

Your main commentary should be focused on *ellipsis*. Other topics may also be addressed.

'Zulma,' Shahid said. 'You haven't got a few pounds, have you?'
 'For what, darling?'
 'The tube... and books. I'm a bit short at the moment.'
 'I'm only carrying rupees now. But there is a method of obtaining money you could
 5 try.'
 Chili said interestedly, 'What's that?'
 'Working.'
 'Oh, Zulma, wife, wife.' Chili fell on his knees and crawled towards her. 'I love you,
 baby, particularly when you hurt me. Give us something. I'll do anything, but don't
 10 go away!' As she shuffled backwards he grabbed her ankles and licked her toes.
 Zulma couldn't stop herself; she screamed.
 Suddenly Jump was standing in the kitchen doorway, wearing an apron and shaking
 a wooden spoon. Chili was saying, 'Stay! Let me stay with you for ever!'
 'I say!' cried Jump. On all fours Chili looked up at him in bafflement. 'What is this?'
 15 Is that him down there?'
 'Yes.' Zulma picked up Safire and retreated behind the table.
 'Back off!' Jump took a hesitant step towards the brothers. Get back,
 Mr Muhammadan! Both of you terrorists! Leave us decent people alone!'
 Chili reached into his jacket pocket. Right away Shahid pulled his bewildered
 20 brother to his feet, and hustled him to the door.
 'You OK, Chili? Chili!'
 'Holding up.'
 'Got your knife?'
 Chili gave him a quizzical look before slapping his jacket. 'Naturally. No one walks
 25 around London unarmed, do they?'
 He put his hand into his pocket. It reassured Shahid that Chili would comfort him by
 providing a glimpse of the stabber. Instead, though, Chili pulled out the Marlboro
 packet which contained his coke envelope, single-edged blade and rolled dollar bill.
 'Don't do that here. This is Knightsbridge!'
 30 'All the better.'
 Shahid thrust him towards a shop entrance.
 'In there - and hurry!'
 He scrutinized the foggy, deserted street for passers-by and police while Chili
 crouched, inhaled his grains, stood up with a satisfied sniff and a backhanded swipe
 35 of his nose, and flung down the paper envelope. Suddenly the shop alarm, above
 their heads, erupted into life, vibrating and clanging. Shahid started to drag Chili
 away. But before he would budge, Chili insisted on groping in the gutter for the
 screwed-up, discarded wrapper, which he inspected thoroughly, and stuck in his
 jacket pocket.
 40 At last, to Shahid's relief, they were walking fast.
 'Where we going?' asked Chili.
 'You're not leaving me tonight.'

'Little brother, you're shaking. Who's looking for you? If you tell me, I can sort them
 out. Unless it's the police.'
 45 'What?'
 'Thought so,' Chili muttered, hurrying forward. 'They're after both of us. Keep a
 lookout for the plain-clothes.' He put his head back. 'The bastards are everywhere,
 wearing raincoats but no hats.'
 'Chili, I beg you to stay right by me tonight.'
 50 'No problem.' Shahid was about to thank his brother when Chili added, looking
 desperately uneasy, 'Thing is, boy, I'm right out of toot here.'
 'Give up that shit, Chili! What would Papa say if he knew you were addicted to the
 powder?'
 'Addicted?'
 55 'Yes.'
 'You might be right. Maybe addict's my name now. Tell you what, I'll throw away
 my drug when you do the same.'
 'What drug am I using?'
 'Zulma named it right. The religion. You got too deep in with those guys. They
 60 looking for you now?'
 'I s'pose they are.'
 'And you just started at that college.' Chili seized Shahid's arm. 'You know, seeing
 baba Safire today made me want to be free. I could have wept for her.' He paused,
 struggling with his thoughts. 'And for myself. And for everything that's gone wrong,
 65 to tell you the truth.'
 'That's something.'
 'Yeah. Brother, don't worry, I won't desert you. But tonight I'm gonna need
 Strapper too.' Chili lit a cigarette, ran his jittery fingers over a Mercedes convertible
 and observed the street, as if his enemies might appear from any direction. 'Is that
 70 why Zulma hates me? Did you see that jerk-off in the pinny she's got there? I
 couldn't believe it. But maybe... maybe he gives her things I can't.'
 'Maybe. He's got a stately home.'
 'Yeah? Did she say when she's coming back?'
 'It'll be a few months.'
 75 'At least, don't you think? Shahid, I'm desperate. Without the drug I'm confused
 and can't think about anything else. If I can't think, I can't believe the future holds
 any peace of mind for me.
 Five minutes silence in the head is all I want! If only the noises would leave me
 alone!' He whispered, 'Shahid there's nowhere else I can turn. Strapper's a well-
 80 connected boy.'
 'I had no idea he had so much going for him.'