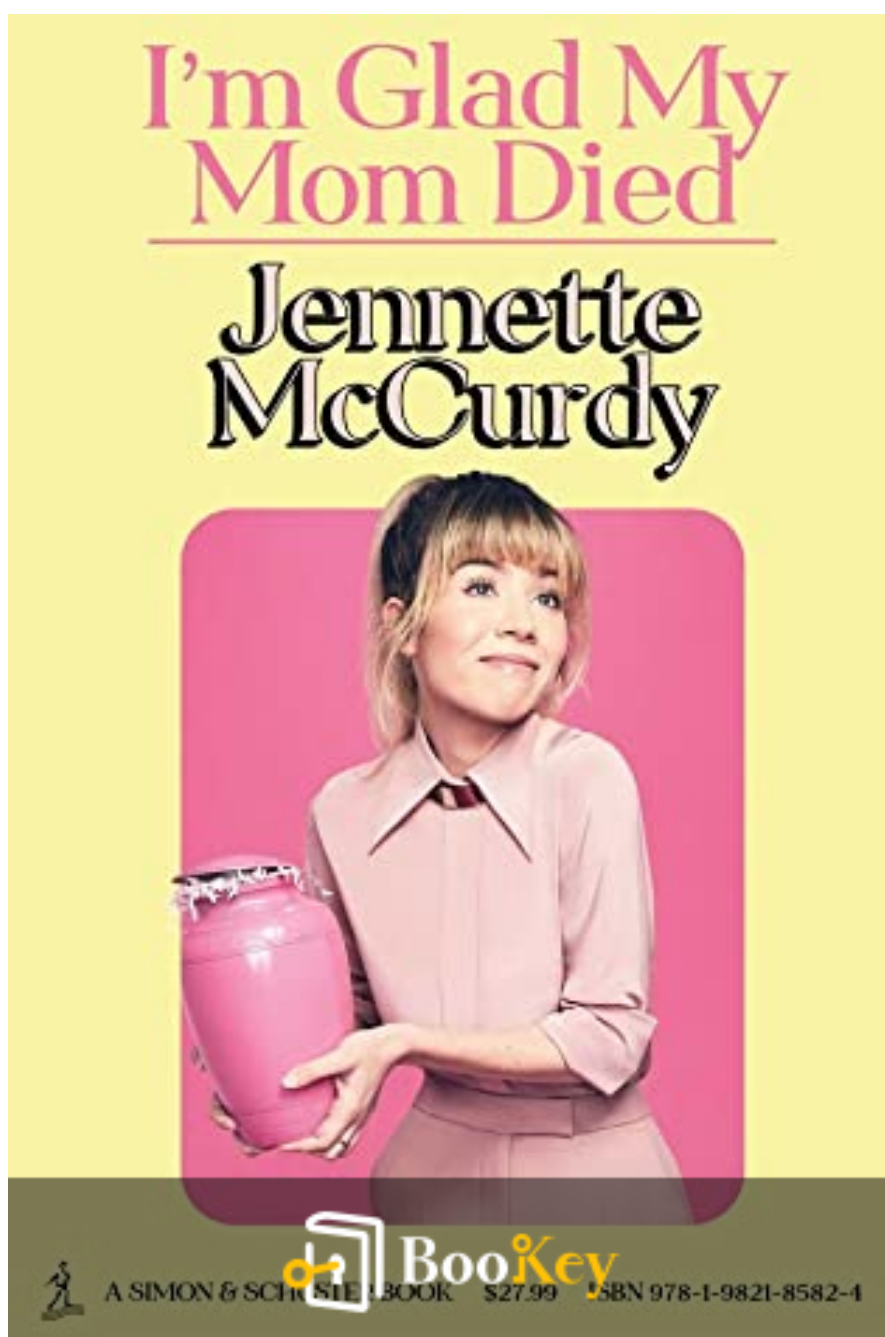


I'm Glad My Mom Died PDF (Limited Copy)

Jennette McCurdy



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I'm Glad My Mom Died Summary

"A Journey from Pain to Self-Discovery and Healing"

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About the book

In "I'm Glad My Mom Died," Jennette McCurdy pulls back the curtain on her tumultuous youth and the complexities of her relationship with her domineering mother in an unexpectedly candid and poignant memoir. Known for her roles in popular shows like iCarly, McCurdy offers readers a glimpse beyond the glitter of Hollywood, delving into an upbringing overshadowed by her mother's manipulative dreams and relentless pursuit of fame on her behalf. This raw narrative invites readers to explore the complexities of family dynamics, mental health, and personal identity through McCurdy's reflective storytelling, rife with humor, heartbreak, and resilience. Her journey from a life dictated by others to one where she assumes the reins sparks a compelling discourse on self-liberation and healing, leaving readers moved by both its vulnerability and its authenticity.

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About the author

Jennette McCurdy is a multifaceted American talent, widely recognized for her vibrant career as an actress, singer, director, and writer. With her breakout role as Sam Puckett on Nickelodeon's hit series "iCarly," she became a beloved household name, capturing audiences with her comedic timing and undeniable charisma. However, Jennette's journey in the entertainment industry was marked by complex challenges, which she bravely confronts in her poignant memoir "I'm Glad My Mom Died." Dedicated to creative endeavors beyond acting, Jennette has expanded her horizons through writing and directing, illustrating her versatility and resilience. Her candid storytelling and willingness to address difficult truths have made her a compelling voice in contemporary literature, offering readers an intimate glimpse into her personal experiences and the facets of her introspective world. Through her introspections, Jennette provides an inspiring narrative of self-discovery and empowerment, resonating strongly with readers seeking authenticity and hope.

****Note:**** This paragraph is specifically designed to introduce Jennette McCurdy as an author, focusing on her literary contributions while acknowledging her broader work in the entertainment industry. It incorporates an understanding derived from publicly available information until October 2023.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

In the heartwarming and introspective narrative, the story begins with a young girl celebrating her sixth birthday surrounded by her family: her devoted and caring mom, her photo-loving grandpa, observant grandma, and older brothers Marcus, Dustin, and Scottie. Despite the warm family presence, the protagonist feels a stark contrast between the gift she desires and the one she receives—an unwanted Angelica-themed outfit—highlighting the complexities of familial expectations and the innocence of childhood fantasies. Her family dynamics, especially the tender yet fraught relationship with her mom, are laced with layers of love, misunderstanding, and silent sacrifices.

The backdrop of her mother's battle with breast cancer looms large over the household, infusing their daily lives with a palpable tension. Diagnosed with stage four cancer when the narrator was just two, her mother's ordeal is almost a reverent family narrative, recounted with a mix of pride and a peculiar fondness for the past. Despite the looming presence of illness, life moves forward. The protagonist's birthday wish, simple yet poignant, is for her mom to live another year—an innocent desire to hold onto the fragile yet powerful bond with her mother.

As the chapters progress, the narrative shifts to her mother's aspirations for her daughter to achieve the life she could not. The girl is thrust into the



world of acting, not out of personal ambition, but to fulfill her mother's dreams. A heartfelt and touching scene unfolds as her mother prepares her hair with butterfly clips, a symbol of the attention to appearance and the pursuit of fame. The young girl is conflicted, yearning for her mother's approval while grappling with her own uncertainties.

On her first day on an actual set, the girl encounters the harsh reality of acting—a nerve-wracking audition for *The X-Files*. The experience is both exhilarating and daunting, but despite failing to become a "principal actor," her mother remains hopeful, convinced of her daughter's potential for stardom. The narrative delves deep into the pressure of expectations and the juxtaposition of maternal ambition with childhood innocence.

Throughout these chapters, the protagonist navigates a world crafted by her mother's alleged sacrifices and dreams, yet she maintains a deep connection with her mom, whose happiness and approval are her guiding lights. The journey is one of self-discovery, a search for balance between personal desires and familial obligations, set against the backdrop of a mother's unyielding hopes and the unpredictable world of Hollywood. The story is a tender exploration of family, dreams, and the complexities of love, drawing readers into its authentic portrayal of a young girl's world on the brink of transformation.



Chapter 2 Summary:

Chapters 5-8 follow the life of a young girl as she navigates the complexities of family life and the early stages of her acting career, all against the backdrop of her family's involvement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In Chapter 5, we are introduced to the protagonist's chaotic home environment, which is starkly contrasted by the peace she finds during church services. Her family started attending church after her mother was diagnosed with cancer, hoping that faith would aid her recovery. The protagonist enjoys church, not only for the teachings and songs such as "Popcorn Popping," but also as a reprieve from her cluttered and tense home. The house, owned by her paternal grandparents, is filled with possessions that have accumulated since her mother's illness, transforming it into an oppressive space. Financial struggles are a constant source of stress, affecting rent payments and contributing to the overall tension.

Chapter 6 shifts focus to the protagonist's relationship with her father, who works multiple jobs to support the family. Their interactions are awkward and strained, unlike the ease she experiences with her mother. A family argument erupts when her father arrives home late, showcasing a recurring pattern of domestic issues, where her mother's anger leads to violent outbursts, exacerbated by mental health struggles. The protagonist's



attempts to mediate the situation are futile, serving instead to highlight her vulnerability within the family dynamic.

In Chapter 7, the protagonist's budding acting career is depicted as she works as a background actor on the film "Golden Dreams." She endures uncomfortable conditions during the shoot, symbolizing her unrecognized struggle in contrast to the "privileged" principal actors. A fortunate moment occurs when she is cast in a key shot due to her naturally somber expression, transforming her background role into a principal one. This development is celebrated by her mother, who keenly manages her acting career, hoping to secure a better future for her daughter.

Chapter 8 delves into the protagonist's aspirations in acting, fueled by her mother's relentless ambition. An opportunity arises when they connect with Barbara Cameron, a renowned youth agent. During the audition process, her older brother, Marcus, is signed by Barbara, while the protagonist initially faces rejection for lacking charisma. Her mother negotiates for a chance, successfully persuading Barbara to accept her on the condition of taking acting classes. This signifies her transition from background roles to principal roles, bringing her closer to achieving her mother's dreams and altering her journey within the industry.

These chapters build a foundation for understanding the protagonist's life, where the pressures of family expectations and the chaotic home life



intersect with her path in the acting world.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Finding Peace Amidst Chaos

Critical Interpretation: In the midst of a cluttered and tense home environment marked by financial struggles and family discord, you can still find moments of peace and solace, much like the protagonist finds in church. Consider finding a sanctuary—a place or activity that provides a reprieve when life gets overwhelming, whether it's through spirituality, hobbies, or quiet reflection. This key point invites you to recognize the power of stepping away from chaos to gain peace of mind and clarity, ultimately transforming the way you cope with life's inevitable hurdles.

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Chapter 3 Summary:

Chapter 9: Acting Class

Two months into a mandatory acting class suggested by her manager Barbara Cameron, Jennette finds herself attending sessions every Saturday morning. Her acting teacher, Miss Lasky, takes them through peculiar warm-up exercises, like facial contortions and animal mimicry, which Jennette finds uncomfortable and humiliating. Her mother, a cancer survivor with strong opinions, consistently reminds Jennette to comply without questions, emphasizing that silent obedience leads to more auditions. Despite the discomfort and vulnerability she feels while performing, Jennette excels at memorizing lines—a task she relishes for its lack of emotional demand. However, once memorization is done, the class transitions to scene work, which Jennette loathes, especially since her mother insists on watching. Her mother's intense sideline coaching and facial cues add stress to an already uncomfortable experience. But even with this pressure, Jennette finds relief when the class ends and she gets some respite from the demands of acting.

Chapter 10: The Audition

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Jennette is preparing for a Mad TV audition, specifically for a parody of Kathie Lee Gifford's children. Despite Jennette's hesitation to say certain words in the script due to their double meanings, her mother insists on it to avoid appearing difficult and increase her chances of getting more auditions, offering ice cream as a reward for doing well. On audition day, Jennette's nerves are palpable, but her mother's supportive and sometimes overbearing encouragement continues. Her performance elicits laughter, a good sign, and afterward, they visit an ice cream shop in celebration. Unexpectedly, Barbara calls with news of Jennette's successful audition. Her mother's joy is infectious, reinforcing Jennette's complicated feelings about her budding acting career and the sacrifices involved.

Chapter 11: Beauty and Friendship

In a tender moment, Jennette brushes her mother's hair while her mom prepares for lunch with an old friend, Karen. Her mother shares a tale of perceived betrayal from years ago, when Karen supposedly stole her baby name. Despite calling Karen a good friend, her mother claims Jennette as her best friend, which fills Jennette with joy and a sense of purpose. This relationship, where Jennette is her mother's emotional support, is a cornerstone of her life, reflecting the intense bond and dynamic between them.



Chapter 12: Missing Acting Class

A chaotic morning begins with her mother's frantic dishwashing, leading to Jennette's dad taking her to dance class—a rare bonding opportunity. Despite her mother's detailed and rigorous schedule for her acting and dance, Jennette enjoys the freedom with her father. They bike together, play at a park, and even detour for smoothies, which unintentionally makes Jennette miss acting class. While Jennette cherishes the time with her dad, she fears her mother's reaction to them being late. At home, her fears are realized as her mother erupts in anger, lamenting the missed opportunity for Jennette to perform a potentially impactful scene.

Chapter 13: Little Breaks

In Hollywood, Jennette experiences a series of small breaks rather than a single big one her mother dreams of. Her mother compares the industry to a bad boyfriend—stringing them along without commitment. Despite this, Jennette receives minor roles in commercials and independent films, building her resume and skills. She experiences both highs and lows, like enduring discomfort on set and indulging in small rewards. Her ongoing callbacks provide hope, with reassurance from Barbara of future success. Meanwhile, her mother's growing impatience is palpable, relying on faith



and persistence to eventually achieve the stardom they both yearn for.

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Chapter 3:

Chapter 14-20 Summary:

Jennette is anxiously awaiting her fourth callback for a coveted role in a family drama film, "Princess Paradise Park." As she waits, she fidgets nervously, hoping to land the role that could make her a star and relieve her from the pressures of constant auditions. Her mother is heavily invested in her success, frequently reminding Jennette of the potential stardom that awaits if she books the role. Jennette's internal dialogue is marked by the "Still Small Voice" she believes is the Holy Ghost guiding her. However, it's evident she struggles with compulsive rituals driven by this voice, which she later questions as potentially being symptoms of OCD. Despite not booking the role due to the film losing funding, Jennette continues to trust the voice, albeit with growing uncertainty.

Jennette's appearance is a significant focus for her mother, who often enhances Jennette's "natural beauty" using various cosmetic treatments, making Jennette self-conscious. Following the disappointing experience of not landing a role due to her "homely" appearance, her mother starts dressing her in outfits meant to enhance her beauty for auditions, leading Jennette to question her identity and the emphasis on appearance in her acting career.



Despite feeling embarrassed by her audition outfits, Jennette faces success and setbacks. In one instance, while auditioning for a part as a hermaphrodite on "Grey's Anatomy," she's informed she's "too pretty" for the role, a backhanded compliment that leaves mixed feelings.

Jennette's grandfather notes her compulsive rituals, suggesting she might need help, which her mother dismisses, insisting Jennette is "perfect." Jennette second guesses the source of her compulsions, unsure if they are divine guidance or a sign of OCD.

As Jennette auditions for various roles, including a demanding part in "Strong Medicine," she channels personal experiences into her performances. One successful audition sees her capturing adults' attention and earning praise from her mother, fulfilling her need for approval despite facing intense pressure. This performance is added to her demo reel, leading her mother to pursue a well-connected manager, Susan Curtis, to elevate Jennette's career.

Jennette falls sick with a severe cold but perseveres through an audition for "Karen Sisco," a crime show needing a homeless character. Her dedication pays off as she advances through numerous callbacks, impressing casting directors and overcoming competitors with more substantial credentials. Her mother celebrates Jennette's casting success, declaring pride in her



daughter's ability to portray a homeless character with "edge." Despite the high stakes and pressures, Jennette's journey in acting continues, driven by both her mother's ambitions and her growing resolve to prove herself.

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Chapter 4 Summary:

Summary of Chapters 21-24:

Chapter 21: Set in the McCurdy household, the chapter begins with the protagonist typing her résumé under the watchful eye of her mother, who emphasizes the importance of "Crying on cue" as a key skill, above all others, for child actors. The family's computer, newly constructed by her brother Marcus, is a symbol of their modest yet aspiring life, financed partly by the protagonist's small acting gigs. The mother is a pivotal figure in shaping her acting career, seeing "Crying on cue" as the ultimate tool to secure roles in Hollywood. This special skill was honed during challenging acting class exercises, creating a cycle of imagining tragic family scenarios for auditions—a process both emotionally taxing and necessary for success in the competitive world of child acting.

Chapter 22: In a conversation with her mother while awaiting an audition for another police procedural, the protagonist grapples with a newfound inability to cry on cue, feeling a disconnect from the emotional demands of acting. Additionally, this scene contrasts her inner conflict and her programmed response to please her mother despite her desires. Influenced by her mother's intense emotional manipulation, she retracts her fleeting rebellious declaration of quitting acting, choosing instead to perform



for her mother, exemplified by singing along to a Phil Collins song during the drive home.

Chapter 23: During a moment of respite from the pressures of acting, the protagonist's grandfather intervenes, sensing her anxiety over an upcoming audition for a film titled **My Daughter's Tears**, which requires a Russian accent she is struggling with. He offers her a small gift—a Mike Wazowski antenna topper from Monsters, Inc.—to remind her of the importance of finding joy in life. Through his thoughtful gesture, he emphasizes a child's right to a carefree life, encouraging her to embrace fun. His words momentarily destabilize the protagonist's ingrained belief in a life solely devoted to performance and preparation.

Chapter 24: This chapter focuses on the protagonist's desire to write, having completed her first screenplay, **Henry Road**. Despite her excitement to share this new venture with her mother, the reception is mixed. While she initially seeks her mother's approval, the conversation reveals her mother's disapproval of writing as a career path, seeing it as less glamorous compared to acting. This disheartens the protagonist as her mother disparages writers, reinforcing the protagonist's internal conflict between pursuing her love for writing and fulfilling her mother's dreams through acting. This tension underscores the division between her true self and the persona her mother imposes on her, further complicating her sense of identity and self-worth.



Chapter 5 Summary:

Chapter 25-29 Summary:

Jennette wakes up in her cluttered bedroom reflecting on her deep relationship with her mom. Their bond centers around shared experiences, notably the annual Revlon Run/Walk events they attend since her mom's cancer remission. The Run/Walk is more than an event celebrating survivorship; it's a symbol of her mom's ongoing narrative of overcoming hardship, something frequently highlighted in Jennette's auditions.

The bond with her mom takes a more complex turn as Jennette discovers a lump in her chest, fearing the worst due to her mother's cancer history. Her mom reassures her it's a sign of puberty, but Jennette is terrified by the prospect of growing up. She yearns to stay childlike, believing her mother's love hinges on her young appearance. Her mom subtly encourages her to restrict calories to remain small, which quickly becomes an obsessive practice for Jennette, forging a new secretive bond through their shared rituals of dieting.

Jennette's life intertwines with her Mormon upbringing, where she is labeled a "Second-Rate Mormon." This term refers to their family's inconsistent church attendance and less-than-perfect adherence to church expectations,

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fueling Jennette's fears of being sidelined within the community.

A more troubling aspect emerges with Jennette's unease during shower time, revealing her mom's invasive control cloaked as concern. This unwanted "examination" is presented under the guise of cancer vigilance but leaves Jennette feeling disconnected from her body, retreating mentally to thoughts of Disneyland to dissociate from the discomfort.

As Jennette pursues her acting career, her relationship with her mom becomes increasingly enmeshed with her professional success. Landing a role on the Nickelodeon show "iCarly" marks a pivotal moment. Her mother and she celebrate the milestone, hoping this regular role will improve their lives and fulfill her mother's dreams.

As work progresses on "iCarly," Jennette continues to experience the pressures of her mother's expectations, which extend to meticulous line rehearsals. Despite the success, persistent criticism from her mom maintains a level of stress in Jennette's life. The kindness from co-star Miranda, gifting a basket and a gift card, offers a rare moment of genuine friendship and support in the otherwise competitive world of child acting.

Throughout these experiences, Jennette's narrative conveys a life marked by deeply ingrained expectations, a struggle with identity, and the overarching theme of seeking approval from her mother while grappling with the

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boundaries of her own body and desires.

| Chapter No. | Key Themes | Details |
|-------------|---|---|
| 25-29 | Mother-Daughter Relationship | Shared experiences around Revlon Run/Walk; mother's cancer history influences bond. |
| | Body Image and Control | Jennette fears puberty; mother encourages calorie restriction; dieting creates a secretive bond. |
| | Religious Influence | Labeled "Second-Rate Mormon"; family's inconsistent involvement fuels feelings of inadequacy. |
| | Invasive Control | Mother's "examinations" during shower time heighten discomfort; Jennette dissociates mentally. |
| | Acting Career and Validation | Landing on "iCarly" signifies professional growth; mother's expectations add pressure. |
| | Friendship and Support | Co-star Miranda brings a rare moment of compassion with her gift, contrasting the industry pressures. |
| | Seeking Approval and Identity Struggles | Narrative highlights Jennette's pursuit for her mother's approval while battling personal boundaries. |



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Overcoming the Fear of Growing Up and Embracing Change

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 25-29 of 'I'm Glad My Mom Died,' a crucial idea emerges surrounding the fear and uncertainty of growing up. Jennette McCurdy's anxious anticipation of adolescence is compounded by her mother's expectations and the ominous specter of cancer. However, this chapter reveals that maturing is not something to dread but rather a natural progression to embrace. By confronting her fears head-on, Jennette illustrates the potential for personal growth and self-acceptance amidst adversity. This chapter inspires readers by highlighting the resilience that can be found when one chooses to embrace change and uncertainty, ultimately guiding them towards self-discovery and autonomy. Instead of dwelling in fear, we can learn to step into our future with courage, acknowledging that each phase of our lives contributes to our ever-evolving story.



Chapter 6 Summary:

The chapters present a complex narrative of a young actress navigating the pressures of fame, family, and identity. In Chapter 30, we are introduced to a heartfelt moment where the protagonist, Jennette, grapples with finding the perfect gift for her friend and co-star, Miranda. The two girls met during the screen test for the television show **iCarly,** where Miranda displayed a level of independence and coolness that Jennette admired and desired for herself. Despite their mutual shyness, their friendship blossoms over AOL Instant Messenger, highlighting the contrast between Miranda's on-set reservedness and her vibrant online personality. However, Jennette's insecurity about the gifts her mother chooses for Miranda—a plush panda and a fuzzy journal—reflects her concern about maintaining their budding friendship amidst the pressures of their careers and the expectations to exchange equally cool gifts.

Chapter 31 continues to explore Jennette's struggles with self-image and the discomfort she feels in revealing clothing during a wardrobe fitting for the show. She reflects on her desire to appear childlike rather than sexual, a conflict heightened by the wardrobe designer's insistence on bikinis at the behest of "The Creator," a powerful and intimidating figure in her professional life. This chapter paints a poignant picture of Jennette's internal battle with growing up and the pressures of maintaining a certain appearance for the industry.



In Chapter 32, the narrative shifts to Jennette's first on-screen kiss, which becomes an internal conflict between her professional obligations and personal emotions. The Creator's off-camera demands exacerbate her anxiety, highlighting the pressures young actors face when their personal milestones occur on set rather than in private, meaningful moments. Jennette's romantic ideals clash with the reality of acting, leaving her disillusioned and questioning her feelings about fame and personal experiences.

Chapter 33 delves into a high-stakes lunch meeting with The Creator, orchestrated by Jennette's mother. The meeting is marked by The Creator's manipulative compliments and the unspoken power dynamics that Jennette has come to recognize. He proposes a spin-off show for Jennette, contingent upon her continued compliance and obedience, foreshadowing the conditional nature of her success in the industry. Jennette's mother is overjoyed at the prospect, but Jennette herself is conflicted, sensing the strings attached to the offer.

Finally, Chapter 34 provides insight into Jennette's evolving relationship with fame and her growing resentment towards her mother. Although her friendship with Miranda offers some solace, the pressures of fame and her mother's expectations weigh heavily on her. Jennette's mother continues to stress about her daughter's salary and body, while Jennette becomes



self-conscious about her changing appearance and the constant public scrutiny. Fame creates an emotional chasm between Jennette and her mother, who fails to see the personal cost of the success she so eagerly sought for her daughter. Jennette struggles with feelings of exploitation and a deep-seated resentment that challenges her perception of parental love and her own identity.

Throughout these chapters, the overarching themes of the struggles of child stardom, the complexities of familial relationships, and the quest for personal identity under the spotlight are intertwined, offering a raw and introspective look into Jennette's world.

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Chapter 7:

Chapters 35-40 Summary:

In these chapters, Jennette McCurdy reflects on her complicated relationship with her mother and her own personal struggles amidst her rising fame. The narrative begins with Jennette trying to wake her exhausted mother for church, only to be rebuffed. This interaction highlights the shifting dynamics in their relationship, as Jennette grapples with her own fatigue from a grueling schedule as a child star. Their long absence from church is symbolically aligned with Jennette's changing life, where material success seems to replace spiritual needs and rituals, pointing to a deeper transformation in her worldview.

The storyline takes a pivotal turn when Jennette experiences her first period, a moment underscored by embarrassment and confusion. This event is a rite of passage, yet for Jennette, it is met with somber acceptance rather than celebration. Her mother and teacher's reaction compounds her sense of shame, leading Jennette to a resolute decision to succumb to anorexia in an effort to maintain her childlike body, avoiding the imminent pressures of adulthood and womanhood.

Amidst these personal developments, Jennette embarks on her country music



career, initiated during a writers' strike that halted her acting work. Her mother is ecstatic at Jennette's progress, though the tears shed during the listening of Jennette's first single hint at a deeper concern: her mother's cancer has returned. Their bond is tested, with Jennette feeling a heavy mix of responsibility and guilt, further complicated by the realization that she is increasingly enjoying her independence.

Jennette's music tour is a physically and emotionally taxing journey. As she traverses the country, entertaining young fans with performances and autograph signings, she encounters two significant changes: an unexpected enjoyment of autonomy and a burgeoning and uncontrolled appetite. Her newfound eating habits reflect a rebellion against years of her mother's strict dietary control, as well as a confused way to cope with emotional turmoil.

During the tour, Jennette experiences her first real kiss with Lucas, a bandmate, which prompts a realization that despite receiving physical affection, there is a lack of genuine emotional connection.

Upon returning home, Jennette is shocked by her mother's deteriorated physical state due to chemotherapy. Yet, the moment her mother criticizes Jennette's weight, it reverts to the familiar dynamic that has governed their relationship. Despite the distress of her mother's illness, Jennette clings to the critical and commanding presence she's always known, finding a strange solace in the return to a perceived norm.



Throughout these chapters, Jennette navigates the tension between seeking independence and being tethered to her mother's expectations, highlighting the complexities of a life lived in the public eye while grappling with personal growth and familial loyalty. The journey is both an exploration of self and an ongoing negotiation with the pressures of fame and maternal influence.

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Beautiful App



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Chapter 8 Summary:

Chapter 41:

The protagonist, Jennette, an 18-year-old actress on the popular Nickelodeon show "iCarly," is having dinner with "The Creator," the man behind both "iCarly" and another hit show, "Victorious." He frequently compares her to the edgier "Victorious" cast and pressures her to take a sip of his whiskey-based drink, implying it will give her an "edge." Jennette, striving to please him as she navigates her new contract for a spin-off, takes a sip despite her initial reluctance. At the dinner, Jennette wrestles with mixed signals from The Creator about her talents and future prospects, feeling both special and insignificant. She's also dealing with overeating and the pressure to follow a strict Nutrisystem diet with her mother, who is currently battling cancer. The experience reinforces her discomfort and fear of disappointing authority figures like The Creator, who pretends to be concerned for her while exerting his influence over her career and personal boundaries.

Chapter 42:

Jennette is moving into her first apartment, supported by her new management and Nickelodeon, for her acting career. Her mother, suffering



from cancer, is initially supportive but worried about not being involved in Jennette's life. The move is bittersweet as it symbolizes Jennette's growing independence but also her mother's deteriorating health, now necessitating a wheelchair for frequent use. Although Jennette feels excited about her autonomy, guilt haunts her due to her mother's fragility and escalating desperation. As they navigate this transition, her mother hints at staying overnight, which soon becomes a permanent arrangement, transforming Jennette's solo apartment into a shared space and capturing an ongoing struggle between independence and familial obligation.

Chapter 43:

Jennette enjoys an outing at Six Flags with the "iCarly" crew, sitting closely with Joe, an older co-worker with whom she shares a flirtatious friendship. This relationship began with shared interests and clandestine meetings outside of the set, igniting a strong physical and emotional attraction despite the barriers of age and propriety. Jennette experiences both excitement and apprehension from Joe's attention, a mix of adolescent infatuation and the allure of an experienced older man, leading her to anticipate a deeper connection.

Chapter 44:



Jennette tells her mother she is going for a sleepover with her co-star, Miranda, but instead, she plans to spend the night with Joe. Her mother, struggling with her own health and feeling abandoned, becomes hysterical, accusing Jennette of being a liar and threatening to figure out her deceptions. Joe, who is dealing with regret over a recent breakup, meets Jennette for what should be their first special night as a couple. However, his drunken state creates an unromantic and tense atmosphere. Despite the turmoil, Jennette is eager to please Joe and, wanting to maintain their relationship, reluctantly gives him a blow job, a decision driven by teenage insecurities and the confusion between love and obligation.

Chapter 45:

Jennette and Joe arrive in Hawaii, having taken advantage of a vacation gift from Nickelodeon. Their relationship has become more entrenched, though it's fraught with volatility and concealment, especially from Jennette's mother who remains in the dark about Joe. Jennette maintains a charade with her mother by pretending to be on the trip with her friend Colton, assisted by three-way calls. During the vacation, paparazzi capture images of Jennette and Joe, risking exposure and prompting a flood of hateful emails and calls from her mother. The venomous communication accuses Jennette of being a disappointment and blames her for her mother's ailments. Despite Joe's



comfort, Jennette is consumed by guilt and self-loathing, ignited by her body image issues and her mother's emotional manipulation. The chapter concludes with Jennette initiating an attempt to repair her strained relationship with her mother after the harsh exchange, illustrating the deep, complex conflict between familial love and the need for personal freedom.

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Chapter 9 Summary:

Chapter 46: A Song for an Unspoken Pain

On Mom's birthday at Panda Express, Jennette's mother requests her to sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" at her funeral, breaking their unspoken rule of ignoring her cancer. This request is jarring, especially as they have been maintaining a facade of polite small talk since a trip to Hawaii, avoiding deeper issues like her illness and the 'Joe situation'. Jennette is conflicted, not only because it forces her to confront her mother's impending death but also because she feels the song's chorus is out of her vocal range. Despite this, Jennette agrees to practice the song, driven by guilt and obligation to fulfill her mom's dying wish.

Chapter 47: A Convulsion of Memories

As Jennette guides her grandfather's errant navigation with Mom in the wheelchair, they head to Wendy's for lunch. Mom suggests Wendy's to maintain her humble facade, despite still battling advanced cancer. On their way, a billboard featuring Jennette from her Nickelodeon days triggers uncomfortable memories. Suddenly, Mom has a seizure. In panic, they rush her to the hospital. Amid this chaos, Jennette recognizes her life is mocking



her, with Mom's health deteriorating irreversibly against the backdrop of her past fame.

Chapter 48: Eating Away Sorrow

During a solemn family vigil for their unresponsive mother, who suffered a seizure due to a brain tumor, Jennette distracts herself with a binge at Burger King. Returning to the hospital, she attempts, but fails, to purge the meal, feeling a profound shame. This reaction is intertwined with the emotional turmoil of seeing her mother alive yet unresponsive, triggering an anxious conflict between confronting and avoiding her personal struggles.

Chapter 49: The Emptiness of Final Takes

The closing of iCarly evokes tears, not for the show's end, but for the uncertain future of Jennette's friendship with her co-star Miranda. Their bond, genuine in a world of superficial sets, transcended typical on-set relationships. Jennette is aware that, unlike past acquaintances, she hopes her connection with Miranda survives beyond the context of the show, as their friendship offers genuine solace amidst her life's upheaval.

Chapter 50: Untangling Attachment

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Jennette grapples with breaking up with Joe, fearing attachment while her mother's health declines, creating layers of internal conflict. Their relationship has hit a breaking point, not just due to Joe's flaws but also due to Jennette's growing need to focus on family. As she ends it, she acknowledges the guilt that surrounds love and its complications, hinting at a larger struggle with personal attachments during this emotionally taxing period.

Chapter 51: A Gut Feeling

As Jennette and Miranda enjoy a drive post-wrap, Jennette receives alarming news about her mother's surgery. Her father reassures her it's minor, asking her to stay put. Yet, Jennette is uneasy, a premonition confirmed when her father calls again, announcing her mother is in a coma. Jennette's world pauses, and with Miranda's support, they head to the hospital, underscoring the precariousness of her mother's health and her life's stability.

Chapter 52: A Quiet Vigil

In the hospital, Jennette clings to the notion that her mother, despite being



labeled terminal, might recover. Even as she calls out to her unresponsive mother with news of weight loss—a trivial detail in the face of death—she bridges a gap between hope and acceptance. The family shares a rare laugh when they decipher her mother's garbled request for "Canada Dry," providing a brief respite from the sorrowful vigil, yet underscoring the severity of their reality.

Chapter 53: Numbing the Void

Embarking on a road trip to San Francisco with her friend Colton, Jennette tries alcohol for the first time, experiencing a fleeting escape from her emotional burdens. The carefree, drunken antics offer a temporary reprieve from thoughts of her mother's condition and her own self-loathing fears. Engulfed by this newfound freedom from judgment and anxiety, Jennette relishes the sensation of being untethered from her weighty responsibilities and insecurities, if only for the night.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Accepting Tragedy to Heal and Grow

Critical Interpretation: Jennette's decision to sing 'Wind Beneath My Wings' at her mother's funeral is emblematic of acceptance. It signifies the moment where she stops denying the reality of her mother's condition and chooses to fulfill her mother's final request, despite the song being emotionally and vocally challenging for her. In our lives, acknowledging and confronting painful realities can lead to healing and personal growth. By facing life's inevitable adversities with grace and fulfilling obligations grounded in love, we can find strength to overcome, forging deeper emotional resilience and understanding.



Chapter 10 Summary:

The protagonist is abruptly awakened by a persistent knock on their door, jolting them from a deep sleep that feels like a hangover—an uncommon sensation despite frequent nights of drinking recently. This newfound discomfort comes after mixing various liquors the previous night, marking a change from their usual resilience. It's 8:05 a.m., and panic sets in as they realize they should already be leaving for a flight—an oversight due to forgetting to set an alarm.

Expecting the driver sent by Nickelodeon, who is supposed to take them to the airport, they open the door to instead find Billy, a cheerful contractor working on fixing their seemingly perfect new home that turned out to be plagued with issues. This house, purchased with dreams of a fresh start and a symbol of success, is slowly turning into a nightmare with its hidden, crumbling infrastructure, from broken pipes to leaking showers.

Amidst the chaos of construction and their frantic rush to pack a suitcase efficiently, a phone call from the protagonist's father shifts priorities dramatically. Despite preparations for a flight to attend a Nickelodeon event in New York, a call from their father suggests it might be time to visit their ailing mother, who he believes is nearing the end of her life. Hesitant and frustrated by previous false alarms, the protagonist hangs up, conflicted yet deciding to heed the urgent family call.



The next chapter reveals a somber scene. The protagonist sits in silence on a couch beside their siblings, watching their mother in a hospice care setup in their cluttered family home. It's a moment devoid of tears due to emotional exhaustion and repeated experiences of near-goodbyes. A ping from Nickelodeon generously releases them from duties to be where they are needed, while another from the "Current Guy" they're casually seeing, fails to grasp the gravity of the situation, making their patience wear thin.

Amidst the emotional turbulence, the protagonist ends this casual relationship, finding the thought of vulnerability and deep connection too daunting alongside grief. Their mother finally passes with a last breath, a moment met with stunned silence rather than tears. As news swiftly spreads through social media, with even E! News reporting it before the family has fully processed it, the protagonist reflects on the divide between those who know grief and those who don't, finding a kind of cathartic release in finally accepting the reality of their mother's passing.

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Chapter 11:

The protagonist is struggling with deep personal issues in the wake of their mother's death and a tumultuous career. After saying a difficult goodbye to their mother, the character is dragged into a numbing routine, seeking distractions and grappling with an eating disorder. This journey sets the stage for a complex narrative involving grief, body image, and professional dissatisfaction.

In the aftermath of their mother's passing, the family tries to process the loss by engaging in mundane activities such as visiting a shopping mall. The protagonist battles with disordered eating, seeing a twisted sense of value in not feeling hungry, which is a haunting attempt to honor their late mother. This leads to a cycle of purging and bingeing, illustrating the chaos within.

At the funeral, the protagonist faces the pressure to fulfill their mother's last request of singing a specific song. However, they crumble under the weight of expectation and grief. The internal struggle with their own identity and guilt is palpable.

Professionally, the protagonist grapples with jealousy and resentment towards their co-star, Ariana Grande, who has a seemingly meteoric career in contrast to their own stalled ambitions. The protagonist feels sidelined and overworked, being praised for being a "good sport," a phrase that



increasingly grates on them as they see opportunities slip away.

The character's personal life intertwines with their professional frustrations, exemplified by a reckless night out that ends in an uncomfortable sexual encounter. The protagonist is left feeling detached, trapped, and struggling

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Chapter 12 Summary:

In these chapters, the protagonist takes us through her ongoing battle with bulimia and the complexities of her relationships and career. Initially, she's trying a new strategy: shopping at Whole Foods. The hope is that spending more on healthier groceries might prevent her from purging. Yet, the shopping trip highlights her deeper struggle with her eating disorder, as she scrutinizes calories and fat content obsessively. She's caught in a painful tug-of-war, wishing she had anorexia instead of bulimia, as she views anorexia as more controlled and admired within her circle.

Her bulimia has taken a physical toll, leaving her with health issues and a profound sense of shame. She despairs over her grandmother's attention-seeking calls, which add to her stress. Despite trying to block out this toxic relationship, she ends up blocking her grandmother entirely after another distressing interaction. This reflects her troubled family dynamics, as she grapples with the emotional baggage left by her deceased mother.

At work, the protagonist drifts through her acting job at a children's TV show, feeling disillusioned and disenchanted. She's detached from the role, haunted by career disappointments, and overwhelmed by the relentless demands of her eating disorder. The motivations that once drove her have dissipated, especially after a failed dream of directing. Her bulimia spirals, impacting her health and mental well-being profoundly.



The situation at the show worsens when the network sidelines its Creator following accusations of emotional abuse. Nonetheless, the protagonist finds solace in the news of the show's cancellation, even as rumors spread that put the blame on her. This narrative thread reveals the dark underbelly of her celebrity status and the pressures she faces as a public figure. Despite the network's attempt to silence her with a financial offer, she refuses, asserting her moral stance but later wondering if she made the right choice.

The cancellation of the show doesn't bring relief; instead, it intensifies her identity crisis. She's haunted by the character she played as a child star, trapped in a role she has outgrown but that the world won't let her shed. This perpetual struggle only adds to her sense of bitterness and resentment towards fame and her past in the limelight.

Amidst these trials, we see her celebrate an unfulfilled birthday, marked by a plunge into intoxication and an encounter with an unwanted cake. It symbolizes a deeper void—her life's former purpose, her mother's happiness, is now absent, leaving her adrift and unsure of her own desires or identity. With each attempt to escape through alcohol and eating, it's clear she's caught in a cycle, seeking comfort yet finding none, maintaining an unstable grasp on her world and her place within it.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Acknowledge and Confront Personal Struggles

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 12, you're confronted with a raw depiction of how avoidance and suppression of personal struggles can quietly dictate the course of one's life. As you navigate through the protagonist's battle with bulimia, it becomes ostensibly clear that acknowledgment is crucial. Rather than pretending the issue doesn't exist or diverting energy to mask it, facing the problem head-on can be transformative. This chapter serves as a powerful reminder that nurturing honesty with ourselves, recognizing our struggles without shame, can open pathways to healing and reclaiming control over our lives. It invites you to embrace vulnerability as a means to evolve beyond the confines of fear and societal pressures.

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In chapters 67 to 71, we follow Jennette's journey through patterns of hope, disappointment, struggle, and self-discovery. As an actress who has transitioned from children's shows to what she believes is her big break—a lead role in a new Netflix series—Jennette hopes to reshape her life and career. However, her optimism quickly dims when she discovers the show is not solely a Netflix production but a lower-budget collaboration with CityTV, causing her to question her choices and her future in acting.

Arriving in Toronto to shoot the series, Jennette immerses herself in a world of self-improvement, armed with stacks of self-help books and a determined self-focus until her plans are derailed by meeting Steven, the assistant director. Jennette's burgeoning relationship with Steven provides her a temporary reprieve from her inner turmoil. Enthralled by his charisma, their budding romance offers Jennette a sense of connection she had yet to experience, but it also distracts her from confronting her underlying issues—bulimia, alcohol use, and identity.

As their relationship develops through dates and shared vulnerabilities, Steven grows concerned about Jennette's well-being, especially her bulimia. He issues an ultimatum, compelling her to seek help if they are to maintain their relationship. This leads Jennette to begin therapy with Laura, a therapist and life coach with whom Jennette explores the complexities of her



struggles. Laura adopts a holistic approach, challenging Jennette to address her eating disorder and confront emotions tethered to her mother's death and career doubts.

In the midst of her therapy, Jennette faces the anxieties of red carpet appearances, now compounded by Laura's insistence on healthy eating before events to avoid binging and purging. Her public persona as a carefree star contrasts sharply with her internal battles over food and self-worth, which come to a head at a red carpet event. Despite Laura's supportive presence, Jennette's panic attack in the aftermath highlights the depth of her struggles. Laura, however, reassures her that this period of emotional upheaval signifies progress towards recovery.

Through these chapters, Jennette grapples with the dual pressures of public success and private turmoil. Her journey is one of realization: acknowledging her harmful coping mechanisms, recognizing the role of her acting career in shaping her identity, and beginning to understand the profound work required to heal and redefine herself.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

Chapter 72: A Breakthrough and Its Challenges

The protagonist, Jennette, is celebrating a significant milestone in her battle with bulimia—having gone 24 hours without purging, something she hasn't accomplished in three years. Sitting in therapy with Laura, Jennette shares this victory, although she is apprehensive about maintaining it without reverting to her harmful coping mechanism. Laura encourages her to dig deeper into her emotions and past experiences to uncover the root causes of her eating disorder. Despite Jennette's outward resistance, she acknowledges the complexity of her relationship with her mother, who she feels was both protective and possibly controlling. As Jennette struggles with the implications of Laura's insights—that her mother might have been abusive by modeling and encouraging disordered eating—she decides to leave therapy, delete Laura's contact, and return to old habits. She feels torn about her identity being intertwined with her mother's influence, unsure of how to navigate life without her mother's psychological shadow.

Chapter 73: A New Dynamic with Steven

Jennette is anxious as her boyfriend, Steven, arrives in Los Angeles to live

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with her while working on a six-month project. She is apprehensive about telling him she has quit therapy, especially since he encouraged her to start it. However, before she can bring it up, Steven surprises her by expressing enthusiasm about attending church together. Raised Catholic but previously indifferent to religion, his newfound zeal is spurred on by watching a Christian movie on Netflix. Jennette is taken aback, questioning whether this sudden religious interest represents a fundamental change in Steven. Despite her skepticism, she reveals the news of quitting therapy, which Steven surprisingly supports by saying therapy isn't necessary if they have religious faith.

Chapter 74: Navigating Faith and Relationships

The couple attends several church services, trying different denominations to find one that resonates with Steven. Despite spotting talented choir members, Jennette is disengaged and sees this church exploration as a phase. To her shock, Steven states he wants to take a vow of celibacy, deeming their sexual relationship sinful. Jennette, desperate to hold onto what she sees as one of the few positive aspects of her life, tries to seduce him. After a reluctant moment of intimacy, Steven remains resolved in his decision, much to Jennette's dismay. His firmness in abstaining from sex leaves her questioning the future of their relationship and grappling with her own needs amid the emotional turbulence in her life.



Chapter 15:

The protagonist grapples with complex family dynamics and personal challenges in these chapters. In Chapter 75, the narrator confronts their father about the troubled relationship with their late mother. They reflect on the mixed memories: both the rare moments of feeling loved by their father and the recurring disappointments, like his absenteeism and the family's turbulent history marked by infidelity and discord. This tension crescendos when the father reveals a shocking truth—he is not the biological father of the narrator or their siblings, a revelation that shatters the narrator's understanding of their familial identity.

In Chapter 76, the narrator struggles with this newfound knowledge, questioning their late mother's choices in withholding such a significant secret. While getting ready for a work trip to Australia, they try to process this upheaval and confide in their first real love, Steven, only to be blindsided by his own revelation: he believes he is the reincarnation of Jesus Christ. This admission overwhelms the narrator, adding another layer of distress to their already chaotic life.

The turbulent journey continues in Chapter 77, with the narrator enduring a physically and emotionally grueling flight to Sydney. They learn through a voicemail that Steven has been hospitalized and is being evaluated for schizophrenia. Amidst personal turmoil, the narrator considers Ariana



Grande's song "Focus on Me," pondering the idea of shifting attention to their well-being as a potential path forward.

Chapter 78 marks the narrator's tentative steps toward healing. They commence sessions with an eating disorder specialist, Jeff, whose

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Chapter 16 Summary:

Chapter 80: Jennette is struggling with a complex relationship with food, influenced by past experiences and familial pressures. During a therapy session with Jeff, she confronts her fears and judgments about eating, especially foods labeled as "risky" in her mind. Jeff is helping Jennette track her eating patterns to understand her behavior better. He sees that her erratic eating schedule leads to late-night binges and subsequent purges. He reassures Jennette that her eating habits need to be normalized and urges her to let go of her judgments around food. Jennette recognizes the emotional toll of these changes, realizing that her recovery journey, while challenging, is crucial. Despite a moment of relapse, she continues to persevere.

Chapter 81: In her therapy with Jeff, Jennette learns that slips in recovery are normal and should be viewed as temporary setbacks rather than failures. Jeff emphasizes the importance of avoiding the shame spiral that can turn a slip into a larger slide backward. Jennette gains insight into how her perfectionist tendencies contribute to her struggles with shame. She resolves to embrace mistakes as part of her recovery process, realizing that progress involves accepting and moving past these moments.

Chapter 82: Jennette is becoming increasingly concerned about her boyfriend Steven, who has numbed himself with excessive marijuana use



after his schizophrenia diagnosis. While Jennette makes strides in healing from her bulimia, Steven is spiraling deeper into dependency. Despite her attempts to support him by organizing activities and suggesting resources, Steven resists help. This disconnect creates a growing chasm between them, compounded by Jennette's realization that she can only change herself, not Steven.

Chapter 83: Jennette decides to sell her house due to the stress and unsafe environment it presents, despite her grandmother's disapproval. In therapy, Jeff encourages her to focus on how her living situation impacts her mental health. After a failed attempt to redecorate, Jennette recognizes that no amount of interior adjustment can rectify the underlying issues of loneliness and danger she feels at home. By prioritizing her mental well-being, she resolves to move to a more suitable, safer environment, choosing an apartment in a lively shopping center that suits her lifestyle better.

Chapter 84: Nervous about meeting her biological father for the first time, Jennette attends his jazz concert with her friends Colton and Miranda. Despite her fears and uncertainties about how he may react, she confronts him after the performance. To her relief, he acknowledges knowing about her existence and reveals details about his past with her mother, including a contentious custody battle. Although unsure of his sincerity, Jennette feels relief in having initiated contact. The encounter stirs mixed emotions,



providing closure on some questions while leaving others unanswered. Despite the brevity of their meeting, Jennette feels she has taken a significant step in understanding her familial history.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

In these chapters, we follow Jennette as she navigates through significant emotional transitions and personal realizations.

Chapter 85 opens with Jennette confronting a symbol of her long-time struggles with body image and self-worth: her scale. She's tried and failed multiple times to discard it, but this time, for her twenty-fourth birthday, she's turning it into a meaningful act of self-liberation. Jennette has been defined by the numbers on the scale for too long and recognizes that this has been an unhealthy measure of her self-worth. She bravely decides to part with it, aiming to experience "life beyond the scale," a step that feels simultaneously dramatic and necessary.

In **Chapter 86**, Jennette finds herself contemplating her relationship with her boyfriend, Steven, while they sit in a swan boat. They share a history of codependency, having spent years trying to fix each other's issues—her eating disorder and his addiction. After attending group therapy and focusing more on her own recovery, Jennette realizes how this endless cycle of attempts to "fix" has been the glue of their relationship. Their silence in the swan boat highlights the emptiness left when they stop being each other's saviors.

Chapter 87 portrays Jennette receiving news about her canceled Netflix

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show during a conference call with her agents. Contrary to what one might expect, she's relieved by this news, viewing it as freedom from a profession that demands too much control. After much deliberation, Jennette decides to take a break from acting, acknowledging the similar battles she faces in both her career and personal life— an endless fight for approval and control of her identity. She resolves to focus on taking control for herself, not letting her mother's aspirations or industry's uncertainties define her.

In **Chapter 88**, Jennette celebrates her twenty-sixth birthday at Disneyland with her friend Miranda. Despite the joyous setting, Jennette continues to battle her eating disorder. While making significant progress in her recovery, the struggle with food is ongoing, leaving her anxious at mealtimes. Miranda, aware of Jennette's struggle, offers support, though Jennette finds it challenging to manage the disorder while being accountable to someone else.

By **Chapter 89**, Jennette is at a networking event where she experiences a small but meaningful victory—eating a chocolate chip cookie without the anxiety that once ruled her. This moment symbolizes personal growth and recovery, highlighting her progress in enjoying food without guilt or shame. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's presence and her internal monologue about him reflects a moment of introspection and a playful acknowledgment of her journey towards self-acceptance.



In **Chapter 90**, Jennette has a conversation with Miranda about the possibility of participating in an iCarly reboot. Despite the financial lure and Miranda's encouragement, Jennette is firm on prioritizing her mental health over career opportunities. She expresses pride in having reached a point where she can assert her needs and maintain her well-being over external validation.

Finally, **Chapter 91** sees Jennette at her mother's grave. Wrestling with mixed emotions, she reflects candidly on her mother's complex legacy. While there is deep hurt over her mother's actions, she also recognizes moments of her mother's kindness and the lasting impact on her life. The chapter concludes with Jennette's acceptance, as she decides she's ready to move forward, free from her past's painful grasp, choosing not to return to the grave—a symbolic step away from her mother's control and towards her own autonomy.

Together, these chapters depict Jennette's journey towards healing, self-acceptance, and independence, as she confronts familial ties, career challenges, and personal demons.

