

Lottery PDF (Limited Copy)

Patricia Wood

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Lottery Summary

"Finding Wisdom and Friendship Beyond Life's Odds"

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About the book

In the heartwarming and introspective novel "Lottery" by Patricia Wood, readers find themselves immersed in the world of Perry L. Crandall, a man who possesses a distinctive outlook on life and an IQ of 76. Often underestimated and misunderstood, Perry's life takes a dramatic turn when he unexpectedly wins twelve million dollars in the state lottery. As we follow Perry's journey through the contrasting worlds of trivial pursuits and profound self-discovery, Wood skillfully unfolds a narrative that challenges perceptions of intelligence, explores the intricacies of human relationships, and uncovers the true currency of happiness. With Perry's infectious optimism and unyielding loyalty, "Lottery" invites readers to contemplate what it truly means to be rich and compels them to reflect on their own definitions of success and worth.

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About the author

Patricia Wood is a distinguished American author known for her compelling storytelling and beautifully honed characters. Making her debut in the literary world with the acclaimed novel "Lottery," Wood quickly distinguished herself as a writer with an astute eye for human nature and an empathetic understanding of diverse personalities. Before becoming a full-time author, Wood embraced a dynamic career that ranged from serving in the Army to working as a teacher and a marine biologist, experiences that profoundly enrich her narratives with authenticity and depth. Residing in Hawaii, where the bustling multicultural environment continually feeds her creative muse, Wood's writing deftly captures the essence of small-town life while exploring themes of personal growth and the nuances of human connectivity. With "Lottery," Wood not only established herself as a significant voice in contemporary fiction but also resonated with readers worldwide, capturing hearts with her wit, humor, and poignantly crafted tales.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

The chapter introduces Perry, a thoughtful young man who struggles with learning difficulties. Perry recalls the advice given by his grandmother, Gram, to write things down to aid memory and thinking. His former teacher, Miss Elk, assured him that he was just a little slow, despite the other children calling him unkind names. Gram reassures Perry that writing is a tool not just for the "slow" but also for the "old," comparing herself to him and emphasizing that people often treat the elderly similarly to those who learn slowly.

Gram introduced Perry to the habit of exploring one word a day from the dictionary, believing that learning is best done incrementally. Despite the challenge, this practice was meant to build Perry's vocabulary and understanding, starting from page one of the dictionary. They soon realize that at one word a day, it would take them over 200 years to finish it. Gram suggests they "pick up the pace," leading them to subscribe to Reader's Digest, which provided a more accessible way to learn new words.

Perry's development is depicted through the small milestones he achieves, such as understanding "auditor" as a listener and deciding to adopt this identity. By the time he turns 31, he has reached page 337 in the dictionary, a testament to his persistence. Gram emphasizes the importance of planning for the future, instructing Perry to divide his earnings between checking and



savings accounts. This advice is supported by Perry's best friend, Keith, who works alongside him at Holsted's Marine Supply.

Perry's interactions at work reveal his personality and relationships. Keith, older and larger, shares Perry's musical tastes which anchor their age differences. Yet, Perry remains open to various music genres, unlike Keith, who is particular about "oldies but goodies."

Before working at Holsted's, Perry learned the basics of reading, writing, and math from Gram and boat knowledge from his grandfather, Gramp. Their family once owned a boatyard, which they lost due to a complicated financial situation involving a loan for a hoist — a device crucial yet costly for boatyard operations. The bank eventually foreclosed on the yard after Gramp's sudden death, which Gram bitterly refers to as him dying "by the hand of God." These experiences have imparted life lessons to Perry, grounding him in the realities of responsibility and the challenges of changes in life.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In this chapter, we are introduced to Perry, a suggestible young boy who is under the care of his grandmother (Gram). Gram takes the time to educate Perry about the importance of discerning which people he should listen to and follow instructions from. She explains that while he should obey authority figures like Officer Ray Mallory—a local policeman—there are others, such as a man from church named Chuck, or a co-worker named Manuel, who should not be on his list of people to heed, as they cannot be trusted.

Together, Perry and Gram craft a list of people whose instructions are worth following. The list starts with Ray the policeman, followed by Gram herself, and then Perry's boss, Gary Holsted. The list is dynamic, changing based on the actions and trustworthiness of others, like Sister Mary Margaret, a church figure who shifts on and off the list depending on her behavior towards them.

Life with Gram in Everett, Washington, is vividly described. The town has a pervasive odor, the source of which is humorously debated between Perry, Keith (a friend who isn't on any list because true friends don't require obedience), and Gram, who attributes it to a combination of pollution from paper mills and others dismissing it due to allergies. Perry considers his own "fast nose" as something that picks up on smells others might miss.



Perry comes from a family steeped in law profession—both his mother, Louise, and other relatives are involved in the legal field, directly or by marriage. This legal heritage looms large, as he is named after Perry Mason, a famous TV lawyer, though he only carries the simpler 'Perry.' Gram thoroughly disapproves of lawyers, advising Perry to steer clear of them, assuring him that their family's heavy involvement in law is something they are better off without.

The chapter concludes by emphasizing Perry's solid and nurturing relationship with his grandmother. Gram, a character full of vibrant quirks—like her distinctive smoke rings and witch cackles—serves as Perry's primary family connection. In her vibrant and colorful way, Gram ensures Perry learns about the world through a unique but protective lens, teaching him to navigate his life with cautious wisdom.

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Chapter 3 Summary:

The chapters provide a glimpse into the routine life of Perry, a diligent worker at Holsted's Marine Supply. Perry, who describes himself as taking longer to learn but retaining information well, embraces his tasks with enthusiasm, from unloading trucks to handling the cash register when allowed by Keith, his co-worker. His dedication to tasks is mirrored by his excitement about mastering the air compressor to inflate boat fenders, much to Keith's approval. Despite Keith's gruff, tired demeanor and bar fight stories, there's a mutual respect between the two.

Perry's social interactions extend beyond work. He often enjoys a pretend crab sandwich at Gilly's and engages in playful banter with Cherry at Marina Handy Mart, where he buys lottery tickets—a long-standing tradition he shares with his grandmother, Gram. Despite Gram's dismissive stance on gambling, she's unapologetically captivated by the National Enquirer, ostensibly for its crossword puzzles, but relishes its audacious stories. Perry and Gram often fantasize about winning the lottery, with hopes of visiting Hawaii and fulfilling simple desires like buying a new television.

Their evenings are rich with routine as well; Fridays involve sneaking candy into the movies, and Saturdays mean boating supply rushes at Holsted's. The week's highlight is Saturday's spaghetti night, where Gram's culinary skills shine, and card games like cribbage bring out the competitive yet fun-loving



spirit in the household shared with Keith.

Sunday mornings signal tranquility and bonding over cinnamon rolls and the lottery results. Perry's simple joys, his connections with Gram, and their shared dreams reveal a deep, mutual reliance and affection in their relationship. They bond over routine yet imaginative games like "lottery list," where each imagines what they'd do with newfound wealth—an exercise that reinforces their existing fortune in each other's company, echoing Gram's assertion of being "damned fortunate" for having Perry and their modest yet fulfilling life together. Perry, alongside Gram, navigates life with a mixture of simplicity, wonder, and gratitude, highlighting the stability and meaning he finds in his routines and relationships.

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Chapter 4:

In this chapter, the protagonist introduces us to a vivid snapshot of his life, where fall is his favorite season, and he cherishes the simple joys of reading Reader's Digest and savoring Hershey's Kisses. His love for biking is evident, but his joy is momentarily marred when he discovers his bike, a cherished possession, splattered with red spray paint. His grandmother, referred to as Gram, sternly advises him to secure it in the garage, revealing her protective nature.

The protagonist's passion for biking extends to his work, where he earns extra money alongside Keith, a hearty and robust figure, by assisting in the maintenance of boats. Boats captivate him almost as much as biking, perhaps because they evoke the exhilarating freedom of flying, a sensation his grandfather, Gramp, once explained to him in terms of air and physics. While Keith mentors him in boat repairs, his grandfather instilled in him the art of sailing.

Working on boats involves labor-intensive tasks like sanding and varnishing, which they do with precision and care. Keith, characterized by his bushy gray beard and humorous yet sometimes crude demeanor, nurtures a rough yet friendly rapport with him. Keith's jovial nature is demonstrated through his tendency to make jokes—often involving double entendres referencing the process of removing boat jacks, much to the protagonist's



embarrassment.

The chapter further highlights their routine at the boatyard, where they labor under the scrutiny of a foreman eager for efficiency. Despite this, Keith's playful commentary about boats named after overused or meaningless

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Chapter 5 Summary:

The chapter provides a glimpse into the daily life of Perry, a thoughtful and observant character who lives with his grandmother, Gram, in Everett. Perry has a routine that begins with shaving and dressing in jeans and a flannel shirt, making sure to wear an undershirt to appease Gram's preferences. She believes only "low-class" people go without one, and the cold Everett weather justifies this layer of clothing for Perry.

Perry is gradually taking over cooking duties from Gram, who now sits at the kitchen table doing crossword puzzles and offering guidance. Despite his initial struggles, Perry becomes adept at making dishes like oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, and stew, learning techniques like cutting meat evenly and understanding culinary terms such as "braising" with Gram's help. Gram often encourages Perry to "stretch" by trying new things, promoting growth and adaptation.

The narrative highlights Gram's life lessons, emphasizing life's difficulties and the need to confront unexpected challenges. Perry takes these lessons to heart as he eats breakfast and reflects on his life. He writes in a journal—an activity started by Gram to foster his memory and cognitive development—capturing thoughts and words that might otherwise be lost.

Perry occasionally forgets he is considered "slow," especially during



activities like biking, working at the marina with Keith, or handling office paperwork with Gary. In contrast to the fast-paced world around him, Perry takes solace in his ability to observe and listen deeply. Gram often criticizes the frenzied behavior of others, likening them to frantic creatures turning themselves into butter. She humorously comments on modern technology, like cell phones and laptops, describing them as "metallic pets" that people are attached to.

The chapter concludes with Perry appreciating his slower pace, as it allows him to notice details and experience life more fully. While others rush through their days, he finds peace in his unique perspective and the pleasures it brings.

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Chapter 6 Summary:

Holsted's Marine Supply, a two-story white warehouse, is strategically located between a bustling commercial harbor and the newly developed Everett Marina. Next door is Carroll's Boatyard, a key neighbor in this nautical community. An underlying tension permeates the area as local workers like Keith express concern that the new marina caters exclusively to affluent boaters, pushing out "regular guys" who have always enjoyed boating. Keith, with a knack for humor, claims that regular people are being squeezed out like someone gripping a girl's breast—inevitably, he jokes, "we're the boobs."

Perry, the narrator, finds Keith's humor amusing and is interrupted by Gary, a manager who keeps the team on task; he's ordered to inflate fenders, protective gear for boats, while Gary casts a disapproving glance at Keith. The shop is stocked with boating essentials like ropes, hatches, and fenders, and Perry handles inflating with expertise. As Perry tends to his task, he deals with the interruptions of impatient customers asking questions that defy the clearly designated signs around the shop, such as "NO FISHING" and "NO PARKING."

One customer in particular, a rotund man with a cigar, questions Perry's competence, which Perry finds frustrating. Under pressure from the man who is rushing to the San Juans for vacation, Perry remains polite despite the



man's derogatory comments. Words like "idiot" and "retarded" strike a chord with Perry, but Gram, his grandmother, taught him these words don't define him. Gram, a profound influence in Perry's life, took over his education after an unpleasant school experience, where even a teacher resorted to name-calling. Her wisdom and emotional support helped him learn more than he ever did in school, especially about resilience and self-worth. Gram enlightened Perry about the origins of words like "idiot", suggesting it initially meant a private, self-concerned person, which ironically could describe many in society today.

Through these experiences, Perry learns patience with others' ignorance and finds solace in his grandmother's teachings, which have provided more than academic knowledge—a foundation for understanding the world's complexities.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience and self-worth from Perry's experiences

Critical Interpretation: In life, you might often encounter people who dismiss or belittle you with hurtful comments, just as Perry faces derogatory remarks about his competence. However, this chapter from 'Lottery' illuminates the concept that resilience and self-worth are not solely grounded in the perceptions of others. Instead, they are cultivated through the wisdom and support of those who genuinely care for you, like Perry's nurturing relationship with his grandmother, Gram. By embracing inner strength and self-value imparted by loved ones, you can navigate the complexities of societal judgments with grace and patience. Just as Perry learns to be patient with ignorance, you too can transcend negativity and find solace in your true worth, allowing it to anchor you amidst life's challenges.



Chapter 7 Summary:

In this poignant chapter, we follow Perry L. Crandall as he navigates the difficult morning on which he discovers that his beloved grandmother, Gram, has passed away. Perry and Gram had a well-practiced emergency plan: if Gram didn't wake up or respond, Perry was to call 911. When she doesn't wake up, Perry complies, touching her cold, white face, and later informing his employer Gary about the situation despite his own distress.

Perry lives with a list of important phone numbers left by Gram, including those of his distant family members. His interactions with these family members reveal tension and uncertainty about Perry's future without Gram to care for him. His mother, Louise, makes him nervous and her call goes unanswered. His cousin-brother, David, responds and helps Perry make the necessary funeral arrangements. Perry feels the weight of being considered a problem now that his guardian is gone, despite Gram's frequent declarations that they took care of each other.

Throughout the chapter, Perry is largely ignored or dismissed by family members like John and Louise, who are more concerned with the logistics and cost of the funeral than with Perry's emotional state. While the family discusses cremation and urn expenses with the funeral director, Perry insists on choosing a walnut box he knows Gram would appreciate. Despite the familial pressure, Perry offers to use his savings to pay for the urn, reflecting



his deep bond and responsibility towards Gram. His cousin-brother David, unlike the others, acknowledges Perry's grief and warns him to guard his finances.

Perry's reflections take him back to Gram's words about death, which were comforting to him after Gram's passing. She had told him that after death, they become a part of nature; in the wind, rain, and sea. This provides Perry solace as he remembers her, especially when it starts to rain, and he awaits the wind that Gram had promised would signify her presence. The chapter sensitively illustrates Perry's struggle to navigate a world without Gram and the dismissive attitude of his family, all while paying homage to the enduring love and support Gram provided him throughout his life.

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Chapter 8:

The chapter centers around the memorial service for Gram, which takes place at Sullivan Park on Silver Lake—a convenient and cost-free location chosen by the family. The family gathers, excluding the narrator's mother, Louise, and David's wife, Elaine. The narrator expresses discomfort over his inappropriate attire of blue jeans and a tight suit jacket.

The narrator's cousins, whom he calls "cousin-brothers," arrive early to pick him up. They are joined by John's new wife, CeCe, who is more interested in shopping than legal work, an occupation common in the family. CeCe takes a look at Gram's house with John, noting the property's untidy state, which reveals a sentimental hoard of memories shared with the narrator.

The memorial service proceeds despite the wet weather, with kids and dogs playing in the mud, echoing Gram's lively spirit. The minister delivers a eulogy that would have irked Gram, as she often dismissed preachy, holier-than-thou sentiments. The narrator recalls her disbelief in organized religion's platitudes, imagining her spirited, irreverent remarks.

After the service, family discussions turn to Gram's estate. The narrator listens to his cousins, who alternately refer to themselves as cousins or brothers, highlighting their conflicted relationship with him. There's a debate over Gram's nonexistent will, with John and David conspiring to divide the



inheritance, bypassing the narrator's mother, who they speculate might expect a share.

Gram had often warned the narrator about his suggestibility, fearing that others might exploit him. True to her concerns, John and David seem more

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Chapter 9 Summary:

In the aftermath of Gram's death, Perry finds himself surrounded by memories and the tangible remnants of her life, while family members—John, David, and Louise—descend to claim their share of her possessions. Gram's voice echoes in Perry's mind, cautioning and guiding him, reinforcing the irreplaceable void her passing has left in his life. When Louise arrives, she feigns sorrow but is quick to seize Gram's jewelry box and other valuable heirlooms, under the pretense of remembrance. Her actions betray her insincerity as she methodically assesses Gram's belongings for their value.

Next comes John, demanding Gram's prized possessions, like the model boat and signed prints, more focused on their monetary worth than sentimental value. His impatience and dismissive behavior highlight the transactional view he has towards Gram's estate. Perry's emotional turmoil is palpable as he navigates his family's greed, quite the contrast to his sentimental hold on Gram's memory.

David's late visit mirrors regret and a sense of missed opportunity, though he, too, prioritizes potential monetary value over reminiscence, lamenting not arriving earlier to secure his desired items. Amidst the transactional frenzy, David unravels his own failures—his inability to pass the bar exam, overshadowed by Elaine's success, reflecting the familial pressures of



comparison and judgment he endured.

Perry, the silent observer, aids each sibling as they carry off Gram's belongings, each departure leaving the house more hollow yet filled with echoes of the past. Gram's teachings linger, her warnings about weakness and greed resonate as Perry evaluates the disarray left behind.

Throughout this turmoil, Keith emerges as a genuine ally, assisting Perry in clearing out the house after work hours. Despite Keith's disdain for Perry's family dynamic, he provides camaraderie and levity, yet struggles to comprehend Perry's acceptance of losing the house, viewing the family as manipulative and self-serving. Perry maintains his conviction that he acquired what truly mattered from Gram's legacy—simple treasures laden with emotional significance, such as dishes and memorabilia that evoke shared memories.

The process of escrow—the final act of parting with the house—is orchestrated by John, who hastens through paperwork using a power of attorney, delivering a mere five hundred dollars as Perry's share of the house sale. This transactional closure starkly contrasts with Perry's sentimental agony of losing a beloved sanctuary filled with cherished memories of Gram.

As everything culminates in the physical loss of Gram's home, Perry



ultimately resigns to the reality that material possessions pale against the emotional and spiritual legacy Gram instilled within him. Despite the family's self-interest, Perry emerges with a sense of fulfillment rooted in personal attachments that transcend the grasp of wealth or material value. Gram's persistent voice, with admonitions against being "smart" and reminders of familial dynamics, ensures her wisdom endures, guiding Perry through the complexities of loss and familial obligations.

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Chapter 10 Summary:

The chapter opens with Perry adjusting to his new living situation above Holsted's, a store where he works. This change was prompted by the departure of Otis, the previous tenant who got arrested for theft. Gary, the store owner, offers the apartment to Perry, fulfilling both his need for a tenant and Perry's need for accommodation. The apartment is modest but sufficient, offering a blend of residential comfort with a view of the parking lot and marina, although it comes with its quirks, such as a leaky sink and a drafty window.

Perry's friend Keith, who owns a sailboat named Diamond Girl, plays a supportive role in helping Perry move his belongings into this new space, albeit with some reluctance to clean. Their friendship began uniquely, with Perry assisting Keith in docking Diamond Girl, leading to a mutual respect and laid-back camaraderie. Keith's sailboat and lifestyle reflect a slightly reckless, free-spirited nature, contrasting with Perry's more grounded and routine-oriented life.

Perry is coping with the loss of his grandmother, Gram, whose ashes he keeps in a wooden urn alongside his books on the bedside table. Her absence profoundly affects his routine, especially his weekly bingo nights. Gram's influence looms large, as Perry recalls her humor and companionship fondly. Without her, Perry's life feels lonelier, illustrated by his empty Sundays



without their shared newspaper reading.

Cherry, the cashier at Marina Handy Mart, is a bright spot in Perry's life. Despite her vibrant appearance, adorned with colorful hair and tattoos, Cherry embodies kindness, and her interactions with Perry provide a brief respite from his loneliness. Her mention of the puzzle in the newspaper highlights her understanding of Perry's grief and her attempts to offer solace.

In a broader sense, Perry's chapter reflects a life in transition, grappling with the void left by Gram, maintaining connections with Keith and Cherry, and adjusting to his new living situation. Each character and setting adds depth to Perry's world, enriching his narrative and emphasizing themes of grief, friendship, and adaptation amidst change.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry is struggling to adjust to life after the death of his grandmother, Gram, who had been a crucial part of his daily routine. Wednesdays used to be the day they did laundry together, but now Perry only has his own clothes to wash. This reminds him of the lessons Gram taught him, like sorting whites from darks. Reflecting on these memories, Perry is overwhelmed with sadness and tears.

As Perry attempts to carry on with his chores, he experiences a mishap with the washing machine, leading to a flood of soapy water. Injured and embarrassed, Perry is comforted by his friends Keith and Gary, who rush to his aid. They take him to a laundromat and help him with his laundry, offering friendship and support.

Gary orders a new washer-dryer for Perry, helping him regain some normalcy. Perry finds solace in taking care of Keith's laundry, which gives him purpose and a connection to his routine with Gram. Gram's teachings about watching expenses stay with Perry too, as he struggles to manage his finances, including unexpected bills like Gram's ambulance fee.

Perry frequently visits the Handy Mart where he interacts with Cherry, a cashier with interesting fingernails who remembers his routine purchases. Despite his financial struggles, he indulges in small comforts that remind



him of Gram, such as Hershey's Kisses and the Enquirer magazine.

At work, Perry deals with teasing from Manuel, which sometimes involves trashing Perry's belongings. Despite this, Perry finds stability in his friendship with Keith, who protects Perry from Manuel's antics and offers camaraderie and guidance.

Keith lives on a boat and shares a bond with Perry based on mutual understanding and support. Perry offers to help maintain Keith's boat, valuing the sense of peace and friendship that comes from their time together. Keith encourages Perry to stand up for himself, but Perry prefers to follow Gram's counsel to avoid confrontation.

As Perry navigates life without Gram, he learns to adapt to new challenges with the help of his friends, incorporating Gram's values into his daily routines while carving out a new path forward. Despite feeling lonely and missing her presence, Perry gradually finds comfort in the support system around him, allowing life to continue.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of a support system

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, despite the overwhelming loneliness and grief Perry feels after the passing of his grandmother, Gram, he discovers the strength and comfort that comes from having a support system. As you navigate your own life's challenges, remember that while some paths may seem solitary, you're never truly alone. Friends like Keith and Gary play an essential role in helping Perry stand up when he falters, providing him with emotional support and practical assistance, such as dealing with household mishaps and emotional setbacks. Their presence reminds him, and can remind you, of the undeniable resilience and renewal we find in relationships. Embrace those around you, knowing that they can help you create new routines, face unforeseen challenges, and rediscover joy and purpose, even when life feels daunting.



Chapter 12:

In this chapter, Perry is introduced as a character who finds joy and excitement in small, everyday things despite the challenges he faces. Perry and his friend Keith are working on a labor-intensive task of painting the bottom of a boat with thick blue paint. An incident causes the paint lid to fly off, dousing Perry's favorite shirt, which belonged to his grandfather, with paint. Perry is deeply upset but decides to keep the shirt, as it holds sentimental value, reflecting his attachment to his family, particularly his late grandmother, Gram.

Amidst these mundane chores and responsibilities, a recurring motif in the local newspaper captures Perry's attention. Headlines about an unclaimed winning lottery ticket sold at the nearby Marina Handy Mart pique his curiosity. Perry is reminded of his grandmother's habit of checking lottery numbers, a routine they used to share. He nostalgically imagines her reading out numbers as he checks them against a ticket he absentmindedly retrieves, which had ended up next to his refrigerator.

To his astonishment, Perry realizes that his lottery ticket matches the winning numbers. He vividly imagines his late grandmother celebrating the win with him, showing how deeply her influence remains ingrained in his psyche. The elation of winning \$12 million is overwhelming for Perry, causing him to involuntarily spill his oatmeal—a metaphor for the



unexpected chaos this revelation brings.

Perry's understanding of practical matters, however, is limited. He needs to travel to Olympia to claim his prize but isn't sure where it is. Unsure of how to handle the situation, he humorously contemplates whether this counts as a

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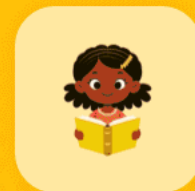
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Chapter 13 Summary:

The chapter begins with the protagonist and his companion, Keith, embarking on a journey to Olympia, Washington. This trip is precipitated by the protagonist winning the lottery, a thrilling yet overwhelming event that propels them into a whirlwind of activity. Keith, a former hippie, army man, and ferry captain turned alcoholic, has a dynamic personality that contrasts with the protagonist's more straightforward demeanor. The protagonist reflects on the memories of Gram and Gramp, conveying a sense of nostalgia and longing for simpler times.

Their journey south is filled with tension and excitement, particularly when they discuss the reasons for their trip. Keith momentarily loses control of the vehicle out of shock when the protagonist shares the news of the lottery win. The mention of getting a dog brings a light moment, serving as a nod to past joys and potential future happiness. As they delve deeper into the logistics of their trip, the importance of practical matters like fuel costs highlights the protagonist's modest lifestyle and lingering financial concerns.

Upon reaching Olympia, they stop at the Pancake House for directions, where they encounter Pamela, a friendly but curious cashier. The protagonist's desire to maintain discretion about the lottery win is evident as Keith fabricates a story about needing the lottery office for hypothetical future needs. The real revelation unfolds when they finally arrive at the



lottery office, its understated appearance surprising the protagonist.

The process of claiming the winnings is intricate, requiring validation of the ticket, identification, and a choice between a lump sum or annuity payments. Keith is adamant about opting for the payments to ensure long-term financial security, emphasizing the complexities of taxes and the potential for exploitation by others now that the protagonist is wealthy.

Throughout this experience, the protagonist encounters mixed emotions of excitement and doubt. Margery, a lottery official, inadvertently casts doubt on his ability to manage this life-changing event independently, prompting feelings of frustration and embarrassment. Her concern, though well-meaning, underscores the challenges faced by individuals suddenly thrust into wealth.

As they leave, pursued by curious reporters, the chaotic and surreal nature of their new reality becomes apparent. Keith's protective instincts kick in as he advises silence to avoid misrepresentation by the media. An unexpected moment of humor and camaraderie occurs when Keith inadvertently gives a reporter a bloody nose in his effort to shield the protagonist.

Their return journey is marked by a cinematic chase with the media, ending with a minor setback as they run out of gas. Despite the media frenzy, the protagonist maintains a simple outlook, more concerned about the incident's



impact on Keith than on public attention. Their bond is strengthened by the protagonist's willingness to support Keith financially, illustrating the depth of their friendship.

This chapter paints a vivid picture of a life abruptly transformed by fortune, exploring themes of friendship, trust, and the struggle to retain personal identity amidst newfound wealth and public interest.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14, the protagonist reflects on how elusive the sun can be in Washington state, drawing a parallel to how he now searches for his grandmother, "Gram," since her passing. He finds moments of brightness amidst the often-gray skies, much like he seeks memories of Gram. The sun serves as a metaphor for the small joys and the sense of connection he still holds on to.

The story transitions to the protagonist's return home from Olympia with friends Yo and Keith. He revels in having won the lottery, expressing excitement about feeling rich. Back in his apartment, he proudly nails the oversized lottery check to the wall, a symbol of his newfound wealth and independence.

Gary, a friend whose office is below the protagonist's apartment, interrupts them, initially frustrated by the noise but soon astonished by the lottery win. His reaction is one of shock and concern, emphasizing the weighty responsibility that comes with such a windfall. As Gary stresses the importance of financial advice, the protagonist is reminded of things his grandmother taught him, like carrying various remedies for health issues.

The protagonist, Keith, and Gary decide to visit the bank to discuss handling the winnings. As they drive to Everett Federal in Gary's Jeep Cherokee, the



protagonist feels important, likening himself to a celebrity. Once at the bank, they're ushered ahead of the line, which further emphasizes the significance of his new status.

Inside, they meet Mr. Jordan, the bank president, who offers various investment options. The protagonist, advised by Keith, decides to defer making hasty decisions and repeats the mantra "considering my options." With guidance influenced by Gram's teachings, he chooses to deposit half of the winnings in checking and the other half in savings, avoiding complex financial instruments he doesn't understand.

The chapter concludes with the trio stopping to buy sandwiches and beer, a celebratory gesture funded by the protagonist's new wealth. He relishes the ability to treat his friends, proclaiming it as the best feeling in the world. This reflects his generous nature and the joy he finds in sharing his good fortune with others, aligning with the life lessons imparted by his beloved grandmother.



Chapter 15 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist, Perry, grapples with the sudden realization of his newfound wealth after winning the lottery. This new development starkly contrasts with his modest lifestyle, as depicted by his cluttered kitchen table full of bank papers, journals, and dictionaries, suggesting that wealth is novel to him. His friend Keith is present, drinking and sleeping on the couch, further highlighting Perry's unchanged environment despite the change in his financial status.

Perry reflects on the mundane chores he forgot in his excitement and starts to dream about purchasing extravagant items like a big flat-screen TV and a new jacket with his winnings. These desires indicate a shift towards embracing the luxuries associated with wealth.

As Perry's phone rings incessantly with calls from relatives and acquaintances who have caught wind of his fortune, the contrast between his past and new life becomes evident. John, his fast-talking brother, calls first, followed by his mother Louise, who has rarely been considerate of Perry but eagerly reaches out now that he's wealthy. The novelty of this attention juxtaposes with Perry's memories of Gram, his grandmother, who was a solid figure in his life, offering wisdom about navigating relationships, including being wary of people who suddenly show interest when you have something they want.



Amidst this chaos, John insists that Perry move in with him and CeCe, citing concern over unwanted attention. His offer does not seem entirely altruistic, as Perry remembers Gram's advice that such offers usually serve the giver's interest. Perry remains skeptical and hesitant, reflecting the down-to-earth nature Gram instilled in him.

David, another brother, arrives, causing tension with John, highlighting their lack of genuine concern for Perry's preferences. Their bickering escalates until Keith, demonstrating loyalty to Perry, ushers them out forcefully. Keith's actions underscore his role as a safeguard amidst the ensuing chaos.

The chapter ends on a note of humor and irony. With John's threat to sue and Perry's naive understanding that "Sue" is also a girl's name, it underscores his simple worldview. Through Perry's eyes, we witness the complexities of family dynamics and the challenge of discerning sincerity in the shadow of newfound wealth.



Chapter 16:

The chapter provides a heartfelt glimpse into Perry's life, centered around his relationship with his grandparents, particularly his Gram, who has played a pivotal role in his upbringing. Perry fondly reflects on the baby book Gram started when he was born, filled with pictures and milestones from his early years. This book serves not only as a keepsake but as a means for Perry to remember his past, especially after Gram's death. Gram would often tell Perry that all babies look like monkeys, which prompts his curiosity about whether monkey babies look human to other monkeys—an innocent reflection of his inquisitive nature.

Perry shares how Gram taught him to write and helped him document his life in subsequent books, filled with his thoughts and pictures. With nineteen books under his belt, Perry is working on his twentieth, and he finds solace in writing as a way to preserve his memories, distinguishing between the joy of remembering and the effort of not forgetting.

He delves into their past, recounting how Gram and Gramp raised him after his parents, whom he rarely saw, were not part of his life. Letters from Gram to his parents within the book hint at her attempts to involve them in Perry's upbringing. Gram's candid remarks about his parents reflect her protective and honest nature.

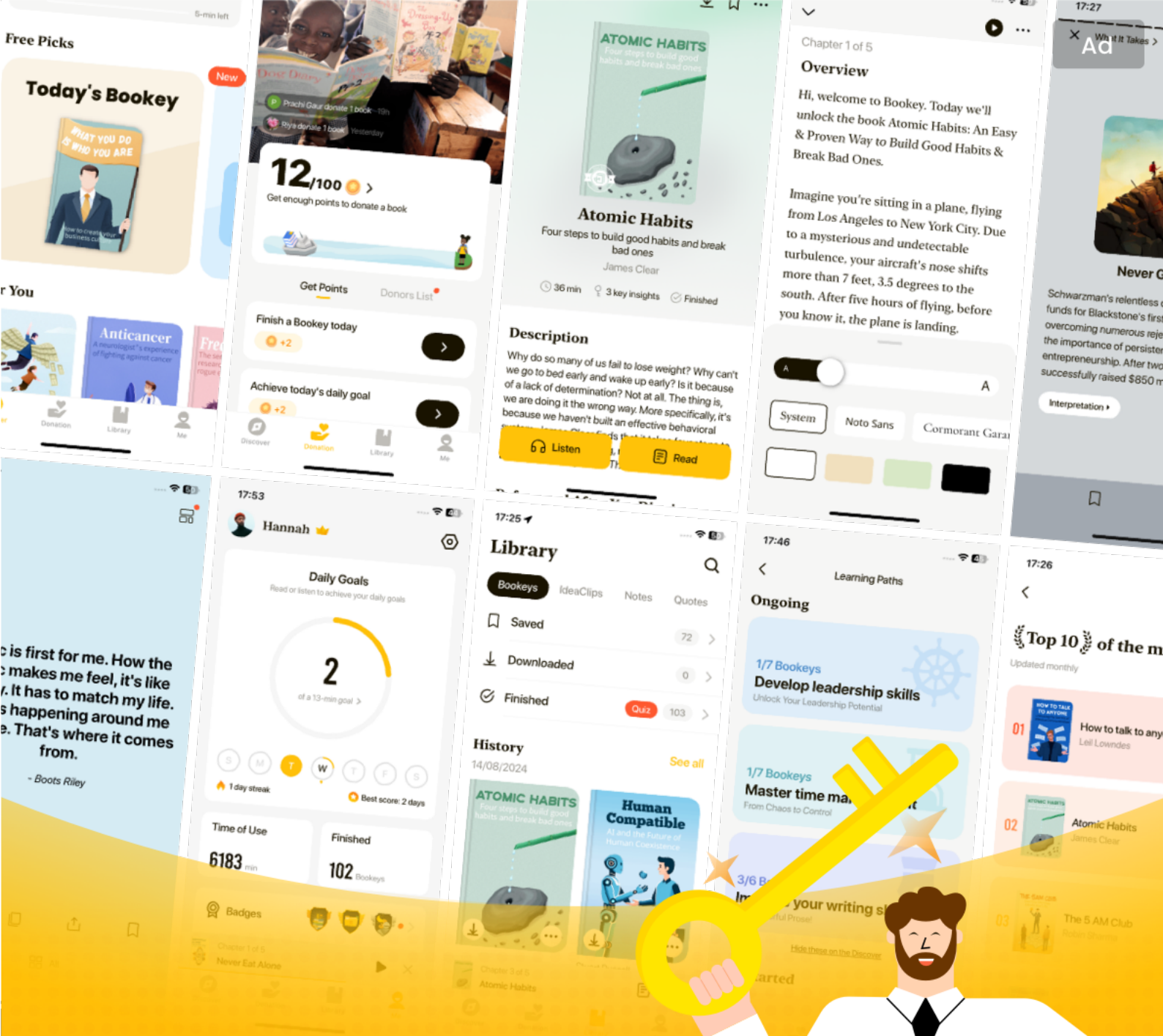


Perry also recounts his educational challenges. Despite being labeled with various terms by teachers—ranging from "borderline" to "mildly retarded"—Gram fiercely defended him, criticizing the education system and its penchant for labels. She taught Perry to embrace his pace, ensuring he knew he was loved and capable.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

In this chapter, we dive into the complex interpersonal dynamics and budding opportunities faced by Perry L. Crandall, a recent lottery winner. Perry is guided by his two closest friends, Keith and Gary, through the challenges of newfound wealth, trust issues, and potential business ventures.

The chapter starts with Keith, who is wary about the reliability of Perry's relatives, signaling the importance of being cautious about whom to trust, especially concerning financial matters. Keith's distrust is particularly focused on John's legal career and David's accounting business, and he has a disdainful attitude towards their wives, whom he dismisses as gold diggers. Gary, however, is more optimistic, believing they wouldn't jeopardize their legal standing for Perry's newfound money. Nonetheless, Keith suggests getting a lawyer for Perry, underscoring the theme of vulnerability that comes with sudden wealth.

Gary is not just Perry's friend but also his boss and a family acquaintance, having known Perry's grandparents who owned a boatyard. Meanwhile, Keith's introduction to Perry came through work, and they've been fast friends ever since. As they discuss options, Gary falls into a parental role, much like Perry's Gram used to, advising him to invest wisely for his future, perhaps in mutual funds or business ventures. This leads to a conversation about Perry investing in Gary's business, Holsted's Marine Supply. Although



Gary initially resists the idea of taking Perry on as a partner because of financial constraints and competition, Keith sees this as a potential growth opportunity, encouraging Gary to reconsider.

Amid these grown-up talks, Perry, with his unique perspective, provides lighthearted commentary and sees the world with a child's innocence. The narrative transitions to a scene at the Everett Mall where Perry and Keith are set on buying a television. Keith's impatience is humorously juxtaposed with Perry's innocent charm, especially as they navigate the nuances of mall parking and engage with strangers, like the bell-ringing fundraiser at the mall entrance.

At the electronics store, there is a moment of prejudice and underestimation as a store clerk initially directs Perry toward cheaper models, assuming he cannot afford more. Keith quickly corrects him, revealing Perry's lottery win and shifting the clerk's attitude. They leave with a high-end plasma TV, a stereo, and a DVD player, basking in this lighthearted spree.

Later, at a music and movie store, Perry's newfound status as a lottery winner again draws attention, sparking a scene when a skeptical cashier questions Perry's ability to pay. The situation resolves pleasantly with the intervention of the store manager, and Perry is treated with newfound respect, illustrating the societal shift that accompanies his financial status.



The chapter is a blend of levity and reflection, examining the effects of sudden wealth on relationships and self-image. Perry, despite his wealth, remains grounded and endearing, offering tokens of gratitude and genuine connection to those around him. Meanwhile, Keith's impatience and Gary's guidance encapsulate the protective, albeit sometimes overzealous, nature of friends acting in his best interests.

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Chapter 18 Summary:

In the narrative featuring Perry L. Crandall, a unique and introspective young boy, we gain insight into his early school experiences and the pivotal influence of his teacher, Miss Elk. At the age of ten, Perry attends a special class led by Miss Elk, a caring and encouraging instructor who recognizes Perry's potential. Perry fondly remembers the special environment of her classroom, where he is encouraged to explore words and foster a love for reading. Miss Elk instills in Perry a sense of belonging and the importance of words—a value shared by his grandmother, Gram.

However, Perry's school life outside Miss Elk's class is marred by bullying from older students on the bus and exclusion in the regular classroom setting. Despite these challenges, Perry remains curious about the reasons behind people's unkindness—a question even Gram struggles to answer. After Miss Elk leaves, Perry finds himself isolated in a mainstream class with a new teacher who lacks the same understanding and support, forcing him to sit apart and often treating him as a disruption.

The story transitions as Perry moves on from elementary school due to his age, and Gram decides to homeschool him instead of sending him to junior high. This decision marks a new chapter in Perry's life, wherein he spends his days learning with Gram and helping his grandfather, Gramp, at the family's boatyard—a place where Perry hones his skills in knot-tying and



enjoys books about boats and sailing.

The narrative takes a somber turn with the death of Gramp, leading to financial difficulties for the family. The beloved boatyard is lost, despite Perry initially not understanding how something so tangible could disappear. Gram is forced to sell the boatyard, and Perry starts working at Holsted's Marine Supply under Gary Holsted, a family friend. This period brings a sense of loss but also new opportunities, as Perry continues to search for meaning in his relationships and surroundings.

Throughout the story, Perry is portrayed as a resilient and thoughtful character navigating the complexities of school, family, and identity. His ability to find joy in words and tasks, despite the adversities he faces, showcases his unique perspective and strength of character. Perry's journey underscores themes of belonging, the impact of mentorship, and the discovery of self-worth, skillfully interwoven with the support of family and close friends.

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Chapter 19 Summary:

The chapter revolves around Perry Crandall, a recent lottery winner who is overwhelmed by the sudden influx of mail and visitors. Before winning the lottery, Perry lived a quiet life, but now he receives numerous letters daily, many of which are requests for money. These letters range from sob stories seeking charity to deceptive scams disguised with legal jargon and promises.

Perry's grandmother (Gram) had once advised him to be wary of unsolicited offers from strangers because they are often not in your best interest. Despite this, Perry, who is trusting by nature, finds it difficult to refuse the many requests for help. He gives some money to familiar faces like his former teacher Miss Elk and people from his community, adhering to Gram's guidance that not giving people everything they want can be beneficial for them.

Among the visitors is Kenny, who claims to be an old friend. He asks Perry for money, pretending to be in dire straits. When Perry suggests a job through Gary, a person he knows who helps with employment, Kenny reacts with hostility, highlighting the kind of opportunistic behavior Perry is now exposed to.

Keith and Gary, friends who look out for Perry, are increasingly concerned



about the possible exploitation by Perry's own family and others seeking to take advantage of his naivety and windfall. They warn Perry not to sign any documents related to his lottery winnings and to be cautious of anyone who approaches him for money. They also express their frustration at Perry's vulnerability, referring to those preying on him as "bloodsuckers," "vultures," and "hyenas."

Gary explains the risks of interacting with these solicitations and how some could lead to Perry losing a significant portion or all of his winnings. Both Keith and Gary stress the importance of monitoring his mail and being prudent with his finances to safeguard his future. They see the lottery win as an opportunity for Perry to have a secure future without financial worries.

Though Perry is naturally optimistic and generous, often giving strangers the benefit of the doubt, he reassures his friends that he will be careful. Gary's concern and Keith's guidance are essential as they plan to help Perry navigate his new reality, ensuring he uses his newfound wealth wisely.

The chapter reveals the challenges Perry faces due to his sudden wealth, showcasing his intrinsic kindness while also highlighting the need for vigilance against those willing to exploit his generosity.



Chapter 20:

In this chapter, Perry Crandall reflects on his daily routine and the changes in his life after winning the lottery. Despite his newfound wealth, Perry maintains his morning rituals—getting up, grooming himself, and having breakfast, just as he did when his grandmother, Gram, was alive. Perry fondly recalls her wisdom about words and their sometimes ambiguous meanings, drawing parallels between words and people.

Perry has been wealthy for nearly a month, and this financial shift has altered how others perceive him. Previously overlooked for being "slow," Perry now draws attention and admiration from strangers eager to meet the lottery winner. His best friends, Keith and Gary, remain constants in his life, although their interactions with customers at Holsted's Marine Supply reveal an amusing dynamic. People listen intently to Perry now, impressed by his status, even when his suggestions seem unrelated to their actual needs.

The store's success surges with Perry's involvement. He and his friends have fun observing customers' purchasing habits and the influence his presence has on them. Perry uses his instincts to suggest new items for the store, like Hallmark cards and designer water, as he observes what customers like.

Perry reminisces about sailing with his grandfather, Gramp, and how those formative experiences shaped him. These memories are comforting escapes



that connect him to his past, offering a mental retreat where he feels the presence of his grandparents. His lunches on Keith's boat provide a momentary vacation from the bustling store, further connecting him to memories of Gramp.

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Chapter 21 Summary:

In Chapter 21, we are introduced to a tense morning as John visits the protagonist, Perry, at his apartment. John, concerned about Perry's financial situation, points out that calls to Perry have been unreachable. Perry explains that a person named Frank, claiming to be a friend of his sister Elaine, has been offering him financial advice over the phone, though Perry has never met Frank in person. John's skepticism about Frank and insistence on helping Perry himself reveals the ongoing dilemma of trust and guidance in Perry's life.

John expresses frustration over a number of things: the mystery of Frank's identity and intentions, Perry's spending habits, and the lack of organization in Perry's financial papers. There's an unsettling sense of possession and control coming from John as he rummages through Perry's apartment, unconcerned with privacy or boundaries. John's concern is portrayed as both genuine and overbearing, as he keeps insisting that he, along with David, should be the ones assisting Perry financially.

Perry, a somewhat naïve and vulnerable character, is caught between various figures offering him advice, each with their own motives. He relies on guidance from people like his friend Keith, a Vietnam veteran, who warns him to question the intentions of figures like John and David.



The tension escalates as John invites Perry to his house, an offer that comes with an underlying pressure. Despite feeling uncomfortable, Perry agrees to visit, understanding that politeness requires him not to refuse. At John's house in Bellevue, a wealthy area, Perry is faced with a host of restrictions that make him feel more like a prisoner than a guest. John's house rules, coupled with a secretive phone conversation about a "Family Meeting" and getting Perry to sign something, hints at ulterior motives.

It's revealed through John's call that there's significant manipulation at play. Perry overhears John's plan to easily influence him and feels his autonomy slipping away. The chapter ends with John leaving Perry to "amuse himself," a dismissive phrase that tells Perry he's more of a burden than a valued guest. The chapter highlights themes of manipulation, control, and the challenge Perry faces in discerning genuine support from exploitation.

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Chapter 22 Summary:

In the unfolding story, we are introduced to Perry, who is navigating the complexities of family dynamics and the intrigue surrounding a significant amount of money he controls. The narrative begins with a brief mention of John's series of wives, from Lenore to CeCe, whom Perry knows personally, along with her poodle. Perry paints an image of John as a nervous individual who bites his nails and drinks Maalox straight from the bottle.

Perry lives with Gram, who often warns about the desirability of keeping certain people out of the gene pool, given John and David's lack of offspring. Gigi, the dog Perry interacts with in the family room, adds a layer of domesticity and unpredictability with her penchant for biting if not scratched properly.

A Family Meeting is set up to address money issues, a regular occurrence following a family death or significant financial matter. There is tension in the air as Perry awaits the meeting with a mix of hunger and nerves, not daring to overstep unspoken boundaries in John's house by seeking food or drink.

The meeting that unfolds is chaotic, with John, Elaine, and others quarrelling over money matters and how to manage Perry's finances. The familial tension is exacerbated when Louise arrives, smelling of old flowers, further



highlighting the discord among the group. John, holding Perry's financial documents, scolds him for his spending, while Elaine's demeanor sharpens with predatory intent as she suggests a takeover of Perry's financial affairs under the guise of protection.

Throughout the meeting, various plans are debated, from guardianship to Power of Attorney and investment discussions, revealing the family's self-interest and manipulative tendencies. They argue about the best way to gain control of Perry's assets, torn between notions of mutual funds, stocks, and the possibility of manipulating Perry due to his perceived suggestibility.

Frustrated and feeling underestimated, Perry retreats from the clamor, reflecting on a life less complicated. His dreams offer escape—they are vibrant and freeing, filled with imagined adventures of a dog companion and a solo sail on the Diamond Girl, which symbolize his deepest desires for autonomy and happiness.

The chapter concludes with Perry waking up from his vivid dreams, finding solace in the morning calm, but still amidst the storm of family politics and their scheming aspirations. This inner journey illustrates Perry's yearning for simplicity and control over his own life amidst external uncertainties.

Aspect	Summary
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Aspect	Summary
Main Character	Perry
Secondary Characters	John, Elaine, Gram, Louise, and Gigi the dog
Setting	Family home, characterized by tension and money-related discussions
Family Dynamics	Perry navigates intricate family ties with John's numerous wives and familial concerns over money
Conflict	Arguments over control of Perry's finances and the dynamics of authority among family members
Family Meeting	Chaotic discussion regarding financial matters, revealing self-interest
Perry's Emotions	Feels conflicted, underestimated, and yearns for independence
Inner Journey	Perry dreams of autonomy, represented by vivid sailing adventures
Conclusion	Perry awakens, finding peace in dreams, but conflict remains due to family scheming



Chapter 23 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry, who is staying at his brother John's house, is left alone feeling hungry and awkward after asking John for breakfast. John brusquely tells Perry to look for food himself, take care of their dog Gigi, and avoid the living room. After John and his wife CeCe leave, Perry is lonely and wishes for his friend Keith to visit.

Soon enough, Keith arrives in a rather spontaneous and unexpected manner, having found John's address through Perry's phone book. Keith enters the house with muddy boots, making an effort to evade John's suspicion while they partake in an impromptu breakfast. As Keith tours the house, he discovers a mess of financial papers, revealing John's precarious financial situation, including numerous debts and lawsuits. These papers highlight John's financial attempts and possible manipulations, suggesting a deeper financial strain. Keith, with a casual demeanor, helps himself to John's alcohol collection, ensuring Perry does not miss the tension underlying their predicament.

While Keith relaxes in John's hot tub, Perry becomes increasingly anxious about the disarray — Gigi had made a mess on the carpet, and there was evidence of their intrusion everywhere. Perry struggles to manage the chaos left behind by both Gigi and Keith, fearing the repercussions when John and CeCe return.



Despite Perry's anxiety, Keith remains nonchalant, even entertaining thoughts about a family trust he's uncovered in the papers, hinting at John's impending plans to control or manage money better. When they finally decide to leave, Keith takes a casual approach to his potential theft of alcohol, light-heartedly suggesting he'll inquire about it when John visits Perry. The chapter ends with them hurriedly leaving the house, Perry burdened by worry and Keith retaining his carefree attitude, illustrating the stark contrasts between the two friends.

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Chapter 24:

In Chapter 24, we find ourselves in a tense but somewhat comedic atmosphere involving Gary and Keith, two colleagues engaged in a spirited discussion. Their conversation, though heated, carries no real animosity. It centers around a mutual acquaintance named John who is apparently juggling financial troubles, including demands from four ex-wives. John's potential legal maneuverings, like attempting to gain guardianship, concern Keith, who fears the tactics of savvy lawyers.

Gary, in contrast, maintains an optimistic outlook, dismissing the feasibility of such legal strategies given the competence of their friend Perry. The conversation takes place in a cramped back office where Keith's comical pacing exposes more about his disheveled state than any real solution to the problem at hand. As an outsider, presumably Perry, eavesdrops on the conversation, Keith warns him to be wary of his own family, indicating potential conflicts.

The narrative briefly shifts to a memory of last July when Keith was particularly exhilarated by a group of young women jumping off a yacht, underscoring his penchant for excitement. Despite the light-hearted reminiscences, Keith remains focused on the current predicament.

Determined to help, Gary considers bringing Perry on board as an investor to



possibly shield him from potential family disputes. While Gary promises to consult his lawyer and "run the numbers," Keith's body language and actions continue to provide comic relief, securing the chapter's balance between tension and humor. The mood, predominantly buoyed by Gary's assurance and Keith's antics, ends on a hopeful note as they await the lawyer's advice.

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Chapter 25 Summary:

Keith and I take Friday afternoon off to enjoy a day out on the water despite the biting cold. We're aboard Keith's boat, Diamond Girl, a sloop with one mast and two sails, navigating the Sound. As we prepare to set off, the boat's inboard engine struggles to start, leaving Keith frustrated. Boats are often referred to in feminine terms, and Diamond Girl is no exception, embodying Keith's passion, albeit with recurring mechanical issues. I stretch out on the bow, spotting a harbor seal and enjoying the ocean air, although our trip is quickly hampered by the engine malfunctioning again.

Diamond Girl requires sculling back to the dock since there's no wind to use the sails. Keith is embarrassed by this, as sculling is often considered a last resort for sailors and is physically taxing. I take on the job of sculling, dipping the oar into the cold water, while Keith smokes and laments about his engine troubles, citing dirty fuel as the likely cause. He often mentions needing to clean the fuel tank, but the cost prevents him from doing so. I impulsively offer to cover the expenses with my savings, hoping this would translate to more sailing adventures and less manual sculling. However, Keith dismisses the offer, saying it's unnecessary.

Once we return to the slip after two hours of laborious sculling, I reach out to Marty, an aged and gruff mechanic in the harbor who we frequently rely on for engine repairs. Marty, a 67-year-old with a bum hip, serves many



boats and often complains about needing filters delivered due to his inability to traverse the dock easily. His shop, filled with cluttered mechanical parts, is situated at the pier's end.

Marty agrees to evaluate Keith's engine despite the ongoing banter and cigarette exchanges between him and Keith. I express concern over the dock's flammability with Marty's habit of discarding cigarette butts carelessly, as smoking has caused accidents before. Observing Marty and Keith argue over the boat engine, I decide my presence is unnecessary and venture off to the Marina Handy Mart to visit Cherry, leaving the adults to their business.

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Chapter 26 Summary:

In Chapter 26, Perry, a simple yet kind-hearted man who recently won the lottery, often thinks about Cherry, a girl he finds beautiful and smart despite his friends' dismissive comments about her appearance. The setting is a cold, wet day as Perry makes his way to a local convenience store where Cherry works. Upon entering, a brief, awkward exchange takes place between them, highlighting Perry's nervous affection for her.

As Perry and Cherry chat, she notes Perry's lottery win and jokes about no longer playing the lottery herself, considering the astronomical odds. Their conversation takes a personal turn when Perry mentions he thinks his father might be dead, to which Cherry expresses her own tumultuous relationship with her father.

Their conversation is interrupted by three intimidating men who enter the store, causing Perry to feel frightened and uncomfortable. A confrontation swiftly unfolds, and one of the men physically threatens Perry. Cherry, showing unexpected bravery, intervenes with an aluminum baseball bat and a can of Mace. Her quick-thinking and fierce defense save Perry from harm.

Police arrive on the scene, arresting the men who had outstanding warrants against them. An officer recognizes Perry as the recent lottery winner, adding a layer of irony to the criminals' misadventure. The police commend



Cherry for her courage but caution her about the potential dangers of her actions.

With Perry's arm injured in the scuffle, Cherry calls their mutual friend, Keith, to help take Perry to the hospital. Despite the chaos, Cherry shows vulnerability, crying for reasons unknown to Perry. Keith and Cherry accompany Perry to the hospital, where he receives treatment for a sprain, though not before some lighthearted moments pop up amidst the stress.

Later, as they dine together at Denny's, Cherry confesses feeling unable to defend herself against her abusive father, despite her earlier bravery in defending Perry. Keith quietly offers his support, telling her to reach out whenever she needs help. This moment of connection and shared vulnerability brings Perry immense warmth and appreciation for Cherry, recognizing her strength and kindness.

In Perry's dazed state, influenced by medication, he reflects on his love for Cherry, realizing she saved his life, both literally during the day's events and emotionally through her friendship. The chapter ends on a note of gratitude and budding affection between the characters, as Perry feels enveloped by the warmth of their shared bond.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: True bravery often emerges amid vulnerability.

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 26 of 'Lottery,' you witness Cherry's profound bravery in the face of danger, defending Perry with remarkable courage despite her fears and personal struggles. This moment serves as a powerful reminder that you, too, can find strength within your vulnerabilities. True courage is not about being fearless; it's about acknowledging your fears and choosing to act despite them. Cherry's actions inspire you to recognize the hidden reservoirs of bravery that reside within, waiting to be called upon when you need them the most. Her ability to protect others while grappling with her personal challenges illuminates the potential for growth and strength lying in the heart of vulnerability. Embrace vulnerability as an integral part of your humanity, and you'll uncover the boundless courage you are capable of exhibiting in life's pivotal moments.

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Chapter 27 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry Crandall finds himself at the center of a public spectacle after being assaulted at a marina convenience store where he had purchased a winning lottery ticket. The incident makes headlines, with the newspaper inaccurately labeling him as "retarded." Perry, who prefers to describe himself as "slow," is upset by the misinformation and considers legal action, feeling humiliated by the derogatory label.

Keith, Perry's friend, empathizes with Perry and decides to call the newspaper to demand a retraction. Keith is persistent but frustrated by the lengthy hold time and bureaucracy of the newspaper's phone system. Meanwhile, Gary, another colleague, advises against escalating the issue, suggesting it might not be worth the trouble.

Despite the turbulent situation, Perry finds solace in his routine, such as when he buys lunch for his coworkers, including Manny, who helps him with heavy items due to his injured arm. This act of generosity makes Perry feel wealthy in spirit, regardless of his monetary status.

During lunch, Cherry, a woman Perry admires, briefly acknowledges him, but he is too captivated by her presence to engage deeply. Manny notices Perry's interest in Cherry and teases him about it.



Keith eventually reaches Marleen Rafter, a top reporter who is interested in doing a story on Perry and his newfound celebrity status. Keith seems excited about the prospect of fame, but Perry advises caution, sharing his mixed feelings about unexpected popularity. Perry reflects on how public perception has shifted since his lottery win—where once he was dismissed or disliked, now people shower him with attention and requests, even if they've never met him. This paradox of fame leaves Perry contemplating the complexities of human nature and friendship.

Through his interactions with Keith, Gary, and Manny, Perry grapples with his evolving identity and how others perceive him. Despite his slow demeanor, he gains a new level of introspection and wisdom, realizing that true friendship and understanding come from those who see beyond labels and embrace his genuine self.

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Chapter 28:

In this chapter, we find Perry, the protagonist, at home on a day off, preoccupied with doing his laundry and unaware of visitors at his door. John and David, his cousin-brothers, unexpectedly enter his home, bringing along a new character named Mike Dinelli. Their visit is prompted by recent disturbing news, which has them concerned for Perry's safety. John's anxious pacing and tense demeanor, paired with David's more composed presence, highlight the urgency and seriousness of the situation. Mike, introduced as a friend there to ensure Perry's protection, is depicted as imposing yet somewhat friendly, indicating his dual role as both a protector and someone with underlying motivations.

The conversation reveals a mounting tension among the men regarding Perry's safety and the lack of protection from his friends. The chapters allude to past incidents of violence and an implication of ongoing danger. John and David's heated discussion about acquiring police records for evidence showcases differing approaches and opinions on how to handle Perry's situation, hinting at underlying familial discord and possible dubious dealings.

Mike asserts control over the discourse, especially when tensions flare between John and David, by physically reminding them of their need to adhere to his plan. His profession as a financial adviser adds a layer of



ambiguity to his true intentions. Perry's perception of Mike, and his seemingly innocuous connection to things like Gram's crochet skills and shared taste in sweets, adds complexity to Mike's character, simultaneously calming and capable of disarming his wariness.

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Chapter 29 Summary:

In Chapter 29, the protagonist, Perry, spends his time organizing the store's inventory strategically to improve sales and efficiency. Despite the resistance from Manny, a coworker who dismisses Perry's suggestions, Perry's initiative in reorganizing the fender covers and lines leads to a boost in sales. Gary, the store manager, acknowledges Perry's ingenuity and handles new orders to replenish stock.

While discussing during lunch, Keith, another colleague and a regular companion to Perry, breaks his healthy eating habits by enjoying a BLT sandwich, despite his wife Sandy's persistent encouragement for him to eat healthier. Perry, with his pragmatic view of the world influenced by Gram, shares his thoughts on eating habits with Gary, noting that people often eat while shopping, leading to a light-hearted exchange about the social norms of eating.

An important subplot is woven through the interactions wherein Perry takes care of financial matters and chores, reminiscent of what his grandmother, Gram, taught him. He pays Marty for fixing Keith's boat engine and later takes charge of getting the car heater repaired, fulfilling a long-awaited goal from Gram's lottery list. Perry's thoughtful gesture deeply affects Keith, stirring memories of past kindnesses like chauffeuring Gram for errands, demonstrating Perry's loyalty and gratitude.



Additionally, Perry fondly remembers Gram's wisdom about life, alcohol, and responsibilities, offering a glimpse into his upbringing and moral compass. Despite his youthful curiosity, he maintains a mature attitude towards these themes, suggesting his growth and respect for Gram's lessons.

In tandem with the primary narrative, Keith undergoes a subtle transformation, grooming and dressing up regularly as he anticipates an interview with Marleen Rafter, a reporter. Her interest in Perry, due to his newfound financial status, instigates Keith's change, adding a layer of humor as Gary mistakenly credits himself for Keith's improved appearance. Keith, charmed by Marleen, fantasizes about future interactions, keeping her number close at heart but hesitates to initiate contact.

These character interactions and plot developments enrich the narrative, painting Perry as a proactive and reflective individual navigating work, relationships, and responsibilities. His methods and mannerisms subtly draw connections to his past, illustrating the life lessons instilled by his late grandmother. The chapter balances humor and sentimentality while exploring themes of change, perceived social values, and personal growth against an everyday life backdrop.



Chapter 30 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry, who won the Washington State Lottery, is exploring his dreams and fantasies with his friend Keith. The narrative begins with Perry expressing disappointment over a Hershey's chocolate factory tour, discovering that the actual factory tours have been replaced with a themed replica experience. With Keith trying to comfort him, the conversation turns to their late grandmother's wish list, which sparks an idea to visit Hawaii, fulfilling her unaccomplished dream of traveling somewhere warm.

The story transitions as Perry and Keith experience the benefits of wealth, such as flying first-class to Hawaii. This new experience for Perry includes learning about the luxuries of first-class travel, the perks that come with it, and the social dynamics, such as how people react when they discover his lottery-winning status. For Perry, who processes the world differently, learning these unwritten rules and distinctions forms a key part of his journey.

Upon arriving in Hawaii, Perry's joy is palpable. He's fascinated by the warmth, the unique phonetics of the Hawaiian language, and the vibrant spirit of Aloha culture. Despite communication barriers, like struggling with the Hawaiian accent, he embraces the adventure. Their hotel, nestled by the ocean, symbolizes freedom and novelty.



Perry experiences the ocean for the first time, reveling in the ability to float and explore what feels like a vast aquarium full of life. He even attempts to learn swimming under Keith's encouragement. However, humorous mishaps, such as getting water up his nose, remind him of his limitations and inject levity into the moment.

The chapter encapsulates themes of discovery, adventure, and enjoying life's possibilities beyond material wealth. It showcases Perry's enthusiasm for life's simple pleasures, contrasts between perceived reality and actual experiences, and the underlying idea that money can provide opportunities but doesn't define personal happiness. Perry is depicted as someone who, despite challenges, embraces joy in both significant adventures and small, everyday victories.

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Chapter 31 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist, Perry, experiences a vibrant morning in Hawaii, with Diamond Head—an extinct volcano—as a prominent landmark in view from their hotel balcony. Perry is traveling with Keith, who has fond and embellished memories of his time in Waikiki during the Vietnam War. The duo browses colorful tourist brochures filled with activities like attending luaus and renting limousines, which intrigue Perry.

The core of their visit revolves around Perry and Keith's shared mission to bring Perry's Gram's ashes to Hawaii. Although Perry carries Gram's ashes with him, he is adamant about not scattering them, emphasizing the importance of keeping her together.

During their stay, they meet Francisco, a valet, who recommends a tour of the Arizona Memorial. This memorial honors the sunken USS Arizona from World War II and provides a somber contrast to the lively vacation activities described in the brochures. The reverence surrounding the memorial, with its engraved names and chapel-like structure, prompts Perry to engage in conversations about war. He meets Myrtle, an elderly woman who reminds him of Gram. Perry reflects on the senselessness of war, a sentiment he learned from his grandmother, and shares this opinion with Myrtle.

As they ride back, Perry turns to Keith for personal insights into war, hoping



to understand its impact. Keith, who has his own complex history with the subject, is visibly emotional and reluctant to delve into his wartime experiences, cautioning Perry against pursuing the grim realities of war. Despite Keith's resistance, Perry senses that Keith's reluctance stems from his own unresolved feelings about his past.

The chapter concludes with Perry reflecting deeply on war and memory, realizing that sometimes, the past is more haunting for those who have lived through it than for those who are merely curious.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace the Power of Memory and Respect for the Past

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, Perry's journey to Hawaii transcends a simple vacation; it becomes a deeply personal pilgrimage, reminding you of the power of memory and the profound respect owed to the past. Perry's determination to honor Gram by keeping her ashes together, coupled with his reflective experience at the Arizona Memorial, serves as a poignant reminder to cherish the stories and wisdom of those who came before us. Much like Perry, you might discover that the past holds lessons wrapped in emotions that are crucial for understanding your own journey. By embracing these memories and respecting their place in your life, you gain strength in navigating your present, offering you a richer, more empathetic perspective towards the complexities of life you encounter. Perry's poignant realization suggests the importance of approaching your past with a balanced lens—acknowledging its influence without being overwhelmed by its shadows, allowing room for growth and understanding.



Chapter 32:

In this chapter, the protagonist shares three important lessons learned from a trip to Hawaii. First, they realize that their newfound popularity stems from winning the lottery. Secondly, there's a whimsical notion that you can still pursue your desires even after death. Lastly, through an airport observation, the protagonist concludes that buying presents is essential to wooing Cherry, a girl they fancy.

While perusing airport shops with a friend named Keith, the protagonist spots a girl who resembles Cherry, albeit with distinguishing features like blond hair and tattoos. Keith jokes about the girl's much older companion, suggesting that sometimes material gifts are a strategy for men to gain romantic interest. This prompts the protagonist to buy Cherry a puka shell necklace and a box of chocolate-covered macadamia nuts, hoping to win her affection.

The protagonist reflects on the plane ride back from Hawaii, contemplating how fun and experiences are finite, somewhat akin to the intellectual capacity that people either conserve or use up at different stages of life. They decide they have spent their "fun quota" in their current life stage, which they find exhilarating.

Upon returning home, the protagonist eagerly visits Cherry at her workplace



to gift her the souvenirs. Cherry's delighted reaction to the chocolates and necklace is capped by a grateful kiss on the cheek, reaffirming the lesson learned: gifts can indeed pave the path to a romantic connection. Buoyed by Cherry's appreciation, the protagonist returns home exuberant, bouncing with joy on their grandmother's couch, thrilled by the prospect of furthering their relationship with Cherry.

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Chapter 33 Summary:

Chapter 33 of the book illustrates the routine interactions and events that occur every Thursday at Holsted's store, where Perry works. Perry, who has won the lottery, is portrayed as someone who is both innocent and insightful. He's caught in a web of people who want access to his newfound wealth, although he remains skeptical of their intentions, thanks to the wisdom he gained from his grandmother, Gram.

Each Thursday, Perry is visited by Mike Dinelli, who comes by ostensibly as a friend, offering companionship and gifts, such as lunch and Hershey's Kisses. Mike often brings Perry a document to sign, claiming it's for Perry's "protection" and involves his lottery winnings. However, Perry, recalling Gram's life lessons, remains wary of Mike's intentions. Gram had taught Perry to be cautious of phrases like "it's to your advantage," knowing they often hide others' self-interests.

Meanwhile, Thursdays are also when Gary, a colleague of Perry's, spends time with his brother-in-law, and Keith, another coworker, handles orders for the store. Perry is busy at work; many people call seeking checks related to his lottery winnings, including John, David, Elaine, and Louise. Despite the pressure from these calls and Mike's persistent attempts to convince him to cash out his winnings for a seemingly lousy deal, Perry holds his ground.



The interactions Perry has are largely characterized by humor and simplicity. He jokes with Mike about names, expressing a preference for informal interactions that help him feel comfortable. Yet, Perry is well aware of the underlying tension due to his lottery winnings, something he finds amusing since others seem more concerned about it than he is.

Gary has decided to extend more responsibilities to Keith, allowing Perry to focus on customer service and inventory. Keith, feeling protective of Perry, becomes suspicious of Mike's intentions. Despite Keith's gruff demeanor, it's clear that he, like others, is trying to look out for Perry, though Perry feels capable of handling his affairs.

In this chapter, Perry's relationship with Mike is emblematic of the broader theme of trust and caution with newly acquired wealth. While many around Perry, including his brothers and Elaine, seem to endorse Mike's proposal, Perry, channeling the guidance he received from his grandmother, is determined not to easily relinquish control of his resources.

In summary, the chapter encapsulates the pressure Perry faces from those around him seeking to benefit from his lottery success, alongside his grounded stubbornness to adhere to the life lessons his Gram taught him about trust and self-reliance.



Chapter 34 Summary:

In Chapter 34, Keith mentions that a reporter named Marleen called earlier and plans to meet them to work on a story for the news. Perry, the narrator, initially doesn't recall who Marleen is but realizes Keith's dressed-up appearance is for the interview. Gary, presumably their boss, encourages them to promote their store, Holsted's Marine Supply, during the interview and gifts Marleen some store merchandise.

Marleen arrives and is described as tall, with a gravelly voice and a similar appearance to Keith, including her style of dress. She introduces herself to Perry with a firm handshake, noting both their names' similar ending sounds, which creates an immediate friendly rapport. Perry admires Marleen for her television presence, considering her a "TV star," though Keith cynically notes her sexual orientation using a derogatory term, reflecting biases.

The conversation takes a turn when Marleen asks Perry if people treat him differently due to being "retarded." Perry becomes visibly upset, clarifying that he is "slow" but not retarded, bringing up his IQ number of 76 as evidence. This sparks an awkward exchange about intelligence numbers where Keith lightheartedly admits he never knew his own number, which resonates with Perry's point about societal labels and judgment.

Despite the tense moment, Marleen fits in well with Keith, sharing drinks



from her cooler. She also reveals a love for trucks, prompting more casual dialogue as the characters bond over their common traits and interests. However, Perry, growing hungry and eager to move past the encounter, shares a provocative anecdote about a man named Russell James Cook, who preferred execution over admitting to being retarded.

The flashback explains how Perry and Keith initially learned about Russell, a man on death row with a low IQ who refused to be labeled as retarded to avoid execution, which highlighted a legal and moral dilemma. The media had heavily covered this story, particularly in Texas, where capital punishment is a prevalent consequence for murder.

The discussion underscores themes of identity, societal perceptions, and the consequences of labels. The chapter concludes with Perry reflecting on the past media frenzy around Russell's case and the ultimate outcome, which still lingers in his mind as a pertinent reminder of societal injustices.



Chapter 35 Summary:

In this chapter, we follow the experiences of a young boy named Perry, who struggles with being labeled as "slow" due to his early IQ test results. The chapter delves into the societal pressures and perceptions surrounding intelligence, particularly how Perry's grandmother, Gram, passionately defends him against suggestions that he should have been "terminated" because of his intellectual challenges. Gram fiercely believes that time and perseverance can improve Perry's situation.

Perry recalls his initial IQ test, explaining his fear and discomfort during the process, which affected his performance. His results were poor, which led to his exclusion from being in the same class as his peers like Kenny. Gram tirelessly advocated for him, trying unsuccessfully to have the test retaken to reflect his true potential, arguing that minor changes in testing conditions could yield a better score. However, Perry's first teacher was resistant to the idea, citing that IQ scores have minimal variance.

Enter Miss Elk, Perry's subsequent teacher, who plays a pivotal role in his development. Unlike others, she encourages Perry to believe in his potential, motivating him to retake the IQ test with a newfound confidence. Her supportive approach helps Perry achieve a new score of 76, which Gram celebrates as a triumph, a sign that Perry isn't "retarded" as lower scores might suggest.



Despite this personal victory, the school doesn't acknowledge the new test results, and Perry is placed in an inclusion class, which leads to daily distress. Eventually, Gram decides that Perry no longer needs to attend school if it makes him unhappy.

The narrative shifts to Perry's friendship with Keith, where Perry openly discusses his experiences with societal judgment. Through his conversations with Keith, Perry reveals how people often misunderstand and mistreat those they perceive as slow, from bus drivers to grocery store clerks. He highlights the irony that being considered "rude" can be more socially acceptable than being seen as "retarded."

Perry's insights shed light on the harsh realities faced by individuals with learning differences and emphasize the arbitrary nature of numbers that define intelligence, showcasing a poignant critique of societal norms and the arbitrary stigma attached to intelligence metrics.

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Chapter 36:

In this chapter, we follow Perry Crandall, a character who finds solace in his routine walks to the Marina Handy Mart. These walks give him time to think and calm down, as the store is conveniently accessible and located near the water. Perry often goes there to buy ravioli for dinner, appreciating the simplicity and taste of this easy-to-prepare meal.

Upon entering the store, Perry is greeted by Cherry, the cashier, who usually brings warmth and comfort to those around her. However, today is different. Cherry is visibly distressed, with tear-stained eyes and facial injuries that suggest she has had a rough encounter. When Perry inquires about her condition, Cherry vaguely describes her situation as a 'car wreck'—not literally, but metaphorically, indicating her life's turmoil.

Perry is concerned and unsure how to help Cherry, but he tries to comfort her with a gentle touch. Deciding to stay a bit longer, he purchases sandwiches, hoping a longer interaction might lift her spirits. Cherry mentions Manny's preference for cheese, and Perry acknowledges her attempt to assist him, even as she struggles.

After leaving the store, Perry returns to work, where he encounters a customer named Ernie speaking with his coworker, Keith. Eavesdropping, Perry realizes they are discussing him—Perry is a lottery winner, which has



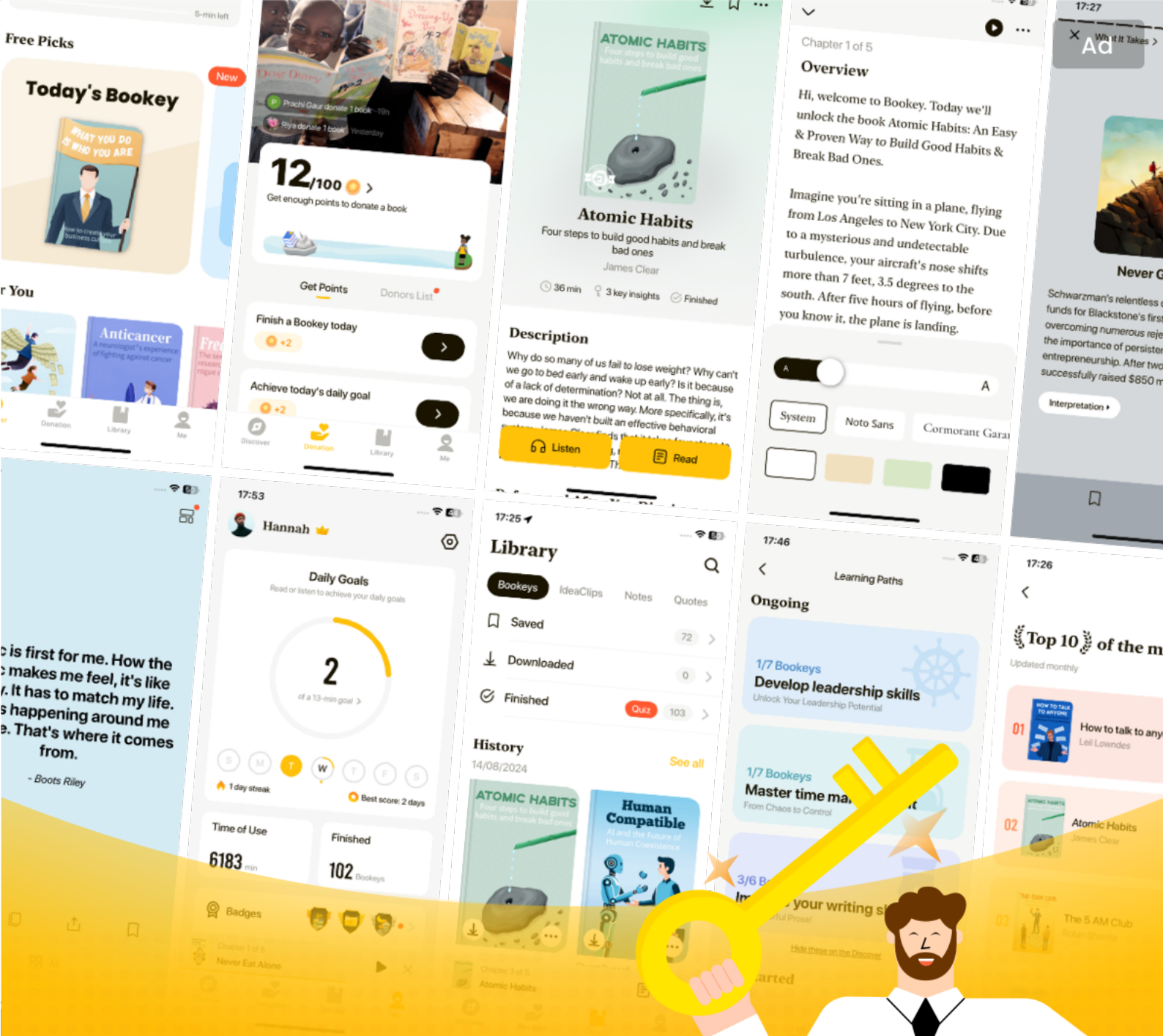
made people around him curious and envious. Keith introduces Perry to Ernie, who seems interested in how Perry plans to share his newfound wealth.

Despite the awkwardness, Perry takes the attention in stride, focusing on the

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Chapter 37 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist, Perry, finds himself thrown into unexpected circumstances when Keith, his friend, calls from jail after a violent altercation. Keith ended up in jail for confronting Cherry's abusive father, who had been physically harming Cherry. Instead of leaving her to suffer, Keith intervened, earning himself and Cherry's father a trip to the local jail. This sets the stage for a harrowing yet enlightening experience for Perry.

Perry learns about the complexities of the legal system and the limitations that come with being arrested, such as the single phone call allowed. Keith uses this call to reach out to Perry for help, requesting bail money, which highlights their close bond. Perry is confronted with the task of bailing Keith out, but his lack of a driver's license presents a logistical challenge. This is where Cherry enters, desperate and needing sanctuary, explaining her situation to Perry.

Cherry, revealed to be a victim of her father's abuse but also shown as resilient and resourceful, arrives at Perry's doorstep. She's vulnerable yet determined, seeking refuge with the only people she trusts, Perry and Keith. Cherry's arrival adds depth to her character and establishes her as a pivotal figure for Perry. Their mutual fondness for Hulk comics and shared experiences bind them further during this crisis.



As they head to the police station, Cherry recounts the events leading to the arrest, where Keith's intervention protected her from further harm. Perry's admiration for Keith's bravery (as “the Hulk”) and his missed opportunity to witness the events first-hand is palpable. The two friends share a deep connection, relying on one another in adverse situations.

Officer Ray Mallory, familiar with both Perry and Cherry, assists them at the station, furthering the sense of community and small-town interconnectedness in their lives. The officer’s assistance illustrates the human elements within law enforcement who can empathize and extend courtesy under certain circumstances.

After securing Keith's release, the group's dynamic shifts subtly. Keith is thankful, Cherry is grateful, and Perry finds himself more protective of Cherry. They return to their daily lives, but the incident leaves an imprint on all involved. Cherry's stay at Perry's place reinforces the emotional bonds forming between them, highlighting Perry’s burgeoning feelings toward Cherry.

That night, alone with his thoughts and Cherry nearby, Perry experiences a mix of emotions—excitement, nervousness, and a budding romantic attraction to Cherry. These feelings manifest in his dream, blending reality and fantasy as he envisions himself as heroic and strong, winning Cherry’s affection through his imagined bravery.



The chapter closes with Perry reflecting on his deep affection for Cherry, solidifying her importance in his life. This chapter beautifully captures the themes of friendship, love, and the courage to stand against abuse, all while subtly portraying the protagonist's growth as a character navigating the challenges of youth and growing responsibilities.

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Chapter 38 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist Perry adjusts to having a new dynamic in his living situation with Cherry, a woman who has become a shared roommate for him and Keith. Gary, a recurring character, casually inquires about the arrangement, hinting at some curiosity about the change. Cherry's presence is transformative; she's active and caring, often cooking meals like Hamburger Helper, chili, and Chicken Tenders, and even taking care of household chores, such as cleaning and doing laundry for both Perry and Keith. This new setup feels liberating for Perry, as he is relieved from many responsibilities.

Cherry, who works at the Marina Handy Mart, brings a sense of community and warmth. She's industrious, akin to Perry, who appreciates her contribution and refuses to charge her rent. There's an undercurrent of tension when Cherry relates a conflict with Elaine, Perry's cousin-brother David's wife. Elaine, unfamiliar with Cherry, has already formed negative opinions, calling Cherry a "slut" over the phone, an incident that Cherry shrugs off.

The chapter also delves into Perry's personal space—a bedroom shared with Cherry, where her things are neatly stored amongst his mementos from his late grandparents, Gram and Gramp. When nostalgic or in need of comfort, Perry looks through these items, finding solace in their presence. Cherry,



too, shares in this sentiment, expressing envy of the tangible memories Perry possesses, as she lacks such connection to her own past.

The scene culminates with Cherry noticing a piece of paper listing the names of people Perry is supposed to listen to, such as Gary and Officer Ray Mallory. This list, a relic from Gram's guidance, served Perry in the past to navigate his interactions and decisions. Yet, he subtly acknowledges his growth by realizing he now relies more on his judgment.

Overall, this chapter illustrates Perry's evolving life with Cherry's influence, his ongoing connection to his grandparents, and personal growth as he takes more control of his life decisions.

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Chapter 39 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry reflects on his first Christmas after winning the lottery, which is bittersweet without his beloved Gram, who used to make the holidays special with her love for Christmas decorations. He reminisces about past holiday traditions, like their unconventional gift-giving practices and their fun times shopping at local stores like Kmart or the Army-Navy store. Gram's encouraging spirit is a recurring memory, reminding Perry to "try again" whenever he failed at something, such as drawing on an Etch A Sketch.

Perry also experiences Christmas differently as he joins his friend Cherry and his brother Keith to drive around and admire Christmas lights. The joy in the car is palpable, punctuated by laughter and shared excitement, even though the old truck, Yo, has its quirks, like a wiper that needs encouragement to work.

Tensions rise as Keith reveals a painful past when Cherry innocently questions his grumpiness towards Christmas. Keith shares a brief but impactful glimpse of his history, involving a lost family and the Vietnam War, a revelation that changes the mood. Perry, always perceptive, feels the weight of the sadness but also the subtle promise of a connection between Keith and Cherry, hinted at through unspoken exchanges.



After returning to Everett, Cherry chooses to stay behind with Keith, a decision that seems significant even in its quietness. Perry, sensing the emotional undercurrents, respects their unspoken communication and retreats to his apartment to reflect on the evening. While Perry indulges in the calming act of watching snow fall outside his window, the drama gently unfolds as Cherry and Keith's boats glow from within, signaling a deepening of their bond.

The chapter closes with Perry finding comfort in small things, like Hershey's Kisses and the soft beauty of the dock lit up like a Christmas card, before he turns in for the night, carrying both the warmth of the holiday spirit and the poignant absence of Gram into his dreams.

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Chapter 40:

The holiday season unfolds with a focus on the spirit of giving, albeit with some personal challenges. Struggling to choose the perfect gifts, Perry receives a little help from the memory of his Gram, who suggests sending fruit baskets to Louise, David, and John. Perry has to send Louise's basket to John's house since he lacks her physical address, and experiences a moment of anxiety when Louise visits Holsted's, asking for another check. Hidden in the back room, Perry hears her requesting money and Keith, his friend, expresses frustration with Louise's persistent visits. However, Perry insists on giving her money to make her leave, not stay.

Perry spends Christmas Eve with his friend Gary's family, including Gary's wife, Sandy, and their daughters, Kelly and Meagan. The home is filled with the enticing aromas of traditional holiday food, causing Perry's stomach to growl audibly. A mountain of gifts under the tree, most of which came from Yo, astonishes Kelly and Meagan. Keith, trying to be on his best behavior, refrains from using too many swear words, leaving everyone impressed.

Cherry, another character, draws attention with her colorful appearance, sporting unique piercings and hair that both Kelly and Meagan admire. She wears a sparkly red top and a long skirt, embodying festive cheer. Excited to give Cherry a gift he hopes she'll love, Perry witnesses her unwrapping a pair of diamond earrings he bought, and her ecstatic reaction makes him



hopeful she might become his girlfriend.

Perry reflects on his past Christmases with Gram, their home decorated with an aluminum tree and color-changing wheel. In contrast, Gary's real tree, adorned with vibrant lights, adds a magical touch to the evening, further enhanced by special glasses that make the lights transform into twinkling shapes.

After a joyful gift exchange, Perry and his friends talk about their Christmas memories on the way home. Cherry shares stories of her childhood before her parents' separation, while Perry and Keith discuss their experiences and holiday traditions. Despite the absence of Gram, Perry finds comfort in these shared moments with his friends.

As the night winds down, Perry plays Santa, organizing stockings full of candy and small gifts for Cherry and Keith. Content with his thoughtful creations, he drifts to sleep on the couch, only to awaken to the scent of pancakes and Cherry's upbeat announcement that "Santa" visited overnight. Surprised and grateful, he finds a laptop, a hat, and other goodies in his own stocking.

Cherry, ever supportive, offers to teach Perry how to use his new computer, an unexpected and cherished gift. The day feels elevated by these gestures of affection and care, ending with Perry listening to Gram's comforting voice



in his mind, wishing him a Merry Christmas, adding a nostalgic note to an already heartwarming holiday.

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Chapter 41 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist Perry reflects on the theme of chance in life as he types new words into his computer, musing on the concept of a "lottery." He recalls buying lottery tickets with his grandmother (Gram), who had a rather pragmatic and somewhat cynical view of life, considering everything to be a lottery—whether it was having brains or facing unfortunate events like disease or accidents. This makes Perry question if other aspects of life, like happiness and sadness, are also determined by randomness.

As January trudges on with its cold and wet weather, Perry continues to send money to his cousin-brothers, feeling the tug of family responsibilities. He starts contemplating a Valentine's Day gift for Cherry, whom he believes might be his girlfriend now. Cherry enjoys reading romance novels, which Perry finds entertaining and educational, despite Keith, another character in Perry's life, initially dismissing them as "crap." However, after some encouragement from Cherry, Keith reads her novels and finds them unexpectedly enjoyable.

The dynamic between Keith and Cherry is one of playful romance, complete with dramatic reenactments of the stories they read, which often include elements of adventure and romance. Their relationship also experiences typical ups and downs, with arguments about Keith's habits, like watching



sports and drinking beer, but they always reconcile, reinforcing their familial bond.

Perry enjoys a sense of family with Keith, Cherry, and others like Gary and Sandy, reminiscing about spaghetti nights he used to have with his grandparents. These gatherings often involve playing games like cribbage, Scrabble, and Monopoly. Perry is particularly skilled in cribbage and is improving in Scrabble due to his growing vocabulary. A humorous incident occurs during a Scrabble game when Perry uses the word "echt," leading to a challenge from Kelly, Gary's daughter, who is a typical teenager dealing with her own challenges.

Keith's teasing nature and Gary's wry humor amidst the challenges of raising a teenager bring a light-heartedness to the narrative. As the chapter unfolds, the interactions within this unconventional family unit highlight themes of growth, understanding, and the complex dynamics that come with familial relationships. Perry observes these interactions, gaining insights into adulthood and the nuanced relationships that define a family, all while expanding his own knowledge through his love for words.



Chapter 42 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry is in the midst of a significant business transaction. He, along with his friends Keith and Gary, attends a meeting with Gary's lawyer, Tom Tilton. Perry, primarily an auditor, finds the business discussions challenging to follow but remains attentive. The main objective is to protect Perry's interests from his brothers and Elaine, a woman described as manipulative. There's also a discussion about business expansion and how Perry, who cherishes the idea of being involved in Holsted's Marine Supply, could best join as a partner. Various partnership structures like LLC and corporation are evaluated.

Perry then becomes an investor by writing a substantial check to Holsted's Marine Supply, making him officially part of the business world. While he spends a large portion of his checking account, he wisely leaves his savings untouched, recalling his grandmother's advice to save half and spend half. Keith reassures Perry about the protection clauses and assists him in the agreement process, granting Perry a bigger salary as an investor. Perry now feels protected by his friends Keith, Gary, and another character, Mike Dinelli.

Mike's discussions with John hint at ongoing issues requiring resolution, particularly needing more time and guarantees. The tone suggests some urgency and tension, illustrating business complexities that Perry is learning



to navigate.

Perry's new status changes how others perceive him. Previously avoided, he's now greeted warmly at the grocery and regarded as a source of good fortune. This contrast highlights Perry's transition from being misunderstood to being respected, largely due to his newfound wealth.

Later, the group, including Gary and Sandy, enjoy a relaxed evening at Gary's house. Despite distractions from Sandy and the humorous antics of their daughter Kelly, Perry is encouraged by Gary to contribute ideas to enhance the store. Perry suggests integrating more sailing materials and expertise, which Gary seems to appreciate.

Perry reflects on the changes in his relationships. People like Keith remain genuine and treat him as they always have, reinforcing the idea that true friendship endures through life's changes. Keith's personal struggles, hinted at in his reluctance to communicate with April and Jason, showcase that friendships can also carry unresolved issues. Through light-hearted interactions and deep reflections, Perry navigates his new reality, balancing old friendships with newfound responsibilities and perceptions.

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Chapter 43 Summary:

In this chapter, the narrator expresses concern for Keith, a character who becomes troubled, particularly when he drinks. This concern is shared by Cherry and was echoed by the narrator's grandmother, Gram, who would often express her worries but never elaborate further.

The chapter recounts an Independence Day evening when Keith invited the narrator and Gram to watch fireworks from his boat, the Diamond Girl, in the harbor. While initially peaceful, the fireworks display soon triggered a disturbing response in Keith. As vibrant green and red sparkles lit up the night sky with loud explosions, Keith became visibly distressed. Seated close to the launch site, the group could even feel the fireworks' vibrations.

It was Gram who first noticed Keith's change in demeanor—he was sweating and clenching his fists. Suddenly, he broke down, crying into Gram's chest, haunted by past experiences. Through broken sobs, he lamented the loss of innocent women and children, calling out the "bastards" who had caused destruction as if the victims meant nothing. His words revealed a deep, hidden trauma that was triggered by the fireworks' violent reminders.

After the fireworks concluded, Gram and the narrator stayed with Keith until he fell asleep before heading back home by bus. Later, the narrator questioned Gram about Keith's behavior, wondering if he was sick or scared.



Gram's response revealed the heavy burden Keith carried from his experiences in the Vietnam War, which she believed had irreparably damaged him. Although Vietnam was merely a distant country to the narrator, for Keith, the war left enduring scars on his soul.

The chapter closes with Gram's bitter refrain about the war, underscoring the lasting impact of past conflicts on veterans like Keith, and the helplessness felt by those around them who watch them struggle.

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Chapter 44:

In this chapter, Perry is caught up in the excitement of Valentine's Day, giving gifts to Cherry, a girl he has feelings for. He gives her a card, chocolates, and a gold bracelet with her name, all bought from Zales, where he is a favored customer. Cherry responds warmly, kissing Perry and giving him a giant box of Hershey's Kisses, which is his favorite treat. This exchange makes Perry believe Cherry must be his girlfriend, especially since she signs the card with love.

However, tension arises when their friend Gary asks Perry and Cherry if they can babysit his kids, as he's taking his partner Sandy out for Valentine's. Keith, another friend, quickly interjects, indicating Cherry will be busy, which adds an unfamiliar edge to his voice. Perry reluctantly agrees to babysit on his own.

While at Gary's house, Perry tries to manage Gary and Sandy's children, Kelly and Meagan, who are reluctant to do homework and quick to quarrel, demonstrating the challenges of even temporary parenting. By the time Gary and Sandy return, Perry is relieved and drained from the evening. Gary shares details about their night out and hints at a potential romantic development between Keith and Cherry, adding to Perry's confusion about their relationships.



Later, as Perry tries to unwind and sleep, he is awoken by music outside. He sees Keith and Cherry slow dancing near Yo, Perry's car, which has its door wide open. Keith is dressed in a suit, and Cherry in a long, shimmering dress. Perry witnesses them sharing an intimate kiss and walking arm in arm, realizing with a heavy heart that Cherry is actually Keith's girlfriend.

This revelation is emotionally overwhelming for Perry, leading him to tears as he confronts the reality of his feelings and the misinterpreted signals. The following morning, the car battery of Yo is dead, symbolizing perhaps the end of Perry's naive hopes about his relationship with Cherry.

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Chapter 45 Summary:

In this chapter, the protagonist embarks on a heartfelt mission to fulfill a family wish by purchasing a burial plot at Marysville Memorial Park cemetery. Motivated by a cherished game played with their grandma (Gram), they aim to secure a resting place next to Gramp, Gram's deceased partner, to ensure they are together in the afterlife.

The journey begins with a lighthearted, albeit clumsy, adventure as the protagonist, their friend Keith, and another companion, Cherry, attempt to locate the cemetery. Despite several wrong turns and pit stops for pancakes and donuts, they eventually find their way, thanks to Cherry's insistence on asking for directions and writing down instructions.

Once at the cemetery, they meet Leo, the caretaker, who resembles Gramp. Leo explains the costs involved, including purchasing a plot, a vault, and additional services such as engraving and flower vases. Budget-conscious Cherry advises against overspending, highlighting her role as the group's financial watchdog.

As they arrange the necessary services, emotions run high, particularly when discussing potential engravings for Gram's headstone. They choose a simple yet meaningful epitaph, "Don't Be Smart," reflecting Gram's personality and perhaps a favorite saying. The group shares tears, hugs, and fond



remembrances. Leo, despite his initial reservations, ensures that the plot will be ready in twenty days.

Three weeks later, the group returns to the cemetery, carrying vibrant flowers to conduct a personal graveside service. The newly placed granite headstone bears the names of both Gramp and Gram, united once more, with their chosen epitaph bridging them together. It's a bittersweet moment, but a fitting farewell as beloved memories are honored and lives well-lived celebrated.

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Chapter 46 Summary:

In this chapter, we delve into the complex world of Perry L. Crandall, a lottery winner who finds himself at the center of his family's financial interests. The narrative begins with Perry receiving frequent calls from his family members—John, David, Louise, Elaine, and Mike—who are more interested in his newfound wealth than in his well-being. They inquire about his lottery payments and suggest various financial strategies, including selling his annuity and investing in a family trust. Perry, who struggles with understanding complex financial terms, often feels overwhelmed and resorts to screening their calls.

CeCe, notably absent from these calls, is mentioned by Keith as being preoccupied with her own interests. Perry's friend, Keith, injects humor into Perry's life by recording quirky messages on Perry's answering machine, turning it into a source of amusement and frustration for his family. This ongoing "answering machine war" serves as a backdrop against Perry's struggle with unwanted familial obligations.

During a call from John, Perry is pressured into considering a Power of Attorney, an arrangement that would grant John significant control over Perry's finances. Despite John's insistence, Perry remains hesitant, haunted by memories of his grandparents, who provided him with unwavering support and love. John positions the Power of Attorney as a means to protect



Perry's interests, but Perry hears his grandmother's voice in his head, warning him to be cautious.

The narrative takes a reflective turn as Perry reminisces about his time with his grandparents, particularly his sailing adventures with Gramp on their boat, El Toro. These cherished memories highlight Perry's deep sense of loss after Gramp's sudden death, an event that led to the family's financial downfall and the loss of the boatyard. Through this recollection, Perry recalls the comfort and safety provided by his grandfather's presence, contrasting it with his current feelings of vulnerability.

Back in the present, Perry finds solace in Gramp's music, "Ride of the Valkyries," imagining himself sailing on the waves, feeling the wind and the salt on his lips—an escape from his current reality. His bond with Keith and Cherry, symbolized by Keith's blue-tarped boat, offers a glimmer of warmth and friendship amidst his solitude.

As he stares out at the turbulent waters, Perry's longing for his grandmother's guidance and Cherry's companionship grows. His heart heavy with emotion, Perry reflects on the complexity of his situation—torn between family obligations and preserving the integrity of his own decisions. The chapter closes with Perry immersed in introspection, grappling with the weight of his past and the uncertain future that lies ahead.



Chapter 47 Summary:

As spring approaches, Gramp would describe the weather as perfect "sail days"—mild yet breezy. Keith proposes a weekend sailing trip to Whidbey Island, now that the engine on his boat, Diamond Girl, is repaired. Cherry has never sailed before, making this adventure new and exciting for her. Enthusiastically, I agree to the plan and ask about what we need to bring.

Cherry, always practical, suggests a shopping trip for provisions. We head to QFC with a cooler to limit what we buy. Keith emphasizes that if it doesn't fit in the cooler, it doesn't go. Cherry efficiently selects items like bread, cheese, and cereal bars, impressing me with her provisioning skills. When she mentions making chili, I'm apprehensive due to Keith's reaction to beans but don't voice my concerns.

I ask Keith about the anchor line, recalling he mentioned it needed replacing. He assures me it's been fixed, having worked more on Diamond Girl in recent months than ever before. Our friend Gary hands us a new VHF handheld radio before we depart, offering to keep an eye out for us.

After a quick tutorial on the radio, Keith navigates us out of the Everett Marina into the open water. Cherry expresses her fear of boats sinking and her inability to swim. I reassure her by admitting I also can't swim well, but Keith and I have life jackets for safety. The playful atmosphere grows when



Keith speaks in a pirate accent, easing Cherry's nerves.

As we sail, Cherry watches attentively while I handle the sails. Keith's pirate shenanigans lighten the mood. We soar through the water, and even Cherry begins to feel the exhilaration. I embrace the wind and the rush of nostalgia tied to memories of Gramp and Gram.

Keith steers us toward a secluded bay by Whidbey Island as the sun sets, and we anchor the boat. Starving, we devour a simple dinner of chili and bread, using paper plates and utensils to avoid washing up. Cherry prepares hot cocoa, and we indulge in cookies as the night settles in. The breeze calms, and the water mirrors the night sky. Watching car lights from the shoreline, Cherry sleepily wishes outsiders could experience our current bliss, a sentiment I agree with.

Content in the moment, I find a spot to rest. Keith, surprisingly, pulls out a guitar and begins to serenade us. His clear and deep voice adds to the night's tranquility, and Cherry moves closer to him, a tender connection visible between them. Despite my wealth and efforts to impress Cherry, her preference for Keith, who is rough around the edges, is evident. This realization stings, but the music and the gentle rocking of Diamond Girl comfort me. Eventually, I drift into sleep, enveloped in the night's peace, as Keith's songs echo in my mind.



Chapter 48:

In this chapter, Perry contemplates the mysterious absence of his father, whom he long believed to be dead. His imagination ventures through various scenarios of his father's demise, from typical accidents to improbable murders. However, Perry's world is turned upside down when he overhears a conversation between John and David, revealing that his father is not only alive but residing in the Cayman Islands after embezzling money from his clients.

This revelation leads Perry to uncover the hidden turmoil his family endured due to his father's actions. Gary, a trusted figure in Perry's life, opens up about the financial ruin his father brought upon Gramp, who struggled to keep his business afloat after providing bail for Perry's father. Despite Gramp's relentless efforts, including mortgaging everything to keep the business running, he ultimately lost it all. Gary's tone is somber as he tells Perry that everything Gramp worked for was lost, except for Perry himself, highlighting that having family is more valuable than any material wealth.

As Perry processes these truths, Gary and Keith discuss the potential threat from his cousin-brothers, John and David, who may attempt to exploit Perry's financial assets. The conversation shifts to fears about them manipulating Perry with a Power of Attorney to legally siphon his money, mirroring the deceitful path of his father. Although Perry tries to assure them



that he's not worried, Gary and Keith remain vigilant, emphasizing the need for caution.

Reflecting on his family's complicated dynamics, Perry recalls Gram's comforting words about adoption and family, remembering how she

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Chapter 49 Summary:

Chapter 49 delves into a chaotic day in Perry's life, highlighting the humorous and slightly tense dynamics among his friends and family. Perry is preoccupied as he juggles several responsibilities, causing him to overlook an important meeting with his brother John. John, who is trying to arrange a will for Perry, insists that it's crucial Perry meets his associate, Mike Dinelli, to sign some protective papers. Meanwhile, John has a gift for Perry — a surprisingly large case of Hershey's Kisses — as an incentive.

Keith, Perry's friend, is focusing on his sobriety by attending AA meetings, while Cherry, another friend, is tasked with snacks — powdered-sugar doughnuts — that they enjoy indulging in, all while trying not to tempt Keith, who is also watching his weight. Amidst the commotion, Gary requests Perry and Cherry to babysit his daughters so he can celebrate his wife Sandy's birthday. This request leads to a hectic babysitting session full of minor chaos with the girls, which distracts Perry from his earlier commitment to John.

The narrative amusingly shifts when Keith takes refuge under a car, "Yo," that is leaking oil, creating a mess Gary disdains. Keith humorously declines Perry's offer to babysit with sarcastic wit, preferring to work on repairs and earn some money.



The babysitting unfolds with Cherry not feeling well and opting out of her usual bath routine at Gary's house. Perry struggles to manage the squabbling children on his own, finding it tiring, yet somehow satisfying by the end of the day when Gary and Sandy return. As dusk falls, Cherry and Perry, feeling hungry, plan a relaxing evening with pizza.

However, this peace is short-lived as they discover Keith dealing with the aftermath of a conflict caused by John's unexpected visit with his "Mafia buddy," who confronts Keith about Perry's whereabouts. This encounter escalates into a physical scuffle, leaving Keith with a black eye and prompting Cherry to care for him with maternal affection.

The chapter closes with a mix of humor and vulnerability, showcasing the personal dynamics among Perry, Keith, and Cherry. The tension dissipates as they settle into a familiar routine, ordering pizza and watching movies, and Perry struggles with feelings of attraction and propriety in Cherry's presence. His internal musings reveal a tender side to his personality, as he contemplates the complexities of friendship and unrequited affection, all underpinned by his brother's mysterious dealings.



Chapter 50 Summary:

In this chapter, Perry, who harbors ambitions of becoming a businessman, is eager to invest in Holsted's, a business connected to a warehouse for sale near Carroll's Boatyard. He decides to utilize the funds from his checking account, sparing his savings. To ensure everything proceeds smoothly and ethically, Perry consults with Gary's lawyer, Tom Tilton, who brings his friend Keith along. Keith underscores the importance of keeping the dealings "on the up-and-up," meaning fair and honest.

Keith, who has undergone a significant transformation in his appearance, assists Perry in navigating the complexities of the business world. As they discuss financial matters with the lawyer, various legal concepts like Power of Attorney and forming an LLC arise, highlighting concerns about Perry's brothers and their possible intentions regarding Perry's finances.

During the meeting, Perry decides he needs to draft a will, inspired by his family's suggestions. Despite surprise from Tom, the lawyer, Perry is determined to specify inheritances. He candidly states that he wishes to leave his money to his friends Keith, Cherry, and Gary rather than his family, who he believes are already well-off. This idea is met with skepticism by the group, leading to speculation about the true motives of Perry's brothers, John and Mike.



To protect Perry's interests, Keith proposes a clever twist in the will: bequeathing minor items to family members to avert a contested will. This approach amuses the group and seems to secure Perry's safety.

As Perry delves deeper into the business realm, he joins Holsted's as a partner, prompting a series of promotions including Keith to manager and Manny to assistant manager. Keith, now responsible for staff recruitment, hires Cherry, who impresses with her skills and customer service. Cherry adapts quickly, demonstrating her prowess with the store's equipment and improving their customer interactions.

Perry's venture into business makes news as Cherry submits his photograph for a newspaper feature in the Everett Herald's business column. The caption highlights Perry's partnership and his lottery win, which serves as good publicity for Holsted's Marine Supply. This chapter not only portrays Perry's journey into business but also underscores themes of trust, financial responsibility, and navigating familial tension.



Chapter 51 Summary:

In this chapter, the narrator depicts the closing process for a new warehouse purchase—a significant business venture. The warehouse is sizable enough to store boats during the winter, and receiving the keys marks this event. The protagonist humorously questions the term "closing," suggesting it might be better referred to as "opening," given the acquisition of keys.

During the closing process, Gary's lawyer speaks in legal jargon, which the narrator finds perplexing. Keith, the narrator's companion, amusingly describes this as a language called "Bullshit," a humorous commentary on the complexity and sometimes incomprehensible nature of legal discourse. Keith is not known for euphemisms, often using more direct expletives, highlighting his usual straightforward manner.

The narrative subtly touches on a family dynamic involving a will, with copies sent to John, David, and Louise as a precautionary measure for Perry's interests. The recipients are predictably surprised. David later calls to express his intentions of asset protection for Perry, which leads the narrator to reflect on his autonomy in decision-making. In response, as a gesture of assurance or perhaps appeasement, Perry sends checks of reduced amounts to avoid financial depletion.

Further calls from family members, including John and Elaine, express a



similar tone of concern, resulting in more checks being distributed. Elaine specifically inquires about David, indicating tension or unmet expectations. Amidst familial interactions, the narrator practices vocabulary words like "rick," finding the dual meanings of words intriguing.

The chapter reveals the protagonist's good-natured but perhaps naive approach to appeasing family tensions by distributing checks, reflecting themes of family obligations and a desire to maintain harmonious relationships. This is contrasted with Perry's realization of his own financial limitations, showcasing a balance between maintaining relationships and ensuring financial prudence.



Chapter 52:

In this chapter, Perry grapples with the tense relationship between his friend Keith and Keith's estranged son, Jason. Keith, overwhelmed with regret, is adamant about not wanting to meet Jason. He had signed away his parental rights, and now considers Jason the son of his best friend, Roger, who married Jason's mother. The chapter unfolds with Perry innocently pushing Keith to reconsider, suggesting that he and Cherry could watch over Keith's boat, Diamond Girl, while Keith takes a trip to see Jason. However, Keith's frustration peaks, leading to a heated exchange among the trio in the boat's cockpit amidst a drizzling Everett rain.

Keith storms off, leaving Perry and Cherry to navigate through the emotional aftermath. Cherry reassures Perry that Keith's anger isn't truly directed at him, attributing it instead, to Keith's struggle with alcoholism. This insight is deepened with reflections from Perry's grandmother, Gram, who always described alcohol as a demon driven by regrets and inner turmoil—an understanding that Perry had carried since childhood.

Amid the conversation, it becomes clear that Cherry's optimism is bolstered by her own news; she hints at expecting a child, giving Keith a new reason to confront his demons and change his life. Perry senses Cherry's sincerity and hope, which momentarily eases the tension.



As they wait for Keith's return, Perry and Cherry bond over shared activities, like feeding birds from the boat, creating a temporary escape from the day's emotional weight. When Keith eventually returns, drenched and exhausted, he extends heartfelt apologies to both Perry and Cherry. The scene transitions into an intimate moment between Keith and Cherry, highlighting

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Chapter 53 Summary:

The chapter opens with a somber and urgent atmosphere as Gary arrives with grim news of an accident. He is tense, speaking flatly and solemnly to convey the seriousness of the situation. The protagonist, who immediately fears the worst, asks anxiously, hoping against hope that the victim isn't Keith, a character dear to them. Although Gary remains silent, the subtle movements of his jaw betray the devastating truth. To the protagonist, it's as if the world is momentarily suspended as they inwardly plead with their deceased Gram, hoping that the grim reality is a mistake.

In a parallel scene, Cherry, another significant character, is unaware of the looming tragedy and is momentarily caught up in a trivial exchange with Manny at their place of work. Keith, who had teased Cherry earlier about her habitual long stays in the bathroom, had left for his Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. As the protagonist continues their task of unpacking boxes, each piece of tape meticulously peeled is a silent prayer for Keith's safety.

The tension builds as Gary returns, his complexion ashen and his voice heavy with grief, confirming the worst: Keith was in a fatal accident. Through the tears and overwhelming sorrow, the details emerge—Keith faced a tragic dilemma on the road. To avoid colliding with a stranded woman and her children, he chose to swerve into a tree, resulting in his and Yo's deaths. The narrative intersperses these revelations with sensory



experiences—the numbness of shock, the roar of grief, and the ritualistic mantra of disbelief murmured by Manny.

The group, led by a heartbroken Cherry, decides to confront the reality of Keith's death by visiting the morgue. The setting is described as clinical and unforgiving, with a kind attendant who gently questions their resolve to see Keith. Overcome with emotion, Cherry insists, and they proceed to identify the body. Keith appears peaceful, though small shards of glass glint in his beard—a visual reminder of the accident. Cherry's grief is palpable as she kisses his cheek, while the protagonist grapples with a flood of memories and a stark realization of loss.

The chapter vividly captures Cherry's subsequent breakdown, portraying the raw and visceral nature of her despair. Gary, along with the protagonist, supports her physically and emotionally, eventually taking her to the hospital for medical help. The hospital visit introduces the idea of "sadness pills," a poignant acknowledgment of grief that transcends physical pain and requires its own form of treatment.

Back in their apartment, Cherry is sedated and tucked into bed, her face marked with mascara trails, a literal map of her heartbreak. The protagonist stays by her side, feeling inept and lost in the face of such overwhelming sorrow. In a final act of comfort, they echo Keith's familiar gesture, trying to console Cherry with the same tenderness he once showed.



The chapter closes with a chorus of apologies—expressed by the deceased Gram and a community extending their condolences. These words echo the universal experience of grief, binding the characters in shared sorrow and collective memory. Through their individual heartbreaks, the narrative conveys the profound and unrelenting nature of loss and the fragile bonds that sustain us in its wake.

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Chapter 54 Summary:

In this chapter, we delve into a poignant scene aboard the Diamond Girl, a boat well-associated with Keith, who has now passed away. The protagonist, Perry, comes into his own as he takes command of the vessel, reflecting on his memories of Keith, who was beloved for his rough-around-the-edges charm. He recalls Keith's often crude humor, which was a source of amusement for Perry's grandmother, and embraces his newfound responsibility as helmsman, one that Keith previously held.

The boat embarks on a journey toward Whidbey Island under a clear blue sky, with the presence of friends like Gary's family and Perry's close companion, Cherry. There's a palpable sense of loss and guilt among the group, especially in Kelly, who had argued with Keith prior to his passing. Kelly's guilt mirrors Perry's own longstanding feelings about his grandfather's death, suggesting a shared human experience in grappling with grief.

As Diamond Girl sails through Puget Sound, the narrative reaches a somber ritual: scattering Keith's ashes into the water. It was Keith's wish to journey eternally in the waves, and through laughter and tears, the group fulfills this wish. Perry and his friends shout profanities at the seagulls, an act Keith would have likely found humorous, symbolizing a farewell that resonates with his spirited nature.



Later, a seal appears alongside Diamond Girl, and Perry interprets this as a sign that Keith is at peace. The seal's companionship offers a semblance of comfort to the mourning friends, as they reminisce about their first encounters with Keith, with Gary recalling how he met him when Keith's boat was in disrepair.

In the aftermath, Cherry shares a darker story about her past, revealing that Keith defended her from an abusive father. Her deep love for Keith becomes painfully evident as she confesses a wish to have married him. Perry reassures Cherry of her significance to Keith, echoing the heartfelt sentiments that draw them closer in shared sorrow.

Despite attempts to numb their pain with "sadness pills," neither Cherry nor Perry find relief, as they bond over their love and loss of Keith, underlining the hollowness such remedies bring against profound grief. The chapter closes with them anchored in each other's presence, united by memories, empathy, and the shared weight of their collective heartache.



Chapter 55 Summary:

In the aftermath of losing Keith and running out of their "sadness pills," the narrator and Cherry are plunged into a deep, overwhelming grief. Each night, the narrator wakes at the same time, haunted by the memory of Keith's death, which leaves them with a heavy heart and tears. Cherry, meanwhile, stands motionless by the window, lost in her sorrow.

Their mornings are bleak as Cherry remains unresponsive and undressed, consumed by her grief. The narrator struggles to bring her back to reality, trying to get her dressed and ready for work, yet Cherry barely responds. Her disconnect is evident as she clings to Keith's stained clothes, refusing to let them be washed, instead breathing through his flannel shirt as if seeking his lingering presence.

The narrator details a routine desensitized to thinking, filling their time with work at the store alongside Charles, Gary, Sandy, and the girls, all trying to make do without Keith. Despite their efforts, sadness persists, so profound it feels like an ocean of hurt.

One night, the narrator is awoken by an eerie sense and follows the noise to the kitchen, where Cherry stands with a knife pressed to her wrist. A surge of fear transforms into a protective strength as they pull the knife away, saving Cherry from harm. Cherry's brief attempt to harm herself is stopped,



and the narrator tends to her small wound with tenderness, reassuring her that Keith would not have wanted her to suffer this way.

The chapter closes with the narrator holding Cherry until she finds peace in sleep, capturing the immense struggle of navigating grief and the enduring need for support and care in the face of overwhelming loss. The connection between the characters highlights the theme of enduring love and the hope that healing, however tentative, can begin with understanding and compassion.

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Chapter 56:

In this chapter, the narrative revolves around the deep emotional ties and responsibilities that emerge following the death of Keith. The protagonist, Perry, comes to terms with the evolving dynamics of his life, influenced significantly by Cherry, who shares the monumental news that she is pregnant with Keith's child. This revelation brings a profound sense of purpose to Perry, as he unexpectedly steps into a paternal role on behalf of his deceased friend.

Cherry's pregnancy acts as a catalyst for change, motivating her to adopt healthier habits and plan a future they hadn't envisioned without Keith. Despite grappling with her grief and the uncertainties that lie ahead, Cherry remains resolute in her admiration for Keith, acknowledging that she might not love again in the same way. Perry, who harbors feelings for Cherry, supports her, understanding the complexities of their intertwined emotions and connections.

The narrative delves into Perry's reflections on self-worth, acceptance, and the hurtful judgments they've both faced from others. In shared vulnerability, they bolster each other's spirits, rejecting harmful labels and embracing their unique identities. This mutual support manifests in small, yet significant acts of love and kindness, highlighting the comforts of companionship amid loss.

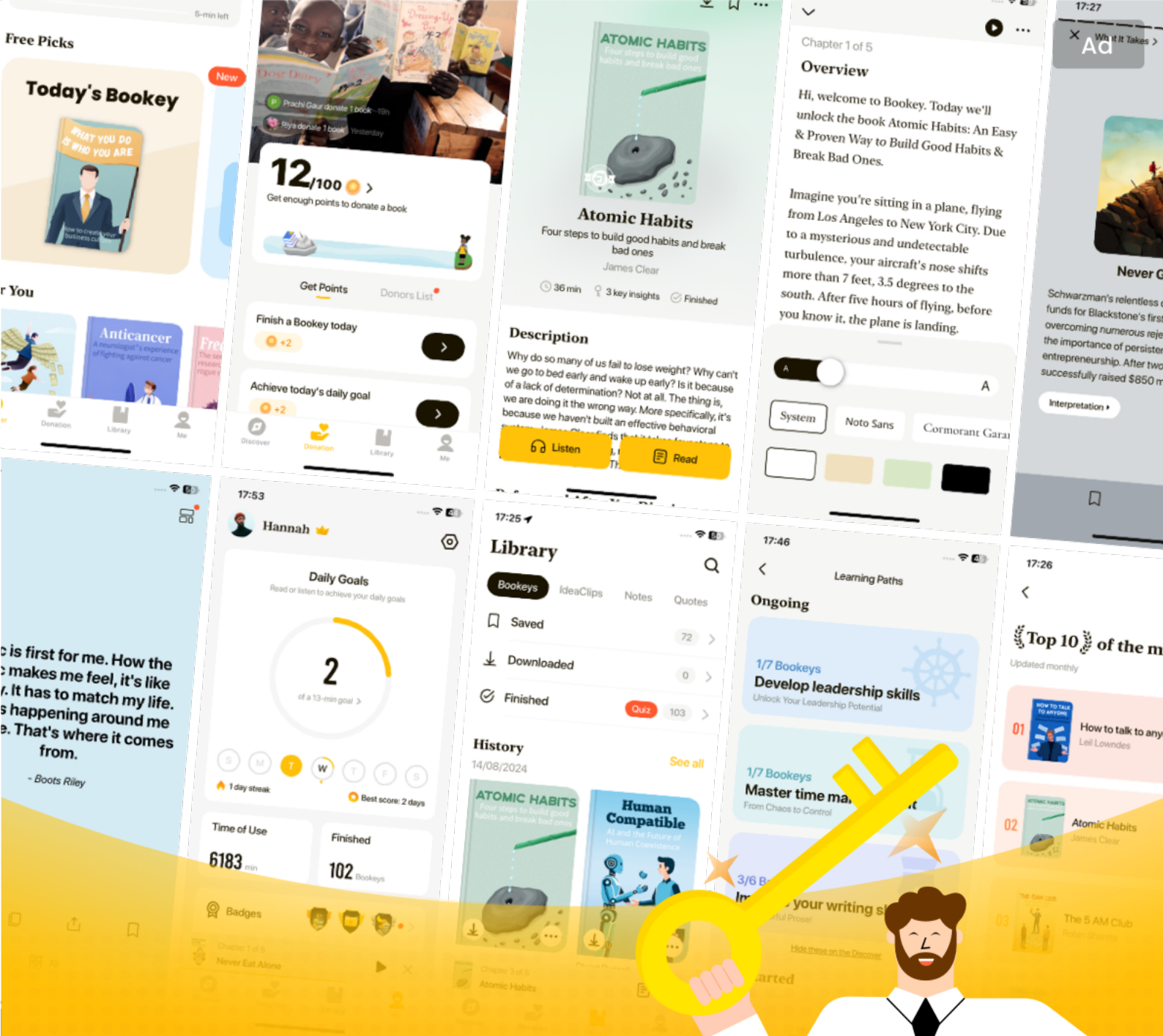


Together, Perry and Cherry embark on the journey of preparing for the baby's arrival, undertaking practical tasks such as decorating the apartment and planning financially by expanding their business ventures online. Cherry's entrepreneurial foresight supplements their income and creates a network of opportunities, inspired by the global reach of the internet and

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Chapter 57 Summary:

The chapter unfolds late at night, with the protagonist and Cherry preparing to sleep—Cherry on the bed, and the narrator on the couch. The rain patters softly against the door, creating a serene ambiance. They are playing a familiar game, visualizing Keith, a shared acquaintance, outside taking care of a boat, Diamond Girl, in the stormy weather. Despite the absence of Keith, the narrator reassures Cherry that he'll be back soon, engaging in a comforting, if imagined, interaction by waving at the pretend Keith.

However, Cherry is unusually silent tonight and doesn't participate in the game. Instead, she draws closer to the narrator, inducing a mix of emotions - happiness for Cherry's presence and sadness for Keith's absence. As Cherry leads the narrator into the bedroom, intimate actions unfold, sparking nervous excitement reminiscent of a roller coaster ride. The situation conjures earlier conversations with Keith about adulthood and intimacy, where humor and curiosity prevailed, including Keith's colorful tales of encounters during his time in San Antonio after returning from Vietnam.

These earlier discussions now surface as the narrator grapples with apprehension and curiosity about what is happening but recalls Keith's advice: to let nature take its course. Trusting the moment and Cherry's lead, the narrator experiences a profound, almost overwhelming sense of exhilaration, realizing the truth in Keith's words—nature indeed feels good,



filled with an ecstasy that is beyond words.

The intensity segues into peaceful slumber, only to awaken at 3:30 in the morning. The narrator, feeling a tranquil connection with Cherry and marveling at her beauty, watches her breathe gently in the quiet night. Cherry awakens and smiles knowingly, signaling a shared, silent understanding between them, culminating the night with a newfound awareness and connection that doesn't require words.

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Chapter 58 Summary:

In this pivotal chapter, we delve into Perry Crandall's journey as he navigates the complexities of family, trust, and self-reliance. Perry, who has been wealthy for about a year after winning the lottery, faces increasing pressure from his family, particularly his cousin-brothers, who become more adamant in reaching out to him. Despite their persistence, Perry maintains his resolve to think independently.

With a newfound sense of empowerment, Perry contacts his cousin-brothers David and John, signaling his desire to have a Family Meeting—his decision, his initiative. This marks a significant shift in his character; Perry compares himself to the Hulk, feeling he possesses an inner strength and sense of control.

As Perry's cousins arrive, he notes the eeriness of a long black car and driver Mike Dinelli, who ominously mentions the "increasing likelihood of some unfortunate accident" for John if matters aren't swiftly handled. Despite the underlying tension, Perry remains focused on his purpose. They reach John's office, where Perry sees abstract art that reminds him of his childhood struggles with coloring inside the lines.

Inside John's office, Perry plans to transfer his lottery winnings to his family, feeling financially secure with his salary and savings. He understands the



importance of maintaining control over his Power, much like the Hulk, but decides to support his family without relinquishing all choices. He keeps his savings account a secret from them, signifying his intention to guard an aspect of his autonomy.

As the scene unfolds, Perry faces his family, whom he likens to predatory jackals—demanding, with sharp intentions. They discuss debts and desires: David's financial obligations, Elaine's aspiration for a bigger home, John's debts to Mike's company, and Louise's ongoing expensive lifestyle. Despite their self-interest, Perry doesn't share their confusion. He perceives Mike as a business acquaintance, focusing solely on business, detached from emotions.

Determined, Perry decides to sell his future lottery payments to Mike's company, Palmer Financial Planning Services, which intends to cleanse some shady money through the transaction. Perry nonchalantly accepts this since it serves his goal of familial harmony while retaining self-reliance.

He sets up a trust managed by David, inadequately deemed trustworthy by his family due to his supposed gullibility. As the family bickers over control and financial strategies, Perry internalizes past lessons—learning from his grandmother that trust is not something easily given away. He recognizes the manipulation around him yet stays composed, believing it's his choice to share his fortune.



Embracing his decision, Perry signs away the payments, confident in his independence. With the paperwork completed, he finds freedom and peace, comforted that his family, who had only wanted his money, will cease to interfere in his life. He realizes the day is great because he remains unburdened by familial demands and centered around people who genuinely care for him, like Cherry and his friend Gary.

The chapter closes with Perry in a tranquil moment as he stands by his window, reflecting on cherished memories of Keith and hearing Gram's reassuring voice affirming his luck. He realizes that by giving his family what they wanted, he remains free—and so the narrative concludes with a renewed sense of autonomy and love, centered on real relationships that matter.

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Chapter 59 Summary:

The chapter unfolds with the protagonist preparing for a TV interview alongside other lottery winners. This opportunity arose after Gary, a friend or acquaintance, suggested to Marleen, the interviewer, that she cover a special story on lottery winners. The narrative gently touches on the protagonist's sadness over the loss of his friend Keith, who would have loved the chance to be on television.

As the interview begins, with the protagonist set to be watched by over a million people, Marleen, the host, introduces him and the other winners to the audience. The protagonist reveals that his father, G. J. Crandall, is infamous for stealing money, while he himself is now known for winning it. The discussion shifts to an exploration of financial pitfalls facing lottery winners, with Marleen mentioning the involvement of investors and organized crime in buying lottery annuities and laundering money.

Marleen probes the protagonist about his financial situation, specifically asking if his family took his lottery winnings. While he acknowledges that the money was placed in a trust for investments, he doesn't disclose details about his personal savings account. He reflects on the trust and fairness within family dynamics that led to his decision to give them the money, emphasizing that he didn't need it but they did.



The conversation moves to Lucille, another guest who won twenty million dollars but lost it all. Her story, like many others on the show, is one of squandered wealth and familial conflicts over money. As other participants share their tales of financial ruin, they collectively express sentiments of regret and loss despite once having vast sums of money.

While Marleen suggests that the lottery has left them all worse off, the protagonist quietly disagrees. He is silently content with his current position as a partner in Holsted's and cherishes his relationship with Cherry, his supporting partner, and his savings account. The emotional weight of missing departed loved ones—Keith, Gram, and Gramp—mirrors the message that life is filled with unexpected challenges and losses.

Throughout the interview, the protagonist maintains a sense of peace and fairness about his decisions, despite Marleen's skepticism. He explains his generosity to his family as being rooted in his assessment of their needs versus his own. The chapter closes as the protagonist returns to Cherry, who praises his television appearance, reinforcing the protagonist's quiet satisfaction with his life choices.



Chapter 60:

The chapter unfolds with Perry Crandall, a thoughtful and wholehearted partner in the thriving Holsted and Crandall Marine Supply, discussing business strategy and ideas with his business partner, Gary. Together, they have created a flourishing establishment that not only provides marine supplies but also enhances customer experiences by offering coffee, baked goods, and luxury takeout for boating enthusiasts. The store has expanded to include engaging elements like a fishing corner, animated by Rick, a knowledgeable friend who imparts fishing wisdom akin to a craft workshop.

Perry, always innovative, suggests they should distinguish themselves by establishing "playshops"—engaging sessions for practical boat maintenance skills, such as caulking teak or repairing sails, rather than calling them dull workshops. These sessions become highly successful, attracting notable sailors to share their expertise and stories. Cherry, who is described as excellent with people, efficiently manages the scheduling and organization of these events, contributing to the store's growing acclaim.

As evidence of their enterprise's success, Holsted and Crandall Marine Supply is honored with a Business Vision Award from the Everett Chamber of Commerce, a testament to its innovative approach and community impact. Perry, guided by Gary and driven by the supportive voices of his past mentors and loved ones like Gram and Keith, prepares to address a crowd at



the award banquet despite his initial anxiety.

The chapter builds up to a moment of personal triumph for Perry. At the banquet, overcoming his fear, he eloquently expresses gratitude for the recognition and reflects on his journey. He shares reflections on his luck and

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Chapter 61 Summary:

In this chapter, we learn that Perry is navigating a complicated mix of family and business dynamics. The story opens with a statement about financial loss reported in the newspaper. Perry confirms to himself that his money is indeed gone, but remains undeterred. His sister Louise had requested him to sell his share of Holsted's, a business venture connected to their family, but Perry firmly declined, supported by his friends and family, both real and imagined, such as Gary, Gram, Keith, and Cherry.

Cherry, a close companion and friend who offers emotional support, suddenly goes into labor. In an intense but rewarding event, she gives birth to Baby Keith, who makes his grand entrance into the world after 14 hours, weighing a notable eight pounds and seven ounces. Puppet characters, both seen and unseen, from Perry's life weave a tapestry of support around him and provide him with decision-making strength.

The news about his cousin-brother John being in protective custody after turning state's evidence in a money-laundering scandal further complicates the plot. It is revealed that John is in jail, and his brother David has disappeared, allegedly fleeing with their family trust's proceeds. Cherry explains these events to Perry, and they find humor in David's escape, imagining he's enjoying his newfound freedom somewhere exotic.



Two months later, Perry receives a postcard likely from David, featuring a stunning beach scene, implicitly confirming the theory of him living freely abroad. The card resonates with Perry's previous sentiments about people getting what they want and reinforces his sense that all is well.

Meanwhile, Gary, an ally in Perry's business endeavors, emphasizes the significance of holding onto their shares in Holsted and Crandall. He reassures Perry that people underestimating him as incapable are gravely mistaken, as Perry exhibits astute business acumen. Together, they plan for expansion, brainstorming a new store location in Anacortes, a town bustling with boating activity, which Perry insightfully identifies as a strategic opportunity.

The chapter closes with Perry's confidence bolstered by his associates' unwavering support, his place in the family drama a bit more secure, and an exciting future on the horizon for their business.

