

Come Back To Me PDF (Limited Copy)

Jody Hedlund



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Come Back To Me Summary

Struggling Between Time, Love, and the Quest for Healing

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, the story opens with Marian Creighton, a dedicated research scientist who has always viewed her father's obsession with finding a miraculous cure for her sister's genetic disease as fanciful. His quest, spurred by a deep love for her sister, takes a profound turn when he consumes a mysterious vial of holy water, believed to contain remnants from the legendary Tree of Life, and falls into a coma. In the wake of this crisis, Marian is faced with unsettling revelations as she discovers cryptic clues left by her father that propel her on an extraordinary journey.

Marian's quest leads her back to the Middle Ages, a time rife with societal upheaval and peril. Here, she encounters William Durham, a brave and noble knight. Seeking protection as she navigates the dangers of a violent peasant uprising, Marian finds herself entering into a complicated relationship with William, who proposes marriage as a means of safeguarding her. As she immerses herself in this tumultuous era, her resolve is tested, and her feelings for William deepen.

The novel interweaves themes of love, sacrifice, and the relentless pursuit of hope. Marian is driven not only by her father's fate but also by the potential to save her sister, straddling the delicate line between two worlds. With the ticking clock of her father's condition hanging over her and the burgeoning romance with William unfolding, Marian ultimately faces a heart-wrenching

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decision: return to the modern era and the security of her previous life or embrace the uncertainty and love she's found in the past.

Through dynamic storytelling, Jody Hedlund crafts an engaging narrative that explores the complexities of human connection, the ethical dilemmas of scientific exploration, and the transformative power of love across time. Readers are invited to join Marian in an adventure that challenges her beliefs and leads to unexpected possibilities that may change her life forever.

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About the author

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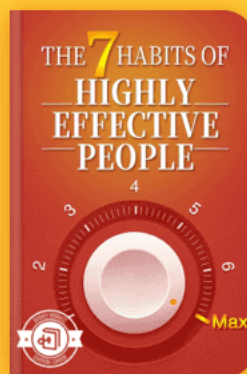
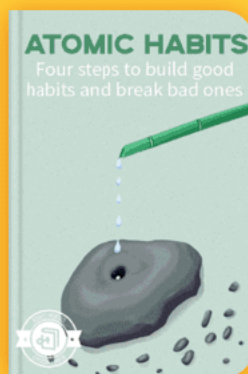
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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In Chapter 1 of **Come Back to Me** by Jody Hedlund, we are introduced to Marian Creighton, who is thrown into emotional upheaval when she receives distressing news from Harrison Burlington: her father, Arthur, has fallen into a coma. This shocking development is especially hard for Marian, who has been focused on her demanding research position at Mercer Pharmaceuticals. She grapples with not only the uncertainty surrounding her father's health, which deteriorated unexpectedly, but also the emotional strain of their distant relationship, exacerbated by the physical ocean that separates them.

The chapter delves into the complexities of Marian's family dynamics, particularly her father's obsessive quest for a cure for their family's genetic condition, which deeply affects both him and her sister, Ellen, who suffers from Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome, a hereditary illness that increases the risk of tumors. While Ellen is depicted as vibrant and resilient, her health challenges loom large, stirring guilt and frustration in Marian. She often wishes she could bear Ellen's burdens, symbolizing a deeper conflict: the struggle between familial loyalty and personal freedom.

As Marian prepares to travel to Canterbury to be at her father's side, she must confront not only her responsibilities as a daughter but also her feelings for her colleague Jasper, who offers emotional support. This relationship



adds another layer to her internal conflict, as she weighs her duty to her family against the potential for companionship and love.

Thus, the chapter establishes a poignant tone of urgency, exploring themes of family, loyalty, and the complex quest for healing. Marian's emotional turmoil and her impending journey to her father's bedside signal the beginning of profound personal and familial tests that will challenge her understanding of love, sacrifice, and resilience.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

Summary of Chapter 2: "Come Back to Me"

In this emotionally charged chapter, Marian is deeply entrenched in the turmoil surrounding her father, Arthur, who lies in a coma. The hospital setting, marked by fatigue and emotional exhaustion, serves as a backdrop for Marian's vigil. Harrison Burlington, a friend and caretaker who navigates life in a wheelchair, urges her to take a break and rest. Harrison, known for his impeccable style and unwavering support, serves as a calming presence in Marian's increasingly chaotic world. Nevertheless, Marian's sense of duty compels her to remain involved in her father's care, rejecting Harrison's kind offer of refuge at his lavish estate.

When Marian returns to her father's terraced house, she is confronted with a disturbing sight: the front door is open, and the interior has been ransacked. This invasion of her home triggers a wave of anxiety, suggesting that something more sinister may be at play than mere theft. As she surveys the destruction, particularly in her father's office, her mind races with the possibility that these events are somehow linked to the mysterious circumstances of Arthur's coma.

Back at the hospital, Marian shares her findings with Harrison, revealing that



the police have categorized the break-in as a random act of violence. However, her gut instinct tells her otherwise; she suspects a connection to her father's groundbreaking research on a revolutionary drug, which may attract unwanted attention from rival pharmaceutical companies.

The chapter elegantly weaves themes of familial love, the struggles of scientific ambition, and the perils of trust. Marian grapples with the burgeoning fear of betrayal, torn between her loyalty to Harrison and the growing suspicion that someone close might be involved in the chaos unraveling around her. As she contemplates her father's hidden secrets, particularly those locked away in a safety deposit box, a new layer of intrigue unfolds, setting the stage for her relentless quest for the truth. The emotional heft of her situation propels the narrative forward, as Marian resolves to uncover the depths of the mysteries surrounding her father's health and corporate intrigue, leaving readers eager to see what revelations await.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3

In Chapter 3, Marian finds herself alone in a small, dim room at her father's bank, standing before his safety deposit box. Her father has recently been hospitalized and slipped into a coma, prompting Marian to search for answers regarding his enigmatic behavior prior to his illness. As she opens the box, her heart races with hope of uncovering some understanding of his life and choices.

Inside, she discovers a collection of personal items that includes a watch and various papers. Among these documents are studies and wild theories linked to the legendary Tree of Life, a biblical symbol representing immortality and healing. Marian's father had long been captivated by the idea that this mystical tree held the secret to eternal life, a belief that led him down bizarre rabbit holes of research and speculation. Unfortunately, this obsession distanced him from Marian and her sister, Ellen, leaving them feeling abandoned in his relentless pursuit of elusive truths.

As Marian sifts through her father's eclectic research, she reflects on the pain of their lost time together. While she had once dismissed his theories as fantastical, she now grapples with a deep sense of sorrow and disappointment. Her father's fixation on the Tree of Life and concepts like time travel seemed to cloud his judgment, and she contemplates the emotional burden it imposed on her family.



Needing support and understanding, Marian reaches out to her friend Jasper, attempting to articulate her feelings of isolation and turmoil witnessed during this turbulent period in her life. However, her contemplative moment is abruptly interrupted when a stranger suddenly confronts her, brandishing a gun and demanding her purse. This shocking turn of events injects an acute sense of danger into Marian's already distressing day, hinting that the repercussions of her father's past may extend beyond mere personal loss to threaten her own safety.

The chapter weaves together themes of obsession, grief, and the precariousness of human life, capturing Marian's struggle to understand her father's legacy while navigating an increasingly threatening world. Under the weight of these revelations and new dangers, Marian is propelled further into a mystery that intertwines her family history with present-day threats, raising stakes and leading her on a quest for clarity and safety amidst chaos.

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Chapter 4: 4

Chapter 4 Summary of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund

In this exhilarating chapter, Marian finds herself in a harrowing situation when she is mugged by a security guard from Lionel Inc. However, her quick thinking and determination help her evade her attacker, clutching important documents and a mysterious flask she had taken from her father's safety deposit box. As she cries out for help, she is unexpectedly rescued by Harrison, who had been tracking her for reasons that are still unclear.

During their escape in Harrison's luxurious Bentley, a pivotal conversation unfolds. Harrison shares alarming insights about Marian's father's research, suggesting it might be related to a perilous endeavor—the development of "the ultimate cure," which allegedly has the power to influence time and consciousness. They speculate that her father's experimental use of this drug led to his current comatose state, prompting Marian and Harrison to dig deeper into the mystery surrounding her father's actions.

The discussion takes an intriguing turn as Harrison introduces the ampulla that Marian discovered—a historical artifact linked to St. Thomas Becket, a martyr and saint known for his conflict with the crown in the 12th century. The ampulla's recent theft raises additional questions about her father's



intentions, casting a shadow of suspicion over his character. This revelation amplifies the chapter's tension and themes, focusing on familial loyalty, the implications of knowledge, and the relentless search for truth in dark circumstances.

Upon arriving at Harrison's opulent estate, Marian grapples with feelings of both wonder and fear. Her sense of safety quickly dissipates when she encounters a mysterious figure on horseback, brandishing a knife, which heightens the chapter's suspense and leaves readers at the edge of their seats. The chapter concludes with a dramatic cliffhanger, expertly weaving action, intrigue, and emotional complexity, leaving both Marian and the audience eager to uncover what dangers await in her precarious journey ahead.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In Chapter 5 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, the narrative deepens as Marian finds herself grappling with profound exhaustion and bewilderment after a surreal encounter at Chesterfield Park. Haunted by a vivid vision of a horse and rider, she struggles to articulate her experiences to her friend Harrison. Despite her desire for independence, she is cared for by Harrison's well-prepared butler, Drake, who takes her to a lavishly furnished guest room, emphasizing the stark contrast between her turmoil and the comfort around her.

Upon awakening after a prolonged sleep, Marian is reunited with Harrison, who provides comfort but also urgency—her father's declining health weighs heavily on her mind. She learns that she has slept for an entire day, during which Harrison has been vigilantly watching over her father. Their conversation shifts to the peculiar incident involving Marian and her father's ampulla, a small container that holds holy water. Harrison proposes a startling theory: that Marian's vision was not merely a hallucination, but a glimpse into time travel triggered by the ampulla's contents.

This revelation prompts a discussion about miraculous healings and ancient legends associated with the Tree of Life, a concept steeped in the mystical and historically significant in various cultures, including those in England. As they ponder the implications of such tales, Marian's skepticism wrestles



with a burgeoning belief in the supernatural, compelling her to question the boundaries of reality and time.

Throughout this chapter, Marian feels an inexplicable connection to a handsome stranger from her vision, intensifying the allure of her experience. Just as she senses his presence again, he mysteriously vanishes, leaving her and Harrison with more questions than answers about her extraordinary journey.

The chapter is marked by themes of uncertainty and the intertwining of past and present, as well as the search for truth against a backdrop of deepening enigma. Marian's internal conflict not only shapes her character but also propels the narrative forward into a world where time, memory, and the supernatural collide, embedding her further into the mysteries surrounding her family and the mysterious ampulla.



Chapter 6 Summary: 6

In Chapter 6 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, Marian grapples with a mixture of hope and frustration as she eagerly anticipates another time crossover to meet the enigmatic blue-eyed man from her visions. After visiting her father's hospital, she sifts through the disorganized papers in his safety deposit box, feeling unproductive and increasingly restless. Her yearning to reconnect with the past intensifies her desire to sample the remnants of the ancient ampulla, which leads her to a fateful decision.

When Marian finally tries the residue, she is transported to a vibrant yet quaint version of Chesterfield Park, characterized by simpler gardens and the rich atmosphere of a bygone era. This immersive experience momentarily fills her with joy, but it is abruptly cut short as she is jolted back to the present, clutching a delicate posy—a tangible reminder of her journey and evidence of the mystical effects of the holy water.

Her companion, Harrison, shares her excitement about the posy, recognizing its significance in their research on time travel and the cryptic clues left by Marian's father, Arthur. These clues suggest a complex relationship with the past and highlight the family secrets that strain Marian's bond with her father. As Marian wrestles with her frustrations regarding his mysterious notes, the chapter underscores the themes of familial ties, the weight of history, and the quest for understanding one's legacy.



Heightening her urgency, Marian learns that her father's life may be at risk—not just in the modern world but in the very past he may be exploring. With these thoughts lingering heavily, the chapter concludes with Marian and Harrison preparing to delve deeper into the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, driven by a desire to uncover the truth about her father's fate and the significance of the holy water, amidst the ever-present mysteries surrounding them.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In Chapter 7, titled "Come Back to Me," the narrative plunges into an exhilarating chase as Marian and her companions risk everything to unveil a crucial secret hidden within the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. The tension mounts as Marian senses the presence of a mysterious stalker, raising her suspicions that her late father's research may have unearthed something significant that has put them all in danger.

As Marian and her friend Harrison delve deeper into the crypt, they stumble upon a bizarre carving of a man with a protruding tongue, an image that perplexes Marian and evokes memories of her father's cryptic investigations. In a moment of serendipity, Marian successfully uncovers a concealed compartment within the carving, revealing two ampullae—small vials used to hold holy water—and an old watch. This discovery electrifies her with the hope that her father left behind a message hidden from time.

However, their excitement is short-lived as the stalker grows closer, injecting a sense of urgency into their search for answers. Harrison, quick on his feet, devises a clever plan for Marian to pretend to be a tourist in order to mislead their pursuer. Just as they attempt to escape, the stalker appears, blocking their path. The stakes intensify as they scramble for a way out, culminating in a frantic ascent through the cathedral, which serves as a breathtaking but terrifying backdrop to their flight from danger. Just as they



reach the exit, gunfire erupts, underscoring the very real risks they face.

In the chaos, Marian and another friend, Drake, manage to escape in a car, but not without casualties—Drake suffers a gunshot wound, leaving them shaken and stricken with worry. A profound sense of dread settles over Marian when she realizes Harrison may have been left behind in the hands of their pursuers, casting a shadow over their narrow escape. This realization deepens her resolve to protect her father's legacy and emphasizes her growing understanding of the peril they are amidst.

The chapter encapsulates themes of bravery, friendship, and familial duty, all interwoven within a mystery fraught with danger. Marian's evolution is particularly poignant—she transforms from a young woman filled with doubt into a determined seeker of truth, spurred on by the rising threats and personal stakes they face. The urgency of her circumstances forces her to confront her fears head-on, igniting a passionate commitment to fulfilling her father's legacy.

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Chapter 8: 8

In Chapter 8 of "Come Back to Me," the narrative reaches a crescendo of tension as Marian grapples with profound grief and escalating stakes following the tragic loss of her father, Arthur Creighton. The chapter unfolds against the backdrop of a media frenzy surrounding the recent abduction of Harrison, intensifying the atmosphere at Chesterfield Park. In this chaotic environment, Marian reflects on the inadequacy of the safety measures in place, acutely aware of the dangers that have plagued her since her arrival in England.

As she prepares to visit her father in the hospital, Marian stumbles upon two ampullae of holy water sourced from a crypt, objects linked to her father's research into healing. The discovery raises her hopes—could this water not only save her father but also possess the potential to cure a host of ailments? However, it also fills her with dread about the possible misuse of such a powerful substance.

When Marian receives the heartbreaking news of her father's death, she finds herself consumed by a desperate impulse to act. In the solitude of his hospital room, she hesitates but ultimately resolves to use one of the ampullae in a desperate bid to revive him. With her heart racing and her hand trembling, she injects the holy water, praying fervently for a miracle while recalling her father's groundbreaking yet controversial theories on time



travel and healing.

The minutes stretch agonizingly as she waits in silence, consumed by a growing sense of hopelessness and regret. She fears she has not only lost her father but also squandered their shared dream of a future together. The weight of her choices bears down on her as she prepares to break the news to her sister Ellen, holding onto hope that the last ampoule of holy water might offer another chance to save someone dear to her.

This chapter intricately explores themes of desperation, hope, and the heavy consequences of knowledge. It deepens Marian's character as she faces overwhelming grief and the monumental implications of her decisions, setting the stage for the challenges that lie ahead.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

Chapter 9 Summary: A Journey of Hope and Determination

In this poignant chapter, Marian is engulfed in grief following her father's death, a loss compounded by her guilt for not being able to save him. Wrapped in a comforter, she clings to the hope that her father's last remaining holy water—an element tied to his enigmatic research—might aid her ailing sister, Ellen, who is soon to arrive.

As Marian sifts through the remnants of her father's scientific notes in Harrison's lab, frustration builds over her inability to make meaningful progress in her own research. Yet, this frustration ignites a bold resolve within her: she considers the possibility of traveling back in time to avert her father's tragic fate, envisioning a future where she might leave him a warning and the healing water to ensure both his survival and Ellen's health.

Her thoughts drift to Harrison, who has inexplicably vanished; his absence further weighs on her heart as she diligently studies a genetic condition plaguing Ellen. Marian's resourcefulness shines through as she deciphers her father's complex writings, drawing parallels between biblical verses and his theories on time travel, thus bridging her father's past with her current desperate circumstances.



In a surreal twist, Marian finds herself transported to a different time, where she meets a mysterious man who understands her in a way that transcends words. This dreamlike encounter reflects her yearning for comfort and connection amid the solitude of her grief.

Awakening from this vision filled with renewed determination, Marian uncovers clues pointing to the year 1382—a critical period in Canterbury's history marked by an earthquake that could have impacted her father's life. With a resolute heart, she prepares to embark on her time-traveling mission, driven not only by the desire to save her father but also to secure a cure for Ellen.

Key Themes and Character Development:

- **Hope and Guilt:** Marian wrestles with the weight of her father's death while nurturing the hope of healing her sister.
- **Determination and Resourcefulness:** Her quest to unlock her father's secrets highlights her intelligence and unwavering spirit.
- **Connection and Solace:** The encounter with the mysterious man captures Marian's yearning for companionship in her sorrow.

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates Marian's emotional odyssey as she navigates her grief, courageously seeking to alter the past. It delicately



weaves themes of love, loss, and the unbreakable bonds of family.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10

Chapter 10 Summary: A Leap into the Past

In a gripping turn of events, Marian embarks on a daring mission fueled by a sense of urgency and fear as she and Drake find themselves pursued by a mysterious silver Range Rover while driving in their Bentley. With the police still searching for her abducted father, Lord Burlington, she becomes increasingly anxious, motivated not only by her father's safety but also by the need to rescue her sister, Ellen. Filled with determination, Marian collects essential items from her father's home, including ancient coins, as she prepares for a perilous journey into the past.

Despite Drake's warnings about the dangers of their situation, Marian insists on one final stop to visit a significant landmark before activating the holy water that will transport them back in time. As uncertainty creeps in, she bravely drinks from the flask and silently chants for the year 1381, instantly plunging into darkness.

Upon awakening, Marian finds herself in a clean and dimly lit infirmary, where a gentle nun named Sister Christina cares for her. As relief washes over her, she realizes she has indeed traveled to the past—specifically, to St. Sepulchre Priory. However, her joy is tinged with apprehension as she



grapples with the challenge of navigating her new reality. To protect herself, she decides to fabricate a story, claiming to be a runaway from a noble family in Denmark.

The atmosphere shifts when Prioress Margery enters the scene. Unlike the nurturing Sister Christina, the Prioress's stern demeanor and keen scrutiny cast doubt on Marian's story, intensifying her sense of vulnerability. The sound of clock bells adds to the tension, reminding Marian that time is not on her side. Furthermore, the loss of her belongings, including her pouch of coins, complicates her already precarious situation in this unfamiliar era.

This chapter explores themes of bravery, family loyalty, and the struggle for autonomy within a historical context. Marian's unwavering determination to protect her loved ones and navigate the trials of 1381 sets the stage for the challenges she will face in the past, forging a path of resilience and hope against overwhelming odds.



Chapter 11 Summary: 11

In Chapter 11 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, Marian's adventure in 1381 takes a dark turn as she grapples with the challenges of her time-traveling journey. Disoriented and dressed in oversized nun's garments, she is consumed by the urgency to find her lost pouch, which holds essential money and pearls needed to navigate this unfamiliar and harsh reality. As she tentatively explores the convent, she is struck by the stark differences of life in this era—from the absence of modern conveniences to the pungent smells of the apothecary's herbs.

Her excitement quickly gives way to anxiety when she realizes the constraints placed upon her: she has only a week to secure holy water necessary to avert a disastrous earthquake predicted for the following year. However, her situation worsens dramatically when the prioress misinterprets her wealth, leading to accusations of theft. In a twist of fate, Marian finds an unexpected ally in Sister Christina, who urges her to flee before further danger ensues.

Despite her attempts to defend herself, the confrontation escalates, resulting in the prioress subjecting Marian to harsh punishment, including being slapped and restrained. What began as an adventure quickly descends into a nightmare as Marian is tied up, gagged, and confined to her room, left to contend with her mounting fear and despair.



The chapter reaches a climactic moment when Marian faces public humiliation and violence as she kneels tied to a post, suffering blows from the nuns. Confronted with brutality, her faith begins to waver, yet she clings desperately to the hope of rescue and a return to her own time. This chapter poignantly explores themes of survival, the struggle against injustice, and the fragility of faith, leaving readers on edge about Marian's fate in this unforgiving past.

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Chapter 12: 12

In Chapter 12, the narrative centers on Sir William Durham as he embarks on a swift ride home, his mind consumed by anxiety over unsettling reports of unrest and rebellions in Essex that threaten his family's safety.

Accompanied by his squires, Will's urgency is amplified by the growing dissent among the populace in Kent against a newly imposed poll tax, reflecting the broader themes of social unrest in this historical context.

Upon arriving in Canterbury, Will seeks refuge at a convent, hoping for solace in the company of his sister, Christina, who has recently become a nun. However, the convent's serene appearance stands in stark contrast to the turmoil brewing in the outside world. Amidst the quiet, Will encounters a shocking scene involving Lady Marian Creighton, a young woman enduring punishment for alleged theft. This realization stirs a profound connection within Will, compelling him to recall haunting memories from his past that he has struggled to suppress.

Compassion overrides his instinct for self-preservation as he confronts Prioress Margery, demonstrating a fierce determination to intervene and stop the brutal treatment of Marian. His intimidating presence commands authority, effectively compelling the nuns into compliance as he frees Marian from her bindings. This act of protection not only reinforces Will's chivalric values but also reveals the depths of his character, marked by a



conflict between compassion and the oppressive authority of the convent.

Once outside, with Christina joining them to care for Marian, Will is flooded with a mix of emotions that encompass both the urgency of his protective instinct and the grief of his past losses, including the death of his wife and

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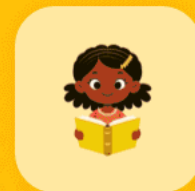
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Chapter 13 Summary: 13

Summary of Chapter 13: Desperation and Danger

In this gripping chapter, Marian awakens in the chilling confines of St. Sepulchre's Priory, where she reflects on six days of harsh confinement and brutal beatings at the hands of the prioress and her loyal followers. Her spirit remains unbroken as she fixates on her urgent quest for holy water, believing it could hold the key to saving her sister Ellen from imminent danger.

Despite her suffering, Marian finds solace in Sister Christina, the only sympathetic nun who attends to her, albeit cautiously due to the prioress's oppressive rule. Their bond becomes a source of strength, sparking Marian's determination to explore the convent in search of ancient wells that might contain the treasured holy water. However, the other nuns remain distant, fearing the repercussions of associating with her.

As Marian steps outside into the sunlight, she momentarily relishes the beauty of nature, but her thoughts quickly shift to her loved ones and the uncertainty of her future. In a hushed conversation with Christina, she inquires about the possibility of hidden wells on the grounds, emphasizing a growing urgency to find the water that could aid her sister.



Their brief moment of hope is shattered by the escalating sounds of distant chaos as the Peasants' Revolt erupts sooner than Marian had anticipated. Christina senses the danger, and in a frantic bid for safety, she pulls Marian into the woods, where they both bear witness to the turmoil of rebellion unfolding around them.

Marian uses her historical knowledge to grasp the gravity of their situation, realizing the implications of the revolt not only on her personal plight but also on the larger societal context. Christina clings to hope for her own brother, Will, believing he will rescue her, reinforcing the bond between the two women amid their shared dread.

As night descends and the threats close in, Marian spots cloaked men prowling the woods, searching for nuns. Panic surges within her, but instead of succumbing to fear, she adopts a defiant stance against her circumstances. Her resolve to escape reflects her growing determination to reclaim her agency in a world that seeks to confine her.

Key Themes:

- **Desperation and Survival:** Marian's endurance in the face of violence highlights the harsh realities confronted by women in medieval times.
- **Friendship and Trust:** The relationship between Marian and Sister Christina evolves into a powerful source of support amidst their fears.



- **Historical Relevance:** The chapter situates Marian's struggle within the significant backdrop of the Peasants' Revolt, adding urgency to her quest.
- **Agency and Resistance:** Marian's refusal to accept a passive fate marks a pivotal moment in her character development, showcasing her fight for freedom.

This chapter encapsulates Marian's battle against despair, her fierce determination to protect her sister and return home, and the vital friendship that empowers her to navigate the treacherous landscape of history.



Chapter 14 Summary: 14

In Chapter 14 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, tension escalates as sisters Christina and Marian seek refuge in the dark woods following a harrowing ordeal. The atmosphere is thick with suspense when they encounter a cloaked figure—revealed to be Will, Christina's protective brother. His presence provides a momentary relief, igniting a flicker of joy amid the surrounding chaos.

This chapter underscores the profound bond between Christina and Will, who expresses heartfelt concern for her well-being. Meanwhile, Marian, who is still grappling with her time-traveling experiences, is taken with Will's rugged, warrior-like demeanor. Although she admires him, she is also cautious; exposing her knowledge of their past encounters could endanger her life.

As they prepare to flee Canterbury, Will's instinct to protect shines through when he insists on carrying the wounded Marian. The devastated town around them starkly contrasts with the modern era Marian is familiar with, instilling a sense of urgency as they navigate the ruins of a catastrophe.

The intensity of their circumstances fuels Will's commanding presence, which is both magnetic and intimidating to Marian. They ride through the night, and the intimacy of their close proximity on horseback stirs complex



feelings within both of them. As they converse, Will shares insights into his noble lineage and the hardships he faces as a knight, deepening Marian's intrigue.

Amidst the growing threats that loom over them, the chapter culminates in a cliffhanger when ruffians ambush them, resulting in chaos as Will's horse rears, jeopardizing Marian's safety. This heart-pounding moment highlights core themes of bravery, loyalty, and the intoxicating spark of attraction in the face of danger.

Will grapples with his burgeoning feelings for Marian, which complicates his sense of duty as a knight. As the narrative unfolds, their evolving relationship becomes increasingly central against the tumultuous backdrop of their reality, hinting at both the potential for romance and the challenges that loyalty may bring.

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Chapter 15 Summary: 15

Summary of Chapter 15: Come Back to Me

In this intense chapter of **Come Back to Me**, Marian finds herself in peril when a group of men confronts her and Will in a darkened setting. As one of the men lunges at Marian, Will, showcasing his skills as a battle-hardened warrior, intervenes with swift violence, defending her with his dirk. This harrowing moment reveals not only Will's physical strength but also the darker reality of his life as a seasoned fighter, leaving Marian both awestruck and fearful.

The situation intensifies further when a young peasant named Thad comes forward, affirming Will's character and declaring him his master. Amidst mounting tensions, Will makes a bold declaration: he claims Marian is his fiancée. Caught off guard, Marian instinctively plays along, announcing their intention to marry, a clever strategy that initially seems to diffuse danger but soon spirals into unexpected chaos. The crowd, suddenly captivated by the idea of a wedding, insists on organizing an impromptu celebration right there.

As the atmosphere shifts from hostility to jubilation, Marian becomes increasingly anxious about the unwelcome direction of events. Will, aware



of her distress, strives to maintain the pretense while ensuring her safety, adding another layer to their evolving dynamic. Amidst the frenzy, an undeniable attraction simmers between them, leading to a passionate kiss that transforms their relationship from mere companionship to something deeper.

The chapter progresses with Will proposing marriage—not solely as a protective measure but also driven by a genuine desire to make Marian his wife. However, his fervent commitment blinds him to the possible ramifications of this hasty decision. In a flurry of activity, the chapter concludes with a quaint wedding ceremony conducted by a peasant priest, solidifying their unexpected union amidst the vibrancy and chaos of rural life.

This chapter is rich in themes of protection, honor, and the unpredictable nature of love intertwined with duty. As Marian and Will navigate the complexities of their rapidly developing relationship, they grapple with loyalty, desire, and the burdens of newfound responsibilities, setting the stage for future challenges in their intertwined fates.



Chapter 16: 16

Chapter 16 Summary: A Homecoming and a Connection

In this chapter, Marian returns to Chesterfield Park alongside Will. Despite the manor's modest and chilly atmosphere, she experiences a deep sense of familiarity. However, the weight of her impulsive decision to leave her current life behind looms over her, stirring doubts about her marriage to Will. As she grapples with these feelings, she becomes aware of her fatigue, prompting Will to display a rare tenderness as he carries her to his chamber.

This moment emphasizes a shift in Will's usually stoic demeanor, revealing a softer side that draws Marian closer to him. Their bond deepens as he affectionately kisses her hand, igniting an unexpected attraction. Despite her initial resolve to keep her emotions in check, Marian feels an undeniable connection to Will, highlighting a central theme of vulnerability versus self-preservation in romantic relationships.

As Marian attempts to rest, her mind wanders back to her life in the present, particularly her sister, Ellen. She struggles to communicate with Ellen about the ongoing search for the missing ampullae, emphasizing the tension between her current reality and her immersion in the past. This connection against the backdrop of familial ties illustrates Marian's internal conflict.

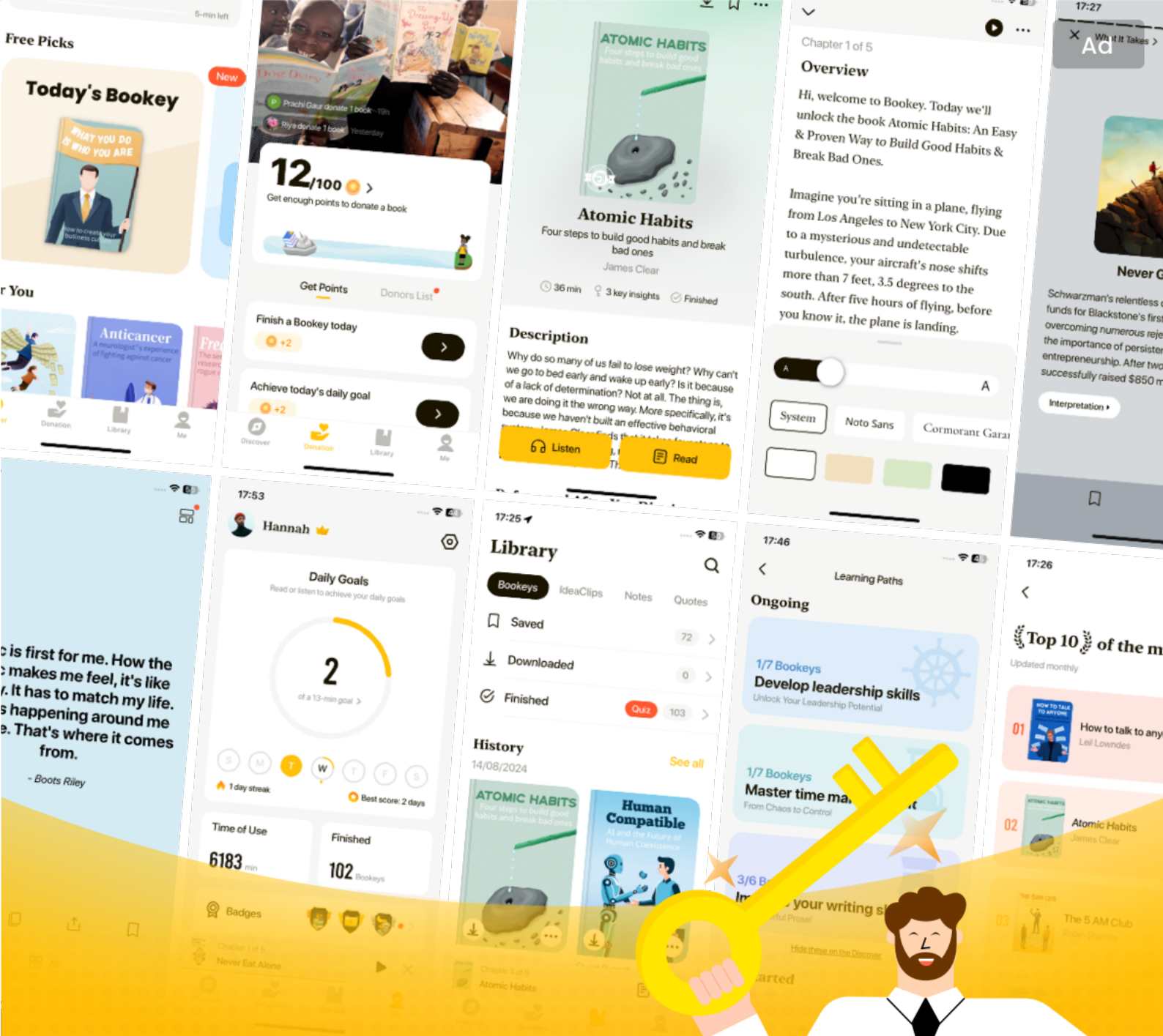


The chapter shifts to a more intimate moment between Will and Marian, yet their closeness is interrupted by Christina, Will's sister. This interruption serves as a reminder of the rigid societal expectations of propriety in their time, particularly regarding women's roles and behavior.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17

In Chapter 17 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, the narrative centers around Will, a nobleman facing the strain of impending war and the responsibilities that accompany his recent marriage to Marian. As he navigates the pressure of dual obligations—his duty to his title and his yearning for Marian, who has just awakened from serious injuries—Will finds himself caught in a conflict between his heart and his responsibilities. He needs to balance his role as a protector with his desire to be with his spirited wife.

Marian, having just recovered, feels a mix of gratitude and frustration as her husband instructs his servant, Sarah, to keep her bedridden. Despite Will's intentions to safeguard her health, Marian is eager to prove herself capable and worries about her friend Harrison and the mission they are involved in. Determined not to let her injuries define her, Marian emerges from her room, looking graceful in a beautiful gown, ready to confront the challenges of her new life.

Her entrance into the great hall for dinner draws immediate attention, heightening her awareness of her precarious position within the noble household. Despite her initial feelings of inadequacy, Marian resolves to project confidence. The chemistry between her and Will is undeniable, further ignited by their flirtatious banter, but simmering tensions arise under



the scrutinizing eye of Will's disapproving mother, Lady Felice. The elder woman's sharp comments about Marian reveal the rigid social expectations they inhabit; however, Will fiercely defends his new bride, emphasizing his commitment to her against familial pressures.

This chapter delves into significant themes such as the conflict between duty and desire, the quest for acceptance, and the shifting dynamics of love in the face of societal norms. Will's protective instincts highlight the depth of his loyalty to Marian, while Marian embodies a spirited determination to carve out her own identity, showcasing a blend of historical significance with a modern viewpoint. As they contemplate spending the following day together to deepen their bond, the stage is set for further exploration of their evolving relationship and the intertwining paths of their lives moving forward.

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Chapter 18 Summary: 18

In Chapter 18 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, we find Will navigating his complex feelings as he quietly enters his dimly lit chamber, eager to reunite with his wife, Marian, who is peacefully asleep. Their recent moments together have been filled with joy, yet Will grapples with the unsettling news of a rebellion that threatens the stability of the countryside. Amid rising tensions among local knights determined to quash the uprising, Will resolves to handle the matter tactfully, prioritizing diplomacy over violence to protect not only his lands but also Marian.

As morning breaks and Marian awakens beside Will, she feels overwhelmed by the closeness between them. Caught between embarrassment and frustration, she wrestles with the intimacy that marriage brings, perceiving it as a temporary arrangement rather than a lifelong commitment. Will, on the other hand, seeks to express his tenderness and affection, yearning for a deeper connection with her.

Despite feeling an undeniable attraction to Will, Marian stands firm in her desire to establish boundaries. She proposes a one-week waiting period before they engage in greater intimacy, a suggestion that initially baffles Will, who believes their marital bond should foster immediate closeness. After some negotiation, they agree on a compromise of five days, with Will challenging himself to win her over during this time.



As the day continues, Will prepares to visit the chapel, and Marian expresses her hope to join him, eager to foster a relationship that transcends physical attraction. Will hesitates but ultimately offers her a cloak, symbolizing his willingness to share this intimate aspect of his life with her. The chapter concludes on a hopeful note, with the two holding hands, both of them aware of the growing friendship and burgeoning love amidst the challenges they face.

This chapter skillfully explores key themes such as the tension between intimacy and boundaries, highlighted by Marian's struggle to navigate the physical aspects of their marriage alongside her desire for emotional connection. The backdrop of impending rebellion heightens Will's protective instincts, showcasing his dedication to Marian's safety amidst societal upheaval. Additionally, the dynamic between them evolves, emphasizing the importance of friendship and mutual understanding as their relationship deepens. Ultimately, Marian's internal conflict regarding her marriage accentuates the narrative's exploration of agency and the significance of genuine companionship in a world fraught with uncertainty.

In essence, Chapter 18 poignantly captures the complexities of emerging romance, societal expectations, and the quest for meaningful connections, setting the stage for further developments in Will and Marian's relationship as they navigate the trials of their time.



Chapter 19 Summary: 19

Summary of Chapter 19

In this chapter, Will experiences a transformative emotional shift as he watches his wife, Marian, engage with his sons, Phillip and Robert, during a game of chess. Her intelligence and determination illuminate the scene, evoking a sense of warmth in Will that he hasn't felt since the tragic loss of his first wife, Alice. The chess match becomes a metaphor for the developing familial bond among them, encapsulating both strategy and connection.

While memories of Alice linger in Will's mind, he senses that he is on the cusp of a new beginning with Marian. Their day unfolds with various shared activities, including sword-training drills with the boys, educational lessons, and a delightful picnic in the garden. Marian's natural charm and genuine care for Phillip and Robert work wonders to bridge the emotional gap between them, helping to ease the children's shyness that has arisen since Alice's passing.

As the day continues, Marian infuses playfulness into the household by introducing a game of hide-and-seek. The children's laughter and their growing rapport with Marian highlight the deepening bonds within the



family. This lighthearted moment becomes charged when Marian unexpectedly finds Will hiding, leading to a passionate kiss that hints at the potential for their friendship to blossom into love.

However, the tone shifts as Marian uncovers a hidden vault in the manor, revealing a rare St. Thomas ampulla. She expresses a desperate desire to obtain it for her dying sister, showcasing the depths of her character and hinting at her poignant backstory. Will's protective nature emerges, and he insists on retrieving the ampulla himself, convinced that it would be too perilous for Marian to undertake the task alone.

The chapter concludes with palpable tension as Will strives to assert control over the situation for Marian's safety. This interplay of protectiveness and the struggle for autonomy underscores the evolving dynamics of their relationship, suggesting that the complexities of love and desire are intertwined with their individual circumstances.



Chapter 20: 20

In Chapter 20, titled "Come Back to Me," Marian finds herself at a crossroads of love, duty, and impending danger during her time in 1381. After sharing a passionate kiss with Will, she grapples with her deepening feelings for him and the weight of their short time left together—only three days remain before she must return to her own time. Despite her exhilaration from discovering two ampullae in Chesterfield Park, an undercurrent of anxiety permeates her thoughts as she fears the loss of their connection.

As Marian prepares for the day, her excitement turns to disappointment when Will fails to join her for chapel. However, he surprises her with a thoughtful gesture—a luxurious bath—demonstrating his affection despite their earlier argument. This act of kindness brings her to tears as she realizes how much Will means to her. Encouraged by her maid, Sarah, Marian gathers the courage to confront Will and express her gratitude.

Their reunion is charged with unspoken emotions, and in a moment of overwhelming affection, Marian embraces Will, leading to yet another passionate kiss. However, their brief connection ends abruptly as he rides away, leaving her with a mix of longing and apprehension.

Seeking solace, Marian immerses herself in the warmth of the bath while sharing a heartfelt conversation with Sarah. The discussion reveals Sarah's



struggles with infertility, shedding light on the harsh realities faced by women in medieval society. Their growing friendship transcends social class, indicating Marian's willingness to forge connections despite societal norms.

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Chapter 21 Summary: 21

In Chapter 21 of "Come Back to Me," the chaos and destruction wrought by a rebellion weighs heavily on Will as he returns home. His community lies in ruins, igniting a fierce anger within him directed at the rebels. Despite the devastation surrounding him, Will feels a compelling duty to help restore St. Sepulchre, the cathedral that symbolizes his community's spirit, and to aid those suffering from the consequences of the violence.

Amidst the wreckage, Will is haunted by his growing feelings for Marian, a mysterious woman whose kiss lingers in his mind. However, his emotional turmoil is abruptly interrupted when he spots smoke in the distance—an alarming sign that something dire is happening at home.

Hastening back, Will confronts a nightmarish scene: rebels pillaging Chesterfield Park. His protective instincts surge as he fights bravely against the marauders, only to come face to face with Wat Tyler, the rebellious leader. In a cruel twist, Will discovers that Marian and his children have been taken hostage, with Marian placed in grave danger, held at knifepoint.

As the tension mounts, Will grapples with the stark reality of his situation. To save his loved ones, he recognizes that he might have to make an alliance with his enemies, including Tyler. Meanwhile, Marian is torn between her fear for her family's safety and her growing awareness of Will's unwavering



commitment to protect them. She worries about his tendencies toward self-destruction, fearing that his reckless bravery could lead him into peril.

The chapter culminates in a heart-wrenching scene as Will prepares to leave with the rebels, a decision that weighs heavy on his heart. Marian's concern deepens for their sons, particularly Phillip, who endures a brutal treatment at the hands of the rebels. As Will and Marian brace for the uncertain journey ahead, they cling to the flickering hope that their family can withstand the tumultuous storm of rebellion surrounding them.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22

In Chapter 22 of "Come Back to Me," the narrative unfolds against the backdrop of the 1381 peasant uprising, a significant historical event marked by widespread social unrest in England. Marian, the protagonist, finds herself in a precarious situation, huddled with her sons, Robert and Phillip, amidst the looming chaos as they approach London, a city engulfed in violence and fear.

As tensions escalate, Wat Tyler, the charismatic leader of the rebel faction, reaches out to King Richard, seeking a peaceful resolution through negotiations. While awaiting a response, Marian is consumed by worry not only for her sons but also for Will, the man she loves, fearing for his safety as well as her own uncertain fate. This chapter explores Marian's internal struggle as she contemplates the reality of her possible return to her modern life, grappling with the implications of her existence as a time traveler and the fragile state of her body in 1381.

The bond between Marian and her sons strengthens throughout the chapter. Robert demonstrates courage, promising to safeguard his mother, which brings her a sense of comfort amidst the turmoil. Phillip, in turn, admires Marian for her inherent bravery and kindness, further solidifying their familial connections as they endure this perilous journey together. The themes of love, duty, and familial responsibility echo strongly, especially as



Marian reflects on her longing for Will and her desire for closure with him.

The narrative takes a poignant turn with Will's arrival. Despite being wearied by the violence around him, he shares tender moments with Marian, providing mutual solace in their chaotic lives. Will's arrival carries the weight of his past regrets, particularly his brother's death during a mission gone awry, a burden that profoundly affects him. Marian, in her empathetic nature, responds to his sorrows with comfort, bridging their emotional distance through gentle expressions of affection.

As they unveil their vulnerabilities—Will's guilt and Marian's extraordinary reality—their connection deepens, laying the groundwork for a more profound bond amid the uncertain circumstances. This chapter concludes with Marian contemplating the revelation of her secret identity as a time traveler, heightening the suspense for what's to come.

Overall, Chapter 22 intricately weaves together themes of loyalty, love, and the conflict between past and present, skillfully leading the reader into the unfolding drama of Marian's life against the turbulent backdrop of 14th-century England, leaving them eager for the next developments in her extraordinary journey.



Chapter 23 Summary: 23

Summary of Chapter 23 - "Come Back to Me"

In this critical chapter, Marian finds herself caught between two worlds, grappling with her extraordinary connection to Will, a man from 14th-century England. During a quiet moment together, she reveals her American origins—an astonishing concept for Will, who struggles to comprehend her tale. He playfully suggests that she might be an angel sent to guide him, reinforcing the bond they share despite the awareness that their time together is limited.

As Will prepares for the impending turmoil of the Peasants' Revolt, an uprising driven by the discontent of the lower classes against the ruling elite, he expresses a sense of destiny in their meeting. He believes their connection serves a greater purpose, which adds weight to their fleeting relationship. However, as he readies himself for battle, Marian's heart is heavy with the thought of potentially losing him without a proper farewell.

The atmosphere shifts dramatically when Marian, accompanied by Will's sons, Phillip and Robert, gets swept away into a gathering of agitated peasants advancing toward the king. This escalating tension culminates in a violent confrontation led by Wat Tyler, a real historical figure and



charismatic leader of the revolt, whose reckless actions against the king's men trigger chaos and bloodshed.

Amidst the violence, Marian's fear intensifies when she spots Will in the thick of the fray—his protective nature prompting him to confront Wat in an attempt to safeguard the king. This act of bravery, however, places him in grave peril. In a moment of urgency, Thad, Will's devoted squire, intervenes, yanking Marian and the boys away from the mounting danger as chaos engulfs the crowd.

The chapter concludes with a heart-pounding escape. Marian flees on horseback, her mind racing with prayers for Will's safety, reflecting her deepening love and the uncertain fate of their relationship amid the upheaval of the revolt.

Key Themes:

- **Love and Sacrifice:** Marian's growing love for Will is intertwined with her fears for his safety, illustrating the emotional stakes of their bond.
- **Conflict and Survival:** The backdrop of the Peasants' Revolt highlights themes of class struggle, emphasizing the dire circumstances instead of individual desires.
- **Time and Destiny:** Marian's presence from the future raises questions about fate and the implications of their extraordinary encounter.



Character Development:

- **Marian:** Her emotional depth emerges through her vulnerability and the heavy burden of her feelings for Will, accentuating the ephemeral nature of her situation.
- **Will:** Displays immense bravery and a strong sense of duty, highlighting the stakes of their love as he chooses to protect others at great personal risk.
- **Thad:** As a loyal squire, Thad demonstrates quick thinking and protective instincts, serving as a vital ally amid the chaos, underscoring themes of camaraderie and loyalty during times of crisis.



Chapter 24: 24

In Chapter 24, titled "Come Back to Me," the narrative centers on Marian's emotional turmoil and determination after a harrowing escape from London. Accompanied by loyal companions, she arrives at Chesterfield Park, yet anxiety consumes her as she worries for her husband, Will, who has betrayed Wat Tyler, a leader of the rebellion representing the oppressed against the ruling class.

Thad, a devoted servant deeply committed to Marian's safety, suggests sending her to Amsterdam to avoid impending dangers. However, Marian's fierce love for Will and her unwillingness to abandon him prompt her to refuse this offer, instead suggesting that Sarah, another companion, take her place. Thad, recognizing her strong will, reluctantly agrees to her choice.

After the others leave, Marian experiences profound sorrow, having grown attached to Will's children and feeling the weight of their absence. Alone in her chamber, exhaustion overtakes her, leading to a deep sleep interrupted by the alarming entrance of armed men. Her heart races until she realizes one of them is Will, though he is wounded and visibly weakened.

Will's return is fraught with an intensity of mixed emotions as he expresses concern and anger towards Marian for her defiance. However, the immediacy of his injuries overshadows their reunion. Despite her medical



knowledge, Marian confronts the harsh reality of his condition and the urgent need for a skilled surgeon, which she cannot provide in their current circumstances.

As tension escalates, a surgeon arrives, preparing to perform a risky

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Chapter 25 Summary: 25

In Chapter 25, Marian faces a profound decision in a crypt as she stands before a stone column, weighing the significance of the sacred ampullae that could save Will, her beloved. Torn between the desire to return to her own time and her deepening love for Will, she vacillates with anxiety. She grapples with the implications of abandoning her career and loved ones, including her sister Ellen, yet the thought of leaving Will in danger proves unbearable.

Accompanied by Sir John, a knight who respects Will and understands Marian's dedication to him, they navigate the cathedral together. Sir John shares troubling news about unrest in London following a rebellion led by Wat Tyler, which serves to heighten the urgency of their mission. With little time left, Marian displays bravery as she pries an ampulla from the column—marking one for Ellen—and hides a clay piece containing a vital message for Harrison about an ancient spring that could secure their family's future.

Upon returning to Chesterfield Park at dawn, Marian is consumed by worry for Will's precarious condition. Rushing to his side, she finds him teetering between life and death. As she administers the holy water from the ampulla, a mixture of hope and fear envelops them. Will, in his state of semi-consciousness, drifts through serene thoughts, contemplating a future



with Marian, unaware of her presence. The realization that she's there beside him ignites a flicker of warmth and hope in his fading spirit.

As Marian narrates the lengths she went to retrieve the life-saving water, she reveals her willingness to risk her sister's health, solidifying their bond and intertwining their fates. Will begins to show signs of improvement, though the emotional weight of Marian's sacrifice—keeping an ampulla for herself due to the love she has for him—adds complexity to their relationship.

The chapter closes on a poignant note as Will finally slips into a healing sleep, leaving Marian in a state of hopeful anxiety. It underscores themes of love, sacrifice, and the connection between past and present, marking a pivotal moment in their journey. Both characters are left contemplating the depths of their commitment, while readers are left with a sense of anticipation for what lies ahead in their intertwined destinies.



Chapter 26 Summary: 26

In Chapter 26, the narrative unfolds with Marian steadfastly watching over Will, who is recovering from a life-threatening injury. The miraculous intervention of holy water not only brings him back from the brink but also ensures he suffers no lasting harm. This healing power causes Marian to reflect deeply on its implications for society—she worries about potential overpopulation and the ethical dilemmas posed by such a potent cure. Yet, despite her troubling thoughts about the future, she finds comfort in her memories with Will, solidifying her commitment to their life together.

As night settles in, Marian lies beside Will, feeling their connection intensify. However, a sudden kiss jolts her back to her current reality—a coma state where she overhears Jasper, a man from her present life, expressing frustration over his attempts to contact her friends, Ellen and Harrison. His dialogue suggests hidden agendas that raise Marian's concerns for their safety and her unease about his true intentions becomes palpable.

Returning to the year 1381, Marian's anxiety grows regarding Jasper's potential threats and the need to protect her friends. She brainstorms ways to reach out to them but feels an overwhelming sense of urgency. At the same time, Will awakens to find Marian at his side, but his relief quickly turns to confusion as he realizes she is unresponsive. Desperate and anxious, he clutches her tightly, longing for her to return to him.



The chapter concludes on a poignant note, echoing themes of love, sacrifice, and the harsh realities of life. Will's heartache mirrors the pain from an earlier loss—his brother Thomas—evoking a sense of failure in protecting both Thomas and, now, Marian. This emotional turmoil resonates throughout the chapter, drawing readers into the complex struggles faced by the characters as they navigate their intertwined fates.

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Chapter 27 Summary: 27

In Chapter 27 of "Come Back to Me" by Jody Hedlund, the narrative centers on Marian's awakening from a long coma, where she is welcomed by her devoted sister Ellen and close friend Harrison. At first, she feels disoriented and vulnerable, her immediate concern being the sinister Jasper, who poses a threat to her loved ones. Despite her desperate attempts to warn them about Jasper's presence, Marian loses consciousness once more, overwhelmed by her weakened state.

Upon waking again, Marian learns about Ellen and Harrison's sacrifices during her coma, particularly the use of a magical ampulla filled with holy water meant to aid in her recovery. The gravity of their decision weighs heavily on Marian, especially upon discovering that Ellen chose not to drink the holy water herself, putting her life at risk due to her ongoing battle with cancer.

As the trio shares their experiences, Marian grapples with the bittersweet realization that her return to the present means leaving behind Will, the love of her life, in the past. The chapter captures the bittersweet nature of reunion; while Marian rejoices with her sister, her heart aches for the love she lost. Harrison opens up about his own captivity and the challenges they faced to retrieve the ampulla, revealing Jasper's duplicitous nature that continually haunts them.



Together, they discuss their family's legacy and important elements like the mythical Tree of Life, which symbolizes potential miracle cures. However, they are also confronted with the daunting reality that disclosures of such profound truths may not be well-received in their current world. Meanwhile, subtle hints of Harrison's emerging feelings for Ellen introduce emotional complexities, as Marian navigates her own heartache.

As the chapter unfolds, Marian prepares to recount her extraordinary experiences from the past, signaling a deep, ongoing connection to Will with her declaration, “You’ll find this hard to believe, but I’m officially married to William Durham.” The closing notes of the chapter foster anticipation for the consequences of her time-traveling adventure and the love she had to leave behind.

This chapter profoundly explores themes of sacrifice, love, and the weight of knowledge, emphasizing the difficulties of reconciling the past with the present, while also celebrating the resilience of familial relationships. Marian’s struggle to adapt to her new reality sets the groundwork for further revelations and moral complexities, propelling the story into new emotional territories.



Chapter 28: 28

Summary of Chapter 28: "Come Back to Me"

In this poignant chapter, Marian finds solace within a large closet, surrounded by remnants of her past that haunt her thoughts. As she reflects on her time with Will in the manor during the tumultuous era of 1381, she grapples with bittersweet memories, feeling the weight of skepticism from those around her. Her sister Ellen dismisses Marian's time-travel experiences as hallucinations, but Harrison, a supportive figure in her life, provides a much-needed sense of understanding.

Amidst her search for evidence of a concealed vault beneath the manor, Marian's deep connection to her past and to Will intensifies. Yet, doubt begins to creep in, leading her to question whether her memories are tangible or simply figments of her imagination. With urgency stemming from Ellen's medical condition, Marian realizes she must pivot her focus toward finding the source of holy water, which may hold a cure for her sister, rather than dwelling on her haunting past.

The tension escalates when unsettling news from Jasper amplifies Marian's sense of foreboding. In a shocking moment, Will materializes from the shadows, complicating her emotions and perceptions of reality. Just as hope



seems within reach, Marian is struck with intense chest pains, signalling that her body in 1381 is struggling without modern medical care, underlining the grave consequences of her time-travel.

Through Marian's internal turmoil and her evolving relationship with Harrison, the chapter explores significant themes of trust, love, and the burdens of history. The narrative is rich with suspense and longing, drawing readers into Marian's emotional struggle as she stands at a critical juncture. Will she succeed in bridging her past with her present to save herself and Ellen? This pivotal moment sets the stage for her impending choices and the stakes that lie ahead.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 29

Chapter 29 Summary of "Come Back to Me"

In this poignant chapter, Will embarks on a frantic quest to save his beloved wife, Marian, whose health has rapidly declined. The once-vibrant woman, now shrouded in illness, prompts Will to scour their treasure room, where memories of her spirited nature haunt him. Despite his attempts to alleviate her suffering through herbal remedies and consultations with various medical professionals, despair begins to take hold as he realizes that time is of the essence.

A beacon of hope emerges when Thad, Will's loyal steward, introduces him to Sister Christina. She speaks of a miraculous spring of holy water located at St. Sepulchre, reputed to possess healing properties. Fueled by determination and desperation, Will organizes a group of friends and resources to embark on this urgent mission.

As the chapter unfolds, Will and his companions labor tirelessly at the site indicated by Sister Christina. The physical toll of their efforts coincides with a deepening doubt about the existence of the miraculous spring. Yet, driven by the unwavering love he holds for Marian, Will perseveres, recalling fond memories of their life together—her joy and the profound impact she's had



on his own growth. This reflection intensifies his resolve, transforming his desperate digging from a mere action to an emotional pilgrimage.

Through themes of love, desperation, and the struggle against fate, this chapter illustrates Will's relentless pursuit of a miracle. It captures the essence of human resilience while showcasing the profound bond between spouses. As he wrestles with feelings of inadequacy and helplessness, Will's journey serves as a testament to the extraordinary lengths one is willing to go for a loved one amidst the shadows of uncertainty and turmoil.

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Chapter 30 Summary: 30

In Chapter 30 of "Come Back to Me," Marian confronts the harsh reality of her impending death, uttering a quiet admission, "I'm dying" to her sister, Ellen. This moment is steeped in emotional weight as Ellen, filled with sorrow, vows to fight for her sister's life. Despite the medical interventions of oxygen and medication, Marian feels a suffocating despair and recognizes that she can never return to the life she once knew. Her previous experiences with time travel have profoundly altered her perspective, prompting a yearning for authenticity, intimacy, and faith over the isolation her work and emotional defenses once provided.

As Marian reflects on her past, her thoughts turn to the pain she will leave behind for Ellen and their father, who she wishes to be reunited with beyond this life. This longing prompts her to give Ellen their mother's cherished pearl necklace, symbolizing her release from material attachments and a desire to prioritize the bonds of family and love.

Marian's physical condition worsens, prompting urgent attention from the doctor and nurse overseeing her care. Meanwhile, Harrison, a pivotal character linked to both sisters, bursts in with a determined urgency. He understands that the key to Marian's survival lies in retrieving another dose of holy water from the past. However, time is running short. In a moment of clarity and resolve, Marian reveals the location of the mystical wellspring to



Harrison, conveying her hope for Ellen's future and her unwavering love despite her own looming fate.

As darkness begins to envelop her, Marian expresses her deep love for Ellen, bracing herself for the final farewell. This chapter powerfully explores themes of love, sacrifice, and the transformative strength that arises from embracing vulnerability and forming deeper connections with others. It serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of relationships in the face of life's most difficult challenges.

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Chapter 31 Summary: 31

In Chapter 31, titled "Hope and Despair," Will finds himself wrestling with both the physical labor of digging a trench and the emotional anguish that comes with the potential loss of his cherished wife, Marian. As he toils away, Christina—a compassionate and nurturing figure—comes to his aid with water. Her comforting words act as a balm for Will's troubled spirit, reminding him that he should not bear the weight of guilt for circumstances beyond his control, especially given his history of past traumas and losses.

Despite Christina's kindness, Will's heart is heavy with despair as he confronts the grim possibility of losing Marian. In a thoughtful gesture, Christina presents him with an old flask of holy water, which she acknowledges may not possess true healing powers but is imbued with sentimental value linked to Marian. This exchange signifies a crucial moment for Will, as he clings to the fragile thread of hope that the holy water might serve as a miracle for her recovery.

Driven by an intense urgency fueled by love and fear, Will rushes back to Marian's side. Upon his arrival, he is met by a somber ambiance within her chamber and the anxious expressions of the servants surrounding her. Assessing the dire situation, he acts on impulse, pouring the holy water over her in desperate hopes of reviving her spirit.



As Will pleads with Marian to come back to him, time seems to stretch endlessly with no sign of improvement. Overwhelmed by grief, he soon seeks solace in solitude, whispering his heartfelt emotions into the emptiness, mourning a love that he fears may slip away. This chapter poignantly encapsulates the heart-wrenching struggle between hope and despair, underscoring Will's profound devotion and the raw, visceral emotions tied to love and the threat of loss.

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Chapter 32: 32

Chapter 32 Summary: Come Back to Me

In this poignant chapter, Marian finds herself at a crossroads between life and death, temporarily caught between the echoes of her past and the challenges of her present in the year 1381. Awakening from an unconscious state, she initially perceives her surroundings as a celestial realm. However, the comforting presence of her husband, Will, soon clarifies her reality. Their reunion is deeply emotional as Will reveals that he used holy water—a mystical substance believed to possess healing powers—to restore her life.

As Marian and Will reconnect, their tender exchanges underscore the profound love they share. Will's joy at Marian's return is palpable, yet an underlying tension emerges when Marian admits her need for more holy water to sustain her in this turbulent world. This revelation propels them into a race against time to locate this ancient elixir, amplifying the stakes of their love story.

The chapter intricately weaves themes of love, sacrifice, and loyalty. Marian's heartfelt confession of her feelings for Will, particularly in her vulnerable state, illuminates the intensity of their relationship. They express renewed vows to one another, signifying a commitment that transcends the



uncertainties of their future.

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates the transformative power of love, the struggle for survival, and the joy that comes with rekindled connection. It leaves readers eager to witness how Marian and Will navigate the challenges ahead, fortified by their unwavering bond and shared hope for the future.

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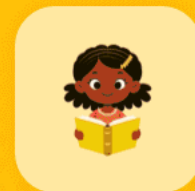
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Chapter 33 Summary: 33

Summary of Chapter 33

On December 22, 1381, in the chilly setting of Chesterfield Park, Marian finds herself deep in thought, reflecting on the contrast between her current life and her past. Wrapped snugly in her fur cloak, she feels the biting cold, yet finds solace in the warmth of her wedding band—a heartfelt gift from her husband, Will, symbolizing their enduring love and her fresh start after a tumultuous past.

As Marian decorates for Christmas, she savors the simplicity and warmth of the holiday season, which stands in stark contrast to the material excess of her previous life. However, an ache lingers in her heart due to the absence of her family, amplifying her longing for those she has left behind.

Her reverie is shattered when a young servant girl arrives with exhilarating news: Will has returned. This announcement stirs joy in Marian, prompting her to enthusiastically prepare for Will's arrival. When he appears, cloaked and recently dismounted, his strong presence immediately rekindles their deep bond. Their passionate reunion, filled with warmth and connection despite the busy household around them, marks a pivotal moment of reaffirmation for their love.



During Will's time away in Kent, where he served as a tactical advisor, their relationship has matured, seamlessly weaving love and allegiance amid the challenges of distance. Will shares delightful news—soon, their sons, Robert and Phillip, will join them, and Marian, glowing with happiness, reveals she is pregnant. This announcement brings them both profound joy, further solidifying their growing family.

As they share their lives, Marian's thoughts drift to her sister Ellen, hoping for her sister's happiness and healing. Marian recalls a secret wellspring known for its healing properties, contemplating how she might assist Ellen. However, concern lingers regarding Harrison, Ellen's former fiancé, and whether he will abandon their quest for healing together.

The chapter concludes on a powerful note of resilience, with Marian and Will reflecting on the challenges they have faced and the unwavering support they draw from one another. Their love remains a bastion of strength, promising to endure through trials and tribulations, reaffirming their commitment to each other and their family amidst life's uncertainties.

