

Upon reading Autumn's response to *Passing*, I find that her and I came to the same conclusion—that Irene killed Clare—at the end of the novel. Autumn discusses the idea that much of Irene's resentment towards Clare stems from Irene having to suppress her identity as a black woman around Clare's racist husband, as well as from Irene's disapproval of Clare's marriage to such a bigoted man. I agree with the idea that Clare represents everything Irene despises about those who do not share her identities, which ultimately creates a foil between the two women—Clare does, indeed, reveal many of Irene's flaws and insecurities, as pointed out by Autumn in her response. This concept is not something I touched on in my response, but Autumn's discussing of the fact that very early on in the novel Irene states that “she was through with Clare Kendry” bolsters her argument quite well (41).

The other pieces of evidence that Autumn brings up are Irene's psychological instability and her paranoia about the assumption that her husband, Brian, is having an affair with Clare. I fully agree with these two notions as I also brought them up in my response to support my argument. Irene is certainly terrified of the idea of losing control of her current situation in regards to her and her husband's relationship, and so she does resent Clare for the potential threat of disrupting the life that she may (or, arguably, may not) want. I concur with Autumn's point that Irene uses this assumption of infidelity to justify her suffering and her want to rid Clare from her life entirely. Essentially, Clare poses a threat to Irene's mental state, her identity, and her stability, which are all justifiable reasons for Irene to murder Clare.