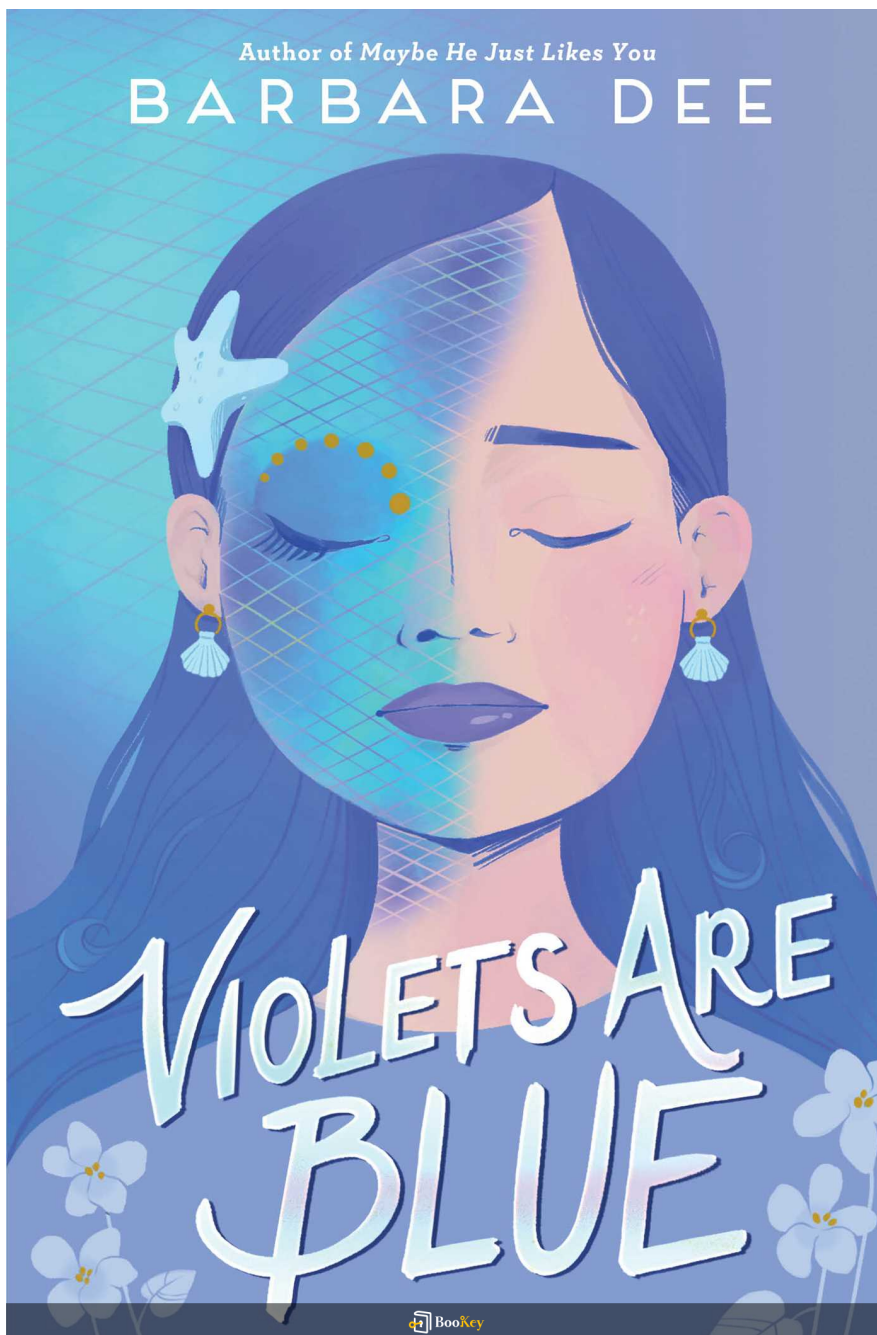


Violets Are Blue PDF (Limited Copy)

Barbara Dee



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Violets Are Blue Summary

Discovering Truth and Healing Through Makeup and Family Secrets.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In "Violets Are Blue," Barbara Dee presents a touching middle-grade narrative that explores themes of secrets, family dynamics, and the complex path to forgiveness through the eyes of twelve-year-old Wren. A passionate young artist, Wren utilizes special effects makeup as a creative outlet and a form of escapism, allowing her to craft alternate identities that help her cope with the challenges of growing up, including the strains of a complicated friendship and the upheaval of her parents' divorce.

The story begins with Wren and her mother relocating to a new town, where Wren hopes to start anew and leave behind the emotional turmoil of her past. Her excitement is heightened when she is selected to serve as the makeup artist for her school's upcoming production of "Wicked," a significant opportunity that aligns perfectly with her interests. However, just as Wren begins to settle into this fresh chapter of her life, her optimism is soon overshadowed by the troubling reality of her mother's declining health.

As Wren grapples with her mother's illness, she faces the challenge of reconciling her dreams with the burdens of adulthood far too soon. The narrative deftly illustrates Wren's struggle to understand the complexities of family dynamics and the impact of her mother's health on their relationship. Through this emotional journey, Wren learns that some challenges cannot be masked or transformed but must be confronted directly, ultimately leading

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her to rebuild trust and acceptance in the face of adversity.

With heartfelt prose, Dee emphasizes the importance of vulnerability and the power of healing, inviting readers to empathize with Wren's challenges and witness her growth as she navigates her new normal.

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About the author

Barbara Dee is a renowned author celebrated for her impactful middle-grade novels that delve into themes of friendship, family dynamics, and self-discovery. With her background in education and a deep-seated passion for storytelling, Dee excels at capturing the authentic voices and experiences of young readers. Her narratives frequently confront significant emotional challenges, fostering empathy and understanding in her audience. As a result, her stories resonate with children and adolescents, addressing their concerns and experiences sensitively. Dee's compelling characters and engaging plots earn her a prominent place in contemporary children's literature, where she continually inspires and empowers young readers through her masterful storytelling.

In this collection of chapters, Dee's skillful exploration of her protagonists' internal struggles and relationships helps to convey complex messages about growth and resilience. Each character embarks on a journey filled with obstacles and triumphs, reflecting the realities of childhood and the process of maturing. Significant attention is given to friendships that evolve and the ways in which familial bonds impact personal development. Through relatable scenarios and thought-provoking situations, readers find themselves immersed in the characters' lives, encouraging them to reflect on their own experiences. In essence, Barbara Dee's work not only entertains but also serves as a meaningful guide for navigating the complexities of

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1. Click

In Chapter 1 of "Violets Are Blue," we are introduced to Wren, a young girl vibrant with creativity as she experiments with makeup, aiming to transform into a mermaid inspired by tutorials from "Cat FX." This undertaking highlights her imaginative spirit and desire for self-expression, while also revealing an underlying insecurity about her makeup skills, particularly when she questions the tone of her skin. Wren's mermaid persona has a backstory filled with adventure and treasure hunting, paralleling her own quest for identity and meaning in her life.

As Wren prepares for the day, her interactions with her mother, an exhausted ER nurse, showcase the strains within their relationship. Wren's mom exhibits signs of stress and physical strain, struggling with knee pain and the demands of her job, which leaves her feeling overwhelmed. Their dialogue subtly conveys the weight of their changing circumstances—Wren is navigating a budding friendship with a girl named Poppy, while her mother's rigorous work schedule has disrupted their once-stable home life.

The chapter intricately weaves together Wren's passions and familial tensions. The love and responsibility she feels for their three-legged dog, Lulu, further enrich the understanding of her character. Notably, the act of her mother locking the door serves as a metaphorical boundary in their relationship, hinting at shifts in their dynamic. This opening chapter

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effectively establishes key themes of identity, the quest for self-expression, and the complexities of family relationships in the face of life's hurdles, setting the groundwork for Wren's journey ahead.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Changes

Summary of Chapter 2: Changes

In this chapter, we explore the tumultuous life of Rennie, a young girl navigating the disintegration of her family. The narrative begins with Rennie reflecting on her thoughts about makeup, which symbolize her desire to uncover truths rather than conceal them. This mirrors her struggle for clarity amidst the discord at home following her father's abrupt departure.

The turmoil begins on a gray Saturday morning, when a loud argument erupts, culminating in her father's unexpected exit. As Rennie tries to comprehend the events over breakfast, she finds little solace in her mother's distraction and sorrow. The situation intensifies when Rennie discovers that her father has moved on with a new partner named Vanessa—a revelation that leaves her feeling shocked and bewildered, as she had been completely unaware of this relationship.

As the days go by, Rennie's concern grows as she observes her mother, an ER nurse, succumbing to sadness and retreating from her responsibilities, sleeping excessively and becoming increasingly withdrawn. What initially seemed like a temporary disruption now appears to foreshadow a looming divorce, thrusting Rennie into a painful confrontation with this reality.



Amidst the despair, a glimmer of hope emerges when her father calls to invite her to visit him in Brooklyn for spring break. Though her mother reluctantly agrees, this development raises further questions about their fractured family dynamic. The change in her mother's language—referring to her husband as "your father"—marks a significant shift in their relationship, weighing heavily on Rennie's young heart.

This chapter poignantly captures themes of loss, the intricate nature of family dynamics, and the loss of childhood innocence when faced with adult issues. It paints a vivid portrait of Rennie as she learns to grapple with significant changes reshaping her world.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3. In Person

In Chapter 3 of "Violets Are Blue," Ren undertakes a transformative journey from Chicago to New York to reunite with her father after a long absence. Her mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety about flying alone underscore her conflicting emotions regarding her fragmented family life.

Upon her arrival, Ren experiences a warm welcome from her father, who showers her with affection, briefly rekindling the familial warmth she craves. However, this joy quickly gives way to discomfort as she realizes that her father has moved on to a new life, residing in an elegant Brooklyn brownstone with Vanessa, a poised woman from a wealthier background. The stark contrast between her own upbringing and Vanessa's polished world heightens Ren's feelings of inadequacy.

When Ren enters her new room, she finds it whimsically decorated, which deepens her sense of alienation. Her insecurities intensify during her first encounter with Vanessa, who attempts to bond with Ren but inadvertently comes off as intimidating. The atmosphere becomes even more charged when her father reveals that he and Vanessa are getting married, appointing Ren as the maid of honor despite her parents' incomplete divorce. This shocking news weighs heavily on Ren, especially when they disclose that Vanessa is pregnant with twins, complicating her already tumultuous feelings.

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Throughout the chapter, the themes of adjustment to change, the complexities of family dynamics, and the deep-seated emotions stemming from divorce come to the forefront. Ren's introspective thoughts illuminate her internal struggle as she grapples with her new reality while yearning for the comfort of her past. This chapter lays the groundwork for Ren's journey toward acceptance and personal growth amidst the upheaval in her life.

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Chapter 4: 4. Catwoman

In Chapter 4 of "Violets Are Blue" by Barbara Dee, Ren grapples with the emotional aftermath of her visit to her father in Brooklyn. The atmosphere at home has shifted dramatically; a palpable tension hangs between her and her mother, characterized by a troubling silence that speaks volumes about their current estrangement. Although Ren suspects her mother is aware of her father's new family—including the impending arrival of two babies—they both skirt around the subject, leaving a cloud of unspoken feelings that make home feel isolating and distressing.

As summer unfolds, Ren's longing to reconnect with her dad pulls her towards another visit, despite her mother's reservations. The excitement of the Fourth of July and the fireworks provide a temporary distraction from her inner turmoil. Watching the explosions of light with her father and feeling his happiness offers Ren a much-needed respite from the weight of her familial discord.

After the festivities, Ren encounters Vanessa, her father's expecting partner, who is nervously preparing for the upcoming wedding and struggling with her makeup skills. This unexpected meeting becomes a turning point for both women; Ren's willingness to help Vanessa with her makeup showcases a moment of connection that allows them to bridge some of the emotional gaps. As they share this vulnerable experience, Ren begins to see Vanessa in

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a different light. Her self-doubt resonates with Ren's feelings of uncertainty regarding her own place in this evolving family dynamic.

Successfully applying a cat-eye look on Vanessa not only boosts her confidence but also marks a shift in Ren's perception. Vanessa's appreciative response fosters a burgeoning bond, suggesting a potential path toward acceptance and understanding. The chapter beautifully weaves together themes of family dynamics, personal acceptance, and the simple joys of new connections, illustrating Ren's journey as she navigates her complicated feelings towards her father, Vanessa, and her evolving sense of self.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5. Good Weird

In Chapter 5, titled "Good Weird," the protagonist Ren finds inspiration and comfort in the whimsical world of YouTube makeup artist Cat FX. Cat FX is renowned for her transformative makeup techniques, in which she starts each video as her authentic self—filled with relatable imperfections—before morphing into extraordinary characters. This artistic journey showcases the theme of self-expression and the celebration of individuality through her mantra of "good weird," encouraging viewers like Ren to embrace their unique qualities rather than conform to societal norms.

Ren becomes enchanted by Cat FX's creativity, which offers her an escape from the turmoil in her life, including her challenging relationship with her parents, her struggles with social interaction, and the impending wedding plans of her mother. As she immerses herself in Cat FX's videos, Ren discovers how makeup can empower her, allowing her to envision herself as a strong and mysterious figure, thus crafting her own narrative in a world that often feels chaotic.

The chapter takes a turn when Ren's stepsister, Vanessa, proposes a shopping trip for a wedding dress. Seizing this opportunity, Ren asks Vanessa for makeup supplies as well, sensing it could be a chance to bond with her stepmom. Vanessa, initially hesitant, eventually agrees, possibly viewing it as a way to connect with Ren during a busy time. However, Ren grapples

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with her desire to keep this journey private from her mother, feeling guilty yet protective of her mother's stress levels.

Through this chapter, readers explore themes of self-discovery, the power of art in shaping identity, and the intricate dynamics within familial relationships, all while navigating the complexities of adolescence. Ren's journey highlights how creativity can serve as a gateway to confidence and empowerment, reflecting her quest for self-acceptance amidst life's challenges.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6. Evil Zombie

In Chapter 6 of "Violets Are Blue," Ren navigates the complexities of her long-standing friendship with Annika, a classmate whose sharp remarks often dampen their relationship. Since sixth grade, Ren has grappled with Annika's mixed signals—while she often belittles Ren, being part of Annika's social circle gives Ren a sense of belonging, albeit a fragile one. The fear of social isolation looms over Ren, making her hesitant to reject Annika outright.

The chapter picks up with an invitation to Annika's makeup party, an event Ren feels compelled to attend despite her reservations. As a token of thanks for helping with her almost-stepmother's wedding, Ren brings along a collection of makeup, which impresses the other party-goers and sparks Annika's jealousy. This dynamic sets the stage for a pivotal moment in their relationship.

When Annika, despite her usual derision, asks Ren to do her makeup, Ren initially defends her expertise by proclaiming her focus on special effects makeup—an art form that transforms rather than conforms. The tension crescendos when Ren daringly agrees to do Annika's makeup but sets a quirky condition: Annika must do this without a mirror. This request instigates a humorous and revealing transformation that leaves Annika astonished by her new look.



The chapter cleverly juxtaposes Ren's emerging sense of self against Annika's established popularity; it becomes clear that Ren is starting to embrace her individuality and artistic gifts. As the chapter closes, themes of self-acceptance, the nuances of friendship, and the often fraught balance of social dynamics resonate, particularly highlighting Ren's burgeoning confidence in the face of Annika's cruelty. Through this encounter, Ren takes a step toward not just understanding her friendship with Annika but also asserting her own identity within it.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7. Bride of Frankenstein

In Chapter 7, Ren finds herself in a dilemma after applying a dramatic makeup look for her friend Annika, whose controlling tendencies make Ren feel pressured to showcase her emotions through the artistry. As her mother picks her up, concern floods her face, prompting a conversation about the choices Ren makes in her friendships and the importance of honesty. This interaction leads Ren to reflect deeply on her relationship with Annika, acknowledging the pressure she felt to conform.

During their drive home, a shift occurs as Ren shares her newfound passion for makeup artistry—particularly special effects. She opens up about indulging in online tutorials, which surprises her mother. Ren's reluctance to share this hobby stems from feelings of guilt, revealing her struggle between desire for creativity and the burdens of honesty within their relationship.

In an attempt to bridge the gap, Ren's mom lightheartedly requests a Bride of Frankenstein makeup look from her daughter. This playful challenge excites Ren and marks a turning point in their relationship as they bond over the makeup application. The process becomes a source of joy amidst their family's challenges, allowing Ren to seek her mother's approval and appreciate the creativity flowing between them.

The chapter concludes on a positive note as Ren's mother enthuses over the

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finished makeup look, reflecting a moment of connection and delight between them. Underlying themes of communication, emotional expression, and the evolution of their mother-daughter dynamic weave through the narrative, highlighting both personal growth and the strengthening of their bond in the face of adversity.

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Chapter 8: 8. Wren

Chapter 8 Summary: Wren's New Beginnings

In this pivotal chapter, Wren finds herself grappling with the consequences of a makeup party gone wrong, where a mishap led to her friend Annika being embarrassed. The fallout is swift; Wren becomes the target of social exclusion, and her once-close friendships with Isla and Raleigh crumble under the weight of peer pressure. This betrayal leaves Wren feeling profoundly isolated, prompting her to withdraw from her usual activities, such as going to the pool, and directing her focus toward honing her makeup skills instead.

Amid this turmoil, Wren attends her father's intimate wedding to Vanessa. The ceremony is small but meaningful, and as Wren assists Vanessa with her makeup, she experiences a sense of joy that differentiates her relationship with Vanessa from her strained friendship with Annika. The bond between Wren and her dad is reaffirmed during tender moments shared at the wedding, highlighting the strength of their connection amidst the chaos of Wren's social life.

Returning home, Wren faces growing tension with her mother, who is increasingly absorbed in work-related stress. Over a strained dinner

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conversation, Wren's mother surprises her with news of a potential job opportunity that requires them to move to a new town. This prospect unsettles Wren, who struggles with the thought of leaving behind her familiar life and grappling with the impact of Annika's betrayal on her social standing.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9. Nebula

Summary of Chapter 9: New Beginnings

In this chapter, we explore Wren's passion for special-effects makeup, a transformative art form that allows her to alter her appearance and express herself creatively. Two weeks after moving to a new townhouse with her family—her mother, sister Lulu, and brother Cyrus—they embrace their fresh start. This rejuvenation is symbolized by their vibrant renovations in the kitchen and the uplifting atmosphere filled with nostalgic music that resonates with their journey of change.

As Wren embarks on seventh grade at Donwood Middle School, she faces the challenges of being the "new kid." Initially feeling lonely and self-conscious about her awkwardness, Wren's experience shifts when her classmates' curiosity about her past helps her feel accepted. She likens her observation of her diverse peers to being a new toy in a lively toy box—exciting but also overwhelming.

A significant turning point occurs when a popular girl, Poppy Fairbanks, unexpectedly admires Wren's artwork and expresses interest in superhero makeup. This interaction boosts Wren's confidence, encouraging her to invite Poppy to model for her makeup practice. This moment not only

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solidifies a budding friendship but also allows Wren to assert her identity through her art.

Throughout this chapter, Wren also reflects on her secretive relationship with Vanessa, who has been sending her makeup supplies, hinting at an influential mentorship. Overall, the chapter emphasizes themes of transformation, belonging, and the courage to share one's passions, marking a significant step in Wren's journey to finding her place in a new environment.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10. The Net

Chapter 10 Summary: The Net

In this chapter, Wren embarks on a journey of self-discovery through her burgeoning friendship with Poppy, a girl who stands out from her typical social circle. Wren, initially focused solely on practicing makeup on herself, finds new joy and creativity in applying her skills to another person—Poppy. Their time together at Wren's home, which offers a quiet refuge from Poppy's chaotic family life, sparks a deeper connection as they share snacks, laughter, and imaginative makeup transformations. Wren's artistry shines as she creates dramatic looks for Poppy, such as effects mimicking poison ivy rashes and frostbite, bringing her a sense of pride she hasn't felt before.

As they delve into their makeup projects, their conversation shifts to more personal territory. Poppy teasingly interrogates Wren about her crushes, and during this playful banter, she reveals her own feelings for Emmett, a boy from their school. This moment highlights the contrast between Wren's uncertainty about her own emotions and Poppy's vibrant confidence. Still getting accustomed to her new environment, Wren grapples with her desire for acceptance while battling insecurities about fitting in with her peers.

Poppy's infectious enthusiasm becomes a source of encouragement as she

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suggests that Wren take on the role of makeup artist for their school's upcoming production of *Wicked*. However, the prospect overwhelms Wren, who feels the weight of potential judgment and the fear of failure. This internal conflict encapsulates her struggle as she navigates the complexities of teenage life, from artistic expression to social dynamics.

As the chapter concludes, Wren is left contemplating Poppy's suggestion, marking a critical turning point in her quest for acceptance and belonging. The themes of friendship, self-discovery, and the anxiety of fitting in resonate throughout the narrative, illustrating Wren's journey towards embracing both her passion and her identity amidst her fears.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11. The Red Mug

In Chapter 11, titled "The Red Mug," the narrative delves into a transformative period in Wren's life, intricately interwoven with the impending birth of her twin siblings during her mother Vanessa's challenging pregnancy. As a high-achieving medical professional, Vanessa grapples with stress and emotional strain after the trauma of losing a patient, leading her to become increasingly sensitive and withdrawn. In an effort to maintain family harmony, Wren finds a small escape in ordering beauty products online, a small act of self-care amid her sense of helplessness.

The arrival of the twins, Ayla and Paxton, marks a significant shift for Wren. Though she feels a blend of excitement and awkwardness about embracing her new role as a sister, the joy quickly dims as she observes her mother's deteriorating emotional wellbeing. Their homecoming sparks initial relief, but it becomes evident that the emotional toll is heavy, as Vanessa's irritability heightens.

A visit to her father's house in Brooklyn offers Wren a bittersweet perspective on her family's evolution. Here, she experiences moments of tenderness with the newborns, yet the visit also magnifies her inner turmoil as she grapples with the complexities of her familial relationships.

Upon returning home, the tension escalates when Wren attempts to assist her

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mother, who is overwhelmed with exhaustion. This well-intentioned act leads to a confrontation that illuminates the widening rift between them. Wren's feelings of guilt and confusion deepen as she strives to comprehend her mother's emotional landscape and her own role amid the evolving family dynamic.

The chapter poignantly explores themes of family, the challenges accompanying new beginnings, and the weight of unexpressed emotions. It highlights Wren's quest for connection and understanding, set against a backdrop of chaos and uncertainty as their family adjusts to these significant life changes.

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Chapter 12: 12. The Deal

Summary of Chapter 12: The Deal

In Chapter 12, titled "The Deal," Wren finds herself emotionally drained after a tense argument with her mother. The confrontation stems from Wren's attempt to help around the house, which ignites her mother's feelings of jealousy regarding Wren's friend Vanessa and her own unfulfilled longing for another child. While Wren empathizes with her mother's struggles, she feels unjustly at the receiving end of her frustration.

To cope with her emotional turmoil, Wren immerses herself in activities like walking her dog, completing homework, and watching makeup tutorials. These hobbies provide her with a welcome distraction and a sense of joy, particularly as she learns valuable beauty tips. However, she also senses her mother's underlying concern about Wren's social life, which has become predominantly centered around her single friend, Poppy.

When her mother unexpectedly arrives home early, a conversation ensues that is both delicate and revealing. Wren's mother expresses her worries about Wren's isolation and encourages her to expand her social circle. In a surprising twist, she proposes a strict deal: Wren must actively work on socializing more, or she will lose her computer privileges. Wren protests,



arguing the importance of her computer access for completing homework, but her mother remains resolute.

The chapter culminates in an emotional exchange where both Wren and her mother apologize for their misunderstandings, but the tension lingers. Wren

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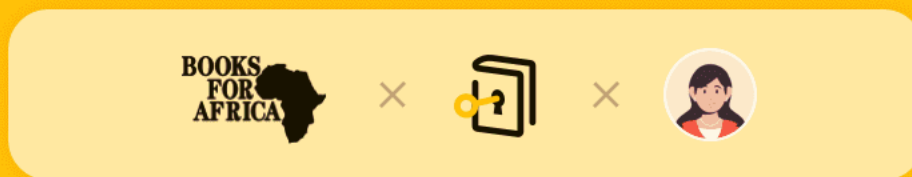




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Chapter 13 Summary: 13. Elphaba

In Chapter 13 of "Violets Are Blue" by Barbara Dee, Wren encounters a pivotal moment that serves as both a challenge and an opportunity for growth. Following a recent argument with her mother, she feels the pressure to broaden her social horizons, leading her to consider joining the makeup team for the school's production of "Wicked." This production holds special significance as it incorporates themes of ambition and self-discovery, mirroring Wren's own journey.

Encouraged by her enthusiastic friend Poppy, Wren takes a brave step and auditions for the role of makeup artist. During a meeting with Ms. Belfonte, the show's director, Wren battles her own self-doubt but manages to impress with her energetic passion, despite her limited experience. She has primarily practiced on a few friends but focuses on advocating for her abilities as Poppy sings her praises.

Ms. Belfonte presents Wren with an exhilarating challenge: create the makeup design for Elphaba, the iconic Wicked Witch, for a photo audition that very day. This challenge brings both excitement and anxiety, as Wren worries about her supply shortcomings while feeling an adrenaline rush at the chance to express her creativity.

Wren's anticipation soon turns to dismay when she discovers that Poppy has

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soccer practice and won't be available to assist her. Left to her own devices, she considers seeking help from Avery, a fellow classmate she admires but feels intimidated by. The chapter concludes with Wren reluctantly deciding to approach Avery, her nerves escalating as she prepares to step out of her comfort zone.

The core themes in this chapter revolve around self-acceptance, the longing for connection, and the exploration of one's creative passions. Through Wren's experiences, the narrative navigates the complexities of middle school relationships and the challenges of emerging from the shadows of self-doubt to embrace new opportunities.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14. A Little Peek

In Chapter 14 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren grapples with a whirlwind of emotions as she navigates her tumultuous relationships and her family situation. After experiencing some confusing interactions with her friend Avery at school, Wren decides to wait outside, hoping to catch a glimpse of her after classes. The absence of Avery stirs feelings of disappointment mingled with relief, reflecting the uncertainty in their friendship.

Upon her return home, Wren encounters an unexpected visitor—a nurse named Krystal, who has come to check on Wren's mother, who is suffering from a stomach bug. While Krystal is friendly and well-meaning, Wren feels a sense of discomfort with this stranger stepping into her family's space and offering advice about her mother's care. Krystal's authoritative demeanor prompts Wren to confront her desire to assert herself, yet she struggles to find the courage to express her feelings.

This chapter delves into themes of vulnerability and the complexities of family dynamics. Wren is not only wrestling with her worries about her friendships but is also faced with the harsh realities of her mother's illness and her father's absence from their lives. The presence of Krystal, though uncomfortable, highlights Wren's conflicting feelings toward seeking help and her instinct to protect her family's autonomy.

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Through these challenges, Wren's character growth becomes evident. She is learning to navigate the complexities of her emotions, asserting her need for independence while grappling with adult responsibilities. This chapter poignantly captures her struggle to find her voice in a world that often feels overwhelming, illustrating her journey toward self-discovery amid the chaos of her circumstances.

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Chapter 15 Summary: 15. Bedroom Door

In Chapter 15 of "Violets Are Blue," we delve into a poignant yet uplifting moment between Wren and her mother, who has been feeling unwell. Wren returns from a brief outing with her dog, Lulu, only to find her mom resting in bed, absorbed in her phone. Noticing her mother's fatigue, Wren expresses concern, only to be met with a somewhat curt response that suggests her mom might be overwhelmed.

Amidst this backdrop of domestic tension, Wren eagerly shares her excitement about auditioning for a role in the school musical, **Wicked**, where she hopes to contribute her skills in makeup. To Wren's delight, her mother unexpectedly encourages her to practice by doing her own makeup for the audition, embracing the character of Elphaba, the show's iconic witch. This playful suggestion serves to lift both their spirits and sparks a moment of joy between them.

Taking a creative approach, Wren decides to utilize her friend Vanessa's makeup to transform her mom into a whimsical version of Elphaba. Initially apprehensive about using the wrong products, Wren quickly finds reassurance in her mother's laughter and light-heartedness during the makeover. As they experiment with different looks and pose for photos, Wren notices a shift in her mom's demeanor; the earlier weariness fades into laughter and bonding.

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The chapter eloquently illustrates the themes of family support, creativity, and the importance of nurturing relationships. Wren's affection for her mother deepens as they share this intimate experience, allowing her to forgive any tensions that may have existed. It is a touching exploration of resilience, highlighting how small moments of connection can provide comfort and joy even amidst life's challenges.

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Chapter 16: 16. Real Eye

In Chapter 16, titled "Real Eye," the narrative centers on Wren's blossoming self-confidence as she shares her creative work with her mentor, Ms. Belfonte. During lunch, Wren excitedly showcases her Elphaba makeup photos, inspired by the character from "Wicked," a popular musical that explores themes of identity and societal perception. Ms. Belfonte, impressed by Wren's talent, offers her the opportunity to do Elphaba's makeup for an upcoming show, which serves as a pivotal moment in Wren's journey. This chance not only validates her skills but also reinforces her passion for makeup artistry.

As they discuss the supplies Wren will need for the project, Ms. Belfonte subtly reminds her to keep her list concise due to budget limitations. This underscores the practical challenges that often accompany creative endeavors, grounding Wren's excitement in reality.

After this significant meeting, Wren rejoins her friends at lunch, where Poppy eagerly inquires about the news. Upon learning of Wren's new role, the group erupts in cheers and congratulatory fist bumps, celebrating her accomplishment. Poppy's pride in Wren's achievement highlights the strength of their friendship, and for Wren, this moment marks a turning point where she feels truly accepted by her peers.



The chapter beautifully intertwines themes of creativity, friendship, and the joy of belonging, illustrating Wren's ongoing journey toward self-acceptance and recognition amid the unwavering support of her friends. This pivotal experience not only enhances her confidence but also solidifies her sense of place within her social circle.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17. The Lock

Summary of Chapter 17

In this chapter, Wren receives an eagerly awaited package from Effex Makeup, sparking a moment of joy. However, her excitement quickly turns to worry when she realizes her mom, who is usually attentive and responsive, is not answering her calls at home. Concerned, Wren rushes upstairs, only to find her mom's bedroom door locked—a detail she had previously overlooked. Her unease deepens as she overhears a heated phone conversation between her mom and dad about Thanksgiving plans, revealing ongoing tensions in their post-divorce co-parenting relationship.

Caught in the middle of her parents' conflict, Wren grapples with the dilemma of visiting her dad and his new family during the holidays, a topic that seems to agitate her mom. Despite her efforts to concentrate on a school project and block out the familial discord, Wren feels the weight of her parents' struggles pressing down on her.

When her mom finally checks on her, she puts on a cheerful front and praises Wren's project. Yet, Wren senses a disconnect, as her mom's superficial enthusiasm does little to alleviate her concerns. She instinctively wants to support her mom while also yearning for transparency and truth in

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their communication.

The chapter culminates with Wren mustering the courage to address the new lock on her mom's door, a small but significant symbol of their strained relationship. Her mom's nonchalant dismissal only deepens Wren's confusion and sense of unease. Throughout the chapter, themes of family fragmentation, the challenges of communication, and the emotional complexities of living in a divorced household are poignantly explored, highlighting Wren's desire for stability amid the chaos.

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Chapter 18 Summary: 18. Audition

In Chapter 18, titled "Audition," Wren grapples with a whirlwind of emotions as she supports her friend Poppy during auditions for the school production of **Wicked**. Tensions at home have risen, particularly since Wren's mom has begun locking her door at night, prompting Wren to steer clear of conflict as Thanksgiving approaches.

As excitement buzzes among the drama kids about the auditions, Poppy seeks Wren's presence for moral support, albeit with a unique request—she prefers Wren to wait outside the auditorium instead of watching her perform. Wren, ever supportive yet playful, agrees, casting a teasing smile and hoping to ease Poppy's self-consciousness about singing.

While waiting, Wren's admiration for Poppy deepens; she perceives Poppy as flawlessly confident in ways she feels she is not. The atmosphere shifts when Wren encounters Kai, a quirky classmate known for his unconventional behavior. Their encounter takes a turn when he bluntly critiques Poppy's voice, stating that she is a terrible singer. Shocked and defensive, Wren quickly stands up for her friend, dismissing Kai's opinion and underscoring her loyalty to Poppy.

When Poppy emerges from the audition radiating joy, Wren opts to withhold Kai's hurtful comment to protect her friend's newfound confidence. This



chapter embarks on an exploration of friendship, loyalty, and the intricate social dynamics within their school, as Wren navigates her own insecurities and the unsteady balance between her conflicting home life and supportive friendships.

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Chapter 19 Summary: 19. Thanksgiving

In Chapter 19 of "Violets Are Blue," titled "Thanksgiving," Wren navigates a complex emotional landscape during her holiday in New York with her father and his new partner, Vanessa. The Thanksgiving meal is a traditional spread complete with turkey, stuffing, and Vanessa's homemade pumpkin pie, which Wren dislikes but pretends to enjoy to keep her dad happy. This gathering, though warm and festive, brings about a bittersweet reminder of her mother, Kelly, who is spending the holiday alone.

As Wren observes the joyful life her father has embraced with Vanessa, she feels a strong sense of separation from her mother. This tension is heightened when Grandma Ellen inquires about Kelly, prompting Wren to reflect on her family's fractured state. Helping to clean up after the meal, Wren shares a moment with Vanessa, who encourages her artistic passion. However, this gesture creates a blend of admiration and discomfort in Wren, who finds herself torn between her stepfamily and her loyalty to her mother.

Before Wren departs, her father attempts to connect with her but stumbles by mistakenly calling her "Rennie," which is not her preferred name. Their conversation meanders from school to her mother's wellbeing, where Wren feels the weight of having to choose between her parents. Although she reassures her father that everything is okay, she tactically skirts around the difficult truth regarding her mother's struggles, deepening her internal

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conflict.

This chapter poignantly captures the challenges of adjusting to familial changes after divorce, showcasing Wren's struggle for identity amid these shifting relationships. While there is a sense of discomfort regarding her dual loyalties, Wren ultimately feels a glimmer of hope as she begins to understand the value of support without losing her independence. The themes of family dynamics, love across divides, and self-discovery are intricately woven throughout, illustrating Wren's journey in this complicated emotional terrain.

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Chapter 20: 20. Phish Food

Summary of Chapter 20:

In Chapter 20, Wren returns home from a trip, greeted by her mom's cheerful demeanor during their car ride. With enthusiasm, she shares stories about her friends, Ayla and Paxton, and her delightful experience sampling Vanessa's famed pumpkin pie, which brings a smile to her mother's face. However, the conversation takes a serious turn when Wren's mom questions whether she's discussed her with her father and his new wife, Vanessa. Wren, feeling cornered by the tension, hastily reassures her mother that such discussions haven't occurred, although she internally wrestles with this secrecy, especially since her dad had inquired about her mom.

Wren's mother opens up about her struggles post-divorce, revealing her insecurities about being a topic of conversation between Wren and her father. Despite Wren's attempts to defend Vanessa—her father's new partner—Wren's mom insists they drop the subject entirely and urges her daughter to refrain from discussing her behind her back.

Once the moment passes, Wren's mom retreats to her room, leaving Wren with a swirl of emotions, caught between her allegiance to her mother and her relationship with her father. Later, her mom suggests a comforting movie

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night accompanied by their favorite ice cream, Phish Food. Yet, Wren, feeling overwhelmed and disconnected, opts to feign sleep and escape into the digital realm of Cat FX videos. This choice signifies Wren's struggle with her emotions and the complexities of her family situation.

Themes:

This chapter delves into family dynamics, loyalty, and the emotional turmoil stemming from divorce. Wren contends with her conflicting allegiances to both her parents, striving to navigate her own feelings amidst their struggles. It poignantly illustrates the challenges children face as they attempt to balance their love for both parents, emphasizing the impact of divorce on family relationships.

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Chapter 21 Summary: 21. Wicked

In Chapter 21 of "Violets Are Blue," the excitement surrounding the spring musical "Wicked" serves as a backdrop for exploring the complexities of friendship and personal growth among middle schoolers. The chapter opens with the announcement of the cast list, igniting a mix of emotions among the students, particularly focusing on the friendship between Poppy Fairbanks and her close friend Wren.

Poppy's assignment to a minor role as Dr. Nikidik stirs concern within Wren, who recognizes that this part lacks the prominence of a lead or even a singing role. Despite Poppy's attempts to put on a brave face and congratulate her friend Avery, who has landed the coveted role of Elphaba, Wren perceives an undercurrent of disappointment in Poppy's demeanor. This moment captures a pivotal aspect of their friendship; while Poppy outwardly seeks to remain positive, her forced laughter hints at her internal struggle with feelings of inadequacy.

As the chapter progresses, Poppy reveals that she will also be portraying a "flying monkey" in the ensemble, showcasing her resilience and commitment to participating in the show. She balances her theatrical responsibilities with her interests in volleyball, which highlights her multifaceted personality. However, Wren remains anxious about their friendship, haunted by memories of past relationships that crumbled, making



her question the stability of her bond with Poppy.

The discussion around the themes of "Wicked"—friendship, bravery, and independence—serves as a catalyst for Wren's introspection. Poppy's emphasis on these themes deepens Wren's awareness of the evolving dynamics in their friendship, fostering a sense of distance that resonates with the uncertainties of adolescence.

Overall, this chapter poignantly underscores the themes of ambition, acceptance, and the often precarious nature of middle school friendships. As Poppy and Wren navigate their new roles in the musical, they confront their emotions and the realities of growing up, revealing how quickly relationships can shift in this transformative stage of life.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22. Dog Robots

In Chapter 22, titled "Dog Robots," Wren engages in a heartfelt evening conversation with her friend Poppy, who reaches out to apologize for her earlier harshness at school. Poppy confesses that she often masks her true emotions with a cheerful demeanor, something Wren can relate to. This sharing fosters a deeper connection between the two, prompting Wren to reveal her own secret: she changed her name from Renata to Wren to better reflect her true self. Poppy admires this authenticity, emphasizing Wren's unease with conforming to popularity norms and solidifying their growing friendship.

As the evening unfolds, Wren reflects on her family, particularly her mother, who is preparing to work over Christmas at the hospital. Despite feeling guilty for opting to celebrate the holiday with her friend Vanessa's family rather than with her mom, Wren's mother reassures her that it's important to care for patients during the holidays, emphasizing her dedication to her work.

To brighten their spirits, Wren's mother suggests a makeup night inspired by Wren's mermaid character—a creative endeavor that brings joy and laughter into their evening. However, Wren struggles with insecurities related to makeup and skin tones during this activity, illustrating the challenges of self-acceptance.

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This chapter underscores significant themes such as self-identity, the search for authenticity, and the complexities of familial relationships during the festive season. Wren's journey of self-discovery is depicted as she balances her friendships and her relationship with her mother, ultimately embracing her unique identity and the bond they share.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 23. Envelope

In Chapter 23 of "Violets Are Blue," the festive chaos of Christmas in Brooklyn unfolds as Vanessa hosts a bustling family gathering. Rennie, affectionately known as Wren, finds herself amidst her father's exuberant family, alive with colorful decorations and excited children. Although the celebration buzzes with joy, Wren feels a sense of detachment, as if she's merely an observer rather than a participant in the festivities.

A poignant moment arises when Wren's father takes the time to sit with her, sharing his heartfelt appreciation for their time together. He presents her with a significant envelope as part of her Chanuk-mas gift, which elicits mixed emotions from Wren. While she is grateful for the generosity and the exciting new gifts, the gesture also evokes nostalgic memories of simpler holidays from her childhood, tinged with a bittersweet sadness that underscores her journey into adulthood and the shifting dynamics of gift-giving and familial connections.

Upon returning home, Wren is greeted by her mother, who appears somewhat altered—perhaps more fragile, dressed in oversized scrubs that hint at a deeper change. Despite the warm reunion, Wren notices a stark contrast between the festive chaos of her father's family and the quieter intimacy of her life at home. She comes to realize that her true sense of belonging lies with her mother, even if their holiday traditions differ greatly



from those of her father's side.

As Wren settles back into her familiar routine, she savors a comforting meal prepared by her mother, emphasizing the deep bond they share. However, the chapter concludes with a note of intrigue as Wren observes her mother's strange, secretive behavior, particularly regarding her locked bedroom door. This detail leaves Wren contemplating what hidden struggles her mother might be facing, hinting at underlying tensions that could impact their relationship moving forward.

Overall, this chapter deftly weaves themes of family dynamics, the complexities of growing up, and the nostalgia that accompanies change. Wren's journey of reconciling her connections with two distinct families creates a rich emotional landscape, inviting readers to empathize with her evolving identity as she navigates her feelings and relationships.

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Chapter 24: 24. Giant Eyeball

Summary of Chapter 24: Giant Eyeball

In this chapter, Wren, who creatively goes by Cat FX, shares her experiences from December, marked by her dog Poochie's health struggles and a burgeoning sense of anticipation for the new year. On New Year's Day, inspired and energized, she conceptualizes a makeup effect she calls the Giant Eyeball. Eager to explore this idea, Wren hopes to collaborate with her friend Poppy, despite the tension that has developed in their friendship since a heartfelt conversation the previous month.

As school resumes, Wren approaches Poppy to discuss her exciting idea, but Poppy is distracted by her upcoming volleyball commitments and preparations for a cast meeting for their school's production of "Wicked." In an unexpected moment, Kai, a fellow student, informs Wren about a crucial tech crew meeting for the show, which leaves her feeling embarrassed but also ignited with interest in joining the production team.

At the tech meeting, Wren encounters new faces and her art teacher, Ms. Chen, who encourages her to stay despite her initial hesitations about her limited involvement, as she had only imagined contributing to makeup. As discussions about constructing sets and technical roles unfold, Wren finds



herself overwhelmed and toyed with the idea of withdrawing from the show completely.

This chapter delves into Wren's internal struggle as she longs to reconnect with Poppy while battling her fears of embracing new experiences. The narrative finely weaves in themes of friendship, self-discovery, and overcoming insecurities, portraying Wren's journey through the complexities of social relationships and personal growth as she navigates the pressures of her aspirations and her place within her peer group.

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Chapter 25 Summary: 25. Strings

In Chapter 25 of "Violets Are Blue" by Barbara Dee, the protagonist navigates the challenges of her mother's unpredictable job, which creates tension and feelings of isolation in their relationship. Unlike her friend Poppy, who enjoys a stable family life, the protagonist struggles with the uncertainty brought about by her mother's erratic schedule, feeling increasingly alone in her experiences.

As she reflects on her role in the tech crew, the protagonist considers quitting, believing her departure might go unnoticed amidst her mother's busy life. However, she grapples with the fear that her absence would eventually be felt, potentially leading to conflict and further emotional disconnection. The imagery of "invisible strings" serves as a poignant metaphor for her longing for security and a sense of belonging, highlighting her internal struggle with feelings of instability at home.

Additionally, the weight of her secrets—such as hiding gifts and money—exacerbates her anxiety about being open with her mother. These hidden burdens contribute to her overall emotional turmoil, making her desire for connection all the more pressing. In the end, she resolves to remain with the tech crew, recognizing that it provides her with a much-needed sense of purpose and community, even amidst her fluctuating emotions.

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This chapter delicately explores themes of familial relationships, the impact of expectations, and the search for identity as the young protagonist confronts her complex feelings regarding her family dynamics.

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Chapter 26 Summary: 26. Hammer

In Chapter 26 of "Violets Are Blue," Hammer Wren is immersed in practical work at her school auditorium, focusing on building flats for an upcoming production. During this hands-on project, her classmate Kai lends a helping hand, providing her with detailed tips on how to effectively use a hammer. Initially, Wren finds his advice somewhat irritating, but as the two continue their work together, she realizes how useful it truly is. The interaction between Wren and Kai hints at a budding chemistry; there's a spark in their conversation, particularly when Kai becomes flustered discussing Wren's enthusiasm for artistic pursuits, like special-effects makeup inspired by a talented artist she admires.

Their dialogue further explores Wren's artistic process and her fondness for cosplay, shedding light on her unique personality and creative mindset. Despite her openness about her passions, Wren is cautious in revealing her deeper interests to Kai, reflecting her introverted nature and her desire for meaningful connections.

As the day draws to a close, Wren looks forward to walking home with her friend Poppy. However, their plans are playfully disrupted by classmates Avery and Minna, who engage in light-hearted teasing about a fellow student's amusing behavior, contrasting with the more serious undertones of Wren's earlier conversation with Kai. Poppy applauds Wren's artistic skills,

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contributing to Wren's mix of pride and pressure, especially as she prepares for a special makeup project for the character Elphaba.

The chapter culminates in a charmingly awkward moment when Kai unexpectedly shows up to say goodbye to Wren, visibly blushing and evoking playful teasing from Avery. This scene encapsulates the complexities of teenage emotions, highlighting themes of friendship, creativity, and the early stirrings of young love. Through Wren's experiences, the chapter intricately portrays the tumultuous yet exhilarating nature of adolescent life as she navigates her passions and the dynamics of new relationships.

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Chapter 27 Summary: 27. Invitation

Summary of Chapter 27 - "Violets Are Blue"

In this chapter, the narrator explores the profound connection between eyes and emotional expression, highlighting their role in shaping character perception. This observation sets the stage as the tech crew diligently works on their upcoming play, with the narrator and her friend Aliyah focusing on painting the scenery, while Kai is engrossed in soundboard adjustments.

A pivotal moment occurs when Kai approaches the narrator while she cleans her brushes, asking if she could assist with makeup for a character. His mention of Comic Con reveals his plans to cosplay as iconic characters like Thanos, Daredevil, or Iceman, igniting a conversation that uncovers their mutual passion for comics. Kai expresses admiration for finite character arcs in older comics, a preference that resonates with the narrator's artistic sensibilities.

As their discussion unfolds, a bond forms between them, fueled by shared interests and excitement for the creative projects they undertake. When Kai invites her to Comic Con, the narrator experiences a blend of surprise and exhilaration, marking a significant shift in their relationship. This invitation not only strengthens their connection but also signals the narrator's

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burgeoning confidence in her artistic abilities. The chapter concludes on a hopeful note as she looks forward to collaborating with Kai, suggesting both personal and artistic growth on her part.

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Chapter 28: 28. Crush

In Chapter 28, titled "Crush," the focus centers on Wren and her friend Poppy during a walk home, where Poppy enthusiastically shares her infatuation with Emmett Brooker, a charming peer from their recent rehearsal. Poppy describes Emmett's amusing personality and captivating singing voice, and the fact that he shared a granola bar with her sparks Wren's curiosity about romantic gestures. Poppy also mentions their mutual friend Camila's belief that Emmett has a crush on her, prompting a discussion about the nuances of teenage crushes and how one can discern their presence.

As Poppy excitedly revels in her own romantic possibilities, Wren grapples with her feelings towards her classmate Kai. Although they share common interests, such as a passion for comics and technology, Wren realizes that she does not feel the same romantic connection towards Kai that Poppy does for Emmett. This internal conflict is exacerbated by her commitment to help Kai with cosplay makeup for an upcoming Comic Con, an event she looks forward to but is also apprehensive about, fearing it may hurt his feelings.

Wren's reflections reveal her concern about Kai's potential loneliness, a sentiment that resonates with her own experiences of having a limited circle of friends. In contrast to Poppy's ease in forming new connections, Wren struggles with her emotions and seeks someone to confide in as she

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navigates her confusion about friendship and romance. Ultimately, she considers talking to her mother for guidance, highlighting her desire for support as she deals with the complexities of teenage relationships.

This chapter poignantly explores themes of friendship, the intricacies of youthful crushes, and the emotional turbulence of adolescence, encapsulating the relatable experience of growing up and seeking one's place in the social landscape.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 29. Ghost Eyes

In Chapter 29, titled "Ghost Eyes," we delve into Wren's poignant journey as she returns to an unsettlingly quiet home, grappling with the absence of her mother. Alone and anxious, Wren takes her dog, Lulu, for a brief walk before seeking solace in her room with a comforting cup of hot cocoa. As she explores her creative side through makeup effects online, Wren stumbles upon the intriguing concept of heterochromia—an unusual condition characterized by having two distinctly colored eyes. This intriguing notion ignites her imagination, inspiring her to envision a superhero persona named Ghost Eye, reflecting her own feelings of curiosity and disconnection.

Wren's moment of solitude is abruptly interrupted by a visit from Krystal, a compassionate neighbor and nurse. Concerned about Wren's mother, who is notably absent from work and unreachable, Krystal's initial friendliness quickly turns into a professional demeanor as she seeks to reassure Wren. Despite Wren's attempts to explain her mother's potential forgetfulness, the unease surrounding the situation intensifies, especially when Krystal points out the lack of communication—a red flag given Wren's mother's usual behavior.

In a tender yet tense moment, Krystal offers Wren a comforting hug, reinforcing the importance of community support in times of anxiety and uncertainty. She leaves Wren with a reminder to have her mother contact her

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when she returns, underscoring the theme of vigilance and care in their neighborhood bonds.

This chapter powerfully explores Wren's inner turmoil regarding her mother's absence while also highlighting the significance of relationships and mutual support within the community. Wren's fascination with heterochromia metaphorically captures her struggles with feelings of difference and the search for identity amid situations that feel chaotic and uncertain.

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Chapter 30 Summary: 30. Personal

In Chapter 30 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren grapples with anxiety and unease when her mother fails to return home after her shift at the hospital. As she attempts to distract herself by caring for her pet Lulu and watching cat videos, her concern deepens when she learns from her friend Krystal that her mother never made it to work. Despite her urge to reach out to her dad for help, Wren hesitates, convincing herself that her mom might have a valid explanation for her absence.

Her worry transforms into relief when she finally hears the garage door open, and her mother enters, groceries in hand but still dressed in scrubs. This sight raises Wren's suspicions, leading her to confront her mother about her whereabouts. Tensions escalate as Wren accuses her mother of evading responsibility and keeping secrets, feeling frustrated by the lack of openness in their relationship.

Wren's emotions surge, resulting in a heated argument that underscores a significant breakdown in their communication. Overwhelmed, she storms off in tears, illustrating the profound personal struggle she faces as she seeks both understanding and independence from her mother during a turbulent period in her life.

This chapter effectively explores themes of trust, the difficulties in

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parent-child communication, and the quest for independence, shedding light on Wren's emotional turmoil and her need for clarity amidst the complexities of growing up.

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Chapter 31 Summary: 31. Mask

In Chapter 31, titled "Violets Are Blue," Wren finds herself engulfed in a swirl of anxiety and vulnerability, primarily stemming from her mother's recent absence and a puzzling visit from a girl named Krystal. With her mind racing, Wren grapples with doubt about her mother's true whereabouts during her supposedly long hours at work. This uncertainty breeds feelings of betrayal and confusion within her, as she starts to suspect that her mother may be hiding something.

When Wren's mother—referred to simply as Mom—unexpectedly enters her room, she attempts to calm Wren's fears with an apology, acknowledging that her failure to communicate had spiraled Wren into worry. However, her comforting words fail to fully restore Wren's trust; the underlying secrets that seem to cloud their relationship continue to loom large in Wren's mind.

Mom's physical appearance also raises Wren's suspicions—her unblended makeup and tired eyes serve as markers of her own stress, reinforcing the chapter's pervasive theme of appearances versus reality. This observation prompts Wren to contemplate the concept of "masks" that people wear, both literally and figuratively, suggesting that they can obscure deeper truths and emotions.

As the tension heightens, Wren's bottled-up frustration ultimately erupts,

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leading her to snap at her mother. After a moment of physical comfort in the form of a brief hug, Mom withdraws to her own room. Left alone, Wren is left wrestling with her turbulent feelings, which not only deepens the emotional chasm between her and her mother but also highlights the ongoing challenges of trust, communication, and the complexities intrinsic to their relationship. This chapter thus serves as a poignant exploration of the struggles between familial bonds and individual emotional turmoil.

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Chapter 32: 32. Rey

In Chapter 32 of "Violets Are Blue," Rey finds herself at a crossroads, reflecting on the challenges of her life as her mother works exhausting hours at the hospital. This leaves Rey to navigate her daily routine alone, emphasizing the emotional strain they both endure. Despite her efforts to remind her mother about a dentist appointment, it falls through the cracks, underscoring the chaotic nature of their lives. Though her mom appears to be returning to normalcy, Rey is still haunted by the emotional fallout of her recent disappearance, creating a sense of unease.

As spring break approaches, Rey grapples with complex feelings about visiting her father in Brooklyn. She fears that such a visit might sever her already fragile connection with her mom and their life in Donwood. While the prospect of a break tempts her, Rey feels anchored to her responsibilities—particularly her role in the school play, which serves as a welcome distraction. The hustle of rehearsals and set design allows her to channel her energy into a creative outlet, providing a reprieve from her worries.

Rey's relationship with her friend Kai also evolves during this chapter. Their connection deepens, albeit awkwardly, as he begins presenting her with thoughtful gifts like art pencils and comics. These gestures confuse Rey, stirring mixed feelings about their budding friendship and the implications



of growing affection. Despite her initial hesitance, Kai's kindness hints at a deeper bond formed through their shared interest in art, drawing them closer together. Meanwhile, Avery's lighthearted teasing introduces the complexities of adolescent romance into Rey's life, as she navigates the whirlwind of crushes and first feelings.

Overall, this chapter encapsulates the themes of family dynamics, the intricacies of growing up, and the delicate balance between independence and connection. Rey's story highlights her resilience as she learns to embrace her passions amidst the uncertainty of her personal life, illuminating her growth as she confronts her fears and navigates her relationships.

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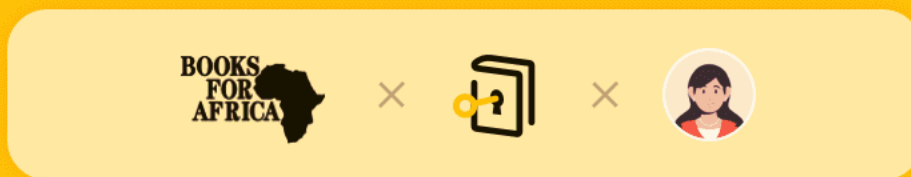




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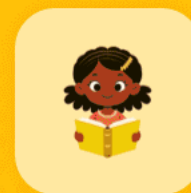
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Chapter 33 Summary: 33. Skull

In Chapter 33 of **Violets Are Blue**, Wren experiences a blend of excitement and apprehension as she prepares for a creative afternoon with her friend Poppy. Poppy has suggested they experiment with a creepy skull makeup look, offering a chance for them to bond without the usual distractions of their school friends. Their walk home is filled with Poppy's spirited chatter about the upcoming school play and the performances of their classmates, highlighting her vivacious nature.

Upon arriving at Wren's house, a subtle tension emerges when Wren discovers they've run out of their typical snack stash. This minor setback triggers Wren's insecurities, as she worries about disappointing Poppy and about the health of their friendship. This moment underscores Wren's deeper concerns about connection and acceptance, particularly as both girls navigate their personal uncertainties.

As Wren applies makeup on Poppy, the conversation veers toward their social lives, specifically crushes. Poppy's playful teasing about Wren's feelings for Kai forces Wren to confront her own romantic confusion and insecurities. This exchange taps into the broader theme of self-discovery that many young adolescents experience, as Wren grapples with both her feelings and the societal pressure to conform to expected norms regarding relationships.



The chapter takes a poignant turn when Poppy receives a call from her mother, prompting her to leave. In a hurry to help, Wren enters her mother's bedroom, only to be met with a disordered and chaotic environment filled with pill bottles, hinting at more profound family problems that Wren is only beginning to comprehend.

Through Wren and Poppy's interactions, this chapter encapsulates the innocent yet intricate dynamics of young friendship, the weight of social expectations, and the shadows of familial issues. These elements weave together to create a relatable portrayal of the challenges and emotional complexities faced by preteens.

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Chapter 34 Summary: 34. Bottles

In Chapter 34 of "Violets Are Blue," the narrative centers around a poignant exchange between Wren and her mother, delving into the complexities of their relationship as they navigate sensitive topics. The chapter begins with Wren feeling a knot of anxiety after a demanding day at work; she knows she needs to confront her mother about something troubling she discovered.

Wren's urgency grows when her mother arrives home, exhausted and seeking relaxation after her long shift. Yet, Wren musters the courage to address her concerning find: a plethora of pill bottles in her mother's medicine cabinet, uncovered while searching for makeup remover. This triggers a charged discussion, where Wren's worries about her mother's health and medication usage collide with her mother's defensiveness.

Her mother, a nurse by profession, feels her privacy is under siege and insists that her medical issues—primarily related to chronic pain from her knee and back—are matters she has under control. She is adamant about her expertise in managing her health through prescribed medications, which exemplifies her sense of independence and knowledge.

The dialogue between them reveals deeper themes of trust and the struggle for autonomy within a mother-daughter dynamic. Wren's protectiveness is fueled by love, while her mother grapples with the need for

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self-determination and the emotional weight of her health challenges. This moment underscores the reality that, much like art, relationships are multifaceted and require careful blending of perspectives.

As the conversation unfolds, there's a gradual easing of tension; Wren feels somewhat reassured by her mother's justifications, although the issue at hand remains only partially resolved. The chapter captures a critical juncture in their relationship, illustrating the necessity of open communication, mutual understanding, and navigating personal boundaries—reminding readers that life's complexities often mirror the intricate patterns found in art.

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Chapter 35 Summary: 35. The Box

Chapter 35 Summary: The Box

In Chapter 35, the narrative centers around Wren, a teenager grappling with the complexities of her family dynamics. Upon returning home from school, she discovers a mysterious package on the kitchen table that brings a wave of surprise and relief. The box is addressed to her and contains a small jar of green pigment intended for her role in an upcoming school play, along with a heartfelt note from her stepmother, Vanessa. Although Vanessa's previous gifts have been infrequent, this gesture reignites Wren's enthusiasm for her artistic endeavors.

However, the moment of joy is quickly overshadowed by tension. Wren's mother, who has been home in a relaxed state, confronts her about keeping the gift a secret. Wren had chosen not to share details about Vanessa and her new family, fearing her mother would feel burdened, especially given the ongoing stress related to her father's new life. The confrontation escalates as Wren's mom interprets her silence as deceit, leading to an emotional clash where Wren expresses her frustrations about the familial situation.

The exchange reveals deep-seated feelings of resentment and a longing for conversations about her father and Vanessa's family—elements that have

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become increasingly central to her identity. As the chapter concludes, Wren is left alone with her thoughts after her mother retreats to her room, emphasizing the deepening divide and emotional strain in their relationship.

This chapter poignantly highlights themes of communication, the emotional labor of family dynamics, and the struggle for self-identity amidst change.

Wren's journey illustrates the importance of openness, showcasing how silence can complicate relationships, especially in the wake of familial upheaval.

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Chapter 36: 36. Violets Are Blue

Summary of Chapter 36: Violets Are Blue

In this poignant chapter, the protagonist confronts a mix of emotions centering on her mother, her crush on Kai, and the pressures of Valentine's Day. The story opens with an uncomfortable breakfast, where her mother's silence casts a shadow over the morning. The girl feels guilty for hiding the truth about receiving packages from Vanessa, a woman her mother views as a rival. This guilt intertwines with a tumult of shame, frustration, and sadness, reflecting her inner turmoil as the day unfolds.

As she heads to school, the excitement of Valentine's Day looms, prompting her conversations with her friend Poppy about quirky valentine ideas for a classmate, Emmett. Simultaneously, she nurtures a hesitant hope that Kai might acknowledge her feelings with a gesture of his own. Throughout the school day, she keenly observes their social circle; while Poppy receives a flower and Mateo reveals he sent some sweets, the protagonist anxiously awaits Kai's signal of affection.

During tech crew practice, the atmosphere buzzing with Valentine spirit—complete with red outfits and festive snacks—does little to ease her anxiety. As the day culminates, Kai unexpectedly approaches her with a

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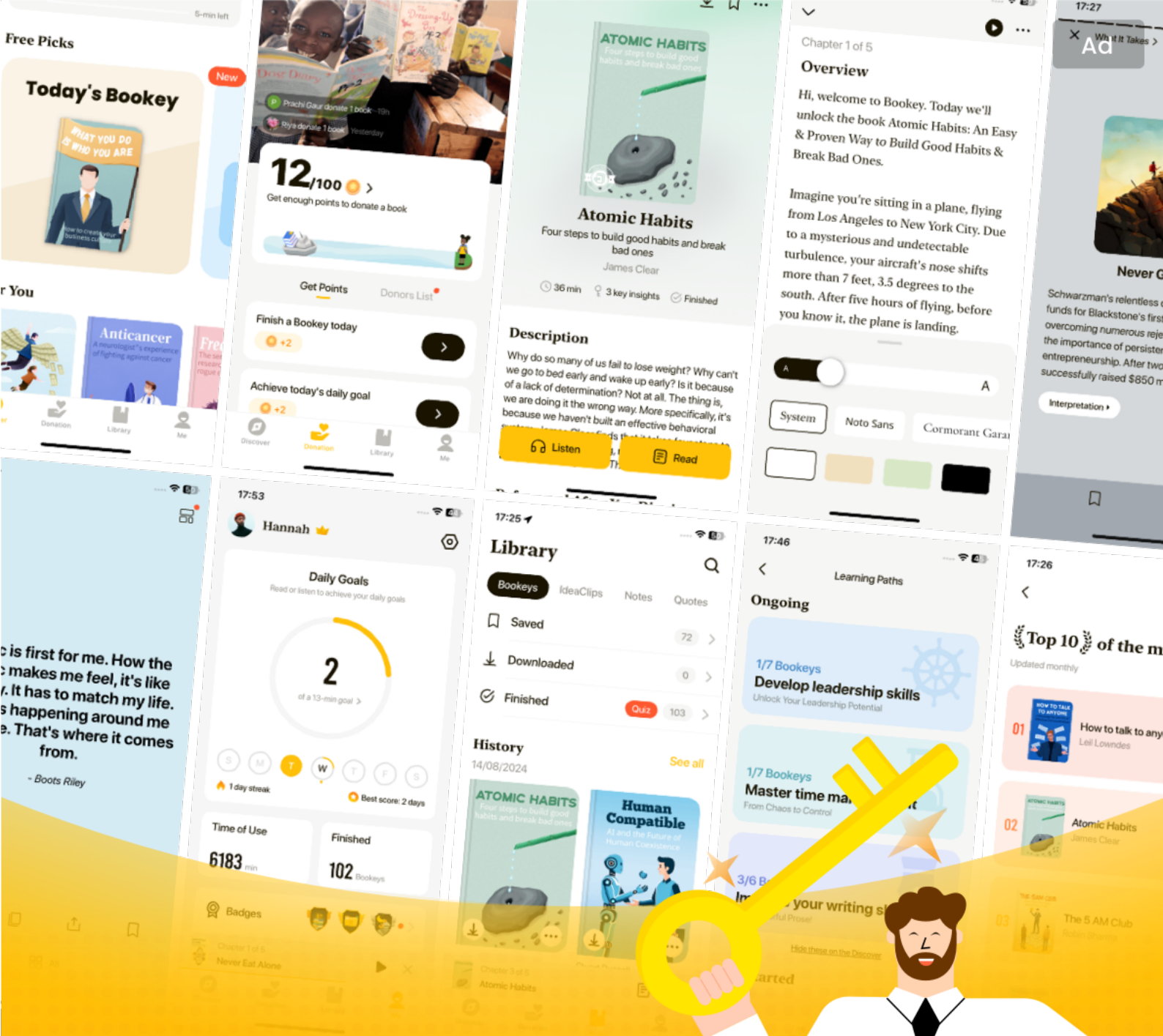
thoughtful gift: a meticulously drawn picture of a character named Nebula, accompanied by a tender poem that hints at his feelings for her.

Overwhelmed and unprepared, she struggles for words, caught between admiration and the pressure of reciprocating his obvious affection. When she hesitates, Kai, visibly hurt, walks away, leaving her in a swirl of regret.

This chapter skillfully navigates themes of communication difficulties, the complexity of teenage emotions, and the daunting balance between friendship and romance. The protagonist's journey reveals her thoughtful yet conflicted nature, as she grapples with the challenge of expressing feelings at such a crucial juncture in her relationship with Kai.

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Chapter 37 Summary: 37. Emily

In Chapter 37 of "Violets Are Blue" by Barbara Dee, the narrative delves into the emotional turbulence of Emily on a particularly challenging Valentine's Day. The day begins on a sour note when an unintended confrontation with her classmate Kai leaves her feeling regretful and heartbroken. Seeking solace, Emily returns home, where she finds her mother napping on the sofa; this moment becomes the catalyst for a deeper conversation between them.

As they engage, Emily's mom tries to comfort her, sharing insights about resilience and the necessity of taking ownership of one's feelings. The dialogue reveals her own struggles, including the pressures of her demanding job and ongoing car troubles, which reflect their shared experience of grappling with life's hardships. This exchange of vulnerabilities fosters a sense of empathy and understanding between them, leading Emily to feel a tentative sense of forgiveness towards her mom for unspecified past grievances.

However, as her mother prepares to leave for work, Emily's concern for her mom deepens, especially upon noticing her rushed appearance, hinting at the emotional and physical strains they are both enduring. After a poignant goodbye, Emily finds herself alone to care for their pet, Lulu, as she processes her feelings.

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The chapter takes a dramatic turn when Emily, while searching for her makeup case beneath her bed—a box that holds cherished memories and mementos—discovers that the \$200 left to her by her father and stepmother, Vanessa, is missing. This loss compounds her feelings of distress, adding a layer of complexity to her already tumultuous day and emphasizing themes of loss and the significance of treasured belongings amidst life's chaos.

Overall, this chapter deftly captures the intricacies of family dynamics, the trials of adolescence, and the journey toward emotional healing, resonating deeply with readers through its vivid portrayal of relatable experiences.

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Chapter 38 Summary: 39. Jumpy

In Chapter 38 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren faces significant emotional turmoil as she confronts two pressing issues: her suspicions about their cleaner, Emily, stealing money, and her deteriorating friendship with Kai.

Determined to address her concerns, Wren approaches her mother while she relaxes on the sofa. Summoning her courage, Wren articulates her worries about Emily. However, her mother's response is disappointing; she simply decides to terminate Emily's employment without engaging in further discussion. This lack of support leaves Wren feeling isolated and frustrated, amplifying her emotional struggle.

Compounding her distress is the strained relationship with Kai. Once close friends, their bond has diminished to awkwardness, leaving Wren haunted by his cold demeanor. During lunch at school, Avery, a mutual friend, playfully suggests a romantic connection between Wren and Kai, heightening Wren's embarrassment and frustration. In a moment of anger, she defends Kai and snaps at Avery, leading to further complications among their group, particularly as they work together on a school project.

Poppy, another friend and a voice of reason, later reaches out to Wren, urging her to apologize to Avery. She emphasizes the importance of nurturing friendships and resolving conflicts, especially since group



dynamics can be affected by personal tensions.

This chapter poignantly illustrates themes of friendship, loyalty, and the challenges of communication. Wren's struggle to balance her loyalty to her family with the complexities of her friendships showcases her growth and development as she learns to manage her emotions and navigate difficult situations. However, she remains jumpy and unsure, like a tightrope walker teetering between vital family concerns and the intricacies of adolescent relationships.

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Chapter 39 Summary: 40. Control

In Chapter 39, titled "Control," the protagonist Wren grapples with the complexities of friendship and emotional expression, following a fallout with her friend Avery. This conflict prompts her to reflect on her mother's valuable advice about sharing feelings, igniting her internal struggle between the need for authenticity and the desire to maintain peace. Wren ultimately chooses to apologize to Avery, motivated partly by her other friend Poppy's desire to end the conflict, which suggests that Poppy is eager to alleviate her own discomfort in the situation.

As Wren navigates these interpersonal issues, her home life adds another layer of turmoil. Her mother, Kelly, is clearly unwell, heightening Wren's sense of chaos and uncertainty. Upon returning home from school, Wren encounters Krystal, a nurse and family friend, who is cleaning the disarray in the kitchen and caring for her ailing mother. Krystal's admonishment for Wren to contribute more at home underscores Wren's burgeoning awareness of her responsibilities. This moment is pivotal; it juxtaposes Wren's challenges with friendships against her duties at home, revealing the tension many adolescents face as they try to balance personal and familial obligations.

This chapter effectively explores themes of communication, the intricacies of evolving friendships, and the pressures of growing up. Wren's anxiety and

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struggle to prioritize her own needs alongside those of her friends resonate with the experiences of many young adults. The contrast between her keen observations of her friends and her obliviousness to the serious issues at home reflects her internal conflict and the chaotic environment she's trying to navigate. Ultimately, Wren's journey in this chapter encapsulates the difficult path of finding one's voice amid turmoil and the formative experiences that shape her understanding of responsibility and connection.

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Chapter 40: 42. The Money

Summary of Chapter 40 from "Violets Are Blue"

In this chapter, the focus shifts to the intricate emotional dynamics within the family, primarily through the lens of the protagonist's internal struggles. She reflects on her mother, whom she refers to as the "Money Mom," who has been unwell, raising her concerns about stability at home following a period of tension. Her mother's unexpected recovery brings about a mix of relief and anxiety, prompting the protagonist to question her recollections of recent troubling events, including financial discrepancies and the discovery of a makeup case that hints at underlying issues.

During a dinner with her father, who is away on a business trip, the protagonist endeavors to keep the mood light while deliberately avoiding conversations about her mother's health. She learns that her dad is worried because her mother has been unusually silent, a departure from her typical behavior. The protagonist dismisses his concerns, attributing her mother's lack of communication to work commitments, as she desperately seeks to uphold a sense of normalcy amidst the growing uncertainties.

The dinner reveals layers of tension, particularly regarding her father's relationship with his new partner, Vanessa. The protagonist feels a sense of

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discomfort at the prospect of her parents mingling during her school show's opening night, a symbol of her desire to keep her familial worlds apart. As they talk about the Chanukah money her father gifted her, deeper emotional currents surface; she experiences a blend of frustration and sorrow, especially when her father affectionately uses an old nickname, underscoring the emotional distance that has developed within the family.

This chapter eloquently conveys themes of confusion, the yearning for stability, and the complexities of family relationships. The protagonist's struggle to reconcile her feelings toward her mother and her father's evolving life with Vanessa highlights the challenges of navigating a fracturing family structure.

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Chapter 41 Summary: 43. Spotlight

Summary of Chapter 41:

In this pivotal chapter, Wren faces a mix of excitement and anxiety when Ms. Belfonte calls, requesting her to apply the Elphaba makeup for Avery before the production's opening night. Wren's nerves are heightened, as she feels unprepared and intimidated by Avery, who has a history of teasing her. To combat her anxiety, she decides to meticulously follow the makeup instructions, finding solace in the techniques she learned from her favorite makeup artist, Cat FX.

When the moment arrives for Wren to apply the makeup on Avery, she discovers an unexpected commonality: Avery is also anxious about the transformation. This newfound vulnerability creates a more serene atmosphere, allowing Wren to focus entirely on crafting Elphaba's iconic green look. To her surprise, Avery refrains from the usual snark, fostering a calm environment that enhances Wren's confidence.

As Wren completes the transformation, Avery is ecstatic, exclaiming that Wren has successfully turned her into Elphaba. This moment shifts their dynamic; Avery's genuine appreciation leads her to suggest showcasing the final look to Ms. Belfonte. The rest of the cast becomes intrigued and



enthusiastic about Wren's talent, eagerly requesting her expertise for their makeup as well. However, Ms. Belfonte gently reminds them of the constraints posed by time and resources.

Buoyed by Poppy's excitement and the positive feedback from Avery, Wren contemplates the possibility of expanding her role and taking on more characters for the show. This chapter marks a significant evolution in Wren's perception of Avery, transforming her from just a mean girl into a collaborative partner in creativity, revealing a softer side of their relationship. Through themes of self-discovery and the power of creativity, Wren discovers her capability to not only meet the challenges of makeup artistry but also navigate complex interpersonal dynamics.

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Chapter 42 Summary: 44. Baby Yoda

In Chapter 42 of "Violets Are Blue" by Barbara Dee, the students gear up for their first dress rehearsal, which is filled with awkward moments and unexpected mishaps. Notably, Mateo's horn falls off during a performance, and Gracie forgets her lyrics, adding to the chaos that simultaneously fosters a sense of camaraderie among the group. Among these moments, Kai shines when he swiftly fixes a broken spotlight, earning praise from Ms. Chen and a triumphant fist bump from his peers, reflecting the supportive nature of their teamwork.

Despite the supportive environment, an emotional undercurrent runs through the chapter as the narrator grapples with her strained friendship with Kai, which has been affected since Valentine's Day. Feeling a sense of sadness over their disconnect, she decides to take the initiative to mend their friendship. In math class, she shares a webcomic that she believes will resonate with him. When he responds positively, saying "Not stupid," a flicker of their previous bond re-emerges, momentarily alleviating her worries about their relationship.

On returning home, however, the narrator is hit with anxiety when she finds that her mom is not home and has left no note. Reflecting on her mother's recent good behavior, she hopes that her absence is simply due to work commitments. The narrative then shifts back to the narrator's excitement as

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she watches a video from her favorite influencer, Cat FX, who announces a makeup demonstration at the Chicago Comic Con—an event she had previously been excited about when Kai invited her, only to be later left feeling uninvited.

The prospect of Comic Con ignites a blend of hope and frustration within her. Realizing that the event coincides with their school's production of **Wicked**, she becomes resolute to attend, showcasing her determination not only to be part of an exciting experience but also to rekindle her connection with Kai. This chapter intricately weaves themes of friendship, communication, and the complexities of adolescence, highlighting the narrator's navigations through the ups and downs of her relationships and personal growth.

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Chapter 43 Summary: 45. Chill

In Chapter 43, titled "Violets Are Blue," the protagonist Wren finds herself engulfed in anxiety, especially with the impending presence of Cat FX at Comic Con, a famed event that heightens her sense of urgency and excitement. This anxiety intensifies when Wren receives a late-night call from Krystal, a colleague of her mother, who informs her that Wren's mom is unexpectedly off work that day. This revelation triggers Wren's worry about her mother's whereabouts, setting the stage for a cascade of emotions—marked by hot and cold sweats—as she anxiously contemplates her mom's situation.

When Wren's mother finally returns home after midnight, the tension comes to a head. Wren, concerned and unsettled, confronts her mother about her unexplained absence, recalling Krystal's mention of her day off and expressing her fear over the lack of communication. As Wren attempts to understand her mother's state, she observes that her mother seems unusually weary and distant, further complicating her feelings of anxiety.

Wren's efforts to engage in a meaningful discussion are met with dismissal; her mother insists she just needs sleep and brushes off Wren's concerns. This interaction leaves Wren feeling frustrated and betrayed, fueling her suspicion about her mother's honesty regarding her well-being. Torn between confusion, concern, and a longing for reassurance, Wren retreats to her



room, underscoring the chapter's exploration of themes like communication, trust, and the complexities of familial relationships. Wren's struggles emblemize the tumultuous bond shared between a daughter yearning for connection and a mother whose unpredictable behavior amplifies feelings of distress.

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Chapter 44: 46. Ticket

In Chapter 44 of "Violets Are Blue," the narrative focuses on Wren's ongoing internal conflict, particularly regarding her relationship with her mother. The chapter begins with a surprising and somewhat unsettling interaction between Wren and her mom, who seems refreshed and cheerful after a night out, hinting at a social outing, possibly a date, with a doctor friend. While her mother appears to be in high spirits, Wren grapples with mixed emotions about her mom's newfound happiness and what it might mean for their relationship.

As Wren prepares for her important upcoming performances, her mother's enthusiasm stands in stark contrast to Wren's feelings of neglect. Her mother's request for tickets showcases her excitement, yet underneath it all, Wren feels invisible and overlooked. This feeling is compounded during lunch with her friend Poppy, who enthusiastically discusses the show while Wren's mind is elsewhere, preoccupied with her emotional turmoil at home.

Wren confides in Poppy about her sense of neglect, articulating the metaphor that when her mother looks at her, it's as though her true self is obscured by layers of makeup, symbolizing her struggle to be seen and valued. Poppy tries to empathize, sharing her own experiences with parental attention, but Wren's sense of disconnection persists.



This chapter weaves together themes of communication and the intricate dynamics of mother-daughter relationships. Wren's heartfelt struggle for connection and validation amidst her creative aspirations reveals her sensitivity and complexity as a character, effectively capturing the challenges of navigating teenage identity and familial relationships.

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Chapter 45 Summary: 47. Dress Rehearsal

In Chapter 45, titled "Dress Rehearsal," Wren immerses herself in the bustling environment of backstage preparations for an upcoming performance. As she diligently applies makeup for the show, she observes Kai, who takes on a leadership role by directing the cast, including her friends Henry, Pippa, and Aliyah. The atmosphere is charged with anticipation and urgency as they work together towards a successful show.

Wren successfully transforms Minna into the character of Madame Morrible, crafting a fearsome appearance that thrills Minna. However, when it comes to preparing Mateo for his role as Dr. Dillamond, Wren encounters challenges. His nervous fidgeting and distracted chatter about basketball and television disrupt her concentration, making the application of intricate makeup difficult. To help him relax amidst the discomfort of his latex swim cap, Wren suggests he visualize calming places, allowing her to focus better on the task.

Simultaneously, Wren's rapport with Avery, who portrays Elphaba, begins to improve. While they aren't close friends, the earlier tension has eased, and Avery's expressions of gratitude after makeup sessions signal a thaw in their relationship. This shift alleviates some of Wren's previous anxieties about working with her.



The chapter concludes with a tender moment when Kai praises Wren for her makeup skills, causing her heart to flutter with excitement at the unexpected compliment and suggesting an emerging connection between them. This chapter encapsulates Wren's development in both her artistic abilities and her interpersonal relationships, all set against the high-stakes backdrop of the theatrical world.

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Chapter 46 Summary: 48. Commotion

Commotion

The much-anticipated opening night of the school play has arrived, enveloping Wren in a whirlwind of emotions—excitement tinged with anxiety. Her mother, caught up in her responsibilities at the hospital, entrusts Wren with the task of saving seats for her friends, Krystal and Tucker. Despite her attempts to assure her mother that she's well-prepared, Wren battles feelings of guilt over the pressure she feels to succeed.

Amid the chaos that characterizes the day's rehearsals, the drama club members buzz with a mix of enthusiasm and jitters. Many are overwhelmed, leading to comedic outbursts over the fear of potential mishaps during the performance. In stark contrast to the frenetic energy surrounding her, Wren notices Kai. Calm and focused, Kai is diligently working behind the scenes, embodying the kind of organization that eludes his peers.

As the day progresses, the camaraderie among the cast oscillates between excitement and nervous tension, highlighted by the actors' voracious appetites—a coping mechanism to quell their anxieties. Wren takes on the role of makeup artist, using her skills to help her fellow actors embody their characters fully, showcasing her talent and commitment.



A pivotal moment occurs when Avery, one of the lead actors with a history of past judgments against Wren, finds a moment to connect. She opens up, sharing her own insecurities about the performance and apologizing for her previous behavior. This moment of vulnerability momentarily shifts the focus to Wren's feelings for Kai, leading to a misunderstanding that Wren quickly addresses. However, Kai, unaware of the clarified context, overhears and walks away quietly, leaving a sense of unresolved tension in the air.

The chapter portrays a tapestry of emotions—friendship, self-doubt, and the weight of expectations—all converging on this significant night. As curtain time approaches, the atmosphere is thick with both excitement for the impending performance and uncertainty about the outcome, setting the stage for a night that promises to be unforgettable for everyone involved.

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Chapter 47 Summary: 49. Reserved

Summary of Chapter 47: "Violets Are Blue"

In this emotionally charged chapter, Wren sits in the auditorium, anxiously awaiting her family's arrival for a highly anticipated performance.

Surrounded by families settling into their seats with cheerful anticipation, Wren feels increasingly isolated and tense, especially as her mom, Krystal, and her brother Tucker are late. The vibrant atmosphere around her starkly contrasts with her growing worry, which heightens as the showtime approaches.

When Krystal and Tucker finally arrive, Wren learns that her mother is still missing, amplifying her apprehension. In the midst of this chaos, supportive friends like Poppy attempt to comfort her, offering reassurances that everything will be alright. Nevertheless, the absence of her mother during such a significant moment underscores Wren's deep longing for familial presence, highlighting her feelings of loneliness amidst the joyous excitement surrounding her.

The chapter explores key themes of anxiety, the critical nature of family support, and the isolation one can feel even in joyous settings. Wren's emotional struggle paints a vivid picture of the significance she places on

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her family's attendance at the performance, showcasing her hopes and fears as the curtain rises on an event she has been eagerly looking forward to.

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Chapter 48: 50. Nurse Mode

In Chapter 48 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren navigates a tumultuous emotional landscape following her performance in a school show, which receives overwhelming praise and a standing ovation. Despite the audience's adoration, Wren feels a deep disconnection from the excitement, primarily due to her mother's conspicuous absence. As she reflects on the extravagant expressions of love and joy on stage, her eyes keep drifting to the empty seat where her mother should have been. This absence amplifies her anxiety, leading her to question if something is wrong with her mother.

Wren's friend, Krystal, attempts to offer comfort and reassurance during this stressful time, stepping into a nurturing role as they leave the venue. However, Wren's mind remains clouded by concern for her mother. The drive home is heavy with worry, and while she appreciates Krystal's supportive presence, her longing for familial connection overshadows her gratitude.

Upon arriving home, Wren is greeted by the sight of her mother's car parked in front of their house, evoking a complicated mix of relief and confusion. This moment encapsulates Wren's emotional journey, reflecting her deep desire for family bonds amid the pressures of performance and the expectations placed upon her. The chapter poignantly explores themes of worry and the intricate dynamics of family relationships, ultimately



emphasizing Wren's vulnerability and the importance of friendship as a source of solace.

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Chapter 49 Summary: 51. Math Problem

In Chapter 49, titled "Violets Are Blue," the emotional tension between Wren and her mother unfolds dramatically. The narrative begins with Wren bursting into the living room, still buzzing from her performance of "Wicked." However, instead of celebrating together, she is confronted with the sight of her mother asleep on the sofa, a stark reminder of her mother's recurrent absence in Wren's life.

Feeling overlooked and abandoned, Wren's disappointment surfaces as she pushes her mother to wake up. This confrontation reveals deeper layers of her emotions, such as feelings of neglect and a longing for her mother's attention. She expresses her hurt over her mother's frequent missed events, contrasting her own experiences with those of her friends like Poppy, whose mother is consistently present. Wren's frustration grows as she confronts her mother about the significance of their time together, making it clear that her mother's busy work schedule falls short of meeting Wren's emotional needs.

Despite her mother's genuine apologies and attempts to explain her commitments, Wren feels unheard and overwhelmed by the chasm that seems to separate them. This disconnect leads her to storm up to her room in tears, leaving the atmosphere thick with unspoken tension. The chapter poignantly highlights the challenges of parental absence, the struggle to balance work and family, and Wren's pressing need for connection and



validation. As Wren retreats to her room, the emotional distance between mother and daughter is palpable, underlining the complexities of their relationship and the hurdles they will need to address.

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Chapter 50 Summary: 52. The Sign

Summary of Chapter 50: The Sign For the Saturday Matinee

In this chapter, Wren grapples with the emotional and physical toll of her tumultuous relationship with her mother. She wakes up feeling ill, plagued by a pounding headache and a gnawing emptiness in her stomach, likely the result of the stress surrounding her recent performance and her mother's consistent absence. After a hasty breakfast, Wren runs into another obstacle: her mother's door is locked, and there is no response to her calls. Frustration wells up within her, leading her to conclude she cannot rely on her mother to attend her upcoming show.

Upon arriving at school, Wren is met by her supportive friend, Poppy, who expresses concern for her well-being and offers sympathy for the emotional weight of her mother's neglect, especially after such a significant event in Wren's life. This moment of camaraderie provides a temporary lift to Wren's spirits, particularly when Poppy praises her makeup skills from their recent performance. The compliment serves as a reminder that despite her mother's absence, she still possesses talents that deserve recognition.

In a playful yet symbolic gesture, Wren writes "RESERVED FOR KELLY LEWIS" on a playbill and places it in a visible seat in the theater. This act



points to her hope for her mother's eventual acknowledgment and participation in her life. Overall, the chapter captures Wren's struggle with neglect and longing, while also illuminating the strength of friendship and resilience in the face of personal challenges.

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Chapter 51 Summary: 53. Escape

Summary of Chapter 51: Escape

In Chapter 51 of "Violets Are Blue," we delve into the emotions of Wren, an aspiring special-effects makeup artist who also goes by the nickname Cat FX. The anticipation of her school performance is marred by disappointment when her mother fails to arrive, leading Wren to reflect on her journey in makeup artistry and the significance of discovering her unique style through risk-taking.

As the performance's curtain rise nears, Wren gazes at the empty seat reserved for her mother, feeling a wave of frustration and abandonment. In a moment of resolve, she seeks out her friend Kai, asking for a brief conversation. Driven by her eagerness to meet her idol at Comic Con, where Cat FX is appearing, she boldly proposes ditching the show to embark on an adventure that holds the promise of excitement and artistic inspiration.

Kai is initially wary of Wren's suggestion, apprehensive about the consequences of skipping a school event. However, Wren reassures him that she has everything planned out, expressing a genuine desire for their friendship to deepen through their shared passions for comics and art. As they brainstorm how to reach the city, the tension between them subsides,

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making way for camaraderie and spontaneity. Wren's enthusiasm is infectious as she offers to do Kai's makeup, adding a layer of fun to the day's plans.

This chapter not only showcases Wren's determination and creativity but also highlights the critical role of friendships and personal passions in the journey of self-discovery. As the stage lights dim behind her, Wren's excitement builds at the prospect of meeting her idol and pursuing her artistic aspirations, thus symbolizing a thrilling new chapter in her life.

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Chapter 52: 54. Thanos

Summary of Chapter 52: "Violets Are Blue"

In this dynamic chapter, the main character and her friend Kai impulsively decide to leave a show and rush to catch a train into the city, embodying a spirit of spontaneity that reflects their youthful desire for adventure. As they escape through an unmarked backstage door, she ponders her mother's hectic schedule and their rare opportunities for shared experiences, setting the emotional tone of longing for connection amidst their bustling lives.

At the train station, the pair hastily purchase their tickets just in time, though Kai expresses unease about using the tickets obtained from his father. She reassures him by reminding him that they are making a shared experience out of the situation, reinforcing their close bond. Once on the train, their seating arrangement—Kai facing backward and her facing forward—mirrors the contrasting yet complementary aspects of their friendship. Despite her efforts to lift Kai's spirits with plans to play with makeup, she senses an undercurrent of guilt from him, revealing the complexity of their feelings.

As the train lurches along the tracks, she begins to transform into Nebula, a character from a popular comic universe, while Kai takes on the essence of Thanos, known for his complicated moral dilemmas. This playful disguise



offers them an escape from reality, and despite the rough ride, they share laughter and creativity. The moment becomes pivotal, as Kai's genuine smile surfaces for the first time since their departure, signifying a breakthrough in their connection and an embrace of their imaginative identities.

Determined to immerse themselves fully in their characters, they decide to turn off their phones, fearing that any outside communication might prompt a rescue that would interrupt their thrilling adventure. This chapter effectively encapsulates themes of friendship, the joy of spontaneity, and the yearning for freedom, showcasing the characters' growth as they navigate the complexities of adolescence while exploring the transformative power of imagination.

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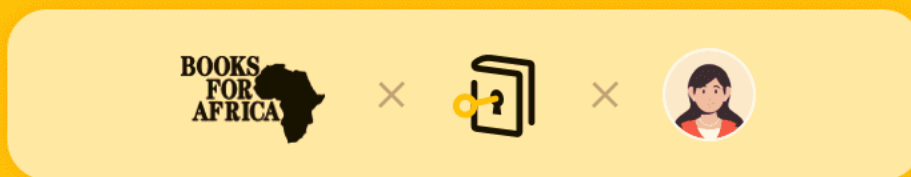




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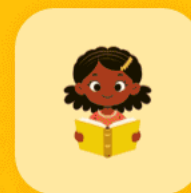
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Chapter 53 Summary: 55. Emerald City

In Chapter 53 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren and her friend Kai arrive at Comic Con, filled with a mix of excitement and anxiety. The convention, known for celebrating comic books, gaming, and fandom, is a vibrant hub that promises adventure, especially for Wren, who is eager to meet her idol, Cat FX, a popular figure in the makeup and cosplay community.

Their journey begins at the train station connected to the convention center. As they navigate their way, Kai feels a surge of nerves about being on time for the event. Upon reaching the entrance, Wren's enthusiasm is dampened by strict rules: no backpacks and a requirement for children under thirteen to be accompanied by an adult. Kai suggests turning back, but Wren's determination shines through as she spots a group of kids in elaborate costumes. Drawing on her resourcefulness, she cleverly joins them to evade the guards and sneaks into the bustling convention hall.

Once inside, Wren is captivated by the atmosphere, describing it as a dazzling "Emerald City" filled with colorful costumes and the electric buzz of fan excitement. Despite the urgency of locating Cat FX for her highly anticipated makeup demonstration, she becomes temporarily enchanted by the sights and sounds around her.

To keep their spirits high and focused, Kai suggests checking the schedule,

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and they realize Cat FX's demo is about to start. This revelation energizes them. As they explore the hall, Kai receives a compliment from an artist about his drawings, which boosts his confidence and adds to the joy of their adventure.

Throughout this chapter, Wren juggles a whirlwind of emotions. While she cherishes the autonomy of exploring Comic Con independently, she also recognizes the comfort and strength in having Kai by her side. His unwavering support enhances their experience, illustrating the themes of friendship, courage in pursuing one's passions, and the exhilarating chaos of the comic convention world.

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Chapter 54 Summary: 56. Blue Violet

In Chapter 54 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren embarks on an exciting journey as she attends a makeup demonstration featuring her idol, Cat FX, a renowned artist known for her imaginative looks and vibrant style. The event, though attended by a small audience, fills Wren with exhilaration and anticipation, showcasing the power of inspiration and admiration in her life.

As Cat FX unveils a tutorial on achieving a captivating mermaid look, Wren grapples with her insecurities and hesitates to volunteer to demonstrate a technique. Ultimately, she musters the courage to seek assistance, prompting a conversation that unexpectedly reveals her admiration intertwined with insecurity. A brief moment of tension arises when Wren, overwhelmed by her emotions, snaps at Cat FX regarding her relationship with Kai, a significant figure in Wren's life. Despite this awkward exchange, Cat FX responds with grace, and they begin to bond over the hidden nuances of artistry and the significance of color, providing Wren a sense of joy and belonging that she craves.

However, this connection is abruptly shattered when Kai, visibly anxious, interrupts to inform Wren that her mother has been hospitalized. The sudden shift from the euphoria of the demonstration to the gravity of her family's situation serves as a poignant reminder of the chapter's exploration of dreams versus harsh realities. Wren feels the crushing weight of distress

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overshadow her moment of joy, marking a turning point in her journey.

This chapter encapsulates Wren's ongoing quest for self-discovery through her passion for makeup, highlighting the bittersweet nature of growing up. It emphasizes her struggle to balance the exhilaration of following her dreams with the unforeseen responsibilities brought on by life's challenges, particularly emphasizing the importance of relationships and the impact of unexpected news on personal aspirations.

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Chapter 55 Summary: 57. The Hard Part

In Chapter 55 of "Violets Are Blue," the narrative delves into a significant turning point for Wren and her friend Kai following a stressful convention. Their train ride back to Donwood is steeped in silence, with Wren reflecting on their recent escapade and grappling with guilt over potentially implicating Kai in trouble. However, Kai comforts her, asserting that the adventure was his choice, emphasizing his concern for Wren's well-being.

Upon arriving home, Wren is confronted by her older friend Krystal, who chastises her for disappearing. The atmosphere shifts dramatically when Krystal reveals that Wren's mother has been hospitalized due to an overdose on painkillers. This devastating news overwhelms Wren, awakening her memories of the subtle signs of her mother's struggles with addiction that she had previously ignored.

The conversation between Wren and Krystal uncovers a deeper insight into Wren's familial struggles. Krystal candidly shares her long-held suspicions about Wren's mother's issues and recounts her attempts to intervene, which were met with resistance from Wren's mother—a poignant moment that highlights the complexities of denial often experienced by families dealing with addiction.

As Wren processes the gravity of her mother's situation, she is engulfed in



feelings of guilt and sorrow. Krystal offers her support, reminding Wren that she is not to blame for her mother's choices. They discuss the immediate plans for Wren's mother, who is set to undergo detox and subsequently enter an inpatient rehabilitation program. This conversation prompts Wren to contemplate the implications of her mother's absence for her own future, marking the beginning of her journey toward acceptance.

This chapter intricately explores themes of denial, the repercussions of addiction on familial relationships, and Wren's emotional growth as she navigates a painful reality. Through her vulnerability, Wren begins to discern strength and resilience, setting the stage for her evolving understanding of her circumstances.

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Chapter 56: 58. First Flight Out

First Flight Out

In this poignant chapter, Wren grapples with a flood of emotions as her mother's health takes a troubling turn. Feeling overwhelmed, she finds solace in her friend Krystal, who insists on staying over to offer support. Accompanied by her young son Tucker, Krystal brings comforting meals—chili, salad, and brownies—that Wren eagerly devours, savoring the warmth of friendship amidst her tears.

The following morning reveals a shift when Wren awakens to find Krystal and Tucker gone, but her father has unexpectedly arrived. His arrival is marked by a heartfelt embrace, deepening their connection as they candidly discuss Wren's mother's struggles. Wren discovers that her father, having been alerted by Krystal, came as soon as he heard the news, illustrating his commitment to his family even as he confronts his own emotional turmoil.

During their conversation, Wren's father reveals his guilt over not noticing the severity of her mother's condition sooner. This shared vulnerability bridges the gap between them, as Wren opens up about her fears regarding her mother's fluctuating moods. In response, her father reassures her that she holds no blame for the situation, reinforcing his role as a steadfast figure in



her life.

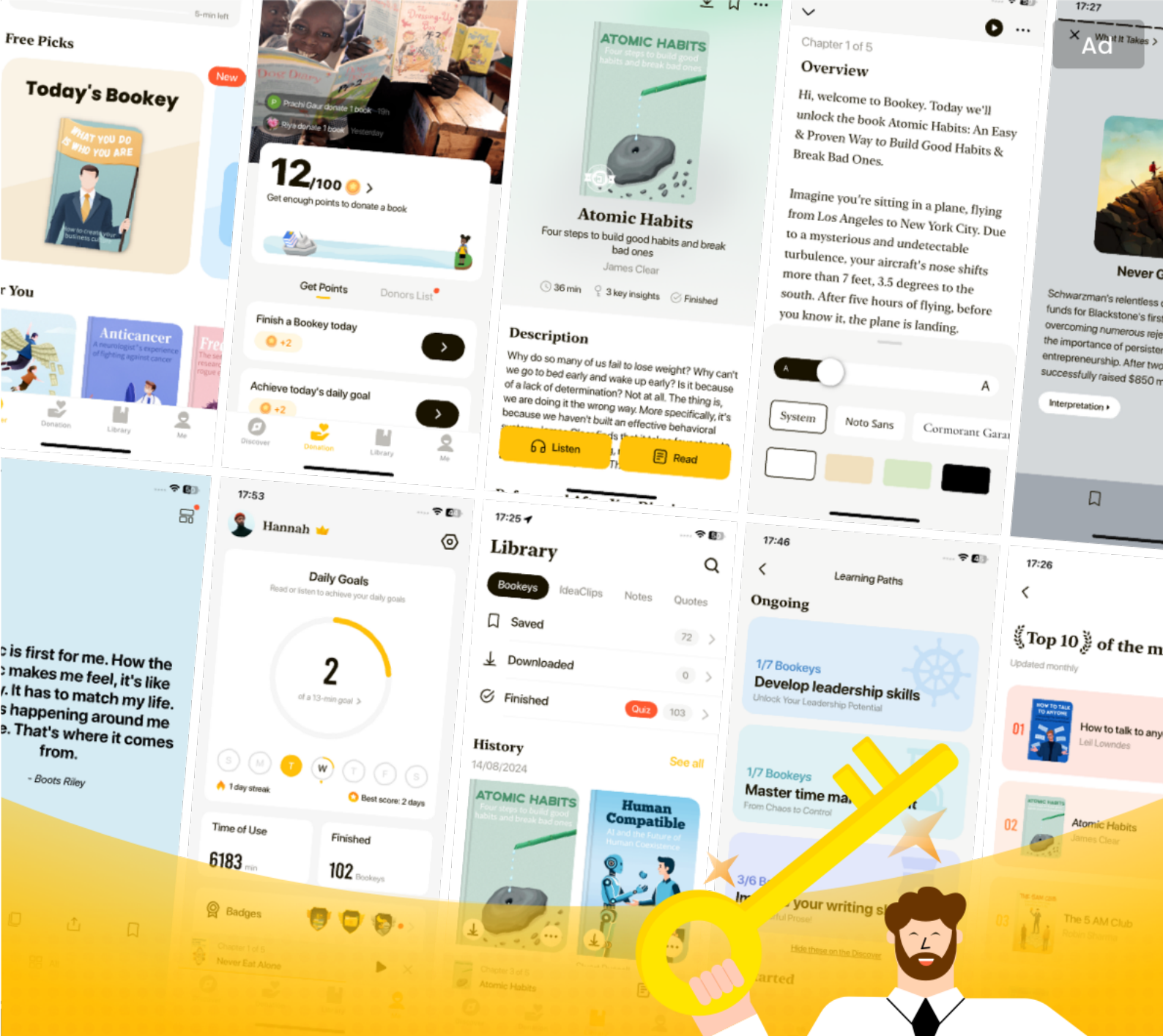
He outlines their new arrangement—he will stay with Wren while her mother receives the necessary care, while Vanessa, Wren's stepmother, will provide support from Brooklyn. As Wren navigates this new reality, she finds a sense of reassurance in her father's presence, solidifying their bond in the face of adversity.

This chapter poignantly addresses themes of family support, the complexities of mental health, and the vital role of open communication during challenging times. It beautifully captures the evolution of Wren and her father's relationship, emphasizing that even in the midst of hardship, love and support can offer a haven of strength.

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Chapter 57 Summary: 59. Friends

In Chapter 57 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren returns to school after a tumultuous period defined by her mother's recent struggles with addiction. As she steps into homeroom, Wren is immediately overwhelmed by her classmates' curiosity about her sudden absence and her complicated relationship with Kai, her close friend.

Reflecting on her experiences, Wren feels a sense of detachment from the events that transpired, particularly relating to a school play and her personal milestones, as if they belonged to someone else. This disconnection is shattered when she encounters Kai in math class. His genuine concern for her wellbeing is evident as he gently inquires about her situation; they both acknowledge their respective challenges at home, which fosters a deeper connection between them. When Wren shares the troubling news that her mother is entering rehab for pain pill addiction, a heavy silence envelops their exchange. Despite this, she experiences an unexpected relief from being able to confide in him.

Later, on her way home, Wren opens up to her best friend Poppy about her mixed emotions regarding her mother's issues. She admits to feelings of anger but reveals that fear dominates her emotional landscape. Poppy listens attentively, offering silent support and understanding without trying to minimize Wren's struggles or provide unwarranted answers.



This chapter poignantly explores themes of friendship, the intricacies of familial relationships, and the emotional turmoil accompanying a loved one's addiction. Wren's journey of self-discovery becomes evident as she confronts her feelings and learns to lean on her friends during this trying time. The meaningful interactions with both Kai and Poppy underscore the importance of having a strong support system when navigating life's challenges.

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Chapter 58 Summary: 60. Forward Motion

In Chapter 58 of "Violets Are Blue," Wren's life is deeply affected by her mother's ongoing battle with addiction. Recently, her mother has transitioned from detox to the Glendale Center for Rehabilitation, a crucial step in her journey toward recovery. During this challenging time, Wren begins attending therapy sessions with a compassionate therapist named Dionna, who helps her navigate her emotions and family dynamics. Wren finds comfort in Dionna's presence as well as in the company of her therapy dog, Hank, whose calming influence provides a sense of safety.

Amidst this backdrop, Wren's father delivers significant news that adds to her emotional turmoil: her mother may need an extended stay in rehab, which could prompt Wren to move to Brooklyn to live with him. This possibility forces Wren to confront her feelings of both hope for her mother's recovery and anxiety about leaving behind her friends and the life she knows.

As Wren prepares for a visit to see her mother at the rehabilitation center, her nerves intensify. She worries about the conversations they will have and the potential for conflict between her parents during the visit. Her father reassures her, emphasizing that the meeting is a private moment meant for Wren and her mother, encouraging her to follow her mother's lead in their interactions.

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The chapter poignantly encapsulates Wren's complex feelings as she navigates her family's turbulent situation. With themes of recovery, familial bonds, and the quest for normality underscoring her journey, Wren reflects on her desire for guidance during this uncertain phase of her life. As they arrive at the rehabilitation center, her apprehension peaks, yet a flicker of hope emerges that this visit might serve as a pivotal moment in her relationship with her mother and their path forward together.

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Chapter 59 Summary: 61. Mermaid

In Chapter 59, Wren, a young woman recovering at a rehabilitation center, anxiously awaits a visit from her family. Accompanied by Fiona, a kind and supportive nurse, Wren feels a mix of eagerness and apprehension. When her mother arrives, Wren's nerves dissolve into excitement as she rushes to embrace her, finding comfort in the familiar warmth of her mother's presence. They share lighthearted moments discussing makeup, and Wren enthusiastically introduces her beauty supplies, playfully suggesting transforming her mother into a mermaid for the day.

However, the atmosphere shifts dramatically when Wren's mother reveals a painful truth: there was no other person named Emily responsible for the theft of Wren's money; it was her mother who, driven by desperation, took her daughter's funds. Although Wren had suspected this all along, hearing it directly from her mother is a crushing blow.

Amidst her mother's apology, Wren grapples with a torrent of emotions, feeling both betrayal and compassion. Instead of confronting her mother with her pain, Wren chooses to hold back, promising to stay true to herself and her feelings. Their dialogue deepens, allowing Wren to share her experiences and the supportive bonds she has formed, including her memories of Kai, a boy significant from her past.



As the visit draws to a close, Wren reassures her mother of her love, acknowledging that while anger still lingers, it doesn't overshadow their bond. In that moment, surrounded by their shared history and the joy of mischief, Wren is overwhelmed by love. She concludes their encounter by focusing on her mother's appearance, a symbolic gesture of healing and reconnection.

This chapter delves into the complex dynamics of forgiveness and familial ties, highlighting Wren's emotional struggle as she navigates love intertwined with disappointment. It underscores the significance of honest communication and the vulnerability required for healing, reflecting the intricate dance of relationships as individuals seek reconciliation within themselves and with one another.

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