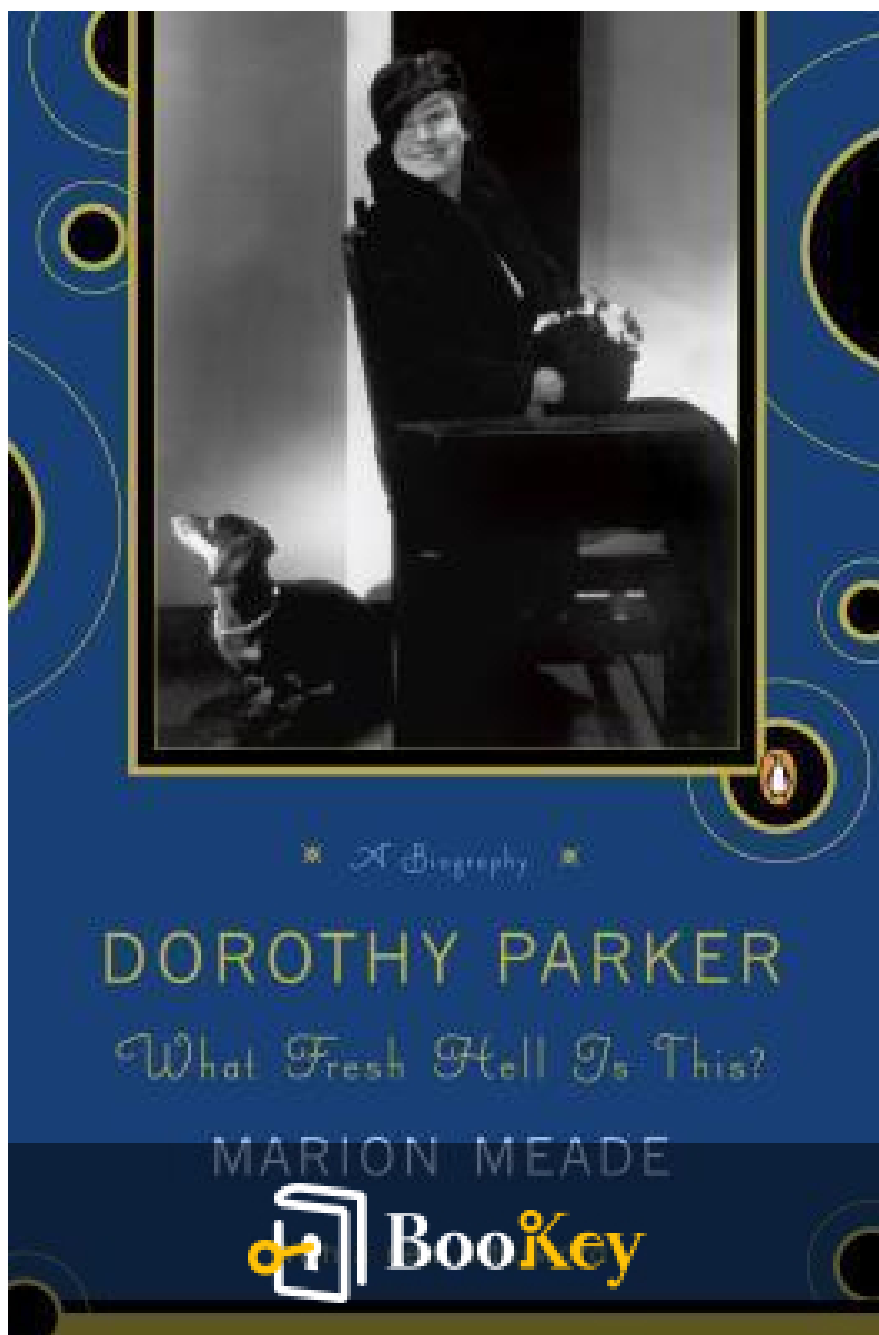


Dorothy Parker PDF (Limited Copy)

Marion Meade



More Free Book



Scan to Download

Dorothy Parker Summary

Exploring the Brilliant Wit and Troubled Life of Dorothy Parker

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

In Marion Meade's engaging biography of Dorothy Parker, readers are introduced to a literary figure whose life was as multifaceted as her renowned wit. Parker gained fame for her sharp humor and incisive critiques, becoming a key member of the Algonquin Round Table—an elite literary group in New York City composed of influential writers and critics, including Robert Benchley and George Kaufman. Meade chronicles Parker's rise to prominence, highlighting her sharp one-liners and poignant stories that captivated audiences.

However, beneath the surface of her glittering career, Parker faced significant personal challenges. Meade illuminates Parker's tumultuous relationships, including two difficult marriages that ultimately ended in divorce. The biography explores her struggles with alcohol and the emotional turmoil that led to several suicide attempts, painting a fuller picture of a woman whose brilliance was often shadowed by deep personal pain.

The narrative further delves into Parker's experiences in Hollywood, where she interacted with notable figures such as S.J. Perelman and William Faulkner. These relationships, while influential in shaping her career, often mirrored her personal conflicts and contributed to her complex persona.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Overall, Meade's portrait of Parker reveals the compelling duality of her life: a vibrant literary icon known for her accomplishments and a troubled individual grappling with her demons. The inclusion of a new afterword by the author enriches the narrative, offering additional insights into Parker's extraordinary journey and legacy.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

In her latest work, "Lonelyhearts: The Screwball World of Nathanael West and Eileen McKenney," Marion Meade presents an engaging dual biography that explores the intricate lives of Nathanael West, a prominent writer, and Eileen McKenney, an aspiring actress. Set against the backdrop of the Jazz Age and the Great Depression, this book intricately weaves their individual stories into a broader narrative reflecting the vibrant artistic movements and cultural upheavals of early 20th-century America.

Nathanael West, known for his sharp wit and satirical prose, achieved acclaim for works such as "Miss Lonelyhearts," which critiques the disillusionment of society during the era. Eileen McKenney, on the other hand, navigated the challenges of the entertainment industry, often grappling with the harsh realities of fame and personal struggles. Together, their relationship serves as a microcosm of a time when creativity was thriving despite the pervasive economic hardships.

Meade's detailed examination reveals how West's literary genius and McKenney's aspirations were shaped by the tumultuous social landscape, characterized by both the glitz of Jazz Age nightlife and the stark realities of the ensuing Great Depression. Their story reflects not only their personal triumphs and tribulations but also serves as a lens through which to understand the broader artistic and cultural movements of their time.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

This biography stands out for its exploration of love, ambition, and the relentless pursuit of artistic expression in an era marked by uncertainty, making West and McKenney's lives resonate with contemporary themes of resilience and creativity. Through meticulous research and vivid storytelling, Meade not only breathes life into her subjects but also crafts a critical commentary on the world they inhabited, inviting readers to reflect on the legacy of two artists whose voices continue to echo in American literature and film today.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Ad



Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock 1000+ Titles, 80+ Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

Summary Content List

Chapter 1: THE LOVELY LEAVE

Chapter 2: THE SEXES

Chapter 3: THE WALTZ

Chapter 4: ENOUGH ROPE

Chapter 5: A TELEPHONE CALL

Chapter 6: DUSK BEFORE FIREWORKS

Chapter 7: MRS.HOFSTADTER ON
JOSEPHINE STREET

Chapter 8: THE LAST TEA

Chapter 9: SUNSET GUN

Chapter 10: JUST A LITTLE ONE

Chapter 11: GLORY IN THE DAYTIME

Chapter 12: DEATH AND TAXES

Chapter 13: THE CUSTARD HEART

Chapter 14: LITTLE CURTIS

Chapter 15: CLOTHE THE NAKED

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 16: THE GAME

Chapter 17: THE BOLT BEHIND
THE BLUE

Chapter 18: INTERIOR DESECRATION

Chapter 19: DESTRUCTIVE
DECORATION

Chapter 20: FROM AINSLEE'S
1921

Chapter 21: FROM THE NEW YORKER
1927-1931

Chapter 22: FROM THE NEW YORK
TIMES BOOK REVIEW
1957

Chapter 23: IN THE THROES

Chapter 24: THE GARTER

Chapter 25: SELF-PORTRAIT

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary: THE LOVELY LEAVE

Summary of Chapter 1: The Lovely Leave

In the opening chapter, Dorothy Parker explores the poignant emotions of a woman eagerly anticipating her husband Lieutenant McVicker's brief leave from military duty. The narrative begins with a long-distance phone call in which McVicker informs her that he'll have a rare 24-hour respite from the rigors of war. Her initial excitement, however, is swiftly overshadowed as his conversation is interrupted by the camaraderie of his fellow soldiers, reminding her of the distance—both physical and emotional—that has grown between them.

As she reflects on the loneliness and anxiety stemming from their separation, the protagonist is resolute not to waste this precious time together. She dedicates herself to making their time meaningful by purchasing thoughtful gifts and enhancing their home with flowers and decorations, striving to create an inviting and romantic atmosphere.

On the day of his anticipated return, she immerses herself in preparations. Yet, as excitement builds, a surge of nervousness and shyness washes over her. When McVicker finally arrives, the mood takes a sharp turn as he delivers the devastating news that all leaves have been canceled due to

More Free Book



Scan to Download

urgent military requirements, forcing him to return immediately. This revelation shatters her carefully constructed plans for a loving reunion and plunges them into a complex emotional conflict, juxtaposing her desire for connection with the harsh reality of his responsibilities.

Ultimately, she outwardly maintains a brave facade in the face of heartbreak, vowing to cherish their brief moments together despite the encroaching shadows of war. Parker deftly encapsulates the bittersweet nature of love amidst conflict, illustrating the themes of longing, sacrifice, and the emotional toll of separation during tumultuous times. The chapter serves as a poignant reminder of the personal stakes involved in wartime, leaving readers with a sense of both hope and sorrow.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 2 Summary: THE SEXES

Chapter 2 Summary: The Sexes and The Standard of Living

This chapter delves into the intricate dynamics between genders and the societal implications of wealth through the experiences of three main characters: a young man, a girl, and two women named Annabel and Midge, followed by a focus on Mr. Durant.

The Sexes

The chapter opens with a scene between a young man and a girl, marked by playful yet awkward conversation that underscores the complexities of communication in romantic contexts. Their exchange, centered on a cigarette offer, spirals into misunderstandings and defensiveness—each is caught in their own frustrations. The girl, seemingly unaware of her impact, continually thanks him, which irritates him further while exposing his longing for connection that he cannot articulate. This interplay highlights societal expectations of gender roles and the characters' personal insecurities, illustrating how their interactions reflect deeper societal issues regarding love and vulnerability.

The Standard of Living

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Moving forward, the narrative shifts to Annabel and Midge, two young women who relish their leisurely afternoons in the city. Their indulgence in rich foods and vanity paints a picture of youthful pleasure while also illuminating the pressures imposed by societal standards. As they fantasize about how they would spend a sudden fortune, their desires become a backdrop to their reality. This dream scenario shifts abruptly when they encounter the staggering price of a pearl necklace in a shop, forcing them to confront the disparity between their aspirations and their everyday financial limitations. This momentary disillusionment transitions them from a confident facade to a state of vulnerability, revealing the tension between dreams and reality.

Mr. Durant

The chapter concludes with a focus on Mr. Durant, a family man whose seemingly stable life begins to unravel upon revealing that Rose, a young woman from his workplace, is pregnant. Initially, Mr. Durant enjoys an uncomplicated existence, but his attraction to Rose complicates his moral considerations, leading to a clandestine affair. When he learns of Rose's pregnancy, his denial and frustration erupt in anger, showcasing the fragility of his previously maintained balance. He grapples with his sense of duty to protect Rose against the societal and personal ramifications of their affair. His character is riddled with contradictions; he feels obligated to care yet



harbors resentment for the situation, further complicating his emotional landscape. His dismissive attitude towards his new pet symbolizes his struggle to maintain order in a life increasingly beset by chaos.

Overall, this chapter intricately weaves themes of gender dynamics, societal pressures, and the multifaceted nature of personal relationships, revealing how humor, vulnerability, and stark realities can challenge characters' perceptions of themselves and their society.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 3 Summary: THE WALTZ

In Chapter 3 of "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade, the narrative weaves through three distinct but thematically connected scenes that reflect the complexities of life, societal expectations, and individual struggles.

The Waltz opens with Parker's protagonist grappling with the pressure to conform to social norms. She finds herself reluctantly dancing with a man she does not wish to be with, a situation that highlights the conflict between personal desire and societal obligations. As she navigates this uncomfortable moment, she humorously contemplates the chaotic nature of life, characterized by unpredictability, despair, and a sense of futility. Her sharp, sarcastic observations reveal her internal struggles, blending humor with poignant reflections on the absurdities of social rituals.

The narrative then transitions to **The Wonderful Old Gentleman**, where the setting shifts to a somber living room filled with eclectic memorabilia, suggesting a complex relationship with mortality. Family members gather as they await the passing of their elderly father, an event that evokes both nostalgia and tension. Through their conversations, they reflect on his vibrant past while grappling with the sorrow of his impending departure. This scene uncovers the layers of familial love and strain, revealing how relationships can be both cherished and fraught, especially in the face of death.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Finally, the chapter introduces **Song of the Shirt**, featuring Mrs.

Martindale, a devoted woman engaged in war relief efforts. Her dedication to sewing for the organization, despite her appealing exterior, symbolizes the sacrifices made by women during wartime. This character embodies the challenges faced by women who balance personal aspirations with societal roles, driven by a strong sense of duty and compassion amidst the trials of their environment.

Through these interconnected narratives, Parker's writing resonates with humor, emotional depth, and social commentary, capturing the essence of human experience in all its complexity. The chapter highlights her trademark wit while exploring themes of personal agency, familial ties, and the resilience of women in challenging circumstances.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 4: ENOUGH ROPE

Chapter 4 Summary: "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade

This chapter explores the profound themes of heartbreak and love through the lens of Dorothy Parker's poignant poetry. Parker, a prominent figure of the early 20th century and a key member of the Algonquin Round Table, is celebrated for her sharp wit and deep emotional insight. Her work often reflects the complexities of romantic relationships, showcasing both their fleeting beauty and the deep pain they can inflict.

Themes of Heartbreak and Love

Parker's poetry encapsulates the essence of love's ephemeral nature, revealing the heartache that often accompanies romantic connections. Her verses traverse the spectrum of emotions associated with love—from the exhilaration of connection to the sorrow of loss—demonstrating her resilience amid these experiences.

Key Poems and Their Messages

- "**Threnody**": This poem captures the bittersweet agony of lost love, suggesting that while painful experiences mar one's emotions, they also



contribute significantly to life's richness.

- "**The Small Hours**": Here, Parker meditates on sadness, acknowledging the relentless march of time as she faces another day despite her heavy heart.
- "**The False Friends**": Through sharp critique, Parker highlights the hollow reassurances from friends during moments of heartbreak, emphasizing the challenges one faces in the healing process.
- "**The Trifler**": In this piece, death is likened to a capricious lover, reinforcing the connection between life's fleeting nature and the transitory experience of love.
- "**Convulsing**": This poem addresses the tumultuous feelings that arise when confronted with the possibility of new love, showcasing the conflict between hope and fear.

Reactions to Heartbreak

Through her verses, Parker conveys disbelief and bitterness regarding love's finality. Her emotional resilience is apparent as she strives to project strength while grappling with overwhelming vulnerability. This dynamic interplay illustrates a constant flux between power and fragility in her emotional landscape.

Cynical Reflections

More Free Book



Scan to Download

A marked cynicism pervades Parker's portrayal of romantic relationships, revealing the often brutal truths about love and its consequences. Her clever, sardonic wit intermingles with her melancholic reflections, giving her work an incisive edge that resonates with readers.

Conclusion

Through her eloquent expressions of love's intricacies and heartache, Dorothy Parker crafts a compelling narrative that is both relatable and entertaining. The poetry examined in this chapter eloquently explores themes of longing, emotional turmoil, and the stark realities that accompany human connections, solidifying Parker's place as a poignant voice in American literature.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 5 Summary: A TELEPHONE CALL

In Chapter 5, titled "A Telephone Call," from "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade, we delve into the emotional turmoil of a woman anxiously awaiting a phone call from a man she deeply cares for. The chapter is a poignant exploration of her inner thoughts, oscillating between hope and despair as she grapples with the uncertainty of their relationship.

As she waits, her mind races with prayers to God, pleading for any sign of affection from him, highlighting her profound longing and emotional dependence on this man. This anxiety is compounded by self-reflection, where she confronts her insecurities and fears of rejection, driven by memories of their past conversations. In particular, she clings to affectionate moments when he referred to her as "darling," which she sees as symbols of their connection, yet these are overshadowed by a growing cloud of doubt.

As time passes, she battles with her fear of appearing overly desperate, questioning herself about a variety of possibilities for his delay—ranging from mundane miscommunications to the idea that something more significant might have occurred. The internal dialogue also includes her wondering if he intended for her to reach out, leading to humorous self-reproach, as she acknowledges her tendency to overanalyze situations.

Despite her resolution to regain composure and move beyond the anxiety of

More Free Book



Scan to Download

the call, the tension within her mounts. She ultimately becomes unable to suppress her desire to know his intentions, reflecting on the vulnerability inherent in love. This culminates in a powerful representation of the agony of waiting for reciprocation in romance and the emotional complexities that accompany unreciprocated feelings.

Through this chapter, Meade captures the essence of longing and the intricate emotional landscape of romantic relationships, illustrating both the joys and heartaches that come with uncertainty in interpersonal connections.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 6 Summary: DUSK BEFORE FIREWORKS

Summary of Chapter 6: Dusk Before Fireworks

In this chapter, we delve into the life of a strikingly handsome young man living in a decorative, albeit overly ornate, apartment shaped by the influences of various women who have previously attempted to redecorate it. As dusk casts a muted glow over the space, we glimpse the dichotomy between his external beauty and the superficiality that permeates his surroundings. His striking appearance garners both admiration and resentment, particularly from his sister and certain men in their circle.

Seated across from him is a conservatively dressed young woman who, while feeling slightly insecure, perceives the rare beauty of the twilight ambiance. Their dialogue illustrates the contrasting philosophies they hold towards life. The woman yearns for tranquility amidst the chaos of their world, while the young man criticizes the "hell" that some of their shallow acquaintances create. She expresses concern for his associations, believing they detract from his true potential, but he brushes off her worries, deeming them excessive.

This exchange quickly deepens into a moment of intimacy, as both characters navigate the complexities of their relationship. The young woman



grapples with her jealousy and insecurities, striving to maintain their emotional bond. In turn, the young man struggles to convey his feelings, often interrupted by the incessant ringing of the telephone, a symbol of external distractions that intrude on their connection.

When he finally answers the persistent calls, the conversation leaves him feeling drained and slightly rattled. The young woman, sensing the tension that has erupted from this interruption, decides she must leave, creating a rift in their interaction. Despite his attempts to convince her to stay and his evident frustration, she stands firm in her decision, feeling that the outside disturbances have marred their shared moment.

Themes of love, insecurity, authenticity, and societal pressures permeate this chapter, revealing how external factors and personal doubts can impact close relationships. The characters' struggles illuminate the uncertainty that often characterizes human connections and underscore the tumultuous influence of their chaotic social milieu.

"Dusk Before Fireworks" poignantly captures a fragile moment between the two protagonists, highlighting the delicate interplay of beauty, desire, vulnerability, and the adversities posed by the outside world. Their unresolved farewell encapsulates the complexities and emotional turbulence of navigating intimate relationships amidst life's distractions.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 7 Summary: MRS.HOFSTADTER ON JOSEPHINE STREET

Summary of Chapter 7: MRS. HOFSTADTER, ON JOSEPHINE STREET

Introduction

In this chapter, the narrator and the Colonel spend a summer in a bungalow, embarking on a quest to find a male servant to help maintain a peaceful household conducive to the Colonel's wife's writing. They turn to an employment agency, seeking assistance in managing their domestic needs.

Finding a Servant

The Colonel is firm in his belief that a male servant is essential for cooking, cleaning, and ensuring a quiet environment for his wife. At the agency, they meet a representative who praises Horace Wrenn, a well-regarded servant with reputable references from the esteemed Mrs. Hofstadter, a local figure known for her social standing.

Horace's Arrival

Horace appears unexpectedly and introduces himself with high hopes of

More Free Book



Scan to Download

creating a cheerful home. His speech is filled with enthusiasm and confidence as he showcases his past experiences and affirms his friendship with Mrs. Hofstadter—a connection he prides himself on, suggesting he is both committed and capable in his role.

Life with Horace

Initially, the Colonel is doubtful about Horace despite the glowing recommendations. However, as days go by, they establish a routine that soon feels stifling for the narrator. Horace becomes an ever-present figure in their lives, effectively encroaching on their personal space and overshadowing their interactions.

The Colonel's Frustration

Tensions rise between the narrator and the Colonel over Horace's pervasive influence. The Colonel longs for days without Horace, which leads to a pivotal confrontation. This explosive moment forces both the Colonel and Horace to confront their roles, severely impacting their relationship dynamics.

The Aftermath

The chapter concludes with the Colonel feeling a wave of relief following

More Free Book



Scan to Download

his outburst against Horace, while the narrator grapples with her own emotional turmoil and the shifting environment of their household.

Exploration of Themes

This chapter delves into themes of service, class dynamics, and how external influences can strain personal relationships. It captures the struggle for autonomy amidst the overwhelming presence of a servant whose eager disposition ultimately disrupts the delicate balance of their lives.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 8: THE LAST TEA

Chapter 8 Summary: The Last Tea and Big Blonde

The Last Tea

The chapter unfolds in a quaint tea shop, where a young man dressed in a chocolate-brown suit meets a woman sporting an artificial camellia. Their conversation is laced with an undercurrent of weariness and disillusionment, revealing a shared sense of dissatisfaction with their lives. The young man candidly admits to feeling "ruined and poisoned," hinting at a tumultuous night that has left him emotionally drained. Meanwhile, the woman, despite her outwardly cheerful demeanor, masks her own cynicism beneath playful banter.

Their dialogue meanders through discussions of acquaintances and social events, encapsulating the culture of flirty exchanges prevalent in their social sphere. Names like Wally Dillon—who harbors an interest in the woman—and Carol McCall, whom the man finds appealing, punctuate their repartee. As they part ways, the lightheartedness belied by their interaction reveals deeper emotional currents, suggesting that beneath their facade, both characters grapple with unresolved feelings and the complexities of their

More Free Book



Scan to Download

lives.

Big Blonde

The narrative shifts to focus on Hazel Morse, a striking blonde defined by her vivacious charm but grappling with profound emptiness. Initially drawn to the idea of domestic bliss after marrying Herbie, she soon finds herself disillusioned as his indifference grows and alcohol becomes an escape from her mounting sadness. Their relationship deteriorates into a cycle of fierce arguments and reconciliations, each increasingly devoid of meaning.

As Hazel's marriage unravels, she finds herself entangled with various men, including Ed, a married admirer who offers a fleeting sense of validation. She immerses herself in a nightlife defined by whiskey-fueled escapades, progressively losing her sense of self amidst superficial encounters and distractions from the heartache of her failing marriage.

The climax of her struggle arrives in the form of a suicide attempt, leading her to the hospital where she confronts the depths of her solitude and despair. Despite occasional glimpses of connection and brief moments of joy, Hazel's journey starkly highlights the tragic disparity between her outwardly vibrant persona and the deep-seated sorrow she harbors. Ultimately, the chapter poignantly explores the thin veneer of social

More Free Book



Scan to Download

glamour, revealing the ways in which personal crises and self-destructive behaviors lurk beneath the surface of a seemingly carefree existence.

In this chapter, Parker artfully examines the themes of dual identity and the perilous allure of superficiality, skillfully intertwining the struggles for pleasure and acceptance with the haunting loneliness that often accompanies the pursuit of social engagement.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





★ ★ ★ ★ ★
22k 5 star review

Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

...tes after each book summary
...erstanding but also make the
...and engaging. Bookey has
...ling for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

...ding habit
...o's design
...ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the important parts of a book. It also gives me enough idea whether or not I should purchase the whole book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for summaries are concise, ins curated. It's like having acc right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with busy schedules. The summaries are spot on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 9 Summary: SUNSET GUN

SUNSET GUN: Summary of Chapter 9

Overview

In Chapter 9 of "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade, the reader is treated to a rich tapestry of poems and reflections that delve deep into themes of love, loss, and the essence of human experience. Parker's clever verses and poignant imagery encapsulate the spectrum of emotions that define life.

Key Themes

1. The Burden of Life

The chapter begins with a contemplative poem that reveals the inherent sadness and pain that accompany existence. This observation, attributed to a mysterious figure seen in a church, prompts reflection on the gifts of life—both joyous and heavy.

2. Yearning and Regret

More Free Book



Scan to Download

In "The Red Dress," Parker captures the bittersweet nature of longing for a life filled with passion and vibrancy. This poem contrasts the exhilarating dreams of youth with the sober realities faced in adulthood, creating a poignant sense of nostalgia.

3. Mortality and Legacy

Several pieces confront the inevitability of death, exploring how beauty and dreams are often fleeting. Poems like "Victoria" and "To Newcastle" poignantly address themes of loss and acceptance, serving as meditations on the transient nature of life.

4. Love's Complexity

Parker's examination of love reveals its intricate and dual nature—capable of both profound joy and deep pain. "Reuben's Children" critiques conventional notions of monogamy, while "On Cheating the Fiddler" embraces the exhilaration of seizing the moment in romantic encounters.

5. Humor and Irony

Balancing the somber themes, Parker injects humor into her work, as seen in "A Pig's-Eye View of Literature." These humorous poems and reflections serve as clever critiques of literary figures and societal norms, showcasing

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Parker's sharp wit and ability to entertain.

6. Social Commentary

Throughout the chapter, Parker offers incisive commentary on social conventions and romantic relationships. In "Never Love a Simple Lad," she provides cautionary advice against the pitfalls of conventional romance, encouraging readers to question societal expectations.

7. Self-Awareness and Reflection

Parker also engages in self-reflection, contemplating her artistic identity in poems like "The Search Soul" and "Superfluous Advice." Here, she candidly explores the struggles and contradictions inherent in her creative process, revealing her introspective nature.

Conclusion

Chapter 9 of "Dorothy Parker" encapsulates Parker's literary genius, intertwining complex emotions with sharp societal critiques. Through her masterful blend of humor and pathos, she offers profound insights into her own life experiences and broader human truths, securing her legacy within American literature.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 10 Summary: JUST A LITTLE ONE

Chapter 10 Summary: Just a Little One / Lady with a Lamp / Horsie

Just a Little One

The chapter begins in a lively speakeasy in 1928, where Dorothy and Fred engage in a humorous and spirited conversation. Dorothy, full of charm, marvels at the establishment's atmosphere, creating a playful tone. As they sip their drinks, their dialogue shifts from light-hearted banter to deeper discussions about life, friendships, and the emotional vulnerabilities that can surface after a few drinks. Dorothy's candid reflections reveal her wit while also exposing her underlying feelings of loneliness and the complexities of their relationship. This back-and-forth illustrates not only their camaraderie but also the broader themes of connection and the human condition within the bustling backdrop of the Roaring Twenties.

Lady with a Lamp

Transitioning from the lively speakeasy, the scene shifts to a more intimate setting where Miss Wilmarth cares for her friend Camilla following childbirth. Miss Wilmarth, a figure of compassion and professionalism, showcases her nurturing side while grappling with the constraints of societal

More Free Book



Scan to Download

expectations for women in their roles. The bond between the two women is layered; Camilla, though appreciative, somewhat dismisses Miss Wilmarth's attentiveness, reflecting on the awkwardness that often accompanies such emotional support. This vignette captures the intricate dynamics of friendship and care, providing a poignant examination of their relationship against the backdrop of early 20th-century feminine ideals.

Horsie

As the narrative progresses, Miss Wilmarth prepares to leave after her caregiving duties. The contrast between her humble, maternal presence and Gerald Cruger's snobbish demeanor becomes apparent. Gerald sees Miss Wilmarth as an unwelcome disruption to their social expectations, yet he feels an underlying obligation towards her. Their interactions are marked by discomfort, emphasizing the tensions that can arise from social hierarchies. Miss Wilmarth's earnestness stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of Gerald and Camilla's social circle, leading to meaningful farewells that highlight the complexity of their relationships. Ultimately, Miss Wilmarth's departure leaves a significant void, both literally and metaphorically, symbolizing the challenges of navigating social norms while remaining true to one's character.

Throughout these segments, Parker masterfully intertwines humor, emotional vulnerability, and keen observations on human interactions,

More Free Book



Scan to Download

painting a vivid picture of early 20th-century life and the intricate web of personal relationships.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 11 Summary: GLORY IN THE DAYTIME

In "Glory in the Daytime," we are introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Murdock, a couple whose differing perspectives on the theater reveal the underlying tension in their marriage. Mrs. Murdock is captivated by the allure of the theatrical world, eagerly anticipating a tea party featuring the famous actress Lily Wynton, whom she admires. In contrast, Mr. Murdock exhibits a deep-seated disdain for theatre, which colors his interactions and thoughts, particularly during their dinner discussions.

As Mrs. Murdock prepares for the tea, her excitement underscores her dreams and aspirations, while simultaneously exposing her insecurities. Memories of her youthful encounters with celebrities compound her anticipation, leading to a mix of eagerness and anxiety about how to make a lasting impression on someone as illustrious as Wynton. The chapter captures her excitement alongside a backdrop of doubt about her own worthiness and appearance.

When the moment arrives, Mrs. Murdock's idealized vision of Lily is quickly deflated; she finds a woman who, despite her celebrity status, grapples with personal struggles, including unfaithful partners and career disappointments. This eye-opening conversation reveals that the glamorous image associated with fame is often a facade, underscoring the theme of aspirations clashing with harsh realities.



Through Mrs. Murdock's internal conflict, the chapter explores the dichotomy of dreams versus reality and how personal vulnerabilities can coexist with public personas. Ultimately, Mrs. Murdock recognizes a comforting stability in her life with Mr. Murdock, opting to embrace her ordinary existence rather than longing for a superficial ideal of glory. This resolution hints at a deeper understanding of contentment, anchored in authenticity over superficiality.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 12: DEATH AND TAXES

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 12: DEATH AND TAXES

This chapter unfolds through a series of poignant reflections and poetic expressions that delve into the nuances of love, loss, and the inevitable passage of time. It weaves a narrative rich with emotional depth and philosophical musings, encapsulating the human condition.

Prayer for a Prayer opens the chapter with a heartfelt plea to seek tenderness and forgiveness after death, hinting at the profound emotional bonds that remain even in absence. This sentiment flows into the meditation on humility in **After Spanish Proverb**, where the significance of friendship and kindness during difficult times is emphasized.

In **The Danger of Writing Defiant Verse**, the juxtaposition of love's fervor against a cooler, more mature response from a lover illustrates the complexities of passionate relationships. This theme of longing and separation recurs in **Distance**, where the speaker contemplates the bittersweet nature of being close yet emotionally detached, reflecting on how tangible distance might be less painful.

Sanctuary transports us to a quiet retreat, a solace from societal

More Free Book



Scan to Download

pressures where memories of simpler, happier times linger. This notion of transient beauty leads to **The Evening Primrose**, which symbolizes the fragility of life and the preciousness of fleeting moments.

The poet grapples with existential paradoxes in **The Flaw in Paganism**, recognizing that despite life's brevity, the allure of enjoyment remains strong. This irony is mirrored in **Salome's Dancing-Lesson**, which critiques the superficial pursuits of love and wealth.

In **Cherry White**, the desire for beauty intertwined with the shadows of grief suggests a longing for renewal amidst loss. This sentiment continues in **My Own**, where a sense of unity with the deceased highlights the companionship that transcends life and death.

Solace contemplates the pain of fading beauty and love, while **Little Words** captures the struggle to express profound grief with clarity. A series of reflections on life and mortality arrives in **Tombstones in the Starlight**, where vignettes illustrate varied experiences and the multitude of human emotions tied to death.

Garden-Spot mournfully acknowledges a personal relationship with death, contrasted against the vibrancy of nature. This theme finds a lighter touch in **Ornithology for Beginners**, which likens the simplicity of avian affection to the complexities of human emotions.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Nostalgia permeates **Vers Demode**, emphasizing the fleeting nature of passion, before shifting into **The Little Old Lady in Lavender Silk**, which reflects on the passage of time and the loss of youth.

Sonnet for the End of a Sequence serves as an introspective meditation on love and weariness, ultimately approaching the theme of life's endurance. This leads to **The Apple Tree**, which uses its imagery to discuss time's bittersweet nature and the cycles of existence.

Themes of beauty and vulnerability are examined through **Iseult of Brittany**, a character defined by sensitivity and the constraints it imposes. **Star Light Star Bright** offers a playful yet meaningful examination of desires and the nature of wishes.

The imagery of the sea in **The Sea** symbolizes the interconnectedness of love and mortality, while **Guinevere at Her Fireside** critiques romantic idealism, offering a glimpse into the trials that accompany relationships.

As experiences shift over time, **Transition** captures the bittersweet essence of change. The chapter becomes more whimsical in **Lines on Reading Too Many Poets**, which critiques the romanticism found in poetry versus reality, aligning with the emotional turmoil in **Purposely Ungrammatical Love Song** that reflects the confounding nature of love.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Finally, **Ballade of Unfortunate Mammals** poignantly ties love and pain, emphasizing the weight of memories. **Lenvoi**, the concluding piece, offers a reflection on the eccentricities of love, warning of the emotional risks involved.

Overall, Chapter 12 is a rich exploration of the interplay between beauty and sorrow, encapsulating themes of love, loss, and mortality while celebrating the fragile yet profound experiences that define our lives.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey

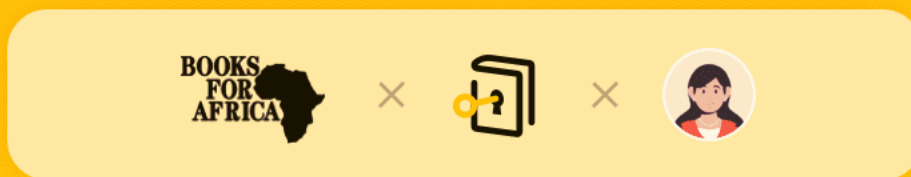




Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

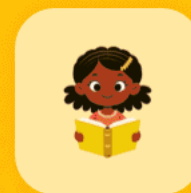
The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 13 Summary: THE CUSTARD HEART

Summary of Chapter 13 from "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade

The Custard Heart

In this chapter, we meet Mrs. Lanier, a woman trapped in a cycle of wistfulness that defines her very being. Despite her outward beauty and the wealth she possesses, encapsulated in a striking portrait by artist Sir James Weir, she bears the emotional weight of her artist-like soul, drawn to melancholy. Clad in luxurious dresses, she finds herself at odds with the harsh realities of life beyond her opulent home.

Daily Life & Aspirations

Mrs. Lanier's daily routine is marked by both her responsibilities and her interactions with the world around her. She feels a profound sense of sadness when she encounters those less fortunate, creating an emotional chasm between her privileged life and the suffering she witnesses. This disconnect drains her spirit, leaving her in a perpetual state of longing. Her loyal maid, Gwennie, who silently endures her own struggles, offers unwavering support

More Free Book



Scan to Download

amidst Mrs. Lanier's turmoil.

Interactions and Emotional Toll

Compounding her emotional burden is Mrs. Lanier's desire for motherhood, a yearning she confides to the young men who visit her. These encounters evoke varying degrees of sympathy and affection from her visitors, some of whom leave a fleeting impact, while others evoke deeper connections that leave her longing for more.

Gwennie's Role

Gwennie's role in Mrs. Lanier's life is pivotal; she manages the household and tends to her mistress' needs, often at the expense of her own dreams and desires. Their relationship underscores the complexities of dependency, illustrating how both women's lives are intertwined in unspoken ways.

Kane's Arrival and Departure

The chapter shifts with the arrival of Kane, a youthful and energetic chauffeur who brings a breath of fresh air into Mrs. Lanier's constrained

More Free Book



Scan to Download

world. However, his unexpected departure leaves her heartbroken, deepening her feelings of abandonment and loneliness. This event intensifies her already fragile emotional state, amplifying her struggles with unfulfilled dreams and the longing for deeper connections.

Conclusion

Overall, this chapter paints a poignant portrait of Mrs. Lanier, a woman ensnared in her own wistfulness amid a world that both dazzles and terrifies her. It reveals the interplay between wealth and sorrow, capturing her quest for connection in the face of isolation. Through its exploration of longing, beauty, and emotional wounds, the narrative underscores the depths of a life steeped in unfulfilled aspirations.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 14 Summary: LITTLE CURTIS

In Chapter 14 of "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade, we delve into the life of Mrs. Matson, a character defined by her rigid adherence to propriety and a keen awareness of class distinctions. This chapter unfolds through her day-to-day activities, particularly her shopping excursion, which serves as a lens through which her character is revealed.

Mrs. Matson begins her day at G. Fosdick's Sons Department Store, where she meticulously records her purchases in a carefully maintained notebook. This routine underscores not just her obsession with detail but also her desire to project a particular social status. As she navigates through the store, she exudes an air of superiority, seemingly untouched by the chaotic surroundings of the bustling department store. This reflects her underlying class consciousness; despite her modest clothing, she holds fast to the belief that her self-worth is tied to her material possessions and social standing, viewing herself as superior to others who might indulge in more fashionable attire.

Her self-perception is starkly contrasted by her interactions with those she encounters. On her way home, Mrs. Matson deliberately distances herself from the less fortunate, notably a blind woman of color, whom she perceives as unworthy of her sympathy. This further illustrates her haughty demeanor and reinforces her unwavering belief in her own superiority, rooted in her



rigid views on class hierarchy.

Once home, Mrs. Matson finds solace in her tidy living space, which she proudly calls "her home." Here, her adopted son, Curtis, becomes the focal point of her life. However, their relationship is dominated by her controlling nature, as she strictly dictates whom he may befriend, highlighting her desire to maintain an orderly and controlled environment around them.

The chapter also touches upon an afternoon tea gathering with her friends, where discussions revolve around literature, societal norms, and their respective statuses. Although this social gathering serves to bolster her standing among her peers, it also unveils subtle hints of insecurity and rivalry that lurk beneath her composed surface.

In summary, this chapter portrays Mrs. Matson as a complex figure grappling with her identity, motherhood, and the heavy burden of societal expectations. Her relationship with Curtis is structured yet stifling, revealing the intricacies of her character as she navigates the tenuous balance between confidence and rigidity. Through Mrs. Matson's experiences, we gain insight into the dynamics of class and personal identity that shape her world.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 15 Summary: CLOTHE THE NAKED

Summary of Chapter 15: CLOTHE, THE NAKED

This chapter centers around Big Lannie, a heavysset and slow woman who works diligently as a laundress for affluent clients, enduring a life filled with hardship, loss, and unwavering love for her daughter Arlene and later, her grandson Raymond.

Big Lannie's Life

Big Lannie's life is marred by tragedy as she faces the devastating loss of her husband and children, with only her daughter Arlene surviving. Despite her tireless efforts to support her remaining family, Arlene grows up yearning for affection and validation from men, which drives a wedge between them. Lannie finds herself increasingly alone, feeling helpless as she watches her daughter drift away.

Mother-Daughter Dynamics

In her attempts to bond with Arlene, Lannie showers her daughter with gifts and kindness. However, Arlene becomes more distant and frequently leaves for long periods, deepening Lannie's loneliness. The arrival of Arlene's son,

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Raymond, initially brings renewed hope and joy into Lannie's life, yet it also introduces new challenges as she takes on the responsibility of caring for him, especially given his blindness.

A Shift in Circumstances

The narrative takes a poignant turn following Arlene's tragic death. Lannie commits herself to raising Raymond, who grows into a spirited and joyful child despite his blindness. Though the community shows support, Lannie grapples with challenges as job opportunities dwindle, heightening her struggle to maintain stability for herself and Raymond.

Mrs. Ewing's Role

Lannie receives a helping hand from Mrs. Ewing, a former employer, who extends compassion and offers her part-time work. This support proves crucial for Lannie's survival, evoking a complex mix of gratitude and social stigma from the community regarding her continued employment as a laundress, which underscores the disparities between their lives.

Raymond's Journey

Raymond, despite the limitations imposed by his blindness, finds delight in the smallest of joys. Yet, societal exclusion complicates his ability to

More Free Book



Scan to Download

connect with others. His infectious enthusiasm fills Lannie with pride, but beneath her joy lies a constant worry about their uncertain future in a world that often overlooks and misunderstands him.

Dramatic Turn

The narrative shifts dramatically when Raymond's first outing leads to a distressing encounter with the taunting laughter of other children. This painful experience leaves him emotionally shattered. Returning home, Lannie comforts him, yet both struggle to process the psychological impact of this exposure to a world that can be cruel, amplifying Lannie's fears for their future.

Final Reflection

Ultimately, this chapter poignantly illustrates the resilience borne from love against a backdrop of poverty and social injustice. Lannie's determination to protect and nurture her grandson, Raymond, amidst overwhelming adversity highlights the profound bonds of family and the enduring human spirit in the face of life's tribulations.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 16: THE GAME

Chapter Summary: The Game

The chapter begins with the Linehams hosting their first dinner party in their newly decorated Park Avenue apartment, a space that exudes chic but impersonal sophistication akin to an art museum. This ornate setting symbolizes the couple's newfound bourgeois status, a reflection of their recent honeymoon bliss and social aspirations.

As the evening unfolds, guests—friends from Bob Lineham's past—arrive and indulge in lively conversation. After dinner, the atmosphere transitions into one of warmth and intimacy as coffee and brandy are served. Mrs. Lineham, while nervous, appreciates the compliments and the camaraderie, yet she grapples with underlying anxiety as conversations veer into the personal territory, including discussions about Bob's previous marriage and the ghosts it casts over their current happiness.

Amidst this gathering, Mrs. Lineham admires Mrs. Chrystie, an elegant and welcoming figure who effortlessly draws out the best in conversation. In contrast, her husband, Sherm Chrystie, adds a whimsical air with his carefree, jovial attitude, particularly when fueled by drinks. As they reminisce and share stories, the lighthearted mood conceals tension beneath



the surface.

The suggestion to play "The Game," a playful rendition similar to charades, invigorates the atmosphere. Teams are formed, led by Bob and Thelma, and the event shifts into a spirited competition. Yet, hidden tensions simmer as Bob grapples with a quote from Hamlet about Ophelia, suggesting unresolved issues linked to his past, particularly those surrounding his previous marriage.

This playful ambiance soon dims when Bob faces a challenging task during The Game, leading to a sudden shift in his demeanor. His struggle and failure to convey a phrase culminate in an emotional outburst, unearthing deeper personal conflicts and rifts not only between him and Mrs. Chrystie but also within his relationship with Thelma. The convivial gathering turns sour, revealing that beneath the veneer of celebration lie unresolved struggles and emotional fragility.

In conclusion, "The Game" acts as a conduit for exploring complex interpersonal dynamics among friends, unveiling the fragility of happiness and the weight of societal expectations surrounding marriage. This chapter illustrates how shared moments can serve as a mirror, reflecting deeper tensions and histories that shape the characters' relationships. As the evening draws to a close, it becomes clear that the celebratory facade masks unspoken conflicts that could threaten the Linehams' desirable narrative of a

More Free Book



Scan to Download

perfect life.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





World' best ideas unlock your potential

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to download



Chapter 17 Summary: THE BOLT BEHIND THE BLUE

Summary of Chapter 17: The Bolt Behind the Blue

In this chapter, we delve into the contrasting lives of Miss Mary Nicholl and Mrs. Alicia Hazelton, two women bound by friendship yet separated by the vast chasm of social class. Miss Nicholl, a plain and impoverished secretary, visits her wealthy friend Mrs. Hazelton, a beautiful socialite, revealing the emotional complexities of their relationship.

The chapter opens with Miss Nicholl grappling with her feelings of inadequacy and envy as she navigates the opulent world surrounding Mrs. Hazelton. During her visits to the luxurious estate, Miss Nicholl is overwhelmed by both admiration and a sense of yearning for the lifestyle she observes. She finds joy in her work but is consistently reminded of her financial limitations when in the lavish company of Mrs. Hazelton.

Mrs. Hazelton, on the other hand, is acutely aware of the disparity in their social standings. While she cherishes Miss Nicholl's companionship, she also carries the weight of guilt for her own wealth and struggles with how best to support her friend. Her attempts at kindness are tempered by a fear that any overt gesture may be misconstrued as pity, highlighting the intricate

More Free Book



Scan to Download

dynamics of their friendship.

A pivotal visit in this chapter crystallizes the tension between envy and admiration. Miss Nicholl's longing for a more affluent existence becomes palpable as she engages with Mrs. Hazelton, leaving her feeling both elated by the experience yet deeply dissatisfied with her own circumstances. This encounter accentuates the emotional burdens they both face—Miss Nicholl's internal conflict over her social standing and Mrs. Hazelton's desire to be generous without compromising the dignity of their friendship.

Thematically, the chapter explores social class disparities and the emotional toll they take on personal relationships. It comments on admiration mingled with resentment, illustrating how Miss Nicholl's esteem for Mrs. Hazelton's lifestyle clashes with her self-worth. Furthermore, it probes the nature of generosity, as Mrs. Hazelton's well-intentioned offers of kindness underscore the complexities inherent in their interactions.

In conclusion, Chapter 17 poignantly captures the emotional landscape of a friendship strained by class differences. Miss Nicholl's struggle between reverence for wealth and her own reality reveals the deep-seated desire for acceptance in a world steeped in privilege, ultimately suggesting that the bonds of friendship can be both a source of comfort and a stark reminder of one's socio-economic position.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 18 Summary: INTERIOR DESECRATION

Summary of Chapter 18: Dorothy Parker by Marion Meade

INTERIOR DESECRATION

The chapter begins with the introduction of Alistair St. Cloud, a renowned interior decorator celebrated for his bold and unconventional designs. The narrator accompanies him on a tour of Mrs. Endicott's opulent home, where St. Cloud's eclectic aesthetic is on full display. As they explore the various rooms, the narrator is struck by the overwhelming use of vibrant colors and eccentric furnishings that, while visually arresting, leave a sense of dissatisfaction. St. Cloud's deep attachment to his creative vision shines through, revealing both his passion and a hint of excess in his choices.

IN SEARCH OF COLOR

Next, Alistair faces a creative block while attempting to finalize a guest room. Despite the narrator's encouragement to take a breather, he is relentless, driven by an internal need to perfect his art. This portrayal of his creative process underscores the sacrifices associated with artistic dedication, blending nobility with an exhausting quest for inspiration.



HERE COMES THE GROOM

The narrative then takes a humorous turn, critiquing societal norms surrounding weddings. The narrator highlights the groom's often-overlooked role, overshadowed by the bride's spotlight and the emphasis on her gown. This commentary reveals the absurdities inherent in matrimonial traditions, positioning the groom as an overlooked accessory in a ceremony that is supposed to celebrate a partnership.

A PITIFUL CASE

Expanding on this theme, the narrator depicts the groom at the altar, grappling with discomfort and self-doubt amid the gaze of onlookers. The societal pressures he faces during the sacred vows illustrate a deeper critique of how men are subjected to ridicule and scrutiny, highlighting the absurd expectations placed on them during such pivotal moments.

NOT ENOUGH

The chapter concludes with a reflective tone, illustrating a transition from lighthearted observations of wealth to serious considerations of class disparity and social injustice. The narrator expresses a growing awareness of inequality, reinforcing a commitment to fighting for solidarity against fascism and hinting at a burgeoning activism in her later life.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Through a blend of wit and social critique, this chapter encapsulates Parker's astute observations on the worlds of interior design, marriage, and societal expectations, while simultaneously revealing a contemplative yearning for justice and meaningful change.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 19 Summary: DESTRUCTIVE DECORATION

Destructive Decoration

House Decoration Journey

In this chapter, the author humorously recounts her journey of decorating a country house with her husband, Pvt. Alan Campbell. With no prior experience or professional help, the couple embarks on an ongoing quest to infuse their home with their unique styles, rather than adhering to the conventional "country style" typically celebrated in Early American decor. Their choices reflect personal memories and tastes, deviating from the expectation to conform to traditional aesthetics.

Conflict with Tradition

Residing in Bucks County, the couple faces backlash from the local community, who cherish traditional decor. Their bold choices—like vibrant blaster colors and mirrors placed in unconventional spots—have sparked conversation and disapproval among the locals. Despite this resentment, the author and her husband revel in their distinct style, placing greater value on comfort and personal expression than on conforming to outdated norms.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Embracing Individuality

Prioritizing color and personal touches, their home decor diverges sharply from the neutral shades often found in traditional settings. The vibrant reds in the drawing room create a joyful atmosphere that invites both inhabitants and guests to feel at ease. The couple's goal is to cultivate an environment that celebrates individuality and uplifts spirits, creating a stark contrast with the blandness of conventional designs.

Challenges and Renovations

Upon acquiring the house, the couple encountered substantial challenges: the property lacked basic amenities and was marred by a curious marketing strategy involving a deceased groundhog meant to deter potential buyers. Nonetheless, after extensive renovations—transforming the house into a lively space rich with character and vibrancy—they finally crafted a fully functional home. A custom chest built by Alan stands as a testament to their dedication and vision.

Critiques of Contemporary Plays

Transitioning from home decor, the author offers her insights on contemporary theater, critiquing the current state of dramatic performances

More Free Book



Scan to Download

that often lack depth. While her personal engagement with theater reflects a longing for meaningful artistic expression, she also recognizes glimpses of brilliance within performances that resonate with genuine emotion and thought. This dual perspective illustrates her complex relationship with modern dramatics, revealing both her disconnection and appreciation for impactful art.

Final Reflections

In summary, the chapter champions the importance of authenticity and self-expression in both home decoration and theatrical experiences. The narrative serves as a reflection of the author's journey towards self-discovery, as she navigates societal expectations and embraces her individuality.

Conclusion

The essence of the chapter intertwines personal storytelling with cultural critique, highlighting the value of creating spaces and experiences that genuinely resonate with one's principles and aesthetics. Through her journey, the author emphasizes the significance of celebrating individual taste in both life and art.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 20: FROM AINSLEE'S 1921

In Chapter 20 of "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade, the author presents a series of theatrical reviews that illustrate Parker's sharp observations and critiques of the contemporary theater landscape.

The chapter opens with Parker's admiration for Eugene O'Neill's play "The Emperor Jones," currently showing at the Selwyn Theater. She praises the standout performance of Charles Gilpin, an African-American actor who deftly captures the complexities of the lead role. At the same time, Parker reflects on the systemic barriers that hinder talented Negro actors from gaining wider recognition in the theatrical world, highlighting the need for more opportunities and representation.

Transitioning to her thoughts on "Ziegfeld Follies of 1921," Parker uses Christmas as a metaphor to express the difficulty of navigating expectations in entertainment. She deftly encapsulates the feeling of disappointment that often arises when the spectacle of a show fails to match its hype, suggesting that one must temper enthusiasm with realism.

Parker then turns her critical lens to "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," a play she finds disappointing despite its acclaim and notable performances, particularly by actress Katharine Cornell. She articulates her view that, while

More Free Book



Scan to Download

the production values are commendable, the overall narrative fails to engage the audience, emphasizing that visual appeal and star power do not guarantee a strong playwriting foundation.

Regarding A.A. Milne's work, originally titled "Success" and now known as "Give Me Yesterday," Parker conveys her skepticism about the play's predictability and lack of originality. She exposes her frustration with its clichéd premise and its unoriginal execution filled with tedious dream sequences, articulating a deeper concern for the state of new writing in theater.

As the chapter progresses, Parker expresses her discontent with the declining quality of productions during the 1930-31 theater season, noting that even a revival of an established play like "The Admirable Crichton" fails to invigorate the stage. Despite an all-star cast, she feels the material is dated and uninteresting, insisting that actors are responsible for elevating even weak scripts.

Throughout her reviews, Parker maintains a witty and conversational style, often interweaving humor and sarcasm into her critiques. She frequently alludes to the absence of her friend and fellow humorist Robert Benchley, suggesting a longing for his insight and collaboration in the theater scene. With her characteristic flair, Parker's commentary not only critiques the performances but also paints a vivid picture of the theatrical milieu of her

More Free Book



Scan to Download

time, while also revealing her personal connections to the cultural landscape she navigates.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics
New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 21 Summary: FROM THE NEW YORKER 1927-1931

Summary of Chapter 21 from "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade

In Chapter 21, the narrative unfolds within the vibrant context of the literary landscape of the time, beginning with the controversial release of Nan Britton's memoir **The President's Daughter**. The book, detailing her affair with President Warren Harding, not only reignites discussions about societal norms surrounding illegitimacy but also demands legal reforms for the rights of children born to unmarried mothers. Despite attempts to suppress its publication, the memoir garners significant attention and becomes a bestseller, mixing humor with a youthful naivety in Britton's portrayal of her romance with Harding.

Transitioning from Britton's saga, the chapter delves into Ernest Hemingway's literary journey. Parker highlights the stark contrasts in public perception, noting the applause for his later work, **The Sun Also Rises**, versus the earlier dismissal of **In Our Time**. This shift accentuates the curious nature of literary fame, drawing Parker's critique of the public's fascination with Hemingway's stylistic bravado while overlooking more concise literary forms.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Next, Parker turns her critical lens on Professor William Lyon Phelps, whose reflections on happiness she finds insubstantial. She characterizes his insights as superficial, better suited for light reading rather than serious contemplation, showcasing her disdain for offerings lacking depth in the literary conversation.

The chapter becomes increasingly personal as Parker shares her own health struggles, humorously referring to her "case of the rams." This affliction shapes her literary critiques, particularly of novels like Fannie Hurst's **A President Is Born** and Booth Tarkington's **Claire Ambler**, both of which she describes as disappointing, further reinforcing how her physical state influences her literary judgments.

Parker then delivers a playful jab at literary communities, likening them to energetic "Google Literary Rotary Clubs." She evokes a vivid image of camaraderie and cheerfulness among writers and readers, contrasting their optimism with her own inherent cynicism, ultimately revealing the often absurd nature of such gatherings.

As spring approaches, Parker's disdain for the season becomes evident. She expresses her aversion to the emotional turmoil it stirs within her, underscoring how personal experiences and seasonal influences shape her artistic expression and literary critiques.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Finally, the chapter wraps up with a lighthearted reflection on Parker's struggles with learning new languages, especially in the context of her travels. Her comedic anecdotes about language comprehension highlight her frustrations, especially when contrasted with multilingual individuals who navigate languages with ease.

Rich with Parker's characteristic wit and insightful commentary, this chapter weaves together personal reflections and critiques of contemporary literature, showcasing the complexities of art influenced by individual experience amid the changing tides of societal norms.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 22 Summary: FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW 1957

Summary of Chapter 22 from "Dorothy Parker" by Marion Meade

Chapter 22 delves into the intricate world of humor writing, led by the insights of S.J. Perelman. He discusses the driving force behind individuals who choose to become humorists, underscoring the challenges they face in eliciting genuine laughter from audiences. Perelman critiques the prevailing mediocrity in American humor, lamenting the tendency of many writers to employ safe, formulaic techniques instead of embracing originality and creativity.

Perelman articulates his standards for authentic humor, which he believes must be underpinned by boldness, critical vision, and imaginative flair. He expresses disappointment in the status quo of comedy, wherein many contemporary writers settle for recycled themes and predictable plots. In a moment of self-promotion, he highlights his own publication, "The Road to Miltown, or Under the Spreading Atrophy," deeming it a sophisticated work that resists the urge to be consumed in one sitting due to its varied and engaging content.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Transitioning from Perelman's reflections, the chapter introduces Edmund Wilson, a noted literary critic whose compassionate observations shed light on the publishing landscape. Wilson notes the remarkable—and often absurd—volume of new releases each year, juxtaposing the mediocre against the exceptional, including his own work, "The American Earthquake," which examines profound cultural shifts in America.

Dorothy Parker adds her viewpoints on the Beat Generation through her critique of Jack Kerouac's novel "The Subterraneans." She perceives the characters as lacking depth, reflective of the Beat ethos that prioritizes lived experience over intellectual engagement, a style she finds ultimately dull and uninviting.

The chapter then shifts to a discussion of Truman Capote's "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Parker admires Capote's exquisite writing style, though she critiques some of his less successful works. She also considers John Updike's "The Poorhouse Fair," praising its rich characterizations that effectively convey the somber realities within a poorhouse setting.

Concluding the chapter, James Thurber fondly recounts his memories of Harold Ross, the founder of The New Yorker. Through Thurber's affectionate lens, Ross emerges as an eccentric yet passionate force in journalism, portrayed through his quirky personality and his revolutionary influence in magazine publishing, alongside the distinct rapport he fostered

More Free Book



Scan to Download

with his writers.

In essence, Chapter 22 weaves a narrative rich in literary critique, reflecting on the complexities of humor writing and the cultural landscape of literature shaped by influential figures. It concludes with a call for deeper engagement with the art of humor and the written word, urging both writers and readers alike to seek out richer experiences in literature.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 23 Summary: IN THE THROES

Chapter 23 Summary: In the Throes

In this chapter, the author articulates a profound sense of frustration stemming from the constant battle to find a simple pencil—an essential tool for her writing. This recurring struggle serves as a metaphor for her broader difficulties as a writer, emphasizing her feelings of neglect and indifference from those around her. The narrative opens with her lament over this trivial yet significant challenge, which reflects her isolation and the emotional weight of her craft.

As she delves deeper into her feelings, the author reveals a sense of isolation compounded by her health concerns. She contrasts her dedication to her work with the seemingly carefree lifestyles of others, heightening her sentiment of being undervalued and disconnected from the world. This internal reflection showcases her yearning not just for recognition, but for financial stability and creative success that could elevate her above her current struggles.

Nostalgia weaves through her thoughts as she dreams of fulfilling aspirations, such as owning a beautiful hat or achieving the wealth that allows for an unconstrained life. The longing to write a successful play

More Free Book



Scan to Download

looms large, yet is frequently overshadowed by her immediate realities and mounting self-doubt. These reflections amplify her internal conflict—a tension between her creative aspirations and the mundane frustrations of her day-to-day existence.

The chapter concludes with an insightful acknowledgment of the hard, often solitary labor that writing entails. The author grapples with the societal perception of writers as glamorous figures, starkly contrasting it with her lived experience filled with exhaustion and bitterness. This poignant exploration of the struggles inherent in the writing process ultimately leaves her yearning for an escape into a more fulfilling life, rich with the accolades and freedoms she craves.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 24: THE GARTER

Summary of Chapter 24: The Garter and Its Reflections

In this chapter, Dorothy Parker shares a humorous yet poignant account of a socially awkward incident at a party where her garter unexpectedly breaks. This moment serves not only as a source of embarrassment but also as a symbolic reflection of her broader frustrations and anxieties about her life, particularly accentuated by her status as an orphan surrounded by strangers. The broken garter represents her feelings of vulnerability and isolation, highlighting her struggles to fit in and connect with others.

As Parker navigates the chaos of the party, she becomes acutely aware of her loneliness, intensified by the garter mishap. Her introspective reflections reveal a deep yearning for companionship that stands in stark contrast to her signature bitter humor. This emotional dichotomy allows her to blend sharp wit with feelings of vulnerability as she articulates the pain of being overlooked and sidelined in her life.

Faced with the unfolding embarrassment, Parker attempts to regain her composure by instructing the orchestra to keep playing, seeking solace in the music as a distraction. Her inner dialogue is a mix of desperation and resignation, prompting her to contemplate the societal expectations of

More Free Book



Scan to Download

womanhood and her position within them. This leads her to reflect on her desires for romance and adventure, even as she feels trapped by the circumstances of her existence.

The narrative artfully swings between humor and pathos, with Parker

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 25 Summary: SELF-PORTRAIT

Self-Portrait of Dorothy Parker: Summary

In a revealing 1956 interview, Dorothy Parker offered insights into her life and work from her modest apartment in a midtown New York hotel, accompanied by a spirited poodle. The space, described as "Hogarthian" for its cluttered yet character-filled nature, reflected Parker's vibrant personality. Despite her gentle exterior, she possessed a sharp wit and keen critical insight that had earned her fame as a member of the famed Algonquin Round Table. Parker expressed discomfort with her reputation as a humorist, feeling it overshadowed her more serious literary pursuits, particularly her poetry and short stories that deeply mirrored her intricate life experiences.

Her writing career began at *Vogue*, where she initially wrote captions for a modest salary before transitioning to *Vanity Fair* as a drama critic. It was in this prestigious role that her candid critiques led to her dismissal, marking a turning point in her career. Reflecting on the literary scene of the 1920s, Parker acknowledged the impact of Gertrude Stein's characterization of her generation as the "lost generation." This term resonated with many of her contemporaries, including F. Scott Fitzgerald, as they navigated both artistic ambitions and personal tumult.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Parker detailed her meticulous writing process, emphasizing the challenge of achieving precision in her work. She often doubted her own abilities and relied on traditional literary forms as her guiding influences. Central to her creative drive was a desire for economic stability, which she believed was crucial for writing with freedom and depth. Disdainfully rejecting the romantic notion of suffering for one's art, she felt that comfort provided a clearer path to effective storytelling.

Her experiences with Hollywood were fraught with frustration, as Parker critiqued the industry's treatment of artists and the moral compromises often required for their projects. Additionally, her political consciousness played a significant role in shaping her career, particularly during the McCarthy era, when she confronted the pervasive culture of blacklisting that affected many in her field.

The chapter also features excerpts from Parker's correspondence with friends and colleagues, showcasing her signature blend of humor and warmth as well as her candid reflections on her personal struggles. These letters reveal her longing for connection amid the challenges of fame and financial insecurity.

Overall, this chapter paints a portrait of Dorothy Parker not merely as a significant literary figure but as a multifaceted individual grappling with the complexities of her artistic identity, personal relationships, and the changing

More Free Book



Scan to Download

landscape of literature and culture.

More Free Book



Scan to Download