awakes from his state of unconsciousness and moves for the first time in almost a day. Butcher and Die Aap begin to talk about Tsotsi beating Boston and begin to wonder what the future holds for their gang. Tsotsi, Butcher and Die Aap find each other and begin to do what they do on any other night, sit around and drink waiting for Tsotsi to make the decision of what job they will do. Without Boston’s stories conversation ended rather quickly and Tsotsi decides they will head into the city tonight.

**Chapter 6**

Tsotsi, Butcher, and Die Aap wait for the shadows to become long enough so that when they are they can head to terminal place. When they get to terminal place Tsotsi steps on Morris Tshabalala’s – a crippled man who lost his legs in a work accident – hand and decides that he will be his target tonight. As Morris continues on his way home he realizes that Tsotsi is following him, he hopes that if he continues on his way he will lose Tsotsi before he has to go through the dark part of his journey. He stops for some food at the Bantu house and then continues on his way. As he gets to the dark part of his journey he realizes that even though he feels like a “half-man” he does want to live. He leaves his money in a pile underneath a light hoping Tsotsi would just take the money and leave him alone. When Tsotsi kicks the money and continues walking towards Morris he begins to throw rocks and shout insults in order to defend himself.

**Chapter 7**

As Tsotsi followed Morris he began to realize that he crawls like the “yellow bitch” used to, dragging his body around since he doesn’t have any legs. Tsotsi confronts Morris in the street and tells him that he feels for him, after he does this Morris tells him why he wants to live. After he tells Tsotsi all the reasons he wants to live he confronts him about why Tsotsi has to kill him. Tsotsi then realizes that he doesn’t have to kill him and that it’s he is able to choose to let him live. Tsotsi then decides he will find out who he is and what happened in his past.

**Chapter 8**

Boston awakes to the sound of church bells begins to think about his faith in God. Tsotsi returns to the ruins to find the baby covered head to toe in ants and instead of leaving it he cleans the ants off the baby. We then are taken to Waterworks square where a young mother by the name of Miriam Ngidi waits in the long line to get to the tap. Miriam is a single mother because one day her husband, Simon, left and never returned. Tsotsi takes her to his room and forces her to feed the baby. Miriam feeds and cleans off the baby.

**Chapter 9**

Tsotsi begins to remember his past, he begins to see his old home and how happy he was living with his mother. Eventually the flashback leads him to the events that happened on the day that his mother was taken to jail. As he father returns after being away from the family for a long time he becomes furious when he finds out his wife has been taken to prison. During the outrage the father kicks the dog breaking its back, the dog then gives birth to a litter of pups who soon die. David then runs away from home where he is welcomed to the river gang which is lead buy a boy named Petah. He then decides to abandon his identity and start his life under the new name Tsotsi.

**Chapter 10**

Die Aap visits Tsotsi to ask about the next job, Tsotsi tells him that the gang has been disbanded and that he would no longer be doing the jobs that they used to. Die Aap leaves after him and Tsotsi hear the baby cry. Tsotsi then takes out the baby; staring at it he finally realizes that the baby is helping him remember his past. Miriam comes to Tsotsi’s room to feed the baby and later asked Tsotsi if she can have him because she would be able to take care of him best. Tsotsi won’t let her take the baby because he is Tsotsi’s baby. Tsotsi tells Miriam that the babies name was David and that he was notches father but David belonged to him. Miriam leaves and gives Tsotsi some milk for the baby, Tsotsi takes David back to the ruins and begins to wonder where Boston was and leaves to go and find him.

**Chapter 11**

Tsotsi eventually finds Boston passed out of the floor of a bar. Tsotsi helps him up and carries him back to his house to take care of him. Fugard begins to reveal to us the life that Boston has lead, how he was mistakenly expelled from college, how he illegally sold fake passbooks to people and then how a guy as smart as he became a part of the gang. As Boston awakes Tsotsi begins to tell him about his experience with Morris and asks him questions about how he is changing. Boston tells him that they are all sick of life and seek God. Boston then leaves in search of his mother.

**Chapter 12**

Isaiah sits in the church garden planting flowers where Tsotsi, who was on his way to seek redemption from God, finds him he explains how he works for God and that when he rings the church bell it calls to all the other people who believe in god and invites him back next time the bells ring to find God. Tsotsi then finds Miriam again to feed the baby. As she feeds the baby Tsotsi realizes that mothers really do love their children and that in order for you to move into the future you have to let your past go. Miriam then asks him to let her have the baby again but, he does not leave the baby with her because he doesn’t quite trust her yet. After he goes to church Tsotsi then decides that he will go back to his childhood name, David Mondondo. As he heads back to the ruins he hears bulldozers taking down the walls, he runs into the building only focused on one thing, finding the baby. He runs straight to the corner where the baby lay, where he and the baby would be crushed by the ceiling. The workers who recover his body minutes later agree that his smile was beautiful and strange for a Tsotsi

**Character Analysis**

**Tsotsi**

We know Tsotsi as a street thug in Johannesburg, South Africa during apartheid.

As a boy Tsotsi was innocent and content, living as a victim of apartheid. When his mother was taken from him he was left alone to witness his father come home and upon realizing the house was empty, he lashed out on the dog, paralyzing its back legs and killing the litter. This scarred Tsotsi and pushed him to flee home and eventually get taken in by Petah’s gang. This gang changed his identity; he became Tsotsi after several days with the gang participating in crime. He states: “My name is Tsotsi.” This transformation from an innocent boy to a hardened young man has resulted in him living a life of robbery, rape and murder. He no longer has a use for past memories and his conscious no longer exists. He creates three rules: rule of the working moment (always be able to see his knife), never disturb his inward darkness, tolerate questions from no others. These rules are what allow him to survive as Tsotsi and have no need to become David again.

He becomes the leader of a gang who commit crimes in order to survive. As the story progresses his three rules diminish and through interactions with others he changes from Tsotsi back to David. Our first impression of Tsotsi is that he is a violent man who is well respected within his gang. He beats Boston because he attempts to break one of his rules – don’t ask questions – which is the only way he knows how to handle threats.

After fleeing, Tsotsi is given the baby by a woman who he first intended to rape. This baby will act as the catalyst for his journey of self-discovery. He cares for the baby and shortly after hiding it in the ruins he goes out to find a victim. Tsotsi stalks Morris planning to kill and rob him, however; as Tsotsi stalks him he is given time to reflect and begins to build a sympathy for Morris because the baby has changed his value for life, he learned how to care feel compassion. Morris also reminds him of the dog who was powerless in a similar situation. The sympathy he attains is translated to when he and Morris interact and he decides to let him live, as Morris explains he must. Not only has Tsetse’s outlook changed but Morris now values his own life as well which he explains to Tsotsi. Their exchange also leaves Tsotsi with the belief that he must value the little things in life in order to become redeemed.

After this interaction, Tsotsi goes home and finds the baby in poor condition covered in ants – realizing it needs a mothers and care – he observes the line-up for water trying to pick a woman who would suffice. He decides on Miriam and at first she is reluctant to help, he must threaten the life of her own child, showing he hasn’t fully changed as a man. In their subsequent interactions Tsotsi no longer has to intimidate her to receive her help nourishing the baby. In their final interaction – after Tsotsi comes back from meeting Isaiah – she opens up to him, explaining how her husband is dead and she accepts that she must move on. This belief transfers to Tsotsi and resonates within him. From her belief he understands that you can’t let you past determine your future and you must continue on living despite past influences. This is his next step towards redemption, as it allows him not to dwell on the mistakes of his past. This understanding makes it possible for him to realize he can leave his past lifestyle behind.

Before his final interaction with Miriam Tsotsi took Boston to his house and nourished him like a mother, giving him milk and bread. Tsotsi asks Boston similar questions that resulted in Boston getting beaten in the outset of the novel. This is the moment where Tsotsi leaves his rules behind him and his only desire is to seek out answers to the questions he has been asking himself. Boston explains that everyone is sick from life – living in Apartheid – and that in order to further pursue the answers to his questions, he needs to find God. This leads Tsotsi to Isaiah who teaches him more about God and what he can do for you. He explains to Tsotsi what sins are and the consequences for them. He tells Tsotsi that in order to further understand God he must attend church. Tsotsi agrees to this, showing me truly intends to do whatever he can to pursue his goal of redemption.

These events collectively influence Tsotsi to become David again, a human with a soul. No longer is a murderous Tsotsi but a compassionate and loving young man. These new values are what drive him to attempt to save the baby at the end. His instinct of killing has evidently shifted to an instinct of saving lives without hesitation. When their bodies are discovered he has a smile on his face showing that he has no regrets and is pleased with who he has become. This is the ultimate sacrifice in life and the final step for Tsotsi to attain full redemption from past sins, becoming David – a new, admirable man.

**Minor Characters**

**Miriam**

Miriam is an eighteen year old with a young baby, just like little David. Like many other young women in South Africa, Miriam has been abandoned by her husband – Simon – and left with a child to care for all on her own. Tsotsi’s mom and the lady who gave the baby to Tsotsi have been put in the same situation and she is our symbol for them. Gumboot also left his pregnant wife. Through a strict plot context we know Miram as the lady who feeds little David for Tsotsi. With a deeper look in we can gather she again is shown as on overall symbolic mother, nurturing and nourishing not only baby David but her own son too. She performs these mother like acts to Tsotsi also and teaches him how to love again. She is like Mother Mary. She shows Tsotsi that we mustn’t live in the past and need to move on in life and never give up.

**Baby**

The baby is introduced relatively early through Tsotsi receiving it in the bluegumtrees by a frightened woman who he intended to rape. As the plot progresses we come to see, the baby is a catalyst for Tsotsi’s self-discovery. The baby represents innocence, kindness, and the positives of human nature just like David, who Tsotsi was prior to becoming a thug. Tsotsi recognized that and names the baby after his past self. The baby helps Tsotsi towards becoming David again through teaching him simple life lessons such as caring, nurturing and responsibility for others. Tsotsi nurtures the baby with milk and cleans the baby which proves this new compassionate outlook. At the end of the book when David Mondondo sacrifices his own safety for that of the baby, he is actually saving himself. By his efforts to save the baby his instincts have changed from violence – like a street thug – to compassion – like a mother, saving his humanity. The ultimate redemption of becoming David again.

**Butcher**

Like all black males living in South Africa at the time, Butcher is a victim of Apartheid. These men take all means to survive and we see this expressed in the way Butcher lives his day to day life in the gang. To them he is the killer – he never misses a strike and is the go-to man when the job needs to get done. Violence is the way he has learned to survive because it is the only way he can. He is a direct product of his environment. To Tsotsi, Butcher isn’t much but a person in his gang who is a skillful and ruthless killer.

**Die Aap**

Die Aap like all the others characters we are introduced to is a symbol of Apartheid in South Africa. Their personal, actions, values and tendencies have been crafted by the oppression they have faced from the government. Die Aap is also a very loyal character, he wants the gang to stay together when Tsotsi is speaking of them to split, they are his brotherhood and he would sacrifice for them. This is shown how even if violent, ruthless and uncivil what the gang may be doing, he will participate in their actions and help their crime because they are all he knows. Die Aap is very strong and has long arms, reflected in his name. He doesn;t mean much to Tsotsi, he is just a gang member. Die Aap doesn’t play a huge role in the understanding of the novel other than when he is the one who Tsotsi officially tells that the gang is over.

**Morris**

Morris a crippled, he lost his legs six years ago in a mineshaft collapse. He has lost his dignity and is ashamed of the way he must get his money in order to survive – begging. He believes he is a half-man. When Tsotsi’s gang goes to the city, Tsotsi decides he will kill Morris; however, he feels sympathy for the cripple because he reminds him of the yellow bitch. Morris is a catalyst for Tsotsi to remember the dog. He is also a symbol for South Africa, due to the fact that he is a crippled man, much like South Africa. Morris helps the reader understand and see the pivotal moment within Tsotsi and the shift that Tsotsi experiences throughout the story. Morris shows Tsotsi the value of the little things in life and shows Tsotsi that he can make choices. Morris does not have any other influential moment within the text other than the interactions that he has with Tsotsi. With his reactions he creates and helps Tsotsi develop the ability to show decency and allows Tsotsi to make choices that affect others, rather than just himself.

**Boston**

Boston is the “brains” of the group. He went to university but didn’t complete it because he was accused of raping a fellow student. This sent him down his path of resorting to crime for survival as he had no other way to make ends meet. He is a very knowledgeable character and always tells stories to the group when they aren’t out stalking prey. He is constantly asking Tsotsi questions – which go against Tsotsi’s last two rules – and these questions being to make Tsotsi hate Boston. In the outset of the novel Tsotsi beats Boston because of these questions and he accuses Tsotsi of having no decency. This influences Tsotsi’s decisions throughout the book. At the end of the novel Tsotsi seeks Boston out and cares for him in order to try and discover answers to similar questions that Boston was asking earlier. Boston acts as a catalyst for Tsotsi’s search for god. He explains to Tsotsi that he must seek out god to get more answers and tells Tsotsi that everyone is “sick from life.” Not only does he help Tsotsi understand what he must do to seek further redemption but the exchange they have also makes Boston realize he must go back home to seek redemption from his mother.

**Isaiah**

Isaiah and Tsotsi meet at a church near the end of the story and engage in a short yet life changing conversation for Tsotsi. In the bible Isaiah is an 8th century prophet ( inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of god ) and in the book he teaches Tsotsi of god, he tells Tsotsi of what will happen because of sin and that god is inside the church. Although we know this isn’t in fact true, Tsotsi believes that he is and it engages his interest of attending the church even more. Tsotsi has been looking for god and that is why he went to Boston, Isaiah is his door to god. Tsotsi is invited back to the church and if it wasn’t for the baby in the ruins the next day, he would have returned. Isaiah allows Tsotsi to understand the possibilities of Christianity brings.

Themes

**Survival** – At the beginning of the novel, survival is attained in a savage and animalistic way. To survive Tsotsi kills and ribs innocent people in order to get money. As the story develops, so does the theme of survival. It becomes less of a physical survival and shifts to an emotional and spiritual survival. Not only does Tsotsi save himself but others too, he gives them hope. In saving others Tsotsi saves himself & his conscious. Examples are shown through the secondary characters or Morris and Boston and MIRAM. When Tsotsi lets Morris live after hours of stalking him, he saved Morris from his ultimate fear of death & saves his own kind-hearted personality, taking one step closer to becoming his old self, David. Tsotsi saves a Boston from death, by nourishment, like a mother figure. After beating him only two days before because he asked questions. Along with taking care of the man, Tsotsi is also asking questions to Boston about life. Tsotsi has abandoned one of his rules that made him the thug he is. These actions show that Tsotsi is becoming a new man, regaining and saving his soul. Fugard wants us to understand that survival is not only your physical presence but the mental state of yourself. You can be alive but your respect for others, positive attitude and kind-heartedness is diminished then you are dead as a soul.

**Redemption** – At the outset of the novel Tsotsi is in a state of sin with his gang but through interactions with other he can redeem himself back to the young innocent boy he once was, David. Through caring for Boston, Tsotsi asks him question pertaining to life in general. This nurturing and discussion allow Tsotsi to redeem himself to not only Boston but himself. Boston now knows Tsotsi is trying to fix himself and become a better person, therefore gaining respect for him. Next since Boston told Tsotsi he is looking for god, Tsotsi goes to the church and finds Isaiah, through their interaction Tsotsi learns more of God & what he and Christianity can do for you. Tsotsi agreed to return to the church later for a session. This shows us Tsotsi moving away from his state of sin and again moving closer to becoming David. Through these interactions Tsotsi is walking the road of redemption and becoming David. The final act of attains redemption is when Tsotsi attempts to save the baby at the end of the book. At the beginning of the novel Tsotsi was a life taker and by the end he moves to a life saver showing us the full circle redemption. The author wants us to learn that although you may commit acts that are uncivil or incorrect you can always redeem yourself if you choose so. Tsotsi made the choice to interaction with the people he did, he wanted to become David.  Fugard knows if it’s possible for him, it is for anyone.

**Decency**– We are first introduced to decency at the beginning g of the novel when Tsotsi beats up Boston because Boston asks him questions about decency, referring to Tsotsi having none. Tsotsi doesn’t know how to answer and he feels insecure, which causes him to lash out on Boston. Violence like this along with killing is what causes Tsotsi and his gang to lose their decency all together. Boston later points out that they have become sick, from life, from the lifestyle that they have participated in, lacking decency. As the story progresses Tsotsi learns he can attain decency in his life. He learns this again through the seminal moments throughout the novel. Morris is a huge interaction for Tsotsi. As the two talk and eventually Tsotsi allows Morris to live, Tsotsi does this because he recognizes that Morris too has a valuable life and this is an enormous step in attaining decency towards others. Tsotsi also attains decency in his life through another important moment, remembering his past. When Tsotsi takes in the full memory of the boy he used to be, he remembers what his life was like before he turned into a savage. Although the memory may not have been the most positive it gives him a target of who he needs to become again & this person is decent. Fugard wants us to learn that even the most lost, darkest human can turn their life around and become a new person with new values.

Motif/Symbolism

**Motif**

**Watching**: At the beginning of the novel the purpose of Tsotsi’s watching is to stalk. He is in a predator role, like that of Gumboot and Morris, and he watches in order to know how he must react in a physical manner – what he must do in the situation. As the novel moves on and develops, he watches to learn, he watches to change himself internally, it is a self motivation to find himself like when we watches Isaiah.

In terms of connecting the motif of watching to themes of survival and redemption…

**Survival** – Tsotsi watches to see how others behave, how they deal with situations. This is key in the survival of Tsotsi because with this analazyation/learning he can decide how to react in a beneficial way to himself. In the outset of the novel Tsotsi watches so he can survive physically in order to stay alive. Near the end he watches so he can regain his soul.

ex. Tsotsi watches the Petah gang steal and rob in the streets and how thy act, he picks up on this behavior and it is an essential part in how he starts to live out his life, surviving on the streets by a rough lifestyle full of robber and killing innocent others.

Later on…

ex. Tsotsi watches Isaiah before their interaction because he is curious about god to seek out answers.

**Redemption** – Tsotsi watches others before he even interacts with them, Morris and Isaiah. By watching them he learns something about them and in turn about himself. He also takes values and beliefs from them to impliment in his own life. This relates to redemption because as Tsotsi learns more about himself he can find who he really is, his past self David.

Relation to conflict …

**Conflict**

– Watching helps Tsotsi through numerous conflicts throughout the novel. By watching he makes his decisions on how to act to resolve the current conflict he is facing.

While watching Morris, Tsotsi is able to reflect on his current situation. He is contemplating whether or not he should kill the cripple. His hours of watching instead of killing him earlier allows him time to thoroughly consider what he is intending to do although the decision to not kill Morris comes once they have talked. The watching of Morris has given him time to become sympathetic for Morris and to engage in conversation instead of taking his money and life.

While watching Miriam at the water spout as she waits to fill her flagon he is faced with the conflict of needing to feed his baby. Through watching he is able to pick out who would be the best fit to do this for him. He is able to pick out Miriam, who has a child of her own, who will surely be a good fit.

While watching Isaiah Tsotsi is facing the conflict of wanting to find god and answers. As he watches Isaiah he has time to think of what he wants to ask and even though Isaiah starts the conversation Tsotsi has been waiting and watched him up until this point. He doesn’t leave because he is motivated to get these answers to resolve his internal conflict which is ultimately becoming decent.

Through watching and observing others, Tsotsi takes values and beliefs from each which pushed him closer to becoming who  he really is and who he was before he became a thug, that is David.

**Motif Quotes**

” Tsotsi watched her from under the trees. Without realizing it his heart began to beat faster. It was almost perfect … His hands were ready.” Page 40

” Tsotsi watched him, vaguely uneasy at first, more so when the man saw him and his face lit up with recognition.” Page 37

” The man was standing in the doorway of a shop, and he was watching the cripple now with frank and open interest.” Page 187

” David watched the sky again through the opening … David watched all the time.” Page 167

” but even so he looked back twice on the way in case she has hidden somewhere and was following him.” Page 183

” The two men looked at eachother in the wan light … there was fear in Boston.” Page 201

“She opened her eyes and found Tsotsi staring at her.” Page 222

” Time enough even to look, & then finally to remember. ” Page 225

 ” Tsotsi kept well back after that, and from the darkness of a doorway he watched the cripple enter the Bantu Eating House.” Page 105

” The young man looked at Isaiah carefully.” Page 215

**Symbols –**

**The Dog:** represents his past, Tsotsi is the dog. It also represents the crippled apartheid system that South Africa is faced with. The dog allows Tsotsi to compare Morris to his past and help his decision to let him live.

**Light and dark:**

Light is the kind, compassionate, caring and thoughtful side of the story

Dark represents the bad, murderous, ruthless and violent aspect of the text

The story begins in the darkness when Tsotsi is still a thug who kills and robs with his gang but as the story progresses and he moves closer and closer to becoming David we see more light appear in his life. In the dark is where he commits acts of violence such as almost raping the baby who gave him the baby, he stalks Morris in the dark and Rose was raped by his gang in the dark too. Light is shown wen Tsotsi decides to let Morris live ( they are under the lamp post ), we also see it when he confronts Boston after beating him only two days before, it is during dark when the beating occurs and light when Tsotsi meets up with him again. Finally when Tsotsi attempts to save the baby at the end, Sun is shining down on him when he is recovered. The transition as the books moves from beginning to end is very clear and we can see how the two symbols represent what they do

**Ruins:**

Represent South Africa and the situation as a whole for the blacks under Apartheid. The blacks begins to have a tougher life, with way less rights and privileges then whites. They were poor and lived in run down townships. The whites held no care or concern for them, no desire to give them a respectable life. Just like how no one has care for the ruins in the novel. These blacks life were in ruins. They were viewed as inferior just like if you saw a rundown building, you wouldn’t see it as nice as a house standing tall, kept good care of.

**Water:**

The water supple that man people are lines up for in the story is a symbol of life. Water is essential in the survival of a human being and without it you will eventually perish. It shows us how desperate blacks under Apartheid are for the most basic necessity. They are lines up for the ability to continue on. Lined up for life.

**Baby:**

The baby is a symbol of renewal, rebirth and redemption, focused on Tsotsi. It is the catalyst to change Tsotsi back to the person he once was, David. Tsotsi sees himself within the child and it triggers the pursuit of cleansing and redemption within his life. The baby is Tsotsi also; it is what he represents when he is David, innocence, kind-heartedness and youth. In attempting to save the baby at the end he is actually saving himself from the thug life he was living.

**REFERENCES**

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