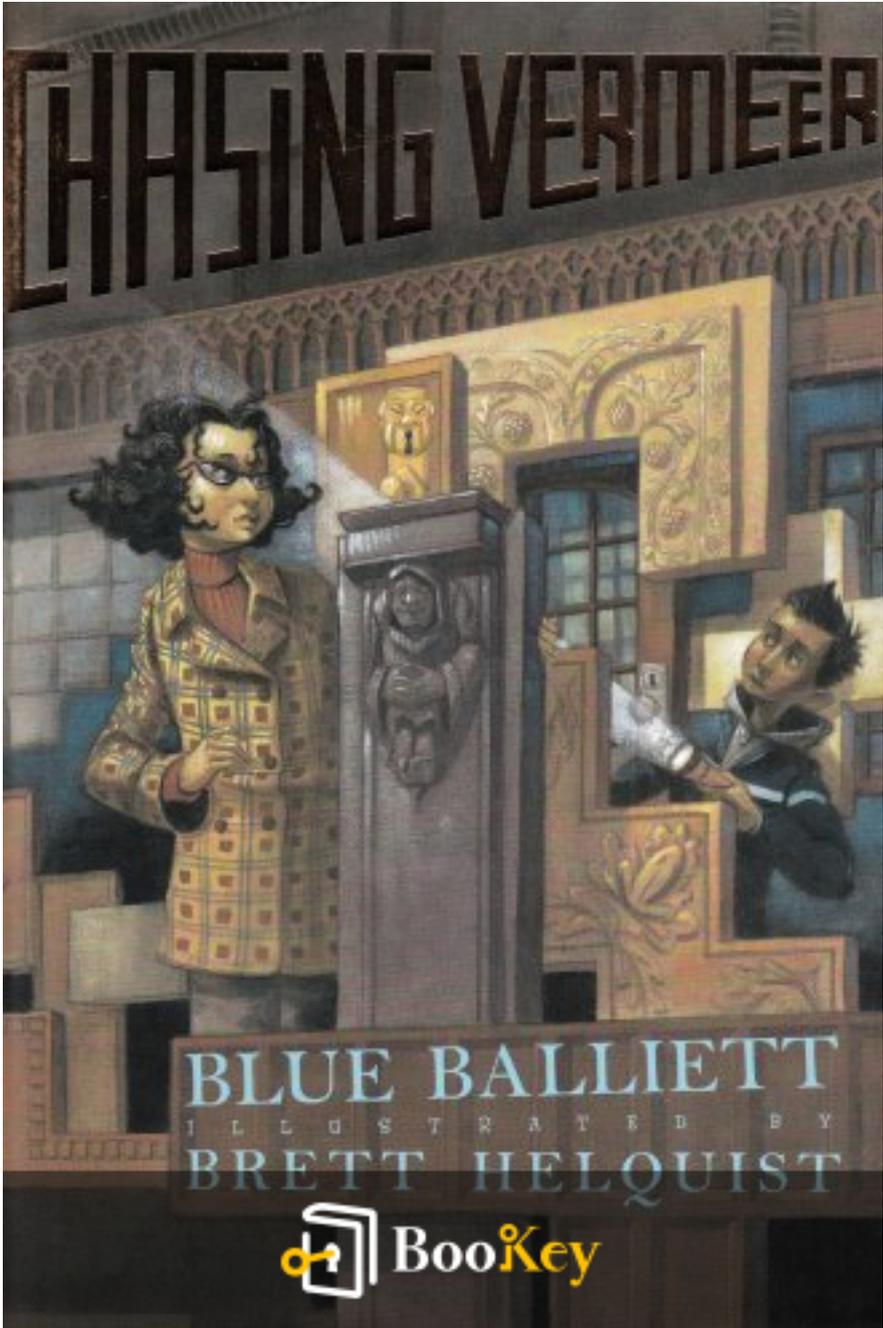


# Chasing Vermeer PDF (Limited Copy)

Blue Balliett



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## **Chasing Vermeer Summary**

Two young detectives unravel a masterpiece mystery of intrigue.

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## About the book

In "Chasing Vermeer" by Blue Balliett, two middle school students, Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay, find their lives unexpectedly connected through a shared curiosity about an unusual book filled with strange occurrences. Their journey begins in Chicago, where they uncover a mysterious and seemingly unconnected series of events linked to the art world, particularly centered around the works of the renowned Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer.

The plot thickens with the bewildering disappearance of a priceless painting, "A Lady Writing," which draws in the attention of the FBI and heightens the sense of urgency. As the investigation unfolds, an eccentric old woman named Ms. Hussey enters the scene, adding a layer of complexity to the children's quest. Her enigmatic presence suggests that she might hold the key to understanding the web of clues they are encountering.

Throughout their adventure, Petra and Calder increasingly rely on their strong intuition and investigative skills, delving into the realm of art history to connect the dots between the painting's absence and the events surrounding them. They discover that the world of art is filled with its own mysteries and challenges, including the motivations of various suspects in their small community, where the lines between friend and foe begin to blur.

As they piece together the puzzle, they confront various obstacles, including

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skepticism from adults and the pressures of an entire community's anxiety regarding the stolen artwork. The resilience and cleverness of Petra and Calder shine through as they work together to unravel the truth behind the theft while learning about the significance of art, friendship, and trust.

As they race against time to reclaim the painting and solve the mystery, Petra and Calder's journey not only tests their problem-solving abilities but also their understanding of what it means to be a part of a community in turmoil, ultimately leading them to a resolution that underscores the bonds of friendship and the power of art.

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## About the author

Blue Balliett, an author and former teacher, draws upon her vibrant upbringing in New York City, where she immersed herself in its rich cultural tapestry—from the serene paths of Central Park to the awe-inspiring galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This early exposure to art and history influenced her decision to study art history at Brown University, sparking her passion for storytelling.

After moving to Nantucket, Balliett began crafting ghost stories based on local folklore, a creative endeavor that honed her narrative skills. Eventually, she settled in Chicago with her family, where she taught third graders at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. It was during this time that Balliett became intrigued by the way children perceive connections between seemingly unrelated events, a concept that would become a cornerstone of her acclaimed debut novel, *\*Chasing Vermeer\**.

In *\*Chasing Vermeer\**, Balliett weaves a captivating mystery centered around a stolen Vermeer painting, engaging young readers with themes of observation, art, and the power of collaboration. This novel set the stage for her subsequent works, such as *\*The Wright 3\**, which explores the architectural genius of Frank Lloyd Wright, and *\*The Calder Game\**, which delves into the whimsical art of Alexander Calder.

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Now residing near Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Robie House, Balliett's works have transcended borders, being translated into 34 languages. The popularity of \*Chasing Vermeer\* has even caught the attention of Hollywood, with Warner Bros. Pictures securing film rights, further attesting to her impact on contemporary literature for young readers. Through her stories, Balliett invites audiences to discover the interconnectedness of art, history, and imagination, making her a significant figure in the landscape of children's literature.

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# Chapter 1 Summary: Three Deliveries

## Summary of Chapter 1 of "Chasing Vermeer"

In a tranquil Chicago neighborhood on an inviting October evening, three seemingly unrelated individuals receive identical, unsigned letters that beckon them to join forces in solving a long-buried mystery linked to a famous painter. These mysterious invitations, filled with intrigue, hint at potential danger, compelling each recipient—living alone—to spend a restless night pondering the implications of this unusual call to action.

As we delve deeper into the lives of these characters, we meet a man savoring a late dinner while grappling with his curiosity and skepticism about the letter's authenticity. Another recipient, a woman, debates her own doubts, reflecting on her past and the significance of the invitation. The third, also a woman, is torn between her apprehensions about the threat of danger and her fascination with the potential to change history.

The narrative then transitions to Calder Pillay and Petra Andalee, two sixth graders at a progressive school shaped by the innovative teaching style of Ms. Hussey. Her focus on exploration and critical thinking ignites a passion for learning and communication among her students, particularly through an intriguing letters project. This assignment not only excites the class but also



highlights themes of curiosity, creativity, and the journey of self-discovery that each student embarks upon.

Calder, captivated by patterns and puzzles, finds writing a challenge but cherishes the adventurous spirit of learning. Petra shares in this enthusiasm, drawing inspiration from their teacher's unconventional approach and the evolving dynamics of their classroom. As they navigate their own lives, both characters reflect on their unique traits and experiences, subtly fostering a developing friendship.

The chapter reaches a turning point at Powell's Used Books, a quaint, local bookstore where fate brings Calder and Petra together. This unexpected encounter hints at the intricate connections between their lives, weaving them into the mysterious threads introduced by the letters. Chapter 1 sets the stage for a captivating adventure filled with artistic intrigue, personal exploration, and the thrill of friendship amidst uncertainty, inviting readers to delve into a world where history and imagination intertwine.

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## Chapter 2 Summary: The Letter Is Dead

### Chapter 2 Summary: The Adventure Begins

As the sixth week of school unfolds at University School, an unconventional teacher named Ms. Hussey ignites a spirited debate among her students by proclaiming "the letter is dead." With a teaching philosophy influenced by the progressive ideas of educator John Dewey, she encourages exploration and curiosity, directly engaging her students in challenging conventional communication concepts. This creative environment captivates two classmates, Calder Pillay and Petra Andalee, as they delve into the meaning of art, symbols, and diverse forms of expression.

In a class discussion about letters, Ms. Hussey assigns her students to interview adults about memorable letters they have received. Initially, Calder feels disenchanted with the idea, perceiving letters as relics of a bygone era. However, his interest is piqued when she tasks them with composing their own significant letters, offering him a chance to rediscover their value.

While walking home after class, Calder and Petra—who have lived near each other but never truly connected—find themselves pondering their peculiarities and circumstances. Calder is seen as "weird" due to his passion

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for pentomino puzzles, while Petra grapples with her shyness and the chaos of her noisy family life. These reflections not only highlight their individual struggles but also emphasize their shared search for understanding amidst a backdrop of personal and social exploration.

Petra's dynamic home life fosters a longing for peace, paralleled by her intrigue over a family dispute concerning a forgotten letter, hinting at underlying secrets and unfulfilled desires for connection. Calder, on the other hand, is challenged by his nostalgia for his late grandmother, a significant figure who used to send him extraordinary letters. He also feels the absence of his childhood friend Tommy, who has recently moved away, intensifying his sense of loneliness.

During a class trip to the Art Institute of Chicago, Petra's quest for an extraordinary painting leads her to wander away from the group, while Calder becomes absorbed in the art around him, unwittingly following her. Their paths collide when they find themselves in a restricted area, resulting in a brush with a guard. However, Ms. Hussey intervenes with understanding, reinforcing her role as a mentor who values exploration over strict adherence to rules.

This chapter weaves together themes of discovery, mystery, and the evolving nature of friendship amid the vibrant backdrop of a supportive educational environment. As Calder and Petra begin to navigate not only

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their personal identities but also the budding connection between them, it becomes evident that their adventure is just beginning.

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## Chapter 3 Summary: Lost in the Art

### Chapter 3 Summary of "Chasing Vermeer"

In this chapter, we delve into the lives of Petra and Calder as they confront a school assignment centered on letters and communication. Petra is introduced amidst the clamor of her chaotic home life, overrun by noisy siblings. Yearning for a quieter space to think and write, she reflects on her teacher, Ms. Hussey's, true intentions behind the assignment, pondering the deeper meaning of letters. Despite her aspirations of becoming a writer, Petra faces insecurities, particularly when dealing with her peers, including Denise Dodge, who mock her lunch.

Contrastingly, Calder struggles to find a noteworthy letter to share with their class. Like Petra, he feels the burden of expectations as an only child. To cope, he indulges in sketching pentomino shapes, a form of geometric puzzle that offers him solace amid academic pressures.

Their paths converge during a walk to school, where a sense of connection emerges yet remains stifled by their mutual shyness. Upon arriving at school, Ms. Hussey announces a shift in their assignment, proposing a field trip to the Art Institute to explore the broader concept of art and communication.

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During the museum outing, Petra becomes engrossed in the artwork, hoping to uncover a hidden letter within a piece. Calder follows her lead and, together, they wander into a restricted area of the museum, creating a moment of suspense that reinforces their budding friendship. This shared experience prompts them to engage in a lively discussion about their perceptions of art, highlighting the chapter's central theme: the evolving definition of what constitutes art.

As the chapter culminates, Petra encounters a mysterious book that seems to call to her, its intriguing title foreshadowing secrets and adventures ahead. The chapter encapsulates the themes of exploration, friendship, and the quest for understanding in art and communication, paving the way for further developments in their journey.

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# Chapter 4: Picasso's Lie

## Summary of Chapter 4

In this chapter, Ms. Hussey reflects on the class's lackluster trip to the museum, where they encountered only scrolls and a letter. Despite the disappointment, she maintains a positive demeanor and encourages her students to engage in a discussion about the nature of art and communication. Petra suggests shifting their focus to art, igniting a lively debate among her classmates. Denise, however, voices her disdain for certain artworks, labeling them as unattractive, while Ms. Hussey introduces the profound idea that art conveys complex truths — a concept attributed to the artist Pablo Picasso, who famously stated that art is “a lie that tells the truth.” This notion captivates Calder, prompting him to contemplate the intricate relationship between art, truth, and perception.

To further explore these themes, Ms. Hussey assigns each student the task of choosing an object from home that they perceive as embodying art, asking them to describe it without revealing its identity. As the students consider their selections, Calder feels embarrassed when Denise accidentally steps on his pentomino piece, while Petra grapples with the challenge of defining art and discerning the line between ordinary objects and authentic artistic creations.



The narrative takes a turn when Petra stumbles upon a peculiar book titled \*Lo!\* discarded by a man outside a bookstore. The book, filled with strange and unexplainable stories, piques her curiosity and inspires her to reflect on how perspectives shape reality. This revelation motivates Petra to delve into the unknown, challenging conventional beliefs about art and existence.

As the chapter unfolds, Petra's imagination transports her into a dream where she encounters a mysterious woman from the past. This dream evokes a sense of connection and understanding, resonating deeply with Petra's budding artistic sensibilities. The chapter closes with a contemplative tone, hinting that the world teems with unexpected revelations and deeper meanings just waiting to be discovered.

### **Key Themes and Character Developments**

- **Art and Perception:** The chapter highlights diverse perspectives on art, fanning the flames of creative discourse among the students.
- **Curiosity and Exploration:** Petra's journey reflects the exploration common to artistic minds, driving her to question established norms.
- **Friendships and Conflicts:** The dynamic between Calder and Denise illustrates the complexities of school relationships, marked by misunderstandings and social tensions.

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- **The Role of Imagination:** Petra's dream sequence underscores the theme of inspiration and the connection between historical experiences and current realities.

Overall, Chapter 4 delves into the complexities of understanding art, the process of self-discovery, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge, all critical to the characters' growth and development.

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## Chapter 5 Summary: Worms, Snakes, and Periwinkles

### Summary of Chapter 5 of "Chasing Vermeer"

Chapter 5 of "Chasing Vermeer" dives into themes of curiosity and the quest for understanding the strange and unexplained. The chapter opens with Petra discovering a captivating book titled \*Lo!\*, authored by Charles Fort. This book is a compilation of odd and mysterious events reported in newspapers from around the globe, such as venomous snakes inexplicably appearing in gardens and frogs raining from the sky. Fort's central premise posits that people's perceptions can shape their realities, prompting Petra to reflect on how varying viewpoints can alter one's understanding of the world.

As Petra immerses herself in the book, she experiences a vivid dream featuring a mysterious woman dressed in vintage attire. This figure seems to possess a profound understanding of Petra, deepening her sense of connection to the enigmatic themes presented by Fort. The dream amplifies Petra's intrigue regarding the unknown and solidifies her engagement with the book's ideas.

While Petra explores these concepts, Calder, her friend, is preoccupied with his own thoughts on art. He grapples with an assignment from their teacher, Ms. Hussey, and uses pentominoes—geometric shapes that can fit together

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in various configurations—as a medium for inspiration. Through this process, Calder contemplates the essence of art, realizing that it should provoke thought and ignite creativity. During this exploration, he comes across a cherished box from his Grandma Ranjana, adorned with a touching painting that resonates with him, indicating the personal nature of art.

The chapter takes a dramatic turn when Calder witnesses an event outside his home involving Ms. Hussey and an elderly neighbor, Mrs. Sharpe, who seems to need help. After assisting them, Calder receives a letter from his friend Tommy—who recently moved away—written in a coded language using their pentomino cipher. This letter introduces an element of mystery and concern, particularly as Tommy mentions his complicated family situation due to the arrival of a new stepfather.

In summary, Chapter 5 emphasizes the interconnectedness of curiosity, mystery, art, and human relationships. Both Petra and Calder are motivated by a desire to explore the unknown, whether through reading, dreaming, or creating, laying the groundwork for their upcoming adventures intertwined with art and intrigue.

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## Chapter 6 Summary: The Geographer's Box

### Summary of Chapter 6: "Chasing Vermeer"

In this chapter, Calder finds himself deeply engaged in Ms. Hussey's art assignment, which prompts him to explore the nature of creativity. He uses his favorite pentominoes—geometric figures comprising five connected squares—as a tool for inspiration and reflection. This playful manipulation not only aids his thought process but also connects him to cherished memories, especially to a beautifully crafted box from his Grandma Ranjana. The box, adorned with an image of a thoughtful man, evokes nostalgia for their shared love of puzzles and mysteries, reinforcing Calder's connection to both art and familial bonds.

As Calder immerses himself in contemplation, the serene atmosphere of his study is disrupted by noise outside. He peeks out to witness Ms. Hussey and Mr. Watch, his boss from the local bookstore, assisting Mrs. Sharpe, an elderly woman who has fallen on the curb. This brief incident stirs Calder's curiosity about Mrs. Sharpe, hinting at the theme of kindness and community support that underlies their interactions.

Later, Calder receives a coded letter from Tommy, his friend who has recently moved and is struggling with the changes brought on by his new

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stepfather. The letter conveys Tommy's discomfort and uncertainty in his new environment, igniting Calder's concern and desire to assist his friend in navigating this challenging time.

Throughout the chapter, Calder's character development is evident. His inquisitiveness about art grows alongside his compassion for Tommy, while he also begins to forge a connection with Petra, a fellow student. The narrative weaves in themes of mystery and the significance of uncovering hidden patterns in both art and life, particularly through Calder's admiration for the artist Johannes Vermeer. His reflections prompt him to ponder deeper meanings that transcend the surface of artistic expression and personal experiences.

An intriguing turn occurs when Calder discovers Petra reading a book by Charles Fort, a writer known for his explorations of unexplained phenomena and curious occurrences. This discovery enhances Calder's interest in the unknown, leading to engaging conversations between him and Petra about their shared fascination with collecting unusual information. The chapter concludes with Calder borrowing Petra's book, symbolizing the deepening of their friendship and their collective quest for knowledge—an adventure that intertwines their artistic inquiries with the larger mysteries of life.

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## Chapter 7 Summary: The Man on the Wall

In Chapter 7 of "Chasing Vermeer," titled "Chasing Vermeer," Petra and Calder continue to navigate the intricacies of middle school while also delving into the enigma surrounding art and mysterious events. The chapter opens with Ms. Hussey reading aloud from her class, during which Petra shares her thoughts on a book called "Lo!" Though her contributions are met with mixed reactions—especially from the critical Denise—Petra finds comfort in a recurring figure from her dreams, a woman clad in a yellow jacket, who seems to symbolize understanding and solace amidst her struggles.

Meanwhile, Calder becomes intrigued by Petra's insights and their mutual fascination with the inexplicable, motivating him to approach her during lunch. A humorous accident with his food leads to a moment of levity, allowing them to bond over Charles Fort's writings, which explore bizarre occurrences and mysteries. They engage in a discussion linking Fort's ideas to real-life puzzles, particularly the puzzling disappearance of a classmate named Frog.

As the story progresses, Calder reveals an interesting connection to Mrs. Sharpe, a reclusive elderly woman tied to their literary explorations. Calder visits her to deliver books and stumbles upon a Vermeer painting titled "The Geographer," which deepens the connection to his own unfolding mysteries.

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During this encounter, Mrs. Sharpe expresses a wish to discuss Fort's theories with both Calder and Petra over tea, hinting at deeper connections yet to be explored.

As Halloween approaches, tension looms over Petra's family life, leading her to contemplate a mysterious letter she overheard in her parents' conversation. The excitement of the holiday on Harper Avenue contrasts with her internal uncertainties. While preparing for Halloween, Calder's costume unexpectedly reminds Petra of the woman from her dreams, revealing an intriguing link to the Vermeer painting.

Key themes of this chapter revolve around creativity, the significance of unexpected connections, and the pursuit of understanding the mysteries of life through art and literature. The growing friendship between Petra and Calder emphasizes the importance of collaboration in uncovering hidden truths. As secrets begin to surface, the chapter concludes with a sense of intrigue and anticipation, setting the stage for further exploration of the mysteries surrounding them.

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## Chapter 8: A Halloween Surprise

### Summary of Chapter 8 of "Chasing Vermeer"

On Halloween morning, Petra's seemingly festive day is clouded by overhearing her parents discuss a significant letter, hinting at potential turbulence in their family's stability. The excitement of Halloween, with its elaborate decorations and bustling trick-or-treaters on Harper Avenue, contrasts sharply with the unease weighing on her mind.

As Petra prepares her costume, she is inspired by a mysterious dream featuring a woman from a painting she doesn't recognize. Her friend Calder arrives in a unique pentomino costume, and upon seeing Petra, he draws an unexpected connection between her and the lady from the dream. This revelation ignites Petra's curiosity when Calder admits he dreamed of her costume, prompting them to visit his home in search of the painting—Johannes Vermeer's "A Lady Writing." To their astonishment, Petra sees that the woman in the artwork closely resembles her, adding a layer of intrigue to their discoveries.

Driven by their detective instincts, Petra and Calder begin documenting their experiences and the serendipitous events unfolding around them. They explore the connections between their costumes, dreams, their school project

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assigned by Ms. Hussey, and the artwork they have encountered. This leads them to speculate if these coincidences are part of a grander mystery potentially linked to Vermeer or the eccentric ideas of Charles Fort, who famously cataloged anomalies and unexplained phenomena.

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## Chapter 9 Summary: The Blue Ones

In Chapter 9, Calder and Petra delve deeper into the enigma surrounding the painting *\*A Lady Writing\**, unearthing unexpected connections that bind their lives to their artistic exploration. They encounter three additional artworks portraying a woman in a distinctive yellow jacket, which stimulates a conversation about Petra's recurring dream involving this mysterious figure. Calder proposes they document these unexplained experiences, drawing inspiration from Charles Fort, a writer known for his fascination with anomalies and the strange interconnections of life.

As they collaborate, they weave together a tapestry of events that intertwine Petra's dream, their art school project, and even their costumes, which reflect the styles of the renowned Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer and Fort's peculiar philosophical musings. This brainstorming session leads to various insights, including Calder's noteworthy realization that Vermeer was baptized on Halloween, the same date they initiated their exploration into his life. This revelation adds another intriguing layer to their investigation, hinting at a deeper connection to the mysteries of the painter's existence.

Driven by growing curiosity and concern over *\*A Lady Writing\**, they reach out to the National Gallery of Art to inquire about the painting's whereabouts. To their surprise, they learn it is traveling to an exhibition in Chicago, igniting a mix of excitement and trepidation about the implications

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of their quest and what it may uncover.

In the backdrop of their discoveries, Petra observes her father's increasing distance, suggesting he is preoccupied with weighty matters. Similarly, Calder's father reflects on memories associated with Vermeer, contributing a sense of historical depth and legacy to their current mystery.

This chapter revolves around the central theme of connections—between art, dreams, and the individuals woven into their narratives. As Calder and Petra sift through these revelations, their partnership strengthens, even as they navigate the complexities of their familial relationships and explore their own burgeoning curiosity about the world around them.

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## Chapter 10 Summary: Inside the Puzzle

### Summary of Chapter 10 from "Chasing Vermeer"

In this suspenseful chapter, Calder is restless on a rainy afternoon, still reflecting on the intriguing library visit he shared with his friend Petra. An idea suddenly strikes him: they should check on the status of the painting "A Lady Writing" to make sure it's secure. After a quick phone call to the National Gallery, Calder learns that the painting has been loaned to the Art Institute of Chicago for an upcoming exhibition. This news ignites a mix of excitement and anxiety within him, leaving him with an unsettling feeling that something isn't quite right.

As the day continues, Calder and Petra engage in their typical playful banter, but their spirits dampen when they hear their parents discussing a shocking headline from the Chicago Tribune: "VERMEER VANISHES." The painting has gone missing during its transportation to the Art Institute, and a mysterious note left by the thief alludes to a larger conspiracy connected to the history of Vermeer's works. This alarming development escalates the tension between Calder and Petra, as they begin to realize their own potential involvement in unraveling this mystery, especially given their previous experiences and observations related to art and the theft.

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Amidst the unfolding mystery, Petra's father shows signs of distraction and distress, adding yet another layer of concern and complexity to Petra's personal situation. Meanwhile, Calder's family interactions remain relatively light, but he, too, is increasingly caught up in the growing anxiety surrounding the stolen painting. As the chapter progresses, an eerie sense emerges that Calder and Petra are somehow linked to the fate of "A Lady Writing," leaving readers filled with both suspense and anticipation for what lies ahead.

### **Key Themes:**

1. **Curiosity and Investigation:** Calder and Petra exemplify the theme of inquiry, actively pursuing the truth about the painting and the circumstances surrounding it.
2. **Connection:** The intertwining of their stories reflects the broader connections between art, history, and personal lives, as they confront the mystery of the painting's theft.
3. **Mystery and Suspense:** The chapter builds tension through the unexpected theft, hinting at deeper secrets and entanglements within the world of art that may affect their lives more significantly than they realize.
4. **Distraction and Concern:** The dynamics within both children's families reveal personal struggles that coexist alongside the overarching narrative of theft and intrigue.



This chapter lays the groundwork for Calder and Petra's journey into a complex web of art theft, interweaving themes of curiosity and connection that will deepen as they delve further into the mystery.

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## Chapter 11 Summary: Nightmare

In Chapter 11 of *\*Chasing Vermeer\**, Calder and Petra find themselves entangled in a captivating mystery that begins with the theft of a priceless Vermeer painting, *\*A Lady Writing\**. The incident occurs on November 5, during its transport between Washington, D.C., and Chicago, shaking both the art community and the young friends, who are deeply intrigued by the world of art.

The chapter unfolds with Calder and Petra attending school, where they share their concerns about the theft and discuss a series of strange occurrences. Notably, Petra's father has been acting oddly, and their teacher, Ms. Hussey, injured from a recent accident, seems to be concealing something important. During her art-themed class discussions, Ms. Hussey speaks about notorious art heists and the art world's anxiety over the missing Vermeer, motivating Calder and Petra to embark on their own investigation. They dive into a classroom project analyzing Vermeer's works, employing magnifying glasses to scrutinize details and engaging in lively debates about their findings.

The plot thickens when an unsigned letter emerges, claiming responsibility for the painting's theft and sparking controversy. This mysterious letter challenges the art establishment, asserting that true art should belong to the public and questioning the authenticity of Vermeer's labelings. This

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revelation ignites fervent discussions across communities, inviting critiques from various perspectives on what constitutes genuine art.

Meanwhile, the boys' concern for their friend Tommy deepens, as his phone remains disconnected, adding to the sense of unease and urging Calder and Petra to wonder if Tommy's disappearance could be connected to the painting heist.

Amidst this turmoil, the duo meets with Mrs. Sharpe for tea—a rendezvous that raises suspicion in their minds. The conversation hints at her deeper knowledge regarding Vermeer and the theft, casting doubt on her motives and leaving them feeling unsettled. As they reflect on the mysteries unfolding in their lives, they resolve to continue their investigation, sensing that hidden truths extend beyond the art world and into their own experiences.

This chapter expertly intertwines themes of identity, truth, and the nature of art, as Calder and Petra navigate their school life filled with mystery and danger. Their curiosity and quest for knowledge drive the narrative, illustrating how the emotional weight of art can resonate through the lives of those connected to it, especially when intertwined with theft and intrigue surrounding *\*A Lady Writing\**.

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## Chapter 12: Tea at Four

In Chapter 12 of "Chasing Vermeer," the abrupt theft of the painting *A Lady Writing* by Johannes Vermeer ignites excitement and curiosity worldwide. An unusual letter from the thief, inviting the public to assist in the search, transforms Ms. Hussey's classroom into an engaging art lab. This environment fuels the students' enthusiasm as they delve into investigations regarding Vermeer's artistry and authenticity. With Calder meticulously organizing data and Petra energetically documenting their discoveries, the students begin to challenge the traditional authority held by art experts, which stirs discussions and debates both inside and outside the classroom. The chapter highlights a growing sentiment that art should be accessible to everyone, opening up conversations among diverse audiences.

As the art world grapples with the implications of the theft, museum officials focus intently on recovering the painting and securing safety against the thief's looming threats. Amidst this backdrop, Calder and Petra plan a meeting with the mysterious Mrs. Sharpe, a character who harbors a fascination for Vermeer and the writer Charles Fort, who is known for his peculiar perspectives on knowledge and science. During a tea meeting that feels both formal and chilling, Mrs. Sharpe's enigmatic remarks on the thief and artistic truth create an atmosphere of intrigue, suggesting that all may not be as it appears.

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The aesthetics of Mrs. Sharpe's home, reminiscent of a Vermeer painting itself, intrigue the children and pique Petra's suspicion that she possesses deeper secrets. Their conversations touch on themes of perception and the elusive nature of truth, particularly questioning the intelligence and motives of the thief. The narrative deepens as it explores the moral complexities

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## Chapter 13 Summary: X the Experts

In Chapter 13 of "Chasing Vermeer," the intrigue surrounding the theft of the painting "A Lady Writing" deepens as Ms. Hussey engages her students in a thought-provoking exercise about receiving a personal letter from the thief before the theft. This prompts an intense discussion in class, resonating particularly with Calder and Petra, who recall an unsettling letter Petra discovered earlier that day. The discussion captivates their imaginations, especially when Ms. Hussey expresses her intention to keep Petra's note for further analysis.

As the students brainstorm potential replies to the presumed thief's letter, Ms. Hussey's emotional response suggests she may be personally affected, leading Calder to speculate about her possible connection to the case. Meanwhile, the elusive thief escalates the situation by placing a provocative full-page advertisement in newspapers globally, stirring public outrage and demonstrations demanding the painting's return. The thief's brazen taunts keep everyone's attention focused on the mystery, while Ms. Hussey challenges the notion that the thief operates alone, introducing the possibility of broader implications.

Calder's investigative instincts lead him to Mrs. Sharpe's house, where he delivers a check and notices unsettling parallels between her home and the environments depicted in Vermeer's works. These observations compel him



to explore further, revealing items that could link her to the artist's world.

Amidst their personal lives, Calder and Petra dedicate time to raising funds for their friend Tommy, who is navigating serious family issues. Their efforts take a dark turn when news arrives that Mrs. Sharpe has been threatened and has sought police protection. This unsettling information shocks Calder and Petra, prompting them to draw connections between the alarming events surrounding Mrs. Sharpe, the cryptic letter addressed to Ms. Hussey, and the ongoing art heist.

The chapter concludes with a web of suspense enveloping the characters, heightening questions about Mrs. Sharpe's role in the mystery and the true identities of those caught in the interplay of art and crime. As Calder contemplates these growing mysteries, the plot thickens, leaving readers eager to uncover the intertwined fates of the characters amid the looming threat of the unknown thief.

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## Chapter 14 Summary: Flashing Lights

In Chapter 14 of *\*Chasing Vermeer\**, Calder visits Powell's bookstore, where he finds Mr. Watch preparing a delivery for Mrs. Sharpe, an enigmatic figure whose connection to a hidden Vermeer painting intrigues him. Despite Mr. Watch's reluctance, Calder persuades him to let him handle the delivery. Once at Mrs. Sharpe's home, Calder stealthily explores the premises, examining various storage spaces that could potentially house the elusive artwork.

After securing a check from Mrs. Sharpe, Calder hurries to find his friend Petra to share his findings. They examine some unusual titles from Mrs. Sharpe's bag and delve into the ongoing mysteries surrounding their community, including a cryptic letter from their classmate Tommy Segovia, who is dealing with personal issues. In a show of compassion and budding responsibility, Calder and Petra decide to raise money for Tommy by selling brownies.

Things take a darker turn with revelations about Mrs. Sharpe's mysterious past and her husband's ties to Vermeer. As they watch the news report on her seeking police protection, Calder and Petra grapple with doubt, questioning whether she is an innocent victim or entangled in something sinister.

At school, the atmosphere intensifies when Ms. Hussey, a teacher, is arrested

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as a suspect in the art theft, creating an aura of suspicion among the students. Petra, worried for Ms. Hussey's safety, overhears a revealing phone call that suggests trouble looms.

The chapter culminates with Calder and Petra resolved to uncover the truth and find the hidden painting. Their strong bond and determination are evident as they navigate the encroaching chaos, reaffirming their commitment to each other and their quest for understanding amid rising tensions and intrigue. The interconnectedness of the characters, their pasts, and the clues they uncover heighten the sense of urgency in their adventure.

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# Chapter 15 Summary: Murder and Hot Chocolate

## Summary of Chapter 15:

In Chapter 15 of *Chasing Vermeer*, the atmosphere at University School is tense and charged with speculation following the arrest of Ms. Hussey, a beloved teacher, as a suspect in a recent theft. The sixth graders are consumed with gossip and uncertainty, particularly Petra, who is troubled by a letter she discovered in Calder's garden that she suspects may be tied to the crime. This discovery exacerbates her fears about jeopardizing her relationship with Ms. Hussey.

Lunchtime becomes a battleground of emotions, with students exchanging teasing remarks and accusations. A confrontation with a classmate, Denise, spirals into chaos, resulting in collective punishment that leaves the students feeling defeated. Amid this turmoil, rumors about the ongoing thefts intensify, especially concerning the similar letters received by both Ms. Hussey and Mrs. Sharpe, a local art expert, who are now under police protection—adding to the air of mystery and concern surrounding the situation.

When Ms. Hussey returns to class, her demeanor is fraught with anxiety and distraction, prompting Petra to eavesdrop on a phone conversation that



reveals her teacher's distress. This further fuels Petra's desire to protect Ms. Hussey, highlighting the trust and respect she has for her.

Determined to unravel the mystery, Petra and Calder initiate a secret investigation around the school, claiming they are creating a map. Their adventure is filled with playful mishaps, including encounters with animals and tricky teachers, yet their youthful enthusiasm keeps them motivated.

Their exploration leads them to break into the basement with assistance from Mrs. Trek, the Lower School principal. Here, they discover a wrapped package that sparks hope of containing the elusive Vermeer painting. However, upon unwrapping it back in Calder's room, their excitement turns to disappointment as they find only a childish painting inside, not the masterpiece they sought.

This chapter explores themes of friendship, teamwork, and the quest for truth amidst uncertainty and fear. Petra and Calder's perseverance, despite setbacks, underscores the importance of trust and the risks they face as they inch closer to uncovering the mystery, setting the stage for further intrigue and revelations in their journey.

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## Chapter 16: A Morning in the Dark

In Chapter 16 of "Chasing Vermeer," Calder and Petra intensify their investigation into the mystery of a missing painting, setting their sights on Gracie Hall at the University School. The chapter opens with their realization that the painting may be hidden in an overlooked location, prompting them to scrutinize the significance of the number twelve and Ms. Hussey's earrings. This leads them to hypothesize that Ms. Hussey might be found in the Lower School, further deepening their intrigue.

To facilitate their search without arousing suspicion, Calder and Petra devise a plan to create a "master map" of the school, presenting it as a school project. This clever ruse allows them to explore various areas during lunch, and their adventures take them to quirky spots such as the nurse's office and dusty storage closets. Their earnest attempts, however, are met with unexpected chaos—a hamster bite and an infestation of cockroaches add a comedic touch to their otherwise serious quest.

On the second day, they gain access to the locked basement thanks to Mrs. Trek, the Lower School principal, who unlocks a supply room for them. They excitedly rummage through the contents, and their efforts culminate in the discovery of a small, carefully wrapped package that ignites their hopes. However, the looming presence of footsteps compels them to make a hasty retreat, amplifying the tension of the moment.

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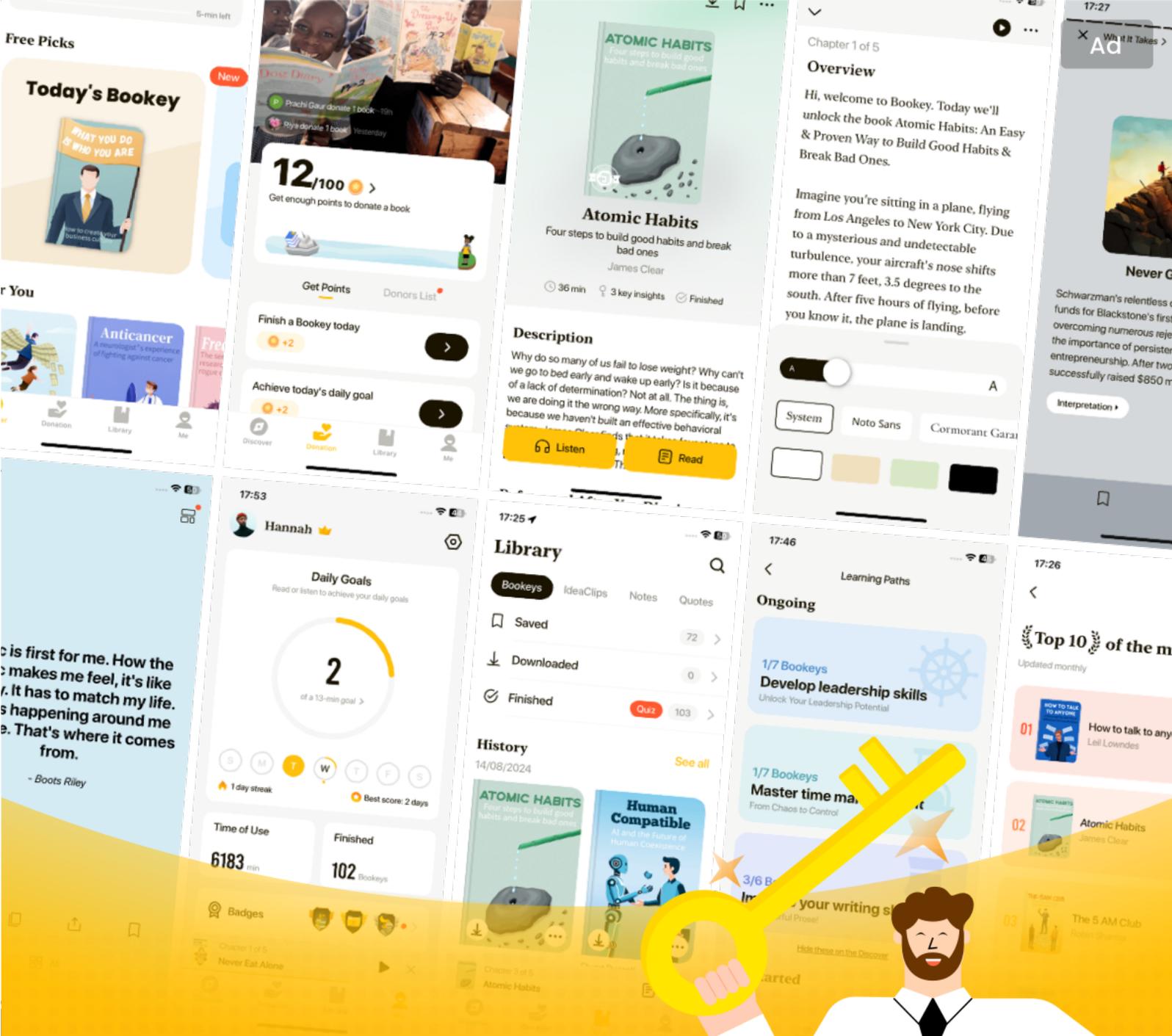
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After Petra leaves, Calder finds himself alone in the dark basement, grappling with a mix of anticipation and fear. Alone with the package, he reflects on the potential treasure it holds and the unpredictable dangers that could be lurking in the shadows. Meanwhile, Petra's steadfast loyalty shines

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## Chapter 17 Summary: What Happens Now?

### Summary of Chapter 17 from "Chasing Vermeer"

In this chapter, we find Calder at home nursing a cold, while his friend Petra walks through the neighborhood, her mind buzzing with ideas inspired by Charles Fort, a writer known for challenging conventional thinking and exploring the bizarre. During her walk, Petra stumbles upon a piece of graph paper with random grocery list items scribbled on it. This sparks her contemplation on the poetic nature of words and their significance.

Her thoughts are soon interrupted when she discovers a worn letter hidden in a hedge. The letter speaks of a centuries-old crime and calls for help in its identification, igniting Petra's excitement. She rushes to share her discovery with Calder. After discussing the contents of the letter, they weigh the pros and cons of involving the police, ultimately deciding against it due to concerns over the potential dangers they could encounter.

Meanwhile, a buzz is created in the community with the release of a new book titled "The Vermeer Dilemma." This book seeks to democratize art and encourages a reevaluation of the thefts of Vermeer paintings, prompting discussions that challenge traditional art views and inviting the public—especially children—to engage with art on a deeper level.

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As Petra and Calder walk to school, they witness an ambulance taking away Mrs. Sharpe, a local figure who has hurt herself. During their visit, she asks them to mail her letter addressed to Ms. Isabel Hussey. Faced with the dilemma of whether to honor her request or give in to their curiosity and open the letter, they grapple with their decision.

In an unexpected turn, they accidentally drop the letter, and it is picked up and mailed by a passing stranger, thus relieving them of their moral quandary. Later, while visiting Mrs. Sharpe in the hospital, they express their curiosity about the letter. Instead of being upset, she laughs at their inquisitive nature and reflects on her own past explorations, encouraging them to pursue their interests.

This chapter deftly interweaves themes of curiosity, the significance of communication, and a transforming view of art. It shows how negative events, like the theft of art, can lead to fruitful discussions and insights. Through their experience with Mrs. Sharpe, Petra and Calder learn important lessons about honesty, the excitement of investigation, and the need to balance curiosity with integrity. The chapter closes with Calder receiving news that his friend Tommy is moving back, and Frog has been found, prompting reflections on the strange connections tying their ongoing investigation to the larger world around them.

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## Chapter 18 Summary: A Bad Fall

### Summary of Chapter 18 from "Chasing Vermeer"

In this engaging chapter, Petra and Calder begin their day with a thought-provoking discussion about the ethics surrounding the theft of a Vermeer painting. Their conversation abruptly shifts when they witness Mrs. Sharpe, their elderly neighbor, being taken away in an ambulance after injuring her leg. Despite her pain, Mrs. Sharpe insists on giving them a letter for their teacher, Ms. Isabel Hussey, presenting a moral quandary: should they read it or honor their promise to keep it private?

The intrigue surrounding the letter consumes the duo, prompting them to brainstorm ways to sneak a peek or perhaps re-envelope it to avoid wrongdoing. However, their plan takes an unexpected turn when a man accidentally mails the letter for them, seemingly providing an escape from their ethical dilemma.

After visiting Mrs. Sharpe in the hospital, they awkwardly admit their curiosity about the letter. To their relief, she is kind and understanding, clarifying that the letter merely contains information about Ms. Hussey's background, thereby alleviating their guilt. Their conversation deepens when Petra recounts a dream about the Lady depicted in the stolen painting,



sparking Mrs. Sharpe to suggest that art has the power to communicate, echoing emerging themes of perception and truth relevant to their investigation.

As they bond over playful challenges with Calder's pentominoes, their friendship flourishes, underscoring themes of creativity and camaraderie.

Later, their friend Tommy reveals that Frog, a missing character, has been found. This news leads Petra and Calder to reflect on the peculiar coincidences connecting them to the stolen artwork, reigniting their adventurous spirits. With enthusiasm, they decide to scour the University School compound for clues. While searching King Hall, they find it lackluster compared to the richer history and beauty of Delia Dell Hall.

Inside Delia Dell, inspiration strikes as Petra makes connections between her surroundings and the clues they've been piecing together. Fueled by determination, she rushes outside, calling for Calder to join her in the snowy evening, convinced they have stumbled upon a vital discovery related to their ongoing quest.

### **Character Developments and Themes:**

- \*Petra and Calder\*: Their deepening friendship is central to the chapter,

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highlighting their shared thirst for truth and grappling with moral responsibilities, emblematic of youthful exploration.

- *\*Mrs. Sharpe\**: A layered character who embodies understanding beyond her stern exterior, she reinforces the idea that communication can bridge the past and present.

- *\*Curiosity and Exploration\**: The chapter champions the pursuit of knowledge, illustrating how questioning and exploring can lead to unexpected insights.

- *\*Art and Truth\**: Philosophical musings on art's ability to convey deeper truths are woven throughout, emphasizing its significant influence on life and perception.

This chapter, rich with humor, reflection, and the thrill of discovery, propels Petra and Calder deeper into their adventure, setting the stage for further revelations in their pursuit of the stolen Vermeer painting.

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## Chapter 19 Summary: The Shock on the Stairs

In Chapter 19 of "Chasing Vermeer," the adventure intensifies for Petra and Calder as they continue their treasure hunt post-visit with Mrs. Sharpe. Their initial exploration of the imposing yet unremarkable King Hall leaves them disappointed, prompting a shift to the more vibrant and historically rich Delia Dell Hall. This inviting setting, filled with intricate woodwork and charming character, contrasts sharply with the sterile atmosphere of King Hall.

As they explore Delia Dell, sharing snacks and taking in its beauty, Petra begins to feel uneasy, sensing an elusive connection that she struggles to articulate. Their journey through the hall leads them to a captivating empty theater, where the medieval decor sparks excitement and curiosity. It is in this moment that Petra experiences a connection between disparate ideas—monkeys, vines, and panels—that echoes Mrs. Sharpe's cryptic remarks about "finding." This epiphany fills her with urgency, convincing her that they might be on the brink of discovering crucial clues related to the enigmatic theft of a Vermeer painting.

Feeling the weight of her new insights, Petra urges Calder to vacate the hall discreetly, anxious to protect their revelation from prying eyes. That evening, while brushing her teeth, she reflects on her theories about Mrs. Sharpe's potential involvement in the art heist, grappling with insecurities



that blur the line between her vivid imagination and reality. Despite her apprehensions, the bond with Calder fuels her determination to unravel the mystery.

The chapter culminates in heightened tension when Petra learns of a threatening letter from the thief, demanding changes in how the stolen painting is being handled. This ominous development elevates the stakes of their quest, underscoring the urgency and danger inherent in their investigation.

### **Key Events:**

- Petra and Calder's exploration transitions from the disappointing King Hall to the lively Delia Dell Hall.
- A significant clue linking back to Mrs. Sharpe becomes clear to Petra, igniting her excitement and urgency.
- Petra's feelings of anxiety and self-doubt emerge as she wrestles with her imaginative theories.
- A threatening letter from the thief escalates the seriousness of their mission and amplifies the stakes.

### **Character Developments:**

- Petra reveals a complex emotional landscape marked by anxiety and

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self-doubt, as she navigates her dreams against the harsher edges of reality.

- Calder provides steady support, but also begins to express concern for Petra's health and well-being.

### **Themes:**

- The chapter explores the thrill of delving into truth and the mysteries of art.

- It highlights the struggle to balance creativity and rational thought amidst an exhilarating quest.

- Additionally, it underscores the pressures of responsibility and the fear that accompanies the revelation of dangerous truths.

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## Chapter 20: A Maniac

In Chapter 20 of "Chasing Vermeer," Petra finds herself deep in thought while brushing her teeth, reflecting on her recent experiences at Delia Dell Hall. A sudden realization strikes her: she questions the involvement of two of her acquaintances, Mrs. Sharpe and Ms. Hussey, in the theft of a priceless Vermeer painting. This suspicion causes an internal struggle for Petra, who worries that her imaginations may be childish, especially given Mrs. Sharpe's peculiar behavior during their recent game of pentominoes. This moment highlights Petra's dilemma between rationality and the fantastical elements of her thoughts, all while she anticipates her upcoming twelfth birthday.

The situation intensifies when, the following morning, Petra's family receives a menacing letter from the painting's thief. The letter threatens to destroy the artwork unless the thief's grievances are acknowledged, sending ripples of fear through Petra and her family. During a discussion with her friend Calder over hot chocolate, they deliberate on the possibility of involving the police but ultimately conclude that they would prefer to handle the investigation themselves.

Their determination leads them back to Delia Dell Hall, where they encounter a suspicious man whom Petra believes may have a connection to the theft. The situation grows even more unsettling when she notices that the

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man bears a striking resemblance to her father, igniting concerns about whether he might be secretly entangled in the mystery.

Throughout this chapter, themes of curiosity, collaboration, and the duality of imagination and reality emerge as Petra grapples with the challenges of uncovering the truth. Her desire to solve the mystery is tempered by her fear of the potential implications, emphasizing the idea that careful observation can reveal unexpected truths. As Petra and Calder navigate this intricate investigation, their growth as characters becomes evident, reflecting the complexities inherent in seeking out hidden realities within their lives.

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## Chapter 21 Summary: Looking and Seeing

### Summary of Chapter 21 of "Chasing Vermeer"

In this pivotal chapter, Calder and Petra find themselves in Calder's kitchen, grappling with the aftermath of the theft of a Vermeer painting, known as "The Lady," which has captivated their interest and ignited their sense of adventure. They debate whether to involve the police or their parents but, fueled by Petra's bold suggestion to investigate on their own, they resolve to reach out to Mrs. Sharpe, who is currently hospitalized. Despite concerns about her condition, they believe her insights could be invaluable to their quest.

Their investigation leads them to Delia Dell, where they happen upon a mysterious man with a foreign accent whom Petra suspects is connected to earlier clues regarding the theft. Recognizing the potential danger, Calder and Petra sneak into the building through a basement entrance, propelled by determination to piece together the puzzle surrounding the stolen artwork.

As they delve deeper, they uncover connections that resonate personally, such as their shared birthday on December 12, which symbolizes the significance of twelves throughout their journey. With tension mounting, they witness Petra's father acting suspiciously with a postal worker, raising

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their apprehensions and driving their urgency to uncover the truth.

In a suspenseful search through dark corridors, the duo's resolve is tested, but just when hope seems to wane, they stumble upon a concealed storage area behind a wall. To their astonishment, they find "The Lady" wrapped in velvet, a discovery steeped in emotion and excitement. The twelve pearls depicted in the painting further emphasize the thematic ties that bind their quest.

Quickly, they devise a plan to discreetly remove the painting without drawing attention, gathering items that might aid in their getaway. Just as they execute their escape, alarms sound in the background, heightening the stakes but only fueling their exhilaration and commitment to protect the artwork.

### **Key Themes and Developments:**

- **Determination and Courage:** Calder and Petra's bravery shines as they take matters into their own hands to pursue the truth, illustrating their dedication to recovering the painting despite uncertainty and fear.
- **Connection to Twelves:** The concept of twelves courses through the narrative, represented by their shared birth date and the elements within

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"The Lady," underscoring the profound significance of these connections in their adventure.

- **Friendship and Support:** The deepening bond between Calder and Petra is emphasized as they face potential peril together, highlighting the importance of teamwork in overcoming the challenges they encounter.

This chapter expertly intertwines tension and thrill, propelling Calder and Petra's adventure forward and setting the stage for even more discoveries and challenges to come.

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## Chapter 22 Summary: Twelves

### Summary of Chapter 22 from "Chasing Vermeer"

In this action-packed chapter, Calder and Petra gear up for a thrilling covert operation at Delia Dell to unravel the mystery of a stolen painting, coinciding with a significant milestone in their lives: both friends are set to turn twelve on December 12th. This shared birthday adds a layer of connection as they embark on their adventure under the cover of night.

As they stealthily return to Delia Dell, the friends navigate through the dimly lit hallways, fueled by a mix of excitement and trepidation. The atmosphere is thick with suspense, underscored by spooky occurrences that enhance their urgency as they search for clues. Their inquisitive exploration leads them to a hidden panel concealed within the wall, revealing a stunning velvet-wrapped painting — Vermeer's "Lady." The beauty of the artwork momentarily mesmerizes them, but the thrill quickly dissipates when they hear echoing footsteps.

In a heart-stopping turn of events, a mysterious man begins to pursue Calder and Petra, forcing them into a split-second decision for survival. Calder stands firm with the prized painting, while Petra races off to fetch help, initiating a tense chase that separates them. Driven by desperation, she

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reaches a nearby restaurant and alerts a police officer, terrified for Calder's safety as she realizes he is in danger.

As chaos unfolds, Petra's emotions drive her to connect the dots of the mystery, linking Vermeer's painting to the location of the thief. This epiphany leads her to discover boot prints that guide her toward a nearby treehouse. With unwavering determination, she climbs up to find Calder, who, while injured, is still cradling the precious artwork.

The chapter reaches a gripping climax as the two friends reunite, united by their harrowing ordeal and the bond forged through their shared challenges. Their hope is palpable as they prepare to leave the treehouse and continue their adventure, embodying the spirit of friendship and resilience.

### **Character Development and Themes:**

- **Calder and Petra** transition from inquisitive children into resourceful adventurers, navigating danger with bravery and loyalty to one another.
- **Friendship and bravery** emerge as central themes, illustrating their commitment to protect one another in the face of peril.
- The **mysteries and coincidences** woven throughout—especially the significance of their shared birthday and the number twelve—echo the intricate layers of Vermeer's art, reinforcing the puzzle-like nature of their

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quest.

- The tension escalates dramatically during the **chase scene**, highlighting the impulsive bravery characteristic of youth when confronted with fear.

Overall, Chapter 22 encapsulates an exhilarating blend of excitement, danger, and the thrill of discovery, continuing to build on the adventurous spirit that defines "Chasing Vermeer."

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## Chapter 23 Summary: Help!

In Chapter 23, the suspense heightens as Petra and Calder flee from a shadowy figure in the playground behind the University School, setting the stage for a gripping adventure. The thrill of the chase is interrupted when Calder trips, demonstrating his courage by confronting their pursuer while urging Petra to seek help. Panic escalates when Calder disappears just as Petra manages to alert the police, plunging their families into immediate distress and igniting widespread search efforts.

Back at home, Petra wrestles with anxiety for her friend but retains her resolve. Recognizing that fear can spur action, she formulates a plan based on her intuition about where a thief might hide the stolen art they believe is at stake. This leads her to the nearby Castiglione's tree house, where she discovers ominous boot prints, a clue that propels her forward.

With determination, Petra ascends to the tree house and finds Calder injured but alive, curled protectively around the stolen painting, *\*A Lady Writing\**. They quickly learn that their attacker is Xavier Glitts, alias Fred Steadman, a cunning criminal who skillfully orchestrated the situation to appear as a misguided thief. Calder reveals how he feigned unconsciousness to follow Glitts, which now appears to be a stroke of luck amidst their peril.

As they recuperate, the young duo begins to unravel Glitts' intricate plan to

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steal the priceless painting while simultaneously uncovering connections between various figures tied to the heist. Notably, they become intrigued by the enigmatic widow Mrs. Sharpe, who carries her own history related to the art world and her late husband's unresolved links to the Vermeer mystery.

This chapter enriches the themes of bravery, friendship, and the intertwined nature of art, history, and human connection. As Calder and Petra investigate further, they notice that their names, along with others embroiled in the intrigue, form a pattern of twelve—a concept that amplifies their bond and suggests deeper significance behind their experiences. Joined by Mrs. Sharpe, they delve into the meanings of their discoveries, reflecting on fate and coincidence as they celebrate overcoming adversity.

The blend of action and emotional depth in this chapter not only propels the narrative forward but also leaves readers eager for resolutions, hinting at even larger mysteries that lie ahead in their journey.

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## Chapter 24: The Pieces

In Chapter 24 of "Chasing Vermeer," the narrative takes a dramatic and unsettling turn with the sudden death of Old Fred, a character whose significance is deeply intertwined with the story's unfolding mystery. The chapter begins with the shocking news that Fred suffered a heart attack while on a train. This event becomes particularly noteworthy when it's revealed that he wore boots matching those found near the Castiglione tree house—this detail connects him to a past conflict with Calder, the young protagonist who is already grappling with anxiety over his friend Petra's safety.

As Calder navigates his circumstances, he uncovers the startling truth about Fred: his real name is Xavier Glitts, the infamous leader of an art theft ring known as the "Glitter Man." Glitts's background is steeped in deception, as he employed various disguises and manipulated art experts to orchestrate the theft of Vermeer's painting, *A Lady Writing*. His meticulous plan involved a wealthy art collector and aimed to mislead the FBI with a series of strategically ambiguous letters, creating confusion among multiple suspects.

The chapter delves into the connections between its characters, particularly as Mrs. Sharpe shares details about her late husband, Leland, and his enigmatic research on Vermeer before his death. This revelation deepens the



intrigue, as Calder and Petra work together to unravel the threads linking their lives, the history of art, and Glitts's criminal endeavors. They stumble upon an intriguing pattern, underscored by the recurring significance of the number twelve, suggesting that fate has intricately woven their stories together.

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