

The Carrie Diaries Study Guide

The Carrie Diaries by Candace Bushnell

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Plot Summary

The *Carrie Diaries* is a novel by the bestselling author of *Sex and the City*, Candace Bushnell. The story follows the main character, Carrie Bradshaw, as she finishes her senior year of high school in Castlebury, Connecticut, and makes her way to New York City. When a boy Carrie knew as a child, Sebastian Kydd, returns to complete his senior year in public school, Carrie picks up falling in love with him, which is what she felt the first time she saw him when she was twelve.

While Carrie's friends are one by one losing their virginity and moving from teenagers to adult experiences, Carrie retains her virginity. In the aftermath of her mother dying, Carrie struggles to help her two younger sisters grow and form them into the women that their mother would have wanted them to be.

The one thing that Carrie aspires to be is a writer. When the novel opens she has been rejected from the New School writing program. Throughout the novel, Carrie works on getting into the program. After experiencing heartbreak when her best friend Lali steals Sebastian Kydd from her, Carrie starts to write for the school newspaper under a pen name. The stories become wildly popular with the student body. In addition, Carrie submits the stories for consideration to the New School. When she receives her acceptance letter, Carrie embarks on her journey to spend the summer before her freshman year at Brown in New York City.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

It's the first day of their senior year, and best friends Lali and Carrie are driving to school. Bradley received a letter denying her to a writing program. She didn't tell anyone she applied or that she'd been denied. On the way to school, Lali tells Carrie there is a new boy in school, Sebastian Kydd. Carrie hears it again from Cynthia and Walt, classmates of hers, in the hallway. Cynthia says he was kicked out of private school for dealing drugs.

Carrie remembers her first encounter with Sebastian Kydd. She was twelve and into feminism. Carrie's mother was remodeling the Kydds' kitchen. Carrie blurted out that an author she was reading says every form of sex is rape. She thinks that the author clearly hadn't met someone like Sebastian Kydd because it was love at first sight for Carrie.

In assembly, all of the girls are talking about the return of Sebastian. Cynthia stands to give a speech as the class present. Donna LaDonna interrupts as she walks down the aisle in a bridal dress. Cynthia and Donna are part of the same clique but only pretend to like one another.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Carrie winces each time she hears Sebastian's name. It implies that something happened between Carrie and Sebastian before he went away to private school. Since it has been five years since Carrie has seen Sebastian Kydd, it foreshadows a kindling of a romantic relationship between them, now that she isn't the nerd she once was.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Carrie is in her calculus class when Sebastian Kydd walks in late. In the cafeteria, Carrie tells her friend Walt that Sebastian is in her class. Walt says all of the girls in school, including his girlfriend and Carrie's friend Maggie are fawning over Sebastian. Maggie, who is always emotional, says the guidance counselor threatened to suspend her if she wears the sweater she has on again. Carrie goes after Maggie and runs into Sebastian. Later, another of Carrie's friends who is a nerd, The Mouse, says she has a boyfriend and lost her virginity with a boy she met at a Washington DC camp over the summer.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Carrie starts to feel as if all of her friends are changing around her. Carrie, on the hand, feels as if her life and her future are unknown. Even when she tries to make plans, such as applying for the writing program, she gets turned down.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Carrie and Maggie are sitting at a picnic table right outside of the school grounds when they realize someone is standing in the barn, smoking a cigarette. It's one of The Mouse's friends, Peter Arnold. He's the second smartest boy in school, but he's grown over the summer and apparently has started smoking. When Carrie picks up the school paper, *The Nutmeg*, Peter asks her what she thinks of it. She says it's drivel. Peter says he's the editor and invites Carrie to join it as a writer. Carrie gets mad at Peter and stomps off to swim practice. Maggie chase after Carrie to try to get her to go to the mall after swim practice.

Lali joins Carrie in the locker rooms at swim practice. Lali tells Carrie that her father came by school and told her that he isn't going to pay for Lali to go to college. He'll pay for military school or Lali can get a job. Lali knocks Carrie's clothes over on accident, and the rejection letter from the New School falls out. Lali reads the letter and tells Carrie she's sorry Carrie didn't get in to the school.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Since Carrie loves to write, this foreshadows Carrie joining the staff of the school newspaper. In her senior year, it's her chance to turn the bad newspaper into a great school newspaper. Additionally, since she's not going to the writing program, it gives Carrie a chance to do what she loves to do—write.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Carrie arrives home to find her father chasing off a punk rock boy who was hanging out with her youngest sister, Dorrit. Carrie thinks about a story she once wrote about a boy who falls in love with a girl only after she donates her kidney to him. She also thinks about watching Sebastian and his friends diving off a cliff into the water during the summer. Carrie fell in love with Sebastian and never really knew him. She decides that something good has to happen to her this year.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Carrie fears that she is a romantic, like her father. She fears this because romantics tend to get hurt and left without anyone. Carrie also realizes that she fell in love with Sebastian many years ago but didn't think about him again until now. There is foreshadowing that Carrie and Sebastian will become boyfriend and girlfriend during their senior year. As Walt and Carrie are walking up to Tommy's house, Sebastian Kydd pulls up in a yellow Corvette. When Walt and Carrie get into the house, they see Peter and The Mouse. Peter goes to try to get Maggie out of the car.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Walt, Carrie, and Maggie pull up to Tommy's party. Tommy is Cynthia's boyfriend. Maggie says she doesn't feel well because she smoked too many cigarettes, but Carrie tries to convince her to get out of the car. Walt and Carrie end up leaving Maggie in the car and going into the party. Lali tries to get the three girls who have locked themselves in the bathroom, Jen S, Jen P, and Donna LaDonna, to come out. When it doesn't work, she tells Carrie they should go to The Emerald, which is a bar in town. While Carrie, Walt, Maggie, Lali, Peter, and The Mouse are in a booth drinking their drinks, Donna LaDonna walks in with Sebastian Kydd. Then she starts kissing him. Lali and Carrie go to the dance floor and Sebastian dances with them. Carrie goes into the bathroom and Sebastian Kydd is waiting for her when she comes out. He flirts with her and says he'll stop by her house sometime. When they get in the car, Lali announces she's mad at The Mouse for saying that Sebastian was dancing with Carrie and not Lali.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Maggie is starting to like Peter. This might cause Walt and Maggie to break up and could even put a rift in some of the friendships. Sebastian is starting to see Carrie in a different light than he did when they were kids. He's going to become interested in Carrie. It also seems as if Lali is going to like Sebastian, so when he and Carrie start dating, it could cause a problem with their friendship.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Carrie talks about the boyfriends she has had in the past. One thing that Carrie notices is that none of them is very intelligent. One of the boys she dates, Doug Haskell, is on the basketball team. He tries to get her to give him oral sex. When she refuses, she thinks he'll leave her alone, but instead he keeps pursuing her. He comes by her house after school on the following Monday, saying they need to talk. He drives her out into the country, saying they're going to the "gun tree," which is a tree shaped by a lightning strike into the shape of a pistol. On the way there, Carrie thinks Doug might rape or kill her, so she veers the car off the dirt road, ditches the car, and Doug and walks home. Carrie turns the story into a funny one when she retells it to Walt, Maggie, and The Mouse.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Carrie feels as if the small town where she lives, Castlebury, has expectations. Everyone who grows up there and ends up staying there lives the same lives. Carrie wants more out of her life. She is going through the motions to give people what they expect from her, up to a point. She has bigger expectations for herself in her own mind and plans on getting out Castlebury as soon as she can.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

A teacher, Ms. Givens, catches Carrie with a paint can and asks her what she's planning to do with it. Carrie lies and says it's for one of her father's projects—he's a scientist. The paint is really to paint the graduation year on the roof of the dairy barn. Carrie runs around the barn and finds Sebastian Kydd standing there when she makes it back around.

That night, Lali picks up Carrie in her truck to drive to the barn. Sebastian Kydd pulls up behind them. When he asks if they need help, Carrie says no and Lali says yes. The Mouse, Maggie, Walt, and Peter show up. Carrie climbs up the ladder and Sebastian climbs behind her with the can of red paint and the brush. Carrie paints 1980 and then starts to slip so the paint can crashes in the grass below. Carrie tries not to slide any further, but she starts to slide a little at a time. Sebastian grabs Carrie and drags her to the peak of the roof. The ladder crashes to the ground, and then they hear police sirens. They hide the ladder and the booze and plan to tell the cops they're there smoking cigarettes. Sebastian tells Carrie to hide on the other side of the roof because he has a record.

Lali knows the cops because her father is their boss, so they let everyone go. Carrie and Sebastian are stuck on the roof because the cops escort everyone to their cars. As they talk about their respective futures, waiting for someone to come and save them from the roof, Sebastian kisses Carrie. Carrie feels as if her life splits into two at this point—the before and the after.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Carrie is starting to feel as if she has to leave her mark on the world. This is why she wants to paint her graduation year on the dairy barn behind the school, which is a tradition typically left to the boys. Both Carrie and Lali have a crush on Sebastian Kydd. It seems as if Sebastian likes Carrie, so if and when they start to date, this will drive a wedge in Carrie and Lali's friendship. Sebastian infers that he likes Carrie and has even tried to call her, but that the phone at her house is always busy.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Maggie, The Mouse, and Carrie are dissecting the conversation Carrie and Sebastian had on the roof of the barn. It's been four days since it happened and Sebastian hasn't called or said anything more to Carrie. Cynthia mentions the vandalism to the barn, and everyone involved laughs every time they see the 198 and the big splotch of paint from when the can fell before Carrie could finish the zero.

Carrie goes through the motions, but all she thinks about is Sebastian. On Saturday he still hasn't called, so Carrie packs her suitcase to go to Brown for her college interview. Brown is her father's alma mater. Carrie attends her interview and tours the campus with a student guide, George. George invites her to a concert that night, but all Carrie can think about is Sebastian. George becomes more interesting to Carrie when he says he has an internship working for the New York Times this summer. Carrie and George kiss a few times throughout the night and George asks for Carrie's number when he drives her back to the hotel.

Carrie and her father return to Castlebury on Sunday. Sebastian hasn't called but Maggie has called several times. Maggie tells Carrie to come over because something urgent happened. Carrie arrives at Maggie's house to find Maggie locked in her room. When Carrie gets inside, Maggie confesses she had sex with Peter in the woods the night before. She wants Carrie to prepare Walt so that Maggie can break up with him. Maggie says that Walt won't go past third base. Carrie picks Dorrit up at the Burger Shack realizing Dorrit has dyed her hair a neon color. Carrie talks to Walt but he already knows that Maggie lied to him about going to visit her sister and says he'll just wait for her to break up with him.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Maggie's urgency foreshadows that Sebastian and Lali got together when Carrie was out of town. The inference is that Walt is gay. Carrie also feels as if all of her friends are leaving her behind because she is only virgin left. Additionally, everything Carrie has known is changing.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Carrie's dad almost passes out when he sees Dorrit's hair. He tries to talk to her, but he's too scientific and technical. The phone rings and Carrie prays it's Sebastian, but it's George asking her out for a date on Saturday. Carrie draws tears on her face with a black eyeliner pencil and goes into Dorrit's room. Missy, Carrie's other sister, calls upstairs that someone is here. When Dorrit comes down with her pick and blue hair and Carrie with her clown face, they see the guest is Sebastian.

Sebastian takes Carrie to the art museum. On the drive, he talks about traveling in Europe. Carrie wonders how a boy like this could like a girl like her. While they're in the museum, he tells her his parents are in Boston and invites her to his house. When they get to Sebastian's room, he asks why Carrie didn't ask him why he didn't call. She insinuates that she isn't like most girls.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Dorrit seems to be rebelling because of her mother's death and the fact that her father is the one raising them alone now. She's dealing with her sadness and mourning in the form of rebellion. Carrie is going to lose her virginity to Sebastian Kydd. It seems as if Sebastian is saying all of the right things to get Carrie to sleep with him.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Carrie thinks about how her parents met. Her mom was a librarian and her dad went in to check out books one day. They married six months later. Carrie's mom was the perfect housewife and mother. She read a book by Mary Gordon Howard, *The Consensus*, one summer, with the other ladies from the club. It's a feminist book that seems to transform their lives. After this, her mother went back to school and became an architect. When Carrie's mother gets sick, Carrie goes to the library, where Mary Gordon Howard is signing books. When she asks Carrie why she's going to be a writer, at thirteen, all Carrie can manage is she doesn't know. Carrie realizes that Mary Gordon Howard is mean and is not going to rescue her from her life. Now, Carrie thinks about being with Sebastian and realizes that she no longer needs or wants to be saved.

Chapter 10 Analysis

The unknown is appealing to Carrie. At twelve and thirteen, Carrie doesn't truly understand what a feminist is, but she feels it's what she should be. Someone who is supposed to be the symbol of feminism, Mary Gordon Howard, turns out to be a disappointment to Carrie because Carrie realizes that a true feminist cannot hate women as much as Mary Gordon Howard does.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Lali and Carrie are in swim practice when Lali tells Carrie that Sebastian and Donna LaDonna are dating. Carrie tells Lali that she and Sebastian went on a night the night before and they kissed. Lali thinks Carrie is joking. Sebastian shows up at practice and Lali sits talking with him while Carrie practices her dives. When Carrie finishes, she walks over to the bleachers and Sebastian asks Carrie if she wants a ride home.

As Carrie walks to Sebastian's car, the two Jens pull up and try to convince her to go to the Hamburger Shack with them. He declines, climbs into Sebastian's car, and kisses Carrie. As they drive away, the two Jens follow behind. Carrie tells Sebastian to drive to the public library. They watch from the parking lot as the two Jens try find them. Carrie and Sebastian are in a heavy make-out session when Donna LaDonna shows up.

Sebastian claims he isn't dating Donna but that she thinks he is. He says she needs him, but that he needs Carrie.

Chapter 11 Analysis

While Lali and Carrie are best friends, there has always been a sort of competition between them. Now, it seems they will be competing for the same guy—Sebastian Kydd. Sebastian saying Donna needs him suggests that something is wrong with Donna. It could be that Donna is pregnant or that she has a troubled home life.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

At school, Maggie tells Carrie she's mad at her for not telling her about Sebastian. When Carrie walks into the auditorium for assembly, she finds Donna LaDonna is her assigned seat and Sebastian nowhere to be found. Donna is talking to Cynthia's boyfriend, Tommy, about Carrie trying to steal Sebastian and how Sebastian called her last night to tell Donna what a "something" Carrie is. Carrie threatens to sit on Donna if she doesn't get out of her seat.

After assembly, Sebastian comes up behind Carrie. She tells him about the incident with Donna. He seems unfazed and asks Carrie to skip swim practice so they can go somewhere together. Later, at the barn, Maggie is still mad at Carrie. Maggie and Walt have the same relationship, even though they've been broken up for two days and Maggie is now dating Peter.

Carrie and Sebastian decide to go to a Clint Eastwood retrospective. They spend half the day in the movies making out.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Sebastian sees Carrie as different from all of the other girls he dates or who like him. Since Sebastian is the first guy that Carrie has like in this way, this is a first experience for her. Sebastian sees Carrie as one of the guys, but in a girl's body.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Carrie tries to lie low for a few days. On the third day, Walt finds Carrie in the stacks of the library. He says Maggie needs her and that she's hiding in the girl's bathroom. Maggie is crying and tells Carrie she needs her to go with her to get birth control. Maggie admits that she had sex with Peter right after they went to The Emerald when she was still dating Walt.

Carrie and Maggie go to the doctor's office in the next town over. They are in a bad area of town. When the girls find the office, they have to knock loudly on the door. The nurse escorts a crying girl out to her friend and then calls Maggie in for her appointment. When Carrie asks how she found the office, Maggie says Peter told her about it and that he learned about it from Donna LaDonna.

Chapter 13 Analysis

The crying girl in the doctor's office just had an abortion. Peter and Donna knowing about the office suggest that one of Peter's girlfriends has had an abortion. It also suggests that Donna LaDonna has had one.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Peter tells Carrie that it couldn't be Donna who left a card in her locker that says for her not to get well soon. Carrie is looking for her mother's expensive handbag, which she finds ruined and stuffed into a giant stuffed panda that belongs to Dorrit. Carrie takes a bottle of pink nail polish and turns the handbag into a fashionable item to get ready for her date with Sebastian at a fancy French restaurant.

Everyone is gushing over Carrie's handbag at the restaurant, which Carrie fixed by writing her name in pink nail polish on it. Sebastian is acting weird and distant. He's also ordering for Carrie. When Carrie asks him what's wrong, he gets mad. When she backs down, Sebastian's mood returns to normal. Carrie thinks about her date with George the following night and worries what will happen if Sebastian finds out she's going.

Chapter 14 Analysis

It seems as if Peter is defending Donna because he got Donna pregnant and that's how he knows about the abortion clinic in the next town over. Carrie's obsession with dressing differently from everyone else and turning the ruined bag into a fashion item foreshadows a future obsession with fashion for Carrie.

Sebastian is trying to control Carrie. Carrie is changing the way that she normally is to try to please Sebastian. Carrie having a secret date with George foreshadows Sebastian finding out and breaking up with Carrie over it.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

When George picks Carrie up for their date, he compliments her bag. She suggests they go to the same restaurant that Sebastian took her to the previous night. They talk about what life living in New York City is like on the way to the restaurant. The hostess greets Carrie by name, as if she knows her. Carrie finds herself telling George all about applying and getting rejected from the writing program. When Carrie is about to confess that she has a boyfriend, the hostess says she has a phone call. It's Missy telling Carrie that Dorrit has been arrested and is at the police station.

When George and Carrie arrive at the police station, Mr. Bradshaw is sitting next to the mother of Dorrit's accomplice, Cheryl. The girls stole gum. Apparently, it is Dorrit's third offense and the police let her go the other two times. Carrie tries to convince the police officer to let Dorrit go because they are friends of Lali's family. The police officer makes a phone call. The police release Dorrit, but she has to face the judge on Wednesday. George tries to kiss Carrie goodnight when he leaves, but she avoids it, saying that she's very tired.

Chapter 15 Analysis

George and Sebastian are direct opposites of each other. While Sebastian tries to control Carrie, George wants to get to know the true Carrie. It seems as if Dorrit has moved up from stealing from her sisters to stealing in public.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Sebastian is rushing Carrie to finish getting ready. Carrie is stalling because she is waiting for George to call to tell her what he thinks of the story she gave him to read. George calls and he says she has talent but that she needs to write about what she knows. When Carrie hangs up with George, she and Sebastian go to Lali's annual swim team party.

When they arrive at the party, Peter is happy and sharing the news he was accepted for early admission to Harvard. Maggie is drunk and upset, so Carrie takes her into Lali's barn to talk. Carrie and Maggie go back into the house to call Walt, but Walt's mother says he's supposed to be out with Carrie and hangs up. Carrie realizes she should write about what she knows to gain experience for getting into the New School.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Maggie infers that she's trying to get pregnant to keep Peter. It seems as if Walt is hiding his homosexuality from his parents and using Carrie as his cover.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

On the way to talk to the newspaper advisor, Carrie runs into Walt. When she asks where he was on Saturday, he says he's been working extra shifts, but Carrie knows this is a lie. Ms. Smidgens, The Nutmeg advisor, says they need someone to do layout. She says if Carrie does that then then can talk about her writing for the paper.

Getting ready for swim practice, Lali says she thinks Peter is going to dump Maggie. She mentions that Sebastian told her that Peter was asking Sebastian about dating Donna LaDonna. Lali invites Carrie to go to a concert and to bring Sebastian along. When Carrie says she'll ask him, Lali says she'll ask Sebastian herself. When Sebastian comes to pick Carrie up at four, she tells him she has to go to a meeting for the paper. Lali volunteers to go to the mall with Sebastian in Carrie's place.

While Carrie helps Gayle work on the newspaper layout, Gayle tells her about Donna LaDonna discriminating against her sister from making the cheerleading squad because she isn't pretty enough. Peter asks Carrie if she wants to go to the mall because he's meeting Maggie there.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Lali is trying to drive a wedge between Carrie and Sebastian. Lali insinuates that Sebastian tells her things that he doesn't tell Carrie. While Carrie has been feeling distant from Sebastian, it makes Carrie jealous to think that Lali and Sebastian are getting close. Carrie's discussion with Gayle foreshadows Carrie writing the story about cheerleader discrimination that Peter won't allow Gayle to cover because it's her sister that is being discriminated against. Carrie showing up at the mall insinuates that she might catch Lali and Sebastian cheating on her since they are not expecting her. Carrie is standing in the parking lot of the mall, smoking a cigarette, when Lali and Sebastian pull up in his Corvette—making Carrie wonder where they've been for the last hour and a half. Sebastian says they went to the Hamburger Shacks, but didn't see Walt there. When Sebastian kisses Carrie, she can smell the onions and peppers they put on their hamburgers on his breath so she knows he's not lying.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Carrie is telling The Mouse about her story on Donna LaDonna and discrimination. The Mouse suggests Carrie should write something less controversial for her first story. She suggests writing about Cliques. When Gayle comes into the library, she suggests a similar story, so Carrie starts interviewing kids in school about cliques. Carrie wants to work on her piece, but Sebastian wants to go to the mall. Carrie agrees to go because Lali works at The Gap now and Carrie doesn't like the fact that Sebastian and Lali seem to be getting closer.

Carrie's article publishes. Most of her friends congratulate her, but Lali seems combative about it and everything else Carrie has in her life. Sebastian says he's glad the story is over because Carrie was bugging everyone with her questions. Peter says Smidgens expects Carrie to write something else for the paper.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Carrie is having premonitions that Lali and Sebastian are going to cheat on her. Carrie is also disappointed in herself for giving up her love for writing for Sebastian. Sebastian implies that he knows something about Walt, what he's doing and where he is.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Maggie, The Mouse and Carrie are hiding in Maggie's Cadillac. When Walt gets into his car, the girls follow him to find out what he's up to. The Mouse also mentions that Lali is acting weird and that Carrie should watch out for her. The girls also talk about how Carrie is still a virgin as they follow Walt, who seems to be driving toward East Milton, where the doctor's office is. Maggie says that if Carrie doesn't have sex with Sebastian that someone else will. The girls follow Walt to a porn shop. They hide in the bushes as Randy Sandler, a football player that is two years ahead of them pulls up to the shop. Randy and Walt come out of the porn shop together, kiss, and then drive off in Randy's car.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Maggie implies that Lali will gladly take Carrie's place as Sebastian's sexual partner. Maggie realizes that Walt is gay, but all she can think about is what people are going to think of her.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

George is taking Carrie skiing when she tells him all her problems. She tells him what they found out about Walt, even though The Mouse, Maggie and she made a pact to never tell anyone what they saw. She also tells George about her story coming out in paper and how Lali was acting weird about it. Carrie plans to tell George she has a boyfriend later in the day. Before she get a chance to tell him, they run into a friend of George's on the slopes, by the name of Amelia. Carrie thinks she looks familiar. When Carrie accidentally runs over Amelia and pulls her down with her, Carrie loses a ski and it cracks, which means she has to be taken down the slopes on a stretcher. They meet Amelia in the lodge. Amelia asks where Carrie is from and when Carrie says Castlebury and tells Amelia her last name, Amelia says Carrie is dating her brother Sebastian.

It's a silent ride home between George and Carrie. When they arrive at Carrie's house, George tells Carrie Sebastian was kicked out of school for cheating. Then he leaves.

Chapter 20 Analysis

George tells Carrie that he likes because she's a free spirit, like is great aunt who is a writer. This infers that his great aunt is the author of *The Consensus* that Carrie met when she was 13 in the library.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Carrie and Lali are at their swim meet a few weeks after the George incident. While Carrie is performing her dives, she realizes she doesn't want to be on the swim team anymore. When Carrie gets to the locker room to change her clothes, she realizes Donna and the two Jens have stolen her clothes. She runs under the bleachers in her towel, gets Maggie's attention and gets Maggie's jacket. When Lali and Sebastian drop Carrie off at her house, they are still laughing about the clothes incident. Carrie stomps in her house and starts throwing shows. Missy asks her what's wrong and advises Carrie that Lali is undermining Carrie's relationship with Sebastian. Missy says their mother didn't teach them about feminine wiles so the Bradshaw girls are doomed when it comes to men.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Carrie is outgrowing high school. Her maturity level is beyond her years and she is ready to move on to the next phase in her life. The conversation Missy and Carrie have foreshadows the girls coming up with a plan to stop Lali from stealing Sebastian, and possibly have Carrie give up Sebastian for a better boyfriend, such as George.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Later that night, Carrie goes to the dance with The Mouse and her boyfriend, Danny, who is from Washington DC. When they arrive at the dance, Lali tries to stop Carrie from going to the dance floor because Sebastian is dancing with Donna LaDonna. Lali and Carrie borrow Danny and sandwich him on the dance floor. When Sebastian comes up behind Carrie, she hisses in his ear, "Fuck you." Carrie leaves the dance to see Walt at the Hamburger Shack. Carrie tells Walt she knows about him and Randy. Randy comes to pick up Walt and they invite Carrie to go with them. On the drive to Provincetown, Randy says he's seen Sebastian buying porn at the shop she followed Walt to with Mouse and Maggie.

Chapter 22 Analysis

Carrie finally realizes that Lali is her true friend and that Sebastian is not a good boyfriend. Carrie also realizes that she doesn't know nearly enough about Sebastian, such as why he was really expelled from his private school and that he is apparently into pornography.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

The next morning, Carrie's sisters wake her up. She has a hangover, but they say dad doesn't know she came in at 3 am. They tell her Sebastian is downstairs. When she goes downstairs, Sebastian and her father are doing calculus problems. Sebastian acts as if nothing happened the night before and asks Carrie to go ice skating. While they're skating, Sebastian asks if Carrie is going to break up with him, but she says she can't. Sebastian also reveals that Donna didn't steal her clothes at the swim meet, but it Lali instead. They go back to his room and Sebastian tries to talk Carrie into having sex. She says she can't do it today and he says he can't wait forever. When Carrie mentions the Jugs video, he asks her how she knows. She tells him he should have figured out by now that she knows everything.

Chapter 23 Analysis

Carrie is allowing her heart to lead her in a matter that she should be using her head. Everyone else can see that Sebastian isn't any good for Carrie. Carrie, however, has held onto the feeling she has had for Sebastian since she was 12 years old and saw him for the first time, and she cannot let it go.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Carrie and the rest of her friends, minus Sebastian, are hanging out above The Mouse's garage drinking and smoking pot on New Year's Eve. The Mouse's father says Carrie's father is on the phone and that Dorrit and Cheryl have stolen an extra car of Cheryl's mother and are missing. When Carrie and Mr. Bradshaw arrive at Cheryl's house, they realize Cheryl's stepdad is a contractor Mrs. Bradshaw once had a run-in with. Cheryl's mom, Mr. Bradshaw and Carrie drive all over town looking for them until 2 am. When they get, the phone rings. It's George and he puts Dorrit on to say hello.

Chapter 24 Analysis

Tensions are brewing between Carrie and Lali. Carrie hasn't confronted Lali about stealing her clothes, but Carrie is carefully plotting her revenge. Dorrit has a crush on George, so when she runs away with Cheryl, she runs to George.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

Mr. Bradshaw has grounded all of the girls. He says he's going to monitor everything from now on. Carrie digs through her grandmother's boxes until she finds a story Carrie wrote as a little girl. She shoves the box with the story and some other journals and memorabilia under her bed. Her father keeps telling her she has to call to thank George for being there for Dorrit. When Carrie calls she asks George why Dorrit chose him and he says he wants to see her to talk about it. Mr. Bradshaw tells Carrie that Sebastian isn't allowed at the house and Carrie and Dorrit have a physical fight. The fight ends in hysterics, as the girls laugh. Missy comes into the room and says that Mr. Bradshaw is talking about sending Dorrit to reform school. Dorrit says what all of the girls are thinking—that their dad should be dead and their mom should be alive.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Mr. Bradshaw is acting of desperation by putting all three of his daughters on lockdown in the house. Especially since it was only one of them that did something wrong—at least that he knows about. It seems as if their father was different before their mother died, which has led to the girls building up resentment for their mother being taken from them and their being left behind with their father to raise them.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

The Mouse honks the horn to pick up Carrie to a show. What Mr. Bradshaw doesn't know is that she's really attending the concert Lali, she and Sebastian has had tickets for since last year. When Carrie meets Sebastian and Lali at the bar, Carrie senses a change in Sebastian and Lali's attitude toward Carrie. Lali and Sebastian say they came to The Emerald last night when Carrie's father hung up on him. Carrie drags Lali to the bathroom and asks if Sebastian is acting weird. Lali says she doesn't sense anything. When they get back to The Mouse and Sebastian, Carrie ask him if anything is wrong because he's acting weird. He says she's acting weird. They end up doing shots and drinking a lot. Carrie ends up singing on stage with the band. The Mouse convinces it's time for her and Carrie to go so she can get Carrie home by her curfew. Carrie goes back in to say something to Sebastian and finds Lali and Sebastian making out at the bar. She confronts them and leaves. She makes The Mouse pull over a couple of times so she can throw up and then she goes home.

Chapter 26 Analysis

Sebastian has a tendency to avert the problem, issue or wrongdoing from him and project it onto Carrie instead. Carrie goes through a lot of what-if scenarios in her head. She questions whether things hadn't happened the way they did if the outcome between she and Sebastian would have been the same. Carrie is blaming herself for the wrongdoing of her best friend and her boyfriend.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

Carrie wakes up the morning after she catches Lali and Sebastian kissing, hoping it was just a bad dream or a mistake. When she calls Lali, she tells Carrie that Sebastian needs her and that she loves him. Lali and Sebastian skip school and when Maggie drives Carrie by Sebastian's house, Lali's truck and Sebastian's corvette are in the driveway. The second day of school after the incident, Carrie goes to the barn before school to smoke a cigarette to find Walt there with Lali and Sebastian. Sebastian holds Lali's hand and Carrie and Walt walk away. Walt tells Carrie she has to seek revenge.

Chapter 27 Analysis

Carrie is not only struggling with the betrayal of her boyfriend, but also the betrayal of her best friend. Carrie is overanalyzing everything she and Lali have ever done and said to each other. She's doing the same thing with her interactions and relationship with Sebastian.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

A week later, Carrie and Lali do everything they can to avoid each other at school, but do end up running into each other a couple of times. Lali and Sebastian sit with Cynthia, Tommy and the two Jens in the cafeteria. One day, Jen S. comes to Carrie's table to inquire as to what happened between Carrie and Sebastian. Peter asks Carrie if she's coming to the newspaper meeting after school. When Gayle keeps questioning Carrie about doing the article on Donna LaDonna, Carrie picks up her things and walks out. She goes to the public library and ends up taking a photography class in process. Donna LaDonna rushes in late and the two girls end up getting paired to take pictures together. Donna admits she's hated Carrie since kindergarten and that making her life miserable had nothing to do with Carrie stealing Sebastian from her.

Chapter 28 Analysis

Ironically, Carrie stole Sebastian from Donna and then Lali ends up stealing Sebastian from Carrie. Even though Carrie and Donna have always been enemies, Lali and Carrie have always been best friends. In the end, though, Lali and Donna both end up being Carrie's enemies and it's all over the same guy—Sebastian. Donna and Carrie working together in the photography class, however, foreshadows the two girls really getting to know each other, which could lead to a friendship.



Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

Carrie is hanging out with George. George tells Carrie she should write about what happened to her. To cheer Carrie up, he drives her to meet his great-aunt, the one that's a writer. To Carrie's surprise, George's great-aunt is no other than Mary Gordon Howard. Carrie tells George's aunt that they met before, and then Mary Gordon Howard remembers meeting Carrie four years before. She tells Carrie she's too pretty to be a writer and when Carrie stands up to her, MGH takes a liking to her. As they drive home, Carrie reviews the signed book MGH gives her and George insists on stopping at a stationary store to buy Carrie a journal.

Chapter 29 Analysis

Mary Gordon Howard's attitude about Carrie, or anyone else, becoming a writer is her way of testing the person. MGH realizes that Carrie has what it takes to be a writer when Carrie stands up to the prejudicial statement MGH makes against Carrie becoming a writer.



Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

Carrie receives her acceptance letter from Brown. Six weeks after Lali and Sebastian start dating, swim team starts again. Carrie and Lali come face-to-face in the locker room, in the same spot they've always changed. When Carrie goes into the gym, cheerleading practice is ending so Carrie and Donna get into an argument. When Carrie goes into the parking lot, she sees Sebastian in his car and starts throwing her books at him. When he gets out of the car, she asks him to explain why he did it to her and he says Lali is nicer and less competitive. Since this is the direct opposite of what Lali is, Carrie realizes it's because Lali has sex with him. At the end of the chapter, Carrie writes an article about the queen bee in high school, which is about Donna LaDonna. She uses the pen name Pink Weatherston, which is the name of a character she wrote a story about when she was a little girl.

Chapter 30 Analysis

Carrie realizes that she isn't going to get the answers, apology and outcome she expects from Lali or Sebastian. She also begins to understand that she keeps putting herself in situations where she ends up hurting to prove to herself that she can still feel and that she is still alive. Even though she has been fighting it, Carrie ends up writing about what she knows.



Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Summary

Peter asks Carrie to finish the issue of the paper so he can go to a prom committee meeting with Maggie. Carrie and Gayle switch out Peter's article for Carrie's article about the queen bee. The morning the paper comes out Carrie is very happy. She walks to Walt's house to pick him up and finds him living in a tent in his backyard because his father found out he is gay. When Carrie arrives at assembly, everyone is focused on the story about Donna in the newspaper. Ms. Smidgens summon Walt to her office to say the Pink Weatherton is a good writer and she wants to see more of his or her stuff in the paper. Donna summons Carrie to her table in the cafeteria with glee about the article in the newspaper that's all about her.

Chapter 31 Analysis

Ironically, Carrie comes to like and respect her arch enemy, Donna LaDonna. Carrie appreciates that Donna has managed to twist something negative about herself into something positive.



Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Summary

It's five weeks later and Pinky Weatherton has published one new story a week in The Nutmeg. The latest story is on which couples have the chance to get prom king and queen. Carrie submits each of the stories to the New School and calls to make sure they received them. Maggie tells Carrie Peter has a big head ever since Pinky Weatherton wrote about him being the Frog Prince. Maggie says Jen P. has been after Peter ever since. When Peter comes into the gym, where they are decorating for prom, Jen P. rushes up to Peter and Maggie goes to cry in her car. Maggie makes Carrie go back into the gym to summon Peter to the car. When Peter gets to the car, he's angry.

Chapter 32 Analysis

The articles Pinky Weatherton is writing is shaking things up at Csstlebury High School. Some of the shakeup is good, but some of might just lead to breakups and heartbreaks, such as Peter and Maggie. Carrie thinks it might be time for Pinky Weatherton to stop writing for The Nutmeg.



Chapter 33

Chapter 33 Summary

Carrie cooks a recipe once a week now from the Julia Child cookbook. The Mouse is having dinner with her family when Mr. Bradshaw mentions George to The Mouse. Suddenly, Maggie comes to the back door and insists Carrie and The Mouse meet her at The Emerald. Maggie tells them when they arrive that Peter broke up with her for Jen P. An older guy starts hitting on Maggie and buying her drinks. Maggie gets drunk and her friends find her in the backseat of her car trying to have sex with the guy. They save Maggie and drive her home.

Chapter 33 Analysis

Carrie is starting to question if her decision to write about what she knows is good. She feels responsible for breaking up Maggie and Peter with her article.



Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Summary

Carrie receives her acceptance letter into the summer writing program at the New School. She convinces her father to let her go. Carrie and Donna continue to work on projects for their photography class together. They are learning new things about each other and forming a friendship. Donna guesses that Carrie is Pinky Weatherton. Carrie arrives home to Lali's truck parked in her driveway and Lali on the front porch talking to Missy. Lali is there to confront Carrie about writing a story for The Nutmeg under Pinky Weatherton about girls that steal boyfriends. Lali confesses that she and Sebastian broke up because Lali caught him kissing her little sister. Carrie starts laughing hysterically.

Chapter 34 Analysis

Carrie is at a transformation point in her life. She is at the line where she is about to leave her past behind and enter into her future.



Chapter 35

Chapter 35 Summary

Carrie's family takes her to the train station for her trip to New York. When she arrives, she walks out of Penn Station to catch a cab. When she leans in a taxi cab window to ask how much the fare is, someone steals her Carrie bag with all of her money, phone numbers and address in it. She sells her hat for 50 cents so she can make some phone calls. She calls George's house but he isn't home. She rummages through her journal to find the name and number for Donna's cousin. The person who answers is Samantha Jones.

Chapter 35 Analysis

Carrie is naïve and has to learn how to live in a big city like New York. The ending of the book explains how Carrie and Samantha Jones, characters from the Sex in the City series meet for the first time and become friends.



Characters

Carrie Bradshaw

Carrie Bradshaw is the main character of the novel. She is a high school senior and she is also a virgin. While she has had some boyfriends in the past, she has never really been in love before. She falls in love with Sebastian Kydd when he returns for their senior year in high school.

Carrie is an aspiring writer. She applied to a summer writing program in New York City but receives the rejection letter right before she starts her senior year. She is somewhat of a fashionista. She enjoys putting together her own eccentric outfits that make a fashion statement.

Carrie is also the oldest child in her family. She has two younger sisters. The girls live with their father because their mother died about four years earlier of a disease. Because Carrie has lived in the small town where she is from for her whole life, she is looking forward to living a life outside of her hometown.

Sebastian Kydd

Sebastian Kydd is a boy that Carrie knew when she was twelve. In fact, Carrie's mom and Sebastian's mom were best friends from attending the same college together. Sebastian is enrolled in private school, but when he is kicked out for an unknown reason, he returns to Castlebury High School to complete his senior year.

Sebastian is a very good looking yet mysterious boy. He seems to fit right into the popular crowd, and one of the first girls he hooks up with at the school is Donna LaDonna, one of the most popular girls in school. Sebastian starts to show an interest in Carrie because he thinks Carrie is different from other girls.

Sebastian is well travelled. He has been in different countries in Europe. He tries to share this side of him with Carrie by inviting her to travel to France with him and by taking her out to fancy French restaurants in town. It seems as if Sebastian starts to look elsewhere when he tries to get Carrie to have sex with him but she won't.

Sebastian and Carrie become girlfriend and boyfriend. After dating for a few months, Sebastian goes away on Christmas vacation with his family. When he returns, Carrie finds out that Sebastian and her best friend Lali have been dating behind her back.

Lali Kandesie

Lali Jandesie is Carrie's best friend. The girls have known each other since they started school. In addition to being friends, Lali and Carrie are also on the high school swim



team together. While Lali and Carrie are best friends, they also have a competitive relationship.

They compete with each other in swimming. Ultimately, Lali even competes with Carrie in the boyfriend department. Lali steals Sebastian away from Carrie, which destroys the friendship between the two girls. In the end, Lali finds Sebastian kissing her younger sister, so they too break up.

Walt

Walt is Maggie's boyfriend. Both Maggie and Walt are friends of Carrie. The three are often found doing everything together. Walt and Maggie have dated for a couple of years but then break up when Maggie meets someone else.

Walt is gay but he keeps it a secret from Carrie, his other friends, and his family. Walt works at the Hamburger Shack. He meets a former high school football player, Randy, who is also gay. Walt has his first homosexual relationship. Carrie, Maggie, and The Mouse, another friend, finds out Walt's secret when they follow him from school one day.

Maggie

Maggie and Walt are boyfriend and girlfriend when the novel opens. They eventually break up and Maggie starts dating Peter, who is a nerd that Maggie turns into a cool guy at school. Maggie smokes like a chimney. She also drives her mother's big Cadillac around town. She is a notoriously bad driver and is always running over and into curbs.

Maggie is also very dramatic. Everything that happens to her she makes a big deal out of it and always has to be the center of attention.

The Mouse

The Mouse is also friends with Carrie and the rest of the group. She is the smartest girl in school, so her nickname is The Mouse. She attends summer camp every year in Washington, DC. During the summer before her senior year, she meets her first boyfriend and loses her virginity in his basement.

Donna LaDonna

Donna LaDonna is one of the most popular girls in school. She is also a cheerleader. Donna is dating Sebastian when he takes an interest in Carrie. Carrie thinks Donna is doing mean things to her in revenge for stealing Sebastian. Later, Carrie finds out that Donna has disliked Carrie since kindergarten because of some shoes she wore and how Carrie always thought she was better than everybody else.



Donna and Carrie become closer when they attend a photography class together at the local library. In the end, it is because of Donna that Carrie meets Samantha Jones when she arrives in New York City.

Dorrit Bradshaw

Dorrit Bradshaw is the youngest of the Bradshaw girls. After their mom dies, Dorrit starts to change. She starts pilfering small items that belong to her sisters. Eventually, she graduates to stealing from stores. This behavior lands her arrested and in jail.

Dorrit starts to form a crush on a college guy who likes Carrie, George. When she runs away on New Year's Eve, Dorrit drives her friend's mother's car to George's house. Eventually, Dorrit starts to see a therapist and work through the issues that are causing her to rebel against her father, her family, and society.

Missy Bradshaw

Missy Bradshaw is the middle child. She's relatively quiet and studious. She seems to get a little lost with Carrie and Dorrit as sisters. She's also an ally to Carrie most of the time—trying to keep her from getting in trouble with their father and sticking up for her in attacks from Dorrit.

Mr. Bradshaw

Mr. Bradshaw is Carrie's father. He is a scientist and single father. He lost his wife to illness four years previously and is trying to figure out how to raise three girls on his own. He has a habit to equating real life situations to scientific ones.



Objects/Places

Castlebury, Connecticut

Castlebury, Connecticut, is the setting or location where the novel takes place. It's a small town where everyone knows everyone else. Carrie is born and raised in Castlebury, and therefore cannot wait to move away to live in a big city, such as New York City.

Dairy Barn

The dairy barn is an old abandoned barn that sits on the property behind the high school. Carrie and her friends use it as a meeting place to smoke and hang out. It's also tradition for members of the senior class to paint their graduation year on the roof of the barn in blue paint. Carrie and her friends choose to paint their graduation year in red paint, but Carrie almost falls off the barn before she finishes.

Carrie Bag

Carrie has an expensive French purse that belonged to her mother. She uses it for special occasions. When she looks for it one night for a date, she finds that her sister Dorrit has taken the purse and ruined it with pink nail polish. Carrie uses the nail polish to write her name on it and turns the ruined purse into a fashion statement.

Hamburger Shack

The Hamburger Shack is the local hamburger place in Castlebury. They make their hamburgers with sautéed onions and peppers. Both Walt and Dorrit work at the Hamburger Shack.

The Nutmeg

The Nutmeg is the name of the high school newspaper. It is considered by the students to be a rag. Carrie decides to write for the paper to build up experience so she can get into the New School. The Nutmeg becomes a hit when Carrie starts writing articles outing her classmates under a pen name.

Cadillac

Maggie drives a huge Cadillac. The girls often use Maggie's car to go out because it is big enough to fit everyone inside. They use the Cadillac to spy on Walt to determine his



secret. Maggie also uses the car to steal the cigarettes for her and her friends that her mother keeps in the glove compartment.

The Consensus

The Consensus is a book written by feminist Mary Gordon Howard. Carrie's mother reads the book with her friends about a year before she dies. Carrie has the book autographed by the author, who is signing books at the local library. Carrie never tells her mother because the author encourages Carrie not to become a writer. Carrie keeps and reads the book, however, as a way to stay close to her mother.

Yellow Corvette

Sebastian drives a bright yellow Corvette. Carrie first sees him in it when he drives to party one of their classmates is hosting. Later, Sebastian drives Donna, Carrie, and Lali around in the car as he dates each one of the girls.

Letters

At the start of the novel, Carrie carries around a rejection letter from the New School summer writing program. By the end of the novel, she has an acceptance letter to the program.

The Emerald

The Emerald is one of the bars in Castlebury. Carrie and her friends like to frequent the bar. They order alcoholic drinks and don't get carded. The Emerald is the place where Carrie finds Sebastian and Lali kissing and cheating on her.



Themes

Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. The novel reveals that even the individuals that make up a family have different relationships among the family members. For example, Carrie and her father have a closer relationship than Dorrit and her father. All three of the Bradshaw girls seem to have had a closer relationship with their mother rather than their father before their mother died.

Friendship is another type of relationship the novel tackles. First, Carrie and Lali are best friends, but there is a fine line between their friendship and their romantic love for the same boy—Sebastian Kydd. It seems as if Carrie and Donna LaDonna could have become friends sooner than their senior year in high school if Donna hadn't allowed looks and preconceived notions take over.

Romantic relationships are also tackled in the novel. Carrie has her first true love and romantic relationship when she starts dating Sebastian. Maggie has a relationship with Walt and then Peter. Each relationship is different. When Walt and Maggie break up, he pursues his true feelings with Randy.

Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as losing a mother to an illness and death. Carrie struggles with the fact that her coming of age includes dealing with her still being a virgin when all of her other friends are losing their virginity.

Additionally, each of the characters in the novel is dealing with the coming of age issues of leaving high school and their teenage years behind as they transform into adults. This forces several of the characters to deal with adult issues, such as birth control, cheating, and pregnancy scares.

Carrie especially struggles with her feelings about herself as a person and how she feels about the people she surrounded herself with her whole life. After her evaluation, Carrie even starts to form relationships with people that were once her enemies, and to see the truth about people she thought were her friend.

Family

Family is the central theme throughout the entire novel. This is because the storyline is about the lives of this particular family—the Bradshaws. While every family has their trials and tribulations, Carrie's family has its own family dynamics that are the same and

that are different from those of other families. In the end though, they are a family and they will get through it together, one way or the other.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view, from the perspective of main character, Carrie Bradshaw. The novel swings back and forth between the present and the past. The present represents the time after the death of Carrie's mother. The past represents the time leading up her death.

The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with the main character, Carrie Bradshaw. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside Carrie's head, thoughts, and inner struggles. The reader cares what happens to the narrator. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in Castlebury, Connecticut, during 1979 and 1980. The main characters are involved in the trials and tribulations of dealing with their senior year in high school. Carrie is constantly trying to do things so that she can live life to the fullest and make her senior year memorable.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that the character is a virgin. However, as events unfold, her virginity is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the twentieth century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

The novel is divided into thirty-five chapters. Each chapter ranges from five pages to ten pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and some dialogue. The narrator injects her own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.



The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is that of human relationships—friendship and romantic. One subplot is the coming of age of the characters, primarily Carrie Bradshaw. Another subplot is family relationships.



Quotes

"I hear there's a new kid."
Chap. 1, p. 5

"So what. You're cute and you're smart, too. Why shouldn't you date him?"
Chap. 2, p. 16

"If you're so smart, why don't you try writing for the paper?"
Chap. 3, p. 20

"Love is a holy cause."
Chap. 4, p. 26

"Good. I'll come by and see you sometime."
Chap. 5, p. 36

"Because I don't want to go out with a girl who every other guy has been with."
Chap. 6, p. 39

"Because it's a crock. Once I go to Harvard, that's it. Then I'll have to go to law school. Or business school. Then I'll be a suit, working for a big corporation. Taking the commuter train to New York City every day. And then some girl will get me to marry her, and before you know it, I'll have kids and a mortgage. Game over."
Chap. 7, p. 51

"Why should I bother when the result will be the same either way?"
Chap. 8, p. 61

"I was worried that I could fall in love with you. And I don't want to be in love with anyone right now."
Chap. 9, p. 68

"If you can't think of a very good reason to do it, then don't."
Chap. 10, p. 74



"Maybe I need you."

Chap. 11, p. 82

"You're great. I've been dying to check out this retrospective forever and I can't think of any other girl who would go with me."

Chap. 12, p. 88

"Donna LaDonna told him."

Chap. 13, p. 96

"Why do girls always do that? They always ask 'What's wrong?' Maybe nothing's wrong. Maybe a guy is just trying to eat."

Chap. 14, p. 103

"It's Dorrit. She's at the police station."

Chap. 15, p. 109

"What if you really, really, really wanted something and you didn't know how to get it—or you did know how to get it but you weren't sure you should do it. How far would you go?"

Chap. 16, p. 116

"That's what I'm trying to avoid. I should get points for being a good boyfriend and making her take the pill."

Chap. 17, p. 129

"You're writing for The Nutmeg, you've got about four diving trophies, and you stole Sebastian away from Donna LaDonna. Sounds to me like you get everything you want."

Chap. 18, p. 135

"It's all for the best. You're with Peter, and now Walt is with Randy."

Chap. 19, p. 142

"I'm Amelia Kydd. I think you're dating my brother."

Chap. 20, p. 148



"I am so sick of the two of them making fun of me."
Chap. 21, p. 157

"He's hot, but not gay. I've seen him renting porn tapes. Jugs—that kind of thing."
Chap. 22, p. 166

"Haven't you figured it out? I know everything."
Chap. 23, p. 172

"I have someone here who wants to talk to you."
Chap. 24, p. 179

"We're in Bralcatraz."
Chap. 25, p. 186

"Did you think I wouldn't find out?"
Chap. 26, p. 194

"I have one word for you. Revenge."
Chap. 27, p. 201

"You hate me because of some shoes I wore when I was four?"
Chap. 28, p. 208

"Your books must be your children."
Chap. 29, p. 213

"You owe me an explanation."
Chap. 30, p. 220

"Did you see the story about me in The Nutmeg?"
Chap. 31, p. 229

"You work for that Nutmeg. You must know Pinky Weatherton."
Chap. 32, p. 234



"He—he said he couldn't see me anymore. He said it was over."
Chap. 33, p. 238

"It's hilarious."
Chap. 34, p. 249

"Samantha Jones?"
Chap. 35, p. 255

Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Carrie Bradshaw? Do you think her current personality is a result of her mother's death? Why does she choose to dress in such an eccentric fashion? Why do you think she is so hung up on Sebastian even after he cheats on her and causes her to lose Lali's friendship? Why doesn't she tell anyone about the rejection letter from the New School? What does Carrie ultimately realize about her relationship with her father?

Discuss the relationship between Lali and Carrie. Are they friends, foes, or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Carrie feel about Lali? How does Lali feel about Carrie? How do Carrie's feelings change after Lali and Sebastian start dating? What does Carrie do about it? What happens to Lali?

Discuss the relationship between Carrie and Sebastian. Are they friends, in a relationship, or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Carrie feel about Sebastian? How does Sebastian feel about Carrie? How do Carrie's feelings change after she finds out Sebastian is cheating on her? What does she do about it? What happens to Sebastian?

Discuss the relationship between Dorrit and Carrie. Are they just sisters, foes, or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Carrie feel about Dorrit? How does Dorrit feel about Carrie? How does Dorrit express her feelings about Carrie? What happens to Dorrit?

Discuss the relationship between Carrie and Mr. Bradshaw. How does Carrie feel about her father? How does her father feel about Carrie? How do Carrie's feelings change after she is accepted into Brown and the New School writing program? What does she do about it? What happens to their relationship?

Who is Sebastian Kydd? Is he a tortured soul or simply a normal teenager going through a difficult time? Why do you think Sebastian cheats on Carrie with Lali? What role does Sebastian play in Carrie's decision to write for *The Nutmeg*?

Discuss Carrie's desire to write. What impact does it have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives? Do you think the change in her writing style is what ultimately changes her life or does her life change her writing style?