

Dial L for Loser: A Clique Novel Study Guide

Dial L for Loser: A Clique Novel by Lisi Harrison

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Plot Summary

Dial L for Loser is a novel that is part of the #1 New York Times Bestselling Series, A Clique Novel, by the author Lisi Harrison. The story follows the five main characters of the book, Massie Block, Kristen Gregory, Alicia Rivera, Dylan Marvil and Claire Lyons, after they are expelled from school. Each of the five girls is also a member of The Pretty Committee, which is the group of the most popular girls in their all girls' school. While visiting the set of Dylan's mother's TV talk show, the five girls meet the director Rupert Mann, who is directing the new movie, Dial L for Loser.

After hearing Dylan over the microphone, the two stars of the movie get into a fight on live TV and one of them quits. This forces Rupert to cast a new actress in the role of Molly. Molly is a loser who pays someone at her school to turn her into a popular girl. After borrowing Massie's cell phone on set, Rupert announces on another TV interview that he is looking for talent among the owner of the cell phone he still has and the girls who were with the owner.

Three of the five girls are allowed to audition for the part—Claire, Massie and Alicia. After each auditions, Rupert casts the least likely of the three in the part—Claire. As Claire embarks on her new life as a starlet, Massie and Alicia seek revenge. By the end of the novel, Claire, Massie and Alicia learn the value of true friendship. The girls also learn about the cold-hard truth of humiliation and forgiveness.



The Westchester Mall Starbucks and The Block Estate Driveway

The Westchester Mall Starbucks and The Block Estate Driveway Summary

A group of girls, known as the Pretty Committee, are sitting at a table in Starbucks at the Westchester Mall. The girls are Massie Block, Claire Lyons, Alicia Rivera, Dylan Marvel and Kristen Gregory. They are discussing being expelled from school and how each of them is being forced to spend their expulsion, which is quite different from parent to parent.

The following day, Massie is riding in the Range Rover with Isaac; he's just picked her up from the salon, where she had her hair done. Dylan drives to pick up the other girls on the Pretty Committee to drop them off for another day at the mall. During the drive, Claire tells the girls that Layne is staging a protest to get them back in school after school. Massie gets Isaac to drop them off at the school so they can spy on the protest. Layne and her two best friends are carrying signs that say, "Save the Lyons." Another group of girls, however, is staging a protest that says, "Have pity on the Pretty Committee." Two other groups of girls, "Da Crew" and "The Country Club," are picketing an "out with the old and in with the new" theme.

The Westchester Mall Starbucks and The Block Estate Driveway Analysis

The reason for the girls' expulsion is not quite clear. It seems as if Massie ran away from home and the rest of the girls made a trip with their boyfriends to find her. The opening chapter of the novel foreshadows the specific details for the expulsions as the novel unfolds.

There is an inference that Isaac and Massie are boyfriend and girlfriend. At the very least, Massie likes and seeks approval from Isaac. Isaac, it turns out, is the driver for the Block family.

The protest foreshadows The Pretty Committee setting up a campaign to keep themselves as the in-crowd at their high school. It also predicts a "war" of sorts between the three groups of girls trying to keep or take over the "power."



The Block Estate Home Spa (Old Horse Shed) and The Block Estate Driveway

The Block Estate Home Spa (Old Horse Shed) and The Block Estate Driveway Summary

Claire is soaking in the hot tub with Massie and Massie's mom, Kendra. Dylan calls Massie and then conferences in the other three girls to tell them she has tickets to her mom's show on Monday. Her mom is interviewing teen heartthrobs, Abby Boyd and Hadley Durk, about their new move, Dial L for Loser. The chapter also reveals that Massie's crush is a boy named Derrington and Claire's crush is a boy named Cam. Cam attends the all boys school with Claire's little brother, so he sends home love notes, which he calls C-notes home to Claire with him. The readers also learn that Claire lives in Massie's guest house. Massie plots to go to the mall to shop for outfits for their appearance on the show set and then the following day, for Massie and Claire to tell Derrington and Cam the good news in person.

On Monday morning, Claire and Massie are in the Block Estate driveway getting ready for Isaac to drive them to the show. Todd, Claire's little brother, is missing, so the Lyons and the Blocks are all searching for him. Isaac picks up the other girls and drives them all to the studio. Massie has put Claire in charge of taking pictures. Dylan runs into the studio ahead of them because the bran flake diet she is on makes her have a bathroom emergency. On cue, as soon as the other girls are around Claire and Massie, Massie is not very nice to Claire.

The Block Estate Home Spa (Old Horse Shed) and The Block Estate Driveway Analysis

When the news gets around that The Pretty Committee is attending a live interview with Abby Boyd and Hadley Durk, it should skyrocket the group back in as the most popular girls in school. It also seems as if Massie has two personas—one when she is just hanging out with Claire and another when the rest of the girls are with them. It's as if Massie is putting on a special act in front of the rest of the girls but is herself around Claire.

Since Todd is hiding because Claire made fun of him for having to go to school while she goes to the show, it foreshadows that Todd is hiding in the Range Rover that is waiting to pick up the other girls and drive them to the show. Because Todd is mischievous, it also foreshadows him making a spectacle on the set and possibly ruining the interview and show altogether.



New York City Village Studios and Village Studios Green Room

New York City Village Studios and Village Studios Green Room Summary

Massie tries to throw her weight around with the receptionist at the studios, but the receptionist tells them to have a seat and someone will be with them shortly. When the studio representative comes out to get the girls, she has Massie's name wrong. When the studio representative takes them to the Green Room, Claire finds her little brother, Todd, in a massage train with Abby and Hadley. Claire calls her dad to tell him she found Todd and Isaac drives Todd home. Hadley points out that she has the same Keds on that Claire is wearing, which are the same shoes Massie said are not cool. Abby has the same boy haircut as Kristen, which also creates a connection between the two girls.

Abby and Hadley have one of the production assistants put their mics on them. Dylan realizes she lost her purse and all of the girls go into the bathroom to find it. While in there, Dylan tells the girls she has gossip, which is that the stylist for the show says Abby was emailing one of her friends about hooking up with Hadley's current boyfriend. This is the second boyfriend Abby has supposedly stolen from Hadley. After telling the girls, Calgary, Dylan's mother's co-host, comes out of one of the bathroom stalls. She tells the girls not to worry, that their secret is safe with her. When Calgary goes on set, however, the production assistant tells her that her mic was on when she was in the restroom, which means the entire studio heard what the girls said. Abby and Hadley start a fight off stage and refuse to go on the live show. Merri-Lee, the other co-host, goes to commercial and Abby and Hadley have a food fight and then Hadley stomps off, refusing to do the movie with Abby. When the show comes back on, it's only Abby who goes on camera.

New York City Village Studios and Village Studios Green Room Analysis

While Massie and the rest of The Pretty Committee might be big fish at their school, in the real world, they are just another group of teenage girls. Ironically, Massie is the most fashionable and popular girl of the group, but the least popular with Abby and Hadley.

Now that Hadley refuses to shoot the movie, which is to start filming the next week, the producer will be looking for a replacement. Since Claire and Kristen formed a bond with Abby and Hadley, it foreshadows that one of them might replace Hadley in the film.



The Block Estate Massie's Bedroom and The Block Estate Tennis Court

The Block Estate Massie's Bedroom and The Block Estate Tennis Court Summary

The afternoon after the studio visit, Alicia and Claire are in Massie's room, which is filled with flowers, baskets and stuffed animals from people at school saying they miss Massie. Massie drafted an e-mail newsletter to send out about The Pretty Committee. Claire is dropping in the three pictures Massie chose of herself at the studio to use in the newsletter. The rest of the girls arrive for a sleepover. Derrington, Josh and Cam send an iChat request to Massie's computer and all of the girls talk to them through the webcam. While the girls are talking to the guys, they notice Rupert, the movie producer is doing a TV interview in the background. The girls tell the boys they'll talk to them later and turn the TV on in Massie's room. Rupert tells the audience that he's looking for the girl who owns this phone and her friends, holding up the phone he borrowed from Massie in the studio. Rupert calls Claire's phone and says to call him back on Massie's old number. When the girls call back, they put it on speaker, and Rupert says he wants them all, except the redhead (Dylan) who caused Hadley to leave the film, to audition for the part. He says he'll call their parents to make the travel arrangements to fly them all out on the private jet to LA. At the end, Massie points out that only one of them will get the part.

Massie plots to get her and Claire's parents to say yes to Rupert by bringing them lemonade while they're playing tennis. When they deliver the lemonade, the parents order sandwiches. Claire spends 30 minutes making the sandwiches, while Massie paints her toenails. Massie puts the sandwiches in a picnic basket and delivers the sandwiches. The mothers start to talk about a British man calling both their houses and how they hung up on him since they think he's a telemarketer. They're pulling the girls' legs, however, because they tell Claire and Massie they spoke to Rupert and will allow the girls to audition under two conditions. First, Rupert will provide an on-set tutor for the girl who lands the part and a tutor at home for the rest of the girls. If the girl who gets the part gets less than an A on anything, then they have to leave the movie. The mothers will be chaperoning the girls to LA. As the girls head back to Massie's room, Claire points out she won't see Cam for three weeks if she lands the part. Massie says Cam adores Claire and assures Claire that Claire won't land the part.

The Block Estate Massie's Bedroom and The Block Estate Tennis Court Analysis

Massie is trying to keep The Pretty Committee in the minds of their schoolmates by starting an e-mail newsletter. She figures that since the girls are not there to handle the



situation in person that receiving an email from the committee will keep them in the hearts and minds of their fans. Massie pointing out that only one of them will land the part foreshadows two things. First, it foreshadows a fierce competition ensuing among the friends trying out for the part. Second, it foreshadows that the person least likely to land the part will be the one to land it. In this situation, the person is Claire.

When and if Claire lands the part, Massie will want to seek revenge on Claire. Knowing how Claire feels about Cam, this foreshadows that Massie will try to get Cam to cheat on Claire with her.



The Block Estate Guesthouse—Claire's Bedroom and Teterboro Airport Gelding Studios' Private Jet

The Block Estate Guesthouse—Claire's Bedroom and Teterboro Airport Gelding Studios' Private Jet Summary

Claire is thinking about her chewed up cuticles when she hears her parents' bedroom door click shut. She gets on the laptop Massie loaned her to IM Cam. She sends him a message to say she's allowed to go to LA. Cam IMs her back saying he'll miss her and that he loves her.

Judi Lyons, Claire's mom, peeks her head out of the doorway of the private jet to tell Claire, Massie and Alicia to hurry. She also tells Claire that the jet is nicer than the hotel they stayed in when their roof was being fixed. The girls also discover the bathroom in the jet has glass with tint that allows the person inside the bathroom to see out, but nobody to be able to see in. Dylan calls Massie's phone as the girls are taking off. Kristen's mother wouldn't allow her to audition for the part and Dylan isn't allowed to audition for the part, so neither girl is on the jet.

The Block Estate Guesthouse—Claire's Bedroom and Teterboro Airport Gelding Studios' Private Jet Analysis

Because Kristen and Dylan are at home, it indicates that Kristen might steal one of the girls' crushes because the guys bond with Kristen over soccer.



Beverly Hills, California Le Baccarat Hotel, Suite 2544 and Los Angeles Gelding Studios

Beverly Hills, California Le Baccarat Hotel, Suite 2544 and Los Angeles Gelding Studios Summary

The girls check into their hotel suite. They all shower and change to head off to the studios. Massie makes fun of Claire because the hair on her legs is long. Claire questions what she's doing there because she is obviously not actress material compared to Alicia and Massie. They meet Rupert's assistant, Emma, in the hotel lobby. The mothers decide to shop on Rodeo Drive because Rupert wants the girls on the set alone.

The Escalade from the studio carrying the girls arrives at the studio set. Emma tells the girls that they have one hour to learn their lines before they audition for Rupert. Claire asks if Emma can tell them about the role they are auditioning for. After Emma says it's a good question, Massie and Alicia pretend as if they were going to ask the same question. While waiting for Emma to bring copies of the script, the girls are standing in the hallway of the school set for the movie when the male star shows up. Massie and Alicia hide and call his name. When he turns, he sees Claire drinking water from the fountain and she starts to choke. Conner Foley pats Claire on the back and asks if she's okay.

Beverly Hills, California Le Baccarat Hotel, Suite 2544 and Los Angeles Gelding Studios Analysis

Even though Claire is the least likely to land the part in all of their minds, it foreshadows her being the one who does land the part. Because Rupert is looking for a fresh face that nobody knows, Claire fits the part perfectly.

When and if Claire lands the starring female role, she'll be playing opposite Conner Foley. This suggests a romantic relationship developing between them on set.



Gelding Studios Rupert Mann's Office and Gelding Studios

Gelding Studios Rupert Mann's Office and Gelding Studios Summary

The three girls are waiting in Rupert Mann's office playing around with his Oscar statue when Rupert Mann walks in to audition the girls. Rupert calls in Conner to run lines with the girls. Massie auditions, but Rupert cuts her off before she finishes the scene. Alicia auditions, but Rupert says she's too pretty for the part. Claire auditions and Rupert thinks she is method acting because of the stain on her shirt and her terrible haircut. He gives Claire the part in the movie and calls in Stella, an Asian woman, who will be Claire's assistant. Stella whisks Claire off to wardrobe to be measured and to stock her up with Ralph Lauren clothes because Ralph wants her to wear his clothes exclusively while she's in town filming.

As Massie and Alicia are leaving the studio in disbelief, they realize they don't have a ride back to their hotel. Then, Claire and Stella pull up on a studio golf cart, with Claire saying she asked Stella to make sure they have a way back to the hotel. Stella says she'll provide a ride to them, but it'll be four hours from now because she has to get Claire to wardrobe. While they're in wardrobe, Massie and Alicia deliberately talk about making plans to go to the movies with the boys when they get back loud enough for Claire to hear. They want Claire to feel bad about missing Cam since she landed the role over them.

Gelding Studios Rupert Mann's Office and Gelding Studios Analysis

Ironically, Claire is playing the part of a 13-year-old loser when in fact that is exactly what Claire thinks of herself and Massie and the other girls on The Pretty Committee think of her. On the other hand, Rupert said he wanted a nobody to play the role and Claire is just an average teenage girl. Claire will be wearing Ralph Lauren for the next three weeks while shooting the movie, which is ironic because it is the brand name that Alicia almost exclusively wears.



Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544 and Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer B

Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544 and Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer B Summary

The girls are back in their hotel suite. Alicia and Massie are packing to return to New York. Claire is begging them to stay, saying she'll ask Rupert to cast them as extras, but both girls say they can't wait to get home. Kristen and Dylan send a message for the girls to get on their computer so they can update them on what's happening in Westchester. They tell them that the soccer coach is making all of the players take dates to the St. Patrick's Day dance, even Cam. When Judi and Kendra come in the room, Dylan tells Massie and Alicia that her mother's show wants to hire them to be behind-the-scene reporters on Dial L for Loser, so Massie and Alicia are staying.

Massie and Alicia are in the makeup trailer for Merri-Lee's show on the studio set. The girls have to start reporting at 9:30 am east cost time, which is 6:30 am in LA. While the makeup artists are applying their makeup, a delivery man brings Bean, Massie's puppy, in his cage. Massie starts to get nervous about reporting live in front of millions of viewers.

Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544 and Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer B Analysis

When Claire begs her friends to stay with her they say no. When Dylan's mom offers them jobs as amateur reporters, they decide to stay. This shows that Massie and Alicia are not true friends to Claire. While it isn't the part she thought would make her famous, Massie is ironically nervous for her debut as a Hollywood correspondent reporter.



Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Lakeview Middle School Set and Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Backstage

Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Lakeview Middle School Set and Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Backstage Summary

Massie and Alicia are on set getting ready to air on the Daily Grind, Merri-Lee's show. They run through the script with Hal, the producer, and are very confident. When they go live and the camera turns on, however, Alicia gets hysterical and Massie freezes up. Claire steps in and saves them. Massie refuses to allow Claire to steal another part from her, so she snaps out of it, elbows Alicia and they return to hosting the show. When Claire is leading them to a tour of the dressing room, Claire finds a gift from the crew, which is a red crystal phone with a gold "5" key.

Claire leaves a message on Cam's cell to have a good time at the dance and to call her when he can. Layne calls Claire and tells her she'll call her from the dance to give her a Cam report. Abby calls Claire to tell her they have a reservation for dinner and she should come to wardrobe so they can get ready. Claire calls her mother and she puts Massie on the phone. Massie asks if she and Alicia can meet up with Claire and Abby, but Claire lies and says she's not sure where they're going.

When Claire arrives in the dressing room, Ahnna and Abby have put together an outfit for her to wear out. Conner arrives for a blazer to wear because he's going out to dinner with them. When they arrive in the limo at the restaurant, they make an appearance for the paparazzi and then return to the limo and head to In-and-Out for burgers.

Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Lakeview Middle School Set and Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Backstage Analysis

Massie and Alicia are so confident in real life, but ironically get so nervous that they can't perform their roles as reporters when the camera is on them. In reality, both Massie and Alicia are not as self-assured and confident as they portray themselves to be. On the other hand, Claire, who is normally not confident and self-assured seems to have been transformed by landing the starring female role in the film because she is a natural in front of the camera.



Conner flirting with Claire and rubbing her feet indicates that a romantic relationship is going to form between the two stars. Once she starts a relationship with Conner, Claire will forget about being with Cam.



Le Baccarat Hotel Lobby and Le Baccarat Hotel Crystal Slipper Dining Room

Le Baccarat Hotel Lobby and Le Baccarat Hotel Crystal Slipper Dining Room Summary

Abby and Conner drop Claire off at her hotel. When Claire turns her phone on, she has five messages. The first two are from Layne, telling Claire Derrington came to the dance with no shirt and "I'm with Massie" written on his chest. The second message says Cam came to the dance with Claire's brother, Todd. The third message is from Cam, joking that he's breaking up with Claire for Todd because he's a better dancer. When Claire gets to the suite, it's dark and quiet, so she sleeps on the couch and leaves before Massie and Alicia wake up the next morning. When she hangs up, Massie drags Alicia to the drug store because she says Claire is sick.

Massie and Alicia are at breakfast when the mothers join them to let them know they can share Claire's tutor. Calgary calls Massie's cell phone to tell her they are thinking of replacing her because they aren't getting interviews with the A-list celebrities.

Le Baccarat Hotel Lobby and Le Baccarat Hotel Crystal Slipper Dining Room Analysis

Cam taking Claire's brother to the dance indicates that he plans on sticking with Claire for the three weeks she'll be filming the movie. Massie going off to the drugstore foreshadows her giving Claire something that's going to make Claire sick. If Claire is sick then Massie can try to take her place in the movie.



Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer and Gelding Studios Claire Lyon's Trailer

Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer and Gelding Studios Claire Lyon's Trailer Summary

Abby and Claire are having their makeup done while being interviewed by a Teen Vogue reporter. Conner walks in the trailer after the interview while Abby is dancing with Gina, one of the makeup artists. When Conner leaves, Abby tells Claire she thinks Conner has a crush on Claire. Massie comes through the door saying they're going to interview from the makeup trailer but Abby throws her cup of coffee at Massie saying that nobody interviews her without her makeup on. Massie tries to get Claire to talk Abby into it, but Claire doesn't say anything so Massie and Alicia leave.

Massie and Alicia try to get into Claire's trailer, but the security guard won't let them in. They talk their way in when the security guard finds out they are doing The Daily Grind, which is his mother's favorite show. Massie and Alicia plant various products in Claire's bathroom to make it look like she suffers from various ailments. Conner knocks on Claire's door and Massie is able to ask Conner a few questions before the segment wraps up.

Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer and Gelding Studios Claire Lyon's Trailer Analysis

Ironically, in LA, Massie and Alicia have traded roles with Claire. At home, they are the popular girls and Claire is just along for the ride. In LA, however, Claire is the popular girl and Massie and Alicia are riding on her fame. Abby is also a true friend to Claire, caring how she feels. Claire is starting to realize that Massie and Alicia are not true friends to her.

Ironically, Claire still thinks of The Pretty Committee as her friends because she has pictures of them all over her trailer. Massie and Alicia, however, are selfish and only care about themselves, which is why they pull the mean stunt on Claire.



Gelding Studios Craft Service Tent and Gelding Studios Conner Foley's Trailer

Gelding Studios Craft Service Tent and Gelding Studios Conner Foley's Trailer Summary

Massie and Alicia are in the food service tent talking on the phone with Dylan and Kristen, who are filling them in on what's going on in Westchester. When they see Claire with Abby, Claire's face is all red and blotchy as if she's been crying. Conner asks Claire how she cries like that in scenes and Claire points at Massie and Alicia. Massie plays it off as if any press coverage is good press and Conner invites Massie and Alicia to his house so they can help him tap into his own emotions.

In Conner's trailer, Abby shows Claire a shot of them coming out of the coffee and tea shop that made it into *Us Weekly*. Abby says she had one of her photographer friends take it to offset the bad press Claire got from Massie and Alicia. Claire questions Abby as to whether or not they are friends and Abby confirms that they are. Conner tells them he invited Massie and Alicia to his house on Saturday and then shows them that a picture of him, Massie and Alicia also made it into *Us Weekly*. Claire starts to think like a true friend and her first instinct is to call Massie and Alicia to let them know they are being exploited.

Gelding Studios Craft Service Tent and Gelding Studios Conner Foley's Trailer Analysis

Claire apparently saw the interview where Massie and Alicia were covering items in her trailer that they planted. Massie noting that Conner is in and Derrington is out at the end of the chapter suggests that Massie doesn't know what Derrington did when he went to the school dance. For some reason, her supposed friends, Dylan and Kristen, are not telling her. It also suggests that some sort of romantic relationship will emerge between Conner and Massie while at his house.

If the principal of OCD sees the photo of Alicia and Massie, they might never get back into school. If Derrington sees the photo, it might end his relationship with Massie. After everything Massie and Alicia have done to Claire, Claire still wants to protect her supposed friends.



Malibu, California Conner Foley's Beach House and Gelding Studios Lakeview Middle School Set Detention

Malibu, California Conner Foley's Beach House and Gelding Studios Lakeview Middle School Set Detention Summary

Massie and Alicia arrive at Conner's house and are let in by a grey haired woman, whom they assume is Conner's maid. While changing in the cabana, the girls decide to let Conner decide who he wants to be with—Alicia or Massie. When the girls return poolside, Bean is barking at a rustling in the bushes. Conner tells them to have a swim race to see who can be his date to the wrap party. The girls bicker and fight over who won and Conner says they can both go with him. While Conner checks out the rustling in the bushes, the "maid" comes out with drinks and tells the girls she's Conner's mother. She also tells them he's been dating Abby for the last three weeks but they are always bickering.

Claire and Conner are practicing the kissing scene on set. Alicia and Massie are on set as Conner's guests, which is making Claire very nervous. After rehearsal and while the staff is setting up the cameras, Claire asks Stella to have Alicia and Massie removed. She calls Cam to tell him about the kissing scene, but he already knows because Massie sent him a picture, which Cam assumes is real. Cam also assumes the CF initials of Claire's crush in Teen Vogue is for Conner Foley instead of for Cam. Cam breaks up with Claire and then hangs up.

Malibu, California Conner Foley's Beach House and Gelding Studios Lakeview Middle School Set Detention Analysis

It seems as if the rustling in the bushes is a paparazzi set up by Conner to make it look like he is dating Massie and Alicia. His mother "leaking" Abby and Conner's relationship foreshadows Massie and Alicia leaking the gossip on their show, but the information not being accurate. Ultimately, this might be the final straw that gets them fired as the Hollywood correspondents for The Daily Grind.

Massie is using every opportunity she has to cause problems for Claire. Now, Massie is hitting Claire with something she really cares about, which is Cam. This foreshadows Claire finally putting her foot down and stopping Massie's tirade.



Gelding Studios and The Chocolate Bar Dial L for Loser Wrap Up Party

Gelding Studios and The Chocolate Bar Dial L for Loser Wrap Up Party Summary

While Massie and Alicia are walking to meet Conner in his trailer, they notice that everyone is laughing at them. When they get to the trailer door, Conner is yelling at someone on the phone. He flings a copy of Us Weekly at the door and Massie and Alicia pick it up. They see a picture of Massie picking her bathing suit out of her butt and Alicia with a booger hanging out of her nose at Conner's pool. Conner is yelling how he hired the guy to make Abby jealous, not make him look like a loser.

At the wrap up party, Rupert is making a toast. When Claire goes on to the dance floor to join Abby, Abby tells her that they were just movie best friends, not real best friends. This upsets Claire and she tells her mother she wants to leave. Back at the hotel, Judi goes to the front desk because she forgot her key and Claire gets into the elevator and bursts into tears. Then, she realizes Massie and Alicia are behind her. When they get to their floor, Claire grabs chocolates from the maid's cart and starts pelting Massie and Alicia with them. She starts laughing and finally stops crying.

Gelding Studios and The Chocolate Bar Dial L for Loser Wrap Up Party Analysis

Alicia and Massie are receiving a true taste of press coverage. Both girls learn what it's like to be humiliated in the eye of the public. Claire starts to feel like she has lost everything. She's also struggling with how people act like they are your friends to get what they need out of the relationship and then turn on you when they're done with getting it.



Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544 and Westchester, New York The Blocks' Range Rover

Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544 and Westchester, New York The Blocks' Range Rover Summary

Claire, Alicia and Massie are in their hotel suite dividing up the clothes Claire got for free while shooting the movie. The computer dings and it's Dylan and Kristen. They're calling to tell Massie that they're hosting a surprise welcome home party for all of them. Massie gets an idea to get back at Conner, which is to give the paparazzi who took the photos a pair of Todd's Harry Potter underwear and the jeans they took from Conner, saying that Conner left them in her hotel room. Massie leaves the photographer a message as if she is Abby. Kristen and Dylan also tell the rest of the girls that Kristen wrote an essay that got them all back in school, but the principal is requiring them all to participate in an extracurricular activity.

The girls and the mothers are riding in the Blocks' Range Ranger from the airport. Claire is looking at the set picture album and missing her "movie family." The entire ride home, the girls are playing a game to try to get the mothers to crack about the surprise party. On the way into the house, Alicia and Massie ask Claire for acting advice. When they get inside and everyone yells surprise, Claire's brother drops a bag of gummy worms and a note in Claire's hand. It's from Cam, telling Claire to meet him out back. They kiss a few times and Cam says he forgives her. While they're kissing, Claire's cell phone rings and it's an agent who wants to represent her and move her to California.

Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544 and Westchester, New York The Blocks' Range Rover Analysis

Claire, Massie and Alicia are friends again. Massie has learned her lesson about humiliating others because she now knows what it feels like to be humiliated. Claire thinking about moving to California to pursue her acting career foreshadows that another novel will cover Claire's life as she moves out to California to be an actress.



Characters

Massie Block

Massie Block is a seventh grader at Octavian Country Day (OCD) school. She is also the leader of the group The Pretty Committee, which consists of four other popular girls in the school. It's Massie running away on a co-ed trip that sends the other girls on The Pretty Committee out in search of her and lands them all expelled from school.

Massie Block comes from a very wealthy family. She lives in a mansion that includes a pool and tennis courts. Massie also wears all of the latest in name brand fashion. Her boy crush is Derrington, who is the star player on the boys' soccer team at the brother private school for boys, Briarwood.

While Massie and Claire are friends when they're alone, Massie acts differently toward Claire when they are with the rest of The Pretty Committee. Inside, Massie is insecure, but on the outside she tries to show she is confident by being slightly mean to others. As the novel unfolds, Massie becomes increasingly mean to Claire out of jealousy. By the end of the novel, however, the girls are back to being friends - even better friends than they were before Claire landed the part in the movie.

Claire Lyons

Claire Lyons just moved to Westchester with her family from Orlando, Florida. Claire lives with her family in the guesthouse on Massie Block's property. Claire also has a little brother, Todd, who attends the Briarwood school with the other boys in the novel.

While Claire is member of The Pretty Committee, she is different from the other girls. Her lips are chapped. Her bangs are cut in an unfashionable style. Her clothes are second-hand or borrowed. Claire's family does not have the money that the girls from the other families have.

Against all odds, Claire is the one who lands the starring female role in the movie, Dial L for Loser. Claire comes off as a "natural" loser in the part she plays in the movie. The director attributes this to great acting, but to Claire it is just acting like herself. Being in LA not only forces Claire to leave behind her boyfriend, Cam, father and brother, but it teaches her the cold hard truth about life as a superstar.

Kristen Gregory

Kristen Gregory is also a member of The Pretty Committee. Kristen is the athletic one of the group because she plays soccer for OCD. Kristen's athleticism also puts her in a position to get close to the girl's boyfriends and crushes because they all play soccer for Briarwood. Kristen's parents do not allow her to go to LA to audition for the part, so she



stays back in Westchester with Dylan, who is also not allowed to audition for the part. Kristen also writes an essay to the school board, which is what permits all of the girls on The Pretty Committee to come back to school from the expulsion.

Alicia Rivera

Alicia Rivera's mother is Spanish. Alicia is portrayed as being the pretty one on The Pretty Committee. When Alicia auditions for the part, Rupert Mann tells her that she is too pretty to play the role of a loser. While they are in LA, Alicia is Massie's sidekick.

Alicia does almost everything Massie tells her to do to make Claire's life a living hell. Alicia and Massie are the co-host correspondents for The Daily Grind. While in LA, Alicia is also in direct competition with Massie to land the affections of the male superstar of the movie, Conner Foley.

Dylan Marvil

Dylan Marvil is another member of The Pretty Committee. It's Dylan's mother, Merri-Lee who is the co-host of the live TV show, The Daily Grind. Dylan is the one who gets the girls tickets to the live show on which Abby and Hadley are being interviewed.

It's also Dylan who spills the gossip about Abby stealing Hadley's boyfriend again that is broadcast into the studio because Calgary, the other co-host of the show, forgets to turn off her mic while using the bathroom. Dylan is banned by Rupert Mann from auditioning for the role in Dial L for Loser, so Dylan stays behind in Westchester with Kristen while the other girls fly out to LA.

Kendra Block

Kendra Block is Massie's mother. Kendra is beautiful, rich and doesn't work. When Massie is expelled from school, Kendra says that Massie can do anything she wants as long as Massie can show how it is an educational experience. Massie convinces Kendra that attending the live show, The Daily Grind, is educational so she is permitted to attend. Kendra is also one of the chaperones who flies with the girls on the private jet out to LA.

Judi Lyons

Judi Lyons is Claire and Todd's mother. Judi is similar to Claire in that she is not as fashionable as Kendra. Judi is also easily impressed by expensive things because it is not a lifestyle to which she is accustomed. Along with Kendra, Judi is the other chaperone to the girls as they fly out to and stay in LA for the movie.



Derrington

Derrington is the boy at Briarwood on whom Massie has a crush, and he has a crush on her. He is also the boy with whom Massie ran off on the school trip, forcing her friends to go looking for her and for all of them to get expelled. Derrington plays soccer and likes to skateboard. He dresses in boxer shorts and prefers not to wear a shirt. While Massie is auditioning and corresponding in LA, he goes to the St. Patrick's Day dance without a shirt and with "I'm with Massie" written on his chest in black Sharpie marker.

Cam Fisher

Cam Fisher is Claire's boyfriend. He has one blue eye and one green eye. Cam also plays on the soccer team for Briarwood.

He writes love notes to Claire and messengers them through her brother Todd since they both attend Briarwood. He calls his love notes to Claire C-notes. He also attaches Claire's favorite snack, gummy worms, to the notes.

While Claire is in LA, Cam takes her brother Todd to the St. Patrick's Day dance as his date. When Claire becomes famous and does an interview for Teen Vogue, she mentions her boy crush has the initial CF, talking about Cam. After Massie sends Cam a picture of Conner Foley and Claire kissing in practice, however, Cam believes the CF stands for Conner Foley and breaks up with Claire.

After Massie clears it up with Cam, Cam and Claire make up at the surprise welcome home party for the girls.

Abby

Abby is a teen heartthrob and plays a starring role in the upcoming film, Dial L for Loser. She is on the set interviewing for The Daily Grind when her co-star, Hadley, overhears that Abby is involved with Hadley's boyfriend, for a second time.

Abby becomes Claire's co-star in the movie when Claire lands the part as the loser. Abby and Claire become close friends while filming the movie. Abby also becomes romantically involved with her male co-star, Conner Foley. At the end of the movie, Abby tells Claire that they were just movie best friends and not real best friends.

Hadley

Hadley is the other teen heartthrob scheduled to star in Dial L for Loser. When Hadley finds out her boyfriend is involved with Abby, Hadley quits the movie. This causes Rupert Mann, the director of the movie, to recast Hadley's part as the loser, which is the part that Claire lands.



Conner Foley

Conner Foley is the male star in the movie Dial L for Loser. He uses the paparazzi to plant pictures of him with Massie and Alicia to make him more famous and to make Abby jealous. Calvin Klein makes one-of-a-kind pairs of jeans for Conner and Conner always refers to himself in the third person.

Rupert Mann

Rupert Mann is the director of Dial L for Loser. He is sitting next to Massie on the set of The Daily Grind when the fight breaks out between Hadley and Abby. He borrows Massie's phone after his gets smashed. While conducting an interview on another show, Rupert holds up Massie's cell phone and tells the audience that he wants the owner of the phone and her friends to audition for the part.

Rupert is British, so he speaks with a very heavy British accent. He also bans Dylan from auditioning for the part because she is the one who caused Hadley to walk off the movie. Rupert chooses Claire to play the part of the loser because he thinks she is method acting rather than feeling and acting like herself while she auditions for the part.



Objects/Places

Westchester, New York

Westchester, New York is the setting or location where the novel takes place at the beginning of the novel. Westchester is a suburb of New York City. It is known for its wealthy residents. It's also where the members of The Pretty Committee live and go to school.

Massie's Purple Stone Covered Cell Phone

Massie's purple cell phone is her lucky charm. It's the phone she loans to Rupert Mann on the set of *The Daily Grind* after his is crushed. Since he forgets to give Massie her phone back, he holds up the phone on another TV interview to ask Massie and her friends to audition for the part of the loser in his upcoming film, *Dial L for Loser*. Rupert returns the phone to Massie during the auditions in LA.

Le Baccarat

Le Baccarat is a hotel in Beverly Hills, California. It's the hotel where Claire, Alicia, Massie and their mothers stay while auditioning for the part in the movie. Everyone continues to stay in the hotel after Claire lands the part and Massie and Alicia act as Hollywood correspondents for *The Daily Grind*. The hotel suite where the girls are staying is completely wireless. An egg-shaped remote control turns everything on and off from a bubble bath to the opening and closing of the window shades.

Octavian Day School (OCD)

Octavian Day School is an all girls private school in Westchester. It's the private school that all of the girls on *The Pretty Committee* attend. It's also the school from which the girls are expelled when the novel opens.

Gelding Studios

Gelding Studios is where the set is for the filming of the movie, *Dial L for Loser*. It's the primary setting for the second half of the novel, once the girls fly out to LA on the studio's private jet.



Gelding Studio's Private Jet

The Gelding Studios private jet is the plane Rupert Mann sends to Westchester to fly the girls and their mothers to LA for the auditions. The jet possesses first class everything. It even includes a mirrored bathroom, where the occupant can see out but nobody can see in.

Us Weekly Magazine

According to Massie, nobody has made it as a star until they appear in Us Weekly magazine. Us Weekly is the magazine that features photographs of Abby and Claire as best friends, coming out of a coffee and tea shop. It's also the magazine that reveals Massie and Alicia as the girlfriends of Conner Foley. Finally, it's the magazine that shows a picture of Massie picking her bathing suit bottom out of her butt and Alicia with snot running out of her nose while they are at Conner Foley's pool.

Block Estate Pool House

The Block Estate Pool House is where the Blocks have a hot tub and exercise equipment. Toward the beginning of the novel, it's where Claire and Massie are soaking in the hot tub with Kendra when Dylan conferences them all in to tell them she has tickets for her mother's show. The Pool House is also the location for the surprise welcome home party for the girls when they return from LA.

Comp Boxes

Comp boxes contain the free clothing, accessories and items brand name designers give to Claire when she lands the role in the movie. At the end of the novel, the girls are dividing up the items among the members of The Pretty Committee.

Gummy Worms

Gummy worms are Claire's favorite snack. This is why Cam attaches baggies of gummy worms to the love notes he writes to Claire. When Claire goes to LA to audition for the part, she rations the baggie of gummy worms Cam gave her before she left. Claire only eats the gummy worms when she feels really stressed or as if she has to eat one. Cam sends another love note and baggie of gummy worms via her brother Todd at the surprise party when the girls return from LA.



Themes

Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. The novel reveals that even the individuals who make up a family have different relationships among the family members. For example, Claire is very close to her father and mother. Massie, on the other hand, finds ways to manipulate her parents to get what she wants out of the situation.

Friendship is another type of relationship the novel tackles. First, Claire and Massie are best friends, but there is a fine line between their true friendship and the relationship that Massie presents to the public and other members of The Pretty Committee. It seems as if Claire and Massie have a very close friendship when they are alone, but that Massie is mean and condescending towards Claire when other people are around. After Claire becomes the star in the movie, however, Massie stops being friends with Claire and does everything she can to sabotage Claire. The two girls resume their relationship, however, by the time they return to Westchester.

Romantic relationships are also tackled in the novel. Cam is Claire's boyfriend prior to her leaving for LA. Claire tries to resume the relationship when she returns from LA and Cam knows that Claire didn't cheat on him, but rather that Massie set Claire up. Most of the girls in the novel are experiencing their first kisses and first boyfriends.

Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that runs throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as going through the puberty. Claire struggles with the fact that her coming of age includes landing a starring role in a Hollywood movie, but that it forces her to leave the boy she loves behind. Claire deals with the responsibilities of being a movie star, trying to manage her long distance relationship and trying to decipher the difference between fake and real friendships.

Claire also faces the rite of passage of having her first boyfriend. Along with having her first boyfriend, she experiences the struggle of kissing and how far to go with him at her age. Claire especially struggles with her feelings about herself as a person and how she feels about the people she surrounds herself with who are supposed to be her friends.

Family

Family is another central theme throughout the entire novel. This is because the storyline is about the lives of the main characters and each of their families. While every family has their trials and tribulations, each of the characters' families has its own family dynamics that are the same and that are different from those of other families. Even The

Pretty Committee represents itself as a family unit. In the end though, they are a family and they will get through it together, one way or the other.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person point of view, from the perspective of author Lisi Harrison, who is also the narrator of the story. The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with each of the main characters. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside the heads of each of the girls to know their innermost thoughts. The reader cares what happens to the characters. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel has two primary settings throughout. Prior to the girls leaving for LA, the primary setting is Westchester, New York during the 21st century. The main characters are junior high school students who attend an all girls' school. They are dealing with the aftermath of being expelled from school. The second primary setting of the novel is LA when the girls go to audition for the part and Claire lands the role in the movie.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that the least likely member of The Pretty Committee lands a starring role in a big Hollywood movie. However, as events unfold, the movie is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The author, however, interjects some made up words and slang to fit into the setting and characters of the novel. The language is from the 21st century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

The novel is divided into chapters, which carry the titles of the setting for each chapter. Each chapter ranges from three pages to 22 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and some dialogue. The narrator injects her own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

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



Quotes

"To Principal Burns and Mr. Myner: Thank you for kicking us out of the OCD."
The Westchester Mall Starbucks, p. 1

"Doesn't OCD encourage freedom of expression and the right to protest?"
The Block Estate Driveway, p. 20

"And exactly how is going to see your favorite movie star ed-u-cational?"
The Block Estate Home Spa, p. 30

"Of course I'm going to wait. I need you to photograph our entrance."
The Block Estate Driveway, p. 41

"Gabor and I have been in love since Christmas."
New York City Village Studios, p. 52

"I'm done! Good luck finding someone who will work with her."
Village Studios Green Room, p. 69

"We're fighting a war here."
The Block Estate Massie's Bedroom, p. 73

"Puh-lease. You have nothing to worry about. Cam ah-dores you."
The Block Estate Tennis Court, p. 95

"Make sure Kristen doesn't use the whole soccer thing as an excuse to flirt with them."
Teterboro Airport Gelding Studios' Private Jet, p. 104

"I think I grew up on the flight."
Beverly Hills, California Le Baccarat Hotel, Suite 2544, p. 108

"You'll be auditioning for Moh-Ily Reynolds. An aww-kward but cunning thirteen-year-old



los-ah who hires someone to teach her how to be popular."
Los Angeles Gelding Studios, p. 122

"I think you portrayed the loser as being incredibly self-assured and confident."
Gelding Studios Rupert Mann's Office, p. 133

"Did you say Claire was your best friend?"
Gelding Studios, p. 146

"It's all over the news. The press thinks it's a big deal that Rupert cast a nobody."
Le Baccarat Hotel Suite 2544, p. 154

"Are you nervous?"
Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer B, p. 157

"She can act. Like us!"
Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Lakeview Middle School Set, p. 166

"Listen. We totally need a break from the mothers."
Gelding Studios The Dial L for Loser Soundstage Backstage, p. 174

"Me again, I just had a Cam sighting. And you'll never guess who he's with. Give up?
Okay, I'll tell you. It's Todd. Your brother, who is covered in tattoos, by the way."
Le Baccarat Hotel Lobby, p. 184

"No. but poor Claire is."
Le Baccarat Hotel Crystal Slipper Dining Room, p. 189

"Oh wait. Are these the girls we blew off the night we went to Boi?"
Gelding Studios Makeup Trailer A, p. 195

"You'd be surprised how much you can learn about a person by looking through their things."
Gelding Studios Claire Lyon's Trailer, p. 199

"Of course she can help you. All she has to do is ruin your life like she ruined Claire's



and you'll cry buckets."

Gelding Studios Craft Service Tent, p. 209

"I asked one of my paparazzi contacts to take it. I knew it would piss off your loser friends."

Gelding Studios Conner Foley's Trailer, p. 212

"No need to worry about us, Estelle. We never gossip."

Malibu, California Conner Foley's Beach House, p. 225

"Would you mind having them removed from the set? They're ruining my focus."

Gelding Studios Lakeview Middle School Set Detention, p. 230

"Did you read the headline? It says 'Slim Picking for Conner Foley.' And there's a picture of us at his pool."

Gelding Studios, p. 236

"At least New Yorkers let you know when they don't like you. Here, everyone acts like a friend but they're just using you."

The Chocolate Bar Dial L for Loser Wrap Party, p. 243

"It's my philosophy on why we should be given a second chance."

Le Baccarat Suite 2544, p. 255

"How could you leave all this?"

Westchester, New York The Blocks' Range Rover, p. 268

Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Massie Block? Do you think she is acting like herself or portraying a character for her friends and the other girls at her school? Why do think Massie acts one way around Claire when they are alone and different when the other girls are around?

Discuss the relationship between Massie and Claire. Are they friends, foes or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Massie feel about Claire? How does Claire feel about Massie? How do Claire's feelings change after she lands the role in the movie? What does she do about it? What happens to Massie? What does Massie ultimately realize about her relationship with Claire? What does Claire ultimately realize about their relationship?

Discuss the relationship between Claire and Cam. Are they truly in love or is just a crush? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Claire feel about Cam? How does Cam feel about Claire? How do Claire's feelings change? What does she do about it? What happens to Cam?

Discuss the relationship between Abby and Hadley. Are they friends, foes or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Abby feel about Hadley? How does Hadley feel about Abby? How do Hadley's feelings change after she finds out Abby has been cheating with Hadley's boyfriend for the second time? What does she do about it? What happens to Abby?

Discuss the relationship between Abby and Claire. Why does Claire feel so close to Abby? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Claire feel about Abby? How does Abby feel about Claire? How do Abby's feelings change when the movie is over? What does she do about it? What happens to their relationship?

Who is Alicia Rivera? Is she her own person or is she just Massie's sidekick? Why do you think Alicia does everything Massie tells her to do? What role does Alicia play in humiliating Claire?

Discuss Claire's experience filming the movie. What impact does it have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives? Do you think Claire will move to LA and become an even bigger star?