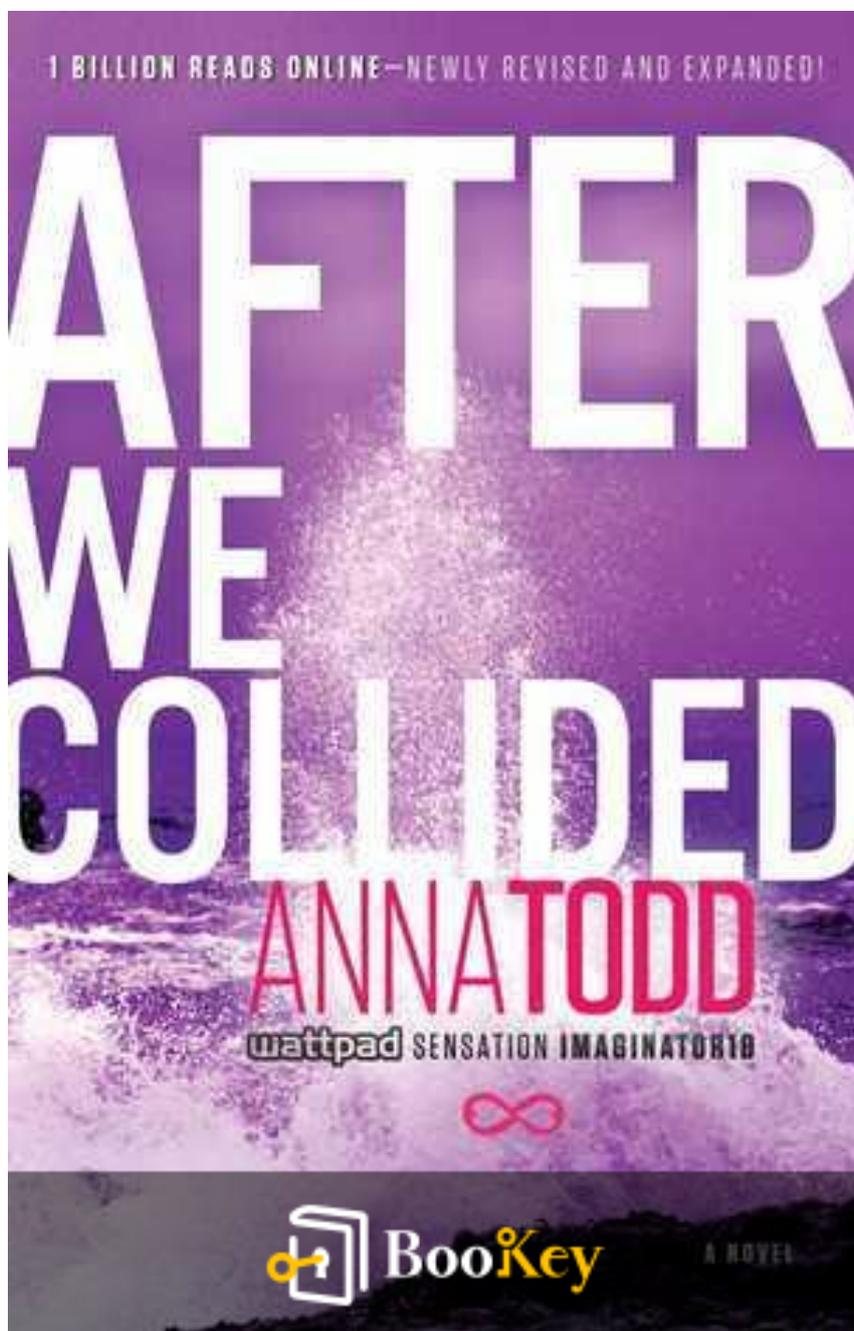


# After We Collided PDF (Limited Copy)

Anna Todd



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## **After We Collided Summary**

Love and turmoil collide in passionate uncertainty.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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## About the book

In "After We Collided," Anna Todd continues the passionate and tumultuous journey of Tessa Young and Hardin Scott, whose intense love affair is marked by both fiery attraction and deep emotional conflict. The sequel picks up immediately after the dramatic cliffhanger of the first book, where shocking revelations about Hardin's past have left Tessa questioning their future together.

As Tessa tries to forge her own identity amidst the chaos, she faces the impact of Hardin's secrets that have surfaced. The complexity of their relationship is further complicated by the presence of new characters, including Tessa's caring yet concerned friend, Landon, who offers her a fuller perspective on her romantic entanglement. Meanwhile, Hardin grapples with his own demons, including his troubled family background and a tendency toward self-destructive behavior that threatens to destabilize not only his relationship with Tessa but also his own sense of self.

The narrative is rich with emotional highs and lows as Tessa must balance her feelings for Hardin with her desire for independence, exploring themes of love, betrayal, and the search for personal growth. She finds herself torn between her commitment to Hardin and the wisdom of those around her advocating for her own well-being.

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As their relationship faces numerous tests—jealousy, misunderstandings, and personal struggles—readers are taken on a rollercoaster ride that captures the essence of young love: its beauty and its fragility. Will Tessa and Hardin be able to overcome the obstacles that threaten their bond, or will they ultimately succumb to the personal challenges that arise? The stakes are high, and the journey through this deeply crafted narrative keeps readers invested in the fate of two individuals whose love is as complex as it is powerful.

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## About the author

In "After We Collided," the sequel to Anna Todd's bestselling "After," the tumultuous romance between Tessa Young and Hardin Scott continues to unfold. The story picks up after the dramatic events of the first book, which saw Tessa grappling with her feelings for Hardin, a charismatic yet troubled young man with a dark past.

As Tessa embarks on a new chapter in her life, she is determined to focus on her goals, particularly in her academic pursuits and her budding career in the publishing industry. Yet, Hardin's intense presence looms large over her, as their passionate but dysfunctional relationship reignites. The couple faces both the exhilaration and challenges of love, compounded by Hardin's deep-seated insecurities and Tessa's desire for independence.

In this installment, Todd introduces new characters that further complicate Tessa's journey. Notably, her friend Landon, who serves as a voice of reason and support amid the chaos, emerges as a significant presence, underscoring the importance of loyalty and friendship. Meanwhile, Hardin struggles with his family dynamics, particularly his tumultuous relationship with his estranged father, which adds a layer of complexity to his character and influences his actions.

As secrets unravel and past mistakes resurface, Tessa and Hardin must

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confront the realities of their relationship, the impact of betrayal, and their ability to heal and forgive. Todd deftly explores themes of love, trust, and personal growth, creating a narrative that keeps readers engaged and emotionally invested in Tessa and Hardin's journey.

Ultimately, "After We Collided" presents a powerful exploration of how love can be both transformative and painful, challenging its characters to navigate their emotions and fight for the connection they share, despite the obstacles they face. Todd's signature blend of romance and drama allows for a captivating continuation of Tessa and Hardin's story, appealing to young adult readers who find solace in relatable struggles and passionate encounters.

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# Summary Content List

Chapter 1: Prologue: Hardin

Chapter 2: Tessa

Chapter 3: Tessa

Chapter 4: Tessa

Chapter 5: Tessa

Chapter 6: Tessa

Chapter 7: Hardin

Chapter 8: Tessa

Chapter 9: Tessa

Chapter 10: Tessa

Chapter 11: Hardin

Chapter 12: Tessa

Chapter 13: Hardin

Chapter 14: Tessa

Chapter 15: Hardin

Chapter 16: Tessa

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

Chapter 17: Tessa

Chapter 18: Hardin

Chapter 19: Tessa

Chapter 20: Tessa

Chapter 21: Hardin

Chapter 22: Tessa

Chapter 23: Tessa

Chapter 24: Tessa

Chapter 25: Tessa

Chapter 26: Tessa

Chapter 27: Hardin

Chapter 28: Tessa

Chapter 29: Hardin

Chapter 30: Tessa

Chapter 31: Tessa

Chapter 32: Tessa

Chapter 33: Tessa

**More Free Book**



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Chapter 34: Hardin

Chapter 35: Tessa

Chapter 36: Hardin

Chapter 37: Tessa

Chapter 38: Tessa

Chapter 39: Tessa

Chapter 40: Hardin

Chapter 41: Hardin

Chapter 42: Tessa

Chapter 43: Tessa

Chapter 44: Tessa

Chapter 45: Tessa

Chapter 46: Hardin

Chapter 47: Tessa

Chapter 48: Tessa

Chapter 49: Tessa

Chapter 50: Tessa

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

Chapter 51: Tessa

Chapter 52: Hardin

Chapter 53: Hardin

Chapter 54: Tessa

Chapter 55: Hardin

Chapter 56: Tessa

Chapter 57: Tessa

Chapter 58: Tessa

Chapter 59: Hardin

Chapter 60: Hardin

Chapter 61: Tessa

Chapter 62: Hardin

Chapter 63: Tessa

Chapter 64: Tessa

Chapter 65: Tessa

Chapter 66: Tessa

Chapter 67: Tessa

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

Chapter 68: Tessa

Chapter 69: Tessa

Chapter 70: Hardin

Chapter 71: Hardin

Chapter 72: Hardin

Chapter 73: Tessa

Chapter 74: Tessa

Chapter 75: Hardin

Chapter 76: Hardin

Chapter 77: Tessa

Chapter 78: Hardin

Chapter 79: Hardin

Chapter 80: Tessa

Chapter 81: Hardin

Chapter 82: Tessa

Chapter 83: Hardin

Chapter 84: Tessa

**More Free Book**



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Chapter 85: Tessa

Chapter 86: Hardin

Chapter 87: Tessa

Chapter 88: Tessa

Chapter 89: Hardin

Chapter 90: Tessa

Chapter 91: Hardin

Chapter 92: Tessa

Chapter 93: Hardin

Chapter 94: Tessa

Chapter 95: Hardin

Chapter 96: Hardin

Chapter 97: Tessa

Chapter 98: Hardin

Chapter 99: Tessa

Chapter 100: Tessa

Chapter 101: Hundred: Hardin

**More Free Book**



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Chapter 102: Hundred and One: Tessa

Chapter 103: Hundred and Two: Hardin

Chapter 104: Hundred and Three: Tessa

Chapter 105: Hundred and Four: Hardin

Chapter 106: Hundred and Five: Tessa

Chapter 107: Hundred and Seven: Tessa

Chapter 108: Hundred and Eight: Hardin

Chapter 109: Hundred and Nine: Tessa

Chapter 110: Hundred and Ten: Tessa

Chapter 111: Hundred and Eleven: Hardin

Chapter 112: Hundred and Twelve: Tessa

Chapter 113: Hundred and Thirteen: Tessa

Chapter 114: Hundred and Fourteen: Hardin

Chapter 115: Hundred and Fifteen: Tessa

Chapter 116: Hundred and Sixteen: Hardin

Chapter 117: Hundred and Seventeen: Tessa

Chapter 118: Hundred and Eighteen: Hardin

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Chapter 119: Hundred and Nineteen: Tessa

Chapter 120: Hundred and Twenty: Tessa

Chapter 121: Hundred and Twenty-One: Hardin

Chapter 122: Hundred and Twenty-Two: Tessa

Chapter 123: Hundred and Twenty-Three: Hardin

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# Chapter 1 Summary: Prologue: Hardin

## Summary of Chapter 1: After We Collided

The story opens in a frigid, heart-wrenching prologue where we find Hardin deeply distressed after the loss of Tessa, a girl he unexpectedly fell in love with. The scene is painted with stark imagery as Hardin kneels in the snow, feeling both numbed by the cold and overwhelmed by his emotional suffering. His pain intensifies when he sees Tessa leaving with another guy, Zed. The realization of having lost her creates a profound sense of anguish within him.

Hardin reflects on the events that led to this moment. Initially, his relationship with Tessa began as a reckless wager—a bet among friends to seduce her. However, what started as a game soon evolved into an intense emotional connection, one that revealed a more compassionate version of himself, a side he never knew existed. Despite the joy Tessa brought into his life, he acknowledges his role in their turmoil—particularly how he flaunted their intimate moments as part of the bet.

As Hardin processes his regret, he oscillates between directing blame at others, including his parents and Tessa, and facing the truth: he is ultimately responsible for the chaos that ensued. This internal struggle encapsulates key



themes of love, regret, and the challenges of personal growth, establishing the foundation for Hardin's urgent desire to win back Tessa and prove he can be a better person.

The chapter encapsulates Hardin's emotional depth, drawing readers into his turmoil as he resolves to seek out Tessa, driven by a longing to reclaim their connection and mend the fractures in their relationship.

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## Chapter 2 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 2, Tessa faces a painful revelation about her tumultuous relationship with Hardin. When she learns from Zed, a friend, about a humiliating bet Hardin made regarding her, she is devastated to realize that what she believed to be cherished moments in their relationship have become fodder for gossip among Hardin's friends. This revelation shatters her trust and feelings of intimacy, prompting a profound emotional turmoil that drives her to seek refuge with Landon, her closest ally.

Upon arriving at Landon's home, Tessa is engulfed by a mix of sorrow and confusion. Although she finds comfort in Landon's warmth and genuine concern, memories of Hardin linger painfully in her mind. Landon's protective nature comes to the forefront as he expresses anger on her behalf, especially when Hardin confronts Tessa, leading to a highly charged encounter. Hardin's aggression reflects his conflicted emotions, torn between his possessiveness and genuine feelings for her.

The tension escalates further when Landon stands up to Hardin, resulting in a confrontation that exposes the complexity of their intertwined relationships. As chaos ensues, Hardin's parents, Ken and Karen, intervene, ultimately siding with Tessa and insisting that Hardin leave. This decision marks a pivotal moment in the story, emphasizing the growing support Tessa receives from those around her, even as she grapples with guilt over the



conflict.

Throughout this chapter, the intricacies of Tessa and Hardin's relationship are brought to the forefront, highlighting themes of betrayal, love, and the quest for personal strength. As Tessa navigates her identity amidst the emotional upheaval caused by Hardin, readers witness her evolution from heartache toward empowerment and clarity, setting the stage for her journey of self-discovery in the chapters to come.

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## Chapter 3 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 3, Tessa is engulfed in the emotional aftermath of her tumultuous relationship with Hardin, reflecting on the deep scars it has left. Seeking solace, she takes a long, steamy shower, hoping the water will cleanse away her pain, but instead, she finds it has become an inseparable part of her existence. Confiding in her supportive best friend, Landon, Tessa expresses her feelings of disarray—having lost her relationship with Noah, her connection with her mother, and her sense of security at her internship, largely due to Hardin's tumultuous presence in her life. Landon encourages her to rise above Hardin's influence and reclaim her path to success.

Determined to take action, Landon practically drags Tessa to her internship the following day. As they drive, Tessa begins to reflect on her disheveled appearance and the emotional toll her struggles have taken on her. At work, Mr. Vance, her boss, unexpectedly recognizes her hard work and extends an invitation to a conference in Seattle. This moment ignites a flicker of hope in her, momentarily overshadowing the emotional weight of her thoughts about Hardin and their fraught past.

However, Tessa's day takes a downturn when she discovers that Hardin has been trying to contact her repeatedly. The realization escalates her emotional turmoil, leading her to break down in her car as she grapples with the conflicting emotions tied to him. In search of comfort, she reaches out to her



mother, yearning for warmth and understanding that seems to be missing from their relationship. Although her mother agrees to let her come home for a day, the response feels lacking in the reassurance Tessa craves.

Ultimately, Tessa is left grappling with profound feelings of loss and confusion as she navigates through the upheaval that her relationship with Hardin has caused. Seeking support from her closest relationships, she hopes to find a way to rebuild her life amidst the chaos.

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# Chapter 4: Tessa

## Summary of Chapter 4

In this chapter, Tessa returns to her childhood home, deeply affected by her recent breakup with Hardin. As she drives, the tumultuous emotions swirl within her; she feels an intense urge to scream, yet is ultimately overwhelmed by sadness, which symbolizes her struggle to reclaim her identity amid the chaos of her experiences.

Upon her arrival, Tessa is greeted by her mother, who is eager to discuss the fallout from Tessa's relationship with Hardin. Tessa divulges that they have broken up due to Hardin's betrayal of her trust. A tense dialogue ensues as her mother suggests that Tessa reconsider her relationship with Noah, a childhood friend who continues to harbor feelings for her. Tessa resolutely defends her decision, asserting her wish to be alone rather than pursue something with Noah, despite her mother's insistence on the importance of stability in her life.

Shortly thereafter, Noah arrives, and their meeting is tinged with both warmth and regret. He offers Tessa support, but she struggles with guilt over leaving him for Hardin. Their conversation reveals Tessa's internal conflict: she longs for the passionate connection she had with Hardin, yet is acutely



aware that it was often unreciprocated and fraught with pain.

As Tessa reflects on her past, she begins to acknowledge her need for independence and a love that is genuine, not merely stable. The chapter reaches a pivotal moment when Tessa decides to return to the apartment she

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## Chapter 5 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 5 of "After We Collided," the tension between Tessa and Hardin reaches a peak as they navigate their fraught emotional landscape. Tessa is increasingly overwhelmed, facing Hardin while feeling disheveled and embarrassed. His new acquaintance nearby serves as a painful reminder of their turbulent relationship and the hurt it has brought her.

As Hardin seeks a moment to explain himself, Tessa grapples with her feelings. She is caught between the lingering love she has for him and the deep scars left by his betrayals. Their conversation intensifies, revealing heart-wrenching confessions: Tessa accuses Hardin of having used her as a bet, while he fervently insists that his feelings are authentic and that he misses her deeply.

Despite her determination to move on, memories of their happier times together resurface, challenging Tessa's resolve. She remains firm in her belief that Hardin is unworthy of forgiveness, even as he opens up about his vulnerabilities and struggles with jealousy. Tessa grows frustrated with Hardin's attempts to manipulate the situation in his favor.

An unexpected kiss between them reignites Tessa's conflicted emotions, starkly illustrating the cycle of love and pain they are ensnared in. Yet, recognizing the toxicity of their relationship, Tessa makes the conscious

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decision to leave. She invents an excuse to depart, unwilling to succumb to Hardin's desperate pleas to stay, firmly prioritizing her own well-being.

This chapter delves deep into themes of trust, betrayal, and the multifaceted nature of love, reflecting Tessa's ongoing journey for self-identity amid heartbreak. Hardin, portrayed as both passionate and flawed, adds complexity to their connection, encapsulating the struggles they face in reconciling their affection with the reality of their situation.

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# Chapter 6 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 6 Summary: Tessa's Turbulent Journey

In the aftermath of her painful breakup with Hardin, Tessa is engulfed in heartbreak and turmoil, portrayed vividly as she sits alone in her car, surrounded by swirling snow that reflects her internal chaos. Despite Hardin's declarations of love, Tessa's trust is irrevocably damaged by his past behavior, leaving her questioning the authenticity of his feelings and whether he truly cares for her or simply seeks to control her. This emotional turmoil drives her to wish for a fresh start, free from the weight of their shared memories that now feel corrupted.

With the conclusion of her last final exam, Tessa makes a pivotal decision to secure a temporary living arrangement, opting for a motel that symbolizes her desire to break away from her previous life. This marks a significant step towards her independence as she confronts the challenges of solitude.

However, her situation takes a turn for the worse when she accidentally drops her bag, spilling her belongings in the snow. In a fortuitous encounter, she runs into Trevor, a co-worker who offers to help her gather her things.

Their conversation reveals deeper vulnerabilities, with Trevor sharing his experience of losing his mother, which builds a connection through their



shared grief and aspirations. As they transition to the warmth of her motel room, the chemistry between them begins to blossom. They decide to order dinner, symbolizing a shift in Tessa's journey as she opens herself up to the possibilities of friendship and new connections, even amidst her heartache.

Through Tessa's experiences in this chapter, themes of loss, resilience, and a quest for personal identity are richly illustrated. It demonstrates her evolution from heartbreak toward the promise of new beginnings, highlighting her gradual journey toward independence and self-discovery.

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## Chapter 7 Summary: Hardin

### Chapter 7 Summary: After We Collided

In this chapter, we delve into Hardin's emotional turmoil stemming from Tessa's absence, portraying his internal struggle as he grapples with feelings of anger, anxiety, and regret. Opening with a tense confrontation between Hardin and his father, the latter urges Hardin to give Tessa space, emphasizing the importance of respecting her boundaries. However, Hardin is overwhelmed by a desperate longing for Tessa's return, driven by deep-seated fears for her safety and a burgeoning vulnerability beneath his tough facade.

As Hardin reflects on Tessa's organized and composed nature, he contrasts it with his own chaotic emotions, leaving him filled with regret over their recent fight and his impulsive, destructive actions—like shattering dishes in a fit of anger. The fear of losing her to Noah, her new boyfriend, amplifies his distress, compelling Hardin to take desperate measures to find her.

The narrative then shifts to Hardin's painful childhood memories, coloring his present turmoil. He experiences distressing nightmares involving his mother and menacing figures from his past, which amplify his feelings of helplessness and regret. These dreams serve as a haunting reminder of how

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his turbulent upbringing shapes his current struggles with love and connections.

Overall, this chapter intricately weaves themes of love, regret, and the lingering shadows of childhood trauma into Hardin's character development. It provides a compelling exploration of his fierce devotion to Tessa, his painful past, and the desperate longing to repair their shattered relationship, laying bare the emotional battles he faces.

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# Chapter 8: Tessa

## Chapter 8 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa faces a pivotal emotional awakening. The chapter begins with her momentarily lost in a dreamy state alongside Hardin, only to jolt back to the stark reality of a motel room, steeped in feelings of loneliness and heartbreak. This juxtaposition highlights Tessa's internal conflict as she grapples with the pain stemming from her tumultuous relationship with Hardin, whose volatile nature profoundly impacts her emotional well-being.

Determined to regain footing, Tessa puts on a brave face, seeking solace in her work. Her interactions with Trevor, her supportive and caring colleague, stand in sharp contrast to Hardin's intensity. Trevor embodies a different kind of connection, reminding Tessa of the happier times in her life and her college experiences that now feel overshadowed by her relationship struggles. While she attempts to focus on her responsibilities, Hardin's lingering presence looms large, complicating her efforts to move on.

The stress heightens when Tessa discovers that her mother has been left in the dark regarding her living situation, and her car's failure to start becomes a metaphor for Tessa's stalled emotional state—she feels trapped and

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without clear direction. Trevor offers her a ride, symbolizing a growing friendship and the potential for a healthier emotional support system amidst her chaos.

However, the chapter veers into tension when Hardin unexpectedly arrives,

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## Chapter 9 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 9 of "After We Collided" by Anna Todd, Tessa faces a tumultuous confrontation with Hardin outside his motel, marking a pivotal moment in their complicated relationship. The air is thick with tension as they argue passionately about Hardin's secretive past and the pain it has inflicted on Tessa. She is deeply hurt by his dishonesty, particularly after discovering a bet that further complicates their already fragile bond. This revelation stirs up feelings of betrayal and disillusionment within Tessa, leaving her questioning the foundation of their relationship.

In a powerful outburst, Tessa articulates her anguish, revealing how Hardin's actions have not only fractured their connection but have also strained her relationship with her mother. This exchange highlights her vulnerability but also her burgeoning strength. Tessa resolutely declares her need to move on, envisioning a future filled with happiness outside of Hardin's chaotic influence. This internal conflict between lingering love and the necessity of self-preservation showcases Tessa's growth, as she comes to terms with the importance of prioritizing her own well-being.

Following this emotionally charged moment, Hardin, seemingly defeated, walks away, leaving Tessa in tears yet resolute in her determination not to let him dictate her happiness any longer. The chapter shifts to the following day, where Tessa contends with the stress of a car issue while preparing for

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her first business trip, further illustrating the chaos in her life. Amidst her personal struggles, she is supported by Trevor and her colleagues, who offer camaraderie and kindness, grounding her in a sense of community.

This chapter delves deep into themes of love, betrayal, self-discovery, and the arduous journey of letting go. Tessa's emotional resilience shines as she navigates through the complexities of her feelings for Hardin, setting the stage for her continued evolution and the challenges that lie ahead in the narrative.

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# Chapter 10 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 10 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa grapples with a whirlwind of emotions as she reflects on her tumultuous relationship with Hardin while spending quality time with her friend Kimberly. Their journey down the highway, accompanied by Trevor and Mr. Vance, serves as a backdrop for Tessa's introspection amidst recent challenges, including unexpected car troubles and the strain in her connection with Hardin.

As they drive, Tessa voices her frustrations to Kimberly about Hardin's controlling nature, particularly a recent incident where he took the liberty of fixing her car without her consent. This instance exemplifies the power struggle in their relationship, highlighting Tessa's struggle between feeling empowered by standing up for herself and the lingering doubts about Hardin's genuine care for her.

Throughout the chapter, Tessa reflects on her breakup with Hardin, teetering between feelings of strength and vulnerability. While she derives a sense of pride from asserting her independence, the emotional pull of her past with Hardin complicates her journey, emphasizing a central theme of the narrative: the delicate balance between love and self-preservation.

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In a pivotal moment, Kimberly encourages Tessa to embrace new experiences by suggesting they hit the local nightclubs. This idea introduces a sense of excitement and hope for Tessa, urging her to step out of her comfort zone and explore her independence amid the emotional chaos.

Overall, this chapter effectively intertwines themes of self-discovery and empowerment with the shadow of a complicated romance, setting the stage for Tessa's ongoing evolution as she seeks to define her identity outside of Hardin's influence.

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# Chapter 11 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 11 Summary

In this chapter, we explore Hardin's tumultuous emotional landscape as he grapples with Tessa's poignant words that linger in his mind. Her remarks have stirred a profound sense of fear within him—fear of solitude and the unsettling possibility that Tessa might move on to find happiness with someone else. This emotional turmoil prompts Jace, Hardin's friend, to step in, suggesting they attend a party at Zed's. Jace aims to distract Hardin from his distress and encourage him to indulge in the festive atmosphere, hoping that drinks and revelry can ease his pain.

As they drive, Jace's effort to uplift Hardin underscores the differences in their perspectives on relationships. While Jace champions casual encounters and a carefree lifestyle, Hardin yearns for the deeper emotional connection he shared with Tessa. He reflects on the simple yet profound moments they experienced together, revealing his struggle between the allure of moving on and the weight of his attachment to Tessa.

Despite Jace's encouragement to embrace a more superficial approach to dating, Hardin candidly admits his desire for a meaningful relationship, accentuating how deeply he treasures his bond with Tessa. This chapter

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captures the essence of longing and the profound impact of love, setting the groundwork for Hardin's internal conflict. His decision to attend the party signifies a pivotal moment—a clash between his impulse to seek distraction and his hope for reconciliation with Tessa. This conflict illustrates the intricate dynamics of love, friendship, and the ongoing struggle to navigate the delicate balance of moving forward while holding onto cherished memories.

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# Chapter 12: Tessa

## Chapter 12 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa arrives at the opulent Four Seasons hotel in Seattle, experiencing a stark contrast to her previous living conditions. As she prepares for the weekend conference, a mix of excitement and anxiety washes over her, amplified by unresolved feelings towards her complex relationship with Hardin, her former love.

Her colleague, Kimberly, plays a pivotal role in setting a positive tone for their trip, welcoming Tessa into their lavish suite. The lively atmosphere is further enriched by the presence of Trevor and Mr. Vance, who helps foster an engaging and supportive environment. Surrounded by Seattle's vibrant beauty and the hotel's luxury, Tessa momentarily dreams of a future filled with success in such an exhilarating city.

During a shared meal, Tessa's emotions become tangled as she grapples with jealousy toward Kimberly's affectionate relationship with Mr. Vance. This envy surfaces her insecurities and the emptiness Hardin left behind in her heart. Despite these conflicting feelings, she resolves to seize the moment, eager to make the most of this professional opportunity.



As the conference commences, Tessa enters a vibrant room filled with book enthusiasts, feeling as if she has stepped into a dream come true. Mr. Vance introduces her to key figures in the literary industry, treating her with the respect and acknowledgment she craves. For the first time, Tessa feels recognized as a capable adult and professional, which boosts her confidence as she navigates the new world around her.

This chapter encapsulates themes of ambition, the tension between past heartbreak and present opportunities, and the warmth of professional camaraderie. It highlights Tessa's journey toward self-empowerment as she begins to carve out her own path amidst the uncertainty of her feelings for Hardin.

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## Chapter 13 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 13, the emotional landscape shifts dramatically as Hardin grapples with the aftermath of his breakup with Tessa. The ambiance is steeped in tension and melancholy, particularly evident when Hardin arrives at Zed's apartment with his friend Jace. As they step inside, the atmosphere lightens momentarily with playful banter between Hardin and Molly, who teasingly pokes fun at his sorrowful plight.

However, Hardin's humor quickly fades as he battles with the weight of his heartbreak. He clutches a bottle of liquor, using it as a temporary balm for his emotional wounds. In moments of solitude, he scrolls through photographs on his phone, each image serving as a painful reminder of the cherished moments he shared with Tessa. This introspective phase deepens his regret for not having captured more memories together, emphasizing his longing for their past.

Compounding his emotional turmoil is the realization that Tessa has moved on and is now spending time with Trevor, a man Hardin suspects to be a better suitor for her. This discovery fuels a tumult of jealousy and frustration within him, revealing the depth of his feelings for Tessa even in their separation. Hardin finds himself ensnared in an internal conflict—while he desires Tessa's happiness, he fears that his actions might inadvertently push her toward another relationship.



In an effort to quell his pain and confusion, Hardin turns to alcohol, using it as a means to numb his emotions and momentarily bridge the gap between him and Tessa. This chapter poignantly illustrates his struggle to balance support for Tessa with his overwhelming insecurities and grief. Through Hardin's journey, themes of love, regret, and the intricacies of relationships resonate strongly, underscoring the complexity of his feelings as he navigates through loss and the lingering desire for connection.

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# Chapter 14 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 14 Summary

In Chapter 14 of "After We Collided," Tessa finds herself soaring with excitement after attending a pivotal publishing event alongside her boss, Christian Vance. The atmosphere buzzes with discussions on digital publishing, and as they ride the elevator down, Christian encourages a more relaxed dynamic by inviting her to call him by his first name while complimenting her intelligence. This gesture lays the foundation for a budding friendship between them, as it moves beyond the formality of employer-employee.

As the evening progresses, Christian's friend, Kimberly, suggests they celebrate their successful day with a night out. Amidst her mixed emotions about how she looks and the haunting memories of her tumultuous past with Hardin, Tessa prepares for the night. Despite her insecurities, she meets up with her friends, including Trevor, who lightens her mood with sincere compliments that make her blush.

The group heads to an upscale seafood restaurant, where Christian entertains everyone with amusing anecdotes, allowing Tessa to see a more playful side of him. This friendly gathering strengthens their camaraderie and makes

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Tessa feel more included.

After dinner, they transition to a lively nightclub, a setting that initially overwhelms Tessa with its loud music and dynamic ambiance. Kimberly thrives in the vibrant atmosphere, while Trevor reassures Tessa that they can bypass the lengthy lines, courtesy of Christian's status. Their entry into the VIP section accentuates the privilege of the evening and offers Tessa a taste of a glamorous side of life.

Although hesitant at first about drinking, Tessa is coaxed by Kimberly to sample a cocktail named "Sex on the Beach." To her surprise, she enjoys it, marking a significant moment of liberation as she begins to let go of her apprehensions and embrace the fun around her. This shift represents a milestone in Tessa's journey, illustrating her gradual move away from the shadows of past relationships and towards forming new connections.

Overall, Chapter 14 weaves themes of friendship, new beginnings, and the courage to step out of one's comfort zone, as Tessa learns to navigate her evolving identity and the challenges of moving on.

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## Chapter 15 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 15, we find Hardin in a tumultuous state of mind as he attends a party, his thoughts consumed by Tessa, who is currently in Seattle with Trevor. This absence amplifies his feelings of longing and insecurity. Attempting to distract himself, Hardin interacts with his friend Molly, who is inebriated and flirtatious, trying to seduce him and encourage him to forget Tessa. However, Hardin remains resolute, rejecting Molly's advances and demonstrating that his heart still belongs to Tessa.

The atmosphere becomes increasingly charged when Molly, feeling spurned, accuses Hardin of allowing Tessa to control his emotions. In a heated revelation, she discloses that Jace, another friend, manipulated her into revealing Hardin's troubled past to Tessa, an act intended to undermine Hardin and highlight his vulnerabilities. This betrayal infuriates Hardin, triggering a confrontation with Jace. In a moment driven by raw emotion, Hardin attacks Jace, a stark illustration of how deeply jealousy and a sense of betrayal can affect him.

This altercation marks a pivotal moment for Hardin, as he grapples with the realization that he has resorted to violence in the name of love and pride. The chaos of the party fades as he is forcibly separated from Jace, and he storms out into the cold night, left to reflect on the consequences of his actions and the ongoing struggle with his feelings for Tessa.



Overall, this chapter encapsulates the themes of jealousy, betrayal, and the turmoil of emotional conflict, emphasizing Hardin's internal battle as he navigates his complex feelings and the repercussions of his choices.

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## Chapter 16: Tessa

In Chapter 16, Tessa embarks on a night out at a nightclub alongside her friends Kimberly, Trevor, and Christian. Embracing the vibrant and carefree atmosphere, Tessa indulges in drinks and dancing, letting the alcohol fuel her normally reserved personality. The experience excites her, yet she feels slightly adrift in the lively party scene.

As the evening unfolds, Tessa grows curious about Hardin, her tumultuous love interest, and checks her phone, discovering he hasn't reached out. Initially hesitant to call him, fearing regret, she ultimately gives in to her impulsive side and dials his number. The ensuing conversation is fraught with tension; Hardin expresses his concern over her drinking and is irritated by her late-night escapades, which Tessa finds overly protective and frustrating.

Feeling rebellious after the call, Tessa orders another drink to cope with the conversation's weight. While dancing later, she meets a charming stranger and, caught in the moment, impulsively kisses him as a distraction from her thoughts of Hardin. This encounter leaves her feeling conflicted when the stranger pressures her for more, leading her to assertively reject his advances and stand her ground.

Returning to her group, she finds Trevor humorously dozing off, lightening

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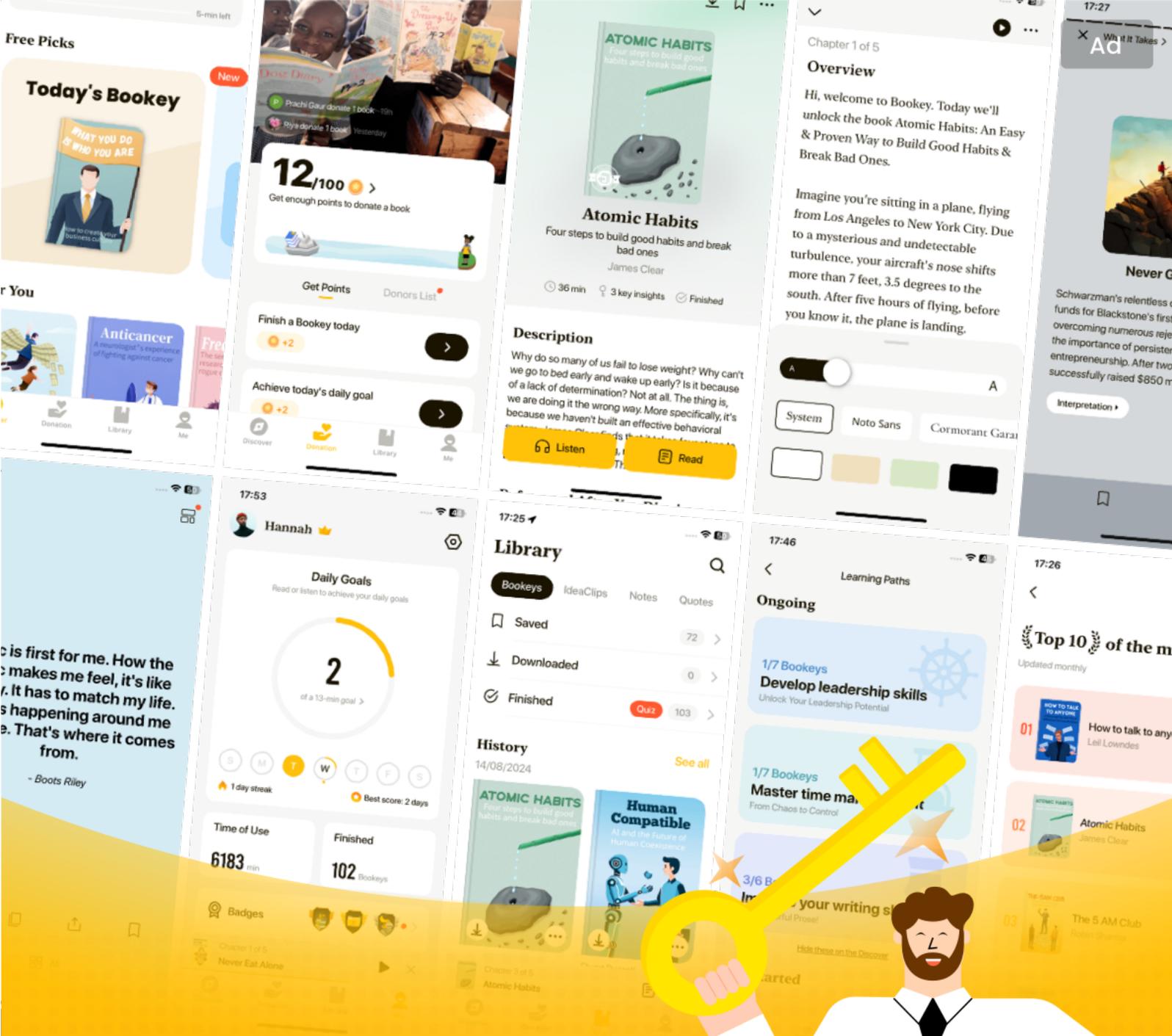
the mood despite the emotional turmoil she feels inside. As the night draws to a close, Tessa reflects on the fine line between excitement and regret, considering her feelings for Hardin and the experiences of the night.

This chapter delves into themes of youthful spontaneity and the balancing act between desire and responsibility, showcasing Tessa's emotional journey amid the complexities of her contemporary relationships.

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## Chapter 17 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 17 of "After We Collided," the narrative unfolds in Tessa's hotel room, where the atmosphere turns chaotic with the unexpected arrival of Trevor, who is searching for his lost phone. Trevor's intrusion sets a tense stage, as he inadvertently becomes the catalyst for a confrontation between Tessa and her tumultuous love interest, Hardin.

Hardin arrives soon after, seething with jealousy and suspicion, convinced that something inappropriate is occurring between Tessa and Trevor. This moment exposes Hardin's protective instincts, underscoring a recurring theme of jealousy that permeates their relationship. Tessa, despite being slightly intoxicated, refuses to back down. Rather than retreating from Hardin's fury, she stands her ground and engages in a flirty, provocative exchange with him. This playful defiance showcases Tessa's evolving strength and her enjoyment of testing Hardin's emotional limits.

As the conversation heats up, Tessa boldly climbs onto Hardin's lap, reigniting the intense chemistry that often draws them together despite their volatile dynamics. She openly expresses her desire for him, challenging Hardin's hesitations and prompting a struggle within him as he grapples with the implications of their actions, particularly considering Tessa's state.

Their interaction reaches a turning point, revealing the complexities of their



relationship marked by desire and the push-pull of love and control. This charged moment between Tessa and Hardin not only amplifies the emotional stakes of their romance but also foreshadows the continuing conflicts and connections they will face. Themes of jealousy, longing, and the struggle for power within relationships are vividly illustrated, making this chapter a pivotal point in their story.

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# Chapter 18 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 18 Summary: The Turning Point

In this pivotal chapter, the focus shifts to the intense and complex relationship between Hardin and Tessa, revealing how their dynamic alters dramatically during a night that serves as both a turning point and a moment of reckoning. Hardin, caught in a whirlwind of desire and guilt, grapples with the consequences of his emotions as Tessa unexpectedly unveils a wild side after a night of drinking.

### Key Events:

The evening starts off with a charged atmosphere as tension mounts between Hardin and Tessa. In an unexpected twist, Tessa steps out of her usual sweet persona, taking charge and surprising Hardin. Their flirtation escalates quickly, culminating in a deeply intimate moment that showcases their electrifying chemistry. Despite Hardin's internal conflict over the possibilities and implications of this encounter, he finds himself unable to resist Tessa's bold advances.

The chapter vividly portrays the encounter, illustrating Tessa's teasing demeanor and the physical connection that underscores their profound



emotional bond. As they engage in passionate intimacy, both Tessa and Hardin experience a peak of pleasure that reinforces their undeniable attraction and deep connection to one another.

### **Character Developments:**

In this chapter, Hardin undergoes significant transformation. He shifts from the archetypal hesitant lover to a figure of vulnerability, openly expressing his emotions and revealing the depth of his feelings for Tessa. Conversely, Tessa sheds her previous constraints, demonstrating newfound confidence as she embraces her desires. This dual evolution affirms their bond as they reconnect on both physical and emotional levels.

However, the intimate encounter raises concerns regarding Tessa's inebriated state and the nuances of consent, prompting readers to reflect on the balance of power within their relationship. The chapter skillfully navigates the themes of desire and the complexities of love, underscoring the intricate dance between attraction and emotional clarity.

### **Themes:**

The chapter intricately weaves together themes of love, desire, and the complexities that accompany young relationships. It highlights how physical intimacy can signify deeper emotional ties while also spotlighting the

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shifting power dynamics as Tessa takes control—a stark contrast to their previous interactions. Yet, the chapter leaves readers pondering the implications of consent, particularly under the influence of alcohol.

In essence, Chapter 18 stands as a crucial moment in Hardin and Tessa's narrative, encapsulating the exhilarating highs and challenging lows of young love. The encounter propels their relationship into new territory, leaving readers eagerly anticipating the next evolution in their journey together.

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## Chapter 19 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 19 of "After We Collided," Tessa awakens to the jarring sound of her phone alarm, only to find Hardin sprawled across her. This disorienting moment triggers a wave of panic as she reflects on their wild night together, flooding her with confusion and embarrassment. As she dresses, Tessa grapples with her emotions and confronts Hardin about the events that transpired.

Surprisingly, Hardin displays a rare vulnerability and offers an apology, leaving Tessa conflicted. Although she tries to maintain her resolve and insists their encounter was a mistake, the tension between them reveals that deep feelings still linger. Their exchange transitions from a dialogue about blame to an exploration of their fraught emotional history, filled with miscommunication and unacknowledged love.

In a bid to exude strength, Tessa attempts to mask her feelings, but when she admits to kissing someone else at a club, Hardin's fury erupts. This provokes an intense confrontation that highlights their complicated relationship. Just as Tessa hopes for clarity, Hardin delivers another shock: he too was involved with someone else. This revelation escalates their argument and amplifies the growing chasm between them.

The chapter artfully illustrates the tumultuous nature of their romance,



entwined with passion, regret, and unresolved issues. As they navigate their raw interactions, themes of vulnerability, trust, and the complexities of love are brought to the forefront, engaging readers in their unraveling journey. The chapter serves as a potent reminder of the challenges inherent in relationships shaped by emotional turbulence and the struggle to understand each other's desires.

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## Chapter 20: Tessa

### Summary of Chapter 20: Tessa's Turmoil and Choices

In Chapter 20, Tessa finds herself in a profound emotional struggle following a devastating confrontation with Hardin. The revelation of his continued involvement with Molly hangs heavily over her, creating a storm of rage and confusion that she cannot easily dismiss. Wrestling with her feelings, Tessa grapples with guilt over her own actions while simultaneously feeling victimized by Hardin's betrayal.

As she spends time with Trevor, a character whose genuine concern for her well-being provides a contrast to her tumultuous feelings about Hardin, Tessa strives to put on a brave face. Trevor's probing question about Hardin's potential for violence ignites Tessa's anger; she attempts to defend Hardin's character even as she confronts her own conflicting emotions about their relationship. Despite the turmoil, her growing friendship with Trevor offers a small refuge from her heartbreak, leading her to agree to dinner with him, a choice that further complicates her feelings.

Additionally, this chapter explores Tessa's strained relationship with her mother and the prospect of returning to her childhood home, which leaves her feeling trapped between her past and her current struggles. In a bid for



independence, she considers the possibility of staying in a motel during Hardin's absence, reflecting her desire to carve out a space for herself amid the chaos of her life.

Overall, this chapter poignantly illustrates Tessa's internal battle with feelings of betrayal, self-doubt, and her quest for solace as she navigates the tumultuous landscape of love and heartache. The blending of hope and despair underscores a theme of resilience, revealing Tessa's determination to redefine her identity in the wake of her complicated relationships.

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## Chapter 21 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 21 of "After We Collided," Hardin grapples with deep emotional turmoil as he confronts the fallout from his tumultuous relationship with Tessa. The chapter opens with Hardin arriving at his father's ostentatious home, which is overrun with elaborate Christmas decorations. Despite the festive backdrop, he is filled with dread and reluctance, particularly as he is burdened by financial worries and his concerns over Tessa, who is in Seattle.

Upon entering the house, Hardin has an awkward encounter with his stepbrother Landon. This interaction prompts Hardin to reveal the complexities of his feelings for Tessa. He confides in Landon about a recent trip to Seattle, where he impulsively sought to rekindle their connection. However, Hardin's attempt backfired when he inadvertently hurt Tessa by mentioning his past indiscretion of sleeping with another woman. This hurtful comment was a defense mechanism, masking his own pain over witnessing Tessa share a kiss with another man.

The conversation with Landon becomes a catalyst for Hardin's vulnerability. He struggles with feelings of betrayal and questions whether Tessa still holds love for him despite their fractured relationship. Landon, while skeptical of Hardin's commitment to mending things, agrees to reach out to Tessa on his behalf, emphasizing the significance of her upcoming birthday as a potential opportunity for reconciliation.



The chapter culminates in a poignant moment between Hardin and his father, who expresses happiness at Hardin's visit. Yet, this interaction leaves Hardin with a tangled mix of unresolved feelings. Throughout the chapter, themes of love, betrayal, and family dynamics are explored, highlighting Hardin's internal conflict and his desperate yearning to reconnect with Tessa. The emotional depth of Hardin's struggles underscores the complexity of relationships and the often-painful process of forgiveness and reconciliation.

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## Chapter 22 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 22, Tessa's journey through love and self-discovery unfolds as she shares a dinner with Trevor, a kind and thoughtful man who is becoming an integral part of her life. The evening is highlighted by a sumptuous meal of ravioli at an upscale restaurant, where their conversation deepens the connection between them. Trevor opens up about his experiences, sharing that he volunteers at a shelter during the holidays in honor of his late mother. This revelation resonates with Tessa, enhancing her admiration for him.

Their discussion shifts to their personal passions. Tessa expresses her fervent love for fiction, emphasizing its transformative power, a sentiment Trevor struggles to fully understand, as he leans more toward nonfiction. This divergence illustrates the differences in their perspectives, hinting at the complexity of their potential relationship.

As the night draws to a close, Trevor leans in for a kiss. Tessa hesitates, feeling unprepared for such intimacy, though Trevor respects her boundaries. They part ways with an underlying tension, leaving Tessa grappling with a whirlwind of emotions as she closes the door behind her.

The following day, Tessa spends time with Kimberly, a new friend who brings a refreshing dynamic to her life. While shopping and sharing gossip,

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Kimberly opens up about her relationship with her boyfriend Christian, and Tessa relishes having a female confidante for the first time. Despite this newfound friendship, Tessa remains conflicted about her feelings for Hardin, a complicated figure from her past.

Her internal strife is compounded when she returns to her motel and discovers a surprise from Hardin: an e-reader accompanied by a note wishing her a "Happy Birthday." Initially resistant to embracing digital books, Tessa feels a wave of nostalgia wash over her as she explores the device, which holds a collection of titles significant to their shared experiences. This gesture symbolizes the enduring bond between Tessa and Hardin, despite their tumultuous relationship.

In summary, Chapter 22 expertly captures Tessa's internal conflict as she navigates her relationship with Trevor and her lingering feelings for Hardin. Themes of friendship, love, and personal growth interweave throughout, reflecting the complexity of Tessa's emotional landscape.

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# Chapter 23 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 23 Summary

Tessa wakes up on her birthday feeling both troubled and reflective. After an unusually long sleep, she finds herself alone in her apartment, surrounded by presents and takeout. Her mind is preoccupied with conflicting emotions about Hardin, who has deeply hurt her by being unfaithful with Molly. Despite receiving a thoughtful gift from Hardin in the form of a new e-reader, Tessa grapples with reconciling her enduring love for him with the pain he has caused.

Throughout the day, Tessa reflects on her relationship, torn between Hardin's complex and often tumultuous nature and her growing friendship with Trevor. Trevor embodies a safer and more stable option, making Tessa question what she truly wants. The arrival of her friend Landon, who provides support and warmth, adds another layer to her contemplation. Landon reveals that Hardin, in a rare moment of vulnerability, sought his advice on how to win Tessa back, affirming that he genuinely loves her. This insight plunges Tessa deeper into turmoil, as she contemplates whether to forgive Hardin or to let go and move on.

Deciding to return to the apartment she once shared with Hardin, Tessa feels

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a mix of guilt and determination. Upon arrival, she is surprised to find the place tidy, suggesting that Hardin may have recently been there. Just as she begins to settle back in, Hardin's mother unexpectedly arrives, catching Tessa completely off guard. This encounter introduces a new layer of complexity to Tessa's emotional landscape, as she must now navigate not only her feelings for Hardin but also the imminent confrontation with his mother, who remains unaware of the turmoil surrounding Tessa's situation.

Key elements of the chapter include Tessa's introspective birthday, her internal struggle between Hardin and Trevor, Landon's revelation about Hardin's feelings, and the dramatic and unexpected arrival of Hardin's mother. The chapter encapsulates themes of love, heartbreak, vulnerability, and the intricate nature of relationships, placing Tessa at a pivotal crossroads in her life.

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## Chapter 24: Tessa

In Chapter 24, we witness a pivotal moment as Tessa meets Hardin's mother, Trish, for the first time. Hardin is visibly anxious about this introduction, aware of the complexities surrounding his relationship with Tessa, especially given their tumultuous past. The encounter starts off with a heartfelt yet somewhat awkward greeting from Trish, setting an emotional backdrop for the day.

Following their introduction, Tessa and Hardin retreat to a private space where they candidly discuss the status of their relationship. Hardin reveals his struggle to tell his mother that he and Tessa are not together anymore, expressing a desire to protect her from the painful truth and maintain her happiness. Despite feeling hurt by the situation, Tessa agrees to allow Hardin to keep this information from Trish for the time being, motivated by her own concerns for Trish's feelings. This moment reflects a significant bond between Tessa and Hardin, as they navigate their shared discomfort while acknowledging their unresolved feelings for each other.

Upon returning to the kitchen, Tessa finds herself the center of Trish's attention, receiving an outpouring of compliments that make her feel valued. This is a significant change from her previous interactions with Hardin, where appreciation felt scarce. As the three engage in conversation, Tessa grapples with a mix of sadness and longing for the relationship she and



Hardin once shared, indicating a struggle to suppress her anger and past grievances.

As Tessa prepares to leave for her mother's house, Trish's heartfelt request for her to stay at least one night lingers in Tessa's mind. Touched by the

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## Chapter 25 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 25 of "After We Collided," the narrative unfolds in a cozy living room setting where Tessa finds herself in an emotionally charged situation with Hardin and his mother, Trish. Eager to cultivate a familial bond, Trish suggests a movie night coupled with dinner. However, Hardin's dismissive attitude underlines the tension, leaving Tessa feeling out of place and torn between her feelings for him and the aftermath of his past hurtful behavior.

As they engage in preparing dinner, Tessa strives to maintain a cordial atmosphere. The act of cooking brings forth moments of connection, revealing the undeniable chemistry they share, yet the silence between them is thick with unspoken words, reflective of their unresolved issues. Tessa wrestles with her emotions, indicating that their ongoing pretense of normalcy can't mask the pain inflicted by Hardin's actions.

The dinner scene escalates into chaos when Hardin's impulsive behavior disrupts the evening. Tessa is left to manage the fallout alone, a metaphor for how their relationship often burdens her with emotional labor. Seeking solace, Tessa retreats to the bedroom to fetch her pajamas, only to find Hardin in a rare moment of vulnerability, quietly crying. This profound interaction lays bare the depth of Hardin's emotional struggles and the torment he experiences due to the distance in their relationship.



Their heartfelt conversation reveals an acknowledgment of pain on both sides, highlighting Tessa's reluctance to walk away despite the chaos. The chapter concludes with Tessa choosing to stay the night, hinting at a flicker of hope for their future. The intertwined themes of love and hurt, vulnerability, and the relentless struggle for reconnection are poignantly showcased, suggesting that amidst their emotional turmoil, there remains a possibility for healing and understanding.

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## Chapter 26 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 26 of "After We Collided," Tessa reflects on her complicated relationship with Hardin as they lie together, enveloped in a comforter. The chapter opens with Tessa grappling with the vulnerability Hardin recently displayed, which challenges her perception of their relationship. She questions whether their love, marked by constant struggle, is truly sustainable or if her life would be better without him. This internal conflict illustrates the theme of love's complexity, where affection is intertwined with pain.

The tension escalates when Hardin seeks reassurance about a kiss Tessa shared with someone else, prompted by anger and alcohol during their recent separation. This revelation sparks a heated confrontation centered around trust and jealousy. Hardin's reaction reveals his deep-seated insecurities and possessiveness, emotions that add intensity to their already fraught dynamic.

Tessa, feeling the weight of Hardin's emotional turmoil, struggles to navigate both his feelings and her own. She consciously omits details about a date with Trevor, a character who represents stability and normalcy in her life, understanding that sharing this would only exacerbate Hardin's distress. As their conversation unfolds, Tessa comes to terms with the duality of their love—a source of comfort yet also a source of chaos—and yearns for a sense of stability amidst their turbulent emotions.



This chapter delves into the themes of trust and emotional balance in relationships, illustrating the difficulty of understanding one another while internal battles rage on. Tessa and Hardin's relationship is a poignant exploration of the push-and-pull dynamic, leaving readers with a deep sense of their emotional struggles and a longing for resolution.

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## Chapter 27 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 26, Hardin confronts a whirlwind of emotions upon returning home from the airport. He's been in a state of internal conflict, feeling both tormented and oddly comforted by the chaos that has enveloped his life. He had tried to mask his real feelings by pretending that Tessa was away for the holidays. However, his facade crumbles when he unexpectedly finds her at home, stirring up old feelings he thought he could hide.

In his attempt to move on, Hardin goes on a date with another girl. Yet, he quickly realizes the futility of this diversion; she lacks the passion and intensity that defines his connection with Tessa. Feeling guilty for nearly kissing this new girl, he abruptly ends the date, a decision that underscores his inability to escape the bond he shares with Tessa.

The narrative then shifts back to his apartment, where Tessa lies sleeping, and hints of her presence fill the space—her clothes, her belongings, and the meticulously maintained home evoke memories of their time together. This sight offers Hardin a flicker of hope, but he also recognizes the importance of giving Tessa the space she needs after their tumultuous past.

As he grapples with his overwhelming feelings, Hardin takes a moment to reflect on the floor, contemplating his love for Tessa and the complexities that have driven a wedge between them. Themes of love, regret, and the



longing for redemption permeate the chapter, exposing Hardin's vulnerability and his desire for a genuine connection. It becomes evident that his journey toward emotional maturity is just beginning, setting the stage for the challenges he must face in order to mend their fractured relationship.

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# Chapter 28: Tessa

## Chapter 28 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa wakes up in Hardin's apartment, feeling dislocated after a week spent in hotels. As she prepares to leave, she overhears a candid conversation between Hardin and his mother, Trish. Hardin opens up about his insecurities regarding his looks and his relationship with Tessa, revealing a vulnerable side of his character that has often been masked by bravado and hostility. Trish, who has always been a supportive figure for Hardin, expresses her contentment at seeing him more at ease, particularly in Tessa's presence. This deeply affects Tessa, stirring feelings of guilt about leaving so abruptly.

After packing her bags, Tessa encounters Trish, who gives her a heartfelt embrace and expresses hope that their relationship can endure. This moment weighs heavily on Tessa as she departs, intensifying her internal struggle about her tumultuous relationship with Hardin.

During her drive home, Tessa reflects on the rollercoaster nature of her relationship with Hardin, evaluating the joys and sorrows intertwined in their bond. Despite the pain Hardin has inflicted, she cannot deny her strong feelings for him, complicating her decision about whether to continue

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pursuing their relationship.

Upon arriving at her mother's house, Tessa is met with her mother's critical demeanor and a startling revelation: her estranged father is moving back to town. This news adds to her frustration and sense of overwhelm, especially

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## Chapter 29 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 29, Hardin and Tessa experience a poignant moment of connection following a distressing encounter for Tessa. As she rushes into Hardin's arms, it becomes clear that despite the emotional distance between them, she seeks his comfort during this vulnerable time. Tessa is visibly shaken after a difficult conversation with her mother concerning her estranged father, who has unexpectedly resurfaced in her life.

Upon returning to their apartment, Hardin instinctively tends to Tessa, wrapping a scarf around her to shield her from the physical chill and the emotional upheaval she is experiencing. Concerned for her well-being, he encourages her to share what has transpired. Tessa reveals her father's return, a revelation that deeply unsettles Hardin, given the painful history Tessa has with him. This news stirs up memories of Tessa's troubled childhood, filled with abandonment and hurt.

Despite her mother's warnings that her father will not approach her, Tessa expresses a desire to make her own choices regarding their potential reunion. Torn between anger and confusion, she struggles with the idea of having autonomy while being haunted by her father's past actions. While Hardin listens compassionately, suggesting that her father might have changed, he remains skeptical himself, reflecting the complexities of their situation.



As they navigate this conversation, Tessa finds solace in Hardin's presence, wiping her tears on his shirt—a silent acknowledgment of her trust in him. This intimate gesture highlights the deepening bond between them. However, as Tessa contemplates the possibility of returning to campus, Hardin is left with a sense of apprehension about losing her again.

Through themes of love, support, and the intricate dynamics of family, this chapter underscores the importance of communication and the struggle for independence as Tessa faces the shadows of her past. It illustrates how such challenges can both strengthen relationships and provoke fears of loss, all while emphasizing the healing potential within supportive connections.

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## Chapter 30 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 30, Tessa engages in introspection about her tumultuous relationship with Hardin, finding solace in her feelings for him despite their chaotic history. As she cleans off her makeup, Tessa's gratitude for their reconciliation grows, particularly as she reflects on Hardin's previous emotional breakdown, which has left her yearning for greater honesty in their communication.

Hardin's return from shopping with his mother, Trish, brings reassurance and warmth as he expresses how much he values Tessa's presence. This interaction heightens her affection for him, yet she struggles with insecurities regarding her role as a potential source of drama during Trish's visit. Seeking distraction, Tessa decides to prepare dinner, hoping to quell her feelings of isolation.

The atmosphere lightens when Hardin and Trish share stories from their outing, injecting a moment of joy that allows Tessa to relax a bit. Trish's playful suggestion of getting a Christmas tree symbolizes a hopeful future for Tessa and Hardin, while simultaneously stirring her anxieties about their relationship's stability.

However, the mood takes a somber turn as Tessa notices Hardin's discomfort during the evening. When he suffers from a nightmare, she



rushes to comfort him, showcasing her deep care for his well-being. In a vulnerable moment, Hardin pleads with her not to leave, emphasizing the strength of their connection amidst the difficulties they face.

This chapter deftly explores themes of love, vulnerability, and the challenges of healing, illustrating the delicate balance Tessa and Hardin must maintain as they work toward a deeper understanding of one another amid their shared struggles.

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## Chapter 31 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 31, Tessa awakens to find Hardin peacefully asleep on her, which fills her with a blend of comfort and confusion as their intimacy evolves. However, her tranquility is short-lived when Hardin abruptly leaves for “work,” leaving her troubled by the mystery of his departure after their shared moment of closeness.

As the morning progresses, Tessa has an enlightening conversation with Hardin’s mother, Trish. Trish expresses relief at Hardin's well-being and gently reveals his struggles with nightmares linked to a traumatic past. This revelation sheds light on Hardin's difficulties with vulnerability and emotional expression, prompting Trish to encourage Tessa to practice patience with him. While Tessa gains valuable insight into Hardin's internal battles, it also stirs unresolved feelings about the trust and forgiveness regarding his past deceptions.

After a bonding day of shopping and haircuts with Trish, Tessa returns home to find Hardin in a foul mood. Tensions escalate as they confront Hardin's unexplained absence. Their dialogue is laced with misunderstandings; Hardin mistakes Tessa's care for pity, while Tessa seeks to express her desire to move forward together.

Just as their interaction seems to push them apart, a playful exchange arises,

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revealing their chemistry and shared connection. The chapter concludes on a hopeful note, as laughter disarms the earlier tension, suggesting that despite their challenges, a path to healing and understanding may still exist between them.

### **Key Themes and Events:**

- **Intimacy and Vulnerability:** The chapter illustrates the contrast between physical closeness and emotional distance, emphasizing the complexities entwined in Tessa and Hardin's relationship.
- **Communication and Misunderstanding:** Conflict arises from a lack of clear communication, yet playful banter offers a potential avenue for reconciliation.
- **Understanding Trauma:** Trish's insights into Hardin's past provide a compassionate frame through which Tessa can better understand his actions, highlighting the necessity of empathy in love.
- **Growth and Forgiveness:** Tessa grapples with the themes of forgiveness and personal growth, questioning whether Hardin can change and if she can move past his previous lies.



Chapter 31 encapsulates a pivotal moment in their relationship, revealing the potential for growth and deeper comprehension of each other's struggles.

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## Chapter 32: Tessa

In Chapter 32, Tessa receives a heartfelt invitation from Landon to join his family for Christmas, prompting a wave of warmth as he fondly mentions his mother's cooking. Excited yet apprehensive, Tessa agrees to bring dessert but hesitates about whether to invite Hardin due to the tension lingering between them. Complicating matters, Landon's family also wishes to invite Hardin and his mother, which further complicates Tessa's feelings given the tumultuous nature of her relationship with Hardin.

As Tessa contemplates the invitation, she is inspired to shop for gifts and decides a trip to the mall is necessary. In a surprising shift, Hardin offers to accompany her, marking a change in their dynamic as they engage in playful banter and flirtation, suggesting a thawing in their once-fractured relationship. This outing becomes pivotal, symbolizing their attempt to navigate and mend their connection despite underlying issues.

While at the mall, Tessa picks out thoughtful gifts—such as cake pans for Landon's mom—and the two share a light-hearted moment over pizza, a stark contrast to the complexities they face. However, their pleasant outing is disrupted when they encounter Steph and her boyfriend, Tristan. The meeting becomes uncomfortable as Steph tries to apologize for past transgressions that deeply hurt Tessa, particularly her failure to disclose Hardin's troubled history. In an earnest attempt at reconciliation, Steph



expresses her desire to reconnect, leaving Tessa torn between her unresolved feelings towards Hardin and the implications of rekindling her friendship with Steph.

This confrontation brings forth themes of friendship, betrayal, and the difficulty of forgiveness. Tessa is left reflecting on her broken relationships and the delicate balancing act of moving forward with Hardin, while navigating the complicated emotions associated with her past friendships. Chapter 32 serves as a significant turning point, emphasizing Tessa's determination to embrace change even as she grapples with the complexities of love, betrayal, and personal growth.

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## Chapter 33 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 33, Tessa and Hardin face the aftermath of their turbulent relationship, particularly in light of Hardin's troubling past and his complicated feelings for another character, Molly. Following a fraught encounter with Steph, who urges Tessa to reconsider her stance towards Hardin, Tessa is plunged into emotional turmoil, which she prepares to address directly with Hardin. A sense of relief washes over her when she discovers that Hardin has not been unfaithful with Molly during her absence; however, guilt lingers from her own impulsive decisions at a club.

The chapter shifts to a more lighthearted moment as Tessa and Hardin go Christmas shopping, where their playful banter signals a tentative reconciliation. Nonetheless, the weight of their unresolved issues casts a shadow over their day. Tessa is increasingly aware of Hardin's struggles with vulnerability and openness, which adds urgency to her desire for a candid discussion about their relationship.

Once back at the apartment, Tessa prepares for this important conversation, her thoughts complicated by the presence of Hardin's mother, Trish. As they jointly decorate a Christmas tree, a symbol of domestic comfort, Tessa finds herself reflecting on the broader uncertainties that loom over her relationship with Hardin.



When the moment finally arrives for them to communicate, a series of confrontations lead to impactful revelations. Hardin acknowledges his wrongdoings, admitting that jealousy over Tessa's friendships pushed him towards reckless behavior. Tessa articulates her pain, emphasizing her need for transparency and connection. As they navigate these emotional waters, both characters come to a bittersweet realization: despite the obstacles, their time together has been invaluable, highlighting the complexities of love, the importance of forgiveness, and the essential role of honest communication in their bond.

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## Chapter 34 Summary: Hardin

### Summary of Chapter 34 of "After We Collided"

In this emotionally charged chapter, Hardin reveals his deep feelings for Tessa, striving to be open and vulnerable with her. Acknowledging the pain he has caused, he is desperate to heal their fractured relationship. Tessa, still grappling with her emotions after their tumultuous history, is torn between her love for Hardin and the fear of getting hurt again.

Their conversation is raw and heartfelt, punctuated by tears and longing. Tessa admits her love for Hardin but also expresses her exhaustion from repressing her emotions. They both recognize that their relationship is a rollercoaster of intense joy and pain. In a moment of sincerity, Hardin pledges to do whatever it takes to prove his commitment to Tessa and to earn back her trust, prioritizing her happiness above all else.

As they navigate their fears and hopes, Tessa finally agrees to give Hardin another chance, albeit with the condition of taking things slowly. This pivotal moment signifies a shift in their dynamic; although their love remains alive, it is now shaded with caution and optimism.

Their reunion culminates in a tender kiss, symbolizing a fragile yet hopeful

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step forward in their complicated relationship. The chapter concludes with a sense of anticipation, emphasizing that while Hardin and Tessa's journey is laden with challenges, their bond is deeply resilient, hinting at the potential for growth and healing in the future.

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## Chapter 35 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 35, Tessa and Hardin engage in a heartfelt moment as they navigate the complexities of their renewed relationship. Tessa feels an unmistakable pull towards Hardin, recognizing that he has become an integral part of her life despite the obstacles they encounter. Their chemistry is evident through a passionate kiss, and they openly discuss their desire to rebuild their connection. This time, they aim for a more honest and uncomplicated version of their past.

Tessa grapples with the implications of her choices, particularly concerning her family's reactions. Her mother's expectations weigh heavily on her as she prioritizes her relationship with Hardin over traditional obligations. Hardin reassures Tessa, promising to mend his ways and strengthen their bond. However, Tessa's anxiety about not having a Christmas gift for Hardin highlights her commitment to their relationship and her insecurities surrounding his feelings for her.

The chapter transitions into a family setting as they prepare for a movie night with Hardin's mother, Trish. Here, themes of family and forgiveness emerge prominently. Tessa and Trish form a connection through baking, which leads to deeper discussions about Hardin's tumultuous relationship with his estranged father. Trish, embodying a nurturing spirit, encourages Hardin to release past resentments and seek reconciliation.

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Trish also shares that she is dating someone, injecting a lighter tone into the narrative and prompting Hardin to consider the importance of pursuing happiness. The movie night serves as a comforting backdrop for Tessa and Hardin, where Tessa's emotional reaction to the film allows Hardin to show his tenderness and support, further deepening their physical and emotional closeness. Their playful exchanges and shared laughter encapsulate a newfound sense of belonging and recovery, fostering optimism for their future together.

### **Key Themes:**

1. **Forgiveness and Healing:** The chapter underscores the importance of letting go of grudges and embracing personal and relational growth.
2. **Family Dynamics:** Tessa, Hardin, and Trish's interactions illustrate the intricate nature of familial love and the support systems that shape their lives.
3. **Love and Vulnerability:** The emotional layers of Tessa and Hardin's bond are explored through their vulnerabilities, emphasizing the challenges they face in achieving intimacy while dealing with personal struggles.

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## Chapter 36: Hardin

### Summary of Chapter 36: After We Collided

In this pivotal chapter, the emotional landscape between Hardin and Tessa unfolds to reveal their deepening connection after a tearful movie outing. Tessa, expressing her desire for personal growth and improvement in their relationship, showcases a vulnerability that captivates Hardin. Her willingness to embrace her emotions draws him closer, signaling a potential turning point in their tumultuous romance.

The chapter takes an intimate turn when Tessa emerges from the closet dressed only in shorts and a lace bra. This moment intensifies their flirtation, leading Hardin to suggest she wear one of his shirts, a symbolic gesture that speaks to their evolving closeness. Tessa responds warmly, appreciating the quality time they share and finding solace in the strength of their bond, despite the painful history they carry.

As they lie together, the tension between them heightens, enriched by their growing feelings. Hardin is consumed by thoughts of making love to Tessa but is conscious of her comfort and the mistakes from their past that linger in the air. When Tessa reciprocates his unspoken desires, they find themselves immersed in a passionate moment, exploring each other's bodies and

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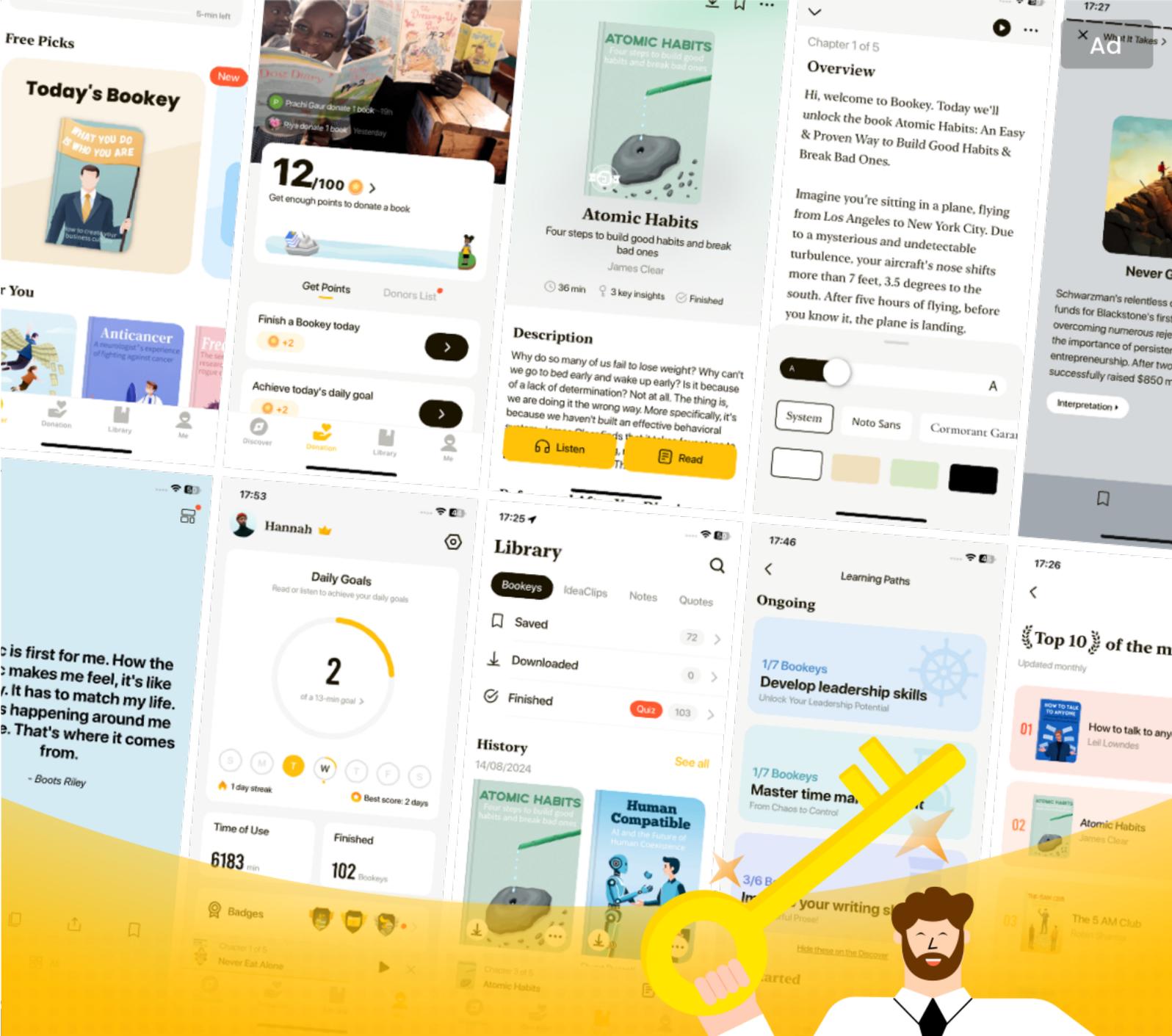
emotions with a balance of tenderness and urgency.

In a deliberate act of intimacy, Hardin chooses to go slow, emphasizing his longing for a deeper emotional connection beyond the physical. This approach reflects their need for healing as they navigate their complicated

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# Chapter 37 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 37 Summary

Tessa starts her morning in a cozy and intimate moment, finding Hardin asleep on her stomach, a symbol of their growing closeness. However, this tranquility is abruptly disrupted by a phone call from her mother, which leads to a tense discussion. Tessa's mother expresses disappointment over Tessa spending Christmas alone instead of with her, a conversation that brings to light Tessa's struggle for independence and the strain in her relationship with her mother. This complexity is intensified when her mother learns that Hardin is present, prompting feelings of guilt in Tessa but also reinforcing her determination to stand by her choices.

Amid these tensions, Hardin remains surprisingly unfazed, illustrating the differences in their personalities as they engage in playful banter. This light-hearted exchange reveals a more genuine side of Tessa that contrasts sharply with her previous relationship with Noah, highlighting her emotional growth and deeper connection with Hardin.

As the day progresses, Tessa and Hardin join his mother, Trish, for breakfast. Trish's warmth and hospitality further emphasize the newfound sense of family and belonging Tessa is experiencing. However, the

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atmosphere shifts when Trish suggests a visit to Hardin's estranged father, an idea that visibly unsettles Hardin. Despite his reservations, Tessa decides to support Hardin by agreeing to the plan, setting the stage for potential family reconciliation and highlighting the challenges of navigating complex familial relationships.

The mood lightens again as Tessa and Hardin exchange Christmas gifts with Trish. This moment of gift-giving symbolizes their deepening bond. Tessa receives heartfelt presents, including a charm bracelet that connects her to Hardin through a meaningful quote, reflecting the maturity of their relationship.

Through its exploration of family dynamics, personal growth, and the intricacies of love, this chapter showcases Tessa's evolution. She emerges more confident in her identity and her feelings for Hardin. The chapter closes on an emotional note, underscoring the significance of relationships and the support they can offer amidst life's challenges.

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## Chapter 38 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 38 of "After We Collided," Tessa finds herself in the midst of a tumultuous holiday gathering that reveals not only the depths of her relationship with Hardin but also the complexities of familial ties. A significant moment occurs when Hardin presents Tessa with a beautifully crafted bracelet, engraved with a meaningful quote that symbolizes their strong bond. Filled with gratitude and joy, Tessa reflects on how refreshing it is to receive such a thoughtful gift, contrasting sharply with her previous, more superficial relationships.

However, the celebration quickly takes a turn for the worse when Tessa's estranged mother arrives, ready to confront both her daughter and Hardin. The animosity stems from past tensions between Tessa and her mother, which erupt as her mother unleashes a barrage of criticism aimed at Hardin. Remarkably, Tessa stands firm against her mother's accusations, defending Hardin passionately and demonstrating her growing independence.

The situation escalates further when Tessa's mother reveals shocking accusations against Hardin, exposing secrets that unsettle everyone present. Trish, Hardin's supportive mother, steps in to defend her son, complicating the confrontation and creating a battleground of conflicting loyalties. The ensuing conflict pits the two mothers against each other in a heated exchange, where deeply hurtful words are exchanged, laying bare the painful



realities of their pasts.

As the chapter unfolds, Tessa grapples with her feelings of love for Hardin and her loyalty to her family, feeling increasingly caught in the crossfire of their disputes. This intense chapter exemplifies key themes such as love, misunderstanding, and the quest for personal autonomy, as Tessa strives to make her own choices amidst the chaotic pressures of her family dynamics. The defining moment leaves all characters at a crossroads, highlighting the impact of their choices and setting the stage for further emotional conflict and growth in the story.

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## Chapter 39 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 39 of "After We Collided," Tessa faces a tumultuous confrontation that forces her to confront deep-seated loyalties and hard truths. The chapter begins with an intense argument between Tessa's mother and Hardin, her tumultuous boyfriend, in which her mother accuses Hardin of having previously harmed Tessa emotionally. This accusation is particularly heavy, as Tessa has only recently begun to reconcile and forgive Hardin for their past conflicts.

Trish, Hardin's mother, supports Tessa's mother in this tense exchange, amplifying the emotional stakes. Tessa finds herself torn between her burgeoning feelings for Hardin and the accusations leveled against him, which stir doubts about their relationship. Hardin's defensive reactions reflect his care for Tessa, yet they also expose his anger and frustration, creating a charged atmosphere filled with conflicting emotions.

As the confrontation escalates, Tessa finds her voice. She boldly steps behind Hardin, a gesture that signifies her loyalty and support, shocking both her mother and Trish. This act is a pivotal moment for Tessa, as she asserts her independence and rejects her mother's controlling influence over her life. In a compelling outburst, she confronts her mother, accusing her of being the source of their familial problems and of manipulating her into unwelcome relationships.

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Hardin's instinct to protect Tessa shines through as he physically intervenes during her emotional outpouring, particularly when Tessa expresses her resentment toward her mother. This moment serves as both a struggle for liberation and a painful confrontation of familial ties, illustrating Tessa's determination to carve her own path apart from her mother's expectations.

Overall, this chapter encapsulates themes of empowerment and self-discovery for Tessa. Her journey now encompasses not only the complexities of her relationship with Hardin but also her quest to reclaim her autonomy and voice. As readers delve into this emotionally charged narrative, they are left wondering how Tessa will balance her newfound assertiveness with her feelings for Hardin, setting the stage for further character development and plot progression.

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# Chapter 40: Hardin

## Summary of Chapter 39

In this emotionally charged chapter, Hardin navigates the turbulent dynamics between Tessa and her mother, who confronts them during a family dispute. Tessa, overwhelmed by anger and confusion, lashes out, while Hardin remains steadfast, prioritizing her safety amidst the chaos. He feels profound guilt for the pain he has inadvertently caused Tessa, yet his love drives him to protect their relationship at all costs.

As Tessa grapples with her emotions, Hardin reassures her, asserting his commitment to manage the escalating conflict with her mother. When he confronts Tessa's mom, he firmly orders her to leave, insisting that Tessa needs space to regain her calm. The mother retaliates with fierce accusations, blaming Hardin for manipulating Tessa's feelings. Undeterred, Hardin's possessive nature shines through as he stands his ground, asserting that Tessa belongs with him.

The confrontation escalates when Hardin provocatively hints at their intimate relationship, provoking a furious response from Tessa's mother. In a moment of escalating tension, she attempts to slap Hardin, but he deftly averts the blow, further underscoring his protective instincts. Upon returning



to their apartment, Hardin slams the door behind him, embodying the conflict's intensity and his determination to shield Tessa from external threats.

This chapter highlights the complexities of love, as Hardin's fierce loyalty and determination to protect Tessa clash with the imposing influence of parental expectations. It emphasizes the battle between devotion and external pressures, illustrating Hardin's commitment to fighting for their bond, even amidst significant challenges.

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# Chapter 41 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 41 Summary:

In this pivotal chapter, the strain in Hardin and Tessa's relationship is laid bare following a confrontation between Hardin and his mother. The chapter opens with Hardin finding Tessa in the living room, visibly distressed, setting the stage for a deeply emotional and revealing conversation. Hardin's mother, grappling with her own issues and concerned for Tessa's well-being, questions Hardin's suitability as a partner, highlighting the scars from her past relationships and her protective instincts.

In an earnest moment, Hardin passionately defends his love for Tessa. He articulates how she has fundamentally changed him, instilling hope and inspiring him to strive for a better version of himself. His vulnerability shines through as he confesses his fears of being alone without her, insisting that she is his singular chance at true happiness. This moment of honesty showcases the depth of his feelings and his willingness to confront any consequences that arise from their love.

As their conversation deepens, Tessa arrives, her own emotional turmoil evident. Recognizing the gravity of the exchange, Hardin's mother steps away, allowing them the space to connect. Tessa seeks reassurance regarding

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Hardin's declarations of love, and he responds with genuine sincerity, attempting to bridge the emotional gap between them.

This chapter explores the intricate themes of love, redemption, and the quest for acceptance. It highlights Hardin's ongoing struggle with self-worth and his intense need for emotional connection. The vulnerability and passion exhibited by both characters set the stage for an impending revelation—secrets from Hardin's past that could either solidify their bond or jeopardize their already fragile relationship, leaving readers anxiously awaiting the truth behind Hardin's actions.

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## Chapter 42 Summary: Tessa

### Summary of Chapter 42 - After We Collided

In this gripping chapter, Tessa faces Hardin with a mix of anger and heartbreak, delving into his haunting past and the consequences of his actions. She discovers that Hardin once participated in a cruel game with friends, where the goal was to seduce girls for sport, a revelation that shakes Tessa to her core. Among the tragic stories, Tessa learns about Natalie, a girl Hardin recorded during a private encounter without her consent. This violation led to devastating repercussions for Natalie, who lost her scholarship and alienated her family once the video circulated through their community.

As Tessa grapples with the magnitude of Hardin's betrayal, she struggles to reconcile her deep feelings for him with the horror of his past. The weight of his actions amplifies her insecurities about their relationship. In a tense dialogue, Tessa demands to know how many others have suffered at Hardin's hands, and he reluctantly admits his involvement in another incident concerning Dan's sister, intensifying Tessa's emotional turmoil.

The conversation spirals into a confrontation filled with accusations and pleas for understanding as Hardin insists that he has changed and genuinely

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loves Tessa. However, her trust hangs by a thread as she confronts the man Hardin used to be versus the man she hopes he can become.

Feeling emotionally drained, Tessa asserts her need for space to sort through her feelings, urging Hardin to leave despite still caring for him. As he steps out, their love hangs in the balance, leaving Tessa to navigate her complex emotions alone.

This chapter dives deep into themes of trust, betrayal, and the hope of redemption, showcasing the tumultuous journey of a love fraught with pain as Tessa grapples with Hardin's troubling past and its effects on their future together.

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## Chapter 43 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 43, Tessa is engulfed in emotional turmoil after discovering more about Hardin's troubled past, particularly his involvement with a girl named Natalie. This revelation stirs a mix of sorrow for Natalie and an unsettling envy, as Tessa feels an inexplicable connection between their lives due to Hardin. Although she acknowledges Hardin's flaws and past mistakes, Tessa grapples with her deep feelings for him, reflecting on the rollercoaster nature of their relationship. She questions her ability to endure further heartache, yet simultaneously feels a compelling desire to support Hardin, believing he may be evolving for the better.

Haunted by Hardin's heartfelt declaration that she could be his sole chance for happiness, Tessa toys with the implications of staying in a relationship shadowed by Hardin's past misdeeds. Despite her fears, she finds it challenging to envision a life without him, highlighting her internal struggle between loyalty, love, and the looming threat of heartbreak. Ultimately, Tessa resolves to give their tumultuous relationship another chance.

In this chapter, Trish, Hardin's mother, plays a pivotal role by entering the scene and voicing her concern for Tessa. Their candid conversation allows Tessa to express her thoughts on Hardin's actions and her determination to confront the complexities of his history. This exchange brings Tessa a sense of comfort, solidifying her decision to address their relationship head-on.



As the chapter progresses, Hardin returns, presenting Tessa with a folded piece of paper, suggesting a moment of vulnerability and openness is imminent. This sets the stage for an important dialogue between them. Throughout the chapter, overarching themes of love, forgiveness, and the challenging journey of personal growth within difficult relationships resonate, emphasizing the complexities of love and the risks involved in staying together amidst adversity.

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## Chapter 44: Tessa

### Summary of Chapter 44: After We Collided

In this emotionally intense chapter, Tessa stumbles upon a handwritten letter from Hardin that reveals his troubled past and the burdens he carries. In the letter, Hardin candidly shares his experiences, from childhood transgressions like stealing and lying to his deeper failures in relationships, particularly the hurt he caused Natalie. He expresses his profound affection for Tessa, asserting that she is the only person who truly matters to him.

As Tessa reads Hardin's letter, she is initially struck by the weight of his revelations. However, she comes to understand that he is actively seeking to change and grow. His vulnerability and honesty resonate with her, stirring complex emotions within her—admiration for his courage and empathy for his struggles. Tessa reflects on his willingness to confront his past, recognizing it as a testament to his character today.

When Hardin arrives to see her, his anxiety is palpable as he braces for her reaction. However, rather than responding with anger or disillusionment, Tessa reassures him that his past does not solely define him; it is his actions and intentions in the present that matter most. She highlights that his efforts to confront his history and articulate his feelings signify significant personal



growth.

The chapter reaches an emotional pinnacle as Tessa confesses her love for Hardin, further solidifying their bond. This pivotal moment underscores one of the narrative's central themes: the intricate dynamics of love, forgiveness, and the potential for redemption. Tessa's compassionate acceptance of Hardin, despite his flaws, paves the way for a hopeful and renewed connection between them, suggesting that their relationship may be able to thrive in light of the challenges they face together.

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## Chapter 45 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 45 of "After We Collided," Tessa and Hardin find themselves at a pivotal moment in their tumultuous relationship, filled with both joy and uncertainty. Tessa experiences a newfound sense of freedom now that she has uncovered Hardin's past, allowing her to fully embrace their relationship without the burden of hidden secrets. This openness marks a significant shift in their dynamic, as evidenced by Tessa affectionately calling Hardin "babe" for the first time.

As they engage in a heartfelt conversation, the chapter focuses on character development, revealing Hardin's vulnerability. He grapples with insecurities arising from their complicated history, yet Tessa chooses to emphasize their love over his past mistakes. Their playful banter demonstrates a growing closeness, with light-hearted teasing about romance, even as Hardin humorously downplays its importance.

The mood shifts as they confront the challenges they've encountered, particularly the disapproval Tessa has faced from her mother regarding Hardin. They acknowledge their relationship's ups and downs but express a desire to move forward without any secrets or fears of abandonment. This mutual understanding signifies a commitment to change and growth, setting the stage for a stronger bond.

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The chapter culminates in a passionate kiss that encapsulates the intensity of their feelings, highlighting the couple's deep connection. As they lie together, Tessa prepares for Christmas with a sense of hope for a brighter future, comforted by Hardin's presence. Throughout this chapter, themes of love, reconciliation, and the quest for emotional stability are woven together, illustrating how Tessa and Hardin navigate the complexities of their relationship with newfound clarity and affection.

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# Chapter 46 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 46 Summary

In this chapter, Hardin awakens to Tessa's gentle urging to rise for Christmas preparations. Initially hesitant, he soon finds joy in their playful exchange, highlighting the deepening bond between them. Reflecting on the transformative impact Tessa has had on his life, Hardin realizes that Christmas now holds new meaning. Tessa's excitement, coupled with his mother's presence, breathes fresh life into the holiday, altering the previously mundane atmosphere.

As Hardin heads to the kitchen, he encounters his mother, who sincerely apologizes for her past remarks about Tessa. Acknowledging her worries, Hardin firmly asserts that Tessa is meant to be with him, demonstrating the strength of their connection. The conversation they share reveals both individuals' regrets over previous words and actions. For Hardin, this moment is particularly significant; he rarely allows himself to be vulnerable or admit to his mistakes.

The emotional weight of their exchange culminates when Hardin tells his mother he loves her—a phrase he has not uttered in many years. This heartfelt declaration brings tears to her eyes, illuminating the complex yet

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loving nature of their relationship. Their ensuing embrace symbolizes a crucial step toward healing and understanding, illustrating Hardin's growth and his willingness to face his past traumas.

Overall, this chapter weaves together themes of family, love, forgiveness, and personal growth. Hardin's transformation into a better man is underscored through his interactions with Tessa and his mother, making this Christmas a pivotal moment of change in his life. The warmth of the holiday serves as a backdrop for his evolving identity and relationships, emphasizing his journey toward emotional maturity.

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## Chapter 47 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 47 of "After We Collided," Tessa is gearing up for a Christmas gathering with Hardin and his family, feeling a mix of excitement and apprehension about how the day will unfold, particularly regarding Hardin's possible behavior. She meticulously chooses a simple yet elegant dress, hoping to strike the right tone for this family event.

When Hardin arrives, he exudes his usual casual charm, confidently flaunting his physique and leaving Tessa flustered yet pleased. They exchange light-hearted banter, highlighting Hardin's rebellious nature when he dismisses her suggestion for him to dress up, emphasizing his laid-back attitude.

Upon their arrival at Ken's expansive house, where the gathering is taking place, Tessa immediately senses a palpable tension in the air, particularly from Hardin's mother, Trish, who is uneasy about confronting her ex-husband. The atmosphere grows more strained when Ken and Trish come face to face, revealing years of emotional baggage and unresolved feelings from their past marriage. This moment sets a heavy tone for the evening, raising the stakes for everyone involved.

As dinner unfolds, contrasts become stark; the beautifully set table adorned with delicious food stands in sharp relief to the awkward and strained



conversations among Hardin, his parents, and Tessa. Landon, Ken and Karen's son, attempts to lighten the mood with casual conversation, but Hardin's snide remarks only serve to deepen the discomfort, igniting tension and making the evening more challenging for Tessa.

Throughout the chapter, themes of family dynamics and the complexities of navigating relationships with ex-partners come to the forefront. Tessa finds herself striving to keep the atmosphere cheerful despite her awareness of the underlying tension, particularly as Hardin makes inappropriate comments that highlight his obliviousness to the emotional weight of the gathering.

Ultimately, Tessa embodies growth and resilience, navigating the intricacies of family history and the tricky dynamics of the event. Her efforts to maintain peace amidst chaos reflect her journey of self-discovery, as she balances her desire for harmony with the harsh realities of the relationships around her. This chapter poignantly captures the essence of family gatherings during the holidays, filled with joy but also the ghosts of the past that linger just beneath the surface.

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## Chapter 48: Tessa

In Chapter 48, the tension between Hardin and his estranged father, Ken, escalates during what begins as a traditional Christmas dinner. The gathering quickly devolves into chaos when Hardin bravely confronts Ken over years of emotional and financial neglect faced by him and his mother, Trish. Despite Trish's attempts to mediate the conflict, Hardin's pent-up frustrations boil over into a heated argument, igniting a battle for dominance and accountability.

Hardin accuses Ken of living in denial about their troubled past, pushing Ken to his limits as he tries to maintain control of the situation. The confrontation escalates alarmingly when Hardin's rage culminates in a physical outburst; he punches a glass cabinet door, illustrating his inner turmoil and lack of coping mechanisms. Tessa, who has been a grounding influence in Hardin's life, finds herself caught between her concern for Hardin and her shock at his aggression.

In the aftermath, as they drive home in strained silence, Trish attempts to instill in Hardin the futility of clinging to anger and the vital role of forgiveness. Hardin struggles to embrace this notion, burdened by the failures of his father. Tessa steps in to help him navigate his emotions, recognizing his pain while encouraging him to seek healthier ways to address his anger rather than resorting to violence.



The chapter closes on a reflective note, with Hardin contemplating his actions and their repercussions. Tessa offers her unwavering support, highlighting that forgiveness can pave the way for healing in their fractured relationships. Through this turbulent experience, Hardin and Tessa's bond strengthens, hinting at potential personal growth and reconciliation amid the chaos.

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## Chapter 49 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 49 of "After We Collided," the complex dynamics of Tessa and Hardin's relationship deepen as they navigate both playful intimacy and underlying tensions. As Tessa tends to Hardin's injuries in the bathroom, her mix of concern and exasperation highlights the precarious balance between caring for him and grappling with his reckless behavior. Their lighthearted banter serves as a window into the depth of their bond; Tessa acknowledges the challenges posed by Hardin's nature but remains steadfast in her feelings for him, which Hardin reciprocates with a knowing smile.

The chapter takes a more intimate turn as they move to the shower, a setting that transforms into a sanctuary away from the external pressures of their lives—specifically, the looming presence of Hardin's mother just beyond the bathroom door. As they explore each other, the playful teasing evolves into a poignant and passionate moment, illustrating Hardin's charismatic dominance and Tessa's growing confidence in embracing this aspect of their relationship.

After their shared experience, Tessa's mischievous side emerges as she playfully teases Hardin about their earlier encounter, reinforcing their connection while simultaneously hinting at the stressors she faces in her life. Amid the enjoyment, Tessa reflects on significant decisions on the horizon, including the possibility of moving back to England after college—a topic



that remains unaddressed between them, adding a layer of complexity to their relationship.

Overall, this chapter skillfully intertwines romance, humor, and drama, showcasing Tessa's evolution as she balances her desire for intimacy with the critical decisions she must confront, further developing themes of trust and the negotiation of boundaries within a passionate relationship.

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## Chapter 50 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 50 of "After We Collided," Tessa and Hardin experience a poignant yet joyful evening with Hardin's mother, Trish. This intimate gathering, rich with laughter and shared memories from Hardin's childhood, stirs a sense of hope within Tessa. For the first time, she begins to envision a long-term future with Hardin, suggesting a significant emotional shift in their relationship.

The following morning, after dropping Trish at the airport, Hardin and Tessa share a cozy moment in bed. Their playful banter reflects their growing comfort with one another, covering topics like Tessa's excitement about her internship and Hardin's mixed feelings regarding his former job. When Tessa suggests buying gifts for Hardin's family, the conversation deepens as they explore Hardin's fraught relationship with his father, Ken. Tessa's firm encouragement for Hardin to reconnect with Ken highlights her understanding of his complicated family dynamics and her wish to support him.

The chapter expertly balances serious themes with lighthearted moments as Tessa and Hardin engage in humorous exchanges regarding Tessa's period, illustrating the playful side of their connection. Hardin's teasing about Tessa's embarrassment leads to laughter, reinforcing their bond amidst the more weighty issues they confront.

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As they discuss the upcoming New Year's celebration, Tessa expresses a desire to invite Hardin's family, reflecting her intention to forge a closer relationship with them. Though initially hesitant, Hardin warms to the idea, signaling a potential step toward reconciliation with his family. This progression emphasizes the dual nature of their relationship, characterized by both joyful moments and the complexities that arise from their past experiences.

Overall, this chapter beautifully encapsulates the evolution of Tessa and Hardin's partnership, blending laughter with vulnerability and family challenges, leaving readers eager to see how their journey unfolds next.

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## Chapter 51 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 51 of "After We Collided," tension and excitement intertwine as Tessa prepares for an important family visit that could impact her relationship with Hardin. The chapter opens with Tessa tidying their shared apartment, an action loaded with significance as it symbolizes her investment in both their home and their evolving partnership. She heads to the store to gather supplies, aiming to manage the potential awkwardness of hosting Hardin's father, Ken—who is known for his teasing nature—without feeling self-conscious about her shopping choices.

Upon Tessa's return, Hardin surprises her by deciding to invite Ken and the rest of his family over for a gift exchange. This decision marks a significant step in Hardin's journey toward mending his strained relationship with his father, showcasing notable character growth. Tessa plays a supportive role during the phone call, her warmth and encouragement helping Hardin push through his reluctance. This moment highlights the deepening bond between them, as both rely on each other for emotional strength.

As Tessa curates her outfit for the gathering, memories of her friend Steph emerge, stirring feelings of nostalgia and uncertainty. This reflection illustrates the contrasts in Tessa and Hardin's social worlds: while Tessa yearns to reconnect with her friends, Hardin expresses discomfort with his own social circle. Their candid conversation reveals vulnerabilities,

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emphasizing their growing honesty and the complexities of their relationship.

As the anticipation of the family visit builds, Tessa finds herself unexpectedly charmed by Hardin's efforts in the kitchen, acknowledging that his desire to host their guests is a sign of his commitment to their relationship. Their playful exchanges about pet names—culminating in Tessa's shy yet bold use of "babe"—infuse the atmosphere with intimacy, showcasing their affection amidst the underlying tension.

However, their private, romantic moment is abruptly interrupted by the arrival of family members, representing the challenges of merging their personal lives with family expectations. This chapter effectively encapsulates themes of growth, the intricate nature of relationships, and the delicate balancing act between past connections and present realities, setting the stage for the dynamics that will unfold during the family visit.

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## Chapter 52: Hardin

In Chapter 52 of "After We Collided," the atmosphere is tense as Hardin's family gathers for a holiday celebration. Hardin immediately notices his father's bruised face, hinting at unresolved conflicts and creating an awkward vibe for the day. Tessa, ever the diplomat in their relationship, attempts to alleviate the tension by warmly welcoming everyone and ensuring their comfort, despite the palpable unease.

During the meal, the dynamic remains strained, but Tessa's kind gestures and support help ease Hardin's anxiety. Feeling overshadowed by the attention on him, he wishes Tessa would receive more credit for the efforts he put into preparing the food. As they transition to gift-giving, Hardin's protective nature emerges as he stays close to Tessa, indicating their deepening bond.

However, the situation turns tense when Tessa unwraps an extravagant gift—a stunning bracelet from Tiffany & Co.—from Hardin's dad and stepmom. This lavish present heightens Hardin's discomfort and jealousy, making him feel that his own gift, a watch, pales in comparison. He grapples with his insecurities but attempts to maintain a light-hearted demeanor for Tessa's sake, encouraging her enthusiasm for her gift.

This chapter underscores the complexities of family interactions, jealousy,



and personal insecurities while highlighting the resilience of Tessa and Hardin's relationship. Their physical affection and unspoken understanding serve as a testament to their ability to lean on one another as they navigate the awkwardness of familial expectations and societal norms surrounding gift-giving. Through these experiences, their bond is further solidified, revealing both their vulnerabilities and strengths amidst challenging social situations.

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## Chapter 53 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 53 of "After We Collided," the holiday season serves as a backdrop for Hardin's complex relationship with his family and his ongoing personal growth. As Tessa thoughtfully selects gifts for Hardin and his family, the warmth of her gestures contrasts with Hardin's internal struggle, particularly his unresolved feelings toward his father. His father, alongside Karen—his father's partner—makes a genuine effort to connect with Hardin, but the emotional distance remains palpable.

Throughout the chapter, Hardin battles feelings of guilt stemming from a past confrontation with his father, yet he is motivated by Tessa's unwavering love and support to foster a healthier relationship. This tension is underscored by playful banter between the couple, as Tessa's joy highlights the potential for healing within Hardin.

As Tessa openly expresses her affection, Hardin's playful jealousy offers a glimpse into his softer side, especially during their exchanges about their gifts. Notably, the bracelets they share symbolize their deepening bond, enhancing the chapter's themes of love, redemption, and the imperfections of family dynamics.

The chapter concludes with a notable shift in Hardin's demeanor—he feels an unusual sense of happiness, suggesting a tentative embrace of both

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Tessa's love and the hope for reconciliation with his family, culminating in a heartwarming portrayal of vulnerability and connection amid the holiday spirit.

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## Chapter 54 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 54, Tessa grapples with mixed emotions as she prepares to reconnect with her friend Kimberly after reuniting with Hardin. Their relationship is complicated by unresolved issues tied to Hardin's troubled past, creating an underlying tension that weighs on Tessa. As she embarks on her day, she feels a blend of excitement and nervousness, savouring a quiet moment with coffee while getting ready for work.

Hardin, showing a gentler side, lightens the mood with playful teasing and demonstrates thoughtfulness by preparing her car for the snowy weather. This small act serves to strengthen their bond amidst the chaos surrounding their lives. During the drive, Tessa expresses a desire for closeness by suggesting they carpool for the upcoming semester. However, her suggestion also stirs jealousy in Hardin when he sees Trevor, a former boyfriend, which leads to a possessive yet passionate kiss, highlighting Hardin's deep feelings for Tessa.

At work, Tessa attempts to downplay the complexities of her life during a conversation with Kimberly about their holiday experiences. The chapter takes a turn when Tessa shares lunch with Trevor, who reveals his plans to move to Seattle for a promising job opportunity. This news stirs a conflict within Tessa, forcing her to confront her history with Trevor and her present commitment to Hardin. As the day unfolds, Tessa's awareness of Hardin



waiting for her outside the workplace amplifies the tension between her past and present, signaling that her journey of self-discovery and relationship dynamics remains tumultuous.

Overall, this chapter encapsulates themes of jealousy and the intricacies of love, as Tessa navigates her feelings for Hardin against the backdrop of her past with Trevor and the expectations of her emerging life. Her experiences reflect a deeper longing for stability amidst the uncertainties that these relationships bring.

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# Chapter 55 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 55 Summary

In this gripping chapter, the tension between Hardin and Tessa escalates dramatically as jealousy rears its head. Hardin, feeling threatened by Tessa's friendship with Trevor—a colleague who appears to charm her—confronts her in a fit of anger. This confrontation marks a pivotal moment in their relationship, with Hardin's insecurities about losing Tessa surfacing intensely.

Tessa, unwavering, asserts her right to maintain her friendships, which only serves to heighten Hardin's feelings of possessiveness. Their argument reveals deeper issues of trust and control, illustrating the volatile dynamics that often accompany passionate relationships. Tessa's determination to preserve her independence is notable here; she stands her ground against Hardin's jealousy while emphasizing her love for him.

As the conflict intensifies, Tessa takes on a more assertive role, seeking to reassure Hardin of the strength of their bond. The tension shifts from anger to desire, igniting a passionate interaction between them that deepens their emotional connection. The chapter masterfully navigates the complexities of young love, showcasing how moments of conflict can lead to profound

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intimacy.

Ultimately, Chapter 55 delves into the themes of jealousy, trust, and the struggle for autonomy within a romantic relationship, portraying the delicate balance between love and possessiveness. Through fiery exchanges and reconciliatory passion, it highlights the tumultuous yet profound journey of Hardin and Tessa as they navigate the highs and lows of their relationship.

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## Chapter 56: Tessa

In Chapter 56, we witness a pivotal moment in Tessa and Hardin's relationship, highlighting their deepening emotional and physical connection. The chapter opens with a charged encounter between them in Tessa's office, where the excitement of secrecy amplifies their feelings for one another. Hardin's declaration of love is reciprocated by Tessa, reinforcing their bond as they navigate the complexities of a relationship that often defies societal norms.

However, the mood shifts three days later as Tessa anxiously awaits Hardin's arrival, unsettled by his tardiness and haunted by past conflicts, particularly a heated disagreement over her friendship with Trevor, another mutual acquaintance. This lingering tension underscores Tessa's insecurities about her standing with Hardin's circle, especially as they gear up for a New Year's Eve celebration.

The chapter further explores their dynamic as they share a playful moment at the mall, choosing a dress for the occasion. Hardin's protective nature comes through in his opinions about Tessa's choices, revealing his affection in a light-hearted manner. Despite their earlier conflicts, their interactions feel rejuvenated and flirty, hinting at a restored sense of normalcy.

As the evening approaches, Tessa's anxiety about her appearance grows



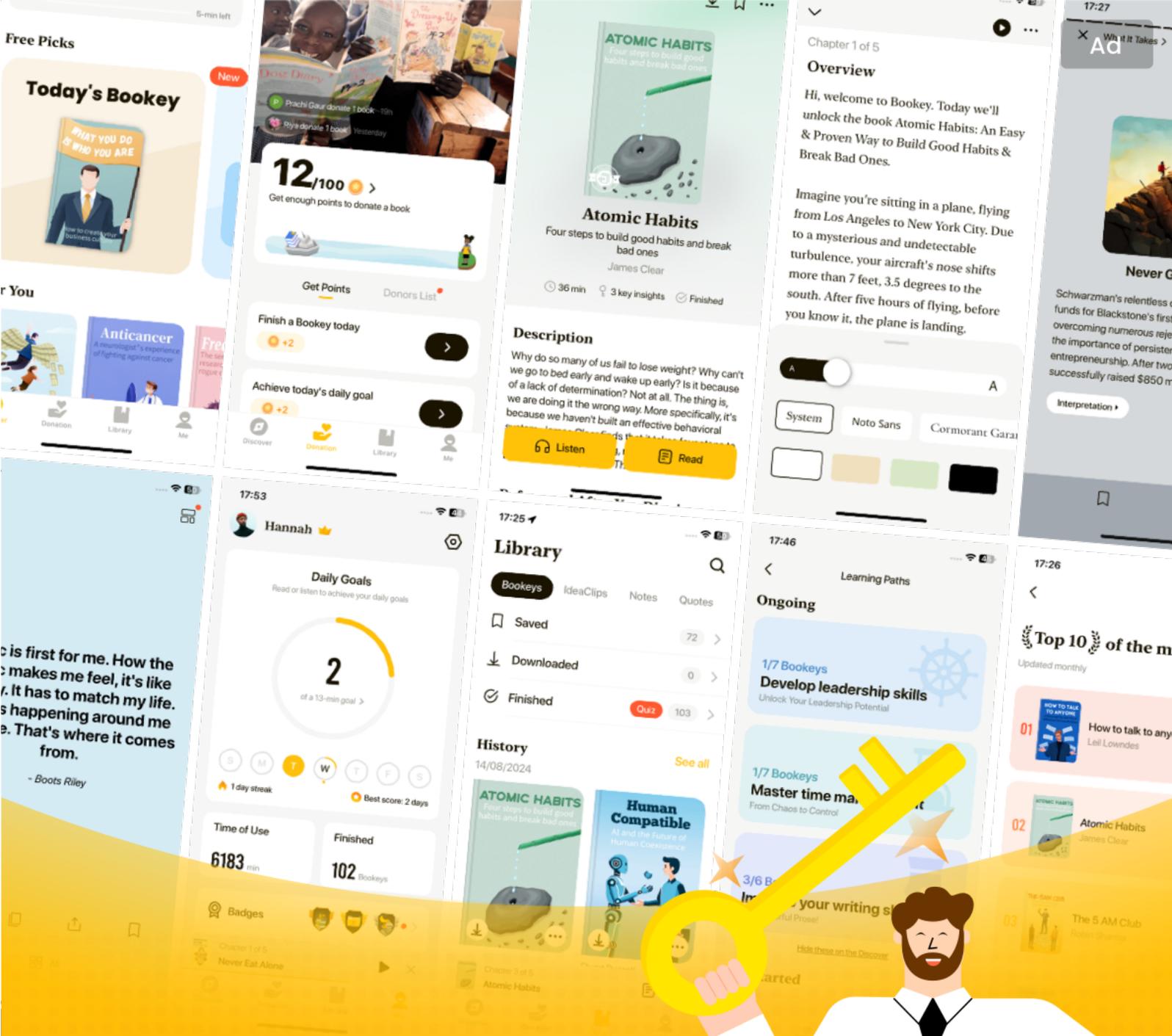
more pronounced, showcasing her desire to impress both Hardin and his friends as she reflects on her personal growth. The pivotal moment occurs when Hardin's positive reaction to her transformation boosts her self-esteem, marking a significant step forward in their relationship.

Overall, the chapter delves into themes of love, vulnerability, and the quest for acceptance, illustrating the delicate balance between embracing one's true self and navigating the expectations of young romance. Through this intertwining of intimacy and insecurity, Tessa and Hardin's journey becomes a powerful exploration of the complexities inherent in young love.

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## Chapter 57 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 57 of "After We Collided," Tessa and Hardin arrive at his old fraternity house, a place that evokes a blend of nostalgia and anxiety for Tessa. She is hopeful that their new official relationship will inspire Hardin to act differently, providing a sense of security amidst the party's chaotic atmosphere.

Upon entering, they are enveloped in the vibrant energy of the gathering, filled with familiar faces, including Nate and Molly. Molly's flirtatious demeanor towards Hardin fosters an immediate tension that unnerves Tessa, reminding her of her own complicated past, particularly her previous kiss with Zed. Despite her troubles, Tessa strives to stay focused on her burgeoning relationship with Hardin.

As the night unfolds, Tessa reconnects with her friend Steph, who is eager to renew their friendship and encourages Tessa to enjoy the festivities. However, Hardin soon wanders off, leaving Tessa feeling a mixture of abandonment and newfound freedom as she sips drinks that help alleviate her nerves.

To distract herself from Hardin's absence and Molly's behavior, Tessa reluctantly joins a game of beer pong, spurred on by Steph and Tristan. The dynamic shifts when Zed, who has been avoiding Tessa, is suggested as her



partner for the game. This proposition stirs up conflicting emotions, further complicating Tessa's evening.

The chapter delves into themes of friendship, the complexities of past relationships, and the challenges of embracing the present amidst the backdrop of college life. Tessa's journey of self-discovery is marked by her attempts to shed old memories and forge new connections, setting the stage for potential growth and emerging drama in her relationship with Hardin.

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## Chapter 58 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 58 of "After We Collided," Tessa finds herself embracing the exhilarating atmosphere of a college party, engaging in a spirited game of beer pong with her friends Zed and Steph. This lively setting offers Tessa a temporary escape from her worries, particularly concerning her volatile relationship with Hardin, who is notably absent. As the friendly competition unfolds, Tessa revels in the joy of victory, cherishing the laughter and light-hearted banter that accompany her success. This moment allows her to momentarily feel youthful and free-spirited.

Following a few triumphant rounds, Tessa and Zed seek refuge outside for fresh air, allowing their camaraderie to deepen. During their conversation, Zed reveals his new tattoo, a symbol of his feelings about societal conformity. This revelation prompts Tessa to consider getting a tattoo herself, igniting a whimsical discussion about potential designs. Their interactions remain playful and relaxed as they share insights about their lives and relationships, showcasing a budding connection between them.

However, the mood shifts when Tessa confides her worries about Hardin's anger and his absence at the gathering. Zed candidly admits he has been distancing himself from her, influenced by Hardin's jealous tendencies. This acknowledgment introduces tension, as the atmosphere of budding friendship now grapples with the shadow of Hardin's possessive nature. Just

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as Tessa and Zed begin to bond further, Hardin's sudden appearance disrupts their moment, catching Tessa off guard.

Through this chapter, key themes emerge, notably the quest for connection, the value of friendship, and the push-and-pull between independence and romantic attachment. Tessa's interactions with Zed illuminate her struggle to assert her own identity apart from Hardin's influence. Yet, Hardin's unexpected arrival serves as a stark reminder of her complicated emotions and the challenges she faces in her tumultuous love life. The blend of fun and underlying tension poignantly captures Tessa's journey as she navigates the fine line between seeking excitement and grappling with her intense feelings for Hardin.

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## Chapter 59 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 59, the tension between Hardin and Tessa reaches a boiling point as Hardin confronts her about spending time with Zed outside, defying his earlier instructions for her to remain inside. Hardin's jealousy is palpable, stemming from his insecurities about Zed, who has long displayed interest in Tessa, and the depth of their friendship fuels Hardin's possessiveness.

As the evening unfolds, Tessa, slightly intoxicated from playing beer pong, embraces a lively and carefree attitude, which both annoys and endears her to Hardin. Her candid remark about wanting a tattoo—a smiley face—provides a brief comic relief that momentarily softens Hardin's irritation, revealing a tender side to his otherwise brooding character. Despite his frustration, Hardin can't help but appreciate Tessa's fun-loving spirit as she playfully revels in her small victories.

As the chilly night advances, Hardin tries to coax Tessa back inside to escape the growing tension, leading to an intimate moment that highlights their confusing but magnetic connection. Tessa's willingness to challenge the status quo by joking about staying outside longer showcases her evolving confidence and boldness, emphasizing her growth throughout the narrative.

Once indoors, the couple rejoins their friends, where the atmosphere is thick

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with unspoken societal expectations regarding their relationship. Tessa seizes the moment by daring her friends to play Truth or Dare, symbolizing her desire to assert her independence and enjoy the night despite the underlying issues present in her relationship with Hardin.

### **Key Events:**

- Hardin's confrontation with Tessa about her time with Zed unveils his jealousy.
- Tessa's drunken joy and her tattoo idea bring humor and tenderness to the air.
- The couple's interaction balances jealousy with affection, revealing the complexities of their romance.
- Tessa's challenge to play a game suggests potential upheaval amidst their group dynamics.

### **Character Developments:**

- Hardin emerges as vulnerable, allowing glimpses of his deeper feelings for Tessa amid his frustrations.
- Tessa's carefree attitude contrasts sharply with Hardin's brooding nature, highlighting her transformation into a more assertive individual.

### **Themes:**

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- **Jealousy and Possessiveness:** Hardin's reaction to Tessa's friendship with Zed exposes his internal struggles and insecurities.
- **Transition and Growth:** Tessa's journey from a shy young woman to someone who boldly embraces fun indicates significant personal development.
- **Intimacy and Connection:** The couple's playful exchanges and the chemistry between them stress the importance of their bond despite external pressures.

This chapter masterfully interlaces humor with deeper emotions, exploring the nuances of young love, identity, and the challenges posed by jealousy and personal growth. Through their experiences, Hardin and Tessa navigate the tumultuous waters of their relationship while learning more about themselves in the process.

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# Chapter 60: Hardin

## Chapter 60 Summary

In this lively chapter, the atmosphere buzzes with tension during a spirited game of Truth or Dare at a party, where friends come together, laughter fills the air, and the effects of alcohol contribute to both the chaos and camaraderie. Hardin, protective of Tessa, watches closely as she gains a surprising confidence, stemming from her complex feelings for him and the challenges posed by his tumultuous personality.

The conflict ignites when Tessa decides to confront Molly, an ongoing rival whose antagonism towards her has been palpable. With unexpected boldness, Tessa dares to stand up to Molly, leading to a physical altercation that catches everyone off guard, including Hardin. This moment not only showcases Tessa's newfound assertiveness but also reveals her fierce loyalty towards Hardin, contrasting the insecurities that often plague her.

Tensions escalate further when Tessa is dared to kiss Zed, a close friend, prompting a visceral reaction from Hardin. His jealous instincts surge, highlighting the complexities of their young relationship and the fragility of human emotions in romantic entanglements. Tessa's frustrated response to both Molly and the dare illuminates the storm of emotions within her,

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underscoring her desire to assert her independence while protecting her relationship with Hardin.

As the confrontation subsides, a newfound exhilaration courses through Tessa. Though Hardin is surprised by her aggressive stance, he finds himself

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## Chapter 61 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 61, Tessa and Hardin celebrate New Year's Eve together, basking in a mix of excitement and emotional closeness. Tessa, feeling at ease and slightly tipsy, enjoys Hardin's company as they approach midnight. Despite Hardin's initial hesitance to embrace the festivities, he eventually joins Tessa in counting down the seconds to the new year. When the clock strikes twelve, their connection solidifies with a passionate kiss, marking a significant moment in their evolving relationship.

However, the mood shifts when Tessa, in the midst of her joyful reflections about the night — which includes dealing with some earlier tension involving a character named Molly — steps away for a brief moment. Upon returning, she encounters a girl approaching Hardin, who is holding his phone that he inadvertently left behind. This unexpected interaction stirs feelings of jealousy and insecurity within Tessa, despite Hardin's reassurances that there's nothing concerning about the girl's presence.

Tessa's discomfort deepens as Hardin asks the girl not to mention being alone with him earlier, a request that intensifies her anxiety and highlights the fragility of trust in their relationship. This moment foreshadows potential conflicts and emotional struggles as the night continues, emphasizing the complexities of their bond amidst the backdrop of newfound intimacy and underlying tensions.



## Chapter 62 Summary: Hardin

### Chapter 62 Summary: Tensions and Turmoil

In this gripping chapter, the relationship between Hardin and Tessa reaches a breaking point amidst escalating emotions at a party. The atmosphere is charged as Hardin, fueled by jealousy, witnesses Tessa sharing an intimate moment with a stranger. Consumed by impulsive rage, he confronts the man and brutally reacts by throwing a punch, leading to immediate chaos.

The aftermath reveals the depth of their issues; a heated exchange unfolds where Tessa feels wounded and defends her actions, countering Hardin's accusations by bringing up his previous infidelity. This back-and-forth exposes their deep-seated insecurities and trust issues, painting a picture of a love that is both passionate and profoundly conflicted.

Tessa's admissions about her difficulty in trusting Hardin stem from his concealed past, indicating the weight of unspoken secrets that haunt their relationship. Meanwhile, Hardin grapples with feelings of betrayal, particularly regarding Tessa's interaction with another man, which amplifies his emotional turmoil.

The chapter artfully captures the essence of their tumultuous

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bond—moments of intense love marred by misunderstandings and emotional pain. Ultimately, Hardin’s inability to manage his feelings drives him away from Tessa, exacerbating their already fragile connection. As readers delve into this tumult, they are left wondering if Hardin and Tessa can navigate this latest challenge and ultimately reconcile the love that binds them.

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## Chapter 63 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 63 of "After We Collided," Tessa is engulfed in turmoil as she grapples with the aftermath of a reckless decision from a recent party—kissing someone else. This moment of impulsivity leaves her feeling isolated and remorseful, particularly as she realizes she left her phone with Hardin, her intense yet unpredictable boyfriend. Feeling the weight of her guilt, Tessa confides in Zed, a supportive friend, about her complicated relationship with Hardin. Although Zed offers to drive her home, Tessa is apprehensive about Hardin's potential reaction to their interaction, given his possessive nature.

As they make their way back to the apartment, Tessa's anxiety mounts when she learns that Hardin has been drinking. When they arrive, she finds Hardin visibly intoxicated and hostile, immediately taking aim at Zed and disrespecting Tessa in the process. Tessa tries to mediate the escalating tension, but Hardin's jealousy spirals into a reckless confrontation. The atmosphere becomes charged as Hardin's emotional volatility manifests through violent outbursts, including him shattering glasses against the wall.

This chapter intricately explores the themes of jealousy, misunderstanding, and the delicate nature of relationships. It illustrates just how swiftly trust can disintegrate under the weight of miscommunication and emotional pain. Tessa's internal struggle encapsulates the complexities of love, particularly

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when fueled by alcohol and past transgressions, leaving her torn between affection for Hardin and fear of his erratic behavior.

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## Chapter 64: Tessa

In Chapter 64, the tumultuous relationship between Tessa and Hardin reaches a dramatic climax marked by betrayal and emotional turbulence. Following Tessa's kiss with Zed, a friend who represents a temptation in her life, Hardin's wrath erupts in a violent outburst fueled by alcohol. He wreaks havoc on their shared belongings, attributing the fallout to Tessa's perceived infidelity, and despite her desperate pleas for him to stop, her attempts to reach his emotional core seem futile.

As the confrontation unfolds, deep insecurities about love surface in Hardin. He reveals his fears that love inevitably leads to pain, drawing painful comparisons to the tumult of their parents' relationships—a theme that has haunted both characters throughout their journey. Tessa, struggling to reassure Hardin of their unique bond, fights against his skepticism rooted in feelings of unworthiness and apprehension of heartbreak.

The escalating tension reveals the raw emotions that both Tessa and Hardin harbor. Amidst their accusations, Tessa calls out Hardin's past mistakes and his father's flawed example, thrusting their insecurities into the spotlight. As the confrontation intensifies, Tessa, feeling overwhelmed by the weight of their conflict, retreats and locks herself away.

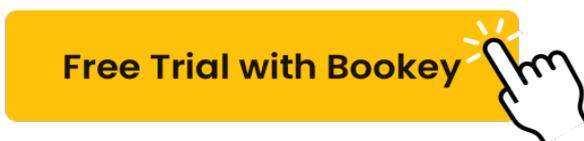
In her moment of solitude, Tessa discovers a heartfelt letter from Hardin, a



tender reminder of their connection amid the chaos. The note provides a moment of peace for her, contrasting sharply with Hardin's plight outside, where he ultimately succumbs to a restless sleep on the cold floor—a stark symbol of their simultaneous yearning for closeness and the destructive cycles that keep pushing them apart.

This chapter poignantly encapsulates the complexities of love, betrayal, and the struggle to navigate a relationship fraught with misunderstandings. The emotional intensity is palpable, highlighting the intertwined themes of fear and longing that threaten to tear apart their bond while also showcasing their desperate need for connection, even in moments of conflict.

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## Chapter 65 Summary: Tessa

### Summary of Chapter 65: Tessa and Hardin's Turbulent Morning

Following a tumultuous night marked by heated arguments and emotional turmoil, Tessa wakes up to a surprisingly serene living room, a stark contrast to the chaos left in the wake of their fight. She finds a heartfelt note from Hardin that eases her anxious heart, hinting at his deep feelings for her amidst the turmoil.

When Hardin returns, both characters navigate their choked emotions cautiously, reflecting the tension still lingering from their confrontation. Their discussion begins awkwardly, rooted in mutual apologies—Tessa for her impulsive kiss with another man and Hardin for his jealousy-driven behavior due to alcohol. Through their reluctant conversations, the depth of their connection surfaces, showcasing both their love and their vulnerabilities.

As they communicate, underlying issues come to light. Tessa expresses her concerns about Hardin's drinking, while Hardin battles his own insecurities, fearing the loss of Tessa and the painful legacy of his father's mistakes. This moment becomes transformative as Hardin acknowledges his faults, realizing it's unjust to expect Tessa to easily forgive him when he has also

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faltered.

Their candid dialogue becomes a turning point, emphasizing the importance of trust and open communication in their relationship. Both Tessa and Hardin commit to working through their shared struggles, with Tessa reaffirming her dedication to their bond despite the obstacles they face.

The chapter takes a lighter turn as they share a playful moment discussing a new lamp that Hardin has purchased, signaling a hint of renewal in their dynamic. The tension begins to ease into a soft, hopeful atmosphere, culminating in a tender kiss that symbolizes their renewed commitment and optimism for the future of their relationship.

### **Key Themes:**

- **Communication:** The vital role of open dialogue in resolving misunderstandings and rebuilding trust.
- **Forgiveness:** The significance of forgiveness as a means to overcome conflicts, showcasing both characters' personal growth.
- **Love and Vulnerability:** The exploration of their relationship's fragility and the fortitude required to navigate through adversity.

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## Chapter 66 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 66 of "After We Collided," Tessa and Hardin enter the new year, celebrating their relationship's evolution through an intimate encounter that blends passion with personal growth. The chapter begins with playful teasing as Hardin intercepts a phone call from Tessa's friend Landon, creating a cozy and charged atmosphere. This light-hearted moment foreshadows the deeper exploration of their relationship that follows.

As the narrative unfolds, Hardin offers to teach Tessa about self-pleasure, emphasizing self-discovery and relaxation. This proposition elicits a wave of excitement and embarrassment from Tessa, illustrating her struggle with vulnerability and her developing confidence in their passionate connection. Hardin's assurance contrasts with her initial hesitations, showcasing her evolution from a shy partner to someone more open and self-assured.

Rich in sensory details, the chapter captures the playful yet intense dialogues that reflect their dynamic relationship. As they navigate their desires, both Tessa and Hardin reach new heights of pleasure, culminating in a moment of shared intimacy that strengthens their bond.

In the aftermath of their encounter, Tessa ponders her journey since starting college, reflecting on her transformation and the deepening connection between her and Hardin. This moment of nostalgia highlights their growth

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from initial antagonism to a profound connection, reinforcing the character development that has taken place.

The chapter concludes with Tessa looking ahead to a new day, prepared to tackle her classes with Hardin's support. Their playful banter as they navigate her busy schedule solidifies the themes of personal growth, intimacy, and the complexities of young love, leaving Tessa feeling more relaxed and optimistic about her future.

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## Chapter 67 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 67 of "After We Collided," the story resumes as Tessa and Hardin return to campus after their winter break, eager to start a new semester. The chapter opens with Hardin experiencing humorous frustration while searching for parking, which brings a smile to Tessa's face, hinting at the light-hearted moments amid their complex relationship.

Upon entering a coffeehouse, Hardin takes on the role of a considerate boyfriend by fetching Tessa's coffee while she reconnects with her friend Landon. Their conversation touches on Landon's contemplation of moving to New York to be with his girlfriend, Dakota, igniting a mix of emotions in Tessa as she reflects on her own romantic uncertainties.

Hardin's affectionate side comes to light when he surprises Tessa with sweet kisses before heading off to class, creating a mildly awkward yet endearing moment for the trio. After Hardin leaves, Tessa and Landon head to their World Religion class, where an easygoing professor promotes a relaxed atmosphere by encouraging open discussions and personal journaling rather than adhering strictly to a syllabus.

As the day progresses, Tessa begins to feel worn out from her extensive walking around campus. On her way to a yoga class, she faces an unnerving encounter with a cocky lacrosse player who makes inappropriate advances.



Just as she feels cornered, Hardin intervenes, using his intimidating presence to protect her, highlighting his protective nature.

In an unexpected turn of events, Hardin reveals that he has decided to enroll in Tessa's yoga class, prompting a mix of surprise and amusement from her. Their playful exchanges serve to showcase the continued growth of their relationship as they navigate the ups and downs of college life together. This chapter effectively emphasizes themes of affection, protection, and the dynamics of friendship, all while setting the stage for the complexities that lie ahead in their journey.

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## Chapter 68: Tessa

### Chapter 68 Summary: Yoga Chaos and Relationship Realities

In Chapter 68, Tessa grapples with the complexities of her romantic relationship with Hardin while attending a yoga class. The chapter opens with Hardin walking slightly behind Tessa, triggering insecurities from her high school days. However, when she playfully grabs his hand, they revert to walking side by side, signaling the playful yet tumultuous nature of their connection. Surprisingly, Hardin expresses a desire to join the yoga class solely to spend more time with Tessa, although she remains skeptical about his true motivations.

Upon entering the class, they meet the energetic instructor, Marla, whose lively demeanor immediately captures everyone's attention. Hardin humorously comments on Marla's vibrant attitude, but this only heightens Tessa's feelings of jealousy as she observes the female classmates eyeing Hardin with admiration. Despite her discomfort, Tessa moves closer to the instructor for a better view, navigating her insecurities amid the vibrant class atmosphere.

The yoga class unfolds as a comedic blend of awkwardness and flirtation, with Hardin struggling to keep up with the poses. His antics—such as joking

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about the absurdity of meditating with an erection—infuse the session with humor, though they also exacerbate Tessa's jealousy as she watches him interact with other girls. Their rapport is characterized by playful banter and teasing, illustrating both the friction and affection that define their relationship.

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## Chapter 69 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 69, Tessa and Hardin embark on a new semester filled with the familiar highs and lows of their tumultuous relationship. The chapter opens with a playful scene after a yoga class, where Tessa openly flirts with Hardin, challenging him about his jealousy when he remarks on a pretty blonde classmate. This exchange not only highlights Tessa's own insecurities but also serves to showcase the chemistry between the couple. Hardin's teasing, evidenced by his affectionate nickname for Tessa as a "silly girl," further illustrates the playful yet complicated nature of their connection.

As the day progresses, Hardin grapples with his demanding workload, yet he prioritizes time with Tessa, revealing a softer and more vulnerable side beneath his often abrasive exterior. Their intimacy is palpably felt when they find themselves alone in an elevator, only to be interrupted by a woman and her children. This interruption frustrates Hardin, showcasing his general aversion to distractions, but it also underscores how much he cherishes moments spent with Tessa.

Upon returning to their apartment, the couple faces a practical problem with the heating system, which unexpectedly leads to a cozy moment on the couch. Here, their teasing continues, as Tessa playfully climbs into Hardin's lap, deepening their emotional bond. The atmosphere is charged with flirtation and promises of deeper connection. The chapter culminates with



Hardin taking a bold step that escalates their physical and emotional tension, emphasizing the themes of desire, jealousy, and the complexities inherent in young love.

Overall, Chapter 69 effectively depicts the blend of humor and warmth that defines Tessa and Hardin's relationship, artfully balancing playful banter with the underlying emotional intricacies of their evolving connection.

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## Chapter 70 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 70 of *After We Collided*, the evolving relationship between Hardin and Tessa takes center stage, marked by an intense and passionate moment. As they share a physical embrace, the bond between them deepens, reflecting not only a lustful attraction but a burgeoning emotional connection. Their playful banter indicates a newfound comfort and intimacy, as Tessa's confident suggestion to accelerate their relationship dynamics highlights her growth from a shy young woman to a more assertive partner.

However, this intimate scene is interrupted by an unexpected visit from a maintenance worker sent to fix their broken heater, creating an awkward tension. Hardin's instinctive protectiveness surfaces, and he becomes possessive, especially as he notices the worker's lingering gaze on Tessa, who remains unaware of the discomfort. This encounter amplifies Hardin's inner struggles, revealing his vulnerabilities and his evolving attitude towards their relationship.

The chapter takes another turn when Tessa receives a phone call from her friend, Kimberly, who urgently needs help due to her partner Christian being ill. Tessa offers to babysit Christian's son, Smith, which Hardin vehemently opposes. This disagreement highlights the contrasting priorities between them—Tessa's nurturing nature conflicts with Hardin's reluctance to take on more responsibility. Despite his initial resistance, Tessa's persuasive charm



shines through, leaving it clear that she may ultimately convince him to assist, suggesting that her determination will prevail in their partnership.

Overall, this chapter deftly captures the growth of Hardin and Tessa's relationship. It showcases the themes of vulnerability, intimacy, and the conflicts that arise from differing life priorities. Tessa's transformation into a more assertive individual and Hardin's gradual shift away from self-centeredness are pivotal elements, underscoring the complexity of their developing bond.

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## Chapter 71 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 71 of "After We Collided," Hardin and Tessa take on the responsibility of babysitting Smith, the five-year-old son of their friend Kimberly, who is preoccupied with caring for her sick husband. Although Hardin initially grumbles about this unexpected obligation, Tessa approaches the task with a mix of excitement and apprehension, particularly concerned about Smith's quiet demeanor.

As Kimberly departs, Tessa makes an effort to connect with Smith, but his lack of response leaves her feeling disheartened. Meanwhile, Hardin observes that Smith bears a resemblance to his father, Christian, and finds himself curious about the boy's reserved nature. However, the dynamic changes when Hardin directly engages with Smith. He discovers the child's cleverness and unexpected maturity, accentuated by a charming British accent that surprises him.

The chapter delves into themes of communication and connection, particularly highlighting Hardin's emerging ability to bond with Smith despite his initial annoyance at babysitting. Tessa's nurturing nature shines through as she endeavors to bond with Smith and prepare dinner, though her unease simmers just beneath the surface.

A protective side of Hardin emerges as he advises Smith against using bad

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language, which underscores his commitment to looking out for both Tessa and the boy. Their playful exchanges allow glimpses into the complexities of Hardin and Tessa's relationship, with Smith curiously inquiring about their status, prompting some humorous yet awkward revelations from Hardin.

As Tessa navigates the kitchen, her vulnerability becomes evident as she struggles to keep her emotions in check, suggesting deeper issues may be brewing beneath her composed exterior. The chapter concludes with an unsettling hint that all is not well within Tessa, leaving readers intrigued about her internal conflicts.

Ultimately, through a blend of humor and poignant moments, the chapter illustrates growth and the intricate dynamics of Hardin and Tessa's relationship as they adapt to their new roles in each other's lives.

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## Chapter 72: Hardin

In Chapter 72, Hardin finds himself sharing a quiet, tension-laden dinner with Tessa's young brother, Smith. Despite Tessa's attempts to connect with him, Smith remains emotionally distant, prompting Hardin to step in with cheerful encouragement to help lighten the mood.

After dinner, the setting shifts to the living room, where an unexpected moment occurs when Smith, showing his vulnerability, asks Hardin a profound question regarding their father's health. This revelation reveals Smith's struggle with emotional burdens as he processes the illness of their father against the backdrop of their mother's death. Hardin, typically confident and brash, is momentarily taken aback but takes a deep breath and reassures Smith, framing the situation with honesty while still safeguarding the boy's feelings.

Their conversation, marked by a blend of awkwardness and newfound connection, explores themes of responsibility and the challenge of providing comfort, highlighting the complexities of life's fragility and the weight of childhood innocence. As Hardin navigates this tender moment, he undergoes a shift in his character, feeling protective and more attuned to the emotions of those around him.

When Tessa enters the scene, Smith chooses to stay with Hardin, indicating



an unexpected bond forming between them. This moment serves to illustrate Hardin's growing emotional depth and ability to connect with others, even amid serious and daunting topics. The chapter closes on a note of hope, showcasing the intricate and evolving dynamics of their relationships as they learn to traverse both lighter and weightier subjects together.

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## Chapter 73 Summary: Tessa

### Chapter Summary: Reflection and Uncertainty

In Chapter 73 of "After We Collided," Tessa confronts the complexities of her relationship with Hardin. She observes an unexpected connection between Hardin and Smith, a young boy who has stayed late to watch TV. This bond surprises her, considering Hardin's usual aversion to children, and it evokes mixed feelings within Tessa. While she finds joy in witnessing a softer side of Hardin, she struggles with the reality of their future.

Tessa is particularly troubled by Hardin's outright dismissal of marriage, despite his reassurances of wanting to be with her indefinitely. This conversation casts a shadow over her dreams of a family, leaving her to question whether their relationship can remain purely romantic or if they are destined to be perpetually stuck as "boyfriend and girlfriend." The uncertainty gnaws at her, forcing her to evaluate whether Hardin's love is enough to fill the void left by unfulfilled aspirations for a shared future.

As Tessa chats with her friend Kimberly, she learns more about Smith's late-night visit, bringing a sense of lightness to her otherwise tumultuous thoughts. The friendship between Smith and Hardin rekindles memories of a younger Hardin, highlighting the layers of his character that Tessa has

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seldom encountered.

The chapter culminates in a tender moment between Tessa and Hardin as she bids goodnight to Smith. Despite her unresolved questions about their future, Hardin's affectionate reassurance affirms their deep connection. As Tessa reflects on the day's events, she is left pondering the intricacies of love, uncertainty, and the paths that lie ahead for them both.

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# Chapter 74 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 74 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa is immersed in the complexities of her life as both a college student and a burgeoning adult, reflecting her struggle to balance personal aspirations with her evolving relationship with Hardin, her often enigmatic boyfriend. The chapter opens with a bright and pleasant day that mirrors Tessa's slightly uplifted mood as she heads to her internship. At work, she enjoys a delightful interaction with her boss, Kimberly, which brings a moment of warmth amidst her internal turmoil.

While at lunch, Tessa finds solace in a deeply emotional manuscript. Engrossed in its poignant narrative, she becomes overwhelmed and ends her workday in tears, highlighting her sensitivity and introspective nature. This emotional state is compounded by Hardin's continued lack of communication, causing her to grapple with their relationship's uncertainties, particularly around significant topics such as marriage and children—conversations Hardin seems to evade.

Returning home, Tessa discovers Hardin in a relaxed state, reading. Their interaction is notably warm, revealing a playful side to Hardin as he teases Tessa about her emotional engagement with the book, while she, in turn,

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presses him about skipping class. This conversation uncovers Hardin's reluctance to participate in certain aspects of life, signaling deeper issues at play.

The atmosphere becomes lighter when Hardin prepares to attend a hockey game with his friend Landon. Initially feigning reluctance, he later reveals he was joking, showcasing a facet of his personality often clouded by his more serious demeanor. When Landon arrives, Tessa perceives a lively banter and friendly rivalry between the two men, which she finds entertaining yet feels compelled to step back from, indicating her desire for their camaraderie while also harboring concerns about their dynamics.

This chapter intricately explores themes of love, emotional vulnerability, and the balancing act of personal and romantic relationships. Tessa's journey reflects her growth as she confronts her feelings for Hardin, navigating the emotional landscape of their connection while pursuing her own path in life.

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## Chapter 75 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 75, the narrative unfolds around Hardin as he finds himself immersed in a vibrant game day atmosphere alongside his stepbrother, Landon. Initially marked by playful banter regarding their late arrival, Hardin discovers an unexpected appreciation for Landon's company, especially as he witnesses Landon's spirited enthusiasm while cheering for his team. This light-hearted camaraderie introduces moments of levity, contrasting with Hardin's typically tense disposition.

However, the tone shifts dramatically when they encounter opposing fans who mock Landon. In a surprising display of loyalty and protectiveness, Hardin steps in to defend Landon, showcasing a deeper bond between the brothers and hinting at Hardin's fierce nature. This interaction leads them into a more profound discussion about relationships and the personal sacrifices they entail. Landon, contemplating a potential move for his girlfriend Dakota, causes Hardin to introspect about his connection with Tessa and confront his reluctance to compromise on living arrangements.

Their conversation exemplifies a playful yet competitive dynamic, revealing Hardin's struggle with his fears about his relationship with Tessa. He dismisses the idea of relocating for her, masking more complex insecurities beneath his bravado. After the game, Hardin returns home to find Tessa peacefully asleep on the couch, a poignant moment that highlights his



affection for her and underscores his desire to safeguard their bond amid life's turmoil.

Overall, Chapter 75 richly explores themes of loyalty, love, and the intricate nature of relationships as both Hardin and Landon confront their feelings and decisions. The blend of humor and serious reflection not only enhances character development but also leaves readers contemplating the impact of these dynamics on the characters' futures.

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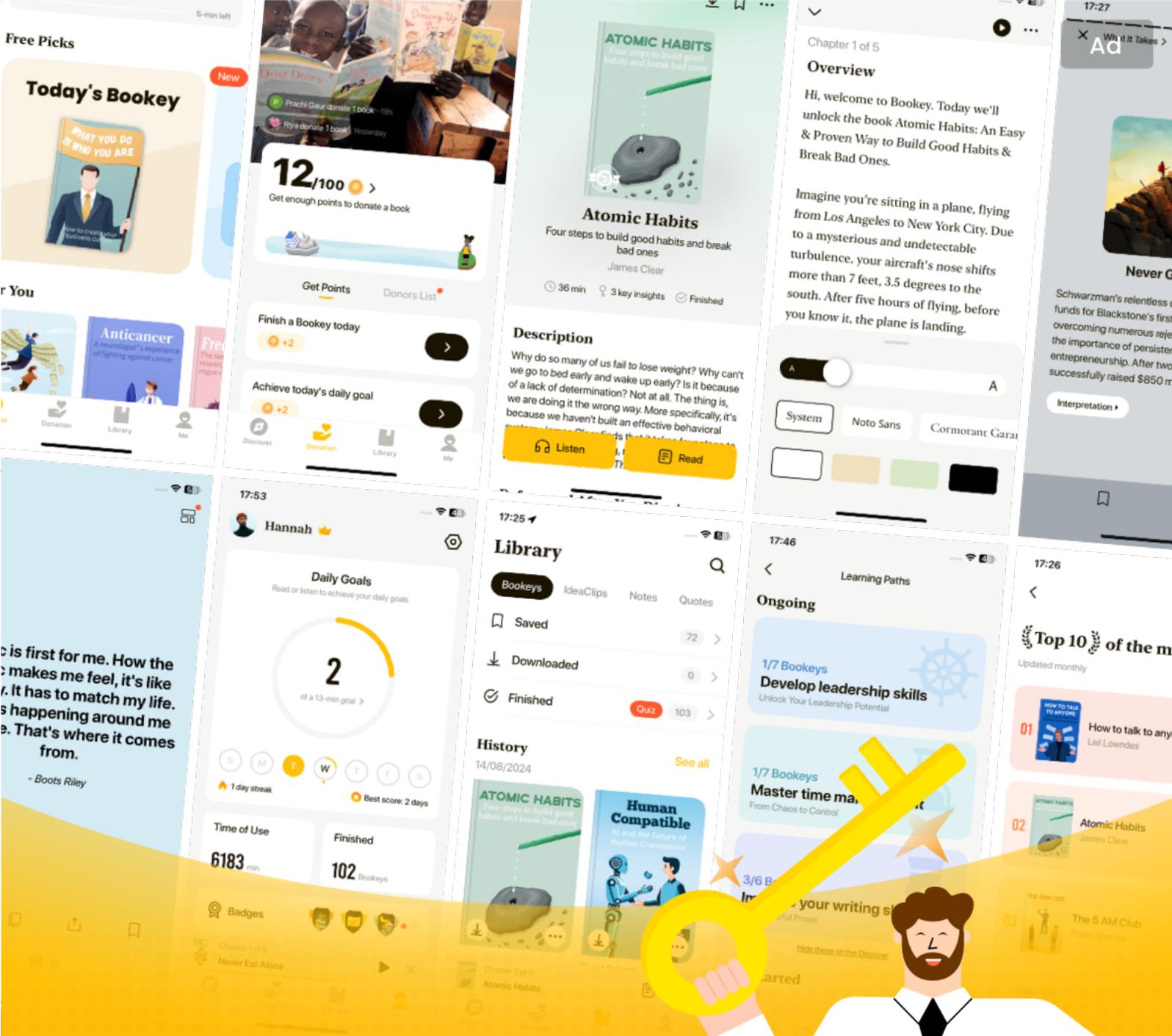
## Chapter 76: Hardin

In Chapter 76, the narrative centers around Hardin's emotional turmoil as he confronts his insecurities regarding his relationship with Tessa. The chapter opens with a tender moment where Hardin, feeling affection for Tessa, carries her to their bedroom while she sleeps peacefully. However, this

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## Chapter 77 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 77 of "After We Collided," Tessa awakens alone in bed, discovering that Hardin has gone out for breakfast with his father, Ken. Although Tessa initially feels hopeful about this father-son bonding, her happiness is quickly overshadowed by anxiety stemming from Hardin's unexpected absence and his lack of communication.

To distract herself, Tessa meets her friend Landon at a coffee shop. Their friendly conversation offers a momentary reprieve, but Landon's surprise at Hardin's breakfast plans only deepens her feelings of insecurity regarding their turbulent relationship. Later, during class with Professor Soto, who prompts discussions on the concept of faith, Tessa struggles to concentrate, her mind preoccupied with worries about Hardin and the lingering presence of Molly, an ex in Hardin's life that continues to haunt Tessa.

Throughout the class, she turns to her journal as a source of solace, where she candidly expresses her feelings about her relationship with Hardin. Writing becomes a cathartic exercise for Tessa, allowing her to confront her tumultuous emotions and her wavering faith in Hardin. As the day goes by with no word from him, her unease escalates, encapsulating her internal struggle between the hope of their connection and the insecurities that plague her thoughts.



This chapter poignantly captures Tessa's emotional vulnerability, leaving readers in suspense over Hardin's whereabouts and worried for Tessa as she navigates the choppy waters of trust and doubt in her relationship.

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## Chapter 78 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 78 of "After We Collided," Hardin faces the consequences of a reckless night of drinking, filled with regret over how he treated Tessa. He wakes up in Carly's kitchen, where she tries to help him cope with his hangover. As Hardin grapples with his feelings of guilt, he reflects on the previous night and the anxiety he caused Tessa.

Carly offers to drive Hardin back to his car, but his mind is consumed with worry for Tessa, especially after reading her anxious text messages. This concern escalates when they encounter a traffic accident and Hardin realizes that Tessa's car is involved. Panic sets in as he urgently requests Carly to stop, and he rushes toward the chaotic scene, desperate to find her.

Upon reaching Tessa, Hardin finds her sitting on the bumper of an ambulance, visibly hurt with a swollen lip and bruising on her cheek. However, their reunion is fraught with tension. Tessa, hurt and angry, confronts Hardin about his whereabouts, revealing that he had shattered her trust by spending the night with Carly.

Carly's presence exacerbates the situation, leading Tessa to question the nature of Hardin and Carly's relationship. As discussions escalate, Tessa articulates her pain and frustration over Hardin's conflicting narratives about his actions, highlighting the deep fractures in their relationship. She

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expresses her weariness with Hardin's inconsistency and careless behavior, emphasizing the emotional toll it has taken on her.

As the chapter unfolds, Tessa decides she needs to go to the hospital for treatment, marking a significant turning point for both of them. Hardin is left to confront the reality of his mistakes and the potential loss of Tessa, as the themes of trust, communication, and the ramifications of poor decisions loom large. The emotional strain between them illustrates the challenges they face as they navigate the complexities of their troubled bond.

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## Chapter 79 Summary: Hardin

### Summary of Chapter 79: Unraveling Relationships

In this emotionally charged chapter, Hardin is left to confront the aftermath of his reckless actions as he anxiously awaits Tessa's arrival. His turmoil is abruptly interrupted by Landon, Tessa's protective friend, who storms in, seething with anger. Landon bluntly reveals that Tessa's recent car accident was a direct result of Hardin's reckless text message, driving home the weight of Hardin's responsibility for her injuries.

This confrontation intensifies as Landon berates Hardin for his irresponsible behavior, exacerbated by his struggle with alcohol, and his repeated mistreatment of Tessa. Just as tensions peak, Tessa arrives, accompanied by Zed—an acquaintance of theirs with romantic implications, which ignites Hardin's jealousy and anger.

An explosive argument ensues between Hardin and Tessa, revealing the growing chasm in their relationship. Tessa expresses her heartache and disappointment, calling out Hardin for his deceit and the emotional walls he erects between them. Despite Hardin's desperate attempts to defend himself, contending that he would never cheat, Tessa's skepticism reflects her deep-seated doubts rooted in his past actions.



Amidst the confrontation, Tessa begins to pack her suitcase, intending to leave with Landon, which symbolizes her feeling increasingly transient in Hardin's life—an idea that weighs heavily on him. The chapter culminates with Tessa walking away, leaving Hardin alone to grapple with his self-inflicted regrets and the daunting fear of losing her forever.

This pivotal chapter encapsulates the complexities of love, betrayal, and the quest for redemption within relationships, highlighting how Hardin must now face the consequences of his choices.

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## Chapter 80: Tessa

In Chapter 80 of "After We Collided," Tessa embarks on a poignant journey of self-discovery and healing following her decision to part ways with Hardin. Nine days have passed since their last communication, and Tessa is engulfed in a profound sense of loss. The silence that hangs between them weighs heavily on her, as she grapples with conflicting emotions—her desire to reconnect with Hardin versus her recognition of the need for personal strength and independence.

As she reflects on their tumultuous relationship, Tessa becomes increasingly aware of the imbalance in their emotional exchanges, often feeling as though she contributed more than she received. Hardin's silence amplifies her pain, impacting her self-esteem and leaving her caught in a cycle of longing for his presence while simultaneously yearning to break free from what she has come to see as a toxic bond. Amidst the struggle, Tessa seeks comfort in music and her classes, though bittersweet memories of happier moments with Hardin continue to haunt her.

Gradually, Tessa begins to reclaim her identity and sense of self. Simple acts like getting dressed, showering, and allowing herself to smile again signal her shift away from despair. Her interactions with supportive characters like Landon and Karen bolster her resolve. They reflect her growing awareness of the necessity to forge her own path and explore new living arrangements,



indicating a readiness to step beyond Hardin's influence.

On the ninth day, Tessa feels the fog starting to lift. She takes the time to dress up, receives compliments that boost her confidence, and makes plans to attend a family dinner, signaling progress in her emotional recovery. An

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# Chapter 81 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 81 Summary: Hardin's Struggle

In this poignant chapter, we delve into Hardin's emotional turmoil following Tessa's departure, which leaves him in a state of despair for nine agonizing days without any contact. This silence becomes a heavy burden, amplifying his feelings of anger, guilt, and profound sadness. Despite his attempts to convince himself of his independence, reminders of Tessa are ever-present, making it impossible for him to escape the reality of his loss.

Seeking solace, Hardin retreats to his mother's house, but instead of finding peace, he faces his frustration with her well-meaning attempts to engage him. Each day is a battle against nostalgic memories of Tessa, and as he struggles through the monotony of his life, disturbing nightmares serve as stark reminders of her absence.

During this period, Hardin runs into an old acquaintance, Natalie, who shares that she is happily engaged and expecting a baby. This encounter triggers feelings of guilt in Hardin, as he reflects on his past mistakes, including how he treated Natalie and the growing sense of loss over Tessa. Their conversation starkly contrasts his current emotional state, highlighting how deeply troubled he remains.



As the days drag on, Hardin becomes increasingly introspective, coming to terms with the profound impact Tessa has had on his life and how she has changed him for the better. He grapples with his past mistakes and the consistent hurt he has inflicted upon Tessa, leading to an intense realization of his vulnerability. This emotional struggle culminates in tears as he confronts the reality of his feelings and the possibility that he has lost her forever.

By the ninth day, still tortured by thoughts of Tessa, he contemplates skipping a dinner party where she might be present, revealing his fear of facing the consequences of his actions. This chapter encapsulates Hardin's internal conflict, portraying his journey of growth while also delving into the scars left by his tumultuous past. The reader is left with a heavy sense of melancholy, as Hardin recognizes the profound consequences of his behavior and the love at risk of being lost.

Overall, the chapter highlights themes of love, regret, and personal growth, illustrating the complexities of relationships and the heartbreak that often accompanies them. Hardin's emotional evolution is marked by self-awareness and a desperate yearning for forgiveness, setting the stage for potential reconciliation in the chapters to come.

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## Chapter 82 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 82, Tessa grapples with feelings of loneliness following Karen's departure with Landon. Despite her efforts to push these emotions aside, the absence of companionship weighs heavily on her. Seeking comfort, she wanders into the kitchen, where she encounters Ken, who offers her a cupcake. This seemingly simple gesture recalls her grandmother's phrase that cupcakes are "food for the soul," bringing Tessa a fleeting sense of solace, even as the deeper pain she carries persists.

During their conversation, Ken reveals his own past struggles and reflects on his complex relationship with Hardin's mother, Trish. He shares a glimmer of hope for both Hardin and Tessa, suggesting that they will eventually find true love. Ken's insights evoke a tumultuous mix of emotions in Tessa, particularly regarding her feelings for Hardin. The idea of him finding happiness with someone else unsettles her, despite her genuine wish for his well-being.

After their chat, Ken departs, leaving Tessa to seek out Zed at his apartment. Upon arrival, she finds Zed waiting outside, casually smoking a cigarette. They engage in a light-hearted exchange about his habit, with Tessa playfully voicing her dislike for smoking. Showing a willingness to change, Zed discards his cigarette, signaling his interest in making their connection more comfortable.



This chapter encapsulates Tessa's emotional turmoil and her evolving relationships. It explores themes of healing, the intricacies of love and loss, and the significance of open communication. Through her interactions with Ken and Zed, Tessa is portrayed as navigating her loneliness while cautiously opening herself to new relationships, highlighting the complexity of her journey.

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## Chapter 83 Summary: Hardin

### Summary of Chapter 83: Hardin's Struggles

In this pivotal chapter, Hardin finds himself in a raw state of vulnerability, reeling from the repercussions of a major fallout with his girlfriend, Tessa. His mother, sensing his distress, brings him warm milk and honey—comforting remnants of his childhood meant to soothe his troubled spirit. She attempts to reassure him that Tessa still loves him, encouraging him to hold onto hope for reconciliation.

However, Hardin is caught in a storm of emotional turmoil, feeling numb and detached after a particularly painful confrontation with Tessa. He confides in his mother about his deep-seated fears of inadequacy, convinced that he cannot meet Tessa's needs and believing that he is destined to hurt her further. This self-perception of failure overwhelms him, leading him to consider the drastic option of letting Tessa go entirely—an act he believes would protect her from his past mistakes.

As the tension builds in the conversation, frustration overtakes Hardin, culminating in a moment of explosive emotion as he shatters the porcelain cup his mother brought him. This act serves as a powerful metaphor for his internal chaos and marks a significant emotional breaking point for him. It



compels Hardin to confront important decisions about not only his relationship with Tessa but also his own path toward personal growth and healing.

### **Key Themes: Emotional Turmoil and Growth**

This chapter underscores the themes of emotional struggle, the weight of past mistakes, and the tension between love and self-preservation. Hardin's introspection reveals his profound insecurities and highlights the complexity of navigating relationships—especially the delicate balance between holding on to love and the need to let go for the sake of another's well-being. It sets the groundwork for Hardin's ongoing journey towards self-acceptance and the possibility of redemption.

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# Chapter 84: Tessa

## Chapter 84 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa and Zed find themselves in a serene moment together after lunch, a lull that prompts Tessa to delve into a thought that has been lingering in her mind: what if Zed had been the one to win her heart first? Zed, caught off guard by her question, takes the opportunity to candidly share his feelings. He expresses that he had always planned to be forthright with Tessa about his emotions and the regrets he carries regarding their relationship.

As he opens up, Zed paints an idyllic vision of what their life could have been like together—a relationship devoid of the dishonesty and turmoil that often plague Tessa's current romance with Hardin. He articulates his admiration for her, emphasizing how he cherishes her laughter and vows to treat her with the respect she deserves. His earnest words strike a chord with Tessa, stirring deep and conflicting emotions within her.

In a moment charged with intensity, moved by Zed's heartfelt confession, Tessa closes the physical and emotional distance between them by kissing him. This act signifies a crucial turning point in their relationship, adding layers of complexity to Tessa's feelings as she grapples with her connections



to both Zed and Hardin.

This chapter encapsulates themes of honesty, desire, and the potential for love, while poignantly highlighting Tessa's internal struggle as she navigates her emotions between these two pivotal figures in her life.

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## Chapter 85 Summary: Tessa

### Chapter 85 Summary

In this poignant chapter, Tessa stands at a crossroads between her feelings for Zed and the lingering attachment to Hardin, her tumultuous ex-boyfriend. The chapter opens with an intimate scene where Zed draws Tessa close, leading to a passionate kiss that momentarily pulls her from her heartbreak. However, even in this moment of connection with Zed, Tessa finds herself unable to escape the memories of Hardin, prompting her to question the significance of her actions.

Zed, perceptive to Tessa's emotional struggle, openly addresses her unresolved feelings for Hardin. He emphasizes that he does not want to be merely a rebound for her, pointing out Hardin's lack of genuine effort to maintain their relationship and the pain he caused Tessa. This confrontation forces Tessa to confront her inner conflict: although she desires to move forward and embrace a new relationship, the memories and charm of Hardin continue to haunt her.

As Zed encourages Tessa to pursue her happiness, she grapples with her identity and emotions, confessing her confusion and the weight of her guilt. Despite Zed's kindness and attentiveness, Tessa acknowledges that Hardin's

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grasp on her heart is not easily relinquished. The chapter concludes with a powerful image of Tessa sitting alone in her car, consumed by frustration and longing, feeling lost as she navigates the complex emotions tied to her love for Hardin.

### **Key Themes:**

- 1. Emotional Conflict:** Tessa's internal struggle reveals the complexities of love, heartbreak, and the difficulty of moving on from a significant relationship.
- 2. The Quest for Happiness:** Zed's urging for Tessa to embrace her happiness underscores the importance of self-acceptance and the pursuit of joy, even amidst lingering pain.
- 3. Rebounds and Relationships:** The tension between Tessa and Zed captures the challenges of forming new connections while still weighed down by past relationships.

This chapter effectively illustrates Tessa's emotional turmoil, deepening the reader's empathy as she navigates the rocky path toward healing and redefining her sense of love.

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## Chapter 86 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 86, Hardin is engulfed in a tumult of emotions as he navigates the aftermath of his breakup with Tessa. The chapter opens with him waking up in a state of distress, haunting memories flooding back as he is overwhelmed with a longing for her. For the past ten days, Hardin has been struggling to cope with the separation, clinging to the hope that seeing Tessa at Christian's party might alleviate his heartache. He is deeply affected by memories of Tessa's comforting presence and her inviting scent, which only amplifies his feeling of losing touch with reality.

As Hardin moves through his day, he encounters Mike, a family friend, who unexpectedly reveals his romantic feelings for Hardin's mother, expressing a desire to marry her. This shocking confession leaves Hardin grappling with a mix of disbelief and concern, as he confronts the implications of such a relationship in his already complex family dynamic. The idea of his mother marrying their neighbor throws Hardin into deeper introspection about love, family, and commitment.

Throughout the chapter, Hardin's internal conflicts intensify. He is plagued by guilt over how his actions have impacted those he loves, particularly his mother, while also wrestling with the emotional fallout of his relationship with Tessa. This tumultuous backdrop not only highlights Hardin's sense of loss and desire for connection but also foreshadows potential growth as he



seeks to navigate his feelings and the shifting dynamics in his life. The chapter encapsulates the challenges of young love and the intricate web of relationships that complicate Hardin's journey towards healing and self-discovery.

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## Chapter 87 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 87 of "After We Collided," Tessa experiences a profound emotional struggle as she navigates her complicated feelings for Hardin, her tumultuous ex-boyfriend, while also exploring a budding relationship with Zed, a kind and understanding friend. As she drives aimlessly, memories of her intense past with Hardin haunt her, and she grapples with guilt over potentially moving forward with Zed.

Despite Zed's patience and support, Tessa's heart remains tethered to Hardin, leading her to contemplate reaching out to him for closure. The fear of reopening old wounds holds her back, but her desire for answers compels her to leave a heartfelt voicemail, expressing her confusion and hurt. When Hardin fails to respond, Tessa seeks refuge in Zed's presence.

Arriving at Zed's apartment, Tessa finds solace in his warm welcome and begins to discuss her feelings. She decides to give their relationship a chance, despite the lingering guilt from her past. As they spend the night together, Tessa appreciates Zed's calm demeanor, which starkly contrasts with Hardin's emotional volatility. Their time transitions from deep conversations to moments of laughter, allowing Tessa to feel relaxed and free from the pressures she has faced.

The morning brings further bonding between Tessa and Zed, and while she

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acknowledges that she is not ready to fully let go of Hardin, she begins to recognize the value of Zed's support in her life. Key themes emerge, including confusion, emotional healing, and the challenge of moving on. Tessa's journey reflects a broader struggle between letting go of past relationships and embracing the potential of new beginnings. Through her experiences, she gradually learns to prioritize her own emotions and well-being, signaling a step toward personal growth and healing.

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# Chapter 88: Tessa

## Chapter 88 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa experiences the profound impact of Hardin's absence after eleven days without contact, leaving her feeling lost and uncertain. As she prepares for a dinner party at her friend Christian's opulent home, she is engulfed by a mix of emotions—anticipation for a night with friends and anxiety about being reminded of Hardin. This emotional tension underscores her vulnerability and longing for their connection.

Dressing for the occasion, Tessa chooses to wear Hardin's bracelet, a symbol of their relationship that both comforts her and evokes the pain of their separation. Christian's home, a breathtaking modern structure perched over a serene lake, serves as the perfect backdrop for the gathering. The carefully curated decor and vibrant atmosphere foster a sense of camaraderie among friends, including the supportive presence of Zed and her adoptive family, Karen and Ken, whose bonds she admires.

As the evening unfolds, Tessa's thoughts frequently drift back to Hardin, especially after Trevor, a young boy at the party, innocently asks about him, deepening her heartache. The conversation around the dinner table shifts to Christian's exciting plans for expanding their office to Seattle, igniting

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Tessa's daydreams about a potential future with Hardin in the city—one filled with possibility, adventure, and love. This poignant moment highlights her inner conflict as she yearns for a life that feels just out of reach.

Throughout the chapter, themes of love, longing, and the intricate nature of relationships emerge. Tessa is caught in a struggle between hope and despair, reflecting her emotional journey and her quest for identity as she navigates the complexity of her feelings for Hardin. The chapter beautifully captures her turmoil, underscoring the lasting impact of their relationship on her life, even in his absence.

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## Chapter 89 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 89 of "After We Collided," we delve into Hardin's emotional turmoil as he battles with his past mistakes and grapples with anxiety and self-doubt. Outside Vance's house, he paces nervously, torn between the fear of looking foolish and the compelling need to confront Tessa. Ultimately, the desire to see her overcomes his hesitation, and he rings the doorbell.

Inside, his heart races at the sight of Tessa, who is radiant and laughter-filled among friends, particularly with Trevor. This connection between Tessa and Trevor triggers a wave of jealousy and insecurity in Hardin, pushing him to contemplate leaving, as he fears she may have moved on without him. However, a chance encounter with Smith, a young boy, encourages Hardin to stay, while Christian, another friend, joins in to help persuade him to endure the dinner.

As Hardin sits across from Tessa, he struggles to maintain his composure while witnessing her easy interactions with Trevor, which only amplify his heartache. The atmosphere shifts when Christian makes a momentous announcement—his proposal to Kimberly—which ignites joy among the guests. Yet, amidst the celebration, Hardin's keen observation of Tessa reveals her forced smile and the sadness in her eyes, indicating that she may still be hurting from their separation.



This chapter effectively explores themes of regret, longing, and the complexities of moving on. Hardin's internal conflict reflects his deep care for Tessa, underscored by feelings of inadequacy and the repercussions of his past decisions. The emotional weight hangs heavy as the chapter concludes, leaving readers with a sense of unresolved tension and the poignant dynamics between Hardin and Tessa.

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## Chapter 90 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 90, Tessa experiences a profound emotional conflict as she witnesses Hardin sharing a tender moment with Kimberly, which triggers feelings of joy for Kimberly but deep sadness for herself. This dichotomy highlights the complicated nature of Tessa's feelings for Hardin, as she grapples with the reality of his apparent indifference and the painful perception that he has moved on without her. Seeking to compose herself, Tessa retreats to the restroom, where she reflects on her heartbreak and Hardin's emotional distance.

As the evening unfolds, Tessa overhears a touching exchange between Hardin and a young boy named Smith. In this moment, Hardin displays a nurturing side, reassuring Smith that Tessa is okay and will not face dire consequences, showcasing his awareness of Tessa's struggles. This glimpse into Hardin's softer nature further complicates Tessa's feelings as she longs for that connection but feels distanced.

Ultimately, Tessa decides to leave the gathering, feeling overwhelmed and needing to escape the painful scenario. As she steps into the cold night air, she waits for Zed to pick her up, only to encounter Hardin unexpectedly. Their initial small talk quickly erupts into a passionate confrontation, revealing the depth of unresolved emotions and misunderstandings that linger between them. Tessa openly conveys her hurt over Hardin's absence,



but Hardin responds with anger about her assumptions, emphasizing the tumultuous state of their relationship.

This chapter is a poignant exploration of heartache, emphasizing how the characters' struggles with communication and emotional vulnerability create an atmosphere thick with tension. Tessa's internal conflict is laid bare as she navigates her relationship with Hardin, underscoring themes of longing, miscommunication, and the difficult quest for reconnection amidst personal turmoil.

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## Chapter 91 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 91, the emotional turmoil between Hardin and Tessa reaches a boiling point against the backdrop of a snowy driveway. As Tessa weeps, Hardin grapples with self-doubt, questioning whether he is truly the right partner for her. He feels burdened by his traumatic past and anger issues, believing Tessa deserves someone untainted by such struggles—evoking a parallel to Tom and Daisy from *\*The Great Gatsby\**, who represent flawed relationships marked by selfishness and regret.

The tension escalates when Zed arrives to pick Tessa up, igniting Hardin's fury and heartbreak. In a fit of rage, he confronts Zed, leading to a physical altercation. During this chaotic scene, Tessa intervenes, but when Hardin, lost in anger, inadvertently pushes her away, he is immediately filled with horror at his actions. Tessa's composed reaction to his outburst leaves him even more devastated. In the wake of the confrontation, she decides to leave with Zed, feeling the need to distance herself from Hardin's destructive presence.

As Tessa climbs into Zed's truck, Hardin is consumed by a mix of longing to mend their relationship and the stark realization of how his violent tendencies have pushed her further away. The chapter concludes with Hardin wrestling with anger and regret while Zed, now more than a mere rival, grows confident that the conflict between him and Hardin has only just



begun. This chapter poignantly encapsulates themes of love, regret, and the challenge of personal transformation as Hardin confronts the consequences of his actions and their devastating impact on Tessa's life.

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## Chapter 92: Tessa

In Chapter 92, the tension surrounding Tessa's tumultuous relationship with Hardin reaches a boiling point following a physical altercation sparked by Hardin's volatile temperament. In the aftermath, Tessa finds herself conflicted and heartbroken as her friend Zed tends to his injured face, a result of Hardin's aggression. Despite the pain, Zed reassures Tessa that he holds no resentment toward her, highlighting his supportive nature.

As Tessa grapples with her emotions, she reflects on Hardin's indifference to her distress. Rather than showing concern for her wellbeing, Hardin's attitude leaves her feeling more confused about their tumultuous relationship. Zed, characterized by kindness and understanding, suggests Tessa change into some of his clothes since her dress has been ruined, symbolizing his desire to support her. Tessa hesitates initially, burdened by her feelings for Hardin, but ultimately decides to embrace this small act of comfort, realizing that Hardin no longer holds claim over her.

Changing into Zed's oversized T-shirt and boxers evokes a mix of embarrassment and comfort in Tessa. This intimate moment underscores the growing bond between them, revealed in their conversation as Tessa shares her fears about Hardin's violent nature. Zed listens attentively and assures her that he is willing to face any challenge that comes his way for her sake.



In a quiet moment on the couch, they find solace in each other's company, creating a stark contrast to Tessa's chaotic relationship with Hardin. Engaging in lighthearted television watching, Tessa's vulnerability shines through as she asks Zed to stay with her until she falls asleep, a clear indication of her need for security and companionship.

Overall, this chapter intricately weaves together themes of vulnerability, emotional safety, and the contrasting dynamics of love and friendship. Tessa's struggles with her feelings for Hardin unite with her discovery of warmth and stability through her friendship with Zed, setting the stage for her continued emotional evolution amidst turbulence.

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## Chapter 93 Summary: Hardin

In Chapter 93 of "After We Collided," Hardin is engulfed in a whirlwind of anger and regret following a tumultuous altercation with Tessa, a pivotal character in his life whose emotions he deeply values. The chapter begins with Hardin expressing his frustration in a destructive manner, violently pounding on his car and unleashing a scream, a physical manifestation of his inner chaos. This scene illustrates not only his impulsive nature but also his intense concern for how Tessa might be feeling after the confrontation, emphasizing his emotional depth despite his often volatile behavior.

The arrival of Christian, Hardin's friend, serves as a light-hearted interruption to his stormy thoughts. Christian tries to tease Hardin out of his brooding mood, providing a contrasting perspective on male friendships and the complexities of navigating apologies and relationships. Despite Christian's playful prodding, Hardin remains guarded, reluctant to explore his emotional vulnerabilities or take responsibility for his actions—an ongoing struggle that highlights a central theme of the book: the difficulty of communication and vulnerability in romantic relationships.

As they talk, Hardin grapples with his feelings of jealousy and despair, particularly as he imagines Tessa finding solace in the company of Zed, another character who complicates their relationship. This sight of potential comfort between Tessa and Zed intensifies Hardin's internal conflict,

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revealing his insecurities and the fear of losing Tessa.

The chapter culminates on a note of reluctant acceptance, as Hardin allows Christian to guide him back indoors. This moment symbolizes a small but significant step towards seeking help and support amid his emotional turmoil, hinting at the importance of friendship even as he continues to wrestle with his feelings for Tessa. The blend of tension, humor, and vulnerability encapsulates Hardin's complex character and the often tumultuous nature of love and relationships, reinforcing the ongoing challenges faced by the protagonists in their journey.

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# Chapter 94 Summary: Tessa

## Summary of Chapter 94

In this chapter, Tessa experiences a restless night, tormented by the absence of communication from Hardin, her tumultuous former boyfriend. Memories of a poignant dream where Hardin begs her to return haunt her, deepening her heartache. As she lies awake on Zed's small couch—her temporary refuge—Tessa finds herself grappling with her emotions and yearning for comfort.

In search of solace, she softly wakes Zed, whose initial concern for her reveals his caring nature. Tessa asks if she can sleep in his room, and despite the disorderly state of his bed, Zed readily makes space for her. The intimate closeness ignites a sense of comfort, yet also unease for Tessa. When Zed offers to listen to her troubles, she feels hesitant and decides to keep her feelings bottled up, acknowledging her confusion instead.

Choosing closeness over conversation, Tessa asks Zed to move nearer, leading to a tender moment as he gently caresses her cheek. This act of kindness stirs conflicting emotions within her. Zed expresses joy that Tessa is with him instead of Hardin, provoking her to confront the complexities of her emotions. Tessa's internal struggle is palpable as she navigates her



lingering attachments to Hardin and the budding connection with Zed. This chapter vividly explores the themes of longing, emotional strife, and the intricate web of relationships, reflecting Tessa's journey of self-discovery amid her tangled feelings for both men.

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# Chapter 95 Summary: Hardin

## Chapter 95 Summary

In this emotionally charged chapter, Hardin faces the consequences of his recent actions as he grapples with his tumultuous relationship with Tessa. The chapter opens with Hardin picking up his stepbrother, Landon, from the airport. An air of tension hangs between them, primarily due to the turmoil caused by Hardin's choices that have hurt Tessa. As they drive, Hardin wrestles with a whirlwind of emotions—anger, jealousy, and regret—especially after learning that Tessa spent the weekend with Zed, a man Hardin views as a rival.

Despite Landon's attempts to counsel Hardin to respect Tessa's autonomy and decisions, Hardin's obsessive jealousy clouds his judgment. He feels threatened and believes he is losing Tessa to Zed, prompting him to seek comfort from Jace. This encounter serves as a harsh reminder of the turmoil within Hardin; he recognizes his own volatile tendencies and the destructive patterns of his behavior.

Consumed by desperation, Hardin decides to confront Tessa directly and finds himself at Zed's apartment in the early morning. There, he discovers Tessa in bed with Zed, triggering a maelstrom of rage, heartbreak, and

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confusion within him. Despite his tumultuous feelings, he attempts to maintain composure but ultimately confronts Tessa about her relationship with Zed.

In a powerful moment, Tessa stands firm against Hardin's anger, demonstrating her own strength and resolve. As tensions rise, a confrontation between Hardin and Zed looms. However, Tessa intervenes, reminding both men of the complexities at play. Ultimately, she chooses to leave with Hardin, but not without acknowledging the chaotic emotions surrounding their relationship and the pressures exerted by both men.

This chapter delves into themes of jealousy, control, and the challenges of acceptance in relationships. Hardin's fierce dedication to Tessa contrasts sharply with his previous reckless actions, revealing a raw vulnerability beneath his troubled exterior. Tessa's choice to leave with Hardin, despite her conflicted feelings, underscores her agency in the matter. The chapter concludes with lingering tension, hinting that the journey of these characters is far from resolved.

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# Chapter 96: Hardin

## Summary of Chapter 96: After We Collided

In this intense chapter, Hardin and Tessa confront each other after a painful period of separation. Their reunion is fraught with tension, ignited by Hardin's jealousy over Tessa's choice to wear clothes belonging to Zed, a friend whose closeness to Tessa has triggered insecurities in Hardin. As they drive to Hardin's father's house, emotions run high, with Tessa expressing her frustrations over Hardin's silence during their eleven-day split.

The confrontation quickly escalates, revealing the depth of their tumultuous relationship. Tessa accuses Hardin of being self-centered and failing to consider her feelings, reinforcing her sense of being undervalued. Hardin struggles to communicate his emotions, admitting he retreated to England post-fight to gather his thoughts. Still, he feels a pang of jealousy when he hears Tessa mention Zed.

Their exchange highlights a cycle of miscommunication layered with emotional pain. While Hardin expresses a strong desire to repair their relationship, Tessa is weary, grappling with doubts about his sincerity and the trust that has been eroded. As the snow falls outside, their discussion transforms into a profound exploration of love, conflict, and the desire for



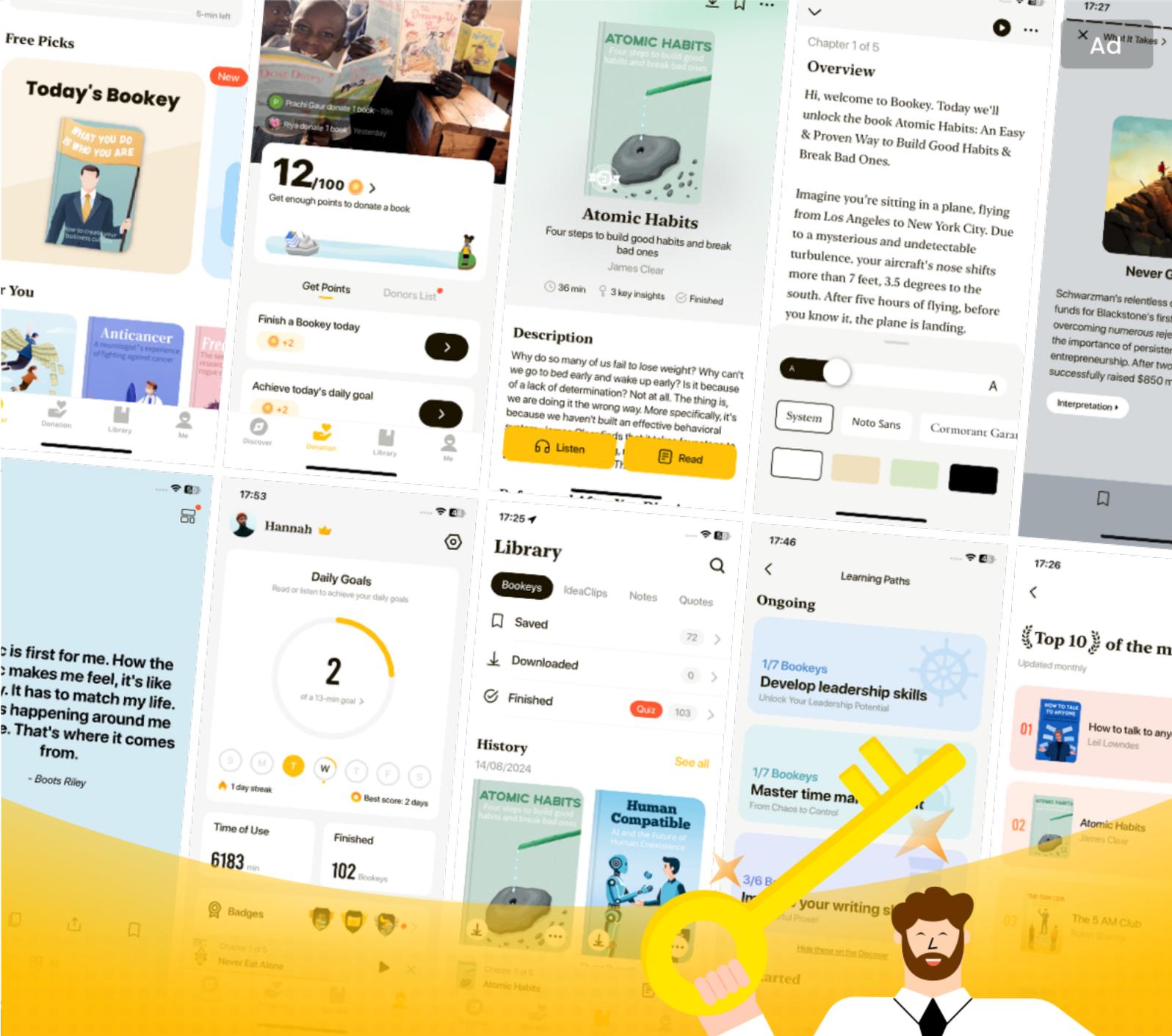
understanding amidst chaos.

In the end, Tessa finds herself torn between her lingering affection for Hardin and the hurt he has inflicted, standing at a pivotal moment where the future of their relationship hangs in the balance, surrounded by unresolved tensions and emotional complexity.

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## Chapter 97 Summary: Tessa

In Chapter 97, Tessa is confronted with the painful realities of her turbulent relationship with Hardin. As they engage in a heart-wrenching conversation, Hardin admits his shortcomings, acknowledging that he has consistently put himself above Tessa, leaving her feeling neglected and hurt. His confession that he has spoken with his ex-girlfriend, Natalie—who is now engaged and pregnant—not only exacerbates Tessa's heartbreak but also highlights Hardin's ongoing struggles with emotional commitment and his unresolved feelings for the past.

Caught in a whirlwind of emotions, Tessa grapples with her lingering love for Hardin, despite recognizing the limitations of their relationship. Their intense passion often leads to heartbreak, raising questions in her mind about the essence of love itself. Tessa realizes that true love should encompass trust and stability, rather than being solely defined by passionate outbursts.

Seeking solace, Tessa turns to her supportive friend Landon, who shares his experiences and the joy of being with his girlfriend, Dakota. His words remind her that love can manifest differently—some types fulfilling while others fall short. This conversation serves as a stark contrast to Tessa's own tumultuous feelings for Hardin, emphasizing her internal struggle to define her emotional needs.

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In a surprising and emotionally charged moment, Hardin unexpectedly shows up at the bathroom door, revealing his vulnerability. He pulls Tessa into a kiss that leaves her baffled and questioning his sincerity. Is this affection genuine, or merely a reaction to his own fears? The chapter encapsulates the complexities of love and heartache, emphasizing Tessa's ongoing battle for self-respect amidst the chaos of her feelings. This leaves readers on edge, eager to discover how Tessa will navigate her complicated emotions toward Hardin moving forward.

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## Chapter 98 Summary: Hardin

### Summary of Chapter 98: After We Collided

In this poignant chapter, Hardin grapples with the aftermath of his tumultuous relationship with Tessa, marked by emotional turmoil and a painful separation that has left both characters reeling. The chapter opens with an intense kiss that symbolizes the deep but precarious connection they share—a mix of passion, longing, and unresolved conflict.

As Hardin kneels before Tessa, he lays bare his heart, pleading for a second chance. He confronts his past mistakes and acknowledges his difficulties in expressing himself. This moment of vulnerability lays the groundwork for an exploration of the complexities inherent in their love, particularly the struggle between affection and emotional turbulence. Tessa, meanwhile, wrestles with her feelings, recognizing the toxic patterns that have emerged in their relationship even as she feels an undeniable bond with him.

The rawness of their conversation brings to light important themes such as the challenges of communication and the pain that often accompanies love. Tessa reflects on their shared history, voice laced with hesitation; although Hardin's visible anguish indicates the depth of his feelings, her uncertainty suggests the difficulty in rebuilding trust. Ultimately, she agrees to

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contemplate their future, leaving Hardin with a fragile glimmer of hope.

Following their emotionally charged encounter, Hardin seeks counsel from his stepbrother Landon, who emphasizes the necessity of allowing Tessa space while demonstrating his commitment to her. This exchange reveals a significant moment of growth for Hardin, as he begins to recognize how his actions have contributed to pushing Tessa away.

The chapter culminates with a tense confrontation with Hardin's father, who raises concerns about his treatment of Tessa. This encounter serves as a catalyst for Hardin, reinforcing his determination to prove his love and commitment, even as he acknowledges the pain he has caused.

In summary, this chapter stands as a crucial turning point in Hardin and Tessa's relationship, marked by emotional depth, the quest for redemption, and the intricate interplay between love and personal struggles. It highlights their ongoing journey towards understanding and healing, setting the stage for further character development and relationship dynamics.

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# Chapter 99 Summary: Tessa

## Chapter 99 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa finds herself wrestling with a storm of emotions following a deeply emotional encounter with Hardin, who had made a rare display of vulnerability by pleading with her on his knees. This moment has further complicated her already tumultuous feelings toward him, leaving her heartbroken and conflicted. As she grapples with these emotions, Tessa realizes that she must prioritize her own well-being for the first time.

While riding with Landon, her thoughts drift back to her recent kiss with Hardin and her developing friendship with Zed, a more stable presence in her life. Zed, who has consistently shown her kindness, reaches out to check on her, amplifying Tessa's guilt about the chaos that ensued after kissing Hardin the previous night while staying at Zed's place. Torn between her tumultuous past with Hardin—characterized by emotional manipulation and unpredictability—and the nurturing bond she shares with Zed, Tessa grapples with her conflicting feelings.

Tessa reminisces about the tangled history she shares with Hardin, recalling the ways he has often destabilized her emotionally. Although Hardin claims that Zed's intentions are shallow, Tessa cannot ignore the genuine care Zed

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has demonstrated. This stark contrast highlights the volatility present in her dynamic with Hardin.

As the chapter unfolds, Tessa decides to meet Zed for lunch, a choice that symbolizes her willingness to explore this kinder relationship, even as the shadows of her past with Hardin loom over her. Tessa's journey in this chapter encapsulates her struggle with self-identity, the complexities of love, and the process of moving forward, setting an essential foundation for her continued self-discovery.

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## Chapter 100: Tessa

### Summary of Chapter 100 from "After We Collided"

In this pivotal chapter, Tessa finds herself in the midst of emotional turbulence following a rocky encounter with Hardin, a passionate yet tumultuous character in her life. Despite her attempt to distance herself, she cannot shake her feelings for him, leading to confusion and guilt about missing him. Seeking distraction, she spends time with her supportive friend Landon, who shares his ambitions for NYU, providing a temporary escape from her inner chaos.

Tessa's lunch with Zed, a friend who harbors admiration for her, brings her mixed emotions to the forefront. Their conversation touches on Hardin, which only deepens Tessa's conflict. Zed expresses concern for her well-being, indicating that she deserves better than the strained relationship she has with Hardin. This moment of vulnerability is complicated by Zed's attraction to Tessa, and their discussion about Hardin's reckless behavior alongside Jace, Tessa's adversary, adds to her doubt and turmoil.

As they wander through a greenhouse brimming with luminous flowers, Tessa is struck by their beauty, which symbolizes her longing for stability and care amidst her chaos. When Zed attempts to kiss her, she instinctively



pulls back, feeling overwhelmed and unprepared to pursue something new while still tangled in her feelings for Hardin. Zed's understanding demeanor amplifies her conflict, as she recognizes the warmth he offers but isn't ready to embrace it.

During a yoga class, Tessa reflects on her unresolved feelings for both men. Her contemplation is interrupted when Hardin surprises her by eagerly asking her out on a date, revealing a side of him that is rarely seen—a blend of vulnerability and sincerity. Flustered yet excited by the encounter, Tessa agrees to the date, sharing a few laughs that hint at the possibility of rekindling their connection despite their tumultuous past.

### **Key Themes:**

- **Inner Conflict:** Tessa's struggle between her feelings for Hardin and her attraction to Zed represents the complexities of love and emotional confusion.
- **Growth and Transformation:** The glowing plants in the greenhouse symbolize Tessa's desire for growth and a safer emotional space as she navigates her relationships.
- **Vulnerability:** Hardin's unexpected nervousness showcases the depth of his character, illustrating that beneath his brooding exterior lies someone capable of genuine emotion.

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This chapter poignantly portrays Tessa's emotional tug-of-war and the exhilarating potential for new beginnings, all while navigating the intricate dynamics of love, friendship, and personal growth.

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## Chapter 101 Summary: Hundred: Hardin

In Chapter 101 of "After We Collided," the focus shifts to Hardin as he contemplates his tumultuous feelings for Tessa and the choices that lie ahead. The chapter opens with Hardin unexpectedly entering his father's office, where he catches Landon, Tessa's supportive friend, in the middle of faxing his transcripts to NYU. Hardin learns that Landon will soon be leaving to be with his girlfriend, Dakota. This news troubles him, as he worries about Tessa's reliance on Landon for companionship and support.

As the conversation unfolds, Landon jokingly mentions seeing Tessa with another guy, Zed, which momentarily sends Hardin into a panic. This reaction reveals Hardin's deep-seated vulnerabilities and his intense fear of losing Tessa, illuminating the depth of his feelings. Recognizing Hardin's internal conflict, Landon offers friendship and advice on how to reconnect with Tessa after their recent struggles, encouraging Hardin to be more mindful of her needs.

Later, driven by an overwhelming desire to be near Tessa, Hardin sneaks a glance into her room. He finds her asleep surrounded by her books, a moment that poignantly illustrates his longing for her, despite Landon's earlier suggestion that he should allow her space. This juxtaposition highlights Hardin's inner turmoil as he battles with feelings of loneliness and despair when away from Tessa.

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Returning to their apartment, Hardin is engulfed by a profound sense of isolation and grapples with the tormenting thought of possibly never being able to hold Tessa again. This emotional struggle spurs him to commit to change—both for Tessa’s sake and his own—as he realizes the urgency of proving his love and dedication to her. The chapter vividly captures Hardin's turmoil, setting the stage for his journey of personal growth and reconciliation with Tessa.

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# Chapter 102 Summary: Hundred and One: Tessa

## Summary of Chapter 102: After We Collided

In this chapter, Tessa is filled with a blend of excitement and anxiety as she prepares for a night out with Hardin. As night falls, she becomes increasingly impatient, awaiting his arrival. When Hardin finally shows up, Tessa is taken aback by his striking transformation; he wears a sharp black button-up shirt, tailored dress pants, and polished shoes, which marks a significant moment in their relationship as he steps out of his usual style.

During their interaction, Tessa notices that Hardin has removed his piercings, an adjustment she initially assumes was made for her benefit. However, Hardin clarifies that this change is a personal decision, indicating his desire for a new look that reflects a shift in his identity. Tessa reassures him of her unwavering love, emphasizing that she values his true self above his appearance.

This chapter explores themes of identity and acceptance as Hardin navigates his self-image and contemplates its implications for his future. On their way to a fancy restaurant, the earlier tension gives way to a lighthearted, flirtatious atmosphere. Hardin's newfound confidence in Tessa's presence enhances their playful banter, illustrating the deepening bond they've



developed despite their past struggles.

Overall, this chapter encapsulates a charming and tender moment as Tessa and Hardin embark on a new adventure together, highlighting the evolution of their relationship amid the challenges they face, underscoring their growth as individuals and as a couple.

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# Chapter 103 Summary: Hundred and Two: Hardin

## Summary of Chapter 103

In this chapter, the date between Hardin and Tessa unfolds with unexpected twists, starting with their failed reservation at an upscale restaurant. Despite the disappointment, Hardin attempts to keep the mood light by jokingly suggesting McDonald's as an alternative. Their evening takes a fun turn when they discover an ice-skating rink. Tessa's enthusiasm about skating is infectious, convincing Hardin, who has never skated before, to embrace the idea.

During a stop at Target to purchase warm clothes for their outing, the chapter provides deeper insight into Hardin's character. He candidly shares that he has kept clothes in his trunk from previous encounters with girls, briefly unsettling Tessa. However, he reassures her that his feelings for her are authentic and distinct from his past relationships. Their playful banter not only highlights their growing connection but also indicates the underlying seriousness of their bond.

At the skating rink, Hardin's inexperience leads to multiple falls, much to Tessa's amusement. Though initially frustrated, the joyful atmosphere fosters shared laughter and candid conversations. Tessa expresses her longing for

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stability in their relationship, emphasizing the need for Hardin to treat her with respect and refrain from trying to control her.

Their discussion shifts to Hardin's decision to remove his piercings—a gesture reflecting his desire for personal growth. Tessa makes it clear that she appreciates who he is at his core but wants him to put in the effort to nurture their relationship. This exchange enhances their emotional connection, revealing Hardin's commitment to becoming a better person, not only for Tessa but for himself.

As they navigate conversations about Hardin's upcoming birthday party, tension arises when Tessa suggests it might be best for them to part ways for the evening. Their honest and vulnerable exchanges portray the complexities of their evolving relationship, hinting at both challenges and opportunities for growth. The chapter closes on a hopeful note, suggesting that despite their differences and tumultuous pasts, they may be able to forge a positive path forward together.

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# Chapter 104: Hundred and Three: Tessa

## Chapter 104 Summary

In this chapter, Tessa and Hardin confront the complexities of their evolving relationship, which is filled with emotional highs and lows. Following a date that draws them closer, Tessa feels a mix of excitement and anxiety about their connection. Simultaneously, Hardin is plagued by nightmares that disrupt his sleep, creating a tension between his longing for Tessa's presence and his instinct to maintain emotional distance. When Tessa invites him to her room, she later questions the wisdom of her decision, highlighting her ambivalence about intimacy.

As they spend time together, Tessa reflects on the changes she's seen in Hardin recently. His efforts to become a better person bring her joy, yet the impending anxiety of Hardin's 21st birthday looms heavily, triggering memories of past turmoil at celebrations and adding pressure to their budding romance.

Their subsequent reunion in Tessa's room turns intimate when Hardin surprises her by entering unannounced. He expresses remorse for his prior reactions, and they share a tender moment together, deepening their bond. Tessa yearns for closeness, yet they both recognize the necessity of

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boundaries, especially after their significant first date.

The chapter concludes with Tessa awakening to find that Hardin has slipped away early, leaving a note about needing to work. Although she's disappointed that he didn't stay longer, she feels a sense of relief to avoid the

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## Chapter 105 Summary: Hundred and Four: Hardin

In Chapter 105 of "After We Collided," the narrative centers around Hardin's twenty-first birthday, a significant milestone that evokes introspection and emotional turmoil, particularly concerning his relationship with Tessa. Amidst the anticipation of celebrating with friends Nate and Logan, Hardin finds himself more preoccupied with Tessa's absence than in the festivities. Their playful nudging encourages him to let loose, yet he cannot shake the feeling that the party lacks the one person who truly matters to him.

As the party unfolds at the frat house, the chaotic atmosphere, filled with familiar faces like Molly, who embodies a bold personality with her pink hair, does little to alleviate Hardin's anxiety. His friends inquire about Tessa's whereabouts, and though he dismisses their questions, it becomes clear that the absence of his girlfriend casts a long shadow over his mood. Hardin reflects on how Tessa has influenced him, softening his once tumultuous demeanor, which underscores the journey of his character development since their relationship began.

Amidst the fun and revelry, Hardin's thoughts are frequently interrupted by feelings of jealousy and insecurity as he contemplates Tessa's interactions with another character, Zed. This serves to intensify his internal struggle, as he grapples with the conflicting pressures of wanting to embrace the party lifestyle while yearning for a deeper connection with Tessa.



Key elements of this chapter highlight Hardin's ongoing transformation, revealing his growth from a reckless youth to someone who seeks meaningful connections. The themes of balancing personal desires versus social expectations and the evolution of friendships punctuate Hardin's experience, marking a critical point in his emotional journey. As he reflects on his past and yearns for Tessa, the chapter paves the way for potential resolutions in their tumultuous relationship.

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## Chapter 106 Summary: Hundred and Five: Tessa

### Summary of Chapter 106 from "After We Collided"

In this chapter, Tessa eagerly anticipates the celebration of Hardin's birthday, filled with both excitement and anxiety. As she exchanges flirty texts with him, she experiences those familiar butterflies, which highlight her strong feelings despite the unresolved issues they face regarding their future. Choosing to focus on Hardin and their time together for his special day, Tessa momentarily sets aside their challenges.

To make the evening memorable, Tessa dons a cute blue top paired with jeans, wishing to impress Hardin. As she prepares for the occasion, she reflects on Hardin's efforts to improve and the appreciation he shows for their relationship, which fills her with joy and a sense of deepening affection. With a thoughtful touch, she wraps a gift in music note-patterned paper, reinforcing her personal connection to him.

In a heartwarming moment, Tessa bonds with her mother, Karen, over baking a decadent two-layer chocolate cake—a favorite of Hardin's. Their lighthearted exchange, paired with nostalgic music from Luther Vandross, emphasizes Tessa's longing for warmth and normalcy, contrasting with the turbulence of her relationship with Hardin. These moments of laughter help



Tessa maintain her positivity as she eagerly waits for Hardin's arrival.

However, as time passes and Hardin remains late, Tessa's excitement begins to morph into anxiety. She grapples with her worries, reminding herself to hope for his appearance as she anxiously awaits him alone in the kitchen.

### **Key Events and Themes**

- **Tessa's Preparation:** The chapter illustrates Tessa's eagerness and affection as she puts effort into celebrating Hardin, indicating her commitment to their relationship.
- **Character Development:** Hardin's willingness to change for Tessa reflects growth in his character, and Tessa's appreciation of this change hints at a deeper connection between them.
- **Family Connection:** The interaction with Karen highlights Tessa's desire for familial support and stability amidst her complicated relationship with Hardin.
- **Anxiety and Hope:** Tessa's worry over Hardin's lateness accentuates her vulnerability and the emotional stakes involved in their young romance.



Overall, this chapter captures a blend of joy, anticipation, and the underlying tension of uncertainty, when it comes to young love and its complexities.

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## Chapter 107 Summary: Hundred and Seven: Tessa

In Chapter 107, Tessa is engulfed in despair after being let down yet again by Hardin, her volatile partner. She had invested considerable time and effort into baking a cake for what she hoped would be a romantic reunion, only to find herself abandoned when he fails to show up. As she reflects on this disappointment, Tessa grapples with a tumult of emotions—reminiscing about the playful teasing that once brought her joy, even as she confronts the pain that Hardin's actions inevitably cause.

Seeking solace in her room, Tessa turns to music, but the weight of her letdown lingers and intensifies her feelings of hopelessness. Unlike in the past, she finds herself too weary to confront Hardin about his absence. The situation escalates when Hardin calls her late at night, presumably under the influence of alcohol. Despite a strong urge to pick up the phone, Tessa exercises restraint, recognizing that this pattern of hope followed by heartbreak is a cyclical trap that she can no longer endure.

This chapter poignantly explores themes of love, heartache, and the journey of personal growth. Tessa's reflections on her situation signal a shift in her mindset; she begins to acknowledge that she deserves better. As the narrative unfolds, it becomes increasingly clear that she is on the path toward reclaiming her worth and finding the strength to break free from the toxic hold of her relationship with Hardin.

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## Chapter 108: Hundred and Eight: Hardin

In Chapter 108, we delve into Hardin's emotional turmoil as his birthday draws to a close. The chapter opens with him grappling with frustration and anxiety stemming from Tessa's unavailability. Their last interaction was laced with playful tension, where Tessa flirted with the idea of getting closer, but Hardin held back, aware that such advances could complicate their already tumultuous relationship.

To alleviate Hardin's mood, his friend Logan suggests prolonging their time at a birthday party. However, the sudden arrival of two women dressed as strippers sends Hardin into a panic, prompting him to leave the gathering. His instinct to flee reveals his deeper commitment to Tessa; he is dreadfully aware of how her anger would manifest if she discovered he was mingling in such questionable company. This moment accentuates the internal conflict Hardin faces: he desires to enjoy his birthday but is equally fearful of jeopardizing his relationship with Tessa.

As the evening progresses, Hardin reflects on his efforts to maintain a connection with Tessa. He contemplates the delicate balance between giving her the space she needs while also staying emotionally connected, underscoring his feelings of isolation. His constant checking of his phone further highlights his anxiety and the weight he feels regarding their relationship dynamics.

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The chapter closes with Hardin alone in his apartment, a stark contrast to the celebratory mood typical of birthdays, deepening his feelings of loneliness and frustration. The narrative captures the complexities of relationships, the difficulties of communication, and the challenge of managing personal desires without overstepping boundaries, setting the stage for Hardin's character development and the evolution of his relationship with Tessa.

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## Chapter 109 Summary: Hundred and Nine: Tessa

In Chapter 109 of "After We Collided," Tessa wakes up feeling disheartened due to Hardin's absence, which weighs heavily on her heart. As she moves through her morning routine, memories of their time together flood her mind—she longs for their shared apartment and the small moments that once brought her joy. To provide some relief from her sadness, her friend Karen suggests a trip to the beach, hoping it will be a welcome distraction.

Arriving at her job at Vance, Tessa attempts to reconnect with her estranged mother, but her calls go unanswered, deepening her sense of isolation. While reviewing a disappointing manuscript, she yearns for deeper stories that reflect the complexity of emotions and struggles—parallels to her own tumultuous relationship with Hardin.

Summoning her courage, she approaches her boss Christian about a potential transfer to Seattle, a move she has long desired. Despite her lingering doubts about Hardin's place in her future, she cautiously engages in discussions about the move, admitting they are still evaluating their relationship. Christian is supportive, even playfully suggesting that Hardin could benefit from an attitude adjustment if he were to join her in Seattle.

By the end of the chapter, Tessa is filled with excitement about the possibility of her upcoming relocation in two weeks, envisioning a new

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beginning. However, this excitement is tinged with unease as she contemplates both her future and Hardin's in the face of their unresolved issues.

## Key Themes and Character Developments

- **Hope and Change:** Tessa's anticipation for the Seattle opportunity symbolizes her desire for new beginnings, contrasted by her reflections on her complicated relationship with Hardin.
- **Relationships:** The complexities of Tessa and Hardin's bond are brought to light, showcasing the miscommunications and emotional struggles that define their connection, with supportive friendships serving as a comforting backdrop.
- **Self-Discovery:** Tessa's quest for authentic narratives mirrors her own need for genuine relationships as she navigates her feelings surrounding Hardin and the uncertainty of their future.

Overall, this chapter poignantly illustrates Tessa's inner conflict while she strives for independence and self-fulfillment amidst the uncertainty that looms over her relationship with Hardin.



## Chapter 110 Summary: Hundred and Ten: Tessa

In Chapter 110, Tessa eagerly awaits Zed outside his apartment, eager to discuss something important. As she passes the time with a coffee, she feels cheerful and presentable. However, her mood shifts dramatically when she learns that Zed attended the party where her boyfriend, Hardin, was supposed to celebrate his birthday but left the gathering because strippers were present. This revelation is particularly jarring for Tessa, especially since she had gone to the effort of baking a cake for Hardin, anticipating a memorable evening together.

During their conversation, Zed shows empathy for Tessa's situation, noting that Hardin's choice to leave the party speaks volumes about his priorities. Tessa finds herself grappling with mixed emotions, recognizing persistent communication issues in her relationship with Hardin. She reflects on the couple's tendency to make snap judgments, which often fuels their conflicts. Despite Zed's encouragement to reconsider her feelings for Hardin, Tessa remains torn, yearning for a conversation with him to gain clarity on his decisions.

This chapter vividly captures Tessa's emotional struggle and the complexities of young love as she navigates loyalty and communication challenges. Zed's supportive presence underscores the importance of friendship and perspective, prompting Tessa to evaluate her own needs in a



partner. Ultimately, the chapter explores themes of personal growth, emotional turmoil, and the difficulties of understanding oneself and one's partner in a tumultuous relationship.

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## Chapter 111 Summary: Hundred and Eleven: Hardin

In Chapter 111 of "After We Collided," the story delves into Hardin's profound sense of loss as he navigates the stark emptiness of his apartment, continually haunted by memories of Tessa. His longing for her is intensely felt, prompting him to visit his father's house in hopes of finding her.

Upon arrival, Hardin encounters Landon, his supportive friend and Tessa's confidant, who delivers the disappointing news that Tessa is not there. The atmosphere thickens as Hardin discovers a cake that Tessa made to celebrate his birthday—a milestone he overlooked for a party that kept him from her, further adding to his guilt and regret for how his actions have hurt her.

When Tessa finally appears, the distance between them is palpable. Their dinner is awkward, filled with unspoken tension, as Hardin grapples with Tessa's aloofness. Following the meal, Tessa leads him upstairs, where their confrontation takes center stage.

A critical misunderstanding emerges: Tessa feels abandoned after Hardin seemingly stood her up, a miscommunication stemming from Zed's interference. Zed, a rival in Hardin's life, had sent deceptive texts from Hardin's phone, sowing discord and mistrust. As they argue, the deep emotional scars from their tumultuous relationship come to light. Hardin embarks on a passionate plea, revealing his desire to change and expressing



a commitment to mend their relationship, emphasizing the importance of exclusivity and mutual effort in overcoming their struggles.

Despite Hardin's earnest attempts to reach Tessa, the chapter closes on an uncertain note as he kneels before her, seeking clarity and hope amidst the emotional turmoil. The intensity of their interaction highlights both the pain and potential for reconciliation, underscoring the complexities of love, jealousy, and the challenge of rebuilding trust.

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## Chapter 112: Hundred and Twelve: Tessa

In Chapter 112 of "After We Collided," Tessa navigates a whirlwind of emotions during a tense exchange with Hardin. This chapter centers on their ongoing struggle to communicate effectively amidst the challenges posed by trust issues. Tessa feels conflicted between Hardin's assertions of love and the kindness she has received from Zed, a mutual friend who has shown her support during difficult times.

The chapter opens with Tessa expressing her frustration over their repetitive cycles of conflict, which have begun to take a significant emotional toll on her. She longs for the closeness they once shared, indicating a deep desire for connection that has become strained over time. Hardin, on his part, attempts to convey his feelings by kneeling before her, a gesture that symbolizes his vulnerability and earnest wish to mend their relationship. He insists that he is not solely responsible for their misunderstandings, revealing his struggle for accountability amidst their turmoil.

However, the conversation takes a turn as Hardin's jealousy over Tessa's friendship with Zed becomes apparent. He grapples with insecurities that heighten the tension between them, believing Zed's presence complicates their already delicate bond. Tessa, determined to assert her independence, stands firm in her right to maintain her friendships, reiterating the foundational need for trust and open communication in their relationship.



The atmosphere intensifies when Tessa admits to kissing Zed, a revelation that shatters the fragile peace they were attempting to establish. Hardin's explosive reaction exemplifies the deep-seated issues that they must confront, illustrating the raw complexities of their relationship.

Throughout this chapter, themes of love, trust, and the intricate dynamics of emotional connections are highlighted. As Tessa and Hardin navigate their conflicting desires and struggles, the chapter concludes with a sense of impending change, leaving readers eager to see how this pivotal moment will affect their already strained connection moving forward.

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# Chapter 113 Summary: Hundred and Thirteen: Tessa

## Chapter 113 Summary

In this emotionally charged chapter, Tessa wakes up to find Hardin consumed by anger and distress over a recent revelation: she kissed Zed, a friend who had filled the emotional void Hardin had left. Tessa, feeling abandoned and neglected by Hardin's previous behaviors, reluctantly shares this detail, intensifying Hardin's fury. His reaction is explosive; he threatens her and rages through his room in a destructive frenzy, showcasing the depth of his hurt.

Despite the chaos, Tessa stands firm against Hardin's accusations, emphasizing that their relationship has always been tumultuous, marked by emotional scars on both sides. She reflects on the reality of love—not the romantic ideal often depicted in movies, but a messy, imperfect journey filled with mistakes.

Amidst the turmoil, a pivotal moment of vulnerability emerges. Hardin confesses his conflicted feelings, and Tessa asserts her love for him, prompting him to admit that he will always care for her. This exchange softens the atmosphere, hinting at the possibility of healing despite their tumultuous history.

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The chapter reaches its climax when Tessa and Hardin share a passionate moment, reconnecting physically. This moment illustrates the dual nature of their relationship—a blend of chaos and desire—as they navigate the complexities of trust, love, and forgiveness on their shared journey.

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## Chapter 114 Summary: Hundred and Fourteen: Hardin

In Chapter 114 of *After We Collided*, we witness a pivotal moment between Hardin and Tessa as their relationship evolves into a deeper physical and emotional connection. The tension is palpable as they share an intimate encounter, with Hardin overwhelmed by his feelings for Tessa. Despite the chaos and unresolved issues that often plague their relationship, their chemistry shines through during this heated moment.

As they become closer, Hardin is struck by Tessa's transformation from her initial nervousness during their first intimate encounters to her newfound confidence. This shift not only highlights Tessa's personal growth but also marks a significant development in their relationship. Their playful banter, infused with passion, underscores the increasing intimacy between them.

However, beneath this surface of passion lies an undercurrent of turmoil. Hardin struggles with lingering jealousy and resentment towards Tessa's interactions with another character, Zed, which hints at the unresolved conflicts that still threaten their bond. This emotional turbulence serves as a backdrop to their physical connection, illustrating how love can be both exhilarating and complicated.

The chapter encapsulates themes of desire, vulnerability, and the intricacies of relationships, revealing that while their connection is robust, it is also

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fraught with challenges. Ultimately, this intimate moment acts as a reminder of their undeniable bond, even amidst the external pressures and emotional dilemmas they must navigate.

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## Chapter 115 Summary: Hundred and Fifteen: Tessa

In Chapter 115 of "After We Collided," Tessa finds herself enveloped in a moment of intimacy with Hardin, laying against his chest after a passionate encounter. This moment is both familiar and intense, rekindling a sense of connection that Tessa has yearned for, especially amidst the recent tensions caused by Hardin's anger.

As Hardin steps away to freshen up, Tessa cannot help but giggle at his playful remark about her gaze. In his absence, she grapples with a whirlwind of emotions, ultimately deciding to wear her own clothes instead of reaching for Hardin's T-shirt. This choice reflects her cautious approach to their relationship—an attempt to navigate personal boundaries while mindful of the underlying issues that simmer beneath the surface.

Upon Hardin's return with a snack, the couple engages in a brief moment of cooperative calm while they clean up the remnants left from an earlier argument. Despite this shared activity, an air of unease persists as Tessa senses that Hardin's anger is not fully resolved. The tension escalates when he rummages through a closet and discovers a small bag and box, prompting curiosity about whether these items are meant for her. This moment signals a pivotal juncture in their relationship, illustrating their struggle with communication and vulnerability. Neither is ready to confront the deeper issues that plague them, even as their physical connection deepens.



## Key Themes and Character Developments:

- **Intimacy and Connection:** The evolving physical relationship between Tessa and Hardin highlights a delicate balance between passion and uncertainty, showcasing the intensity of young love.
- **Communication Challenges:** This chapter underscores their difficulty in expressing feelings beyond the physical realm, pointing to unresolved issues that linger in the background.
- **Vulnerability and Fear:** Tessa's reluctance to claim Hardin's belongings symbolizes her fear of conflict, while Hardin's inquisitiveness illustrates a desire to understand Tessa's feelings more deeply.

Through these dynamics, the chapter beautifully captures the complexity of young love—interwoven with desire, fear, and a longing for clarity as Tessa and Hardin navigate the intricacies of their evolving relationship.

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## Chapter 116: Hundred and Sixteen: Hardin

In Chapter 116, the focus shifts to a poignant birthday celebration between Hardin and Tessa, highlighting their deepening emotional bond. The chapter begins with Hardin's initial annoyance at the ornate wrapping of his gifts, but this feeling quickly transforms as he begins unwrapping them, revealing the thoughtfulness behind each item.

The first gift Tessa presents is a well-loved copy of "Pride and Prejudice," which evokes a mix of embarrassment and fondness from her. This classic novel, known for its themes of love and misunderstanding, serves as a symbolic connection between the two, especially as Tessa has annotated passages that reflect her feelings for Hardin. This act underscores their shared interests, fostering intimacy in their relationship and illustrating how meaningful gestures can resonate deeply.

Following this, Tessa humorously gifts Hardin a new leather binder, teasing him about the disrepair of his old one. This playful exchange emphasizes their growing comfort with one another, allowing for light-hearted banter despite Hardin's resistance to her attempts at organization. It showcases the warmth and understanding that are developing between them.

The final gift is a week's pass for kickboxing classes, aimed at helping Hardin channel his anger constructively. His sarcastic response highlights

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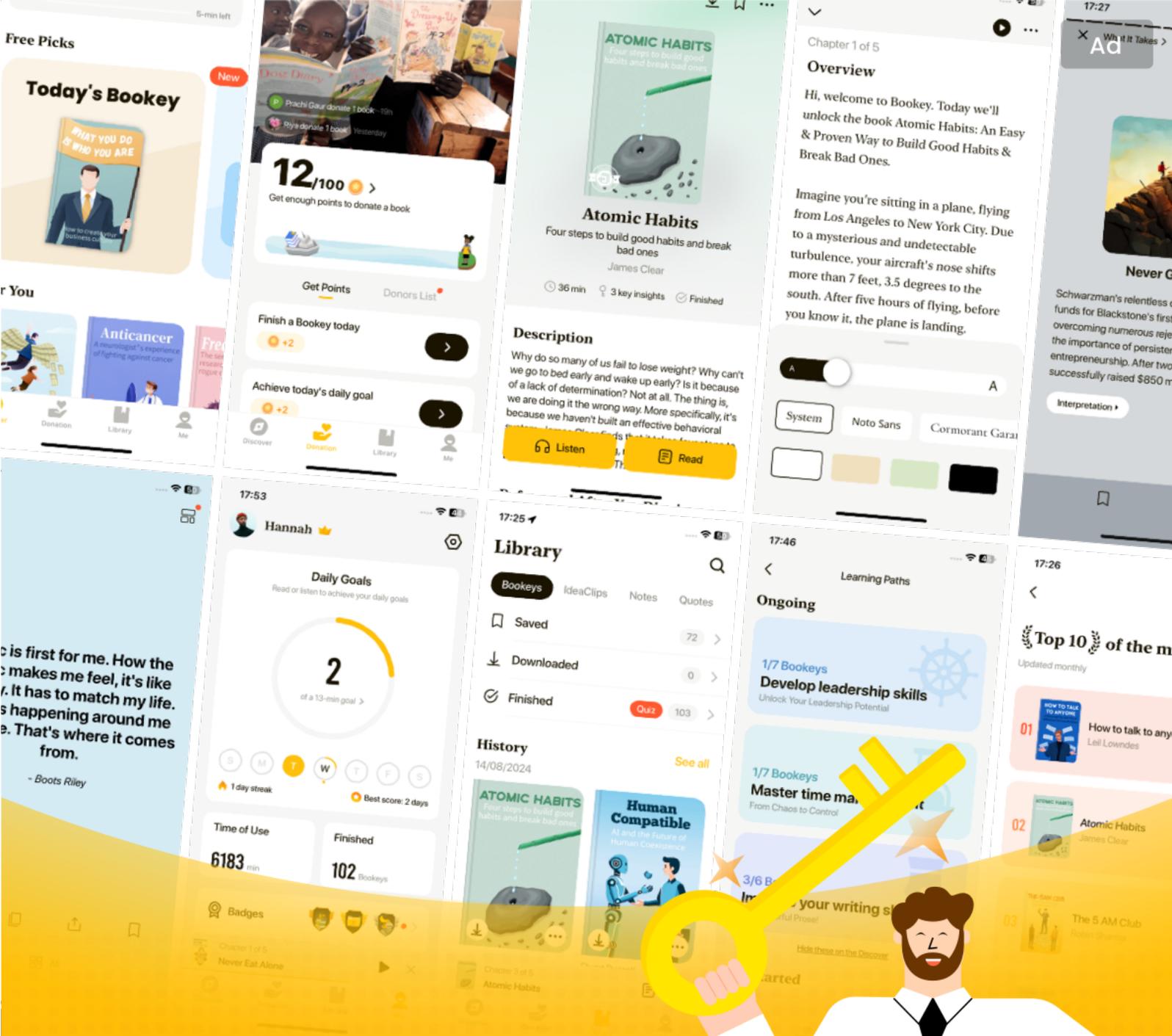
the rough edges of his personality, yet beneath the surface, there is a hint of gratitude for Tessa's concern for his well-being. The chapter closes with Hardin holding a CD that signifies their mutual love for music, further emphasizing their shared experiences and connection.

Overall, this chapter beautifully underscores themes of vulnerability, affection, and the power of simple gifts. It marks a significant step in Hardin's character development as he begins to accept Tessa's love and support, showcasing the evolving nature of their relationship as they learn more about each other.

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# Chapter 117 Summary: Hundred and Seventeen: Tessa

## Chapter 117 Summary of "After We Collided"

In this pivotal chapter, Tessa and Hardin grapple with the intricacies of their tumultuous relationship, marked by lingering emotions and unresolved conflicts. Following an eventful period where Hardin faced disappointment on his birthday, he invites Tessa to spend the night, seeking solace in each other's presence. Tessa, enthusiastic about reconnecting, agrees, eager to deepen their bond.

Their intimate moment quickly turns serious when Hardin recounts a disturbing nightmare in which Tessa is harmed. This triggers Tessa's protective instincts, and she reassures him of her safety and steadfast love. Hardin's nightmares are a manifestation of his troubling past, showcasing the emotional scars that haunt him. This exchange opens a window into both characters' vulnerabilities, emphasizing the weight of their histories.

The couple attempts to lighten the mood by going out for breakfast, engaging in playful banter that highlights their familiarity and affection. Tessa compliments Hardin's shoes, symbolizing their comfort with one another. However, the atmosphere becomes tense when Tessa's voicemail from Hardin's absence inadvertently plays in the car, revealing her inner

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turmoil after sharing a kiss with Zed, a new character who has been a source of tension in their relationship. Her voice reveals the confusion and guilt she feels, complicating their breakfast outing.

Hardin's mood darkens upon hearing the voicemail, particularly the parts about Zed. Despite Tessa's insistence that their interactions were limited and her ongoing commitment to Hardin, the conversation quickly unveils deep-seated issues of jealousy and trust. Hardin firmly establishes a boundary regarding Zed, reflecting the volatility of their emotional landscape.

The chapter culminates in a bittersweet moment as Hardin walks Tessa to her class. He professes his love for her amidst the lingering tension, and they share a passionate kiss. While the kiss brings Tessa a sense of relief and hope, the shadows of their unresolved issues remain, underscoring the challenges they face.

Key themes in this chapter center on the intersection of love and trauma, the difficulties of rebuilding trust, and the complexity of reconciliation. Tessa and Hardin's journey encapsulates a blend of joy and turmoil, illustrating the real struggles inherent in deep emotional connections.

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## Chapter 118 Summary: Hundred and Eighteen: Hardin

In Chapter 118 of "After We Collided," Hardin is consumed by the emotional aftermath of his tumultuous relationship with Tessa. He receives a voicemail from her that reveals her deep sorrow since their breakup, igniting a protective instinct within him. The voicemail serves as a bittersweet reminder of their connection, even as they are apart.

Driven by a mix of jealousy and anger, Hardin confronts Zed, the guy who dared to kiss Tessa after their separation. He tracks Zed to a secluded botanical room on campus, where Zed's casual demeanor in lab goggles fuels Hardin's fury. The situation quickly escalates; their confrontation evolves into a violent brawl as Hardin channels the pain of his lost relationship into his fists.

Throughout the fight, Zed taunts Hardin, suggesting that Tessa is not something he can control, further inciting Hardin's rage. The physical exchange becomes increasingly brutal, revealing Hardin's struggle with his emotions and the consequences of his possessiveness. As Hardin fights, images of Zed with Tessa flood his mind, intensifying his need to claim what he feels is rightfully his.

Just when it seems the conflict will spiral out of control, their altercation is interrupted by a bystander, prompting the call for campus security. This

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brings Hardin face-to-face with the reality of his impulsive actions. Zed, injured but defiant, attempts to turn the tables and present himself as the victim, complicating the narrative of the confrontation.

This chapter deeply explores themes of jealousy, possessiveness, and the emotional struggles that plague Hardin. As he grapples with the potential repercussions of his violent outburst, he is forced to reevaluate his promises to Tessa and the fragile state of their relationship moving forward. The intense emotions and turmoil depicted in this chapter set the stage for Hardin's inevitable journey towards accountability and growth, leaving readers to question what lies ahead for him and Tessa.

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## Chapter 119 Summary: Hundred and Nineteen: Tessa

In Chapter 119, Tessa's day takes a dramatic turn when Chancellor Ken urgently summons her and her friend Landon during class. Anxious thoughts swirl in Tessa's mind as she worries about Hardin, her tumultuous boyfriend, after learning he has been arrested for fighting and vandalism. This news strikes her hard, igniting concern for his safety and the repercussions of his reckless actions.

As Ken drives them to campus security, Tessa's imagination races with what Hardin might be enduring, and shortly after, they arrive at the holding area where Hardin is detained. Tessa's heart sinks upon seeing him handcuffed and agitated, his frustration boiling over as he confronts the guards. Despite his angry exterior, Tessa feels a surge of empathy as she realizes that his fierce demeanor masks deeper vulnerabilities.

When Tessa finally reaches him, her presence seems to calm Hardin, though he brushes off her concerns with bravado, insisting he's fine despite visible injuries. This moment highlights the complicated dynamics of their relationship; while Hardin exudes a tough exterior, he is also deeply affected by Tessa's support. However, Tessa's worry intensifies when she presses him about the fight, suspecting it involved Zed, another man hardening their ongoing rivalry and complicating their lives.

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Amidst her swirling emotions of anger and fear, Tessa confronts the reality of Hardin's impulsive behavior, which often leads to destructive outcomes. The chapter closes on a poignant note, reinforcing the challenges they face together as a couple, torn between their intense love and the tumultuous consequences of Hardin's actions. As Tessa grapples with the impact on their future, the narrative leaves readers contemplating the fragile balance between passion and peril in their relationship.

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## Chapter 120: Hundred and Twenty: Tessa

In Chapter 120 of "After We Collided," the drama escalates as Tessa finds herself in a tense confrontation with Hardin after his reckless decision to engage Zed, despite their prior agreement to steer clear of one another. Hardin's jealousy spirals out of control, leading to a violent altercation that lands Zed seriously injured. The implications of Hardin's actions are severe; not only is he at risk of expulsion, but he also faces potential legal repercussions.

Amidst the emotional turmoil, Tessa grapples with her feelings for both men. Hardin's fiery temper and possessive nature infuriate her, yet Zed's injury complicates her emotions further. During a hospital visit to Zed, she is confronted with the physical reality of the violence and feels a deep sense of guilt for the chaos that her relationships with both boys have wrought.

In a key moment of vulnerability, Zed candidly discusses his provoking remarks about sleeping with Tessa, highlighting how Hardin views her as an object of possession rather than an equal partner. Despite his pain, Zed remains kind and insightful, drawing attention to the toxic dynamics in Tessa and Hardin's relationship. This realization weighs heavily on Tessa, who ultimately decides against pressing charges against Hardin in hopes of alleviating further conflict in their lives.



As the chapter unfolds, themes of love, jealousy, and the repercussions of toxic relationships become more pronounced, leaving Tessa feeling overwhelmed by the drama surrounding her. The chapter concludes on a poignant note when Zed expresses his feelings for her, prompting Tessa to reflect deeply on her tumultuous connection with Hardin and the path she wants to take moving forward. This pivotal moment pushes her to confront not only her emotions but also the implications of her choices on her future.

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## Chapter 121 Summary: Hundred and Twenty-One: Hardin

In Chapter 121 of "After We Collided," Hardin and Tessa return home after a day fraught with tension, underscored by Hardin's frustration towards Tessa's friend, Landon, who has been supporting her. Tessa, sensing Hardin's agitation, gently encourages him to move past it, displaying her nurturing side amidst Hardin's emotional turmoil.

Once they reach home, Tessa appears worn out, hinting at the stress she has been carrying. Hardin expresses his appreciation for her decision to stay the night, signaling the importance of their bond. As Tessa drifts off to sleep, Hardin seizes this quiet moment to reflect deeply on their relationship, turning to the copy of "Pride and Prejudice" that Tessa had gifted him. The book holds personal significance, featuring her highlighted notes that rekindle cherished memories and a wealth of emotions linked to their past difficulties.

As Hardin peruses Tessa's annotations, he is struck by her insights, which resonate profoundly with his own feelings. He recalls moments of disappointment from Tessa and considers his growth since they began their relationship. These reflections highlight his deepening love for her, juxtaposed with his fears about commitment and the modern perception of marriage. Hardin grapples with societal norms that can undermine genuine

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relationships, making his internal conflict vivid and relatable.

In this introspective scene, Hardin's vulnerability emerges, revealing his longing for a future with Tessa. He whispers his hopes for their relationship while she sleeps, showcasing his desire for a stronger connection. The chapter emphasizes themes of love, personal growth, and the fear of commitment, setting the stage for the emotional challenges they will face together. By the conclusion, the warmth of their bond shines through, foreshadowing the complex journey ahead as they navigate their intertwined lives.

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# Chapter 122 Summary: Hundred and Twenty-Two: Tessa

## Chapter 122 Summary

In this emotionally charged chapter of "After We Collided," Tessa awakens to find Hardin by her side, grappling with the anxiety of potentially being expelled from Washington Central University (WCU). Their conversation reveals Hardin's vulnerabilities, as he expresses his deep-seated fears of losing his college future. Tessa provides him with reassurance, validating his concerns while feeling the weight of Hardin's desire to return to England—a prospect that disturbs her as it raises questions about their relationship's viability, especially with the specter of long-distance love looming over them.

Their day takes a more playful turn as they visit a tattoo shop with friends, including Steph and Tristan. The atmosphere is lighthearted and filled with humor, contrasting with the serious undertones of Hardin's thoughts. He contemplates getting a tattoo that symbolizes his enduring commitment to Tessa, particularly a quote that signifies his hope for permanence in their relationship. This decision, however, is laden with irony; unbeknownst to Hardin, Tessa is secretly considering a move to Seattle, an act that creates an underlying tension between their present moment and the uncertain future.

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As the group jokes and banters, Tessa feels conflicted about Hardin's intention to ink her name on his body. While she wishes to support his gesture, she is torn by her dreams and aspirations, which begin to clash with the reality of their relationship. This internal struggle highlights key themes of commitment and communication, emphasizing how young love can often be fraught with uncertainty and doubt.

Ultimately, the chapter leaves readers with a sense of ambiguity as Tessa navigates her feelings. The push and pull of her emotions encapsulates the complexities of their bond, setting the stage for further developments in their relationship as they both confront personal ambitions and the significance of their connection.

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## Chapter 123 Summary: Hundred and Twenty-Three: Hardin

In Chapter 123 of "After We Collided," the relationship between Hardin and Tessa takes center stage as they navigate a blend of affection and tension. The chapter begins with Tessa shyly holding Hardin's hand while he receives a new tattoo. This moment signifies their deepening bond and Hardin's feelings for Tessa, even as he pretends to express pain for her sake; in truth, he finds the tattooing process soothing.

Drew, Hardin's tattoo artist and friend, infuses the scene with humor, though his comments occasionally irritate Hardin. Throughout the chapter, Tessa's genuine concern for Hardin is evident, showcasing her nurturing nature against the backdrop of their playful interactions. They joke about future tattoos and body piercings, highlighting the lighter side of their relationship amid the turbulent emotions they often face.

However, the mood abruptly shifts as they exit the tattoo shop and come across a disheveled homeless man. Hardin instinctively moves to protect Tessa, but the situation escalates when Tessa unexpectedly identifies the man as her father, whispering, "Dad?" This revelation hints at unresolved family issues that could significantly impact Tessa's life and their relationship.

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Overall, this chapter skillfully interweaves themes of vulnerability, the intricacies of love, and the shadows of the past. Hardin and Tessa's evolving dynamics are punctuated by intimate moments and sudden challenges, paving the way for deeper emotional revelations and future conflicts.

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