

Who Put That Hair In My Toothbrush? PDF (Limited Copy)

Jerry Spinelli



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Who Put That Hair In My Toothbrush? Summary

Sibling Rivalry: A Hilarious Tale of Love and Mischief.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?" by Jerry Spinelli, we are introduced to the humorous but tense relationship between siblings Greg and Megin, affectionately nicknamed Grosso and Megamouth by their peers. Their rivalry is evident in a myriad of trivial disputes, from who gets the last donut to competing over who can outsmart cockroaches in their home, showcasing the playful yet contentious nature of sibling interactions.

As they navigate normal childhood struggles, the ice rink serves as a critical backdrop for their ongoing conflicts. Whether it's during practice or a playful outing, the competitive spirit that drives them on the ice mirrors their interactions at home, amplifying their quarrels. Through these lighthearted battles, Spinelli deftly illustrates the universal themes of jealousy, love, and the ups and downs of familial relationships.

However, the narrative takes an intriguing turn when an unexpected crisis emerges, prompting Greg and Megin to confront the underlying affection that binds them despite their differences. In moments of tension, they begin to realize that their constant bickering masks a deeper connection, revealing how sibling rivalry can simultaneously be a source of frustration and a catalyst for understanding.

As the story unfolds, readers are invited to reflect on the significance of

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family ties, the complexities of growing up, and the evolution of Greg and Megin's relationship. With humor and heart, Spinelli captures the essence of sibling love, ultimately suggesting that even in the midst of conflict, family bonds endure and strengthen through adversity.

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About the author

Jerry Spinelli is a celebrated author whose rich storytelling is influenced by his childhood in rural Pennsylvania. Raised with dreams of being a cowboy or a baseball player, he ultimately found his true calling in writing. His educational journey took him through Gettysburg College and Johns Hopkins University, where his passion for literature blossomed. At just 16, Spinelli crafted a poem that celebrated his high school football team's victory, igniting a lifelong dedication to storytelling.

Over the years, he has published more than 25 books, often drawing from his own life experiences and the vibrant adventures of his six children and 16 grandchildren. This blend of personal history and familial inspiration has shaped his warm and relatable narratives. Currently, Spinelli resides in Pennsylvania with his wife, Eileen, who shares his literary passion as an accomplished children's book author.

Through his works, Spinelli captures the essence of growing up, showcasing the trials and joys of childhood while infusing humor and wisdom into the lives of his characters. His ability to connect with readers, both young and old, makes his stories timeless and impactful, resonating with the themes of friendship, identity, and the innocence of youth.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Megin

In the opening chapter of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", we are introduced to Megin, a girl apprehensively anticipating the end of summer and the onset of a new school year. As she prepares for this transition, her last shower before school quickly spirals into chaos.

The bathroom becomes a comedic battleground when her mischievous younger brother, Toddie, flushes the toilet, triggering an unexpected and jarring change in the water temperature from scorching hot to frigid cold. In a flurry of frustration and urgency, Megin attempts to maintain her modesty while navigating through the pandemonium of the shower curtain. Her efforts culminate in a comical series of events: she tumbles out of the bathtub in a panic, collides with the toilet, and becomes ensnared in the shower curtain, just as Toddie walks in, turning her moment of privacy into an unintentional spectacle.

The humor continues when their father enters the scene, responding to Megin's distress with a light-hearted quip about her shouting, which serves to underline their family's quirky and playful dynamic. Megin, feeling unjustly tormented, accuses Toddie of being in cahoots with their older brother, Grosso, suggesting that Toddie is being bribed to aggravate her. Her father, however, is skeptical of her claims and comically investigates Toddie's pockets for evidence of mischief.



In a bid for tranquility, Megin persuades her father to act as a sentry while she attempts to finish her shower. Yet, her efforts are thwarted once more when the water turns icy again due to their mother starting the washing machine, adding another layer of absurdity to her morning routine.

This chapter effectively illustrates Megin's struggles with her family dynamics, her yearning for independence, and the hilarious interactions that arise from sibling rivalries. It encapsulates the themes of childhood frustration and the complex, often humorous, realities of growing up, inviting readers to relate to Megin's plight in a lighthearted manner.

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Chapter 2 Summary: Greg

In Chapter 2, titled "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?" from Jerry Spinelli's novel, we follow Greg as he stands on the precipice of ninth grade, feeling a mix of exhilaration and nerves about the prospect of finally catching the eye of his crush, Jennifer Wade. He has spent the summer transforming himself, engaging in rigorous workouts and grooming, which he believes has turned him into a stylish "Sassoon-Pro/Gain-Coppertone Frankenkid." This transformation underscores a prevalent theme of self-image, common among adolescents as they navigate the trials of identity formation.

As Greg moves through his home, we get a glimpse of his family dynamic, characterized by humorous exchanges. His sister, dubbed Megamouth for her outspoken nature, mocks his infatuation with Jennifer, while their father adds playful banter to the morning routine and their mother offers a gentle, caring presence. Though surrounded by familial warmth, Greg is preoccupied with the idea of impressing Jennifer, barely tasting his breakfast amidst his daydreams.

At school, the atmosphere buzzes with excitement as Greg reunites with his friends, Poff and Valducci, who are eager to embrace their new status as high school freshmen. Valducci's energetic antics exemplify their youthful enthusiasm and the thrill of this new chapter in their lives. Yet, despite the



lively distractions, Greg is singularly focused on finding Jennifer, meticulously envisioning their first encounter in his mind.

However, his hopeful day quickly unravels when he discovers, via one of Jennifer's friends, that she has moved to another school. This revelation is a painful blow to Greg, who feels his dreams slip away. The chapter culminates with an emotional outburst as Greg throws a rubber ball in frustration, illustrating the unpredictable rollercoaster of adolescence—where moments of joy are often followed by unexpected heartache.

Through a blend of humor and relatable teen experiences, this chapter captures the essence of Greg's yearning for acceptance, the pangs of unrequited love, and the tumultuous journey of self-discovery that defines young adulthood.

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Chapter 3 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 3 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Megin finds herself captivated by the buzz surrounding a new girl at school, Zoe, who has just moved from California. Her friend Sue Ann enthusiastically shares myriad details about Zoe's distinctive style, including her silver sandals and striking green eye shadow. Initially, Megin maintains a dismissive attitude toward the gossip but can't help but feel drawn to the excitement that surrounds Zoe, hinting at the allure of popularity.

As Megin begins her journey in junior high, she immerses herself in various activities and eagerly signs up for stage crew and lacrosse. Lacrosse, reminiscent of her love for ice hockey, initially sparks her enthusiasm. However, her enthusiasm is met with challenges during practice—she struggles to control the ball and faces an uptight coach, leading to a series of mishaps, including a comical fall.

In a pivotal moment during practice, Megin unexpectedly spots Zoe on the field beside her, marking the beginning of an intertwining dynamic between the two girls. This encounter signifies a shift in Megin's perspective as her reluctance to embrace the social hype surrounding Zoe begins to dissipate.

This chapter deftly explores themes central to the middle school experience: the excitement and anxieties of fitting in, the awkwardness of new



beginnings, and the complexities of self-identity in the face of peer pressure. Megin's ongoing struggle between her authentic self and the tempting allure of popularity personified by Zoe sets the stage for deeper interactions that are sure to unfold as the story progresses.

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Chapter 4: Greg

Summary of Chapter 4 from "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?"

In this chapter, we delve deeper into Greg's life, particularly highlighting his complicated relationship with his mother. The chapter begins with Greg's attempt to sell his weightlifting equipment, a gesture that symbolizes his desire to assert his identity and perhaps seek admiration from others. At home, his mother—a character who has a peculiar habit of practicing self-hypnosis—lies on the sofa in a drained state, almost resembling a zombie when she emerges from her trance. This tableau sets a tone of emotional distance; Greg feels increasingly isolated and yearns for a genuine connection with her.

As they engage in conversation, Greg's frustration becomes palpable. He longs to discuss his feelings, especially regarding his crush on Jennifer Wade, but his mother seems distracted, responding with vagueness that only amplifies his sense of alienation. Their exchange, which spirals from the mundane—like debating the disposal of shampoo—reveals a significant generational divide, with Greg struggling to communicate the deeper emotional currents of his teenage angst concerning romance and self-identity.



Feeling cut off from both his family and friends, Greg retreats to the shower, where he indulges in introspection, metaphorically bouncing his thoughts off the running water. It is here that he reflects on Jennifer, wishing she could recognize how much he has matured. Despite his reflections and personal growth, he grapples with the painful reality that she may still not reciprocate

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Chapter 5 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 5 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Megin spends a Saturday night at her friend Sue Ann's house, where the two girls engage in a candid and playful conversation under the dim light of a flickering television. Their discussion revolves around Zoe, a girl from California they both know, with Sue Ann eager to dissect her character and lifestyle. The mention of California, often associated with a laid-back, mature culture, serves as a backdrop against which Sue Ann explores the perceived differences between girls from there and their own experiences.

Despite Megin's attempts to downplay her interest in Zoe, Sue Ann is relentless, claiming there's more to Zoe than meets the eye. They share light-hearted jokes about adolescence, touching upon topics such as virginity and menstruation, and revealing Sue Ann's fascination with the notion that California girls are more advanced in their maturity and life experiences. Their comedic banter leads to misunderstandings of terms like "lip lock," further emphasizing their youthful innocence and the bizarre realities of growing up.

Amidst the laughter, deeper themes of curiosity, societal expectations, and the pressures surrounding sexuality emerge. Sue Ann even shares Zoe's intriguing belief that Halley's comet will herald significant life changes, which adds a mystical quality to Zoe's character and hints at the girls' desire



to seek meaning in their lives.

As the conversation progresses, Megin eventually pretends to fall asleep to avoid further probing, subtly revealing her own confusion about the expectations placed on teenagers regarding relationships and self-discovery. This chapter beautifully captures the innocent yet complex nature of adolescence, blending humor with the seriousness of navigating the transition into adulthood.

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Chapter 6 Summary: Greg

Summary of Chapter 6: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this chapter, Greg finds himself tangled in a web of lies and expectations, particularly centered around a fictional date he concocted with Jennifer Wade due to persistent pressure from his friend, Megamouth. To avoid the possibility of running into his family at the mall, he spends time with his friends Poff and Valducci. The trio struggles initially to figure out their plans but eventually land at McDonald's, where Valducci's comedic charm shines as he wins over two ninth-grade girls, Anita and Sara.

Valducci entertains the group with his silly humor, including a quirky joke about a remake of "Bambi" where the innocent deer becomes a martial arts master. While this banter creates a fun atmosphere, Greg can't fully engage; he feels the weight of his supposed date with Jennifer looming over him.

The outing continues at a bowling alley, where Greg is paired with Sara, and Valducci bowls with Anita. As Greg bowls, he is haunted by reminders of couples around him and the unrealistic expectations tied to his relationship with Jennifer. Frustration mounts, and he frequently escapes to the bathroom, especially when he encounters Megamouth again.



Overwhelmed by his feelings of entrapment and discomfort due to his fabricated story, Greg attempts to distance himself from his friends. The evening spirals into what he perceives as a complete failure, leading him back home in a foul mood. In a fit of frustration, he storms into Megamouth's cluttered room, only to injure himself in the disarray. When his parents intervene, Greg struggles to articulate the chaotic events of the night, grappling with the absurdity of his situation and the weight of his deceit.

This chapter captures the essence of teenage anxiety and the pressures to impress, as Greg navigates the tumultuous waters of early relationships. His internal battle between the desire for honesty and the obligations of social norms adds layers to his character, revealing the comedic yet challenging aspects of adolescence.



Chapter 7 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 7 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", the story unfolds with Megin, an energetic young girl, facing an unsettling situation: she has discovered a disgusting hair on her toothbrush. This unsettling find sends her rushing to her father, hoping to seek justice against her older brother, Grosso, whom she believes is the culprit behind this unsavory prank. Their playful exchange reveals a father-daughter dynamic full of humor and teasing, with Megin passionately advocating for her case even as her father remains skeptical about the necessity of punishment for something as trivial as a stray hair.

Fueled by her desire for revenge, Megin crafts a mischievous plan. With her mother away at her ceramics class, Megin sees the perfect opportunity to execute her "donut torture" scheme, using Grosso's sweet tooth as her weapon of choice. She cleverly entices her younger brother, Toddie, with the promise of delicious donuts and his very own cup of tea, thereby diverting his attention away from Grosso.

The chapter escalates into a comical food fight as Megin, Toddie, and Grosso engage in a whirlwind of donut-throwing chaos, oblivious to the household rules they are flouting. Toddie's innocent antics amplify the hilarity, adding to the fray as they indulge in the lighthearted mischief.



Just when the donut melee reaches its crescendo, their mother unexpectedly returns home, leading to a moment of tense hilarity as she encounters her children smeared in a mess of sugary remnants. This twist injects a sense of impending consequence into the merriment, encapsulating the unpredictable nature of family life. The chapter concludes with laughter-filled chaos, showcasing themes of sibling rivalry, the pursuit of justice, and the delightful anarchy that characterizes Megin's household. Her spirited personality and cleverness shine brightly throughout, painting a vivid picture of a not-so-ordinary Saturday morning in her lively family.

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Chapter 8: Greg

In Chapter 8, titled "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Greg faces the exhilarating yet tumultuous experience of young love as he admits his feelings for Jennifer Wade, a girl from Conestoga Junior High. This sudden realization sends Greg into a whirlwind of excitement and anxiety, causing him to dream about Jennifer and even confess his affection to a pillow, reflecting the awkward but heartfelt nature of teenage crushes.

Eager to see Jennifer, Greg impulsively decides to bike to school. However, his enthusiasm leads to trouble when a police officer catches him exceeding the speed limit in a school zone. The encounter is light-hearted, as the officer humorously questions Greg about his reckless speed, illustrating the typical interactions between authority figures and adolescents.

Despite this setback, Greg's determination to connect with Jennifer intensifies. The next day, he tries to feign illness to avoid school, but nature has other plans; rain complicates his ruse, culminating in a mishap where a truck splashes him, leading to a comical crash into a trash can. This incident underscores Greg's relentless spirit, showcasing both his drive and the humorous challenges of his journey.

The plot thickens when Greg receives an unexpected phone call from Sara Bellamy, a girl he hasn't spoken to since he unceremoniously abandoned her



at a bowling alley. Sara's invitation to a fair at Conestoga, where Jennifer will be working at a kissing booth, sends Greg into a mix of excitement and tension. This revelation forces him to confront his unresolved feelings for both girls, complicating an already tangled emotional landscape.

Key Events:

- Greg's declaration of love for Jennifer prompts an impulsive trip to school.
- A comical encounter with a police officer serves as a moment of levity.
- His attempts to skip school are thwarted by both rain and misfortune.
- Sara's invitation introduces new dynamics in Greg's budding romantic life.

Character Developments:

- Greg's vulnerability shines through as he navigates the complexities of affection for Jennifer and guilt towards Sara, highlighting the often messy emotions of adolescence.
- The police officer's role as an unlikely mentor conveys important life lessons about responsibility and decision-making.

Themes:

- The chapter captures the confusion and intensity of young love, where emotions can be both uplifting and overwhelming.



- It explores the intricacies of friendship amidst adolescent social interactions and rivalries.
- Greg's impulsive decisions carry consequences, making the story a relatable reflection on the challenges of growing up.

Overall, this chapter blends humor and relatability to vividly illustrate the trials and tribulations of Greg's teenage life, highlighting the universal experiences of love and friendship.

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Chapter 9 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 9 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", we delve into Moxie's life as she navigates the challenges of adolescence while balancing her athletic pursuits. After a grueling lacrosse practice under the watchful eye of their demanding coach, Mrs. Tofer, Moxie's exhaustion gets the better of her. Seeking solace and a pick-me-up, she stops by Dunkin' Donuts, where Jackie, a cheerful coworker, welcomes her with friendly conversation and a delicious french cruller, a type of pastry known for its light and flaky texture.

Their dialogue is filled with playful banter, highlighting the budding friendship between Moxie and Jackie as they both share a love for the sport. This moment of levity serves not only to lift Moxie's spirits but also illustrates the supportive environment fostered by their camaraderie.

Moxie's day takes on a deeper, more meaningful tone when she visits Emilie Bain at a nearby nursing home. Emilie, a spirited elderly woman, captivates Moxie with whimsical and exaggerated stories from her youth, particularly involving her experiences playing lacrosse. One tale stands out: a daring escapade in which she allegedly caught a jackrabbit to prove her prowess to the boys in her peer group. Through these anecdotes, we see not just Emilie's zest for life but also the importance of connecting the past with the present.



In an act of kindness, Moxie surprises Emilie with a french cruller, her favorite treat, even though the nursing home imposes dietary restrictions on her. This gesture signifies their growing friendship and brings joy to Emilie's day, emphasizing the importance of love and care across generations.

The chapter crescendos when Moxie unexpectedly discovers an old photograph of a girl holding a jackrabbit tucked away in her bag, echoing Emilie's stories and underscoring themes of memory and connection. This discovery marks a poignant moment for Moxie as she reflects on the diverse experiences that shape people's lives. Through her interactions with Jackie and Emilie, the chapter elegantly weaves together themes of friendship, resilience, and the timeless power of shared stories, showcasing Moxie's journey toward understanding and appreciating the richness of human connections.

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Chapter 10 Summary: Greg

In Chapter 10 of Jerry Spinelli's "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", we dive into the eagerly anticipated day of the school fair, where Greg is set to kiss his crush, Jennifer Wade, at the kissing booth. The chapter opens with Greg brimming with excitement and a dose of anxiety as he meticulously prepares for this momentous occasion. His morning routine is filled with humorous yet relatable antics, including intense workouts, grooming rituals, and careful meal choices aimed at achieving a perfect appearance. The light-hearted chaos is amplified by his younger brother, Toddie, known for his propensity for comedic mishaps, particularly his disruptive farting.

Greg's preparations also offer a glimpse into his emotional landscape. He dreams of the kiss as a profound connection but wrestles with self-doubt and the pressure of preserving Jennifer's innocence, highlighting his youthful romantic ideals. This inner conflict showcases not only his nervous anticipation but also the challenges of growing up and navigating young relationships.

On the bus to the fair, Greg interacts with Sara Bellamy, a girl who demonstrates a budding interest in him. Her bubbly enthusiasm, particularly for French culture, lightens the atmosphere and starkly contrasts with Greg's tense focus on his plans with Jennifer. However, upon arriving at the fair, Greg faces an unexpected letdown when he discovers that Jennifer is sick



and will not be at the kissing booth.

Just as disappointment looms, Sara suggests an impromptu kiss without the limitations of a ticket. This unexpected turn of events catches Greg off guard, leading to a sweetly awkward first kiss with her. This moment encapsulates the chapter's themes of youthful bravado, vulnerability, and the unpredictable nature of crushes. Spinelli effectively captures the essence of adolescence—the blend of hope, anxiety, and the excitement of first love—leaving readers with a vivid understanding of Greg's journey through the experiences of youth.

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Chapter 11 Summary: Megin

Chapter Summary: Megin Romeo and Juliet Get Down and Boogie

In this lively chapter, the stakes are high as the school prepares for Mr. MacWilliams' modern adaptation of Shakespeare's **Romeo and Juliet**. Set against the backdrop of fast-food restaurants, Romeo is reimagined as an employee at Burger King, while Juliet works at McDonald's. This contemporary twist reflects the cultural landscape familiar to today's youth, but the enthusiasm for the play is marred by a brewing conflict between two rival contenders for the lead role: Maggie Wentzel, a long-standing student eager to shine, and Zoe Miranda, a charismatic newcomer from California who quickly becomes the center of attention.

Megin, our thoughtful narrator, finds herself entangled in this rivalry. The tension escalates during a chaotic lunch scene where Zoe's confident demeanor leaves Megin feeling overshadowed, compounded by an embarrassing incident involving taco fillings that she spills all over herself. This mishap strains her friendship with Sue Ann, who, enamored with Zoe's charm, fails to support Megin during the confrontation, deepening Megin's feelings of isolation.

Despite the friction, Megin and Sue Ann manage to find comic relief in their



shared experiences. A particularly memorable moment occurs during auditions when Megin's attempt to regain her balance culminates in an accidental disaster—a set piece falls, resulting in Mr. MacWilliams' ire and heightening Megin's insecurities about her place in the stage crew.

As the chapter unfolds, a light-hearted subplot introduces a cockroach that appears in Megin's room, prompting a comical and somewhat chaotic hunt by her and Sue Ann. Their plan to sneak the intruder into the lair of their class bully, El Grosso, not only showcases their mischievous spirit but also rekindles their camaraderie, replacing earlier tensions with laughter and teamwork.

Key Events:

1. **The Play's Setting:** The innovative setting reimagines *Romeo and Juliet* through the lens of fast-food culture, making age-old themes relatable to contemporary teens.
2. **Friendship Strain:** Megin's sense of betrayal surfaces as she grapples with Sue Ann's inaction against Zoe, revealing the intricate dynamics of teenage friendships.
3. **The Audition Disaster:** Megin's blunder during auditions poignantly illustrates her insecurities, setting the stage for her growth throughout the chapter.
4. **Lighthearted Resolution:** The cockroach escapade allows Megin and



Sue Ann to reconnect, demonstrating how humor can bridge divides created by misunderstandings.

Character Developments:

- **Megin:** Navigating jealousy and insecurity, Megin embodies resilience, displaying loyalty and wit as she grapples with her self-image in relation to the dazzling Zoe.
- **Sue Ann:** Caught between fascination with Zoe and loyalty to Megin, Sue Ann reveals her own vulnerabilities, ultimately highlighting the complexities of teenage social dynamics.

Themes:

- **Friendship and Loyalty:** The chapter reveals the ebb and flow of adolescent friendships, exploring themes of jealousy, support, and the journey towards reconciliation.
- **Identity and Self-Image:** Megin's struggle with her self-worth compared to Zoe underscores the quest for identity that many teens face in their social circles.
- **Humor in Chaos:** Amidst the chaos of auditions and escalating rivalries, laughter emerges as a means of healing, showcasing the importance of humor in mending relationships.



Overall, this chapter skillfully intertwines the drama of youthful rivalries with moments of levity, encapsulating the tumultuous nature of adolescence and the profound yet often humorous experiences that define it.

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Chapter 12: Greg

Summary of Chapter 12: "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?"

In this chapter, the morning starts with Greg waking his parents on a Saturday, urgently reporting a cockroach sighting in his room. His dramatic insistence on the seriousness of the situation reflects both his frustration and the chaotic nature of family dynamics. As he describes the roach's swift movements, contrasting it with slower water bugs, it's clear that Greg feels genuinely unsettled by the encounter.

Greg's pleas for an exterminator are humorously dismissed by his father, who prefers using bug spray instead. The light-hearted banter among the family illustrates their typical interactions, with Greg blaming his messy sister Megamouth for the intrusion, eliciting laughter rather than concern. This moment highlights the playful yet antagonistic sibling rivalry that characterizes their household.

Tensions rise when Greg, annoyed with Megamouth's untidy room, throws a pizza crust into her space, igniting a chaotic confrontation. This incident not only showcases their sibling squabbles but also underlines the complex bond they share.



Later that day, during a reflective visit to the library, Greg grapples with his conscience, particularly concerning Sara Bellamy—a girl he realizes he has mistreated for his own benefit. Determined to make amends, he decides to avoid her, hoping to clear his conscience. Yet, fate intervenes when Sara approaches him, her charm breaking the ice between them. They share a light-hearted moment filled with laughter, emphasizing the nuanced nature of teenage relationships.

Sara's invitation to her party stirs a mix of excitement and apprehension in Greg, particularly due to his conflicting feelings for Jennifer Wade, another girl on his mind. Ultimately, he accepts the invitation, marking a key step in his emotional growth and suggesting a potential shift in his relationship with Sara.

Themes:

1. **Sibling Rivalry:** This chapter humorously explores the dynamic conflicts that arise between siblings, revealing the chaos and affection that coexist in family life.
2. **Conscience and Growth:** Greg's recognition of his prior mistreatment of Sara leads him to reflect on his actions, demonstrating a desire for personal integrity and honesty.
3. **Relationships:** The interplay between Greg, his family, and his peers captures the intricate emotions and social dynamics typical of adolescence.



Through vibrant dialogues and relatable situations, this chapter encapsulates the trials of growing up, deftly weaving together themes of family, responsibility, and interpersonal relationships with a humorous touch.

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Chapter 13 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 13 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", the chaos of family life and sibling rivalry is portrayed through Megin's struggles with her father. The chapter opens with him insisting that she clean her room due to her brother Gregory's fear of roaches, which Megin sees as unfair punishment for a mess she feels isn't entirely her fault. This feeling of being victimized fuels Megin's frustration and leads her to perceive the situation as a conspiracy against her.

Reluctantly, she begins to tidy up her room, but when her father mocks her for finishing quickly, she retaliates by refusing to visit Dunkin' Donuts—a beloved spot where she typically treats her friend Emilie. This small act of defiance highlights Megin's rebellious spirit and her disdain for chores, contributing to the chapter's comedic undertones.

As Megin continues to battle against cleaning, feelings of isolation and misunderstanding surface. An emotional moment occurs when her mother enters, sharing her own past struggles with tidiness. This candid conversation opens up a deeper connection, where Megin confesses her feelings of being overwhelmed and incapable of managing the task at hand.

Recognizing an opportunity for bonding, Megin's mother suggests they tackle the mess together. Their cooperative effort not only results in a



cleaner room but also reinforces their relationship through teamwork and shared experience. Following their successful clean-up, the two celebrate with a trip to Dunkin' Donuts, marking a sweet resolution to the tensions.

The chapter encapsulates the themes of family bonds, individuality, and the nuanced challenges of growing up. Megin's journey illustrates her desire to assert her independence while also highlighting her longing for connection with her family. The conclusion brings a lighthearted twist, as the playful interactions between Megin and Emilie showcase the joy of friendship, while a humorous family moment reminds readers that even mundane chores can transform into cherished memories when they involve loved ones.

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Chapter 14 Summary: Greg

Summary of Chapter 14: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this entertaining chapter, we delve into the everyday chaos of Greg's family life, beginning with his return from school. His father, Frank, excitedly announces a spontaneous day trip to the countryside to foster their “happy little family” togetherness. This sets the stage for a whirlwind family outing, revealing their quirky dynamics as they squash into the car. Greg's mother, stressed yet determined, navigates the typical sibling disputes unfolding in the backseat, where Toddie, the youngest member, inadvertently becomes the center of a tug-of-war, while Megamouth, Greg's sister, throws her usual tantrums over trivial matters. The scene is a humorous insight into how familial love often dances on the edge of frustration.

During the drive, Greg's mind is ablaze with thoughts of his crush, Jennifer Wade, who will be at Sara's birthday party that evening. The family's detour to Barney's Barn flea market adds an element of adventure to their trip, where Greg fortuitously finds a bracelet he believes is perfect for Jennifer. The owner graciously sells it to him for a bargain, ramping up Greg's excitement about his evening plans.



However, the day takes a turn for the worse when his father insists on a detour to find a pumpkin. Greg's anxiety about arriving late to the party intensifies with this unexpected delay. Things spiral into chaos when Toddie gets sick and vomits into an apple cider vat at a cider mill, prompting a comical yet awkward exchange with a cashier, as the family navigates the aftermath with lightheartedness.

Just when it seems their day can't get any more complicated, they run out of gas, leading Greg to dash to a nearby store for fuel, adding to the urgency of their late arrival. When he finally makes it to Sara's birthday party, laughter and music fill the air. Amidst the lively crowd, Greg spots Jennifer by the fireplace, and in a fleeting moment, she acknowledges him with a smile and a sweet remark about having a date. This interaction ignites a spark in Greg's heart, beautifully encapsulating the innocence and excitement of young love against the backdrop of the day's humorous chaos.

Key Themes and Character Developments

This chapter highlights the comedic yet chaotic nature of family dynamics, showing how love and exasperation coexist within familial relationships. Greg's anxiety about the party and his crush underscores the challenges of adolescence and the complexity of young emotions. The endearing connection he shares with Jennifer not only adds a touch of romantic innocence but also serves as a poignant reminder of the carefree joys of



youth amid life's unpredictable events.

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Chapter 15 Summary: Megin

Summary of Chapter 15: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this energetic chapter, the spotlight is on a climactic lacrosse game where Tofer finds herself on the bench, watching her close friend Sue Ann endure a harsh foul from a formidable player on the opposing Huntington Valley team. Overwhelmed with anger and a sense of protectiveness, Tofer impulsively charges onto the field to confront the aggressor, resulting in a chaotic showdown. Her fierce loyalty to Sue Ann shines bright, even as her coach admonishes her for her unsportsmanlike behavior. Realizing that lacrosse was merely a temporary distraction, Tofer decides to quit the team, embracing the freedom that comes with stepping away from this sport and paving the way for her true passion: ice hockey.

Once off the field, Tofer rejoins the theater crew for the school play, much to the delight of their director, Mr. MacWilliams. During rehearsals, she and Sue Ann have fun by playfully mimicking characters behind the scenes. Mr. MacWilliams unexpectedly thrusts Tofer into the role of Juliet, where she astounds everyone, including herself, with her acting ability. The performance finds its humorous climax when a mishap during the kissing scene leads to an embarrassing moment for Jeremy Bach, who plays Romeo, after he tumbles while attempting to deliver his lines.



The festivities continue when Zoe Miranda, the lead actress, invites the group to a party at the Skatium, highlighting ice skating as a central theme. Even though Tofer feels a bit anxious, she embraces the chance to skate and calls her friends to join her in a hockey game. At the lively party, the mood turns comedic when Tofer accidentally sends a puck hurtling into a cake, leading to a surprising and light-hearted moment with Zoe, who unexpectedly laughs off the incident. This shared humor helps to strengthen their budding friendship, as they exchange jokes about Jeremy and offer each other skating tips, bridging the gap between their diverse personalities.

Overall, this chapter richly illustrates themes of friendship, loyalty, and self-discovery. Tofer's passionate spirit and personal growth are evident as she breaks free from societal expectations, embraces her true interests, and forges unexpected connections in midst of the chaos of adolescence.

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Chapter 16: Greg

In Chapter 16, titled "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Greg navigates the tangled emotions that arise after his friend Jennifer Wade hints at him having a "date" with Sara Bellamy. This comment sparks a whirlwind of thoughts for Greg, causing him to ponder whether Jennifer has feelings for him. The revelation fills him with a mix of confusion and excitement, leading him to reflect deeply about his budding feelings for her.

On a snowy day, the white landscape serves as a backdrop for Greg's introspection. Fueled by a desire to support his friends and to ensure they never feel alone, he decides to send Jennifer a bracelet as a sign of friendship. His commitment to this act pushes him through the snowy weather to the post office. A comical interaction with the postman adds a light-hearted touch to the moment as Greg triumphantly sends off the bracelet, feeling happy and accomplished.

The day develops into a joyful sledding adventure with his friends, Poff and Valducci. Amid laughter and playful chaos, Valducci's antics, including humorous snowman destruction, elevate the group's spirits. The carefree activities deepen Greg's bond with his friends, yet an unexpected moment of intimacy occurs when Sara unexpectedly gets close to him. Panicking at the thought of how this could complicate his feelings for Jennifer, Greg abruptly distances himself from Sara, leading to a rift in their friendship.

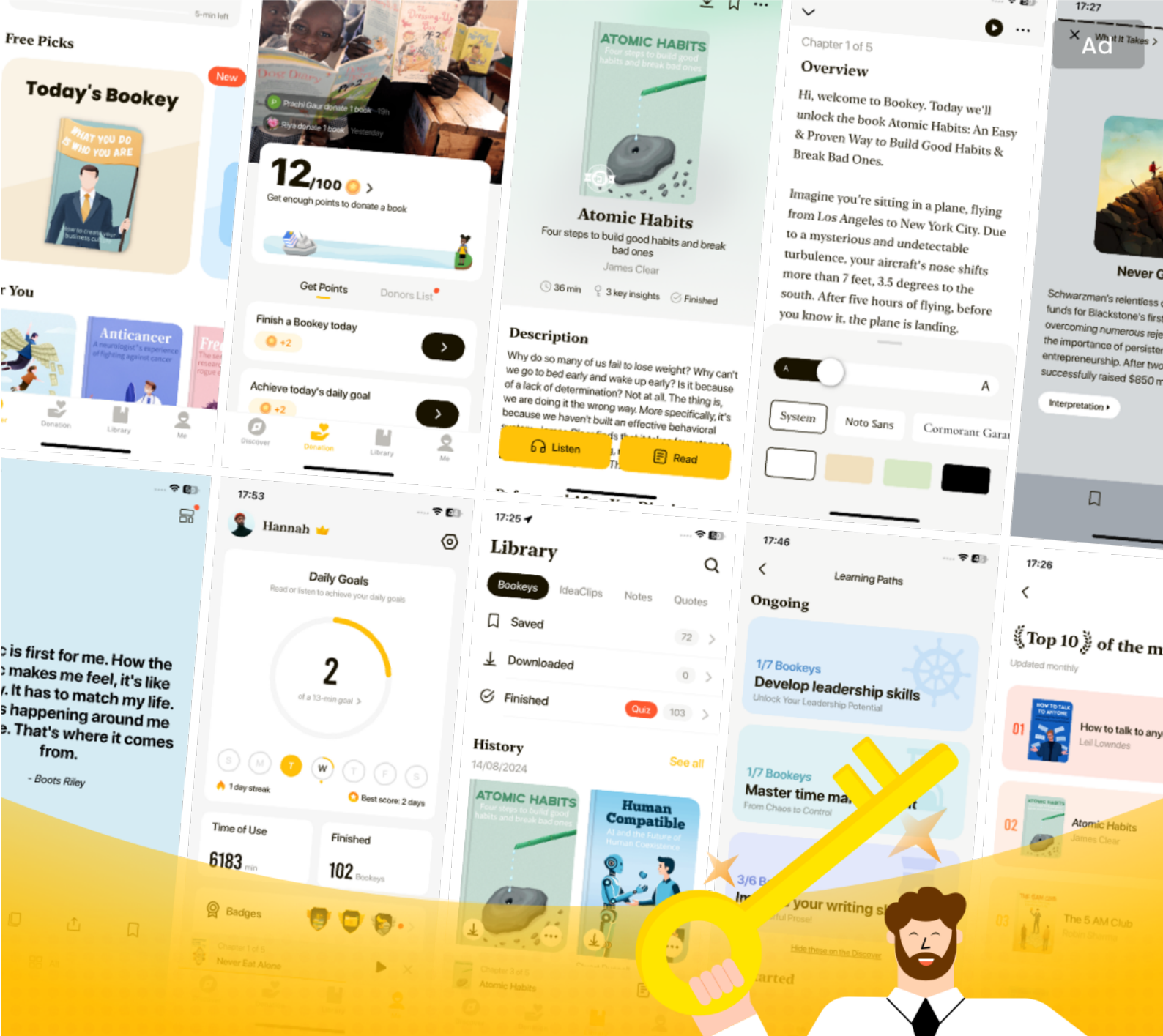


In the aftermath, Sara's puzzled demeanor creates tension as she holds back from Greg, hinting at a growing misunderstanding between them. The chapter ends with an unsettling cliffhanger as Sara mentions her intention to speak with Jennifer, leaving Greg distressed and unsure about the shifting dynamics of their relationships. This chapter poignantly explores themes of friendship, the confusion of young love, and the intricate social interactions that characterizes adolescence, all framed within the playful yet reflective ambiance of a snowy day.

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Chapter 17 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 17 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Megin's seemingly ordinary Saturday takes a surprising turn when she discovers her mother in a meditative state, which she refers to as "surviving." This self-hypnosis is her mother's way of coping with the stresses of life, particularly during the hectic holiday season. Megin's friend, Sue Ann, initially worried, finds relief upon understanding Megin's mother's unusual technique.

Excitedly, Megin shares her recent Christmas shopping experiences, including gifts for loved ones. However, tension arises when Sue Ann encourages Megin to consider a gift for Greg, a boy Megin harbors resentment towards. This moment highlights underlying complexities in Megin's emotional landscape—particularly her struggles with bitterness.

As Megin's mother awakens from her trance, the weight of the holiday's pressures becomes evident. This resurfaces Megin's guilt for her earlier response to Sue Ann, leading her to challenge Sue Ann to embrace new experiences, even if they are uncomfortable.

The narrative shifts as Megin visits Emilie, her elderly friend at Beechwood Manor. The age difference between them becomes a bridge rather than a barrier, as Emilie's excitement about her leg warmers illustrates the joy that



transcends years. Megin gifts her a sports-themed T-shirt, and they bond over decorating Emilie's wheelchair for the festive season, sharing laughter along the way.

Their outing turns more poignant as they admire the winter landscape, and Megin notes the lake's onset of freezing, igniting memories of youthful hockey games. In a heartfelt moment, she presents Emilie with a card asking her to be her "Honorary Grandmother." This request stirs insecurities in Emilie about the traditional role of grandmothers—cooking, knitting, and other expected skills. Megin's gentle reassurance illustrates that the essence of their relationship lies in love and connection, rather than conformity to conventional roles.

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates themes of friendship, the importance of giving, family dynamics, and intergenerational connections. Through Megin and Emilie's heartfelt interactions, readers witness the magic in simple moments, particularly during the warmth of the holiday season.



Chapter 18 Summary: Greg

Summary of Chapter 18: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this chapter, Greg experiences a warm glow after receiving a heartfelt thank-you letter from Jennifer, a girl he recently gifted a bracelet to. He finds joy in the letter's beautiful handwriting and the intimacy it suggests, stirring up his crush on her as Christmas approaches. Eager to find presents for his loved ones, he heads to the mall with friends Poff and Valducci, each boy embarking on his own quest for the perfect gifts. However, Greg's mind often drifts back to Jennifer, where excitement intertwines with nervousness about his budding feelings.

The mall outing takes a humorous turn when Valducci, fueled by a playful spirit, decides to sit on Santa Claus's lap, eliciting laughter from onlookers. Meanwhile, Greg notices Sara with their school counselor, Leo Borlock, indicating that she's seeking help for her own heartbreak. This sight helps lighten Greg's mood as he reflects on the joy of the upcoming holiday season.

Upon returning home, Greg feels a mix of eagerness and dread as he prepares to call Jennifer. Their conversation is a blend of awkward pauses and excitement, revealing both his interest and the uncertainties of teenage



romance. When he cautiously asks her out, she responds with a vague mention of family obligations during the holidays, leaving Greg with a whirling storm of hope and disappointment once they hang up.

The chapter wraps up with Greg sneaking out to the ice rink, where he channels his frustrations into practicing hockey alone under the night sky. This solitary activity symbolizes his internal struggle, as he takes aim at the backboard, yearning to hit his targets both in hockey and in navigating his emotions toward Jennifer.

Key Themes and Character Developments:

- **Growing Emotions:** Greg's feelings for Jennifer deepen, as evidenced by his fondness for her letter and his daydreams about her, highlighting the intensity of young love.
- **Friendship and Humor:** The lively shopping trip highlights the camaraderie between friends, with Valducci's antics providing comic relief amidst their gift-hunting mission.
- **Communication and Uncertainty:** Greg's anxious phone call to Jennifer exemplifies the complexities of adolescent relationships, where hope is often interwoven with insecurity.



- **Escaping Emotions:** Greg turns to hockey as a coping mechanism for his tumultuous emotions, showcasing how physical activity can serve as an outlet during turbulent times.

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Chapter 19 Summary: Megin

Summary of Chapter 19 from "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?"

In this vibrant chapter, Megin awakens with exhilaration, having spent a thrilling day of ice skating at Homestead Lake. The memory of meeting hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky and receiving a signed hockey stick serves as a powerful motivation for her love of the sport.

As the ice skating season kicks off, Megin enthusiastically joins her friends, including Sue Ann, who has a quirky penchant for crafting cozy "nests" on the ice. The atmosphere is electric as team selections take place, where Megin consistently outshines her rival, Grosso, much to his annoyance.

The excitement escalates as Megin scores multiple goals during the game, achieving her first-ever hat trick and bringing joy to her teammates. This achievement boosts her confidence and solidifies her reputation as a skilled player among her peers, enhancing her sense of belonging in this athletic community.

A delightful turn occurs when Megin encounters a new group of skaters led by Zoe, who introduces a lavish nest featuring unique treats like fondue and avocado dip—an interesting twist compared to the traditional snacks Megin



is used to. This encounter fosters a bond between the two girls, allowing Megin to embrace a broader social scene with newfound enthusiasm.

The chapter takes a playful turn as Grosso, in a cheeky move, steals Megin's donut, prompting a humorous chase that showcases her agility and cleverness. Successfully outmaneuvering him not only earns Megin the admiration of her friends but also reinforces her growing status within their group.

Throughout this chapter, themes of friendship, rivalry, and the joy of sportsmanship emerge. Megin's day at Homestead Lake is filled with laughter, competition, and meaningful connections, leaving her empowered and celebrated among her friends. This lively experience encapsulates the spirit of youth and the transformative power of sports.



Chapter 20: Greg

Summary of Chapter 20: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this emotionally charged chapter, Greg grapples with his feelings for two girls: Sara Bellamy, who seems to be moving on with Leo Borlock, and Jennifer Wade, a girl he fantasizes about but has yet to connect with. Greg's sense of invisibility around both girls leads him into a spiral of uncertainty and jealousy.

The chapter opens with Greg spotting Sara and Leo together at the mall and later at Homestead Lake. This sparks his imagination, leaving him to speculate on their relationship and whether he crosses their minds at all. The tension escalates during a skate session where Greg has an awkward tumble that lands him in Sara's lap, igniting a moment of both shock and attraction, mixed with bitterness over her apparent happiness with Leo.

Eager to see more of Sara, Greg attends a school play, where he becomes increasingly aware of her chemistry with Leo, paralleling their dynamic with the themes of "Romeo and Juliet" being performed onstage. As he watches them interact, jealousy consumes him, leading to visions of Sara and Leo snuggling, which intensifies his internal conflict.



Seeking guidance, Greg confides in Valducci, the quirky lighting technician who is infatuated with a girl named Zoe. Valducci's light-hearted banter provides a humorous contrast to Greg's angst, encouraging him to embrace his feelings rather than hide from them. Their friendship showcases the importance of connection and support in navigating emotional turmoil.

As the play reaches its climax, chaos erupts when Valducci accidentally loses control of the spotlight, but this unexpected mishap brings a twist. In the ensuing frenzy, Greg discovers that Sara and Leo are simply enjoying the show together, not the intimate couple he feared they were. This revelation offers him a mix of relief and renewed hope.

The chapter culminates in Greg taking a bold step: he reaches out to Ms. Ackerman to request that Sara partner with him for the school egg project. This decision marks a pivotal moment in Greg's character development, reflecting his transition from a place of insecurity to one of confidence and proactive engagement in his relationships.

Themes and Character Development

This chapter delves into the themes of adolescence, exploring youthful infatuation, jealousy, and the complexities of emerging relationships. Greg's evolution is evident as he navigates the rough waters of his emotions,



transitioning from a defeated mindset to one where he actively engages in his feelings. The juxtaposition between his inner struggles and the lively events of the play highlights the awkwardness of teenage love, capturing the unpredictable nature of navigating romantic interests during this tumultuous phase of life.

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Chapter 21 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 21 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?" by Jerry Spinelli, we delve into Megin's birthday celebrations, which take place on January 30, a day that feels reminiscent of Christmas for her due to the excitement and warmth surrounding the occasion. After school, she visits her friend Emilie, who surprises her with a thoughtful gift: a box of her favorite blueberry donuts, showcasing the close bond they share.

While Megin's parents opt for a smaller celebration rather than a grand party, she invites two friends to sleep over: Sue Ann and Zoe. Zoe, a confident California girl, immediately raises some apprehension in Sue Ann but also introduces a fun element to the night. The evening is filled with light-hearted teasing and familiar familial banter, especially surrounding the amusing differences between Megin and Zoe. This playful atmosphere is further enhanced by Toddie, Megin's younger brother, who develops a comical crush on Zoe, adding a delightful layer to the evening's antics.

As the birthday festivities unfold, Megin's family adheres to their customary rituals, even though Megin rolls her eyes at her father's call for everyone to gather and sing. The chapter artfully captures the humorous intricacies of family dynamics, especially with Toddie's funny behaviors and Megin's bemusement over his infatuation with Zoe.



The gift-opening ceremony brings excitement when Zoe gifts Megin a stunning kimono. However, Megin struggles to figure out how to wear it, leading to playful exchanges before Zoe dons it herself, causing a stir, especially in Toddie. The fun, however, is interrupted by Valducci, a boy who stays over with Toddie, adding an unexpected twist to the night as his presence disrupts the girls' camaraderie.

As they attempt to enjoy poker and television, interludes from Valducci and his friend Grosso create an atmosphere rich in comedy and mischief. Megin hatches a plan to scare Valducci by having Zoe sneak around, resulting in hilarious antics that highlight the girls' tight-knit friendship.

As bedtime approaches, the mood shifts to a more intimate and contemplative space. Zoe's nonchalant attitude while changing in front of Megin and Sue Ann sparks feelings of both embarrassment and admiration in Megin, particularly for Zoe's free-spirited nature. Together, they share a quiet moment gazing at the stars, reinforcing their bond and the complexities of friendship during adolescence.

Overall, this chapter artfully navigates themes of friendship, family rivalry, and the awkward yet exhilarating moments of growing up, providing a humorous yet relatable exploration of Megin's journey as she interacts with the vibrant Zoe and her tight circle of friends.



Chapter 22 Summary: Greg

Summary of Chapter 22: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this chapter, Greg is thrust into an unusual project that requires him to care for an egg like a baby, partnered with his classmate Sara. This assignment, given by their teacher Mrs. Ackerman, aims to teach students about responsibility through a mock-parenting experience, bringing both opportunities and challenges for the young participants.

Upon receiving their egg, Greg is less than thrilled about being paired with Sara, who shares his disinterest in the project. Their initial interactions are marked by a clash of personalities, particularly during discussions about the egg's name. Greg suggests "Jennifer," a choice dismissed by Sara with a hint of sarcasm, revealing their strained dynamic.

As the project unfolds, Greg becomes aware of a competitive atmosphere among classmates, with other pairs embellishing their shoebox nurseries. This stark contrast to their plain setup leads to tension when Sara chastises Greg for not taking the assignment seriously. Their working relationship is steeped in frustration, underscoring a mix of adolescent angst and unacknowledged feelings for one another.



A critical moment arises when, after a heated argument, Greg instinctively saves their egg from a precarious fall down the stairs. This act of care foreshadows a thawing in their relationship. The next day, Sara surprises him by transforming their shoebox into a beautifully decorated nursery, hinting at deeper feelings beneath her earlier indifference. However, the air is still thick with emotional complexity, especially as they grapple with the seriousness of their school project amid their evolving relationship.

As the weekend approaches, Sara mentions her plans to go out with another boy, Leo, prompting Greg to feel a surge of conflicting emotions. Determined to keep their egg safe, he insists on bringing it to her, signaling his commitment to their shared responsibilities while wrestling with jealousy and uncertainty about Sara's budding social life.

The chapter culminates with the egg in Greg's hands, symbolizing more than just a school project; it reflects his complicated feelings towards Sara and the fragility of young relationships. The closing scene leaves readers with a mix of humor and poignancy, as Greg navigates the tricky waters of adolescence, responsibility, and the complexities of young love.

Key Themes:

- **Responsibility and Growth:** The egg project serves as a metaphor for the journey of maturation and accountability experienced during



adolescence.

- **Communication and Conflict:** The misunderstandings between Greg and Sara highlight the impact of poor communication on relationships.
- **Ambiguity of Relationships:** Their interactions exemplify the confounding nature of young love, filled with mixed signals and misunderstandings.

Through light-hearted moments and genuine emotional nuances, Chapter 22 captures the essence of youth and the challenges that accompany the transition into adulthood.

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Chapter 23 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 23, titled "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", the story centers around Megin, a young girl torn between familial responsibilities and personal passions. Megin's mother insists that she take her younger brother, Toddie, to a library event, much to Megin's frustration, as she eagerly anticipates watching a special about hockey legend Wayne Gretzky on television that night.

Determined to escape this unwanted obligation, Megin resorts to an elaborate ruse, pretending to be ill with a stomach cramp—an act she commits with great theatricality, crawling on the floor and claiming she cannot stand. However, her deception spirals out of control when her father unexpectedly returns home, alerted by Megin's mother about her supposed condition. Believing there might be a serious issue—possibly appendicitis—he insists on taking her to the hospital, filling Megin with guilt over her lie.

After a check-up reveals no medical issues, Megin feels a momentary sense of relief, but her father decides she should stay home the following day, which is particularly disheartening for her as she has a crucial hockey game against the formidable Skatium Rink Rats. In defiance, Megin concocts a plan to sneak out, disguising Toddie in an oversized coat to take him along to the rink.



Upon her arrival, however, Megin faces the scrutinizing gaze of her teammate Skelley and her rival Grosso, who quickly expose her fib about being sick. In an effort to protect her team's integrity, Skelley deems Megin unfit to play, leaving her feeling humiliated and sidelined. In a fit of emotional chaos, Megin expresses her frustration by smashing an egg on the ice—an action that symbolizes her shattered hopes and dreams.

This chapter cleverly illustrates the themes of sibling responsibility and the consequences of deceit while exploring Megin's struggle to balance her obligations with her personal aspirations. Through her comedic attempts to dodge familial duties, the narrative captures the tumultuous nature of growing up, where the desires for independence often clash with the weight of responsibility.



Chapter 24: Greg

In Chapter 24 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Greg finds himself in a precarious situation after inadvertently damaging a fragile egg housed in a box that belongs to Sara, a significant figure in his life. This incident serves as a pivotal moment, highlighting the themes of friendship, vulnerability, and the nuances of young love.

The chapter begins with a chaotic scene set in a snowy landscape, where Greg is engaged in a rough tussle with Poff, another character. In a moment of frustration, Greg carelessly discards Sara's cherished Wayne Gretzky stick into a nearby icy lake. Following their disappointing loss in a game, Greg becomes increasingly consumed by anxiety over the damaged egg and feels an urgent need to come clean to Sara.

As the urgency intensifies, Greg embarks on a frantic search for Sara, calling her repeatedly in a mounting state of panic. When he finally arrives at Sara's house late at night, he encounters an unfriendly reception from her father, which amplifies his apprehension. However, her mother's warmth offers a moment of reprieve as she immediately grasps the seriousness of the situation upon seeing the damaged box.

When Sara appears, her shock and distress over the loss of her project become evident. The conversation reveals the deep emotional significance of



the egg to her, underscoring their shared connection. In a poignant turn of events, Sara's sorrow evolves into a moment of intimacy, resulting in a tender kiss on the porch. This gesture signifies not only a deepening of their relationship but also illustrates how shared challenges can forge stronger bonds.

By the end of the chapter, Greg and Sara's connection has evolved, hinting at personal growth and a stronger partnership, despite the challenges that lie ahead. Their experiences together serve to emphasize the complexities of young love, as they navigate their emotions amidst the chaos of adolescence.

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Chapter 25 Summary: Megin

Summary of Chapter 25: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In Chapter 25, the tension between Megin and her brother Gregory, along with their friend Grosso, reaches a boiling point, illustrating the complex dynamics of sibling relationships. The chapter begins with Megin sitting on the couch while their father paces anxiously, visibly upset by the escalating hostility between his children. This conflict centers around a seemingly trivial incident—an egg marked for their special breakfast, which Gregory blames Megin for breaking. Megin feels unjustly accused, believing the situation has been blown out of proportion by Grosso, who insists that the marked eggs were important.

Their father's disappointment deepens as he reflects on happier memories from their childhood, a time when the siblings shared joy instead of animosity. Megin, however, dismisses these recollections, emphasizing their current cycle of retaliation that has transformed once-innocent sibling teasing into a bitter feud. The father's attempt to mediate fails as he enforces harsh rules, grounding Megin and threatening to postpone her prized new hockey stick—an act that only heightens her sense of injustice, as she perceives Gregory as receiving no punishment for his role in the ongoing conflict.



As tensions flare, Megin's frustration culminates in a chaotic outburst where she accidentally knocks over a cherished ceramic leopard, handmade by their mother. This act symbolizes Megin's emotional turmoil and leads her to retreat to her room, consumed by guilt and anger. The chapter concludes with her feeling profoundly isolated, haunted by the belief that her father now regards her with disdain, marking a pivotal moment in her journey of self-discovery and the painful realities of growing up.

Themes and Character Development:

This chapter profoundly explores the emotional turmoil of sibling rivalries, highlighting themes of conflict, misunderstanding, and the longing for familial acceptance. Megin's internal struggle underscores her deep desire for approval, as she grapples with her father's disappointment. The stark contrast between her fond memories with Gregory and their present-day strife serves as a poignant reminder of how fragile familial bonds can become. Ultimately, this chapter marks a crucial turning point for Megin as she confronts the complexities of her relationships and the consequences of her actions.



Chapter 26 Summary: Greg

In Chapter 26, titled "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Greg finds himself eager to reconnect with Sara following an awkward moment at school when she slapped him. Their interactions take a turn for the better during lunch in the cafeteria, where they engage in playful banter that reveals the undercurrents of their past. Sara's previous relationship with Leo, which sparked feelings of jealousy in Greg, comes to light, deepening their conversation and hinting at a renewed emotional connection.

As snow falls heavily outside, the two share reflections on their school experiences, including the school play where Greg watched Sara and Leo from the sidelines. This moment becomes significant when Greg candidly admits he struggled with seeing her with Leo, showcasing a vulnerability that strengthens their bond. Sara's curiosity about Greg's feelings further illuminates their emerging intimacy, as they navigate their past misunderstandings and current dynamics with a newfound honesty.

After school, the mood shifts when Greg discovers an unexpected poem in his locker, written by John Poff, a football player known for his tough exterior. The poem's introspective nature invites intrigue and a sense of depth amidst the teenage chaos. In a poignant gesture of closure, Greg and Sara decide to bury a pair of Camille's pink pajamas, honoring a shared loss and marking an emotional passage. As they dig through the snow, the



contrast between the harsh winter and the warmth of their shared memories reflects the complexities of growing up.

The chapter concludes on a tender note, with Sara placing her hand on Greg's, solidifying their deepening relationship amidst the serene snowfall. Themes of young love, emotional complexity, and the bittersweet essence of adolescence resonate throughout this pivotal chapter, highlighting the journey of two young hearts navigating the trials of growing up together.

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Chapter 27 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 27, Megin navigates a tumultuous emotional landscape following a week-long grounding imposed by her father. The punishment strikes at a particularly vulnerable time, coinciding with her anticipation of receiving a new hockey stick, which only deepens her sense of injustice and frustration. Megin feels the weight of her father's authority, a dynamic exacerbated by her mother's attempts to mediate, urging Megin to see her father's desire for control. Unwilling to accept this reasoning, Megin storms out, embodying the rebellious spirit of adolescence.

As the days pass, the grounding leads Megin into a spiraling loneliness. Avoiding her close friend Emilie, she struggles internally with guilt, feeling torn between her love for hockey and the value of their friendship. This internal conflict is particularly poignant, as Megin imagines Emilie's support and dedication while grappling with the notion that she might be prioritizing a material possession over a cherished relationship.

On Thursday, overwhelmed by her emotions and the weight of isolation, Megin decides to visit Emilie at Beechwood Manor. The decision stems from a mix of desperation and a yearning for connection. However, a shocking turn of events awaits her there. Megin stumbles upon an elderly woman rifling through Emilie's belongings, which provokes a frantic response. In her urgent quest for answers, she confronts the nursing home



director, Mrs. Flagstaff, only to receive the shattering news of Emilie's death.

Megin's world collapses in that moment, engulfed by disbelief and denial. The loss of her friend thrusts her into a chaotic state, leading her to flee from the nursing home as if running from the reality of grief itself. Clinging to the lingering hope that Emilie is still somehow waiting for her, Megin's turmoil becomes a powerful representation of youth facing the stark realities of life and loss.

This chapter delves deeply into themes of youth, friendship, and the harrowing understanding of mortality, mirroring Megin's heartache and confusion in the face of sudden, tragic change. Readers are drawn into her emotional vortex, resonating with the poignant exploration of loss and the difficult journey toward acceptance.

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Chapter 28: Greg

Summary of Chapter 28: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this chapter, the narrative centers on Greg, who takes on the role of confidant and mentor to his exuberant friend Valducci. Valducci is infatuated with a glamorous seventh-grader named Zoe, and his over-the-top attempts to woo her, including karate chops and high kicks, leave Greg skeptical. He emphasizes to Valducci the importance of authenticity and being oneself, rather than resorting to flashy antics that may only serve to alienate rather than attract.

Despite Greg's prudent advice, Valducci remains convinced that he has successfully captured Zoe's interest. During lunch, he orchestrates a grand, albeit misguided, performance to showcase his talents. Unfortunately, instead of impressing Zoe, his efforts attract laughter from their peers, much to Greg's dismay. Zoe's lack of amusement exacerbates Valducci's disappointment and highlights the disconnect between his intentions and the reality of the situation.

The mood of the chapter dramatically shifts when troubling news arises regarding Greg's sister, Megin. Rumors begin to circulate about her disappearance—she was last seen on her way to school, and now the police



are involved, generating a wave of concern among Greg and his family. The atmosphere grows increasingly tense as they grapple with the possibility of Megin being missing, transforming the focus from adolescent concerns to urgent, heart-wrenching family worries.

As night falls, Greg's anxiety mounts as he embarks on a frantic search for answers about Megin's fate, leaving the family in a state of anxious uncertainty. The stark change in tone underscores a blend of typical middle school dilemmas with more serious, real-world issues, showcasing the fragility of safety and the deep bonds that define their relationships.

Key Events:

- Greg advises Valducci to adopt a more genuine approach with Zoe instead of resorting to dramatic flair.
- Valducci's attempt to impress Zoe backfires, highlighting his misguided confidence.
- The chapter's tone shifts dramatically with Megin's reported disappearance, invoking worry and police involvement.

Character Developments:

- Greg demonstrates growth and maturity by stepping into a mentor role for Valducci, indicating his expanding sense of responsibility within friendships.
- Valducci's overconfidence and misguided tactics underscore the challenges of adolescence, illustrating his misunderstanding of what it takes to connect



with someone genuinely.

Themes:

- The juxtaposition of adolescence and maturity is evident as Greg's sensible advice clashes with Valducci's impulsive approach.
- The chapter also explores themes of anxiety related to family and friendship, particularly in light of Megin's disappearance, emphasizing the delicate nature of safety and the bonds that keep them united.

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Chapter 29 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 29, the protagonist, Moxie, confronts the profound grief stemming from the recent death of his beloved grandmother, Emilie. The scene opens with Moxie walking to school, his mind engulfed in a haze of emotion and reflecting on his loss, compounded by the realization that his prized possession, a Wayne Gretzky autographed hockey stick, is also missing. This dual absence amplifies his feelings of isolation and detachment from the world around him.

Instead of proceeding to school, Moxie takes a detour to a nearby Dunkin' Donuts, where he encounters Jackie, a friendly face who offers him warm blueberry-filled donuts as a gesture of kindness. Despite her good intentions, Moxie feels unworthy of her generosity, his heart heavy with guilt and sadness over his grandmother's passing.

Struggling with his emotions, Moxie lashes out in anger, unintentionally blaming Jackie and others for contributing to Emilie's unhealthy habits that he believes led to her death. In a fit of rage, he throws a cruller, which acts as a catalyst for deeper introspection. As he wanders aimlessly, vivid memories of his life begin to surface. Moxie recalls significant moments, including receiving the autographed hockey stick, joyful times spent with family, and the warm bond he shared with Emilie.



This reflective journey leads him far from his original destination to a place reminiscent of carefree childhood days with his friend, Sue Ann. When he arrives at the Homestead House, he discovers the doors locked but finds a way in through a window. Inside, Moxie feels the weight of exhaustion, both physical and emotional, as he explores the quaint kitchen and munches on dried apples, seeking comfort in his old haunts.

As fatigue overtakes him, Moxie curls up on a lumpy mattress in a bedroom, revealing his deep-seated turmoil. Here, in this quiet and forgotten space, he finds a momentary escape from his intense sorrow as he drifts off to sleep, embodying the themes of grief, nostalgia, and the long road to coping with loss. The chapter poignantly illustrates Moxie's vulnerability and his desperate search for solace amid the chaos of his emotions.

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Chapter 30 Summary: Greg

Summary of Chapter 30: "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?"

In this evocative chapter, Greg finds himself on a frozen lake, practicing hockey with little more than his stick and puck, isolated in the dark. This quiet moment allows his thoughts to drift towards his sister, Jennifer Wade, who has recently faced troubling circumstances, including a creepy encounter that haunts him. In a blend of concern and imagination, Greg envisions a scenario in which he heroically saves her, showcasing his protective instincts.

As he skates, Greg wrestles with guilt from a past mistake—one where he threw away Jennifer's cherished hockey stick, signed by the legendary Wayne Gretzky. This act, driven by a mix of anger and jealousy—stemming from her winning a coveted hockey game ticket—creates a rift that he longs to mend. His guilt not only highlights their strained relationship but also propels him into action; he is determined to retrieve the stick as a means of seeking redemption and reconnecting with Jennifer.

Navigating the icy surface, Greg's cautious yet resolute movements symbolize his emotional state—cold and uncertain, yet solid enough to allow for progress. Just when he nearly skates past it, he spots the lost stick,



illustrating the clarity and commitment he feels to repair their bond. This moment marks a pivotal point for Greg, signifying both his acknowledgment of past mistakes and his renewed hope for reconciliation with his sister.

Through rich internal dialogue and vivid imagery, this chapter delves into themes of family loyalty, guilt, and the trials of adolescence, ultimately portraying Greg's journey towards understanding and redemption. The chapter concludes on an uplifting note, as Greg reaches for the stick, symbolizing a fresh start in his relationship with Jennifer.

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Chapter 31 Summary: Megin

In Chapter 31, the atmosphere of suspense and tension envelops Megin as she navigates a night steeped in mystery and fear. The chapter opens with the unsettling sound of "tock-tock," which draws Megin's attention to her friend El Grosso, who is venting his emotional turmoil by shooting pucks into a practice board near the lake. Megin senses that El Grosso is grappling with his feelings for Jennifer Wade, a situation layered with adolescent confusion and yearning. Compounding her anxiety, Megin is confronted by the dark solitude of her surroundings and the unease of returning home, enhancing the chapter's suspenseful tone.

As she wanders through her creaky old house, Megin's imagination spirals, conjuring images of lurking ghouls in the shadows. In a moment of impulsive fear, she attempts to escape through a window but comically tumbles outside. However, her focus shifts dramatically when she hears El Grosso calling for help from the frozen lake—a pivotal moment that transforms her fear into a sense of urgency.

When Megin reaches the thin ice, she is horrified to discover that her brother is drowning beneath its surface. Driven by instinct, she bravely acts, despite the increasing danger as the ice threatens to crack further beneath her. In a desperate bid to save him, she removes her coat and flings it into the icy water for him to grasp. In the midst of chaos, communication between them



becomes a lifeline, with El Grosso instructing Megin on how to leverage herself while he extends his hockey stick toward her.

The chapter expertly builds tension, showcasing Megin's courage and resourcefulness in this life-and-death scenario. It emphasizes the deep bond between siblings, illustrating themes of familial loyalty, courage in the face of fear, and the unbreakable instinct to protect loved ones. As Megin reaches for the hockey stick, readers are left breathless, acutely aware of the precariousness of the situation and the stakes at play.

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Chapter 32: Greg

In Chapter 32, titled "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", the narrative unfolds a harrowing scene as Greg and his sister Megin find themselves in a life-or-death situation after plunging through breaking ice into frigid waters. The chapter opens with a surge of panic as Greg locks eyes with his sister, fear evident in her expression. They desperately cling to a stick that connects them, fighting against the perils of the icy depths.

As the icy water envelops them, memories of joyful moments shared with Megin flash through Greg's mind, providing a stark contrast to their dire circumstances. This emotional juxtaposition heightens the tension as they struggle underwater. Their fight for survival culminates when Greg manages to break through the ice for a much-needed gasp of air, only to find Megin gripping onto him in desperation.

Together, they press on, paddling and kicking with all their strength to find safety on solid ground. Yet, as they finally reach the shore, the bone-chilling cold takes a toll on Greg, leaving him shivering and exhausted. Despite his overwhelming desire for warmth and relief, the bond with Megin serves as a beacon of hope and focus amidst their physical suffering.

Just when it seems all is lost, they are discovered by passersby who quickly rush to their aid. The chaotic flurry of activity brings them back to safety,



contrasting sharply with the frightening ordeal they just endured. This chapter poignantly explores themes of survival and the unbreakable sibling bond, illustrating how shared adversity can forge deeper connections and resilience in the face of danger. Greg and Megin's experience is a gripping reminder of the importance of family and the strength they can draw from each other, even in the most perilous situations.

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Chapter 33 Summary: Megin

Summary of Chapter 33: Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

In this poignant chapter, Megin finds herself recovering in a hospital bed, surrounded by a wave of love and concern from her family. The scene opens with her mother bursting in, overwhelmed with relief and emotion as she embraces Megin tightly. This heartfelt reunion is soon joined by her father and brother, Toddie, creating an atmosphere filled with tears but also laughter as they navigate their overwhelming feelings together.

A significant moment arises when Megin learns that she has played a crucial role in saving her friend Greg from a near-drowning incident. The news brings her relief, knowing he is going to be okay, yet it also adds to the complexity of her emotions regarding the recent events. The family's conversation turns lighthearted when they discuss concerns about Megin being kidnapped, contrasting their worry with Megin's reassurances that she is not the type to be taken.

As the visit continues, her family presents her with heartfelt tokens of love, including her hockey stick retrieved from the ice, a box of blueberry-filled donuts from a friend, and a handmade red sweater from her grandmother — a charming creation that is imperfect yet filled with warmth. Each gift serves



as a reminder of the support surrounding her during this challenging time.

Amid her family's affection, Megin grapples with a kaleidoscope of feelings, particularly a bittersweet sense of loss as she recalls her late friend Emilie. The chapter emphasizes the intertwined themes of family love, enduring friendship, and the quest for resilience in the face of grief. With her mother by her side, Megin learns that she will soon be discharged from the hospital, though Greg will need to stay for an extra day. Motivated by a desire to be brave, she attempts to visit Greg but ultimately decides to focus on her recovery at home when she finds another occupant in his room.

This chapter captures Megin's journey towards healing, illustrating the powerful bonds that support her through the storm of recovery and reflective grieving.

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Chapter 34 Summary: Greg

In Chapter 34 of "Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?", Greg grapples with the mixed emotions surrounding his birthday, which arrives shortly after his recent hospital stay. Initially opposed to a grand celebration, he comes to appreciate his mother's enthusiasm for a small "welcome-home" party. To round out the festivities, he invites his friends Sara, Poff, and Valducci, while his sister Megin extends an invitation to her friends, particularly anticipating that Sue Ann and Zoe will join.

As the party gets underway, the mood shifts from casual celebration to a moment of tension when Valducci impulsively challenges Zoe to throw a dart at an apple balanced on his head. This risky display captures everyone's attention and puts Zoe in a difficult position. Surprisingly, she refrains from throwing the dart, exhibiting a moment of maturity that impresses both Greg and the other guests, defusing the tension and replacing it with laughter.

The highlight of the celebration comes during the "Happy Birthday" song, which takes a humorous turn when Megin seizes the moment to sing the final line solo, injecting her personality into the festivities. This uplifting finale underscores the joy that friends and family can create together, transforming what started as a simple birthday gathering into a memorable event full of unexpected connections and laughter.



Throughout the chapter, themes of friendship, acceptance, and family bonds resonate strongly. Greg's initial reluctance to celebrate gradually turns into appreciation for the warmth and support of his loved ones. This journey reflects the essence of homecoming—finding comfort and joy in familial ties and friendships during moments of transition, ultimately reminding readers of the significance of togetherness in navigating life's challenges.

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