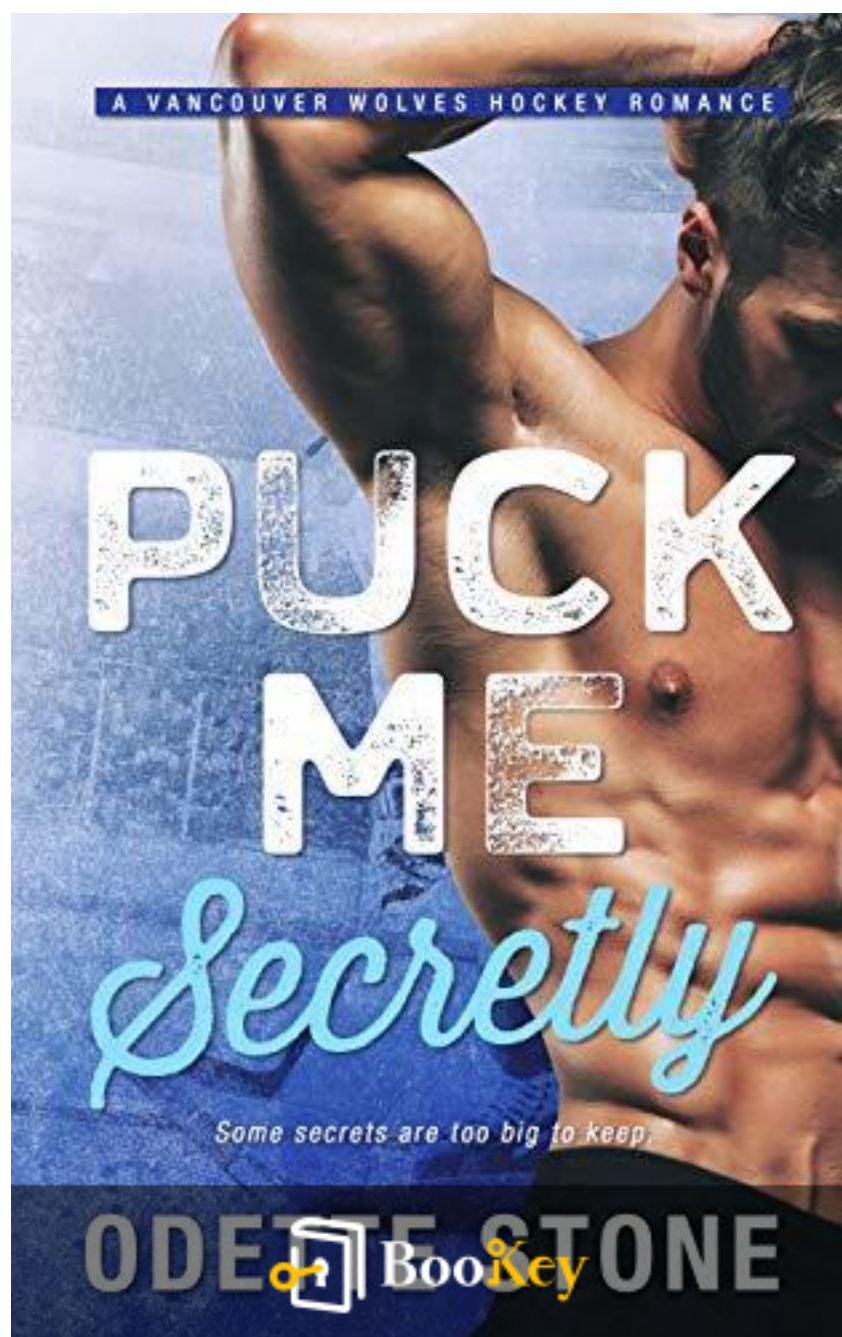


Puck Me Secretly PDF (Limited Copy)

Odette Stone



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Puck Me Secretly Summary

Love and hockey collide in unexpected ways.

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About the book

In "Puck Me Secretly" by Odette Stone, the exhilarating world of ice hockey collides with the chaos of unexpected romance as the fiercely independent Molly finds herself falling for the enigmatic, yet infuriating, star player, Ryan. Set against the backdrop of competitive sports where ambition clashes with attraction, this captivating tale unravels the tender threads of love, friendship, and the pursuit of dreams, all while navigating the ice-cold challenges that come with being a woman in a male-dominated arena. With witty banter, heart-pounding moments, and the undeniable chemistry that sizzles between them, Stone invites readers on a journey of passionate rivalry and the courage to embrace love when it ships in unexpected places. Prepare to laugh, swoon, and cheer for this unforgettable romance that proves sometimes, the heart doesn't play by the rules.

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About the author

Odette Stone is a contemporary romance author known for her captivating storytelling and relatable characters that resonate with readers across various demographics. With a knack for blending humor, emotion, and sizzling chemistry, Odette crafts tales that challenge the boundaries of love and self-discovery. Her unique voice and engaging narrative style have garnered a devoted following, making her a prominent figure in the romance genre. Passionate about writing from an early age, Odette draws inspiration from her own life experiences, infusing her works with authentic emotions that keep readers eagerly turning pages. With each new release, she continues to explore the complexities of relationships, leaving a lasting impact on her audience.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1: Homebound Tensions

Rory Ashford strides into an airport lounge, ready to return home to Vancouver after a summer in New York following her graduation. As she orders a gin and tonic, she chats with her overzealous mother, who expresses excitement about Rory moving back, despite having just seen her at graduation. The conversation reveals the pressure Rory feels to follow in her father's footsteps by interning at his business—a commitment she made in exchange for her parents' permission to study abroad. This leads Rory to contemplate her dreaded return to a life defined by her parents' expectations.

Her thoughts are interrupted by a striking man at the bar, Max, who captivates her interest despite being everything she usually avoids: wealthy, athletic, and distinctly alpha. As flight delays frustrate her, Rory grapples with her anxiety about flying, which ultimately leads her to drink more than she anticipated. The chapter ends with her feigning a need to check the boarding process as tension builds around the approaching flight.

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Chapter 2: An Unexpected Seatmate

On the plane, Rory's anxiety skyrockets when she discovers Max is her seat neighbor. Halfway through the flight, she becomes increasingly chatty, divulging her dislike for flying and her upcoming intern position with her father—the career she dreads. Their conversation progresses as Rory describes her previous relationships with “Baby Men,” men who are sweet but lack the assertiveness she fears. Max listens intently, challenging her views on men and relationships, which adds a layer of flirtation.

Just as Rory begins to feel a connection, turbulence hits, jolting her nerves. Past fears resurface as she struggles to cope with the flight's instability, leading to a panic attack. Max's calm demeanor in the face of her distress serves as a quiet source of comfort and sparks an intense dialogue about their lives, culminating in an unexpected moment of vulnerability about her sexual history.

Chapter 3: The Crash

The plane experiences severe turbulence, reaching a terrifying climax as it prepares for what seems to be a catastrophic crash. Rory's panic escalates as she believes they are going to die, prompting her to share deeply personal



fears and regrets with Max in an attempt to grasp any semblance of control. Their conversation becomes a form of solace amidst chaos, blurring the line between their impending doom and an unexpected connection.

As chaos envelops them, Max's simple acts of support help Rory navigate her fear. Just as they come to terms with the potential end, the plane crashes, leading Rory to black out, overwhelmed by the situation and her emotions.

Chapter 4: Surviving the Unthinkable

Rory awakens to find herself in a field, miraculously alive alongside Max, who has been her anchor during the ordeal. As they process the aftermath of the crash, with emergency services responding and fellow passengers in shock, a sense of surreal relief washes over Rory. Their bond strengthens as they navigate the chaos together, with Max's reassuring presence juxtaposed against the trauma they've just endured.

They receive gifts from the airline, including hotel accommodations and support for their emotional wellbeing, signaling a shift from tragedy to survival. Rory feels paradoxically alive despite her harrowing experience, all the while wishing for more connection with Max. Their parting words linger unspoken, highlighting the potential for their relationship to extend beyond the shared trauma of the flight.



Through these chapters, Rory's internal conflicts are mirrored by the external turmoil of the flight, capturing her struggle for autonomy against parental expectations and the unexpected allure of the man who accompanies her into an uncertain future.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of confronting personal fears

Critical Interpretation: In the midst of chaos and uncertainty, Rory learns that acknowledging and confronting her fears, particularly her anxiety about flying and her reluctance to embrace her own desires, can lead to unexpected connections and personal growth. This realization inspires us to face our own fears head-on, recognizing that vulnerability can create opportunities for deeper relationships and self-discovery, ultimately guiding us toward a life that is authentically ours.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

Chapter 5 Summary

Entering her hotel room in disarray after surviving a traumatic plane crash, the protagonist is overwhelmed by a whirlwind of emotions and questions about her experience and her fellow survivor, Max. As she reflects on the crash, she grapples with confusion about why she doesn't feel transformed, despite surviving her greatest fear. With her thoughts swirling and a sense of disorientation weakening her resolve, she seeks to avoid being alone.

Wearing an absurd outfit of a robe and sneakers, she hesitates outside Max's door but summons the courage to knock. Max greets her, looking equally frazzled yet characterized by calmness amidst chaos. As he pours her a drink, they slide into a comfortable silence filled with an unspoken connection. Igniting a candid conversation, she begins to probe into his past while grappling with her own escalating desires.

Max reveals that he didn't genuinely believe they would survive the crash, yet chose to comfort her in their final moments. This candor deepens her curiosity about him but also increases her emotional attachment. They slip into a cosiness that leads to shared movies and room service, yet her independent spirit struggles to balance with this newfound companion.



As the tension between them develops, a playful banter evolves into something more charged, culminating in an intimate moment marked by passionate exploration and vulnerability. The scene erupts into desire, showcasing the protagonist's awakening to her own needs and whims. Eventually, they fall asleep side by side, basking in the afterglow of their connection.

Chapter 6 Summary

Upon waking alone in her hotel room after an unforgettable night with Max, the protagonist is consumed by a mix of anger and confusion. The single note he left behind stirs feelings of betrayal—how could he leave without a proper goodbye after what they had shared? As she boards her flight to Vancouver, her frustrations boil beneath the surface, propelling her into a restless state.

At the airport, her parents await her arrival, expressing concern for her well-being after surviving the crash. Despite their emotional support, she feels a stark contrast between their expectations and her own internal turmoil. Instead of discussing the plane incident, her thoughts remain fragmented as they circle back to Max and their brief encounter—his



absence weighs heavily on her heart.

Determined to suppress her worries, she immerses herself in the distractions of her family's business. This leads her to assert her ambitions in the corporate world, pushing for a role to fill her time. Nevertheless, her excitement to jump into work clashes with her father's authoritative expectations, revealing the underlying tension of familial obligations and personal desires.

As Rory starts her internship at the family-owned hockey team, she becomes enveloped in a world where her father's legacy looms over her. Despite her initial hesitations, she resolves to make the best of her situation while grappling with the echoes of her previous night with Max and the uncertainty of their future connection.

Chapter 7 Summary

Rory dives rigorously into her new role within the family business, spending her days poring over player contracts and tensions that arise in negotiations. As the preseason commences, Rory's father insists she understand the team firsthand by observing practices and individual players.

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During an ice-level meeting, Rory's confidence wavers as she anticipates her father's expected authority. However, she is taken aback when his introduction reveals her shocking connection to Max, the very man from her solitary night of connection. As Max stands before her teammates in uniform, the pulse of their past collides with her new authoritative position.

Rory's emotions course through her, yet she steels herself, ready to assert her power in front of the team. Establishing dominance begins with creating boundaries, and she instructs Max to report to her office for a meeting, the juxtaposition of their past tensions igniting their current dynamic.

Chapter 8 Summary

The atmosphere in Rory's office escalates as she prepares for a tense meeting with Max, now a player on the team she's meant to oversee. Knowing her father observes, she tries to channel her composed authority and approach Max with the type of stern resolve her father demands.

As Max enters, the air is thick with unspoken history, creating an uncomfortable backdrop for their professional interaction. Rory follows her father's directive, confronting Max with pointed critiques about his behavior and the implications of his recent past, which she meticulously outlines in



his file. Tension surges between them, with both knowing the implications and risks of their shared memories.

Rory struggles to maintain eye contact while delivering her reprimands, acutely aware of Max's formidable presence and their complicating history. The meeting serves not only as an enforcement of boundaries but also a painful reminder of the intimacy they once shared. Despite this, Rory embodies her father's ambition to reinforce that her authority is serious and unavoidable.

Chapter 9 Summary

As Rory navigates the complexities of her meeting with Max, she feels the weight of the situation resting heavily on her shoulders. With her father earshot, the stakes feel even higher as she confronts Max, whose defiance mingles with the remnants of their past connection.

Every word she rehearses is laced with the force of her father's objectives—to establish a clear hierarchy and assert her power as his daughter and the team's new overseer. Rory adopts a stern tone, chastising Max for his recklessness and the consequences of his actions, all while masking the softer sentiments lingering within her.



The struggle intensifies as she uses his public past against him, acknowledging each scandalous moment while simultaneously trying to uphold her identity and authority.

Max's silence speaks volumes; their unspoken past creates a layer of complexity to their current disagreement. Influenced by her father's rigid expectations, Rory ultimately drives home the point that Max must adhere to the team's standards moving forward.

As their meeting concludes and she dismisses him, Rory realizes the tightrope she walks between professionalism and her feelings for Max, leaving her questioning if their connection can survive in the light of authority and rivalry.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3

CHAPTER 10-14 SUMMARY:

After a tumultuous meeting where Rory accidentally hurt Max's feelings, she wrestles with guilt and a burgeoning attraction toward him. Her father, proud of Rory for successfully handling her first day in the team management, remains unaware of the tension simmering beneath Rory's surface. Still shaken after her encounter with Max, Rory fears the implications of their past intimacy—they must keep it a secret, as revealing it would surely complicate both their lives.

Driven by her feelings, Rory covertly retrieves Max's address from human resources under the pretense of sending a welcome basket. When she arrives at his apartment, it quickly becomes apparent that Max is not pleased to see her. Despite her attempts to apologize, the atmosphere is tense. They both admit that they want to keep their past a secret, but Max remains cold and insists that any romantic involvement would complicate his life.

Heartbroken by his rejection, Rory leaves feeling even more confused about her feelings.

Weeks pass without any communication between them, as Rory immerses herself in her new role, learning about team dynamics, players, and the



hockey business from her father. Her admiration for Max grows as she witnesses his exceptional skills on the ice during practices, leaving her torn between personal feelings and professional boundaries. The preseason opens with great anticipation, yet the crowd's lukewarm reception to Max's performance highlights the shadow of his past that looms over him.

During an executive game-viewing, Rory confronts Katrina, a media consultant who shows disdain towards her while pushing for Max's media ban to be lifted. Rory stands firm in her belief that keeping Max away from the spotlight is in the best interest of his career, knowing her father's protective instincts. Yet, during discussions about Max's readiness for media exposure, her father ultimately sides with Katrina, creating a rift between him and Rory.

Post-game, Rory observes Max's achievements on the ice, his skill earning him accolades yet drawing no enthusiastic cheers from the audience. This disconnect showcases the public's lingering reservations about him due to his violent past—a fighting incident that had forced him into an unofficial media blackout. Driven to investigate this incident further, Rory finds herself caught between protecting Max's interests and the pressures mounting from the media.

A subsequent confrontation with Katrina reveals tensions, as Katrina seeks to manipulate the situation for her benefit, while also sowing seeds of doubt



about Rory's competence. Rory feels uncertain about her position, struggling to assert her authority as she senses Katrina's contempt.

The relationship between Rory and Max deepens when they have an intimate moment in her office, culminating in a passionate kiss. This fleeting connection confronts Rory with complex emotions—she is still acutely aware of their professional boundaries and the complications his reputation poses on their potential relationship.

Finally, at a mandatory coaches' meeting, Rory pushes herself into a leadership role against Baxter's resistance, aiming to prove her worth to the team. Stepping into a male-dominated environment, Rory's determination to make her mark and protect Max's interests leads to conflicts that challenge her sense of identity and authority.

Throughout these chapters, Rory grapples with her desire for Max and her need to navigate the complexities of the professional world she has entered, all while uncovering the shadows of Max's troubled history that stand between them. The narrative interweaves her personal struggles with the overarching themes of loyalty, ambition, and the burdens of expectation tied to her family legacy.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Navigating Complex Relationships

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 3, Rory's struggle to balance her growing feelings for Max with her professional responsibilities exemplifies the complexities of navigating personal relationships in a competitive environment. This resonates with your own life as it reminds you that emotional connections can often challenge your professional aspirations. Embracing the ambiguity of relationships allows you to cultivate deeper connections while maintaining your values and ambitions, inspiring you to navigate your own life choices with courage and authenticity.

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Chapter 4: 4

Summary of Chapters 15-19

In **Chapter 15**, the protagonist, Rory, leaves a meeting with the coaches conflicted about Max, a talented player who seems favored by most coaches except for the head coach, Baxter. Concerned about the potential fallout from Baxter's animosity, Rory seeks out Max at the weight room, only to walk in on a vulnerable moment where their chemistry is palpable. After a teasing exchange, she informs him about his media ban being lifted thanks to Katrina, his dinner companion. Unbeknownst to her, moments later, Max loses his temper and shoves a reporter, leading to a media frenzy and potential legal trouble.

By **Chapter 16**, Rory learns of Max's altercation with the reporter, which has escalated to a police situation. Rushed to the police station with their lawyer Brian, Rory faces off against Katrina, who tries to take credit for Max's situation being resolved. Despite her frustration, Rory manages to uncover more details about what happened, pressing Max for the truth and urging him to remain calm in the face of adversity. Tensions rise between them when she realizes the full implications of Max's actions and his complicated relationship with Katrina, leaving Rory exasperated yet protective.



In **Chapter 17**, Max's training continues under Baxter's grueling regime, which only adds stress to the already tense situation. Baxter's blatant hostility toward Max raises alarm for Rory, who witnesses the unwarranted verbal attacks. After a practice, Rory comforts Max in the wake of Baxter's harsh criticism, asserting his worth to the team. Then, unexpectedly, Katrina arrives with news that the charges against Max have been dropped, claiming credit for the win. This infuriates Rory, who feels her hard work has been overlooked, leading to a confrontation in which she must suppress her anger.

In **Chapter 18**, Rory receives a harassing tweet from an anonymous user, "Hockey Gurl," who disparages her position within the organization, underscoring the nepotism accusations she faces. Despite her determination to establish herself independently, she grapples with the negativity surrounding her role. Meanwhile, Max's reputation continues to be a complex issue as his relationship with players and staff is scrutinized—especially under the weight of Baxter's expectations.

Finally, in **Chapter 19**, Rory goes out with her friend Ola for dinner and unwittingly encounters Max and the Vancouver Wolves at a bar. As she observes Max among a group of "puck bunnies," she feels a wave of jealousy and frustration, realizing their worlds may not align as she hoped. Rory's resolve to maintain distance grows, revealing her emotional turmoil around Max's lifestyle and the challenges ahead.



Across these chapters, the tension builds as personal relationships intertwine with professional pressures, and Rory's protective instincts clash with her desire to establish her identity apart from her family's influence, all while navigating the treacherous waters of hockey culture and media scrutiny.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

Summary of Chapters 20-24

In Chapter 20, a user named Hockey Gurl tweets disparagingly about Rory's academic performance, suggesting that her father went to extreme lengths to ensure her graduation by funding a new library after she failed all her classes. This sets the tone for Rory's precarious position within both her personal and professional life.

Chapter 21 opens with Rory preparing herself for a social outing, reminding herself that her professional relationship with Max, the hockey player, should remain unaffected by jealousy. However, when she unexpectedly encounters Max waiting for her outside the restroom, her composure falters. Max surprises Rory by asking for her phone and entering his number, which leads her to mistakenly believe he has romantic intentions. Instead, Max simply wants her to text him when she arrives home safely. Feeling embarrassed and disheartened by her misinterpretation, Rory decides to keep up the facade of being on a date, further complicating her feelings for Max.

Rory's night takes a turn when she is jolted awake at 3:21 AM by the doorbell, fearing for her family's safety. To her surprise, it's Max, visibly upset that he didn't receive a text confirming she got home safely.



Concerned for her well-being, Max's unexpected visit highlights the growing bond between them, leaving Rory both confused and hopeful about his feelings.

In Chapter 22, Rory accompanies her father to a game where Max excels, scoring a hat trick. Despite Max's successes on the ice, he remains unpopular with the Vancouver fans due to his controversial past. Tension mounts as Rory discusses Max's need to regain the fans' support, particularly after a previous incident that led to significant backlash against him. The stakes are raised when Rory learns of the severe repercussions Max faced after a public altercation and death threats he received. Despite this, Rory insists on traveling with the team, eager to support Max, which showcases her loyalty.

The narrative shifts in Chapter 23 as the team plays an away game in Minnesota, where the hostile atmosphere intensifies. Following a series of brutal incidents on the ice and a violent altercation with fans, Rory becomes the target of anger from the opposing fans, leading to a chaotic scene where she is physically threatened. Max intervenes to protect her, resulting in a brawl that leaves both players and fans embroiled in violence. Though shaken, Rory is touched by the players' willingness to defend her, even in the face of danger. The chapter culminates in a confrontation where Max stands against Baxter, Rory's boss, who cynically blames her for the chaos.

In Chapter 24, the aftermath of the brawl unfolds as Rory faces backlash and



increased scrutiny from the media, further complicating her position within the hockey world. Amidst the turmoil, she grapples with her feelings for Max, who is becoming more of a steadfast figure in her life amid the chaos surrounding their world of hockey. Their connection deepens when Max reaches out to her during the flight home, symbolizing a developing bond that hints at a deeper relationship.

This sequence of chapters encapsulates Rory's struggles with identity, loyalty, and growing attachment to Max, all set against the backdrop of the demanding and often brutal world of professional hockey. Their dynamic reflects the tensions of public perception, personal aspirations, and the fragility of human connections amidst external pressures.

Chapter	Summary
20	Rory faces online criticism regarding her academic performance, hinting at her father's influence to help her graduate.
21	Rory prepares for a social outing but misinterprets Max's intentions after he asks for her number, leading to confusion about their relationship.
22	Rory supports Max during a game where he excels, learning about the challenges he faces with fans due to his controversial past.
23	The team faces hostility during an away game, with Rory targeted by opposing fans. Max protects her, leading to a brawl, highlighting their bond.
24	Rory deals with media scrutiny post-brawl while her relationship with Max deepens, symbolizing a connection amid their chaotic lives.

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of loyalty in relationships

Critical Interpretation: In the tumultuous world of professional hockey, Rory stands as a beacon of loyalty, demonstrating that true connections thrive even amidst chaos. This chapter inspires you to embrace the value of loyalty in your own life, reminding you that supporting those you care about, especially in challenging times, fosters deeper bonds. It encourages you to prioritize relationships that matter, showcasing that where there is loyalty, there is strength and resilience, helping you navigate your personal dilemmas while uplifting those around you.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6

Chapter 25 Summary:

Late at night, Rory arrives at her hotel in Detroit, feeling emotionally overwhelmed after a traumatic incident. Despite the urge to cry, she fights back her tears, embodying the stoic attitude of the Ashford family. Dressed in pajamas, she notices a faint bruise on her cheek, a physical reminder of her vulnerability.

A soft knock on the door reveals Max, who expresses concern for her well-being. As he examines her bruise, Rory struggles with her emotions and ultimately breaks down, crying in his comforting embrace. He holds her lovingly, and when she calms down, she asks him to stay the night, feeling an inexplicable safety in his presence.

Max agrees, tucking her into bed and wrapping his arms around her, a moment of intimacy that makes Rory feel cherished before sleep overtakes her. However, upon waking, he is gone, leaving her with mixed emotions about their connection.



Chapter 26 Summary:

Two days later, Rory endures another uncomfortable coaches meeting dominated by Baxter's disdain for Max. After discussing a recent road trip where Rory was almost harmed, her father, who is also the team's head coach, confronts Baxter about the inadequately handled situation. Baxter tries to deflect blame onto another player, Logan, showing his contempt for Rory's presence on the team.

Despite the stark reality of her father's protective instincts, Rory feels torn between her desire to belong in the team and her father's overprotection, especially after he insists on hiring security for her. Rory protests, wanting to prove her competence, but her father remains adamant about her safety. After Baxter makes a disparaging remark about her place on the team, Rory quietly resolves to keep a low profile.

Two days later, Baxter invites her to a player meeting, which surprises her. Clad in a pink sweater that makes her feel overly feminine, Rory hesitantly participates, sharing her insights about a complex offensive play. To her shock, the players acknowledge her knowledge, which rekindles her confidence—much to Baxter's annoyance. Nevertheless, Baxter volunteers a player to act as her "bodyguard," further eroding her sense of agency.



Chapter 27 Summary:

Rumors spread on social media about Rory's interactions with the team, painting her in a negative light. The tweet claims that she believes the hockey players exist solely to serve her needs, portraying her as a demanding figure, which adds to her growing frustrations.

Chapter 28 Summary:

Rory walks through the stadium halls feeling increasingly agitated about the ridiculous notion of needing a bodyguard. She encounters Max, who asks why she's upset. They have an emotionally charged discussion about respect and her desire for independence.

Just as they seem to connect, Katrina—a fellow player's date—interrupts, insisting on discussing the upcoming Autumn Ashford Gala and offering to accompany Max. Max's easy agreement stings Rory, further complicating her feelings for him. Later, she expresses her frustration to her father,

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insisting on the need to either be treated as a competent professional or let go from the team, but he struggles to balance his protective instincts with his wishes for her success.

Chapter 29 Summary:

Rory prepares for the Autumn Ashford Gala, a prestigious charity event, accompanied by her parents. She is disinterested in her date, Calder, a childhood acquaintance, who shows up late and suggests smoking marijuana. Their seemingly trivial conversation becomes increasingly uncomfortable when Calder reveals social media gossip about her relationships with players.

At the gala, Rory is acutely aware of Max, who looks stunning in a tuxedo, and his proximity to Katrina. The tension builds throughout the event, especially when Calder makes flirtatious comments about Rory's relationship with Max, which only fuels her jealousy. As the evening progresses, the hostility between Max and Calder becomes palpable, setting the stage for further conflict as their dynamics shift amidst the looming presence of public scrutiny and inner turmoil.



Chapter 7 Summary: 7

Chapter 30 Summary

As the gala progresses, Calder, a charming but notorious hockey player, offers to accompany Katrina, Rory's high-society mom's choice for her date, leaving Rory feeling quite uneasy. While dancing with Max, a hockey player with unexpectedly impressive dancing skills, Rory finds herself intrigued by his talents and humor. Their playful banter reveals a light-hearted connection, although Max is wary of Calder, calling him a "punk" and implying he poses a threat to Rory.

Just as Rory is settling into her evening, her father interrupts their dance to express his concerns. He warns Rory to be careful, hinting at a past connection with Max that makes him uneasy about his daughter's emotional safety. Rory's father is scrutinizing Max for reasons Rory doesn't fully understand, especially when she overhears gossip about a scandal involving "Hockey Gurl," a rumor-driven player tying her name to scandalous behavior.

Overwhelmed by these whispers and feeling hurt, Rory steps away to gather herself and is met by Max, who senses her distress. They share a heartfelt exchange, and Max reassures Rory that the rumors are unfounded, which



gives her a glimmer of strength against the attacks.

Returning to the main event, she navigates through the gala with her mother, who is eager to interact with everyone and brings Rory into several awkward conversations. A tense moment arises when they encounter Baxter, the team's head coach, with an unsettling air surrounding him due to allegations about his relationship with Katrina.

As the evening stretches on, Calder's boisterous behavior and flirtation with Katrina culminate in an alarming confrontation with Max that Rory finds disturbing yet cannot fully comprehend. In the car ride home, Calder taunts Rory about an unsettling secret while revealing that Katrina is involved with a married man, Baxter, who ironically has a strained relationship with her.

Rory is left reeling, trying to process the implications of Calder's revelations about the intertwined relationships in their world, as she contemplates the almost secretive complexity of the adults around her.

Chapter 31 Summary

Back at work, Rory can't shake her thoughts of Max, despite the professional persona she tries to maintain. An unexpected visit from Andrea, a representative from a charitable organization, introduces the idea of Max participating in a calendar photo shoot to raise funds for women's shelters.



Despite Rory's apprehensions regarding the inappropriate nature of the shoot's attire, her father insists on going through with the campaign, convinced it will help Max's image.

Max reacts explosively upon seeing the sketches for the shoot, upset that he was not consulted beforehand. He insists on withdrawing from the project, but Rory's father remains firm, believing this will teach Max discipline and responsibility. A tense dynamic builds between Rory and Max as they navigate the unwanted publicity together.

When the day of the photoshoot arrives, Rory tries to support Max. He is visibly uncomfortable, and their chemistry grows palpable as Max expresses his vulnerabilities about public perception, realizing that the nature of the photos puts him bare in more ways than one.

During the shoot, Rory's encouragement subtly shifts Max's discomfort into a more confident portrayal. Their electric interaction captivates the photographer, enhancing the sensual tension between them. This unexpected connection leaves both wondering if there might be something deeper at play, despite their complicated professional boundaries.

When Max receives a call from a woman named "Lolita," Rory's curiosity and jealousy surface. This mystery heightens Rory's resolve to distance herself, convinced that her feelings for Max are becoming more complicated



than she intended.

Chapter 32 Summary

Max's celebrity status adds pressure to Rory's professional life. Their communication grows strained as Rory deliberately avoids him in meetings, plagued by insecurities about Max's connection to Lolita. Just as she attempts to maintain distance, Max confronts her, revealing his awareness of her avoidance.

Their interaction is charged with unspoken emotions, but Rory keeps a façade of indifference, even as she wrestles with her feelings. She tries to convince herself that Max's business with Lolita is none of her concern, but the pang of jealousy remains.

Chapter 33 Summary

A social media post from "Hockey Gurl" publicly disparages Rory, branding her immature and spoiled. This reveals the ongoing tension and scrutiny she faces in the media and the gossip circle surrounding the hockey world. Such rumors further complicate Rory's feelings and challenge her determination to rise above the related negativity.

Chapter 34 Summary

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As the annual Christmas party approaches, Rory braces for the pressures of socializing and playing hostess. She is dressed up for the event, but her thoughts keep circling back to Max and the potential of seeing him with Lolita. Her mother's attempts at matchmaking with Calder add to her unease.

Calder's drunken humor contrasts sharply with Rory's anxiety, especially as he drops whispers about Baxter and Katrina's scandalous affair. As she catches a glimpse of Max entering the party alone, her excitement and dread force her to grapple with her emotions, knowing that this interaction could change everything between them.

In a private moment, Rory seeks sanctuary in the library only to be encountered unexpectedly by Max, heightening the tension that has been building. Their exchanged glances signal a change, and it becomes clear that the dynamic between them may never return to the casual, comfortable distance they once knew.

Each chapter's nuances prepare the reader for an unfolding drama, rooted in personal aspirations versus complex relationships and societal expectations, with themes of love, ambition, and rivalry coming into play as the hockey season progresses.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Strength in Vulnerability

Critical Interpretation: In a world rife with gossip and scrutiny, Rory learns that embracing her vulnerabilities can lead to deeper connections and personal growth. This chapter illustrates that by confronting her fears and allowing herself to be open, she not only strengthens her bond with Max but also builds resilience against the negativity surrounding her. This key point inspires you to acknowledge your own vulnerabilities, recognizing that they can be a source of empowerment rather than weakness. By allowing yourself to be seen in your truest form, you can forge genuine relationships and cultivate a sense of inner strength that supports you in overcoming life's challenges.

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Chapter 8: 8

Chapter 35 Summary:

Rory is in her favorite library hideaway when Max unexpectedly appears at the door. They exchange banter and discover shared interests in literature, particularly the Harry Potter series. Max expresses disinterest in Christmas, revealing he is staying in town for the holidays, which delightfully surprises Rory. Their playful conversation takes a flirtatious turn when Max proposes a kiss in exchange for reading three chapters of Harry Potter. This leads to a passionate kiss before they are interrupted by Rory's mother, who walks in and catches them, creating an embarrassing situation for both.

After Rory's mother leaves, Rory reveals to Max that he was her companion during a traumatic plane crash. This revelation deepens their connection, showcasing a shared understanding that neither of them can ignore. However, Rory's mother urges her to end anything developing between them, fearing for Max's hockey career and the implications of Rory's father's influence. Torn between her feelings for Max and her mother's concerns, Rory wrestles with the prospect of ending their budding relationship.

Chapter 36 Summary:

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As the season progresses, Rory struggles with her feelings and her need to protect Max's hockey career from their relationship's potential fallout. Despite her avoidance tactics, Max's piercing gaze and unwavering attention make it hard for Rory to ignore him. She spends her time keeping her distance, but this only seems to intensify Max's interest, leading to internal conflict for Rory.

During a team meeting, Rory's attempt to ignore Max does not go unnoticed by him. When the meeting ends, Max confronts her about her behavior, prompting Rory to lie about what's bothering her. Max realizes something more significant is at play and pushes for answers, but Rory evades his inquiries. This only deepens the tension, making Rory feel guilty for pushing him away but convinced it's for his protection.

Feeling overwhelmed, Rory skips the team lunch and practices, retreating to her hotel room where she realizes she can't avoid Max for long. The intimate connection they share resurfaces as she grapples with her emotions and the consequences of their relationship.

Chapter 37 Summary:

Max arrives at Rory's hotel room, and despite knowing it's a bad idea, he



pursues her for answers. He learns of her avoidance and draws out her truth, believing it involves her mother's influence regarding his suitability. When their conversation crescendos into intense physical attraction, what was meant to be a discussion becomes a passionate encounter. They share an explosive night together, marked by raw desire and unresolved feelings.

However, Rory is acutely aware of the implications this has on Max's career. Still, after their encounter, they are left in a state of emotional disarray, as both must confront the reality of what lies ahead for them.

Chapter 38 Summary:

Post-encounter, Rory feels both exhilarated and distressed about her intimacy with Max, knowing they are treading dangerous waters.

Meanwhile, social media buzz surrounds her connection with the hockey team, painting her in a negative light. Despite the excitement of the season and the Christmas festivities, Rory is emotionally torn about the risks associated with her relationship with Max.

Chapter 39 Summary:

The chapter begins with Rory traveling to Whistler for Christmas. During



her family's festive preparations, the atmosphere contrasts heavily with Rory's internal conflict regarding her feelings for Max. After a day filled with family activities, Calder approaches Rory with an escape plan to leave for Vancouver and enjoy a break from the family chaos. The two head into the city together, providing Rory a temporary reprieve, while still leaving

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

Chapter 40: Unraveling Secrets

Calder arrives an hour late, hungover and sporting hickeys from a night out with Katrina. Faced with his drunken state, Rory reluctantly drives as they exchange playful banter. They discuss Calder's latest gossip, which reveals the tension between her father and Baxter, who was set to become the new Assistant GM until her father abruptly sidestepped him by promoting Rory to the position instead. Calder explains that her father's decision stemmed from friction over Rory's romantic interest, Max, and Baxter's desire to recruit another player, Joseph Flanynk. This revelation sheds light on why Baxter resents both Rory and Max. As they delve deeper into relationship dynamics, Rory learns that Katrina is becoming frustrated with Baxter's attitude and that Calder is seen as a risk due to his lifestyle choices. Rory challenges Calder to shape up if he wants a future with Katrina.

Chapter 41: A Picnic Proposal

After a short break, Rory heads to San Jose with the team, eagerly anticipating time with Max. When they finally connect, Max surprises her with a picnic in her hotel room, showcasing his thoughtful side despite his



initial misunderstanding of the gesture's significance. The picnic is filled with simple but heartfelt items: fruit, cheese, and brownie bites, all evoking warmth and affection between them. Their conversation intertwines with playful teasing and deeper discussions, revealing snippets of their pasts. Rory learns how Max navigated his complicated family dynamics over the holidays. Their intimate evening escalates to passionate moments shared on the bed, showcasing the physical chemistry that ignites between them and solidifying their connection on multiple levels.

Chapter 42: Intimacy and Humor

As they continue to explore their relationship, Rory revels in the time spent with Max during team travels. Their connection deepens through not only physical intimacy but also shared laughter and playful antics. Max's playful side emerges through silly jokes he left for Rory, and together they enjoy light-hearted moments like dancing in oversized t-shirts. Though Max occasionally retreats into introspection, Rory remains a comforting presence for him. After a significant yet troubling phone call from Max's mother, Rory becomes concerned about his emotional state. Her worry hints at the complexity of their relationship and the challenges they face.

Chapter 43: Confrontation and Confessions

During a practice session, Rory finds herself caught in a confrontation



between Max and Baxter, who openly expresses his disdain for both Rory and Max. After Baxter attempts to insult Rory, Max stands up for her, leading to a physical altercation between the two men. Rory witnesses not only the clash but also her father's dismissive attitude towards her feelings about Baxter's bullying. The fight leads to Max receiving a fine, but he reassures Rory that he's fine and he'd rather defend her than stay silent. As they discuss the complexities surrounding their relationship, Rory grapples with the tension of her father's role as a team owner and the impact it has on her life and love.

Chapter 44: Learning About the Past

Rory meets Max's Uncle Ronny during a game, who unexpectedly shares insights into Max's troubled childhood. Ronny recounts how his sister, Max's mother, struggled with motherhood and abandoned Max at a young age. This revelation shocks Rory and deepens her understanding of the emotional scars Max carries. As they cheer for Max, Ronny emphasizes that Max is starting to open up emotionally, suggesting that Rory's presence is significant in that journey. He cautions her to be gentle with Max's heart, aware of the emotional baggage he carries from their family. Rory is left contemplating her affectionate feelings toward Max, along with the challenges they may face, especially concerning her father's disapproval. She must navigate the feelings that arise while ensuring that her budding romance doesn't interfere with Max's career aspirations.



Overall, these chapters illuminate the characters' interpersonal relationships, exploring themes of love, loyalty, and the influence of family while paving the way for Rory and Max's evolving romance amidst the pressures of their respective positions and pasts.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Understanding and accepting emotional scars can deepen relationships

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate your own relationships, take inspiration from Rory's journey with Max. Recognize that everyone carries emotional baggage shaped by their past, and understanding these layers can create a deeper bond. Just like Rory learns to be gentle with Max's heart, you too can approach your loved ones with empathy and patience, fostering a connection built on trust and compassion. By acknowledging and accepting the complexities that your partners bring into the relationship, you'll not only strengthen your bonds but also cultivate a safe space for healing and growth together.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10

Chapter 45-49 Summary

In Chapter 45, after a hockey game, the protagonist reflects on her relationship with Max Logan, a star player, while waiting for her dad to finish socializing. Despite her sympathy for Max's mother's abandonment, she feels a strong desire to protect his heart. Their texting banter reveals budding feelings and the excitement of a date planned for Friday night after the game. However, tension arises when she learns that her father, who usually manages the team, is allowing coach Baxter to dictate their performance approach for the upcoming game against Minnesota. Baxter insists on a clean game, which sparks concern among the players, particularly regarding Max's safety.

In Chapter 46, the game against Minnesota proves brutal, echoing a fierce battle scene. Max sustains an injury that leaves him bloody on the ice, causing the protagonist, Rory, intense worry. The tide begins to turn when Max is sidelined, and without him, the team starts to play more cohesively. Rory confronts her father about Baxter's poor decision-making, arguing that Max's absence might lead to more injuries. As the game progresses, Rory communicates with Max in the dressing room, pressing him to trust her judgment and to stay off the ice temporarily. This leads to a passionate



moment between them, solidifying their emotional connection.

Chapter 47 reveals an embarrassing incident in which rumors circulate about Rory's inappropriate comments about the players, showing the tensions and misunderstandings surrounding her character.

In Chapter 48, Rory surprises Max at his home after the game, only to discover an ultrasound photo belonging to another woman named Lolita, who Max is helping. Initially shocked, Rory learns from Max that he is not the father but that Lolita's pregnancy stems from a traumatic experience of sexual assault, akin to what Max's own mother endured. This revelation brings them closer as they share vulnerable conversations about their pasts while solidifying their bond.

In Chapter 49, the intimacy deepens as they share a passionate night together. Rory grapples with her burgeoning feelings of love for Max, navigating the complexities of their relationship. The next morning, they are still in a honeymoon phase, calling each other cute names until Rory receives distressing news from her lawyer that Max has been arrested for sexual assault, a shocking twist that threatens to unravel everything they've built.

This pivotal moment in these chapters illustrates the intense emotional landscape of love, loyalty, and the weight of past traumas, setting the stage



for potential conflict and dramatic developments in future encounters.

Chapter	Summary
Chapter 45	The protagonist reflects on her relationship with Max Logan after a hockey game, feeling protective of him. Excitement builds for their upcoming date, but tension arises when her father allows coach Baxter to dictate their game strategy against Minnesota.
Chapter 46	The game against Minnesota leads to brutal injuries, with Max getting hurt. Rory worries about Max's safety and confronts her father about Baxter's decisions. A passionate moment occurs between Max and Rory in the dressing room, solidifying their emotional connection.
Chapter 47	Rumors circulate regarding Rory's inappropriate comments about players, creating misunderstandings and tensions concerning her character.
Chapter 48	Rory visits Max at home and discovers an ultrasound photo belonging to a woman named Lolita. Max explains he is not the father, and the situation is tied to a traumatic experience, leading to vulnerability between them and a deepening bond.
Chapter 49	Rory and Max share an intimate night, but the next morning brings distressing news of Max's arrest for sexual assault, threatening their newly formed relationship.



Chapter 11 Summary: 11

Chapter 50 Summary:

In a shocking turn of events, Rory receives distressing news that her boyfriend Max Logan has been accused of sexual assault. Initially in disbelief, she rushes to the venue where the team is processing the incident. Her father, visibly agitated and upset, blames Max for bringing turmoil to the family and the team, refusing to listen to Rory's insistence of Max's innocence as she asserts she was with him the entire night.

Brian, a team official, confirms the police are charging Max with a level one sexual assault claim after he left a bar with a woman who alleged she said no but was forced. Despite her attempts to explain, Rory faces pushback from both her father and Brian, who express disbelief at her defense of Max. As tensions rise, Rory's father suddenly collapses from what appears to be a heart attack, prompting a frantic response from Rory and the attending officers, who only exacerbate her distress. She frantically calls for help while officers work on her father, and she grasps the harrowing reality of two men she loves being dragged into devastating chaos.



Chapter 51 Summary:

The next day in the hospital proves to be agonizing for Rory. Her father undergoes quadruple bypass surgery after ignoring medical warnings about his heart condition. While he survives, he remains in critical condition, leading Rory and her mother to worry strain on their family.

Amidst hospital visits and the mounting pressure from the media, Baxter, the team's new general manager, offers to manage the family's affairs in Rory's father's absence. However, Rory is apprehensive about Baxter's motives, believing he's merely taking advantage of the situation. Tensions rise, particularly when Rory confronts her mother about giving Baxter proxy control over the team—an abrupt decision she believes risks damaging their family affairs.

Rory also learns more about Max's situation and insists to Brian, a supportive figure, that she will do everything to help him. She faces an uphill battle as the police's contradictory messages hint at their reluctance to re-evaluate Max's accusation. Distraught, Rory grapples with her emotions as she tries to manage her father's health and Max's legal troubles simultaneously.



Chapter 52 Summary:

In a quick turn of events, the court sets Max's bail, which Rory is determined to post. However, frustrations heighten as details of Baxter's public denouncement of Max emerge, including his plan to sever Max's contract with the team and replace him. Rory, still steadfast in her belief of Max's innocence, confronts the media upheaval while maintaining her determination to clear Max's name.

Baxter's manipulative nature and motivations behind Max's allegations become increasingly apparent as Rory learns that he has intentionally set Max up for failure. In a surprising twist, a visit from Katrina reveals Baxter has been using her against Max to solidify his grip on the team, a fact which shocks Rory.

Katrina agrees to assist Rory by sharing information that could help absolve Max, while the urgency of the situation heightens with the impending trade deadline looming. Rory's overwhelming desire to protect both her father and Max fuels her resolve, and she continues to strategize a path forward to salvage Max's career while also managing her family turmoil.



Chapter 53 Summary:

Rory continues to juggle her whirlwind life, checking in on her father while striving to communicate with Max, who remains unreachable. At the hospital, a surprisingly upbeat recovery in her father provides Rory with a glimpse of hope, but this relief is short-lived when Baxter continues to manipulate the team's dynamics and threatens Rory's position in the organization.

Baxter's dismissal of Max's character and his unilateral decisions shake Rory's foundation. After an emotional exchange, Baxter fires Rory from her position, leaving her feeling blindsided and powerless over the turbulent events unleashing around her. Desperate to get in touch with Max and navigate the fallout from Baxter's machinations, Rory's determination intensifies.

As she contemplates her path in combating Baxter's ambitions and trying to help Max, new allies emerge, such as Lolita, Max's friend, urging her not to lose faith. Yet, the challenges evaporate any clarity, forcing Rory to embrace her battle against the odds to protect those she loves while uncovering the truth behind Baxter's unscrupulous actions.



Chapter 54 Summary:

Amidst the chaos, rumors circulate in the public sphere, with social media painting Rory in a negative light. Accusations of her mistreatment of staff take a toll on her reputation while she grapples with the reality of her family crisis and Max's legal troubles. As new challenges arise, Rory understands she must confront Baxter and his malicious ploys head-on while rallying her resources to clear Max's name and restore stability in her family amidst an increasingly hostile environment.

With resolve, Rory prepares for her next moves, vowing to uncover the truth while navigating the fallout and protecting the integrity of her father's legacy and Max's career.

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Chapter 12: 12

Chapter 55 Summary:

The tension escalates as the protagonist meets Lolita, revealing a tangled web of emotions and backstory. After a brief conversation, they leave a chaotic event and head back to the protagonist's family home in Vancouver. Lolita opens up about her traumatic past involving Max, her connection to him, and the harrowing assault she endured in Minnesota. As she recounts her story, it becomes clear that Max is more than just a friend to her; he became her lifeline when she needed it most.

Lolita expresses guilt over Max's current troubles—he lost his hockey position and is engulfed in media controversies after violently confronting Joseph, the man who assaulted her. This explosive revelation ties into the broader narrative, as Lolita decides she wants to publicly defend Max and reveal the truth of her assault, hoping to clear his name. Although the idea terrifies her, she feels empowered to act for herself and for Max.

The chapter explores the complexity of their relationships and sets the stage for impending conflicts, including public scrutiny and personal tribulations. The protagonist grapples with their feelings for Max and what this new information means for their relationship while vowing to help.



Chapter 56 Summary:

Four hours later, Lolita participates in a life-changing interview with a prominent sports reporter, revealing her story to the world. The protagonist and Katrina anxiously monitor from the kitchen, uncertain about the ramifications. There is an urgent atmosphere as Brian updates them on legal proceedings against Joseph, who is en route for questioning, and the potential effects this could have on Max.

After the interview, Lolita expresses her emotional exhaustion, yet remains hopeful that her words might help Max. Once both Lolita and Katrina leave, the protagonist visits her father in the hospital, facing the reality of Max's firing and her mom's protective instincts regarding her father's health. It highlights the struggles and priorities of the family during a chaotic time, leaving the protagonist torn between familial obligations and her burgeoning relationship with Max.

Tension rises as the protagonist tries to connect with Max, who is still reeling from his demons but also feeling her absence. Moments of uncertainty turn into hope when a text indicates he's still in town, readying for a powerful reunion filled with unresolved feelings and the potential for healing.



Chapter 57 Summary:

The next day brings an unexpected mix of hope and anxiety as the protagonist goes to the airport to drop off Lolita, who has begun to find clarity amid chaos. Upon returning to the hospital, anticipation mounts as she waits to hear from Max while Brian updates her on legal progress against Baxter.

Suddenly, Max arrives, their emotional reunion opens the floodgates; old fears surface as they confront their past misunderstandings. The chapter shifts as they learn that Lolita's testimony has strengthened their case—Joseph is in custody, and Max's name is being cleared.

Conversations reveal the truth—help from their friends empowers them. The protagonist is uncertain but determined to help Max, and they reaffirm their feelings for one another, leading to a moment of joy amid turmoil. Plans for the future become clearer, yet obstacles remain as they both step towards a new beginning, buoyed by renewed hopes.

Chapter 58 Summary:

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The emotional atmosphere heightens as history reawakens; revelations about Max's potential lineage get tangled with the past accusations from Baxter's reign of terror. The protagonist and her mother confront layers of misunderstandings that led to distrust and fear around Max. As they navigate memories, the deeper connection reveals the fog of mistrust that clouds their perceptions.

Amidst their raw conversations, Max reflects on his sense of identity, pulling the protagonist closer as they share their fears and hopes. They challenge the looming shadow of his father's legacy, cementing a bond through understanding and shared vulnerability.

The chapter crescendos when they decide to take action. Brian's appearance with legal documents marks a significant turning point—the protagonist finds herself unexpectedly at the helm of the team, leading her family directly into redemption. A surge of energy builds as Max's reinstatement becomes possible, and the stage is set for a climactic showdown with Baxter, who has thrived on fear.

Chapter 59 Summary:

Just as hope shines brightly, darkness suddenly descends when Baxter confronts the protagonist at her home, wielding a gun. The shocking twist



drives the narrative into a fierce survival scenario, testing the protagonist's courage. She engages Baxter in a dangerous game of words to buy time, showcasing her strength in an otherwise precarious situation.

As tensions escalate, the doorbell signals an unexpected turning point: heroic

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13

CHAPTER 60 Summary

The past ten days have been turbulent, primarily revolving around the arrest of Baxter, which dominated the media and placed Max, Joseph Flanynk, and Lolita in the spotlight. To escape the chaos and negativity, Rory and Max spent time together at his place, focusing on their relationship and avoiding all external distractions related to the incident.

Rory's father has returned from the hospital, but the family maintains a tense silence regarding Max and the events surrounding his arrest. Rory promotes an assistant coach to temporarily take over as head coach. Despite the scandal, the Vancouver Wolves advance to the playoffs. When the team leaves for a road game, Rory feels the absence of Max deeply.

On the night of their first home game since Max's arrest, Rory finds herself alone in the executive box as she waits for the players to enter the ice. Max, however, hesitates in the dressing room, voicing his uncertainty about returning to the ice. They have a candid conversation where Rory reassures him that he should only play if he feels comfortable. She emphasizes that his happiness is paramount, and ultimately, Max decides to play.



As Max steps onto the ice, the crowd's initial silence is soon replaced by overwhelming support and cheers as they chant his name, showing that public opinion is shifting in his favor. Amidst the cheering and signs of affection from fans, Rory feels hopeful that everything will turn out okay.

Two weeks later, Rory meets Max's mom for the first time in an effort to foster goodwill between their families. In a heartfelt conversation, Max's mom acknowledges past mistakes and seeks forgiveness from both her son and Rory's family. This marks a turning point in their relationship and paves the way for reconciliation.

CHAPTER 61 Summary

That night, Rory wakes up alone and finds Max watching a video of his father, Garrett, playing hockey. It brings back emotions for both of them, and Max decides to confront his mother about their complicated past. He takes a brief trip back to Ontario, leaving Rory worried about his emotional state.

When Max returns after ten days, their reunion is tender; he reveals that he had difficult but important conversations with his mom, leading to positive steps toward rebuilding their relationship. As they navigate their feelings, they also explore their romantic connection, both sharing a physical intimacy



that deepens their bond.

CHAPTER 62 Summary

Three months later, the Vancouver Wolves are in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals, with everything on the line. Max and Rory share a moment before the game, highlighting his mother's new desire to move closer to them and their growing bond. Max gives Rory a multi-million dollar contract extension he signed with the team, demonstrating his commitment to staying in Vancouver.

After witnessing the Wolves win the Stanley Cup, Rory feels overwhelmed with joy as the team celebrates. When Max finds her in the stands, they share a passionate embrace, acknowledging their successes together. Their relationship is stronger than ever as Max expresses his desire for a future that includes love, marriage, and starting a family. Rory reciprocates his feelings, solidifying their emotional connection and shared aspirations.

The celebration continues with the entire team acknowledging Rory's contribution to their success, as she realizes she has garnered their respect and admiration. In the warm embrace of victory and love, Rory and Max reaffirm their commitment to each other and look forward to a promising future.

