

# A Moment To Remember PDF (Limited Copy)

Dee Williams



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## **A Moment To Remember Summary**

"Cherishing Love Amidst Life's Unforeseen Challenges"

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## About the book

In "A Moment to Remember," Dee Williams crafts a mesmerizing tale of love, resilience, and destiny that transports readers into a world where every heartbeat and every breath are interwoven with the memories we cherish and the moments we can't let slip away. At the heart of the narrative is a powerful love story that tests the boundaries of time, as protagonists grapple with their past mistakes and future hopes amidst the flux of life's unpredictability. Williams' evocative storytelling invites readers to embark on an emotional journey that not only stirs the soul but also challenges our understanding of what it means to hold onto moments that define us. Seamlessly blending elements of nostalgia with the relentless march of time, the novel beckons readers to contemplate how the simplest memories become the anchors amidst the stormy seas of life, and sparks a compelling invitation to live, love, and remember.

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## About the author

Dee Williams is a distinguished author celebrated for her compelling narratives and vibrant characters that capture the essence of human emotions and experiences. With a prolific writing career that spans several decades, she has become a beloved figure in the literary world, known for her ability to weave heartwarming tales of resilience, love, and family. Born and raised in a bustling city setting, her upbringing provided her with a wealth of inspiration, imbuing her novels with a rich tapestry of life-like realism and heartfelt authenticity. Dee's dedication to storytelling is matched by her profound empathy for her characters, which resonates with readers across the globe. Her works, often set against the vibrant backdrop of 20th-century England, transport audiences on emotional journeys that highlight the intricate interplays of life's joys and struggles. Despite her success, Dee remains deeply humble, crediting her loyal readers for her enduring presence in the literary landscape.

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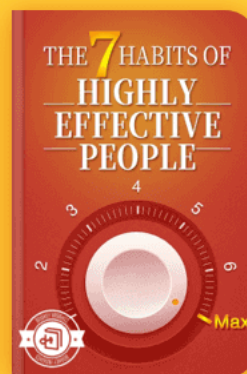
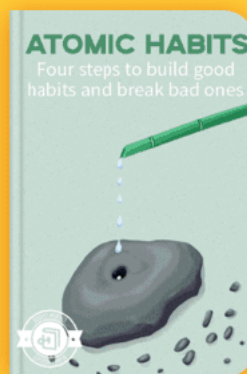
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## Chapter 1 Summary:

In October 1908, young Milly stood before her father, dodging the chilling gaze of Arthur Ash, a towering and volatile man who often unleashed his frustrations on the family. Milly's meager boots barely shielded her from the cold ground as Arthur berated her for her tardiness, suspecting her involvement with the women's suffrage movement that had caused a commotion that day. Despite Milly's attempts to explain her delay, Arthur's harshness was palpable, exacerbated by his disdain for the suffragettes whom he deemed out of place.

The Ash family lived in squalor, crammed together in two rooms on the ground floor of a drab terraced house in Rotherhithe, London. Life was challenging, especially for Milly's mother, Ivy, a weary woman worn down by years of childbearing and poverty, who struggled to maintain peace in the household. Their home was shared with the upstairs neighbors, the Bookers, with whom they communally navigated the daily grind of life in shared spaces. Mr. Booker, an accountant longing for a better life, cast a shadow of uncertainty over the Ash family's stability as Milly worried about the rent should they ever leave.

Memories of assisting her mother during the home birth of baby Helen seven months prior haunted Milly. She had held her breath in terror, fearing the worst as she helped bring her sibling into the world. Helen's frail existence



further burdened Milly, who often took on the role of caregiver in the stressed household. Her mother sought to divert Arthur's wrath by asking Milly about procuring milk for the baby, highlighting the daily struggles they all endured.

Once Milly escaped to the outhouse, a place seeped in persistent damp and cold, she reflected on the sight of the marching suffragettes. Despite her father's ridicule, Milly was fascinated by the women demanding the right to vote, sensing the significance even if its full meaning eluded her. Milly's conversation with her brothers, Billy, the robust protector, and Dan, the thoughtful confidant, flirted between dreams of exploration and escape, bound by the grim reality of their circumstances. Billy, always scheming for the family's survival, proudly recounted their latest daring feat of resourcefulness, while Dan aspired to soldiering or perhaps living a life beyond poverty's grasp.

The children also pondered rumors and family secrets, especially concerning Auntie Doris, a mysterious figure who represented a tantalizing connection to a world of privilege and stability outside their reach. Despite their curiosity, confounded by the divide between their mother's past and present, Milly and her siblings remained united by shared aspirations of improving their lot. Conversations, however jocular or serious, circled back to their day-to-day struggles—survival overshadowing dreams, with Milly quietly hopeful about someday seeking out Doris for guidance and perhaps a



gateway to a new life.

The chapter ends with a foreboding sense of endurance, as the Ash children grapple with their reality and nurture whispers of hope in a harsh world, leaving readers to wonder about the possibilities and constraints awaiting them.

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## Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2, we delve into the daily struggles of the Ash family living in a modest town, likely in early 20th-century Britain. Ivy Ash, the matriarch, spends her day caring for her young daughter Helen and managing household chores. Milly, the eldest daughter, helps by sewing buttons on shirts, a job that provides meager pay but contributes to the family income. Ivy wishes for a better future for her daughter, especially considering her own estranged relationship with her sister Doris, which has left Milly without potential opportunities.

That day, Milly is sent out to buy food with the little money her father, disheartened from a hard morning at the docks, didn't spend at the pub. Thanks to her shrewdness, Milly manages to procure a decent meal for the family. During this errand, she encounters Jack, a young butcher's assistant with a cheerful disposition and bright ginger hair. Jack flirts with Milly and invites her to the zoo, sparking a glimmer of excitement and a longing for something more in her life.

At home, however, Milly faces the grim realities of her responsibilities. Ivy worries about Milly being away too long with Jack due to the needs of the family, particularly with Helen's illness. Despite the attraction to a life beyond her duties, Milly struggles with the decision to prioritize her desires over her family's needs, underscoring the internal conflict common for many



in her position.

The next morning, caught between a rare opportunity for enjoyment and her familial obligations, Milly decides to go to the zoo. Secretly preparing for her day out, her innocent excitement is disrupted when her father unexpectedly intrudes upon their morning routine. Her brothers, Dan and Billy, offer her escape with them, yet Milly stays, worried about the fallout of her father's temper upon discovering her plans with Jack.

This chapter explores themes of poverty, family duty, and youthful yearning for freedom. The underlying tension highlights the constraints on young women of the time and presents Jack as a symbol of hope against the routine hardship faced by Milly.

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## Chapter 3 Summary:

Chapter 3 delves into the complexities and harsh realities of Milly's life as a teenager in a troubled family. The chapter opens with Ivy, Milly's mother, comforting her young daughter, who has been punished by her father, Arthur, for planning an outing to the zoo with a boy named Jack. Arthur's disciplinarian and misogynistic attitude shine through as he scolds Milly, derogatorily linking her behavior to her family's history, hinting at a deeper family secret. Despite being upset by her father's actions, Milly feels helpless under his oppressive rule.

Ivy, depicted as a fearful and submissive character, is unable to shield Milly from Arthur's wrath. During an emotional exchange, Milly confronts her mother about Arthur's abusive behavior and contemplates running away to her Auntie Doris, whom she believes might provide refuge. However, Ivy laments the impossibility of leaving, burdened by financial constraints and the responsibility of caring for eight children. The fear of ending up in the workhouse looms over them, stifling any dream of escape.

Throughout the day, Milly continues her chores with a heavy heart, feeling trapped in her bleak surroundings. Her brothers, Billy and Dan, inquire about the punishment. Although Billy expresses his anger, understanding the gravity of their situation, Dan realizes they must bide their time to stand up to their father.



As the night unfolds, Milly lies awake, envisioning a life where she works to support her mother from afar, contemplating the sacrifices and difficult choices she might need to make. Meanwhile, Ivy reflects on her marriage's deterioration, reminiscing about a happier past and wondering about the root of Arthur's bitterness. She fears the thought of having another child in such volatile circumstances.

On Milly's birthday, her melancholy deepens. Though she turns fourteen, there's no celebration, only a lingering sense of despair. The family faces added pressure as lodgers, the Bookers, prepare to move out, creating financial uncertainty. Milly begs her mother for Auntie Doris's whereabouts, hoping for assistance, but Ivy remains tight-lipped, burdened by pride and unable to locate her sister.

As Milly ventures into the marketplace, she remains consumed by her troubles. There, she encounters Jack, who offers her a brief respite from her sorrows with a kind gesture disguised as a birthday present. His compassion and the longing for companionship highlight Milly's desire for normalcy and happiness, although she knows her familial duties prevent her from fully engaging with Jack.

Chapter 3 paints a poignant picture of Milly's struggle against poverty, familial oppression, and her longing for a different life. The narrative



illustrates the cyclical nature of struggles within impoverished families, hinting at the potential for change while emphasizing the immediate burdens Milly and her loved ones face.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Acts of kindness can offer emotional relief and hope amid turmoil.

**Critical Interpretation:** Despite the oppressive environment and emotional tumult Milly faces daily, Jack's small but meaningful act of kindness becomes a beacon of comfort and escape from her challenging reality. His warmth and thoughtfulness, encapsulated in a simple birthday gesture, underscore the transformative power of empathy. This encounter affirms that even in circumstances where tangible changes are elusive, the ability to uplift and connect with others through genuine compassion can provide a sense of belonging and hope. It is a reminder that regardless of the situation, offering kindness and understanding to someone in distress holds the potential to alleviate their burdens, creating momentary reprieve, joy, and a whisper of hope for brighter days.



## Chapter 4:

In Chapter 4, two weeks after Milly's birthday, tragedy strikes when Ivy Ash's piercing screams wake the household one early morning. Milly, still under the pall of fear and uncertainty, is summoned by her father to face the heartbreaking reality—her beloved baby sister Helen has died. The scene is a mix of sorrow and confusion as the family grapples with the loss. Arthur Ash, the father, is uncharacteristically emotional, revealing a different side to Milly, but she wraps Helen's tiny, cold body and exits the room in silence, joined by her brothers Billy and Dan.

The siblings, in their childlike innocence, struggle to comprehend death's finality. Milly, clinging to hope, seeks warmth for Helen's lifeless form, while young Pammy is gently told about Helen's passing. Billy and Dan show a mix of practicality and tenderness, preparing a cardboard box as a makeshift coffin, and Milly adds her own personal touches—a testament to her closeness to Helen.

Later, Arthur takes Milly and her brothers to the cemetery, carrying Helen in her small, cardboard box coffin. The absence of their mother, Ivy, who refuses to join the burial, is palpable. Despite Arthur's troubled relationship with Milly, his tender actions as they lay Helen to rest hint at a buried affection. Milly, however, is resolute in her resentment of past traumas inflicted by her father, resisting his attempts at reconciliation even during



this somber moment.

As the days pass, Milly shoulders the burden of household responsibilities. Her mother's agoraphobia and refusal to venture outdoors add to Milly's frustrations. Ivy confesses her fear of the outside world, explaining her detachment from daily errands, a condition grown from years of isolation and habit. Despite Milly's attempts to encourage her mother to break free from this self-imposed confinement and join her outside, Ivy remains steadfast, relying on Milly to manage their needs.

Milly is caught in a cycle of reluctance and responsibility until a chance encounter with Jack, the butcher's boy, sparks fear of retribution from her father. Although Arthur had appeared to soften following Helen's death, his old, harsh demeanor resurfaces when he sees Milly chatting with Jack, prompting an unmerited punishment that leaves her defenseless and enraged.

In the aftermath, the siblings regroup to plot an escape for Milly, catalyzed by her desire to find Auntie Doris, a distant relative who represents hope for a new beginning. Billy and Dan conspire to search for clues about Doris's whereabouts, promising to support Milly in her quest for freedom. Despite Milly's bleak circumstances, a whisper of determination stirs within her—prompted by their plan to surreptitiously find information while keeping the younger children from noticing their covert actions.



Conclusively, Chapter 4 uncovers deep familial tensions, the harsh realities the children face, and Milly's inner turmoil set against the backdrop of loss, duty, and longing for escape. The chapter emphasizes the stark contrast between fleeting moments of tenderness and an overarching, oppressive household atmosphere, while hinting at Milly's burgeoning resolve to chase her dreams beyond the restrictive confines of her family life.

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## Chapter 5 Summary:

### Chapter 5 Summary:

Milly, a young girl facing a troubled home life, makes a bold decision late one Sunday night to leave her house on Winter Street for good. Encouraged by her brothers Billy and Dan, she plans to escape through a back alley to avoid waking anyone. Her destination is Southwark, where a clue from an old envelope suggests her Aunt Doris might live. Despite Dan's concerns for her safety in the dark, Milly insists on leaving immediately to put distance between herself and her father, whom she fears.

As she journeys through the deserted streets, Milly soon finds herself in Southwark Park, feeling isolated and apprehensive. The park's eerie ambiance, amplified by the creaking trees and dim gas lamps, mirrors her solitude and uncertainty about the future. She settles under a bandstand for the night with her few belongings, reflecting on her decision and longing for family she left behind.

In the morning, Milly is startled awake by a young girl named Jane, elegantly dressed and seated in a wheelchair, accompanied by her caretaker, Walton. Jane, curious and friendly, inquires about Milly's situation, leading to a conversation despite Walton's attempts to move on. Jane identifies Milly



as a runaway, an assumption that stirs Milly's emotions, causing her to open up about her plight.

Surprised by Jane's warmth and insistence, Milly reluctantly agrees to accompany them to Jane's home, a large house in Southwark Park Road, in hopes of finding help locating Aunt Doris. Jane, who lacks friends her age due to her circumstances, eagerly welcomes Milly, inviting her to stay and promising her mother's assistance.

Upon arriving at the house, Milly meets Betty, the cook, who is both amused and empathetic towards Milly's predicament. Despite Mrs. Green's initial caution, Jane's mother, she allows Milly to stay temporarily, recognizing the benefit of companionship for Jane. Betty offers Milly a hot meal and soon proposes tasks around the house for her to do in exchange for her stay.

Milly is astounded by the luxury of the Greens' home, particularly the bathroom, which starkly contrasts her previous living conditions.

Overwhelmed with emotion about her newfound circumstances, Milly feels both grateful and apprehensive about the future. Her brief moment of warmth and safety in the Green household grants her a glimpse of hope in her uncertain quest to find Aunt Doris.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Courage to Change Your Path

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine having the courage to step beyond what you know, even when drenched in fear and uncertainty. Just like Milly, whose bold choice to leave her troubled home marks a pivotal moment, you too can choose to alter your life's path for the better. Her decision, albeit fraught with danger and murkiness about what's next, serves as a powerful reminder that taking control of one's journey demands bravery and resolve. Milly's journey reassures us that, even amid the unknown, the pursuit of a hopeful future can lead to unexpected allies and opportunities. By deciding to venture into the unfamiliar, you open yourself to transformation, growth, and the promise of a better tomorrow. This courage isn't about knowing where you'll land; it's about trusting that any step away from the shadows is a step toward your own light.

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## Chapter 6 Summary:

Chapter 6 presents a pivotal moment for the protagonist, Milly, as she navigates a new environment filled with uncertainty yet sprinkled with unexpected kindness. It begins with Milly gathering the courage to take a bath in an unfamiliar house, filled with anxiety about her surroundings and the fear of the unknown. Her imagination runs wild, contemplating outlandish scenarios, including the chilling thought of being lured into the white slave market—a fear fueled by stories she has heard about Chinatown. This paranoia is compounded by her internal struggle to understand the motives of the people around her.

Eventually, Milly allows herself a moment of enjoyment with the luxurious soap and towels, feeling a touch of normalcy and joy in the simple act of bathing. Her vulnerability begins to fade as she dons the fine clothes left out for her, items so beautiful she likens herself to a princess. But her moment of solitude and self-reflection ends abruptly with Mrs. Green's unexpected entrance. Milly is struck by Mrs. Green's kindness, which seems to stem from a desire for her daughter, Jane, to have companionship.

As Milly settles into the new clothes and environment, she meets Jane, whose warm welcome and candid nature immediately put Milly at ease. Jane, a girl about Milly's age, is confined to a wheelchair, something that piques Milly's curiosity but not before Jane makes a faux pas by mentioning



Milly's prior odor, which is quickly smoothed over. Despite Walton, an authoritative figure engaged in her needlework, cautioning Jane about prying into Milly's troubles, Jane remains genuinely interested in Milly's story, creating an atmosphere of budding friendship.

The chapter subtly reveals broader social dynamics through small interactions. Milly instinctively recognizes her need to adapt quickly to the manners and customs of her generous host, especially during an afternoon tea session, a ritual filled with unfamiliar but delightful customs for her. She learns to mimic Jane's polite etiquette, and through her newfound friend's chatter, gains a glimpse into a different world—one of wealth and opportunity, compared to her own.

Later, in the kitchen with Betty, Milly finds herself both charmed by and curious about her temporary new home and its occupants. Betty warns her about the need to contribute around the house, explaining the routine and staff hierarchy, and also cautions against too much curiosity about personal matters.

The chapter closes with Milly's internal conflict between her responsibilities and her longing for stability and care, weighing the allure of staying in this seemingly safe haven against her quest to find her aunt. Despite the initial apprehension and underlying challenges, Milly begins to hope for acceptance in her new environment, yet understands that long-term security



in this newfound paradise is unlikely, given her background and the transient nature of her presence in Jane's life. Through her experiences, she's learning to dream cautiously, aware that reality often dictates a different path.

Section	Summary
Introduction to Environment	Milly faces anxiety in a new environment, fearing scenarios from stories such as the white slave market, amidst uncertainty about her surroundings.
First Glimpse of Normalcy	Despite her fears, Milly enjoys a bath, likening herself to a princess with the fine clothes provided.
Encounter with Mrs. Green	Mrs. Green's kindness towards Milly stems from a wish for companionship for her daughter, Jane.
Meeting Jane	Jane, a wheelchair-bound contemporary, welcomes Milly, with a friendly disposition that eases Milly's apprehension.
Social Dynamics and Adaptation	Through an afternoon tea session, Milly learns about wealth, manners, and the need for adaptation in her new setting.
Advice from Betty	In the kitchen, Betty warns Milly about contributing to the house and cautions against excessive curiosity about others' personal matters.
Internal Conflict	Milly struggles between the comfort of a stable home and her quest for family, ultimately dreaming cautiously.



## Chapter 7 Summary:

### Chapter 7 Summary:

In the days following her arrival, Milly seamlessly integrated into domestic life with Betty and Jane. She shared her days with Elsa, a quiet yet smiling woman responsible for managing the fires, who bore the weight of a sick husband and four children. Milly's attic room, despite its coldness, was her sanctuary—a place of warmth, comfort, and the newfound luxury of clean linens and a hot water bottle she cherished deeply.

The household routine saw Milly helping Elsa with the fireplaces and sharing breakfast in the kitchen before Jane's lessons commenced with Miss Dance, a strict yet kind tutor. Though Jane wished Milly could join her lessons, Milly demurred, longing not to upset the balance. As Jane's companion, Milly found joy in their shared afternoon teas, during which Jane expressed happiness at having Milly's company and curiosity about Milly's past experiences, such as witnessing a striking suffragette march. Milly, however, spared Jane from tales of her more challenging times.

Despite settling in, Milly's thoughts occasionally drifted to her elusive Aunt Doris, particularly after conversations with Betty, who had unsuccessfully enquired among traders in Southwark about her whereabouts. However,



uncertainty about finding her aunt lingered as Milly began embracing her present situation. These feelings intensified when Mrs. Green, Jane's mother, encouraged Milly to stay until word from Aunt Doris arrived, hinting at Jane's growing fondness for her.

As Jane's birthday approached, Milly played a humble role. Despite being kept apart from the festivities, Milly sensed the condescension from Jane's affluent friends—a familiar sting from her past. Yet, Milly cherished her covert participation, banking on the prospects increasingly dictated by her immediate surroundings, especially her blossoming relationship with Jane.

With Easter nearing, Jane's brother Richard returned home, setting a new dynamic in motion. Richard, with his slightly teasing demeanor, was perplexed yet intrigued by Milly's presence. Although his jokes sometimes veered into insensitivity, especially over Milly's modest attire, Jane consistently defended her, reaffirming Milly's growing place within the family. A heartwarming exchange ensued, lifting Milly's spirits and highlighting Jane's protectiveness and growing affection for her.

Milly's days flourished within the Greens' household, even as tensions with Richard receded into indirect displays of sibling affection and forced apologies. Despite lingering thoughts about Aunt Doris, Milly began envisaging a future with Jane's companionship—a stark contrast to the uncertainties that once dominated her life.



## Chapter 8:

### Chapter 8 Summary:

With the arrival of spring, Milly is captivated by the garden's multitude of vibrant flowers. Her friend Jane enthusiastically helps her learn their names, emphasizing the value of daily writing and education as endorsed by their teacher, Miss Dance. Jane, who cannot walk due to a birth injury, finds great companionship in Milly, with both girls mutually enriching each other's lives.

In June, during a tea gathering, Jane and her tutor, Miss Dance, propose to Mrs. Green that Milly join Jane in her lessons. Mrs. Green agrees, recognizing Milly's quick learning ability and Jane's need for a study partner. Despite initial surprise, Milly eagerly accepts, as this opportunity for education could significantly impact her future. With Betty's encouragement and approval, Milly is excited about her new academic journey.

Meanwhile, Richard, Jane's brother, returns home for the summer holidays. Initially wary of him, Milly is self-conscious due to recent developments in her appearance. Richard's perception of Milly has changed; her speech has improved, and he acknowledges her progress. While Richard enjoys teasing Milly, Jane defends her friend, highlighting Milly's resilience and



blossoming intelligence.

During Richard's visit, Miss Robbins and her mother arrive, marking their interest in Richard as a suitable match, a traditional practice among the gentry to secure advantageous marriages. Milly observes this matchmaking

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## Chapter 9 Summary:

In Chapter 9, Milly experiences a heartwarming celebration of her fifteenth birthday, receiving thoughtful gifts from the Green family and their staff. Milly, deeply touched by their kindness, reflects on the stark contrast to her past life where such celebrations were nonexistent. Mrs. Green expresses gratitude for the joy Milly has brought to the household, while Jane, Mr. and Mrs. Green's daughter, shares her excitement about her father returning home for Christmas, describing him as a kind man who works as an ambassador in Germany.

As Christmas preparations begin, the household buzzes with excitement and activity. Milly is swept up in the festive atmosphere, helping with decorations and looking forward to meeting Mr. Green. Jane's anticipation and Milly's nervousness mix with joyful chaos as they prepare for this family reunion. Richard, already home, is friendly to Milly, adding to her sense of belonging.

When Mr. Green arrives, Milly witnesses a joyous family reunion filled with warmth and affection that she has never experienced before. The family's delight sets the stage for Christmas Eve when they attend Midnight Mass together. For Milly, the beauty of the church and the sound of the choir's carols evoke a profound sense of joy and privilege she had never known.



Christmas Day unfolds with Milly and Betty managing their duties with efficiency and a sense of being part of a joyful tradition. The household exudes festive warmth, with the Greens exchanging gifts and showing generosity towards their staff. Jane gifts Milly a lovely pinafore, which she cherishes as she aids in hosting the day's celebrations. Milly marvels at Mrs. Green's grace and the splendid atmosphere, contrasting starkly with her own family's probable Christmas, devoid of gifts or joy.

Throughout the day's festivities, Milly reflects on her own family, feeling guilt and longing for her brothers, amidst her newfound happiness. The generosity of the Greens, particularly Mr. Green's Christmas gift of a shilling to Milly, underscores the kindness she's received. As night falls, Milly is filled with gratitude and a touch of sadness, wishing she could share her good fortune with her family back home. The chapter closes with Milly looking at the stars, grateful for her new life yet wistful about the ones she loves yet cannot reach.



## Chapter 10 Summary:

In January 1910, the anticipation of the new year was palpable, especially for Jane, who was eagerly looking forward to her birthday. She shared her excitement with Milly, expressing her desire for a small celebration without her mother's friends, whose discussions about social events and ball gowns were frustrating reminders of Jane's own absence from such activities. Despite Jane's wealth, she longed for experiences typical of ordinary life. Milly empathized, expressing her hope for a delightful celebration, and Jane wistfully wished her father and brother Richard could be present. Milly reassured her that they had likely prepared thoughtful gifts.

Milly gifted Jane delicate lace hankies, prompting Jane's excitement as she'd never owned any before. Jane praised Milly's thoughtfulness, unaware of the effort Milly put into choosing a unique gift.

Reflecting on her year with the Greens, Milly and Betty recalled Milly's transformation from a shy, skinny girl to a confident member of the household. They also touched on the mysterious Aunt Doris, whom Milly believed existed despite her mother's silence on the matter.

Easter brought Richard home from school, an event Jane wished could be more permanent. The holiday was filled with laughter, outings, and picnics, and Milly noticed Richard's frequent presence. Jane teased Milly about



Richard's interest, hinting at a budding affection, though Milly downplayed it, mindful of Mrs. Green's matrimonial aspirations for Richard.

In May, the nation mourned King Edward VII's death, and Jane was excited for her father's brief return for the funeral. Discussions in the kitchen revealed Mr. Green's significant position, highlighted by his invitation to the royal event. Jane admired the new royal couple, and despite her brief family reunion, was saddened by her father's departure.

With summer's arrival, Richard returned home, sparking Milly's conflicting emotions. Although a servant, she cherished her connection with the family, particularly Richard. The summer days were filled with warmth and camaraderie, culminating in an evening walk to the park, where they indulged in a playful, secret moment as Richard carefully allowed Jane's feet to splash in the pond—a cherished memory etched in their hearts.

However, Milly's joy was tainted by the proximity to her past life, sparking fear of encountering her old family and friends. Jane's innocent probing into Milly's past unsettled her, yet Richard's empathy highlighted his growing feelings for Milly. Despite her troubled history, he remained captivated by her resilience and beauty. As they ended the day with ice creams, the mood shifted from joyous to introspective, with Richard pondering the mysteries of Milly's past and the circumstances that led her to their lives.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Milly's Transformation from Shyness to Confidence

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 10, Milly experiences a profound transformation from a timid, uncertain girl to a self-assured and respected member of the Green household. Her journey exemplifies the power of embracing change and stepping out of one's comfort zone. This key point from the narrative serves as a compelling reminder for you to take the first step towards growth, even when it feels uncomfortable. Just like Milly, you might find that the path to confidence and self-realization is rewarding and transformative. Her resilience in the face of uncertainty inspires you to navigate challenges with courage. Embrace your journey as Milly did, for the confidence you seek lies within the steps you dare to take.



## Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 11, the narrative unfolds during a long, hot summer where the characters Richard, Jane, and Milly frequently visit the park. Initially, Milly is hesitant to join in the fun of paddling in the water due to her shyness in front of Richard. However, with encouragement, she overcomes this hesitation and begins to enjoy herself, much like Jane does. This setting provides a backdrop for the evolving relationships and deeper conversations among the characters, highlighting their maturation.

Afternoons spent in the garden become a time for intense discussions, where Milly learns about the world through conversations with Richard. He takes her seriously, no longer viewing her as a mere waif, and the kitchen becomes a casual meeting place for their conversations. Richard, destined to join the army as his father wishes, engages Milly in talks about the future, fueling Milly's fears about leaving her current solace.

Their bond is noticeable to others, leading to Betty warning Milly about growing too fond of Richard, reminding her of his impending army service and potential deployment. Despite the warning, Milly cannot help her growing affection for him, aware of the class barrier that might prevent anything further. Richard, too, is drawn to Milly's honest and joyful nature, different from the girls his mother introduces him to. He considers staying connected through letters while away, mindful of societal expectations.



The chapter also follows Milly's academic journey as Miss Dance encourages her to take an exam to earn a certificate, which would be a significant step for Milly's future prospects. Despite her initial apprehensions about failure, Jane and Miss Dance support her decision to pursue the exam, highlighting its importance for her potential growth and independence. Jane, in particular, emphasizes the uncertainty of the future and the importance of seizing opportunities, intimating that education can provide Milly with the means to control her destiny.

As the summer draws to a close and Richard returns to school, Milly resolves to work hard and succeed in her studies, understanding the importance of this opportunity. This chapter underscores themes of growth, aspiration, and the complexities of budding relationships against a backdrop of social and familial expectations.



## Chapter 12:

In Chapter 12, winter envelops the household, signaling the approach of Christmas and stirring excitement within Milly. Having settled into her new life, she aids Betty in preparing the Christmas pudding, a tradition that symbolizes the onset of the festive season. Milly reflects on her transformation over nearly two years, noting the loss of her Cockney accent and her growing wisdom. Despite her growth, Milly often reflects on home, grappling with guilt and uncertainty about reconciling with her family. Her affection for Richard, who is expected home for Christmas, fills her with eager anticipation, especially as she treasures his letters and the prospect of his presence.

As preparations continue, Mr. Green's arrival brings unease. Pale and thin, he appears unwell, and Mrs. Green ushers him into the drawing room with concern. The staff speculates about his health, with Betty dismissing Milly's worries as dramatics. Mr. Green's return seems to alter the household's dynamic, introducing a tension that disturbs the festive atmosphere.

Richard's subsequent arrival lifts Milly's spirits. Greeting her warmly, he inquires about her recent experiences and upcoming exams. However, Richard remains unaware of his father's condition, bolstering Betty's belief that there's nothing to worry about. Yet, Mr. Green's continued absence from breakfast and the muted atmosphere in the drawing room maintain Milly's





concern.

On Christmas Eve, Richard confides in Milly, revealing that Mr. Green's health issues stem from stress due to his demanding role as an ambassador dealing with political unrest in Germany, rather than any life-threatening

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## Chapter 13 Summary:

In Chapter 13, we find the story unfolding around Christmas time, with Milly, a young servant girl, and her companions getting ready to celebrate. Betty, a fellow servant, and Milly admire each other's holiday attire. Betty dons a navy outfit, complemented by a new hat, which garners admiration from Jane, a member of the upper-class family they serve. The girls exchange compliments on their appearances, reflective of their desire to present themselves at their best during the festive season.

The setting shifts as the group, including Richard, Jane's brother, heads to church. The holiday spirit takes over as they revel in the joyous caroling, which continues even on their way back home. Upon returning, Mr. Green, the family patriarch, invites the servants to share in a celebratory drink, exemplifying a fleeting moment of social unity amidst the class divide.

As festivities wind down, Betty and Milly prepare to end the night, aware of the busy days ahead. Milly's quiet excitement is abruptly interrupted by an unexpected encounter with Richard, who seeks her out in the solitude of the evening. He confesses his feelings for her, driven by the courage derived from alcohol. Milly is flustered; while secretly thrilled by his admissions, she is acutely aware of the societal boundaries and potential consequences of their liaison. Torn between her desires and the fear of repercussions, she reluctantly turns him away, wary of scandal.



The morning after brings with it an uncomfortable reminder of the previous night when Elsie, another servant, hints at Richard's attentions towards Milly. As Christmas Day unfolds, the household engages in their usual routines, with Mr. Green gifting the staff small purses of money as a gesture of appreciation. Jane delights in gifting Milly a book, reflecting Milly's love of reading and hinting at a shared bond between the two girls, despite the differences in their stations.

The day is filled with moments of gift-giving and expressions of gratitude. Mrs. Green and Jane's generosity warm Milly, but Richard's delayed gifting creates tension. Eventually, he presents Milly with a secret gift—a small, velvet box—that he insists she keeps hidden from the family, suggesting the significance and perhaps the inappropriateness of the gift within the strict social hierarchies they navigate.

The chapter skillfully juxtaposes the warmth of the holidays with underlying tensions of class and hidden desires. Milly's experience encapsulates the fragility of a young woman caught between social expectation and personal longing. The festivities serve as a backdrop to explore themes of love, secrecy, and the complexities of relationships across social divides, with the promise of future developments in Milly and Richard's complicated connection.



## Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14, Milly finds herself unexpectedly confronted with a mysterious, extravagant present from Richard, the son of the household where she works as a helper. Richard, who is also the brother of her close friend Jane, gives Milly a lavish gold bracelet that leaves her both thrilled and confused. Milly contemplates the implications of such a gift, pondering over their different social standings and the clandestine nature of Richard's affections. Despite her fondness for Richard, Milly is aware of the societal barriers between them and feels the weight of possibly inappropriate expectations.

While this internal conflict brews, Milly continues with her daily tasks, portraying her as a conscientious worker attentive to the needs of those around her. For instance, she takes the initiative to ease her colleague Elsie's burden by covering her duties, highlighting Milly's kindness and dependability.

The narrative then unfolds against a backdrop of broader concerns, as geopolitical tensions are subtly weaved into the storyline—specifically through Mr. Green's ominous worries about the situation in Germany. This creates a sense of unease and foreshadows larger events that may disturb the family's tranquil routine.





The story shows Milly's strong relationship with Jane, who openly appreciates Milly's friendship over the superficial associations with other girls. Jane's birthday is understated but heartfelt, reinforcing the bond between the two girls. Milly's dedication to her studies is also rewarded as she sits for exams administered by Miss Dance, whose efforts to educate Milly signify a step towards aspirational progress.

Life at the household involves endearing moments like Milly bringing snow into the house for Jane, an act that underscores her creative and nurturing spirit. These small joys are contrasted by the struggles of secondary characters like Elsie, whose husband's declining health sheds light on the hardships faced by others around them.

As winter transitions to spring, the narrative follows a rhythm of routine and meaningful exchanges that punctuate the daily lives of Milly and her companions. Milly's hard work culminates in her receiving a certificate, affirming her academic success and the optimism and potential for a brighter future. This milestone is warmly celebrated by those around her, showcasing the support and warmth of the environment fostered by Milly and Jane.

The chapter also depicts moments of discontent from Jane, trapped both physically in her wheelchair and emotionally by her yearning to engage with the world like others. Her frustrations are handled patiently by Milly, who strives to uplift her friend's spirits. Their bond is further cemented by



gestures of affection and mutual appreciation, revealing the deep friendship that sustains them.

Amidst these events, Mile continues to navigate her emotions surrounding Richard's gift and the whispers of a world outside her current one, lending an air of suspense and introspection. The chapter beautifully weaves together personal struggles, evolving friendships, and glimpses of the historical undercurrents that threaten to ripple through their lives in future chapters.

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## Chapter 15 Summary:

Chapter 15 unfolds with the exhilarating news that Mr. Green will return home for the Coronation, triggering excitement within the Green household. Mrs. Green reveals plans to attend the grand event in new outfits, staying at a hotel, much to Betty and Milly's envy. The promise of possibly seeing the King and Queen adds to the anticipation, while Jane's frustration about being confined to her wheelchair surfaces when she bitterly wishes she could attend the festivities herself. Milly, always the source of comfort and ingenuity, suggests taking Jane on outings to see the decorated shops, temporarily lifting her spirits.

Mr. Green's brief visit home comes to a close as he returns to his duties in Germany, leaving the household to settle back into its routine. Richard's letters from military school, tucked inside Jane's correspondence, provide amusing updates, highlighting the light-hearted camaraderie among his fellow students. Meanwhile, the vibrant summer warmly envelops the story, and both Milly and Jane excitedly anticipate Richard's return for the holidays. Their friendship deepens, characterized by joyful afternoons filled with laughter and exploration. However, Jane's longing for more freedom becomes apparent in her desire to visit the park, a venture only allowed with Walton's assistance.

The chapter details the candid conversations between Milly and Jane,





touching on their domestic dynamics and Jane's dependence on Walton for daily tasks. Milly reassures Jane about Walton's job security, though Jane's frustration with her disability persists, as does her yearning for new experiences. Mrs. Green's concern grows over Milly's influence on Jane and Richard. She appreciates Milly's positive impact on her daughter but worries about Richard's affection for Milly, fearing it might complicate future familial expectations given societal norms.

In contrast, Walton and Betty discuss their worries about Milly's growing involvement in Jane's life, acknowledging her invaluable assistance but speculating about her mysterious past and potential future. When Mrs. Robbins and Catherine visit the Greens, Milly faces subtle societal judgments, reinforcing her status in the household. Betty advises Milly to remain cautious and modest in her behavior to fit the family's expectations while juggling her role as both a caregiver and a friend.

The chapter concludes with a poignant moment as Jane and Mrs. Green clash over societal expectations. Mrs. Green discreetly hints at her hopes for Richard's future, implying a suitable match within their social circle. Jane, in defense of Milly, insists that Richard will ultimately choose his own path, even as the conversation leaves Milly contemplating her place in the household and her true feelings for Richard. This internal conflict lingers, casting a shadow of uncertainty over her role and future with the Greens.



# Chapter 16:

## Summary of Chapter 16

The chapter unfolds with a playful banter between Jane, a spirited young girl in a wheelchair, and Milly, her devoted companion. Jane insists on going to the park, using cheeky threats to convince Milly. At the park, Jane longs to paddle her feet in the paddling pool, reminiscing about carefree times with her brother Richard. Although initially resistant, Milly eventually agrees to let Jane dangle her feet, albeit worried about the repercussions if Mrs. Green, Jane's mother, were to find out. Their outing proceeds without incident, and Jane expresses gratitude for Milly's friendship and willingness to indulge her small pleasures.

Back in the household, Milly grapples with guilt over their escapades. Betty, the housekeeper, senses that something is amiss and eventually learns of the park outings. She warns Milly about the consequences of their actions if Mrs. Green were to discover them. The narrative sheds light on Milly's internal conflict and the balancing act she performs in trying to give Jane a semblance of normalcy amidst the constraints imposed by her family's expectations.

As the story progresses, Richard returns from college and takes over the task



of taking Jane to the park, where they continue their playful escapades, with the trio enjoying carefree moments together. Richard's presence is a source of joy for Milly, who harbors unspoken feelings for him. However, she is acutely aware of the societal barriers that stand between them, knowing that their relationship may ultimately be unviable due to class differences.

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## Chapter 17 Summary:

Chapter 17 opens with a tense and emotional confrontation between Walton and Milly, centering on a tragic incident that has left the household in turmoil. Walton, filled with rage, accuses Milly of causing Jane's death—a young girl she was supposed to care for. The scene is charged with Walton's harsh words, suggesting Milly could face severe legal consequences, including imprisonment or worse, for what she views as murder. Milly, overwhelmed with grief and insistence on her innocence, finds little comfort in Walton's accusations.

Betty, another household member, tries to comfort Milly, offering her a hot drink and updating her on the tragic news' impact on Mrs. Green. The police have already been informed, and telegrams sent to relevant family members, including Mr. Green and Richard, hoping they can return quickly to manage the situation. Despite Betty's gentler demeanor, it's clear the household is deeply shaken, and Milly's future looks uncertain.

Wracked with guilt and fear, Milly reflects on the accident at the park where Jane, unfortunately, drowned. Milly is tormented by the memory of the incident and her failed attempts to save Jane. The weight of the responsibility and fear of the legal implications make Milly realize that her life in the household is over. The possibility of arrest looms, compelling her to hastily decide to leave, fearing the repercussions of staying.



As Milly packs her belongings, she feels deeply conflicted about taking items gifted to her by the family, viewing it akin to theft. Yet, she knows she must have essentials to start anew. Leaving quietly to avoid confrontation, especially with Walton, she exits the house, consumed by a sense of loss and responsibility.

Out on the streets, Milly avoids familiar areas, including the park, to prevent recognition. Her mind is a whirlwind of sadness and guilt over Jane's death. It's at this moment that Milly finds herself near her old neighborhood, Winter Street—a harsh, impoverished setting far removed from her previous life. Recognized by her younger sister, Pammy, Milly confronts her family's plight, further exacerbated by her mother's recent death during childbirth, leaving another sibling, Fred.

Pammy, now a confident and capable young woman, informs Milly of their sibling dynamic and the heavy responsibilities she's shouldered since their brothers, Billy and Dan, left. Milly faces the harsh reality of her family's situation, and her sense of guilt intensifies. Caught between her tragic past with the Green family and her neglected familial ties, Milly resolves to rejoin her family, hoping to alleviate some of Pammy's burdens. Despite the troubled and impoverished nature of her old home, Milly acknowledges her duty to help her family in any way possible, even as she grapples with how to reintegrate into a life she'd left behind.



Throughout the chapter, themes of guilt, tragedy, and responsibility are explored through Milly's experiences and inner turmoil. It paints a poignant picture of loss, family duty, and the harsh realities faced by those in difficult circumstances.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Taking Responsibility in Adversity

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 17 of 'A Moment to Remember,' Milly's journey is a powerful reminder of the importance of taking responsibility even amid chaos and uncertainty. Despite her overwhelming guilt and fear after Jane's tragic accident, Milly ultimately makes a selfless decision to return to her struggling family. This chapter teaches that, while running from problems may offer temporary relief, true growth and healing come from facing them head-on. Milly's acceptance of her family's needs over her personal escape highlights the strength found in acknowledging our duties to ourselves and to those who rely on us, showcasing how taking responsibility can inspire change and rebuild fractured lives.

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## Chapter 18 Summary:

### Chapter 18 Summary:

Milly returns to her childhood home, a dilapidated and dismal place filled with the scent of neglect and poverty. The once-familiar environment is daunting, reminding her of the life she has attempted to escape. Her siblings, Bert and Iris, whom she hasn't seen in four years, are bickering on the floor. Pammy, the one clearly in charge, introduces Milly to the children, and after a brief, awkward reunion, Milly questions her decision to return.

Rosie, the youngest of the siblings, warmly welcomes Milly back, offering a sense of belonging amidst the chaos. Despite her doubts, Milly decides to stay, driven by her affection for Rosie and a lingering attachment to her late mother. The household is in a state of disarray, and resources are scarce. Milly learns that their father, continuing his sporadic work at the docks, is neither welcoming nor supportive. When he arrives home, he openly questions Milly's intentions, suspecting she may be pregnant and was cast away.

Milly, who has acquired education and skills in her time away, offers to help by working and contributing to the family's meager income. She sets out to buy pie and mash for dinner, taking Rosie with her, and learns about the



tumultuous dynamics that led to her brothers, Billy and Dan, leaving home after clashing with their father. Torn between her past and the present, Milly reflects on her life choices, feeling both hope and despair.

As Milly provides the family with the modest meal, she observes the desperation with which they eat. Pammy acts as a matriarch, attempting to maintain order, while their father dismisses them, showing little gratitude. The state of the house, particularly the scullery filled with dead flies, shocks Milly, highlighting the neglect suffered in her absence.

Despite the challenges, Milly is resolved to help her siblings, particularly Rosie, and perhaps find a new purpose in her familiar yet harsh surroundings. Her return is marked by a mix of nostalgia and sadness, but the determination to make things better for her family shines through, even if she silently laments the past and the people she's lost, including a mysterious figure named Jane.



## Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19, we find Milly embroiled in the challenges of her current living situation with her family. Pammy, Milly's sister, is occupied with bedtime preparations, juggling family demands. The home is crowded, and Milly grapples with the prospect of sharing space with her siblings on a less-than-pleasant mattress. Her resolve grows as she decides to seek a job, needing both independence and financial contribution to her family.

During a restless night, Milly is haunted by memories of her time with Jane, a friend who recently died in distressing circumstances, and how her failure to act still haunts her. The burden of her father's unexpected arrival at the scullery the next morning interrupts her washing routine, further compounding her unease.

Determined to gain independence, Milly ventures into the busy streets in search of work. As she navigates through the hustle and bustle, familiar shops, the market's cacophony, and lingering smells remind her that not much has changed in her surroundings, yet her life feels drastically different. She wonders if shop work is the right choice, fearing recognition due to a past incident she worries may have been publicized.

A chance encounter in a café provides a new opportunity as a waitress mentions the biscuit factory, which is looking for workers. Encouraged,



Milly walks to the factory and, using the alias "Millicent Rose" to safeguard her identity, applies for a job. Her encounter with Mr. Forest, a supervisor, gives her a glimpse into the different factory departments, and he takes an interest in her polished demeanor.

Milly's former life as a nanny becomes a cover story she stretches to fit her new narrative. Despite some anxiety about the lingering questions from Miss Toms, the administrator, Milly secures a position in the factory, starting with an initial pay that feels like a lifeline. Her spirits lift as she leaves, knowing that this job not only affirms her resolve but also ensures a place to escape the constraints of her home life. Milly relishes the transformation her life is undergoing, as she takes on this new chapter with a sense of cautious optimism.



## Chapter 20:

### Chapter 20 Summary

As Milly walked home, she contemplated her newfound independence—a job at the biscuit factory starting on Monday—and the stark contrast it brought to her earlier life when she and her mother made a meager living sewing buttons. Now facing a future without her mother and residing on Winter Street, she confronted the squalor she left behind. Her time at Jane's had kept her distant from her family, and coming back made her painfully aware of neglected responsibilities, especially as Pammy, her sister, seemed overwhelmed caring for her fretful infant, Freddie. Milly resolved to clean their home over the weekend, inspired by her time with the Greens, a more orderly and caring family.

As she ventured through the market, memories flooded in—her father's abusive ways, her thwarted trip to the zoo with Jack, and speculations about old acquaintances like Billy and Dan, possibly now in the navy and army, respectively. She remembered an offer from Richard to look after Dan if he ever found him in his regiment, though this was no longer desirable. At the butcher's, she didn't find Jack, as so much in her life had changed.

Dinner preparation was a reminder of her new role in the household.



Encountering Pammy and her partner Bert, Milly observed their nonchalance towards Bert's petty thefts, recalling how all family members, like Rosie with button sorting, contributed in small ways. Tensions arose over expectations regarding her earnings, planned dinners, and cleaning efforts—changes by Milly that went unappreciated.

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## Chapter 21 Summary:

In Chapter 21, the narrative follows Milly as she navigates the slow passage of time and the struggles of her current life situation, yet manages to find pockets of joy and companionship. As Milly approaches her seventeenth birthday, she reflects on her uncelebrated milestones amidst a family that barely acknowledges such events. Despite sleeping in the kitchen and living minimally, she maintains a sense of hope. She treasures her memories of Richard, a symbol of her dreams and unrequited love, and keeps his bracelet as a cherished possession, carrying it and her money with her consistently.

Milly's life at home has become slightly better; she buys cheap treats like broken biscuits for her family and maintains a cleaner house. She forges an unlikely friendship with old Bill, a pot man at a nearby pub, who often shares stories of his hardships, including the departure of his wife and children. Their conversations reveal Milly's cautious nature regarding her past, especially concerning the alleged theft from her previous employers, the Greens.

Her role within the family includes shopping and cleaning, often unacknowledged by her father or the domineering presence of Pammy. Her determination to better her and her siblings' lives is evident in her thoughtful purchase of a second-hand coat and shoes for her younger sister Rosie, enabling her to attend church in decent attire. Church offers Milly a





sanctuary of calm and a connection to a different life she once glimpsed, sparking cherished memories.

Milly's father and Pammy's relationship hints at something troubling, a theme she cautiously broaches to avoid confrontation due to a past explosive response. Instead, Milly uses her energy to ensure her sister Rosie stays safe and hopeful, guiding her with small gestures like the gift of a coat.

Work at the factory is a reprieve for Milly, where she builds a friendship with a vivacious colleague, Rita. Sharing snippets of her past, Milly avoids revealing the truth about her reasons for leaving her previous job, claiming the family went abroad. Rita brings joy into Milly's life, inviting her to cultural experiences like the music hall, where Milly is captivated and momentarily freed from her mundane routines.

The chapter also touches on the burgeoning suffragette movement, which stirs something in Milly as the parade passes by, representing a larger call for change and equality. Milly and Rita experience a direct confrontation with traditional values embodied by an old man, showcasing the societal tensions of the time.

Overall, Chapter 21 illustrates Milly's attempts to maintain dignity and connection amidst adversity. Her relationships at work and her protective instincts towards her siblings highlight her resilience and unwavering hope



for a better future. The backdrop of societal change, glimpsed through the suffragette march, aligns with her personal journey toward self-empowerment.

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## Chapter 22 Summary:

In Chapter 22, Milly and Rita find themselves in the sociable atmosphere of a Lyons Corner House, indulging in tea and cake while they reflect on their lives. Rita wonders aloud about the allure of life as a lady, while Milly nostalgically recollects her past service to a wealthy family, despite the limitations it imposed. Through their conversation, it becomes apparent that Milly harbors melancholic memories of a time filled with luxury and structure, reminiscent of the classical distinctions between the aristocracy and working class in early 20th-century England.

Their discussion takes a contemporary turn as they touch upon the suffragette movement—a burgeoning political force advocating for women's rights during this period. While Milly is curious and somewhat supportive of the suffragettes, Rita is apprehensive about their radical methods like property damage and imprisonment. The suffragette movement was a significant social revolution, challenging traditional gender roles and pushing for voting rights.

Milly's intrigue grows, and she decides to attend a suffragette meeting. Despite her nervousness, she finds solidarity among women driven by a desire for equality and empowerment. At the meeting, Mrs. Bolton, a captivating speaker, shares poignant stories of women enduring hardship for the cause, including imprisonment and force-feeding. The gathering isn't



only enlightening; it is transformative for Milly, as she witnesses the resolve and determination of these women to make a difference.

Milly's encounter with Ada Roberts, a fellow attendee, underscores the grassroots nature of this movement, with Ada inviting Milly to participate in more administrative aspects of the campaign, such as distributing newsletters. Despite her interest, Milly is cautious due to the potential legal implications.

Meanwhile, Milly tries to explain the suffragette cause to Rita, who remains indifferent. This exchange reflects the differing societal attitudes towards women's suffrage at the time, with public opinion divided on whether it was a justified fight or an unnecessary disruption.

As Christmas approaches, Milly is overwhelmed by memories of her past with the Greens, a family emblematic of her lost security and happiness. However, determined to create a meaningful Christmas for her current family, she roams a bustling market filled with festive cheer, purchasing simple gifts. Her modest shopping highlights both her economic reality and enduring desire to bring joy to her family, even amidst personal regret and unhealed wounds from her past life.

Chapter 22 thus weaves together personal reflection, social consciousness, and the ongoing tension between past and present, capturing Milly's



struggles and aspirations in a rapidly changing world.

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## Chapter 23 Summary:

In Chapter 23, we find Milly embracing the cold New Year with optimism, fueled by the comforting warmth of the kitchen hearth where she sleeps. As icy mornings greet her, she finds solace in the warmth of the factory, a stark contrast to the chill and political unrest on the streets, where the suffragette movement continues to make headlines. Milly is drawn to this cause and makes her way to the suffragettes' office with curiosity and a desire to learn more.

Inside, she encounters Ada, an enthusiastic member of the movement, operating a machine that churns out propaganda for the cause. Surrounded by posters and the earnest energy of the volunteers, Milly immerses herself in the environment, chatting with Ada and Eve about their purpose. Milly learns that despite societal disapproval and personal sacrifice, these women are determined to secure voting rights, believing it would amplify their voices in a male-dominated society. Ada's resourcefulness, especially in garnering secretive support from influential but publicly unsupportive men, intrigues Milly and persuades her to volunteer her time.

Milly's newfound involvement with the suffragettes stirs mixed reactions at home. Her sister Rita and others like Pammy express concern about her unpaid work, suspecting ulterior motives. Even societal voices, like old Bill, criticize the suffragettes for disrupting traditions instead of conforming to



gender norms. Undeterred, Milly enjoys the camaraderie at the office more than the mundane factory work or the oppressive atmosphere at home. She envisions a life similar to her late friend Jane's—filled with purpose and advocacy.

The situation escalates when a violent act of vandalism occurs, shattering the office window and injuring Ada. Amidst the shock and urgency, Milly's calm directive—seeking a doctor and administering first aid—reveals her resilience. Criticism from onlookers highlights the societal disdain they face, but it only emboldens the resolve within Milly and her peers.

Visiting the hospital evokes memories of Milly's past struggles, yet it also introduces her to empathetic figures like the attending doctor, whose respectful attention reassures her. Ada's resilience post-incident reinforces the collective determination among the women, even as the authorities remain dismissive.

Returning to the office, Milly considers her future, enamored by the cause and contemplating her role within it. Her heart flutters with the thought of personal growth and perhaps the attention of the kind doctor. As she walks home, weighed by the memory of Jane, Milly acknowledges the path laid before her—one of fulfillment through advocacy and possibly love. Her journey is not just about supporting a political movement but finding her place and purpose within the fabric of societal change.



## Chapter 24:

Chapter 24 of the story transitions from spring to summer with Milly deeply involved in her evening responsibilities at the office. The story underscores her growing attachment to the suffragette movement and the companions she has made there, such as Ada, Pat, and Eve. Despite her limited time spent at the office due to another job, Milly's enthusiasm flourishes, especially when Ada hints at the possibility of Milly obtaining a full-time position.

Milly unexpectedly encounters Tom, a handsome and charming doctor who had previously provided aid to Ada. His presence is reminiscent of a storybook hero—tall, dark, and seemingly captivated by Milly. Their conversation touches upon the harsh realities faced by suffragettes, particularly the brutal force-feeding some have endured while imprisoned for their activism. Tom expresses admiration, fueled by his own mother's sympathies towards the cause, deepening Milly's curiosity about him.

Throughout their encounter, Milly finds herself both flattered and pleasantly surprised by Tom's interest in her. Despite her initial reluctance to engage, due to the fear of her father's disapproval and her guardedness about her past, she eventually agrees to meet him for tea. Their dialogue reveals Tom's background as an only child raised by a devoted mother, who ensured he received a solid education, propelling him to become a doctor. Milly remains cautious, barely revealing details about her own past, having previously





worked in a grand household.

However, when the day of the date arrives, Milly's excitement turns to disappointment as Tom fails to show due to unforeseen work obligations. This episode resonates with her lingering grief over a past relationship with

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## Chapter 25 Summary:

### Chapter 25 Summary

Throughout the summer, the suffragettes remained active and vocal, continuing their campaign for women's rights. Against this backdrop, Milly, who has been committed to the cause, receives exciting news: a full-time position at the suffragette office. This opportunity, coming just after her birthday in November, thrills her, although she knows her sister Rita might not be pleased.

Ada, who recognizes Milly's dedication, encourages her, seeing Milly's potential. While the increased income of ten shillings a week brings Milly joy and thoughts of independence, it also stirs tension at home. Her family heavily relies on her financial contributions, as her father cannot work due to a leg injury.

At home, an argument ensues over Milly's new dress, highlighting the family's financial struggles. Pammy confronts Milly, who, despite her frustration, feels constrained by her family's dependency.

As Christmas approaches, Milly's thoughts turn to gift-giving, particularly for Ada, Eve, and Pat. Yet, she is momentarily distracted when she witnesses



Bertie, a young boy she knows, being apprehended by the police for theft. Fearful of police attention due to her own past, Milly grapples with whether to help Bertie.

At the market, the situation worsens when Milly learns from Pammy that Bertie faces a ten-shilling fine, failing which he risks a harsher punishment. Feeling compelled to act, Milly reluctantly considers pawning her bracelet, a cherished keepsake from Richard, whom she still loves.

The next Monday morning, Milly enters the pawnbroker's shop, filled with women pawning items for cash. Humiliated but determined to help Bertie, she bargains for ten shillings, agreeing to part with her bracelet despite its sentimental value. The interaction is uncomfortable, with the pawnbroker doubting the legitimacy of her story and the women gossiping about her.

With the ten shillings secured, Milly considers how to anonymously ensure Bertie's release from custody. Ultimately, she decides to mail the money rather than involve Pammy, maintaining her secret.

The following evening, Milly feigns surprise when Bert excitedly reports that the fine has been mysteriously paid. Grateful for his freedom, Bert expresses his relief at not having to endure a stint in jail. Despite Pammy's curiosity about the mysterious benefactor, Milly keeps her involvement a secret, content that Bert is home for Christmas.



This chapter highlights the social struggles of the era, the burden of familial responsibilities, and the sacrifices Milly makes to support those she cares about, all against the backdrop of the suffrage movement.

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## Chapter 26 Summary:

In 1913, the suffragette movement in Britain was at its peak, drawing significant attention, particularly following the tragic death of Emily Davison at the Epsom Derby. Davison's act of throwing herself under the King's horse was intended as a protest but resulted in unintended fatal consequences, marking a pivotal moment for the movement. Ada, deeply affected by the news of Davison's death, rushes into the office, prompting concern from her colleagues, Milly and Eve. The incident left a profound impact on Milly, who was moved by the dedication and sacrifices made for women's suffrage.

The public and media were abuzz with the news of Davison's death, and her funeral drew large crowds, symbolizing a collective desire for change and a push for women's right to vote. Milly finds herself more engaged in the suffragette movement, attending rallies and admiring the passionate speeches of prominent figures like the Pankhursts.

Amidst this political and social backdrop, Milly's personal life takes a transformative turn. On her nineteenth birthday, Milly is offered a chance to move out of her unsatisfactory home situation. Ada proposes that Milly take over two rooms in the office building, shared with another young woman, Lizzie Phillips, who has similarly been displaced due to her involvement in the movement. Lizzie comes from a privileged background but faces familial



disapproval concerning her involvement with the suffragettes.

Upon meeting, Milly and Lizzie develop an instant camaraderie, bonding over their shared struggles and aspirations. They delight in the newfound freedom of their shared living space, planning how to furnish their modest home despite Milly's financial concerns. Lizzie assures her that her father, covertly supportive despite his public position, will assist them financially.

In stark contrast, Milly struggles with familial obligations and unsavory circumstances at home, including the troubling relationship between her sister Pammy and their father. Milly feels torn between her responsibilities and her desire to improve her life and continue her advocacy.

While excited about this opportunity for independence and the prospect of living with Lizzie, Milly is constantly reminded of her gratitude towards her friend Jane, who helped her transition off the streets and into a better life. Despite her uncertainties, Milly welcomes this new chapter with hopeful anticipation, eager for the positive change it promises.

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## Chapter 27 Summary:

In Chapter 27, Milly and Lizzie are eagerly preparing to move into their new flat after Christmas. Lizzie, bubbling with excitement, has already arranged for furniture to be delivered, much to Milly's surprise and delight. The quality of the furniture impresses Milly, as she never imagined living in such luxury again. Lizzie reassures her that sourcing items for the flat is a joint effort and offers Milly money to purchase additional essentials, especially for the kitchen, as Milly will be handling cooking duties. Despite her initial protest, Milly accepts Lizzie's generosity.

As Christmas approaches, Milly's family life becomes tumultuous. Her sister, Pammy, falls ill, leaving Milly to manage the household and care for her young nephew, Freddie. Milly's plea for help from her siblings is met with indifference, and even Rosie, another family member, refuses to assist, citing grievances over pawned belongings. Meanwhile, the persistent fog of the season mirrors the heavy atmosphere in their home, adding to Milly's burdens.

Concerned about Pammy's persistent illness, Milly decides to defy her father's dismissive attitude and seek medical help, suspecting more severe issues may be at play. The visiting doctor, however, reassures Milly that Pammy's condition is likely related to something she ate, dismissing Milly's fears of pregnancy. The doctor's examination and his interaction with Milly





uncover a troubling dynamic in the household, with hints at deeper, uncomfortable family issues.

The chapter weaves together Milly's anticipation for a fresh start with Lizzie and her ongoing struggles within her family. The contrasting environments highlight Milly's resilience and strength in facing challenges. The backdrop of Christmas, typically a time of joy, instead highlights the difficulties of her current situation, while the upcoming move symbolizes hope and change. Lizzie's open-hearted offer and Milly's cautious optimism about their new beginning create a poignant contrast to the heaviness of her family life. As they wait for the weather to clear, the question of whether Lizzie is truly ready to leave her affluent lifestyle lingers, adding depth to their friendship and shared aspirations.

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## Chapter 28:

### Chapter 28 Summary:

In early 1914, Milly and her friend Lizzie decide to move into a new flat, but Lizzie hesitates, likely due to her comfortable lifestyle at home. Although Milly wishes they could move sooner, she promised to wait for Lizzie. Meanwhile, Milly remains suspicious of Pammy, who claims to feel better over time. With spring's arrival, Milly prepares to move out, grappling with the decision's impact on her dependent family. She longs to visit her mother's grave, but Pammy continues to evade her requests.

After dinner one night, Milly nervously contemplates telling her family about her departure. She finds her sister Pammy in bed, resembling a child. Milly reveals her plan to move, causing Pammy to burst into tears, but Milly reassures her, promising to send money when possible. Later, Milly confronts their unsupportive father, who remains dismissive of her decision. Feeling guilty yet determined to seize the opportunity, Milly resolves to leave.

The next morning, her father accuses her of abandoning the family, but Milly challenges his bullying ways before leaving. She reflects on the family's dysfunction as she walks to work, knowing there's no turning back.



At the office, Milly receives a welcoming vase of flowers for her new home, a small yet sincere gesture from her coworker Ada.

In May, excitement builds at the office as women organize a rally at Buckingham Palace to petition the King. Ada diligently coordinates their

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## Chapter 29 Summary:

Chapter 29 of this riveting narrative centers around Milly and her experience in the aftermath of a women's suffrage rally, a movement demanding voting rights for women that saw its zenith in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As Milly approaches the taxi rank, she is initially met with resistance from a taxi driver but eventually secures a ride to the hospital for her friend Lizzie, who is visibly unwell from a head injury sustained during the rally.

Upon their arrival at the hospital, Lizzie is promptly attended to by a nurse and a doctor, both of whom are aware of the influx of patients due to the suffrage rally. They suggest that Lizzie requires stitches for her injury and decide to keep her in for observation due to the severity of the blood loss, an anxious experience intensified for Milly as she waits outside.

Milly returns home burdened with worry for Lizzie, pondering the futility of risking health and safety for a cause perceived as just. The camaraderie among the women at the rally was strong, with individuals like Ada, Pat, and Eve, standing side by side. Emmeline Pankhurst, a real historical figure known for her unyielding advocacy for women's right to vote, is mentioned as having been arrested—a testament to her relentless dedication.

The following day, Milly is relieved to find her colleagues safe and eager to support Lizzie. Ada remains focused on the movement, referencing their



rallying cry, "Deeds Not Words." The incident at the rally did not deter them but rather strengthened their resolve, with the enthusiastic Ada looking forward to visiting the hospital to check on Lizzie. Ada's nonchalant attitude toward Lizzie's condition perhaps speaks to the risks these women often faced for their beliefs.

When Lizzie finally returns from the hospital with a bandaged head, she appears exhausted but is grateful for Milly's care. Lizzie's reluctance to inform her father about her injury signifies the personal sacrifices and secrecy sometimes required by those deeply involved in the movement.

Later, an unexpected visitor arrives: Dr. Tom Walsh, who had attended to Lizzie the previous day. His visit to the office introduces a personal element to Milly's narrative. Dr. Walsh, aware of Milly's past reluctance for personal involvement due to her background, extends a genuine concern for her, indicating their past acquaintance. The chapter subtly hints at a possible rekindling of a connection between them, though Milly remains cautious.

In the conversation with Ada and Dr. Walsh, it is revealed that his mother, too, is a suffragette. This exchange highlights the interconnectedness of those in the women's rights movement, as well as uncovering shared backgrounds that bring an underlying unity to this period in history.

Chapter 29 is a microcosm of the women's suffrage movement—personal



struggles, friendships, societal challenges, and a collective yearning for justice and rights. It not only encapsulates the essence of their shared resolve but also delves into the personal ramifications faced by participants on both a social and emotional level.

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## Chapter 30 Summary:

### Chapter 30 Summary:

Milly observed Lizzie's growing affection for Dr. Tom Walsh, who had been attentive since Lizzie's accident. Lizzie, charmed by Tom's different demeanor compared to the typical men in her social circle, often spoke about her excitement towards their outings and her budding feelings. Milly felt a pang of jealousy, acknowledging her decision to keep her past from Tom, which kept them apart emotionally.

Amidst personal developments, the backdrop of impending war loomed large, with tensions escalating in Europe following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June. News from Europe became increasingly unsettling, and people began talking about the possibility of war.

As Lizzie continued her courtship with Tom, she considered introducing him to her father, suggesting a tentative step toward a serious relationship. Simultaneously, Milly dealt with complex emotions, knowing she couldn't allow Tom to become acquainted with her past.

On August Bank Holiday, Milly joined a crowd outside Parliament as the Prime Minister announced a warning to Germany, which marked a shift





towards war. This announcement caused excitement and apprehension in equal measure, and the mood in London shifted dramatically as the reality of war set in.

Lizzie was thrilled by the prospect of Tom joining the army, heralding his potential heroism in uniform, while Milly felt the weight of uncertainty with thoughts of her brothers and Richard, hinting at their possible involvement in the conflict.

The suffrage office, where Milly worked, faced the effects of war too. With the call to war, staff had left, and as support dwindled, the cause appeared stalled. Milly's future became uncertain as discussions of disbanding the office loomed, prompting thoughts about her need for a new job and potential homelessness without an income.

As the chapter concluded, Ada and Milly faced the closure of their campaign with quiet determination, packing up remnants of their work. A surprise visit from Tom added to the poignant atmosphere. Though unable to join the army, Tom's presence provided a moment of hope, reinforcing his reliability and gently suggesting that despite setbacks, their efforts for women's rights wouldn't be forgotten, especially with women's increased roles in the war effort.

Overall, Milly's story in this chapter weaved through personal and political



upheavals of early 20th century England, highlighting themes of love, societal change, and uncertainty within the backdrop of impending global conflict.

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## Chapter 31 Summary:

In Chapter 31, we find Milly confronted with a pivotal moment as Tom, a doctor and mutual acquaintance, unexpectedly approaches her for a private conversation, much to her discomfort. Milly, a reserved individual who dislikes being the focus of attention, is accompanied by Ada, who assumes the discussion might concern a potential engagement between Tom and their mutual friend, Lizzie. Contrary to Ada's assumptions, Tom clarifies that his intentions are not about a wedding, but rather about offering Milly a job opportunity.

The backdrop is a time of great upheaval, during World War I, and Milly is facing an uncertain future. With the disbandment of the Women's Suffrage Movement, she finds herself without a job or a home. Tom offers her a position at the hospital, citing that it would not only contribute to the war effort but also provide her with a chance to stay in familiar surroundings. He reassures her that her lack of training won't be a hindrance, especially with Queen Mary's Women to Work campaign encouraging women's participation in the workforce.

Milly is taken aback but agrees to consider the offer, despite her hesitations about her capability to work in such a demanding environment. Tom further presses the urgency of the situation, highlighting the increasing number of casualties arriving at the hospital and the dire need for support staff. His



mention of casualties also stirs Milly's memories of her brothers and Richard, adding to her inner turmoil.

Ada, an understanding and supportive figure in Milly's life, encourages her to accept the opportunity, reminding her of her skills and adaptability. She offers to provide Milly with a glowing reference, reinforcing the notion that Milly is capable of taking on new challenges.

Milly spends a restless night pondering her future. The next morning, having resolved her internal conflict, she decides to visit the hospital. She is greeted by a busy scene, witnessing firsthand the needs of the wounded and the bustling activity of the hospital staff—all of which that reinforces her decision to contribute in any way she can.

However, when Milly finally meets with the matron, she struggles to convey her qualifications and is anxious about her lack of formal training. The matron's indifferent reaction leaves Milly doubtful about her prospects. Despite this less-than-encouraging encounter, Milly is left considering alternative paths, such as joining munitions factories where women workers are in demand.

The chapter closes with Milly on a bus, engulfed by her thoughts about the uncertainties she faces—balancing the personal sacrifices occasionally necessitated by war with seizing new opportunities for growth and



contribution. The uncertainty and resolve depicted resonate with Milly's journey of self-discovery and the broader context of women stepping into new roles during wartime.

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## Chapter 32:

In Chapter 32, Ada reaches a pivotal decision to close her establishment at the end of the month, marking a bittersweet transition for herself and Milly, who had found joy working there. Ada expresses regret for not being able to offer Milly a place to stay due to her mother's cramped and unpredictable accommodations. Milly, facing uncertainty, prepares to return home, but an exciting future begins to unfold as she receives two letters: one from Lizzie inviting her for tea, and another from the hospital inviting her to meet with Matron again, hinting at a potential job offer.

On the day of her meeting with Lizzie at the Lyons Corner House, Milly is met with warmth and enthusiasm. Lizzie, always a lively spirit, discusses the challenges brought by the ongoing war and the closure of music halls but remains a supportive friend. Amidst their chat over tea and cakes, Lizzie assures Milly that her chances at the hospital look promising, as confirmed by Tom. Their conversation covers Lizzie's thoughts about contributing to the war effort and her whimsical idea of driving a tram, showcasing her independent streak. The afternoon is filled with laughter and heartfelt exchanges, underscoring the deep bond between the friends.

Milly arrives at the hospital on Monday, no longer anxious but hopeful about new beginnings. Matron, acknowledging the war's impact and the need for aid, offers her training with the Red Cross, which will enable Milly



to assist the nurses. Although the pay isn't extravagant, Milly is delighted as her financial requirements are modest. Recognizing the opportunity this role presents, she is eager to contribute to the war effort and begin her new career path. Her enthusiasm is met with encouragement from Matron, who foresees Milly as a part of a burgeoning group of young women stepping into essential roles during challenging times. As Milly leaves the office, she is buoyed by the prospect of camaraderie with fellow Red Cross workers and the transformative journey ahead.

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## Chapter 33 Summary:

### Chapter 33

Milly, a dedicated volunteer involved in the war effort, found herself deeply immersed in assisting the wounded soldiers. Although the tasks were arduous—emptying bedpans and assisting the ailing—she felt a profound sense of fulfillment contributing to the cause. The brutal reality of war unveiled itself through the injuries she witnessed, serving as a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by brave men on the battlefield.

As time passed, Milly assumed increasing responsibilities, her days consumed by work, leaving her exhausted but content. The hospital experienced a surge in casualties following the Battle of Mons, leaving little time for socializing. Milly, however, found a kindred spirit in June, another Red Cross volunteer whose shift patterns often coincided with hers. The two women bonded over their shared commitment to the cause, finding small moments of respite while rolling bandages together. Their conversations reflected their shared worries about the war and personal anecdotes, such as Milly's estranged brother who might have joined the army.

Despite the looming uncertainty of her flat lease ending after Christmas, Milly remained determined to find joy in the festive season. The hospital



wards were transformed with paper chains, and a moving choir performance stirred emotions among patients and staff alike. A young soldier's joking lament about Santa not bringing him new legs touched Milly deeply, underscoring the grim toll of the war on youth nearly her own age. Undeterred, she participated in the merriment, donning a red paper hat, serving Christmas dinners, and basking in the fleeting joy that uplifted spirits amidst hardship.

Milly was pleasantly surprised when Tom, a doctor she knew, greeted her warmly with a kiss on the cheek, hinting at a camaraderie that perhaps ventured beyond professional boundaries. The day's events left Milly reflecting fondly on prior Christmases, contemplating her past and present with mixed emotions as memories of the kindness she'd received from figures like Jane and Lizzie intersected with her personal journey of independence.

That evening, just as Milly settled into a solitary reflection amid the sparse furnishings of her soon-to-be-vacated flat, Lizzie and Tom made an unexpected visit bearing champagne. Despite the late hour, the visit was a gesture of friendship, comfort, and solidarity. Lizzie offered to cover Milly's rent for a couple of months, providing temporary relief from the housing uncertainty Milly was facing. Their cheerful camaraderie continued over champagne, fueling Milly's hope for brighter days amid the chaos of war.



As the evening wound down with Lizzie dozing and Tom preparing to take her home, Milly was left to quietly revel in the realization that despite the challenges she faced—both from the ravages of war and personal uncertainties—she was supported by a network of friends who cared deeply for her well-being. Yet, as Milly sat alone afterward, she pondered the paradox of kindness bestowed upon her, haunted by the secret of her past actions which she feared would cast a shadow on the warmth she now received.

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## Chapter 34 Summary:

In Chapter 34, the narrative focuses on Milly's pursuit of a stable home and a slice of normalcy amid her unpredictable life. As the chapter unfolds, we see Milly navigating her social circles and duties at work, an environment strictly enforcing boundaries between staff and patients, which is highlighted in a brief exchange with her colleague June. June discreetly provides Milly an opportunity to better her living conditions by offering a lead to a room available at her Aunt Lil's house.

On a chilly Sunday, Milly visits Aunt Lil, where she is warmly welcomed into a cozy, inviting home. The hospitality and cleanliness of the place remind Milly of a nurturing past that she yearns to recapture. Aunt Lil, a friendly and open-hearted woman, appears eager for companionship since the loss of her husband Stan, whose memory still fondly inhabits the house through photographs and stories shared.

Milly and Aunt Lil settle into easy camaraderie over tea, discussing logistics for Milly's potential stay. Aunt Lil's offer is generous—affordable rent with meals and laundry included. This opportunity seems almost too good to be true for Milly, who is planning to transition after the New Year and eager to inform her friend Lizzie, who needs to retrieve shared furniture.

The narrative reveals Milly's sentimental journey as she prepares to move.



While packing personal mementos, she reflects on memories marked by relationships with cherished individuals such as Lizzie and Ada, and her complex past with Richard. Each keepsake tells a story, with the most precious being a bracelet from Richard, symbolizing both a romantic past and a financial challenge she once faced. Milly recalls the tension of a poignant episode where she redeemed the bracelet from a pawnbroker after having pawned it in a desperate move to save another, Bert, from a legal predicament.

As the chapter closes, Milly is left with a mix of anticipation and reflection—excited for her new beginning with Aunt Lil and touched by her past, symbolized by the bracelet she places on her wrist. The bracelet serves as a bridge between her emotionally fraught history and hopeful future, weaving together themes of love, sacrifice, and redemption.

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## Chapter 35 Summary:

In Chapter 35, we continue to follow Milly's journey amidst the backdrop of war and personal transformation. The story moves forward from a moment after Milly receives a letter from Lizzie, which informs her about an impending move. This is when Tom approaches Milly in a corridor, curious about whether she has been avoiding him. A brief exchange reveals that Milly is moving in with June's aunt, though she doesn't disclose the specific location to Tom.

The conversation takes a slightly awkward turn when Tom asks Milly about her plans for New Year's Eve, suggesting they spend time together. Despite his reasoning, which involves Lizzie's misery with the closure of music and dance halls, Milly firmly declines. She's thankful for the job he helped her get but remains resolute in not wanting to blur boundaries, upholding her stance on trust and loyalty.

As Milly prepares for her move, she notices a woman joining the removal men, highlighting the changing roles of women during this wartime period. This change is striking, contrasting starkly with the not-too-distant past when the Women's Suffrage Movement fought for such opportunities. Milly begins a new chapter in her life, moving in with Aunt Lil at the dawn of a new year, feeling optimistic about this fresh start.



Meanwhile, the war's grim realities loom large. Germany's U-boat attacks and the terror of Zeppelin bombings stir fear in British citizens, leading to misplaced violence against those with German names living in London. This angers Milly as she shares with Aunt Lil the plight of families unjustly targeted, including a little girl injured by shattered glass.

April brings sinister news: German forces have resorted to using poison gas against British troops. A somber meeting led by the hospital's Matron prepares the Red Cross workers for a new group of soldiers, who have been poisoned and possess various ailments, such as blindness and breathing troubles. The staff resolves to maintain their efficient care as they brace for the emotional toll of tending to these young men.

Milly and her colleagues, including her close friend June, step up to assist the ailing soldiers. Despite the horror of their condition, the soldiers' camaraderie and spirited banter bring moments of levity to the ward, reminding everyone of the youthful lives entangled in the brutality of war.

Back home, Milly finds comfort with Aunt Lil, sharing stories of bravery and suffering. She reflects on the soldiers, particularly one named Reg, with whom she forms a bond. As she helps Reg by reading letters from his wife and maintaining correspondence, the emotional weight of her work becomes apparent.



A poignant breakthrough occurs when Reg, previously despondent about his sight, notices a faint vision returning. Milly's hopeful call for a nurse heralds a potential miracle, underscoring the resilience and small victories that define their shared experience amidst the horrors of war. As the chapter closes, the story emphasizes the enduring human spirit and the support systems that bind people together in times of crisis.

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## Chapter 36:

Chapter 36 unfolds in a hospital ward during the First World War, where anticipation and concern ripple through the patients as a doctor rushes to check on Reg, a fellow patient. The narrative captures the camaraderie and mutual care among the wounded soldiers, emphasizing how even the sound of footsteps can stir anxiety in a room full of apprehensive patients. When the curtains around Reg's bed part, Milly, a dedicated nurse, learns that his sight has partially returned. She expresses her joy and hopes for his recovery, while Reg mentions the possibility of moving to a newly established auxiliary hospital designed to help soldiers convalesce and reintegrate into society.

The chapter then shifts to Milly conversing with her Aunt Lil, reflecting on the challenges faced by the men in their care, especially those suffering from the long-term effects of gas attacks. There's a sense of underlying dread about the war's toll on both soldiers and civilians. Milly also grapples with the possibility of being reassigned to one of the new auxiliary hospitals, where she would continue her service.

In a personal subplot, Milly visits her estranged family, highlighting a strained relationship with her sister Pammy, who resents Milly's absence. Despite the bitterness, Milly learns that her family has found some stability during the war, with improved financial prospects. However, Pammy's



rejection leaves Milly with a sense of failure and regret.

As spring turns to summer, Milly bittersweetly bids farewell to Sergeant Johnson, a patient she has grown fond of, as he is transferred to an auxiliary hospital. The narrative highlights the perpetual cycle of injuries and arrivals

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## Chapter 37 Summary:

In Chapter 37, we are introduced to Milly, a young woman in a Red Cross uniform who arrives at Waterloo Station on a beautiful spring morning. She meets two other women, Nancy Stevens—an older, experienced woman—and Trudy Collins, a cheerful young lady about the same age as Milly. Together, they are tasked with traveling to Billington, a place in Surrey, to begin their new roles.

Upon arriving in Billington by train, they are taken by car to Seatly Manor, a grand estate that will serve as a rehabilitation center for soldiers injured in the war. This setting provides a striking contrast to the grim realities of conflict, with its peaceful and lush surroundings offering a serene atmosphere for recovery.

At the manor, they are greeted by Matron, a tall, stately woman who informs them about their duties, which involve caring for soldiers still needing medical treatment and helping them adjust to civilian life. Each woman has previous experience with various patient needs—Milly with the blind, Trudy with the shell-shocked, and Nancy with those severely injured.

Nurse Webb escorts the women to their accommodations and provides a tour of the manor and its grounds. They meet some of the patients, including the charming but mischievous Roger and the grounded Peter, both of whom are



adjusting to life after injury.

The narrative gives a glimpse into the camaraderie and challenges of working in a place like Seatly Manor, as the women learn about their new environment and responsibilities. The manor is a place of hope and healing, where both staff and patients are on a journey of recovery and adjustment.

In the dining room, the lively atmosphere is filled with chatter, as the women are quickly folded into the social fabric of the manor. Milly sits next to Andrew, a friendly soldier known as Robbo, and their exchange marks the beginning of potential friendships and connections that will likely develop over their time at the manor.

This chapter establishes a foundation for the women's new life at Seatly Manor, promising opportunities for personal growth and rewarding experiences as they assist in the rehabilitation of the injured soldiers.

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## Chapter 38 Summary:

In Chapter 38, the narrative picks up with Milly continuing her journey as a nurse during a time of war, overcoming personal fears and anxieties. As the months pass, Milly gains confidence and finds fulfillment in her work at the hospital, particularly in the diverse tasks she undertakes, from aiding new blind patients to assisting with letters for those unable to write. Milly forms a close friendship with Major Robinson, an injured officer for whom she often reads and writes letters despite being advised by Nurse Webb to keep professional boundaries.

Milly's correspondence with her friend Lizzie brings news of her engagement and potential wedding plans, which Milly is uncertain about attending due to her commitment to her duties at the hospital.

The hospital experiences a typical cycle of patients leaving and new ones arriving, each time bringing a fresh wave of challenges for Milly and her colleagues, including Trudy and Nancy. This time, the new arrivals include many severely injured and traumatized soldiers, some of whom are burn victims that require specialized care. The chapter touches on the camaraderie and shared history among the nurses, revealing connections to the suffragette movement years prior, and highlighting the weight of their present roles.

The routine shifts dramatically for Milly when she encounters a new patient,



Lieutenant Richard Green, whom she recognizes immediately but remains unfathomably shocked. Richard is a figure from Milly's past associated with deep, unresolved emotions. Although Richard is physically changed and blinded by war injuries, Milly's feelings for him are rekindled, leaving her in a quandary about whether to remain at the hospital or leave to avoid confronting these feelings.

As Richard interacts with Frank, a fellow patient, their conversation inadvertently reveals to Milly the status of Richard's family and the fact that he remains unmarried, sparking a mix of relief and turmoil in Milly. The intimacy of the hospital environment allows for these personal revelations, yet Milly is left grappling with the potential implications of her proximity to Richard, opening up an emotional exploration of love, guilt, and reconciliation amidst the backdrop of war.





## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Facing Fears and Embracing Challenges

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 38, you see Milly transform as she bravely faces her fears and overcomes personal anxieties while working as a nurse during a tumultuous time. Her journey inspires you to confront your own fears and step out of your comfort zone. The fulfillment she finds in her diverse duties—whether helping blind patients or fostering meaningful connections with those she cares for—encourages you to embrace challenges in your life. Milly's experiences demonstrate that growth often occurs when you push past doubts and uncertainties, showing that by acknowledging and navigating your fears, you can discover new strengths and find profound purpose in what you do.

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## Chapter 39 Summary:

In Chapter 39 of Dee Williams' "A Moment to Remember," Milly Ash is deeply troubled by her past connection with Richard, a patient at the care facility where she works. Throughout the day, she avoids his ward, fearing recognition. That night, overwhelmed by conflicting emotions, she confides in her colleague Nancy about her turmoil and intent to leave the facility. Milly's connection to Richard is complicated by guilt over his sister Jane's death, for which she feels responsible.

The next day, Milly approaches Matron to request a transfer, explaining her personal connection to Lieutenant Richard Green. Matron acknowledges the sensitive situation and promises to consider Milly's request, understanding the emotional complexities involved when staff become personally entangled with patients due to the facility's unique environment.

Later, Milly reads a letter to Major Robinson from his wife, igniting his wish for a visit. When Matron approves the visit, Milly facilitates the reunion, preparing Major Robinson for his wife's arrival.

As Major Robinson's wife, Frances, arrives, concerns about Major Robinson's condition surface, but Milly assures her that though he is blind, he is physically well. Meanwhile, Milly inadvertently leads Frances to a gathering that includes Richard. When Frances calls out to Milly, Richard,



recognizing her name, is startled and attempts to approach her, resulting in an emotional reunion.

In a secluded part of the garden, Richard and Milly confront their shared past. Richard absolves Milly of blame for Jane's accident, revealing a long-held love and longing for her which outlasted years of separation. Milly reciprocates these feelings, expressing remorse for her abrupt departure. Their shared history and enduring affection lead to a heartfelt reconciliation and a proposal of marriage from Richard. Milly's internal turmoil is replaced by hope and love, signaling a new beginning.

The chapter encapsulates themes of love, forgiveness, and redemption, interwoven with the complexities of personal relationships during a tumultuous historical period. The strength of Milly's character is highlighted as she navigates personal grief and societal constraints to conclude a poignant chapter in her life.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Forgiveness as a Path to Healing

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 39, we see a poignant illustration of the transformative power of forgiveness, a concept that resonates deeply with the human experience. Imagine confronting someone intertwined with your past missteps and pain, only to be met with compassion and understanding instead of resentment. As Richard absolves Milly of blame for Jane's death, you see the strength in letting go of past grievances. His act of forgiveness helps Milly heal the guilt she has carried for years, revealing how releasing burdens of the past can pave the way for renewed hope and love. This act is a testament to how forgiveness can liberate the spirit, foster inner peace, and open doors to new beginnings. By embracing forgiveness, you too can experience liberation and growth, enabling heartfelt reunions and fresh chapters in your own life.

