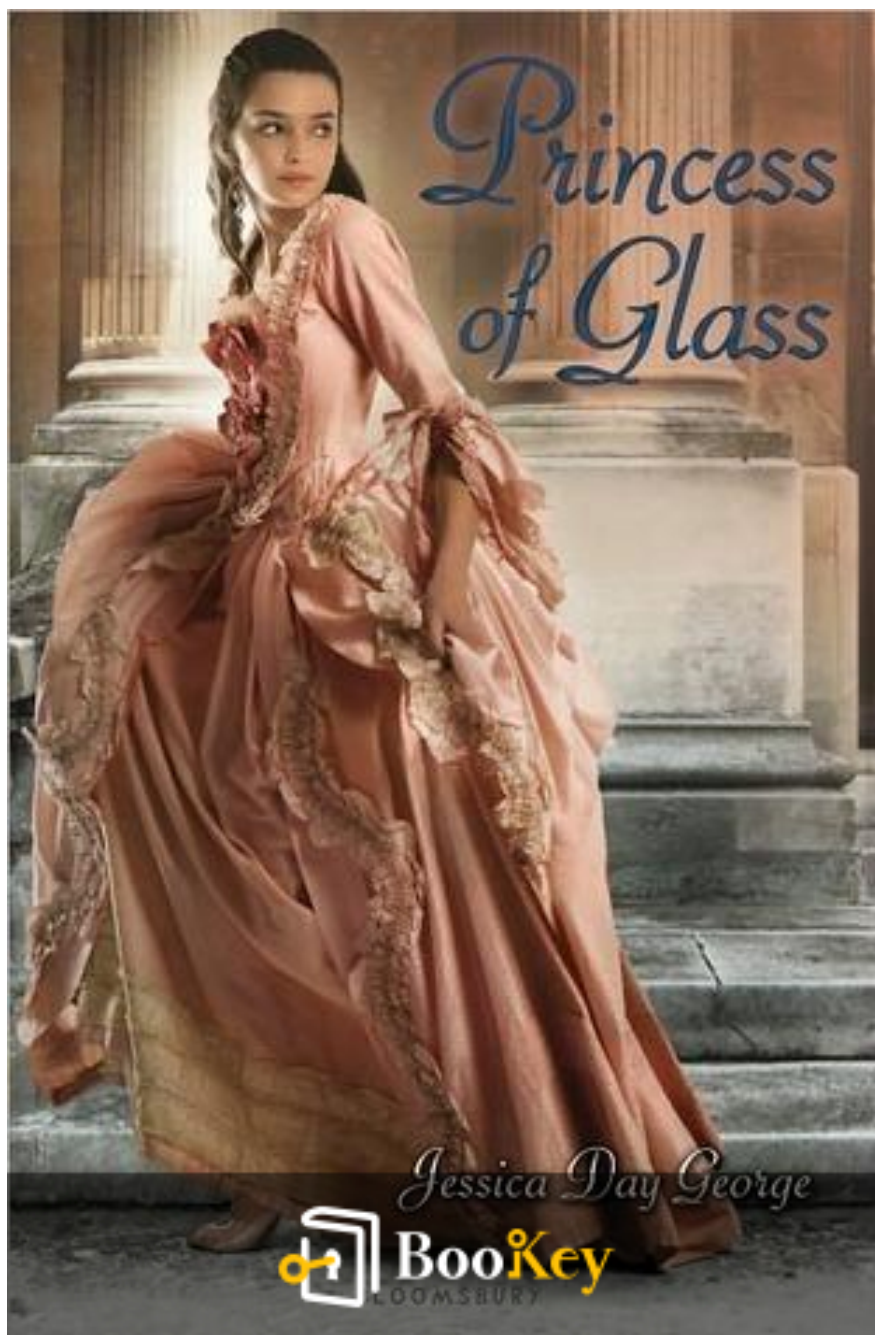


Princess Of Glass PDF (Limited Copy)

Jessica Day George



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Princess Of Glass Summary

Love and courage triumph in a world of magic.

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About the book

In "Princess of Glass" by Jessica Day George, the enchanting tale continues as Princess Poppy, a spirited daughter of the royal family, finds herself caught in a web of magic, mystery, and unexpected love. Set in a beautifully reimagined world inspired by classic fairy tales, this captivating sequel explores themes of courage and self-discovery as Poppy must navigate through treacherous enchantments and secrets that threaten her kingdom. With a charming blend of adventure and romance, readers are invited to immerse themselves in a story where choices define destiny and the power of true love can break any curse. Will Poppy be able to embrace her own identity and handle the challenges that come her way? Discover the magic that lies within the pages of this irresistible tale.

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About the author

Jessica Day George is an acclaimed American author known for her enchanting contributions to children's and young adult literature, particularly in the realms of fantasy and fairy tales. Born and raised in California, she developed a love for storytelling early in life, inspired by classic tales and the magic of imagination. George gained notable recognition for her retellings of beloved fairy tales, with "Princess of Glass" being a sequel to her popular debut novel, "Princess of the Midnight Ball." Her works often feature strong heroines, whimsical plots, and richly woven tapestries of magical settings, captivating readers of all ages. Through her meticulous attention to detail and deep-rooted love for folklore, Jessica Day George continues to inspire a new generation of readers to believe in the extraordinary.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Houseguest

Houseguest Summary

In the tranquil but unnerving atmosphere of Seadown House, Poppy is startled by a knock at her bedroom door—something she isn't accustomed to after sharing a room with her twin, Daisy, and their sister Orchid all her life. As she responds, she finds herself in the presence of Lady Margaret, her elegant cousin, who is a striking figure and the epitome of grace. She expresses concern over Poppy's reluctance to attend the upcoming Thwaites' ball, raising hints of Poppy's past experiences that haunt her, particularly the traumatic memories linked to dancing.

Poppy carries the weight of a familial curse stemming from her mother's long-ago bargain with a sinister entity known as the King Under Stone, leading to tragic consequences, including the deaths of nine princes during a harrowing ordeal that revolved around their cursed dancing. Since that time, the family has sworn to avoid discussing this dark past, striving for a semblance of normalcy.

Poppy struggles inwardly with the fear the prospect of attending a ball evokes and finds herself squeezed between her inclination to respect her hosts and her history of terror related to dancing. However, motivated by her



desire to not dampen the spirits of Lady Margaret or the Thwaites family, she resolves to attend the ball, even if she cannot find it in herself to dance.

After Lady Margaret leaves, Poppy reflects on the beautiful gowns her sister Rose had prepared for her, which she had initially wanted to avoid. Yet, the exquisite designs have started to appeal to her. In a moment of anticipation mixed with apprehension, she lays out a lavender gown before heading downstairs, eager to join her cousins for an early supper, marking a step toward embracing her new surroundings while still grappling with the shadows of her past.

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Chapter 2 Summary: Prince

In this chapter, we follow Prince Christian as he navigates the pressures of royal life and the strict expectations placed upon him by his parents, King Karl and Queen Aveline. While riding through the streets of Damerhavn, Christian tries to avoid the attention of the girls admiring him, having previously faced embarrassing situations where their excitement nearly led to chaos. His desire for independence clashes with the overprotective nature of his family, particularly his father's fears regarding the dangers outside the palace walls.

The narrative reveals that Christian's parents have kept him sheltered, especially after a troubling incident in Westfalin, where several princes died while attempting to uncover the dark magic surrounding the mysterious princesses there. This history adds weight to King Karl's insistence on keeping Christian safe from potential hazards. However, the king's protective nature soon turns into a predicament for Christian when he learns of his father's plans for him.

When Christian reluctantly meets with his father, he discovers that King Karl intends to send him to Breton, following a recent meeting with the Breton ambassador. King Rupert of Breton seeks to strengthen alliances amidst the political unease following the war between Westfalin and Analousia. King Karl explains the need for renewal of old alliances and



proposes a strategic matchmaking plan involving Christian. His father casually mentions that the arrangement will not only serve to solidify relations among Kingdoms but also thrust Christian into the world of royal courtship—a transition he's ill-prepared for.

As the conversation unfolds, Christian's initial excitement about adventures in foreign lands turns into anxiety at the realization that he will be expected to engage in courtly politics and romantic flirtations—all while fulfilling his role as a prospective future ruler. The chapter captures Christian's internal struggle; he grapples with the idea of being thrust into social events and potential matrimonial alliances with royal daughters, all while considering the weight of his family's expectations.

Ultimately, after contemplating the difficult conversation and feeling the vulnerability of being an heir, Christian decides to accept his father's directive, realizing that this journey, while daunting, offers him an opportunity for growth and adventure. His father's reassurance of love and support softens Christian's initial apprehension, leading him to agree to undertake the journey to Breton—a pivotal moment that sets the stage for the challenges and encounters he will face in his quest for identity and duty.



Chapter 3 Summary: Ball

As Poppy entered the opulent Thwaites' mansion for the ball alongside her friend Marianne, she instantly regretted her decision. The hum of lively music filled the air, and excitement bubbled as guests gathered to greet Poppy, a royal from Westfalin. Lady Thwaite, welcoming them with enthusiasm, assumed Poppy's dance card would fill quickly, but Poppy's discomfort grew as she was forced to explain her decision not to dance. The tension mounted as onlookers gawked and whispered, leaving Poppy feeling isolated among revelers who could not understand her reasons for abstaining.

Despite Marianne dancing with suitors, Poppy felt increasingly out of place. Memories from her home in Westfalin, where she was encircled by her sisters, contrasted sharply with her lone presence in the ballroom. Ladies around her exuded floral perfumes she detested, and she longed for the familiar comfort of home. Rumors about her and her refusal to dance fueled further gossip, as she became the center of attention not for her royal lineage but her enigmatic choice.

The Duchess of Hinterdale approached, strikingly shaped and with a perplexing accent that reminded Poppy how difficult it was to understand local dialects despite her language training. Their conversation turned awkward as the duchess expressed disbelief over Poppy's decision, unaware



of the dark family history behind it—the curse placed upon Poppy’s family by an evil king, which forced them to dance for his amusement. Despite the myriad of reasons swirling in her mind, Poppy ultimately deflected, citing a simple disinterest in dancing. Her revelation, however, triggered an unexpected response from the duchess, who took offense, revealing a connection to Prince Alfred—the son of King Rupert, who had died under alleged mysterious circumstances after visiting Westfalin.

This incident reminded Poppy of the complicated political ties between kingdoms and the enduring suspicion that their royal family’s actions had incited. King Rupert's agitation over Alfred's death had led to her being sent to Breton as part of a fostering program aimed at strengthening alliances, ripping her from her sister, Daisy, who had her own misadventures. With an unsatisfactory balance of political motives and personal loss at play, Poppy's heart weighed heavily for her twin back home.

As she daydreamed alone, a charming young man named Richard Thwaite, known as Dickon, approached her. Surprised at her sudden musing on breakfast meats, he graciously invited her to join him in the adjacent card room, where she seized the opportunity to escape the ballroom’s prying eyes. Despite their initial awkwardness, Poppy was determined to break societal norms; she confidently accompanied Dickon and soon found herself seated at a card table with the other gentlemen.



Richard soon came to her aid, deflecting the astonished reactions of the men nearby with feigned nonchalance, aware that her presence as a young lady at a gambling table was unusual. Poppy took comfort in bonding over their shared skills in card games, a legacy from her warrior brothers-in-law who strongly trained her and her sisters. Creative banter soon followed, igniting Poppy's spirit as she shuffled and dealt cards with surprising skill.

As the game commenced, the atmosphere in the room shifted from skepticism to respect. Poppy's ability to play and her unapologetic confidence gradually turned her into an intriguing figure, breaking through the confines of royal expectations. With the stakes set, Poppy proposed the first bid with an audacious smile, ready to carve out her identity and enjoyment amid the pressure of the ball.

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Chapter 4: Guest

In this chapter, Prince Christian arrives in the Bretoner capital of Castleraugh after a long two-day journey and begins his visit at Tuckington Palace with Prince George. While George enthusiastically showcases the palace's numerous portraits and artifacts, Christian struggles to stay awake, yearning for the comfort of rest rather than the tediousness of royal history. Their conversation highlights Christian's fatigue and the amusing but frivolous obsession with royal lineage, as George mixes up the origins of a suit of armor belonging to his ancestors.

Ultimately, Christian's request for a more direct route to his guest room wins out, allowing him to shed his coat and collapse into a chair. Here, he reflects on how different the Breton court is compared to his more casual life in the Danelaw. His moment of reprieve is short-lived as he learns they must attend the Duke of Laurence's Harvest Ball that evening.

Despite his exhaustion, Prince George insists that he has already promised Christian's attendance. When George leaves to arrange tea and scones, Christian laments his situation while dozing off face down on his bed. A valet eventually rouses him, and he is swiftly dressed for the ball, feeling out of place among his hosts.

Once at the ball, Christian finds himself seated and observing while George



mingles with the guests. He is approached by the Duke, who introduces him to Lady Marianne Seadown. Their conversation leads to light-hearted banter about the Duke's loudness and Marianne's beauty, but Christian becomes intrigued by a mysterious girl named Poppy who is sitting out the dance despite being beautiful. Marianne reveals that Poppy is related to her and is infamous for never dancing due to her belief in having exhausted her dancing slippers.

As the ball progresses, Christian learns more about Poppy's uniqueness; while she does not dance, she excels at gambling, which surprises him given his experience in Danelaw, where card games are for men only. Their interaction implies a gentle rivalry between the young ladies and shifts Christian's perception of the enigmatic Poppy.

However, just as Christian seems set to further explore his budding curiosity about Poppy, the evening takes a chaotic turn. After partaking in a lavish supper and a few more dances, Christian dozes off in a window seat. He is abruptly awakened by a commotion outside, prompting his instinct to investigate. He inadvertently leaps out the window, crashing onto an unsuspecting young man who retaliates and knocks Christian unconscious.

This chapter intricately weaves social debut, cultural contrasts, mysterious character introductions, and escalating tension, setting the stage for the unfolding drama in Christian's experience at the Breton court. It hints at



potential conflicts and character developments as his venture into this royal world continues.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Gossip

In the chapter titled "Gossip," a sudden brawl breaks out at a social function involving Jasper Antwhistle and a strange young man who has unexpectedly leaped from a window. Poppy, a young woman more interested in avoiding confrontation than intervening directly, searches the well-kept Laurence garden for a stick to help break up the fight. By the time she retrieves a borrowed walking stick, the chaos has subsided, and the young man is revealed to be Prince Christian—a realization that transforms public opinion about the incident.

As the crowd speculates on the prince's actions, it is humorously suggested that his jump was merely a result of fatigue from travel. Prince George, another attendee, claims to have seen Christian dozing before his dramatic exit, leading to a collective understanding that the whole affair was an accident. Following the incident, the prince is given care and sent home, while Poppy and her friend Marianne reflect on the absurdity of the evening when they return to Seadown House.

Lord Richard, Marianne's father, returns home just in time to hear their tales of the night, including Poppy's rather bold encounter with Antwhistle. The girls tactfully omit details of Antwhistle's unwelcome advance on Poppy, but their decision not to disclose the full story seems suspicious to the adults. Poppy finds herself back in her room that night, haunted by dreams of her



past in the Palace Under Stone and the oppressive presence of the King Under Stone, a dark character from her history.

The chapter shifts to the quiet comfort of the kitchen, where Poppy encounters Mrs. Hanks, the housekeeper, and her sister, Mrs. Mills. Their sibling bond quickly reminds Poppy of her own twin, Daisy, adding depth to her feelings of homesickness. As the three women converse over tea, Poppy learns about Eleanora, a troubled young maid whom Mrs. Mills cares for. Eleanora, who now prefers to be called Ellen, has caused various troubles and may soon be dismissed from her position due to continuous mistakes.

Mrs. Hanks expresses her frustration at Ellen's behavior, which leads both Poppy and the readers to wonder about the young maid's future. The chapter concludes with Poppy reflecting on Ellen's situation, considering whether she could help if the girl truly faced hardship. Overall, the events weave together themes of social status, personal connections, and the anxieties of young women in a world where gossip and reputation have dire consequences.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The power of empathy and kindness can change lives.

Critical Interpretation: In the chaotic aftermath of the brawl at the social gathering, Poppy's reflective nature sparks an inspiring realization: understanding the struggles of others, like Eleanora's troubled situation, can lead to meaningful connections and support. Imagine stepping into someone else's shoes, appreciating their challenges, and offering a helping hand—this act of empathy can create ripples of positivity. By nurturing compassion in our daily lives, we not only uplift those around us but also enrich our own experiences, transforming community dynamics and fostering an environment where kindness prevails over judgment.



Chapter 6 Summary: Odd

In this chapter, we are reintroduced to Christian, a young royal who is penning a detailed letter about an opera he recently attended for his youngest sister, Margrete. His interaction with a nervous red-haired maid reveals both his kindness and his underlying authority, as she is typically intimidated by his presence despite her long service to the family. A mishap occurs when the maid drops a tea tray, but in the chaos, she notes an unusual green glow from the tea, which piques Christian's curiosity.

After helping her clean up the mess, Christian notices the same green gleam emanating from a lamp on his writing desk, but when he attempts to relight it, the wick feels slick, and he struggles to get it functioning again. This initial sense of unease foreshadows odd occurrences to come.

Later, Christian joins the princesses for their daily riding lesson, where he is put in charge of supervising as his brother George prepares for a trip. Princess Hermione suffers continual mishaps, prompting older sister Emmeline to compare her to a previous maid named Ellen, who had a reputation for being clumsy. The princesses recount Ellen's mishaps with laughter, from ripping pillowcases to spilling hot chocolate, showcasing their disdain for the maid. Christian tries to teach the girls kindness, reminding them not to mock someone for their misfortunes.



Amidst his interactions with the princesses, Christian's discomfort mounts as he struggles to shake off a strange sensation in his eyes. Despite the renowned beauty of Tuckington Palace gardens, things appear dull and lifeless to him, and he continues to catch glimpses of green sparkles in his peripheral vision. This sense of the odd lingers in the air, hinting at unexplained happenings that might affect him and those around him. The chapter concludes with Christian feeling a mix of confusion and concern, setting the stage for further developments in the narrative.

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Chapter 7 Summary: Maid

In the chapter titled "Maid," Ellen Parker finds herself alone in her new room at Seadown House, grappling with the deep sense of loss and humiliation that comes with her sudden fall from grace. Formerly Eleanora Parke-Whittington, a young woman of privilege, Ellen has been thrust into the role of a maid, forced to abandon her old identity. She reflects on her fate as she awaits a lecture from Mrs. Hanks, the housekeeper who is about to relay the house rules and expectations.

Upon Mrs. Hanks's arrival, Ellen is struck by how the housekeeper resembles her own sister, leaving her with a bittersweet sense of nostalgia. Mrs. Hanks tries to soften the blow of Ellen's new reality, noting that no one would willingly choose a life of servitude. Ellen's heart aches further, realizing she will be attending to the needs of Lady Marianne and Princess Poppy, young ladies who could have been her friends in a different life. This recognition brings forth the tears she thought she had exhausted during her journey from the Laurences' manor.

Mrs. Hanks provides Ellen with a dress, apron, and cap, which signifies her new life, while Ellen struggles to remain impassive, masking her distress from the housekeeper, who remains oblivious to her emotional turmoil. Reflecting on her state, Ellen prepares to wash up, trying to avoid the painful reminder of her reflection. As she fills a basin with water, she unexpectedly



discovers that the water turns green, revealing a magical presence speaking to her.

Introducing itself as the Corley, a mystical entity claiming to be Ellen's godmother, the voice encourages her to pour more water so that they may converse. The warmth and kindness in the Corley's voice contrast sharply with Ellen's situation, offering her a glimmer of hope and guidance amidst her despair. Despite her shock and confusion, Ellen is compelled to listen, setting the stage for an unusual relationship that may help her navigate her challenges ahead.

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Chapter 8: Dancer

In this intriguing chapter of the narrative, we are introduced to Poppy and her friend Marianne, who find themselves in the lively yet demanding world of Analousian dance. Poppy, who prefers knitting to dancing, observes Marianne as she attempts the latest dancing craze led by a strict dancing master. Despite Marianne's attempts to master the complex steps, she struggles and feels embarrassed by her lack of grace. Poppy briefly contemplates her own abilities and feels fortunate to avoid the ridicule of dancing in public. The scene is light-hearted as the girls banter about their social lives, especially regarding Poppy's oversized knitting project — a bed sock for Marianne — which elicits a humorous exchange about the new maid, Ellen, who seems to be less than competent in her duties.

Ellen's ineptitude leads Poppy to reflect on her own privilege and the unfortunate position of the maid. Despite her failures, Poppy expresses a desire for Ellen to keep her job, indicating a sense of guilt for her own status. The chapter showcases the dynamics of the characters as they embrace both levity and underlying tensions about their societal roles.

As Marianne returns to her dance practice, her physicality becomes a source of concern for Poppy, who instinctively corrects her posture and technique. This moment draws praise from the dancing master, which surprises Poppy and makes her uncomfortable, recalling her childhood at Midnight Balls



filled with sorrowful memories associated with her brother-in-law, Galen.

The chapter shifts pace when Prince Christian, a handsome young Dane, unexpectedly enters the ballroom to join the girls for a riding lesson.

Flustered by his presence, Poppy hastily excuses herself and Marianne to

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Chapter 9 Summary: Gleaming

Chapter Summary: Gleaming

In "Gleaming," Prince Christian of Ionia visits King Rupert of Breton, who has summoned him for a private discussion. The formal atmosphere is thick as King Rupert, bearing the weight of tradition, addresses Christian with pomp and expectation. Their conversation quickly turns to the king's daughters, Hermione and Emmeline, prompting Christian to stammer through an unexpected inquiry about his intentions for marriage. He feels caught between the responsibilities of royal duty and the personal discomfort of such a direct question, especially considering the young ages of the princesses.

After their awkward meeting, Christian meets his friends, Poppy and Marianne, at the Royal Gallery. They laugh about his unsettling encounter with King Rupert, revealing the underlying tension of royal marriages in their world. Marianne is a cousin of the royal family, secretly hoping for her own romantic interests, while Poppy shares how her family's tradition of drawing names determined their fates in attending royal visits, with each daughter hoping to avoid being paired with unwanted suitors.

Their light-hearted banter takes a turn when they discuss Poppy's father,



who has cultivated beautiful gardens in Ionia as a tribute to Poppy's homesick mother. Poppy's passion for gardening shines through, even if she claims not to care about growing plants herself. As they stroll through the meticulously designed grounds, Christian experiences unsettling visual disturbances—a growing sense of something unusual occurring, particularly near a greenhouse that appears green in fleeting moments.

Though Marianne expresses curiosity about the greenhouse, Christian's unease grows, leading him to suggest they move on to a nearby tea shop. Poppy's playful jabs, referring to him as an "older brother," add another layer of complexity to his feelings, hinting at the intertwined dynamics of friendship and royal expectations. Despite the cheerful company, Christian remains preoccupied with the strange visions and the implications they may hold for their future.

This chapter expertly intertwines themes of duty, expectation, and the complexities of youthful relationships within a royal setting, setting the stage for the evolving dynamic among the characters as they navigate their intertwined fates.



Chapter 10 Summary: Invited

Chapter Summary: Invited

A week after Poppy's visit to the Royal Gallery, the Seadown household receives an unexpected royal invitation. During breakfast, as Poppy pretends to enjoy kippers, the butler presents a thick envelope with great reverence. Lady Margaret, Poppy's host and cousin to the king, accepts it with mixed feelings, recalling that royal invitations have been scarce since Poppy's arrival. Poppy reflects on her sisters receiving warmer welcomes at court, contrasting her own experiences.

The invitation announces not only a gala for Queen Edith's upcoming birthday but also a masked ball scheduled shortly thereafter. Marianne, eager and animated, fantasizes about the celebrations, recalling a romantic encounter with Dickon Thwaite at last year's festivities. Lord Richard remarks on the unusual nature of these events, attributing them to King Rupert's desire to see Poppy married, as her family has valuable connections. Poppy, however, expresses reluctance to attend, fearing her presence would only stir reminders of her past involvement with Alfred, whom Queen Edith despises for his gambling.

Despite her protests, Marianne insists on Poppy's attendance. Lies and social



dynamics underscore their conversation—Poppy, amidst knitting a scarf as retaliation for Marianne’s teasing about her socks, encounters a sour maid named Ellen, who expresses envy over the new ball gowns being arranged for the upcoming events.

As they discuss gowns, Ellen boldly claims her right to be considered an eligible young lady too, citing her past status before her family’s downfall. This moment leads to a tension-filled exchange where Lady Margaret maintains composure while Poppy is frustrated with Ellen’s lack of graciousness. The conversations delve into class disparity, with Poppy proposing that a gown could be made for Ellen, highlighting the charity of the gesture.

Feeling the weight of Ellen's grievances and hardships, the narrative subtly underscores the character dynamics among the maids and young ladies in the household. Eventually, the dressmaker arrives to measure for the gowns, prompting Poppy to humor the idea of attending the gala at least to keep Marianne out of mischief with Dickon.

The chapter closes with Poppy reluctantly engaging with the dressmaker, signaling that her determination to avoid the royal festivities may not hold as steadfast as she believes, thus weaving her fate deeper into the social expectations of the court.



Chapter 11 Summary: Goddaughter

In this chapter, we follow the journey of Ellen, a young maid who has been given an unexpected opportunity to attend a royal gala. This event is particularly exciting for her because it promises a chance to meet Prince Christian, a foreign prince she finds attractive and kind, and who is unaware of her humble background. Ellen is determined to make a dazzling impression, hoping to escape her current life of servitude and be swept away by the prince.

However, Ellen knows that simply being invited to the gala isn't enough. She dreams of wearing exquisite gowns, adorned with jewels and accessories, to stand out among the other attendees. The Seadowns, the family she works for, have been kind to her, but she realizes they won't provide the means for her to outshine their daughter, Poppy, or their favorite Marianne.

As she prepares to bring her request to her godmother, Madame Corley, a sorceress of considerable status, Ellen reflects on the strange similarities and disparities between herself, Poppy, and Marianne. Despite all three being born of noble blood, their fates have diverged dramatically. Ellen longs for a life where she is valued and appreciated, rather than merely a helper.

When Ellen summons her godmother through magic, she eagerly shares the news of her invitation to the gala and requests assistance in crafting an



astonishing wardrobe. Madame Corley's enthusiastic response fills Ellen with hope; the godmother promises to provide her with the finest dresses and jewels for the occasion. However, she instructs Ellen to visit her palace before midnight, but without being seen. This adds a layer of urgency to Ellen's task, as she must navigate her responsibilities as a maid without arousing suspicion.

As the day unfolds, Ellen's excitement is mingled with anxiety, leading to a series of clumsy mistakes in her chores. Each mishap emphasizes her feeling of inadequacy, though she finds solace in the thought of soon escaping her current life. Eventually, she sneaks away to the guest room, aiming to build a fire that will serve as a portal to her godmother's palace.

Despite her typical struggles with fire-building, Ellen manages to ignite a blaze. She recites the spell her godmother had taught her, and as the fireplace transforms into a doorway, she steps through with a mixture of trepidation and thrill. This moment symbolizes her leap into a new world filled with possibility, far removed from her life of drudgery. Her heart races not with fear, but with the exhilarating promise of finally being wanted and accepted.



Chapter 12: Nightmare

Chapter Summary: Nightmare

Poppy finds herself in the eerie King Under Stone's palace, dressed in a hauntingly familiar bruise-colored gown, running through seemingly endless corridors of black stone. Though she can't recall how she arrived, she understands the dreadful weight of the palace—filled with despair and darkness. The once-powerful King Under Stone has been replaced by his son, Rionin, who now reigns with the same cruelty. Poppy dodges unwanted attention as she navigates through a ballroom alive with malicious laughter, feeling the prying eyes of Rionin and his brother Blathen upon her.

In a desperate attempt to escape, Poppy becomes trapped in a dance orchestrated by her captors, who relish in her fear. She grips hairpins in her hands, ready to fight back, but the nightmarish scene rapidly devolves into chaos. Just as she believes she might be lost forever, Poppy awakens in her bed at the Seadowns' manor, drenched in sweat and relief that it was merely a dream—one that feels all too real and is influenced by the memories of the Midnight Balls, a trauma shared by some of her sisters.

Despite her frequent nightmares, this one haunts her deeply, leading her to question whether something is inherently wrong in her life or if the



nightmare stems from the distress of being away from her family. As she slips into a dressing gown and heads downstairs for tea, she is startled by the sound of scuffling—a mystery that brings her face-to-face with Ellen, a maid covered in soot.

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Chapter 13 Summary: Eencer

In the opening of the chapter, Christian, a Danish prince, is in a state of distress due to King Rupert's insistence that he marry one of the Bretoner noblewomen. After expressing his disinterest in marrying either Princess Hermione or Princess Emmeline, King Rupert has determined that Christian must be auctioned to the highest bidder among the Breton nobility. The pressure is mounting as the holidays approach, and Christian's hope for a reprieve is dwindling. He reaches out to his parents for help, cleverly sharing that he has formed a friendship with Princess Poppy of Westfalia, who is more enjoyable than the rumors suggest.

Christian's anxiety is palpable as he contemplates how his parents might react to the king's auction plan. King Rupert's determination to find Christian a bride by the holidays leaves him feeling trapped, especially with Emmeline's childish determination to capture his affection despite her youth. In a bid to escape the palace's oppressive atmosphere, he prepares to attend a dinner party at the Thwaites' where he anticipates having fun with Princess Poppy.

The next day, at the Thwaites' estate, Christian showcases his fencing skills, sparring with Dickon Thwaite and then with his older brother, Roger, who has just returned from a journey to the Far East. The brothers' different personalities become apparent as Roger exhibits an air of sophistication and



experience, having captured the interest of several women despite being home only briefly.

During their fencing match, Roger casually references his travels and the magical experiences tied to the Far East, stirring Christian's curiosity about Princess Poppy's family and the legends surrounding the Westfalian princesses. These tales include gossip about a dark sorcerer and a curse afflicting the princesses, which Roger claims resulted from their nightly rituals leading to the mysterious deaths of suitors who tried to uncover their secret. This revelation deepens Christian's intrigue as he desires to know more.

As the conversation unfolds over tea, Poppy and her sister Marianne enter the room, unwittingly catching the gentlemen discussing sensitive family matters. Poppy's fierce demeanor shifts from suspicion to hurt when she realizes they were gossiping about her family's past. She confronts Roger, demanding to know what he knows about her brother-in-law, Galen, who is connected to a magical curse. The confrontation escalates until Poppy, visibly wounded, decides to leave with Marianne, leaving the gentlemen in an awkward silence and reminding Christian of the complications and pressures that surround his unwanted royal obligations.

This chapter effectively sets up the personal conflicts between Christian's desire for independence and the expectations of royalty. The introduction of



Poppy and the past of the Westfalian princesses hints at future intertwining narratives of magic, love, and responsibility.

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Chapter 14 Summary: Gown

In the chapter titled "Gown," Poppy is caught in a whirlwind of emotions as she grapples with her decision to attend a royal gala. Initially hesitant, her resolve begins to crumble when Lady Margaret, her composed cousin, reveals a stunning gown that Poppy finds too beautiful to resist. The gown, a striking masterpiece of heavy white silk adorned with poppy red embroidery, perfectly reflects her desire for elegance and appeal, particularly with thoughts of impressing Christian, a gentleman she is fond of.

As Poppy examines the gown, Lady Margaret encourages her to consider the gala, where there promises to be plenty to engage attendees—food, music, acrobats, and more. The contrast between Poppy's modest upbringing and the opulence of Tuckington Palace, where such extravagant events are routine, intensifies her longing for a life filled with glamour. With her background marked by shared clothing and limited occasions for new attire, the gown symbolizes an enticing escape from her reality.

Ellen, the maid, enters with laundry but is now a shadow of her former self, marked by soot and a mysterious demeanor. Her evasive responses about her own gown suggest deeper troubles, hinting at a secret benefactor. This intrigues Poppy, who perceives Ellen's struggle as more significant than simple domestic woes. With their interaction hinting at tension, Poppy resolves to write to her sisters and Galen—a friend and potential source of



magical knowledge—about her concerns regarding Ellen and to seek spells to help manage the sootiness affecting her surroundings.

As the chapter closes, Poppy's uncertainty about attending the masked ball surfaces, revealing her apprehension about being surrounded by strangers in masks—a situation she finds utterly daunting. Yet, her anticipation about the gala gown lingers, a symbol of the allure and trepidation of royal events, alongside her determination to uncover the mystery surrounding her maid.

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Chapter 15 Summary: Preparations

Chapter Summary: Preparations

Ellen is luxuriating in an opulent, flower-shaped bathtub in her godmother's palace, savoring the sweet scents of roses and oils that wash away the memories of her dreary life of servitude following her parents' deaths. Tonight marks her debut at a royal gala, a longstanding dream she has clung to amidst her struggles. Under the pretext of fetching ribbons for Princess Poppy, she has secretly sneaked away from Seadown House to embrace her new identity.

As she emerges from the bath, a mute maidservant assists her, adding to the ethereal atmosphere of the palace with its splendid decorations. Ellen drifts into a daydream of dancing with a prince, feeling both longing and anxiety as she envisions various possibilities of romance. When her mute attendants are joined by her animated godmother, Ellen's worries melt away.

Her godmother, a larger-than-life figure, ushers Ellen into a grand room filled with gowns. Ellen has the perfect dress in mind: a sea-colored gown that embodies the dreams she has long held. However, her godmother insists on a more striking choice. Summoning her silent servants, they adorn Ellen with layers of luxurious fabrics and prepare her for the ball.



As she is draped in an exquisite gown made of heavy silk embroidered with roses and jewels, Ellen feels beautiful, yet the weight of the dress reminds her of its importance. Tears of joy spill from her eyes as she admires her reflection, affirming her worthiness of such beauty.

With her outfit near completion, her godmother ensures Ellen's makeup and hair are impeccable, adding an array of sparkly jewelry to her ensemble. However, Ellen's excitement turns to concern when she realizes she is barefoot. Her godmother reassures her, claiming that she has special slippers that will elevate her performance on the dance floor without spoiling her look. Despite her reservations about being half-naked without stockings, Ellen decides to trust her godmother.

Together, they enter a mysterious circular room where dark magic and potions await Ellen. Sensing the combination of excitement and trepidation, she steels herself, determined to embrace the magic that promises to transform her into the star of the evening. The prospect of leaving behind her life of drudgery and capturing a prince's heart motivates her to take this leap, firmly believing that her godmother's intentions are benevolent.

As Ellen prepares to step into a new world of grandeur, she is filled with hope, naively believing in the fairy-tale ending she desires.



Chapter 16: Honored Guest

Chapter Summary: Honored Guest

The royal gala at Tuckington Palace opens with King Rupert introducing his special guest, Prince Christian of the Danelaw. Positioned at the edge of a picturesque pond, the king's announcement is met with enthusiastic applause. As Christian stands beside the king, he feels self-conscious and scans the crowd for familiar faces. His eyes land on Poppy, a bold young woman in a striking white and red gown, who seems to delight in Christian's shyness.

With a sense of urgency to engage with Poppy, Christian uses his status to invite her for a dance. However, before he can approach her, the king hands him off to Queen Edith, who provides unsolicited advice on which ladies are expected to dance with him. Amidst a whirl of expectations and potential romantic connections, Christian aims to engage with both Poppy and Marianne, another young lady he finds endearing.

After concluding his dance with the queen, Christian observes a young woman entering the ballroom, dressed dramatically in scarlet and white. Mistaking her for Poppy at first glance, he quickly realizes she is Lady Ella, a stunning girl with similar features but distinct coloring. Their conversation



during the dance is awkward; while he tries to make sense of her identity, she deflects, claiming they have only met in passing. The realization that she is masking her true identity piques Christian's curiosity.

The tension escalates when Roger Thwaite, another nobleman, recognizes Lady Ella as "Eleanora," a name she dismisses with strained laughter. She seems to have an air of mystery about her that intrigues both Christian and her companions. When Marianne joins Christian, they take a break from dancing, discussing Lady Ella's lavish attire and jewelry, implying something suspicious about her sudden wealth and status.

Meanwhile, Poppy reenters the scene, confused by the crowd's reaction to Lady Ella. When she spots the girl, astonishment washes over her, suggesting a deeper connection or backstory between them. Christian is eager to learn more about Lady Ella and her unexpected wealth but feels overshadowed by the chatter between Poppy and Marianne.

As Christian attempts to glean more information, the jovial but boisterous Duke interrupts, taking Poppy for a dance against her wishes, igniting jealousy in Christian. Watching Poppy struggle to retain her dignity while navigating the duke's heavy-handed lead deepens Christian's feelings of frustration.

Lady Ella seizes the moment, approaching Christian with Roger in tow and

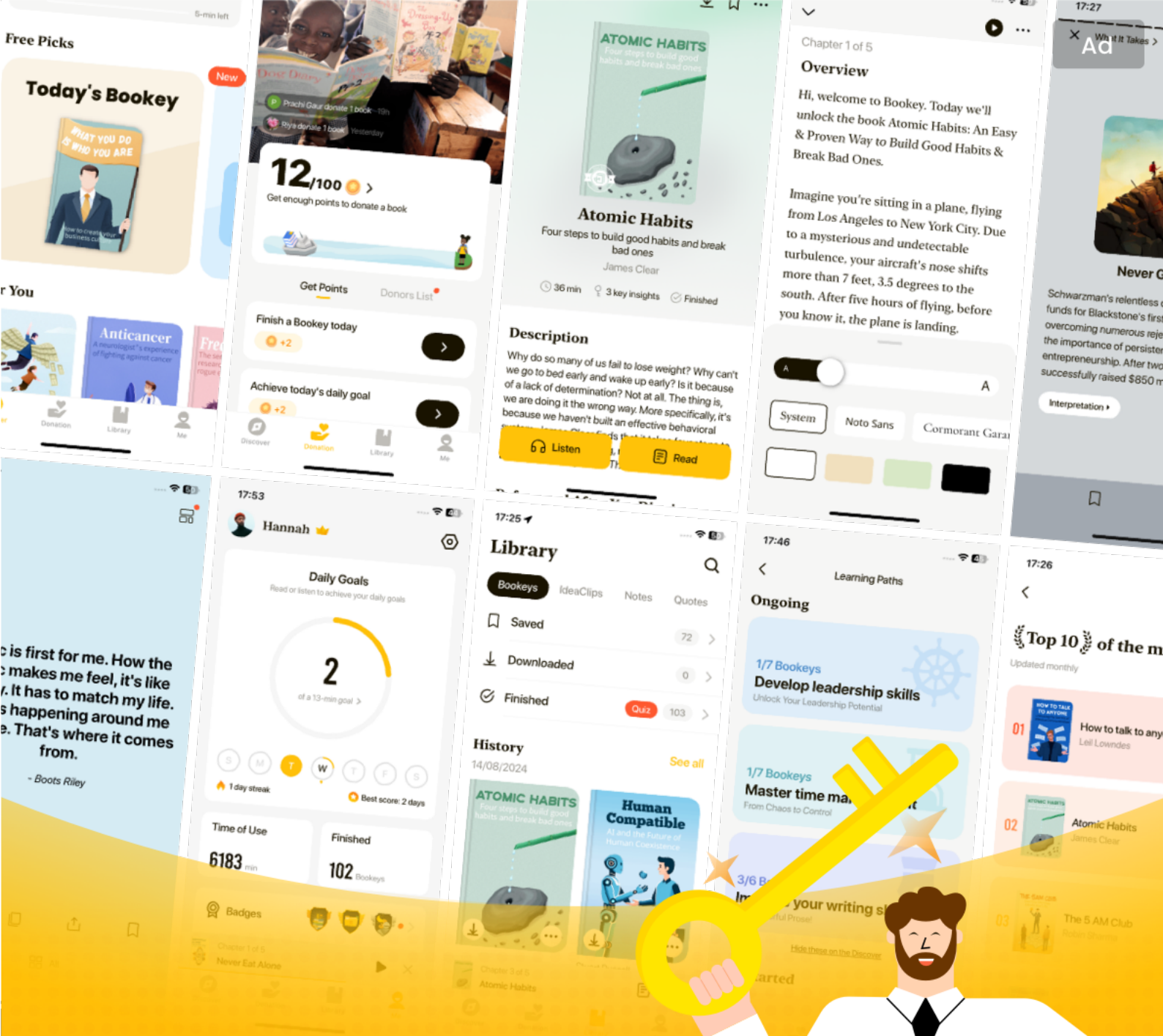


inviting him to dance. Compelled by her charm despite his reservations about her mysterious nature, Christian reluctantly accepts. The dance unfolds amidst a backdrop of tension as Christian battles between fascination with Lady Ella and concern for Poppy, who is still trapped with the duke. As the evening progresses, he resolves to uncover Ella's true motives and the paradox of her dazzling appearance among the nobles.

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Chapter 17 Summary: Dance

In this chapter, Poppy finds herself reluctantly dancing for the first time in three years, an experience which turns uncomfortable as she is paired with a boorish duke who lacks dancing skills. As the scene unfolds in a regal setting, her thoughts drift to a concerning situation involving Ellen, her maid. Poppy suspects that Ellen has fallen under a magical enchantment, evidenced by her striking transformation into an enchanting dancer wearing a gown and jewels far beyond human ability to create in such a short time. Ellen's dancing catches the attention of others, particularly that of Christian, a prince who has recently engaged with Poppy in a deeper connection.

Poppy's attention is diverted from her unrefined dance partner as she observes the captivating spectacle Ellen has become, leading to jealousy and anger toward both her partner and the enthralling maid. She contemplates escaping the dance floor to figure out what has become of Ellen, especially given that several friends who notice the remarkable transformation are oblivious to the danger it poses. In particular, Poppy worries about the implications of Ellen's dress and its connection to an enchantment, potentially linking back to the family's history of magic-induced misfortunes.

As Christian approaches Poppy again after relinquishing Ellen to another partner, they engage in a cryptic conversation about the enigmatic maid.



Poppy hesitates to reveal the darker details of her own family’s curse and the consequences of making deals with magical beings, but her worry intensifies as she observes the glittering red glass slippers that seem almost to pulse with enchantment.

Poppy draws Roger Thwaite, another acquaintance familiar with Ellen, aside and learns that he has a childhood connection to the maid but is unable to fully recognize her now. Together, they contemplate how Ellen has become estranged from her original self. Roger possesses protective magic that enables him to see through the spell cast upon her, unlike most others who are enchanted by her allure.

The bond between Roger and Ellen is evident, yet there is an unspoken barrier created by Ellen's current disguise and the magical circumstances surrounding her transformation. Poppy expresses her curiosity and concern about finding out how Ellen came to be in this situation and whether it’s too late to intervene. She and Roger agree to investigate, recognizing the pressing need to unveil the truth behind Ellen’s dazzling but potentially perilous new persona before it leads to unforeseen consequences for all involved. The chapter closes with a sense of urgency as Poppy resolves to confront the mysteries surrounding Ellen's transformation at the gala, hinting at the deeper magical entanglements at play.

Element	Summary
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Element	Summary
Setting	Regal gala with dancing
Main Character	Poppy
Conflict	Poppy is uncomfortable dancing with a boorish duke while worrying about her maid Ellen.
Ellen's Transformation	Ellen becomes an enchanting dancer, suggesting she is under a magical enchantment.
Poppy's Emotions	Poppy feels jealousy and anger towards her partner and Ellen.
Christian	Christian, a prince, shows interest in Ellen, heightening Poppy's concerns.
Magical Elements	Poppy fears Ellen's dress and red glass slippers indicate enchantment linked to family history.
Roger Thwaite	Poppy confides in Roger, who has protective magic to see through Ellen's enchantment.
Goal	Poppy and Roger aim to uncover the truth about Ellen's transformation before it causes harm.
Conclusion	The chapter ends with a sense of urgency to confront the mysteries of Ellen's new persona.



Chapter 18 Summary: Midnight

Chapter Summary: Midnight

As the ornate clock in the ballroom chimed half past eleven, Ellen felt a rush of relief, despite her godmother's insistence that she must return home by midnight. Expecting to enjoy the gala well into dawn, Ellen was taken aback by the magical yet unsettling experience of having molten glass molded into exquisite high-heeled slippers on her feet. Her godmother, a powerful sorceress, had used delicate golden instruments to fashion the slippers, explaining that her powers would wane once night transitioned into dawn.

The enchanting atmosphere of the gala heightened Ellen's spirits, especially as she danced with Prince Christian, who became increasingly captivated by her charm. Feeling a mix of excitement and trepidation, Ellen adhered to her godmother's advice to remain enigmatic, treating their parting with allure as she promised him future encounters on the dance floor.

As the clock neared midnight, the shoes began to change. Trying to make a swift escape, Ellen maneuvered through the crowd and entered a grand carriage—a gilded creation pulled by an impressive team of horses, which was anxious to return her to her home. Yet, the magic of her shoes turned from exhilarating to excruciating; they grew uncomfortably tight, causing



her feet to cramp painfully.

Upon arriving at the stable yard of Seadown House, Ellen struggled to exit the carriage, her discomfort heightened by the changing texture of the shoes, which had gone from pliable to rigid. Her godmother was waiting, teasingly scolding her for being late and expressing hope that she had a delightful time.

In a flurry of activity, Ellen's godmother quickly shattered the enchanted shoes with a small golden hammer, freeing Ellen from their painful grip as shards scattered around her. The footmen swiftly stripped her of her elegant gown and jewels, dressing her hastily in her housemaid uniform before ushering her away from the magical realm to her everyday reality in the garden.

Dazed and disheveled, Ellen stumbled back into her home just after midnight, burdened by her discarded attire and the icy remnants of magic, leaving her with little time to compose herself before the Seadowns' arrival. She anxiously awaited their questions about the mysterious Lady Ella, striving to reconcile her enchanting night with the mundane world in which she now found herself.



Chapter 19 Summary: Confused

In this chapter, confusion reigns as Prince Christian converses with King Rupert concerning a mysterious young woman, Lady Ella, whose lineage remains unknown. Despite Christian's admission that he finds her more strange than enchanting—unlike the endearing oddity of another young woman, Poppy—he finds himself at the center of King Rupert's relentless inquiries about Lady Ella's background. The king, fixated on ensuring Lady Ella's attendance at an upcoming masked ball, seems intent on uncovering every detail of her heritage, driving Christian into a state of exasperation.

Their conversation is interrupted by a footman delivering correspondence from the Seadown estate, including an invitation to a ball celebrating Lady Marianne's birthday. This serves as a reminder for Christian of his own invitation lying untouched in his room, along with the other letters, which include a peculiar one from Westfalin. With a sense of urgency—to discuss Lady Ella further or perhaps revisit Queen Edith—he decides to visit Seadown House.

Just as he departs, he is accosted by Roger and Dickon Thwaite, who appear troubled and bring up unsettling speculations about Lady Ella being cursed. Roger suggests that Ella may be under an enchantment, claiming that this magical influence could be affecting both Christian and Dickon's behavior. The idea sparks alarm in Christian, who resolves that they must act swiftly



to assist her. However, Roger's cryptic musings about enchantments deepens the mystery, complicating their intentions.

As the Thwaite brothers debate the possibility of encountering Lady Ella at the park, their attention inadvertently drifts towards Princess Poppy, and Christian realizes they had overlooked their original plans. With Roger eager to speak with Poppy and assert his concerns about Lady Ella, the trio decides to change course toward the Seadown estate, experiencing a blend of curiosity and apprehension about the enchanting Lady Ella and her potential impacts on their lives.

This chapter weaves together themes of mystery, enchantment, and the complications of relationships within royal circles, as characters grapple with their feelings and intentions regarding Lady Ella, setting the stage for further developments at the masquerade and the ball.

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Chapter 20: Investigator

Summary of "Investigator" Chapter

In the parlor, Poppy eagerly greets Roger, Christian, and Dickon, having sent a message for their return. Although she nearly expresses her relief with a hug for Roger, her attention quickly shifts to Christian and Dickon, who appear indifferent to her friend Marianne, who is struggling with the memory of the recent gala where Lady Ella stole attention from them.

To distract both herself and Marianne from their frustrations with Lady Ella's beauty and the chaotic aftermath of the ball, Poppy takes up knitting and attempts to generate excitement about Marianne's upcoming ball, hinting at potential surprises and gifts. Despite her efforts, Marianne remains obsessed with the recent gala, recalling how Lady Ella captured the attention of every gentleman, including Christian and Dickon.

Poppy confides in Roger about the mysterious Eleanora, who transformed into the charming Lady Ella and attended the ball in a gown that closely resembled Poppy's own. She explains her failed attempts to confront Ellen about the gown, recounting how Ellen feigned ignorance despite the evidence of her extravagant appearance. Roger expresses concern upon hearing about Ellen's limp, which is likely from dancing in uncomfortable



shoes.

As they dig deeper into the mystery, Lord Richard (Marianne's father) enters the room, amused yet curious about their discussions. Marianne passionately articulates her frustrations over Lady Ella's impact on the ball, leading to a conversation about their intense feelings towards her. Poppy signals for a more private conversation, and the group retreats to Lord Richard's study.

They relay their discoveries about Ellen's transformation, the stolen gown, and the strange hold Lady Ella has over their acquaintances, revealing a troubling enchantment that seems to perplex them all. Poppy expresses her suspicions that Ellen might be willingly involved with magic, noting how she's seen her wandering about in disarray. Lord Richard's grave reaction, particularly to the mention of soot on Ellen, heightens the tension: they begin to realize that this situation may be more serious than they thought.

In the aftermath of the study meeting, Poppy grapples with a sense of chaos and uncertainty in her once stable life. With doubts about whether spells and charms could genuinely protect them, she feels isolated yet slightly comforted by Roger's shock at the revelations. While trying to resume normalcy, she witnesses a nostalgic scene with Christian and Marianne playing chess, feeling temporarily reassured. However, Dickon's innocent question about Lady Ella's potential chess-playing ability invokes frustration in Poppy, signaling that their troubles are far from over.



This chapter steadily builds intrigue around the unfolding mystery, highlighting the characters' interpersonal dynamics and the impending consequences of enchantment, all while maintaining a lighthearted yet tense atmosphere.

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Chapter 21 Summary: Torn

In the chapter titled "Torn," Ellen limps into Lord Seadown's study, burdened by the physical discomfort of her sore feet but buoyed by the joy of a recent royal gala where she danced with Prince Christian and Roger Thwaite, both figures from her past. While she grapples with the memory of the gala, she is reminded of a childhood beach trip, contrasting carefree moments with the weight of her current situation. The gala rekindles a sense of hope in her life, but the stirring of past tragedies—particularly concerning her father's fall from grace—looms over her.

Upon entering the study, she feels a mix of guilt and anxiety, especially as Lord Richard addresses her by her given name, Eleanora, and expresses concern over her dealings with powerful beings, likely referring to her mysterious godmother, the Corley. This revelation leaves Ellen unsettled, as she is determined to keep her secret about the magical assistance she has received to attend the ball. Ellen's ambitions focus on a future with Prince Christian, a hope that is threatened by any exposure of her true identity or the possible dangers connected to her godmother.

As the conversation unfolds, Lord Richard reveals his unease about the Corley, hinting at a past tainted by bad decisions and magic. Ellen, desperate to protect her dreams, feigns ignorance and maintains her innocence as she tries to reassure him. Successfully escaping the study, she returns to her



duties, where she finds unexpected joy in her work, likening her iron-smoothing results to a newfound confidence—or possibly the aid of her godmother’s magic.

However, her spirits are dampened as she unexpectedly encounters Prince Christian again, only to be met with his indifference. His lack of recognition stirs questions and anxieties within her, leading her to wonder about the effectiveness of the glamour her godmother had cast. Meanwhile, her feelings become intertwined with jealousy as she overhears a conversation between Roger and Princess Poppy, who express concern for her safety and hint at the potential dangers associated with her godmother. Poppy’s suspicions about Lord Richard’s past gambling reveal deeper ties to the magical elements that have begun to circle around Ellen.

As the chapter concludes, Ellen grapples with the complexities of her situation—the juxtaposition of her maid's uniform against her dreams of grandeur, the reality of her mother's locket and a childhood ring that remind her of her past, and the responsibilities of her current life weighed against her desires for more. In her quest for happiness, she’s caught in a web of intrigue, where love, duty, magic, and danger converge. The looming question remains: will she escape her humble beginnings and secure her future, or will the darkness of the magic she brushes against consume her?



Chapter 22 Summary: Magician

In this chapter, Poppy and Roger find themselves in the still-room of the Thwaites' manor, engaging in an ambitious endeavor to create a potion meant to free their friend Dickon from his obsession with Lady Ella. The task is fraught with uncertainty as they are relying on Roger's limited understanding of Shijn, the ancient language of the text they are using. They are attempting to concoct a remedy for what they perceive to be love sickness, a close parallel to Dickon's infatuation that has turned him into a lovesick poet.

As Poppy protests the foul smell emanating from their potion—a mixture involving herbs like basil, nightshade, and mint—she simultaneously works on her own protective charms. She is knitting unbleached wool into bands that she believes will guard against nightmares and offer security to her friends. The knowledge of these magical properties comes from Walter Vogel, a former gardener and white magician, who passed on insights about protective herbs to her family.

Roger's skepticism about Poppy's haphazard herb-throwing method stands in stark contrast to her more intuitive approach. Their banter adds a level of comedic relief to the tense task. Poppy fondly recalls the humorous and somewhat dubious experience of procuring nightshade, a potent ingredient, which emphasizes the risks they are taking.



After finishing their preparations, Roger proposes testing the potion on Dickon under the guise of it being a favored tea of Lady Ella. When they find Dickon buried in crumpled papers, desperately searching for a rhyme for “Ella,” the scene is both tragic and comical. As Dickon’s over-the-top reaction to the potion's aroma triggers a series of misunderstandings and exaggerated defenses, Poppy and Roger engage in light-hearted deception to make him drink it.

Despite its initial revulsion, the potion seems to work when Dickon emerges from the effects, only to declare he wishes to compose a letter to his true love, Marianne, rather than lament the absurdity of his affection for Lady Ella. This unexpected response leads Poppy and Roger to realize that their attempt to rid him of his obsession may have been far too easy. The absurdity of their plan, coupled with the disorienting effects of the potion, illustrates the complexities of love and desire, setting the stage for further developments in their intertwined lives.

Key Element	Description
Location	Still-room of Thwaites' manor
Main Characters	Poppy, Roger, Dickon
Objective	Create a potion to free Dickon from his obsession with Lady Ella
Ingredients	Basil, nightshade, mint

Key Element	Description
Poppy's Contribution	Knit protective charms from unbleached wool
Knowledge Source	Walter Vogel, former gardener and white magician
Conflict	Roger's skepticism vs. Poppy's intuitive herb-throwing method
Testing the Potion	Proposed to test on Dickon as if it were a tea from Lady Ella
Dickon's Reaction	Over-the-top reaction leading to misunderstandings
Potion Effect	Initially revulsed but leads Dickon to want to write to Marianne instead of Lady Ella
Themes	Complexity of love and desire, humorous deception

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Chapter 23 Summary: Dreamer

Summary of "Dreamer"

In this chapter, Poppy grapples with the haunting and recurrent nightmares that lead her to the Palace Under Stone. To mitigate these sleep disturbances, she clings to a fragrant sachet of herbs given to her years ago by Walter Vogel, a well-versed figure in magic who has since passed on from Breton. Poppy's dreams haunt her, and she feels a poignant sense of loss not only for Walter's wisdom but also for the urgency of the upcoming events surrounding Marianne's birthday ball, where she anticipates the meddling presence of Ellen, also known as "Lady Ella."

With two days before the ball, Poppy tries to muster her thoughts into a letter to her friends Galen and Rose, sharing her dream, her worries about the sachet's ineffectiveness, and her yearning for guidance from Walter. Meanwhile, the preparations for the ball are frantic: Dickon requires additional doses of a strengthening potion, and Roger struggles to brew more due to missing ingredients. Poppy's life is further complicated when the Thwaite's stillroom maid disrupts her work with herbs, forcing her to start over.

As excitement builds, especially for Marianne, the girls admire their



stunning gowns—Poppy’s deep violet satin adorned with silver, which makes her feel like a fairy princess, and Marianne’s rose-colored satin that is equally breathtaking. Marianne is set to wear her mother’s pearl tiara, enhancing her regal allure. However, tension lingers surrounding Ellen, who has been evasive about her plans for the ball.

As the day of the masked gala arrives, tensions rise to a peak when Lady Ella’s grand entrance disrupts the event. Much to Poppy and Marianne’s dismay, Lady Ella arrives fashionably late in a lavish gold carriage and dances with Christian, stealing the spotlight and inciting jealousy within the room. This act is particularly hurtful to Marianne, who becomes visibly upset when she realizes that Lady Ella has chosen to mirror her gown design, further emphasizing her allure at the expense of Marianne’s special day.

Poppy, fueled by concern for her friend and anger towards Ella’s blatant rivalry, strategizes a way to confront this unwelcome competitor. She urges Roger to engage Lady Ella in conversation, in hopes of uncovering the deeper motivations behind her actions. The chapter closes with Poppy caught in her swirling emotions, battling her protective instincts for Marianne while feeling increasingly frustrated by Christian’s apparent infatuation with Lady Ella.



Chapter 24: Dizzy

In the opulent ballroom of the Seadowns, Prince Christian savors a moment of dancing with the enchanting and elusive Lady Ella. Despite her breathtaking beauty, adorned in a shimmering gown that far surpasses the more modest attire of her friend Marianne, there is an air of mystery surrounding Ella. She has been coy and secretive about her identity and origins, adding layers to her allure but also to Christian's frustration. With every attempt to plan a private meeting with her, he is met with playful denials and vague references to her strict guardian, raising suspicions about her true background.

As he loses himself in the dance, a moment of distraction arises when Christian catches a fleeting glimpse of his sister Poppy leaving the ballroom with Roger Thwaite, creating a sense of unease. This momentary lapse of focus leads to an embarrassing misstep where he accidentally stomps on Lady Ella's foot, causing her to faint against him. Distraught and mortified, Christian dutifully helps her to a chair, but his attentiveness is interrupted by Lady Margaret, the host and a formidable presence in the ballroom.

Margaret urges Christian to disperse attention toward the other young ladies, insisting that Lady Ella should take a break from dancing since she appears to be unwell. Torn between his growing affection for Lady Ella and the pressure from Lady Margaret, Christian reluctantly agrees to dance with



Marianne. As he dances, he can't shake his worry for Ella, whose captivating presence continues to draw his gaze even across the floor.

Suddenly, the atmosphere shifts as he becomes dizzy, collapsing mid-dance. In his haze, he is accompanied by concerned figures: Poppy, Marianne, and

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Chapter 25 Summary: Spy

In this chapter, the tension surrounding Marianne and the enchantment afflicting her deepens. After witnessing Christian faint during the gala, Poppy quickly ushers Marianne away to the ladies' salon, where she insists Marianne wear a protective bracelet she knitted. Despite Marianne's reluctance—complaining about the discomfort of wearing wool—Poppy stresses the importance of the enchantment's countermeasure. She also hands Marianne a foul-smelling drink, concocted by Roger, that is meant to help Marianne resist the magic affecting her.

Marianne reluctantly drinks the potion, leading to a startling realization: Lady Ella, previously thought to be an innocent guest, is actually a dangerous figure—Ellen has been using her guise to copy Marianne's gown. With Poppy's urging, Marianne breaks the glass of the potion to complete the spell's protection, igniting her indignation over being deceived. As they rejoin the gala festivities, they see Lady Ella making her exit at close to midnight, mirroring her previous behavior from a week prior.

Poppy, eager to uncover Lady Ella's secrets, teams up with Roger. They pursue her golden carriage into the streets of Castlerough. Their chase culminates as they spot the carriage entering a well-lit alley by the grand Seadown House only to witness a shocking occurrence—the horses and carriage vanish into the ash remnants of a bonfire, showcasing an



unexpected and profound magic.

Understanding the gravity of this new revelation, Poppy insists they inform Lord Richard. They make their way to the manor, where Poppy shares their observations, noting the eeriness and peril surrounding Lady Ella. Lord Richard, already attuned to the spell's unusual nature, prepares for further interrogation about Ellen, confident of her involvement.

As tensions rise, an unexpected development occurs: Ellen refuses to appear under the pretense of an injury, which Lydia, the maid, excitedly relays to Lord Richard. Poppy, feeling compelled to investigate, rushes to Ellen's garret room. Here she discovers Ellen in a state of distress, struggling with a transformation that has turned her feet into glass—a consequence of her involvement with the enchantment and a signal of the perilous consequences that lie ahead.

The chapter skillfully navigates through themes of enchantment, deception, and the quest for truth, intertwining character motivations and fantastical elements that reflect the underlying tensions of the narrative.



Chapter 26 Summary: Belle

Chapter Summary: Belle

In a moment of despair, Ellen lies on her narrow bed, overwhelmed by the coldness coursing through her, a stark reminder of the chilling reality she faces despite the magical promises of her godmother, the Corley. Once filled with excitement at the prospect of escaping her servitude and restoring her family's name, Ellen now grapples with disillusionment. The Corley, who initially inspired hope by assuring Ellen that she would marry a wealthy prince and become a celebrated figure in society, has grown increasingly aloof, focusing solely on ensuring Ellen captures Prince Christian's attention at the royal gala.

The Corley's demands grow more intense, turning Ellen's excitement into anxiety. After her initial encounter with Lady Ella at the gala, the Corley chastised her for dancing with an old friend instead of the prince, insisting that she must "ensnare" him. Ellen questions the nature of her fate, fearing that the prince may not love her in return, but the Corley dismisses her concerns, instructing her to come home before midnight—an ominous reminder of the magical price of disobedience.

As Ellen prepares for another evening at the palace, her experience grows



more painful. The glass slippers, beautiful yet agonizing, create a torment that awakens her fears about her transformation. As the Corley shapes the glass, Ellen often finds herself distracted by worries about social rivalries, particularly regarding Marianne, a sweet but spoiled girl who might resent Ellen's newfound prominence.

In search of reassurance, Ellen discusses her fears with Poppy, her friend and the sister of two princesses. Poppy, unimpressed by the Corley's magic and the social ambitions it breeds, challenges Ellen's blind trust in her godmother. Ellen concedes her need for assistance, especially with the impending masquerade and her desperation to marry Prince Christian. Overwhelmed, she breaks down, fearing her family's disgrace will trap her forever in a life of servitude.

Determined to help, Poppy vows to intervene, planning to confide in their mutual friends Roger and Lord Richard. As Poppy departs, leaving a mix of confidence and chaos in her wake, Ellen contemplates Poppy's inherent strength and the comfort she finds in true friendship. Despite her tears and uncertainty, Ellen recognizes the importance of support as she navigates the challenges ahead, fearing the consequences of her godmother's magic but feeling empowered by the promise of companionship.



Chapter 27 Summary: Rejected

In the chapter titled "Rejected," Christian finds himself grappling with unexpected emotions and perplexing relationships at a ball. As he mingles with friends, he notices a shift in the atmosphere. Despite Lady Margaret's persistent sharpness, Marianne appears more cheerful, enjoying the celebrations, which pleases Christian. However, the absence of Poppy and Roger raises his concerns, especially when he suspects they may be plotting against Lady Ella, who has made a fashion faux pas by imitating Marianne's and Poppy's gowns.

Christian is startled when thoughts of marrying Lady Ella invade his mind. The imagery of their wedding, complete with family, music, and ceremony, catches him off guard. As he shares this emotional turmoil with Dickon, a companion known for his light-hearted demeanor, he's met with jesting remarks. Yet, the situation quickly escalates when Marianne, overhearing their conversation, retreats in tears after expressing her disdain for Christian. Confusion hangs in the air about her feelings, as Dickon, too, seems invested in Lady Ella.

Christian's declaration of intent to marry Lady Ella surprises not only himself but his friends. Tensions flare when Dickon and another young man confront him, deeming him selfish for pursuing the most attractive lady in the room. As a fight nearly breaks out, Poppy intervenes with a fierce



warning, sending Dickon off to mend things with Marianne and pacifying the gathering crowd. Her presence is authoritative, restoring some order, but it leaves Christian with a bruise and a deep sense of unease.

In the aftermath, Christian confides in Poppy, sensing that something deeper is at play concerning Lady Ella. She dismisses his concerns for now, urging him to keep the protective bracelet she gifted him close. Poppy's enigmatic remarks about Lady Ella raise further flags, yet she assures Christian that the situation will be handled, igniting his desire to help, which Poppy gently rebuffs.

As the chapter closes, the dynamics among the characters suggest an underlying tension, hinting at more significant conflicts and the intertwining fates of Christian, Lady Ella, Marianne, and Poppy. The mysterious forces at work foreshadow challenges on the horizon that may test loyalties and the characters' understanding of one another.



Chapter 28: Strategist

In Lord Richard's study, tensions rise as Poppy expresses concern about Christian's deteriorating condition. Despite help from a mystical bracelet and potion, it's clear that more is needed. Poppy indicates that the enigma surrounding Eleanora and her cursed glass shoes is becoming dire. Eleanora, a young woman cursed to dance with only Christian, has been contacted by a supernatural being known as the Corley, who wants Eleanora to marry Christian to fulfill some unknown agenda.

As Poppy recounts her conversation with Eleanora, she reveals the ominous influence of the Corley, suggesting that this mystical patron seeks to bind Christian's heart through Eleanora. Intrigued and worried, Lord Richard decides that they must inform Eleanora about the full extent of the Corley's machinations, prompting their group to head to her chamber, where they find Eleanora visibly distressed.

Lord Richard shares a daunting story from his past, detailing the consequences of a similar bargain he made with the Corley when he was young. He inherited considerable debt after his father's reckless ventures and, in a moment of desperation, was seduced by the Corley's promises of wealth and success. Unfortunately, this led him to unwittingly ruin Eleanora's father at cards, indicating that the Corley thrives on the misfortunes she creates.



Despite briefly achieving success, Lord Richard admits that he could not escape the Corley's manipulation, culminating in her anguished demand that he hand over his daughter, Marianne, as part of the bargain. His harrowing account reveals that the Corley is a malevolent entity, a witch or sorceress,

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Chapter 29 Summary: Eleanora

In this chapter, Eleanora, previously known as Ellen, is reluctantly carried upstairs by Roger Thwaite after a tumultuous day that has drastically altered her life. As she is tucked into bed by Mrs. Hanks and given a comforting cup of hot chocolate, her thoughts are filled with regret for not confiding in Lord Richard sooner about her troubles.

Lord Richard expresses his guilt over the downfall of Eleanora's family, taking responsibility for her father's demise, even though the seeds of ruin were sown by others. He insists that from now on, Eleanora will no longer work as a servant in their household but will instead be treated like a daughter, which stirs deep emotions within her.

The atmosphere turns contemplative as Poppy, while knitting, speculates on the lady's motives behind her interest in Eleanora and suggestions arise that she might be trying to consolidate power through her relationships with influential figures. Roger comments on the peculiar circumstances that seem to surround Eleanora, noting the strange allure that she seems to have over people, further deepening the mystery of her situation.

Marianne, initially seemingly resentful of the attention Eleanora is receiving on her birthday, surprises everyone with her insightful observations. She begins to connect the dots regarding their adversary, the Corley, speculating



that she might have been manipulating events to control Eleanora. This leads to a collective realization that Eleanora's mishaps may have been orchestrated sabotage.

Eleanora becomes acutely aware of this realization, feeling a mix of shame and anger over her circumstances, and her past struggles as a maid in service. Roger, sensing her distress, suggests they let her rest, which allows Eleanora to feel a semblance of acceptance and concern for her well-being.

As the chapter closes, the once downtrodden maid lays in darkness, reflecting on her transformation from Ellen to Eleanora, embracing her new identity as a guest who is respected and cared for, a significant shift that marks the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

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Chapter 30 Summary: Prey

In the chapter "Prey," Poppy is caught in a disturbing dream involving the Palace Under Stone, where she feels more resigned than frightened. Draped in her beautiful violet and silver gown—a fond reminder of her past—including an encounter with the unsettling figures of Rionin and Blathen, she is confronted by the Corley, an old witch rumored to be Eleanora's godmother. Poppy challenges the Corley about her intentions for Eleanora, realizing that her own dreams are entwined with the fate of her friend. Rionin chillingly tells her she is merely "prey," a message that shakes her as she awakens from the dream.

Back in reality, during breakfast, Poppy reveals her enchanted bracelet to Lady Margaret, who is initially hesitant but ultimately begins to change as the magic takes hold. The family learns that Eleanora, whose true name is Ellen, is at risk due to a deal Lord Richard struck with the Corley, a revelation that leaves Lady Margaret surprisingly composed. However, she admits that had she known the stakes were so high, she might have acted sooner to protect her daughter.

As the countdown to the royal masquerade begins, the urgency escalates. The group debates how to assist Eleanora, who is suffering from a spell that makes her feet turn into glass. Poppy feels a newfound empathy towards Eleanora, realizing their shared burdens caused by poor parental choices.



Despite her increasing concern regarding the consequences of Eleanora's potential absence from the ball, Poppy suggests a risky plan: since the event is a masquerade, someone must take Eleanora's place to prevent the Corley's plan from succeeding.

Despite opposition, Poppy volunteers to impersonate Eleanora, feeling the weight of this responsibility and driven by the need to save her friend. The chapter encapsulates themes of sacrifice, the intertwining of fate, and the battle against malevolent forces, all while highlighting Poppy's determination to confront the looming threat posed by the Corley, despite her lingering fear of being merely prey.

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Chapter 31 Summary: Confused

Summary of Chapters: Confused

In Tuckington Palace, Christian finds himself feeling increasingly bewildered as he wanders through the bustling preparations for a grand masked ball. The stormy weather confines him to the palace, where he struggles to stay out of the way of the servants busy cleaning, cooking, and setting up for the event. As he meanders, he reflects on his unreciprocated feelings for Poppy, a girl whose gift—a bracelet made just for him—plagues him more than comforts. This bracelet has begun to cause bizarre symptoms, including headaches that manifest visions of Lady Ella, his intended bride, compelling him to question his emotions.

Christian is burdened not only by the heaviness of his romantic confusion but also by societal expectations. With his family eager for him to wed Lady Ella, he grapples with tormenting thoughts of inviting Poppy to Damerhavn. Unsure about his true feelings, he imagines Poppy joining him at his family home and feels guilt creeping in when considering what Lady Ella might think, prompting fears regarding the complexity of proposing courtship to either girl.

Amidst his inner turmoil, Christian experiences a wave of debilitating pain



linked to the bracelet. The itching and throbbing worsen, pushing him to nearly tear it off, until he realizes that it seems to hold some kind of power. Instead of discarding the bracelet, he tries to control his pain by pressing it against his head, which surprisingly alleviates some of his discomfort. His need to see Poppy escalates, accompanied by an urgency to consult friend Roger, who could provide guidance.

As Christian attempts to exit his room, he encounters Monsieur Flamonde, a flamboyant tailor who insists that Christian's costume for the ball is ready. King Rupert, eager for Christian to make a royal announcement after the ball, further raises the stakes of Christian's situation by joking about wedding clothes. Overwhelmed by the pressure of impending marriage and his inner conflict regarding Poppy and Lady Ella, Christian becomes physically ill and escapes the palace.

He stumbles into a hackney cab, which hastily delivers him to Seadown House. Here, Christian's disheveled appearance causes concern among his friends, including Poppy and Roger, who rally to help him. Poppy, taking charge, ties another bracelet on Christian, suggesting that "two might do it," while Roger administers a foul concoction that he hopes will ease Christian's afflictions. As reality sets in, it's revealed to Christian that he is not just battling his feelings but is under the clutches of a supernatural creature known as the Corley, which has set its sights on him. Despite their best efforts to safeguard him, the mounting pressure overwhelms Christian,



leading him to faint yet again.

This chapter encapsulates a clash of royal duty, burgeoning romance, and supernatural interference, intertwining Christian's emotional struggle with foreboding external threats.

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Chapter 32: Invalid

In this chapter, Eleanora finds herself paralyzed by fear and anxiety regarding the ominous presence of the Corley, her “godmother.” As she lies in bed, haunted by stories brought to her by Roger about the dark history of the Corley, she learns about the transformation of Mary Bright—once the wife of a celebrated naval captain—into the fearsome entity she now is. After betrayal by her husband, who turned to the enemy and left her for his goddaughter, Mary’s grief led her to dark magic. In a fit of vengeance, she conjured a glass ship to destroy her husband’s vessel, taking them all to a watery grave and sealing her fate as the Corley.

As Eleanora grapples with the reality that the Corley may wish to replace her lost goddaughter with herself or her friend Poppy, Poppy’s stoic facade begins to crumble. Poppy reveals her inner turmoil, having always been labeled as the “strong one” in her family, feeling immense pressure to uphold that image. When she breaks down in tears, it becomes clear that the weight of these expectations is heavy on her. Despite her struggles, she insists on continuing to knit protective charms as a means of contributing to their fight against the Corley.

In a surprising turn, Prince Christian enters the scene and suggests a different approach to combating the Corley: dancing. He extends his hand to Poppy, asking her to dance as Lady Ella, hinting at a more proactive, and



hopeful, strategy to confront the looming threat before time runs out.

Eleanora's laughter at Poppy's earlier desire for a card game underscores a light-hearted moment amidst the tension, revealing the bonds of friendship and the unexpected support they can provide in times of crisis.

This chapter deepens the characterization of both Eleanora and Poppy while elucidating the backstory of their enemy, the Corley, setting the stage for both inner and external conflicts as they prepare to face the looming threat together.

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Chapter 33 Summary: Replacement

In the chapter titled "Replacement," Poppy finds herself poised to confront a daunting challenge. Heart racing and hands trembling, she prepares to invoke the words Eleanora has taught her, aiming to summon the Corley—a powerful immortal creature who poses a significant threat. She recites the incantation, “Cinders, cinders, smoke and water, take me to my dear godmother!” Turning the fireplace into a portal, she steps through, navigating her fears and the unease of her companions behind her, particularly the concerned Lord Richard and Roger, who caution against his involvement.

As Poppy enters the Corley’s palace, the atmosphere shifts dramatically from her familiar surroundings; elegance and opulence replace the dark, shabby decor of Under Stone’s palace. Yet, despite her outward bravado, Poppy remains acutely aware of the danger she faces, gripping her concealed pistol beneath her shawl. Disguised in a dazzling Spanian dancer costume and mask, she tries to maintain the pretense of being Eleanora. However, the eerie silence of the palace’s inhabitants unsettles her.

Once whisked away by the ghostly, mute servants, Poppy experiences a mix of discomfort and dread, reflecting on her past adventures that had involved her sisters. Although she had once faced a similar otherworldly threat together with them, now she felt entirely isolated. Her anxiousness is



palpable as she finds herself in a grand bath, surrounded by attentive handmaidens eager to pamper her. Defiantly, she manages to bathe herself rapidly, resisting their constant offers of assistance. Despite the discomfort of being treated like a child, her efforts to maintain control over her situation culminate in a frustrating encounter with an array of extravagant gowns meant for Eleanora.

When the Corley enters, her imposing presence adds to Poppy's unease. The elder witch insists on transforming Poppy into a vision of beauty for the royal ball, much to Poppy's disgust. As she adorns herself in an ostentatious peacock gown, the pressure of her circumstances weighs heavily. The Corley's insidious charm and dark magic reveal themselves, manipulating Poppy's appearance and ensnaring her in a web of obligation. Ultimately, the chapter crescendos with Poppy's bare feet exposed to the Corley's evil intent as boiling glass is poured over them, representing the culmination of her trials within this entrancing yet perilous world. Despite the overwhelming discomfort, Poppy clings to glimpses of hope, relying on her allies' support to navigate the treacherous waters of her predicament.



Chapter 34 Summary: Emperor

In the chapter "Emperor," Christian grapples with the discomfort of his emperor's costume, particularly the long black wig that itches and weighs heavily on him. He finds the silk attire otherwise comfortable and easily manages the fan at his waist. King Rupert, disguised as Horcha the Magnificent, anticipates announcing Christian's betrothal to Lady Ella at the stroke of midnight, leading Christian to decline dance offers from eager young women. Meanwhile, a sense of panic simmers in him, as he worries about Poppy, who is under threat from the malevolent Corley, a powerful witch.

As he observes the ballroom, Christian's mind is consumed by thoughts of Poppy and the potential danger if their ruse is uncovered. He longs to see her, knowing she will be making a grand entrance as Lady Ella. When the moment finally arrives, Poppy appears adorned in a breathtaking peacock blue gown, radiating elegance and grace. Their first dance together is enchanting, filled with laughter and flirtation, despite the shadow of imminent peril looming over them. Christian marvels at how well Poppy dances, despite her claims of taking a hiatus from dancing for years.

Their playful banter unfolds amidst the whirl of people in extravagant costumes, with Poppy teasing him about her delicate glass slippers that are painful to wear. They engage in humorous conversation while navigating the



ballroom, revealing more about their personalities and intentions regarding the Corley. Christian feels a sense of reassurance with Poppy by his side, as she affirms that they must remain vigilant.

As the dance continues, the atmosphere remains tense yet jovial. The pair witnesses the antics of friends dressed in eccentric outfits, creating a lighthearted contrast to the darker undertones of their situation. However, as the clock tolls signaling eleven o'clock, the reality of their impending challenge begins to dawn on them. They slip away from the crowd to stage Christian's mock proposal. Just as he awkwardly proposes, chaos erupts as the clocks chime ominously, revealing that the Corley is enacting her spell prematurely.

Poppy, feeling the pull of the Corley, is suddenly compelled to leave, causing a frantic rush as she attempts to flee. Christian's desperate attempts to reach her are thwarted as she is whisked away in a golden carriage, leaving him in a state of panic. Roger, Marianne, and the others rally to pursue her, but Christian's view is obstructed by the chaos around him. He narrowly saves Poppy's exquisite glass slipper from being trampled, a symbol of their entangled fates, before hastily boarding the Seadowns' carriage, determined to follow her and confront the looming threat of the witch's power.

The chapter blends the excitement of the masked ball with the tension of



their precarious situation, heightening the stakes for Christian and Poppy as they navigate their emotions and the looming danger.

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Chapter 35 Summary: Imposter

In the chapter "Imposter," the narrative centers around Poppy, who finds herself thrust into a daunting situation as she arrives at Seadown House. The golden carriage she traveled in makes a dramatic entrance, only to disintegrate into molten gold before her eyes, transforming into a pile of slag. This alarming imagery signifies the peril she's unwittingly embraced.

As she steps out, she is roughly helped by a footman before he, along with the rest of the servants and the carriage horses, mysteriously vanish, leaving her alone in an eerily circular glass room. Poppy soon discovers that the glass slipper she had been wearing is broken, and her other shoe is missing, highlighting her disarray and the tenuous grip she has on her situation.

Poppy, emboldened by the remnants of her façade, calls out to find the Corley, the old witch who casts a long shadow over the events unfolding. As she encounters the Corley in her opulent throne room, an unsettling confrontation ensues. The Corley reveals her fury and jealousy regarding Prince Christian's supposed proposal to Poppy instead of the intended bride, Lady Ella. Poppy, recognizing the gravity of her impersonation of Eleanora, the Corley's goddaughter, realizes that her mere presence has disrupted plans far greater than herself.

The Corley's descent into madness is marked by her fervent claims about



Eleanora and her unyielding desire to reclaim a daughter she believes was stolen from her. Poppy's attempt to defend herself only escalates the tension, culminating in a threat as she pulls a pistol in a desperate bid for survival. The stakes elevate when the Corley declares her intention to hold a deadly game to determine which maiden Prince Christian genuinely loves. As she summons Eleanora, who is brought in disheveled and weak, the scene sets the stage for an impending confrontation between the characters embroiled in a web of deception, love, and looming danger.

This chapter intricately weaves themes of identity and power dynamics while showcasing Poppy's struggle as an imposter caught in a deadly game where love, manipulation, and survival intertwine. The introduction of the Corley and her obsessive connection to Eleanora complicates Poppy's plight, emphasizing the weight of the decisions yet to be made and the impact they hold for everyone involved. Poppy's boldness in the face of the Corley's viciousness mirrors her determination, setting the tone for the tumultuous challenges ahead.



Chapter 36: Rescuer

In the chapter titled "Rescuer," Christian stands in a state of frustration as he witnesses a golden carriage vanish into a cloud of ashes, escaping just before the Thwaite horses can reach them. Driven by urgency, he and his companions, including Lord Richard and Lady Margaret, double-check the cobblestones to see if any trace remains, but they find nothing. After the coachman halts to let everyone disembark, Christian dashes into Seadown House, determined to find a way to uncover the mystery surrounding their predicament.

Inside the kitchen, he encounters a roaring fire and a startled maid tending to it. In a moment of panic, Christian throws a kettle of water onto the flames, producing a cloud of steam. The maid, alarmed by his actions, calls for the attention of Lord Richard and Lady Margaret as they return. Richard calmly explains that they need the wet ashes to help remove their masks, which have become glued on, offering an absurd explanation to pacify the startled maid. She, believing Richard has lost his sanity, quickly scurries off to bed.

Once alone, the group prepares to confront the magical forces at play. They attempt to recite a rhyme intended to open up the doorway to their missing friend, Poppy, but their attempts fail. Panic begins to mount when Roger reports that Eleanora, another critical figure in their quest, has mysteriously vanished from her bedroom, leaving behind a trace of soot that signals foul



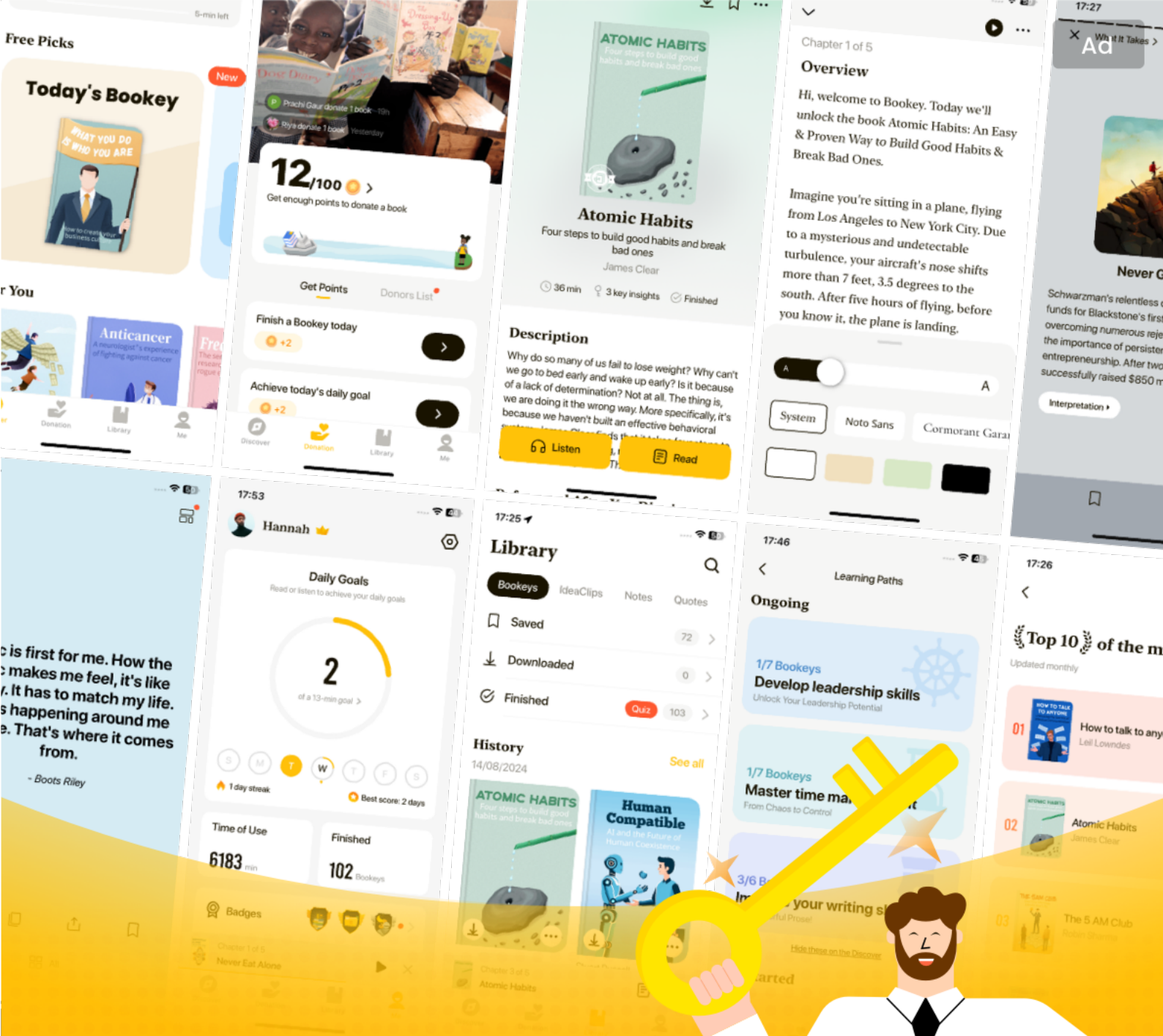
play. Lady Margaret realizes the danger posed by the Corley, a malevolent entity that may have taken Eleanora, deepening their crisis.

Christian, overwhelmed with anger, strikes the fireplace in frustration, but Lord Richard steps up to try a different approach. With a touch of humor, he prepares to recite a new incantation. As he speaks the words, a magical doorway opens in the hearth, prompting Christian to ready himself for whatever lies ahead. With renewed determination, he and his companions stride through the arching doorway, transitioning from the sooty confines of the kitchen to a strange, glassy landscape that quickly becomes unstable, causing them to plummet into darkness—foreshadowing the dangerous adventures that await them.

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Chapter 37 Summary: Double

In this tense chapter, Eleanora finds herself trapped in a nightmarish scenario orchestrated by her malevolent godmother, the Corley. After attempting to stay awake in anticipation of her friends Roger and Poppy's return, exhaustion overtakes her, leading to an unexpected attack by the Corley's towering servants, who emerge from the fireplace like dancers. They whisk her away to the Corley's palace, leaving Eleanora shockingly vulnerable and utterly bewildered.

The Corley, displeased with Eleanora's disobedience, reveals her intent to punish her for trying to escape her grasp. Eleanora pleads for mercy, attempting to justify her actions by expressing her exhaustion and asserting that Poppy was only trying to help. However, the Corley remains unforgiving, reminding Eleanora of her betrayal and threatening to turn her into glass, like the lifelike statues in her throne room. Overwhelmed by fear, Eleanora faints.

When she regains consciousness, she finds herself still held by the servants, in a lavish dressing room filled with silent attendants. The Corley, reveling in her control, orders Eleanora to be dressed in a gown akin to Poppy's, complete with a mask and elaborate styling—an act both demeaning and humiliating. Eleanora, frustrated by her lack of autonomy, is eerily mirrored by Poppy as they both star into the reflective surface, now forced to embody



each other's roles.

Poppy, despite the dire circumstances, attempts to reassure Eleanora, insisting on their eventual triumph over the Corley and the prospect of a future where Eleanora can wear her own unique gowns. However, their brief moment of camaraderie is interrupted when the Corley reveals the crux of her cruelty: a contest to determine whether the prince can discern his true love. In a fleeting moment of panic, Eleanora learns they are to drink from goblets presented by the Corley, just as their fates hang precariously in the balance.

Sharing a wary gaze, Eleanora and Poppy toast with their goblets, a blend of fear and uncertainty swirling within them as they gulp down the unidentified liquid, unsure of its potential danger, while the Corley watches with satisfaction, her sinister plans unfolding inexorably.

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Chapter 38 Summary: The Game

The Game Summary

In a disorienting start, Christian, a prince, awakens on a cold, slick surface without knowledge of where he is or who he is, only managing to remember his name and that he is searching for a princess—his bride. He finds himself in a peculiar, round room made entirely of glowing green glass. His itch runs deeper than just his wrists; there's a missing piece of himself he's determined to recover. As he ventures from one elaborately colored glass room to another, he discovers a beautiful dancing slipper—a memory-triggering symbol of his beloved, who lost it as she entered a golden carriage he recalls.

As Christian calls out for assistance, he soon encounters a frantic woman within the glass. Desperate to reach her, he shatters the barrier between them, and they finally meet. Though he feels an initial certainty that this woman is his bride, doubts cloud his mind when the slipper doesn't fit her. The woman introduces herself as Marianne and expresses her desire not to be alone, a sentiment he echoes, and they continue on their quest together.

They soon meet additional characters—a stately couple and a young man named Dickon—who is with Marianne. They forge ahead through more



rooms, eventually coming across Roger, another young man searching for someone. Roger, too, seeks a dark-haired girl, raising more uncertainty and jealousy within Christian as Marianne bonds with Dickon.

When they enter a grand gold room, Christian's search culminates as he encounters two identical young women seated in golden glass chairs, both masked and dressed in striking blue gowns. Faced with the challenge of identifying his true love, Christian tries the slipper on both. One has feet that glimmer too unnaturally, while the other presents a perfect fit. The second girl, with violet eyes and a wry smile, is revealed to be Poppy, his long-lost bride. Their embrace is full of relief and affection, and Poppy playfully retrieves two pieces of broken glass she had hidden in her gown—evidence of her own curses before they met.

Yet, their reunion is immediately threatened by the Corley, a sinister witch who had trapped them within these glass walls. As she attempts to reclaim Poppy with a malicious force, Christian, Marianne, Dickon, and Roger's group frantically seeks an escape. Ill-fated as they are, the Corley's powers grow, and molten glass seeps toward them, threatening to seal them in.

Poppy's fierce determination surfaces as she takes charge, brandishing her pistol and breaking through the walls of their entrapment. Together, she and Christian navigate an endless maze of glass rooms, ultimately crashing through the final barrier into a living room, the familiar comfort of the



Seadowns’ parlor. Overwhelmed by emotion, Poppy collapses into the arms of her sister Rose, crying—her journey from the glass prison to heartfelt reunion at last complete.

The chapter weaves themes of love, identity, and the fight against external darkness, all while navigating a fantastical world where perceptions shift like the glimmering glass rooms surrounding them.

Element	Summary
Setting	A mysterious round room made of glowing green glass.
Main Character	Christian, a prince searching for his bride.
Inciting Incident	Christian finds a dancing slipper that triggers memories of his beloved.
Key Encounter	Christian meets a woman named Marianne after shattering the glass barrier.
Conflict	Christian feels jealous as Marianne grows closer to Dickon, while searching for his bride.
Climax	Christian identifies his bride, Poppy, among two identical women using the slipper.
Antagonist	The Corley, a witch who threatens their reunion.
Resolution	Poppy and Christian escape the glass prison and reunite with her sister Rose.
Themes	Love, identity, and the struggle against external darkness.

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The power of determination and self-discovery in challenging circumstances

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate through the complexities of your own life, remember the importance of determination and self-discovery exemplified in Christian and Poppy's journey. Just like them, you may face disorienting obstacles that make you question your identity and purpose. Embrace the challenges as opportunities to shatter your own barriers, uncover your true self, and reach for the love and connections that are waiting for you beyond those struggles. The fight against darkness—be it in the form of fears, doubts, or external pressures—can lead to profound personal growth and intimate relationships, reminding you that the strength to overcome resides within.



Chapter 39 Summary: Betrothed

Summary: Betrothed

In the aftermath of a harrowing encounter with the malevolent Corley, a supernatural entity, Poppy is overwhelmed with emotion and relief when her family and friends arrive. She bursts into tears, needing comfort as they all rejoice in their newfound freedom from the Corley's dark influence. Poppy's sisters, Rose and Eleanora, along with Prince Christian and Lord Richard, gather to offer support and discuss the implications of their victory.

With refreshments ordered by Lady Margaret, Poppy introduces her companions, including the enigmatic Galen. As tension eases, she recounts her harrowing experience with the Corley, who had previously placed a curse on them. The room reacts with shock and gratitude upon learning that all bonds with the Corley are now void, thanks to the intervention of powerful allies, including mages. Galen reassures Eleanora that they are indeed free from the threat, prompting a joyous reaction from her.

As discussions turn to the future, Lord Richard offers to provide Eleanora with a dowry, while simultaneously pushing for a proposal to Marianne from Dickon Thwaite, who is smitten. Amidst this familial joy, tension arises when Poppy overhears talk of her potential betrothal to Christian. Feeling



unprepared—being only sixteen and still getting to know him—she sharpens her tone in response to the expectation.

Amidst the lighthearted banter, Christian, eager for his chance, extends an invitation for Poppy to visit the Danelaw over the holidays, to which she enthusiastically agrees. Realizing the implications of their budding relationship, Poppy expresses her desire for a more intimate, romantic proposal in the future, wanting to experience their connection without the pressures of public expectation and dance-related commitments linked to weddings.

As the gathering continues to chat and tease, Poppy passionately asserts her wish to reclaim her agency and enjoy dancing at her own wedding, much to everyone's astonishment. With a jubilant spirit, she takes a bold step and kisses Christian, signaling her newfound courage to stand against the dictates of fate and embrace her desires wholeheartedly.

This chapter beautifully blends the themes of liberation, budding romance, and the reclaiming of personal joy, marking a significant turning point in Poppy's journey from a life dictated by supernatural forces to one shaped by her own choices.



Chapter 40: The Anti-Love-Spell Bracele

Chapter Summary: The Anti-Love-Spell Bracelet & The Poppy Flower Stole

The narrative shifts into the world of fiber arts as two detailed knitting projects unfold: the creation of the "Anti-Love-Spell Bracelet" and the "Poppy Flower Stole." These projects collectively weave creativity and craftsmanship while introducing the intricate processes involved in knitting.

The Anti-Love-Spell Bracelet begins with a straightforward approach using a few essential materials, such as worsted weight yarn and size 7 knitting needles. The procedure commences with casting on six stitches and gradually increasing the number of stitches to incorporate a unique charm pattern based on the “Hugs & Kisses” cable, known for its delicate intertwining design that symbolizes affection. The charm pattern employs a series of knit and purl stitches interspersed with cable techniques—transferring stitches to a cable needle (CN) to create depth and texture in the bracelet.

The crafting process features repeated sequences of rows, culminating in the creation of a length that can be customized. As the instructions progress, the final rows emphasize a reduction in stitches to shape the bracelet's closure and include a method for incorporating a buttonhole, ensuring a functional



and aesthetically pleasing finish. The completed bracelet, adorned with a shanked button, becomes a protective talisman against romantic entanglements.

The Poppy Flower Stole follows suit, presenting a more elaborate and visually stunning knitting project. This stole, designed to showcase a border of poppy flowers, requires sport weight yarn and a size 10 needle for comfort and fluidity. The unique concept of this piece involves knitting two identical sections separately, which will later be joined together, emphasizing the importance of symmetry in both floral embroidery and knitting techniques.

The beginning of the stole initiates with a cast of 100 stitches and a careful arrangement of knit and purl patterns that forms the intricate poppy flower motifs at either end. Each subsequent row introduces yarn overs (YO) and decreases to create the bulbous shapes of the flowers interspersed with the delicate stems that will define the stole's body. Repeating these rows establishes flow and visual continuity, reinforcing the connection to nature that inspired the project.

Once the floral borders are completed, the focus shifts to creating the main section, known as the "stems." Using a simple two-row pattern, the stems bridge the gap between the two ends, thereby exemplifying the intricate relationships in nature mirrored in the art of knitting. This part emphasizes



patience and precision, as the length must be carefully measured without casting off to facilitate the grafting process.

Finally, the technique for grafting the two pieces together—using a method akin to the Kitchener stitch—ensures a seamless union. This technique,

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