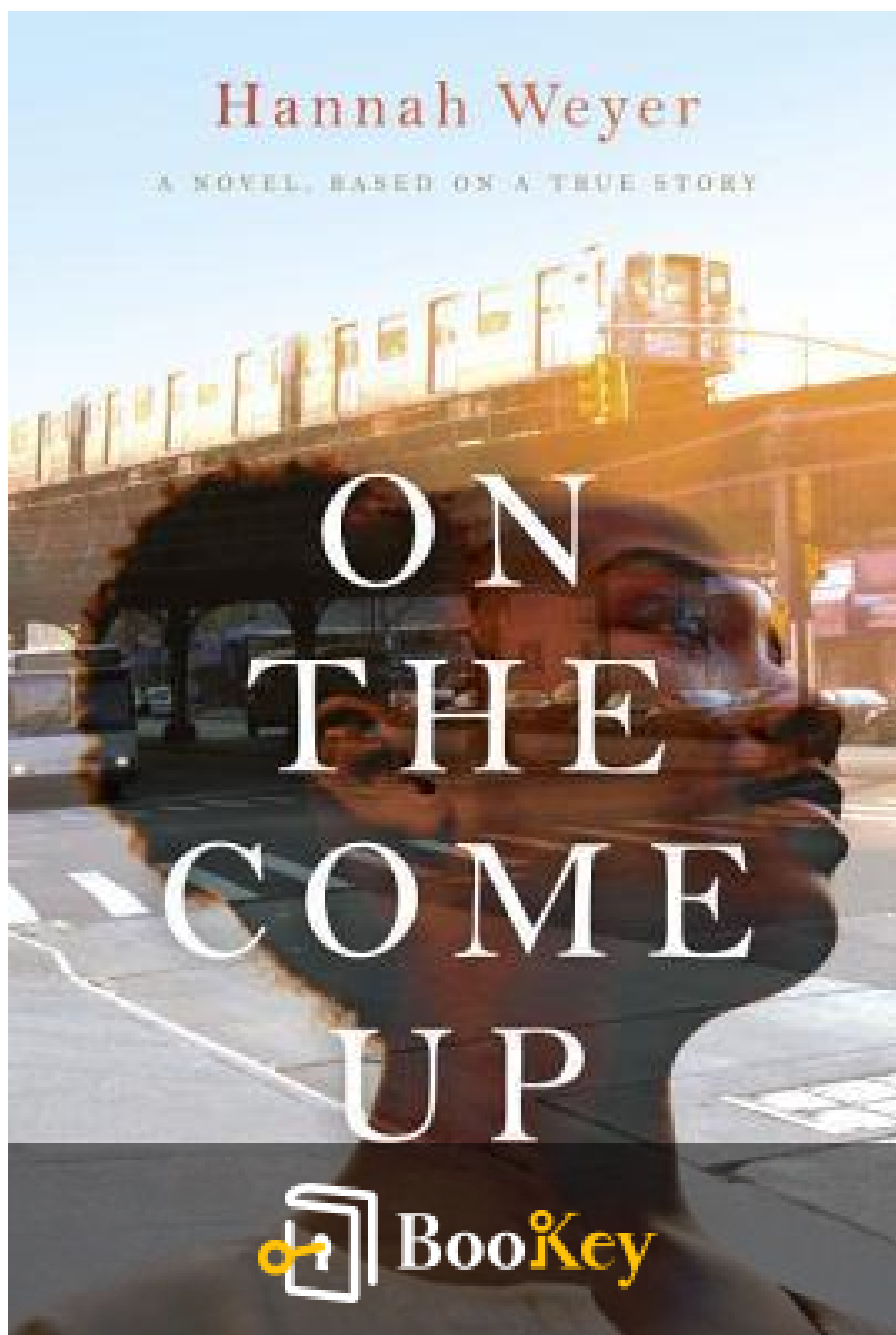


On The Come Up PDF (Limited Copy)

Hannah Weyer



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On The Come Up Summary

Finding strength and identity in an unforgiving urban landscape.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

"On the Come Up" is an inspiring debut novel centered on the journey of AnnMarie Walker, a determined thirteen-year-old girl living in Far Rockaway, Queens. Set against the backdrop of urban life infused with its distinctive vernacular, the narrative captures AnnMarie's desire to break free from the limitations of her environment and carve out her own identity.

Amidst the struggles she faces, including attending a school designed for pregnant teens, AnnMarie seizes a life-changing opportunity to audition for a movie in Manhattan. This bold move comes just months before she is due to give birth, setting the stage for her unexpected rise to prominence. Landing a lead role in the film catapults AnnMarie into the spotlight, allowing her to attend the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, where she tastes the sweetness of success and the thrill of artistic achievement.

However, the journey is not without its trials. As the initial euphoria fades, AnnMarie grapples with the harsh realities that accompany fame and the pressures of her new life. As she navigates these challenges, her unwavering grit and resilience become critical as she learns to draw upon her inner strength.

Hannah Weyer artfully chronicles AnnMarie's story with compassion and authenticity, shining a light on the often-overlooked experiences of urban

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youth. Through AnnMarie's eyes, readers witness a powerful tale of perseverance, illuminating the complexities of growing up against a backdrop of societal expectations and personal ambition.

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About the author

Hannah Weyer, a talented filmmaker with a reputation for both narrative and documentary storytelling, has made significant contributions to the film industry. Her works have been showcased at prominent events, including the Human Rights Watch and New York film festivals, highlighting her commitment to socially relevant themes. Throughout her career, Weyer's films have received numerous accolades, including prestigious awards from Sundance, Locarno, Melbourne, Doubletake, and South by Southwest. Notably, she co-wrote the screenplay for "Life Support" (2007), a film directed by Nelson George that earned a Golden Globe Award for its lead actress, Queen Latifah.

Beyond her cinematic achievements, Weyer is passionate about nurturing the next generation of filmmakers. With over fifteen years of experience mentoring teenagers in media arts, she co-founded an after-school film club at a Brooklyn public high school with her husband, Jim McKay. This initiative aims to empower young voices and spark their creativity through storytelling.

"On the Come Up" is a reflection of Weyer's commitment to storytelling and youth culture and serves as her debut novel. It encapsulates her insights into the lives of contemporary teenagers and the challenges they face while providing a platform for their narratives. The novel not only showcases her

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narrative skills but also marks a significant expansion of her storytelling repertoire from film to literature.

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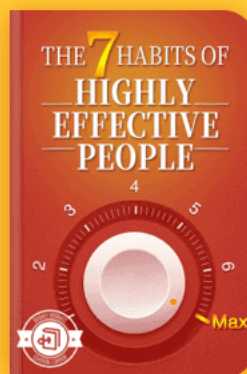
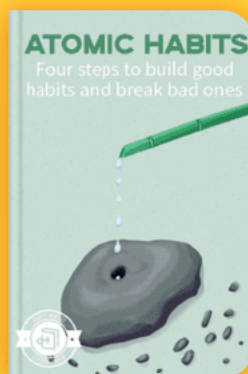
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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

Summary of Chapter 1 of "On The Come Up"

In the first chapter of "On The Come Up," readers are introduced to AnnMarie, a resilient 12-year-old girl who navigates life in a challenging neighborhood. The stifling heat of the morning sets the backdrop as AnnMarie prepares to sell her homemade icy treats—peanut butter punch and Kool-Aid—from her cart, hoping to earn a little extra money with Polaroid photos as well. This entrepreneurial venture illustrates her resourcefulness and determination to make the most of her circumstances.

Through her daily activities, we gain insight into AnnMarie's family life, especially her relationship with her mother, Blessed. Recently impacted by a stroke, Blessed stays in bed, a situation that adds both emotional weight and complexity to their dynamic. She often tries to impose her wishes on AnnMarie, particularly concerning her clothing—a reflection of her protective but sometimes overwhelming maternal instincts, which creates tension between them.

As AnnMarie navigates her neighborhood, she interacts with various residents, including a security guard who lightens the mood with humor around her entrepreneurial efforts. The chapter also highlights her social life,



showcasing encounters with local kids. She grapples with insecurities, like her appearance and the teasing from a bully named Brittany, but amidst these challenges, her friendship with Crystal, her best friend, provides a crucial source of support and comfort.

Amidst her entrepreneurial hustle, AnnMaria reflects on her desire for acceptance and her dreams for the future, embodying themes of resilience, friendship, and identity. The narrative is enriched by her internal monologues and vivid recollections, portraying the emotional complexities of growing up in a tough environment and setting the stage for her upcoming journey as she approaches her thirteenth birthday. This chapter lays a solid foundation for understanding AnnMarie's aspirations and struggles as she seeks her place in the world.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

Summary of Chapter 2: On The Come Up

In Chapter 2, we delve into the life of AnnMarie as she navigates the tumultuous landscape of 8th grade. Freshly returned from summer break, AnnMarie grapples with her complex feelings toward her peers, especially her rival, Brittany, whom she views with palpable disdain. The dynamics of middle school are dramatized through the excitement of the first day, assembly speeches, and the petty dramas that erupt among students.

Reconnecting with childhood friends Patrice and Katelyn, AnnMarie is caught between the desire to fit in and the daunting pressures of adolescence, particularly her infatuation with Wallace, a boy from choir class. However, her school life is far from straightforward; at home, she faces discord as the presence of her younger siblings, Carlton and Carlotta, leads to a noisy and chaotic living situation. The tension escalates, revealing the fragile state of her family life and underscoring her yearning for independence.

Music acts as a crucial backdrop to AnnMarie's story, especially during her time in choir class, where her talent is recognized by Mr. Preston, her inspiring teacher. This acknowledgment fuels her passion for singing—a constant source of hope amidst her struggles. Interactions with classmates



reveal AnnMarie's internal conflicts as she seeks a sense of belonging, a sentiment heightened by the emergence of Darius, a boy who captures her interest and offers a glimpse of affection.

The chapter intensifies when Brittany's hostility culminates in a fistfight, resulting in suspensions for both girls. With time away from school, AnnMarie wanders through her neighborhood in search of solace and validation. It is during one of these excursions that she spots Darius, who begins to represent not only affection but a chance for escape from her burdens at home and school.

Their late-night phone conversations become a refuge, igniting AnnMarie's dreams of a successful music career. The theme of music as both solace and a means of self-expression runs through the narrative, illustrating her desire to transcend her circumstances.

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates the blend of adolescent challenges, family strife, and the glimmer of hope that drives AnnMarie. It showcases the intricate landscape of growing up, where joy and pain intertwine, revealing her determined quest to find her voice and place in the world.



Chapter 3 Summary: 3

Chapter 3 Summary of "On The Come Up"

In this chapter, AnnMarie reflects on her life, grappling with her past while striving to picture a hopeful future. Growing up in Far Rockaway, a neighborhood marked by hardship yet bursting with dreams, she begins to confront the limitations of her environment.

As eighth grade unfolds, a significant incident shakes her school: her classmate Brittany is expelled for violence. This event catalyzes a sense of liberation for AnnMarie, who starts to explore romantic feelings for Darius. Her emotions deepen during a choir performance at an affluent school, where she captivates the audience with a solo. The applause contrasts starkly with her everyday life, leaving her exhilarated yet conflicted.

Amid her personal triumphs, AnnMarie faces shifting family dynamics. Her mother, Blessed, has become more active after starting to use a cane, but their relationship remains fraught with tension. When AnnMarie unintentionally becomes involved with a switchblade owned by her friend Nadette, she faces serious consequences, including a suspension from school. This predicament forces her to transfer to Springfield High, where she struggles to find her footing, feeling isolated from her former friends and



the familiarity of Far Rockaway.

The situation escalates when AnnMarie discovers she is pregnant during a clinic visit. This revelation unleashes a torrent of emotions—joy, fear, and uncertainty—as she contemplates its impact on her future. Darius reacts with unbridled happiness at the news, envisioning a future together, yet AnnMarie is torn between her dreams of becoming a singer and the reality of impending motherhood.

Blessed surprisingly supports AnnMarie’s pregnancy, which starts to mend the frail bond between mother and daughter. In a moment of vulnerability, Blessed shares her own traumatic experiences, revealing a shared heritage of struggle that deepens their connection.

As AnnMarie navigates these tumultuous changes, she finds herself at a crossroads, balancing youthful aspirations with the heavy burden of new responsibilities. This chapter eloquently captures the intricate web of adolescent challenges—family dynamics, love, and the harsh truths of life—all woven into AnnMarie’s ongoing journey of self-discovery and her search for belonging.



Chapter 4: 4

In Chapter 4 of "On The Come Up," the narrative centers around AnnMarie as she confronts the complexities of teenage motherhood while maneuvering through her educational and social environment. The chapter opens with her inner turmoil during bus rides to a school designed for pregnant girls—a stark contrast to her past experiences where she felt a sense of belonging while performing at her former school. Now, she grapples with feelings of isolation and the weight of her new responsibilities.

At her new school, AnnMarie becomes aware of the harsh realities facing her classmates; one girl is absent for a sonogram, a moment that underscores the significant challenges her peers face. Her teacher, Miss Westwood, conveys her disappointment regarding the girls' engagement with their studies, highlighting the disparity between societal expectations and the realities of their lives. This adds pressure on AnnMarie as she weighs her own aspirations against her circumstances.

Back at Darius's house, AnnMarie witnesses the repossession of his prized turntables, a distressing reminder of their dire financial situation. This incident strains their relationship further, leading to an explosive confrontation when AnnMarie addresses Darius's problems. The tension underscores the emotional complexities of their bond, leaving her feeling conflicted about their future.



Amidst these challenges, a glimmer of hope emerges when AnnMarie sees a flyer for a movie audition at school. This moment catalyzes a shift in her perspective; rather than surrendering to her difficult reality, she embraces an opportunity to explore her artistic aspirations. Her decision to audition

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

Summary of Chapter 5 from "On The Come Up"

In this chapter, AnnMarie grapples with a whirlwind of emotions as she navigates her pregnancy, her aspirations as an actress, and the complexities of her relationship with her boyfriend, Darius. As her due date approaches, AnnMarie prepares for an important film role, which becomes a focal point in her life.

Dean, the film director, surprises AnnMarie by wanting to meet her mother, Blessed. This unexpected gesture makes AnnMarie feel valued, as Blessed finally acknowledges and expresses pride in her daughter's acting ambitions after Dean goes the extra mile to visit them in Far Rockaway. The meeting highlights a shift in their family dynamics, reinforcing AnnMarie's commitment to her dreams.

As the narrative unfolds, AnnMarie dives deep into rehearsals for what is described as a low-budget film centered on friendship and change—an echo of her own life journey. The relaxed, improvisational atmosphere that Dean creates provides a refreshing escape, igniting AnnMarie's hope for her future in acting. She practices with her supportive friends, Sonia and Melody, who bolster her confidence.



However, tension arises when AnnMarie shares news of the film with Darius. His increasingly secretive behavior causes her concern; she begins to suspect he may be turning to petty crime to provide for their growing family. This worry adds a layer of anxiety to AnnMarie's excitement about impending motherhood.

The chapter takes a dramatic turn one night when AnnMarie is out with her friend Niki and unexpectedly goes into labor. The urgency and chaos surrounding her hospital rush starkly contrast with her previous focus on the film, illustrating the gravity of her new reality. Amid the turmoil of childbirth, AnnMarie embraces the pivotal moment of giving birth to her daughter, whom she names Star Blazing, or Blazing Star.

This chapter serves as a turning point for AnnMarie, encompassing themes of resilience, personal growth, and the challenging balance between aspiration and reality. As she cradles her newborn, she faces the transformative experience of motherhood while still holding on to her dreams of acting. The arrival of Darius bearing gifts for their baby signifies a tentative step toward reconciliation, hinting at the complexity of family support amidst personal struggles. Ultimately, AnnMarie stands at the threshold of a new chapter, shaped by her determination and the evolving dynamics of her life.



Chapter 6 Summary: 6

In Chapter 6 of "On The Come Up," AnnMarie grapples with the overwhelming demands of new motherhood and the intense pressures of her ongoing film shoot. It's the early morning of day six, and she finds herself fighting against sleep deprivation as she juggles the needs of her baby, Star, along with a turbulent relationship with her partner, Darius. Following a tense argument where Darius refuses to help with Star, AnnMarie is left alone to manage the nighttime feedings and struggles to prepare for a late arrival on set the next morning.

Upon her arrival, AnnMarie feels a mixture of relief and anxiety. She joins a team rally spearheaded by Dean, the director, which emphasizes the crew's respect for the local community and the significance of their artistic work. AnnMarie's concern grows regarding how her colleagues interact with the local children, who watch the film activities with a blend of curiosity and skepticism.

As filming progresses, AnnMarie contends with the challenge of fitting in among the cast while coping with her personal struggles. The emotional strain of her relationship with Darius weighs on her mind, especially as he dismisses her dreams and aspirations in music, causing her to reconsider the wisdom of confiding in him about her artistic ambitions. On set, however, she finds encouragement from supportive co-stars like Melody and Angie,



the seasoned lead drum majorette.

The chapter explores themes of identity and community, highlighting the contrasts between AnnMarie's experiences and those of her filmmaking peers. During a break, she revels in camaraderie with her coworkers, sharing insights about their lives and neighborhoods, which fosters a more profound connection amidst the chaos of filming.

Tension escalates unexpectedly when a child brandishing a toy gun causes alarm on set. This event triggers painful memories of violence for AnnMarie, underscoring the harsh realities she constantly navigates in her environment. The chapter concludes on a tense note, emphasizing her dual existence as both a mother and an aspiring artist.

Overall, this chapter poignantly illustrates AnnMarie's struggle to balance her personal aspirations with the responsibilities of motherhood, while also delving into the complexities of community dynamics and the persistent fears that are ever-present in her life.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7

Chapter 7 Summary of "On The Come Up"

In this chapter, AnnMarie continues to grapple with the challenges of young motherhood and the intricacies of her relationships. The narrative begins on a hopeful note, highlighting her mother, Blessed, who is gradually recovering and allowing AnnMarie to cultivate a sense of normalcy as she cares for her infant daughter, Star.

As AnnMarie prepares for an evening out, she is eager to rekindle her connection with her boyfriend, Darius. However, Darius's last-minute cancellations in favor of hanging out with his friend Raymel leave her feeling frustrated and distant. In an effort to uplift herself, AnnMarie decides to join her friend Angie's cookout. The party offers her a much-needed respite, filled with music, delicious food, and the celebratory spirit of dancing, where she even receives compliments on her singing, boosting her confidence.

However, the excitement is soon overshadowed by hostility at school from peers in Crown Heights, where AnnMarie confronts derogatory remarks about her background. Tension escalates into a confrontation that draws the attention of a film crew, including Dean, who proposes to incorporate their



argument into the movie they are shooting. This unexpected creative engagement brings a sense of teamwork and camaraderie, momentarily distracting AnnMarie from her personal struggles.

As time passes, AnnMarie marks her fifteenth birthday, feeling a mix of pride and loneliness. She opens her first bank account and thoughtfully purchases gifts for Star, determined to affirm her identity as a devoted mother. Despite these positive steps, her relationship with Darius remains fraught. She becomes increasingly aware of his absences, recognizing that he often chooses to spend time away from her and Star, leading her to question his commitment.

The chapter takes a pivotal turn when AnnMarie discovers she is pregnant again, plunging her into a wave of anxiety. The weight of her responsibilities—motherhood, a strained relationship, and now an unexpected pregnancy—overwhelms her, resulting in a solitary moment of tears. Attempting to reach Darius with this news, she finds his absence deepens her isolation and feelings of helplessness.

The situation intensifies when Darius calls from jail, revealing he was mistaken for a robbery. This confession adds to the emotional turmoil in AnnMarie's life, as he desperately seeks her support, while she grapples with her own struggles, including her hidden pregnancy. Tension builds when she learns through CeeCee, a girl from the courthouse, that Darius may



have been seeing someone else, leading to feelings of betrayal and heartbreak.

As the chapter concludes, AnnMarie experiences a miscarriage, compounding her grief and reinforcing a profound sense of loss—not only for her unborn child but also for the hopes she harbored for her future with Darius. The closing moments depict her feeling adrift, as the monotony of her days blends into a sense of emptiness, leaving her to ponder the path ahead amid uncertainty.

This chapter poignantly explores themes of young motherhood, the complexities of romantic relationships, the search for identity, and the harsh realities of navigating life in a difficult environment. AnnMarie's journey underscores the resilience and struggles faced by a teenage girl as she endeavors to overcome adversity and come to terms with her ever-changing circumstances.

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Chapter 8: 8

Summary of Chapter 8: On The Come Up

In the early morning, AnnMarie wakes to find her daughter, Star, in a wet diaper and no clean supplies at hand. This situation exemplifies AnnMarie's struggle to balance her responsibilities as a single mother while grappling with her strained relationship with Darius, Star's father. Darius recently had a run-in with the law but is striving to reform himself by taking on a job as a line cook. Despite his desire to form a stable family with AnnMarie, tensions arise because of his ex-girlfriend, CeeCee, whom AnnMarie views as a significant threat to their future.

As AnnMarie navigates her day, she heads to a local grocery store, trying to find affordable baby food and diapers. In a moment of desperation, she steals diapers, justifying her actions as necessary for Star's well-being, despite the guilt it brings her. This act highlights her profound struggles against a backdrop of financial instability and societal challenges. She also contemplates attending an upcoming film festival, which represents not only a creative aspiration but also starkly contrasts her current lack of resources.

When AnnMarie unexpectedly encounters CeeCee, jealousy and possessiveness surface, intensifying the insecurity she feels about her



relationship with Darius. CeeCee's claim of being pregnant with Darius's child amplifies AnnMarie's feelings of betrayal, leading to a confrontation with Darius that turns physically abusive. This confrontation leaves AnnMarie feeling shattered, both emotionally and physically, as she reflects on her self-worth and the absence of a supportive network around her.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

In Chapter 9 of "On The Come Up," AnnMarie navigates a blend of excitement and anxiety as she prepares for a pivotal trip to a movie festival in Utah, where her film is set to be showcased. Darius, her concerned friend, expresses hesitations about her safety in a predominantly white state, reflecting the racial tensions that often accompany such experiences. Despite his worries, AnnMarie is resolute in her desire to embrace this significant opportunity.

As she embarks on her flight—her first ever—AnnMarie experiences a whirlwind of emotions: awe at the vastness of the sky mingling with fear of the unknown. Accompanied by her supportive friend Melody, she feels bolstered against her anxieties. They arrive in a breathtaking snowy landscape, staying in a gorgeous condo that enhances AnnMarie's sense of adventure, though it also deepens her homesickness. She misses her baby, Star, and grapples with the milestones she is leaving behind.

The day of the festival arrives, and AnnMarie is overwhelmed with nerves as they drive toward Park City, a scenic town buzzing with the energy of the festival. Upon reaching the venue, she freezes at the sight of the crowd, a reflection of her anxieties and self-doubt. However, she taps into her resolve, finding courage to step inside, where she is greeted by the sight of her image on promotional posters—an exhilarating recognition of her hard work and



dreams.

During her film's screening, nostalgia washes over AnnMarie as she faces the reality of her past struggles that shaped her journey. Surrounded by laughter and applause from the audience, she feels a bittersweet mix of pride and loss, acutely aware of the sacrifices she's made.

Following the screening, the celebration at a lavish restaurant fills AnnMarie with a sense of validation as she receives accolades from various attendees for her talent. Yet, amidst the glitz, she reflects on her life's harsh realities, particularly her responsibilities as a mother, which loom large in her thoughts.

The chapter concludes with AnnMarie contemplating her future. Acknowledging the precariousness of her career in the arts, she realizes the importance of having a backup plan. Inspired by a recent job training seminar, she considers more practical career paths, such as nursing, that would ensure stability for herself and Star. This moment of introspection marks a crucial period of growth and maturity for AnnMarie, as she learns to balance her ambitions with the responsibilities of motherhood, highlighting the overarching themes of aspiration, familial duty, and the quest for personal fulfillment against a backdrop of challenging realities.



Chapter 10 Summary: 10

In Chapter 10 of "On The Come Up," AnnMarie faces the dual demands of her new role as a home health aide and her responsibilities as a single mother to her daughter, Star. As she embarks on her training, she meets a diverse group of older women, predominantly from the West Indies, who share their life experiences while imparting essential nursing skills. This setting introduces AnnMarie to the challenges of caregiving, as she learns to care for patients grappling with serious health issues. Despite the emotional toll, she is motivated by the paycheck that helps keep her family afloat.

During her training, AnnMarie develops a special bond with a client named Miss Beatrice, a lively and humorous figure who delights in sharing anecdotes from her past. Their interactions serve as a poignant reminder of resilience and the healing power of friendship, illustrating how laughter can be a source of strength amid life's hardships.

As AnnMarie strives to balance her home life and work obligations, she finds herself tangled in the complicated emotions surrounding her on-again, off-again relationship with Darius, the father of her child. Amid her reflections on Darius, she also experiences a surprising romantic moment with her best friend, Niki, leading to an unexpected kiss that complicates their friendship. This incident highlights the complexities of young love, identity, and the pressures of societal expectations telling them who to love



and how to navigate their feelings.

Tensions in AnnMarie and Niki's friendship intensify as jealousy surfaces when Niki reacts to AnnMarie's connection with Darius. This conflict puts their bond to the test, revealing deeper themes of love's ambiguity and the struggles of self-discovery.

By the chapter's conclusion, AnnMarie is left wrestling with her familial duties, job challenges, and the emotional turmoil of her burgeoning love life. The narrative leaves readers curious about her future decisions and how they will shape her relationships and personal growth.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11

Summary of Chapter 11: On The Come Up

In this chapter, the protagonist AnnMarie grapples with feelings of isolation following a fallout with her friend Niki. For months, her world has revolved solely around her daughter Star and her demanding job, leaving her feeling lost and lonely. A lunch meeting with Dean, a friend from her past, serves as a bittersweet reminder of their shared experiences of heartache, as he opens up about his family struggles. This rekindled connection provides some comfort, but it also amplifies AnnMarie's sense of emptiness as she confronts her own emotional turmoil.

After several months of estrangement from Niki, AnnMarie seeks solace in a visit to another friend, Nadette. Nadette's seemingly glamorous life accentuates the stagnation AnnMarie feels in her own, prompting her to consider different, riskier life choices such as modeling or dancing. This exploration reflects her growing desire for change and excitement.

AnnMarie's relationship with Miss Doris, her elderly client suffering from dementia, begins to flourish as she starts to empathize with the challenges of aging. Through their walks, AnnMarie discovers the joy in life's simple pleasures, illustrating a significant shift in her perspective on relationships



and the importance of connection.

A meeting with her friend Paloma introduces AnnMarie to an opportunity in the fashion world, involving a runway show organized by designer Dre. Though there's no financial compensation, AnnMarie views this as a crucial chance to gain exposure. The fashion show becomes a transformative moment for her, enabling her to walk the runway with newfound confidence and showcase her talent.

However, the excitement of the night takes a turn when AnnMarie unexpectedly encounters Niki, who is now in a relationship with Paloma. This encounter leaves AnnMarie feeling awkward and hurt, yet amidst the turmoil, she meets Lucinda, a vivacious girl whose energy intrigues her. Their playful banter suggests the potential for a new friendship or perhaps something deeper.

Overall, this chapter delves into themes of loneliness, self-discovery, and the complex dynamics of friendship. It highlights AnnMarie's struggle to reconcile past connections with new possibilities, all set against the vibrant backdrop of urban life and the relentless pursuit of self-identity.

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Chapter 12: 12

Summary of Chapter 12: On The Come Up

In this chapter, the budding friendship between AnnMarie and Lucinda flourishes as they spend more time together, building a playful and tender connection. Their initial outings are characterized by laughter and shared interests, showcasing a growing trust. During a particularly intimate moment, AnnMarie braids Lucinda's hair, prompting heartfelt conversations about their families. Lucinda reveals her bond with her mother and half-sisters, emphasizing her sense of responsibility and care for her loved ones.

As their relationship deepens, Lucinda frequently visits AnnMarie's home, even pitching in with household chores, which endears her to AnnMarie. This closeness eventually leads to a passionate kiss, marking AnnMarie's first experience of falling in love. However, tension arises with the unexpected appearance of Raymel, a figure from AnnMarie's past, which complicates her feelings for Lucinda and creates a temporary rift between the two.

Conflicted, AnnMarie takes time to reflect on her emotions, grappling with her choice between comfort and authentic love as she avoids Lucinda. The



narrative shifts when AnnMarie decides to support Lucinda by attending her basketball game, where witnessing Lucinda excel on the court fills her with pride and rekindles her affections.

The chapter closes with Lucinda suggesting the idea of moving in together, sparking a mix of hope and practical considerations for AnnMarie. They begin planning their life as a couple, demonstrating their determination to face any challenges together. Themes of love, self-acceptance, and the intricacies of personal relationships weave throughout the backdrop of their vibrant lives in Brooklyn, showcasing their journey toward a shared future.

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13

In Chapter 13 of "On The Come Up" by Hannah Weyer, AnnMarie and her daughter Star are adjusting to life in their new apartment located above a barber shop, just a short distance from Prospect Park. This vibrant neighborhood offers a fresh start, but it also brings the weight of daily responsibilities and the challenges of single motherhood. AnnMarie is particularly preoccupied with the daunting task of completing Head Start enrollment forms for Star, which adds to her already significant stress.

As she navigates the complexities of parenthood, AnnMarie experiences a wave of self-doubt, feeling overwhelmed by both bureaucratic demands and the pressure to succeed. The situation escalates when her friend and roommate, Lucinda, urges her to finish the forms, leading to a tense and confrontational exchange. Frustrated by the mounting pressures, AnnMarie chooses to take a break from her responsibilities by taking Star to the park for a day of fun.

In the park, they encounter various attractions, including a horse corral where Star is mesmerized by a girl riding a horse. This scene serves as a catalyst for AnnMarie, who, despite her earlier anxiety, finds joy as she shares in Star's excitement. The chapter juxtaposes AnnMarie's internal struggles against the backdrop of their simple shared happiness, emphasizing the power of motherhood and the importance of community connections.



As AnnMarie observes the girl on the horse, she experiences a moment of clarity that mingles panic with a touch of humor, particularly when she unexpectedly spots Lucinda approaching, unaware of their prior argument. This moment signifies AnnMarie's growth, reinforcing her understanding of the balance between personal independence and the responsibilities of motherhood.

Ultimately, the chapter concludes on an uplifting note, as AnnMarie reflects on the beauty of their day spent together in the park. Despite the chaos of life, she recognizes that these cherished moments of joy and connection with Star are what truly matter, reminding both herself and the reader of the resilience found within familial bonds amidst life's challenges.

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