

Easy Study Guide

Easy by Tammara Webber

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Plot Summary

"Easy" by Tammara Webber is an intriguing book about two college students finding love against the odds brought on by their individual trust issues. After Jacqueline's boyfriend of three years dumps her, she is shocked to find herself attracted to Lucas, a "bad boy" who rescues her from an attempted rape. Since she is also drawn to Landon, her Economics tutor who helps her avoid failing the class, Jacqueline must decide who to trust as secrets about each guy comes to her attention. "Easy" is an extremely entertaining and enjoyable novel that demonstrates that people are not always what they seem, in both good and bad ways.

Two weeks after Kennedy, her boyfriend of three years, dumps her, Jacqueline leaves a Halloween party at Kennedy's frat house and is attacked by Buck, one of Kennedy's fraternity brothers. Luckily, she is rescued by an attractive stranger she has never noticed who seems to know who she is. Jacqueline wants to forget about the event, but she keeps running into her mysterious savior, Lucas. Since Jacqueline missed Economics class for two weeks, she is failing the course, but Dr. Heller decides to give her a second chance, setting her up with his tutor, Landon Maxfield, with whom she begins a flirtatious online tutoring.

Jacqueline and Lucas flirt, and they begin dating very casually. After Jacqueline escapes from Buck when he tries to rape her in the stairwell of her dorm building, Buck spreads the rumor that they are sleeping together. When Jacqueline finally tells Erin, her roommate and best friend, about Buck's attacks, Erin insists on them taking a self-defense class where Jacqueline is shocked to find that Lucas is one of the instructors. Jacqueline is also surprised when one of her classmates informs her that Lucas is the class tutor, but she continues dating him without mentioning his secret. Kennedy tells Jacqueline that he misses her, but she no longer has feelings for him, so she refuses to reconcile.

When Dr. Heller catches Jacqueline leaving Lucas' apartment, Lucas ends the relationship since it is against school policy and could jeopardize her grade, but he takes full responsibility and makes sure that Dr. Heller knows that Jacqueline was unaware that the guy she was dating was her tutor since she and Landon had a relationship solely online. The day after Jacqueline tells Kennedy about Buck's attacks at the Brotherhood Bash, Jacqueline learns that Buck raped another girl, Mindi, after the party. She turns to Lucas for help with filing the police report, and when she confesses that she misses him, they make out and he tells her a little bit about his past. Kennedy begs Jacqueline to forgive him, and though she does, she refuses to resume their relationship.

As the semester draws to a close, Lucas makes it obvious that he does not plan to continue his relationship with Jacqueline because he does not know if he can tell her about some of the secrets in his past. Unwilling to let him go, Jacqueline researches Lucas online and learns about his mother's murder and how Lucas was restrained in his bedroom and unable to save her. Jacqueline feels guilty about how she acquires this



information, but when she confesses her knowledge to Lucas and tells him that she also talked to Dr. Heller, he is furious and tells her to leave. Outside Lucas' apartment, Buck attacks Jacqueline in her truck. She escapes, and when he catches her in the driveway, Lucas appears to save her again. Once Buck is arrested, Lucas admits that he was coming after Jacqueline because he knew he made a mistake. Jacqueline apologizes for prying into Lucas' business, but she insists that he needs to stop blaming himself for his inability to save his mother because he was just a child when it happened. Six months later, at Lucas' graduation party, Jacqueline worries about being so far away from Lucas when she transfers to Oberlin in the fall. She is ecstatic when Lucas informs her that he accepted a job in Cleveland which is only thirty minutes from Oberlin, especially when he assures her that deciding to be with her was an incredibly easy decision.



Section 1: Chapter 1

Section 1: Chapter 1 Summary

"Easy" by Tammara Webber is an intriguing book about two college students finding love against the odds brought on by their individual trust issues. After Jacqueline's boyfriend of three years dumps her, she is shocked to find herself attracted to Lucas, a "bad boy" who rescues her from an attempted rape. Since she is also drawn to Landon, her Economics tutor who helps her avoid failing the class, Jacqueline must decide who to trust as secrets about each guy comes to her attention. "Easy" is an extremely entertaining and enjoyable novel that demonstrates that people are not always what they seem, in both good and bad ways.

After Jacqueline leaves the Halloween party at her ex-boyfriend's fraternity house, she finds herself attacked by Buck, one of the fraternity members, who is obviously drunk and tries to rape her. Jacqueline is confused when his weight moves, but she soon sees another guy beating Buck unconscious. Pulling back to check on Jacqueline, the guy insists on driving her home since her hands are shaking so badly, but when he chides her for being irresponsible in going to the dark parking lot alone, Jacqueline furiously tells the stranger that this was not her fault! At her dorm building, he tells her that this was not her fault, but Jacqueline is confused when he calls her Jackie as that is the nickname Kennedy gave her when they first started dating, not the name on her school ID.

Two weeks earlier, Jacqueline invites Kennedy to stay over since Erin is spending the weekend with Chaz. Jacqueline and Kennedy are only a month away from their three year anniversary, and Erin jokes that they are like an old married couple. Kennedy agrees to come up for a bit, but his inscrutable expression makes Jacqueline apprehensive as she can tell something is up. She wants him to just tell her because she is terrified since they have not had a real conflict in a long time, but her mouth becomes too dry to speak or swallow when Kennedy says that they need to talk because lately he has been having trouble with other girls; he has not done anything, but he thinks that he wants to. There are a couple of girls in his sister sorority that he is attracted to, and since he is intent on a career in law and politics and knows that the worst thing possible for a political candidate or elected representative is to become embroiled in a sex scandal, he worries that if he represses his desire to sow his wild oats now, it will come back later and kill his career, so he needs to get it out of his system now. Jacqueline cannot believe that her boyfriend of three years is breaking up with her so that he can shamelessly sleep with co-eds. Kennedy guesses that letting her down easy was not a good idea, but Jacqueline does not see this as an easy letdown, and she hurls her textbook at Kennedy as he assures her that he is serious about this.



Section 1: Chapter 1 Analysis

Jacqueline had never noticed Lucas before that night, but suddenly he is everywhere. This foreshadows her meeting Lucas, and it also foreshadows his importance in her narrative. Jacqueline had just bailed on the Halloween party at her ex-boyfriend's fraternity house, but as the designated driver, she texts her roommate and best friend, Erin, to call when she is ready. Jacqueline unlocks her truck door, but she finds herself suddenly lying face down across the seat, unable to rise because of the weight on top of her as a slurred, familiar voice praises her devil costume and pulls her short skirt even higher. Struggling, Jacqueline orders Buck to get off of her, fighting nausea as she smells beer and stronger liquor on his breath, but as she struggles, he pries her knees apart and unzips his pants. Jacqueline cannot believe the guy who she has known for over a year and who has never been disrespectful is now attacking her in her truck. When Buck's weight moves, Jacqueline propels herself to the far side of the truck, realizing Buck is now facing away from her, his head snapping back twice before he stumbles, providing a view of the guy who beats him to near unconsciousness. When Jacqueline curls into a ball and whimpers, the guy approaches to ask if she is okay, but when he starts to call 911, Jacqueline objects because she does not want her underage friends to get busted drinking at the party since it would make her a pariah. At first, she refuses to the stranger's offer to drive her home because "I wasn't about to escape one attack just to do something as stupid as get into a stranger's car" (page 5), but when her hands tremble as she reaches to retrieve her car keys from him, he insists on driving her home. Jacqueline objects that she is the designated driver, causing the stranger to chide her for being irresponsible by going to the dark parking lot alone. Jacqueline gets furious at everyone; she is angry at Kennedy for breaking her heart two weeks ago and not seeing her to her truck, at Erin for making her come to the party, at Buck for his actions and at the stranger for his attitude.

After Jacqueline yells that it is not her fault that "one of you" tried to rape her, the guy argues that he is nothing like Buck. He insists on driving her home, claiming he can walk back to his car once he knows she is safe, and Jacqueline finally agrees since there is no more fight in her. The guy drives Jacqueline home and escorts her to the door. He offers to call someone to stay with her, but Jacqueline refuses and slips past him. He tells Jackie that this was not her fault, and it is not until she reaches the second floor landing and he is gone that she realizes he called her Jackie, the nickname she has gone by since Kennedy renamed her their junior year of high school, instead of the name on her badge, Jacqueline. She does not know who he is or remember meeting him, but she is sure she would recall his clear eyes if she had. This entire exchange foreshadows the discovery that the stranger who saves Jacqueline has a prior interest in her, while her interest in his eyes foreshadows Jacqueline's pending interest in him. The chapter continues with a flashback to two weeks prior when Kennedy broke up with Jacqueline shortly before their three-year anniversary. Jacqueline can tell that something is wrong due to Kennedy's strange behavior, but when he tells her that he wants to break up because he wants to hook up with other girls and is afraid that this will ruin his political career later if he does not get it out of his system now, she is furious and devastated. This event acts as the instigation for the events that follow. This

foreshadows Jacqueline's struggles to deal with the break up as well as how she eventually gets over Kennedy.



Section 2: Chapter 2

Section 2: Chapter 2 Summary

On Monday morning, Erin forces Jacqueline to attend her Economics class which she has skipped since her break up, since Kennedy is in the same class. Entering the classroom, Jacqueline avoids her assigned seat next to Kennedy and scans the other available seats. When she recognizes her savior in her class, she sits in a different seat, next to a boy who seems sleepy. Jacqueline still has not told Erin about Buck's attack because she wants to forget it ever happened, but the stranger's presence reminds her of her feelings on Saturday night. During class, Jacqueline avoids looking at Kennedy as she recalls how they started dating during their junior year of high school which is when he and everyone else started calling her Jackie. After class, Jacqueline follows Dr. Heller to his office, thinking of appeals to convince him to let her catch up because she has never failed a class and is terrified by the possibility. Dr. Heller tells Jacqueline to state her case, noting that she missed two weeks of class in addition to the midterm. Jacqueline blurts out that her boyfriend dumped her and she could not bear to sit next to him, starting to cry as she freaks out about missing the midterm. Dr. Heller informs Jacqueline that it is her lucky day; he has a daughter who is a bit younger and recently turned into an emotional wreck after a devastating breakup, so he will give Jacqueline one chance for his daughter's sake. He gives her the email address of Landon Maxfield, the class tutor, and tells her that Landon will instruct her concerning the project she will be assigned to replace her midterm grade. Dr. Heller also changes Jacqueline's assigned seat before she leaves. As they wait in line at Starbucks, Erin tells Jacqueline about how Buck got jumped by a couple of guys who wanted his wallet during the party on Saturday night, and they messed his face up pretty bad. After Erin rushes to class, Jacqueline steps to the counter and sees the stranger from Saturday night. She is embarrassed as she thinks about how foolish she must have seemed, but she remembers him saying it was not her fault. Jacqueline orders her coffee, and he asks if she is okay. She says she is fine, grabbing her receipt and leaving as soon as her coffee is done.

Section 2: Chapter 2 Analysis

Jacqueline wakes to Erin yelling at her to get out of bed and save her GPA, pointing out that Jacqueline would never allow Erin to jeopardize her academic career over a guy. Even as Jacqueline suggests that she can fail this class since she is doing well in her other classes, she is disgusted with herself. She has skipped two weeks' worth of Economics because Kennedy is in the same class and she could not bear seeing him flirting with other girls. Jacqueline gets to class exactly as it starts, knowing that Kennedy will already be there since he is habitually punctual. Seeing her empty seat next to Kennedy, she realizes that she will need to discuss changing her seat with Dr. Heller, but when she looks at the empty seats, she notices her savior from two nights ago. Jacqueline was relieved when Erin stayed with Chaz on Saturday night, but she



still has not told her best friend, partly because Erin would feel guilty and partly because Jacqueline wants to forget it ever happened. Resisting the urge to flee as the terror, humiliation and helplessness of Saturday night return, Jacqueline sits in another empty seat between a chatty girl and a slacker guy. Jacqueline tries not to look at Kennedy during class, but she has known him since ninth grade, and when they had pre-AP English together their junior year, he pursued her more confidently than anyone else ever has. Kennedy was very popular, and he was a very attentive boyfriend, never forgetting birthdays or anniversaries, and never making Jacqueline doubt his intentions for them. When they officially became a couple, he renamed her Jackie, and now, three years since she has gone by her birth name, Jacqueline fights daily to regain that one original part of herself that she put aside for Kennedy, not because it is the only or more important thing, but because it is the only one she can get back.

Once class ends, Jacqueline visits Dr. Heller in his office in an attempt to convince him to let her catch up. When Dr. Heller mentions that she missed the midterm, Jacqueline is distraught as she realizes that she really is failing Economics. Jacqueline explains her situation, and luckily, Dr. Heller has a daughter who had a similar experience after a devastating break-up, so he agrees to give Jacqueline a second chance, changing her assigned seat so she will not have to sit next to Kennedy and giving her the contact information for the class tutor, Landon. Dr. Heller's kindness foreshadows the discovery that he is much more concerned and involved with his students than Jacqueline realizes at this point, and Jacqueline receiving Landon's contact information foreshadows her relationship with her tutor. The line at Starbucks is long, but Jacqueline refuses to walk across the street in the rain to the indie coffee shop, plus that is probably where Kennedy is getting his coffee. When Erin tells Jacqueline about how Buck supposedly got jumped Saturday night, Jacqueline feels ill as she feigns interest instead refuting Buck's account of the night's events to explain his battered face. Once Erin leaves for class, Jacqueline thinks of how vulnerable she felt Saturday night as she inches forward in line. She knows that the alcohol was not to blame because, while it lowers inhibitions, it does not trigger criminal violence where there was none. When she notices her as-yet-unnamed savior behind the counter, Jacqueline is embarrassed as memories of Saturday night flood her mind yet again. She hurriedly pays and acquires her coffee, despite his obvious concern and interest in how she is doing. Jacqueline does not know if he looks at her after that because she hurries out of Starbucks as soon as her coffee is done, thinking that it should not be too hard to avoid eye contact with two guys out of around 200 students for the last six weeks of the semester.



Section 3: Chapter 3 & 4

Section 3: Chapter 3 & 4 Summary

Chapter 3 begins with Jacqueline contacting her tutor who responds surprisingly quickly. Irritated by his condescending tone, Jacqueline insists she can catch up on the normal classwork on her own, but as their emails become more personal and even a bit flirtatious, Jacqueline begins comparing Landon to Kennedy which makes her realize that she needs to break her habit of thinking of Kennedy in terms of her present and future since he belongs only to her past. After Kennedy breaks up with Jacqueline, she begins to realize that she also loses many of her friends since she no longer has ties to the campus's Greek society as she does not belong to a sorority. Many of her former friends ignore her, but Erin sticks by her no matter what, which causes Jacqueline to recall how upset she was when she first found out her roommate embodied the sorority girl stereotype; however, they have come a long way in the past fifteen months.

In Chapter 4, Jacqueline freezes in place when she sees Kennedy flirting with a Zeta pledge outside of class, and when a guy knocks her bookbag off her shoulder, it is retrieved by her unknown savior who tells her that chivalry is not dead. When he smiles at her at the end of class, Jacqueline wonders if she has a crush on her savior, and she is relieved that her sleepy neighbor, Benji, talks to her, allowing her to hope that she is capable of making friends without Kennedy. Jacqueline waits until Kennedy leaves before she exits, and luckily, she passes her savior talking to a girl outside of class, overhearing enough of their conversation to learn that his name is Lucas. She convinces herself that she is not ready to be interested in somebody new, though. Jacqueline emails Landon for help with the material, and he begins sending her worksheets for the class material, flirting as he tells her that her ex-boyfriend is obviously an idiot. When Erin and Maggie drag Jacqueline to the dance club on Saturday night, they send every guy who approaches them to dance with their single friend. While Jacqueline takes a break with her friends, she can tell they both approve of the next guy approaching, and Jacqueline is glad she takes a breath before turning since Lucas stands there, asking her to dance. As they dance to a slow song, the subtle physical contact nearly makes Jacqueline gasp, and when she asks about his major, he asks if she really wants to talk about that, opposed to not talking. Jacqueline pretends that she does not understand the implication as she thinks about how it would feel if he kissed her, but leaning close to her ear, Lucas suggests they can just dance, pulling her close as her body obeys.

Section 3: Chapter 3 & 4 Analysis

In Chapter 3, Jacqueline emails Landon when she returns to her dorm, planning a quiet evening of studying since Erin is at work. She is not expecting a quick response, but Landon replies fifteen minutes later, using the same formal tone as she did. He offers to meet her in the library to discuss her project which will require a great deal of outside



research, and he needs to assess what level of assistance she will need, suggesting she might need private tutoring to catch up on the last two weeks' work. Thinking his email seems condescending, Jacqueline informs Landon that she can catch up on her own, feeling he thinks less of her for allowing a relationship crisis to affect her academics. They email back and forth but are unable to figure out a time they can meet up, so they agree to continue tutoring online until they can meet. Jacqueline tells Landon about how she tutors middle and high school students on playing the upright bass, and they also joke about how Landon will keep Jacqueline and her truck in mind in case he ever moves. Smiling at Landon's candid admission that he is careless, Jacqueline contrasts it with the sense of self-importance that Kennedy acquires from his car, realizing that she needs to stop linking everything to Kennedy because he is her default; they became each other's habit over the past three years, and though he broke his habit of Jackie when he walked away, she still tethers him to her present and future when she needs to accept that he belongs only to her past, no matter how much it hurts to do so. The flirtatious emails between Jacqueline and Landon also foreshadows the crush that Jacqueline develops on her tutor. Though Kennedy rushed his father's fraternity as soon as they got to campus, he did not mind Jacqueline's preference not to rush a sorority, but it never occurred to Jacqueline that Kennedy was taking her carefully cultivated social circle with him when he left her three weeks ago. Although Erin still invites her to some sorority events, most of her old friends ignore her, choosing to side with Kennedy against another non-Greek co-ed. Regardless, Erin sticks by her, and Jacqueline recognizes the irony in their relationship as she was originally very disappointed to find that her roommate was a stereotypical sorority sister, but since the beginning of freshman year, Erin has become Jacqueline's best friend.

In Chapter 4, arriving a minute before class begins, Jacqueline is surprised to see Kennedy exchanging numbers with a Zeta pledge, and when he smiles at her in a way he will never smile at Jacqueline again, Jacqueline does not realize she is frozen until some guy bumps into her, knocking her backpack off her shoulder. As Jacqueline reaches for her bag, a hand retrieves it and says chivalry is not dead as she looks up into the clear gray-blue eyes from Saturday night. She has no choice but to lie when he asks if she is alright. During class, Jacqueline is lost and realizes she will need to ask Landon for help catching up after all. Near the end of class, she glances back at the stranger who smiles in return. Though several guys have been interested in her in the past three years, Jacqueline has not been attracted to anyone other than Kennedy, and she does not know if her response to the stranger is embarrassment, gratitude or a simple crush. When class ends, the sleepy guy next to her, Benji, asks about the assignment, and Jacqueline is happy to realize that maybe she is capable of making friends outside of Kennedy's circle. Waiting for Kennedy to leave, Jacqueline leaves after the strange as well, but in the hallway, she hears a girl ask if he is going to be at tutoring. Though Jacqueline decides that she is definitely not going to the tutoring sessions if he will be there, she is happy to learn that his name is Lucas from her eavesdropping. The conversation about the tutoring sessions foreshadows the discovery that Lucas is actually Landon, the Economics tutor. Jacqueline does not know why he stared at her, but she is still mourning her relationship with Kennedy, plus she is sure that Lucas is accustomed to girls throwing themselves at him, and she is sick of dealing with jealous girls after three years with Kennedy. Later, Jacqueline emails



Landon to admit she needs his help catching up on the material, but she cannot make it to his tutoring sessions. Landon sends her worksheets for the past several weeks and flirts a bit, telling her that he is an engineering major and that her ex is a moron. She tells him about how her students all want to know who is her favorite, and he jokes that she is definitely his favorite. Landon's familiarity and flirtation with Jacqueline further foreshadows the discovery that he and Lucas are the same person. On Saturday night, Erin insists on dragging Jacqueline out, and Jacqueline agrees because she is still too scared to tell her best friend about Buck. Since Erin is the designated driver, she insists on Jacqueline drinking for two, and both Erin and Maggie send all guys who ask them to dance in Jacqueline's direction. She can tell her friends approve of a guy who approaches, but she is shocked when Lucas asks her to dance. As they dance, Jacqueline is intrigued by her reaction to the physical contact with Lucas, foreshadowing her reaction when they become more intimate. Lucas flirts blatantly, contrasting sharply with Landon's subtle compliments.



Section 4: Chapter 5 & 6

Section 4: Chapter 5 & 6 Summary

When Jacqueline tells Erin and Maggie about Lucas in Chapter 5, they tease her about her interest in a bad boy and insist he should be her rebound guy. Nervous about initiating her man-snaring strategy as she enters class on Monday, Jacqueline watches as Lucas enters before her and looks at her newly-assigned seat and her old one. Following Erin's advice to make him chase her, Jacqueline acts indifferent as she asks Lucas his name, and then she avoids looking at him for the rest of class. At Starbucks, Erin comments on how much hotter Lucas' tattoos make him when he enters from a back room, and she is very excited when she realizes how intently he stares at Jacqueline. Though Lucas makes Jacqueline's drink personally, she is confused that he does not pay any attention to her after that. Outside, Jacqueline nearly panics when she and Erin run into Chaz and Buck.

In Chapter 6, Erin tells Jacqueline to look at the sleeve on her coffee cup, and Jacqueline is stunned to find that Lucas gave her his number. Jacqueline emails Landon her assignment, telling him about how stupid she feels for following Kennedy to school, but Landon suggests that maybe she is exactly where she is supposed to be. In class on Wednesday, Lucas sits next to Jacqueline, and after learning that she found his number on the coffee sleeve, he convinces her to return the favor, assuring her that the reasons he wants her number have nothing to do with their class. When Lucas does not contact her all day, Jacqueline decides she has lost his interest, but after flirting with Landon via email for a bit, she receives a text from Lucas inviting her to stop in at Starbucks on Friday for a free coffee.

Section 4: Chapter 5 & 6 Analysis

In Chapter 5, Erin and Maggie question Jacqueline about Lucas, and thinking of all she knows about Lucas who disappeared after several dances, Jacqueline tells them that Lucas is in her economics class and draws instead of paying attention to the lectures. Erin and Maggie jokes about Jacqueline's uncharacteristic interest in a bad boy, though Jacqueline rebels at the idea of Lucas being stupid. Erin insists that Lucas should be Jacqueline's rebound guy, and the crazy idea does not sound so crazy to Jacqueline. Jacqueline is nervous about her plan to catch Lucas as she enters class on Monday, but her actions foreshadow her intent to pursue her plan. Erin harassed her all day yesterday, insisting she must approach this without fear and make him chase her. With two minutes left before class begins, Jacqueline sits next to Lucas, causing him to slide his illustration of an old oak tree under his notebook, and feigns a combination of interest and indifference as she claims that she does not remember his name and explains that she goes by Jacqueline instead of Jackie now. After returning to her assigned seat, Jacqueline resists the urge to check if Lucas is looking at her during the lecture, and when class ends, she leaves class without looking at Kennedy or Lucas.



Meeting Erin at Starbucks, Jacqueline does not see Lucas at first, but he comes through the back door with a huge bag of coffee. Jacqueline finds her physical reaction to him unnerving. Erin points out his tattoos, claiming they make him even hotter, but chides Jacqueline for ruining her indifferent act; however, when Jacqueline turns to look at Erin, Erin tells her that Lucas is staring at her, assuring her that she has got this since he seems practically ready to beg. Greeting Jacqueline, Lucas recalls her drink order from a week ago and makes her drink personally, but Jacqueline is confused when he moves on to the next customer without a smile and does not even glance her way. First, this level of attention indicates that Lucas is definitely interested in Jacqueline, and the fact that he writes on her cup even though he makes her coffee himself foreshadows the discovery that he has given her his number. When Chaz approaches Erin, Jacqueline fights her panic and desire to run when she notices that he is with Buck, and she can feel the threat under Buck's words when he notes that she is looking good. Still, she insists that her name is Jacqueline, not Jackie, though she feels sick as her name leaves Buck's mouth. Buck's comment foreshadows his intention to continue harassing Jacqueline.

In Chapter 6, Erin texts Jacqueline to check the sleeve of her coffee cup, and Jacqueline is shocked to realize Lucas wrote his number on it, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing. Though Lucas knew her name the night of the party, stares at her and gave her his number, she does not know him or what he thinks about her. Emailing her assignment to Landon, she compares Landon and Lucas. They seem like complete opposites, but Jacqueline only knows half of them; this comparison foreshadows the discovery that Landon and Lucas are actually the same person. Since Landon's email mentions her breakup, Jacqueline tells him how stupid she was to follow Kennedy to school, but Landon claims that being overly trusting reflects more on Kennedy's untrustworthiness than on her intelligence and he hopes to scientifically prove that she is exactly where she should be, foreshadowing Jacqueline's agreement that this is true. When Erin gets home from work, she is proud of Jacqueline for refraining from texting Lucas since it is better to make him chase her. Jacqueline gets to class early on Wednesday and is prepared to ignore Lucas, but he sits next to her and comments that she must not have found his number on the cup. She admits that she did, so he asks for her number. Jacqueline jokingly asks if he needs help in class, unable to believe she is attracted to a guy who cares so little about his grades, but Lucas assures her that he wants her number for reasons totally unrelated to class. After Jacqueline texts Lucas so he will have her number, Benji arrives and asks what that was about, noting that Lucas seems dangerous but there is nothing wrong with a little danger. After class, a different girl grabs Lucas' arm and talks to him. By the end of the day, Jacqueline is convinced that she has lost Lucas' interest since she has not heard from him. She receives an email from Landon, though, about how lucky she is to meet such an awesome tutor and encouraging her that she can still change schools and go to a music conservatory to follow her dreams. The conversation makes Jacqueline grin; she has no clue what Landon looks like, but she is extremely attracted to his personality, though he did not beat up a would-be rapist for her; again, this comparison between Lucas and Landon foreshadows the discovery that they are the same person, in addition to indicating that Lucas/Landon is an ideal match for Jacqueline as she is attracted to Lucas physically without knowing much about his personality while she is mentally drawn to Landon,

despite having no clue what he looks like. At 10 p.m., Lucas finally texts her to ask her to stop by Starbucks on Friday afternoon, offering to buy her a coffee, and this foreshadows Jacqueline visiting Lucas at work.



Section 5: Chapter 7 & 8

Section 5: Chapter 7 & 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Lucas misses a pop quiz when he is late to class on Friday, but Jacqueline aces the quiz because Landon insisted on her completing his current worksheet. Erin reminds Jacqueline that she will be away this weekend, encouraging her to go out with Lucas if he tries to make plans. At Starbucks, Jacqueline is uncomfortable to notice that Dr. Heller is one of the few customers as she does not want him to see her flirting with the guy who skipped the quiz. Lucas acts distant as he takes her order, and though he pays for her coffee, he does not come over to talk to her once during the hour she spends working on her economics project. While working on her project, she emails Landon that her parents are going on a skiing trip for Thanksgiving because they assumed she was spending the holiday with Kennedy's family. Before she leaves, Dr. Heller stops by Jacqueline's table to tell her that Landon told him that she is making great headway on her project. Later that evening, Lucas texts Jacqueline to apologize for being distant, explaining that Dr. Heller's presence made him uncomfortable, and he asks to sketch her, scheduling to come to her dorm room tonight.

In Chapter 8, Jacqueline worries about Lucas' expectations, but after she seems embarrassed when she asks where he wants her for the sketch, Lucas notes that she seems uneasy and insists that they do not have to do anything that will make her uncomfortable. As Lucas sketches Jacqueline, she imagines making out with him, though she is distracted by thoughts of Landon when her computer indicates that she has an email. Lucas assures Jacqueline that he is nothing like the guy from the night they met, and he does not want her to feel pressured or overpowered but he wants to kiss her. Jacqueline agrees, and Lucas tells her that she is beautiful as his kiss makes her forget Kennedy's name. Though Jacqueline's body wants more from Lucas, her mind protests, so she asks him to show her the sketches. Lucas says he plans to redo them in charcoal and hang them on his bedroom wall because who would not want to wake up to this every morning. Lucas kisses Jacqueline again but says he has to go or he is not leaving. Jacqueline is disappointed to find that the email she received was from her mother instead of Landon. When Jacqueline has heard from neither Landon nor Lucas by Sunday, she is convinced that neither of them are interested in her, and though she finally receives an email from Landon, it is quite professional with the exception of Landon stating that he had a good weekend, particularly Friday night, to which Jacqueline replies that her weekend was a bit lonely since her roommate was away.

Section 5: Chapter 7 & 8 Analysis

In Chapter 7, Lucas is fifteen minutes late to class on Friday and misses a pop quiz, causing Jacqueline to think he is irresponsible, especially when Dr. Heller asks to talk to him after class. Jacqueline aces the quiz, thanks to Landon insisting she complete this



week's worksheet, and she is touched that he goes out of his way to help her. Erin texts her to remind her that she is going away with Chaz this weekend, and she insists that Jacqueline better go for it if Lucas asks her out, foreshadowing their date. Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Jacqueline visits Lucas at Starbucks where she is uncomfortable when she realizes that Dr. Heller is one of the few customers. Jacqueline's belief that Lucas is a slacker and bad boy becomes increasingly ironic as it becomes more and more obvious that he is actually Landon, the Economics tutor. Lucas seems distant and uncomfortable as well, ignoring her after he pays for her coffee, and this further foreshadows that Lucas is the class tutor, and it also foreshadows the trouble Lucas could get into should his improper relationship with a student come to the faculty's attention. While working on her project, Jacqueline emails Landon about the upcoming holiday. After teaching bass lessons to her high school students, Jacqueline goes home and receives a text from Lucas apologizing for not saying goodbye and agreeing that it was awkward since Dr. Heller was there. He wants to sketch her, and Jacqueline agrees for him to come to her dorm tonight, foreshadowing their imminent date.

In Chapter 8, Jacqueline is unsure if Lucas just wants to sketch her or if he wants more. He does not seem like the guy who normally has to stop at kissing, but she is not ready for sex yet. When Lucas arrives, he comments on the band playing on Jacqueline's IPOD, noting that he went to see them last month. Jacqueline is embarrassed by the seemingly brazen proposition when she asks where Lucas wants her, but he smiles and places her on the bed, noting she looks uneasy and insisting they do not have to do this if she does not want to, showing that Lucas is a good guy and will not pressure Jacqueline. Jacqueline can practically feel Lucas' hands on her as he studies her as he sketches her in two positions, and though she feels vulnerable, she still feels safe with him. When her email dings, she wonders if it is Landon but cannot check with Lucas in the room, and this indicates Jacqueline's interest in both Lucas and Landon while simultaneously foreshadowing the realization that they are the same person. Assuring her that he does not want her to feel pressured, Lucas asks to kiss Jacqueline, and she agrees, foreshadowing the development of their relationship. Since Jacqueline's mind objects to increased physical interaction, she asks to see the sketches, and Lucas' comment that he plans to hang them on his bedroom wall foreshadows the fact that he does exactly that. Jacqueline wants to tell him to stay but cannot because of the memory of Kennedy saying something similar not too long ago, plus she is eager to check the email from Landon. After Lucas leaves, Jacqueline is disappointed to learn that the email is from her mother, detailing her parents' skiing trip, but she is too happy after her evening with Lucas to be too concerned about the upcoming holiday. By Sunday, Jacqueline watches "He's Just Not That Into You", going nuts since she has not heard from Lucas or Landon all weekend. Finally, she receives an email from Landon talking about economics assignments, but she pouts because the email contains nothing flirty making her feel that she has imagined the familiarity they have developed over the past couple weeks. Jacqueline replies that she hopes Landon had a good weekend, and after he says he did, especially Friday night, Jacqueline says her weekend was a bit lonely since Erin was out of town, but it was productive. Landon's comment on Friday night furthers the foreshadowing concerning how he and Lucas are the same person as Jacqueline's date with Lucas was on Friday night.



Section 6: Chapter 9 & 10

Section 6: Chapter 9 & 10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Jacqueline asks Erin's advice about Lucas since he barely smiles at her at the end of class, and Erin suggests that it seems like he is trying to resist his attraction to her. Jacqueline tells Erin about Landon, but Erin insists "you can't fall for a guy without ever seeing him" (page 99), so they decide to make Landon Plan B. On Jacqueline's way back upstairs after washing her laundry while Erin is at work, Buck appears and begins groping Jacqueline, but rather than be raped in the stairwell, Jacqueline convinces him to go back to her room. Fortunately, some of Jacqueline's neighbors are in the hallway, so she kicks Buck out, but Buck's commentary before he leaves convinces the onlookers that Jacqueline already gave herself to him in the stairwell. Having narrowly escaped Buck, Jacqueline decides to tell Erin about Buck's attempted attacks. Erin has heard the rumors that Jacqueline has been hooking up with Buck, so she is furious when she learns about Buck's actual actions.

In Chapter 10, Benji notices Jacqueline and Lucas staring at each other and comments on her flirtation with the class tutor. Jacqueline feels stupid and wonders if this means she cannot date Lucas. As she leaves class, Kennedy approaches to ask her to ride home together for Thanksgiving, but Jacqueline refuses to be friends with him. Since Lucas has not contacted her since their pseudo-date, Jacqueline texts him to ask if she did something wrong, but he assures her that he has just been busy and will catch up with her as soon as his schedule clears. That night, Erin breaks up with Chaz because he insists on supporting Buck, disbelieving Jacqueline's accusations against his best friend. When Jacqueline and Erin go to their self-defense class on Saturday, which Erin insisted on signing them up for, Jacqueline is surprised to find that Lucas is one of the instructors.

Section 6: Chapter 9 & 10 Analysis

Erin's suggestion in Chapter 9 that Lucas is trying to resist his attraction to Jacqueline further foreshadows that Lucas is the same person as Landon. This suggestion also leads the girls to wonder whether Lucas has a girlfriend, indicating that they still think he is a bad boy. Erin teases Jacqueline about her interest in Landon since she has never seen him, and this proves ironic in combination with the multiple instances of foreshadowing concerning the fact that Lucas and Landon are the same person. They decide against going to Starbucks, and Erin orders Jacqueline not to contact Lucas or Landon, furthering Erin's scheme for Jacqueline to make Lucas chase her. While Erin is at work, Jacqueline goes downstairs to wash her laundry, but on the way back to her room, she is confronted by Buck who claims that though she has always been nice to him, he wants her to be nicer. He says it is obvious that other guy had the same idea, but he got the jump on Buck because Buck had been drinking, and he suggests that it would be great revenge against Kennedy if Jacqueline becomes the type of girl who will



do anything with anyone, anywhere; this reference to Kennedy indicates that Buck's attacks have more to do with irritating Kennedy than they have to do with Buck's opinion of Jacqueline. Rather than be raped in the stairwell, Jacqueline agrees to go to her room, knowing she is done if she lets Buck in her room. Luckily, she sees other people in the hallway upstairs, and she tells Buck to leave; however, his claims that he warned her the brick would be cold and it is her fault that she could not wait five minutes leads to several of Jacqueline's neighbors commenting that Kennedy must have broken up with her because she was sleeping around. Realizing she has made Buck angry, Jacqueline recalls an early rivalry between Buck and Kennedy, and she wonders if Buck is using her to get to Kennedy, foreshadowing the discovery that this is true, especially in combination with Buck's mention of Kennedy before his attempted assault. Deciding to tell Erin, she texts her roommate who claims she needs to talk to Jacqueline too. When Erin gets home, she asks if Jacqueline hooked up with Buck last night since the rumor is all over campus. Jacqueline tells Erin about Buck's attempted rape at the Halloween party and how Lucas saved her, and Erin is furious that she did not tell her before, showing her devotion and loyalty to her roommate and best friend. Jacqueline also informs her roommate about last night, assuring her that Buck only scared her and did not hurt her. She admits that she had never noticed Lucas before the night he saved her because she thought she had Kennedy then.

In Chapter 10, Benji asks if Jacqueline goes to the tutoring sessions when he catches her staring at Lucas, and realizing that he has seen Landon, she asks about him; she is shocked when Benji comments on the fact that she is trading emails and staring at the class tutor. Jacqueline finally learns that Lucas and Landon are the same person, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing. Feeling stupid for not realizing that Lucas and Landon are the same person, Jacqueline wonders if this means she is off-limits. Erin texts Jacqueline to inform her that she signed them both up for a self-defense class. As Jacqueline prepares to leave class on Friday after avoiding eye contact with Lucas the entire time, Kennedy approaches and suggests they can carpool when they go home for Thanksgiving next week because he wants them to be friends, but Jacqueline does not know if that is possible and she definitely does not want to make the road trip with him. Later, she emails Landon about her project, wondering what game he is playing. Lucas' flirtation is overt, but Landon is more subtle; this contrast shows two different sides to Lucas, and it also indicates that he is intentionally keeping his double identity a secret from Jacqueline. Though there is nothing improper about their fraternization, it is theoretically against the rules for them to date. Wondering why Lucas has not contacted her since they kissed in her room last week, Jacqueline emails him to ask what is wrong, but he claims he is just busy, telling her that he wants to show her the sketch he redid in charcoal when his schedule clears up. At 1 am, Erin storms into their room, arguing with Chaz on the phone about standing behind his rapist friend, and after she breaks up with him, she insists she will not come second to his friends; however, Jacqueline hears Erin crying quietly that night. This shows Chaz's loyalty to his best friend as well as Erin's loyalty to her best friend. The next morning, Jacqueline and Erin go to their self-defense class to find that Lucas is one of the instructors, along with two older men named Ralph and Don. As Ralph's lecture begins, she thinks of Lucas chiding her for being in a dark parking lot alone, but she also recalls him saying it is not her fault. Lucas' obsession with protecting women, training them to protect themselves

and his general outlook on rape foreshadows the discovery that a tragic event in his past has influenced this attitude and behavior. Ralph announces it is time for the ladies to begin kicked Lucas and Don's butts, foreshadowing Jacqueline's training session.



Section 7: Chapter 11 & 12

Section 7: Chapter 11 & 12 Summary

In Chapter 11, Jacqueline and Erin begin practicing the moves taught by Ralph, Don and Lucas. Jacqueline is uncomfortable with the ground defense techniques, as they remind her of Buck's attack, but she gets through the exercise once, though she does not believe it will work against someone Buck's size. That afternoon, Lucas invites Jacqueline to his apartment to see the charcoal, and he picks her up on his motorcycle. At his apartment, Lucas admits that he wants to show Jacqueline exactly how to use the ground defense technique from class so that she will feel more confident, and after he walks her through the lesson again, showing her how to throw him off, he admits that though he still wants to show her the charcoal, he has another motive for inviting her over as well. Lucas kisses Jacqueline, his hands moving over her body skillfully.

As Lucas and Jacqueline make out in Chapter 12, she finally gets the chance to see his tattoos, and when he leads her to his room to see the charcoal, she notices that her portrait hangs directly across from his pillow. As Lucas and Jacqueline make out, Lucas assures her that he will stop whenever she asks him to. When Jacqueline tells Lucas that she is not comfortable going any further physically, he respects the line she draws. Jacqueline feels safe as Lucas drives her home, causing her to realize that she has trusted him since they first met. Lucas kisses Jacqueline goodbye in front of her door, and it is not until she reaches the stop of the stairs that she realizes Kennedy is standing there, looking between Lucas and Jacqueline with narrowed eyes. Jacqueline asks why Kennedy is there, but he responds by questioning if Lucas is waiting for her, so she waves to let Lucas know that she is okay. Kennedy wants to talk. He knows that he hurt Jacqueline, but he misses her.

Section 7: Chapter 11 & 12 Analysis

In Chapter 11, Ralph narrates as Don and Lucas act out choreographed attacks, and then the girls pair up as the coaches walk around, providing advice. Watching girls flirting with Lucas, Jacqueline cannot reconcile the fact that Lucas and Landon are the same person, but Erin yells at her for staring at him because she is supposed to make him chase her! When they move on to ground defense techniques, Jacqueline is uncomfortable with being in that position again, and though she does the exercise once successfully against Erin, she has no faith that it will work against someone Buck's size, foreshadowing Lucas teaching her in private. Later that day, Lucas texts her and invites her to his apartment to see the charcoal. Ten minutes later, Lucas picks Jacqueline up on his motorcycle, furthering his image as a bad boy, and takes her to his apartment over a detached garage where he introduces her to Francis, his huge orange tomcat. Removing Jacqueline's coat, Lucas admits that he had an ulterior motive in inviting her over; he knows that she does not believe the ground defense technique will work, and he wants to prove it will by teaching her exactly how to execute it without anyone else



watching as he could tell she was freaking out in class and he wants her to feel more in control. Again, this foreshadows the discovery of a tragic event in Lucas' past that makes him so insistent on protecting when. When he comments about bucking him off, Jacqueline stiffens at the inadvertent use of her attacker's name, and when she explains, Lucas gets an angry look on his face as he promises to remember that. As he coaches Jacqueline through the exercise, explaining the goal is to take her attacker's leverage away, Lucas praises her when she throws him off, telling her this is when she should run away screaming since most attackers will not pursue a difficult target. He finally offers to show her the charcoal, admitting that it was a secondary motive to making her feel more confident, and he admits that he had one more motive for inviting her over as he leans over to kiss her, his hands moving along her body. This indicates Lucas' physical interest in Jacqueline, as well as his interest in her mental and emotional well-being, foreshadowing that Lucas and Jacqueline will eventually become a couple.

In Chapter 12, Jacqueline discreetly unbuttons Lucas' shirt as they make out, finally asking to see his tattoos. When he removes his shirt, she traces the tattoos with her fingers before he asks if she wants to see the drawing now. Knowing he is asking her to come to his bedroom, Jacqueline wants to ask whether she should call him Lucas or Landon in bed, but she cannot manage it, showing that Jacqueline is not as outraged by the betrayal as one would expect, plus she still seems to trust Lucas, despite his dual personality. She is amazed by the drawings on Lucas' wall, and she cannot miss noticing that her portrait is hung directly across from his pillow, again indicating Lucas' true interest in Jacqueline. She worried she would have uncomfortable memories of Kennedy, but she realizes she is over him since she does not. Pulling Jacqueline onto his bed, Lucas repeatedly assures her that all she has to do is tell him stop whenever she wants. Yet again, this shows Lucas' respect for Jacqueline and women in general, foreshadowing the discovery of the tragic event in his past that causes him to act this way. They make out for a bit until Jacqueline announces that she is not comfortable going further, so Lucas resumes kissing her, stopping at the line she has drawn. On the way home, Jacqueline feels perfectly safe on Lucas' bike, realizing that she has trusted him since the first night when she let him drive her home; this foreshadows their relationship and indicates Lucas' trustworthiness. She knows that Kennedy would have never stopped like that; though he would not force her, he would make her feel guilty by ceasing all physical activity when she asked him to stop, but Lucas continued their make out session for another hour. As with many instances in this book, Jacqueline's mental comparison between Lucas and Kennedy proves Kennedy's shortcomings and amplifies Lucas' good-naturedness. After Lucas kisses Jacqueline goodbye, Jacqueline is stunned to find Kennedy waiting on her front step. Kennedy's attitude in regards to Lucas foreshadows his desire to reconcile with his ex-girlfriend, particularly when he admits that he misses her. The fact that Lucas waits on the corner while watching Jacqueline and Kennedy indicates that either he sees Kennedy as a threat to Jacqueline or he is worried and/or jealous about the possibility of Jacqueline taking Kennedy back. Either way, his behavior makes it obvious that Lucas truly cares about Jacqueline.



Section 8: Chapter 13 & 14

Section 8: Chapter 13 & 14 Summary

In Chapter 13, as Kennedy follows Jacqueline inside her dorm, Jacqueline insists that she does not want to talk, but she is surprised to see Lucas there who supports Jacqueline as she orders Kennedy to leave. Jacqueline quips that Lucas can add being her personal defender to his resume. Landon and Jacqueline exchange several emails discussing their holiday plans and admitting that they will both miss their emails during the break. Jacqueline avoids making eye contact with Lucas during class on Monday, and Benji suggests that she should tell him that she knows he is the tutor because he seems vulnerable. After class, Lucas asks to see Jacqueline before Thanksgiving break, but she tells him that she is too busy. After Jacqueline tells Erin and Maggie that Lucas and Landon are the same person, they ask why she has not confronted him, and since Jacqueline admits that she needs distance, Erin accuses her of being too emotionally involved with her supposed rebound guy. When Maggie asks about Jacqueline's reported sexual escapades with Buck, Erin says Buck is a liar.

When Jacqueline goes home for Thanksgiving break in Chapter 14, Kennedy convinces her to come to his parents' house for dinner. During dinner, Kennedy's parents are blessedly oblivious to the change in Jacqueline and Kennedy's relationship, but Kennedy's younger brother is glad they are not back together since it is obvious that Jacqueline is too good for Kennedy. Jacqueline ignores Kennedy's request to talk on Saturday when he drops her off at home. Lucas texts Jacqueline to ask when she will be back on campus, telling her that he will be back on Saturday and wants to do another sketch since he cannot get her lips right from memory. He suggests that he needs to spend more time studying her lips instead of kissing them, but since Jacqueline objects to that, Lucas agrees that he needs to spend more time doing both. She also receives an email from Landon, reminding her to lock and alarm the house every night, and she responds by telling him about having dinner at Kennedy's house and how she is unsure whether she wants to talk to Kennedy Saturday night.

Section 8: Chapter 13 & 14 Analysis

In Chapter 13, Kennedy follows as Jacqueline shuts her mouth and enters the dorm. Saying she does not want to talk, she turns to see Lucas behind Kennedy, and when Kennedy grabs Jacqueline's elbow, asking if she is hooking up with Lucas in addition to Buck, Lucas removes Kennedy's hand. Kennedy's comment indicates the extent to which Buck's lies about his involvement with Jacqueline are believed. Jacqueline tells Kennedy to leave, not explaining that Lucas is in their economics class in case Kennedy exposes the tutor for dating a student. When Kennedy says they will talk next week when they go home, Jacqueline's jaw is clenched too tightly for her to inform him that she has absolutely nothing to say to him. Assuring Lucas that she is alright, Jacqueline jokes about his many jobs, adding that he has also become her personal defender. On



Monday, Jacqueline cannot look at Lucas without thinking about Saturday night, so she avoids eye contact. Benji notes that Kennedy is gorgeous but seems like a conceited jerk before telling Jacqueline that he is going to fly home over break to tell his father that he is gay. He also thinks that Jacqueline should tell Lucas that she knows he is the tutor because he seems kind of vulnerable, foreshadowing the discovery of exactly how vulnerable Lucas is and why.

Lucas joins Jacqueline in the hallway, asking to see her before break, but she tells him she is busy, so he tells her to text him if her plans change, or else they can catch up after break. Maggie and Erin are shocked when Jacqueline tells them that Lucas and Landon are actually the same person. They wonder why she has not called him on it, and when Maggie asks why she does not meet up with Lucas later, Jacqueline admits that she needs some distance, causing Erin to accuse her of becoming emotionally involved. Maggie's questions about Jacqueline's involvement with Buck further indicate how far he has spread those rumors. She also tells Jacqueline that she heard Buck is hassling Kennedy about it because he is still upset that Kennedy beat him out pledge class president, infuriating Jacqueline at the confirmation that Buck is willing to hurt her just to irritate Kennedy.

In Chapter 14, it feels strange to be home after three months, and Jacqueline is shocked when the doorbell rings and she finds Kennedy at the door because his mother told him to invite her to dinner since he did not tell his parents about the break-up yet. This foreshadows Kennedy's attempts to reconcile with Jacqueline. Though Jacqueline stresses that she would rather spend the holiday alone, she finally agrees to go to dinner at Kennedy's family's house, though she immediately regrets it. When Kennedy drives Jacqueline home and suggests hanging out on Saturday, she ignores him and enters her house. Lucas' flirtatious texts foreshadow the continued development of his relationship with Jacqueline, especially in consideration of her reaction to his conversation. Thinking of Lucas that night, Jacqueline cannot sleep, and though she knows she should be distrustful of Lucas/Landon, she is not; she finds him more of a riddle than a risk. She checks her email account and finds a note from Landon telling her about the changes in his hometown and making sure that she is locking and alarming the house every night since she is home alone, again demonstrating Lucas' obsession with Jacqueline's safety which foreshadows the discovery of the trauma that makes him so wary. Jacqueline tells him about going to Kennedy's house for dinner and how she has not decided whether she is going to meet him Saturday night to talk. After a restless night with no additional communication from Lucas or Landon, Jacqueline wants to text Lucas, but she has nothing to say other than she barely slept because she was fantasizing about him. This foreshadows Jacqueline's decision to return to campus early while simultaneously demonstrating how attached she is becoming to Lucas.



Section 9: Chapter 15 & 16

Section 9: Chapter 15 & 16 Summary

When Jacqueline texts Kennedy that she decided to return to campus early, he tells her that he thinks he made a mistake in breaking up with her, but she says it was not a mistake and refuses to talk about it. After Jacqueline texts Lucas that she is back on campus, he invites her to dinner during which he tells her that his mother died when he was thirteen, and as they make out, Lucas respects the boundaries that Jacqueline previously established. Leaving, Jacqueline and Lucas run into Dr. Heller who tells Lucas that they need to talk when he gets home. As he drops her off, Lucas notes that Jacqueline already knew he was Landon, and he explains that Dr. Heller calls him by his first name because he is an old family friend, but he now goes by his middle name. He admits that he never corrected her because he wanted her and knew that he could not have her as Landon, the Economics tutor. Though he has not yet said it, Jacqueline hears Lucas saying this is over, and when she asks, he agrees because it could jeopardize her grade otherwise, but he promises to make sure Dr. Heller knows this is his fault and does not hold her responsible.

In Chapter 16, Jacqueline gets nervous when Dr. Heller asks to see her after class on Monday. As Dr. Heller asks about Landon's involvement with producing her paper and whether he gave her an unfair advantage in the class, Jacqueline assures him that Landon was completely professional as her tutor. She also agrees with what Landon told Dr. Heller about her thinking that Landon and Lucas were two separate people. Dr. Heller suggests that Lucas and Jacqueline should not date until the semester ends, but Lucas did not mention anything about them dating after the semester. Though Jacqueline ignores Lucas for the rest of the week, Kennedy persists in waiting for her, and he is happy that she is planning to attend the Brotherhood Bash on Saturday, even though she is only going because Erin insists on it. During self-defense class on Saturday morning, Jacqueline has a hard time practicing the moves to dislodge Lucas because she does not really want to escape from him, and Erin assures her that Lucas seems just as distracted by their separation as she is.

Section 9: Chapter 15 & 16 Analysis

In Chapter 15, Kennedy is upset that Jacqueline does not stay to talk when she texts him that she decided to go back to campus early, admitting that he thinks he made a mistake by breaking up with her. Jacqueline realizes that while there is no shortage of girls to hook up with, it would be harder to find a girl to fill her role of dealing with all of his crap. Suggesting that maybe it was not a mistake, Jacqueline insists that she does not want to talk to him, but Kennedy promises to be in touch once he returns to campus. Landon's email later on suggests that Kennedy wants Jacqueline back, indicating possible jealousy, and asks what she wants before telling her that his family consists of only his dad and himself. When Jacqueline texts Lucas to let him know she is back on



campus, he invites her over for dinner. Cooking for her, Lucas tells Jacqueline that he is used to cooking for two since his mom died when he was thirteen, a fact that aligns with Landon's account of his family and also foreshadows Jacqueline's discovery of the traumatic event that haunts Lucas. They eat and make out with Lucas stopping at the line Jacqueline drew last week. As they leave to take Jacqueline home, they run into Dr. Heller taking the trash out, and Dr. Heller sternly asks to speak to Lucas when he gets home. At Jacqueline's dorm, Lucas notes that Jacqueline already knew he was Landon, and when she asks why he did not tell her, he explains that his name is Landon Lucas Maxfield. Dr. Heller has known him for a long time and still calls him Landon, though he goes by Lucas now. Technically, Lucas never called himself Landon to Jacqueline, but he admits this is all his fault because he wanted her and knew that could not happen as Landon since anything between them is against the rules because he is her tutor. In his typical chivalrous style, Lucas plans to end his relationship with Jacqueline because it could jeopardize her grade, and furthermore, he assures her that he will ensure that Dr. Heller knows he is to blame for the misunderstanding, protecting her from any possible repercussions. Turning, Jacqueline walks into her dorm, indicating that she does not agree with Lucas' assessment of the situation and she does not like the idea of no longer dating him.

In Chapter 16, Dr. Heller asks to see Jacqueline after class on Monday, and when he tells her to come to his afternoon office hours to pick up her paper, Jacqueline gets worried, but Erin assures her that she did nothing wrong and Dr. Heller probably just wants to make sure that Lucas did not take advantage of her. Jacqueline insists "Landon was the perfect tutor. What's between Lucas and me is no one's business" (page 177). In Dr. Heller's office, he pulls out her paper, and claiming he is sure she knows he talked to Landon, he seems confused when Jacqueline tells him that she has not spoken to him since the other night, indicating that he did not expect Lucas to really end his relationship with Jacqueline. Dr. Heller questions if Landon helped Jacqueline produce her paper, but Jacqueline insists Landon has been nothing but professional. The professor explains that Landon has accepted full responsibility for the situation and has claimed she was unaware that the boy she was dating was also her tutor, and Jacqueline insists that Lucas did not take advantage of her or give her unfair advice. Dr. Heller says that Jacqueline is doing well and her grade should not suffer as long as she does well on the final, but he has suggested that Lucas limited their interactions to what is appropriate between tutors and students for the remainder of the semester. Jacqueline does not know how to feel about this since Lucas mentioned no possibility of future interactions. The next two class days, Jacqueline ignores Lucas, but Kennedy waits to walk her out both days, asking her about her tutoring and if she is going to the Brotherhood Bash on Saturday. Erin is forcing Jacqueline to go because she wants to make Chaz regret his decision and she insists that she needs her best friend there with her. During the first house of her self-defense class on Saturday, Jacqueline focuses hard on avoiding eye contact with Lucas, and Erin notes that she has it bad, assuring her that Lucas looks just as distraught, indicating that Lucas cares about Jacqueline as much as she cares about him. During the last hour, Lucas is assigned to work with Jacqueline's group, and when he coaches her through the moves, Jacqueline finds it difficult to dislodge him since she wants to be in his arms so desperately. When class

ends, Ralph tells the girls that next week they will get to mercilessly clobber Don and Lucas, proud of their bloodthirsty, ruthless response.



Section 10: Chapter 17 & 18

Section 10: Chapter 17 & 18 Summary

Jacqueline dreads going to the Brotherhood Bash in Chapter 17, but Erin succeeds in her plan to make Chaz jealous. While she dances with Kennedy, Buck asks her to dance, and when she insists that no means no, Kennedy asks why she is so angry at Buck, leading Jacqueline to confide about Buck's attacks. Erin and Jacqueline watch as Kennedy talks to Buck in the parking lot. In Chapter 18, Jacqueline learns that Buck raped another girl, Mindi, after the Brotherhood Bash, and feeling guilty for not filing a report when he attacked her, she promises Mindi that she will also press charges so that Mindi's story is more credible. She calls Lucas who accompanies the girls to the hospital and to file a police report. Later, Jacqueline drives to Lucas' apartment since she did not get a chance to tell him that she misses him. When she tells him how much she misses him, Lucas pulls her inside, kissing her, but as they get hot and heavy, he begs her to tell him to stop, so she does, though she does not mean it. Jacqueline wakes before Lucas, and noticing thick scars on his wrists, she begins to fear that they are the result of a suicide attempt, an idea that terrifies her.

Section 10: Chapter 17 & 18 Analysis

In Chapter 17, Jacqueline is nervous about attending the Brotherhood Bash, since it is her first Greek event since the Halloween party and she knows Buck will be there, foreshadowing some complication. Erin looks amazing, and Chaz glares at every guy who dances with her. Jacqueline knows that Chaz is not a bad guy; he just has a misguided loyalty to his friend and probably never though his best friend could so utterly destroy a girl's confidence so that the only time Jacqueline feels safe is when she is with Lucas. Kennedy approaches Jacqueline, expressing his happiness that she is here, even though Erin made her come; this reinforces the concept that Kennedy wants to reconcile with Jacqueline. She agrees to dance with him, but when Buck asks her to dance, Jacqueline insists no means no. Kennedy asks why she is so angry at Buck, so Jacqueline confides in him about Buck's attempts to rape her. Kennedy promises that Buck will leave her alone, and Erin and Jacqueline watch as Kennedy and Buck face off in the parking lot with Buck glaring at Jacqueline. Buck's anger foreshadows his future actions.

In Chapter 18, Jacqueline and Erin are hungover on Sunday, and when Erin leaves, Jacqueline wants to email Landon because she misses him, but she understands why he cannot see her. There are only two weeks left in the semester, but she has no clue if that matters to Lucas. Jacqueline's thoughts of Lucas foreshadow their reconciliation. When Erin returns from her sorority meeting, she is accompanied by Mindi, one of the girls from the party last night, and she tells Jacqueline that Buck raped Mindi after the party, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing of Buck's reaction to Kennedy's lecture. Mindi does not want to file a report because she doubts anyone will believe her, but



Jacqueline admits that Lucas saved her from Buck's attempt, promising that she and Lucas will corroborate the story. Since the girls are unsure how to proceed, Jacqueline calls Lucas and tells him she needs him. Lucas gets to her dorm ten minutes later, and after hearing Mindi's story, he accompanies the girls to the hospital. In the waiting room, Jacqueline tells Lucas about last night, suggesting Buck raped Mindi because of his talk with Kennedy, but Lucas insists this is not her fault, and she holds his words close like they are her redemption. Parking next door so Dr. Heller will not see her, Jacqueline walks to Lucas' door because she did not have a chance to say what she wanted. When he opens, she tells him that though it sounds ridiculous since they barely know each other, she misses him. The fact that Lucas begs Jacqueline to tell him to stop indicates several things; first, he wants her but cannot force himself to stop unless she tells him to, and second, he has some fear of physical intimacy or else still feels conflicted about their relationship in some way. They fall asleep on Lucas' couch, and when Jacqueline wakes several hours later, she wonders why Lucas made her stop. When he turns, she is finally able to read the poem tattooed on his left side: "Love is not the absence of logic but logic examined and recalculated heated and curved to fit inside the contours of the heart" (page 209). She takes this to mean that Lucas has loved deeply and lost, but when she notices scars on his wrists, she is concerned that he will never tell her about what appears to have been a suicide attempt. Lucas wakes and walks her to her truck, but Jacqueline cannot return his smile. She is sure he is thinking about how he begged her to stop, but her confusion over that is nothing compared to her apprehension about what caused the scars on his wrists. Jacqueline's concern over Lucas' scars foreshadows her research into his life and the discovery of his secret past.



Section 11: Chapter 19 & 20

Section 11: Chapter 19 & 20 Summary

In Chapter 19, Jacqueline is excited when Benji reminds her that there will be no restrictions after the semester ends in nine days. Joining her after class, Lucas apologizes for not telling her he is Landon, but he does not explain. Instead, he tells her that he noticed her the first week, but she was always with Kennedy who obviously did not deserve her. When she stopped coming to class and he saw Kennedy flirting with other girls, he knew they had broken up and began looking for her on campus, but he did not talk to her because she seemed so miserable and rejected every guy who approached her. At the Halloween party, Lucas saw Buck follow Jacqueline outside and thought they had left together, but when he started to leave, something felt wrong, so he checked on her, intending to forget her if she was with Buck; however, that is not what happened. Jacqueline decides to skip her next class in favor of grabbing coffee with Lucas, and as they flirt, he sketches her again. When Jacqueline admits she is thinking about high school, Lucas assumes she is talking about Kennedy, but she assures him she was not thinking about Kennedy at all and asks what high school was like for him. Lucas says he never had a serious girlfriend, partied often, and was frequently getting suspended, but he became a serious student after his friend brought his younger sister to a party, and Lucas beat up the guy who tried to rape her. He would have gone to prison for the assault, but Dr. Heller made it go away, yelled at Lucas for throwing his life away and offered him a second chance by pulling strings to get him admitted to the university. Lucas does not like disappointing his guardian angel.

After some of the fraternity brothers dissuade Mindi from testifying against Buck in Chapter 20, Erin calls the president of her sorority, Katie, who orders a meeting. Offering to drive Jacqueline to the meeting after he talks to her, Kennedy tries to convince Jacqueline to drop the charges against Buck, fearing it will make his fraternity look bad, but Jacqueline leaves for the meeting even more determined to prosecute Buck. At the meeting, several of the girls object to Jacqueline and Mindi's stories, but Katie tells the others about being raped in high school and how no one believed her; she thinks that Jacqueline and Mindi should press charges because they cannot allow Buck to get away with this. Jacqueline tells Lucas about filing the police reports, and then they joke about how she originally thought he was a slacker. When Jacqueline asks what will happen after the semester ends, Lucas apologizes as he explains that there are things that she does not know about him, and he is unsure if he can tell her. When Jacqueline gets home, Erin tells her that Chaz apologized, but he would not listen to her three weeks ago, and now that Buck is about to be arrested for rape, it is too late. Jacqueline suggests that some guys might find it hard to believe that their friend would do something he would never do, but she still sees Erin's point: "Awareness and apologies were fine and good, but they could come too late" (page 235).



Section 11: Chapter 19 & 20 Analysis

In Chapter 19, Jacqueline is unsure what to expect in class on Monday since Lucas has ignored her for the past week, but he smiles as she enters, and she realizes that everything about him has become familiar. When Benji notes that the final is in nine days and there will be no restrictions after that, Jacqueline cannot resist looking at Lucas who watches her over another girl's head. After class, Lucas approaches Jacqueline and tells her about the crush he developed on her before they actually spoke and how he happened to be nearby when Buck attacked her at the Halloween party. When they go out for coffee, Lucas tells Jacqueline a bit about high school, and his general rebellious nature foreshadows the discovery of the childhood trauma that led to his reckless behavior during his teen years. Lucas' decision to protect his friend's younger sister is consistent with Lucas' behavior at college, and this also foreshadows the discovery of the childhood trauma that makes him so protective of women. This is also foreshadowed by Lucas' claim that Dr. Heller is his guardian angel, indicating that Dr. Heller also played a role in the tragedy that has shaped who Lucas has become.

In Chapter 20, Jacqueline is confused when she learns that Mindi is not going to testify because some of the frat boys convinced her they will deal with Buck and made her feel guilty for being raped. Erin calls Katie, the president of her sorority, who calls a meeting which Erin insists Jacqueline must attend. As they are getting into Erin's car, Kennedy convinces Jacqueline that he will take her to the meeting. He tries to convince Jacqueline to abandon the allegations against Buck because they will make the fraternity look bad, plus no one will believe that Buck tried to rape Jacqueline since Buck has been telling everyone that he and Jacqueline were hooking up for weeks now. Though Kennedy believes her, he still will not do the right thing, so Jacqueline leaves his car shaking with anger, fear and resolve. There are less than 20 girls at the meeting. Taylor, Vice President of the sorority, points out that Mindi willingly went to Buck's room and was not a virgin, plus she does not see why Jacqueline is there and did not report the attempt when it happened. Jacqueline explains that Lucas stopped Buck, and she should have told then, but she did not think he would rape someone else. As Taylor protests to making the fraternity look bad, Katie interjects that Mindi and Jacqueline should press charges; she does not care how it makes the fraternity look, and it looks worse when women cannot support each other. She proceeds to tell the others about how she was raped in high school, but no one believed her because she had slept with the guy in the past, even though he left bruises all over her body. When Landon emails Jacqueline, she tells him that it is weird to receive an economics email from him and it feels like he is a different person. She tells him about filing the police reports, and Landon explains that he never meant to insinuate that Buck's attack was Jacqueline's fault. They switch to texting as Jacqueline jokes about thinking Lucas was a slacker before she found out he was the tutor, but when she asks what happens after their last class on Wednesday, Lucas says that there are things she does not know about him, and though he will not lie to her again, he is not ready to put everything out there. This contributes to the large amount of foreshadowing concerning the tragedy in Lucas' past. There are seven weeks before spring semester starts, and Jacqueline knows a lot can happen in seven weeks; Kennedy dumped her seven weeks into the semester, and



seven weeks later, she realized she was over him. When Erin objects to Chaz's change of heart concerning Buck, Jacqueline defends him, suggesting that maybe he could not believe his best friend was capable of something that he could never do, but she also understands that sometime apologies come too late, an obvious reference to Kennedy's belated desire to reconcile after Jacqueline had already gotten over him.



Section 12: Chapter 21 & 22

Section 12: Chapter 21 & 22 Summary

Outside of class in Chapter 21, Kennedy tells Jacqueline that Buck is claiming his actions with Mindi were consensual and that he never hooked up with Jacqueline, and though he apologizes for trying to convince her to drop the charges, it comes too late. After class, Lucas and Jacqueline make plans for Thursday night. Curious, Jacqueline researches Lucas online and learns that eight years ago, his mother was raped and Lucas was restrained in his bedroom while his father was away on a business trip. The Hellers found them after Dr. Ray Maxfield asked his friends to check on his family. Jacqueline pursues more information, going to talk to Dr. Heller who tells her that the scars on Lucas' wrists came from his attempts to free himself and save his mother. He also tells her that Ray was too grief-stricken to get therapy for his son after the fiasco. Landon changed his name to Lucas, Rose's maiden name, when he came to college as a way of reinventing himself. Dr. Heller wishes he had never seen Jacqueline leaving Lucas' apartment, and he tells her that the tutor-student restrictions are over as far as he is concerned; unfortunately, the university restrictions are the least of her concerns.

In Chapter 22, Jacqueline feels guilty about secretly prying into Lucas' past as she praises his culinary skills on their date later that night, knowing he can easily use it as an excuse to shut her out. Holding her, Lucas asks how she would get out of this hold if she did not want to be in it. They start making out, and when he starts to unzip her jeans, Jacqueline tells him yes without hesitation, but Lucas admits he is nervous because he has not tried this with anyone significant in a long time. In fact, he has never had sex with anyone he cared about. Reminding her that she can say it anytime, Lucas agrees that he will not ask her to. Jacqueline watches Lucas watching her as they lay under the covers. He wants to sketch her like this, but first, he shows her sketches he did of her during class before they started talking. She tells him that she is no longer mad that he did not tell her he was her tutor; she was angry because she thought he was playing her, but it was the opposite and she could never be afraid of him, showing her complete trust in Lucas. As Lucas pulls her into his lap, Jacqueline ignores her mental reproach, "the one insisting that I was the one withholding information now, and while I might not fear Lucas directly, I feared his desertion if I told him what I knew, and how I knew it" (page 256). Banishing her conscience, she focuses on Lucas.

Section 12: Chapter 21 & 22 Analysis

In Chapter 21, Kennedy waits for Jacqueline outside class on Wednesday to tell her that he knows she and Mindi filed police reports, and he wants her to know that Buck is claiming that the thing with Mindi was consensual. He also said that he never hooked up with Jacqueline, apparently forgetting that he told a bunch of guys that he slept with her before getting jumped on the night of the Halloween party. Lucas asks if Jacqueline is alright when he walks by, glaring at Kennedy who asks Jacqueline if Lucas is the one



who beat Buck up. He apologizes for trying to convince her to drop the charges, but sometimes, apologies come too late. Slipping into class, Jacqueline realizes that she survived breaking up with Kennedy and what Buck tried to do to her, so she knows she will also survive if Lucas is unable to trust her with his personal demons. After class, Lucas asks to see Jacqueline before she goes home, and though she is not ready for the nonverbal goodbye in his eyes, she agrees to see him tomorrow night, foreshadowing Lucas' continued efforts to break up with Jacqueline. Jacqueline does not know what she expects to find when she googles Lucas on Wednesday night, but his name directs her to his mother's obituary, and when she searches for Rosemary Lucas Maxfield, she learns that Lucas' mother was brutally raped and murdered while his father was away on business. Young Lucas was tied up in his room and suffered injuries from the restraints. When Dr. Maxfield did not hear from his wife or son, he sent family friend Charles and Cindy Heller to his house, and they found the boy and his dead mother. This revelation fulfills the consistent foreshadowing concerning the tragic event in Lucas's past that he refuses to talk about. Jacqueline thanks Dr. Heller for meeting her outside normal office hours because she needs to ask him about Lucas, and when he refuses to discuss Rose's murder to satisfy her morbid curiosity, Jacqueline assures him that she only wants to know if Lucas' scars are related to the tragic event. Dr. Heller tells her about his friendship with Lucas's parents and about how he found Rose dead and Lucas tied up when Ray Maxfield sent him to check on his family. Lucas had been tied up for fifteen hours, and the scars came from his attempts to free himself and help his mother. After the tragedy, Ray quit a promising career with the FDIC, while Lucas shut down in a different way, and though Dr. Heller told Ray that his son needed therapy, Ray was too grief-stricken to deal with it. Dr. Heller also explains the Lucas/Landon misunderstanding when he tells Jacqueline that Landon started going by his middle name in college as a way of reinventing himself. Dr. Heller's observation that tutor-student restrictions are over as the semester has ended does not assuage Jacqueline's fears as she knows that Lucas still is not ready to tell her about his tragic past, but her knowledge foreshadows her decision to confess to Lucas that she learned about his past secretly.

Jacqueline feels guilty in Chapter 22 for finding out about Lucas' past behind his back, further foreshadowing her need to confess her crime. Her fear that he will use it as an excuse to shut her out foreshadows his attempt to do just that. As Jacqueline and Lucas move toward becoming intimate, Lucas confesses that he has never had sex with anyone before, explaining why he begged her to ask him to stop before. Jacqueline tells him that she wants this and begs "please don't ask me to say stop" (page 251). Even as he begins undressing, Lucas reminds Jacqueline that he will stop if she changes her mind, showing his concern for her comfort and his absolute refusal to pressure a woman into physical intimacy. Undressing and donning a condom, Lucas takes his time whereas Kennedy would have been done in a few minutes. After they finish making love, Lucas shows Jacqueline some of the sketches he drew of her before they actually met. He asks if it bothers her that he was watching her before they officially met, but Jacqueline notes he is just observant. Jacqueline continues to feel guilty about withholding information from Lucas, fearing his reaction and foreshadowing both her decision to tell him that she secretly researched his past and his reaction to this information.



Section 13: Chapter 23 & 24

Section 13: Chapter 23 & 24 Summary

In Chapter 23, as Benji and Jacqueline discuss her relationship with Lucas, Kennedy approaches to tell Jacqueline that Buck is being allowed to remain on campus for the last week of the semester as long as he does not violate the restraining orders. He asks if he can do anything, but Jacqueline knows what he really wants, and there is no longer a place for him in her heart. He nods and sighs when she tells him she is fine, and she can see the realization of what they have lost in his eyes as he leaves. Jacqueline is anxious about her last self-defense class since she has not heard from Lucas all day, and she is nearly too busy to dwell on what that means. His revelation about his insignificant sex partners is made heartbreaking by his tragic history, but Jacqueline does not know what it means for them as a couple. As the others use their newfound skills on Don and Lucas, Lucas smiles happily, and Jacqueline can see his joy that yet another woman has become empowered and is now able to defend herself and escape his mother's fat, but she wonders if "these single, hopeful moments would ever be enough to alleviate the ache that haunted him" (page 262). As Jacqueline takes her turn, she knows that Lucas and Erin are watching her closely since they know why she came to these classes, and when she ends by kneeling Don in his genitals, Erin hugs her and Lucas smiles. Later, Lucas texts Jacqueline to praise her for doing so well this morning and to invite her to grab coffee on Sunday afternoon. Saturday night, Erin meets with Chaz, but she is still very angry with him. On Sunday, Jacqueline cuddles against Lucas as he sketches people in kayaks on the lake, and they talk about their hometowns and flirt; however, Jacqueline wishes he would either talk to her or at least kiss her so her guilt will not lead to her making an unfortunate confession. As if Lucas hears her mental request, he leans over and kisses her.

In Chapter 24, Erin leaves campus on Saturday after finals, but Jacqueline decides to stay until Tuesday so she can see Harrison, her favorite middle school student's, concert on Monday night. While studying for her astronomy final with Erin and Maggie, Jacqueline can tell that Erin is talking to Chaz again, but she lets her fidget a bit before letting her off the hook. She rereads her texts to Lucas about how he helped her pass Economics. When Erin announces that Mindi has decided to transfer schools, she admits that she feels guilty for leaving Mindi the night of the party, but Maggie and Jacqueline insist that the only person to blame is Buck. Because Jacqueline's mother noticed something out of place in the pantry, Jacqueline admits that she went home alone for Thanksgiving, and after she tells Mom about Buck, Mom is upset that she was not there for her daughter; however, Jacqueline reminds her mother that she raised her to be a strong woman, realizing it is true as she says it. Later, Lucas plays a new band for Jacqueline on his IPOD, kissing her to the rhythm of the song. Jacqueline warns him that Erin could return any minute, leading to a conversation about why Erin and Chaz broke up and Buck. Feeling safe with Lucas, Jacqueline tells him about the stairwell and how Buck told everyone that they had sex that night. They know all of each other's secrets, but Jacqueline feels guilty because Lucas did not tell her his secrets and is



unaware that she even knows them. She longs for him to share with her, so she questions him about the Hellers and his mother, but he grows distant. When Erin arrives, Lucas decides to leave, and when Jacqueline asks about his plans for winter break, Lucas suggests they should use it as a break from one another also. Jacqueline wants to protest, but all she can manage to ask is why. Lucas explains that they are both leaving town, but he tells her to let him know when she gets back, quickly kissing her goodbye.

Section 13: Chapter 23 & 24 Analysis

The fact that Kennedy continues to pester Jacqueline in Chapter 23 demonstrates his continued desire to reconcile and resume their relationship, but Jacqueline's decision that there is no longer a place for her in his heart foreshadows the fact that she has fallen for Lucas completely. Jacqueline is worried that she has not heard from Lucas since they slept together, and though her heart breaks with the thought of his lack of sex partners that he cared for in light of his tragic history, Jacqueline worries about what that means for them as a couple, again showing her thought process charts a future with Lucas if he is amenable. During her last self-defense class, she realizes that Lucas's decision to participate in training women in self-defense is his way of protecting women so that they can avoid his mother's fate, but she worries that this will never assuage the pain of his past. When Jacqueline successfully dislodges Don in her final exercise, Erin and Lucas are both proud of her, showing their loyalty and concern. The fact that Erin meets with Chaz on Saturday night foreshadows their eventual reconciliation. While on her date with Lucas on Sunday, Jacqueline feels guilty about how she learned about his past, foreshadowing her decision to confess her sins to him.

In Chapter 24, Jacqueline's decision to stay on campus until Tuesday foreshadows her continued interactions with Lucas. Jacqueline understands why Erin is talking to Chaz again, and she even believes he is a decent guy, foreshadowing Erin and Chaz's reconciliation. Jacqueline's mother is very upset when she finds out about Buck's attempts to rape Jacqueline, and she convinces her daughter to agree to speak to a therapist when she gets home for winter break; however, Jacqueline realizes the truth of her statement when she tells her mother that she was raised to be a strong woman, indicating that the vulnerability she felt following Buck's first attack has dissipated, at least somewhat, and this is obviously due in large part to Lucas' influence in her life. Jacqueline's feelings of safety with Lucas foreshadows her desire to continue their relationship, and her continued guilt foreshadows her confession. Lucas grows distant when Jacqueline questions him about his mother and his relationship with the Hellers, indicating that he is not ready to share his past with her and foreshadowing his anger when he learns of her secret research into his past. Lucas tells Jacqueline that he thinks they should take a break over the winter, indicating his inability to share his tragic past with anyone, and Jacqueline's desire to protest foreshadows her attempts to dissuade Lucas from breaking up with her.



Section 14: Chapter 25 & 26

Section 14: Chapter 25 & 26 Summary

In Chapter 25, Jacqueline thinks about why showing up unannounced and uninvited is a bad idea as she drives to Lucas' apartment on Sunday night, but she is leaving Tuesday morning and cannot let him dismiss her without a fight. Her heart stops when a girl's voice tells Lucas that there is a girl at the door, but Lucas explains that the girl is Carlie Heller who is visiting him along with her brother, Caleb. Lucas is not sorry to see Jacqueline, but he tells her that he is trying to protect her from himself because he does not do this. Jacqueline argues that just because he has not done this before, it does not mean that he is incapable of doing this. After Carlie and Caleb leave, Lucas notes that he thought they agreed to take a break, but Jacqueline reminds him that he is the only one who agreed to that. Lucas admits that he lied; he is protecting himself because he does not want to be Jacqueline's rebound, but she insists that is not what she wants either. As Jacqueline traces the rose tattoo on Lucas' arm after they reconcile physically, he tells her that the tattoo is a symbol of his mother, Rosemary. He also tells her that the poem on his left side was something that Rose wrote for his father. She was a painter, which explains Lucas' artistic genes, but all of her paintings are either in storage or on display at the Hellers' house. Overcome with guilt, Jacqueline admits that she researched Lucas' mother online and talked to Dr. Heller, apologizing if she invaded his privacy, but Lucas is furious that the papers were not gory enough and she needed to hear the horrid details. Barely able to breathe, Jacqueline dresses and stands at the foot of his bed, asking if he wants her to leave, and when he says yes, she leaves as she begins crying. As Jacqueline rushes to her truck and slides inside, Buck jumps in the other side and asks "Good enough to spread your legs for anybody but me, huh Jackie" (page 285)?

In Chapter 26, Jacqueline yells at Buck to get out, but he refuses to leave until they talk about how she and Mindi ruined his life. Hearing Ralph's voice in her head saying that her body is a weapon and she just needs to know how to use it, Jacqueline realizes that she needs to get Buck closer, so she looks away, and when Buck forcefully moves her head to face him, it frees her right hand, allow her to twist his genitals and slam her forehead into his nose, causing blood to gush out. Buck also releases her left arm, so she shoves him and escapes, but as she runs from the truck, she does not have enough breath to scream. Halfway up the driveway, Buck yanks Jacqueline by the hair, and as she dislodges him, Lucas is suddenly there, beating Buck into oblivion as Buck yells threats and insults at Jacqueline and Lucas both. Luckily, Dr. Heller comes out of the house and pulls Lucas off of Buck who has lost consciousness, assuring Lucas that Jacqueline is safe. Lucas inspects Jacqueline, apologizing for kicking her out, but he brushes off her apologies for prying. The ambulance and police arrive, but after Dr. Heller explains what happened, the police are very sympathetic and praise Jacqueline's techniques against her attacker. Lucas carries Jacqueline upstairs to his apartment where he trashes their bloody clothes. He wants to hear all about it when Jacqueline is ready to talk and when he is ready to hear it as he is too angry right now. Lucas admits



that he realized he was wrong and was about to come after Jacqueline when he saw Buck and her in the driveway. He wanted to kill Buck, and he may have done so if Dr. Heller had not stopped him. Lucas bathes himself and Jacqueline, inspecting her for injuries, and he asks her to stay with him tonight. Lucas tells Jacqueline that the last thing his father said before he left was for Lucas to take care of his mother, but Lucas could not protect her; he could not save her. Jacqueline realizes that Lucas is haunted by guilt more than the general horror of that night eight years ago. She asks him to go to her student's concert with her tomorrow night, and Lucas agrees before putting her to bed, kissing her and retrieving ice packs to reduce her swollen jaw.

Section 14: Chapter 25 & 26 Analysis

Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Jacqueline visits Lucas unannounced on Sunday night in Chapter 25 to try to dissuade him from his intended break from each other. She is jealous when she hears a girl's voice inside Lucas's apartment, but Lucas explains that the girl is Carlie Heller, who Jacqueline already knows is like a younger cousin to him from her earlier conversation with Dr. Heller. In typical protective fashion, Lucas assures Jacqueline that his desire to take a break has nothing to do with his feelings for her; as usual, he is trying to protect her because he does not handle relationships very well. Surprisingly, he soon admits that this is a lie; he is actually trying to protect himself from becoming Jacqueline's rebound guy, an ironic claim given the fact that this was Erin and Jacqueline's initial intent for him, but as Jacqueline is quick to assure him, she does not want him to be her rebound guy either, further foreshadowing her desire to incorporate him into her future. When Jacqueline traces the rose tattoo on Lucas's arm, Lucas tells Jacqueline a little bit about his mother, inspiring Jacqueline's confession about her secret research and fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing concerning this confession. Also fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Lucas is furious when he learns that Jacqueline secretly researched him and his mother, so he agrees that he wants her to leave. Distraught, Jacqueline rushes to her truck where she is quickly joined by Buck, foreshadowing Buck's third attempt to rape Jacqueline.

Chapter 26 resumes with Buck attacking Jacqueline in her truck because she and Mindi ruined his life. In the typical reaction of a rapist, Buck blames his victims for his actions and their consequences instead of himself. Luckily, Jacqueline is able to use what she learned in her self-defense class to dislodge Buck and escape her truck, but as she runs toward Lucas' apartment, Buck catches up with her and pulls her to the ground. Jacqueline dislodges Buck again, but no further effort is needed on her part as Lucas suddenly arrives next to her, retaliating against Buck. Lucas' quick appearance, given the fact that Jacqueline was too out-of-breath to scream, foreshadows the admission that he was coming after Jacqueline because he realized his mistake in asking her to leave. It is fortunate that Dr. Heller comes out of his house and pulls Lucas off of the unconscious Buck because Lucas admits later that he would have killed Buck if he had not been stopped. The police are sympathetic to Jacqueline after Dr. Heller explains what has happened, and they arrest Buck for violating Jacqueline's restraining order against him. Lucas carries Jacqueline upstairs and nurses her wounds, showing how much he cares about her and foreshadowing his revocation of his decision that they



need a break. He apologizes for kicking her out and, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, admits that he knew he was wrong and was coming after her when he found her being pursued by Buck. Again foreshadowing Lucas' decision to overturn his decision to end their relationship, Lucas asks Jacqueline to stay the night with him. Furthermore, he explains the true horror of the tragedy with his mother; his father had told him to take care of her because he was the man of the house while his father was away, so Lucas feels guilty for being unable to save his mother. Immediately following this realization, Jacqueline invites Lucas to Harrison's concert the next night, foreshadowing her attempt to convince Lucas to relinquish his guilt over his mother's fate.



Section 15: Chapter 27 & Epilogue

Section 15: Chapter 27 & Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 27, Jacqueline is nervous before Harrison's concert begins, so she warns Lucas that some of these kids have only been playing for a few months, and when Harrison waves at Jacqueline, Lucas jokes about Harrison having a crush on his tutor before asking Jacqueline to stay the night again. Jacqueline is relieved because she was afraid he would not ask. After the concert, Harrison presents Jacqueline with roses, and she praises him on a job well done. As Lucas and Jacqueline share a pillow and face each other that night, Jacqueline prays that she is not about to drive him away again because she has never felt so connected to anyone before. She asks Lucas what he thinks of Harrison, and after he responds that Harrison is a good kid, Jacqueline asks if Harrison would have wanted to save her in the parking lot if he had been there instead of Lucas. She insists that Lucas' father did not expect that of him, and he probably does not even remember saying it. Lucas and his dad both blames themselves, but neither of them are to blame. Lucas argues that he will never forget how she sounded, so he cannot help blaming himself, but Jacqueline tells him that he needs to accept that he was just a boy, and what happened to his mother was not his fault, just like he told her about Buck's attack. She begs him to talk to someone so he can learn to forgive himself for a responsibility that his mother would never have wanted him to accept. When Lucas asks how he found Jacqueline, she suggests "maybe I'm exactly where I should be after all" (page 299).

In the Epilogue, Erin tells Jacqueline how much she will miss her and that she cannot believe she is leaving as they sit inside the Hellers' house during Lucas' graduation cookout. She cannot go with Jacqueline, though, because she has to stay and do great things just like Jacqueline has to leave to do great things. Jacqueline applied to transfer to three music conservatories in the fall, and she was accepted to Oberlin. Erin and Chaz reconciled on Valentine's Day, and Erin helped him through Buck's trial. Buck pled guilty to a lesser charge, so he will probably only serve one year in prison. Lucas is sure that he and Jacqueline will be fine, and though she believes him, she does not want to have a long-distance relationship for the next two years; however, Lucas refuses to tell her where he has applied and interviewed for jobs because he does not want her to make any academic decisions based on his plans, and he will not asks her to give up what she wants for him. Jacqueline has no logical defense against Lucas' argument because he is his father's son. She has grown close to Ray Maxfield since meeting him, and he gave Lucas three paintings that Rose did of her only son which now hang in Lucas' room. Later, Lucas tells Jacqueline that he accepted a job, and Jacqueline fights tears as she overheard Dr. Heller tell his wife that Lucas got a job offer in town which means they will be 1200 miles apart when she goes to Oberlin in August. Lucas pulls her into his lap as he tells her that his new job is located in Cleveland, Ohio which is only thirty minutes away from Oberlin. The pay is good, but he took the position mainly to be near Jacqueline. He is excited because he can be successful nearly anywhere, but what he cannot do anywhere is be with Jacqueline. Holding her close, Lucas tells



her, "Choosing to be with you isn't a difficult decision, Jacqueline. It's easy. Incredibly easy" (page 304).

Section 15: Chapter 27 & Epilogue Analysis

In Chapter 27, Jacqueline and Lucas attend Harrison's concert, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing of their plans. That night, Jacqueline fears driving Lucas away, foreshadowing her attempt to convince him to forgive himself for his mother's demise. Questioning Lucas about Harrison being a good kid and pointing out that Harrison would have wanted to save her if he had been in the parking lot when Buck attacked, Jacqueline points out that Harrison is just a kid and could not have saved her; therefore, it is unfair for Lucas to blame himself for his mother's rape and murder as he was just a child at the time. Lucas understands her point, but he argues that it is not that easy. Jacqueline pursues her case, demonstrating that despite how much she obviously wants to be with Lucas, her primary concern is for him to heal from his tragic past. This parallels Lucas' earlier focus on teaching Jacqueline self-defense techniques while ignoring his desires for her physically. Reiterating what Lucas told her about Buck's attacks, Jacqueline insists that what happened to Rosemary was not Lucas' fault, and she begs him to forgive himself for the responsibility that he unfairly holds himself accountable for. Lucas' comment on being lucky to find Jacqueline foreshadows his desire to continue their relationship, while Jacqueline's suggestion that maybe she is where she should be after all is a response to her earlier conversation with Landon about her stupidity in following Kennedy to school. It also foreshadows Jacqueline's desire to continue her relationship with Lucas.

The Epilogue skips forward in time approximately six months, to the end of the spring semester as the characters celebrate Lucas' graduation. Jacqueline has decided to pursue her musical dreams, with Lucas' encouragement, and is transferring to Oberlin Music Conservatory. Also, Erin and Chaz have reunited, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing concerning the resumption of their relationship. Though Lucas assures her that they will survive, Jacqueline worries about continuing their relationship long-distance for the next two years. Unfortunately, Lucas refuses to allow Jacqueline to make academic decisions based on his plans, showing how different he is from Kennedy who was more than happy to permit Jacqueline to postpone her dreams in order to follow him. Jacqueline's involvement in Lucas' life has also led to his father giving him paintings that his mother made of him, indicating that both Ray and Lucas are finally coming to accept Rose's tragic death and moving on from their grief, at least somewhat. Because Jacqueline overheard Dr. Heller talking about how Lucas was offered a job in town, she laments their imminent separation; however, Lucas tells her that his only decision now is whether to live at Oberlin and commute to Cleveland for work, or to live in Cleveland and commute to Oberlin for Jacqueline. Lucas accepted a job in Cleveland, only thirty minutes from Oberlin, in order to be near Jacqueline, yet another contrast from Kennedy who would never follow his girlfriend. When Jacqueline objects to Lucas altering his career plans based on her decisions, Lucas insists that he can be successful anywhere, but he cannot be with Jacqueline anywhere. He comforts any qualms she may have by telling her that deciding to be with her was actually incredibly easy, despite the fact that

his decision did not seem easy at all. It is obvious that Lucas' qualms about his relationship with Jacqueline came from exterior pressures and his own internal conflicts, but who Jacqueline is made those difficulties much easier to overcome than they would have been had she been someone else.



Characters

Jacqueline Wallace

Jacqueline Wallace is the main character, protagonist and narrator of "Easy". She is a college sophomore majoring in music. Though she used to answer to Jackie, Jacqueline now insists upon being called by her full name since her recent break-up with Kennedy, who dubbed her Jackie when they were juniors in high school. Two weeks after Kennedy, her boyfriend of three years, dumps her, Jacqueline leaves a Halloween party at Kennedy's frat house and is attacked by Buck, one of Kennedy's fraternity brothers. Luckily, she is rescued by an attractive stranger she has never noticed who seems to know who she is. Jacqueline wants to forget about the event, but she keeps running into her mysterious savior, Lucas. Since Jacqueline missed Economics class for two weeks, she is failing the course, but Dr. Heller decides to give her a second chance, setting her up with his tutor, Landon Maxfield, with whom she begins a flirtatious online tutoring.

Jacqueline and Lucas flirt, and they begin dating very casually. After Jacqueline escapes from Buck when he tries to rape her in the stairwell of her dorm building, Buck spreads the rumor that they are sleeping together. When Jacqueline finally tells Erin, her roommate and best friend, about Buck's attacks, Erin insists on them taking a self-defense class where Jacqueline is shocked to find that Lucas is one of the instructors. Jacqueline is also surprised when one of her classmates informs her that Lucas is the class tutor, but she continues dating him without mentioning his secret. Kennedy tells Jacqueline that he misses her, but she no longer has feelings for him, so she refuses to reconcile. When Dr. Heller catches Jacqueline leaving Lucas' apartment, Lucas ends the relationship since it is against school policy and could jeopardize her grade, but he takes full responsibility and makes sure that Dr. Heller knows that Jacqueline was unaware that the guy she was dating was her tutor since she and Landon had a relationship solely online. The day after Jacqueline tells Kennedy about Buck's attacks at the Brotherhood Bash, Jacqueline learns that Buck raped another girl, Mindi, after the party. She turns to Lucas for help with filing the police report, and when she confesses that she misses him, they make out and he tells her a little bit about his past. Kennedy begs Jacqueline to forgive him, and though she does, she refuses to resume their relationship.

As the semester draws to a close, Lucas makes it obvious that he does not plan to continue his relationship with Jacqueline because he does not know if he can tell her about some of the secrets in his past. Unwilling to let him go, Jacqueline researches Lucas online and learns about his mother's murder and how Lucas was restrained in his bedroom and unable to save her. Jacqueline feels guilty about how she acquires this information, but when she confesses her knowledge to Lucas and tells him that she also talked to Dr. Heller, he is furious and tells her to leave. Outside Lucas' apartment, Buck attacks Jacqueline in her truck. She escapes, and when he catches her in the driveway, Lucas appears to save her again. Once Buck is arrested, Lucas admits that he was coming after Jacqueline because he knew he made a mistake. Jacqueline apologizes



for prying into Lucas' business, but she insists that he needs to stop blaming himself for his inability to save his mother because he was just a child when it happened. Six months later, at Lucas' graduation party, Jacqueline worries about being so far away from Lucas when she transfers to Oberlin in the fall. She is ecstatic when Lucas informs her that he accepted a job in Cleveland which is only thirty minutes from Oberlin, especially when he assures her that deciding to be with her was an incredibly easy decision.

Landon Lucas Maxfield

Landon Lucas Maxfield is one of the main characters in "Easy". Throughout the first half of the book, Jacqueline believes that Lucas and Landon are two different people, but eventually, she discovers that they are the same person. When Jacqueline is attacked outside of Kennedy's frat house, she is rescued by an attractive stranger she has never noticed who seems to know who she is. Jacqueline wants to forget about the event, but she keeps running into her mysterious savior, Lucas. Since Jacqueline missed Economics class for two weeks, she is failing the course, but Dr. Heller decides to give her a second chance, setting her up with his tutor, Landon Maxfield, with whom she begins a flirtatious online tutoring. Jacqueline and Lucas flirt, and they begin dating very casually. When Jacqueline finally tells Erin, her roommate and best friend, about Buck's attacks, Erin insists on them taking a self-defense class where Jacqueline is shocked to find that Lucas is one of the instructors. Jacqueline is also surprised when one of her classmates informs her that Lucas is the class tutor, but she continues dating him without mentioning his secret.

When Dr. Heller catches Jacqueline leaving Lucas' apartment, Lucas ends the relationship since it is against school policy and could jeopardize her grade, but he takes full responsibility and makes sure that Dr. Heller knows that Jacqueline was unaware that the guy she was dating was her tutor since she and Landon had a relationship solely online. When Jacqueline learns that Buck raped Mindi, she turns to Lucas for help with filing the police report, and when she confesses that she misses him, they make out and he tells her a little bit about his past. As the semester draws to a close, Lucas makes it obvious that he does not plan to continue his relationship with Jacqueline because he does not know if he can tell her about some of the secrets in his past. Unwilling to let him go, Jacqueline researches Lucas online and learns about his mother's murder and how Lucas was restrained in his bedroom and unable to save her. Jacqueline feels guilty about how she acquires this information, but when she confesses her knowledge to Lucas and tells him that she also talked to Dr. Heller, he is furious and tells her to leave. Outside Lucas' apartment, Buck attacks Jacqueline in her truck. She escapes, and when he catches her in the driveway, Lucas appears to save her again. Once Buck is arrested, Lucas admits that he was coming after Jacqueline because he knew he made a mistake. Jacqueline apologizes for prying into Lucas' business, but she insists that he needs to stop blaming himself for his inability to save his mother because he was just a child when it happened. Six months later, at Lucas' graduation party, Jacqueline worries about being so far away from Lucas when she transfers to Oberlin in the fall. She is ecstatic when Lucas informs her that he accepted a job in Cleveland



which is only thirty minutes from Oberlin, especially when he assures her that deciding to be with her was an incredibly easy decision.

Kennedy

Kennedy is Jacqueline's ex-boyfriend of three years who breaks up with her two weeks before the narrative begins because he wants to hook up with other girls and fears that it will ruin his political career if he does not get it out of his system now. Eventually, Kennedy realizes his mistake and seeks reconciliation with Jacqueline, but it is too late because Jacqueline has already got over Kennedy and moved on.

Buck

Buck is one of Kennedy's fraternity brothers. He attempts to rape Jacqueline three times, targeting her because of his animosity towards Kennedy who was chosen as pledge class president instead of Buck. Luckily for Jacqueline, Lucas saves her from Buck's unwanted advances; however, when Buck rapes Mindi, Jacqueline and Mindi press charges so Buck cannot assault anyone else. The third time that Buck attempts to assault Jacqueline, he is in violation of a restraining order, so he is arrested and expelled.

Dr. Charles Heller

Dr. Charles Heller is Jacqueline's Economics professor who gives her a second chance after she misses two weeks following her break up with Kennedy. He provides her with contact information for Landon, the class tutor, but when Dr. Heller catches Jacqueline and Lucas leaving Lucas' apartment, Lucas ends his relationship with Jacqueline because it is against school policy for a tutor to date a student. Dr. Heller is an old friend of Lucas' parents, and he is the one who pulled strings to get Lucas into college and keep him out of jail. Dr. Heller tells Jacqueline a bit about Lucas' mother's murder, and he informs her that the restriction is ended as far as he is concerned since the semester is over.

Erin

Erin is Jacqueline's roommate and best friend who supports her unconditionally. Erin insists that Jacqueline should use Lucas as her rebound guy, and when she learns about Buck's attacks, she convinces Jacqueline to take a self-defense class with her.

Chaz

Chaz is Erin's boyfriend and Buck's best friend who Erin dumps because he does not believe Buck tried to rape Jacqueline. They make up on Valentine's Day.



Benji

Benji is Jacqueline's gay, sleepy neighbor in Economics class who she befriends. Benji tells Jacqueline that Lucas is the class tutor when he notices them staring at one another.

Katie

Katie is the president of Erin's sorority who supports Jacqueline and Mindi in pressing charges against Buck for his attempts to rape Jacqueline, and for raping Mindi.

Mindi

Mindi is the girl that Buck rapes after the Brotherhood Bash. She presses charges against Buck, but she also transfers to a different school.

Rosemary Lucas Maxfield

Rosemary Lucas Maxfield is Lucas' mother who was murdered eight years ago, and Lucas still feels guilty that he could not protect her.

Ray Maxfield

Ray Maxfield is Lucas' father who does not handle his wife's murder very well, causing him not to notice that his son needs counseling.



Objects/Places

College Campus

The main setting of "Easy" is the college campus at the school Jacqueline and the other characters attend.

Jacqueline's Truck

Jacqueline's truck is where Buck attacks Jacqueline outside the frat house and outside Lucas' apartment. The first time, Lucas saves her. The second time, Jacqueline escapes from her truck, but Lucas arrives to save her when Buck catches her halfway up Lucas' driveway.

Economics Class

Jacqueline, Kennedy and Lucas are all in the same economics class, and this is where Lucas first notices Jacqueline, though she is unaware that he is actually the class tutor at first. Jacqueline nearly fails the class when she skips two weeks' worth of classes after her break up with Kennedy, but Dr. Heller gives her a second chance, moving her assigned seat away from Kennedy and next to Benji. He also provides her with contact information for the class tutor, Landon, who helps her catch up on the class material she missed.

Starbucks

Lucas works at Starbucks, and after running into him there, Jacqueline visits him at his job several times.

Lucas's Apartment

Lucas' apartment is housed over the Hellers' detached garage. After Lucas invites Jacqueline over for several dates, Dr. Heller catches them together, leading to Lucas' decision to stop seeing Jacqueline since it is against school policy. Later, Buck attacks Jacqueline outside of Lucas' apartment after Lucas tells her to leave when she admits to secretly learning about his mother's tragic murder online and from talking to Dr. Heller.



Kennedy's Fraternity House

After Jacqueline attends a Halloween party at Kennedy's fraternity house, Buck attacks her in the parking lot behind the house. Luckily, Lucas arrives in time to save her, and this is the first time she notices Lucas.

Oberlin

Oberlin is the music conservatory that Jacqueline transfers to, and it is only thirty minutes away from Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland, OH

Lucas accepts a job in Cleveland, OH so he can be near Jacqueline when she transfers to Oberlin.

Jacqueline and Erin's Dorm

Jacqueline and Erin have many conversations in their dorm room, and Lucas visits Jacqueline here several times.

Alexandria

Alexandria was where Lucas lived with his parents until his mother's murder after which he and his father moved.

Stairwell

Buck's second attempt to rape Jacqueline occurs in the stairwell in her dorm after she does laundry. Buck tells everyone that they had sex in the stairwell.

Jacqueline's Home

Jacqueline goes home on Thanksgiving, planning to spend the holiday alone since her parents are on a skiing trip. She eventually agrees to eat Thanksgiving dinner with Kennedy and his family.

Lucas's Sketches of Jacqueline

Lucas sketches Jacqueline several times before he actually speaks to her, but after they start dating, he sketches her again. He redoes one of the sketches in charcoal and

hangs it on his bedroom wall, directly across from his pillow, because he enjoys waking up to her image.



Themes

Rape

One of the most obvious themes in "Easy" is the theme of rape which occurs repeatedly, demonstrating the book's message which focuses on how victims of rape (or attempted rape) are often belittled and disbelieved. The first instance occurs within the first pages of the novel as Buck attacks Jacqueline in the parking lot behind Kennedy's frat house after she leaves the Halloween party. Luckily, Lucas arrives in time to rescue her. Later, when she learns about Buck's fabricated story about being jumped which explains the battered face Lucas gave him, Jacqueline recalls how vulnerable Buck's attack made her feel. She does not tell Erin for a while, partly due to her irrational fear that her best friend will not believe her. When Jacqueline runs into Buck, she feels the threat in his words and the way he looks at her. She admits that part of her attraction to Lucas is due to the fact that he saved her. In Chapter 9, Buck attacks Jacqueline again in the stairwell when she is returning to her room from doing her laundry, and this time Jacqueline manages to escape by agreeing to take Buck to her room and then objecting to him entering when they are in the presence of her neighbors. Unfortunately, Buck uses the opportunity to spread the rumor that he and Jacqueline are sleeping together. Jacqueline finally tells Erin about Buck's attacks, and Erin signs the two girls up for a self-defense class so that they will not be victimized anymore. Erin also breaks up with her boyfriend, Chaz, when he does not believe that Buck, his best friend, tried to rape Jacqueline.

Buck continues spreading rumors about his consensual sexual relationship with Jacqueline, hassling Kennedy because he is still upset that Kennedy was voted pledge class president instead of himself; however, Jacqueline is furious that Buck is willing to hurt her just to irritate Kennedy. When Jacqueline abruptly refuses to dance with Buck at the Brotherhood Bash, Kennedy questions her animosity, so she confides in her ex-boyfriend who takes Buck outside for a "talking to". Unfortunately, this talk enrages Buck to the point that he rapes another girl, Mindi, after the Brotherhood Bash that night. Jacqueline feels guilty for not pressing charges after Buck attacked her when she learns about Mindi being assaulted, so she convinces Mindi to press charges, offering to press charges herself and bring Lucas as validation of her claims. The fraternity brothers convince Mindi not to testify against Buck, but when Erin convinces the president of her sorority to call a meeting to discuss this issue, Katie supports Mindi and Jacqueline's decision to press charges against Buck. She also tells the others about how she was raped in high school but no one believed her, insisting that women need to stand together because they cannot allow men to think they can get away with such a travesty. As the book draws to a close, Buck attacks Jacqueline a third time, outside of Lucas' apartment. Jacqueline escapes from her truck using the self-defense techniques she has learned, and Lucas arrives in time to rescue her again. Buck is arrested for violating Jacqueline's restraining order against him, and in the Epilogue, Jacqueline informs her readers that Buck accepted a plea bargain for two years in prison, though he will probably only serve half of that.



Safety

In contrast to the theme of rape which repeatedly appears in this novel, the issue of safety is another theme that recurs frequently throughout the narrative. After Lucas rescues Jacqueline from Buck at the beginning of the novel, Jacqueline feels safe enough with Lucas to allow him to drive her home. When Lucas sees her outside of class several days later, he insists that chivalry is not dead, and Jacqueline feels safe in Lucas' arms when they dance at the nightclub the week after he saved her. On their first unofficial date, Jacqueline feels vulnerable as Lucas sketches her, yet she still feels safe with him. They make out, and though Jacqueline worries because she is not ready for sex, Lucas constantly assures her that they do not have to do anything that she does not want to do. After Erin learns about Buck's attacks, she signs Jacqueline and herself up for self-defense classes where they are surprised to find Lucas is an instructor. Jacqueline eventually learns that Lucas and Landon are the same person, and though she knows she should distrust him, she does not. The night after Jacqueline's first self-defense class, Lucas invites her over so he can show her how to properly dislodge an attacker because he wants her to feel safe and confident. As they make out, he continually reminds her that they will stop when she is ready, and he does not complain or object when Jacqueline draws a line at their physical contact.

Finding Kennedy waiting on Jacqueline's front steps, Lucas makes sure that she is safe before leaving, causing Jacqueline to tease Lucas about being her personal defender. Again showing his concern for her safety, Landon emails Jacqueline over Thanksgiving holiday to make sure that she is locking up. Jacqueline knows that she should not trust Lucas because of his charade as Lucas and Landon, but she feels that he is more of a riddle than a risk, again emphasizing the fact that she feels completely safe with him. Jacqueline continues her self-defense classes, and when she finishes, Lucas and Erin are both proud of her, knowing that she is no longer a victim. Lucas assists Jacqueline and Mindi when they finally decide to press charges against Buck. When Jacqueline researches Lucas' past and finds out about his mother's rape and murder, this explains Lucas' compulsive need to protect women; he is constantly seeking redemption for the one woman he failed to rescue, his mother. Near the end of the novel, Jacqueline explains that she was originally mad at Lucas for not telling her that he was Landon because she thought he was playing her, but she now knows that it was the opposite, and she could never be afraid of him. As the book draws to a close, Lucas rescues Jacqueline again when Buck attacks her outside of Lucas' apartment.

Compare and Contrast Lucas and Kennedy

A major portion of Jacqueline's thoughts throughout this novel focus on comparing and contrasting Kennedy, her ex-boyfriend, with Lucas, her new love interest. Both guys are attractive and smart, but whereas Kennedy is boy-next-door attractive, Lucas puts off more of a "bad boy" vibe. Jacqueline plans to avoid both of them after she learns that Lucas is in her Economics class also because she is embarrassed that he witnessed Buck's attack, even though he rescued her. When she notices that Lucas seems



interested in her, she objects to pursuing her crush because she is still mourning her relationship with Kennedy. Additionally, Jacqueline is not accustomed to having a crush on anyone except Kennedy, but she begins to fantasize about Lucas. Lucas criticizes Kennedy for betraying Jacqueline's trust, an ironic concept since Lucas does not tell Jacqueline that he is the class tutor; however, Lucas' deception serves a purpose, and he does not use it to take advantage of Jacqueline in any way. Benji seems to like Lucas, noting that Lucas seems vulnerable, but he thinks that Kennedy is arrogant and disagreeable. Kennedy is very confident, bordering on arrogant, whereas Lucas is more reserved and modest. When Lucas tells Jacqueline that he needs to go or he will not leave her dorm room, Jacqueline recalls Kennedy saying something similar not long ago. She is amused by Landon's candid admission that he is carless, especially when she compares it to the way that Kennedy derives his status from his car.

Before Lucas saved Jacqueline from Buck, she had never noticed him because she thought she had Kennedy. In contrast to this, Jacqueline "has" Lucas long before she realizes it. As she makes out with Lucas in his apartment, Jacqueline is surprised that she is not bombarded by uncomfortable memories of Kennedy, and this lets her know that she is actually over Kennedy. When Jacqueline draws a line at their physical intimacy, Lucas respects her line, wanting to make her comfortable, but continues making out with her. Jacqueline compares this to Kennedy who would make her feel guilty if she made him stop, and then he would cease any additional contact as if punishing her. Jacqueline returns to campus early from Thanksgiving break, avoiding the talk that Kennedy wants to have about reconciliation and opting to visit Lucas instead. Lucas encourages Jacqueline to press charges against Buck after the attacks while Kennedy tries to dissuade her because he is worried about Buck's charges looking bad on his fraternity. Lucas objects to how Kennedy treated Jacqueline as an accessory when they were together, and he never treats her this way. Unlike Kennedy, Lucas did not have a serious girlfriend in high school, and he was very rebellious, constantly getting into trouble. Kennedy wants to reconcile with Jacqueline, but she refuses. Similarly but in direct opposition, Lucas wants to end his developing relationship with Jacqueline, but she will not allow it; she researches his past, leading to a fight, but this allows them to reconcile as Lucas no longer has to face the uncomfortable task of telling her about his mother's murder. While Kennedy encouraged Jacqueline to follow him to college, Lucas will not allow her to make an academic decision based on his plans, but showing how much he cares about her, Lucas accepts a job near her chosen school because he wants to be with her. Where Kennedy had trouble staying with Jacqueline because of his wandering eyes, Lucas tells Jacqueline that deciding to be with her was incredibly easy.

Style

Point of View

The point of view used in "Easy" is first person. This point of view is limited but reliable, and this is proven by the fact that the narrator, Jacqueline, is able to share her own thoughts, feelings and experiences, as well as what others tell her, while she is not privy to other characters' thoughts and what happens when she is not present. The use of this point of view is important as it maintains the narrative's focus on Jacqueline and how she deals with the important events in her life, such as Kennedy dumping her, Buck attempting to rape her several times, and her budding relationship with Lucas.

The distribution of exposition and dialogue is fairly equal in this novel. This is very effective as the exposition serves to focus on the events in Jacqueline's life and her reactions to it, while the dialogue shows how Jacqueline's relationships with other characters develop and change. The viewpoint of the novel is seen solely through Jacqueline's eyes.

Setting

"Easy" is set in the real world, specifically in a small college town in America. The majority of the characters are students at the college, and they are mainly divided by whether or not they participate in the Greek life that the college has to offer. After her break up with Kennedy, Jacqueline feels this division strongly as she loses ties with most of her friends who are members of campus fraternities and sororities while she is not.

The main setting of "Easy" is the college campus at the school Jacqueline and the other characters attend. Jacqueline's truck is where Buck attacks Jacqueline outside the frat house and outside Lucas' apartment. The first time, Lucas saves her. The second time, Jacqueline escapes from her truck, but Lucas arrives to save her when Buck catches her halfway up Lucas' driveway. Lucas works at Starbucks, and after running into him there, Jacqueline visits him at his job several times. Jacqueline, Kennedy and Lucas are all in the same economics class, and this is where Lucas first notices Jacqueline, though she is unaware that he is actually the class tutor at first. Jacqueline nearly fails the class when she skips two weeks' worth of classes after her break up with Kennedy, but Dr. Heller gives her a second chance, moving her assigned seat away from Kennedy and next to Benji. He also provides her with contact information for the class tutor, Landon, who helps her catch up on the class material she missed. Lucas' apartment is housed over the Hellers' detached garage. After Lucas invites Jacqueline over for several dates, Dr. Heller catches them together, leading to Lucas' decision to stop seeing Jacqueline since it is against school policy. Later, Buck attacks Jacqueline outside of Lucas's apartment after Lucas tells her to leave when she admits to secretly learning about his mother's tragic murder online and from talking to Dr. Heller. After



Jacqueline attends a Halloween party at Kennedy's fraternity house, Buck attacks her in the parking lot behind the house. Luckily, Lucas arrives in time to save her, and this is the first time she notices Lucas. Alexandria was where Lucas lived with his parents until his mother's murder after which he and his father moved. Buck's second attempt to rape Jacqueline occurs in the stairwell in her dorm after she does laundry. Buck tells everyone that they had sex in the stairwell. Jacqueline goes home on Thanksgiving, planning to spend the holiday alone since her parents are on a skiing trip. She eventually agrees to eat Thanksgiving dinner with Kennedy and his family. Oberlin is the music conservatory that Jacqueline transfers to, and it is only thirty minutes away from Cleveland, Ohio. Lucas accepts a job in Cleveland, OH so he can be near Jacqueline when she transfers to Oberlin. Jacqueline and Erin have many conversations in their dorm room, and Lucas visits Jacqueline here several times.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel tends to be casual and informal, though the sentences are constructed fairly properly. This style of language is used as it is appropriate for the target audience of teenagers and young adults. This serves to aid reader comprehension as readers will easily understand the narrative, plus it allows reader to easily associate with the main character, Jacqueline, as she seems to be a peer.

The language used in "Easy" tends to characterize the characters in the novel, particularly Jacqueline and Lucas, as well as the situations and the reactions concerning Buck's attacks on Jacqueline. The distribution of exposition and dialogue is fairly equal in this novel. This is very effective as the exposition serves to focus on the events in Jacqueline's life and her reactions to it, while the dialogue shows how Jacqueline's relationships with other characters develop and change. Additionally, the language chosen for this novel aids reader comprehension by using common vernacular, allowing the book to be easy to understand, overall.

Structure

Tammara Webber's "Easy" consists of twenty-seven chapters plus the Epilogue, and it is comprised of 304 pages. The chapters average ten pages in length, and they are numbered, rather than titled. The chapters tend to be fairly short, but they are very detailed. The majority of the book, the first twenty-seven chapters, takes place over the course of around seven weeks, half of a college semester. The Epilogue consists of one weekend, but it occurs at a time six months later.

"Easy" by Tammara Webber is an intriguing book about two college students finding love against the odds brought on by their individual trust issues. After Jacqueline's boyfriend of three years dumps her, she is shocked to find herself attracted to Lucas, a "bad boy" who rescues her from an attempted rape. Since she is also drawn to Landon, her Economics tutor who helps her avoid failing the class, Jacqueline must decide who to trust as secrets about each guy comes to her attention. "Easy" is an extremely



entertaining and enjoyable novel that demonstrates that people are not always what they seem, in both good and bad ways.

The pace of the novel is fairly quick, but it is easy to read due in large part to the familiarity of the language used. The novel is generally linear with some backstory provided; however, Jacqueline has frequent flashbacks to the night that Lucas saved her from Buck's attack after the Halloween party. Overall, "Easy" is very entertaining and enjoyable, and it should be recommended for young women to read as it raises the important issue of how rape victims are viewed and treated, as well as the guilt they carry and how it is incredibly important for them to realize that it is not their fault that they were attacked.



Quotes

"Who exactly are you designated for? If anyone had been with you, by the way, you might have been safe tonight. Instead, you walked out into a dark parking lot, alone, paying absolutely no attention to your surroundings. Real responsible." Lucas, Chapter 1, page 6

"Jackie? It wasn't your fault." Lucas, Chapter 1, page 10

"Three years had passed since I'd gone by Jacqueline, and I fought daily to regain that one original part of myself that I'd put aside for him. It wasn't the only thing I'd given up, or the most important. It was just the only one I could get back." Chapter 2, page 18

"I had to stop linking every single thing that happened to me with Kennedy. Realization dawned then, that he was still my default. Over the past three years, we'd become each other's habit. And though he'd broken his habit of me when he walked away, I'd not broken my habit of him. I was still tethering him to my present, to my future. The truth was, he now belonged only to my past, and it was time I began to accept it, as much as it hurt to do so." Chapter 3, pages 31-32

"Chivalry isn't really dead, you know." Lucas, Chapter 4, page 36

"Who was that hot guy? If I wasn't stone cold sober, I'd think he was a figment of my sex-starved imagination." Erin, Chapter 5, page 49

"First, you have to approach this with no fear. Seriously, they can smell fear. It totally puts them off the scent... That's so true, you mean? Look- guys are dogs. Women have known this since the beginning of time. Guys don't want to be chased; they chase. So if you're going to catch one, you have to know how to make him chase you." Erin, Chapter 5, page 54

"Staring down, he let his eyes roam over me, and I felt vulnerable, but not in danger. I knew so little about him, but there was one thing I felt unequivocally: safe." Chapter 8, page 88

"He's holding his cards damned close. It's almost like... he's resisting being attracted to you. Don't get me wrong, lots of guys get standoffish- but usually not until they're closed the deal." Erin, Chapter 9, page 97

"I want to show you something, but I don't want to freak you out. This morning- that last thing- the ground defense... I know you don't believe it would work. I want to show you it will... I want to teach you exactly how to execute it. Here. With no one else watching." Lucas, Chapter 11, pages 128-129

"I get it, Jacqueline. I hurt you. And I deserve everything you're saying, and everything you feel. I miss you." Kennedy, Chapter 12, pages 140-141



"Can I just say- your ex is gorgeous, but he seems like a conceited asshat." Benji, Chapter 13, page 147

"I think I made a mistake, Jackie. I mean Jacqueline. Sorry, I think that's going to take me a while-... Us. Breaking up." Kennedy, Chapter 15, pages 165

"Your grade could be at stake otherwise. I'll take responsibility for this, tonight, when I get back; Dr. Heller won't hold you accountable." Lucas, Chapter 15, page 174

"Landon was the perfect tutor. What's between Lucas and me is no one's business." Jacqueline, Chapter 16, page 177

"Lucas had been irate that I'd not let him call the police that night. It hadn't occurred to me that by not reporting what had happened, I let Buck think he was untouchable. That he'd do it again. I'd assumed that what Lucas had done to Buck was deterrent enough. Not that it had prevented him from what he did in the stairwell... or his implied threats during the party, right in front of Kennedy." Chapter 18, pages 201-202

"I wanted to tell you that I just- I miss you. And maybe that sounds ridiculous- like we barely know each other, but between the emails and texts and... everything else, I felt like we did. Like we do. And I miss- I don't know how else to say it- I miss both of you." Jacqueline, Chapter 18, page 206

"I noticed you the first week. Not just because of how pretty you are, though of course, that played into it. It was the way you lean onto your elbows when you're listening in class, when something catches your interest. And when you laugh, it's never to get attention, it's just- laughter. The way you obsessively tuck your hair behind your ear on the left side, but let the right side fall down like a screen. And when you're bored, you tap your foot soundlessly and move your fingers on the desktop like you're playing an instrument. I wanted to sketch you... Almost every time I saw you, you were with him. But one day, you walked up to the building alone. I was holding the door for several girls in front of you, and I waited for you to catch up. When you reached me, you look pleased, and a little surprised. Unlike the others, you didn't expect the door to be held for you by some random guy. You smiled up at me and said, 'Thank you.' That was the last straw. I prayed you'd never come to a session, and not with him. I didn't want you to know I was the tutor. He took you for granted, even when you stood next to him, holding his hand. Like you were an accessory. I never wanted you to get hurt, but I wanted to take you from him. I had to constantly remind myself that it didn't matter if you were his or not, because you were on the other side of a line I couldn't cross. And then you didn't show up the day of the midterm- or the next, or the next. I worried that something had happened to you. He was kind of reserved the first couple of days. By the end of the week, girls were flirting with him before class, and the way he responded told me what had happened. I was sure you'd dropped the class, which made me selfishly ecstatic. Without even knowing I was doing it, I started looking for you on campus. And then, the Halloween party." Lucas, Chapter 19, pages 214-215



"You know what looks bad? A bunch of women who don't support each other when a guy pulls some shit like this. I'm sick of it. Less than an hour ago, I told D.J. where he could stick his goddamned fraternal reputation. Let me tell you girls a story, short and sweet. In high school, I was a junior varsity cheerleader dating a senior who was up for football scholarships. I'd slept with him several times, willingly. One night I wasn't in the mood, but he was. So he held me down and forced me. The few people I told about it- including my best friend- pointed out what would happen to him if I told. They stressed the fact that I hadn't been a virgin, that we were dating, that we'd had sex before. So I kept quiet. I never even told my mother. That boy put bruises on my body. I was crying and begging him to stop and he didn't. That's called rape, ladies. So Buck can enjoy sitting in a cell contemplating how he blew up his life. That dickwad hurt two people sitting at this table. And you're worried about who'll look bad if they tell? Screw that. Dean and D.J. and Kennedy and every frat boy on this campus can all go fuck themselves. Are we sisters or not?" Katie, Chapter 20, pages 230-231

"There are things you don't know about me. I told myself I won't lie to you again, but I'm not ready to put everything out there. I don't know if I can. I'm sorry." Lucas via text, Chapter 20, page 233

"I had survived Kennedy's decision to end our relationship. I had survived what Buck tried to do to me. Twice. And I would survive if Lucas wouldn't- or couldn't- trust me with his personal demons." Chapter 21, page 238

"I think you need to get the rest from Landon- I mean, Lucas. He changed his name to his middle name- his mother's maiden name- when he came here for college. Trying to reinvent himself, I guess. An eighteen-year habit is hard to break, and he hasn't called me on it enough in the past three years. I wish I'd never seen you leaving his apartment. As far as I'm concerned, any student/tutor restrictions are over. Just... so you know." Dr. Heller, Chapter 21, page 247

"I'm not mad anymore that you didn't tell me you were Landon. The only reason I was angry was because I thought you were playing me, but it was the opposite of that. I could never be afraid of you." Jacqueline, Chapter 22, page 255

"She's right. Put the fault where it goes. On him." Jacqueline, Chapter 24, page 268

"It's not that I don't want you. I lied, earlier, when I said I was protecting you. I'm protecting myself. I don't want to be your rebound, Jacqueline." Lucas, Chapter 25, page 280

"You're not going anywhere until we're done talking. You and your lying cunt friend have ruined my fucking life." Buck, Chapter 26, page 286

"The last thing my father said to me, before he left, was, 'You're the man of the house while I'm gone. Take care of your mother.' I didn't protect her. I couldn't save her." Lucas, Chapter 26, page 294



"If Harrison had been in that parking lot that night, instead of you, do you think he'd have wanted to help me? If someone had told him to watch out for me, do you think they would ever, ever blame him, if he'd not been able to stop what would have happened that night?... No, Lucas. You're hearing it, but you don't know it. There's no way your father actually expected that of you. There's no way he even remembers saying that to you. He blames himself, and you blame yourself, but neither of you is to blame...Lucas, think about Harrison. See yourself for the boy you were, and quit blaming him for not stopping something a grown man might have been unable to stop. What have you told me, over and over? It wasn't your fault. You need to talk to someone, and figure out how to forgive yourself for responsibility your mother never would have wanted you to accept." Jacqueline, Chapter 27, pages 298-299

"I won't ask you to give up what you want for me, Jacqueline." Lucas, Epilogue, page 301

"What I can't do anywhere is be with you... Choosing to be with you isn't a difficult decision, Jacqueline. It's easy. Incredibly easy." Lucas, Epilogue, page 304



Topics for Discussion

How do Jacqueline and Lucas meet?

Compare and contrast Jacqueline's relationships with Landon and Lucas during the first half of the novel.

What is Lucas' big secret, and how does he react to Jacqueline learning it behind his back?

Why is it so important to Lucas that Jacqueline learn self-defense techniques?

How does Jacqueline feel about Kennedy's desire to get back together?

Describe Jacqueline and Lucas' relationship as it progresses throughout the novel.

Why is Lucas reluctant to begin a relationship with Jacqueline, and how does this change?