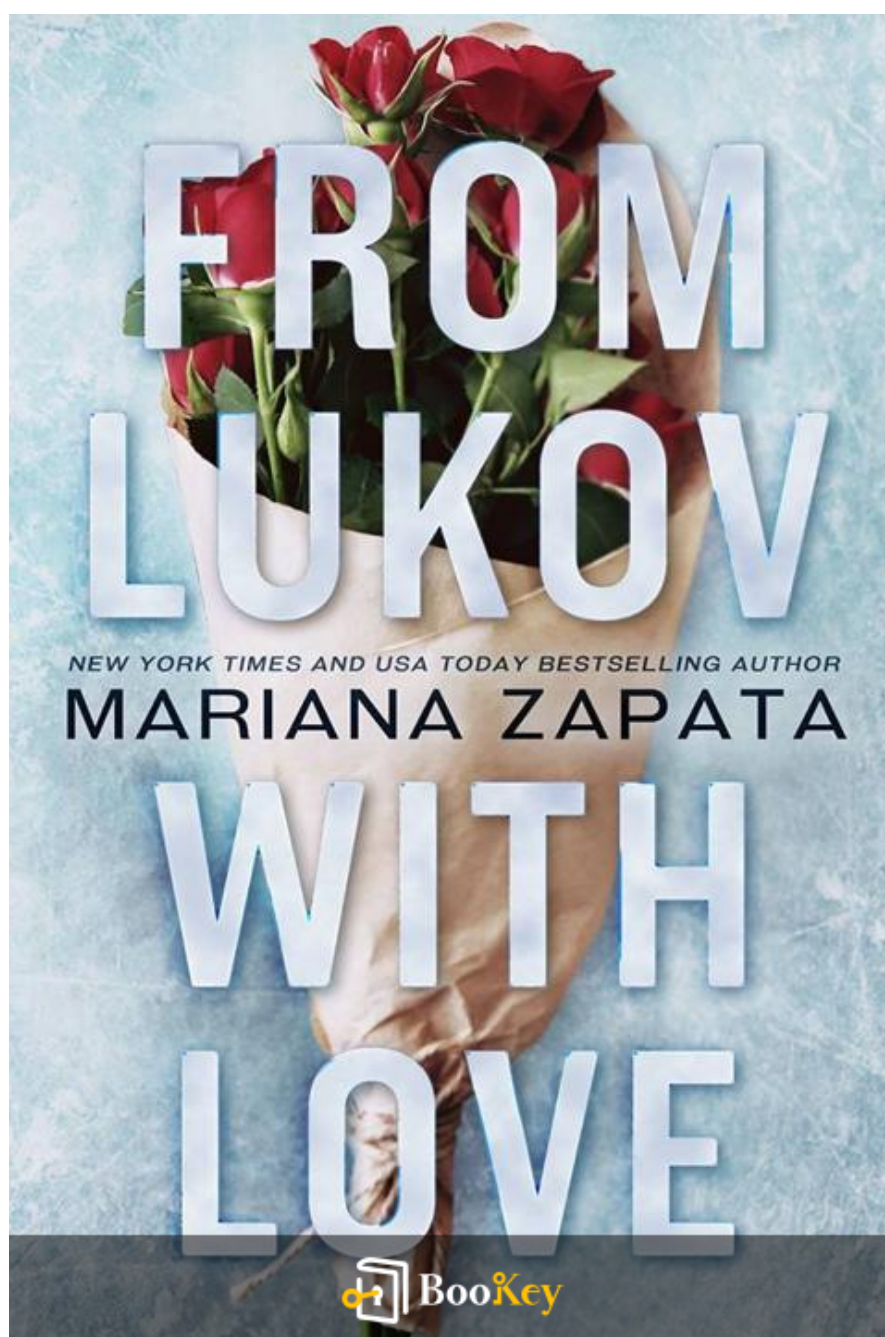


# From Lukov With Love PDF (Limited Copy)

Mariana Zapata



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## **From Lukov With Love Summary**

"Skating on Thin Ice Towards Love and Self-Discovery"

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## About the book

In Mariana Zapata's "From Lukov with Love," embark on a heartwarming and exhilarating journey that intertwines the icy corridors of competitive figure skating with the blazing embers of unlikely romance. Meet Jasmine Santos, a fiercely determined athlete who refuses to let failures define her aspirations. Yet her world takes an unexpected pirouette when she's partnered with the charmingly infuriating Ivan Lukov, a seasoned champion who knows both her strengths and secrets. As the pair glide through a tempest of clashing personalities, razor-sharp banter, and undeniable chemistry, they must learn to trust one another and harness the magic of synergistic passion, not just to win gold, but to discover new dimensions of love and life. Prepare yourself for a dazzling narrative filled with wit, resilience, and heartwarming camaraderie that reminds us all of the beautiful imperfections in patience, perseverance, and love's unexpected alliances.

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## About the author

Mariana Zapata is a contemporary romance author renowned for her engaging storytelling, slow-burn romances, and intricate character development. With a talent for weaving deeply emotional narratives that resonate with readers, Zapata has carved out a unique niche in the literary world. She hails from Texas and often draws inspiration from her surroundings, infusing her works with authentic settings that capture the essence of everyday life. Before becoming an accomplished author, Zapata dipped her toes in various professions, including teaching, before ultimately pursuing her passion for writing full-time. Her novels, including "From Lukov with Love," have garnered widespread acclaim for their relatable characters and immersive plots, solidifying her status as a beloved figure in the romance genre.

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# Chapter 1 Summary:

## Chapter 1: Winter/Spring 2016

The chapter introduces us to Jasmine, a figure skater wrestling with both her aspirations and frustrations on the ice. During a practice session at the Lukov Ice and Sports Complex, a place she has known for 13 years, she struggles to land a jump she's been performing for years. Despite her efforts, her spirits are dampened by the constant reminder of Ivan Lukov, a successful skater whose name hangs prominently on banners overhead, signifying his achievements and the stark contrast to her own career standing.

Jasmine feels a pang of jealousy but is determined not to let it consume her. She's aware that comparing herself to others is unproductive, yet the struggle to land her jumps and watching younger skaters with burgeoning careers further ignites her insecurities. The rink, a place filled with childhood memories, has now become a battlefield where she fights against the looming fear that her career in figure skating might be nearing its end at the age of 26.

As Jasmine weaves her way off the ice, she eavesdrops unintentionally on a group of teenage skaters discussing her in less-than-flattering terms. They speculate about her career and past failures, reigniting painful memories of





her ex-partner Paul and her faltering pairs career. Despite the sting of their words, she tries to suppress the negative emotions bubbling up, knowing it's counterproductive.

The chapter subtly introduces us to Jasmine's family dynamic through text messages; her siblings and mother are supportive, often teasing each other with vulgar humor, which seems to be their coping mechanism. In this way, the family provides a stark contrast to the lonely battles she faces in the rink as they plan a family outing to the movies. However, gossip among the skaters lingers in the background, focusing on the arrival of Ivan at the complex. A rare occurrence shortly after a major championship suggests a shakeup, but Jasmine remains indifferent, as her history with Ivan is filled with more contempt than camaraderie.

Despite the setbacks and intrusive doubts, Jasmine is resolved to not give up. She pushes thoughts of quitting out of her mind, emphasizing persistence against adversity. She wrestles with the haunting possibility of her dreams slipping away without a single accolade to show for her lifelong dedication to the sport. Through her internal struggle, the chapter sets the stage for the conflict between past and present, ambition versus reality, and the personal demons Jasmine must confront in her journey.



## Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of the book, we delve into the life of the protagonist, whose routine is deeply entrenched in the world of figure skating. As she prepares for her practice session, she overhears two teenage girls discussing the possible retirement of Ivan, a highly regarded figure skater known for his talent but troubled partnerships. The protagonist dismisses these rumors, believing Ivan's career is far from over given his recent successes. She then encounters Galina, her former coach who initially recognized her talent fourteen years ago. Their interaction reveals a warm and respectful relationship, filled with nostalgia and shared memories of the protagonist's early days in skating.

Galina has been subtly nudging the protagonist toward coaching as a career path—an idea the protagonist is hesitant to embrace, feeling it signifies giving up on her dreams as an active competitor. Her reflections on coaching and her struggles in finding another partner highlight her internal conflict and the uncertainty surrounding her skating future.

After practice, she receives a Post-It note on her locker, summoning her to the general manager's office. Distracted but curious, she contemplates the potential reasons for being called in. Despite her mother's playful texts hinting at possible trouble, the protagonist assures her that everything is fine.



Upon arriving at the office, she is surprised to find Ivan and his coach, Coach Lee, instead of the expected general manager. The presence of these two key figures in the skating world perplexes her, given her history of limited communication with them. Coach Lee, who has typically been aloof, now appears unusually welcoming.

The tension escalates as Coach Lee reveals the purpose of the meeting: they want the protagonist to be Ivan's next figure skating partner. This proposal shocks her to the core, given her tumultuous perception of Ivan and the unexpected nature of the offer. The term "retirement" continues to echo in her mind, contrasting with the opportunity suddenly laid before her.

This chapter intricately weaves the protagonist's struggle with her identity as a skater, the weight of past disappointments, and the prospect of a new beginning with Ivan. It leaves readers pondering her next move and the potential transformation her life could undergo with this unexpected partnership.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embracing Unexpected Opportunities

**Critical Interpretation:** Chapter 2 emphasizes the importance of being open to unexpected opportunities, even when they come from the most unlikely sources. As a reader, you are inspired to recognize that life often presents you with chances that break away from your initial plans or perceptions. The protagonist's initial shock at the proposal to partner with Ivan highlights the power of stepping beyond preconceived notions and embracing new paths, despite past disappointments and fears of change. You're encouraged to maintain an open mind, allowing potentially transformative opportunities to reshape your trajectory and bring new possibilities to your life, just as the protagonist must decide whether to seize or reject the opportunity with Ivan.



## Chapter 3 Summary:

### Chapter 3 Summary

In Chapter 3, we delve into the internal world of Jasmine, a figure skater whose tough exterior masks a multitude of insecurities and fears—primarily centered around her fear of being a failure. She is haunted by past traumas and concerns, sharpened by her experiences in the competitive world of figure skating. Jasmine reflects on her limited history of being genuinely scared, mostly connected to her skating career, particularly the times she'd suffered concussions that could have ended her career. Her dad teasingly suggests she only has two emotions: indifferent and pissed off, though he doesn't truly understand her deep-seated anxieties.

This chapter introduces a tense encounter with Ivan and Coach Lee, who propose something Jasmine finds difficult to fathom: partnering with Ivan for pairs skating. Ivan is a high-profile, world-class skater, known for his success and polished public image. Yet their history is rocky. Jasmine recalls their contentious past, as friends through Ivan's sister, Karina, who is her good friend. Her interactions with Ivan have always been sarcastic and contentious, bordering on hostile.

Coach Lee's offer intrigues and confuses Jasmine; the idea of winning at a



world-class level with Ivan is tempting. However, it's also intimidating due to their dynamic and the enormous commitment required. She wrestles with the notion and what it might mean for her old habits and the gradually crafted life away from competitive skating.

The chapter further dives into Jasmine's family dynamic, highlighting her relationship with her older brother Jonathan and her supportive, sometimes intrusive, family members. During a family dinner, Jasmine is bombarded by her brother and mother about what's on her mind. While her family jokingly chides her about a non-existent crush on Ivan, she reflects on just how much she misses the competitive nature of skating, despite its hardships.

Amid familial banter, Jasmine recalls how Ivan, despite being immensely talented and admired, often got under her skin with his teasing. His comments in the past about her weight and skating abilities remain seared into her memory, yet she returns his sarcasm with her sharp retorts, underscoring their mutually antagonistic relationship.

The opportunity to skate with Ivan, however short-term it might be, presents a dichotomy of hope and fear for Jasmine. She knows how grueling it will be to train with someone like Ivan, but the chance of winning a championship is tantalizing enough to rouse her ambition. Facing the possibility of rekindling her skating career is daunting but alluring, leaving Jasmine pondering her





next move and whether she can reconcile her past with this unexpected prospect.

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## Chapter 4:

### Chapter 4:

The night was restless for Jasmine, not because of the coffee she drank, but due to her mother's perceptive nature and the unsettling news she couldn't shake off from her mind. After a family visit, Jasmine's mother, sensing something amiss, sits close to her on the couch—a gesture Jasmine recognizes as her mom's way of knowing something was troubling her. Despite her half-hearted attempts to deflect, her mother's affectionate persistence proves she can't hide her troubles from her. Jasmine reflects on the intense connection she shares with her mother, surpassing even her siblings. Despite being playful and teasing, Jasmine's mom knows her too well and nudges her to open up about what's troubling her, bribing her with humor about wine and chocolates.

Eventually, Jasmine reveals the bombshell: Coach Lee has approached her to partner with Ivan, a prominent figure skater, for the next season due to his partner Mindy taking a hiatus. Initially, the silence from her mother is perplexing, but Jasmine eventually unravels the fear of disappointing her mother, remembering all the sacrifices her mother made to support her dreams. Her insecurities about past failures bubble up; she explains how her dad never believed in her potential, but her mom, through her actions,



always did, even shouldering financial burdens alone.

As her mother playfully insists on her to open up, Jasmine wrestles with her desire to protect her family from another potential failure. It isn't an easy decision, requiring her to question her worth and whether she can finally fulfill the promise of her potential. Her mother prompts her to consider whether it's her doubts holding her back or if it is something practical. Revealing a suggestion that was unexpected, her mother thought Jasmine would announce a coaching position offer at the LC, highlighting how well she knows the ins and outs of Jasmine's career, always aware and supportive, yet keenly protective as well.

## **Chapter 5:**

Jasmine contemplates the opportunity, caught off guard by her mother's measured response and opposition toward Ivan, surprising given her defense of him earlier. Her mother's reluctance stirs doubts, questioning whether the offer might be taking advantage of Jasmine. The conversation reveals Jasmine's internal struggle between staying committed to newfound personal relationships and chasing what might be the last chance to prove herself on the ice. Her mother's deeply honest assessment breaks through Jasmine's uncertainty, reminding her that despite setbacks and challenging roads, she always bounces back stronger.



In an emotional moment, Jasmine's mother reassures her potential and offers unwavering support, insisting she mustn't settle for less than she deserves. Jasmine, moved by her mother's faith in her resilience, decides to take the plunge, preparing to juggle the prospect of rigorous training and competitive

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## Chapter 5 Summary:

### Chapter 5 Summary:

The chapter opens with the protagonist, Jasmine, taking a heavy fall during a practice session. She is partnered with Ivan, a new figure skating partner, under the supervision of Coach Lee. While Jasmine is thankful for the cushioned mats that prevent severe injuries, she is still in shock from the unexpected drop. Coach Lee and Ivan are both trying to ensure she is okay, but Jasmine is frustrated with the incident because she is aware that mishaps like these can delay their progress.

The practice session is rigorous, focusing on the basics of their routines and especially lifts, which Jasmine needs to learn to trust Ivan with. The tension between Jasmine and Ivan is palpable, stemming from years of mutual disdain. Jasmine is skeptical of Ivan, struggling to trust him due to an unpleasant history with her previous partner, Paul, who might have contributed to her trust issues.

Throughout the three-hour practice, they repeat the lifts countless times until fatigue takes over, but there's progress. Despite the physical exhaustion, Jasmine is willing to push beyond her limits to ensure they succeed.





After practice, Jasmine faces a confrontation with Ivan, who insists on establishing trust between them to achieve their mutual goal. Although Jasmine is hesitant, Ivan emphasizes that their success depends on overcoming this hurdle. He acknowledges that winning is critical to both of them, and offers to adjust to her needs, highlighting teamwork over individual challenges.

As Jasmine reflects on the practice and Ivan's insistence on trust, she decides to push through her mental barriers, knowing that her family's reactions will be mixed when they learn about her new partnership. On her way out, she encounters her former coach, Galina, who is with Latasha, her replacement. Galina surprisingly offers complimenting words of wisdom, affirming Jasmine's potential and suggesting that she knew Jasmine had the capability to thrive with the right partner.

This brief interaction provides Jasmine with a renewed sense of encouragement, as Galina hints at Jasmine's tenacity and capability to succeed. The chapter concludes with Jasmine reflecting on the unexpected interaction with her former coach before leaving the practice facility to carry on with her new routine.



## Chapter 6 Summary:

In Chapter 6, Jasmine is confronted with a barrage of text messages from her siblings after they discover, via a social media post, that she's partnered with renowned skater Ivan Lukov. Her brother Jojo feels left out due to Jasmine's secrecy, while her sister Tali jumps to incorrect conclusions about Jasmine's personal life. In an attempt to diffuse the situation, Jasmine sends a cryptic reply, stirring further confusion among her family.

At the skating rink, Jasmine engages in her usual banter with Ivan, exchanging playful but competitive taunts as they warm up. Despite Coach Lee's disapproval of their behavior, both Jasmine and Ivan manage to focus on their training. The chapter highlights their strained professional relationship, with neither eager to show vulnerability or genuine camaraderie.

The session with Coach Lee is grueling, as they work tirelessly to polish their routine. Jasmine, struggling to reacclimate to the rigors of figure skating, feels the physical toll on her body. Afterward, she meets with Coach Lee, who is visibly stressed about her personal matters, though she assures Jasmine all is well. During their conversation, Coach Lee emphasizes Jasmine's need for a public social media presence for better competition exposure, especially after her previous online issues.



Coach Lee suggests a unified public persona for Jasmine and Ivan, hinting at portraying them as at least friendly acquaintances, if not more, to generate public interest and support. This proposition is met with skepticism from both skaters, who have never been more than rivals. However, given the pressures of public perception, they reluctantly agree.

In Chapter 7, Coach Lee reveals an opportunity for Jasmine and Ivan to participate in a high-profile magazine's "Anatomy Issue," where they'd be photographed nude on skates. Despite their initial hesitation, both skaters agree due to the publicity benefits. Jasmine is particularly apprehensive about being vulnerable around Ivan, who has been a long-time antagonist, but she resolves to push her discomfort aside, recognizing the necessity of maximizing her partnership with him for her career's sake.

Throughout the chapters, the tension between Jasmine and Ivan is palpable, marked by humor and competitiveness, while the demands of their careers push them towards uncomfortable situations for visibility and success.



## Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of this story, we dive into a tense and comical situation involving Jasmine and Ivan as they prepare for an interview that is crucial for their newly formed skating partnership. Both skaters struggle to mask their mutual dislike for each other, a task made more difficult by their proximity on the bench in the LC's staff break room. Coach Lee, who has leveraged her connections to arrange this press interview, has instructed them not to reveal that their partnership is only temporary—a secret that burdens Jasmine.

Jasmine is visibly anxious about the interview, her nervousness manifesting in fidgeting, which Ivan teasingly criticizes. Despite their banter, Ivan offers to speak on her behalf if necessary, acknowledging her discomfort. The antagonistic dynamics between them are punctuated with playful insults, including calling each other "Satan" and "Meatball," revealing an underlying tension peppered with some camaraderie forged from years of shared competition and mutual ambition. Their exchange serves both purposes: it establishes their complex relationship while providing background for their history and shared environment.

As the interview progresses—and with Ivan laughing more during their banter than Jasmine has ever seen before—they maintain a facade of mutual respect for the journalist, Amanda Moore, who further strains Jasmine's



patience by bringing up sensitive subjects. This includes mentioning Jasmine's former partner and the controversy surrounding their abrupt split, a topic that reignites old frustrations for Jasmine.

Notably, the chapter introduces deeper insights into both skaters' characters: Ivan exhibits confidence and an air of superiority from his competitive track record, while Jasmine harbors insecurities rooted in past public scrutiny. Their bickering over trivial questions during a “twenty-questions” segment reveals some truths about each other but also showcases their tendency to needle each other about personal quirks, illustrating the delicate balance between their professional obligations and personal interactions.

As the interview wraps up, Jasmine is left with lingering feelings of unease about Ivan's perception of her, especially regarding the playful jab at her reading habits—a sensitivity tied to her learning disability. Despite her frustration, Jasmine acknowledges that Ivan didn't mean any actual harm, but the sting of the comment remains. Nevertheless, she remains professional, preparing to head off to work, motivated not by hurt, but by a sense of duty and practicality that dominates her life decisions. Overall, Chapter 7 paints a vivid picture of two figures entrenched in a high-stakes world of competitive sports, navigating the dual fronts of personal friction and professional commitments.



## Chapter 8:

In Chapter 8, we continue to witness the complex dynamic between Jasmine and Ivan, two figure skaters who are partners for just a year in hopes of winning competitions and gaining longer-term opportunities. The chapter starts with an argument during their practice on the ice rink, highlighting the tension and playful antagonism in their relationship. Ivan confronts Jasmine, suspecting she's upset, but she insists she's not, despite being visibly annoyed by his probing questions and arrogant demeanor.

The conversation reveals their underlying professional struggle: intentional or not, both continuously test each other's boundaries. While Ivan reminds her of the temporary nature of their partnership, Jasmine counters with sharp and defensive remarks, indicating underlying tensions and insecurities. The chapter shows how they handle their interactions, balancing competitive spirit with the necessity of teamwork, and hints at a possible deeper understanding or bond looming on the horizon.

After practice, Jasmine encounters an unwelcome surprise when her car fails to start. Feeling stranded and frustrated, she makes a series of phone calls, eventually settling on leaving the car until her mechanic uncle can assist the next day. In her frustration, Ivan unexpectedly notices her predicament and offers her a ride, a gesture that Jasmine reluctantly accepts.





Their car ride is filled with continued banter, and Ivan proposes that they try being friends, indicating a potential shift in their relationship. Jasmine is caught off-guard by the suggestion, and while skeptical, she agrees to consider it. This moment highlights Ivan's growing complexity as a character, suggesting he values some form of relationship beyond antagonism.

The chapter ends with Ivan driving Jasmine to her mom's house, humorously asking to use the bathroom, a situation that injects a bit of light-heartedness into their otherwise tense interactions. This mundane request softens the previous exchanges and leaves readers pondering the future changes in their partnership.

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## Chapter 9 Summary:

### Chapter 9 Summary:

In Chapter 9, the protagonist finds themselves in an unexpectedly awkward situation when Ivan, an important figure in their life, insists on using the bathroom at their family home. Despite initial hesitation, the protagonist relents and invites Ivan inside, where he's introduced to a lively and nosy family gathering featuring Jasmine's mom, siblings, and their spouses. Ivan, who is a notable figure skater, doesn't shy away from engaging with the family, even participating in a game of Jenga, which surprises the protagonist.

As the evening progresses, it is revealed through casual conversations that Ivan and Jasmine are partners on the ice, a surprise to everyone thanks to their historically contentious relationship. Jasmine's family's unabashed interest in Ivan goes from curious to personal, touching on subjects like Jasmine's late-blooming puberty and her feisty childhood, all while Ivan listens, uncharacteristically amicable.

The tension peaks when Jasmine's mom confronts Ivan about why his skating partnership with Jasmine is only for a year, though Jasmine quickly intervenes, shifting the conversation. To diffuse the situation and possibly



out of generosity, Jasmine brings up an upcoming photo shoot—a naked photo shoot for a widely-read sports magazine—which then also becomes the subject of good-natured ribbing by her family, particularly her brother Jonathan.

The lighthearted chaos culminates when Jasmine decides to make a call to Ivan's sister, Karina, who is also Jasmine's best friend. Karina's enthusiastic and comically overjoyed reaction to learning about Ivan and Jasmine's partnership offers a cheerful climax, suggesting, despite their storied past, that this alliance might just be the beginning of something surprisingly harmonious.

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## Chapter 10 Summary:

### Chapter 10 Summary

In Chapter 10, Jasmine struggles with the idea of doing a nude photo shoot with her skating partner, Ivan, for a promotional project. Despite their budding friendship and Ivan's playful attitude, Jasmine feels uncomfortable with the notion of being naked around him. She's worried about Ivan's potential teasing and the personal vulnerability that comes with such exposure, especially given her past experiences with inappropriate and unsolicited messages online.

Jasmine's anxiety leads her to confide in Coach Lee, expressing her reluctance to go through with the shoot if it involves being nude with Ivan. Although she appreciates the working relationship and budding friendship developing between her and Ivan, the idea of sharing such intimacy—something beyond just the physical aspect of skating lifts and choreography—is intimidating.

When Ivan approaches her to discuss her hesitation, Jasmine tries to articulate her feelings. Ivan, only somewhat understanding, insists that he won't mock her, emphasizing their friendship and the trust they are building. He tries to convince her by reassuring her of her physical appeal in a clumsy,



straightforward manner typical of their banter, even offering humorously to be seen naked first to even the playing field.

Eventually, Ivan's persistence and promises not to tease her, combined with his encouragement framed in their shared competitive spirit and a desire to prove themselves, influence Jasmine's decision. She agrees to proceed with the shoot, motivated by a chance to prove something significant to herself and as a subtle dig at a past romantic failure, Paul. The chapter closes with both skating onto the rink with determination, ready for the photo session, underlining their shared commitment to their sport and each other despite the personal challenges they each face.





## Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 11, Jasmine returns exhausted from a grueling photo shoot and ice skating practice to find her mother serving her dinner, an unusual gesture signaling that something is amiss. Her suspicions are confirmed when she sees her mother's bruised face and learns she's been in a car accident. Despite a fractured nose and concussion, her mother downplays her injuries, instructing Jasmine not to inform her siblings to avoid worrying them. This leaves Jasmine conflicted and guilty, as her mother suggests focusing on her promising figure skating career is more important.

Jasmine battles inner turmoil, realizing she has sacrificed much of her life for skating yet has no major accolades to show for it. Anxieties boil over as Jasmine gravitates back to the rink, seeking solace and clarity. In this place of intense reflection, she endeavors tireless jumps, driven to prove her resilience but met with repeated failure, symbolizing her perceived setbacks in skating and life.

Upon collapsing on the ice, Ivan, her skating partner, unexpectedly appears. Despite their often adversarial relationship, he shows a tender side, dragging her to his private room at the rink where he makes her hot chocolate—a gesture of understanding and comfort. This small act nudges Jasmine to confront her situation frankly with Ivan, exposing vulnerabilities about missed opportunities and guilt over placing skating above family.



Ivan, empathetic and motivational, assures Jasmine of her talent and potential, buoying her spirits. He shares his own regrets from his early sacrifices for skating, offering her perspective and reminding her of the importance of persistence and resilience. He assures her she inspires others, including children at the rink and fans of the sport. Ivan's support bolsters Jasmine, reminding her that the love and admiration of her family and peers are significant achievements that surpass mere trophies. As the chapter closes, Ivan reinforces their partnership, affirming their capabilities and steering Jasmine away from despair toward renewed focus and determination.

In Chapter 12, Jasmine is pushed to confront her insecurities as Ivan steadfastly encourages her. With heartfelt honesty, he reassures her that winning isn't everything and highlights the deep, genuine bonds she has cultivated through her passion and perseverance. Ivan's words help Jasmine recognize the resilience and strength she exudes, traits not defined by rankings or medals. His unwavering belief in their potential to win together cements her resolve, as he insists they'll give her family something to truly celebrate.

This pivotal chapter encapsulates Jasmine's emotional journey, from tangled guilt about her mother's accident to rekindling her skating career aspirations. It also highlights her struggle with balancing ambition and personal



relationships, emphasizing the theme of tenacity and the invaluable support from those who believe in her. Ivan's unexpected yet meaningful presence confers a turning point, redirecting Jasmine's path from self-reproach to the promise of shared victory.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Support and Reassurance Can Be More Powerful Than We Realize

**Critical Interpretation:** In the midst of personal turmoil and self-doubt, you might find yourself questioning the value of your efforts and the sacrifices you've made along the journey of your life. This chapter teaches us that the support from those who truly understand and believe in us can be a powerful catalyst in shifting our perspective. Ivan's empathetic and motivational presence not only reassures Jasmine of her talent but also reminds her of the true essence of her achievements. His encouragement reveals the depth of impact we can have on others and ourselves when embracing vulnerability and seeking comfort in trusted relationships. This narrative highlights the importance of resilience and the transformative power of genuine support, urging us to cherish and value the connections that inspire perseverance beyond mere accolades.



# Chapter 12:

## Chapter 12 Summary

In this chapter, Jasmine and her skating partner Ivan are wrapping up an intense practice session with Coach Lee. Both are exhausted, and Jasmine reflects on her scattered thoughts and recent turmoil, acknowledging Ivan's unexpected kindness the night before. Ivan had comforted her without demanding explanations, and she appreciated his silent support. Despite their mutual fatigue, they bond over shared experiences, and Jasmine invites Ivan to dinner, showcasing the understanding that has developed between them.

Coach Lee encourages Jasmine to rest, hinting at a call she had received from Galina, another important figure in Jasmine's life. As she leaves the ice rink, Jasmine finds herself defending Ivan's dignity when overhearing teens gossiping about his physique. This situation mirrors her own past experiences with bullying she loathes and this protective instinct emerges again when she encounters two younger girls being victimized by mean-spirited peers. Jasmine intervenes, promising to stand up for them, which earns her their respect and gratitude.

Returning home, Jasmine is greeted by the cheerful chaos of her family and Ivan, who is already well-acquainted with her close-knit clan. Through



teasing exchanges, the family dynamics and Jasmine's childhood are briefly explored, shedding light on the nickname "Grumpy" she earned as a child. The chapter ends on a light note with lighthearted banter among family members and Jasmine musing over her commitments, including an upcoming babysitting task she's both apprehensive about yet determined to tackle, revealing her ongoing journey through personal fears.

This chapter is a delicate exploration of friendship, family bonds, and personal growth, delicately situated in the vibrant tapestry of skating life, with Jasmine discovering strength in vulnerability, community, and love.

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# Chapter 13 Summary:

## Chapter 13 Summary

The chapter begins with Jasmine, having car trouble again, getting a ride from Ivan despite her insistence that he doesn't have to come along. She is headed to her sister Ruby's house to babysit her niece and nephew. Ivan, dismissive of Jasmine's offer to back out, agrees to accompany her, underestimating the complexities of babysitting.

Upon arrival at Ruby's house, Jasmine reflects on her family dynamics and responsibilities. She and Ivan engage in light banter, showcasing their camaraderie. Ruby and her husband Aaron, polite and warm, quickly introduce Ivan to the household and leave for their outing.

Jasmine is comfortable and adept with children, effortlessly calming her wailing niece Jessie. Ivan, though inexperienced, is captivated and willingly participates. A discussion ensues about the nature of family relationships and parenting. Jasmine candidly opens up regarding the favoritism within her family, revealing her ambition to be her niece Jessie's favorite relative.

The narrative is punctuated by teasing exchanges between Jasmine and Ivan, illustrating their playful friendship. Ivan's natural rapport with the children





surprises Jasmine, hinting at unexplored layers of his personality. Their interactions highlight Jasmine's nurturing side and Ivan's adaptability.

Throughout the chapter, Jasmine reflects on her family dynamics, further revealing the familial love and complexity she grapples with. Ivan's curiosity about Jasmine's life and family provokes introspection, leading to intimate revelations about her past neglect of her teenage niece and her resolve to forge a stronger bond with her younger relatives.

The chapter closes with the duo managing to handle the evening's babysitting duties with ease and humor, leaving the reader with a deeper understanding of Jasmine's past, present, and her nuanced relationship with Ivan.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embracing unfamiliar roles leads to growth

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 13, you witness Ivan stepping out of his comfort zone by offering to accompany Jasmine to babysit, an endeavor unfamiliar to him. This situation highlights the beauty of embracing unfamiliar roles and the growth that can come from them. As Ivan interacts with Jasmine's family and navigates the unexpected complexities of babysitting, he reveals an adaptable side of his character. Similarly, by challenging yourself to engage in roles or experiences that are outside your usual realm, you allow the discovery of hidden talents and perspectives. Such actions cultivate resilience, empathy, and a richer understanding of those around you. Thus, Ivan's willingness to embrace an unfamiliar situation inspires the idea that by stepping into the unknown, you open doors to personal growth and deeper connections.



## Chapter 14 Summary:

### Chapter 14 Summary:

In this poignant chapter, Jasmine struggles through a difficult practice session, battling illness while trying to keep her commitment to her skating partnership with Ivan. Despite feeling feverish and exhausted, she pushes through practice until she can no longer hide her symptoms from Ivan or Coach Lee. Ivan's concern grows as he realizes Jasmine's severe condition, characterized by a high fever and lack of energy. He refuses to let her continue practicing and decides to carry her to a more comfortable place within the rink. The narrative reveals Jasmine's vulnerability, showing a strong and determined athlete reduced to being carried due to her inability to stand on her own.

Their complex relationship surfaces as Ivan gently cares for her, displaying an unexpected tenderness as he tries to make her comfortable. This moment underscores the gradual shift in their dynamic from mere partners to friends who deeply care for each other's well-being. While Jasmine grapples with her illness, Ivan reassures her that he will take care of everything, including medical attention and rescheduling their choreography plans, despite her protests about not being able to afford a doctor. His willingness to shoulder the financial burden for Jasmine's health further solidifies the growing bond



between them.

As the day progresses, Jasmine's fever worsens, leading to an eventual doctor's visit. Although reluctant and worried about the cost, Jasmine allows Ivan to help her, knowing they need to get back to skating as soon as she's well. Her stubbornness melts away in the face of Ivan's determination to nurse her back to health, and his care includes making sure she takes her medicine and stays hydrated.

The chapter closes with Ivan staying by Jasmine's side, easing her restlessness with his presence and gentle affection. This subtle development marks a turning point in their partnership, suggesting a deeper level of mutual reliance and trust. The illness becomes a catalyst for them to connect on a personal level, beyond their professional obligations, setting the stage for a more intricate relationship going forward.

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# Chapter 15 Summary:

## Chapter 15 Summary

The chapter opens with the protagonist, Jasmine, waking up to Ivan, her skating partner, poking her forehead and instructing her to get out of bed, shower, and leave the house. Despite feeling ill, she reluctantly complies, curious yet apprehensive about meeting someone named Lacey, and questioning Ivan's motives for dragging her out.

As she prepares, Jasmine reflects on Ivan's demeanor and is startled when he discovers troubling letters she had hidden in her nightstand. These are disturbing letters and photos sent by a stalker which Jasmine had kept secret for years. Ivan's reaction is furious and protective; he demands to know why she didn't inform him earlier. Jasmine struggles to justify her actions, fiercely protective of her independence but unable to invalidate Ivan's concern for her safety.

Ivan insists that Jasmine, who is isolated while her mother is away, should not be alone, giving her the ultimatum of staying either with her brothers or with him. Overwhelmed and weary, Jasmine chooses to go with Ivan, partially because she knows dealing with her overbearing brothers would be worse. As they head to Ivan's home, he surprises her with the revelation of



his minivan and his two dogs, Russell and Lacey, adding layers to Ivan's previously unknown personal life.

Upon arriving at Ivan's unexpectedly modest home with spacious acreage, Jasmine meets more of Ivan's animals, including a piglet and a giant bunny. These unexpected discoveries make her realize how little she truly knows about Ivan, despite their close working relationship.

Over dinner, tensions resurface when Ivan confronts Jasmine about the safety concerns stemming from the harassment she receives. He insists she close her social media accounts to prevent further incidents, prioritizing her safety over her desire for independence. During their candid conversation, Ivan reveals layers of their relationship she hadn't fully appreciated before. His candid confession about their bond surprises Jasmine, illustrating that their partnership is far more valuable and intimate than she realized.

For Ivan, Jasmine is more than a skating partner; she's a crucial part of his life. He cares deeply for her well-being beyond their professional connection. This new understanding of their relationship leaves Jasmine surprised and introspective, recognizing the depth of their friendship.

The chapter closes with Ivan offering to take Jasmine on a walk with his dogs, hinting at a moment of reconciliation and a new understanding between the two.



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## Chapter 16:

In Chapter 16, we witness a quieter and more introspective series of events between Ivan and the protagonist. The chapter opens with Ivan casually commenting about the protagonist's state of health, assuring her that her contagious period is over. They've settled into Ivan's house, where the protagonist spends her day in bed, still recovering.

Ivan owns a large 103-acre property where he walks his pets daily. Despite being intrigued by his lifestyle and the multitude of pets he cares for, including dogs and a pig, the protagonist is still unsure about how to navigate their relationship after a misunderstanding the previous night. Ivan's kindness confuses her, especially when he emphasizes wanting her to be safe and happy, independent of their partnership.

We learn more about Ivan's home and personality through the protagonist's observations. His house is immaculate, filled with medals, family photos, and impressive amenities for his animals. However, the most notable absence is that of any romantic entanglements or evidence suggesting such, indicated by the lack of condoms and his genuine, yet platonic, concern for her health.

Later, Ivan insists they visit his parents for Father's Day, something that's deeply important to him. Even though she feels weary, the protagonist





agrees, recognizing the Lukovs' generosity and kindness over the years. The Lukovs are a well-off but warm family, who've supported her financially in her athletic career.

At Ivan's parents' home, the atmosphere is familial and caring, further

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## Chapter 17 Summary:

### Chapter 17: Summer/Fall

The chapter begins with a lively family group chat, setting the stage for a dinner at Margot's house. The protagonist, Jasmine—nicknamed Squirt—is reluctant to attend because her estranged father will be present. Her mom reassures her, promising to be on her best behavior despite bringing her new husband, Ben. Jasmine's siblings and their partners will also be there, emphasizing the family dynamic.

Jasmine is weighed down by her intense training schedule. She's coupling figure skating practices with supplementary workouts, leaving her exhausted and stressed. Her collaboration with her partner Ivan, alongside Coach Lee, for their short and free skate programs adds to the pressure. This rigorous routine pushes her to her limits, but she remains committed because it's her passion and she wants to perfect every element.

Despite the exhaustion, Jasmine treasures moments with her family and Ivan, who has become a significant presence in her life. As Ivan questions the face she makes during training, Jasmine reveals the stress of her father's impending visit. Ivan, curious about Jasmine's father, learns about their strained relationship. Jasmine's dad lives in California and is unsupportive



of her skating career, which has been a source of disappointment and tension for her.

At practice, Ivan offers to accompany Jasmine to the dinner to help ease her anxiety. He understands her reluctance to see her father, recognizing her dedication and resilience despite her father's disapproval. Jasmine feels Ivan knows her better than her own father, who consistently belittles her accomplishments.

During dinner, Jasmine's dad, dismissive of her skating career, unintentionally opens old wounds, suggesting she focus on her future after skating and citing her past academic struggles as an example of her being a "quitter." Jasmine is hurt by his dismissiveness and the insinuation that she lacks ambition. Ivan, witnessing Jasmine's silent upset, interjects, praising Jasmine's work ethic, dedication, and remarkable talent. His words affirm her worth and dedication, offering a contrast to her father's criticism.

Overwhelmed, Jasmine retreats outside, where years of emotional weight from her father's lack of support finally spill over. Ivan follows, comforting her, reinforcing her value, and emphasizing that she is already special, with or without skating. His unwavering belief in their partnership and in her potential helps Jasmine regain her composure.

Jasmine returns to the table, carrying herself with defiant pride. The dinner



concludes with family awkwardness but also a supportive intervention from her sibling Ruby, who shifts attention by announcing her pregnancy.

In the aftermath, Jasmine departs with her supportive mother and stepfather, leaving her siblings to handle their father. Her mother's outburst at her father's insensitivity reflects the protective nature of their family bond, despite the lingering pain and disagreements. Jasmine reaffirms her self-worth and determination to continue her skating career regardless of her father's opinions, finding solace in the love and support she receives from her family and Ivan.

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## Chapter 18 Summary:

### Chapter 18: Can We Talk?

Jasmine, emotionally drained and waiting for a decision about a jump with her partner Ivan and Coach Lee, is surprised by her father, who asks for a moment of her time. Her relationship with him is strained and distant due to his absence during her upbringing, sparking a myriad of emotions. He wants to reconcile before his trip back to California, but Jasmine feels unresolved sadness and disappointment due to his lack of presence in her life.

Attempting to discuss this, Jasmine lays bare the pain stemming from his sporadic involvement and his apparent lack of understanding of her passion for figure skating.

Their conversation is loaded with the emotional baggage of years spent apart, as Jasmine reflects on how figure skating was a source of joy and freedom for her. She voices her frustration about his lack of support and understanding of her dedication, highlighting how he never attended her competitions. Jasmine reveals her internal struggle and her father's focus on academic success over her skating career, perceiving it as a lack of pride in her achievements. This intense conversation ends on an unresolved note, with Jasmine determined to pursue her passion regardless of her father's acceptance.



## Chapter 19:

Jasmine, determined to make the best of her situation, returns to practice with Ivan. However, her mind is still preoccupied with the encounter with her father, leading to a significant mistake during their routine. As she attempts a particularly challenging jump, she falls, resulting in a serious ankle injury. The pain and shock of the incident leave Jasmine lying on the ice, shaking yet trying to contain her emotions in front of everyone. Ivan rushes to her side, trying to keep her calm and insisting she hold it together in public. The injury represents not just a physical setback but also an emotional blow, as Jasmine grapples with her limitations and the fear of jeopardizing the season. The chapter closes with Jasmine overwhelmed by the implications of her injury, feeling as though she has profoundly failed.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Confronting unresolved emotional pain can pave the way for personal growth.

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 18, Jasmine's conversation with her estranged father symbolizes the vital importance of facing deeply rooted emotional struggles. You may find yourself facing challenging and unresolved relationships in your life, just like Jasmine does. This chapter serves as a reminder that confronting these issues, rather than avoiding them, can be an empowering step towards self-discovery and healing. Much like Jasmine, embracing these raw emotions and seeking closure or understanding can lead to a sense of release and determination in your personal journey. By addressing these feelings, you open up pathways to self-growth, resilience, and a renewed commitment to your passions and dreams, irrespective of external validation.





## Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19, we find Jasmine mid-workout, struggling with a recent setback—a sprained ankle that has forced her to pause her skating career and left her with a cumbersome cast boot. Ivan, her skating partner, enters the scene, interrupting her intense, seemingly punitive exercise routine. Jasmine's frustration and self-blame are evident as she copes with the injury that has stalled the momentum she and Ivan had been building towards their figure skating goals.

Ivan's persistent presence is both comforting and aggravating to Jasmine. They share a complex relationship that intertwines professional partnership with a personal connection. Ivan, aware of Jasmine's tendency to isolate and push herself too hard, insists she leave her self-imposed exile. He tries to draw her out of her room and into the world beyond her immediate physical and emotional pain. Jasmine, stubborn and headstrong, resists his attempts, navigating her guilt and anger towards herself for her accident. She avoids answering Ivan's calls, along with those from family and friends, seeking solace in her solitude.

Ivan confronts Jasmine directly, challenging her misplaced self-blame while revealing his own fears—that she might not want to be his partner anymore. It's a moment of vulnerability for both, revealing the stakes of their partnership and personal relationship. Their exchange escalates into a heated



argument, with Ivan trying to convince Jasmine that her self-imposed punishment is unnecessary and unfair. He asserts—using both bluntness and heartfelt honesty—that her accident doesn't define her worth or their partnership. This confrontation becomes a pivotal moment, where Ivan confesses his worry and frustration, emphasizing his belief in her strength and resilience.

The tension between them shifts as Ivan, overwhelmed by his emotions, impulsively kisses Jasmine. This gesture transcends their professional dynamic, adding layers to their connection. Ivan's kiss and reassurances ground Jasmine, reminding her of their intertwined goals and mutual support. His insistence on being there for her and his promise to help her return to the ice become the motivation Jasmine needs to push past her despair.

As Chapter 19 closes, the duo's commitment to each other—both as partners and possibly more—emerges stronger than ever. Ivan's unwavering support highlights the deep bond they share, where professional ambitions meet personal care. Their shared resolve to overcome this obstacle reinforces the narrative's central theme of resilience and partnership. Jasmine's determination to repay Ivan's faith in her by giving their journey everything she has not only signifies her resilience but also deepens the emotional stakes of their partnership as they look toward the future.



## Chapter 20:

### Chapter 22 Summary:

The chapter unfolds with Jasmine and Ivan, a pair skating team, embarking on a pivotal event in their careers—Skate North America. The journey to this competition has been grueling, with Jasmine recalling the exhausting weeks of preparation alongside Ivan, her best friend and partner. Despite the challenges, the shared experience has strengthened their bond.

Upon arriving at the venue, nerves are high as Jasmine acknowledges the significance of the event. This competition represents a chance to showcase their hard work and potentially surpass Jasmine's former partner, Paul, who left her abruptly two years ago, choosing to pair with Mary, a rival skater.

Before the event, Ivan unexpectedly asks Jasmine for a promise—not to confront Paul and Mary until after they've competed. Jasmine, despite her lingering resentment towards Paul for his betrayal, agrees. Ivan knows Jasmine's fiery temperament but relies on her sense of loyalty to keep peace until it counts most.

Their preparations continue smoothly, with Ivan helping Jasmine with her final touches despite his own role in the competition. The tension and



anticipation grow as they don their costumes designed for their dramatic Dracula-themed performance, subtly symbolizing their unified front and mutual support.

Unexpectedly, Paul approaches Jasmine, seeking a reconciliation or at least an explanation for his past actions. He insists they have history and suggests Jasmine owes him a hearing. However, Jasmine, maintaining control due to Ivan's earlier guidance, firmly shuts down Paul's attempts, making it clear that she's moved on and will not forgive him for his abandonment.

Ivan arrives with roses from Jasmine's sister Karina, further solidifying the familial support Jasmine treasures. The chapter climaxes with Ivan revealing that he had warned Paul shortly after their split to stay away from Jasmine—a protective gesture done out of genuine concern for her well-being.

Understanding the depth of Ivan's loyalty and care, Jasmine's affection for him deepens. Ivan gifts her a bracelet, mirroring the one she's worn for self-assurance, engraved with words of their special bond, "To Meatball, From your best friend, Ivan." This gesture signifies their unbreakable friendship and mutual respect, reminding Jasmine that regardless of the competition's outcome, their partnership matters more than winning.

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- **Jasmine Santos:** A resilient figure skater recovering from a partnership betrayal by Paul, whose focus is redefined by her collaboration with Ivan.

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## Chapter 21 Summary:

In Chapter 23, we find Jasmine and Ivan preparing for a crucial skating performance. Jasmine feels an unexpected calmness despite the monumental pressure, partly thanks to Ivan's comforting presence and their shared confidence in their practiced routine. Coach Lee offers a motivational pep talk, but Jasmine declines, opting to maintain her steady focus.

As they wait for their turn, Ivan points out Jasmine's family in the stands, including her estranged father whose presence elicits mixed emotions. Despite past tensions, Jasmine chooses not to dwell on this, focusing instead on the task at hand. Ivan's light-hearted teasing about her family further centers her, reaffirming their shared bond.

As they step onto the ice, chants for Ivan echo through the arena, characterized by his status as a celebrated figure skater. Yet, within the blend of cheers, Jasmine discerns her family's support, reinforcing her determination and a sense of belonging—something akin to love.

Before their routine begins, Ivan surprises Jasmine by mouthing “I love you,” a revelation that nearly distracts her but ultimately galvanizes her resolve. They perform seamlessly, driven by shared encouragement and the depth of feelings between them. Ivan's post-performance gesture, a playful kiss on Jasmine's nose, is met with both awe and irritation from Jasmine,



given the timing of his love confession.

Throughout the chapter, the theme of transformation interlaces with Jasmine's reflections on past struggles, including a discussion with her sister Ruby about dreams and family pressures. Ruby's encouragement to forgive their father for past dismissiveness about their ambitions parallels Jasmine's internal journey toward healing and acceptance.

Jasmine is subsequently enveloped in familial pride and support, contrasting sharply with earlier feelings of isolation. The shared high from their performance carries them through dinner with family, where her father's subdued presence doesn't overshadow their triumph.

Later, Jasmine and Ivan find themselves alone, navigating the complexities of their evolving relationship. Ivan, in a candid and heartfelt declaration, assures Jasmine of his unwavering commitment not just in skating, but in life. He dismantles her assumptions about having a new partner after the season, expressing that no one else could measure up to what they share. His pledge underpins the depth of his feelings, casting aside any doubts Jasmine might have had about their future together.

The chapter closes with a tender and intimate moment between Jasmine and Ivan, signifying a union far beyond their athletic partnership. Here, physical closeness becomes a metaphor for their emotional bond—one of mutual





understanding, shared goals, and unreserved love.

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## Chapter 22 Summary:

### Chapter 24: One Minute

Jasmine prepares to perform with Ivan, her skating partner, at a major ice-skating event. As the crowd erupts in applause for the previous skaters, she centers herself, reminding herself of her strength and determination. Her coach, Lee, signals that it's time to take the ice. Jasmine and Ivan exchange a smile filled with mutual trust and understanding, a reflection of their deep bond and the strong personal connection they have established. Their morning had begun intimately, waking up together with shared promises for the future.

Jasmine takes solace in the presence of her family, who cheer her on with signs and loving support. Even her father, often reserved, shows his pride with a sign that reads "NEVER GIVE UP, JASMINE." The memory of a supportive card she received from Patty, a young admirer, also inspires her.

Reflecting on advice from her past coach Galina, Jasmine understands that accepting the possibility of failure is part of striving for victory. She feels ready and at peace as she steps onto the ice with Ivan. When the announcer calls their names, Jasmine and Ivan lock eyes, share a smirk, and silently reassure each other. As they take their positions, Ivan mouths "I love you,"



and Jasmine responds with a wink, both showing confidence in their relationship and shared endeavor.

In a playful moment, they exchange teasing remarks, further highlighting their camaraderie. As the music begins, they focus entirely on each other, poised to deliver a performance that encapsulates their hard work and partnership.

## **Epilogue**

The narrative concludes on a note of triumph and unity, emphasizing the dedication and partnership between Jasmine and Ivan. Their journey reflects both personal growth and the strength found in their relationship, culminating in a performance that is both a personal and professional achievement.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embrace the Possibility of Failure for Victory

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 24 of "From Lukov with Love," Jasmine internalizes a crucial piece of advice from her past coach Galina, which becomes a guiding principle for her performance - that embracing the possibility of failure is integral to the pursuit of victory. This mindset inspires you to acknowledge that setbacks and uncertainties are part of the journey towards success. Embracing potential failure allows for honest self-reflection and fuels resilience. When you accept that stumbling is part of progressing, it endows each endeavor with courage and authenticity, empowering you to strive for your goals with a genuine determination. By adopting this perspective, you can transform apprehensions into opportunities for growth and push your boundaries beyond comfort, ultimately leading you towards triumphs both big and small.

