# **Between the Lines Study Guide**

# **Between the Lines by Tammara Webber**

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# **Plot Summary**

Love, relationships, and taking charge of one's future are all themes in the novel Between the Lines by Tammara Webber. Set against the backdrop of filming for an Americanized version of Pride and Prejudice, the novel tells the story of a love triangle between self-centered, rich actor Reid Alexander, down-to-earth Graham Douglas, and a young starlet Emma Pierce. The novel also deals with the challenges of acting as well as the inevitable breakdown of a story when it is translated into a movie.

Even though she's not really sure she wants to, Emma Pierce tries out for the part of Lizbeth in the movie School Pride. She does so because her father wants her to, and also because she wants to get the chance to meet Reid Alexander, the good looking teen actor who has been chosen to play the lead role. Emma balks at the part because the movie is based on Pride and Prejudice, a novel that was her mother's favorite. Not only is the book fraught with memories of the mother that Emma misses desperately even though she never really knew her, Emma is also afraid what the movie scriptwriters will do to the story.

Once she is chosen as the lead actress for the movie and is on the set, Emma finds herself torn between the attractive Reid and Graham Douglas, who has become her friend and running partner. Reid pressures Emma for sex while Graham listens to Emma's dreams and supports her desires to go to college and do work that matters. Emma feels her world has been destroyed when she and her best friend have a fight because of Emma's new found popularity. Things go from bad to worse when Emma learns that several years prior, Reid got Brooke, another School Pride actress pregnant, then abandoned her. Meanwhile, Emma is struggling to find a way to reconnect with her father whom she feels she has lost since her mother's death and his marriage to Chloe who is young and sexy.

Emma follows Graham back to New York where she decides to go to school. Here, she learns that he has a daughter. Despite Graham's fear, the two reconnect. Emma finally learns there has been no relationship between Graham and Brooke, the two were just friends because they were both young, unwed parents. Emma also opens up about her breakup with her best friend that upset her so badly during their last weeks of filming. The novel ends with the two finally confessing their true feelings about one another.



# **Chapters 1-3**

## **Summary**

### Chapter 1

Reid has sneaked a musician from a concert he has attended into his room at his parent's house. The musician indicates he is still a baby. The following morning, Reid is awakened from his alcohol-induced sleep by his cell phone ringing. It is his manager telling him he got the part of Will Darcy in the movie School Pride.

Emma's father is asking her to consider an audition for the part of Lizbeth Bennet in the movie School Pride. Emma is tired of doing films, but agrees with her father to avoid a confrontation. She is tired of not being a regular girl but she feels like her father will not understand her.

#### Chapter 2

Reid's mother reminds him he is supposed to eat dinner with his parents that night, an occasion he tries to avoid whenever possible. At lunch, his public relations representative suggests he get involved in some charitable efforts. Reid agrees to giving some money but refuses to take an active role in any manual labor.

Emily calls Emma telling her that Reid Alexander is on Entertainment Tonight. When Emma learns that Reid is playing Darcy, she feels more interested in the role. The following morning Emma hears her father and stepmother discussing Emma's role. She is surprised that her father doesn't speak out more in her defense. Emma indicates that she still isn't sure if she wants the part or not. She also believes Jane Austin might be offended by the interpretation of her book.

#### Chapter 3

Reid learns Brooke Cameron will be playing Caroline Bingley. Adam Richter mentions that he remembers Reid and Brooke working together before, a memory Reid doesn't want to relive. Emma auditions for the part of Lizbeth Bennet. Although Lizbeth's reactions to Will seem wrong, Emma follows the script as best she can. She is told the producer will be in touch.

# **Analysis**

Introduction to the plot as well as development of the main characters begins in these first three chapters. It can be assumed that Emma will be chosen for a role in School Pride even though she is not really sure she wants to continue in the movie business. Because Reid Alexander, a highly attractive teen actor, has been given the leading male



role, Emma's interest in the role of Lizbeth Bennet increases because she is interested in meeting Reid.

Reid is portrayed as a pretty playboy. Even though he still lives at home, he regularly sneaks women into his room at home. He drinks and parties. Reid has just turned eighteen, and his public relations representative thinks that he should take up some charitable cause. Reid opts to give money to an animal related cause believing that it will make him more attractive to women. He refuses to do anything that requires manual labor or doing anything in which he does not believe. One of Reid's biggest problems seems to be his rocky relationship with his parents. He does not like spending time with them. He believes that his mother will fall apart when he moves away from home.

Emma also has a strained relationship with her parents. Her stepmother wants Emma to audition for the part in School Pride because she thinks the male role, played by Reid is "yummy hot." Emma is offended by her stepmother's reaction and believes she is acting inappropriately for a woman her age. Emma is also offended because her father does not defend her career and the hard work that she has put into it. Additionally, Emma does not really want to continue her career as an actress. She wants to live the life of an average teenager, something that she has never experienced before.

One theme that is introduced in this section of the novel is that of the changes made to Jane Austen's classic novel Pride and Prejudice in the translation to an Americanized school movie. The book is Emma's favorite, but she believes that Austen might be turning in her grave because of the changes made to the content.

### **Discussion Question 1**

Describe Emma's relationship with her parents.

## **Discussion Question 2**

Describe Reid's relationship with his parents.

# **Discussion Question 3**

Why does Emma decide to audition for a role in School Pride even though she doesn't really want to do any more acting?

### Vocabulary

Interference, synchronized, rancor, deduce, depress, inhibitions, inebriation, callously, abysmal, prominent, compromise, contemplate, entrenched, pretentious, endorse, stipulation, perpetually, disheveled, elation, induce, maniacal, inclinations, sensual, concurrently, livid, mesmerizing, stupefied



# **Chapters 4-6**

## **Summary**

### Chapter 4

Although the role still hasn't been awarded, Reid knows that Emma is the right choice in Chapter 4. Richter agrees and suggests that they call Emma back for a second audition. Emma is vague when her parents ask about the audition. Back at the hotel though she calls her best friend Emily and gives her all the details. Emma shares her concerns of not being taken as a serious actress if she does this movie, Emily sympathizes with her worries, telling her she will soon be in control of her own career.

### Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, Reid gets a text from his mother reminding him about their dinner plans. He goes shopping first, then returns home to find his mother alone. She is drinking and tells Reid that his father got held up with a case. He half-heartedly tries to get his mother to eat with him. She refuses, and he leaves to eat with a friend. He pretends not to hear when his mother calls after him that she loves him. Meanwhile, Emma continues to be questioned by her parents and her agent the following morning. While they are talking, Dan gets a phone call asking Emma to come back in for a second audition.

### Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, Reid looks forward to running more scenes with Emma. After her second audition he is certain that she is the one to play Lizbeth. Emma comes home from the gym to find her parents preparing to celebrate with a bottle of champagne. She has been chosen for the role of Lizbeth.

### **Analysis**

These three chapters basically cover the thoughts and actions of Emma and Reid during the time span of the auditions for the movie. Although Reid recognizes that Emma is the proper one for the part from the start, Emma is surprised to learn that she has been chosen.

Since there is little in the way of plot or character development in this section of chapters, this analysis section is a good place to discuss the structure of the novel. The book is basically told from two different points of first person point of view. Reid generally narrates the first half of each chapter, while Emma narrates the second half. The story is told in linear form with Emma picking up the story after the time that Reid's narration ends.



# **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Reid believe that Emma should be the one to play Lizbeth?

# **Discussion Question 2**

Why is Emma so vague when her parents ask her the details of her first audition?

# **Discussion Question 3**

What member of Emma's family seems most excited that Emma has gotten the part of Lizbeth?

# Vocabulary

Negate, prominent, reticence, elaborate, bequeathed, enviable, entourage, paparazzi, interrogate, enviable, verbatim, impeccable, antagonistic, lascivious, vortex, hedonism.



# Chapters 7-9

## **Summary**

### Chapter 7

In Chapter 7, Reid and his friend Tadd Wyler, who is playing another character in the movie, are escorted to the plane by a bodyguard who will accompany them on their flight. Since Reid's last film was released his fan base has increased dramatically. Reid does spend a few minutes with his mother before he leaves to board his flight. He knows that he won't think much about her while he's filming. He also knows that she will be alone and drinking. When the two part, Reid wonders why he finds it hard to tell his mother that he loves her. Emma is on her own flight to Austin with Meredith Reynolds, MiShaun Grant and Jenna Grant who will also play parts in School Pride. Jenna tries to convince Emma that she needs to go to college, an option that Emma has never considered before. At the hotel, Emma notices a cute guy dressed in pajama pants says hello to her. After the first day of filming, she and some of the girls eat dinner together at a bar and grill. Emma notices the way that Brooke is so sexually mature and seems to know how to handle men.

### Chapter 8

In Chapter 8, Reid sees Emma on set for the first time, believing that she has been looking for him. He also sees Brooke. Noticing that she is even more beautiful now than at sixteen, he wonders how their working relationship will progress. At lunch, Reid interrupts a conversation between Emma and MiShaun. Reid gets a tuna sandwich, and MiShaun chides him for eating tuna before a kissing scene. Reid is impressed by the way Emma also eats a tuna sandwich saying that it will keep her from noticing the taste on him. He invites Emma to hang out with the rest of the crew on the strip. Emma is impressed when they film the kissing scene that Reid has minty fresh breath. That evening there is an outside scene to be filmed. It is briefly interrupted by screaming teenaged girls. The fans are made happy only with a promise that they'll have an up close session with Reid later. When the time for that session comes, Reid makes Emma join him. After the encounter, she texts Emily.

#### Chapter 9

In Chapter 9, Reid and Tadd try to determine what sort of relationship that Brooke and Graham have with one another. Reid doesn't believe the two of them would be close if Graham weren't gay. Reid describes Brooke as a guy with boobs because he believes that she thinks like a guy. That evening, Emma can't believe they all got into a club even though most of them are underage. She asks MiShaun about the guy sitting next to Brooke, the one who she saw two nights ago. She watches Reid dancing with fans and realizes how properly the description of "playboy" fits Reid. Quinton invites Emma to dance, telling her they need to show Reid how it is done. Emma's exhaustion after



dancing reminds her that she needs to start running again. She goes back to the hotel early. As Emma waits for a taxi, Graham comes out of the bar to smoke a cigarette. Graham shares Emma's taxi, and she briefly wonders if he wants her to sleepover in his room. She chides herself when he goes back into his room without inviting her in.

## **Analysis**

Filming begins in this section of the novel. Interactions between characters begin. Reid fulfills his role as a playboy. Emma is attracted to him and feels that he is attracted to her. She also realizes that a long-term relationship is something with which Reid is familiar. At the same time, Emma also finds herself attracted to Graham, another person who is in the cast. There is a strange relationship between Graham and Brooke which the other cast members cannot interpret. Reid suspects that Graham must be gay or else Brooke could not be close to him. Emma sees Graham visiting Brooke's room, then spending time with her at the party, and assumes they are dating. She is very confused when Graham leaves the party and Brooke to go back to the hotel with her.

One of the main themes of the novel appears to be relationships and the way that people interact with and relate to one another. One relationship that is featured in this section is Reid's relationship with his mother. Reid doesn't seem sure about what he thinks of his mother. He can hardly tell his mother that he loves her. He thinks very little about her while he is not home, but he realizes how dependent she is upon him. Reid's mother drinks to hide her pain. Her husband is a busy lawyer who stays away from home much of the time, which seems to lead to her drinking more.

### **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Reid describe Brooke as a man with boobs?

### **Discussion Question 2**

Why is it so significant that Reid's fan base is large?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What does it mean that Reid finds it so difficult to tell his mother that he loves her?

## Vocabulary

Concierge, cordoned, reprieve, erratic, concludes, perpetual, propensity, retorts, morbid, imperceptibly, bodes, euphoria, ambient, devious, inherently, undaunted, pandemonium, errant, notoriously, introspective, hedonism.



# Chapters 10-12

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 10

In Chapter 10, Reid realizes that both Emma and Graham have left the party. The following morning, Emma is surprised to see Graham in the hotel lobby dressed in running clothes when she goes downstairs for her exercise. He asks if he can run with her, and the two talk as they run. Back in the lobby, Graham tells Emma that she says "Huh" often, and they agree to begin counting the number of times. Graham tells Emma that she will soon have a fan club of her own. He also tries to warn her that by acting opposite Reid her actions will be scrutinized by Reid's fans.

### Chapter 11

In Chapter 11, after filming, Reid and the rest of the cast go out for sushi. Reid makes a point of speaking to Emma and sitting next to her at dinner. When Brooke indicates Graham plays the guitar, Reid makes a point to tell Emma that he believes that Brooke has picked Graham to be her man for this movie. Knowing that Tadd also plays guitar, they decide to have a jam session in Brooke's room. When Emma responds "huh" to a statement, Reid notices that she and Graham seem to share a secret between them. Before going to the jam session, Emma calls Emily for advice on what to wear. They also discuss the idea of Graham and Brooke being friends with benefits.

### Chapter 12

In Chapter 12, Reid is the first one to Brooke's room. He's barely had time to ask her one question before others begin to arrive. Reid notices Emma and Graham haven't arrived yet. When they do arrive, they come together. Brooke acts territorial when she sees Emma with Graham. Meredith is not there. The cast members believe that her boyfriend is breaking up with her. Tadd and Graham both play. After they finish, Quinton suggests a drinking game. As Emma drinks half-shot after half-shot during the game, she realizes that she will have a hangover the following morning. Reid and Emma flirt with one another. Quinton suggests that they play spin the bottle. Graham meets Emma's eyes, and he announces he is leaving. He helps Emma up asking her if she plans on running the following morning.

# **Analysis**

Graham continues to pay seemingly special attention to Emma even though hints are given that he is having a relationship with Brooke. Reid adds to Emma's confusion by paying special attention to her as well during the dinner, then flirting with her at the evening party. Reid also feeds Emma's curiosity about Brooke and Graham by telling her that he believes that Brooke has chosen Graham to be her boyfriend during the



course of the filming of School Pride. Notice also that Brooke appears territorial and suspicious when Emma comes into Reid's room for the party with Graham.

Notice other relationships are mentioned in this section of the novel. While Emma and Emily talk and laugh about the party that Emma will be attending with the cast members, Emily seems to be more permissive in her relationships than Emma knows her to be. Emma knows that when Emily gets involved with a boy, she is in the relationship for keeps, a characteristic that has already caused her to get her heart broken twice.

Another relationship that is mentioned is that of Meredith and her boyfriend. She does not attend the cast party/jam session. The other members of the cast speculate it is because her boyfriend has chosen to break up with her. All of them believe the boy is lame for treating Meredith the way that he does.

Hints are also given in these chapters that there was a past relationship between Brooke and Reid. It appears that though the two were very close, perhaps even in love with one another at one time, the relationship ended badly. Now, the two can barely stand to be in the same room with one another.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Reid make a point to tell Emma that he believes that Brooke has picked Graham to be her boyfriend for the period of the movie School Pride?

### **Discussion Question 2**

Why do you think that Brooke acts territorial when she sees Emma? What do you think this signifies?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why is it significant that Meredith does not attend the cast party in Brooke's room?

### **Vocabulary**

Covertly, impose, scrutinized, exploits, originate, compliant, soiree, disembodied, candor, enunciates, invalid, diabolical, enigma, feigning.



# Chapters 13-15

## **Summary**

### Chapter 13

In Chapter 13, the others leave Brooke and Reid alone in the hotel room together. Reid indicates they should have sex "for old time's sake." Brooke is shocked and surprised especially when Reid comments that it wasn't that bad. She gets him aroused, then asks him to leave. Reid pretends to be unaffected by her actions but is inwardly angry and hurt. The next morning, Graham brings Emma coffee to her room. They discuss the previous night's party with both agreeing they don't like the high school kissing games. When Emma calls Emily, Emily is surprised that Emma missed the chance to kiss Quinton by playing the game. She quickly gets off the phone with Emily when Graham knocks on her door to take her to brunch.

### Chapter 14

In Chapter 14, Reid has a message from his father when he wakes the following morning. His mother has checked herself into a rehab program. Reid realizes he should have seen this coming. Recently, his mother always has a drink in her hand anytime he'd seen her. He wonders if what his mother does is really wrong and if he somehow has a role in it. He also never wants to turn into either of his parents. Emma and Graham have brunch, then spend a couple of hours at the bookstore. They discuss their reasons for auditioning for School Pride. Graham tells Emma he is supporting himself with his acting. He gets a phone call he has to take before Emma is able to tell him why she chose to play the role. She walks on to the hotel.

#### Chapter 15

In Chapter 15, Reid decides to plan a guys' night out to have some time away from Brooke. Reid arranges for Tadd to invite Graham to the night out as he feels as if he asks Graham will feel the invitation is suspicious. Reid isn't happy, however, when he learns Graham plans to stay behind at the hotel. Emma is also planning to stay behind at the hotel though the girls are also planning a night out. She feels she needs her rest because her father and stepmother will be coming in for a five-day visit the following day. She steps onto her balcony, surprised to see Graham on his balcony. She goes inside to read but Graham calls her, offering to share a slice of cake with her. Once they settle in, Graham asks again why Emma had wanted to play Lizbeth. Emma finds herself explaining to Graham that Pride and Prejudice was her mother's favorite book. She has to admit to Graham that her mother is dead. She doesn't mention the way she also feels as if she lost her father when her mother died. The two watch a move together with Emma falling asleep in the middle. She wakes to find that Graham has straightened the room and covered her. He plans to go running the following morning and asks her along.



## **Analysis**

Relationships continue to be a main focus as Reid struggles to comprehend the idea that Emma is not falling into his bed as he had hoped. He indicates that it is the first time that he's ever had any competition from another guy before. Even though Reid does seem to see Graham as some sort of competition, his relationship with Brooke is still unclear. Emma suspects that it might have been Brooke who called Graham on his cell phone during their morning together, but she isn't sure and hasn't found a good way to question Graham without seeming nosey.

Another theme that is touched upon in this section of the novel and has been mentioned before is the way that movies tend to never properly reflect the books from which they've been adapted. Emma's favorite novel is Pride and Prejudice. She remembers her mother reading to her from that book when she was a small child. She also has a copy of the novel that was her mother's before she died. For Emma, it seems there is much emotional baggage tied up in her role in the movie yet she seems to be handling the stress well. When Graham asks her about her desire to play Lizbeth, she is able to talk to him about her mother more comfortably than she has been able to talk to others.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why is it so upsetting for Emma to talk about her mother?

### **Discussion Question 2**

Why does Reid think that Graham will believe it suspicious if he asks him to attend the guys' night out?

### **Discussion Question 3**

At this point, what do you believe was the cause of the breakup between Brooke and Reid?

## Vocabulary

Incredulous, preclude, ballistic, stridently, despondency, nefarious, deducing, mutiny, premeditated, recede, purist.



# Chapters 16-18

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 16

In Chapter 16, Reid is still angry the following morning when he learns that both Emma and Graham stayed at the hotel the night before. He, however, brought a bride-to-be from a bachelorette party back to his hotel room. Meanwhile, Emma has learned that her parents have landed in Austin. Emma goes downstairs in time to hear her stepmother raking the desk clerk over the coals because she can't get a room on the same floor as Emma. MiShaun catches Emma hiding behind a pillar and Emma tells her about her stepmother's scene. MiShaun tells Emma that those who really matter will not hold the actions of her parents against her. That evening her stepmother is going to dinner with Emma and some members of the cast. Chloe dresses provocatively and criticizes Emma's conservative dress.

### Chapter 17

In Chapter 17, at dinner Chloe flirts with Reid. Reid notices that when Graham and Emma make eye contact Emma becomes noticeably more composed. Emma, meanwhile, is embarrassed by the way her stepmother acts and is confused by her father's permissiveness. Reid invites Emma clubbing and Chloe invites herself along. As soon as Chloe and Reid begin dancing together and Emma has an opening, she heads back to the hotel. As she walks, Graham catches her by the arm. He asks why she left and Emma dodges the question by telling Graham that is he is going to call her on her habit of saying "huh" he needs to stop smoking. She gives him some suggestions on how to stop smoking. Before they part, Graham tells Emma that he likes her outfit.

### Chapter 18

In Chapter 18, Reid is upset that Emma and Graham disappeared together again. He admits to himself that the way he is feeling about Emma is the same way he felt about Brooke. He is determined, however, to have Emma as his own. After one of her scenes, Reid flirts with Emma and works in a question of where she went the night before. She tells him she'd been wanting more sleep, but doesn't mention that she's been getting up early to run with Graham. During the next morning's run, Emma and Graham are caught in a thunderstorm. Emma is surprised by the goosebumps that appear when Graham touches her arm when they take shelter in a picnic area. After the run, Emma realizes she has more questions than ever about her friendship with Graham.

### **Analysis**

Despite Graham's friendship with Brooke, Emma feels herself more and more interested in Graham. She is surprised at her body's reaction when Graham touches her face and



arm as they take shelter during a thunderstorm that interrupts their run. Reid continues to be confused by what he considers to be odd behavior on Emma's part. He has noticed on several occasions that she and Graham have both disappeared from events though he isn't sure if they have left together or not. He's frustrated because he isn't used to being scorned by women, generally they'll do whatever he wants, whenever he wants. He also has to admit to himself that the feelings that he is having for Emma are the same ones that he once had for Brooke, who has been the only girl whom he really thought he had loved.

To make matters more complicated for Brooke, her father and stepmother come for a visit. Chloe is loud, irritating and self absorbed. She seems to be directly opposite from Emma's mother. Emma doesn't understand her father's relationship with Chloe as he allows her to act in an embarrassing manner, wearing clothes that are much to revealing for a woman her age and openly flirting with Reid, who is half her age. MiShaun tries to help Emma feel better by explaining to her that the people who matter will not allow the way parents act to reflect on their children. Emma tries to keep MiShaun's words in her mind but she's still mortified by her stepmother's behavior.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Chloe's behavior disturb Emma so badly?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Compare and contrast Graham and Reid. For what reasons might Emma be attracted to each?

### **Discussion Question 3**

Why is Reid so attracted to Emma? Why is he so upset that she and Graham seem to be developing a relationship?

### **Vocabulary**

Predilection, reincarnation, blatant, colossal, demure, effusive, subterfuge, hypocritical, retort, ominous, goaded, proximity.



# Chapters 19-21

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 19

In Chapter 19, Reid kills Bob's avatar while they are playing Call of Duty together while waiting to pick Walt up from the airport. Reid is surprised by how upset Bob is by his actions. Back at the hotel, Reid sees Graham headed into Brooke's room and believes they're having sex. He plans to invite Emma to Walt's concert the following day to see how their off-screen chemistry compares to what they have onscreen. Meanwhile, after filming, Emma collapses in her room. She is confused because she thinks that Graham had wanted to kiss her that morning, but instead he pulled away. She also realizes that she wanted him to kiss her. She goes to his room to talk to him, but he doesn't answer. Then, she sees him leaving Brooke's room. Emma runs for her room, but Graham has seen her and knocks on the door a few minutes later. He invites himself in and begins asking her about herself. When she suggests that he is an immature old guy, he backs her onto the bed forcing her to "surrender" to a kiss. The kiss is deep and passionate. Before he leaves, he tells her that he will see her the following day.

### Chapter 20

In Chapter 20, Reid and Walt go to a bar where Walt makes friends with the guitarist in the band that is performing for the evening. Reid is surprised that Walt doesn't take the girl back to the hotel with him. Walt explains to him that the relationship is professional. Meanwhile, Emma is alone for her run the morning after Graham finally kisses her. He'd left her a message that something had come up. However, that doesn't answer her questions. During the day's filming, Emma's mind is elsewhere trying to sort out Graham's relationship with her, his relationship with Brooke, and where he might be. She asks MiShaun for advice, but doesn't give specifics. MiShaun tells her she needs to get more information before making a decision on her quandary. Later, Reid invites the girls to Walt's concert.

#### Chapter 21

In Chapter 21, Reid is secretly glad that Graham is out of town for the concert. Because the group is sitting just off-stage, Reid and Emma's seats are relatively private. He takes the opportunity to check their off screen chemistry by kissing her. He and some friends are planning a tubing trip on the Guadalupe River and will be gone a few days. He believes the break along with some texts just to let her know she's on his mind, will be enough to pique her curiosity and get her ready to go further with him. During the next day's filming, Emma finds herself blushing at the thought that she has kissed both Graham and Reid in the last two days. To add to her flustered nature, her father and Chloe attend that afternoon's filming. Chloe gushes over Leslie Neal, telling her she is



Emma's mother. Leslie politely but firmly shoos Chloe from the set, then turns to wink at Emma. Emma is relieved and grateful for the older actor's knowing nature.

That night Emma has dinner with Chloe and her father. Chloe continues to gush about Leslie while Emma's father praises Emma. Returning to the hotel, Emma has a text from Emily telling her to Google herself. Emma is surprised to see pictures were taken of her kiss with Reid. They are now posted on the Internet. Emma calls Emily to explain to her the kiss wasn't as great as Emily thinks because there is the complication of Graham as well. Emily suggests to Emma that she decide who she wants.

## **Analysis**

Emma's life, and her relationships, become complicated as she kisses both Graham and Reid in a two day period. Fans photograph her kiss with Reid and Emma is afraid Graham will see them and think she's dating Reid, something she's not sure she wants to Graham to consider. Meanwhile, Graham has gone to New York for some unexplained family emergency, leaving Emma wondering exactly where she stands with him. She also wonders about his relationship with Brooke.

Emma finally gets a chance to talk to her best friend who has been busy with her own budding romance. Emma depends on Emily for advice, considering her the voice of reason. Emily's advice to her is to decide what she wants for herself instead of letting the men be in control. Notice also in this section Emma's concerns that Emily will be angry with her because she has not contacted her to tell her about what has been happening in Austin. She feels badly that her friend is having to search the Internet to find out what is happening with her.

Meanwhile, Reid feels that he is making progress with Emma. He has finally gotten a chance to get her alone, away from Graham, and has checked that their off-screen chemistry is as good as the on-screen chemistry. He is regaining his confidence in wooing Emma as he believes he knows how to handle the situation from this point on.

Another important thing to note in this section is the interaction between Bob and Reid when Reid kills Bob's avatar as they are playing Call of Duty. Bob is offended by Reid's lack of loyalty. Reid doesn't seem to understand why the man, whose job it is to protect Reid, is so upset by a game. It appears Bob take the offense into real life, a transition that Reid does not seem to care to understand. Even though he thinks briefly that he should have apologized to Bob, he doesn't do so and seems to consider the idea only as a way to get back into Bob's good graces.

Notice also the interaction between Reid and Walt at the bar. Reid is surprised by Walt's new outlook on life as he drinks tea instead of alcohol. Most of all, Reid is shocked that Walt doesn't take the girl who is the lead guitarist in the band who is playing at the bar back to his hotel. Walt tries to explain to Reid that he is building a professional relationship with the girl. Again, Reid doesn't seem to understand the idea even when Walt explains to him that if the two were to have sex, one of them would not think it was



casual and would want more while the other possibly wouldn't. After this, there would be no possibility of a professional relationship between the two, a concept that Reid doesn't seem to grasp.

# **Discussion Question 1**

Why is Bob so upset when Reid kills his Call of Duty avatar? What is it about this action that disturbs Bob so badly?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Compare and contrast Reid and Walt's ideas on casual sex.

## **Discussion Question 3**

What is the source of Emma's confusion about her relationship with Graham and with Reid? What do you think she should do?

## Vocabulary

Effusive, decrepit, interlude, avatar, subside, cryptic, disoriented, morphing, overt, tenacious.



# Chapters 22-24

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 22

In Chapter 22, Reid and his friends take off for their tubing trip. He texts Emma telling her where he is going, obviously drawing a comparison between himself and Graham, who still hasn't let Emma know where he is. Reid remembers that it was Brooke who told him about the tubing tradition in Austin. He also recalls the conversation took place just before they slept together the first time.

Since Graham has returned from New York, Graham has been giving Emma a cold shoulder so she assumes he's seen the pictures of her and Reid. In their scene together, Graham seems angry and Emma responds to that anger. The director talks to the two of them. Graham takes responsibility and promises to get into character. Graham finally talks to her at lunch, telling her that he's planning on starting on nicotine patches the following day as she had suggested. Graham won't tell Emma any details of his trip to New York but he does ask if she plans to run the following morning. At the conclusion of the day, Emma gets a text from Reid.

### Chapter 23

In Chapter 23, Reid enjoys tubing as well as the girls whom he is meeting and spending the night. This trip makes him remember what attracted him to Brooke initially. The girls are eating and talking about the boys' tubing trip when Brooke is approached by some fans. They realize Brooke is filming in the same movie with Reid and look around for him. Brooke comments when they leave that Reid is a problem even when he isn't around.

#### Chapter 24

In Chapter 24, John's father calls and orders him home, breaking up the tubing party. Reid has to put his girl for the night, Tracy into a cab. Tracy's angry because he's leaving but Reid simply doesn't see a problem. He doesn't believe in love or marriage, he tells himself. He also believes Tracy was a fool for thinking that anything might have come out of the one-night stand.

When Emma and Graham return to the hotel from their run, Reid and the others have returned from the trip. Reid kisses Emma in front of Graham and Emma notices that Graham's face is expressionless during the encounter. During a conversation with Emily, Emily mentions to Emma that she wonders why she turned out to be Goth when it is Emma who has had so much grief in her life. This comment turns Emma's mind to her mother who died quickly of cancer when she was only six. She feels as if she lost her father when he married Chloe only thirteen months after her mother's death. She wishes that her father would love her and react to her as she needs him to.



## **Analysis**

Emma's life becomes more difficult as Reid seems to be trying to stake her as his claim. He kisses her in front of Graham, the male version of marking his territory. Graham seems angry with Emma, but at the same time tells her that he has gotten the nicotine patches and plans to start using them.

A little bit more is learned about Reid and his relationship with Brooke. Apparently, the two were very young when they had their fling. Reid had been attracted to Brooke because she was so different from the women he had known in the past. The two had been so close to one another they had gone far enough to tell each other they didn't want anyone else. Although their closeness has been described, there is still no hint given as to what might have caused the breakup.

Information is also given about Emma's mother. She had been young when she was diagnosed with cancer and she had died quickly. Emma really hadn't understood what was happening and didn't quite understand what had happened to her mother. It was only thirteen months later when her father had married Chloe. Ever since that time, Emma had felt like she had lost her father. Although she feels her father does love her, she wishes that he loved her in a way that would allow them to be close again.

During a phone conversation, Emily mentions a problem to Emma that is not given any further attention. She is a Goth who is dating a boy who is not Goth. She mentions that some of this boy's Goth-hating friends had come through the store where she works to gawk at her. Although the episode clearly upset Emily, Emma doesn't question her or mention it again, only concentrating on her problems.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Discuss the impact that Emma's mother's death had on her.

## **Discussion Question 2**

What have you learned in the past few chapters about Brooke and Reid's relationship? Are there any clues given as to why it ended so badly?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Consider the way Emma and Graham play on each other's emotions during their scene together in the kitchen. What does this interaction seem to indicate?



# Vocabulary

Spherical, contractually, incredulous, parenthetical, legitimately, trajectory, liaise, blanch, palpable, scintillating, undulating, melancholic, console.



# Chapters 25-27

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 25

In Chapter 25, Reid takes Emma into his taxi as the group leaves for a night outing. At the club, the others listen as the boys talk about their tubing trip. As Reid dances with Emma later, she tries not to think about Graham. They go to a café alone after the club. Reid invites her to his room. She agrees to go, but she is nervous. She remembers how comfortable she had felt with Graham. She and Reid kiss. She forces herself to leave before something happens that she is not ready for. Later in her room, Meredith texts her to check on her. They decide to have lunch together the following day.

#### Chapter 26

In Chapter 26, Reid has determined that Emma is a virgin. Even so, he still wants her. Although he still isn't sure where Graham works into the equation or even where he came from, he believes he will back off if he believes Emma and Reid are dating. At lunch the following morning, Meredith questions Emma about her relationship with Reid. Emma tells her nothing happened, then asks Meredith about what happened with Robby, who broke up with her a few days prior. Meredith indicates Robby had trust issues when Meredith was working. Reid asks Emma out for dinner alone, and Meredith helps her shop. Emma can't help but think of her morning run with Graham when he asked her about plans after she finished high school. He, like Jenna, encouraged her to think about college.

When a knock comes on Emma's door, she expects Reid. But, it's Brooke asking to borrow a flatiron. She has a date with a band manager and her flatiron has shorted out. Brooke is still in the room when Reid knocks. Brooke asks if they have a date, then opens the door. The two have a stare off as Brooke walks away.

### Chapter 27

In Chapter 27, Reid and Emma are greeted with paparazzi when they leave the hotel. They flirt and talk about being famous. Emma admits that she sometimes wishes that she'd had a chance to be normal. Reid doesn't feel the same way. He asks where she lives and points out that it is close to him, closer than Graham's home in New York. Emma admits that she never thought about where Graham lived before. She asks about Brooke, and she is sorry she did after he reacts oddly. He tells her they once had a relationship that turned out badly. He mentions that Brooke seems happy with Graham. Emma stumbles and asks if the two are really an item since Brooke had a date with someone else. Reid tells Emma she's just naïve and doesn't understand how Hollywood people work. Back at the hotel Reid kisses Emma in the elevator.



The next morning some of the characters have to get up extra early for filming at a mall. Emma and Graham have decided to stop jogging for that week. Graham indicates that he misses running. Emma kids him telling him that he can join up with some mall walkers. Graham indicates the running wasn't the only thing he missed.

# **Analysis**

In this section of the novel, Emma tries to convince herself there is nothing between herself and Graham. She tries to believe that the kiss was a mistake and that Graham now regrets it. She also tries to convince herself that Graham and Brooke are an item. Despite Emma's attempt to convince herself that she isn't feeling what she is feeling, there are clues to indicate that things may not be what she is trying to convince herself they are. Graham tells her that he misses running with her and that he doesn't just miss the running. He also tries to convince her to think seriously about going to college.

Reid meanwhile, is concerned only with becoming a star. He is high on himself. He has no desire to further his education or encourage Emma to do so. In fact, several times during the evening he points out to Emma the benefits that a relationship with him would have over a relationship with Graham. It is almost as if Reid is threatened and feels that he must make a case for himself.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why is Meredith and Robby's break up significant in this part of the novel?

### **Discussion Question 2**

Why does Reid seem to feel as if he has to compare the benefits of a relationship with him to one with Graham?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Compare and contrast Reid and Graham's relationships with Emma. Which relationship seems more real?

## Vocabulary

Commandeer, peripheral, infatuated, repertoire, precocious, pretentious, culpable, surreal, animosity, pensively, divulged.



# Chapters 28-30

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 28

In Chapter 28, the crew has a break from filming because of the Labor Day holiday. Emma will go home to Sacramento while Reid is expected to attend a family counseling session with his mother. He really wants to have had sex with Emma before he leaves. He has arranged for Emma to have dinner with him in his room that night. Emma thinks that she is crazy for continuing to tell Reid that she doesn't want to have sex with him, but she continues to stand her ground.

Emma goes home to the house that Chloe forced her father to buy when they got married. It has never felt like home to Emma. Emma had tried to spend much of her time with her grandmother, but she had died of an aneurysm when Emma was fourteen. Emma had given the cat she'd kept at her grandmother's to Emily because Chloe refused to have it in the house. Her father picks her up at the airport, but Emma chooses not to talk to him about the issues she's facing because she doesn't want to speak to him at all. She feels as if her father abandoned her and allowed her to raise herself in favor of Chloe.

### Chapter 29

In Chapter 29, Reid and his father are allowed to see his mother only in the counseling session. Reid hates counselors, especially this one. He wishes he could look into his mother's eyes and see her begging him to take her away. There is no look like that and he realizes that she is really trying to address her troubles. When they leave, Reid struggles again to tell his mother that he loves her.

In Sacramento, Emma talks to Emily about her relationships with Reed and Graham. As they continue to talk, the conversation turns to Emma and her father. Emily asks if Emma is afraid if she talks to her father she will realize how angry she is with him. The statement hits a nerve with Emma, and she cries. She puts her head in Emily's lap, remembering the feel of her mother's fingers. She allows herself to miss her.

### Chapter 30

In Chapter 30, Reid's father insists that Reid have dinner with him. His father asks about Reid's future. He refuses to allow Reid to drink at dinner. He tells Reid he asked him to dinner in case Reid had any questions about the rehabilitation and to thank him for coming. Reid tells his father he's being considered for a role in an action film. This comment gets an indication of pride from his father, an indication that makes Reid angry.



At dinner, Emily's family asks Emma if Emily has told her about her new boyfriend. Mrs. Watson brings up the homecoming dance which seems to be a sore topic with Emily as she indicates they aren't going. Later in her room, Emily tells Emma that her relationship with Derek is doomed. They are complete opposites. Emily believes that Derek can't stand up to the kind of pressure that his parents are putting on him.

## **Analysis**

The focus of the novel turns to Reid's and Emma's relationships with their parents as they go home for Labor Day weekend. Emma is angry with her father for abandoning her when he began a relationship with Chloe, but she doesn't know what to do with this anger. She wishes, though, that she could talk to him about her confusion about her relationships with Graham and Reid and her desire to go to college. Meanwhile, Reid is thinking that his mother's latest visit to rehab is a waste of time. He seems highly offended by both his parents, though he doesn't seem to have any good reasons to be offended. He still struggles with being able to tell his mother that he loves her.

Meanwhile, Emily is having relationship trouble of her own. She is a Goth. Her new boyfriend is not. Although she loves him desperately, she doesn't believe they'll be able to last the stress of being so different. She seems both disappointed and relieved that Derek hasn't asked her to change. At the same time, she doesn't think that he will be able to withstand the pressure that his friends will put on him for dating a Goth.

### **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Emily think that her relationship with Derek is doomed?

## **Discussion Question 2**

What things does Emma wish that she were able to talk to her father about? Why does she not talk to him as she wants to?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why do you think that Reid is so resentful of his parents, as well as their desire that he take part in his mother's rehab? What does this tell the reader about Reid?

## Vocabulary

Monopolizing, dictatorial, inane, compromise, diligent, dubiously, anonymous, notoriety, epithetical, biased, atypical, introspective, livid.



# Chapters 31-33

## **Summary**

### Chapter 31

In Chapter 31, Reid gets drunk and high at the party with John. Although he had intended not to have sex with anyone until he'd scored with Emma, he winds up taking two girls home with him. Meanwhile, Emily has talked Emma into facing her father with her desire to go to college. Although she stalls at first, Emma finally faces her father, and she is surprised at how easy it is. The following morning, it doesn't appear that Emma's father has mentioned her college plans to Chloe. He tells her that he will sign her up for SAT next month. She needs to start thinking about where she plans to go to college. At the airport, Emma gets a text from Graham. He asks her if she wants to run the following morning. Emma agrees and tells Graham that she talked to her dad about college.

### Chapter 32

In Chapter 32, the first day they are back to the hotel, Reid begins pressuring Emma for sex again. Reid indicates to her that if they aren't having sex, they aren't really together. This comment bothers Emma. She also considers his idea that she won't sleep with him because she doesn't trust him. She believes this might be true/ She doesn't trust him to want any more than just sex with her. She had also seen Brooke and Graham headed into Brooke's room and wonders what is going on in there. She steps out onto the balcony and is surprised to see Graham on his balcony. Since he's learned that she's interested in college, he's been sending her information about colleges, especially those in New York.

#### Chapter 33

In Chapter 33, Reid struggles through filming, feeling like he has a hangover but he hasn't drunk that much. Emma believes that she hasn't heard from Reid because he is pouting. She remembers Emily's boyfriend, Vic, who pushed her to have sex. Emily learned after they broke up that Vic had been sleeping with another girl for at least a month. Emma decides to confront Reid. She is surprised to see him come to the door holding his stomach. She discovers that he has a fever. When Graham texts Emma to see if she's going to join the group, Emma tells him that Reid is sick. He comes upstairs and calls for a doctor. The doctor suspects that Reid has appendicitis. Graham and Emma follow the ambulance to the hospital. They stay until Reid is out of surgery to remove his appendix. In the following days of filming, Meredith admits to Emma that she has been talking to Robby again. She tells Emma that love sucks.



## **Analysis**

It becomes apparent in this section that Reid is interested only in sex from Emma. He is not even able to be celibate for the one weekend that he plans to do so while he is trying to woo Emma. Emma is beginning to realize that sex is really what Reid is after when he pressures her for sex the first day they are back in Austin. Reid also indicates that if they aren't sleeping together, they aren't really a couple, a statement that upsets Emma and makes her think about Vic, one of Emily's boyfriends who pressured her for sex.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does it bother Emma so badly that Reid tells her they aren't really a couple if they aren't sleeping together?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why is it significant that Graham stays with Emma while Reid is in the hospital?

# **Discussion Question 3**

What role does Meredith's consideration of getting back together with Robby play in this section of the novel?

### Vocabulary

Abstinence, voyeur, celibacy, dissipate, vintage, dissent, atrocious, retain, condescension, capitulating, infinity, gallingly, preposterous, obnoxious, platonic, banished, metaphorical.



# Chapters 34-36

## **Summary**

### Chapter 34

In Chapter 34, Reid wakes up to find that he's had emergency surgery. He is disappointed that his father did not come in person. He sent George instead. The next day, Emma, Tadd, and Quinton visit. He tells them he will be getting out of the hospital the following day. He also tells them that a candy striper tried to take some pictures with him while he was sedated. Bob caught the girl, deleted the photos, and destroyed her phone. After the guys leave, Reid has Emma sit on his bed where they make out.

#### Chapter 35

In Chapter 35, being sick gives Reid the opportunity to watch Emma act from the sidelines. He realizes that she is a very good actress. She admits she wants to do theater. However, if she must act in films, she'd prefer to do something more serious than their current movie. Reid disagrees because he wants money and fame.

Meanwhile, Emily has been keeping Emma up to date on Internet gossip. She also keeps on Emma about studying for the SAT. Emily suddenly becomes angry with Emma accusing her of not asking about her relationship with Derek. She tells Emma that recently all of their conversations have been focused around Emma and her fame. Emily feels left out, but she says that she can talk to her mom. She hangs up. She wonders if her best friend has just broken up with her.

Graham notices there is something wrong with Emma during their run the following morning. Emma blames her red eyes on allergies. She keeps to herself during the next several days as the time for Emily's homecoming comes and goes with no word from her. Emma is both hurt and angry.

#### Chapter 36

In Chapter 36, Reid is allowed to begin filming again. He also continues to make out with Emma whenever he gets the chance. One of the first scenes he films since his surgery is the only one that he and Graham appear in together. Reid is uncomfortable because he still does not understand Graham's motivations.

During her first run with Graham since her pretend allergies, Graham asks if everything is all right between her and Graham. She still wonders why Graham has been acting so coolly toward her. Meanwhile, Reid badgers Emma about her decision to go to college, especially since preparation is taking so much of her time. He finally talks her into having sex with him that night, after a party. Later, when Emma and Meredith are helping each other get ready for the party, Meredith tells Emma that she and Robby are getting back together.



## **Analysis**

Emma and her best friend Emily have a fight that upsets Emma. Graham misinterprets Emma's emotions as being caused by Reid. He believes that Emma and Reid are dating. Graham is not the only one in this section confused as to who is dating whom. Reid can't get a read on Graham. He isn't sure if Graham is interested in Emma, or if they are just friends. He is also certain Graham is sleeping with Brooke, but he can understand his interest in Emma. Emma also believes that Graham and Brooke may have some sort of relationship, but she isn't sure of the nature of it. She believes at this point that Graham's kiss was an accident, a one-time incident that didn't come from any true interest in her.

Reid finally wears Emma down and gets a promise of a sexual encounter with her. Because she is busy with schoolwork, then a party, they agree to meet after the party. Although Emma physically wants to have sex with Reid, her body is reacting to his. She is still unsure if he really cares for her. Already upset by her agreement to have sex with Reid, Emma is even more upset when Meredith tells her that she and Robby have decided to get back together. Emma wants to tell Meredith that she is out of her mind, but she manages to bite her tongue.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why is Emma so upset to learn that Meredith has gotten back together with Robby?

# **Discussion Question 2**

Why do you think that Emma agrees to have sex with Reid?

### **Discussion Question 3**

Compare and contrast Reid and Graham's opinions of Emma's decision to attend college.

### **Vocabulary**

Doppelganger, convalesce, contenders, reclusive, holistic, homeopathic, implements, forfeited, cynical, incredulity.



# Chapters 37-39

## **Summary**

### Chapter 37

In Chapter 37, John tells Reid about photos showing up on the Internet of Graham and Emma running together. That night, Reid asks Emma about the pictures. Reid thinks Emma is playing him and lying when she is surprised that fan sites are saying the two are sleeping together. He decides to drop the questions since he is afraid it will interfere with their plans for sex. Emma is disturbed by Reid's questioning of her relationship with Graham. Later, Emma sees Reid talking to Graham and motioning to her. In a few minutes, Brooke joins them, and Emma senses the tone of the conversation is antagonistic. Emma suddenly realizes that she doesn't want Reid to do anything that might make her lose her friendship with Graham. On first instinct, she grabs her phone to call Emily but remembers their fight. Overcome with grief and indecision, she runs for the bathroom. Once there, she meets Brooke who tells her that if she doesn't want to see Reid she needs to hide as he is following her.

Emma hides in one of the bathroom stalls. Reid comes in and asks Graham if Reid knows. She explains to him that she had to tell Graham because he was the one who found her crying in her trailer because all her friends and family were pressuring her to abort Reid's baby. Reid is angry with her for her decision to carry the baby to term. He indicates it could ruin both their careers if anyone were to find out about it. Brooke tells Reid to leave, and he does. After he is gone, Brooke tells Emma that it was three years ago that day that her baby was born. She tells Emma not to sleep with Reid unless she is just after sex. She asks Emma to have Bob bring a car to take her back to the hotel. After Emma arranges a car for Reid, she realizes how badly she misses Emily.

#### Chapter 38

In Chapter 38, Reid tells that same night that Brooke had ordered him a screwdriver. When Brooke reminds Reid of the night they drank screwdrivers together, Reid wonders why she is doing so with Graham so close. Graham tries to get Brooke to go back to the hotel, but Brooke refuses saying that she wants Reid to remember. Still thinking that Graham and Brooke are dating, Reid tells Graham that at least he's only after one girl. Graham warns Reid that if he hurts Emma, Graham will beat him. It is at this point that Reid follows Brooke into the bathroom.

Emma leaves the club, looking for a taxi. Before she knows it, Graham is behind her asking if she is okay. As Emma cries she realizes that her disillusionment with Reid is only the finish to an already bad week. She has come to the point that she misses Emily so badly that it hurts. Back at the hotel Graham looks at Brooke's door, and Emma realizes he wants to be with her. She tells him to go to her. He kisses Emma on the forehead before he leaves. Reid has left several messages on her phone. In the final



one, he tells her that if he doesn't hear from her in five minutes, he will assume they are over. Emma lets the time run out without calling him back.

### Chapter 39

In Chapter 39, Reid is shocked when Emma does not call him back. He picks up a girl named Blossom from the crew and takes her back to the hotel. The next morning, Meredith asks Emma what happened. She mentions that Reid had come back to the hotel with another girl. Emma is shocked. Meredith looks at the fan sites, some of them going so far as to report that Emma was pregnant and didn't know the name of the father. For filming, Emma works hard to get in character for her role. Brooke talks to Emma between scenes, telling her that Reid might have changed since they dated. Emma tells her that she hadn't. Emma feels the other members of the cast trying to determine exactly what is happening between the Emma and Reid.

## **Analysis**

The rumor mill goes wild as Reid, whom the fans believed was hooking up with Emma, leaves a party with another girl. Questions are even stranger as the fans decide that Emma was crying when she returned to the hotel because she was pregnant and didn't know the name of the father. As they film scenes on the following day, Emma feels as though the other cast members are reading both her and Reid to determine what might have happened between them.

Things come to a head when Emma hears the conversation between Brooke and Reid. She realizes why Brooke has been so antagonistic toward Reid. She also realizes that Reid has been using her all along. Reid does not know that Emma has learned what happened between himself and Brooke. He only knows that she has left the party. He assumes that she has left with Graham. He gives Emma an ultimatum saying that if she doesn't return his call in five minutes, they are over. When she doesn't call back, he takes home another girl from the cast of the movie.

In forms of structure, this section of the novel is the only one in which the story folds back on itself to tell both Emma's and Reid's versions of the same event. In Chapter 37 and Chapter 38, the reader learns both Emma's view of the events of the party and Reid's view. Both of these viewpoints are necessary for the reader to understand what is really happening between Reid, Brooke, Graham, and Emma.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Do you think that Reid cared for Emma at all? What about Brooke?



# **Discussion Question 2**

Why would Brooke and Reid's baby affect their careers? Why is Reid so angry that Brooke decided to have the baby?

# **Discussion Question 3**

Why is Emma's distress about her relationships with Graham and Reid so difficult for her to handle?

# **Vocabulary**

Fabricated, nonchalant, antagonism, egocentric, absolved, directive, ultimatum, antagonism, bemused, façade.



# Chapters 40-42

## **Summary**

### Chapter 40

In Chapter 40, Reid wonders if he should ask Emma to forgive him. He thinks of the way that Brooke treated him. He had believed that she was sleeping with other people at the time that she got pregnant. He isn't even sure if the baby is his. He believes Brooke was at fault as she lied to him, getting him to tell her that he loved her. Meanwhile, Emma's father calls to find out exactly what is going on with her. He becomes almost angry telling her that he can't ignore the gossip that he has been hearing if she needs help. He asks if she is pregnant. When he asks who told her about sex and she tells him that it was her grandmother and Emily's mother. Then, she starts crying. She tells her father about the fight that she and Emily had. He tries to comfort Emma by telling her that Emily can't be that mad at her as they have been friends for so long. He also reasons that she is pushing Emma away because she is afraid of losing her friendship. Following her father's advice, Emma sends Emily a text. Within five minutes, Emily calls Emma back and apologizes. Emily demands to know what is going on, saying that her mother called Emma's father, telling him that he needed to straighten things out.

### Chapter 41

In Chapter 41, Reid brings his latest fling to the birthday party that the cast throws for Jenna's birthday. He is afraid if he doesn't have some distraction that he will embarrass himself by begging Emma to come back to him. As Emma watches Reid work his way through the female members of the cast sexually, she is humiliated that she ever thought she might be special to Reid. When she goes to the balcony to get her emotions under control, both Graham and Brooke join her to ask if she is okay. Emma is surprised with the way her world has done a half turn with her wishing Reid would leave and being friends with Brooke. Later, when Emma talks to Emily, she asks about Derek. She believes she can hear her friend smiling through the phone.

### Chapter 42

In Chapter 42, Emma, MiShaun, Graham and Reid have to go to Dallas for filming. Reid notices that MiShaun and Graham work to keep Emma as far away from him as possible. At a Mexican restaurant during their last day of filming in Dallas, Graham and Emma are confronted by fans. Graham tells Emma that this is the way her life is going to be now that she is the star of a movie. He pays the bill and pilots her out of the restaurant, she realizes how calm she feels with her hand in Graham's.



## **Analysis**

Emma is hurt and humiliated as she watches Reid work his way through the female cast members. He even brings a girl back to his hotel room the night that he and Emma "break up". He brings another to the cast members' party for Jenna's birthday. This one is territorial when it comes to Reid. At one point, Emma believes the girl is trying to start a fight with her. Reid rationalizes that he needed Blossom to numb the pain that he felt not only from Emma leaving him but also from the memories that Brooke evoked when she accused him of being the father of her baby.

The novel continues to discuss the way that Emma deals with her growing popularity, as she is the star of a new movie. Graham tells her that she needs to get used to being the center of attention as this is they way that her life will be now that she is popular. Unlike the way that she felt when she was with Reid, Emma feels comfortable with the fans when she is holding Graham's hand as they face the fans.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Reid believe that he needs to mess around with the other girls on the set?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why does Emma's father call her? What does he seem most worried about?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How do Emily and Emma make up for their fight? Who encourages Emma to contact Emily?

# Vocabulary

Purge, evasive, mirage, unrequited, belligerent, pantomime, timbre, lethargic, protracted, arduous.



# Chapters 43-46

## **Summary**

#### Chapter 43

In Chapter 43, Reid describes how much it tortures him to be around Emma and interact with her as he has to for the film. Tadd notices how distressed Reid is and suggests that he admit he was wrong and plead for mercy. Reid refuses, saying that he shouldn't have to apologize to Emma for something that she believes he did to Brooke without even asking his side of the story. After she is finally home, Emma is glad the last days of filming is over as well. At parting, Reid kisses Emma's forehead, saying nothing. Graham and Emma take a taxi together to the airport. Although Emma feels it is wrong, she lets Graham walk away from her at the airport without even asking his motivation behind kissing her.

At home, Emma is applying for schools in New York. She finally meets Emily's boyfriend, Derek, who Emma believes is completely incompatible. The two are planning on going to the same college. Chloe becomes resigned to the idea that Emma might not be a big movie star. During the holiday, Emma also stars in a theater production of It's a Wonderful Life. Her dad attends every performance.

### Chapter 44

In Chapter 44, the School Pride cast is back together for a photo shoot. One evening, they relax and catch up with one another. When the actors begin to leave, Reid asks Emma to talk with him a minute. Reid tells Emma that he made a mistake in giving her an ultimatum the night of his encounter with Brooke. He claims he was using the other girls to make her jealous, but Emma retorts saying he was trying to make her feel unimportant. Reid asks Emma to forgive him and help him be something besides a self-important jerk. Emma agrees to forgive him, but she says that she wants someone who already is something better, not someone who needs help becoming something.

### Chapter 45

In Chapter 45, Reid's mother starts drinking again. She was shocked when Reid got so drunk on his nineteenth birthday that he blacked out. A fall from a fire escape causes him to break his hand which has to be set surgically. It is after this that he notices his mother starts drinking again. At a coffee shop in New York, Emma and her father run into Graham with a girl that Emma at first believes is his niece. Emma is shocked when she hears the little girl call Graham "Daddy."

#### Chapter 46

In Chapter 46, Reid realizes that as much as he wanted Emma to like him, he didn't have it in him to be anything different from what he is. Back in New York, Graham texts



Emma telling her that he wants to see her, alone. He explains about Cara, telling her that his girlfriend hadn't wanted the child. He explains he doesn't tell many people about Cara. Only his immediate family and Brooke know. Emma tries to show Reid how she feels about him by kissing him, but he leaves quickly. She texts him, asking him to meet her the following morning. He does, and they talk through their confusion about one another. Graham tells her that he wants to be more than friends with her, and the two kiss.

## **Analysis**

At the conclusion of the novel, Graham and Emma share their feelings for each other. This impending relationship opens the door for a sequel to the novel. Emma accepts Graham's daughter and his previous relationship as being part of his past. Reid continues to drink. He has an accident on his nineteenth birthday in which his hand is badly broken, causing him to have to have surgery to repair the damage. Although it is after this accident that Reid's mother starts drinking again, he still doesn't seem to understand that his mother's drinking might partially be because of him and his behavior. Instead he notices only that his father starts staying away from the house again. He blames his father for his mother's continued drinking.

Emma's father finally stands up to Chloe and tells her that Emma will be going to college. Even though Chloe is angry with them for several days, she eventually seems to get used to the idea. Emma's father begins to pay more attention to his daughter, seeming to notice for the first time that there will be a time when she will no longer be around all the time. Instead of holding his actions in the past against him, Emma decides to move and help build their relationship from that point. Emily, as well, has a happy ending. Emma realizes that though she believes her friend and Derek have nothing in common on the surface, that Emily truly loves Derek. Derek seems to love her back despite her unusual dress and beliefs.

It is in this section of the novel that the title of the book is incorporated in the text. When Reid is looking back on his relationship with Emma, he realizes that she didn't want someone with whom she had to read "between the lines" to know how he really felt about her. The title is also a reference to the relationships that Emma develops during her time involved with School Pride. These relationships are developed between the times that Emma and the others are learning and delivering their lines, their spoken parts in the movie. The title alludes to the relationship between Reid and Emma and the movie production which is a backdrop for the action of the novel.

### **Discussion Question 1**

At this point in the novel, after all has been said and done, do you think that Reid really loved Emma? Why or why not?



# **Discussion Question 2**

How does Reid's behavior seem to affect his mother's drinking?

# **Discussion Question 3**

How does the appearance of Graham and Brooke's relationship change when it is learned that Graham, like Brooke, is a single parent?

## Vocabulary

Sabotaged, hiatus, surname, averted, euphoric, burlesque, edict, nostalgia, idyllic, arrogant, dissent, allegations, relapse, dialects, regimen, appraising, translucent, unambiguous, astute, persona, elaborate, resolve, ruse, imperceptive.



# **Characters**

### **Reid Alexander**

Reid Alexander plays the male lead in the movie School Pride. He is portrayed as a pretty playboy who drinks, does drugs, and sleeps around. Reid is in distress in the novel because he is acting with a girl whom he thought he had loved. The two had done a movie together about three years prior. During this time, they had gotten very close. Their first sexual encounter was with each other. Reid had believed that he loved Brooke. Apparently, Reid was fed some rumors about Brooke having had relationships with other men while the two of them were still dating. When Brooke comes to Reid telling him that she was pregnant, Reid does not believe her. It is because of this relationship gone bad that Reid and Brooke have such problems working with each other or even being in the same room together.

During his filming of this particular move, Reid has set his sights on Emma, the female lead in the movie. Like Brooke, he believes that he loves Emma. He tries to be celibate waiting for Emma to sleep with him but cannot keep his promise to himself. He sees and appreciates Emma's beauty, but does not understand or appreciate her morals or the expectations she has for herself. The night that Emma learns about Reid and Brooke's relationship, instead of trying to talk to Emma, he gives her an ultimatum, then takes a movie extra back to the hotel with him.

In addition to having trouble with women, Reid also has trouble with his own family. His relationship with his father is strained. Reid blames his father, who works too much, for his mother's alcoholism. Even when Reid has emergency surgery to remove his appendix, his father does not come personally to see him. Instead, he sends Reid's agent to look after him. When Reid's mother goes to rehab for alcoholism for the third time and Reid's father seems to think she might get better, Reid cannot understand his father's attempts to initiate a relationship. When he is with his mother, Reid cannot bring himself to tell her that he loves her. Although it seems he does love his mother, there seems to be quality about her that keeps him at a distance. It may be that he sees her as being weak because she stays with his father even though his father does not care for her as he should. It may be that Reid sees some of his own weaknesses in his mother. Either way, there is a point in the novel, in which the family is attending a group therapy session that Reid realizes that he is afraid of looking in the mirror one day and seeing that he has become like his parents.

## **Emma Pierce**

Emma Pierce is the female lead in the movie School Pride. This is the first major movie in which Emma has had a leading role. Much of Emma's problems come from her unwillingness to take charge of her own life. She no longer wants to do film. She would rather do theater, but can't bring herself to tell her parents this. So far, she has just gone



along with their desires. Emma's stepmother, Chloe, pushes Emma's father to keep Emma in film because she wants to enjoy the fringe benefits from Emma's stardom.

With the help of her new friend Graham Douglas, and her old friend, Emily, Emma gets up the courage that she needs to tell her father that she wants to go to college. She wants a career in theater. Though her father has not been very attentive to his daughter, he hears and respects her wishes. Unlike Reid, who is interested only in the fame and money that being an actor can bring him, Emma wants to make a difference through her acting.

In this novel, Emma not only has to make a decision that affects her career, but also one that affects her love life. She is caught between two very different men for whom Emma believes that she has feelings. Although Graham has kissed Emma once, Emma is not sure if he really likes her or if he believes he made a mistake when he kissed her. Reid, however, is pursuing Emma openly. He is also pressuring Emma for sex, a proposition that Emma is not comfortable with and tries to delay. When Emma overhears Brooke and Reid talking about the baby with which Reid got Brooke pregnant then refused to help her care for, she breaks her planned date with Reid.

Later, when the two finally discuss their differences, Reid tells Emma that he believes she could have made him into something better. Emma tells him that she does not want to have to make someone better, she wants someone who already is better. Emma plans to go to college, and checks out colleges in New York, the town where she knows Graham lives. She meets up with him after filming for the movie is finished. Even though Emma learns that Graham has a daughter, she finally voices her feelings for him.

Emma also struggles with other relationship problems that affect her during the course of the novel. The book Pride and Prejudice was her mother's favorite novel. Emma is faced with playing the lead in an Americanized version of this novel. Throughout the filming, she struggles with memories of her mother and deals with the pain she feels that her mother died so young. To make matters worse, Emma has a fight with best friend, whom she'd known almost all of her life. Through the most difficult of her time during the filming, Emma is suffering because she is unable to talk to her best friend, who Emma believes is her voice of reason. Things begin to look up for Emma when she contacts Emily and the two repair their relationship.

## **Graham Douglas**

Graham Douglas plays the part of Bill Collins in the movie School Pride. When Emma first sees Graham, he is going into Brooke's room. Emma, like the others, believes that Brooke and Graham are having an affair. However, Graham also gets up early to run with Emma, developing a relationship with in this way. He also tends to hang around the hotel when he knows that she has not gone with the cast on its evening outings. Graham encourages Emma to go to college and follow her dreams.



After Emma overhears Brooke and Reid talking about the baby that Brooke was pregnant with by Reid, she learns that Brooke and Graham knew each other because Graham found Brooke crying in her trailer when she learned she was pregnant. Graham encouraged Brooke to do what she wanted to do with the baby, not what others wanted her to do. Graham understands Brooke's predicament because he has a child of his own. Although his girlfriend had not wanted to keep the baby, Graham talked her into carrying her to term, then letting Graham adopt her.

## **Emily Watson**

Emily Watson has been Emma's best friend since they were little girls. Their lives are very different as Emily goes to regular school and Emma is tutored on the set of the films. Emily is also a Goth. She dresses in dark clothes with boots and dark nail polish. She listens to strange music. During the course of the novel, Emily hooks up with a boy who is normal. Derek wears khakis. He listens to music that Emily had made fun of in the past. Emma realizes that her friend has fallen in love with Derek. Derek seems to care for Emily as well.

Emily lives vicariously though Emma, wanting Emma to send her details of her life during the filming of the movie. Emily, however, becomes jealous of all the attention that Emma is getting. She becomes angry with Emma for not paying attention to what is going on with her. She wishes that she had her best friend to help her pick out a homecoming dress and soothe her fears about her relationship with Derek. She is afraid that Derek will not have the courage to continue to date her, especially since his friends come to the store where she works to make fun of the way she dresses.

### **MiShaun Grant**

MiShaun Grant plays Lizbeth's best friend Charlotte in the movie School Pride. In real life, MiShaun becomes a friend whom Emma turns to for advice during her time on the movie set. MiShaun is the one who kids Reid when he eats a tuna sandwich before his kissing scene with Emma. She is also the one who tells Emma Graham's name. MiShaun is the one who finds Emma hiding behind the potted plant in the hotel lobby when her stepmother makes such a scene when they check in. MiShaun tells Emma that those who really love her will overlook her irritating relatives. Those who don't, MiShaun says, aren't worth worrying about. It is also MiShaun from whom Emma asks for advice on whether she should trust her intuition or her logic when it comes to making a choice between two prospective boyfriends.

### **Connor Pierce**

Connor Pierce is Emma's father. He is married to Chloe, who is Emma's stepmother. He has been with Emma through her entire career and pushes Emma to try out for parts. It is Connor who suggests to Emma that she try out for the part of Lizbeth in the movie School Pride. One day when Emma hears her father and her stepmother discussing her



career, her father doesn't defend her as she thinks he should. This adds fuel to Emma's anger against her father that has been brewing since her mother died. Surprisingly, when Emma tells her father that she wants to go to college, he encourages and supports her decision.

### **Chloe Pierce**

Chloe Pierce is Emma's stepmother. Emma does not like her stepmother because she sees her stepmother as an enemy and a competitor for her father's attention. Chloe dresses provocatively, like a teenager. Emma is offended by Chloe when Chloe describes Reid as being "yummy hot" as if she were his age. Chloe also flirts with Reid, another action that Emma finds inappropriate. Chloe encourages Emma's father to keep Emma in show business because she wants the residual fame that will come from being related to Emma. She is angry and pouts for several days when Connor, Emma's father, tells her that he is supporting Emma's plans to take a break from movies and attend college.

### **Brooke Cameron**

Brooke Cameron plays Caroline in the movie School Pride. When she isn't filming, she spends much of her time with Graham Douglas. Reid believes that the two are sleeping together but it turns out that it was Graham whom Brooke told she was pregnant by Reid. When everyone else is telling Brooke to get an abortion, Graham encourages Brooke to do what she thinks is best for her. The third anniversary of the birth of Brooke's baby falls during the filming of School Pride. Brooke confronts Reid about the milestone. She is still angry because he denied the baby was his and would have nothing to do with her after she told him she was pregnant.

### **Tadd Wyler**

Tadd plays Charlie in the movie School Pride. He is one of Reid's friends. The two met at an after-Grammy party. Tadd plays guitar and is one of the cast members who competes in the "jam session" party one night. Tadd appears to be gay. Tadd is the one who realizes how much Reid has been affected by Emma. Tadd tells Reid he should apologize to her and beg forgiveness but Reid refuses. He tells Tadd is would be embarrassing to apologize to her. At this point, Tadd points out to Reid that it would be no more embarrassing than his current actions of sleeping with the majority of the members of the cast and crew.

### **John**

John is one of Reid's friends from Los Angeles. While Reid admits that John doesn't have good judgment, he does credit John with knowing what is going on around him. It was John who told Reid to get out of a club where he was smoking marijuana before the



police busted the place. John is one of the friends who goes with Reid on his tubing trip. The party breaks up when John's father calls and orders him to come home because he is supposed to start college. It is John who warns Reid that pictures have been showing up on the Internet about Emma's habit of running with Graham. It is while partying with John on his nineteenth birthday that Reid falls and breaks his hand.

### **Mark Alexander**

Mark Alexander is Reid's father. Reid believes that his father is very hateful and controlling. Reid blames his father and his busy career for his mother's drinking problems. Mark, however, seems to believe that his son is in some way responsible for his mother's problems. He tries to encourage his son to make something of his life, but his manner of doing so seems to alienate his son. Reid admits that he tries to do things, like buying the car that his father hates, just to make him angry. Reid also plays off his father as he tries to avoid doing anything that might please his father just to spite him.

## **Emily's Mother**

Emily's mother takes over some mothering duties after Emma's mother passes away. She helps to straighten out Emma's confusion about sex after Chloe's attempt at talking to Emma. She also agrees to keep Emma's cat, Hector, after Emma's grandmother dies. Emma also suspects that Emily's mother has talked to her father at some point about Emma's need for her father's approval and support in her life as her father suddenly becomes more attentive to her.

## **Meredith Reynolds**

Meredith Reynolds plays Lizbeth's older sister Jane in the movie School Pride. Emma has acted with Meredith a couple of times before. Meredith's major role in the novel is that she is an example of a girl giving into a bad relationship. Meredith knows that Robby, her controlling and abusive boyfriend, does not trust her. Yet, she continues to date him. They have broken up several times, but Meredith continues to agree to get back together with him.

## Robby

Robby is Meredith's boyfriend. Although the two generally get along well, Robby gets jealous of Meredith when she is working. Meredith admits to Emma that she and Robby have broken up three times in the past two years. It is during the filming of School Pride that Robby breaks up with Meredith again. Although Emma doesn't believe it, Meredith gets back together with Robby even after he broke up with her the third time. Most of the cast members who have met Robby agree that he is a complete jerk.



#### **Emma's Mother**

Emma's mother is not a part of the action of the novel. She died when Emma was only six years old. Even though it has been more than ten years since her mother's death, Emma still misses her mother very much. The filming of the movie School Pride is especially difficult for Emma because it is based on the book Pride and Prejudice, which was her mother's favorite book.

## **Lucy Alexander**

Lucy Alexander is Reid's mother. Lucy has a drinking problem. Though she's been to rehab three different times, she has not successfully kicked her drinking problem. Reid believes that the drinking problem is partially his father's fault because his father is never at home. Reid's inability to be affectionate toward his mother and his drinking may also contribute to her problem, however.

### Jenna Black

Jenna Black is the youngest of the School Pride cast. She is one of the few cast members who could already be considered a recognizable star. Jenna is the one who suggests to Emma that she should seriously consider going to college. Jenna, like Emma, is still taking high school courses. The two have classes and sometimes study together during their time filming School Pride. Jenna plays the youngest Bennett sister, Lydia, in the movie.

## **Quinton Beauvier**

Quinton Beauvier is one of the teens on the School Pride cast. He plays George Wickham. He has been called the hottest young actor to watch. When Quinton dances with Emma during the first cast outing, Emma thinks how jealous Emily would be if she knew Emma was dancing with Quinton. It is Quinton who suggests the drinking game at the cast get together in Brooke's room.

### **Emma's Grandmother**

After her mother's death, Emma spends much time with her grandmother. Her grandmother lets Emma have a kitten, Hector. She also straightens Emma out after Chloe's attempt at having the sex talk with her. Unfortunately, Emma's grandmother died of an aneurysm when Emma was fourteen.



### **Leslie Neale**

Leslie Neale plays Lizbeth's mother in the movie School Pride. When Emma's stepmother visits the set of the movie while filming is taking place, Leslie takes the woman in hand and sits her down by the side of the set. She tells Emma that she understands her predicament.

#### **Derek**

Derek is the boy whom Emily is dating. Emily is afraid that the boy, who is clean cut and wears khakis, won't be able to stand up to the pressure of dating a girl who dresses in Goth attire.

## **Walt Riggs**

Walt Riggs is another of Reid's friends from Los Angeles. He is the front man with a band that performs in Austin during the filming of School Pride. It is Walt who tries to explain to Reid why he shouldn't sleep with people with whom he works.

## George

George is Reid's manager. When Reid has to have emergency surgery to have his appendix removed, he is only slightly surprised that his father sends George to look after him instead of coming himself.

### **Bob**

Bob appears to be Reid's foremost bodyguard. It is Bob whom Reid offends when he kills his avatar while they are playing Call of Duty together.

### Dan

Dan is Emma's agent. He is the one who calls asking Emma to audition for the part of Lizbeth Bennet in the movie School Pride.

## Virgil

Virgil is the Vanity Fair photographer who takes photos of the School Pride cast for that magazine.



## **Dr. Marcie Weems**

Dr. Marcie Weems is the therapist in charge of Reid's mother's rehabilitation. Reid hates her immediately.

## **Adam Richter**

Adam Richter is the director for the movie School Pride.

### **Jeff**

Jeff is one of Reid's bodyguards. He goes with Reid and his friends on the tubing trip.

## Cara

Cara is Graham's four-year-old daughter.



# **Symbols and Symbolism**

### **School Pride**

School Pride is an Americanized movie based on the Jane Austen novel Pride and Prejudice.

## **Pride and Prejudice**

Pride and Prejudice is both Emma's and her mother's favorite book. The movie School Pride is based on this book.

#### Lotus

A Lotus is the model car that Reid purchased. He loved the car until his father demanded that he keep it for at least one year.

### **Tuna Sandwich**

A tuna sandwich is what Reid eats before his kissing scene with Emma. Emma eats a bite of the same type of sandwich saying that if they've both eaten some of it they won't notice it during the kiss.

### **Slice of Chocolate Cake**

Graham offers to share a slice of chocolate cake with Emma one night while they are at the hotel together.

## Call of Duty

While playing the video game Call of Duty, Reid kills Bob the bodyguard's avatar, offending the security person.

### A Fork

During a dinner with her stepmother, Reid notices Emma grasping a fork as if she want to injure her stepmother or herself with it.



# **Princess Cut Diamond Ring**

Emma wears her mother's princess cut diamond ring, a ring that Reid admires. He never learns the story behind it.



# **Settings**

### **Austin, Texas**

Austin, Texas is the city in which the movie School Pride is filmed.

### **Hotel's Fourth Floor**

Most of the rooms on the hotel's fourth floor are cordoned off for the cast and crew of School Pride.

## **Jogging Paths**

It is on the jogging paths that Emma and Graham spend time running and talking, getting to know one another.

## **Guadalupe River**

Reid and some friends decide to go tubing on the Guadalupe River during a break in filming.

## **Netherfield High School**

Netherfield High School is the school that Lizbeth Bennet and Will Darcy attend in the movie School Pride.

## **New York**

New York is where Graham lives. It is also where Emma decides to attend college.

## Thirteenth Floor of an Office Building

Production crews for the movie School Pride rented out this office space in Dallas so they could film the scenes that take place in Rosings Corp Headquarters.

### Dallas, Texas

Dallas, Texas is the place where Emma, MiShaun, Graham, and Reid go to film the scenes that take place in Rosings Corp Headquarters.



## It's a Wonderful Life

It's a Wonderful life is the play in which Emma plays the leading female role in her hometown after the filming of School Pride.



## **Themes and Motifs**

### **Stardom**

The effect of stardom on a person is a theme in this novel. Throughout the novel, the actors in the movie are seen interacting with their fans. Reid is one of the few characters who really enjoys the attention that he gets from the fans and media. Although he is probably the most shallow person in the novel both morally and emotionally, Reid does have a good grasp on his relationship with his fans. He knows that their feelings about him can change on a whim. He does not get too upset by these people though he is deeply affected by the rumor mill. He seems to put more stock than he should in the rumors that are spread about a relationship between Graham and Emma. He tends to believe these rumors more than he believes what Emma tells him.

Emma, meanwhile, doesn't seem to be as endeared with being popular as Reid is. For her, the whole idea of photographers pushing their cameras in her face and hanging out around the hotel is hard for her to handle. She doesn't understand what the fuss is about and is often afraid of the groups. Because of this fear, Emma is often photographed with either Reid or Graham protecting her as they make their way through the crowd. Emma is also upset by the media's speculation that she is pregnant because her stomach sticks out a bit in one of the pictures they have taken. Emma's whole family as well as her best friend are hurt and upset by these rumors as they trust Emma and believe they know her personality, but at the same time are seeing an altered version of her through the eyes of the media.

## Relationships

Relationships are a major theme in this novel as there are references made to all types of relationships. Relationships between parents and children are important in the novel. Reid's complex and failing attempts at a relationship with his parents is one of the relationships portrayed in the novel. Emma's relationship with her father, stepmother and her lack of a relationship with her mother are also explored in the novel. Emma feels as if she has been left alone when her mother died and her father seemed to no longer be able to see her after he remarried.

Dating relationships are also explored in the novel. Meredith is involved with a controlling, abusive boyfriend whom the other members of the School Pride cast hate though they don't know him. Emma cannot believe her ears when Meredith tells Emma that she has decided to go with Robby again even though he had hurt her so badly in their breakup. Another interesting dating relationship that is explored is that between Emily and Derek. Even though the two are as opposite as they can be on the outside, the two obviously share a deep love for one another.



Emma is also faced with relationship decisions of her own. She is pressured by Reid to have sex even though she is not really sure that she wants to give away that part of herself to him. At the last minute, Emma learns how badly Reid hurt Brooke when he used her, then left her pregnant. Meanwhile, Emma is also nurturing a relationship with Graham. Graham is attentive to Emma and encourages her to follow her dreams. He joins her in running each morning, and supports her through an attempt to break a bad habit. Sex, however, is not a topic that Graham pressures Emma to discuss.

## **Aspirations**

Deciding what one wants for his life is a major theme in this novel as Emma must decide for herself what she wants in both her career and her love life. In love, she must decide if she wants to commit to the attractive and wildly popular Reid who pressures her for sex and has a habit of using his girlfriends for sex only, then leaving them behind. Besides Reid, she has also met Graham, who encourages her desire to go to college, enjoys the same things that she does, and doesn't pressure her for a sexual relationship. Reid, on the other hand, sees no reason for Emma going to college or wanting to do anything with her life that will be meaningful. He sees success in terms of popularity and money, not in terms of leaving a legacy.

Emma also has come to the point where she is tired of doing shallow movie roles. She has done some theater acting and has fallen in love with the theater. Her father, and particularly her stepmother, pressure Emma to have a successful movie career. It is Emma's father who suggests that she try out of the role of Lizbeth in School Pride. Emma tries out for the role because she is curious about Reid and because she is pressured by her parents. With the help of Graham and her best friend, Emily, Emma works up the courage to tell her father that she wants to go to college. Surprisingly, he agrees to support her although he must go against Chloe, who is excited about Emma's career because she believes it will make her famous as well.



# **Styles**

#### **Point of View**

This story is told from the first person point of view of two different characters. Both Reid and Emma serve as narrators for the novel. Reid narrates the first half of each chapter while Emma narrates the second half. The use of the differing points of view gives both Emma and Reid's sides of the story.

The novel combines exposition as the narrators describe what is happening around them, and dialogue as the characters interact with one another. In this way, Reid can tell his story about his experience with the film from his experienced standpoint while Emma tells her story about her filming experience from her viewpoint of a new actress on the set of a major movie.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is very relaxed and easy to read. The story flows well from one narrator to the other with no jumps in the transitions. Although there are two different narrators in the novel, these two voices don't have a lot of differences. Their wording choices, dialects and ways of describing things are much the same. The language is used to guide the reader through the timing of the novel as Emma and Reid pass the narration back and forth between one another. Emma's portions generally follow Reid's sections in a linear fashion. There is only one portion of the novel in which Reid's narration backtracks on an experience that Emma has already narrated. This happens in the portion of the novel where Emma has just learned about Brooke's baby. It is important in this part for the reader to hear both Brooke's side of the story, through Emma's narration of the events in the bathroom, as well as Reid's side of the story as he narrates what happened to him when Brooke first approached him about the anniversary of the baby's birth.

### **Structure**

The book is divided into forty-six chapters. Each chapter is about six pages long. The first half of each chapter is narrated by Reid, while the second half of each chapter is narrated by Emma. These changes in narrator are noted with the name of the narrator listed above the particular part of the novel that person is narrating.

The story is told in a linear fashion with the exception of one section of the novel. Emma generally picks up the story where Reid leaves off and vice versa. It is only in the part of the novel where Emma overhears Brooke and Reid's encounter in the bathroom that the story is told both from Emma and then later from Reid's point of view. The author probably does this because it is important for both Brooke's side of the story, told through Emma, and Reid's side of the story to be told.



The story is told from Reid being notified that he has gotten the part in the movie School Pride and Emma first learning she is being considered for the part through the filming of the movie. The novel also covers a cast photography session after the movie is completed. The story ends with Emma going to New York for school tours where she meets up with Graham and learns that he has a daughter.



# **Quotes**

I'm not including Emma with that — she's not a one-nighter. I assume she'll keep me happily occupied for the duration of filming.

-- Reid (Chapter 24 paragraph 17)

**Importance**: Reid somehow seems to think that he is giving Emma special preference by indicating that he plans to use her for the entire duration of the time they are filming together, not just for one night like most girls.

Truth is, I'm not just tired of one-dimensional roles. I'm sick of doing films, period. -- Emma (Chapter 1 paragraph 28)

**Importance**: These are Emma's thoughts when her father first suggests that she try out for the role of Lizbeth Bennet in an Americanized version of the novel Pride and Prejudice. Although her parents want her to be a big star, Emma has other plans for her life, she just hasn't figured out what they are yet.

The irony would be too hilarious, but I'm not doing it. It would be like those teen celebs who pretend virginity, wearing chastity rings and preaching abstinence to other teens, only to get caught with their pants down at some point.

-- Reid (Chapter 2 paragraph 15)

**Importance**: Although Reid isn't a person of great morals, he does draw the line at endorsing a way of life that he obviously does not practice.

Emma, this is destiny. It's going to be you. Reid Alexander is Darcy and you're going to be Elizabeth Bennet.

-- Emily (Chapter 2 paragraph 39)

**Importance**: Emma's best friend, Emily, seems to be almost more excited about Emma's chance to be in a film with Reid Alexander than Emma is.

You have to unzip the character's skin, step into her completely, allow yourself to meld with her. You have to become the character.

-- Emma (Chapter 2 paragraph 51)

**Importance**: Emma is upset when her stepmother makes a statement indicating that what Emma does is not really work. In this sentence, she describes how fully she feels she must immerse herself in her characters in order to play the parts.

Movies are never as good as the book, no offense. You can't let it drive you insane.' Emily knows me so well.

-- Emily (Chapter 4 paragraph 26)

**Importance**: Although she welcomes the opportunity to work with Reid Alexander,



Emma is disturbed by what the writers have done to the novel Pride and Prejudice, her favorite novel. Emily tries to convince Emma that even though the movie won't be as good as the book, she still has the ability to play the role.

I've never told anyone except Emily, but I know I owe my acting ability to compulsive people-watching. I could never express the emotions of so many various people, some of whom I can't stand even if they are fictional, if I didn't constantly watch people interact.

-- Emma (Chapter 9 paragraph 49)

**Importance**: This quote gives away Emily's secret ingredient in her acting ability.

Brooke was my first, and I was hers. We were young and stupid and for a brief space in time, I thought I loved her. I hadn't, of course, any more than she loved me. As much as I wish I was unaffected by her, that's impossible.

-- Reid (Chapter 13 paragraph 15)

**Importance**: In this quote Reid begins to explain the history between himself and Brooke.

Or maybe I look in the mirror every day and am scared as shit that I'll see either of my parents looking back at me.

-- Reid (Chapter 14 paragraph 12)

**Importance**: After Reid learns that his mother has readmitted herself to alcohol rehabilitation, he considers the way he acts around his parents. He realizes that he does not want to turn into either one of them.

It was my mother's favorite book. I remember her reading it aloud to me when I was very young.

-- Emma (Chapter 15 paragraph 48)

**Importance**: When Graham visits Emma in her hotel room, he encourages her to talk about her background with the novel Pride and Prejudice. Although she doesn't like to talk about it, she finds herself telling Graham about her memories of the book, which include her mother.

My mother would say Chloe is not familiar with using her inside voice. Or any discretion whatsoever.

-- Emma (Chapter 17 paragraph 6)

**Importance**: Emma believes that her mother would share her disgust with her uncouth stepmother.

I watch MiShaun and Emma do their opening scene, and I don't care if it makes sense. I want her. No marginal, semi-talented, indie-film asswipe like Graham is going to keep her from me.



-- Reid (Chapter 18 paragraph 3)

**Importance**: Reid suspects that Graham and Emma have been spending time together. It is in this quote that Reid voices his selfish desire to get Emma for himself.

When she looks up, I try to catch her eyes — dark blue, identical to mine — wondering if she wants someone to just grab her hand and get the hell out of here. But no, she's determined to tackle the demons.

-- Reid (Chapter 29 paragraph 12)

**Importance**: When Reid visits his mother in rehab, he notes that she seems determined to address the problems in her life. Reid, on the other hand, seems to think the whole ordeal is a waste of time.

Are you afraid if you talked to him, you might actually tell him how angry you are? -- Emily (Chapter 29 paragraph 35)

**Importance**: When Emma visits Emily during a break in filming, Emily tries to encourage her to tell her dad that she wants to go to college. It is when Emily makes this statement that Emma finally realizes how angry she really is with her dad and that she needs to address the issue.

So, crazy famous and disgustingly rich is worth more than doing something that might have a social impact or garner critical acclaim.

-- Emma (Chapter 35 paragraph 13)

**Importance**: One day while Emma is visiting Reid as he is recuperating from his surgery, she realizes that he is in the business with the desire only to be rich and famous, not to actually do any work that might make a difference in the world.

I can't bear the way I miss her. Like a missing limb. Like the quiet voice of conscience. Like hunger.

-- Emma (Chapter 38 paragraph 32)

**Importance**: After Emma learns how Reid got Brooke pregnant, then left her alone to deal with the pregnancy, she misses her best friend Emily so much that it hurts. She has never had to go through something like this before without having Emily to talk to about it

I don't want to help you try to be anything. I want someone who's already something more.

-- Emma (Chapter 44 paragraph 46)

**Importance**: These are the words that Emma speaks to Reid when the cast members have reunited for a photo shoot and the two finally talk about what happened between them.



I haven't wanted anyone but you since the night we met. And as much as I value our friendship... being friends with you is not what I have in mind.

-- Graham (Chapter 46 paragraph 66)

**Importance**: After Graham and Emma reunite in New York and Emma learns that he has a daughter, the two finally talk about their feelings for one another. Graham finally gets up the courage to tell Emma how much he loves her.