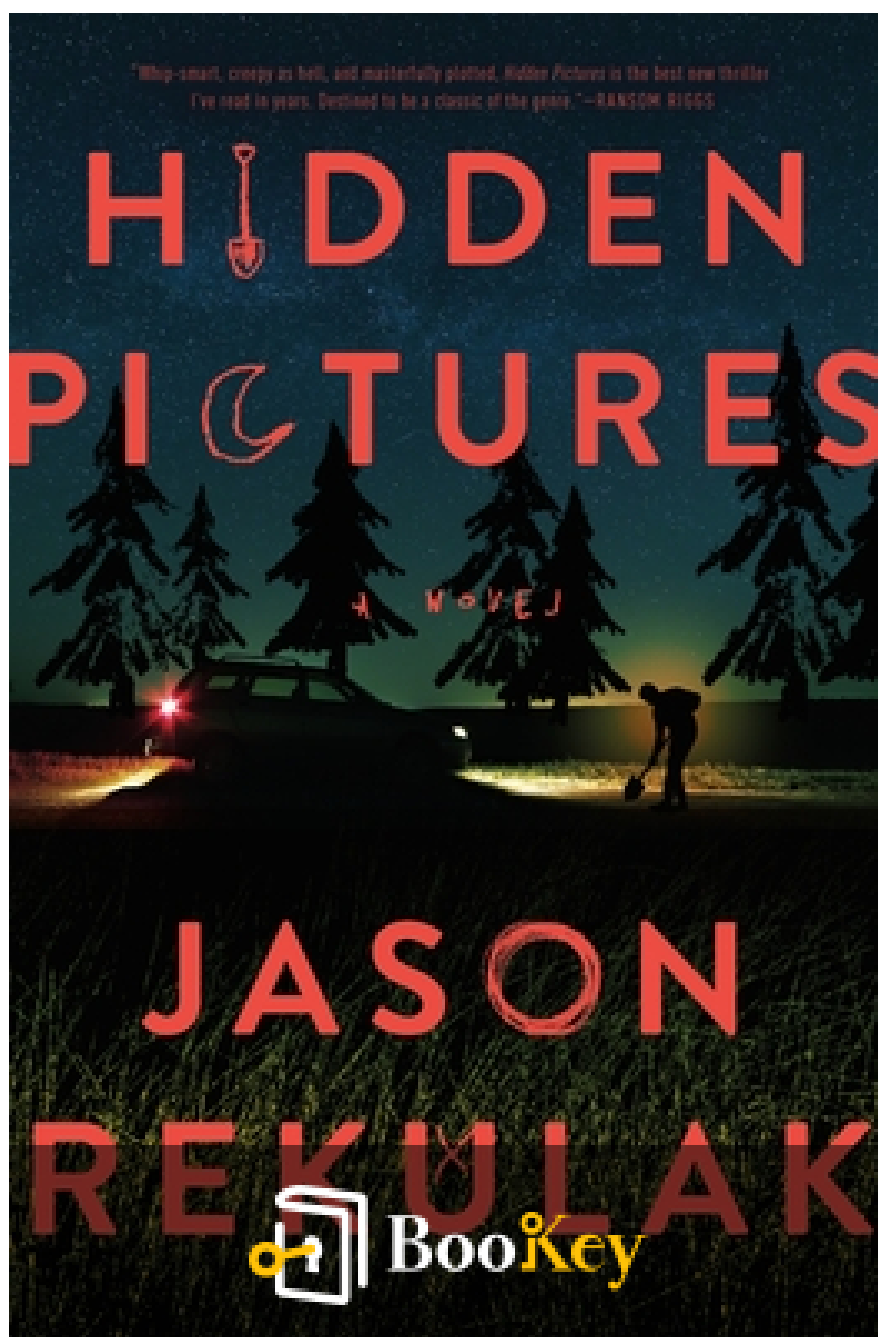


Hidden Pictures PDF (Limited Copy)

Jason Rekulak



More Free Book



Scan to Download

Hidden Pictures Summary

"Exploring Enigma Through a Kaleidoscope of Haunting Art."

Written by Books1

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

In the atmospheric concoction of suspense and nostalgia, *Hidden Pictures* by Jason Rekulak threads a chilling tale of mystery set in an ordinary suburban backdrop. This gripping narrative orbits Mallory, a young woman grappling with her own haunting past only to stumble upon a community drenched in eerie secrets. As she takes up a nanny job for a seemingly idyllic family, her uneventful life turns upside down when vivid, unsettling images begin to haunt her dreams. Peculiar and incredibly detailed sketches, drawn by a boy who could barely hold his pencil steady, become the windows to something much darker lurking within the home. With every illustration, readers are pulled into an electrifying quest through the shadows of unresolved guilt and spine-tingling truths. Rekulak masterfully crafts a complex tapestry where human vulnerability meets the unnervingly supernatural—a narrative that keeps heartbeats and imaginations racing from the first page to the last turn.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

Jason Rekulak is a dynamic American author celebrated for his engaging storytelling and intricate narratives, establishing a prominent presence in contemporary fiction. Initially making waves as the publisher of Quirk Books, he played a pivotal role in launching several popular titles, including "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" by Ransom Riggs. Rekulak's own literary ventures highlight his knack for creativity and suspense, and his debut novel, "The Impossible Fortress," received critical acclaim for its charming and nostalgic tale of love and youth in the 1980s. With "Hidden Pictures," Rekulak has continued to captivate readers, expertly weaving elements of mystery and psychological intrigue, showcasing his ability to delve into the darker recesses of the human psyche. Rekulak's work reflects his passion for mixing genres and his dedication to crafting stories that resonate with readers, cementing his status as a versatile and innovative writer.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



Summary Content List

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

Chapter 5:

Chapter 6:

Chapter 7:

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

Chapter 10:

Chapter 11:

Chapter 12:

Chapter 13:

Chapter 14:

Chapter 15:

Chapter 16:

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 17:

Chapter 18:

Chapter 19:

Chapter 20:

Chapter 21:

Chapter 22:

Chapter 23:

Chapter 24:

Chapter 25:

Chapter 26:

Chapter 27:

Chapter 28:

Chapter 29: One Year Later

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary:

In this gripping narrative, we follow Mallory Quinn, a young woman trying to rebuild her life after a tumultuous past marked by addiction and haunted memories. Set on a path to redemption, Mallory lands a job as a nanny for the Maxwells, a seemingly ordinary suburban family living in Spring Brook, New Jersey. However, the appearance of strange and unsettling drawings created by their five-year-old son, Teddy, throws Mallory into a whirlwind of mystery and self-discovery.

Mallory's journey begins with a flashback to a bizarre experiment she participated in at a university, where she successfully sensed the presence of 'the male gaze.' Now clean and sober, she's determined to move past her false memories and guilt stemming from the accidental death of her younger sister, Beth. Mallory credits her recovery to a supportive sponsor, Russell, who encourages her to start anew and arranges an interview with the Maxwells. Despite the trepidation, Mallory accepts the opportunity, driven by the hope of a brighter future.

Once she starts working for the Maxwells, Mallory forms a bond with their imaginative son, Teddy. Yet, she is drawn into a chilling mystery when Teddy begins to produce inexplicably intricate and dark drawings that seem beyond his abilities. Mallory is convinced that these drawings are messages from Anya, a spirit trapped in Teddy's room, echoing the tragic tale of Annie



Barrett, a young artist who disappeared from Spring Brook years ago. The spirited character, Annie, allegedly speaks to Teddy during his Quiet Time, using his hand to manifest her story.

As Mallory delves deeper into the mystery, she seeks the help of Adrian, a charming local with whom she forms a budding romantic connection. Their late-night conversations in Adrian's family's garden and explorations at the local library uncover more about Annie Barrett's tragic past, including a potential unacknowledged child. However, Mallory's belief in the supernatural puts her relationship with the Maxwells at risk. Caroline and Ted Maxwell become increasingly concerned about Mallory's mental state, especially when she unwittingly becomes the medium through which Anya continues her narrative, covering the den's walls with frantic and haunting sketches.

The tension reaches a peak when Caroline demands a drug test, which Mallory clears, but the damage is done. The Maxwells, unable to reconcile Mallory's claims with their reality and worried for Teddy's safety, decide to part ways with her. Despite her insistence on the existence of Anya and the ghostly influences at play, Mallory's employment comes to an end, leaving her to ponder her next steps and the unanswered questions of Annie Barrett's story.

This tale weaves a complicated narrative of trust, redemption, and the search



for truth, urging readers to consider the fine line between reality and the supernatural, and how one woman's quest for closure and belief in the unseen can lead to ultimate transformation or downfall.

Section	Description
Mallory Quinn's Background	Former addict haunted by her sister's accidental death, striving for a fresh start with the help of her sponsor, Russell.
Setting	Spring Brook, New Jersey, where Mallory works as a nanny for the Maxwells.
Main Plot	Mallory discovers unsettling drawings by Teddy and believes they are communications from a spirit tied to a local missing artist, Annie Barrett.
Mystery & Investigation	Mallory, along with local Adrian, investigates the history of Annie Barrett and her potential connection with Teddy's drawings.
Character Dynamics	Mallory forms a close bond with Teddy and a budding romance with Adrian while dealing with the Maxwells' growing concerns.
Climactic Conflict	Growing distrust leads the Maxwells to question Mallory's mental state, resulting in the termination of her employment.
Overall Theme	A story of redemption, trust, and exploring the boundary between the visible and the supernatural realm.



Chapter 2 Summary:

In a sweltering June atmosphere, Mallory Quinn arrives at the Maxwell's Victorian house, greeted by their son, Teddy. As she meets Caroline, Teddy's mother, Mallory feels welcomed, despite her past struggles with addiction. The Maxwells present a set of house rules; their tech-savvy lifestyle and focus on science are apparent, as Caroline explains her husband Ted's priorities. Despite a few initial missteps and suspicious moments, Mallory builds an immediate rapport with Teddy, who though shy, is sharp and imaginative, especially showing talent in drawing.

Teddy's drawings reveal peculiar themes involving a mysterious figure named Anya, Teddy's "special friend," whom he believes lives under his bed. His parents dismiss concerns, chalking it up to a phase. During an interview over tea, Caroline shares the rules of the house and how Mallory fits into their life, despite Ted's reservations. She begins to settle into life in Spring Brook, adjusting to her unique nanny role.

Mallory finds her situation unraveling when she discovers haunting drawings by Teddy that portray sinister and bizarre scenes. An encounter with Mitzi, a local psychic, further complicates matters, as Mallory suspects these images connect to a ghostly presence in the Maxwells' home.

Amidst this, Mitzi is found dead, leaving Mallory and her new friend



Adrian, a neighbor and confidant, to decode Teddy's chilling illustrations. A web of local history and secrets suggests that Annie Barrett, purported victim of a cold-case murder and subject of urban legend, is communicating through these drawings. Though Mitzi's death heightens the sense of threat, it's revealed to be drug-related, but the ambiguous involvement of supernatural elements keeps Mallory on edge.

Despite supportive overtures from the Maxwells, conflict arises over childcare issues when Teddy's birth gender is revealed, creating friction with the conservative norms of the area. Mallory's suspicions about the Maxwells deepen and are confirmed when Caroline divulges that Teddy was taken from his real mother, killed by the Maxwells. Under the guise of a protective adoption, the Maxwells have hidden dark truths behind their facade of affluence and stability.

Overwhelmed by the enormity of the situation and forced to flee after discovering the grisly background of Teddy's real mother, Mallory battles the murderous intent of the Maxwells. In a tense finale, Mallory flees with Teddy into the woods; a rustling in the leaves and Teddy's strange demeanor suggest supernatural vengeance.

As the police close in, Mallory accepts blame for protecting Teddy, hoping to shield him from the legal horrors arising from Caroline's manipulative plot. In the end, Mallory's ordeal symbolically concludes with her drawing



upon the spectral connection to Anya, offering her empathy and resolution in her struggle for the truth, as she moves beyond the haunting past into hopeful oblivion.

Section	Summary
Introduction	In June, Mallory Quinn arrives at the Maxwells' Victorian house, welcomed by their son, Teddy. The family presents her with a set of house rules, revealing a tech-savvy and science-focused lifestyle.
Meeting Teddy	Mallory builds rapport with the shy but imaginative Teddy, who is talented in drawing. Teddy mentions a mysterious friend, "Anya," living under his bed, a concern dismissed by his parents.
Settling In	Mallory adjusts to her role in Spring Brook, navigating the Maxwells' lifestyle while trying to fit in, despite Ted's reservations about her.
Disturbing Discoveries	Haunting drawings by Teddy depicting sinister scenes lead Mallory to suspect a ghostly presence in the house, further complicated by the local psychic Mitzi's involvement and subsequent death.
Unveiling Secrets	Along with new ally Adrian, Mallory uncovers the link between Teddy's drawings and the legend of Annie Barrett, a murdered girl allegedly contacting through the artwork.
Crucial Revelations	Caroline admits to dark family secrets regarding Teddy's real mother, killed by the Maxwells under the guise of protective adoption, unraveling their facade of affluence.
Climax	Mallory flees with Teddy into the woods, pursued by the Maxwells' intentions and swayed by supernatural occurrences, until law enforcement intervenes.
Conclusion	Mallory takes responsibility to shield Teddy from legal repercussions, concluding her journey by empathizing with "Anya" and moving beyond the macabre ordeal into a hopeful future.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Facing the Darkness Brings the Light

Critical Interpretation: The crucial lesson from this chapter of 'Hidden Pictures' is that confronting the dark truths, no matter how daunting they may be, can illuminate new paths towards healing and resolution. When you find yourself surrounded by oppressive challenges or buried truths, remember that addressing these shadows head-on can uncover hidden strength and clarity. Mallory's journey through suspicion, doubt, and danger teaches us that courage to delve into the unknown and face our fears head-on can ultimately guide us towards freedom and personal growth. By embracing the uncomfortable and unraveling the darkness, we can find our way to the light of understanding and redemption.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 3 Summary:

In this chapter, we follow the protagonist as she embarks on a new chapter in her life, transitioning from a safe house environment to becoming a nanny for the Maxwell family. Packing her minimal belongings, she leaves Philadelphia after a brief but heartfelt farewell from her housemates at Safe Harbor, a temporary home where she likely sought refuge and stability during a turbulent period.

Upon arrival in her new town, Ted Maxwell and his son Teddy greet her warmly at the train station, signaling a fresh start with yellow daisies and a jovial demeanor that contrasts sharply with Ted's earlier, more stoic persona during the interview. The relaxed and welcoming atmosphere is further emphasized by Ted's casual attire and the informal tour they provide, immediately integrating her into the community.

Settling into the charming cottage adjacent to the Maxwell home, the protagonist quickly becomes part of the family dynamic. Caroline, Teddy's mother, aids her unpacking, and over a family dinner featuring Ted's cooking and Caroline's home-brewed iced tea, they share a glimpse into their lives, complete with a humorously retold tale of how they met.

The chapter also touches on a humorous family incident where Teddy's innocent but misguided display of independence resulted in a momentary



misunderstanding that Caroline characterizes as a learning opportunity about privacy and consent. This reflects the couple's modern parenting approach and their commitment to raising a well-rounded child, a sentiment the protagonist supports wholeheartedly.

With her new routine, the protagonist finds her role as the nanny uncomplicated yet fulfilling. Mornings begin with peaceful moments on her porch, surrounded by nature, followed by structured activities with Teddy. From storytelling sessions at the library to baking in the kitchen, her days are filled with enriching experiences that bolster Teddy's development and curiosity. Teddy's imaginary friend, Anya, poses minor challenges, but the protagonist navigates these with a balanced approach, drawing on familial anecdotes to gently encourage Teddy's understanding of reality versus imagination.

Aside from her role caring for Teddy, the protagonist also prioritizes self-care and personal growth. She sets aside time for exercise, adopts healthy eating habits, and even treats herself to a Hallmark Channel subscription, reveling in stories of happy endings that mirror her personal journey from uncertainty to stability.

The community welcomes her as one of their own, offering waves and greetings during her runs, reinforcing her newfound sense of belonging. This acceptance, combined with respectful interactions with her employers,



especially Ted's genuine interest in her thoughts and opinions, empower her with a sense of validation and self-worth. These affirmations are especially significant given her past struggles and how far she has come.

As she reflects on her life, she doesn't see it as extraordinary, yet she's acutely aware of the strides she's made. The chapter closes with a sense of contentment and accomplishment, as she cherishes the simplicity and rewards of her new life, marking a definitive step forward in her personal journey of healing and self-discovery.

Aspect	Details
Setting	The protagonist transitions from Safe Harbor in Philadelphia to the Maxwell family home in a new town.
Character Introduction	Warm welcome from Ted Maxwell and his son Teddy, contrasted by an earlier stoic interview demeanor.
New Environment	A charming cottage next to the Maxwell home; integrated into the community through casual interactions.
Family Dynamics	Caroline, Ted's wife, helps unpack; family dinner reveals their history and stories.
Parenting Style	Reflect on modern, understanding approach demonstrated through an anecdote with Teddy.
Nanny Role	Uncomplicated, fulfilling; includes activities like library visits, baking, and managing Teddy's imaginary friend, Anya.
Personal Growth	Focus on self-care, exercise, and leisure time; indulges in happy stories through Hallmark Channel.



Aspect	Details
Community Acceptance	Feels warmly integrated through friendly community interactions, reinforcing belonging and validation.
Protagonist's Reflection	Sees her life as simple yet rewarding, grateful for stability and healing after past struggles.
Chapter Conclusion	Ends with contentment and accomplishment, proud of the personal strides made.

More Free Book



undefined

Critical Thinking

Key Point: Transitioning to a New Beginning

Critical Interpretation: The protagonist's transition from a safe house environment to becoming a nanny for the Maxwell family showcases the power and beauty of new beginnings. Her courage to move forward, despite past struggles, is an uplifting reminder that every ending has the potential to lead to positive, enlightening new experiences. This chapter highlights how stepping into the unknown, armed with determination and a willingness to embrace change, can pave the way for personal growth and healing. By immersing herself in a new community, accepting new roles, and finding joy in everyday moments, the protagonist inspires others to seek fulfillment and self-worth in life's simplicities and embrace each day as an opportunity to build a more peaceful and genuine existence.



Chapter 4:

In this chapter, we delve into the life of Mallory Quinn, the narrator and babysitter for a young boy named Teddy. Due to Teddy's parents' strict rules about screen time, Teddy has limited exposure to popular movies, making him a fan of "The Wizard of Oz," one of the few films he's allowed to watch during their Family Movie Night. Consequently, Teddy and Mallory often play a make-believe game called "Land of Oz" at the swimming pool, with Teddy acting as Dorothy and Mallory creatively taking on all the other characters.

During one such poolside adventure, they encounter Adrian, a landscaper with Lawn King. Teddy admires Adrian, particularly for his daring antics on the lawnmower, which he demonstrates with a mix of showmanship and recklessness. Mallory perceives Adrian as a young man with a dynamic presence and a rapport with Teddy, teaching him new Spanish phrases.

The chapter then takes a turn as Mitzi, the eccentric next-door neighbor, approaches Mallory, offering unsolicited advice tinged with her own biases. Mitzi, who describes herself as empathetic but is clearly influenced by paranoia and potential substance use, warns Mallory about the perceived dangers of attracting attention from the landscapers, portraying them negatively based on prejudices.



Further tension arises when Mitzi mentions a decades-old local lore about Annie Barrett, an artist thought to have been murdered or gone missing from the cottage that Mallory now resides in—dubbed the "Devil House." This revelation piques Mallory's curiosity and prompts an uneasy conversation with Teddy's mother, Caroline, who dismisses Mitzi's story as baseless

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 5 Summary:

In this chapter, the narrator, Mallory, describes her quiet and routine weekends. Mallory lives in a cottage and deliberately keeps herself occupied with mundane tasks, like cleaning, to avoid moments of temptation due to her past struggles with addiction. She avoids social media, as advised by her Narcotics Anonymous (NA) counselors, preferring to engage in simple activities like running and cooking to maintain her peace of mind.

Mallory works as a babysitter for the Maxwell family, who often engage in family activities without her, which she politely declines to avoid intruding. Her favorite part of the week is when Monday arrives, and she can return to work. This particular Monday, she finds young Teddy Maxwell playing with toy animals. Caroline, Teddy's mother, quickly briefs Mallory about some house chores, including moving Teddy's sheets to the dryer, as Teddy has been wetting his bed due to the stress of their recent move.

Teddy's favorite pastime is exploring the so-called "Enchanted Forest" on their property. These adventures are filled with imaginative stories, with Teddy spinning tales about himself and Mallory as royal siblings on a quest. Though Mallory notes there are rarely other children in the woods, she keeps this observation to herself. After their morning adventure, they return home for lunch, where Mallory overhears a curious conversation coming from Teddy's room. She realizes he might be talking to an imaginary friend,



Anya, who stars in his games and drawings.

Teddy shares a drawing with Mallory depicting a mysterious and dark scene of a man dragging a woman through a forest. When asked, Teddy casually explains it's part of a game he plays with Anya, a character in his imagination who "acts out" stories for him to illustrate. Teddy's carefree response to questions about the game reassures Mallory, despite the disturbing imagery in his artwork.

Later, Mallory decides to search online for any clue about the mysterious Anya or any connection, using her newly purchased tablet but finds nothing. As night falls, Mallory contemplates whether she should have shown Teddy's drawing to his parents, but is reluctant and keeps it instead. She is startled by a call from her trainer, Russell, who checks in on her well-being and training progress. Russell's thoughtful concern highlights Mallory's struggle to maintain normalcy and handle the pressures of her job and new living situation. Despite her reassurances to him, there are undercurrents of doubt and unresolved questions about her situation, particularly the enigmatic game between Teddy and Anya.

This chapter paints a picture of Mallory's life, capturing her internal struggles and highlighting the unsettling yet innocent nature of Teddy's world, blending routine with curiosity and hinting at deeper mysteries yet to unfold.

Aspect	Details
Narrator and Setting	Mallory, living in a cottage, leading a quiet life focused on maintaining sobriety.
Weekend Routine	Busy with mundane tasks to avoid temptation; avoids social media as a part of recovery.
Job Description	Babysitter for the Maxwell family, tactfully avoids intruding in their family activities.
Monday Routine	Finds comfort in returning to work; discovers Teddy Maxwell playing with toy animals.
Tasks Assigned	Household chores, including managing Teddy's bedwetting issues.
Teddy's Adventures	Explores the "Enchanted Forest"; role plays as a royal sibling with Mallory.
Imaginary Playmate	Teddy talks to an imaginary friend, Anya, leading to mysterious drawings.
Disturbing Drawing	Teddy shares a drawing of a dark scene, casually linking it to Anya's game.
Mallory's Concerns	Contemplates revealing the drawing to Teddy's parents; researches online for clues.
Evening Call	Receives a call from her trainer, Russell, underscoring her internal struggle.
Chapter's Essence	Captures Mallory's internal conflict and foreshadows deeper mysteries linked to Teddy's imaginary play.



Chapter 6 Summary:

In Chapter 6, the protagonist reveals their lack of swimming skills, stemming from a childhood spent avoiding a crowded local pool under their mother's watchful eye. With reluctance, they venture to swim in the Maxwells' pool late at night, facing a daunting workout routine prescribed by Russell. The Maxwells' backyard, located near Philadelphia yet feeling strangely remote under the night's sky, becomes a surreal setting, with the luminous pool casting eerie shadows.

During their swim, the protagonist is unnerved by the dense forest encroaching upon their perception and the unsettling sounds of footsteps from the woods. Ted, the protagonist's employer, unexpectedly joins them for the late-night swim, showcasing his impressive swimming prowess. In a friendly moment, Ted offers invaluable swimming advice, instantly improving the protagonist's technique.

However, the peaceful moment is interrupted when Ted notices the protagonist's tattoo of Gritty, the Philadelphia Flyers' mascot, leading into a backstory of youthful recklessness and a relationship with an older man named Isaac. This conversation is cut short by mysterious noises in the forest, which Ted dismisses as wildlife.

The plot thickens with Caroline's stern reaction to a forgotten phone message



about their son Teddy's school—revealing tension around the child's education. Yet, Ted reassures the protagonist, pointing out the school's onerous bureaucracy.

Later, the protagonist returns to their cottage, only to be unsettled by noises outside. Dismissing initial fears, they encounter a more sinister threat beneath the floorboards. In a daring move, they discover a hidden access panel housing a fearsome creature, prompting a panicked reaction. Caroline and Ted rush to their aid, and the confrontation results in Ted identifying the intruder as a possum, which he promptly deals with.

In the aftermath, the Maxwells display warmth and care, fortifying the protagonist's confidence with safety measures and chamomile tea. The chapter closes with a sense of camaraderie and resolution, as laughter and storytelling replace earlier tensions, showcasing the Maxwells' unexpected kindness and the protagonist's growing integration into their lives.

Section	Details
Swimming Skills	The protagonist lacks swimming skills due to avoiding swimming in childhood.
Setting	The Maxwells' pool at night feels remote with eerie shadows cast by the luminous pool.
Forest Unease	Unsettling sounds from the dense forest cause unease during the swim.

Section	Details
Ted's Arrival	Ted joins in, showcases swimming skills, and offers swimming advice.
Tattoo Discussion	Discussion about the protagonist's tattoo of Gitty leads to a backstory with Isaac.
Mysterious Noises	Conversation interrupted by noises from the forest, dismissed as wildlife by Ted.
School Tension	Caroline reacts sternly to a missed phone message revealing tension over son's education.
Sinister Threat	Protagonist hears unsettling noises, discovers a possum beneath the floorboards.
Resolution	Ted identifies the intruder, and Maxwells display warmth and reassurance.
Chapter Conclusion	The chapter ends with camaraderie, storytelling, and protagonist's integration into Maxwells' lives.



Chapter 7 Summary:

The narrative unfolds on a sweltering Fourth of July when the protagonist, Mallory, endeavors to maintain her fitness routine by taking a long run. As she ambles home, she passes by a resplendent mansion, affectionately dubbed the "Flower Castle" for its abundant and colorful garden. Mallory stops to admire some charming orange trumpet vines when she encounters Adrian, a familiar face dressed in a snappy suit. They exchange pleasantries, revealing that Adrian's family resides there, and they are preparing for an event celebrating his father's accomplishments. The scene paints a picture of Adrian's seemingly idyllic upbringing in contrast to Mallory's more challenging life.

Mallory, drenched in sweat and feeling awkward in her attire, is introduced to Adrian's well-heeled parents, Sofia and Ignacio. There's an amusing rapport as Mallory fabricates being a student-athlete at Penn State, and the interaction turns into a game where she selects her favorite flower in the garden, unwittingly sharing insights about her character. The brief encounter ends as Adrian's family departs, leaving Mallory to reflect on her longing for a perfect life akin to Adrian's.

Transitioning to Mallory's babysitting duties, the narrative shifts focus to Teddy, a seemingly introverted child. Despite Mallory's efforts, Teddy shows disinterest in mingling with the children at a local playground,



preferring solace with her or playing alone. This indicates Teddy's possible struggle with socializing, adding a layer of intrigue and depth to his character. After an exhausting morning, the narrative takes a curious turn as Mallory discovers another unsettling drawing by Teddy. The sketch depicts a scene of a man burying a woman named Anya in the woods, igniting Mallory's concern.

As Mallory presses Teddy about the drawing, he casually recounts Anya's misfortune, insinuating a mysterious narrative involving kidnapping and concealment. Teddy's nonchalant revelation, paired with his request for watermelon, deepens the enigma surrounding his tales and his connection to Anya. This underscores a potential subplot hinting at secrets and buried truths in their seemingly serene community, promising a blend of suspense and emotional depth as Mallory navigates her tumultuous life and need for connection.

Section	Summary
Introduction	The chapter begins on a hot Fourth of July as Mallory maintains her fitness routine.
Flower Castle Encounter	- While out for a run, Mallory stops to admire the garden of a mansion known as "Flower Castle." - She meets Adrian, a familiar acquaintance whose family lives there. - Adrian's family is preparing a celebration, contrasting his privileged life with Mallory's struggles.
Meeting Adrian's Parents	- Mallory meets Adrian's affluent parents. - In an amusing turn, Mallory pretends to be a Penn State student-athlete. - The encounter ends with Mallory's reflection on her desire for a perfect life like Adrian's.



Section	Summary
Teddy's Socialization	- Narrative shifts to Mallory babysitting Teddy, a reserved child. - Teddy prefers solitude over socializing at the local playground. - This adds depth to Teddy's character and hints at challenges in social interactions.
Teddy's Drawing	- After the morning, Mallory finds an unsettling drawing by Teddy. - The drawing shows a man burying a woman named Anya in the woods. - This discovery raises Mallory's concerns and curiosity.
Conversation with Teddy	- Mallory questions Teddy about the drawing. - Teddy casually explains Anya's mysterious fate involving kidnapping. - His relaxed demeanor and request for watermelon deepen the mystery. - The subplot hints at hidden truths within their seemingly serene community.



Chapter 8:

In Chapter 8, we follow Mallory, who declines an invitation from Caroline to join her family for dinner, ostensibly because she needs a run. Instead, once the family leaves, Mallory ventures to a neighboring house belonging to Mitzi. Described as an eyesore in a well-off neighborhood, Mitzi's home contrasts with the affluent surroundings of Spring Brook. Mitzi is a quirky, solitary character, fond of conspiracy theories and critical opinions about modern society, ranging from her skepticism about working mothers to criticisms of Millennials and social movements like #metoo. Mitzi's house, reminiscent of Mallory's South Philly roots due to its dated appliances and cozy atmosphere, becomes the setting for a peculiar interaction.

Mallory is there under the guise of delivering homemade cookies but harbors an ulterior motive: seeking insight into mysterious drawings created by Teddy, the boy she babysits. These drawings, suggested by Teddy's imaginary friend "Anya," depict unsettling scenes of a man dragging and burying a woman, echoing local lore involving a woman named Annie Barrett.

Mitzi is surprised by Mallory's queries about Annie Barrett, a woman who vanished mysteriously in the mid-20th century, leaving behind a bloody scene but no body. Mitzi relates what she knows of Annie's story—a tale steeped in rumor and speculation, centering around Annie becoming the



subject of small-town gossip and ultimately disappearing without a trace. Mitzi theorizes that the renovations undertaken by the Maxwells in their guest cottage may have disturbed some dormant spiritual presence.

In seeking answers, Mallory considers whether a spiritual connection exists between Teddy and the supposed spirit, Anya. Mitzi proposes conducting a séance in the cottage to contact Annie's spirit directly, but Mallory is adamant about not involving Teddy due to the Maxwells' stringent house rules prohibiting religious or superstitious teachings.

Amid her conflicting feelings about Mitzi's theories and practical concerns about job security, Mallory grapples with her own personal struggles. Stepping into Mitzi's bathroom, her past addiction resurfaces as she searches for pills—an old habit she immediately regrets after finding nothing and realizing her own vulnerability.

Back at her cottage, Mallory's insomnia is fueled by anxiety and her earlier caffeine intake, leaving her introspective about her personal challenges and fueled by guilt over her snooping. Her discomfort grows the next morning when Teddy's charcoal pencils mysteriously disappear, necessitating a trip to the art store. Upon returning, Teddy goes upstairs for Quiet Time, leaving Mallory alone with a newly drawn, disturbing picture. Despite her resolution to avoid further involvement, Mallory finds herself unable to ignore the unsettling image, realizing the severity of the situation with Teddy's



disturbing artwork.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





★★★★★
22k 5 star review

Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

...tes after each book summary
...understanding but also make the
...and engaging. Bookey has
...ding for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages
Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway
to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity
is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

...ding habit
...o's design
...ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the
important parts of a book. It also gives me enough
idea whether or not I should purchase the whole
book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for
summaries are concise, ins
curated. It's like having acc
right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen
to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary
of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a
great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with
busy schedules. The summaries are spot
on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh
I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 9 Summary:

In this chapter, Mallory navigates a tense evening with Caroline and Ted, the parents of Teddy. Caroline arrives home from work preoccupied, so Mallory chooses not to show her Teddy's disturbing drawings immediately. Instead, she waits until the evening when Teddy is asleep.

As Mallory ventures into the yard to approach Caroline and Ted, she takes a tumble and injures her elbow. Despite the minor accident, she decides to confront the parents with Teddy's drawings, which depict violent scenes, including a figure being strangled. The drawings spark an intense discussion between Caroline and Ted. Caroline, a licensed psychiatrist, attributes Teddy's imagination to fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm, while Ted shrugs off the alarming illustrations as typical boyish interest in grim stories.

Mallory, more concerned, suggests the possibility of Teddy communicating with a spirit, drawing a connection to Annie Barrett, a woman supposedly murdered in their guest cottage decades ago. However, Caroline dismisses the notion of a ghost influencing Teddy's behavior, attributing his actions to a lively imagination and dismissing any supernatural explanations.

Caroline insists that Teddy's behaviors—his bedwetting, wearing the same shirt daily, and his shyness—are normal aspects of childhood. Ted supports her assertion but Mallory's unease lingers. The evening's discussion takes a



personal turn when Mallory reveals she had consulted Mitzi, a mutual acquaintance, before talking to Caroline and Ted. This revelation angers Caroline, straining her relationship with Mallory further.

Amidst this, Teddy appears, struggling to sleep, and overhears something that makes him feel betrayed when Ted scolds him about his drawings. After Caroline retreats inside, upset and defensive, Ted comforts Mallory, explaining Caroline’s protective instincts as the result of their difficult journey to parenthood and her subsequent insecurities now that she has returned to work. He tries to reassure Mallory, but she still feels the weight of her worries and the awkwardness in her relationship with Caroline.

Ted, attempting to ease the situation, takes the controversial drawings and tears them up, promising Mallory she won't have to see them again. This gesture leaves the night on a more conciliatory note, though undercurrents of unresolved tension remain.

Event	Summary
Mallory Avoids Immediate Confrontation	Mallory decides not to disrupt Caroline immediately upon her return from work with Teddy's drawings.
Mallory's Minor Accident	Mallory injures her elbow while approaching Caroline and Ted in the yard.
Presentation of Teddy's Drawings	Teddy's disturbing drawings depicting violence and a strangled figure are shown to his parents.

Event	Summary
Parents' Reactions	Caroline attributes drawings to Grimm tales; Ted dismisses them as typical youthful interests.
Mallory's Concerns	Mallory suggests a connection to Annie Barrett, a ghost, which is quickly dismissed by Caroline.
Discussion of Teddy's Behavior	Caroline asserts Teddy's behaviors—bedwetting, shyness, clothing choices—as normal.
Personal Tensions Arise	The revelation that Mallory consulted Mitzi strains her relationship with Caroline.
Conflict with Teddy	Teddy overhears Ted scolding him, feeling betrayed.
Ted's Gesture	Ted tears up the controversial drawings to comfort Mallory.
Conclusion	The event ends on a tense note despite Ted's attempts at reconciliation.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Importance of Speaking Up

Critical Interpretation: This chapter highlights the significance of speaking up, even when circumstances make it difficult or awkward. Mallory's decision to confront Caroline and Ted about Teddy's troubling drawings, despite the fear of potential conflict or being dismissed, underscores an essential life lesson. The courage to voice concerns and bring attention to issues, rather than brushing them aside due to discomfort, is crucial in addressing underlying problems or misunderstandings. By confronting the situation head-on, Mallory sets a precedent for self-advocacy and the importance of communication in navigating complicated relationships and situations.



Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 10, the narrator, Mallory, grapples with feelings of guilt and sadness over a misunderstanding with Caroline Maxwell. Despite receiving immense generosity from Caroline, who offered Mallory a home and entrusted her with caring for her son Teddy, the tension from a recent argument unsettles her. Acknowledging the situation, Mallory musters the courage to confront Caroline and apologize. Surprisingly, Caroline is also regretful, blaming her outburst on too much wine, and the two reconcile to mend their friendship. Caroline offers Mallory a more convenient room in the main house, but Mallory, valuing her independence and comfort in the cottage, declines politely.

The narrative shifts to a quieter, domestic tableau, where Mallory engages with young Teddy, who is absorbed in imaginative play with his Lincoln Logs and toy animals. However, Teddy's mood is off, prompting Mallory's concern. Attempting to clarify any miscommunication, she reassures Teddy about her appreciation for his drawings, which were previously misunderstood by Teddy's father. This interaction reveals deeper issues: Teddy mentions his mother's concerns about "scary pictures" exacerbating Mallory's health problems, hinting at a past illness.

Later, while spending time with Teddy, Mallory observes signs that he's still drawing secretly, which contradicts Caroline's restriction. During Teddy's



Quiet Time—a period when Teddy seems to interact with someone unseen and works away in his room—Mallory becomes curious about what transpires behind closed doors. She suspects Teddy might be concealing his drawings and, driven by a mix of concern and intuition, searches his room for hidden artwork to no avail.

Amidst the everyday activities, Mallory prides herself on nurturing Teddy's curiosity and satisfies his innocent questions with age-appropriate explanations, but is thrown off by a conversation about anatomy.

Apprehensive about his questions on such a topic, Caroline arms herself with explicit educational books for Teddy, showcasing her commitment to informing him thoroughly rather than having him gather misinformation from elsewhere. Her serious stance strains her relationship with Mallory, who feels marginalized from Teddy's education on these sensitive topics.

As Mallory continues to piece together Teddy's secretive drawing habit, she fixates on the idea that he might be disposing of his scribbles. After sifting through the trash, she gets her hands on a crumpled pile of papers filled with Teddy's unsettling, enigmatic drawings. These sketches, evolving from mere scribbles to intricate illustrations, represent more than whimsical imagination. Mallory finds herself embroiled deeper in the mystery of Teddy's secret world, which intertwines with her own past struggles and the inexplicable dynamics of the Maxwell household. The chapter closes with Mallory becoming the caretaker of this new secret, pondering its impact on



her tenuous place within the family and what it might reveal about Teddy’s vibrant inner world.

Key Points	Summary
Mallory and Caroline's Relationship	Mallory feels guilt and sadness over a misunderstanding but confronts Caroline to apologize. They reconcile, and Caroline offers her a room in the main house, which Mallory declines.
Engagement with Teddy	Mallory interacts with Teddy during playtime, noticing he's off in mood amid deeper issues about "scary pictures" related to her health. She reassures Teddy about these misunderstandings.
Teddy's Secret Drawing Habit	Mallory suspects Teddy continues to draw secretly despite restrictions and searches his room, finding no evidence.
Anatomy Discussion	Caroline's serious approach to teaching Teddy about anatomy with educational books strains her relationship with Mallory.
Discovery of Teddy's Drawings	Mallory finds a crumpled pile of Teddy's disturbing drawings, leading her into a mystery of his secret world involving her past struggles and the Maxwells.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courage to Apologize

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 10 of "Hidden Pictures," Mallory's decision to confront Caroline and apologize after their misunderstanding highlights the profound impact of humility and courage in mending relationships. Often, it might seem daunting to address conflicts, especially when emotions are at stake, but Mallory's initiative underscores an essential life lesson: the ability to acknowledge one's mistakes and communicate openly can bridge divides and restore friendships. This narrative encourages you to be proactive in resolving tensions, emphasizing that admitting fault doesn't weaken relationships—it fortifies them. Similarly, the mutual recognition of faults in her reconciliation with Caroline serves as a testament to the power of empathy and understanding in nurturing genuine connections. Hence, the chapter invites you to embrace vulnerability as a strength, reinforcing the value of courage in rebuilding trust and fostering meaningful interactions in your life.



Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 11, the protagonist becomes increasingly puzzled by Teddy's advanced drawings that were found in the recycling bin, doubting a five-year-old could produce such artwork. She contemplates whether Teddy's parents, Ted or Caroline, could be the artists, but all her questions lead to more perplexity.

On Monday night, she decides to conduct some research and heads to The Raconteur, a local bookstore, dressed in one of Caroline's fine dresses. The bookstore is unexpectedly lively due to a neighborhood author's reading event. She appreciates the distraction and manages to slip unnoticed into a café area to study books on abnormal child psychology and supernatural phenomena.

There, she encounters Adrian, a familiar face, who—seeing her in nicer clothes—does not immediately recognize her. They engage in a lighthearted conversation, revealing shared tastes in escapist entertainment like Star Wars and Hallmark mysteries.

Intrigued by what she's reading, Adrian encourages her to share her puzzling experiences. She explains her theories about Teddy's drawings, pondering whether Annie Barrett, a legendary local figure known as a "boogeyman," could be spiritually channeling through Teddy to create the art. The artwork



seems to be improving over time, suggesting the entity is mastering the use of Teddy's hand.

Adrian listens intently and suggests they compare the drawings to a photo of Annie Barrett. He offers to ask his mother, who works at the Spring Brook Library, to help locate any archival photos. His willingness to help reassures the protagonist, providing a sense of relief and progress.

While walking home together, Adrian entertains her with local anecdotes and high school lore, implying a tight-knit community where everyone knows everyone's business. Their lighthearted exchange touches on her background, and she dodges revealing more about her own past, choosing to keep her secrets.

Upon reaching her cottage, she discovers the porch light is out, casting an eerie backdrop in light of her supernatural suspicions. A dead porch bulb, along with Adrian's earlier stories, adds to her unease. Checking inside, all seems normal, but outside, she finds three new sketches pinned with a rock—ominous drawings of a grave, a dragging through the forest, and a perspective from a deep hole.

These startling images intensify the mystery, suggesting that someone—or something—is determined to communicate through this artwork, immersing her further into a narrative she's only beginning to understand.

Item	Description
Puzzling Drawings	The protagonist doubts a five-year-old, Teddy, could create advanced artwork found in the recycling bin and wonders if Teddy's parents are the artists.
Research at Bookstore	She visits The Raconteur bookstore, examines books on child psychology and the supernatural, amidst a lively author's reading event.
Encounter with Adrian	Adrian, not recognizing her immediately due to her attire, engages in a conversation about shared interests, like Star Wars.
Theories & Collaboration	She shares her suspicion about Teddy's drawings being influenced by the spirit of Annie Barrett, with Adrian suggesting to compare them with her photo.
Walk Home	During their walk, Adrian shares community stories, and the protagonist dodges disclosing her own past.
Ominous Discovery	Upon returning home, she finds eerie new sketches suggesting a supernatural element or communication.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Community Connection and Support

Critical Interpretation: The interactions in this chapter highlight the importance of building connections and seeking support within a community when faced with puzzling and perplexing situations. By extending a helping hand and offering to dig into historical archives, Adrian exemplifies how reaching out can foster a sense of reassurance and progress when dealing with mysteries or challenges. This companionship and communal intelligence serve as a reminder that you don't have to face life's baffling puzzles alone. Instead, lean on your network and let shared curiosity, collaboration, and empathy guide you toward illumination and resolution.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 12:

In Chapter 12, the story unfolds over a day filled with imaginative play, underlying tension, and mysterious occurrences. The protagonist, Mallory, begins her morning visiting the main house, where young Teddy playfully invites her to his make-believe restaurant. They engage in a humorous exchange, with Mallory amusingly ordering an exaggerated breakfast menu, enhancing the light-hearted, comedic atmosphere.

However, a call from Spring Brook Elementary interrupts this idyllic moment, hinting at underlying issues with the school system that the children's mother, Caroline, finds exasperating. As Caroline hurriedly addresses the call, Mallory continues playing with Teddy, entering into their imaginary world of the "Enchanted Forest." This world, rich in creativity and boundless possibilities, captivates both Mallory and Teddy, allowing Mallory to momentarily escape her worries.

Yet, the day is not without its mysteries. Mallory attempts to discuss Teddy's past drawings—specifically those depicting Anya being buried—but her questions confuse and upset Teddy, causing her to drop the subject for the time being. After their play, Mallory is invited to dinner by her sponsor, Russell, who insists despite Mallory's fatigue.

The dinner at the Cheesecake Factory reveals more about Mallory's life and



current challenges. Russell, a staunch advocate of healthy living, chooses the venue, surprising given his dietary preferences. During the meal, they discuss Russell's upcoming trip and Mallory's progress, or perceived lack thereof. Russell's concern for Mallory is evident as they discuss her NA meetings, social interactions, and her job at the Maxwells. He reveals Caroline's worries about Mallory's recent strange behavior, such as sifting through trash at odd hours and speaking about ghosts or possession, which Mallory defensively tries to brush off.

The dinner serves as a backdrop for Russell's subtle but firm guidance, reminding Mallory of the delicate balance she must maintain in her recovery, despite his reservations about her new friendships and her stability.

Returning to her cottage after dinner, Mallory is confronted by unsettling evidence: new drawings mysteriously appear on her refrigerator. These illustrations unsettle her further as she secures her space against intruders. Mallory contemplates three possible scenarios for how the drawings appeared, each increasingly improbable but linked to her growing paranoia regarding a supernatural involvement, especially involving Anya.

As the chapter closes, Mallory devises a plan to uncover the truth behind the eerie drawings, highlighting her deepening sense of confusion and her determination to unravel the mystery. The tensions between reality,



imagination, and the supernatural intensify, suggesting that her journey may involve more than just a battle with personal demons.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 13 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist takes extraordinary steps to uncover the mysterious origins of unsettling drawings that have been appearing in Teddy's possession. The protagonist planned to install a high-tech baby monitor in Teddy's bedroom to observe him during his "Quiet Time" when the drawings usually seem to materialize. Teddy, during lunch, remains blissfully unaware of this secretive operation.

The surveillance goes as planned, with the camera hidden among Teddy's stuffed animals. As the protagonist observes Teddy starting his drawing routine on the monitor, strange phenomena begin to occur. The video feed distorts and static hisses eerily, accompanied by mysterious whispering and instructions exchanged between Teddy and an unseen presence. What should have been a calm session of sketching escalates into a bizarre scene where the boy seems to be operating in a trance-like state, exhibiting abnormal strength and unknowingly drawing with precision despite his eyes rolling back.

Panicked, the protagonist rushes to Teddy's room, battling a locked door and an overwhelming odor of ammonia before finally gaining entry. Teddy continues drawing, oblivious to everything around him until prompted back to consciousness by the protagonist's intervention. When questioned, Teddy claims ignorance about the sketches, insisting that they are merely the



products of dreams rather than real drawings.

The protagonist realizes that these haunting images might be the results of supernatural interference, possibly involving Anya, a seemingly imaginary entity in Teddy's life. This realization adds to the overarching theme of navigating the blurred lines between reality and imagination. The chapter closes on a note of uncertainty as the protagonist comforts a distraught Teddy, who unconsciously reveals another clue: despite holding the pencil in his right hand while drawing, Teddy is naturally left-handed, suggesting an external control over his actions during these drawing episodes.

This investigation leads to more questions than answers, plunging the protagonist deeper into an unsettling mystery revolving around Teddy and potentially supernatural forces at play.

Aspect	Details
Objective	Protagonist aims to uncover the origins of mysterious drawings appearing in Teddy's possession.
Plan	Install a high-tech baby monitor in Teddy's bedroom during his "Quiet Time" to observe.
Hidden Setup	The camera is hidden among Teddy's stuffed animals.
Observation	Video feed distorts with eerie static, whispering, and instructions during Teddy's drawing routine.



Aspect	Details
Incident	Protagonist encounters locked door, overwhelming smell, finds Teddy unaware, drawing in a trance-like state.
Teddy's State	Acts in a trance, exhibits abnormal strength, draws with precision while eyes are rolled back.
Intervention	Protagonist rushes to Teddy, intervening to bring him back to consciousness.
Teddy's Explanation	Teddy describes the sketches as dreams, not knowing how they appear.
Realization	Imagines a supernatural interference involving "Anya," an entity Teddy knows.
Clue	Teddy, while drawing in trance, holds pencil in right hand, though he is naturally left-handed, indicating control.
Conclusion	Protagonist realizes the growing mystery around Teddy, comforted him while pondering the situation.



Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14, the evening unfolds with Mallory and Adrian examining a series of mysterious and unsettling illustrations. There are nine drawings in total, acquired from various places in Mallory's vicinity, including her porch, refrigerator, and Teddy's bedroom. Adrian, who works for the local landscaping company and is also a friend, attempts to find a sequence in the drawings, hoping it might reveal a hidden narrative. However, Mallory remains baffled by their meaning.

As dusk falls, with the atmosphere tinged by the scent speculated to resemble decaying matter, Mallory recounts to Adrian her eerie experiment watching Teddy draw seemingly with supernatural assistance. Adrian takes her concerns seriously, as they contemplate the disturbing possibility that Teddy might be connected to the ghost of Anya Barrett, a spirit Mallory suspects is trying to communicate through the drawings.

Despite the weird happenings, including Mallory's sensations of being watched, she is determined to stay and care for Teddy, rejecting Adrian's offer to provide her a safe place to stay at his parents' house. Adrian also offers to stay over as a measure of security, but Mallory declines, bound by the house rules and her unresolved past, which she hasn't yet disclosed to Adrian.



The conversation shifts as Caroline Maxwell, Teddy’s mother, makes a brief appearance, challenging the solitude needed for the intimate moment between Mallory and Adrian. As Mallory walks Adrian out, he reassures her that the ghost is likely trying to communicate, rather than harm. This support gives Mallory confidence that her problems, though supernatural, might be manageable with time.

As Mallory returns to her cottage, Caroline engages her in light conversation about Adrian, encouraging her interest in him. The scene concludes with Caroline turning in for the night, leaving Mallory alone to reflect on the night's events. Ultimately, she resolves that she shouldn't fear Anya, who might be benign and merely trying to convey a message through the enigmatic drawings. With renewed determination, Mallory decides it's time to unearth Anya's story and solve the mystery herself.

Key Elements	Summary
Chapter Focus	Mallory and Adrian investigate mysterious drawings
Drawings	Nine unsettling illustrations found in Mallory's vicinity
Adrian's Role	Friend who attempts to discern a hidden narrative from drawings
Mysterious Element	Mallory suspects supernatural assistance with Teddy's drawings
Possible Ghost Connection	Mallory suspects Teddy is linked to the ghost of Anya Barrett

Key Elements	Summary
Refusal of Help	Mallory declines Adrian's offer for a safe place or for him to stay over
Caroline Maxwell	Interrupts the solitude between Mallory and Adrian briefly
Adrian's Reassurance	Suggest ghost is trying to communicate rather than harm
Caroline's Encouragement	Engages Mallory in light conversation about Adrian, encourages interest
Conclusion	Mallory resolves not to fear Anya's ghost and aims to uncover Anya's story

More Free Book



undefined

Chapter 15 Summary:

Chapter 15 Summary:

The chapter unfolds with a lively morning as Mallory and Teddy prepare a picnic for an upcoming pool party where Adrian, a Scarlet Knights fan, is joining later. Their feast includes grilled chicken sandwiches, pasta salad, fruit salad, and lemonade. Teddy takes pride in setting up by the pool and is eager for Adrian's arrival. Mallory has already informed Adrian of his role in babysitting Teddy while she and Mitzi use a spirit board, a mystical tool for communicating with spirits.

When Adrian arrives, Teddy, excited to be babysat by Adrian, rushes to welcome him. Despite Adrian's limited lunchtime, the plan is to eat quickly and then play Marco Polo. Mallory repeatedly instructs Adrian to ensure Teddy's safety, emphasizing the necessity of floaties due to the pool's depth. Mallory remains anxious but tries to focus on the planned séance with Mitzi.

Mitzi, having already prepared for the séance in Mallory's cottage, uses eclectic spiritual techniques, such as burning sage to ward off negative spirits and employing a circle of sea salt as a protective measure. To enhance the environment, she uses THC, claiming it aids her spiritual connections, though Mallory worries it induces paranoia.



Inside the cottage, Mitzi reviews Mallory's mysterious drawings, which have an unsettling effect on her. They proceed to the séance, with Mitzi leading the session and guiding Mallory through the process. The eerie atmosphere begins to envelop Mallory as Mitzi makes contact with spirits, specifically calling for Anya, a spirit they hope to communicate with. Despite Mitzi's confident demeanor, both women encounter unexpected disturbances that heighten the tension.

As Mitzi calls to Anya, Mallory experiences a ghostly presence behind her and feels her hand guided on the planchette of the Ouija board. Despite Mitzi's frustrations with the gibberish results from the session, Mallory insists she was not the one moving the planchette. Their attempt ends chaotically as Mitzi accuses Mallory of deceit, stating there were no spirits present, and abruptly leaves in anger.

Amidst this tension, Teddy sneaks back into the cottage, curious about their "game." Mitzi takes the opportunity to explain the spirit board seriously, but Mallory quickly downplays it to avoid alarming Teddy's parents. Adrian, meanwhile, wraps up his babysitting duty and has to leave for work. Mallory is left hoping Teddy doesn't reveal their activities to his parents, aware this may spell trouble. The chapter closes with Adrian supporting Mallory, reassuring her after the chaotic séance, despite the unsettling experience leaving everyone affected.

Aspect	Details
Setting	Poolside, Picnic atmosphere, Cottage for séance
Main Characters	Mallory, Teddy, Adrian, Mitzi
Activities	Picnic preparation, Babysitting, Séance with spirit board
Food	Grilled chicken sandwiches, Pasta salad, Fruit salad, Lemonade
Mallory's Concerns	Teddy's safety in the pool, Séance procedure
Mitzi's Preparations	Burning sage, Sea salt circle, Using THC
Séance Details	Calling spirit Anya, Unexpected disturbances, Mallory's experience with planchette
Outcome of Séance	Frustrating results, Mitzi leaving in anger, Accusations of deceit
Teddy's Involvement	Curious about the séance, Told serious explanation by Mitzi, Mallory downplays it
Adrian's Role	Babysitting Teddy, Leaves for work, Supports Mallory after séance
Closing Note	Mallory's concern about potential trouble if Teddy reveals activities



Chapter 16:

Chapter 16 explores the growing tension and mystery surrounding Mallory, the nanny, and the Maxwell family, centering on unsettling drawings and an eerie presence tied to Teddy's imaginative friend, Anya.

After a pool party, Mallory retreats to the den while young Teddy remains upstairs, where he seems wrapped in mysterious activities. They later venture on a storytelling walk through the imaginative Enchanted Forest. Teddy's curiosity is piqued by spirit boards, tools supposedly used to communicate with the dead, asking detailed questions about their workings, down to making one himself.

The day takes a turn when Mallory returns from a stress-relieving run, only to find Ted and Caroline waiting. Caroline, visibly upset, shows Mallory a drawing Teddy concealed. The picture features stick figures, including Mallory and a neighbor, Mitzi, gathered around what resembles a Ouija board, indicating an event involving spiritual communication that Caroline disapproves of vehemently.

Mallory insists that the drawings are manifestations of supernatural intervention by a spirit named Anya, supposedly controlling Teddy. She attempts to prove her point by showing a series of unnerving drawings she attributes to the spirit of Anya, who she claims is using Teddy to



communicate. Her insistence borders on desperation as she pleads with Ted and Caroline to see the truth she perceives.

The confrontation moves to Teddy's bedroom. Despite the pressure, Teddy maintains that Anya is a make-believe friend incapable of creating real

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





World's best ideas unlock your potential

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to download



Chapter 17 Summary:

Chapter 17 Summary:

Upon returning to her cottage, Mallory receives a promising text from Adrian, saying he has good news about Annie Barrett. Mallory quickly prepares to meet Adrian at the Flower Castle, his parents' home, where they will celebrate a family dinner.

Adrian greets Mallory at the door, eager to escape the dinner thanks to her presence. While they introduce Mallory to the lively dining party, which includes local figures like the Spring Brook Fire Chief and a couple running a bakery, Adrian's mother, Sofia, offers to discuss the real reason for their meeting: discovering more about Annie Barrett's artwork.

In the picturesque backyard garden, Sofia reveals she discovered a pamphlet featuring Annie's paintings, produced by Annie's cousin, George Barrett. The small book's abstract artwork doesn't match Mallory's found sketches, raising more questions than answers. Sofia then shares an intriguing detail about George's wife, Jean, who left a significant inheritance to a "niece" named Dolores, possibly hinting that Dolores might be Annie's child.

Sofia encourages Mallory to reach out to Dolores in Ohio, stirring the quest

More Free Book



Scan to Download

to uncover more about Annie's mysterious past. Mallory grapples with urgency but decides to wait until morning to call Dolores. Meanwhile, she confides in Adrian about her strained relationship with the Maxwells, who doubt her honesty about the drawings.

The chapter concludes with a romantic walk through the garden where Mallory and Adrian discuss their budding relationship. However, Mallory feels the pressure of her hidden truths and fears losing Adrian if he finds out. After spending a magical evening together, Mallory resolves to finally reveal everything over dinner in Princeton. But upon returning to her cottage, she faces an unexpected shock—Ted Maxwell lying in her bed.

Element	Summary
Main Events	Mallory receives a promising text from Adrian about Annie Barrett. They meet at the Flower Castle for a family dinner to discuss Annie's mysterious past.
Key Characters	Mallory, Adrian, Sofia (Adrian's mother), Sofia's lively dining guests including local figures and George Barrett's wife, Jean.
Clues & Discoveries	Sofia shares a pamphlet featuring Annie's paintings, discovered by George Barrett, Annie's cousin. The artwork doesn't match Mallory's sketches. George's wife, Jean, left an inheritance to "niece" Dolores, suggesting Dolores might be Annie's child.
Emotional Context	Mallory feels urgency to contact Dolores but decides to wait. She expresses concerns to Adrian about her relationship with the Maxwells and their doubts about her honesty.
Resolution & Tension	After a romantic evening, Mallory decides to reveal her secrets to Adrian but returns home to find Ted Maxwell unexpectedly in her bed, creating a

Element	Summary
	new layer of tension.



Chapter 18 Summary:

Chapter 18 centers around Mallory as she navigates an unexpected and awkward encounter with Ted, who is drunkenly asleep in her cottage. The chapter opens with Ted awakening in confusion and surprise, realizing he is in Mallory's bed rather than back at the house he shares with his wife Caroline.

As Mallory assists a disoriented Ted, the dialogue reveals underlying tensions in his life—his dissatisfaction with his marriage and his unfulfilled dreams. He discusses an idyllic summer he spent at Whidbey Island, hinting at a desire for freedom and adventure beyond the confines of Spring Brook. His mention of the rustic island, part of a beautiful chain in the Pacific Northwest, contrasts sharply with the life he currently leads, suggesting a deeper yearning for a different path.

Despite Ted's rambling about his personal woes and alternate plans, Mallory remains mostly detached. Her past experience with dealing with inebriated individuals makes her skeptical of his drunken confessions. The dialogue reveals Ted's marital troubles, including how Caroline's choices, influenced by her wealthy father, have shaped their life together in a place Ted considers stifling.

Mallory, on the other hand, tries to remain polite and offers Ted a safe space



to air his woes while subtly encouraging him to return home to Caroline. As the night progresses, she assists Ted in regaining his physical balance before he stumbles out towards the main house, leaving Mallory to reflect on the event.

The underlying themes include Mallory's introspection about her own life choices and aspirations. Despite Ted's insistence that she deserves more than what Spring Brook offers, Mallory feels content in her small world. Her thoughts drift back to a serene castle garden, symbolizing her inner refuge and personal peace amidst the chaos around her.

The chapter concludes with Mallory preparing to cleanse her space of the night's events, hinting at a desire for purity and order. Her final moments before sleep are marked by a plea for forgiveness from God, seeking the strength to confront her past choices and the hope that her current self can be recognized for its worth.

Chapter	Summary
18	<p>Chapter 18 focuses on an awkward encounter between Mallory and Ted, who wakes up drunk in Mallory's bed, bewildered about his location. Ted shares intimate reflections on his dissatisfaction with life and a nostalgic memory of Whidbey Island, longing for adventure and freedom. Through their interaction, Ted exposes his marital conflicts, partially caused by Caroline's father's influence.</p> <p>Mallory, experienced with similar situations, remains composed and offers a sympathetic ear, maintaining her detachment. Despite his ramblings, she encourages Ted to return to his wife. As Ted leaves, Mallory</p>

Chapter	Summary
	<p>reflects on her own life, notably content with her small world despite external perceptions.</p> <p>The chapter ends with Mallory cleaning her space, indicating her desire for order as she prays for forgiveness and strength, acknowledging her past and striving for self-worth.</p>



Chapter 19 Summary:

Chapter 19 Summary

In the morning, Mallory arrives at the Maxwells' house, where an awkward breakfast unfolds. Ted, looking hungover, apologizes for his behavior from the previous night. Despite Mallory's attempts to put the incident behind them, Caroline insists on addressing it. Ted, reciting an apology, admits to his arrogance and misuse of privilege. Caroline asks for Mallory's account of the previous night when Ted showed up drunk in her cottage after a party. Mallory downplays the events, even omitting Ted's suspicious behavior with her belongings, as she senses Caroline's distress beyond the incident.

Caroline shares Ted's midlife crisis struggles, revealing his one-man business's pressure and the illusion of grandeur he maintains, like working at a WeWork for a perceived presence in Center City. Their dialogue reveals the cracks in both their marriage and Ted's facade of professional success. Mallory later finds Caroline attempting to divert Teddy's interests from drawing to educational apps on an iPad—a decision Mallory feels is misguided since Teddy found significant joy in drawing.

Mallory later calls Rest Haven Retirement Community, hoping to connect with Dolores Jean Campbell regarding a personal investigation, spurred by



past mysterious drawings in her cottage. She leaves a message candidly expressing her hope to talk, though uncertainty echoes in her mind.

After considering a surprise dinner plan as a grand gesture to endear herself to the Maxwells, Mallory accidentally falls into a deep sleep on the sofa. She dreams of Storybook Land and an emotional encounter with her deceased sister, Beth, until awakened by Teddy, who innocently informs her that the iPad has lost its charge. Panic grips Mallory as she sees the walls covered in elaborate sketches, eerily reflecting the mysterious drawings from her cottage.

When the Maxwells arrive home, Caroline is aghast at the den's transformation, and Mallory pleads with Adrian, her would-be date, for belief in her paranormal account. Caroline, however, demands a drug test, suspicious of Mallory's sobriety given her history of addiction. Mallory's protestations of innocence and accusations of supernatural interference only alienate the Maxwells further. Her test results clear her from accusations of relapse, but Caroline insists Mallory needs more help. The couple remains unwavering in their skepticism, ready to terminate Mallory's employment, leaving her distraught.

Chapter 2 Summary

More Free Book



Scan to Download

On a hot June day, Mallory arrives at the Maxwells' picturesque Victorian home, welcomed by a shy Teddy and the tranquil sounds of suburban life. Inside, Caroline greets her warmly, proceeding to praise Mallory's impressive progress in recovery and making her feel valued. The introductory conversation sets a tone of openness and reflects Mallory's resolve to start afresh.

Caroline gives a warm tour of their expansive home and introduces their intelligent son, Teddy, who soon warms up to Mallory over shared drawing activities despite his quirky mention of an imaginary friend, Anya. Caroline appears relieved by Mallory's acceptance of Teddy's fanciful invention.

Ted Maxwell, an intelligent yet socially awkward engineer, brings a more skeptical energy to the interview, probing into Mallory's background with methodical rigidity. Nevertheless, Caroline assures Mallory of her support, promising to advocate for her despite Ted's reservations about hiring a recovering addict.

An effort is made to showcase the guest cottage, a quaint haven prepared for Mallory, reinforcing Caroline's kindness and intent to welcome her as part of the family. But Ted's imposing presence soon returns, emphasizing his doubts about hiring someone with Mallory's past. He tells a cautionary tale of a baby bird named Robert, highlighting the emotional stakes involved with hiring a nanny for Teddy.



In a strategic move, Mallory offers frequent drug testing at her own cost, aiming to win over Ted’s trust, but he rebuffs the gesture, stating a desire for an employee who doesn’t require such measures. As Mallory departs, the candid conversation between Ted and Caroline leaves a glimpse of hope as little Teddy hands her a drawing—a parting gesture of innocence and warmth that punctuates the emotional farewell.

Later, an unexpected encounter with Russell at a coffee shop reveals that Caroline has already called to hire Mallory, dissipating her fears and solidifying a new chapter in her life.

Chapter	Summary
Chapter 19	In the morning, Mallory navigates an awkward breakfast with Ted and Caroline after Ted's drunken behavior the previous night. Despite Caroline's confrontation about the incident, Mallory downplays it. Caroline reveals Ted's struggles. Later, Mallory informs a retirement community about an investigation. A sleep results in more mysterious drawings from Teddy, causing conflict with the Maxwells. Caroline demands a drug test for Mallory, who is cleared but still loses employment.
Chapter 2	Mallory arrives at the Maxwells' home, feeling warmly welcomed. A connection grows with Teddy through drawing, despite Ted's skepticism due to Mallory's past. Caroline trusts Mallory, giving a tour and showcasing a prepared guest cottage. Despite Ted's cynicism, Caroline hires Mallory, cemented by a touching moment with Teddy's drawing and a confirmed job offer from Caroline later on.

Chapter 20:

In this chapter, the protagonist, Mallory, finds herself in a state of turmoil and reflection when she receives a call from Russell, a close friend who is currently staying in a remote motel on Route 66. Their conversation is fraught with tension as Mallory reveals she has lost her job and has been experiencing a mysterious presence in her home. Russell, concerned about Mallory's mental state, suggests she attends a support meeting or seeks company to avoid spending the night alone. He decides to return home to help her, despite his current travel plans.

Mallory is left to face the reality of her situation. Trapped indoors by a sudden summer storm, she grapples with loneliness and the urge to revert to old habits that led her to Safe Harbor, a rehabilitation program from her past. The only person she is concerned about leaving behind is Teddy, someone important in her life, emphasizing her internal conflict between fleeing and facing her situation.

The next day, Mallory finds a note from Caroline, indicating that her hosts have taken Teddy to the shore, and informing her that Russell will arrive soon. Mallory is left to ponder her options, feeling trapped and embarrassed by her recent actions, which involved vandalizing her hosts' home.

Her thoughts are interrupted by Adrian, a significant figure in her life, who



convinces her to take a drive with him. During the drive, Adrian brings her back to South Philadelphia, her childhood home. The uncomfortable familiarity of the neighborhood stirs up memories and anxiety, as Mallory instructs Adrian to drive past her old house, now under new ownership. They eventually stop at FDR Park, a local landmark, where Mallory begins

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics

New titles added every week



Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 21 Summary:

The protagonist's troubles began with a seemingly inconsequential sacral stress fracture during her senior year of high school. This common runner's injury sidelined her just as the cross-country season commenced, but with the hope that she'd be ready for the winter track season. Meanwhile, she continued supporting her team from the sidelines, which allowed her mother to expect more help at home, increasing her domestic responsibilities.

Raised by her smoking, overburdened single mother, the protagonist and her sister, Beth, relied heavily on each other, echoing their family's motto, "showing up for each other." The cracks in this support system appeared when her mother had to unexpectedly work overtime at the hospital, leaving the protagonist responsible for taking Beth to a kid's amusement park, Storybook Land, alongside Beth's eccentric friend, Chenguang.

Forced to skip an important team meet, she drove the two on the morning of October 7, distracted by her phone's notifications about the race results she was missing. A horrific car accident ensued due to a stray bicycle on the highway. She awoke days later in a hospital, physically broken and learning the devastating news that Beth had died in the crash. Blame fell on the bicycle's owner, but guilt consumed the protagonist.

Despite others' reassurances, she felt culpable. As she attempted recovery



with a new prescription for OxyContin, she found herself spiraling into addiction once the medication abruptly stopped, replacing it with a ceaseless need for the euphoric relief the drugs provided. Seeking solace, she turned to heroin, a cheaper alternative, which plunged her into further chaos, jeopardizing her education and potential athletic career at Penn State, which was withdrawn due to her condition.

Her descent continued post-high school, as she oscillated between drugs and seeking funds, with her mother retreating from their once-intimate connection. These circumstances drove the protagonist into cycles of rehab and reflection, particularly after narrowly avoiding prison thanks to a fortuitous court ruling. A transformative rehab experience led her to a sponsor, Russell, who encouraged her to reclaim her passion for running.

Years later, as she retells her story to Adrian, a notable figure in her recent life, this conversation reveals the burdens of her past guilt, her struggles for redemption, and her suspicion of supernatural elements affecting her present. Adrian listens quietly until revealing an eerie confirmation of her claims—drawings mysteriously appearing that suggest a deeper truth to her fears.

Their dialogue highlights her emotional journey from tragedy to tentative recovery, yet her narrative remains intertwined with unresolved mysteries, leaving her grappling with forgiveness, truth, and the shadows of her sister's



memory.

Chapter Elements	Details
Seemingly Minor Injury	Sacral stress fracture; end of senior cross-country participation
Family Duties Increase	More home responsibilities while sidelined from sports
Sibling Bonding	"Showing up for each other" motto with sister Beth
Critical Incident	Car accident on highway October 7; Beth deceased
Personal Guilt	Protagonist blames herself for the accident
Path to Addiction	Starts with OxyContin, leading to heroin use
Impact on Future	Loss of scholarship and athletic future at Penn State
Personal and Social Decline	Strain with mother, cycles of rehab
Rehabilitation	Chance rehabilitation leads to new sponsor and reflection
Present Day Influence	Conversations with Adrian reveal lingering struggles and supernatural suspicions
Unresolved Mysteries	Supernatural elements explored with eerie drawings

More Free Book



undefined

Chapter 22 Summary:

Chapter 22 Summary:

In this chapter, Mallory and Adrian return to Spring Brook with a limited amount of time to convince the Maxwells of the truth before Russell arrives. They gather drawings and photographs in an attempt to decode an enigmatic narrative involving Anya, a woman painting in a field. The sequence unfolds with her daughter following a white rabbit, leading to a series of events where the child encounters an angel, Anya tries to rescue her daughter, but fails, and potentially sinister developments occur, including Anya's own mysterious fate.

Adrian and Mallory grapple with the cryptic nature of these drawings, pondering why Anya would choose to communicate without words. Mallory proposes that Anya might not speak English, suggesting an Eastern European background, which could explain the communication barriers. The theory gains traction as they recall ambiguous responses from a spirit board session, hypothesizing they might be in another language or coded.

Seeking further clues, they attempt to contact Mitzi, who possesses notes from a séance. They enter her house over concerns for her safety but find it in disarray with no sign of her. Inside, they discover potential evidence of



substance use, raising further questions about Mitzi's absence and state.

As Adrian tries decoding Mitzi’s notes without success, they are interrupted by a police officer knocking at the door, introducing a new layer of urgency and mystery to their investigation.

Section	Details
Setting	Mallory and Adrian are in Spring Brook with little time before Russell's arrival.
Main Objective	Convince the Maxwells of the truth involving drawings and photographs.
Enigmatic Narrative	The story revolves around Anya, her daughter, a white rabbit, encounters with an angel, and mysterious events.
Communication Barrier	Mallory suggests Anya might not speak English, possibly from Eastern Europe, complicating understanding the drawings.
Spirit Board Session	Results in ambiguous responses, hinting at another language or code.
Attempt to Contact	Mallory and Adrian try to reach Mitzi for more information from a séance.
Concern for Mitzi	Worry about Mitzi's safety leads them to her disordered house with no sign of her but evidence of substance use.
Decoding Attempt	Adrian tries to decipher Mitzi's notes but fails.
New Development	A police officer's arrival introduces a new urgency to the situation.



Chapter 23 Summary:

In this chapter, we find ourselves in a tense situation surrounding the mysterious death of Mitzi, a local psychic known for her eccentric ways and belief in spirits. The protagonist, Mallory, and her acquaintance, Adrian, are suddenly surrounded by law enforcement as they investigate Mitzi's unexpectedly open house. Their act of entering Mitzi's residence without permission draws suspicion from a young officer named Darnowsky, who appears overly eager, perhaps due to the rarity of such a case in the typically quiet town of Spring Brook.

The officers, now joined by Detectives Briggs and Kohr—a pair reminiscent of out-of-shape high school guidance counselors—interrogate Mallory and Adrian, hoping to uncover any relevant details about Mitzi's last known activities. Mallory provides a rather curious account involving a séance she and Mitzi conducted a few days prior, where Mitzi, who believed Mallory's cottage was haunted, attempted to communicate with spirits using a spirit board. Adrian was present as well and remembers Mitzi leaving at one o'clock. Both detectives seem intrigued, albeit amused, by the tales of ghosts and hauntings.

The atmosphere is thick with suspicion and undercurrents of the supernatural. As Mallory talks with Detective Briggs, it's revealed that Mitzi was found dead in the woods, clad only in a nightgown, and without the



abundance of jewelry she was usually seen wearing. This oddity raises more questions than answers. There are no visible signs of injury, suggesting a possible medication mishap, a theory Briggs seems inclined to explore further.

The story takes another turn when Caroline, Mallory's employer, calls to express her shock upon hearing about Mitzi's death. She recounts having heard Mitzi shouting at someone on the night she died, although no one else was seen. This bizarre detail adds another layer of mystery to the case, especially when Caroline questions the possibility of Mitzi having unforeseen late-night visitors.

As the investigation unfolds, Adrian and Mallory deliberate over strange notes they retrieved from Mitzi's séance session. With Adrian's help, the notes are deciphered, revealing cryptic Hungarian words warning of danger, which deepens the intrigue. The message—translated with the help of Google—reads: "YES X BEWARE X THIEF X HELP X FLOWER." This cryptic communication raises more questions, such as the identity of the thief and what "help flower" might signify, linking back to Mitzi's drawings of blooming flowers.

The narrative progresses with a sense of urgency as the clues slowly begin to form a picture, albeit still elusive and fragmented. The chapter closes with a call from the Rest Haven Retirement Community, suggesting an impending



revelation that might connect past events to present mysteries.

Throughout the chapter, the interplay of suspense, the supernatural, and small-town tension weaves a complex tapestry of intrigue, urging both characters and readers to piece together the puzzle of Mitzi's tragic demise and its potential connections to long-standing ghostly legends.

Chapter Element	Summary
Setting	Spring Brook - a quiet town where Mitzi, a local psychic, dies under mysterious circumstances.
Main Characters	Mallory, Adrian, Officer Darnowsky, Detectives Briggs and Kohr.
Situation	Mallory and Adrian are found inside Mitzi's house without permission, arousing police suspicion.
Interrogation	Detectives interview Mallory and Adrian about their connection to Mitzi, revealing their attendance at a recent séance.
Mystery Elements	Mitzi's death seems odd: found in woods in nightgown, without her usual jewelry, no visible injuries.
Clues and Theories	Briggs suggests medication mishap; Caroline hears Mitzi shouting before she died; cryptic séance notes.
Supernatural Factors	Mention of ghosts and hauntings intensifies the mystery surrounding Mitzi's death.
Cryptic Note	Hungarian words decoded to "YES X BEWARE X THIEF X HELP X FLOWER," adding intrigue.
Relation to	Chapter suggests possible link between Mitzi's death and local ghost



Chapter Element	Summary
Ghostly Legends	stories.
Narrative Progression	Clues progressively form a complex yet incomplete picture; call from a retirement community implies further revelations.
Atmosphere	A blend of suspicion, suspense, and supernatural tension pervades the narrative.

More Free Book



undefined

Chapter 24:

In Chapter 24, Mallory receives a call from Jalissa Bell, a caregiver at Rest Haven Akron, a nursing home where Mrs. Campbell resides. Mallory initially sought information from Mrs. Campbell, who unfortunately has late-stage dementia and is unable to provide the details she needs about an inheritance linked to Aunt Jean. Jalissa suggests visiting during visiting hours if Mallory still wishes to speak with Mrs. Campbell, but Mallory realizes the trip is a long shot and impractical with limited time to prove her honesty to the Maxwells.

After deciding against the visit, Mallory and Adrian, a supportive friend, go out to dinner at a local bistro and walk around town. Even though Adrian offers his support, Mallory is preoccupied with convincing the Maxwells of her sincerity while dealing with the notion that she no longer belongs in Spring Brook since the loss of her job.

Adrian suggests that they try to continue the mysterious series of drawings that might reveal Anya's story—a ghost or spirit who communicates through art. Mallory is hesitant to undergo another eerie experience but agrees to Adrian's plan to help Anya complete the picture sequence by allowing Anya to guide her while she is asleep.

They return to Mallory's cottage, and despite its simplicity, Adrian assures



Mallory not to lose hope. Preparing for the night, Mallory reflects on the peculiarity and intimacy of the situation they are about to initiate, even more intimate than a romantic encounter. Despite her hesitation, both settle into the night's unusual expectation, Adrian agreeing to stay as moral support.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 25 Summary:

Chapter 25 unfolds with a morning scene where the protagonist wakes up to the comforting aroma of butter and cinnamon. Adrian, an evident ally or friend, is in the kitchen making apple-cinnamon pancakes, a nod to his father's recipe. He is preparing for a road trip to Akron to visit Dolores Campbell, hoping she will be the key to unraveling some mysteries they are entwined in. Despite the skepticism about the clarity of Dolores's memory, Adrian is adamant about pursuing this lead, believing it might hold significance.

The protagonist is torn, wanting to accompany Adrian but committed to attending a farewell party organized by Teddy and his family. Adrian, determined to continue the quest alone, reassures her with a promise to call once he reaches Akron. They share a moment over the remarkable pancakes before he sets off, the protagonist feeling a tinge of sadness at his departure.

With Adrian on his journey, the protagonist begins to pack her belongings. Her reflections reveal a deeper attachment and appreciation for Spring Brook, contrasting with the less inviting image of Norristown where she is supposed to relocate. Her possessions have grown due to Caroline's kindness, yet the reality of her impending departure feels bittersweet.

The pool party, a gesture of farewell, unfolds with a mix of camaraderie and



underlying tension. As they engage in carefree activities with Teddy, the protagonist notes the absence of Caroline in the pool due to her sensitivities. The dinner arranged is elaborate and thoughtful, suggesting Caroline might feel remorseful about the situation, though nothing is explicitly confirmed. The family's conversation, however, provides a momentarily comforting illusion of normalcy.

Dessert brings a surprise—a culinary delight that leaves the protagonist savoring each bite, yet it serves as a poignant reminder of impending change. Attempts to assist with post-dinner cleanup are dismissed, and she retreats with Teddy to the pool, promising him future contact even as she doubts it.

A pivotal moment occurs when the protagonist receives a call from Adrian, revealing that their understanding of Annie Barrett's fate was incorrect. Adrian shares photos and then hands the phone to Curtis, Dolores's son, who recounts a hidden family history. Annie was not a murder victim but rather a young woman who eloped with Willie, a black man, during a time of racial intolerance in Spring Brook. Her disappearance was dramatised by her cousin George to maintain social standing, perpetuating the myth of her murder.

This revelation shatters the protagonist's beliefs, requiring her to reassess her understanding of events and the mysterious drawings that have haunted



them. As Adrian discusses visiting upon his return, the protagonist processes the seismic shifts in her understanding.

Detective Briggs re-enters the scene, and an interaction unfolds with Teddy, who questions the presence of law enforcement, exhibiting concern over an innocuous yet tense situation. Briggs reveals details of Mitzi’s death, suggesting an overdose, further muddying the waters of the protagonist’s investigation and adding complexity to her perceptions of those around her.

Through these interactions and discoveries, the protagonist realizes the deception she’s been ensnared in. With a growing sense of betrayal, she reflects inward, grappling with the multitude of revelations and what they mean for her future. The chapter closes on a somber note as the protagonist confronts the dissonance between her experiences and the truth, setting the stage for further introspection and resolution.

Section	Summary
Morning Scene	The protagonist wakes to the scent of apple-cinnamon pancakes made by Adrian, who plans a trip to Akron in hopes of solving a mystery involving Dolores Campbell.
Conflicted Emotions	The protagonist is torn between joining Adrian and attending a farewell party by Teddy's family. Adrian reassures her of his return with updates.
Reflection and Packing	The protagonist spends time reflecting on her attachment to Spring Brook as she packs, contrasting it with the less appealing Norristown.

Section	Summary
Pool Party Farewell	A bittersweet farewell at a pool party includes a carefully prepared dinner and a surprise dessert, indicating Caroline's possible remorse.
Adrian's Revelation	Adrian calls from Akron with Curtis, revealing Annie Barrett was not murdered but eloped, changing the protagonist's understanding of past events.
New Understanding	The protagonist absorbs the revelation, needing to reassess the story and the mysterious drawings. Adrian plans to visit upon return.
Detective's Return	Detective Briggs updates on Mitzi's overdose news, adding complexity to the protagonist's perspective on surrounding events and people.
Inner Reflection	Ensnared by deception, she introspects on the revelations, setting up for future introspection and potential resolution.

More Free Book



undefined

Chapter 26 Summary:

In this tense and revealing chapter, Mallory decides to confront Ted and Caroline, the guardians of Teddy, under the cover of night after ensuring Teddy is asleep. The setting is intimate, with the couple relaxing in their den, surrounded by Mallory's sketches of dark forests and angels—an eerie reflection of the unfolding mystery. Ted offers Mallory ginkgo biloba tea, a gesture laced with underlying tension, as the couple seems oddly at ease despite the looming confrontation.

Mallory has recently discovered unsettling drawings that spark worry. These sketches seem more than just random doodles—they suggest a story intertwined with some magical or electric symbolism that could represent a hidden narrative or warning.

As the meeting unfolds, Mallory learns startling truths. The heart of the mystery revolves around Teddy, whom she realizes is biologically a girl, a fact hidden from her and one that unsettles her deeply. Caroline and Ted made the decision to raise Teddy as a boy, respecting his gender identity, a choice grounded in love yet shrouded in secrecy given their recent move. The couple's explanation focuses on their dedication to letting Teddy express his true self, but it leaves Mallory puzzled, questioning their capability to handle what comes with such choices, especially as Teddy grows older.



The conversation takes a dramatic turn when Mallory challenges their story about a trip to Barcelona, exposing inconsistencies in their tales, particularly the lack of vaccination records for Teddy. This, coupled with a realization about their failure to provide tangible proof of Teddy as a boy, leads her to suspect foul play, potentially a kidnapping scenario, yet her accusations meet defensive hostility rather than confession.

The chapter spins towards violence as Ted attacks Mallory with a wine bottle, leaving her injured and struggling to call for help. Caroline’s demeanor turns cold and calculating, a sharp contrast to her previously warm presence. Mallory’s fight for survival unleashes her pent-up physical strength from rigorous self-training, battling for her life against the Maxwells' malevolent determination to keep their secrets.

As the chapter concludes, Ted reappears with a Vipertek stun gun, symbolizing the immediate threat and potential parallel to the drawings' mysterious wand—transforming the family room confrontation into a life-threatening showdown. Mallory’s fate hangs in the balance with the promise of further revelations as she battles not just for truth, but for her life.

Content Summary
Setting: Intimate evening confrontation with Ted and Caroline, amidst Mallory's ominous sketches.

Content Summary
Key Revelation: Teddy, biologically a girl, raised as a boy by Caroline and Ted.
Unsettling Discoveries: Mallory finds ominous drawings suggesting hidden narratives or warnings.
Conflict: Mallory accuses the couple of dishonesty, highlighting inconsistencies in their stories, particularly about a trip to Barcelona and lack of medical records for Teddy.
Physical Confrontation: Ted attacks Mallory; Caroline's demeanor shifts to cold and menacing.
Climactic Violence: Ted returns with a stun gun, adding to the threat and tension, reminiscent of the drawings' mysterious symbolism.
Implications: The chapter ends with heightened threat and the promise of further revelations as Mallory fights for her life and the truth.

More Free Book



undefined

Chapter 27 Summary:

Chapter 27 Summary:

Mallory awakens bound to a chair in her cottage, silenced and immobilized, with panic setting in. As she struggles to calm herself using breathing techniques she learned in rehab, she considers her options for escape. Her hands are tied behind her back, but her legs are free, leaving the possibility of a slow, awkward attempt to stand and move. She awaits the return of Adrian, hoping he might realize something is amiss when she doesn't answer the door.

Her captor, Caroline, enters the cottage, wearing blue latex gloves and carrying a tote bag filled with sinister contents: a BBQ grill wand lighter, a teaspoon, a syringe, and heroin laced with fentanyl. Caroline unbinds the gag on Mallory, warning her to keep quiet. Caroline then fabricates a story about Mallory's supposed drug relapse, planning to make her death appear as an overdose caused by stress and unresolved grief.

Mallory confronts Caroline, accusing her of murdering a woman named Anya (whose real name was Margit) and kidnapping her daughter, Flora, who is now known as Teddy. Caroline deflects the accusations, claiming self-defense and portraying herself as a rescuer of the child. She rationalizes



her actions by recalling her past struggles with infertility and the emotional void it left.

Desperate to stall Caroline's lethal plan until Adrian arrives, Mallory prompts Caroline to share more of her story, which further reveals Caroline's twisted justification for kidnapping Teddy and hiding Anya's murder.

Caroline recalls their past life in Manhattan and their decision to move to upstate New York for a fresh start, where she encountered Margit and Flora. Caroline paints herself as a savior of Flora, taking drastic measures after feeling the child was neglected.

As Caroline confesses, she admits to the fallout with Anya, which resulted in a deadly confrontation and her subsequent plan to hide her crime by assuming custody of Teddy. Overcome with compulsion, she adopts and disguises Flora as a boy to avoid detection and begins a new life in West Virginia. Despite their attempts to move on, Margit's vengeful spirit haunts their son, perpetuating Caroline's guilt and unease.

With time running out, Caroline executes her plan to kill Mallory with an overdose, leaving her to die alone in darkness. As Mallory fights consciousness, Margit's spirit appears, signifying that Mallory has indeed overdosed.

Chapter	Setting & Initial Situation	Key Events	Confrontation & Revelations	Resolution & Consequences
27	<p>Mallory awakens tied to a chair in her cottage.</p> <p>Silenced and immobilized.</p> <p>Attempts to calm herself using breathing techniques from rehab.</p>	<p>Caroline enters with a tote bag containing dangerous items.</p> <p>Bag contains a lighter, teaspoon, syringe, and drugs.</p> <p>Caroline fabricates story of Mallory's supposed relapse and planned death by overdose.</p>	<p>Mallory accuses Caroline of murder and kidnapping.</p> <p>Caroline deflects and claims self-defense and rescuing the child.</p> <p>Caroline shares her backstory of infertility and emotional void.</p> <p>Caroline provides insights into their past in Manhattan and move to New York.</p>	<p>Caroline confesses past actions and motivation.</p> <p>Details emergence of Margit's spirit and plan to end Mallory's life.</p> <p>Caroline leaves Mallory to die alone.</p> <p>Margit's spirit appears, marking Mallory's overdose.</p>



Chapter 28:

In Chapter 28, Mallory finds herself in an eerie, dream-like state, interacting with a ghostly figure, Margit, dressed in white, who emanates a mix of comforting familiarity and overwhelming sorrow. Despite Mallory's initial fears of being trapped in an afterlife, the presence of Margit—a beautiful but battered apparition—reassures her with a sense of shared grief, urging her to reconcile with past mistakes and forgive herself.

Mallory's reverie is abruptly interrupted by Ted, who dispels her fear of being drugged by revealing he swapped the heroin with baby powder, freeing her from her restraints. Ted's confession of orchestrating an escape plan to relocate to Washington State with Mallory deepens the tension, especially as he insists on leaving his son, Teddy, behind, fearing retaliation from Caroline, his dangerous wife.

As Ted unravels the truth about his protective yet controlling actions, Caroline's sudden return escalates the situation. She shoots Ted, revealing her knowledge of his secret surveillance of Mallory and accuses him of having undesirable intentions. In a desperate bid to frame Mallory for Ted's attempted murder, Caroline forces Mallory into a life-or-death scenario involving a knife.

A chaotic struggle ensues when Ted, grievously injured, creates an



opportunity for Mallory to escape. As Mallory flees with Teddy, she is chased through the forest by Caroline. Caroline's pursuit brings them to the brink of confrontation, but in a twist of fate, Teddy is possessed by the spirit of Margit, who empowers him to fatally wound Caroline with an arrow, revealing the depth of her maternal protection.

The climax reaches as law enforcement arrives, unwittingly trapping both Mallory and Teddy in the aftermath of violence. Mallory, taking the fall for Caroline's death to protect Teddy, relinquishes the arrow weapon, accepting responsibility and offering Teddy a chance at a normal life. Ultimately, Mallory's sacrifice is mirrored by the vanishing presence of Margit, symbolizing a bittersweet resolution between the living and the dead—a poignant close to the ordeal and a step toward healing old wounds.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





App Store
Editors' Choice



22k 5 star review

Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

tes after each book summary
understanding but also make the
and engaging. Bookey has
ding for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages
Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway
to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity
is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

ding habit
o's design
ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the
important parts of a book. It also gives me enough
idea whether or not I should purchase the whole
book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for
summaries are concise, ins
curated. It's like having acc
right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen
to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary
of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a
great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with
busy schedules. The summaries are spot
on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh
I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 29 Summary: One Year Later

The chapter opens one year after a traumatic event, with the protagonist, Mallory, reflecting on the difficulty of recounting the events surrounding Flora's abduction and her rescue. Flora's father has encouraged Mallory to document the story while it is still fresh, believing Flora will one day seek the truth. Despite media frenzy and offers for exclusive interviews, Mallory and Flora's father chose privacy over public exposure.

The narrative then shifts to the immediate aftermath of the incident. Ted and Caroline Maxwell died under violent circumstances involving Mallory. Taken into police custody, Mallory was interrogated, withholding details to protect Flora and simplify the complex truth, especially the mysterious role Flora's deceased mother played through her drawings. However, evidence corroborating Mallory's claims emerged, including Flora's true identity and background. Eventually, the truth solidified, and Mallory was released, reunited with her partner Adrian, who had incidentally stumbled upon the scene and alerted authorities.

In the following months, Flora returned to Seneca Lake with her father, easing into family life. Adrian returned to finish his studies, inviting Mallory to join him, but she opted to live with her supportive sponsor. Though she longed to visit Flora, medical advice discouraged it due to Flora's fragile state and need to solidify her identity, transitioning back from the persona of



“Teddy,” imposed on her by her captors, to her real self, Flora. Under her father's care, Flora is supported in exploring her gender identity freely and involved in various therapies to aid her recovery.

Mallory also takes steps to put her own life back together, reconnecting with her estranged mother, who has remarried and is invested in Mallory's recovery and acknowledging her achievements. The chapter touches on themes of family, redemption, and personal growth, showcasing Mallory's reluctance to revisit certain past connections, like a former research project with Dr. Lowenthal.

Toward the chapter's close, Mallory decides to pursue a teaching degree at Drexel University. Encouraged by progress on all fronts, Mallory makes another attempt to visit Flora, who is now well-adapted to her life as a girl living in a close family setting. Despite an initially awkward reunion, Flora eventually shows a silent appreciation for Mallory, hinting at eventual reconciliation and closure.

The chapter concludes with Mallory's hopeful perspective on Flora's future curiosity about her past. This book—a memoir of their shared experiences—will be ready for Flora when she's ready to learn about her past in more detail and perhaps reconnect more deeply with Mallory once more. Mallory remains waiting for that moment, hoping it will bring peace and understanding to all involved.

Aspect	Details
Setting	One year after Flora's abduction and rescue.
Main Characters	Mallory (protagonist), Flora, Flora's father, Adrian, Ted and Caroline Maxwell.
Initial Events	Mallory reflects on the past traumatic events. Encouraged by Flora's father to document the story.
Media & Publicity	Mallory and Flora's father choose privacy over public exposure despite media frenzy.
Incident Aftermath	Ted and Caroline Maxwell died violently. Mallory taken into custody and interrogated. Reluctantly withheld details to protect Flora. Evidence confirmed Mallory's claims.
Post-Incident Events	Flora returns to Seneca Lake with her father. Adrian returns to finish studies; Mallory lives with her sponsor. Efforts to solidify Flora's identity away from her captor's persona.
Personal Growth	Mallory reconnects with estranged mother. Explores themes of family, redemption, and personal growth.



Aspect	Details
Educational Pursuit	Mallory decides to pursue a teaching degree at Drexel University.
Reunion with Flora	Awkward initial reunion but shows promise for future connection. Hints at eventual reconciliation and closure.
Conclusion	Mallory's memoir awaits Flora for when she seeks understanding. Hopeful for peace and understanding.

