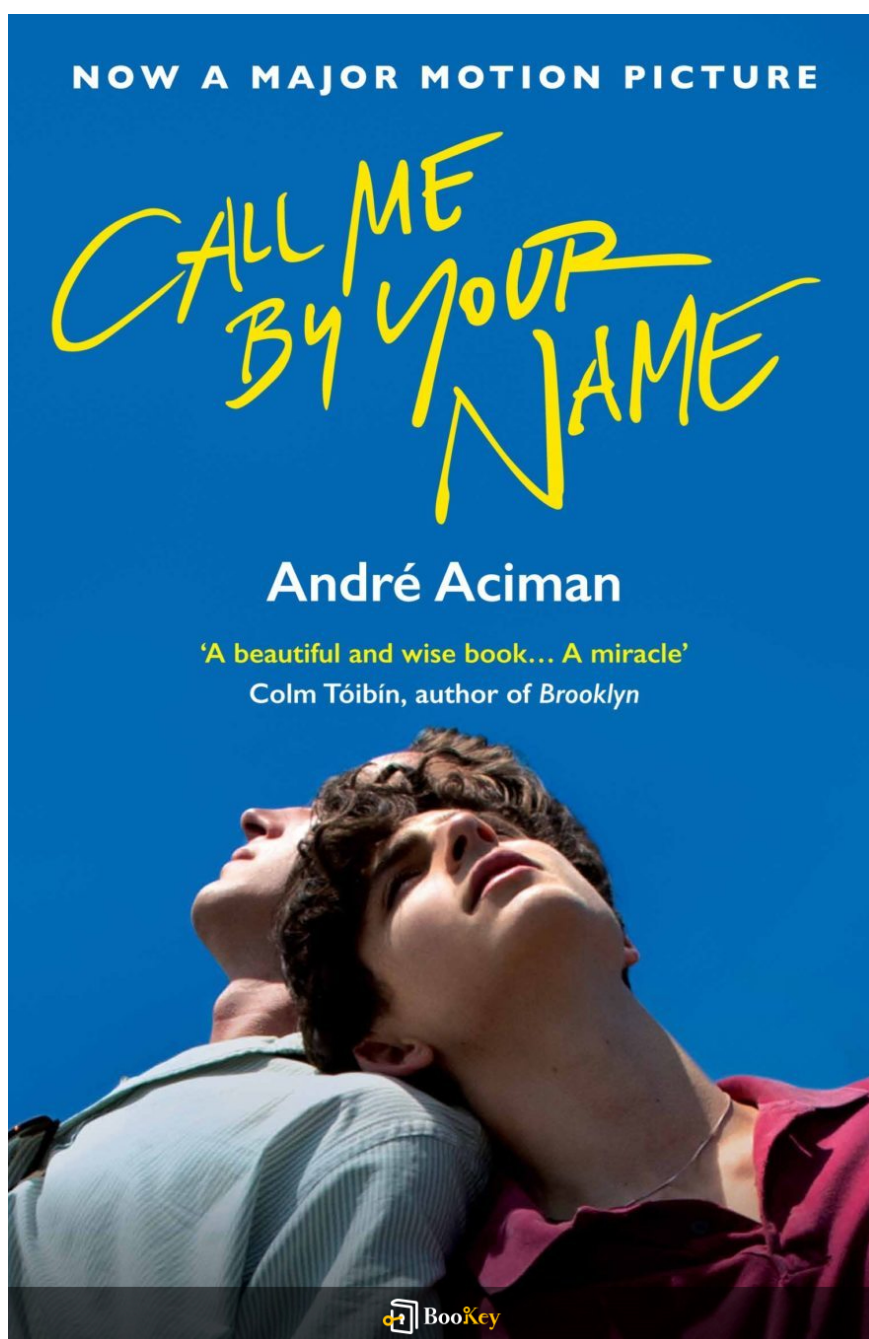


Call Me By Your Name PDF (Limited Copy)

André Aciman



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Call Me By Your Name Summary

"A Summer of Passion and Self-Discovery"

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About the book

In the sun-drenched countryside of Northern Italy, amid the golden whispers of swaying cypresses and the intricate fabric of family bonds, André Aciman invites you into a poignant odyssey of yearning with "Call Me By Your Name." This evocative novel unfolds the complex and intoxicating summer romance between Elio, a curious and introspective young man, and Oliver, a captivating visiting scholar. Within its pages, Aciman masterfully weaves a tender and nuanced exploration of desire, intimacy, and self-discovery. As emotions flicker like candlelight and awaken something deep within, readers are urged to delve into a world where the boundaries of love and identity dissolve with each glance, gesture, and stolen moment. Prepare to be enveloped by the passions and pains of first love, and to ponder whether it ever truly leaves us, as Aciman's luminous prose beckons you into a narrative that lingers like the sweet, ripened scent of summer. Dive in, and let this story leave an indelible mark on your soul.

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About the author

André Aciman is an accomplished author celebrated for his lyrical and evocative prose, which often explores themes of memory, desire, and identity. Born on January 2, 1951, in Alexandria, Egypt, to a Jewish family, Aciman's multicultural background significantly influences his writing style and subject matter. Following his family's expulsion during his childhood, he resided in various parts of Europe before eventually settling in the United States. Aciman holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and has taught at prestigious institutions such as Princeton and Bard College. In addition to his celebrated novels like **Call Me By Your Name**, Aciman is a prolific essayist and commentator, bringing his rich historical context and a deeply introspective perspective to a wide array of literary works. With his deft ability to capture the intensity of emotions and fleeting moments, Aciman's writing continues to resonate with readers worldwide. Currently, he is a distinguished professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he continues to write and inspire future generations of writers.

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Summary Content List

Chapter 1: If Not Later, When?

Chapter 2: Monet's Berm

Chapter 3: The San Clemente Syndrome

Chapter 4: Ghost Spots

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Chapter 1 Summary: If Not Later, When?

In this excerpt, we are introduced to the narrator, a young man living in Italy during a particular summer that will become pivotal in his life. His family hosts summer residents, offering them a place to stay while they work on their academic projects. This year's guest is Oliver, an accomplished young scholar, whose presence immediately captivates the narrator.

Oliver arrives with an air of casual indifference that the narrator both envies and resents. His use of the word "Later" as a farewell strikes the narrator as dismissive, yet it becomes a trademark of Oliver's breezy personality. The initial impression is one of both awe and intimidation, as the narrator grapples with his mounting attraction to Oliver, who, despite his seemingly remote demeanor, fits seamlessly into the narrator's idyllic summer landscape.

The household is vibrant, with a revolving door of guests, meals, and social engagements, all set against the picturesque backdrop of an Italian villa. The narrator must navigate his growing feelings amidst the chaotic and sometimes intrusive dynamics of family life. The setting becomes a silent witness to the quiet turbulence brewing beneath.

As Oliver settles into the household, his routines — sunbathing by the pool, jogging, and working on his manuscript — become intertwined with the



narrator's own daily life. Their conversations, while seemingly benign, are charged with unspoken tension and burgeoning desire, particularly emphasized by the narrator's acute awareness of Oliver's physical presence. Oliver's flirtations are subtle — shared moments of humor, a gentle spar at the piano, and light jabs that hit unexpectedly close to home, capturing the narrator in a web of hope and longing.

The narrative explores the complexities of unrequited desire and self-discovery. The narrator finds a confidant in Vimini, a precocious and terminally ill young girl, whose candid demeanor offers a mirror to his own guardedness. Through their friendship, an empathetic layer is added, offering a semblance of solace.

The story is punctuated by the narrator's reflections on Judaism, identity, and societal norms, contrasting his introspective nature with Oliver's broader worldview. Oliver's unabashed display of his Jewish identity becomes a metaphor for the narrator's internal struggle; visible markers of ethnicity symbolize deeper, unspoken connections.

Ultimately, the narrator is trapped in a self-imposed limbo — oscillating between yearning and silence, terrified to speak of his feelings yet internally screaming them into the void. Oliver's presence becomes a consuming force, one that alters the rhythm of the narrator's summer and life. The question, "Is it better to speak or die?" encapsulates the crux of his inner turmoil. As



the summer progresses, this question looms ever larger, as the narrator contemplates the risk of bearing his soul against the backdrop of fleeting time.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace vulnerability and authentic expression

Critical Interpretation: At the heart of this chapter is the protagonist's struggle with expressing his burgeoning feelings for Oliver. As you journey through life, let this tale remind you of the importance of embracing vulnerability. Often, we wrestle with unspoken desires and emotions, fearing the risks of rejection or misunderstanding. Yet, this internal conflict withholds the true essence of our love, hopes, and dreams. Embracing vulnerability means acknowledging those feelings authentically and daring to express them, regardless of the potential outcomes.

Recognize that by being vulnerable, you tap into a profound strength that defies fear and showcases bravery. It encourages you to communicate openly, build genuine connections, and leads to self-discovery. As you engage with others, reflect on the narrator's pivotal struggle, and ask yourself: when faced with the choice, is it better to speak or die—remain silent? Opting to speak, despite the challenges, might just enrich your journey with deeper, more meaningful relationships and experiences, transforming mundane existence into something extraordinary.



Chapter 2 Summary: Monet's Berm

In "Monet's Berm," we witness a complex and emotionally charged chapter where the narrator's feelings for Oliver reach a significant turning point. Throughout this section, the narrator grapples with a turbulent mix of desire, jealousy, admiration, and introspection about his relationship with Oliver.

The chapter begins with a recognition of Oliver's numerous romantic entanglements and fantasies of a physical relationship with him. The narrator is consumed with curiosity and attraction toward Oliver, admiring his physicality and the freedom with which Oliver seemingly navigates his desires. This admiration, however, is tinged with envy and a kind of frustration that he does not possess the same ease and confidence.

When the narrator finally confesses his feelings, the conversation is indirect and layered with metaphors, referencing literature and the ineffable complexities of desire. This dialogue sets the stage for their relationship to evolve from unspoken longing to a more explicit exploration of their feelings.

Their shared bike rides, discussions about historical and literary figures like Shelley and Monet, and small gestures within the family environment add layers to their burgeoning relationship. The narrator's desire to share intimate spaces and moments with Oliver—symbolized through references to famous



artworks and personal haunts—enriches their connection.

As the plot progresses, a pivotal shift occurs when Oliver reciprocates the narrator's feelings, leading to a long-awaited physical encounter. The narrator's anticipation, anxiety, and subsequent relief are palpable, and the entire experience is a cathartic release of pent-up emotion and desire.

However, this consummation is accompanied by an undercurrent of guilt and self-doubt, suggesting that the narrator is still grappling with societal norms and personal acceptance.

The relationship continues to develop amid a backdrop of family dynamics, social interactions, and fleeting summer moments. The narrator's emotions oscillate between deep affection and moments of uncertainty, highlighting the complexity of first love and the fear of eventual separation as summer wanes.

As the chapter draws to a close, the approaching departure brings a tangible awareness of time's fleeting nature. The narrative poignantly captures the tension between cherishing shared moments and the impending farewell, symbolizing the end of a significant, transformative chapter in both their lives. Ultimately, "Monet's Berm" embodies the intense and often contradictory emotions surrounding young love and the passage of time.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace Vulnerability to Foster Authentic Connections

Critical Interpretation: In 'Monet's Berm,' the narrator takes a pivotal step by confronting and expressing their deep-seated emotions for Oliver. Though cloaked in metaphors and literary references, this confession acts as a bridge from an internal realm of longing to an external, shared reality. By embracing vulnerability, the narrator exposes their true selves, building a foundation for an authentic connection that allows for mutual understanding and acceptance.

In our lives, this chapter encourages us to welcome vulnerability rather than shun it. By daring to share our deepest feelings, we open doors to meaningful relationships and experiences that might otherwise remain inaccessible. Embracing vulnerability fosters empathy, courage, and the profound intimacy we often crave. It reminds us that the risk of revealing our true selves is often outweighed by the possibilities of genuine connection and shared emotional journeys, enriching our personal growth and human experience.



Chapter 3 Summary: The San Clemente Syndrome

In Part 3, "The San Clemente Syndrome," the story unfolds in the vibrant, languid atmosphere of Rome, as the narrator and Oliver arrive at Stazione Termini during the sticky hours of a summer evening. Their romantic bond finds expression in shared, intimate moments as they navigate the city's muggy streets, first attempting the crowded bus before opting for a cab to their luxurious hotel. The afternoon's languor mirrors the languor of their relationship, a mix of heat and genuine affection, visible in small gestures, like sharing figs, and silent, shared history.

Their hotel room offers a magnificent view of Rome's skyline, setting a scene for reflection and anticipation. A note from Oliver's Italian publisher invites them to a book party, which unfolds as an impromptu adventure through Rome. This journey is not merely physical; it encapsulates an exploration of personal boundaries and desires, highlighted by a contrasting sense of privacy and exposure.

The book event introduces a cast of eccentric characters, including the charismatic poet Alfredo, who reflects on the complexities of love and identity through the metaphor of San Clemente, a Roman basilica layered with history. This metaphor permeates the evening, suggesting life's overlapping complexities, mirroring layers of relationships, hidden identities, and unspoken desires. The event epitomizes Rome's decadence



and the intimacy and freedom within the narrator's relationship with Oliver, evidenced by small shared moments, jokes, and stolen glances.

As the night progresses, conversations steer toward Alfredo's experiences in Thailand, drawing parallels between cultural dissonance and the personal quest for belonging. Alfredo's narrative weaves the San Clemente metaphor into his experiences of identity and sexual ambiguity, resonating with the evening's lyricism and ephemeral connections.

The narrative becomes a hymn to fleeting youth and love, captured in playful exchanges with Oliver, mirrored by the poet's musings on life's layered experiences and desires. Rome becomes a backdrop for the unfurling intimacy and personal exploration, where public encounters reveal private truths. In the city's ancient alleys, their journey becomes an existential contemplation on love's transient nature and an acceptance of ephemera.

The night culminates in a spontaneous exploration of the city's magical atmosphere, heightened by alcohol and music, culminating with the palpable and tender expression of shared dreams and fears. Their bond is sealed with a walk through Rome's ancient streets, marking the bittersweet realization of their inevitable separation.

Ultimately, the metaphor of San Clemente underscores the intricacy of human emotions, inviting readers to reflect on how personal histories, like



the basilica's layers, are built upon and concealing deeper truths. The narrative closes with the poignancy of unspoken farewells, set against Rome's golden light, echoing a timeless and elusive longing that defines their relationship.

Key Aspects	Details
Setting	The story takes place in the vibrant, languid atmosphere of Rome, particularly during summer evenings.
Main Characters	The narrator and Oliver, who share an intimate romantic relationship.
Plot Summary	Arriving at Stazione Termini in Rome, the narrator and Oliver explore the city, reflecting their languorous relationship with shared moments and silent history.
Key Events	A grand view from the hotel and a book party invitation introduce them to Rome's cultural vibe and characters like the poet Alfredo.
Symbolism and Themes	The San Clemente metaphor highlights life's overlaps, intertwining complexities of relationships and identities; it portrays fleeting youth, layered experiences, and desires.
Character Interactions	The book event and conversations like Alfredo's reflections on love, and parallel narratives on identity emphasize personal exploration and ephemeral bonds.
Conclusion	The intimate exploration of Rome concludes with contemplation of love's transient nature, and their bond solidified by a wistful walk through Rome, realizing their impending separation.
Metaphorical Reflections	Rome's golden backdrop and the San Clemente metaphor invite readers to ponder the layers of personal histories and the depth of human emotions.



Chapter 4: Ghost Spots

In Part 4 of "Call Me by Your Name," André Aciman explores themes of nostalgia, loss, and the passage of time through the protagonist Elio's return to the Italian seaside town where he spent a transformative summer with Oliver. As the train approaches the station, Elio is struck by vivid memories of his previous visits, filled with the familiar scents and sights that evoke the onset of summer and the presence of Oliver, his former lover.

Elio is greeted by Anchise, a local, and they engage in a conversation that tentatively touches on Oliver's departure, hinting at the sadness Elio feels. When Elio returns home, he learns that his room has been restored to its original state, erasing tangible traces of Oliver's presence. This transition signals the end of their shared space and the beginning of Elio's struggle with lingering memories.

Elio's recollections intermingle with sensory experiences of the Mediterranean—the sound of the cicadas, the sea breeze—which lull him into a restful but reflective state. He becomes contemplative about his relationship with Oliver, rehearsing the pain of losing him to, paradoxically, dull its sting. The arrival of reality, symbolized by a phone call from Oliver in New York, brings Elio back to the present. The conversation between them is bittersweet, filled with longing yet restrained by the reality of their separate lives.



Later, Elio engages in a poignant conversation with his father, who perceptively addresses Elio's unique bond with Oliver. His father's acceptance and subtle encouragement to embrace his emotions stand in stark contrast to societal norms, offering Elio a rare understanding and wisdom about love and its ephemeral nature. This conversation profoundly impacts Elio, revealing a layer of emotional support from his father that he hadn't fully appreciated before.

Elio and Oliver's lives diverge into parallel paths, yet they remain intrinsically linked by their shared memories. Oliver returns for a brief visit around Christmas, announcing his impending marriage and hinting at the irrevocable changes in their relationship. Despite the chilly atmosphere that envelops their reunion, there is an undercurrent of unresolved feelings and unspoken affection.

Years pass, marked by minor and significant life events, yet the imprint of that summer lingers. Elio reflects on how his time with Oliver shaped his future and identity. An unexpected reconnection occurs when Oliver visits Elio's family home again, now with his own family. The visit stirs up dormant emotions, and Elio is confronted with the life Oliver has built, which underscores the roads not taken.

Elio later visits Oliver in his college town, contemplating an in-person



meeting. The potential encounter is fraught with anxiety and a desire to preserve the past, even as it collides with the present. Their conversation traverses the contours of memory and longing, with both men acknowledging the indelible mark they left on each other's lives.

The narrative concludes with a meditation on memory and identity, where past and present coalesce in an eternal bond. The recurring motif of "calling by each other's name" captures the essence of their connection—a brief, timeless union that transcends the years apart and reminds them of a profound truth they once shared. In the twilight of their lives, the recognition of this bond becomes, paradoxically, both a source of solace and an enduring pang of longing.

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