

Damaged Study Guide

Damaged by Cathy Glass

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Plot Summary

"Damaged" is the story of Cathy Glass and her year-long effort to reach a little girl who was so damaged by abusive parents that her goal turned out to be one that she or any other lay person could never have met. It was wrong that Jodie was placed in a foster home. She was so severely damaged from the abuse that she suffered all her life that she should have been institutionalized instead of being placed in the foster care system. The authorities listed her "at risk" when she was born so they were aware there were problems. As Cathy Glass often wondered, why was she allowed to remain in her parents' home that long?

Cathy had two teenaged kids, Adrian, 16, and Paula, 13. She also had a foster child who had been with her for two years. Fifteen-year-old Lucy was an adopted member of the family and Cathy loved her as her own. Cathy discovered that she had the time and energy to take on another foster child. Her kids were in high school and developing their own lives. Cathy was divorced and agreed to take Jodie into her home despite the fact that she was informed that although Jodie had only been in the system for four months she had already been in five foster homes. Her behavior had been so bad that none of the families could keep her. There were hints that she had abused and was acting out in violence and anger as a result of the treatment she had received. Cathy had had twenty years of success with foster children. She felt confident she could help this little girl. But Cathy had no idea what she and her family would be in for.

Jodie was overweight and unattractive partly from the anger in her face. She kicked the girls and threw porridge at Adrian. She cursed at Cathy and her kids and ordered them to get out of her house. Cathy tried to reach her with understanding, patience, and caring but the connection was lacking. Jodie seemed to disassociate with her surroundings. She was developmentally delayed by several years. Her motor skills were awkward and slow. She said words but they were often not related to each other. She muttered to herself all the time. She would soil herself to get her way and smear her face and the house with her waste. That would be enough for most people to say uncle but Cathy persevered.

Somewhere deep down inside the troubled little girl, she must have sensed that finally she found someone who cared about her. Cathy would get discouraged but she always put Jodie's interest first. She began to trust Cathy and let slip little hints about being abused, severely abused. As time went on and Cathy was able to get more and more out of her, it turned out that her father had sexually abused her for years - perhaps beginning when she was a toddler - and her mother took part in the abuse and covered for her husband. Jodie spoke of uncles and grandfathers who also abused her.

Cathy was appalled and of course reported everything she heard to the Social Services. Bureaucracies are slow-moving entities and although they received strong hints that things were bad in Jodie's household, the situation had been let go literally for years. Cathy kept pushing for Jodie to get help. Finally, a psychologist witnessed firsthand the violence and rage in the little girl and immediately recommended that she be placed in a



therapeutic unit where she could have care day and night. Cathy knew that it was the best thing for Jodie but she had mixed feelings. She felt that she failed the little girl although she hadn't at all. It was through Cathy's perseverance and dedication to the little girl that her horrible secrets emerged. Cathy grew to love the little girl despite her horrid behavior. She felt sad because she felt that she had never reached her.

However, Cathy found out she was wrong. Just before she left to live in the therapeutic unit, Jodie wrote a letter to Cathy (actually Paula wrote it for her but Jodie dictated it) in which she thanked Cathy for taking care of her and apologized for all the bad things she did. Once she got better, she wanted to come back. She asked Cathy to be her mother because she didn't want the one she had. Cathy was moved by Jodie's words and gratified that she had reached down in the dark abyss where Jodie existed and brought her some light.

Chapters 1 through 3

Chapters 1 through 3 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 1, Cathy Glass got a call from Jill from the fostering agency. There was a child that needed a foster home. She had five carers in the last four months since she first came into the system. Cathy had two children of her own, Adrian, 17, and Paula, 13. Lucy was 15 and a foster child but after two years had become a member of the family. Lucy had come to Cathy hurt and distrustful. But now two years later she was a typical teenage girl. Cathy had been a foster parent for twenty years but this new girl sounded like quite a challenge.

Cathy met Jill the next day at the agency. They went into a meeting room where there were about a dozen people already in attendance. Must be quite a case, Cathy thought to herself. Dave Mumby, the Social Services team leader, led the meeting and introduced everyone. Jodie, the girl in question, had been taken from her home and now was going through another change - a new social worker, Eileen, was being assigned to her. Cathy introduced herself as a foster carer from Homefinders Fostering Agency.

Although there had been suspicions about emotional and physical abuse, Jodie and her siblings had not initially been removed from the house. But four months ago, Jodie started a fire by setting her pet dog on fire. The image made Cathy shiver. That incident was the catalyst for removing the children from the house. Her two siblings, Ben and Chelsea were doing well in foster care but Jodie's behavior had been a challenge and has necessitated the assignment of a home tutor. Jodie and her siblings had been removed from her home under an Interim Care Order which meant they were removed against the wishes of the parents. If the parents could prove they could properly care for their children, they could be returned. If not, the children would be placed under permanent removal order known as a Full Care Order.

Jodie's mother was an intravenous drug user and her father was an alcoholic. Jodie had suffered from a many injuries over the past two years which drew suspicions of abuse. Jodie was eight but had delayed development and displayed the behaviors of a three or four-year-old. Jodie showed signs of violence while with the other carers - on one occasion she broke a solid oak door. Her former caretakers described her as "cold, calculating, manipulative, very rude and totally unlikeable." (9) She was big and strong for her age causing her most recent carers to be frightened of her. The tutor reported that Jodie wasn't doing well in school. Cathy absorbed it all and wondered how any child could be normal under such circumstances. She had to decide that day if she would take Jodie. If not, Jodie would be placed in a residential home. Was Cathy ready to take on such a challenge? How would it impact her family? Cathy couldn't bear to think of the little girl going to a residential home so she agreed to take her.

In Chapter 2, Cathy first became a foster carer before she had children. She saw an ad in a magazine and was intrigued. Her husband had no objections so she went ahead



and signed up. She learned that the children who were in foster care were sad and withdrawn and had gone through real problems in their young lives. Some of the children vented their fears and anger through violence. Taking in a foster child was never an easy ride. Cathy never saw herself as Mother Teresa. In fact, she had a personal stake in taking in these children. She enjoyed the feeling of self-satisfaction in helping troubled children.

As she had children, she always made sure to take in children who were younger than her own. That way she never had to deal with teenagers and drug issues. Fostering children was time-consuming. They usually needed more attention than her own children and there were tons of paperwork that she had to keep up. Fortunately, her children adjusted well to the foster children and didn't resent the time she had to devote to them. Her children went through a lot of changes over the years. One of the most difficult times was when she and her husband divorced. The parents of many of the children had abuse problems. The ideal situation for a foster child was to be returned to their home after the parents had resolved their problems. Cathy always tried to present stability and a positive environment in which good behavior was rewarded. Routine was important for troubled children whose home lives were chaotic. It was nice to know when they would have their next meals. Older children in the system had less chance to recover than the younger ones. Most of Cathy's experiences had been good ones.

That evening, Cathy told her children at dinner that Jodie would be coming to stay with them. She gently warned them that Jodie might be a handful but there was no negative reaction from any of the three teenagers. She warned the kids to give Jodie a wide berth and get familiar with her on a slow basis. She asked that they tell her anything that Jodie might confide in them about her home life.

In Chapter 3, Cathy had prepared Jodie's room. She hung posters of animals on the wall and bought a new duvet for her bed. It was the day that Jodie would arrive and as always, Cathy was nervous. Deirdre and Ann from the center brought Jodie who hid behind Ann when Cathy opened the front door. Jodie wouldn't respond to Cathy's greeting and clung to Ann. Just then Cathy's cat, Toscha, sauntered by. Cathy told Jodie the cat had come to see her. The thought of the cat lured Jodie in but as soon as she set foot inside the cat took off. It angered Jodie who said she wanted the cat.

Jodie found toys to play with and seemed to feel comfortable opening up and looking inside drawers and cabinets. She was overweight and an odd-looking child which could be largely attributed to the anger that was obvious in her face, actions and voice. Jodie saw some biscuits in the kitchen and wanted one. Cathy had her take a tray of them into the lounge and offer them to the people from the center which now included Jill who had stopped by to meet Jodie and Gary, Jodie's former social worker.

As Cathy provided information to the Social Services representatives, Jodie decided to explore again and wandered into the kitchen. She wanted a "Coke" but Cathy only had juice drinks. Instead of sitting on the child's chair that Cathy offered her, she took Cathy's seat on the couch. Everyone helped bring in Jodie's personal belongings from the car which was a surprisingly large amount. Jodie didn't want to stay with Cathy and

wanted to leave with Gary. As Gary headed for the door, Jodie let out a blood-curdling scream. After everyone left, Jodie had a bowel movement in her pants, stuck her hand in her pants, and smeared it all over her face. Cathy wondered what she had gotten herself into.

Chapters 4 through 6

Chapters 4 through 6 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 4, Cathy washed Jodie off in the shower. She was surprisingly docile in the shower behaving almost like a baby. She wondered why Jodie hadn't been embarrassed by her accident. Jodie wouldn't dry herself so Cathy started patting her off. She didn't like the clothes that Cathy picked out for her from one of her suitcases. As Jodie picked out what she wanted to wear which was seasonably inappropriate she mumbled unintelligibly to herself the entire time. When Cathy tried to join the "conversation" Jodie went mute. She wouldn't dress herself and threw one of the stuffed animals in her new room across the room. It wasn't her's, she yelled, and didn't want it.

Jodie knew no boundaries. Against Cathy's pleas, she jumped up and down on Adrian's bed. She wanted a rag-doll pajama case on Paula's bed. She told Cathy if she didn't get it, she'd kick her. She stressed to Jodie that all the bedrooms were private including her own. Jodie ran ahead to the kitchen for lunch and began again to root through the cupboards and drawers. Cathy had to repeatedly instruct Jodie not to grab things out of her hands and to ask nicely for the things she wanted. Cathy saw that it was difficult for Jodie to focus for more than a few minutes. She talked to imaginary friends who she threatened to kick to death.

When the girls came home, Jodie ran to greet them then told them to get it. It was her home. She ran and kicked Paula in the shin. Cathy tried to make Jodie understand that the home belonged to all of them. Jodie refused to help Cathy make dinner and often muttered things that didn't make sense or have any relevance to the moment. Although Cathy told her that everyone sat in specific seats, when Lucy came down she wanted to sit in Lucy's seat and elbowed her sharply in the ribs to get her to move. When Adrian came home from rugby practice, he sat across from Jodie who sank down in her seat and began kicking him under the table. Cathy noticed that Jodie could barely control her silverware when she ate due to underdeveloped motor skills. After taking a few laps around the table, she returned to her seat and ate with her fingers. Cathy motioned to the other kids not to make any comments.

After dinner, Jodie's mindless and endless chatter began to get on Cathy's nerves. It had been a long day and Jodie's need for constant one-on-one attention was exhausting. Finally, after reading two stories to her Jodie she was in bed but screamed at Cathy to leave the lights on. She was afraid of the dark. The other kids thought she was weird or possessed by the devil. Cathy told the kids that she was sure Jodie would improve with time but privately wasn't sure she believed it herself.

In Chapter 5, Cathy woke up at 2:05 am with a feeling that all was not well. The house was quiet but Cathy had a foreboding. When Cathy opened her door, Jodie was standing there with blood all over her face. She searched her body and found that Jodie had cut her upper forearm. When she washed her arm off, Cathy saw that the wound

was superficial and didn't need stitches. Jodie refused to respond to her questions about how she'd hurt herself. She only grinned, a strange joyless smile that was more like a grimace. Back in her room, Cathy found a small fruit knife that she had used to cut herself and that she had taken from her last foster parents.

Jodie wanted to go to the park. When Cathy told her they'd go in the morning, it wasn't good enough. Cathy told her the gates to the park were locked. She screamed at Cathy to open them. Cathy asked her what was hurting her so much inside but received no response. Cathy was losing patience but found the energy read Jodie another story. Cathy was awakened at five to the sound of a loud crash. Jodie was kicking a soccer ball in her room and knocked everything off her shelves. Cathy took the ball and told her that there was no ball playing inside. Cathy turned Jodie's small TV on and told her to be quiet. A short time later, Jodie turned the volume up as high as it would go. Cathy turned the volume down and took the remote control away from Jodie after she used foul language to cuss Cathy out. The first night with Jodie was finally over.

In Chapter 6, the next day, Cathy stressed to Jodie that she couldn't punch or kick anyone. But as soon as Lucy came down the stairs, Jodie kicked her. Then she clenched her fists and tried to kick Paula who swerved out of the way. She screamed at them to get out. She tried to kick Cathy then dropped to her knees, screamed and banged her head viciously on the floor. Cathy grabbed her from behind and hugged her until she stopped.

Paula showed her resilience by working on a puzzle with her and painting with her. But her attention span was so short that Jodie was soon bored. Jodie not surprisingly chose to paint the sky in black. When Cathy asked Jodie to pose for a picture that Cathy was required to take of her for Social Services, Jodie began to take her clothes off. Cathy made sure to make a note of that behavior in her daily log along with notes about Jodie's violent and disconnected behavior. Paula and Cathy played with Jodie all afternoon in between her tantrums.

After a very difficult weekend, Cathy told Jill that even though Jodie was a very troubled child she was determined to try to see it through. Cathy noticed that she didn't eat, she gorged. Jill told Cathy that if she wasn't able to keep her, the agency would have to start looking for a therapeutic unit for her. The tutor would be coming for a few hours the next day. Perhaps a familiar face would calm her down. One thing that Jodie really enjoyed was shopping at the supermarket. As Jodie threw things into the cart, Cathy was taking them back out. Cathy knew that food was often a symbol of safety and stability for a troubled child. Jodie had a fit at the check-out because she couldn't have ALL the sweets that were displayed there. She sat on the floor for a while and screamed. The people checking out behind them weren't very pleased with Jodie's behavior and Cathy's inability to control her.

In the car Jodie thumped the seat and talked to herself. She insisted on having the sweets in the car and when Cathy said she'd have to calm down first, Jodie threatened to poo in the car. Cathy warned her sternly that she wouldn't get any sweets that day if she carried through on her threat. She could see why her former carers gave into her

demands and why they couldn't keep her. By the time they got home, the odor in the car told Cathy that Jodie had made good on her threat.

Chapters 7 through 9

Chapters 7 through 9 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 7, Cathy reported the behavior to Jodie's new social worker, Eileen who hadn't heard anything about her using defecation to blackmail her carers in getting her way. When Eileen asked if it would be a problem, Cathy could only think how could it NOT be a problem! She asked Eileen to check through her file and background to see if that particular problem had emerged in the past. Eileen told Cathy that her natural parents would be having a supervised visit with Jodie the next evening at six o'clock. Eileen had no reaction to Cathy's description of Jodie's violent behavior, muttering and tantrums. Cathy feared Jodie would not be getting the support she needed from Eileen.

Jodie continued to get up at all hours and called for Cathy several times during the night. She was apparently having nightmares. Cathy knew from her vast experience that both behaviors were indicative of disturbed children. Jodie had Paula trapped in the bathroom threatening to kick her if she came out. After another screaming tantrum, Cathy convinced her to help her make breakfast. As she watched her set out the plates and silverware, Cathy noticed how poor her motor skills were. Poor coordination and motor skills were signs of delayed development. Cathy suspected that her delayed development was due to a lack of attention she got as she matured. Cathy had seen developmentally delayed children before but Jodie's case was the worst she'd ever observed.

After an unpleasant breakfast, Cathy sat Jodie down and told her that she would be having a visit with her parents later that day. An escort would pick her up and take her to meet them. She had little reaction at the prospect of seeing her parents. While Cathy fixed dinner, Jodie watched a singalong video. Adrian told Cathy to hurry to the lounge. Jodie was masturbating as she watched the video. Cathy made her stop and told her that what she was doing was private behavior not to be done in common space. The behavior puzzled Cathy because by eight years of age most children had stopped that type of public behavior. She kicked both the girls when they came home and had another tantrum. Cathy made spaghetti for dinner but Jodie demanded a burger. When she didn't get it, she threw her plate of spaghetti against the wall. Cathy finally boiled over and ordered Jodie to her room. On her way out she punched Lucy in the back of the head so hard that it made Lucy cry.

After she left for her parental visit, the house was peaceful for the first time in a week. Cathy began to wonder if she could ever reach the child. She had never encountered a child who was so remote, angry and disconnected. Cathy had to be realistic about how Jodie's presence would impact her children. Yet Cathy knew that she was the child's last chance before being institutionalized. She was surprised when her three kids came to her and said that they should keep Jodie at least for a while longer to see if she might be able to improve. The week had been rough for them and Cathy was moved by their kindness and maturity.

Jodie came home in high spirits and went to bed without too much coaxing. Cathy discovered that Jodie had torn the head off Paula's Raggedy Ann pajama cover and had mixed up all of Lucy's make-up into a big mess.

In Chapter 8, Jodie had actually been seven when she came to live with Cathy and had her eighth birthday shortly after she arrived. She celebrated her birthday with her parents and spent her actual birthday with Cathy and her family. She told Cathy she wanted to go bowling for her birthday. Jodie opened her presents before they went bowling. She had little or no reaction even though Cathy had put a lot of thought into them. Jodie loved her life-sized doll named Julie. Cathy got Julie a car seat and a high chair as birthday presents. She couldn't bowl very well but had a good time. She behaved well at McDonald's which is where she wanted to eat.

The tutor was going to arrive that afternoon. Hence, in the morning, Cathy took Jodie shopping to replace the pajama bag that she tore up and the make-up that she ruined. She told Jodie where they were going and why. She reiterated the house rule that bedrooms were private and that no one touched other people's property without permission. Jodie was afraid to go on the elevator. She said she'd put her father on the elevator and see how he liked it. Cathy probed further but Jodie clammed up.

Jodie was playing with Julie in the lounge when Cathy came in and saw her kissing the doll where its private parts would be. Cathy stayed calm but when Jodie said she was kissing the doll and that's how men kiss, Cathy was quite disturbed. Cathy gently asked her a few more questions when suddenly Jodie became enraged and viciously kicked the doll accusing her of "telling." Jodie said what the man did was wrong and Cathy robustly agreed. She revealed that she saw a daddy doing that to a girl. And finally she said the man was her father and that she was the girl.

In Chapter 9, Cathy knew that she had the key to all of Jodie's pain. From her training as a foster parent, she learned that little children rarely lie about being sexually abused. She told Jodie she was a brave girl for telling her that and asked her to share with her everything she could remember. Jodie pretended that the doll was her, Jodie, and Jodie played her father. She acted out an entire episode in which she was raped by her father. She said it was her bedroom and that the lights were out. Cathy was nauseated but tried to hide her revulsion. She made sure to tell Jodie that she did very well. She asked Cathy if her father was naughty. Cathy told her that he was very naughty. Cathy learned one more bit of information that she would be reporting. He had forced his penis into her mouth. Cathy finally asked if it happened once or a lot. Jodie's response was that it was "lots." Cathy began crying but Jodie didn't understand what was so sad.

Chapters 10 through 12

Chapters 10 through 12 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 10, while Nicola, the tutor, came Cathy planned to call Jill and tell her what Jodie told her. Jodie was glad to see Nicola and after she got them settled, Cathy excused her self and called Jill who was shocked by the news. To Cathy, it seemed that someone else could have figured out what happened to Jodie before she did. There were so many signs. Jill planned to get hold of Eileen immediately. She asked Cathy to write up a report. They both wondered why her mother hadn't interceded. Cathy suggested she could ask her about her mother but Jill cautioned her not to press her. She had revealed and may be stressed and not ready to go further.

Cathy knew that no matter what she could not terminate Jodie's stay with her. Jodie had invested her trust in her and she couldn't betray her. Cathy had told Jodie that she was safe with her; she couldn't abandon her. While Jodie took a break in the garden, Nicola told Jodie about something the little girl said. When she showed her the letter "T" Nicola said that the letter stood for trousers. Jodie said her father was naughty because he took her trousers off. Nicola also knew about an incident at Hilary and Dave's, her most recent caregivers. They ended her stay with them when she began trying to touch Dave's private parts through his trousers. From that tidbit, Cathy knew that somebody had to know that Jodie's problems were rooted in sex abuse.

Jill called later and advised Cathy that an emergency strategy meeting was being arranged. She would let her know where and when. Eileen called and sounded strangely cold about the revelations. Her biggest reaction was her dismay at all the extra work the matter would cause her. She didn't volunteer to stop by and talk to Jodie herself. Cathy was disappointed with Eileen - she wasn't doing her job. As it turned out, Cathy couldn't find anyone to watch Jodie so Jill represented her at the meeting. Sally, Jodie's guardian ad litem appointed by the court, called and wanted to hear first-hand what Jodie had told Cathy. Later, Jill called to tell her that all visitation between Jodie and her parents was immediately suspended. Cathy talked to Jodie again briefly and learned that Jodie had told her mother what her father was doing. Jodie did not seem upset that she wouldn't be seeing her parents for a while.

In Chapter 11, one night, Jodie was screaming and violently thrashing about on her bedroom floor. She began clawing her eyes, trying to gouge them out. Cathy had to wrestle her to make her stop. She kept telling Jodie that she was safe. Finally, Cathy got through to her. The screams stopped and her body went limp. She urinated and then vomited. Jodie told Cathy to tell him that she didn't want it in her mouth. She told Cathy that she told "her" to make it stop but wouldn't say who the "her" was. She cleaned Jodie up and put her back to bed. She stayed with her until she fell asleep. The incident drove Cathy back to smoking which she'd given up months before. She found a pack of cigarettes that she'd hidden and went outside for a smoke.



Jodie returned to her violent ways that morning. She had wrecked her room and she kept trying to poke and kick the girls at breakfast. When Adrian came to the table, she accused him of staring at her and threw porridge at him. She pushed Cathy too far when she told her that she was there to cook and clean for her. Cathy took her TV privileges away from her and gave her the silent treatment. She felt great sorrow for what she had been through but the child had to learn what acceptable behavior was.

After the others went to school, Cathy softened and emphasized to Jodie that she shouldn't say mean things to people or throw things at them. That was being naughty. Jodie said she was sorry. After Cathy gave her a hug, Jodie asked Cathy to give her another hug. Cathy asked Jodie again about the identity of the woman who Jodie had told about the abuse. Jodie said she couldn't remember. Cathy thought it was a turning point for Jodie but she couldn't have been more wrong!

In Chapter 12, weeks passed before Jodie would reveal any more information about her past. During that time she became more violent toward Cathy, the kids and herself. She started soiling herself again. She would smear it all over herself and the house. Surprisingly, the children continued to be patient with her. Cathy had sat them all down and told them what Jodie had revealed to her. It was difficult to tell the kids in graphic detail what Jodie had gone through especially with Paula being only thirteen. The kids had begun to pick up on some of the things she was saying and connect the dots.

Jill came one afternoon and she and Cathy took Jodie to the park. Cathy told Jill that Jodie was getting worse. Her nightmares were increasing and she was not sleeping enough. Cathy had taken her in for a hearing tested. She wanted to make sure her hearing was normal because she so often didn't pay attention to what anyone said or to what was going on around her. Jill said abused children often shut down. In their confused minds, what they don't see or hear may not really be happening. Jill complimented Cathy on the great job she was doing. But she knew it was very hard on Cathy. She planned to look into a therapeutic unit which might be the only way to really help her. She wouldn't set Jodie up in one. She would just see what was available. The only odd behavior on Jodie's part that afternoon was when she picked up a dead pigeon and seemed delighted by it.

The next morning Cathy found Jodie on top of her duvet in a near catatonic state. She wouldn't respond to Cathy's questions. She had a nightmare that her father raped her and that her mother saw it happen. Others watched as well and laughed at her. She mentioned her Uncle John, Ken, and Aunt Bell. They took photos when Uncle Mike did it. Her mother took pictures of her and her father. Cathy assured her that none of those evil people could get to her now. She was safe. Jodie said the people had given her toys and candy. Cathy assumed they were bribes to buy her silence. They told her that if she told anyone, they would take her to a dark cave where a monster would eat her arms off.

Cathy told Jodie that her own father never hurt her and that most adults were good and kind. She assured Jodie that what happened to her was not her fault. She realized that things had been so much worse for Jodie than anyone had imagined. Cathy called Jill

and filled her in on the latest revelations. Jill was sure the police would start an investigation.

Chapters 13 through 15

Chapters 13 through 15 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 13, Dave Mumby wanted to set up a meeting but wanted to wait until Eileen came back from leave. Eileen was supposed to meet with Jodie every six weeks yet Jodie had been with Cathy over four months and Eileen had never stopped by. Dave asked Cathy to find a school for Jodie. The parents were complaining about her lack of education. At this point, they had to know what they were accused of, especially when the visits were stopped. After what they had done to her, they were worried about her education?! Cathy checked some schools and found that Jodie, because of her behavioral problems, would qualify to have a full time assistant with her. The first five schools Cathy contacted were over their quota of special needs kids and couldn't take on any more. She contacted the headmaster at the small school Paula and Adrian attended. He was willing to review her file and see what he could do.

Jodie began to express her fear that her father was hurting her mother. Perhaps she felt guilty for leaving her mother behind with her father. They took a walk to the post office. Jodie thought everyone was staring at her. She said she'd kill them all. The ear doctor's office called asking for Margaret, Jodie's mother. Cathy straightened the caller out but it bothered her. If the parents found out Cathy's name, they could come calling some night.

In Chapter 14, after Eileen returned, the strategy meeting was held. It was decided that Cathy should make an appointment with a child psychologist. Jodie would also have to undergo a taped interview with the police and be examined by a police doctor for a forensics medical. Cathy was worried how Jodie would react to the forensics medical because it would essentially be a gynecological exam which was required in order to verify her claims.

Cathy and Jodie had fallen into a routine. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon the tutor would come so in the mornings they'd go to the park. On Tuesday and Thursday, they'd go shopping an outing which Jodie relished. She seemed to like to cause a scene in public when Cathy couldn't do much about it. She was behaving well with Nicola but wasn't advancing in her learning. The headmaster at her kids' old school could not offer Jodie a place. She found another school to try - Elmacre Primary, that was five miles away.

Even though Cathy had taken Jodie to the zoo, the cinema and museum, the park was her favorite place to go. She loved swinging but would never interact with the other children. A few times she stared down smaller children and frightened them. Elmacre called to say they couldn't take Jodie. But the headmaster had turned her name over to Adam Wet at Abbey Green School. She told Jodie that she was trying to find a school for her. But Jodie said she wasn't going to school. She hated school.

In Chapter 15, Jodie woke up screaming in the middle of the night claiming that eyes were everywhere in her room staring at her. Finally, Cathy coaxed her out from under her covers and carried her around the room showing her that there were no eyes anywhere. Her nightmares had seemed to evolve into hallucinations. Sometimes she seemed between being awake and asleep. One day when they were going to go shopping, Jodie swore she saw her father's van drive by. Cathy made her sit inside until she checked it out. She saw no white van anywhere. She told Jodie it was safe but even as they drove, Jodie was terrified as she looked out at the other cars.

It was getting to be Christmas time so Cathy told Jodie about her family's traditions. They hung pillow cases on the doorknobs at night, they left a snack for Santa and they decorated the house. Jodie had spent the Christmas before in a pub where her mother passed out drunk. At home, she put a pizza in the oven for her Christmas dinner. Cathy felt sad thinking about Jodie's future. She had really nothing going for her. She wasn't pretty or smart or nice or kind. She was rude, unpleasant, distant and violent. Cathy hoped that her broken personality could be mended so she could have another chance at childhood. She was only eight years old. Cathy vowed to do whatever she could for her.

Chapters 16 through 18

Chapters 16 through 18 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 16, Abbey Green School wouldn't be able to offer Jodie a spot until after they received funding for her which could take three months. The tutoring wasn't giving her what she needed in terms of education, routine and socialization with other children. Cathy carefully broached the subject of the medical that Jodie would be having that day. She told her that the lady doctor would have to check her private parts, where her father had hurt her. Cathy would be there with her. As usual, Jodie had little reaction. The only question she had was whether she would have to take her clothes off.

On the way to doctor's office, Jodie asked if her mother was going to have an exam because her father had been naughty with her mother. Jodie wouldn't say how she knew that. The exam went well and was conducted by two female police doctors, Dr. Marshall and Dr. Prachet. They were gentle and explained what they were doing as they went along. Afterward, Jodie said she wished the doctors had been men because women hurt more. Cathy was appalled and angered when Jodie revealed that her mother and Aunt Bell used to put spoons up inside Jodie. She could no longer contain herself and told Jodie that those people were all wicked and she hoped they would rot in hell.

In Chapter 17, Cathy immediately filed a report about the latest revelation. Jill called as soon as she got the report and was just as appalled as Cathy was. Cathy feared that Jodie was in serious decline. She was getting worse with each new piece of the puzzle that she revealed. Cathy was beginning to feel that the situation was out of her depth. Jill advised her to ask the psychologist who they would see the next week for some strategies about how to best deal with Jodie. The psychologist wouldn't be treating Jodie but would be making a recommendation about whether she should be returned to her parents. Two court dates had already been set for hearings about Jodie's future. If a Full Care Order was granted at the final hearing, the local authority would become Jodie's legal guardian. She would then be placed permanently in a foster home or even adopted.

In order to pursue a criminal investigation, Jodie had to be interviewed by Child Protection officers. The two officers, Harriet and Kelly, tried to reach Jodie but it was difficult. She played with the toys in the room and mainly ignored the two officers' questions and comments. Before the meeting, Cathy had told her it was important to answer all the questions the police officers would ask her but it hadn't sunk in. After a short time, the officers escorted Cathy and Jodie into a regulation interview room so Jodie wouldn't be distracted by the toys. Cathy would be able to stay for a while but then would have to wait in the lobby. A male police officer would be videotaping the entire interview.

Half-way through Jodie's interview, Kelly gave Cathy an update. They hadn't gotten much out of Jodie. Cathy's heart sank. She knew how remote and unmovable Jodie could be. After the interview was over, Harriet updated Cathy. Jodie kept saying she wanted to rip her father's head off but wouldn't say why. The police already had a file on Jodie's family. She wondered why Jodie had been left with them all that time. Jodie was worried that the monster was going to come and get her. Cathy knew that it was Jodie's fear that had kept her from telling the police more.

Jodie had already seen the psychologist, Dr. Burrows, before. Jodie was uncommunicative and hostile toward the doctor. Cathy figured her parents had warned her not to tell the doctor anything. Dr. Burrows assured Cathy that she was doing a good job with Jodie. What she needed most was continuity and firm boundaries. Cathy felt exasperated. She knew how to care for Jodie on a primary basis. What she needed help with was the violence, anger and tantrums. Cathy left the meeting feeling very alone in her battle.

Christmas was only a few days away. Just out of sheer exhaustion, Cathy scaled down her traditional celebrations. Her mother and brother and his family would be coming but she decided against having a second party for friends and neighbors. Cathy found herself preoccupied with Jodie and her problems. She was becoming too involved with her but couldn't stop herself because the child was so badly damaged. Cathy and her kids needed a break. Jill promised to try to find some carers who could take Jodie for a long weekend.

In Chapter 18, Cathy wondered why Jodie did not talk about her family as she was prone to. Jill was under the impression that she may have been abusive towards them which was why she was separated from them. Jill said that if Jodie wanted to send them Christmas presents or cards she could have them forwarded. But Jodie had no interest in sending them anything. She said she hated them because her mother liked them better than she did her. She would take them out of the room when her father came in. Jodie had no grandparents and was cut off from her parents, for good reason, but also from her siblings. She had no family.

Jodie painted a picture of her house. Cathy asked her to describe everything on the page. One of the figures she said was her dog. Cathy vividly recalled that Jodie had apparently set her dog on fire and so she wanted to press Jodie for more information. She said the dog was stupid because he was all ugly and burnt. Cathy asked how he got burned. She was home alone with her little brother and sister watching them, although she was only seven. She put a roll of paper towels on him and then lit it with her mother's lighter. She took her little brother and sister outside. The dog came out and rolled in the dirt. She went inside and called the fire department. She pointed out to Cathy that it wasn't her dog; it was her father's dog.

Jodie clenched her fist around her paint brush and said she wanted to burn the house down. She hated everyone and it was a horrible house. And she wanted her father arrested. In the days following the incident, Jodie grew even more withdrawn. She

rejected any sign of care or affection. She wanted to show the world that she didn't need anyone.

Chapters 19 through 21

Chapters 19 through 21 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 19, Jodie had her last tutoring session before Christmas and Cathy's kids were on break from their schools. Jodie had become more hostile and violent, kicking and punching and shouting orders to get out of her house. Jodie had become possessive of Cathy and demanded most of her time and attention. The other kids tried to avoid confrontations with her. Jodie began to reject any show of affection from Cathy. She didn't want hugs or kisses. Perhaps as she allowed more to come to the surface, she began to associate affection with the horrors she had endured.

Paula wished that she was still in school. She feared that Jodie would ruin their Christmas. Paula had stopped bringing friends home because of her. Lucy was tired of talking about Jodie - it had become their only topic of conversation. Lucy felt that Jodie was beyond help and evil. She didn't need a foster parent, she needed a priest. Sally, Jodie's legal guardian, told Cathy she was doing a great job with Jodie but warned her not to let her family suffer by having such a disruptive child in their home.

Eileen called with the bad news that a form with Cathy's name and address and been inadvertently sent to Jodie's parents by Social Services. Cathy was furious. Her mother had called Social Services and threatened to come to Cathy's house. Eileen promised to file an injunction to keep the parents away if they followed through on the threat. Waving a piece of paper at an angry parent didn't make them go away - she'd been through that before.

Cathy's children knew to look through the peephole when someone was at the door and to not open it if they didn't recognize the caller. And, Cathy's house had an extensive alarm system. Social Services called a special meeting to discuss the mother's threat. Cathy attended the meeting but it was a waste of time. They decided there was nothing they could do unless the woman followed through on her threat. Cathy was appalled when Eileen asked her to pass a present onto Jodie from her father. It was a T-shirt that had "Daddy's Little Girl" across the front. Eileen said she'd return it to him.

In Chapter 20, Cathy was determined that Jodie would have a happy Christmas. She knew that holidays were a time that abused children sometimes feel more detached than ever and often recalled unhappy memories of past holidays when parents drank too much and became abusive. On Christmas morning, Jodie was up before six o'clock as usual. The pillowcases that the kids left on their bedroom door knobs were all filled with presents. Cathy showed Jodie that the snack they left for Santa had been eaten. Jodie remained quiet while everyone opened the presents under the tree. But she seemed to understand that it was a special day and her behavior was good.

Cathy's mother, brother, sister-in-law, and six-year-old nephew came. Everyone exchanged gifts but again Jodie lacked the normal responses and enthusiasm of a

normal child. Cathy noticed she did try to emulate how the other kids were reacting. The only aberrant behavior that Jodie displayed was when she became angry about her nose hurting. When Cathy got her alone, Jodie said that her father hit her in the nose. It was obvious she was thinking about a Christmas past.

In Chapter 21, the New Year brought no change. Jodie continued to be hostile and difficult. Her nights were disturbed by nightmares and increasingly by hallucinations. With every new memory she shared with Cathy, she seemed to decline emotionally and psychologically. She began to lie even when she was caught in something red-handed. She began to make up false accusations about the other kids - that they were abusive to her. Cathy also caught her hurting herself. She would blame her imaginary friends for the bumps and bruises and hair-pulling that she'd done to herself. She began using different voices and claimed to have different identities. One was Amy who was two years old. One night she was being very loud in her room. When Cathy told her to play quietly, Jodie charged her with claw-like hands and said she was Reg. She warned Cathy to get out or she would kill her. Later, when she calmed down she had no idea who "Reg" was.

Cathy told Jill about the chilling incident. Jill said it sounded like DID, Dissociative Identity Disorder. Perhaps it was first coming out now because she felt safe enough to allow her memories to surface although they were terrifying her. She developed different identities to deal with them. Her brain was on overload with the onslaught of horrific memories. Jill gave Cathy an out but she said she'd continue to keep her. Jill planned to report this latest episodes to the psychologist. Cathy told her kids that it was best to ignore Jodie's new identities. It could pass naturally or it may require therapy once her psychological assessment was completed.

Jodie got worse and the new identities appeared more frequently. She would quickly change from Reg to Amy and then back to Jodie again. Cathy got no support from Eileen or from the psychologist. One bit of good news was that Jodie was accepted at Abbey Green School and could start right away.

Chapters 22 through 24

Chapters 22 through 24 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 22, things at home improved. Paula began having her friends over again and planned a sleepover. Jodie began to have a few normal reactions to events. She even tried to make Cathy and the kids laugh - which indicated she had a connection to them. Jill was unable to find anyone to take Jodie for a weekend so the family could have a break. Cathy and Jodie visited Abbey Green. She insisted on wearing her new school uniform for the visit. Adam West, the headmaster, took them on a tour of the school. Jodie was hiding behind Cathy's skirt most of the time. Cathy liked what she saw and felt that the school would cater to Jodie's needs.

They met Caroline Smith, Jodie's teacher, and Mrs. Rice who would be Jodie's helper. The children were separated at different tables by their abilities. Mrs. Smith asked Jodie if she wanted to join the orange table, which would be her group. At first she hesitated and Cathy was afraid she would soon be having a tantrum. But to Cathy's relief, Jodie plopped down in the empty seat at the table. The kids took turns standing and reading the stories they'd written. Jodie raised her hand wanting to read her story. Her story was about an "owl" and a "fox" but was disjointed and was comprised of a bunch of unrelated words. Cathy was relieved that none of the kids laughed at her. Jodie behaved all afternoon. When they left, she told Cathy that she thought it was "brilliant" and wanted to come every day forever and ever.

In Chapter 23, Jodie had no conception of time or days. She was angry when she couldn't go to school on Saturday and had difficulty understanding why. Jodie didn't like to be told what to wear so Cathy would make suggestions and let her decide. At one time in her life she had no control over what happened to her. Feeling control over even minor things like what to wear gave her a feeling of security and independence.

The family went for a visit to Cathy's parents who Jodie thought the world of. However, she attacked their old dog and had to be pulled off of him. The dog probably sparked a connection to her father and his dog. Cathy settled her down and told her that the dog was not staring at her and meant her no harm. Granddad, Paula and Jodie went outside to feed their fish. Jodie understood that Granddad was Cathy's father. She asked if he had done naughty things with Cathy like her grandfather had done to her. Cathy's parents were shocked. She immediately reminded Jodie that most adults were nice and caring and not naughty. Now, Cathy had to wonder if a grandfather had ever been mentioned or referred to in any files as another possible abuser.

That night when Cathy tucked Jodie in bed, she asked her why Granddad had never been naughty with Lucy and Paula. Cathy reminded her that most adults weren't naughty and that those who were naughty were not acting out of love. Jodie told Cathy that her Granddad Wilson and her Granddad Price had been nice. They both laid on top of her but didn't hurt her. They "just peed on the bed" because they loved her. Cathy

immediately corrected her and said that what they did was not out of love. Her parents were sometimes in the room when the grandfathers did their thing. Cathy wasn't as shocked by this as she had been by other revelations in the past. She was becoming desensitized like Jodie had become. Cathy filed a report on the latest piece of the puzzle. She was feeling completely inadequate for the challenge she faced.

The day before her first full day at school, Jodie had two tantrums. Perhaps she was anxious about being away from Cathy and being with a bunch of kids. Cathy hoped that her first day would be a good one.

In Chapter 24, they arrived early at school. Jodie was excited but also a little nervous. Mrs. Rice met Cathy and Jodie at the reception area. Cathy gave Jodie a big hug and watched her walk away down the hall with Mrs. Rice. Jill contacted Cathy and told her that Eileen had checked all the files and Jodie had never known either one of her grandfathers. They thought that perhaps the parents had given their friends titles like "uncle" or "aunt" or "granddad" so that Jodie would feel more comfortable with them and feel they were part of the family.

Jill received the results of the forensic medical. It confirmed that Jodie had been penetrated but with no DNA, a criminal prosecution was not possible. Eileen had to conduct a LAC review and wanted Jodie to be present. It was set for Thursday afternoon. LAC stood for Looked After Children. Under the Children's Act periodic LAC reviews were required. Sally, Eileen, Adam West, Jill, Jodie and Cathy all had to be present. Cathy feared how Jodie's first day had gone and was pleasantly surprised when Mrs. Rice told her Jodie had a good first day. Jodie was enthusiastic and talked about her new friends all the way home. She wanted them to come over like Paula's friends did.

Jodie woke up crying that night. She told Cathy she had a friend once. After she told her friend what her father did to her, the parents wouldn't let her friend play with her. Cathy assured her it was nothing she had done. The parent was just concerned about having her child around her father. Right away, Cathy wondered if this friend's parents could be tracked down for third-party evidence. Jodie said the girl's name was Louise Smith and had lived next door to her. Cathy wondered why the parents hadn't gone to the police or at least made an anonymous call to the authorities.

Chapters 25 through 27

Chapters 25 through 27 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 25, Jill contacted the Smiths. They were astonished. They never saw any signs of abuse and were willing to provide a character witness for the parents. There were no "grandfathers" with the last names she mentioned. Jill attributed Jodie's stories to a confused eight-year-old. Jill was still working on getting some time off for Cathy who told Jill she was getting too involved. Cathy thought of contacting the Smiths herself but knew that such an action would be inappropriate and unprofessional. The LAC meeting was, as Cathy guessed, a waste of time. As Eileen was leaving, Reg appeared and kicked her in the shin. It was the first time that another identity had emerged before a stranger.

Reg made an appearance at school, slapped another kid and ranted and raved and used file language. Mr. West called Cathy to school. West was concerned about Jodie's emotional state but decided to keep Jodie there and monitor her closely. Cathy was more determined than ever that Jodie's therapy should begin without delay. The psychologist agreed that Jodie needed immediate treatment. Cathy told her that her condition was worsening by the day and that she was hallucinating and displaying multiple identities. Dr. Burrows asked Cathy to wait in the lobby while she administered a test to Jodie. Cathy could hear Jodie hollering and cursing Dr. Burrows the entire time. One afternoon, Mrs. Rice told Cathy that Jodie began talking about sex and about a woman being involved who she referred to as an "aunt." At a celebration for Comic Relief held outside at the school, Jodie actually ran and played with other kids. Cathy thought it was probably the happiest moments of her life.

In Chapter 26, every morning Cathy gave Mrs. Rice a report about Jodie's evening and night. Every afternoon when Cathy picked Jodie up, Mrs. Rice gave her a report about Jodie's behavior at school that day. Mrs. Rice sat between Jodie and another boy with behavioral problems named Robert. One afternoon, they got into a fight over paints and Jodie hauled off and punched him. Over the next few weeks, Jodie focused her anger on Robert. Cathy was surprised when Jodie told her that one of the kids, Freya, had been at her old house. Cathy was concerned that her parents would learn where Jodie was attending school. They could come and visit her there or they could take her. The headmaster allowed Cathy to use a special entrance to avoid coming and going at the main entrance.

One afternoon, Cathy, Paula and Jodie witnessed an elderly lady fall in the park and sustain serious injury. Later at dinner, Jodie didn't understand why Cathy and Paula were concerned about the lady. They didn't get hurt. They explained that people feel empathy for others. Jodie said, "poor lady" but she was just mimicking what she heard and really didn't "feel" for the women. Jodie never cried from sadness only out of anger or frustration. Cathy was informed that Mrs. Rice would be taking some time off and

Jodie would have a new caregiver in class. Cathy was sure that Jodie was at least partially responsible for Mrs. Rice's departure.

In Chapter 27, it was April and Jodie had been with the family almost a year. Jodie was becoming more afraid of adults. Cathy was called to school one morning. Jodie was sure that her father was there and was trying to get to her. She swore to Cathy that he'd been there and took her in his car. She was once again transposing the past into the present. Jodie went right to bed when they got home and slept for hours. Finally, Cathy looked in on her and saw that she was on lying on her back with her eyes fixed on the ceiling. After repeated attempts to get her to talk and respond, Cathy tried to pick her up but she just flopped back down like a rag doll. Cathy was alarmed and called Jill who said that the flashback may have caused her brain to shut down in self-protection. Jill recommended that Cathy just let her sleep. She looked in her room later and she appeared to be asleep.

When she woke up the next morning, Jodie had transformed into Amy and talked in her little baby voice. Cathy was sure it would pass but when she turned her over to the new aide, Miss Walker, she was still Amy. School called later and said that Jodie had behaved well all day. The next morning, Jodie couldn't stop sobbing but wouldn't tell Cathy why. Cathy called school to tell them that Jodie would be absent at least in the morning. But this new state lasted the entire week. When she wasn't crying she was staring into space, removed and distant. Even her favorite sweets wouldn't lure her out of her state.

Jill feared that Jodie might be having a complete mental collapse. Jill called Dr. Burrows who arranged to see her the next Monday. All weekend long, Jodie remained in the same state. She spent the majority of time in bed.

Chapters 28 through 30

Chapters 28 through 30 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 28, during the car ride to Dr. Burrow's office, Jodie stayed mute and didn't react to her favorite songs on the radio. As soon as Jodie saw Dr. Burrows, she became enraged and had a tantrum. Dr. Burrows stayed cool and motioned for Cathy to stay put. Jodie screamed and then kicked and threw all the toys and kids' furniture against the walls. She grabbed a clump of her hair and pulled it out. She struggled and spat and then went limp.

In a calm, quiet voice Dr. Burrows assured her that she was there to help her. She told her that the problem was too big for her to fix by herself. Dr. Burrows asked Cathy how Jodie had been, hoping that Jodie would join in and respond herself. Cathy told the doctor that her entire family was worried about her. Dr. Burrows told Jodie that she helped children feel happy again and that she wanted to help her. Jodie refused the chance to play a game or to paint. She asked Jodie to help her and Cathy pick up the toys but Jodie remained mute and didn't move. The doctor said she'd be in touch and told Jodie she'd see her again. As they left, Cathy had a horrible sense of foreboding.

In Chapter 29, Cathy fretted that she was inadequate and wasn't equipped to help Jodie. Was her personality fractured forever? Could she be repaired? Cathy held her and stroked her hair. It started to snow which Jodie loved. She looked for a moment at the flakes coming down but then turned away. Jodie went to bed early and slept through the night without a disturbance. She came downstairs by herself the next morning and ate a few bites then laid on the couch in a fetal position. Jill called with the news that an emergency meeting had been called. Jill had arranged for a colleague to come and watch Jodie so Cathy could attend the meeting.

Some of the meeting participants including Jill and Sally were already present when Cathy walked into the conference room at Social Services. After Dr. Burrows arrived, the meeting began. Cathy was asked to speak first. She provided the group with a history of her time with Jodie. She described how Jodie displayed angry and violent behavior at first and seemed emotionally flat and disconnected. As she began to feel safe, she started to reveal a past of sexual abuse and then began to take on multiple identities to deal with the hurt and eventually she began to withdraw. Her current condition had deteriorated to the point that she barely communicated and only stared into space. At school, she had good days and bad days but had been unable to attend for the last three weeks. It was Cathy's opinion that she needed the help of a psychotherapist.

The parents had been advised of Jodie's condition. Her father claimed she was lying about the abuse. Her mother apparently broke down into tears. A report from Adam West from school reported her slow progress and noted her short attention span. She had difficulty making friends due to her erratic behavior. She read at the level of a four-

year-old. He ended his comments by stating that she would not be able to achieve advancement until her past experiences had been addressed.

Dr. Burrows gave her assessment last. First, returning home for Jodie was impossible. After seeing Jodie, she knew that immediate action had to be taken. Her recommendation was that Jodie undergo intensive, long-term therapy with a pediatric psychotherapist experienced in working with sexually abused children. Jodie needed constant and immediate attention and should be placed in a therapeutic residential unit. Cathy hadn't expected Dr. Burrows' recommendation and was stunned. Everyone saw that Cathy was upset. Dr. Burrows told her she had brought the little girl a long way. Cathy asked if they could try therapy sessions for six months so she could stay with her family. She could be evaluated after that. Dr. Burrows responded that it would not be effective. Jodie's personality was disintegrating. The longer it was left go, the more profound the long-term damage would be.

Dr. Burrows recommended a place called High Oaks which was run by Dr. Ron Graham and his wife, Betty. Both were practicing child psychologists. The Grahams lived on site and were available to the children around the clock. The cost would be four thousand pounds a week (\$6,400). Dr. Burrows' initial recommendation for the length of stay was three years. Visitors were not only welcomed but encouraged. It was essential that the kids keep a connection to the outside world. Cathy wanted to maintain contact with her.

Cathy left knowing that the intensive therapy was what Jodie needed but she worried how Jodie would react when she had to leave. She also felt like a failure although everyone, including Dr. Burrows, had told her what a wonderful job she had done with Jodie.

In Chapter 30, Cathy didn't hear anything for the next three days. Jodie's condition hadn't changed, she was still remote and in a world of her own. Cathy didn't even consider trying to have her go to school. It was pointless. Cathy sat her kids down and told them what would be happening with Jodie. They felt bad but she assured them that they had done their best with her and had tolerated a lot. Cathy received a letter from Ron Graham. Inside her letter was a letter for Jodie. Getting a letter perked Jodie up a bit. Cathy read it to her. He introduced himself and said he had a big house where he and his wife help children. He looked forward to meeting her and would like to come and visit her. She had Cathy read the letter several more times. Jodie carried it around with her the rest of the day. She wanted to know when they were coming.

Ron Graham called that night. He reiterated what he had gone over in his letter. He told her not to feel hurt if Jodie was anxious to leave her. Children that had gone through the abuse that Jodie had seldom form lasting relationships. Cathy was impressed that he knew so much about Jodie's case. He must have read her entire file. It was such a departure from Eileen who never seemed to know anything about Jodie and wanted to steer clear of her. Ron told her not to say much about their visit but to write down any questions Jodie had. He'd answer them when he came. Cathy felt more hopeful that night than she had in a long time.

By the next morning, Jodie didn't want to meet Ron. She was afraid he'd hurt her. Cathy reassured her that he would not hurt her. He was going to help her. Later she found the letter he wrote all torn up in little pieces. Jodie asked if she'd have to go in their car or if they'd come in her bedroom. Cathy reassured her as much as she could but Jodie was understandably apprehensive and smart enough to know that something was changing. Cathy pointed out that none of the adults that she had introduced Jodie to had ever hurt her. Ron and Betty would not hurt her either. The next few days, she went from being nearly catatonic to being Reg, then Amy, then herself.

Ron and Betty came into the house without much fanfare and joined Jodie in the lounge where she was working on a puzzle. She asked if they had a cat. Ron said they didn't had a cat but there was a herd of cows in the field behind them. Jodie seemed very interested. They asked her what she liked to do and showed her a children's version of a leaflet about High Oaks. They stayed for two hours. They talked and played with Jodie and showed her a video of the grounds. They made a date for Cathy to bring Jodie to High Oaks. Jodie wanted to go with them but Betty said they had to get her room ready - it was the first mention of "her room." After they left, Jodie drew a picture of a house with a field and cows.

Chapters 31 through 33

Chapters 31 through 33 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 31, the house at High Oaks was huge with fourteen rooms and the grounds were beautiful. Jodie took to Betty but seemed a little afraid of Ron. The children were out for a walk but would be back soon. Ron told Jodie that Clare and Val would be her special adults and she would meet them the next time she came. He told her that he and Betty were always there and so was Shirley, their housekeeper and cook. Ron and Betty gave Cathy and Jodie a tour of the house. He told her that when the cows came down in the afternoon, she'd be able to see them from her window. Jodie seemed anxious to look around.

Betty told Jodie to open her bedroom door. She said it was her room and that anyone else was her guest. She was most excited when she looked out the window and saw the cows. Jodie decided she wanted to leave Julie, her doll that she brought with her, in her new room. The children came back in and Jodie got very shy, hiding behind Cathy. They all said "hi" to Cathy and Jodie. The visit had tired Jodie out and she slept the entire way home.

In Chapter 32, the next morning, Jodie was upset that there weren't any cows to see out of her window. She accused Cathy of taking them away. Jodie was gradually accepting the idea that she would be staying at High Oaks. She asked if her parents would come there. Cathy assured that they definitely would not. Cathy vacillated between lethargy and violence. Reg made a few appearances. Cathy took Jodie to spend the night at High Oaks. She brought an overnight case with her. Cathy felt hurt when Jodie walked away with Betty without responding to Cathy's goodbyes.

Cathy picked Jodie up the next day. She had had several tantrums and attacked one of the boys during her stay. Cathy suggested pushing back the date Jodie would move in permanently. Ron said it was better to get her there as soon as possible. Cathy had only five days left with Jodie. Jodie wanted to stay at High Oaks and was angry at Cathy for spoiling her fun. That night Jodie was scared and disoriented. Cathy was up most of the night. Jill came by and gave Jodie a gift for her new room. It was a china cat which Jodie smashed in pieces as soon as Jill left. Eileen came by for a final visit. She asked Jodie how she'd like being with all the kids. Jodie told Eileen she was going to kill them. Jodie asked for carrier bags to pack her things in. The kids were quiet the last few days Jodie was there and especially patient with her. Cathy would miss her but she knew she was getting exactly what she needed that would set her on the road to recovery.

In Chapter 33, Jodie was anxious to go to her new home. The kids said goodbye to her before they left for school. Jodie said she was glad Cathy wouldn't be with her because she had Betty. Cathy said she would phone her and come visit her as soon as Ron and Betty said it was okay. When Ron and Betty opened the door, Jodie ran past them and up to her room. Cathy filled out some paperwork and turned over Jodie's small bank

account that Cathy had saved for her from Social Services payments. Cathy turned over a book in which she had kept a record of Jodie's time with her family. There were photographs and other mementos in the book. Ron was impressed. It would be a good thing for her to have - to prove she had a past - so many children like Jody felt that had none. Cathy gave Jodie a hug. Jodie was a little confused about where Cathy would be. She explained she had to make dinner for Lucy, Paula and Adrian. She promised to call her in the next day or so.

Chapter 34 and Epilogue

Chapter 34 and Epilogue Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 34, after the kids went off to school the next day, Cathy crawled back into bed. Jill called with the news that the police picked up Jodie's parents, three of the granddads and uncles and they were all going to be charged. The Smiths apparently came around and told them what they knew. The police raided the house and the parents evidently were involved in a pedophile ring. Cathy said she would definitely testify and help however she could. They found very young photos of Jodie at 18 months and perhaps even younger.

Cathy looked in Jodie's empty room and noticed an envelope. It had her name on it. It was written by Paula but it was from Jodie. She thanks Cathy for taking care of her. She was sorry for all the bad things she did. She wished she could have stayed. Cathy was the only person who looked after her who didn't get angry. She asked Cathy if she could come and live with her when she got better. She asked her to be her new mother because she didn't want her old one. She signed it "Love Jodie." The rest of the page was filled with red kisses. Cathy was touched. Tears brimmed in her eyes. She had reached Jodie after all.

In the Epilogue, Jodie had a difficult transition. Cathy was not privy to any official reporting but she would talk on the phone to Jodie who complained about her two full-time caregivers, Clare and Val. When Cathy visited, Jodie let her know that she wasn't happy with the change and refused to accept any hugs or affectionate gestures from her. Cathy was able to take her to the park and out to lunch. After six months, Jodie was able to tell Cathy goodbye in a normal manner. Her progress at High Oaks was impeded by her learning difficulties. A CAT scan revealed that she had brain damage which, it was speculated, was from blows to her head when she was in infant. She was allowed to eat what she wanted and had gained weight - something she didn't need to do.

Full Care Orders were established for Jodie and her siblings which meant they all stayed where they were. Jodie's father and the other men were charged for abusing another child because there wasn't enough evidence in Jodie's case. The men were found guilty. Jodie's mother and two other defendants were acquitted. The men were given custodial sentences. Jodie was considered at risk when she was born yet she remained in the house for seven years. Her file is big enough to fill to suitcases. Cathy considers the treatment that Jodie was given by Social Services evidence of the system's failure. The family had twenty social workers assigned to it over the years. She had empathy for them because of the unusual level of challenge that the family presented them with.

Three years later, Jodie continues to make slow and limited progress. Her other personalities rarely surface. Her anxiety is mainly gone and she is relatively happy. She feels safe and protected at High Oaks. She is in a special school but as she has

matured her learning difficulties have become more pronounced. She is awkward and her speech is poor and she is very overweight which makes her already awkward movements more awkward. People who encounter her treat her like a disabled child.

Much of what happened to Jodie will probably be buried forever. Cathy and the kids still visit her every four to six weeks. It is still difficult for Cathy to understand exactly what happened and how parents could treat an innocent child the way that Jodie was treated. She is a damaged child. So much has been stolen from her. She has been condemned to a life she shouldn't have had. If Jodie gets well enough to leave High Oaks, Cathy will welcome her back into her home.

Characters

Cathy Glass

Cathy Glass is the author of "Damaged." In the book she writes about her experience as a foster carer for a very disturbed and damaged little girl named Jodie. Cathy was divorced and had two children, Adrian, 16, and Paula, 13. Sixteen-year-old Lucy was a foster child who had lived with the family for two years and was a member of the family. Cathy loved Lucy as her own. Cathy had been a foster parent for twenty years and had many successes.

When she was asked if she would consider taking on a little seven-year-old girl named Jodie, Cathy was interested. She had the time and the energy to bring another child into the house. She loved caring for these unwanted children and putting them on a better path in life. Cathy was warned that although the little girl had only been in the system for four months, she had already gone through five foster families. Could a little girl be that bad?! She didn't think so. She was up for the challenge and was sure she could help her. But Cathy had never before encountered a child that was as damaged as Jodie.

Cathy was a dedicated foster carer. Even when times got very rough caring for Jodie who was angry and violent, she persevered. She had committed to the little girl and tried to reach her with love and concern. She set up boundaries and provided stability - two things important for abused children. As much as she tried, she could not connect with the little girl who had shut off the outside world out of self-protection.

Finally, Jodie was deteriorating to such a degree that she had to be placed in a therapeutic unit where she would receive attention around the clock. Cathy felt like a failure but she was wrong. She had reached Jodie who left a note thanking Cathy, apologizing for her bad behavior and asking if she could come back. She'd like Cathy to be her mother when she got better. Cathy was moved and gratified to know that she was able to reach the little damaged girl who had needed the kind of love and caring that Cathy gave her years before.

Jodie

Jodie was the troubled seven-year-old who came to live with foster carer Cathy Glass and her three children. Her reputation preceded her. Cathy was told that the little girl had only been in the Social Services system for four months but had already gone through five other foster families. What caused her to be removed from her home was an incident in which she had been left to watch her young siblings. Too young to be a babysitter, Jodie's anger led her to set the family dog on fire. She called the fire department and soon after she was taken away by Social Services.

After Jodie arrived, Cathy immediately observed in Jodie an anger and rage that simmered barely beneath the surface. Jody was damaged more severely than anyone



knew or could have imagined. Cathy was devoted to Jodie even though it was a very trying situation. Jodie came to trust Cathy and revealed to her a past of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Her father was the main villain although there were other men who Jodie only knew as "uncle" or "granddad." She even intimated that her mother and an aunt had violated her. While being abused and raped, others were in the room to take pictures. Later, the police uncovered that her father and some of his associates were members of a child pornography ring. The police found explicit photos of Jodie when she was as young as eighteen months old.

Cathy reported the revelations to her agency which ultimately led to Jodie getting the psychological help that she had needed for years. She was placed in a full-care facility where she would have help around the clock. After three years at the facility, Jodie was doing better. Her anxiety had lessened but her development was still lagging. A CAT scan revealed that she had received repeated blows to the head when she was an infant which resulted in permanent brain damage.

The life and future that Jodie should have had were stolen from her by her sick and cruel parents. It took a total stranger to recognize her plight and get her the help that she needed.

Jill

Jill was Cathy's representative at her agency. Jill was devoted to her job and to the children in need. She responded to every new revelation that Cathy found out about the abuse that Jodie suffered and reported it to Social Services.

Adrian

Adrian was Cathy's sixteen-year-old son. He was patient with Jodie's bad behavior although he compared her to "Chucky" of movie fame.

Paula

Paula was Cathy's thirteen-year-old daughter. Jodie's behavior was so bad and embarrassing that Paula stopped bringing her friends over.

Lucy

Lucy was Cathy's fifteen-year-old foster child. She had been with Cathy for two years and was a member of the family. She told Cathy that Jodie was pure evil.

Eileen

Eileen was Jodie's ineffective social worker. She was intimidated by Jodie's violence and anger and instead of supporting the child she did her best to avoid her.

Adam West

Adam West was the headmaster at Abbey Green School. He accepted Jodie as a student but had her closely monitored because of her violent behavior.

Dr. Burrows

Dr. Burrows was the court-appointed psychologist who recommended that Jodie be placed in a therapeutic unit where she would undergo intensive psychotherapy and have round-the-clock attention.

Ron and Betty Graham

Ron and Betty Graham were both child psychologists and ran High Oaks a therapeutic facility that took in severely disturbed children. Jodie was placed at High Oaks.

Objects/Places

England

Cathy Glass lived in a British community where she took in and cared for foster children through the Social Services system.

Social Services

Cathy Glass worked as a foster carer through an agency that worked with the Social Services system which placed at risk and troubled children in foster homes.

Cathy Glass' House

Cathy Glass fixed up a nice private room for Jodie, a foster child that she took in. Jodie was educated at home and was tutored in Cathy's conservatory.

The Park

Jodie loved going to the park more than anything. She loved to swing high on the swings but she never ran and played with the other kids.

The Supermarket

Jodie loved to go to the supermarket. She'd fill the shopping cart with anything that caught her eye. She had a fit in the check-out lane when Cathy wouldn't buy her every sweet that she saw.

The White Van

Jodie was terrified that her father would come by to take her home. He drove a white van and she even imagined seeing it when it wasn't around.

Abbey Green School

Jodie attended Abbey Green School for a short time before she had a complete breakdown and had to be placed in a therapeutic unit.

Comic Relief Fete

While at Abbey Green School, there was a Comic Relief Fete held on the grounds outside. Cathy watched Jodie run and play with the other children and was quite certain that Jodie was having the best moments of her life.

Dr. Burrow's Office

Jodie was finally given the treatment she needed when she displayed violent behavior in Dr. Burrows' office. Dr. Burrows who was the court appointed psychologist who was to make an assessment of her mental and emotional state.

High Oaks

Jodie was placed in a therapeutic home called High Oaks where she would receive constant attention and undergo psychotherapy. Jodie was thrilled that her bedroom overlooked a field where a herd of cows grazed.

Themes

Challenge

No one reading "Damaged" would have any doubt that Cathy Glass and her three teenaged children took on quite a challenge when Jodie, a seven-year-old foster child, moved into their house. The two young girls were greeted with kicks and the teenage boy was accused of staring at her and ordered to get out of the house. Jodie soiled herself to get her way. She told Cathy that she was there to cook and clean for her. She screamed during the middle of the night with hallucinations and nightmares and that all occurred just the first night that she was there.

Although Cathy Glass had been in the foster care system for twenty years, caring for young Jodie was the biggest challenge that Cathy had ever faced. Jodie was so damaged that it was next to impossible to reach her. With good reason, Jodie didn't trust adults and she had shut off part of herself in a self-protective mode so that she wouldn't be hurt again. Cathy felt great empathy for the youngster. Her parents had abused her, she was separated from her younger siblings because she had been violent with them and she had no grandparents. She was adrift in the world without a family and no one to turn to. She had to depend on the kindness of strangers.

From her experience, Cathy knew that it was important to provide a stable environment for a child like Jodie and to set boundaries. Often children like Jodie have had no real parental guidance and have not been taught to behave under any value system. Cathy had been successful with children in the past by following those rules and by being caring and loving. Cathy did all the right things but Jodie only got worse. Cathy questioned her own abilities and blamed herself.

One important thing about a challenge, something that Cathy learned, was that sometimes a challenge can be impossible to meet and that it has nothing to do with failure. It was the case with Jodie. The system had let Jodie down. Although Cathy had Jodie for a year and grew to love her like her own, Jodie was so damaged that she needed much more. It was difficult for Cathy to admit that she couldn't give Jodie what she really needed. But in the end she knew that the challenge was too much for any lay person and that Jodie should have never been placed in foster care. Cathy didn't fail at the challenge - it was a challenge she should have never had.

Dedication

A major theme that emerges from "Damaged" is dedication - dedication to others and to ideals. It took a generous measure of dedication for Cathy Glass to stay devoted to a child so damaged that she struck out at her new caretaker who - unknown to the disassociated child - was her last stop before being institutionalized. But Cathy knew what dedication was she had lived it for twenty years as a caregiver in the Social

Services division. She had been the foster parent for dozens of troubled and lost children.

A person like Cathy Glass who becomes a part of the Social Services system does not do so for fame or fortune. Cathy took these children in her home because they needed someone to care for them. Perhaps Cathy was the kid who brought lost kittens home that no one else wanted. There is a nurturing characteristic in such a person and a dedication to keep her to her commitment even through the dark days and there were very dark days when she took Jodie in. Jodie was the most severely disturbed child that she had ever cared for.

The representative at her agency gave her plenty of opportunities to get out after Jodie displayed violent and bizarre behavior but Cathy had devoted herself to Jodie and she would not abandon the child that no one else could put up with or wanted. To be that dedicated, a person must have certain innate qualities. They must have the ability to completely put the needs of others in front of their own; they must have empathy for the less fortunate; and, possess a selflessness that doesn't bow to one's ego or pride. Cathy kept her focus on the disturbed child who needed her patience and understanding. Despite Jodie's violent behavior - she punched and kicked and cursed - Cathy patiently corrected her and held onto the hope and even the belief that things would get better if she stayed the course.

Although ultimately Jodie was too ill to remain with Cathy, her dedication paid off. She instilled trust in the little girl who began to reveal the horrible truth about her past. Jodie never before trusted anyone enough to tell her truth. Had Cathy not remained devoted to Jodie, the abuse that she suffered would have never been exposed and Jodie would have never been given the treatment she so sorely needed. Her mind would have continued to become more muddled and her personality more fractured until she would have been too far gone to ever be repaired. But Cathy didn't let that happen. Her dedication brought Jodie's suffering to light which enabled her to get the help she needed.

Child Abuse

The main theme of "Damaged" is, without question, child abuse. Jodie, the seven-year-old who was taken from her parents after setting the family dog on fire, was hiding a lifetime of abuse that experts estimated could have begun as early as eighteen months of age. A CAT scan revealed that Jodie had suffered blows to the head when she was just an infant. After the case blew up, the authorities had evidence of suspicious injuries that had occurred over the years yet no one acted until she set the dog on fire. It was probably her call for help. Later she told Cathy that she really wanted to burn the whole house down so she could escape.

Jodie's father, mother and their friends and associates all abused her. Photos would be taken of her while she was being sexually abused. The police found an explicit photo of

Jodie when she was just a toddler. Jodie's father was a member of a child pornography ring and forced his daughter to be front and center in its activities.

As horrifying as Jodie's abuse was, she was the victim of further abuse and neglect by the very system that was established to rescue children like her. Social Services had marked Jodie "at risk" since birth. Just as Cathy wondered when all the facts came out. Why was she allowed to stay in that house for seven years? The authorities knew there were problems yet she remained in a situation in which she was almost damaged beyond repair.

The social worker assigned to Jodie was remote and disinterested in Jodie although she was supposed to be her strongest advocate. Jodie was a violent, angry child and for most, not pleasant to be around. It seemed the social worker was intimidated by her and tried to avoid any contact with her. Dr. Burrows, the court-appointed psychologist who was to assess her mental and emotional state was a child advocate. However, the wheels of bureaucracy turned so slowly that red tape was allowed to delay the doctor's recommendation that Jodie undergo intensive therapy.

Jodie was abused by two entities that should have cared for her and protected her: first her parents abused and abandoned her and then the social system allowed the abuse to go on and turned away from her for far too long.

Style

Perspective

"Damaged - The Heartbreaking True Story of a Forgotten Child" by Cathy Glass is written in the first person. It is a true story shared from the perspective of the author who was a veteran foster caregiver. She had successfully cared for dozens of foster children but when she accepted the troubled Jodie into her home as a foster child, she had never before been so challenged or encountered such a damaged child.

The emotional story is told from the heart and is honest and raw and heartfelt. The bizarre behavior of the girl is a first-hand account and brings a gritty realism to child abuse and the parents and social systems that let lost children like Jodie down. No one could have been more credible than the author in the writing of this tragic story.

In her twenty years of being a foster carer, Cathy Glass took in fifty children. Of those fifty children, Jodie was the most troubled and the most difficult to handle. Cathy wanted to tell Jodie's story with the hope that it would provide insight into the hidden world of abused children and the social system that often overlooks them or fails them completely. In her forward, Cathy states that although the story is a true one, she changed names, places, and dates to protect identities.

Tone

"Damaged - The Heartbreaking True Story of a Forgotten Child" by Cathy Glass tells the tragic story of a profoundly abused child as told by her caretaker who is also the author of the book. Cathy Glass writes the account as both a professional caregiver with twenty years of experience and as a caring and kind woman who came to love the very disturbed little girl.

Cathy tells the reader of her often conflicted feelings during the year in which she attempted to reach Jodie who had shut herself down in self-protection, striving to save herself from more hurt. The reader learns of Cathy's constant concern about the girl and her misplaced guilt over not being able to "fix" Jodie. Cathy writes about Jodie with tenderness and love. Although Jodie pushed Cathy to the edge many times, the understanding and empathy that Cathy had for Jodie shines through in her words. Cathy tells her and Jodie's story in a heartfelt narrative filled with genuine emotion and a simple honesty even when the words and descriptions were probably not easy to write. Cathy describes the abuse that Jodie suffered in somewhat explicit terms. It was obviously the intent of the author to bring a realism to the account that will shed light on the abuse that some children suffer that often goes unknown.

Structure

"Damaged - The Heartbreaking True Story of a Forgotten Child" by Cathy Glass is written in a straight-forward and chronological order. The time frame of the story is basically one year. It was the year that Cathy Glass became the foster carer of a very damaged little girl. It covers in great detail the problems the little girl had and how it impacted Cathy's life and that of her three teenaged kids. The epilogue updates the story beyond the first year. Three years after the story was written, Jodie, the little girl was still in therapeutic care something she needed from the beginning.

The book is separated into thirty-four chapters all of medium length. The story is fast-paced and is written in a clear and concise manner. Following the book, is a section with excerpts from letters and emails that Cathy received after writing her book. Some of the letters were from ordinary caring people who were deeply moved by the story. Other messages were from former foster kids and foster carers all of whom were greatly impacted by Jodie's story.

There is a preface preceding the first chapter that provides a brief description of Britain's Social Services system. There are 75,000 kids who are in the system. They are the lucky ones. Thousands of others are forgotten and missed by the system and live in anguish and pain at the hands of abusive parents.

Quotes

"Removing a child from its parents was never going to be a humdrum, everyday event; it was always traumatic, emotional and difficult" (Chapter One, p. 4).

"The sweet, mop-headed child who has had a little bad luck and only needs a bit of love and affection to thrive and blossom and spread happiness in the world doesn't exist" (Chapter Two, p. 15).

"And what about you, Adrian? What's your first impression?' 'She reminds me of that doll Chucky in the horror film. You know the one that's possessed by the devil'" (Chapter Four, p. 48).

"She stared at me as though I'd finally lost it. 'Why? Why do you like me?' 'Because underneath that angry Jodie is a kind and happy Jodie waiting to come out" (Chapter Eight, p. 87).

"But how could they have missed all the signs, and for so long? Perhaps they'd focused on the obvious physical abuse of knocks and burns and broken bones, rather than a deeper and more vicious evil" (Chapter Ten, p. 103).

"Some badly abused children seem to switch off their senses, as a way of protecting themselves. If you can't see, hear or feel anything, it might not be happening" (Chapter Twelve, p. 128).

"The word was not a place she could enjoy like any normal child; it lacked excitement and stimulation for her. She had been deadened to everything because of what she had suffered" (Chapter Thirteen, p. 143).

"I sat at my desk writing, logging in my diary the vile details of Jodie's sexual degradation. I felt sick to my core. The active involvement of Jodie's mother in the abuse was such an appalling inversion of the maternal role and everything we feel mothers should be" (Chapter Seventeen, p. 177).

"You won't change her, Cathy, whatever you do. Surely you can see that by now? She's evil. She needs a bloody priest, not a carer" (Chapter Nineteen, p. 201).

"Jodie has been sexually abused by her father, probably for most of her life. I don't think a T-shirt calling her daddy's little girl is very appropriate, do you? If I gave her this, Jodie would be terrified by the sight of it" (Chapter Nineteen, p. 205).

"She grabbed a clump of her hair and tore it out...she struggled and spat and then finally went limp" (Chapter Twenty-Eight, p. 277).

"How far could a personality fracture before it was impossible to put it back together? Where would all her misery and hurt take her in the end? It seemed as though it was leading her to a place of darkness and silence where, finally, no one would be able to reach her" (Chapter Twenty-Nine, p. 281).

Topics for Discussion

What was particularly unusual about Jodie's case? Why had she been through five foster families in five months?

Why did Jodie's condition worsen when she began to remember more of her past? How did she deal with the memories?

How did the system fail Jodie? What steps could have been taken to ease her situation or take her completely out of it?

What relationship did Jodie have with Eileen? Why did Jodie react with such anger when she saw Dr. Burrows for a second time?

How did Jodie's parents keep control of her? What role did her mother play in the abuse? How could relatives and neighbors of the family have helped Jodie and her siblings?

Why was Jodie afraid of cars? Why did she want to sleep with the lights on in her room at night?

Why did Jodie say she hated Cathy sometimes? Why did Jodie refuse to say goodbye to Cathy when she left her off at High Oaks?

What was wrong with Jodie? Why was her case too difficult for Cathy to deal with?