

Devil in a Blue Dress

Focus Questions: What does Easy's house mean to him? What does Easy's house represent to him? What is the significance of this motif?

Quote	Analysis
1. "The thought of paying my mortgage reminded me of my front yard and the shade of my fruit trees in the summer heat. I felt that I was just as good as any white man, but if I didn't even own my front door then people would look at me like just another poor beggar, with his hand outstretched." (p.53, Ch.2)	
2. "But that house meant more to me than any woman I ever knew. I loved her and I was jealous of her and if the bank sent the county marshal to take her from me I might have come at him with a rifle rather than to give her up." (p.57, Ch. 3)	
3. "When I was a poor man, and landless, all I worried about was a place for the night and food to eat; you really didn't need much for that...But when I got that mortgage I found that I needed more than friendship." (p. 66, Ch. 3)	
4. "California was like heaven for the Southern Negro. People told stories of how you could eat fruit right off the trees and get enough work to retire one day. The stories were true for the most part but the truth wasn't like the dream. Life was still hard in L.A. and if you worked every day you still found yourself on the bottom." (p.72, Ch.4)	