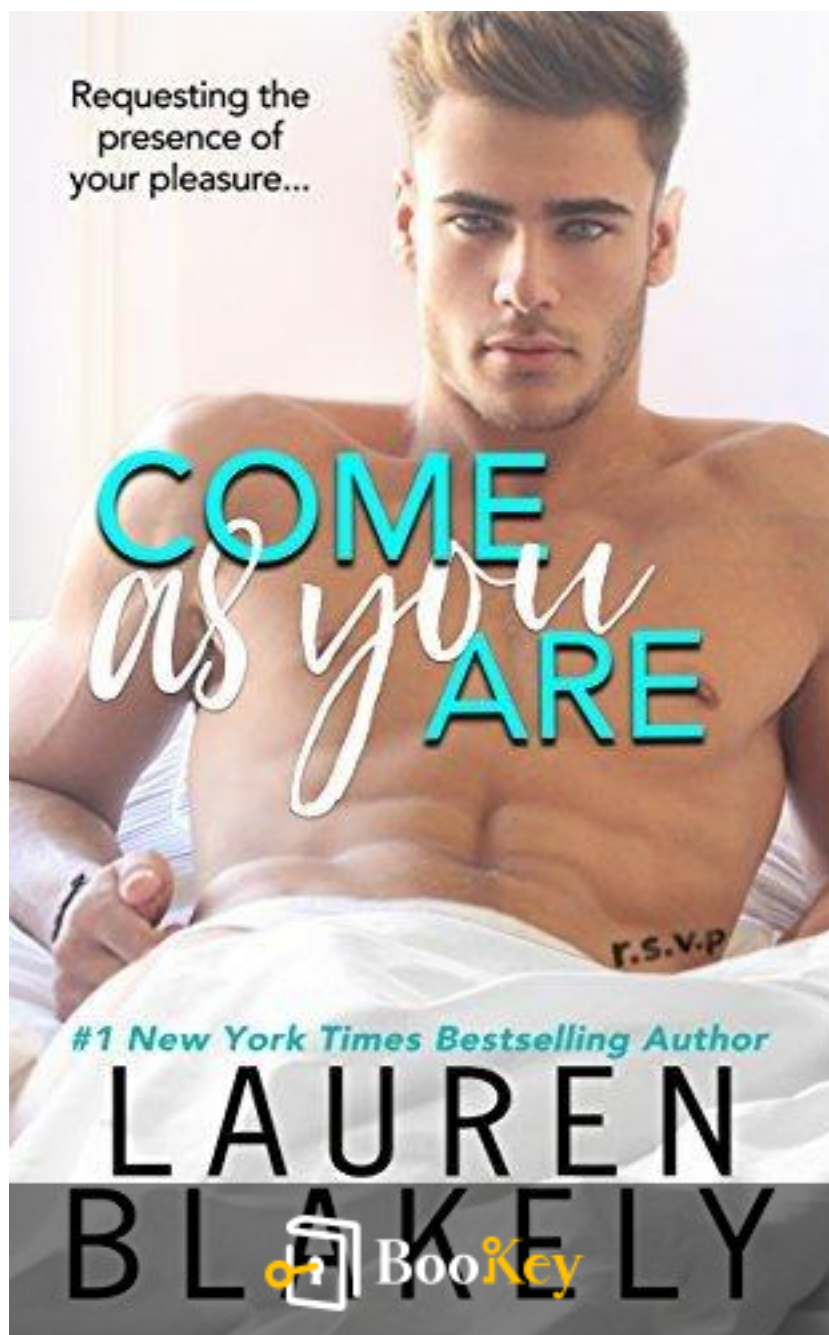


Come As You Are PDF (Limited Copy)

Lauren Blakely



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Come As You Are Summary

"Discover Unmasked Desires in a Game of Chance."

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About the book

In "Come As You Are," international bestselling author Lauren Blakely whisks readers into a world of electrifying chemistry, irresistible banter, and unexpected twists of fate. At the heart of this captivating romantic journey are a dazzling tech entrepreneur and a brilliant journalist, two formidable forces who, through a cosmic collision, find their meticulously planned worlds fantastically turned upside down. Amidst heartfelt confessions and thrilling escapades, Blakely masterfully blends humor and sensuality, inviting readers to examine the unpredictability of destiny and the breathtaking possibilities of love when it's least expected. Get ready to be swept off your feet by this enthralling tale that whispers the delicious promise that sometimes, the best adventures in life start with simply being unapologetically yourself.

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About the author

Lauren Blakely is an accomplished American author renowned for her contributions to the contemporary romance genre. Celebrated for her dynamic storytelling and ability to weave captivating narratives, she brings relatable characters and swoon-worthy romance to life with humor and heart. With a knack for writing from both female and male perspectives, Blakely provides a refreshing twist on traditional romantic tales, often delivering steamy plots that explore themes of love, self-discovery, and redemption. Known for her prolific writing style, she has penned numerous bestsellers, consistently charming readers with her witty dialogue and authentic relationships. Her novel "Come As You Are" exemplifies her flair for creating deeply immersive worlds that invite readers to explore their most cherished fantasies and desires.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In the chapter from Flynn Parker's perspective, we delve into the life of a successful tech CEO constantly dodging unsolicited pitches and unwanted attention due to his wealth and fame. Flynn, who is accustomed to being recognized in public, encounters Dale, a locker room attendant at his gym. Dale excitedly pitches an unusual app that rates sexual performance. Flynn listens politely, giving Dale some encouragement to refine his idea, despite finding the app concept absurd.

After escaping the gym's pitch session, Flynn arrives at his office, where Claude, the doorman, casually pitches a GoFundMe campaign for his cousin, a miniature golf enthusiast. Flynn, preferring to support tangible charitable goals over individual projects, amicably declines, showcasing his stance on financial discretion.

Flynn heads to a technology conference to deliver a keynote speech on leadership. Backstage, he meets a redheaded tech crew member who assists him with his microphone, reminding him to watch his words as it goes live. Flynn successfully delivers his talk, avoiding a Q&A session which could stir questions about a recent business challenge involving a rival company, ShopForAnything, trying to acquire his, which is weighing heavily on his mind.



After his speech, Flynn encounters Nova Wilkins, a market researcher who shockingly proposes marriage, pitching herself with a well-researched "top five" list tailored to Flynn's interests. Despite her compelling presentation, Flynn tactfully declines, and Nova's abrupt change to more salacious tactics is halted by security. Nova's extreme fan-like behavior typifies the challenges Flynn faces as a public figure, constantly wary of gold diggers.

As Flynn exits the hotel and dons his New Yorker shield—earbuds—he reflects on the isolating aspect of his success. While not opposed to the concept of marriage or love, Flynn feels jaded by his experiences, recognizing that his wealth often overshadows personal connections, making genuine relationships elusive. This chapter vividly portrays Flynn's world, marked by affluence but diluted by superficial encounters, leaving him yearning for something real amidst the glittering noise of his accomplished life.



Chapter 2 Summary: 2

Chapter Summary:

Sabrina is ready to free herself from the emotional burden of an unworn wedding dress, referred to as the "albatross," left from a wedding that never happened. She arrives at a renowned consignment shop, Once More, in the West Village with her supportive best friend, Courtney. Together, they plan to sell the dress, which has been a painful reminder of her past relationship with her ex-fiancé, Ray. Sabrina has already dealt with the aftermath of the canceled wedding, such as returning gifts and cutting professional ties due to a recent job layoff from her long-standing newspaper role.

Upon entering the shop, Sabrina meets a sympathetic teenager who reassures her that appraiser Sasha will place the dress with the right buyer. As Sabrina and Courtney explore the shop, the woes of her dress start to surface, symbolizing more than just failed nuptials—it's tied to her recent streak of bad luck, including the abrupt end of her six-year reporting position. With Courtney's encouragement, Sabrina entertains new possibilities, such as attending a gala that could help her network and rejuvenate her social life.

Sasha, the eccentric appraiser, suddenly appears, rejecting the gown due to a series of misfortunes she attributes to the dress, including chipped teeth and



harmful houseplants. Deeming the dress cursed, she insists Sabrina remove it from the store. Reluctantly, Sabrina complies, realizing her garment has become a symbol of bad energy she no longer wants to bear.

Frustrated yet determined, Sabrina decides to transform this narrative of failure and loss. With a burgeoning sense of freedom, she plots to repurpose the dress for a new beginning. Inspired by Courtney's invite to a masquerade gala, Sabrina resolves to reinvent the dress into a costume, symbolically reclaiming her life and moving forward from the past.

In essence, this chapter follows Sabrina's journey to let go of her past and symbolically renew herself, epitomized by her decision to convert her wedding dress into a costume, blending closure with the prospect of fresh beginnings in her personal and professional life.



Chapter 3 Summary: 3

In this chapter, we meet Flynn, a tech entrepreneur who is spearheading an advanced smart-home system called Haven. The chapter opens with Flynn interacting with Kate, the sophisticated AI assistant of the system, showcasing the advanced automation Haven provides in a smart-home setting. Flynn is joined by his trusted colleagues, Carson and Jennica, who are instrumental in developing and marketing Haven. As they prepare to roll out the product, Flynn reflects on his lifelong dream to live in a high-tech world reminiscent of "The Jetsons."

Jennica, who has known Flynn since college, adds a playful spark to their conversation, teasing Flynn about changing Kate's voice to a "sexy British butter" tone and suggesting a unique costume for an upcoming masquerade ball. This banter underscores the camaraderie and longstanding friendship between Flynn and Jennica.

Flynn's professional life is weaved with personal stakes; he's driven not just by success but by the responsibility to his employees. While confident in Haven's superiority, he acknowledges the looming competition from a rival company, ShopForAnything, and the pressure to market their product effectively. Jennica outlines an ambitious marketing plan that includes media appearances and features, highlighting Flynn's public persona as a genial tech genius.



The narrative segues to Flynn's personal life, where he plays racquetball with his sister, Olivia. Their playful sibling rivalry unfolds on the court, with Olivia triumphing despite her responsibilities as a new mom. The discussion shifts to the challenges of navigating personal relationships given Flynn's high-profile status and past experiences, including a peculiar marriage proposal from a stranger, underscoring the difficulties of finding genuine connections.

Flynn's concern about finding a fitting costume for the masquerade ball becomes a subplot, and he muses about creating a clever, identity-related disguise. Olivia jokingly suggests ways for Flynn to mask his identity to avoid recognition, touching on the complexities of balancing public attention with personal life.

As the chapter concludes, Flynn reflects on Olivia's suggestions with an idea for a new look. While he dismisses the notion of a face-lift in jest, it sparks a creative thought that could become a unique response to the identity challenge, tying the narrative together with both humor and insight into Flynn's character and the playful yet determined spirit with which he approaches his life and work.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: importance of balancing personal and professional life

Critical Interpretation: The story of Flynn, with his tech-driven ambitions and deep ties to his personal world, serves as a poignant reminder to you about the essence of balance. You are inspired by the way he seamlessly intertwines the demands of a high-powered career with the humor and camaraderie he shares with lifelong friends and family. This chapter nudges you to embrace every aspect of your life with equal fervor, ensuring that professional strides do not overshadow personal bonds. You learn that weaving joy and love into your pursuits, much like Flynn does with his spirited approach to both work and personal relationships, enriches your journey, grounding you while propelling you toward your dreams.



Chapter 4: 4

In Chapter 4 of the story, we meet Sabrina, a resourceful and determined young woman navigating life in New York City. She's in the Salvation Army, scavenging for a Monopoly game, not to play but for its fake money, highlighting her current financial struggles. A kind saleswoman gifts her not one, but two Monopoly sets, sparking a brief moment of fortune in a day that had seemed cursed.

Sabrina, originally from Queens and an NYU graduate, is trying to maintain her life in the city despite financial challenges. She lives affordably in an East Village apartment thanks to her affluent cousin Daisy, who is abroad. Her primary goal is to support her little brother Kevin's education at divinity school. She had to take responsibility for him after their mother left, becoming his legal guardian.

Wanting to improve her career prospects, Sabrina submitted articles to Up Next, a prestigious magazine. To her excitement, she receives a call from Bob Galloway, the magazine's top editor. He shows interest in her work and invites her to discuss a potential story assignment, giving her a much-needed boost of hope.

Later, Sabrina dresses up for a masquerade party, reflecting on her childhood love for historical romance stories featuring such glamorous events. At the



party, she relishes the ambiance and mingles with guests, all while keeping her eye on networking opportunities. She reconnects with contacts, aiming to secure freelance business, and has a tense exchange with a podcaster known as "Evil Kermit".

As the night unfolds, Sabrina's attention is captured by a mysterious man dressed in black, who intriguingly addresses her as a "next-generation angel," leaving the reader curious about the connection and potential opportunities awaiting her.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

Chapter Summary:

Flynn finds himself struggling with his costume choice at a themed party. Dressed entirely in black, his outfit's intent is misunderstood, with attendees repeatedly guessing he is some form of a "ninja," which frustrates him. However, his luck changes when he spots a woman in a creative "Angel Investor" costume that creatively combines angelic elements with financial humor—her wings adorned with Monopoly money. This piques Flynn's interest, as he is drawn to intelligence and creativity in women.

The woman turns out to be witty and charming. As they engage in conversation, she impressively guesses Flynn's costume as a "stealth start-up," a term for a new, secretive tech company. Flynn is amused and relieved when she gets it right, indicating she doesn't recognize him for his real identity—a wealthy multimillionaire under the alias Flynn Parker.

Their conversation flows naturally, filled with playful banter, clever innuendos, and shared laughs. Their chemistry is undeniable, igniting an instant attraction. Flynn is intrigued by the anonymity the masquerade provides, allowing him to connect without the pretense of his public persona.



The music shifts to a slower tune, prompting Flynn to invite the woman to dance. Her acknowledgement of his surprisingly good dance skills leads to further playful and flirty exchanges, revealing a mutual affection despite not knowing each other's real identities. The conversation, full of witty exchanges about dancing, tech ideas, and personal jokes, creates an intimate atmosphere between them.

As the dance continues, their attraction intensifies, and Flynn suggests exploring the library—a quieter, more private space. Once there, the ambiance becomes suggestively intimate. As the door closes behind them, Flynn seizes the moment, aiming to deepen their connection beyond casual flirtation.

In the library's cozy setting, with shelves lined with books of various genres, Flynn jokingly pretends to be searching for a book. Instead, he winds up engaging her in a narrative of their own making—where the fairy tale-like encounter at the party has set the stage for something more meaningful. In this secluded space, they continue to indulge in playful, seductive exchanges, exploring the personas they've crafted for the evening.

Flynn revels in the experience, appreciating the mysterious woman's intellect and allure. Despite not knowing her true identity, he is captivated by both the mask and the woman behind it, willing the enchantment to last and eager



for more of the night’s unfolding magic.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6

In this chapter, we delve into Sabrina's whimsical escapade, framed as a night of unexpected freedom and adventure. The backdrop is a fancy party that serves as a masquerade, allowing Sabrina to escape her ordinary, struggling life and the baggage of a failed wedding. The evening becomes a personal victory, a chance to shed her past and reinvent herself, even if just for a night.

Sabrina meets a mysterious, handsome man who becomes both her partner in flirtation and fantasy. Their chemistry is undeniable, reminiscent of romantic historical masquerades where identities are concealed, and inhibitions are dropped. This man, whose features leave a strong impression on Sabrina, engages her in an intoxicating game of discovery. They share fevered kisses, and his liberal compliments and magnetic presence stir a sense of empowerment and intrigue in her.

Sabrina is keenly aware of her transformation for the night; she becomes a version of herself unburdened by her usual worries. The physical intimacy progresses with an urgency influenced by their mutual anonymity and the thrill of the masquerade setting. They share raw and unrestrained moments of passion in a secluded library, blending fantasy with reality.

Despite the anonymity, Sabrina learns a little about her mysterious partner;



he's in the world of venture capitalism. However, it's not his job she cares about, but the way he makes her feel. Their encounter, filled with electricity and spontaneity, lets Sabrina explore a side of herself she often keeps hidden. As the evening reaches its crescendo, they exchange a fevered, intimate promise of the night's culmination in passionate whispers, speaking to the depths of their temporary connection.

Amid their climactic union, external realities intrude—a phone to resolve tension outside this fantasy bubble. Ultimately, Sabrina separates herself to take an important work call, rushing back into the real world with the knowledge that this break from her reality, as liberating as it was, is temporary. She is grasping onto the fleeting euphoria of the night as she re-enters her regular life. Her last actions, a note to the mysterious man, cement the dreamlike quality of the evening while underscoring the impending return to her responsibilities.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Rediscovering Freedom Through Temporary Escape

Critical Interpretation: The journey through Sabrina's escapade at the masquerade teaches you the transformative power of temporarily stepping away from your routine life to explore uncharted aspects of yourself. In your everyday life, responsibilities and previous disappointments can sometimes press upon you, but it's crucial to remember that allowing yourself a brief respite can unleash a sense of liberation and self-discovery. Sabrina's magical night, as captured in Chapter 6, is a testament to how much you might learn about yourself when you dare to escape old patterns, even if just for an evening. Embracing a new adventure or indulging in spontaneous experiences might reveal strengths and feelings you had shelved, offering a powerful reminder that sometimes, the best way to find yourself is by stepping momentarily into the unknown.



Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In Chapter 7, Flynn finds himself in the aftermath of an exciting and unexpected rendezvous in a library, complete with scattered remnants of the encounter. Among these is a white shimmer on the floor, which he initially mistakes for part of a costume. Upon closer inspection, he realizes it's not just any costume piece—it's a pair of panties, which he cheekily tucks into his pocket along with a fierce grin. Flynn also finds a homemade halo adorned with dollar bills, presumably belonging to his mysterious partner. These discoveries offer him an opportunity—an excuse, he muses—to see her again.

Flynn's internal monologue reveals a mix of excitement and protectiveness towards this mysterious woman. He is curious about her identity and perhaps even wishes to keep her a secret, spurred by a momentary vulnerability he noticed in her eyes, despite the mask she wore during their encounter.

Having shared a night of merriment with his business team, Flynn decides to skip the rest of the evening's festivities. He's eager to return to his personal pursuits, which include diving into a new quantum physics book and refining his Japanese language skills in preparation for upcoming business meetings in Tokyo.

As Flynn makes his way down the hallway, he encounters Kermit, a bold



and persistent figure with whom he has previous dealings. Kermit is known for his tenacity and ambition, particularly regarding his burgeoning podcast network, which Flynn recalls from past conversations. The two exchange pleasantries, with Kermit expressing interest in securing an interview with Flynn. Mindful of his colleague Jennica's advice about handling such requests carefully, Flynn tactfully deflects, directing Kermit to coordinate with Jennica, who manages all interview arrangements.

Their conversation is light-hearted yet strategic, each man navigating the nuances of professional courtesy. As they part ways, Kermit's knowing smirk upon noticing the halo under Flynn's arm hints at his awareness of Flynn's earlier escapade. Flynn, feigning a casual tone, claims he intends to return the item to its owner, though inwardly he harbors a genuine desire to reconnect with the mysterious woman who has so captivated his thoughts. Flynn's encounter with Kermit underscores the delicate dance of business negotiations intertwined with personal intrigue, setting a stage for future developments in Flynn's story.



Chapter 8: 8

In this chapter, Sabrina reflects on her journey over the past eight months, beginning with a phone call that changes everything for her. Standing under a lush, green tree in New York City, she feels an overwhelming sense of gratitude and happiness, reminiscent of the idyllic life she once envisioned. This moment starkly contrasts with her past, marked by a significant upheaval.

Eight months prior, Sabrina was engaged to Ray, a man she met through a matchmaking site. Their relationship seemed perfect, sharing a love for New York, Goldfish crackers, and basketball. Ray, known for his generosity and passion for life, worked in the export business and enjoyed cooking and hosting gatherings. Although their lives were busy, they made time for each other, seemingly paving the way to a fulfilling marriage.

Unexpectedly, just two days before their wedding, Ray called to inform Sabrina that he was moving to Macau, China, for a new job, offering no invitation or explanation. She was blindsided by his sudden departure, leaving her life meticulously divided. There were no apparent warning signs, no red flags besides perhaps his regular poker games.

As a modern woman, Sabrina seeks solace in her friends and her trusty Singer sewing machine, where she channels her heartbreak into crafting



voodoo dolls of Ray, while indulging in mojitos with her friend Courtney. In her search for answers, she turns to the internet, hoping to uncover a hidden reason behind Ray's drastic decision. However, the internet offers no comfort, no revelations about why her fiancé left her so abruptly. During her quest, she uncovers the allure of Macau as a gambling haven, speculating

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

In Chapter 9 of the story, we are introduced to an intriguing conversation between two characters who are wrapped in mystery and allure, Duke and Angel. The chapter explores the playful, flirtatious banter between Duke, a man enamored by the night he spent with Angel, whose full identity remains unknown to him. Their communication is via text messages, laced with humor and double entendres, adding a layer of intimacy and intrigue.

The chapter begins with Duke and Angel reflecting on their recent encounter, with Duke imagining Angel as a whimsical "Dirty Cinderella." Despite their brief time together, it was an unforgettable evening filled with dancing, conversation, and electrifying chemistry. Duke comments on Angel's directness and wit, while Angel praises the night as the best intimate experience of her life. Their exchange beautifully captures the thrill of nascent romance, unburdened by full knowledge of each other's identities.

Duke, overwhelmed by curiosity and attraction, is eager to see her again. Angel, equally captivated, expresses her desire to meet Duke without hesitation, breaking conventional dating norms. Through their conversation, it is revealed that neither typically indulges in impulsive one-night stands, making their connection all the more unique and compelling.

As they plan to meet the following evening, their playful exchange



continues, filled with anticipation and mystery. They agree to reveal their true names only once they meet again, avoiding the temptation to uncover each other's backgrounds beforehand. The discussion hints at deeper themes of modern dating in a bustling city like New York, where anonymity and serendipity can lead to genuine connections.

The chapter closes on an optimistic note, with both characters looking forward to their next encounter, held together by the delightful prospect of a developing romance and the exciting mysteries each still holds. As Duke reflects on the evening, he is buoyed by warmth and curiosity, eager to uncover the real woman behind the enigmatic Angel.



Chapter 10 Summary: 10

Sabrina Granger, a seasoned journalist from the Midwest, is navigating the bustling streets of New York City on a Monday afternoon. She stands in awe before a towering skyscraper, not just for its imposing structure, but because it represents a realm she's always aspired to be part of—the media world. Her career began with dreams of working in such a place, writing compelling business stories that dissected the narratives of the modern-day equivalents of Standard Oil and Ford—companies like Google and Apple. Unlike hard news or politics, Sabrina is passionate about business stories because they offer intricate tapestries of strategy, numbers, and personal journeys with unexpected twists and turns.

Dressed in professional attire, Sabrina enters the headquarters of "Up Next," a prestigious magazine that manages to stay financially strong in the unstable landscape of modern journalism. The walls of the magazine's office are adorned with iconic magazine covers and cultural snapshots, underscoring its enduring prestige. She is met by Mr. Galloway, the dapper editor with a discerning eye for talent. He offers Sabrina an opportunity to write a marquee feature on the tech wunderkind, Flynn Parker, who has been labeled the next big thing in business innovation. Known for founding an extraordinarily successful tech enterprise and his recent ventures in home automation with a company named Haven, Parker is a target for any journalist seeking a profile on emerging leaders.



Mr. Galloway tasks Sabrina with peeling back the layers of Parker's persona to uncover the real stories behind his success—beyond the polished presentations and rehearsed speeches. Despite having never interviewed Parker before, Sabrina is excited at the prospect of delving into the psyche of someone who could reshape the business landscape, with Mr. Galloway emphasizing the need for originality and depth in her reporting. The assignment comes with a generous fee, promising Sabrina some financial relief and the ability to support her brother.

Enthusiastic about the new assignment's potential to catapult her career forward, Sabrina immediately starts her preliminary research. As images of Parker flood her computer screen, his stunning good looks momentarily distract her, but she resolves to focus on his story and the professional opportunity at hand. Sabrina is intrigued by a fleeting sense of familiarity in his picture but dismisses it, attributing it to having possibly seen him in passing at industry events.

As Sabrina leaves the Up Next office, she changes into a casual, more personal outfit and excitedly anticipates not only the meeting with Parker but also an evening rendezvous with a mysterious, alluring figure she refers to as "the duke." This personal connection serves as a tantalizing backdrop to her professional endeavors, adding a romantic twist to her busy life in the city. Moments later, at a venue called The Dollhouse in Tribeca, she is shocked to



see none other than Flynn Parker approaching—a convergence of her professional and personal worlds that she never saw coming.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11

Chapter 11: Flynn - An Hour Earlier

As Flynn waits impatiently for the elevator, he's approached by Jennica, a vibrant coworker with pink sunglasses and a hefty purse. She teases Flynn about leaving work at what she considers an early hour for him—5:30 PM. Flynn is clearly preoccupied, again cleaning non-existent smudges from his glasses and ensuring his shirt is perfectly aligned.

Jennica is here to announce her self-proclaimed 'badge of awesomeness'. She's successfully pitched Flynn for a feature piece in "Up Next", a prestigious publication. Bob Galloway, a notable figure, has assigned a reporter, Sabrina Granger, to cover the story. Despite Jennica's enthusiasm, Flynn remains indifferent, focused instead on his appearance, hinting at nerves rather than vanity.

Jennica suspects the cause of Flynn's distraction: a romantic interest. Flynn, jesting about acquiring a 'Certified Dork' certificate, admits to Jennica's teasing inquiries that he's seeing a mystery woman whose identity remains largely unknown to him. He shares only glimpses of her character—intelligent, independent, and appreciative of his humor.



Jennica leaves for a family obligation, and Flynn heads to "The Dollhouse," a quirky bar masquerading as a toy shop. Unlike his typical confident demeanor, Flynn is nervous, reflecting on past romantic mishaps, notably with Annie, a college friend turned fleeting romantic interest who eventually revealed her interest in him was financially driven. This past shades Flynn's current feelings and hopeful intrigue regarding the enigmatic woman he's meeting.

In "The Dollhouse," a whimsical establishment filled with dollhouse furniture and pastel teacups, Flynn scans for the woman he kissed passionately at a recent party. Despite the masquerade of their previous encounter, Flynn is certain he'll recognize her. Upon spotting a woman in a polka-dot skirt with familiar caramel hair, Flynn's anticipation is mixed with apprehension—his romantic fantasy unfolds. Yet, her lack of a welcoming smile suggests an unanticipated challenge, setting the stage for a meeting he hopes will transcend past heartaches and misconceptions.



Chapter 12: 12

Chapter 12: Flynn

Flynn, the protagonist, finds himself unexpectedly face-to-face with Sabrina Granger, a woman he shared an electric connection with the previous night. Flynn had hoped for a warm reunion, but Sabrina seems vexed and doesn't recognize him at first. Rather than advancing their budding romantic connection, it turns into a bewildering exchange at a bar.

As they attempt to untangle the misunderstanding, Flynn realizes Sabrina is not just the woman from last night but also the reporter set to interview him about his company. This dramatic revelation leaves both confused, considering their shared past the night before, which was intimate and personal. They had met at a party, where mutual attractions sparked under the guise of anonymity—Flynn as a charming stranger and Sabrina unaware of his true identity.

As they sit at the bar in the quirky joint, they reminisce about their childhoods, revealing more about their personalities. Flynn, who once built cardboard robots, and Sabrina, who sewed dresses for dolls, share a brief moment of lighter conversation. Despite this, the looming professional boundary casts a shadow, as Sabrina admits she is interviewing Flynn for a



high-stakes article, a career-defining moment for her.

Their conversations reveal vulnerabilities and mutual attractions, yet boundaries must be drawn. Flynn, wary of being manipulated due to past experiences with deceit, questions Sabrina's intentions. This skepticism

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13

In Chapter 13, we delve into Sabrina's life, a journalist caught in an ethical dilemma. Having always taught her brother that if something seems too good to be true, it often is, she finds herself in a similar predicament. After a magical night with Flynn Parker, she realizes he is the subject of her upcoming article, leading to a tension between personal desires and professional responsibilities. The fairy-tale ending eludes her as she grapples with the real-world consequences of her actions.

Sabrina reflects on her reality—her modest lifestyle and efforts to manage tight budgets, capped by conversations with her brother, Kevin. This connection provides her support system and moral compass, reminiscent of their shared history and struggles, such as their mother's bouts with law problems. Kevin, wise and philosophical, reassures Sabrina to focus on maintaining a professional distance during her work with Flynn, encouraging her to uphold journalistic integrity.

Despite this commitment, her bond with Flynn wavers between professionalism and a lingering personal connection. Their playful exchange over grammar jokes reveals a budding intimacy beyond the scope of her professional duties. This duality in their interaction underscores a deeper, unspoken connection she struggles to dismiss.



As she prepares for her interview with Flynn, Sabrina sends emails negotiating their meeting's location, emphasizing the importance of comfort to facilitate open dialogue. The anticipation of learning more about Flynn, a complex figure in her life, occupies her thoughts. Yet, the playful text messages between them signal an unresolved distraction from her objective.

Ultimately, Sabrina finds herself enjoying the fleeting excitement of their flirtatious banter, while reminding herself to keep emotions in check and prioritize her article. Her juggling act captures the essence of navigating moral boundaries and personal desires in a professional landscape, setting up a tension-filled journey ahead.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14

In Chapter 14, Flynn navigates his complex emotions following a recent encounter involving Sabrina, a reporter who's covering his company, Haven. The chapter opens with Flynn humorously reflecting on an email he sent involving a grammar joke, though his audience, his niece Zoe, is too young to offer a meaningful response. The light-hearted exchange sets the tone as Flynn bonds with his niece, highlighting his affectionate and humorous nature.

Flynn's sister, Olivia, returns from her workout, bringing more warmth into the scene. A discussion ensues about Olivia's husband, Herb, a veterinarian engaged in rescuing dogs from a puppy mill. Flynn's supportive role in Olivia's life is apparent as they talk about family and his involvement in caring for Zoe.

The conversation shifts to a recent encounter Flynn had with Sabrina at a masquerade party, leading to mixed feelings. Although he's intrigued by her, he remains cautious due to her professional role in writing about his company. Flynn confides in Olivia, struggling with the idea that he might genuinely like Sabrina but is wary of the potential complications given their professional boundaries.

Olivia shares her perspective on love and attraction, reminding Flynn that



meaningful connections can develop quickly or over time. Despite her encouragement, Flynn remains focused on the impending company challenge. Sabrina's reporting could affect Haven, especially as they attempt to stave off competition from ShopForAnything, a rival company.

At work, Flynn remains committed to leading his company, navigating through marketing plans and strategizing with his colleague Carson. There's a moment of empathy as Carson shares his mother's health struggles, adding depth to the workplace dynamics and emphasizing the collective effort needed to ensure the company's success.

Flynn's inner conflict persists as he balances his personal feelings for Sabrina with his professional responsibilities. The chapter ends with a chance encounter with Sabrina at a subway station, leaving him acutely aware of the mutual attraction and the tension between personal desires and professional duties. The chapter beautifully portrays Flynn's internal struggle between following his heart and staying true to his responsibilities at Haven.



Chapter 15 Summary: 15

Chapter 15 Summary: Sabrina

In Chapter 15, Sabrina encounters Flynn Parker, a charismatic figure with a boyish charm and an intriguing past, on a New York City street. His spontaneous gift—a headband important to Sabrina—sets a playful and intimate tone. As they prepare to board the subway together, Flynn evokes T.S. Eliot and other poets to charm Sabrina, sparking flirtation and a deeper connection between them.

Flynn, a visionary entrepreneur known for his innovative creations, becomes the focus of Sabrina's journalistic curiosity. She initiates an interview to understand the roots of his creativity. Flynn narrates childhood stories of his passion for building things, from a cardboard robot inspired by Star Wars to more advanced creations, revealing his lifelong desire to innovate and create. This conversation provides insights into his character, showcasing his relentless drive and passion for creation.

In exchange, Flynn inquires about Sabrina's career choices, learning that her curiosity and desire to comprehend human motives drive her work as a reporter. Sabrina reveals her initial ambition to become a fashion designer but acknowledges that journalism fulfills her love for understanding. This



mutual sharing strengthens their connection.

Flynn surprises Sabrina with an exclusive tour of the abandoned City Hall subway station, appealing to her inquisitive nature and symbolizing their budding relationship. As they ride the subway, Sabrina starts to piece together an authentic picture of Flynn beyond his public persona, feeling a growing attraction and admiration for his passion and dedication. This chapter encapsulates their flirtatious and intellectual rapport, setting a foundation for what could develop between them.

Theme	Description
Character Interaction	Sabrina meets Flynn, a charismatic figure with a playful charm, in New York City.
Gift and Connection	Flynn gives Sabrina a meaningful headband, setting a flirtatious and intimate tone.
Cultural References	Flynn quotes poets like T.S. Eliot to charm Sabrina, deepening their connection.
Professional Interests	Sabrina is interested in Flynn’s visionary entrepreneurship and technological creativity.
Childhood Stories	Flynn shares personal stories revealing his lifelong passion for invention.
Journalistic Curiosity	Sabrina discusses her career in journalism driven by her curiosity for human motives.
Mutual Understanding	Their dialogue reveals shared values, deepening their connection.

Theme	Description
Exclusive Experience	Flynn surprises Sabrina with a tour of the abandoned City Hall subway station.
Growing Attraction	Sabrina begins to admire and feel attracted to Flynn’s dedication and passion.

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Chapter 16: 16

In Chapter 16 of the narrative, Sabrina finds herself on a subway journey with Flynn, a compelling figure with layers she is both curious and cautious about. The setting is an old, abandoned New York subway station, celebrated for its bygone opulence and architectural splendor, yet abandoned because it couldn't accommodate the more modern, longer trains. Flynn uses their visit to the station as a metaphor for the nature of success and obsolescence, highlighting the importance of adaptability and forward-planning in business and life to avoid becoming a relic of the past.

Flynn's contemplative insights resonate with Sabrina, whose journalistic instincts want to question him, but she can't help but agree with the poignant truth of his words. As they discuss the allure and warning that the old station represents, Flynn reveals his fears about his business becoming obsolete, paralleling Sabrina's own internal conflicts about her past and future.

The excursion offers Sabrina a glimpse into Flynn's world—his appreciation for history, discovery, and learning for its own sake. Despite the professional context of their interaction, there's a palpable chemistry that Sabrina tries to dismiss. She recognizes the risk involved in allowing herself to get too close to Flynn, fearing heartache, much like she had experienced with Ray, her past love who left her unexpectedly.



Flynn's suggestion that there are other hidden subway gems around the city ignites a spark of excitement in Sabrina. Though she initially plans to explore them alone, taking Flynn's invitation to see more seems too tempting to refuse. Despite a nagging reminder of the professional boundaries she must maintain, Sabrina chooses to seize the moment.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17

In Chapter 17, we explore the playful yet profound interaction between Duke and Angel, set against the vibrant backdrop of New York City. Their conversation starts with light banter about favorite places, revealing Angel's affection for historical eras and Duke's easygoing charm. The dialogue quickly shifts to a more introspective tone as they prepare for another interview, with Angel challenging Duke to select their next meeting spot given her aversion to regular office settings. She lists various unique locations in New York, settling on the quirky Elevator Museum in Tribeca, a place that sparks a deeper discussion about art, value, and the oft-overlooked details of life.

At the museum, Duke and Angel ponder the significance of ordinary, discarded objects displayed as art, leading to reflections on human nature and the tendency to overlook things and people. This introspection opens a window into Angel's past, hinting at her experiences of feeling ignored and discarded, which Duke empathetically acknowledges, strengthening their connection.

Their interaction takes a lighthearted turn as Duke uses a pineapple to explain the Fibonacci sequence, intertwining math with nature—a metaphor for their dynamic blend of intellect and chemistry. This revelation of Duke's passion and knowledge deepens Angel's intrigue and attraction, culminating



in a tender moment that blurs the lines between professional and personal.

The narrative then shifts to other favorite spots, like the locksmith with its Starry Night mural made entirely of keys, symbolizing change and nostalgia. This is a fitting allegory for Angel, who shares her struggles with moving on from past relationships and family. Duke's support and understanding further solidify their bond.

In a subplot, Duke is confronted with a professional dilemma when Jennica suggests speaking to Kermit, a media figure whose potential influence could benefit Duke's company, Haven. Despite his personal irritation with Kermit, Duke recognizes the strategic necessity of engaging with him for the company's sake, highlighting Duke's balance between personal feelings and professional priorities.

This chapter artfully weaves together themes of connection, introspection, memory, and ambition, revealing the characters' layers and setting the stage for deeper exploration of their burgeoning relationship and personal growth.



Chapter 18 Summary: 18

In this chapter of the narrative, we follow Sabrina, a journalist with a playful, sugar-driven distraction at the Sunshine Bakery on the Upper West Side. Her friend, Courtney, is shopping for a celebratory office cake, discussing how cake acts as both a motivator and a social experiment in the office setting. As Sabrina contemplates buying a richly priced slice of cake, they chat about workplace dynamics and an amusing incident with a cake "devoured by bear cubs" in the break room.

Their conversation takes a turn when Courtney mentions Kermit, a fellow journalist who seems to harbor some jealousy towards Sabrina for her exclusive scoop on Flynn, a notable figure in the tech industry. Sabrina dismisses Kermit's territorial nature with humor, but it piques her curiosity enough to listen to Kermit's well-executed podcasts, which annoyingly impress her.

Amidst these distractions, Sabrina receives a message from her estranged mother, Maureen, which she chooses to dismiss with a courteous yet distant reply. Sabrina's backstory reveals the strained relationship with her mother, who left Sabrina and her brother Kevin to fend for themselves during their adolescence.

Later, Sabrina visits Flynn's office, a notable subject of her article, to witness



a demonstration of Haven, his smart home technology. Observing Flynn's warm rapport with his employees and his charisma, Sabrina finds herself drawn to him both personally and professionally. Flynn showcases the impressive features of the smart home, including a charming British-voiced assistant named Daniel. This interaction is playfully reminiscent of genies, a nod to past private jokes between Sabrina and Flynn.

As Sabrina prepares to leave, she nervously offers Flynn a cupcake, leading to a flirtatious exchange that underscores their growing attraction. Their playful conversation builds the romantic tension, revealing Sabrina's inner conflict between her professional obligations and personal feelings.

Afterward, Sabrina contacts Mr. Galloway, likely a supervisor or editor, to update him on her progress with the article on Flynn. The narrative hints at Sabrina's aspirations within the publishing world and the stakes riding on her ability to deliver a compelling story.

Throughout the chapter, Sabrina grapples with her professional identity, her relationships with her family, colleagues, and Flynn, and her desire to succeed in her career without sacrificing her integrity. The chapter is a blend of personal and professional dynamics, perfectly encapsulating Sabrina's journey and her struggle to navigate the intersection of her career ambitions and personal affections.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Navigating Professional and Personal Boundaries

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 18, Sabrina stands at the crossroads of her professional aspirations and personal inclinations, serving as a poignant reminder of the delicate balance we all must maintain between work and personal life. In your life, take inspiration from Sabrina's journey and embrace a conscious effort to discern and respect these boundaries. It's important to recognize that while professional success is rewarding, it's equally vital to sustain personal relationships and inner dialogues that reinforce your identity and emotional wellbeing. This awareness can guide you in making decisions that not only elevate your career but also fulfill personal desires, ensuring neither aspect overshadows the other. Such a balanced approach can lead to more profound satisfaction and authenticity in everyday interactions.



Chapter 19 Summary: 19

In Chapter 19 of the story, we delve into the playful and complex relationships between the main characters as well as their individual backgrounds. Flynn and his identical twin brother, Dylan, are at a softball game in Central Park, dressed similarly to further enhance their twin-like appearance. They engage in their classic game of confusing people, particularly Sabrina, a friend and possibly more, by swapping glasses and positions.

Their interaction with Sabrina brings to light not just their humor but also deeper aspects of personal identity and relationships. Sabrina points out the subtle differences between Flynn and Dylan, particularly focusing on Dylan's wedding band and eventually Flynn's distinctiveness when they're alone. The conversation veers into more personal territory as Sabrina shares insights about her challenging upbringing. Raised effectively without her parents, she supported her younger brother through divinity school, testing the limits of self-reliance and responsibility at a young age.

This chapter also reveals Sabrina's resilience and independence, formed by her mother's criminal activities and absence. The exchange highlights her strong support system in her brother, Kevin, contrasting the absence of her father. This background enriches Sabrina's character, explaining her focus on career and her determination to separate herself from her past.



The narrative shifts as Flynn reassesses his assumptions about Sabrina, realizing her motivations stem from familial love rather than opportunism. Their conversation ends on a more serious note regarding Kermit La Franchi, hinting at potential conflict due to leaked information. Flynn and Sabrina's mutual trust is tested, reaffirming their developing bond.

Finishing off with a softball game and a deeper conversation at a café, Flynn and Sabrina open up about their bruised pasts and present challenges. Sabrina recounts her past engagement, painting a picture of a woman who has faced betrayal and used it to foster personal growth. Flynn shares his own story of heartbreak, establishing a shared understanding between them. As the day concludes, their evolving relationship suggests deepening feelings, leaving room for possible romance beyond their professional ties.

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Chapter 20: 20

In this chapter, Sabrina, an enthusiastic and driven journalist, finds herself drawn to Flynn, a man she interviews for her stories. Their chemistry is undeniable, and Sabrina is irresistibly attracted to Flynn's charisma and the endless conversations they share. As they stroll past a shop window displaying various costumes, Sabrina playfully expresses a desire for the ruby-red slippers from "The Wizard of Oz," hinting at her longing for a magical escape into a different life, one where she and Flynn could be together without complications.

Their flirtation deepens when Flynn suggests exploring the costume shop. Inside, they try on various masks, teasing each other about their disguises. This playful banter underscores a deeper undercurrent of mutual desire and vulnerability, revealing their wish to escape their current realities and assume the identities of iconic figures—Sabrina as Marilyn Monroe and Flynn as Joe DiMaggio—at an imaginary costume party.

As they navigate their unspoken feelings, Sabrina and Flynn have a candid conversation about recognizing each other despite the masks, metaphorically touching on the emotional barriers they both harbor. They acknowledge the impossibility of their desires because of circumstances outside their control—Sabrina's job as a journalist covering Flynn, and the potential ethical concerns it raises.



They indulge in a moment of fantasy, pretending to be at a party where they can express their feelings without consequence. Their dance is charged with longing, a desperate bid to experience even a slice of the connection they crave. The chapter highlights their shared struggle with the tension between

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Chapter 21 Summary: 21

In this chapter, we delve into the world of Flynn Parker, a successful tech entrepreneur and a central figure in the development of Haven, a smart home system poised to revolutionize how people live. The story opens with Flynn demonstrating Haven's features on a morning news show, hosted by Camilla Montes, who embodies the cheerful charisma typical of morning anchors. Her lighthearted banter about making eggs and toast through Haven transitions into a more personal topic—Flynn's status as one of New York City's most eligible bachelors.

Flynn's mind drifts to Sabrina, a lively and adventurous woman who has captured his heart. Although they've only recently kissed, Flynn feels a compelling urge to pursue a relationship with her. His determination mirrors the ambition that drove him to succeed in the tech industry. Flynn playfully acknowledges the possibility of a new relationship on-air, teasing both Camilla and the audience.

After the show, Flynn encounters Jennica, a trusted colleague with a motherly demeanor who looks out for him. Their exchange in the studio's bustling hallway revolves around Flynn's feelings for Sabrina and the implications for his company. Jennica recognizes his affection for Sabrina despite Flynn's previously cautious approach to workplace relationships. She affirms Haven's successful rollout, noting that their company is thriving and



significantly ahead of its competition.

Jennica's insights encourage Flynn to reevaluate his initial apprehensions about mixing personal and professional life. With Haven's stability, Flynn feels more confident in pursuing his personal happiness without fear of jeopardizing business success. Jennica reassures him that he doesn't need to give Haven one hundred percent of his focus to ensure its prosperity—a notion that resonates with Flynn and alleviates his concerns.

Yet, Jennica highlights another critical aspect—Sabrina's professional stake in this potential relationship and how it might impact her as a journalist. With their roles now intertwined, Flynn must navigate this dynamic carefully to support Sabrina without compromising her career.

The chapter closes with a renewed focus on how Flynn can transform this connection with Sabrina into a shared success, both personally and professionally. His journey is not just about balancing his ambitions with love, but also about becoming a supportive partner who can turn Sabrina's risks into mutual rewards, symbolizing a promising future both in his personal life and at Haven.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22

In Chapter 22, Sabrina finds herself awake at three in the morning, fueled by caffeine and the excitement of completing the first draft of an article that means the world to her. It's a piece that combines her journalistic aspirations with personal passion, and Sabrina feels both satisfaction and insecurity. Eager for feedback, she sends her work to her brother, Kevin, seeking his honest opinion on whether her personal feelings towards Flynn, the article's subject, are evident.

However, Sabrina is conflicted. She shared an intense, meaningful kiss with Flynn, a moment she cherishes but worries might compromise her integrity and her chance at her dream job with Up Next, a reputable publication. Bob Galloway, her editor, has taken a risk on her, and Sabrina is determined not to let personal matters tarnish her work. She debates the idea of disclosing her feelings to Galloway but fears it could jeopardize her career.

As she navigates this professional dilemma, Sabrina's inbox produces a new source of tension in the form of an email from Kermit LF, who wishes to speak with her. Meanwhile, she's determined to perfect her article with her brother's insights and meet Flynn for a final fact-check.

In a bittersweet outing, Sabrina and Flynn walk through Central Park for their last fact-checking meeting. Sabrina knows she must say goodbye to



their brief but enchanting connection. Internally torn, she reflects on her challenges, like the struggles with past newspapers, her family regrets, and the impact of this assignment on her heart.

During their walk, they stumble upon a plaque on a park bench, inspiring an impromptu adventure where they explore more inscribed benches, each telling a story of love and memory. This exploration brings them closer, and Flynn expresses a desire to continue discovering the city's hidden gems with her. Sabrina is moved by his vulnerability and earnestness but is reminded of her practical responsibilities and the obstacles between them.

Ultimately, the chapter ends with Sabrina caught between the pull of personal happiness and professional ambitions, fearful yet hopeful about the possibilities with Flynn, if only circumstances were different.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 23

In this poignant chapter, Flynn, feeling the weight of unspoken possibilities and a lingering uncertainty, decides to address a crucial question with Sabrina—what happens now that their story, built on shared experiences over the past two weeks, is nearing its end? Standing in front of the Schillers' bench, Flynn's nerves betray a mix of hope and fear as he carefully asks Sabrina if there might be a future for the two of them beyond this moment.

Sabrina, appreciating Flynn's candor, asks for clarity. Flynn offers it, expressing his desire for them to transition from their current professional relationship to a personal one—asking if they could truly be together. However, Sabrina responds with a sigh, signaling complexity and melancholy in her feelings. There's heartache in her voice as she explains her situation: the opportunity at "Up Next" could be pivotal for her career, and she can't let this chance slip by, given her responsibilities, especially towards her brother Kevin, whom she deeply cares for and supports.

Flynn understands her predicament—her dedication to her career and her brother must take precedence over a personal relationship with him. Though he wishes things could be different, he accepts their uneven dynamics—a relationship where one could give more than the other could take. Despite his practical mind, Flynn considers ways to overcome this inequality, even



suggesting creating a role for her in his company—a problem-solver by nature, this idea triggers a slight offense from Sabrina who asserts her identity as a dedicated reporter, not someone to be fitted into a random job just to make things work between them.

Seeing where this must naturally lead, Sabrina opens up about the conflict she feels, recognizing that her feelings for Flynn compromise her ability to remain objective in her work. She finally admits that they need to stop seeing each other in this manner, a decision that, while anticipated, lands like a harsh blow to Flynn. Despite the internal hurt, Flynn masks his emotions, outwardly agreeing with her decision. This chapter captures the complex interplay of personal ambition, familial obligation, and the bittersweet nature of relationships that, for all their potential, may not be meant to flourish.

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Chapter 24: 24

In Chapter 24 of the story, Sabrina receives a terse and non-negotiable message from Kermit, indicating a meeting on Wednesday, which fills her with dread. Kermit has the potential to expose her deepest secret, something Sabrina desperately wants to keep hidden. As she navigates through her thoughts, we learn about Sabrina's challenging past. Her mother abandoned her and her brother Kevin when Sabrina was just eighteen, leaving her to juggle college and guardianship responsibilities. Despite the difficulties, she successfully raised Kevin into a fine young man, a role she cherishes.

Currently, Sabrina is struggling with emotional turmoil over Flynn Parker, a man she deeply desires yet believes she cannot have due to professional ethics. While creating a new skirt design, she accidentally cuts her finger, an incident that feels symbolic of her emotional distress. Flynn entered her life like a much-needed respite, but professional rules dictate that she cannot be involved with someone she might cover in her journalism career. Her inner conflict is amplified by thoughts of Ray, a past experience she'd rather not repeat, and she trusts Flynn to be different.

In need of solace and advice, Sabrina visits Kevin at his divinity school in a quaint New England town. Their reunion is heartwarming, reminding Sabrina of the deep bond between them. Over tea, she confides in Kevin about her dilemma with Flynn and the ethical implications concerning her



job. Kevin listens patiently, injecting wisdom into the conversation and challenging Sabrina to consider her feelings and professional responsibilities. He acknowledges the complexity and supports her while also addressing their financial realities.

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Chapter 25 Summary: 25

In Chapter 25, Flynn is engaged in a game of racquetball with his sister Olivia, who ultimately loses. This moment serves as a brief retreat from a week filled with romantic frustration. Flynn reflects on his unsuccessful attempt to deepen his relationship with Sabrina, a woman who appreciates him beyond his wealth. Despite Olivia's playful teasing, she offers Flynn crucial advice: rely on his heart rather than his wallet. Olivia emphasizes the importance of expressing his feelings to Sabrina, suggesting he might even purchase the magazine she works for as a grand gesture. Flynn hesitates, believing Sabrina would reject such a move, but Olivia insists he should open up about his emotions.

Meanwhile, in Sabrina's perspective, she endures a grueling exercise session with her supportive friend Courtney. This physical struggle mirrors Sabrina's emotional conflict over Flynn. As Sabrina complains about her thwarted love life, Courtney, in her role as a truth-teller and motivator, argues that taking a chance on Flynn is less about solving a puzzle and more about making a courageous choice. She encourages Sabrina to act on her feelings for Flynn, highlighting that truly rare relationships shouldn't be forfeited due to fear of the unknown.

Flynn later participates in a laser tag game with his brother Dylan, who embodies fearlessness and risk-taking—qualities Flynn recognizes he lacks.



Dylan's unyielding attitude inspires Flynn to seize control of his romantic life with Sabrina. Meanwhile, Flynn receives a pivotal message from Sabrina asking to meet at Gramercy Park, offering him the perfect opportunity to act on his newfound resolve.

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Chapter 26 Summary: 26

In this chapter, we follow Sabrina Granger as she navigates the ethical and emotional complexities of her professional and personal life. Sabrina is a writer for "Up Next," a publication overseen by her editor, Mr. Galloway. She has recently completed a piece on Flynn Parker, a visionary figure who she believes embodies the traits of a next-generation leader. However, during the process of writing and researching, Sabrina developed romantic feelings for Flynn, and these feelings have complicated her professional duties.

In a letter that Sabrina drafts but doesn't send to Mr. Galloway, she expresses gratitude for the opportunity to write the piece but feels compelled to disclose her personal involvement with Flynn. She hopes that her feelings did not compromise the integrity of her work. This admission symbolizes a moment of vulnerability and honesty, as Sabrina wants to ensure transparency in her professional endeavors.

Despite facing potential career ramifications, Sabrina embraces a newfound sense of tranquility after acknowledging her feelings and taking the leap toward a relationship with Flynn. She reflects on the importance of taking chances in life, especially when it comes to matters of the heart. This introspection indicates her willingness to pursue what she truly desires, even if it involves risks.



As Sabrina prepares to submit her message to Mr. Galloway, she receives an email from him, asking her to meet the following morning to discuss her article. He acknowledges the quality of her work but hints at topics that need further discussion. Sabrina anticipates this meeting without fear, having already resolved to prioritize her emotional truth over career safety.

The chapter concludes with Sabrina getting ready for a date with Flynn, adorning herself with a green dress and unique accessories that reflect her distinctive style and personality. Her actions suggest a readiness to embrace change and the possibilities of a relationship with Flynn, marking a significant personal and professional transition in her life.

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Chapter 27 Summary: 27

Chapter 27 of the story revolves around Sabrina, who stands at the locked gates of a private park, symbolizing the wealth and privilege she's never had access to but never deeply desired either. Her thoughts reflect her desire for choices rather than material wealth, and despite her humble circumstances, she's satisfied with the decisions she's made, one of which has led her to this moment.

Suddenly, she encounters Flynn Parker, an attractive and charming man she's clearly enamored with. As they meet, Sabrina expresses her longing for a "do-over" in their relationship, eager for a fresh start that includes adventures around New York, from exploring cultural sites to attending costume parties. She makes a bold declaration of love, confessing how much she misses him in just a short absence.

Flynn's response is equally affectionate, cementing their mutual feelings. He reassures her that he's also madly in love, sparking Sabrina's euphoria. Flynn offers his support in her life choices, wishing to provide help and companionship rather than financial assistance. There's an undercurrent of playful intimacy between them, as Flynn challenges her with the offer to distract her from overthinking, suggesting a deeper connection and support in their relationship.



The encounter leads to a tender negotiation of their immediate plans, ultimately deciding to be together away from distractions. Sabrina's attraction to Flynn takes precedence over everything else, emphasizing their deep emotional and physical connection. The chapter concludes with Flynn quoting poetry, a shared love that enhances their bond, as they choose to go to Sabrina's place to avoid any distractions, symbolizing the purity and focus of their newfound beginning together.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace Choices Over Material Wealth

Critical Interpretation: In life, you may find yourself at the crossroads of opportunity and longing, much like Sabrina at the locked gates of opportunity. Remember, it's not material possessions that define your sense of satisfaction, but the power to make choices that align with your values. Embrace the paths you've chosen, for they shape your unique journey and bring fulfilling, genuine connections into your life. Let your heart guide you as you seek experiences and relationships that nourish and elevate your spirit. Your worth is in your freedom to choose, and every decision reflects the richness of your true self. Cherish it.

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Chapter 28: 28

Chapter 28: Flynn

Flynn is overwhelmed with desire for the woman he adores, having waited weeks for this moment. Ever since seeing her outside Gramercy Park, he has been enchanted by her presence, feeling both joy and anticipation at her willingness to take a chance on their relationship. Now, both are craving a deeper connection.

As the door closes, Flynn begins to express his longing, whispering sweetly yet dominantly to her. His words are met with eager compliance, revealing her vulnerability and readiness. She complies with his request, positioning herself as he guides her with a firm yet gentle touch.

Flynn cannot help but admire her beauty, from her emerald dress contrasting with her pale skin to the playful hint of pink lace from her undergarments. It's a scene that ignites a flame within him, burning with a mix of raw passion and deep affection.

He reminisces about his fantasies, sharing vivid imagery of their intimate moments that have occupied his thoughts. Each scenario reflects his deep-seated desire for her, with a playful promise of fulfilling those fantasies



together in the future.

As Flynn draws closer, he is intoxicated by her scent and taste, each sense heightened by his affection for her. His desire is not just physical; it permeates every fiber of his being, underscoring a profound emotional connection. This encounter is more than just an act of passion for him; it signifies the joyful, intense love he harbors for her—a love that is as beautiful as it is consuming.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 29

Chapter 29 of Sabrina's story captures an intense and passionate moment with Flynn, a key figure in her life. The chapter is imbued with rich descriptions of physical and emotional experiences that elevate their connection beyond mere physical intimacy. Sabrina finds herself overwhelmed by a myriad of sensations, described as a thrilling journey through the cosmos—a metaphor for the ecstasy and liberation she feels.

Sabrina describes the encounter with vivid imagery, likening herself to a "neon woman" and a "comet," emphasizing the intensity of her emotions and the transformative power of their union. It's a dance of passion and love where she is free to feel without restraint, existing in a dimension where pleasure reigns supreme.

Flynn, portrayed as both lover and partner, fulfills Sabrina's desires with a mix of tenderness and intensity, a blend of both "making love" and raw passion. This duality underscores the depth of their relationship, intertwined with both emotional and physical intimacy. He represents the stability and excitement she craves, and his ability to read and respond to her needs fortifies their bond.

The chapter shifts as they reconnect more deeply, dropping any pretenses or role-playing, fully embracing their identities as "Angel and



Duke"—nicknames that symbolize their shared adventures and deeper connection. The narrative accentuates their compatibility and suggests a mutual understanding, a harmony that extends beyond the physical.

With the morning comes routine and reality. Their relationship, characterized by deep affection, is made new through mundane activities like showering, which transforms into another shared moment of intimacy. This juxtaposition of the ordinary and extraordinary solidifies their love's foundation—everyday life with extraordinary passion.

The scene draws to a close with a tender, spontaneous display of affection on the street, illustrating the ease and joy they find in one another's company. The chapter ends on a potentially intriguing note as Sabrina encounters a new character, Maureen—distinguished by vibrant hair and a striking presence—introducing an element of uncertainty or change. Maureen's arrival hints at upcoming developments, suggesting her significance in Sabrina's world and setting the stage for potential plot twists or challenges.



Chapter 30 Summary: 30

In this emotionally charged chapter, Sabrina has an unexpected encounter with her estranged mother, Maureen, as she navigates her complex feelings towards her. Maureen is a vivacious, carefree woman, seemingly oblivious to the emotional turmoil she left behind when she abandoned Sabrina and her younger brother, Kevin, many years ago. Her carefree demeanor is matched by her flamboyant appearance, striking with her jangling bracelets, tight jeans, and overpowering perfume, creating a stark contrast to Sabrina's composed and reserved demeanor.

Sabrina maintains a façade of calm indifference, a self-preservation tactic she has cultivated since her mother's departure. Maureen's sudden visits, under the pretense of motherly affection, often leave Sabrina feeling raw and unsettled. During their brief interaction, Maureen's ignorance of her own responsibilities becomes painfully evident as she casually brushes off the past, even justifying her absence by suggesting it was right for Sabrina to take care of Kevin.

As their conversation unfolds, it's clear Maureen is more interested in Sabrina's newfound relationship with Flynn Parker, a wealthy man, than in genuinely reconnecting with her daughter. Her curiosity seems driven by potential financial gain rather than maternal concern, as she attempts to solicit money from Sabrina under the guise of needing funds for a new



venture with her much younger boyfriend, Carlos.

Sabrina stands her ground, declining her mother's request for money and refusing to indulge Maureen's lack of accountability. Her determination to protect her own stability and self-worth is evident as she firmly declines to support Maureen's financial whims. This encounter reinforces Sabrina's resolve to distance herself from her mother's influence and live independently of Maureen's questionable values.

Following the tense exchange, Sabrina tries to shake off her pent-up anger and focus on her upcoming business meeting. Upon arriving at her office, she is surprised by the changes in the workplace, suggesting a possible upheaval or transition within the company. This unexpected development triggers Sabrina's concern about her professional life, hinting at new challenges on the horizon.

The chapter beautifully captures Sabrina's struggle to cope with her past while asserting her identity and priorities. It highlights the painful but empowering process of breaking away from a difficult family dynamic and the importance of choosing one's own path despite familial pressures.

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Chapter 31 Summary: 31

Flynn leaves the gym, having just finished a workout, and is stopped by Dale, the locker room attendant, who wants to share his latest app idea. Dale excitedly pitches a concept that rates sexual partners, an idea Flynn quickly realizes is terrible. Before Flynn can fully express his disapproval, Dale switches gears, suggesting an app about rating pizza places instead. Flynn encourages him to pursue the pizza app, deeming it a much better idea.

In the lobby, Flynn encounters Claude, a co-worker who shares a story about his cousin Gracie's school trip. Gracie, an eleven-year-old student from the Bronx, is eager to visit the planetarium where renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson presents. Without hesitation, Flynn offers to fund the trip, seeing it as an opportunity to support science education for young kids.

Inspired by the encounter, Flynn is energized and heads to his office with a new sense of purpose and an exciting idea forming in his mind. Just as he's about to get to work, a woman with flaming red hair and an overabundance of bracelets stops him, claiming she was sent by Sabrina to see Flynn, hinting at another unexpected development in his day.



Chapter 32: 32

In this chapter, we follow Sabrina as she navigates a turning point in her career and personal life. Sabrina is a dedicated journalist who holds a revered figure, Bob Galloway, in high regard. Bob, despite his disheveled appearance, presents Sabrina with a suite that highlights his past success. However, he brings unfortunate news: his publication is closing due to insufficient advertising revenue, a fate common in the struggling print industry. This is a devastating blow to Sabrina, who learns that her excellent article will not be published despite its undeniable quality.

Bob explains the reasons behind the shutdown, mentioning poor investment in their digital presence and unnecessary extravagances like his expensive suits and lavish office parties. He offers Sabrina a kill fee, a small compensation when an article is accepted but not published. Despite this setback, he praises Sabrina's work and suggests she could self-publish or expand her article into a book, although these options seem impractical to her as she lacks a personal website and the content isn't book-length.

Bob himself is upbeat about retiring from the business, but Sabrina leaves the office feeling lost and undervalued. She had hoped for recognition, only to discover she was fighting for an opportunity that was never going to come to fruition. In this moment of despair, she recalls Flynn, her boyfriend, and his supportive words offering to be there for her. It prompts a reevaluation of



what truly matters and the realization that her future might lie elsewhere.

The chapter concludes with Sabrina seeing a new path forward, envisioning a future that includes Flynn. She acknowledges her friends Courtney and Kevin but recognizes Flynn's unique role in helping her navigate the unknown. Embracing a new mindset, she decides to call Flynn, indicating her readiness to accept his support as she explores different directions in her life.

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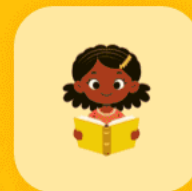
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Chapter 33 Summary: 33

In Chapter 33, Flynn encounters Sabrina's mother, Maureen Lancaster, as she approaches him with an unexpected request. Maureen claims that Sabrina, Flynn's love interest, suggested that Flynn could help her out financially, particularly with a sum of ten thousand dollars for a business venture she wants to start. Her argument hinges on the supposed generosity Flynn shows Sabrina and her family, and she presumes upon his wealth, mistaking him for a billionaire. Flynn remains skeptical, recalling his past experiences with distrust but recognizing that he is no longer that person. His newfound sense of trust stems from his genuine feelings for Sabrina.

Flynn resolutely declines Maureen's pitch, advising her to focus more on her incredible children, Sabrina and her son, as they thrive not because of her, but in spite of her actions. After this encounter, Flynn feels motivated to reinforce his commitment to Sabrina by addressing an unspecified task that he wants completed by the end of the day. This task is important to him, and although the details aren't initially clear, he enlists the help of others to expedite it, eager to deliver something meaningful to Sabrina that evening.

As the chapter closes, Sabrina calls Flynn, asking if they can meet, and Flynn eagerly agrees, underscoring his dedication to their relationship and his resolve to be a supportive presence in her life. The chapter serves as a pivotal moment for Flynn, highlighting his growth in trust and love, which



contrasts with his past skepticism and influences how he handles situations connected to Sabrina.

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Chapter 34 Summary: 34

In this chapter, we find Sabrina meeting Flynn, her charming and intelligent partner, at a coffee shop near his office. Flynn, dressed simply yet handsomely, shares a moment with Sabrina over coffee and tea. Their playful banter is lighthearted, with Sabrina jesting about Flynn's intellect. However, the mood shifts as Flynn reveals that Sabrina's mother visited him earlier, seeking money.

This news hits Sabrina hard, as her mother's penchant for gold-digging is well-known. Flynn assures her that he declined her mother's request and didn't believe her lies about being sent by Sabrina. He commends Sabrina, telling her that her greatness shines despite her mother's antics. Touched by his support and understanding, Sabrina is overwhelmed with emotion, and they share a passionate moment, reaffirming their love for each other.

Sabrina feels validated by Flynn—who she realizes is a rare "once-in-a-blue-moon" kind of man—as they discuss her new plan. Flynn's encouragement helps her understand she has nothing to lose and much to gain by pursuing her ideas, leading her to feel empowered as she heads downtown. These interactions underscore the depth of their relationship and highlight Flynn's pivotal role as a supportive partner.



Chapter 35 Summary: 35

Sabrina arrives early for her meeting with Kermit at a coffee shop, keeping herself occupied with an e-book until he shows up precisely on time at three. Kermit, who bears an uncanny resemblance to actor Seth Rogen, sits across from her and immediately makes a brusque comment about the time. Sabrina remains professional and direct, clarifying that she is involved with Flynn Parker, signaling that her personal affairs won't influence her work.

Kermit, seemingly uninterested in her personal life, dismisses her concerns and cracks jokes instead. Despite his demeanor, Sabrina admires his straightforwardness and is relieved to know her private matters don't interest him. She shifts the conversation to her real agenda: pitching a story about Flynn Parker to Kermit.

Kermit, known for his gruff exterior and high standards, expresses interest in the story. After quickly glancing over the printed copy Sabrina provides, he promptly decides to buy it, acknowledging her talent and tenacity, which he noticed ever since she approached him at a party to express interest in collaborating. He compliments her work, albeit begrudgingly, and reveals he had been following her journalism.

The conversation takes an unexpected turn when Kermit proposes not only an interest in publishing her piece on Flynn but also in hiring her as part of



his media venture. He envisions a multi-platform approach where Sabrina would not only write but also produce podcasts and video content. Kermit underscores the importance of adapting to modern journalism, moving away from traditional formats and focusing on fresh, unfiltered content.

Sabrina is surprised yet intrigued by the offer, which includes comprehensive benefits. Initially skeptical about working with someone as abrasive as Kermit, she appreciates his candor and clarity. Recognizing the opportunity in front of her, especially the chance to reach a wide audience, Sabrina accepts the offer, shaking his hand in agreement. Despite his brashness, she understands the value of his straightforwardness and the potential growth her new role could offer.

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Chapter 36: 36

In this evocative chapter, the protagonists, Sabrina and Flynn, find themselves together in the opulent setting of Flynn's expansive apartment, which occupies the entire top floor of a building overlooking Gramercy Park. The stark contrast between Sabrina's modest living situation and Flynn's luxurious home is evident, yet she feels no discomfort, only amazement. Flynn's concern about her feelings is quickly assuaged by Sabrina's assurance that his presence is what truly matters to her.

As the evening unfolds, Flynn impresses Sabrina with a delicious homemade dinner paired with white wine. Their conversation steers to Sabrina's work, as she shares the good news of a published piece and a new job. Flynn toasts to her fresh start and her brilliance, making Sabrina blush with appreciation.

Their intimate connection deepens, and the atmosphere turns from romantic to passionate. Flynn's attentiveness makes Sabrina feel cherished, free from the burdens of her life. Their physical intimacy is described in vivid detail, emphasizing their deep connection and mutual desire.

In a surprising twist, Flynn reveals his immense generosity; he has funded her brother's master's education by establishing a scholarship for all current students at the divinity school. This act of kindness leaves Sabrina astounded and grateful. It highlights Flynn's commitment to easing her burdens and



supporting her family.

The evening continues with mutual expressions of love and desire, and Flynn and Sabrina share more intimate moments, each feeling completely fulfilled by the other's presence. Flynn reflects on how Sabrina makes him

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Chapter 37 Summary: Epilogue

In the epilogue, we find Flynn a few months after the main events of the story. One morning, he receives an invitation to a costume party from Sabrina, affectionately referred to as his "angel." Costume parties and masquerades have become a special part of their relationship, a playful tradition that allows them to explore different roles and personas.

That weekend, Flynn dons a sailor's outfit, as chosen by Sabrina, for the rooftop party. They reenact the iconic photograph of a sailor kissing a nurse, capturing the romance and nostalgia of the moment. This playful interaction sets the tone for their continued adventures as they attend various costume balls and parties, occasionally dressed as famous movie duos or in elegant Venetian masks, feeling as though they are traveling through time in historical attire.

The narrative takes us to a dinner with Kevin, Sabrina's brother, held at a Thai restaurant. During their conversation, Kevin brings up the origin of their last name, Granger. Sabrina explains that they adopted this surname after their mother left, and it was inspired by Hermione Granger, a beloved character from the Harry Potter series. Sabrina admires Hermione for her intelligence, bravery, and loyalty, qualities she herself aspires to embody.

A month later, Flynn fulfills a promise by taking Sabrina to London. Their



journey is filled with the excitement of first-class travel and exploration of iconic landmarks such as Big Ben, the London Eye, and the National Gallery. Together, they discover new hidden gems in the city, mirroring their adventures back home in New York, where they revel in searching out quirky street art, visiting the Met, and enjoying speakeasies in Chelsea.

Flynn's life is thriving as his company, Haven, launches successfully, elevating him to billionaire status. Sabrina, too, finds fulfillment in her career, working in a field she loves. Their relationship deepens as Sabrina moves in with Flynn, turning his home into their shared sanctuary. Each day, they create memories together, and each night, Flynn delights in making Sabrina feel cherished and satisfied, embodying the harmony and contentment they've found in their lives together.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace Playfulness in Relationships

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 37, the key highlight is the rekindled sense of playfulness and exploration through costume parties, representing how embracing fun and adventure within a relationship can strengthen bonds and create lasting joy. You are invited to imagine how this approach could inspire your own life, fostering a sense of curiosity and excitement in your partnerships. Costume parties, as a metaphor, suggest that immersing yourself in playful experiences, shifting perspectives, and stepping into new roles can break the monotony, fostering deeper connection and creativity. Just like Flynn and Sabrina, nurturing a playful spirit in your relationships can lead to unexpected discoveries, shared laughter, and cherished memories that redefine how you perceive everyday life.



Chapter 38 Summary: Another Epilogue

In "Another Epilogue," the narrative centers on a Sunday outing with Flynn and Sabrina, providing a heartwarming snapshot of their lives together. Following brunch with Flynn's sister, her family, and friends Dylan and Evie, the couple enjoys a leisurely stroll through their beloved park. As they explore, Flynn playfully educates Sabrina on the numbered lampposts meant to guide visitors, reinforcing their shared love for discovery and new experiences. Their conversation naturally transitions into a conversation about the durability and novelty of their relationship, with Flynn cleverly using the word "always" as a setup for a surprise proposal on a newly polished bench inscribed with a personalized message. Sabrina joyfully accepts his proposal, symbolizing the strength and permanence of their bond.

The narrative then shifts to address the readers directly. The author offers insights into the inspiration behind the book's settings, drawing on the captivating charm of New York City, with its historical landmarks and hidden gems like underground speakeasies and abandoned subway stations. The message also acts as a segue into future literary adventures, introducing upcoming romances—"Part-Time Lover" and "Unbreak My Heart"—along with "The Heartbreakers" series focused on three brothers navigating love with humor and warmth.

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In "Part-Time Lover," Christian and Elise are unwilling participants in fate's game, having first met over a curious photo-op. Their paths cross again in the eclectic heart of a city, gradually developing towards a mutually satisfying arrangement devoid of strings. However, unexpected familial obligations and the practical solution of a temporary marriage of convenience challenge their no-strings credo. The excerpt teases a sizzling connection characterized by playful exchanges and electric chemistry, emphasizing the unpredictability of fate and the allure of chance encounters.

Throughout both narratives, themes of discovery, love, and unforeseen consequences weave together to portray the enriching and unpredictable journey of interpersonal connections, all set against the vibrant and magical backdrop of New York City.

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Chapter 39 Summary: Also by Lauren Blakely

Lauren Blakely's bibliography features a broad collection of romantic comedies and romances, many of which have achieved bestseller status in esteemed lists such as The New York Times and USA Today. Her works are primarily standalone novels, though some are part of beloved series and duets. Her writing largely explores themes of love, humor, and occasionally a touch of suspense, infused with irresistibly sexy stories.

Among her most notable works are standalone romantic comedies such as "FULL PACKAGE," "BIG ROCK," and "MISTER O," all of which have topped The New York Times Bestsellers list. Each book offers a delightful blend of humor and romance with unique characters who navigate the twists and turns of love.

Blakely also penned "JOY RIDE" and "HARD WOOD," both USA Today Bestsellers, as well as "THE SEXY ONE" and "THE HOT ONE," romances that have captured the hearts of many. A prominent entry, "THE KNOCKED UP PLAN," achieved multi-week success on the USA Today and Amazon Charts, highlighting Blakely's consistent ability to produce engaging romantic narratives.

Her sports romance novels, "MOST VALUABLE PLAYBOY" and "MOST LIKELY TO SCORE," introduce readers to sexy athletic worlds, while

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"THE V CARD" and "WANDERLUST" round out her list of romantic comedies with sinfully engaging plots.

Blakely's "Seductive Nights" series, including "Night After Night," "After This Night," and "One More Night," captures a steamy romantic suspense narrative extending into the "Sweet Sinful Nights" series. Her "Joy Delivered Duet," with "Nights With Him" and "Forbidden Nights," further exemplifies her bestselling impact.

Additional notable works include "21 Stolen Kisses," a USA Today Bestselling forbidden romance, and series such as "Fighting Fire," featuring intense romantic entanglements. Standouts like "Caught Up In Us," "Pretending He's Mine," and "Trophy Husband" also secure her rank as a bestseller across major platforms.

Her diverse range even explores plots like second-chance love stories in "The Only One" and thrilling pursuits in "The Sapphire Affair" series. Whether through sports, suspense, or heartfelt comedy, Blakely's books offer a captivating exploration of romance with a rich tapestry of characters and dynamic storytelling.

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