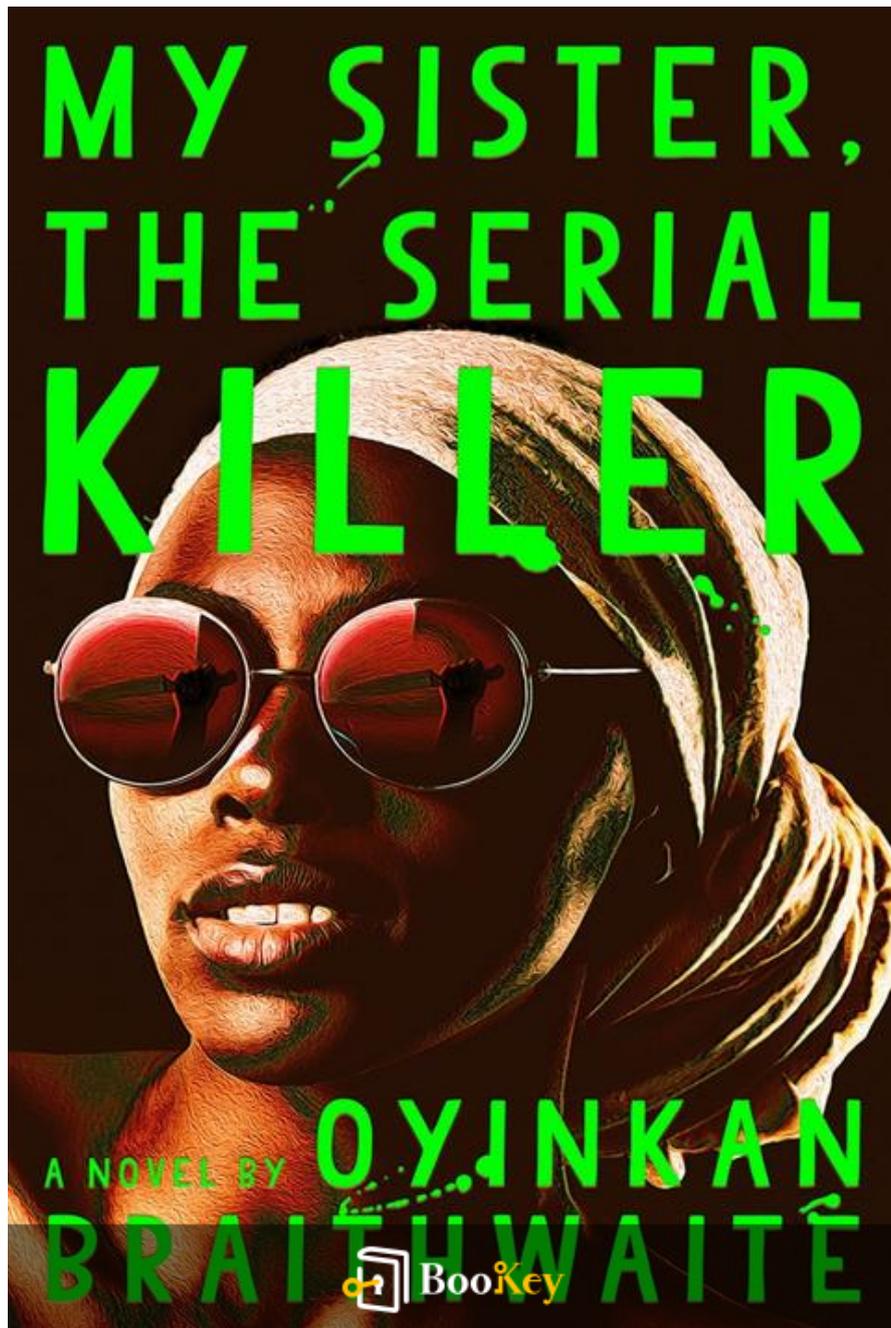


My Sister, The Serial Killer PDF (Limited Copy)

Oyinkan Braithwaite



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My Sister, The Serial Killer Summary

Family ties and deadly secrets intertwine in chaos.

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About the book

In "My Sister, the Serial Killer" by Oyinkan Braithwaite, the darkly humorous tale explores the complex bonds of sisterhood in a vibrant yet dangerous Lagos, Nigeria, where the lines between loyalty and morality blur. The story follows Korede, a devoted nurse, who finds herself constantly cleaning up the mess left by her beautiful and volatile sister, Ayoola, whose penchant for murder proves a deadly charm. As the bodies pile up and the stakes increase, Korede grapples with her fierce protective instincts against the exquisite horror of their reality, creating a gripping narrative that blends psychological tension with sharp wit. This compelling debut novel promises to captivate readers with its unique blend of thriller and familial loyalty, challenging them to ponder the lengths to which we will go to protect those we love—even when they become the very embodiment of chaos.

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About the author

Oyinkan Braithwaite is a Nigerian author and writer renowned for her captivating storytelling and sharp wit, which often explore themes of identity, family, and societal norms within contemporary Nigerian culture. Born and raised in Lagos, she harnesses her background in creative writing and visual storytelling to craft compelling narratives that resonate with readers globally. Her debut novel, "My Sister, the Serial Killer," has garnered international acclaim for its darkly humorous approach to a tale of familial loyalty and moral ambiguity, firmly establishing Braithwaite as a significant voice in modern literature. With her unique blend of cultural insight and engaging prose, she continues to enthrall audiences and challenge conventions within the literary sphere.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In the story, we follow Korede, a nurse with a deep bond to her sister, Ayoola, who is embroiled in a cycle of violence and murder. The narrative opens with Ayoola's chilling confession, "Korede, I killed him," echoing a past incident. The scene unfolds as Korede cleans up a recent murder, demonstrating her painful involvement in her sister's transgressions and her skill in concealing the evidence.

Korede's meticulous nature becomes evident as she explains the concept of cleaning with bleach, which she uses to mask the smell of blood after Ayoola's violent act. She describes the sterile surroundings of the bathroom, contrasting with the gruesome task at hand. As Ayoola anxiously awaits Korede's reaction, we see Korede's tired resignation; rather than expressing anger, she feels a grim determination to dispose of the body. Their relationship is complex, underscored by Korede's unwavering loyalty despite the horror of the situation.

The sisters relocate the body of Femi, Ayoola's latest victim, into Korede's car and drive to a secluded spot to dispose of it in the water. Korede's grim efficiency in the cleanup emphasizes her duality—nurturing yet complicit in her sister's actions. The sisters embark on the practicalities of moving a body while Korede grapples with the emotional weight of the crime they share.



As they navigate this dark territory, the story delves into the intimate details of Femi's life, his promising potential, and Ayoola's perspective on their doomed relationship. A poem that Femi wrote for Ayoola reveals her allure and the tragic turn their romance took, anchored by Ayoola's misguided need for self-protection that ultimately led to violence. Korede's astonishment at her sister's actions underscores the fragile boundary between admiration and fear in their bond.

Korede's reflections on their chaotic cleanup process blend black humor with despair. As they navigate the logistical challenges of disposing of the body, the sisters' contrasting personalities are highlighted—Korede, careful and methodical; Ayoola, impulsive and reckless. Korede's attempts to make light of the situation showcase her coping mechanism in the face of horror.

The aftermath of the murder leads to the eventual concealment of the crime, but the tension remains palpable as Korede commits to maintaining her sister's safety. She becomes aware of the repetitive cycle of violence as she expertly cleans the remnants of their actions, interspersed with her reflections on her personal life as a nurse.

Back in her everyday life at the hospital, Korede navigates her interactions with patients and colleagues. Here, we witness her professionalism against the backdrop of her internal struggles. Tade, a doctor at the hospital, evokes feelings of attraction from Korede, complicating her already tumultuous

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emotions and illustrating her desire for a normal life that stands in stark contrast to the chaos she endures with Ayoola.

In summary, the chapters collectively build a portrait of loyalties intertwined with moral complexities, revealing a darkly humorous yet tragic exploration of familial bonds and the lengths to which one might go to protect a loved one, even amid the gravest of actions. The narrative provokes thought about love, responsibility, and the consequences of complicity, leaving readers to ponder the disturbances lurking beneath the surface of seemingly ordinary lives.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

Summary

The Patient

In room 313 of a hospital lies Muhtar Yautai, a comatose patient who was in a car accident five months ago, resulting in significant health deterioration. The protagonist reflects on his experience visiting Muhtar and the conversations he had with Muhtar's wife, who displayed a preoccupation with the costs of maintaining life support. As he waits for Muhtar to wake, thoughts of another person, Tade, cloud his mind. The patient serves as a silent confidant for the protagonist, who expresses a yearning for understanding and connection.

Heat

The oppressive heat creates a sense of lethargy at home where Ayoola, the protagonist's sister, lounges in revealing clothing, expressing discomfort from the rising temperatures. The air conditioning repairman has delayed his arrival, exacerbating the atmosphere. As the protagonist grapples with turbulent thoughts about death and grief, memories of Femi, Ayoola's missing boyfriend, emerge with haunting clarity. Their shared experiences of

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loss amplify the tension in the household. Ayoola's carefree demeanor contrasts sharply with the protagonist's dark preoccupations and suspicions about her past relationships.

Instagram

The urgency surrounding Femi's disappearance intensifies after Ayoola posts a public appeal on social media, claiming to be the last person to see him alive. This action draws attention, but the protagonist is appalled by Ayoola's approach, which seems self-serving rather than genuine. A phone call from Femi's distressed mother prompts a wave of emotions, drawing tears from both sisters as they grapple with the reality of the situation. The protagonist confronts Ayoola about her actions and intentions, struggling with her lack of remorse and the role she played in Femi's fate.

Traffic

In the gridlocked chaos of Lagos traffic, the protagonist experiences a wave of anxiety when stopped by a LASTMA officer for a minor infraction. The scene paints a vivid picture of the city's frustrations, with corruption and power dynamics playing out in a tense exchange. They negotiate a bribe, revealing the protagonist's fear of exposure regarding Femi's fate, especially as she recalls transporting him to his final resting place.

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Reception

At the hospital reception, a confrontation unfolds as a late patient expresses frustration over service delays. Yinka, the receptionist, navigates the tension with cool professionalism while the protagonist observes her interactions. Amidst the mundane, the situation highlights the mundane bureaucracy of hospital life layered over their personal tragedies.

Dancing

Ayoola dances carefree in her room, unbothered by the weight of recent events. The protagonist contemplates her disconnection from the gravity of their circumstances, observing her bizarre juxtaposition of joy amidst grief. The recurring motif of a knife surfaces in their conversation, representing the tension between Ayoola's past violence and her present triviality. The protagonist expresses concern over the knife's presence in their home, hinting at deeper conflicts between the sisters.

Father

The narrative delves into memories of their father, a complex figure boasting of his prized knife with elaborate, often grotesque tales. Ayoola's inheritance of the knife takes on a symbolic undertone, paralleling her turbulent relationship with their father and the legacy of violence. The interactions



recount the emotional and physical abuses that shaped their childhood, deepening the reader's understanding of Ayoola's tumultuous nature and the weight of family expectations.

Knife

The emotional weight of the knife becomes a focal point of tension between the sisters, as the protagonist suggests it poses a danger due to its violent history. Despite the protagonist's pleas, Ayoola adamantly refuses to relinquish it, revealing an attachment tethered to past traumas. Their dialogue underscores a rift between their personalities, foreshadowing calamities steeped in unresolved conflict and the shadow of their father's legacy, setting the stage for further revelations in their complicated relationship. The protagonist's concerns reflect a growing unease about Ayoola's mental state and the potential for future violence.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The burden of familial legacy and its impact on personal identity

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate your own family dynamics, consider how the legacies of your ancestors shape your identity, choices, and relationships. The complex ties depicted in the story remind you that while you are influenced by your past, you have the power to redefine what that legacy means for you. Embrace the opportunity to break free from cycles of negativity and to forge a path that aligns with your values and aspirations, empowering yourself and perhaps those around you in the process.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3

In the opening chapters, we are introduced to Korede, the protagonist, who reflects on her appearance and her family dynamics. Unlike her sister Ayoola, who exudes beauty and charm, Korede feels plain and unnoticed. Their mother, often consumed by escapism through romantic novels, contrasts with Korede's practical demeanor and her role of caregiver in the household since the passing of their father.

The kitchen scene illustrates Korede's attempt to nurture Ayoola's cooking skills, urging her to engage more actively in domestic tasks. Ayoola, however, seems more interested in her phone than learning to cook. A moment of tension arises when Ayoola cavalierly attempts to film their cooking session for social media, pushing Korede to assert control in the kitchen. This microcosm of their relationship reflects deeper themes of familial responsibility and the contrasting personalities of the sisters.

The narrative shifts to Korede's internal struggles, revealing her turbulent thoughts as she grapples with a dark family secret—her sister's involvement in a series of mysterious events related to men's deaths. As she reflects on these events, Korede feels an overwhelming pressure to protect Ayoola, even as she questions the morality of her actions.

Interspersed with the tension are glimpses of Korede's life as a nurse,



particularly her connection to Tade, a colleague whose kindness deeply affects her. The emotional landscape of her workplace serves as both a refuge and a reminder of her familial burdens, especially as she navigates complicated feelings toward Tade, who represents a potential for affection and normalcy outside her troubled home life.

As the chapters progress, the arrival of Ayoola at Korede's workplace disrupts the carefully maintained boundaries. Ayoola's beauty captivates everyone, including Tade, which intensifies Korede's insecurities and protective instincts. This dynamic is juxtaposed against the invasive recollections of their father's death and its aftermath, deepening the complexity of family loyalty amidst underlying secrets.

Through rich dialogue and internal monologue, the reader gains insight into Korede's psyche, her desperate need for acceptance, and her struggle with the notion of familial love intermingled with fear. The stark dichotomy between her and Ayoola challenges the narrative of beauty and worth, setting the stage for the story's unfolding drama. These chapters weave a tapestry of everyday life, family tensions, and the quest for self-identity against a backdrop of personal and ethical dilemmas.

| Element | Summary |
|-------------|---|
| Protagonist | Korede, who feels plain and unnoticed compared to her charming sister Ayoola. |

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| Element | Summary |
|-----------------------|--|
| Family Dynamics | Their mother escapes into romantic novels, contrasting with Korede's practical and nurturing role since their father's death. |
| Kitchen Scene | Korede tries to teach Ayoola cooking skills, but Ayoola is more interested in social media than domestic tasks. |
| Sister's Relationship | A tense dynamic arises in the kitchen, highlighting their contrasting personalities and family responsibilities. |
| Dark Secret | Korede grapples with the knowledge of Ayoola's involvement in mysterious men's deaths and feels an obligation to protect her. |
| Career Life | Korede's role as a nurse introduces a connection with Tade, a colleague who offers emotional respite amidst her family issues. |
| Conflict | Ayoola's arrival at Korede's workplace attracts attention from Tade, provoking Korede's insecurities and protective instincts. |
| Themes | The chapters explore beauty, worth, familial loyalty, and the fear intertwined with love, setting up the story's drama. |
| Overall Tone | Rich dialogue and internal monologue reveal Korede's psychological struggle for acceptance and identity amidst ethical dilemmas. |



Chapter 4: 4

In the first chapter, we are introduced to the narrator, who reflects on a painting hanging above an unused piano in their family home—an emblem of their father's dubious success. The painting, a beautiful representation of their house in a vibrant landscape, contrasts sharply with the reality of their neglected home, which now shows signs of decay. This juxtaposition evokes feelings of nostalgia and longing for a happier past, filled with love and warmth that the painting seems to promise but their lives fail to deliver. The narrator, Korede, grapples with a strained relationship with her sister, Ayoola, who is portrayed as carefree and headstrong, often pushing boundaries with little regard for consequences.

As Korede moves through her day, we learn about her concerns for Ayoola, who lives life without constraints and whose relationships often lead to chaos. At the hospital where Korede works, her interactions with colleagues reveal her struggle to separate her personal and professional life from her sister's influence. In a brief exchange with Tade, a sensitive doctor, Korede's protective instincts toward Ayoola come to the forefront when Tade expresses interest in her sister.

The narrative hints at tension and jealousy as Korede tries to navigate her feelings about Ayoola's lifestyle and potential romantic involvement with Tade. The appearance of Yinka, a colleague with disparaging questions



about Korede's family, aggravates Korede's frustration, highlighting the sisters' physical and personality differences.

Korede's sense of unworthiness is amplified by Ayoola's captivating presence. When she confronts her sister about visiting her workplace, the rift

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

Summary of Chapters: "Father," "Bracelet," "Time," "The Patient," and "Cleaner"

In the opening chapter titled "**Father**," the narrator reflects on a traumatic childhood moment when her father fell to the floor after a violent outburst. This pivotal incident culminated in his death, witnessed by both the narrator and her sister, Ayoola. Now, a decade later, the family grapples with the hypocrisy of celebrating his life despite the tumult he caused. The planning of a memorial party unveils familial tensions, especially with Aunt Taiwo, who seeks to glorify their father's memory while they silently resent him. The chapter illustrates the protagonist's internal conflict and her critical view of social appearances, contrasted with Ayoola's indifference.

In "**Bracelet**," Ayoola prepares for a date with Tade, who arrives punctually, further highlighting Ayoola's casual attitude towards time. The narrator is drawn into lively conversations about Tade's real estate ventures and the superficial banter about relationships, especially with Aunt Taiwo's unsolicited advice. Ayoola's entrance in a striking dress captures Tade's admiration, evidenced by the gift of an extravagant bracelet he presents to her, encapsulating the allure of their relationship and the underlying dynamics of the sisters' lives.

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Moving to "**Time**," the narrative shifts to the disappearance of a young man named Femi, which is eclipsed by trivial social media debates about national dishes. The focus on Femi's poetry draws a sharp contrast to the frivolity surrounding his case, reflecting a society that quickly loses interest in the serious. Ayoola's relationship with Femi, marked by a prior incident of aggression, resurfaces as the narrator confronts her sister about the truth. The tension builds as lingering questions regarding Femi's death remain unresolved, and Ayoola's evasiveness heightens the stakes.

In "**The Patient**," the narrator shares her conflicted emotions about Ayoola's past actions. While grappling with the moral implications of believing in her sister's claims of self-defense, she recollects the instances of Ayoola's previous violent encounters. Their brotherly figure, Muhtar, represents a reliable sounding board, yet the narrator feels the weight of secrecy between them, particularly regarding Ayoola's troubling history and her feelings for Tade.

Finally, in "**Cleaner**," the narrative reaches a climax when a bloody napkin found in Femi's home signifies a clear link to his death, igniting more pressure for answers. Ayoola's cavalier attitude about potential consequences starkly contrasts with the narrator's rising panic. As revelations stir the waters, Ayoola suggests crafting a narrative to deflect blame, revealing her increasingly reckless mindset. The chapter encapsulates the struggle for truth in a web of lies, jealousy, and sisterly loyalty,



culminating in an intense confrontation that highlights their familial bonds and individual struggles.

Across these chapters, themes of trauma, societal pretense, familial loyalty, and the dichotomy of innocence and guilt unfold, enhancing the reader's understanding of the characters' complexities. The bond between the sisters is tested, laying the groundwork for future conflict and exploration of moral dilemmas.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6

Summary of Chapters

Bathroom

In the solitude of her room, Korede reflects on the turmoil engulfing her family following the death of Femi, Ayoola's ex-boyfriend. The gravity of the situation weighs heavily on her as she anticipates the reaction of Femi's affluent parents, knowing they can mobilize the police effectively. Korede longs for her deceased father, believing he could have managed this chaos with ease and protected Ayoola from the consequences of her actions.

As Korede revisits the events surrounding Femi's demise, she vividly remembers the bathroom confrontation where Ayoola used her knife—a near-constant companion for her—to fatally wound Femi. After the incident, the sisters moved the body, silently aware of their precarious position. Feeling the need for cleanliness and clarity amidst the chaos, Korede decides to clean the bathroom.

Questions

The police arrive at their house to question Ayoola, signaling that Femi's

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family is no longer complacent. As they sit around the table over refreshments, Korede instructs Ayoola on how to respond: keep answers concise, maintain eye contact, and avoid lies. The interrogation reveals cracks in Ayoola's composure as she faces the police's questions about her relationship with Femi—specifically, whether he wanted to break up with her.

The police persist in their inquiries, leading to tense moments, particularly when they request to inspect Korede's car. Korede feels a growling anxiety while her mother, meanwhile, naïvely insists on their right to refuse this search, unaware of the incriminating evidence that remains hidden.

Blood

The next day, the police seize Korede's car for investigation, causing her to worry about revealing traces of the past. Despite Ayoola's light-hearted demeanor, Korede is furious and anxious, knowing that the blood linked to Femi still lingers in her vehicle. The sisters' conflicting emotional responses highlight the shared tension and strain caused by Ayoola's recklessness.

Ayoola tries to downplay Korede's concerns, but the atmosphere of denial further cements the guilt Korede feels, compounded by Ayoola's effortless charm and indifference. Despite Ayoola's apparent lightheartedness, Korede knows they're both entangled in something much darker.



Father

At their father's funeral, both sisters display matching outfits—a tribute showcasing their unity, yet each grapples with unresolved feelings about him. Korede, burdened with family secrets, observes their mother mourning deeply, igniting memories of painful past events. Despite the sorrow of the occasion, Ayoola competes for attention, demonstrating a tendency to seek validation, while Korede silently critiques the insincerity of those around them.

As guests share fabricated stories of their father's generosity, Korede feels a mix of resentment and disbelief. The reception embodies the facade that hides bitter truths, contrasting the sisters' reality with the made-up personas being presented to the world.

Maga

In a moment of unexpected tension, Ayoola's ex-boyfriend Gboyega visits, and she eagerly embraces him, while Korede watches, filled with concern. Gboyega, an older man with a comfortable lifestyle, symbolizes Ayoola's pattern of seeking emotional refuge in men who can provide what she desires, often neglecting the repercussions her actions may have.



Korede's protective instincts surface as she questions Ayoola's choices, urging her to be cautious with Gboyega, who she believes is merely another pawn in Ayoola's unchecked desires. Ayoola's dismissal of Korede's concerns reveals a deeper rift in their relationship—a conflict between familial duty and individual autonomy.

Father (Revisited)

Amidst unsettling memories, Korede recalls the volatile relationship between her parents, highlighting her mother's suffering and her father's callousness. The childhood incident with an outsider starkly illustrates the toxic dynamics that shaped their lives. Korede's childhood recollections serve as a bitter reminder of the painful cycle of betrayal and loyalty that persists within their family.

Research

Determined to protect her sister, Korede investigates Gboyega's life online. The stark contrast between his public image and the private knowledge she holds about Ayoola provides her with insight into how Ayoola manipulates the men around her. As Korede searches for answers, her protective instincts intensify, fueled by concern for both her sister's future and the fragile state of their family legacy.

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Korede's frustration grows as Ayoola's unpredictable behavior continues to defy warning signs. Their once inseparable bond is rapidly fraying under the weight of secrets and tragedies.

Car

Finally, the police deliver Korede's car back to her in an open display at the hospital, further humiliating her and forcing her into a position of vulnerability. Despite the tension of the moment, she manages to conceal her turmoil and pays the ridiculous "transportation fee" in resignation. The physical dirt on her car serves as a metaphor for her mental and emotional degradation—reminders of a past she cannot escape.

Korede's interactions with Chichi, a colleague, offer some semblance of normalcy, but her inner conflict gingerly presses against the surface, illustrating the personal struggles overshadowing every aspect of her life. Tade's absence underscores his own struggles with Ayoola's choices, weaving a complex web of loyalty, love, and betrayal within each character's story.

In navigating their lives, the sisters face the inevitable clash of their shared pasts and diverging paths, with secrets that threaten to unravel them both.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The burden of familial loyalty can lead to personal sacrifice.

Critical Interpretation: In the heart of chaos and confusion, you find yourself grappling with the weight of familial loyalty—much like Korede, whose protective instincts for her sister threaten to consume her own identity. This chapter reminds you that while love for family can inspire acts of courage and sacrifice, it can also entangle you in toxic patterns that hinder your growth and well-being. Reflecting on this, you realize that sometimes you must prioritize your own mental health and moral compass over blind loyalty, allowing space for honesty and truth, even when faced with difficult familial obligations.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In the story, the protagonist, Korede, is a nurse at St. Peter's Hospital, navigating complex emotions fueled by her family dynamics and professional pressures. The chapters depict her daily life, intertwined with the arrival of new characters and painful memories resurfacing around her sister Ayoola, whose beauty and charm seem to intertwine with a sinister undertone.

The chapter titled "The Patient" introduces Korede tending to Muhtar, a comatose patient, while grappling with her frustrations regarding her sister Ayoola and a recent confrontation with Tade, the man Ayoola seems to have captivated. Korede expresses her resentment towards Ayoola's allure and how it overshadows her own feelings of worth and love. As she performs Muhtar's physiotherapy, she reflects on poetry and the nature of love, suggesting a deeper emotional struggle that transcends mere sibling rivalry.

In "Angel of Death," the narrative takes a chilling turn with the news of Gboyega's death during a trip to Dubai, which Ayoola nonchalantly relays to Korede. Her sister's unsettling demeanor raises alarm bells for Korede, who recalls past experiences of shared loss, including their father's death. Ayoola appears unaffected by Gboyega's demise, treating his death as an exciting story, which only fuels Korede's suspicions about her sister's past actions and potential involvement.

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The essence of family ties and expectations is explored in "Birth," where Korede recounts her first memory of Ayoola as a beautiful baby, perceived as a doll. Their mother's reassurances emphasize Korede's role as a protective elder sister, hinting at the weight of responsibility Korede feels. The content shifts to Ayoola's birthday celebrations in "Birthday," highlighting Korede's conflicting emotions as she prepares for the festivities despite her internal turmoil surrounding Ayoola's relationship with Tade and the shadow of Gboyega's death hanging over them.

The atmosphere remains tense as Korede juggles her professional achievements with her personal anxieties. "Head Nurse" marks a positive turning point, where Dr. Akigbe appoints Korede as head nurse, validating her hard work and dedication. However, it also serves as a reminder of changing dynamics, particularly with Tade, who seemed to have promised to celebrate her success.

In "Coma," hope emerges when news of Muhtar waking from his coma spreads, illustrating the fragility of life and the complexities of emotions. Korede struggles with her feelings when Tade congratulates her, further complicating their relationship and her feelings of inadequacy.

"The Game" reveals the strained interactions between Korede, Ayoola, and Tade as they are caught in a storm. Ayoola's insistence on playing Cluedo—a

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murder mystery game—serves as a symbolic moment that underscores the chaotic nature of their lives and the secrets that linger beneath their seemingly mundane existence. Tade's kindness towards Ayoola contrasts sharply with Korede's feelings of isolation and jealousy, culminating in a tense yet revealing atmosphere.

Overall, these chapters illustrate a layered narrative where familial love, jealousy, fear of the unknown, and the moral complexities surrounding Ayoola's actions converge, emphasizing Korede's inner conflict and the uncertain legacy that beauty and charm can hold within a fractured family.

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Chapter 8: 8

Chapter Summary:

SEVENTEEN:

Ayoola, in a moment of panic, calls her sister Korede. Through stuttered words, she reveals chaos involving a man named Somto and a knife—blood is everywhere. Korede's heart races as she realizes the severity of the situation. Despite the fear bubbling within her, she promises to meet Ayoola alone, echoing their shared bond against the outside world. Upon arriving at Somto's apartment, Korede finds him dead, shocking her into action. Instead of seeking help, the sisters decide to burn the evidence of the incident—an action driven by the fear of what the police would do to Ayoola, who insists she acted in self-defense. Important details emerge: Somto's lifestyle, his smoking habit, and the clear implication that Ayoola is a murderer who resorted to drastic measures to protect herself.

MANEATER:

In a lighter moment, Ayoola showcases her playful side during a game of Cluedo, cleverly manipulating Tade, a friend, while Korede feels the strain of denial about her sister's actions. During this game night, Tade expresses



curiosity about Korede's baking—something he mistakenly attributes to Ayoola. An exchange reveals Ayoola's charming, duplicitous nature as she claims credit for Korede's baking. Tade, wrapped in his admiration for Ayoola, unwittingly glosses over her dark past, leaving Korede uneasy.

AWAKE:

Korede visits Muhtar, a former patient who has emerged from a coma. The stark reality of his recovery dawns on her, along with the vulnerability of having once confided in him. A conversation brings to light the unsettling recollection of their past interactions—Muhtar remembers Korede's voice but cannot grasp the full weight of their exchanges. His comment about her sister being a serial killer throws Korede into turmoil; the tension builds as secrets loom over their discussion.

MEMORY:

Muhtar's fragmented memories reveal the struggle of the comatose state, as he and Korede wrestle with the unsettling reality of hospitalization. His questions prompt Korede to reflect on her own secrets and fears surrounding Ayoola. At the heart of their conversation lies the acknowledgment that people can be aware and critical in their darkest moments.

MADNESS:

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Korede grapples with her choice to confide in Muhtar, prompting self-reflection. A surge of anxiety intertwines with the twisted bonds of loyalty and fear she holds for Ayoola. They probe into the murky reliability of comatose memories, juxtaposing sweetness with the threat of revelation. The contrast of mundane nurse duties crumbles with the gravity of her sister's past actions taking center stage in her mind.

ASLEEP:

Korede dreams of Femi, Ayoola's previous victim, navigating the complexity of his persona. As he questions her, the dream highlights Korede's internal conflict—the possibility of seeing through Ayoola's facade and the potential missed warnings that led to violence.

ICE CREAM:

Peju, Femi's sister, confronts Korede insistently seeking answers about Femi's fate. Despite her rising despair, Ayoola appears, offering comfort to Peju. The scene is laden with irony, as the very person who caused Femi's demise is now serving as the balm for his grieving sister's wounds, stirring a mix of feelings for Korede as she watches the tragedy unfold.

SECRET:

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In a private exchange, Tade reveals his intentions to propose to Ayoola, hoping for Korede's support. The conversation reveals the innocence of Tade's feelings juxtaposed against the dark truth of Ayoola's history. Korede struggles with the duality of her love for her sister and the danger she

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

In the chapters, the narrative unfolds through the perspectives of various characters who grapple with complex emotions and conflicted relationships against the backdrop of a hospital setting and intertwined familial dynamics.

FRIEND

Korede, a nurse, is approached by her colleague Yinka, who informs her that a patient named Muhtar has been asking for her. The scene shifts to Muhtar in his hospital room, looking better after regaining consciousness. He invites Korede to sit and shares popcorn as he expresses gratitude for her care.

However, the conversation takes a darker turn as Muhtar draws on troubling philosophical questions about loyalty and morality, referencing a quote by musician Jim Morrison about the inherent darkness in human relationships.

The tension escalates when Korede reveals her fear regarding her sister Ayoola's new boyfriend, hinting at deeper secrets that bind them both as the discussion drifts toward the implications of Muhtar's awakening.

FATHER

The narrative delves into Korede's family dynamics, particularly highlighting her father's authoritarian nature. On a sweltering Sunday, Ayoola excitedly interrupts Korede, revealing their father has an important



guest. This visitor, dressed in an agbádá, unnerves Korede. As they eavesdrop on their father with the guest, Korede senses a disturbing unease, especially when Ayoola draws the visitor's attention with her beauty. Korede's instinctual protectiveness over her sister surfaces, reminding readers of the troubling expectations placed on Ayoola by their father, who sees the girls primarily through a lens of ownership. The chapter closes with tension building as Korede overhears a conversation loaded with potential danger for her sister.

FAMILY

Tension persists as Muhtar's family visits him in the hospital. Korede becomes a reluctant observer to the dynamics between Muhtar, his son Sani, and Sani's fiancé, Miriam. A generational clash unfolds when Sani expresses his desire to marry Miriam, but Muhtar refuses to approve the union, revealing his authority even from a hospital bed. This conflict highlights the weight of familial obligations and the pressure of expectations. As Muhtar emphasizes the importance of his son's happiness, Korede reflects on her own situation, feeling her presence in the discussion is both vital and precarious.

SHEEP

In a moment of vulnerability, Korede seeks solace in her sister Ayoola's



room, remembering their childhood bond. Ayoola's serenity is contrasted with Korede's racing thoughts regarding their past and the violent acts they've committed. As Korede tosses and turns, she grapples with guilt and trauma, revealing a deeper emotional layer tied to Ayoola's apparent innocence and Korede's protective instincts.

FATHER

The complications of family escalate when Ayoola has a boy over, stirring protective fears in Korede. Their father's violent nature emerges as a dark force, culminating in a scene where he disciplines Ayoola harshly for presumed impropriety. The depiction of their father's cruelty serves to underscore the atmosphere of fear and oppression in their household, influencing both sisters' behaviors and interactions with the outside world.

WIFE

As tensions heighten in Muhtar's room, Korede finds herself once again pulled into familial drama when Muhtar's wife confronts him about money, revealing the husband's fears and vulnerabilities. The confrontation illustrates the wife's bitterness and Muhtar's weakened state, revealing the complexities of love entangled with resentment. Korede's act of protecting Muhtar solidifies her role as a quiet protector amidst family chaos.

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NIGHT

The weight of Korede's experiences culminates as she faces Tade, someone she has feelings for, who embodies both hope and trouble. His cold demeanor signals an emotional fracture, leading Korede to wrestle with her growing suspicions about her capacity for love and loyalty.

BROKEN

In a moment of intense conflict, Korede's desperation leads her to destroy Tade's ring, symbolizing her desire to break free from the constraints of her reality. As she fights internally with guilt and tension, heightened by the reactions of her co-workers, the narrative hints at her deeper struggle for autonomy and the repercussions her actions may hold for both her and those around her.

Throughout these chapters, themes of family loyalty, repression, and the impact of societal expectations play a crucial role, revealing the intricate emotional landscape imperative for understanding the characters' motivations and dilemmas.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10

In the aftermath of Mohammed's firing—stemming from questionable allegations—Korede grows increasingly concerned about Tade, who seems troubled by the entire situation. Their conversation takes a dark turn when Tade reveals that the stolen ring, which should have been valuable, was taken while other items were left behind. This strange occurrence unsettles Korede, hinting at deeper conflicts that are yet to unravel.

As Korede grapples with her feelings, she receives an unsettling call from Ayoola, who delivers tragic news: someone has died. The enormity of this revelation weighs heavily on her, leading her to Tade's home where she frantically searches for her sister, fearing the worst. When she finds Ayoola, she is in a precarious state, having been stabbed during a confrontation with Tade. Ayoola's injury and her vague assertion that she was attacked complicate the scene, triggering a desperate urgency in Korede.

In a frantic sequence, Korede acts swiftly to provide first aid to Ayoola, torn between the threat Tade presents and the protection of her sister. As she attends to Ayoola's wound, the gravity of the situation becomes profound—this encounter teeters on the brink of violence linked intimately to family loyalty and self-defense. Korede's internal conflict intensifies as the potential consequences of her choices loom.



Upon reaching the hospital, Korede is pulled into a blurring of reality as she must navigate the emotional chaos and implications of the incident. Dr. Akigbe, the attending physician, rushes to save Ayoola while Korede struggles with the aftermath of betrayal and violence. The stark transition from a familial bond to a life-or-death crisis underscores their relationship's fragility.

When Ayoola regains consciousness, her memories lead to an unexpected revelation about Tade's involvement. Under the pressure of police inquiries, Ayoola identifies Tade as her aggressor, supportively backed by their mother, who is horrified by the betrayal. Korede's attempt to steer her sister towards caution backfires; the reality is stark: Ayoola sees the situation as a life-and-death matter and refuses to reconsider.

The weight of the choices before them is staggering. Korede realizes that to protect Ayoola might mean destroying Tade's life in the process, raising moral and ethical questions about loyalty, truth, and justice. The chapter unravels layers of familial bonds, shimmering with tension and uncertainty, and ultimately, it poses a question: Can one truly choose between the safety of a sibling and the life of another? As they each grapple with their roles in this unfolding tragedy, Korede is left hovering between allegiance and accountability—teetering on the edge of a decision that will irrevocably change their lives.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11

Summary of Chapters

In the chapter "Screen," we are introduced to the strained atmosphere surrounding Muhtar's hospitalization. As Korede navigates the hospital corridors, she encounters Muhtar's wife, who is silently grieving, embodying the heaviness of unresolved emotions. Upon visiting Muhtar, Korede finds him unaffected by his wife's tears. Instead, their conversation turns introspective as they discuss love, loss, and the burden of truth. Muhtar's acknowledgment of his wife's sorrow as self-centered signifies a deeper commentary on relationships marred by regret and dissatisfaction. When he mentions his impending discharge, Korede grapples with the reality of Muhtar's departure, reflecting on their unique bond and his secret knowledge of her family's dark past.

In "Sister," the focus shifts to Ayoola, Korede's sister, who is recovering from an injury—a consequence of her confrontation with her ex-boyfriend, Tade. Ayoola's light-hearted behavior contrasts with the gravity of their situation. The conversation reveals how deeply Ayoola is entangled with Tade, while Korede wrestles with guilt over prioritizing Tade's well-being over Ayoola's safety. The dialogue exemplifies familial loyalty and the complex dynamics of sisterly love against a backdrop of violence and

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misunderstanding. Korede faces the looming threat of an investigation into Tade's accusations against Ayoola, and they both ponder the potential ramifications.

The chapter "Father" delves into the siblings' childhood, illuminating the troubling past and their father's oppressive influence. Korede recalls a pivotal moment when she fiercely defended Ayoola from their domineering aunt, Aunty Taiwo, who represented a patriarchal grip over the sisters' lives. Their father's manipulative ways are brought to light as he exploits the siblings' innocence, pressuring Ayoola into precarious situations. This act of rebellion showcases Korede's protective nature, but it also sets the stage for deep-seated conflicts that will haunt them.

In "Truth," the narrative shifts to a more interrogative tone as Korede participates in a police investigation regarding Ayoola's actions and her relationship with Tade. The tension escalates as Korede confronts the implications of their family secrets—specifically surrounding Ayoola's past and the mysterious disappearance of Femi, Ayoola's ex-boyfriend. Despite the probing nature of the questioning, Korede stands resolute in her belief in Ayoola's goodness, demonstrating her steadfast loyalty and reluctance to betray her sister, even as suspicions mount.

The chapter "Gone" captures Korede's deep sense of loss following Muhtar's departure from the hospital. Reflecting on the absence of his presence, she

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grapples with her responsibility towards Ayoola and the burden of their shared secrets. Muhtar's number, a symbol of connection, weighs heavily on her conscience as she contemplates the implications of keeping it. The reality of their intertwined fates becomes stark as she realizes that Ayoola will always come first, pushing her to destroy the evidence of Muhtar's existence.

In the closing chapter, Korede is faced with a new visitor at home, indicating a possible shift in her life where she must navigate her identity in relation to the unfolding events surrounding her sister. The imminent arrival of this mystery man raises questions about Korede's future, but also hints at her steadfast commitment to Ayoola's well-being. Thus, the narrative continues to explore themes of loyalty, the complexity of familial bonds, and the cost of buried truths in a hauntingly poignant manner.

The acknowledgments highlight the author's gratitude towards those who supported her in bringing this narrative to life, particularly emphasizing the collaborative effort required in crafting a novel. Lastly, the author's biography emphasizes her background in creative writing and law, further grounding her perspective on the storytelling journey within the societal context she portrays.

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