

# How to Deal: Someone Like You/That Summer Study Guide

## How to Deal: Someone Like You/That Summer by Sarah Dessen

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# Contents

[How to Deal: Someone Like You/That Summer Study Guide.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Plot Summary.....3](#)

[Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters One and Two.....4](#)

[Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters Three and Four.....6](#)

[Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Five - Seven.....9](#)

[Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eight - Ten.....12](#)

[Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eleven - Thirteen.....15](#)

[Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen.....17](#)

[Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen.....19](#)

[Book One: Part Three: Grace: Chapters Eighteen and Nineteen.....21](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapters One and Two.....23](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Three and Four.....25](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Five and Six.....27](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Seven and Eight.....29](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Nine and Ten.....31](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapter Eleven.....33](#)

[Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Twelve and Thirteen.....35](#)

[Characters.....38](#)

[Objects/Places.....46](#)

[Themes.....49](#)

[Style.....52](#)

[Quotes.....55](#)

[Topics for Discussion.....57](#)



## Plot Summary

How to Deal by Sarah Dessen is a compilation of two of her previous works - Someone Like You and That Summer. Each story is written from the perspective of a girl in her teens who has to come to grips with emotional and familial trauma. In each case, the young lady in question manages to overcome the emotional issues she is facing, generally gaining some insight about themselves in the process.

In Someone Like You, the main character, Halley, is called back from summer camp to be with her best friend Scarlett after an accident claims the life of her boyfriend. At Scarlett's house, Halley meets her alternate in Michael's life, Macon, and can hardly believe it when he shows an interest in her. As his interest deepens, and they spend more and more time together, Macon becomes increasingly obsessed with having sex with her. Halley puts him off again and again until she realizes that if she doesn't give herself to him - something he assures her is no big deal - she will lose him. She decides that New Year's is the right time, and goes to a party with Macon. He takes her upstairs to a room that is dirty, and so recently occupied by another couple that they haven't vacated yet. Leaving her there, she drinks more, and by the time he returns, she feels ill and wants to go home. Angry, he drives her back and gets them into an accident. Halley soon finds her self worth, and realizes that pressure from a boy should never be the reason that she gives up her virginity.

That Summer provides a similar scenario in which Haven is struggling to find herself. She is the youngest of a family that is changing. Her father has left to remarry a younger woman, her sister is days from her own wedding, and her mother is contemplating selling their home. All of these things come to head and Haven loses her composure. She blames her sister Ashley for being the catalyst to all the change. In Haven's mind, when Ashley said goodbye to Sumner, she began the series of events that led to the downfall of her family and their happiness. When Ashley finally reveals the real reason she left Sumner, Haven sees a new side of her sister. Ashley tells her a universal truth. The first boy is the one that hurts the worst. Haven realizes that her sister will always be her sister, though men in their lives may come and go, and that knowledge is comforting.



# Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters One and Two

## Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters One and Two Summary

Scarlett Thomas calls Halley at Camp Believe and tells her that Michael Sherwood is dead, asking her if she can come home. Halley immediately agrees. As soon as she hangs up, Halley calls her mother and begs her to come and get her. After convincing her, she hands the phone to Ruth, the camp's director. It takes a long time for Halley to get back to sleep, remembering Michael and how he and Scarlett looked just a few weeks earlier at the lake. Halley's mother isn't thrilled with having to pick her up early, and the look on her face is evidence of that, but she is gracious when Halley thanks her and softens her tone. They hadn't been close since the family vacation to the Grand Canyon ended. Then Halley had gotten the job at Milton's, met Ginny Tabor and broke up with her first boyfriend Noah Vaughn. Ginny had a wild side that soon had Halley drinking beer for the first time, smoking cigarettes, and double piercing her ears. Scarlett is sitting on her front stoop when they get home, and Halley goes over. She sits beside her on the stoop and Scarlett looks at her with tears streaming. Halley pulls her close and wraps her arms around her. They sit there for a long time.

The next day Halley crosses the street looking for Scarlett's opinion as to which of her two black dresses she should wear to the funeral that afternoon. Scarlett helps her select one and rummages through her mother's things to find something appropriate for herself. Halley leans back on Scarlett's bed to wait and discovers Macon Faulkner is there. Scarlett comes back and introduces them as he gets out of the bed, puts on his cap and tells Scarlett he'll see her at the service. Still somewhat stunned, Halley watches him walk down the road, and before he turns out of sight, he waves as if he'd known she'd be watching. Elizabeth and Ginny are both sobbing in front of the church and Scarlett suddenly doesn't want to go in. They sit in the back and Halley holds her hand. When the service is over, the sky opens and it begins to pour. They see Macon walking in the downpour and offer him a ride, but he declines, saying he will see them later and walks away.

## Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters One and Two Analysis

Michael is the only boy that Scarlett ever really loved, and when Scarlett calls Halley at Sisterhood Camp to tell her that Michael is dead, Halley immediately agrees to come home, promising to be there as soon as possible. She calls her mother who is at first reluctant, and argues that Halley only has a week remaining, but Halley is so insistent that she finally relents. Though she knows she will pay for it later, she thanks her mother



and gives the phone to Ruth at her mother's request. She can hear Ruth making all the appropriate sympathetic sounds as she heads back to her cabin, where sleep eludes her. Visions and memories of Michael and Scarlett together play a loop in her head. Halley hadn't wanted to go to camp to begin with, having made plans with Scarlett to spend time on the beach before school started again, but her mother had insisted and just like that Halley's summer ended. Her father hadn't said a word throughout the entire argument, opting instead to try to placate Halley afterward, but Halley and her mother had been at an impasse. They had always been close in the past, but lately it seemed as though they were always at odds with each other. In fact, things had begun to change after they'd gone to the Grand Canyon. Halley and her parents had spent two weeks on the road, having a great time, but when they got home things changed.

Scarlett and Halley seem to be living parallel lives. They have gone through similar things together, and have the same tastes in music and entertainment. Halley appreciates her friendship with Scarlett in ways that Scarlett can't possibly imagine. Michael had gone away for a time and when he returned, he had changed, having become a young man. He had surprised everyone by avoiding the 'in' crowd and keeping more to himself in school and social circles. It somehow had made him popular with everyone. When they gather in the school's auditorium near the end of the year and Michael's photo flashes by along with the other candid shots of the school year, the entire student body cheers while he sits with his best friend Macon looking embarrassed. Thursday, the next day, is Michael's funeral, and Halley goes next door to Scarlett to get help with her wardrobe decisions. Scarlett had slept little, and what time she had was on the couch. They go up to her room where she decides that she has nothing in her cupboard that is appropriate and heads to her mother's room. Halley waits for her, discovering Macon in her bed. Scarlett returns and explains that Macon had shown up totally wasted so she'd given him her bed for the night. His presence unnerves Halley for reasons she can't immediately put a finger on. Scarlett is nonplussed about it all. At the church, both girls that Michael dated before Scarlett have already arrived, and are both conducting their own sobbing performance. Scarlett hardly says a word, wrapped up in a misery that only Halley comes close to understanding. Elizabeth Gunderson walks through the crowd outside, wailing and holding onto a t-shirt that Michael used to wear while Ginny Tabor, who had barely dated Michael at all, throws herself into the arms of Halley and Scarlett, looking for sympathy for the passing of the boyfriend she had dated for hardly a blink. Inside the church, the gossip quietly continues until the service begins. Afterward, the sky opens up, seemingly commiserating with the unhappy group and Scarlett, seeing Macon walking down the road, tries to offer him a ride, but he declines, in a world of loss that Scarlett surely understands.



# Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters Three and Four

## Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters Three and Four Summary

Michael worked at Milton's Market with Halley and Scarlett, hired as the Junior Assistant to the Produce Day Manager at the end of June. Although he and Scarlett had only been together for a couple of months, their bond was especially strong since he'd admitted only two weeks earlier that he loved her.

When the school term begins again, only Halley knows how difficult it is for Scarlett to return. Halley discovers her schedule is all wrong and has to go to the Guidance office to sort it out. As she sits there waiting, Macon sits down beside her, He teases her about already being in trouble and gives her advice as to how to handle herself. At one point, he puts his arm around her and instructs her as to the correct use of the Jedi mind trick. When Mr. Mathers calls Macon in, he says he'll see her later, leaving Halley sitting there, surprised that he even remembered her name. It is after second period before she finally gets things sorted out. She shares P.E. with Macon, and it rapidly becomes one of her most important classes. He always sits beside her, and though their conversations are largely inane, Halley lives for them, replaying them in her mind and reliving them when she and Scarlett talk later.

Macon finally asks her out in October, and Halley lies to her mother to go to a party at Ginny Tabor's with Scarlett. Ginny is drunk, and Scarlett is sick. She wouldn't have come at all but for Halley's desperate insistence. She follows Halley through the house from floor to floor, looking for Macon. When they go back downstairs the party atmosphere has changed. An expensive vase lies broken and the carpet is stained with red wine. Ginny asks everyone to leave, and Scarlett happily heads for the car, trying to cheer Halley up. They sit on her front porch and when Scarlett goes in, Halley notices someone making their way to her house. She recognizes Macon as he stops and begins tossing rocks at her window. Halley startles him. Then he grins and he chastises her for standing him up. They argue, Halley insisting that she and Scarlett were there until her father opens the upstairs window. Halley pushes Macon against the wall and lies to her Dad until he goes back inside, but not before teasing her about the lawn chores she is committed to the next morning. Macon kisses her before leaving, telling her he'll see her tomorrow. The next day, Macon shows up with a lawnmower twice the size of Halley's and makes short work of her lawn chores. Halley introduces him to her surprised father and defends herself after he leaves while her parents question her about who Macon is after he is gone.



## Book One: Part One: The Grand Canyon: Chapters Three and Four Analysis

Halley and Scarlett met Michael while working at Milton's Market. He had walked in, and giving Halley a wave he walked to the service counter to get an application. He was hired the same day. Every day at lunch, Michael would buy three or four kiwis and t, She takes her break, leaving Halley to cope with her line up. She heads outside to join Michael for the first of what would be many breaks that Scarlett and Halley would no longer share. He began leaving her gifts of fruit or vegetables, placing them unseen at her register, and Halley soon found herself in competition for Scarlett's time and attention. It was impossible for Halley not to approve however, as just one look at her friend's face confirmed how happy she was with him. Just two months later, Michael told her her loved her. This truth he shared with her only compounded the loss she felt after his death two weeks later. No one really understood how much Scarlett loved him back - not even Halley. Going back to school was difficult as well.

Scarlett knows she has no choice, but memories of Michael are everywhere, and every now and then, Halley can see the expression on her face and she just knows that Michael is on her mind. Meanwhile, as fate would have it, Halley finds herself in a class with Macon, who is suddenly treating her as if they'd known each other their entire lives. This one class - P.E. - becomes the highlight of every school day. Meanwhile, through some fluke of fate, Halley is also cursed with her father's success. Suddenly, his station is the one to hear, and now the whole town gets to share in her childhood escapades. Somehow, she has grown up past the little girl who loved her mummy and daddy and into the girl who wants to spend as much time as possible with Macon.

These feelings only intensify as the weeks pass and culminate in the glorious moment that Macon finally asks her out. It begins the phase of secrets between Halley and her parents. Scarlett and Halley arrive at the party at Ginny Tabor's at nine thirty. Scarlett hadn't wanted to come at all. She is sick and had wanted nothing more than to stay where she was, but she recognizes how important the event is for Halley. They wander through the house after running into an extremely inebriated Ginny on the front lawn. Then Halley takes Scarlett from floor to floor - room to room, looking for Macon but not finding him. Going back down, they both notice that the tone of the party has changed. Someone had dropped a glass of red wine on the carpet, and had managed to break a large vase of considerable sentimental value. Ginny is on the floor, trying to get rid of the mess, and telling everyone the party is over. People begin to file out - Halley and Scarlett among them. Scarlett drives them back home, mindful of Halley's disappointment. She tries to lighten the mood, quietly relieved that she can go back home to nurse the cold she has. They sit on her front stoop for a bit before Scarlett goes in and Halley notices a shadowy figure running between the houses towards hers. She crosses the street and sees Macon under her bedroom window, tossing rocks up and loudly whispering her name. She surprises him almost as much as he did her by coming up behind him and tapping him on the shoulder, but he recovers his usual grin quickly. Her father almost catches them outside together which would have led to a whole bunch of questions that Halley wasn't ready to answer, but she pushes him quickly against the



wall and gives her father a lame excuse to explain her presence there. When he pulls back inside and closes the window, Macon leans in and kisses her before dashing off telling her he'll see her the next morning. The last thing she had expected was to have him show up and she is even more surprised when he arrives with a lawn and garden truck and mows her lawn - completing the chore her parents wanted her to do. Though her parents are less than pleased that someone else is doing her chores, Macon manages to survive an introduction to her father before he has to leave. Halley is stunned and insists that she had nothing to do with his timely arrival, giving her father the first clue that his little girl is growing up.





# Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Five - Seven

## Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Five - Seven Summary

Scarlett approaches Halley at work and asks her to meet her in the washroom where she hands her a stick revealing she is pregnant. She tells Marion that night, who insists Scarlett rid herself of this mistake, revealing she had done so herself when Scarlett was a child. The appointment is made for the coming Friday, and Halley gets a ride to school with her mother. Macon falls into step beside her, puts his arm around her, and tells her he is taking her out for her sixteenth birthday. Then he slips out, missing homeroom again. After second period, Halley gets a note saying her mother is on the phone. It turns out to be Scarlett who begs Halley to come and get her, telling her she couldn't go through with it. Halley waits outside P.E. for Macon and tells him she needs a ride. Without questioning her, he takes her out of the building and manages to wrangle his way off the grounds. They find Scarlett sitting outside the clinic and spend the rest of the day just driving around. He drops them off close to home and Halley arrives to discover her deception, and time away from school, has already been discovered. Cornered, and confronted, she is sent to her room after learning that Marion also knows the truth. Halley calls Scarlett just as Marion is arriving, and can only tell Scarlett the gig is up before her mother chases her off the phone.

The interrogation phase is next, both parents questioning who the driver was. She is saved from revealing his name when Marion calls. Her mother manages to mediate a truce between Scarlett and Marion, allowing that Scarlett could carry her baby to term but then would give the child up for adoption. When her mother returns, her anger is gone - understanding in its place. Marion has also revealed Macon's identity, but questioned, Halley continues to say he's no big deal.

Macon shows up at Milton's to wish Halley a happy birthday, and congratulate her on passing her driver's license test. She tells him about her punishment, and he takes her hand, pulls her forward and kisses her. That night, Halley endures the usual birthday dinner - this time at Alfredo's, with her parents, the Vaughns, and Scarlett. Her mother toasts her, and later at home she opens gifts from them and Noah quietly hands her a silver bracelet when no one else is looking. Scarlett gives her a key ring for her new keys and Halley is getting ready for bed when she hears a rumble. She puts on her shoes and sneaks out the back door to see Macon. He tells her to come with him, and for a moment, Halley hesitates, but only for a moment. He takes her to Topper Lake - a twenty minute drive from her home - to a place that he and Michael had found, and they talk about him. Macon tells her to get ready, with his arm around her waist, and suddenly the area lights up and she can see where she is for the first time. Then he kisses her.



## Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Five - Seven Analysis

Halley is stunned when Scarlett reveals she is pregnant, unaware that she and Michael had even had sex. She asks Scarlett why she hadn't said anything, and Scarlett reveals that the day after their first time, he had been killed and she was sure she couldn't possibly get pregnant the first time she had sex. That night, Halley is with Scarlett when she tells Marion who is less than thrilled. On her way out for a date, she tells Scarlett that the next morning she can make an appointment for an abortion. Scarlett reveals that she's always wondered why Marion decided to keep her - the most unselfish thing she had ever done in her life. Marion handles all the details, even attending counseling sessions with Scarlett who was increasingly quiet about it all. On Friday, Halley gets a ride to school from her overly curious mother, and is glad when they finally arrive. Macon appears out of nowhere, and when he tells her he has made plans for her birthday, she promises to be there despite the plans she knows her parents have already made for her. He leaves, saying he'll see her in P.E. By then, Halley has already gotten a call from Scarlett who realized before the procedure occurred that she was making a mistake. She couldn't bring herself to terminate the life that has begun in her. Instead of calling Marion, she impersonates Halley's mother, calling the school to have her excused. Halley wrangles Macon into helping, and together they pick her up. She is emotional, but determined. The day passes and Macon drops them off a short distance from home. Halley knows the minute she enters the house that something is wrong. Her mother immediately corners her and asks her where she's been, warning her that lying now would be a mistake. Halley remains silent. The grilling continues and is capped with a month of grounding. Halley tries to warn Scarlett that Marion knows as well, but barely manages to utter the words before Marion gets home.

Both Halley's mother and father want to know who the driver was. Her mother wants to inform Macon's parents, and Halley is mortified. Marion calls saving Halley from further questioning and by the time her mother returns home, her mood is considerably different. Now she knows almost everything. Halley had kept Macon to herself, but Marion had told her mother about him as well. Halley listens as her mother lectures her further, and unable to look at her mother, she stares out the window insisting that Macon is no big deal.

Milton's on a Saturday is busy and Macon stands in Halley's line, wishing her a happy birthday when his turn comes. She tells him that she'd gotten into trouble, and Macon tells her that her grounding will be hard on him, making her absurdly happy. Then he takes a hold of her hand as she's giving him change, and pulling her towards him, he kisses her. The woman next in line is increasingly impatient, but Halley doesn't care. She knows for sure that Macon likes her. That night, everyone pretends the day before didn't happen. Her mother smiles, and toasts her birthday, wishing her a great year. Afterward, her parents, the Vaughns and Scarlett gather at her house as she opens gifts. She is grateful when she can finally retreat to her room. The highlight of her day had been the few moments with Scarlett and the encounter with Macon earlier. She hears a rumble, and knows immediately who it is, putting on her socks and shoes, and



slipping past her parents. Macon tells her to get in, and takes her to a spot he and Michael had found. It is dark and he guides her to a concrete ledge, sitting them down there carefully. He holds her and tells her to get ready, but she is still shocked when the area lights up and the dam opens. She can see now where she is as well and is retreating when Macon draws her to him and kisses her passionately. For the first time, Halley feels a passion rising in herself as well.



# Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eight - Ten

## Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eight - Ten Summary

Halley quotes constantly from *So You're Pregnant - What Now?*, trying to ease her best friend's mood. Macon is waiting outside Halley's homeroom and they talk about Scarlett for a minute before he tells her that he'll see her in P.E. and leaves. Scarlett is in her Commercial Design class later that morning, and a bout of morning sickness has her running from the room. Elizabeth Gunderson corners her briefly and warns her that Macon isn't all that he seems and she should be careful. Halley makes her way back to Scarlett, and begins to tell her about the incident when Scarlett has a bout of morning sickness and runs from the class. Scarlett admits her fears and Halley reminds her that she will be there for her. Then they hear the noise in a stall revealing Ginny Tabor. Horrified, Halley can't believe she missed her, and Ginny insists over and over that she won't tell anyone, but by noon the entire school is aware. Macon takes them both off the school grounds for lunch, and when they return it is clear that Michael is on everyone's mind once again.

Grandma Halley's health decreases. It had been noticeable since Spring, but recently had gotten much worse. Halley has always had a special bond with her Grandma, having been named after her, and her decline is difficult. By mid November, Halley had been seeing Macon for six months and Marion had been dating Steve for the same length of time. Now Steve is beginning to show his true colors, exhibiting them slowly beginning with a medallion. Cameron Newton starts school in the fall as well, and Scarlett takes him under her protective wing much as she had done with Halley in the beginning. By virtue of his friendship with Scarlett, he and Halley also become friends. Halley's relationship with Macon becomes an issue of increasing tension for Halley's mother and father. They resent his late night phone calls, and the irresponsible way he drives. He reveals a deeper trust of her when he takes her to his place one evening, and losing track of time, he brings her back to Scarlett's late. She hurries home, but her lie that she and Scarlett had lost track of time watching a movie is immediately called and Macon's usual tires screaming on pavement seem to underline his involvement.

When Scarlett is four months pregnant, Halley goes with her to Dr. Roberts. Halley keeps her honest, making sure that the doctor gets a real picture of how things are progressing. Scarlett asks how bad it hurts and Dr. Roberts smiles, reassuring her that women have been doing it for centuries. Later at work, Halley's mother comes in and ambushes her in her lane, insisting that they go out for dinner that evening. They get through the small talk and then her mother hits her with the main topic of conversation on her mind. She wants Halley to stop seeing Macon, blaming him for Halley's change in demeanor, and confrontational style. Halley tells her mother that she is nothing like



her, and her mother looks as though Halley has slapped her. When they get back home, Steve is just arriving, this time revealing himself a bit more with his choice in footwear - warrior boots that are clunky, with buckles and a thick heel. They get into the house, and immediately know something is wrong. Grandma Halley has fallen and now her mother's focus changes. Dinner arguments are forgotten as she puts all her attention into getting ready to go and help Grandma Halley.

## **Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eight - Ten Analysis**

Scarlett becomes increasingly moody and irritable. Halley covers for her when a bout of morning sickness has her running from the classroom, telling the teacher, Mrs. Pate, that Scarlett has the flu and following her to the restroom. Halley ensures they are alone before Scarlett begins discussing how society and Hollywood glorify pregnancy using words like 'glowing' and how no one discusses the other side. She admits most of her angst is because she feels so alone without Michael to help her and because her mother is so insistent she give her baby up for adoption. At that moment, Ginny reveals herself, having eavesdropped on the conversation. She swears she won't tell anyone, backing out of the room nervously, but by lunch the entire school is talking about her or staring at her stomach as though there were something to see. It is a relief that she no longer has a secret to keep.

By November Grandma Halley's health takes a noticeable downturn. Halley often thinks of the grandmother she was named after, remembering the time they sat together watching as the comet that bears their name passed overhead. Halley had always felt as though there was a little magic attached to both her and her grandmother's names. Grandma Halley is slowly losing her grasp on memory, balance and events. While Halley is busy with Scarlett, the baby bible, and seeing Macon whenever the opportunity arises, her mother works towards finding a home for Grandma Halley. Marion continues to date Steve, and Scarlett insists that his natural character is beginning to reveal itself. A new student, Cameron Newton, joins their school and while Halley is at the doctor's one morning, Scarlett makes friends with him. He has a great sense of humor, creating miniatures of some of the girls who couldn't resist gossiping about Scarlett, and then encouraging her to flatten them. One night after Macon takes Halley to his place for the first time, she is late returning for her curfew. Her mother learns that she wasn't with Scarlett, but with Macon and when Halley begins to lie about it, she immediately stops her, firing questions at her non-stop. Halley mostly refuses to answer and her mother is furious that she would continue her dishonesty.

Month four of Scarlett's pregnancy includes regular heartburn and some dizziness which she admits to Dr. Roberts, but only after some prodding by Halley who attends with her. Scarlett's fear of doctors makes her reluctant to reveal much, but once she begins talking, she can't help but ask how difficult she can expect delivery to be. It is the only part of the pregnancy that frightens her. Dr. Roberts admits it will be painful, but reminds her that women have been delivering babies for many, many years, and most forget the pain as soon as the delivery is complete. Later that day, Halley's mother ambushes her



at work, insisting they go out for dinner together. Halley is almost sick with anxiety for the rest of the afternoon, but when her mother arrives, her mood seems good. She is almost ashamed of the way she'd felt about the dinner. Everything starts out friendly enough, but the true reason for her visit is soon revealed. She wants Halley to stop seeing Macon. She expresses her concerns, hardly allowing Halley a word in between until finally in frustration Halley gets up and insists that they are nothing alike - her and her mother. It is an emotional slap that is written all over her face, and signals the end of their meal. They drive home in silence, and as soon as they go inside, Halley knows something is wrong. Grandma Halley has had a fall, breaking her hip and several ribs, and had been lying alone for some time before someone found her. Halley sees her mother's face and tries to apologize for their words at dinner, but her mother insists there is no time to talk as she gets ready to go to her mother.



# Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eleven - Thirteen

## Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eleven - Thirteen Summary

Once Halley's mother is gone, she is free to do almost anything. Her father is busy with work, and pays little attention to her, and she spends most of her time with Macon. Scarlett spends more time with Cameron, and picks up extra shifts at Milton's to help cover the cost of baby items. She also joins a Teen Mothers Support Group, meeting two days a week. Halley cuts school with Macon, who copies her mother's signature on any note she needs. When an opportunity presents itself and they find themselves alone together in her house, she stops him before he can get too carried away, and he reminds her that they've been dating for almost three months. He can't understand her reluctance and leaves. Halley goes across the street to say goodbye to Scarlett, and asks her how she decided to sleep with Michael. Scarlett asks her if she's slept with Macon, and she admits that she's been considering it. Scarlett warns her that sleeping with him will change things and cautions her to be sure.

At first, Grandma Halley doesn't recognize her when she and her father join her mother in Buffalo but then Halley sees the recognition in her face. They stay in Grandma Halley's house, filling Halley with memories of past visits. She calls Scarlett in the evenings who tells her that Steve (nicknamed Vlad by the girls) came over wearing a tunic. When they go to see Grandma Halley for the last time before going home, they find her tired but coherent. Halley and her father leave after saying goodbye, and wait in the hall while her mother says her goodbyes. After about twenty minutes, Halley looks in and sees her Grandmother asleep in the bed, and her mother crying in the chair beside her.

Month five of Scarlett's pregnancy arrives and she is no longer able to hide it. Mr. Averby calls her into his office, hoping she'll jump on his offer of a leave of absence, but she doesn't, insisting she is fine to continue working. December rolls around, and Halley's relationship with Macon seems to cool. Scarlett insists it is normal, but Halley had yet to give in to him. She still had to stop his hands from roaming too far on occasion. Scarlett asks Halley if Macon loves her, and stretching the truth, she says he does, but admits that he hasn't actually told her yet. On December fourth, they make the annual foray to the Christmas tree lot to get a tree, and Halley runs into Elizabeth Gunderson. She asks Halley how Macon is, telling her she sees him quite frequently at Rhetta's. Halley pretends to know who that is, and keeps her face neutral as Elizabeth extols Macon's virtues. Halley is glad when she is finally able to extricate herself. The next time she sees Macon, she asks him about Rhetta. He tells her she has to trust him, and Halley can't help but ask why he has never taken her there with him. They begin to argue again, and Halley backs down not wanting to argue with him after he'd given her





a beautiful silver ring for Christmas. She asks him if they can spend New Year's together, making it clear that she has something special in mind, and he agrees. After he leaves, Scarlett calls her over to share in the latest development - the baby is kicking for the first time.

## **Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Eleven - Thirteen Analysis**

On the night before Halley and her father are due to join her mother in Buffalo, Macon brings Halley home to an empty house and manages to wrangle an invitation inside. Once there, he holds her in the dark, going further and further until Halley has to stop him, fearing her father could walk in at any moment. He turns the radio on, and they hear his voice telling the audience he'll be there until nine that evening. At Macon's request, they go up to her room and she almost forgets herself in his touch and his ever more insistent kisses. Before he can get too carried away, however, she stops him again, despite his obvious disappointment. He asks her if it is him that she doesn't want, and she assures him that it isn't. She talks to Scarlett about it, who recommends that she consider the outcome very carefully before making her decision. Scarlett's sense of smell is heightened, Halley reads the 'bible' to see what Scarlett can expect next as Scarlett scrubs out the fridge with bleach. Halley asks Scarlett what made her decide to sleep with Michael.

Halley and her father drive down to see Grandma Halley at Evergreen Rest Care Facility, and Grandma Halley at first doesn't even recognize Halley. It is obvious that her mother is struggling with the whole situation. Later, Halley can see the recognition in her face, and they visit for a while. Then, they spend the night in Grandma Halley's house where Halley finds a box of memories and learns about her grandmother, sharing it with her mother as well. They share a few moments of the past before her mother brings up Macon and Halley goes back to resenting her. Later she calls Scarlett, missing her company. The next morning, they go to visit with Grandma Halley again before leaving. Halley and her mother sit with her for a long time and when she falls asleep, Halley leaves. Her mother is still sitting there twenty minutes later when Halley peaks in to see her holding Grandma Halley's hand as she sleeps on, tears streaming down her mother's face - a sight which thoroughly unnerves Halley.

Mr. Averby calls Scarlett into the office and mentions her pregnancy for the first time. Scarlett enjoys his discomfort and has a good laugh with Halley about it afterward. December arrives and Halley's mother dives into the holiday spirit with both feet. She drags Halley and her father to a tree lot where Halley runs into Elizabeth Gunderson. Elizabeth makes a point of telling Halley how lucky she is to have a boyfriend like Macon and how they often talk about Michael's death when they are together.





# Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen

## Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen Summary

Halley's mother spends the day on New Year's Eve preparing for their annual bash. When Halley isn't clear about her plans with Scarlett, she suggests they help her hostess, but Halley insists it would be unfair of her to restrict her plans. Her mother relents, but only after reminding Halley that she is trusting her. Halley dresses and goes across the street where Scarlett greets her with a handful of condoms. Steve arrives, ready to take Marion out and Halley ducks out while Scarlett checks to see if Marion is ready. Macon is waiting for her, and drives her to Ronnie's house outside of town. He gives her a glass of beer and then takes her upstairs where Ronnie and Elizabeth Gunderson are just finishing up. Elizabeth passes her a bong and without hesitating, Halley copies what she has seen others do, drawing the smoke deep and holding it there. For a time, Halley is alone, but Macon returns, locking the door behind him. He joins her on the bed and begins kissing her, his hands roaming ever further. Halley tries to stay in the moment, but she is hyper aware of her surroundings and Macon continues, oblivious to her discomfort. She tells him she feels sick, but he thinks she is just trying to avoid letting him get further again. Warning him she is going to be sick, she tells him she has to go, but Macon gets angry. The countdown begins, and Halley manages to get out of the room, down the stairs and outside before she is violently ill in the woods alone as New Year's begins.

The beginning of the ride is silent, Macon behaving as though she became ill on purpose while she lamely apologizes. He barely acknowledges her when she insists that she had every intention of going through with it. All of Macon's anger is translated into his driving as he increases his speed despite the yellow light ahead. She begs him to slow down, but he hits the gas again, insisting she didn't understand. He begins another sentence, but light fills his face suddenly and when she asks him what is going on, he looks scared. Something hits her door, spraying her with glass as her world goes dark.

## Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen Analysis

Scarlett tells Halley she's worried about her and asks her if Macon loves her. Halley assures her he does, although he hasn't actually said so yet. Acting as her friend, Scarlett tries to dissuade her but Halley gets frustrated and reminds Scarlett that she is hardly in a position to dispense advice. As soon as the words are out of her mouth, Halley wishes she could take them back. She sees the look on Cameron's face,



recognizing it as the same face she usually makes whenever anyone hurts her best friend. Now she finds herself on the other side of the equation, when Steve arrives to pick up Marion, dressing more and more in character. When Scarlett goes up to see if she is ready, Halley uses the opportunity to duck out and avoid further lectures or comments. Macon is waiting for her on Spruce Street, and he takes her to Ronnie's house outside of town. As soon as she enters, the thought occurs to her that this is the kind of place her mother warned her about. A keg is set up, and there are no familiar faces in the crowd, so she puts herself between Macon and the wall. Before much time passes, Macon takes her upstairs where she takes a hit on a bong to go with the beer she was given, trying to convince herself that she can fit in. Elizabeth talks about Scarlett and her baby, and Halley, remembering who she is talking to, defends her friend. After making it clear that she believes Scarlett is making a mistake, Elizabeth leaves.

Macon's anger is obvious as he drives Halley home, She begs him to slow down, but instead he goes faster. She sees the yellow light ahead but Macon makes no effort to stop. Instead, he speeds up, all the while lecturing her about making plans and then changing her mind. He is trying to impress on her his frustration when suddenly he stops talking mid sentence. She asks him what is wrong, but he doesn't answer. A split second later something hits her door and the shattered glass catches the light as it falls around her. Then she loses consciousness.



# **Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen**

## **Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen Summary**

After the ambulance arrives she loses track of Macon and one of the attendants tells her that Macon had to stay at the scene. At the hospital, she gives them Scarlett's phone number instead of her parents. A doctor tells her that she has two bruised ribs, a sprained wrist and back lacerations. Since she had also banged her head, they decide to keep her over night. Scarlett shows up, and all Halley can think about is Macon. She doesn't realize that Macon has already come and gone, and can't seem to grasp it when Scarlett tells her. The next time she wakes, her mother and father are in the room. Her mother asks her where she was, questioning whether she'd been with Macon, and her father stops her, telling her to let Halley rest.

The next day she is released and Halley's mother takes over. Halley is in no shape to argue, and is content to ride along while someone else handles the decisions. Macon isn't mentioned. That first night, she hears him idling at the corner as usual, and he honks his horn once before leaving. Scarlett has already decided he's a jerk. He shows up the second night, and tosses rocks to get Halley to come out. Without concern for the noise she is making, she goes out and after asking how she is, he launches into the many reasons he hadn't shown up at the hospital, or seen her since. He tells her he didn't mean to hurt her, but Halley realizes she is done with Macon. She deserves better, and despite his protests, she leaves him there, going back inside to walk right into her mother and she is livid. She begins by expressing disappointment and then assures Halley that she will do whatever she has to in order to keep her and Macon apart. Finally, Halley stops her. For the first time, instead of arguing or just being quiet until her mother stops, Halley stands up to her, insisting that she has to learn on her own, and making her own decisions was part of that. Her mother agrees and despite how difficult it probably was, she stays silent, asking only what Halley had told Macon. When Halley admits she said goodbye, her mother is obviously relieved.

## **Book One: Part Two: Someone Like You: Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen Analysis**

Halley can remember Macon's voice begging her to hold on, apologizing, and telling her he loves her. At the hospital, she gives them Scarlett's number who comes in and poses as her sister, stopping a few feet away and taking in the details of her injuries. The fear is obvious in her face, and when Halley asks if she's seen Macon, Scarlett gets angry, and doesn't care where he is. After all, he'd almost killed her best friend. Halley tells her she didn't do it and Scarlett is glad. Her mother and father are there when she wakes



next. Her mother has the same face that she had when they dealt with Grandma Halley, and she asks Halley if Macon did this to her. Halley tries to explain, but the explanation only confirms that she was with Macon. She drifts off again.

Once home, her mother handles everything and Halley is content to let her. Scarlett is beyond angry with Macon, calling him a jerk and insisting that if he cared, he'd be at her doorstep dealing with her parents. That night, he tosses rocks at her window to get her attention and begs her to come outside. He apologizes to her, and tells her he'll make it up to her. He admits he's been miserable, and tells her he needs her, but Halley doesn't believe a word of it. She tells him they are finished, but he wrongly assumes that her decision stems from her parents, and grinning, he tells her they'll get over it. She imagines he has said this a dozen times before, and realizes that she deserves better. She deserved love, and flowers, and everything that came with it. She turns and goes back inside, walking right into her mother. She is beyond angry and begins to berate her. Halley finally stops her and insists that she should at least ask her what is going on first. Halley tells her mother that if she doesn't allow her to make her own decisions, she will never learn. That hits home, and her mother backs down. Halley thanks her and goes back up the stairs. At the top she stops and turns asking Halley what she told Macon. Halley tells her that she said goodbye. Though her mother surely had more to say, she kept it to herself, saying only 'good for you' before retreating to her room.



# Book One: Part Three: Grace: Chapters Eighteen and Nineteen

## Book One: Part Three: Grace: Chapters Eighteen and Nineteen Summary

Halley had no intention of going to the prom, but when Cameron asks Scarlett, Halley is determined to go and support her. Scarlett is thrilled. When they arrive in the limo and head inside, Noah reaches for Halley and misses, grabbing and tearing her dress instead. She finds Scarlett dancing with Cameron and sees Macon standing in the corner. Seeing him unnerves Halley who goes to the bathroom, and gets help fixing her dress before Elizabeth comes in and begins talking to her about Macon. The conversation is interrupted when Ginny bursts in announcing that Scarlett is having her baby. When Scarlett sees her, she bursts into tears, and Halley is quick to get to her friend's side. Scarlett begs her to take her to the hospital, insisting she doesn't want to have her baby at the prom. Suddenly Macon comes around the corner and with Elizabeth in the seat beside him, offers them a ride to the hospital. Halley does what she can to distract Scarlett as they get her checked in, and quickly calls her mother to let her know what is happening. When Halley gets back to Scarlett, she arrives just in time to witness a contraction, and knows that she is in way over her head. She backs out, and hears the sound of her mother's heels clacking down the hall. Taking charge, she convinces Halley to go back in, and joins her, calming the situation considerably. Her mother leans forward, whispering calming and confident words in Scarlett's ear.

When Scarlett delivers, it is a healthy baby girl that she names Grace Halley Thomas. Scarlett is rocking her gently, beaming and they stay until she falls asleep. They head for the waiting room, and the sight that meets Halley is almost more than anything she could have imagined. The entire room is packed with classmates and their dates, all still in their prom clothes. When they see her, they surround her and she gives them the good news. Halley stays with Scarlett, sending even her mother home. Then finally she leaves alone enjoying the feeling of this special day. All the way home, she thinks about Grace, wondering what kind of girl she will be. Halley knows that one day they will sit and watch the comet that is their shared namesake, and she will find the right thing to whisper in Grace's ear as her Grandmother had done for her.

## Book One: Part Three: Grace: Chapters Eighteen and Nineteen Analysis

Halley still can't believe she's gotten herself into going to the prom with Noah, and tries hard not to cringe at the thought. Her mother is taking pictures at every opportunity. She turns to see Scarlett coming down, her belly almost as big as the smile on her face. Halley's mother is gushing, and looks like she's ready to cry when she sees Halley in



her prom dress. Halley is in hell, and still can't believe she let herself get talked into the prom with Noah. Cameron's mother had hand made Scarlett's prom dress for her, so thrilled that her son was actually going to the prom that she invested days on the project. Scarlett looked wonderful. Since January, things had shifted between Halley and her mother. It was subtle, but she had definitely backed off. Halley hadn't spoken to Macon since the night in her yard, and he was seldom in school anymore. In March, Halley had heard that his mother had kicked him out, and a few weeks later, that he was seeing Elizabeth Gunderson which had her in tears for two straight days. Noah arrives drunk, and becomes even more so on the way to the prom. Scarlett and Halley ignore him and the bad behavior that usually follows those who drink beyond their limit. He lurches toward Halley, reaching for her but misses. He grabs and tears her dress instead. Unperturbed, he giggles as Halley searches for a safety pin, telling Scarlett and Cameron to go ahead. Noah and Halley continue to exchange words. He approaches her and puts his hand behind her and down the opening torn into the dress, brushing up against her underwear. She pushes him off her, and he stumbles. He leaves her there and she thinks about leaving, but knows Scarlett will worry. She notices Macon who is looking at her, and smiling. Suddenly overwhelmed, she heads for the bathroom where Melissa Ringley helps her to close the hole in her dress. Elizabeth comes in and tells Halley that Macon still loves her.

Scarlett manages to do what so many before her have. She delivers a healthy baby girl, and the miracle of that birth echoes through her as she holds her daughter. Her face is a combination of radiance and wonder. Halley can't help but reflect on the year and knows that she and Scarlett have so much ahead. When Scarlett sleeps, they retreat to the waiting room which is crammed with prom goers waiting for news. Halley delivers it, and there is much cheering, clapping and hugging that follows. Halley is the last one to leave, filled with so much she still wants to say to her friend, but tempered with the knowledge that they have time, and Scarlett needs rest. She walks home by herself, enjoying the thoughts of how the future for Grace Halley will be.



# Book Two: That Summer: Chapters One and Two

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters One and Two Summary

Haven's mother is cleaning the fridge on the morning that her father is to be remarried. Though her husband's new fiancée had invited her to the wedding, she had no intention of attending. Instead, she takes pictures of Haven and Ashley in their Maid of Honor dresses - pink and puffy - and watches as they leave for the church. They get to the church and assemble with the bride who is crying tears of joy, exclaiming how she can't believe this is finally happening. Ashley helps Haven with her makeup, and they get the signal to begin. Haven had been in the rehearsal party as well, but somehow the aisle looks much further away to her now. She fixes her gaze on Ashley's back ahead of her, and follows eight seconds behind her. She doesn't look up until she is close enough to look at her father who smiles. They take their places up front and turn to wait for Lorna Queen to begin her walk up the aisle. The Weather Pet of WTSB, make up carefully reapplied, looks beautiful as she comes up the aisle.

Haven thinks about Ashley's former boyfriend Sumner. Sumner had always brought out the best in Ashley, and in most people around him. She thinks about the summer week they'd spent at Virginia Beach and can remember every detail. It was a time in their lives when everything was normal. Now, looking around at the reception, Haven knows that their lives will never be the same. Her father is surrounded by well wishers and finally manages to align himself with his daughters. Love struck, he watches his new wife across the room while Haven congratulates him. Ashley and Lewis arrive and make all the right noises. Ashley has supported her father from the start, but she and Lewis had circled the block while she cried for some time before she felt ready to face the finality of her parent's marriage. The evening passes slowly and Haven is glad when they finally leave. Ashley, giddy from too many glasses of wine, sits on the porch giggling with Lewis while Haven talks to her mother in the garden.

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters One and Two Analysis

Haven is a young lady who is extremely self-conscious about her height which is just shy of six feet. Her sister Ashley is the picture of perfection, petite and curved in all the right places. Haven takes after her father - a calm and deliberate personality while Ashley is more like their mother - a dramatist at heart. Since their father announced his feelings for the meteorologist at WTSB, and moved out, Haven had become acutely aware of the change in emotional balance in the family. Now, she felt strange getting ready to attend her father's wedding while her mother sat at home alone. She and



Ashley arrive at the church, the differences between this and the wedding her mother and father had glaring at her. Lorna Queen is in tears of joy as she considers the implications of her upcoming vows. Ashley and Haven finally get the go ahead to begin and walk up the aisle to where their father waits. When Lorna arrives, she kisses them each in turn, and then stands, facing Mac as they repeat their vows. Haven watches as Ashley tears up and suspects it has more to do with the finality of the decision than the beauty of the ceremony.

Haven daydreams about Ashley's former boyfriends, thinking especially of Sumner Lee who had dated her in high school. Sumner was funny, unpredictable, and made Ashley laugh. With him, she was someone different - her sullen moods and ailments forgotten. Sumner had a way with people. He even had no issues with Haven tagging along at times which Ashley had avoided for some time already. They had all spent a week together at Virginia Beach and it was a vacation that Haven would remember for years to come in great detail. Of any of the boys Ashley had dated, Sumner was Haven's favorite. The reception is a grand affair and the bride and groom are in full form. Mac is smitten with his new wife and expresses his joy that his daughters have accepted her. Of course, he doesn't know that Ashley, who had supported his relationship with Lorna almost from the beginning, had been circling the block with Lewis in an effort to pull herself together enough to face her father. Now, she manages to say all the right things before helping herself to enough wine to ensure that she would have to leave her car behind. When they get home, their mother is still in the garden. Haven approaches her, and answers her questions without too much enthusiasm, looking for but not finding the right things to say that would ease her mother's mind.





# Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Three and Four

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Three and Four Summary

Haven wakes to the sounds of panic at eight the next morning. Neighbor Lydia Catrell, acting as Ashley's wedding advisor (having done so for four girls of her own already) is there and Haven knows that Carol Cliffordson is causing trouble again. For the third time, Carol has a crisis that puts her appearance at the wedding in jeopardy. When Ashley hears, she swears that she and Lewis will elope and they can cancel the whole wedding as far as she is concerned. Haven goes to work at Little Feet and on her break watches The Lakeview Models as they practice for the Fall Spectacular! As Haven gets up to return to Little Feet, the woman leading the models begins clapping out the beat her girls are to walk to.

Haven deals with the fallout of her father's marriage and her mother's pain remotely, listening from upstairs as her mother reveals her pain to her new friend Lydia. Lydia soothes Haven's mother, and Ashley has Lewis. Only Haven deals with it all alone. Lydia and her mother go to Las Vegas together, and after four days there, Haven's mother returns renewed and refreshed. It is no surprise to Haven that she is considering the month long trip to Europe that Lydia has coming up next in her travel group. Ashley thinks she should go, and only Haven seems to have reservations that she can't put a finger on.

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Three and Four Analysis

Though Ashley hasn't seen Carol since the one summer they spent together when they were twelve, she insists on having her as a bridesmaid but the now twenty-one year old is nothing but trouble. When Ashley threatens to simply elope with Lewis, Lydia warns that it would be the social disaster of the year, but Ashley doesn't care. Haven goes to work and on her break she sees the Lakeview Models practicing for an upcoming event. As usual, when confronted with beauty - perceived or otherwise - Haven slouches and tries to get out of the area unnoticed wishing she were smaller than they were and imagining how it would be.

It had taken until her father stepped out of the spotlight before her mother ever learned how to be in one. Lydia helps Haven's mother climb out of her shell. While Haven sits upstairs, her mother tells Lydia things about her husband that she couldn't share with Haven while Lydia listens understandingly. She starts going out to the local tavern on Thursday nights, and soon after, they travel together to Las Vegas for four days. When



they come back, Lydia tells her about an upcoming trip to Europe. The tour of cities would take a month, and Haven can tell her mother is thinking about it. Haven has reservations, but not for any reason she can readily explain. Even Ashley seems to think that it would be a great experience for both their mother, and for Haven. She remembers herself at Haven's age and realizes again how different they are. Haven thinks about Ashley at her age, and again Sumner comes to mind, and for some reason she remembers the Halloween night that her sister dumped him. She clearly remembers the brokenhearted look on his face.



# Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Five and Six

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Five and Six Summary

Haven's father returns from his honeymoon and resumes their weekly Thursday night dinners. He manages in between people stopping to introduce themselves or to chat with the well recognized sportscaster, to ask about her sister, and suggest that she spend some time getting to know Lorna before another interruption. While her father is talking, a server approaches with an offer of pepper. Haven refuses at first, but when he insists, she looks up and sees it is Sumner. Surprised, she hardly knows what to say. He grins, offering cheese next and chatting briefly with her. Later, looking for the bathroom, she sees him counting tips and he calls her over. Then, after saying hello to her father, he heads off to his next job. They talk about Sumner on the way back, although her father is oblivious to the fact that his youngest daughter likes him. When they get back to the house, Ashley and Lewis are in his car in the driveway. Haven can tell they are fighting. They had been out with his parents and when they ganged up on her (at least in her opinion) she had expected Lewis to defend her and he hadn't. Angry, she stomps away from the car, sitting on the porch with Haven for a few moments. Haven tells her she ran into Sumner and is surprised by her sister's lack of interest.

Haven's best friend Casey Melvin returns from 4-H camp in the first week of August, and has a lot of news to share including her new seventeen year-old boyfriend from Hershey Pennsylvania. They talk in Casey's room where Haven discovers her best friend now smokes, and learns the gossip that the hometown girl who had made it big in modeling, Gwendolyn Rogers, had come home having had a nervous breakdown, and now wanders the streets at night unable to sleep. Casey's mother comes up to get Casey to help her and can smell the cigarette smoke in the room. The butt Casey throws out the window lands in the gutter, catching the debris there on fire. The smell and the fire give her away and Haven leaves while Casey's parents tag team their disappointment. The next day at work, Haven is taking a break when a mall golf cart comes her way beeping. Sumner is at the controls - this being another of his part-time jobs. He takes her on a ride before dropping her back at work with a flourish, calling the cart his 'Chariot of Love'. Haven is flooded with good memories of the summer at the beach again.

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Five and Six Analysis

This week, Haven's father is frequenting a restaurant called Vengo. As is usually the case, he is approached constantly by people who recognize him, and this evening is no exception. As such, he rotates the places he goes and Haven sits politely through each



interruption and introduction, waiting for the few moments that they would be able to talk in peace. This time, however, she is stunned to discover that Sumner has a job here and stops at her table to offer her fresh ground pepper. He asks her how things are going, and tells her she is tall and gorgeous which makes him feel old. Haven still thinks she is too tall, but Sumner insists that tall people run the world. At home again, they find Ashley sitting in the car arguing with Lewis. They had been at his family's home for dinner and the wealthy socialites had found fault in everything she had tried to accomplish where wedding plans were concerned. To them, it appeared that Ashley had no backbone, and not once did Lewis try to support her or defend her. By the time they get home, she is livid, and tells him she isn't even sure she wants to see him again. As she storms to the house, she sees Haven sitting on the swing and joins her. Haven tells her about seeing Sumner and that he passes on his best wishes but Ashley brushes it off, reminding Haven that she is getting married shortly and can't waste her time thinking about old boyfriends.

Haven's best friend returns from 4-H camp a changed person. She is what Haven's mother would gently describe as 'fast' now, and it would not be a compliment. Casey Melvin now smokes, and even has a seventeen year-old boyfriend. Haven sits with her in her room, remembering all the hours they'd spent there together while Haven's parents were going through their divorce, and listens as her friend tells her all the gossip she knows about people who are strangers to Haven. Casey's parents catch her smoking in her room after she almost sets fire to the house in an effort to hide it, and they send Haven home while they deal with their daughter. The next day at work, Haven is on a break when she runs into Sumner again. Another one of his part-time jobs is working in the mall, and he drives her around in the golf cart for a while before taking her back to work. It is the highlight of her day, and reminds her of the fun they had together during the summer when he'd come to the beach with her family.



# Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Seven and Eight

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Seven and Eight Summary

It seems to Haven that she is always running into Sumner after the day in the mall. Of course she knows this has more to do with the variety of jobs he has taken on including driving a special school bus and cutting lawns at the cemetery. Ashley becomes more moody, although that hardly seems possible, and they are still two weeks from their 'I do's'. The final fitting is that afternoon and Mrs. Bella is personally offended that Haven has seemed to grow taller even since the last fitting. Now her dress will be somewhat shorter than the others. It is just one more incident in a long line of too tall experiences in her life that make her want to fade into the floorboards. Afterward, Haven and her mother go to lunch and she drops the bomb that after the wedding, she is considering selling the house. Haven swallows her anger and fear of change, managing to ensure she and her mother finished the lunch on a normal note. Then leaving, she sees Sumner who comes over to her and comments that she looks upset. She tells him about her lunch as he takes her back to the shoe store for work. On the way, he asks if she mentioned him to Ashley, and Haven, lying, tells him she said to say hi. The look on his face makes her suggest that he stop in on her one day at work to say hi which for reasons she can't explain seems important to her.

In her short time back, Casey has been grounded for smoking, caught drinking beer and has disappeared for an entire day. She's made interstate phone calls lasting up to an hour, and Mrs. Melvin is pulling her hair out. She has no idea that when Casey gets her license in just two and a half weeks, she is thinking of driving to Pennsylvania. Haven and Casey are beginning to argue when Casey sees Gwendolyn Rogers across the street. Her face is blank, her cheeks hollow and her eyes seem to register nothing of their surroundings as her mother leads her gently back inside. They go back to Casey's where the local news is on in the background and Haven watches as Lorna does the weather in a mini skirt. When she is finished, she drops another bomb in Haven's lap. She and Haven's father are expecting their first child. Casey immediately points out that to be expecting just one month after their wedding could only mean she was expecting even then. Haven makes excuses and heads for home, doing her best not to reveal that she is as surprised as they are. She walks on, thinking about her father and a new baby, hardly paying attention to where she is and becomes disoriented just as she hears Sumner round the corner behind her. He stops and seeing her face, asks what is wrong. She tells him, and learns that he is selling encyclopedias - another job. As they pull up to the house, Ashley is fumbling at the door, looking for her keys and oblivious to the fact that they are there. Haven invites him in, but he admits that he has yet another commitment. He is being paid to dance with older women at the senior center. She says goodbye and heads in, once again thinking about her father, Lorna and the new baby.



## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Seven and Eight Analysis

Haven knows running into Sumner all the time is nothing more than the result of the fact that he has so many and varied jobs, but a part of her likes to believe that fate blew him into her life again now for a reason. Ashley is increasingly unbearable as her wedding date approaches. Haven hears her once more, after her mother reminds her of the final fittings that afternoon, lamenting that Haven had likely grown another four inches overnight as though she would do such a thing simply to spite her sister and foil her wedding plans. With still two weeks remaining, Ashley is sick of making decisions. Finally, her mother has had enough, and takes a moment to berate Ashley for her behavior of late. She promptly bursts into tears, and finally, sometime later, apologizes to Haven as well. Haven realizes that in two weeks, she will be sorry to see her sister leave. After the final fitting, where the seamstress insists Haven has grown again, Haven's mother takes her to lunch. Haven can tell something is on her mind, and thinking it is her decision regarding the Europe trip, she tells her mother that if she wants to go, she should, even though Haven doesn't mean it. The real bombshell follows when she announces she is thinking of selling the house. Haven is more than upset, and for a brief moment she blames her mother for all of it - the divorce, her father's marriage, her sister's wedding, the move, all of it - but then she gets herself under control again. They finish lunch and, leaving, she runs into Sumner who walks her back to work.

Since Casey has returned from 4-H, it seems as though she and Haven have little in common. Casey's only concern is her boyfriend in Pennsylvania and how soon she can make it back to see him. Already, her parents and his are unhappy with the long distance phone calls and the bad habits picked up by Casey as a result of their involvement. She smokes, drinks, and is dishonest and moody. Mrs. Melville is sorry she ever supported the idea of 4-H, blaming their last outing for the changes in her daughter. Haven tunes out their inevitable bickering, noticing that Lorna - her new stepmother - is on TV doing her weather spot and Haven is stunned silent. Casey comments on the timing of her pregnancy, since they'd just been married a month. As gracefully as she can, Haven extricates herself from the Melville's and walks home. All the way there, her mind circles the inevitable fallout that will come from Ashley's temper tantrums to her mother's hurt feelings and realizes how tired she is of holding it all together. From selling the house and moving to her mother going to Europe to her sister's wedding to her father's wedding, she could feel herself coming apart at the seams when the sound of Sumner's car rounds the corner. Haven pulls herself together and accepts the ride he offers. When he asks her what's wrong, she tells him and he rationally tells her that everything will be fine. Hearing it calms Haven. When they get to Haven's, she invites him in but Sumner is working yet another job - selling encyclopedias. Afterward, he is paid fifty dollars to dance with Seniors at the center. He surprises Haven, telling her that he even taught Ashley to dance. He drives away and reality floods back in.



# Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Nine and Ten

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Nine and Ten Summary

That Saturday, most of the town turns out for the Fall Preview Fashion Show where Gwendolyn is supposed to be putting in a personal appearance. Casey meets Haven after work, lamenting the lack of privacy her parents are giving her and how both sets of parents seem to be acting together to keep them apart. Gwendolyn Rogers is introduced - just a shadow of her former self. She thanks them for having her and all applaud but nothing else comes from her. Finally she suggests they begin the show in a flat, controlled cadence. It begins well enough, but the models parade in more and more suggestive clothing, in total opposition to the 'Back to School' theme. Afterward, the girls gather with Gwendolyn for photographs and she stands there, pale and quaking, finally bursting into tears and making mewling noises until her mother comes to get her. Casey and Haven leave and run into Sumner. Haven introduces Casey who immediately asks him how old he is. Twenty-one, he tells her, and Haven sees Casey's sudden change in behavior around Sumner, and insists she has to go home. Casey mocks Haven's 'goody-goody' attitude but Sumner comes to her rescue claiming that he knows Haven is a wild one. They say goodbye and Casey starts in on Haven immediately, insisting that if Sumner were her 'friend' she'd have dated him. Haven needs Sumner's friendship more however.

Eight days before the wedding, Ashley has her bachelorette party, returning too drunk to get herself in the door unaided. The underwear around her neck is enough to reveal the general tone of the evening, and in a moment of spite, Haven leaves it there after helping her to the couch and covering her with a blanket. As she turns to leave, Ashley calls her back. She tells Haven to let the stressful stuff go, and just remember the good times like the summer they spent at the beach. Haven is relieved that Ashley remembers it with the fondness that she does. The next morning Ashley pays for her evening, and Lewis chastises her for not doing what he did - have dinner and go to a game, limiting himself to a couple of drinks and a guaranteed night in his own bed. Haven can't help but add the tidbit about the underwear around her sister's neck with a chortle. Lewis hadn't heard that version and questions Ashley mercilessly. Then he storms out with Ashley on his heels. Casey calls later that evening insistent that they meet immediately. When Haven sees her, Casey tells her that Rick dumped her. Haven does what she can to comfort her.





## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Nine and Ten Analysis

Haven can't believe how much can change in just a couple of months. Even her best friend Casey went from a short, shy, redheaded girl who was too nervous around boys to even meet their eyes and took tap-dancing lessons to an angry, defiant and slightly paranoid young woman whose only interest is in the next time she would see her boyfriend. She meets Haven at the mall for the Saturday 'Back to School Fall Preview Fashion Show' and it turns out to be a disaster. To begin with, Gwendolyn is not ready to be making public appearances, and looks nothing like the beautiful model she once was. The show itself bombs as the models come out in ever more revealing clothing and suggestive stances when the theme of the event is supposed to be centered on a return to school. A photo opportunity afterward puts Gwendolyn into an emotional tailspin and her mother has to come to her aid. Haven introduces Casey to Sumner when they run into him in the mall, and is immediately sorry as her 'best friend' puts on her own suggestive act and later tells Haven that she would actively pursue Sumner if he were her friend. Haven is disappointed and disturbed by her friend's attitude and how it cheapens the relationship she so values with Sumner.

Ashley attends her bachelorette party and is dropped off at the front door with swivel sticks in her hair and a pair of underwear around her neck. Haven helps her in, and gets her to the couch. She covers her up but leaves the panties behind purposely. The next morning, when Lewis chastises her for allowing herself to get so drunk that she is sorry for it the next morning, Haven can't help but add the part about the underpants necklace she'd come home in, and that starts a fight between Lewis and Ashley that has him walking out on her. Ashley is livid, and sends daggers with her eyes in Haven's direction as she tries to repair the damage. Lewis leaves, still angry. Later, Casey calls with an emergency and when Haven meets her, she announces that Rick broke up with her. Haven finds herself in the position of having to comfort her friend after a break up - a situation about which she has no first hand knowledge.





# Book Two: That Summer: Chapter Eleven

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapter Eleven Summary

Three days before the wedding, Lorna and her father return from a promotional tour to the Bahamas, bringing back a shell wind chime for Haven. The day before Ashley's wedding, Lakeview Mall has a sale and Haven is accosted by a woman who thinks Haven is responsible for the fact that she can't get her child the exact sneaker in the correct size. Aggravated, she throws the sneaker hitting Haven in the forehead. Haven snaps. She grabs the shoe and chases the woman, and flings the shoe right back, hitting the woman in the same place. She begins to holler, insisting she'll see Haven fired and seeking mall security for what she calls an assault. Haven runs out of the mall, not even stopping when Sumner's voice is calling her name. By the time she reaches the neighborhood park, Haven is trying to figure out what happened. She crawls into the space under the main slide which has been her hiding place since second grade. She lets her mind drift back to that one summer when everything was good which eventually leads her to the day when Ashley said goodbye to Sumner. Nothing was the same again. She dozes for a time, and then heads home. She gets home to conversations surrounding the wedding party, and hears Lydia, Ashley and her mother talking about which usher they can bump to compensate for Carol's cancellation at the last moment. When Haven walks in, her mother calls out to her, saying she got a call from Burt and wanting to know if everything was okay. Haven doesn't want to talk about it, and says so, despite her mother's efforts. She reminds Haven that she is supposed to go shopping with her father for Ashley's wedding gift and downstairs Ashley is convinced that Haven will ruin her wedding on purpose. When her father shows up, Haven is sitting on the swing, unsure of whether or not he can see her. He honks the horn, but Haven stays put, hoping he will get out and cross the imaginary line she's just realized is there. He honks again, turning around in the driveway, and without coming to the door, he pulls out and leaves.

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapter Eleven Analysis

It is three days before the wedding and Ashley is coming apart. Casey locks herself in her room and is there for three days without eating, upset about her breakup with Rick. Haven is beginning to resent everything around her, but at the same time, seems to be changing in other ways as well. For the first time in many years, Haven feels as though she fits inside her tall and lanky body. She is beyond impatient however and the fact that Lakeview Mall is having a huge sale the day before Ashley's wedding isn't helping. One particularly nasty woman becomes quite angry when Haven can't accommodate her every whim, and throws a shoe in her direction. It bounces off a table, hitting Haven in the forehead and is the last straw. A mass of prior abuse from Ashley, emotional storms and tantrums culminate in that moment in Haven's mind as she storms after the



woman, finally tapping her on the shoulder to get her attention, and returns the shoe in the same fashion, knowing full well that her job is likely finished. At that moment, Haven no longer cares. She leaves the woman hollering for security, and exits the mall, giving in to her desire to just leave it all behind her. She can hear Sumner calling, but even that isn't enough to stop her. When she stops running, she finds herself in the park and folds herself into the space she found as a child under the slide. Now, her tall body barely fits, but she pulls her legs to herself and feeling safe and secure, she dozes. Later, when she wakes, she heads home, knowing somehow that she is fired. She wonders if charges will follow. On the way home, she thinks about that one perfect summer, knowing it is the point at which everything changed. Before, she remembers games, laughter, and warmth of family and friends, and afterward, like Ashley's relationship with Sumner, everything felt fractured. At home, she walks into a discussion surrounding Carol's withdrawal from the wedding party, and while her mother tries to stop her and talk to her about the call she received from her boss, it is not as high on the list of priorities as Ashley's wedding the next day. Her mother follows her to her room, and speaking softly, she asks Haven what happened, but Haven, just as softly, insists that she doesn't want to discuss any of it. Knowing this is a battle she won't win, her mother quietly reminds Haven that her father is coming over to pick her up. When he arrives, Haven is sitting on the swing. She sees him pull up, and hears as he honks the horn, but something makes her stay put. Part of her wants him to come and get her. She wants him to cross the threshold he so easily walked away from and pick her up. She needs to know that she matters at least that much. He honks the horn, and still she waits as he uses the driveway to turn around. Finally, he gives up, and leaves without so much as having gotten out of the vehicle.



# Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Twelve and Thirteen

## Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Twelve and Thirteen Summary

Haven retreats to her room and climbs into bed. She dozes, ignoring her mother's questions, and wakes hot and sweaty after a bad dream. She showers and feeling confident for a change, she exchanges words with Ashley and leaves her speechless after telling her to shut up. Downstairs, Haven makes something to eat, accepting her mother's invitation to sit with her and Lydia. She too asks Haven if she is okay and if she wants to talk about it, but Haven assures her she doesn't and apologizing, she leaves the house. Casey offers to meet Haven, but Haven isn't ready to share the way she feels with anyone. She hangs up, and hears Sumner's car. He pulls onto a side road a block ahead. She walks towards him and finds him at the Senior's home. She goes into the home and hears one woman comment on how beautiful she is. She finds Sumner and watches as he leads an elderly woman onto the dance floor. As each new song begins, he waits to see who isn't called on and then escorts that woman onto the dance floor. When he sees Haven, he invites her to dance the last dance with him. She doesn't know how, but Sumner is undeterred, offering to teach her. Haven closes her eyes and listens to the music as Sumner leads her around. The elderly couples all clap when the music ends. Once outside, he asks her what is wrong. They talk about the summer they all shared, and Sumner wants to take her home, but Haven isn't ready to go there. Finally, he pulls over and tries to talk to her, but Haven is convinced that when Ashley sent Sumner away, she became the catalyst that changed everything, and for that, Haven hates her. Sumner tries to explain, but Haven isn't listening insisting that it is all Ashley's fault. Storm clouds are gathering, and when he again wants to take her home, Haven gets out of the car and runs, ignoring his pleas to stop. She turns down a path, sure it will take her somewhere familiar as the rain soaks her. There are no lights or houses and, disoriented, Haven runs harder, running right into Gwendolyn who is also sopping wet. They stand there, looking at each other until Ashley's voice calls to Haven. When Haven answers, Gwendolyn turns and runs in the opposite direction. Ashley finds her and Haven asks her why she broke up with Sumner, finally learning the truth. Sumner had been unfaithful, and broken her sister's heart. At first she doesn't believe her, but the look on Ashley's face says it all. He was her first, she says and as such, broke her heart in a way that no one else could. The first one is always the hardest to get over, she tells Haven, and after a bit, Haven realizes she is right. She thinks about telling her, but between sisters, some things are just understood.

The next day is the wedding, and Haven's mother holds her hand as they head for the car. The night before they had let her out of the rehearsal, and had sat in the kitchen drinking wine and talking about days gone by, laughing as they hadn't in many years. Haven knows things will change now, and part of her wants to find Ashley and tell her



she understands, but there is no time. The music begins, and Haven walks up the aisle, taking her place and watching as her sister walks towards her. Uncharacteristic tears stream down her face, and Ashley steps away from their father and hugs Haven tightly, telling her she loves her. Haven knows then that life is ahead of them, and that her sister is right. The first boy is the most difficult.

## **Book Two: That Summer: Chapters Twelve and Thirteen Analysis**

She lays in bed for another hour after waking, listening to the sounds of Ashley packing the last of her things. Finally, she gets up and showers. Getting out, she stands in front of the mirror and for the first time, she feels as though she fits in her body. Ashley calls her to her room, and tells her she is concerned about her attitude towards their mother. Ashley asks her to stop being so selfish and to put her adolescent breakdown aside until after the wedding. Discovering a new layer of strength and boldness, Haven tells her to shut up and leaves before Ashley can react. Unsure of where to go or what to do, Haven calls Casey to find out that her mother has already called her several times. Casey wants to meet Haven, but Haven isn't ready to talk to anyone. She assures Casey she is fine and hangs up. She walks aimlessly until she hears Sumner's car. It is as though he is always near when she needs him somehow. She watches him turn the corner up ahead, and walks after him, finding him at the Senior's center. Inside, she watches as he uses his charm to make even the wall flowers come to life as he twirls them carefully around the dance floor. When the last song is announced, he invites Haven to dance. Reluctant because she doesn't know how, she hangs back, but Sumner talks her into a quick lesson. In his arms, she allows herself to relax, and soon finds herself swaying in time to the music as though she'd done it many times before. The seniors watching all clap when they finish. Sumner walks out to the car with her and asks her what is wrong, knowing her well enough that she is unable to hide the way she feels. She tries to talk to him about Ashley, but he begins making excuses for her, and insists on taking her home. Finally, Haven jumps out of the car, oblivious of the storm that is pelting her. She runs down a path, ignoring his calls, and runs into Gwendolyn in the dark. They stand, staring at each other, each recognizing a kindred spirit. Gwendolyn smiles softly, and the sound of Ashley's voice breaks the spell of the moment. Gwendolyn turns and disappears as Ashley reaches Haven, relieved that she is okay. On the way home, Haven finally confronts her about her breakup with Sumner. Ashley tries to explain, finally making Haven understand that she wasn't the one who initiated the end of the relationship and that having cheated on her, Sumner had broken her heart. It was damage that couldn't be repaired. Finally, Haven understands.

Once they are back at the house, her mother hugs her fiercely, telling her how worried she'd been about her. They sit at the kitchen table together, Haven, Ashley and their mother, drinking wine and ginger ale, and laughing... remembering good times gone by. Haven finally files the break up of Sumner and Ashley, no longer holding her responsible. She wants to tell her sister everything she is feeling, but the moment doesn't present itself, and suddenly the day has arrived. Her mother looks at her in her



dress, extolling how beautiful she is, and Haven feels closer to her in that moment than she has in some time. All of her anger and resentment is gone, and Haven knows that they are headed into the future together. She knows that her sister will be a big part of her life, and as she walks down the aisle towards them, the tears stream down Haven's cheeks. Seeing her, Ashley steps away from their father, and hugs her close, telling her she loves her. In that moment, Haven knows her sister understands most of what she wants her to, and that this is a new beginning. Haven also acknowledges that Ashley is right when she says the first boy is the most difficult.



# Characters

## Halley Cooke (Someone Like You)

Halley is fifteen years old, and works at a local grocery store called Milton's Market where she and her best friend Scarlett are cashiers. Though they have both been working extra shifts to make enough money to go to the beach, her mother insists that Halley attend a two week camp experience called Camp Believe where along with the usual camp experiences, she would also attend seminars for self improvement. Halley argues without success, and is forced to go. A week before the experience ends, Scarlett calls Halley at camp to tell her that Michael has been killed in an accident, and telling Halley that she needs her. Knowing her friend wouldn't ask unless she did, Halley promises to be there soon. She calls her mother who is less than enthusiastic about having to come and get her early. She tries to dissuade Halley, but Halley is determined, and her mother finally relents.

Halley is about an inch and three quarters taller than her best friend Scarlett. She has long hair, and thick eyelashes and eyebrows. Quiet and shy by nature, Halley doesn't mind the attention that her best friend gets, or the fact that she is forever known as "Scarlett's best friend, Halley." When Halley pictures herself, it is as though she is unfinished - a work in progress. The outlines are there, but she is missing the colors and definition that will make her whole.

Halley was named after her grandmother, who was born on the night when comet Halley was making its way across the sky. Years later, when Halley was six, she and her parents watched it again and she sat with her grandmother, hearing the story that linked their names. To her, it bound them in a way that made them special. When Scarlett delivers her daughter, and extends the name Halley to her as well, Halley hopes that one day she will have the same opportunity to share the story that binds them.

## Scarlett Thomas (Someone Like You)

Scarlett has red hair with auburn highlights and eyes so green that they are almost luminous. In the sun, her hair has a deeper color with streaks that make her look even more naturally beautiful. Her pale skin is full of freckles that slowed as she grew up and now just appear as a sprinkling across her nose. Scarlett is just a bit shorter than Halley and is naturally and unconsciously beautiful. To Halley, she always seemed exotic and foreign in a way that made her secretly jealous of her best friend. Of the two of them, Scarlett is usually braver, and livelier than Halley. She has been running her household, and looking after her mother since she was just five years old, playing mother to the thirty-five year old woman who is supposed to be raising her.

Scarlett met Halley when she was just eleven years old on the day that they moved into Lakeview. At the time, she had been wearing blue tennis shoes which were offset by her



red hair. She wore heart shaped glasses, and at first ignored Halley completely. They became friends however and Halley tended to depend on her for emotional support and guidance.

Scarlett turns to her best friend, Halley, when she learns that her boyfriend Micheal Sherwood was in an accident. When Michael dies, Halley sees Scarlett cry for the first time. Until then, Scarlett had always appeared to be the ever capable, emotional rock, who looked after her thirty-five year old mother and had punched out the meanest girl in school the first summer they'd been there.

To Halley, Scarlett has always seemed to be exotic in a foreign kind of way. Halley and Scarlett live what seems to be parallel lives. They seem to go through all of the same things at the same time.

## **Michael Alex Sherwood (Someone Like You)**

Michael died on August 13th when the he and the motorcycle he was riding were hit by a man driving a BMW. He was only sixteen at the time of his death. Michael had gone to California after middle school, and had grown up some while he was gone, returning tanned, tall and handsome - the boy to be dating. He went out with Ginny for a heartbeat, and then for a few months he dated Elizabeth Gunderson (the head cheerleader). His best friend was Macon Faulkner and he was famous for playing pranks on substitute teachers. Michael had a habit of asking everyone he met for a dollar in exchange for a story - most of which were outlandish and entertaining. He didn't fit in with the 'in' crowd with their varsity jackets and soccer team players. Instead, he and Macon Faulkner could often be seen walking down the street, laughing and smoking cigarettes. They were unusual, and not afraid to be different, which of course only added to their appeal.

Michael got a job at Milton's Market, and in no time at all he had made friends with everyone, although his attraction to Scarlett was immediately obvious.

## **Ginny Tabor (Someone Like You)**

Ginny lives just a few miles away from Scarlett and Halley, in a development of Tudor houses called the Arbors. Scarlett had met Ginny at the pool while Halley had been at the Grand Canyon with her family. Ginny, a cheerleader, has a wild side and a reputation for more than her cheers with the football team. Her mother is a chain smoker who weighs only about eighty pounds and her father is a dentist.

Ginny dated Michael for a very short time before he began seeing Elizabeth Gunderson. Though their time together was shorter than most haircuts take, she still comes undone at his funeral, sobbing as though he was her long lost love.





## **Noah Vaughn (Someone Like You)**

Noah is Halley's first boyfriend, meaning that they kissed occasionally and talked on the phone a lot. He is a skinny, tall boy with acne and thick black hair. His parents and Halley's parents are best friends, and as such, Halley's break up with Noah probably bothered Halley's mother more than it affected her. Noah is in the eleventh grade. He spends most of his weekend nights with his parents and Halley's watching movies, and after their break up, sulks as though by doing so he might convince Halley to change her mind.

Noah has a younger sister named Clara who loves Halley.

## **Macon Faulkner (Someone Like You)**

Macon has blond hair that he wears cut short and has three silver hoops in one ear. He usually wears a baseball cap, and is not fond of rules. Though he attends the same school as Halley and Scarlett, he is known to skip out whenever the mood strikes him. He tries to tell Halley how to keep out of trouble when he sees her in the office. Macon is a little lost after Michael dies. When he discovers that he and Halley share P.E., he attends that class frequently, and Halley looks forward to seeing him. He finally asks Halley out, inviting her to a party and though Halley manages to show up, she and Scarlett can't find him anywhere. They head home, and Scarlett tells Halley that Macon could consider himself lucky if Halley were to choose him. Though they don't find Macon at the party, he shows up at Halley's house shortly afterward. Macon goes out with Halley for some time before he begins to get more insistent that they take things to the next level. He can't understand why Halley isn't willing to have sex with him and the more he pressures, the more difficult it is. When Christmas comes, he and Halley argue about it, and she tells him that she wants to spend New Year's Eve with him. He picks her up a block away as usual, and takes her to a party, but the night doesn't go the way he hopes it will. Halley drinks too much, and by the time he returns to her, having left her in a bedroom upstairs, she is feeling sick. She tries to excuse herself, but Macon becomes angry. He takes her home and is so angry that on the way he gets them into an accident. It is the wake up call that has Halley splitting up with him. Macon is sorry and apologetic, but Halley doesn't yield. Macon skips more and more classes, and finally dates Elizabeth Gunderson.

## **Mr. Averby (Someone Like You)**

Mr. Averby is Halley and Scarlett's boss at Milton's Market.

## **Julie Cooke (Someone Like You)**

Halley's mother, Julie Cooke, is a therapist by trade, and specializes in adolescent behavior. She has written two books on the subject, conducted many seminars and





appeared on local talk shows. Despite her education and background, she still has difficulty dealing with her own daughter.

## **Mr. Kramer (Someone Like You)**

Halley's family's neighbor in Lakeview, Mr. Kramer does not appreciate the new airport and the constant plane traffic that has resulted, claiming it has given him high blood pressure. He is even less impressed when Halley begins dating Macon, and Macon begins his habit of honking his horn to get Halley's attention, leaving rubber on the pavement when he leaves, or just idling outside at the stop sign for extended periods.

## **Ruth (Someone Like You)**

Director of Sisterhood Camp, Ruth is the one who allows Scarlett to talk to Halley at midnight when she calls to deliver the news that Michael Sherwood is dead. Impatient at first, her attitude soon changes to concern when she overhears that someone has actually died. She has short hair and wears Birkenstocks.

## **Marion Thomas (Someone Like You)**

Scarlett's mother, Marion Thomas, works at the Fabulous You in the Lakeview Mall. She spends forty hours a week helping people get dressed up fancy and then takes their pictures as they sit, wearing way too much makeup and holding an empty champagne glass. The pictures are supposed to be the kind of come hither photo that you would give to a boyfriend or husband. It is a difficult job. Marion has bleached blond hair that she maintains monthly, and the same green eyes as her daughter. She reminds Halley of a living, real life Barbie.

## **Elizabeth Gunderson (Someone Like You)**

Elizabeth dated Michael before he started seeing Scarlett, and takes the news of his death hard. She goes from sobbing theatrically at the funeral to quitting her position as head cheerleader and slumming. Now, she is dating someone who is the lead singer of a college band, and wearing clothes that intentionally make her look morbid and morose and most of her friends are still following suit. She wears jeans that are ripped intentionally, and styles her hair to look stringy on purpose, having gone from the homecoming queen to chain smoking.

## **Grandma Halley (Someone Like You)**

Born in May of 1910, her father had been watching the comet pass overhead as his wife had given birth to Grandma Halley, and thought the name appropriate. Grandma Halley suffers from Alzheimer's and is deteriorating. A phone call reveals that she has fallen



and lay unable to help herself for some time before she was discovered. Soon after, she is placed in a home.

## **Dr. Roberts (Someone Like You)**

Scarlett's maternity doctor is Dr. Roberts.

## **Grace Halley Thomas (Someone Like You)**

Grace Halley Thomas is the name that Scarlett gives to the daughter she has as a result of her relationship with Michael.

## **Haven McPhail (That Summer)**

Haven is five feet eleven inches tall, and despite her prayers, the growth shows no signs of letting up. Haven takes after her father, a calm and balancing force while her sister Ashley is more emotional, like their mother. Haven is struggling with the changes that are occurring in her life. The events lay themselves out like toy soldiers, and every time she thinks it all the way through, she comes to one inescapable fact. The changes all began when Ashley first said goodbye to Sumner, breaking up with him on Halloween. Since then, she had met and become engaged to Lewis, her father and mother had separated and divorced, her father was engaged to be remarried, and her mother began talking about selling the house and moving them into an apartment. Slowly but surely, Haven's life comes unraveled, and her along with it. Although Haven has always been the type to go along and get along rather than make waves, this too changes. She becomes more and more frustrated, and then angry with the changes in life, changing from the quiet and reserved young woman who wished she could shrink a foot to a more forceful, and outgoing type of person. Everything comes to a head the day before her sister's wedding when Halley loses her composure at work. She is dealing with a particularly difficult woman who can't get what she wants and throws a shoe in Halley's general direction, hitting her in the head. Halley storms after her, and returns the favor before simply leaving the mall. In that instant, she grows into herself a little bit. When she returns home, her mother tries to talk to her, but Haven retreats to her room and sleeps. When she wakes, Ashley tries to talk to her, but Halley tells her to shut up and walks out - a first that leaves her sister speechless. Her father is supposed to pick her up afterward, but when he arrives, Halley refuses to go out to where he waits, honking his horn. Stubborn as she is, he waits for a while before leaving her behind without so much as coming to the door.

Halley's anger stems from her sister's break up with Sumner. What she doesn't know is that Sumner cheated on her which is what caused the breakup. It also broke her sister's heart. When she learns this, her bond with her sister returns. She realizes that her sister understands most of what she wants her to, and loves her.



## Ashley McPhail (That Summer)

Ashley and her mother share a flair for the stage that Haven doesn't have. She is twenty-one years old and stands five foot four inches tall. She has a figure that most women wish they'd been born with and hair that always seems to look perfect. Tiny feet and a small frame combined with inner strength make Ashley a package to be reckoned with. As a varsity cheerleader, Ashley had always taken her place at the top of the pyramid. She had dated and later split up with the football team's captain and always seemed to live a lifestyle that came straight out of a Barbie magazine. Ashley has a butterfly tattoo on the inside of her left ankle - a remnant of a wilder youth that she left behind when she became engaged to Lewis Warsher.

Ashley sells Vive cosmetics at Dillard's department store. She thrives in the glamour market and Halley loves it when her sister helps her to 'get ready'. Ashley and Halley's relationship becomes strained when life altering changes occur and Halley blames her sister's break up with Sumner, believing it to be the catalyst that changed everything else. Ashley finally has an opportunity to explain the truth to her sister, and mend the rift that has steadily grown between them.

Ashley's wedding is beautiful, and when she comes up the aisle to see Halley with tears streaming down her face, she hugs her sister fiercely, and whispers that she loves her.

## Mac McPhail (That Summer)

Haven's father, Mac marries Lorna Queen - another employee of WTSB's Channel 5 team. Mac is the sports anchor and shares the news desk with Lorna. He is a beer drinking teller of stories and tall tales who came home one day and simply announced that he had fallen for the 'Weather Pet' and broke his wife's heart. Mac is a larger than life kind of character. When he starts dating Lorna, he begins the transformation into a younger looking man to match his younger looking 'trophy' wife. He begins hair implants to replace the hair loss at the top of his head, and a short month after the wedding, Lorna announces on television that they are expecting.

## Lorna Queen-McPhail (That Summer)

Haven's father marries Lorna Queen of Lorna Queen's Weather Scene on WTSB News Channel 5, much to Haven's and Ashley's disappointment. Although the girls reveal nothing, neither is thrilled with the fact that he hurt their mother to the degree that he did. Lorna is a meteorologist - blond and almost too cheerful in a pastel suit. She is Mac's trophy wife, and a month after they are married, she announces she is pregnant.



## **Sumner Lee (That Summer)**

Sumner had met Ashley at the beginning of tenth grade, just before Haven turned ten. Sumner is slim, has bright blue eyes and curly, black hair. He speaks with an Alabama accent, and likes to wear beat up high top Converse sneakers that make noise when he walks. He has a terrific sense of humor and seems to lead a charmed life. Sumner is the only one who ever brought out Ashley's fun side, and had shown her how to enjoy all aspects of her life. When they had been together she was always smiling.

## **Lewis Warsher (That Summer)**

Ashley's fiance, Lewis is a neat dresser, who still manages to make Ashley swoon whenever she sees him. Lewis and Ashley are to be married on August nineteenth.

## **Casey Melvin (That Summer)**

Casey is Haven's best friend. She is gone for most of the summer at 4-H camp, and while there, discovers how much she likes boys. One in particular, Rick, is her new boyfriend who lives in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She already has plans to go there for Thanksgiving to see him.

Casey is a redhead who has the kind of hair that could be described as pumpkin in color, and it is offset by a million freckles.

## **Charlie Baker (That Summer)**

Charlies Baker is a news anchor for WTSB's Channel 5.

## **Tess Phillips (That Summer)**

Tess Phillips is a news anchor for WTSB's Channel 5.

## **Carol Cliffordson (That Summer)**

Carol is a twenty-one year old distant cousin who lives in Akron, Ohio. When she and Ashley had both been twelve years old, Carol's parents divorced and Carol had come to spend a week with Ashley and her family, creating a bond that Ashley remembers when it comes to planning her wedding. The first problem reveals itself with the choice of dresses which Carol doesn't like.



## Gwendolyn Rogers (That Summer)

Gwendolyn is a small town girl who makes it big in the modeling industry. She is tall and beautiful, and went to Newport High just like Haven and Casey had. Gwendolyn manages to become a local celebrity. She travels to Milan, L.A. and even New York, doing covers like Vogue with advice on makeup and seasonal fashions.

Gwendolyn has a nervous breakdown and returns home after being badly hurt by a photographer she had been seeing. She had intended to marry him, but caught him in bed with a sixteen year old girl. Avoiding everyone now, she wanders the streets at night, suffering from insomnia, and keeps to herself. When asked to introduce this year's fashion show, she does so, but the photographs taken at the end push her over the edge and her mother has to rescue her from the stage where she crumples.

Haven runs into Gwendolyn on the path on the rainy night before her sister's wedding and for a brief time, shares an understanding into Gwendolyn's mindset.

## Lydia Catrell

Lydia is a widow who moves in next door to Haven, Ashley and their mother. She has frosted hair, and wears bright short sets and sandals. Her lifestyle is equally colorful, and she soon brings Haven's mother out of her shell. Within a month, she is going out every Thursday night to Ranzino's at the Holiday Inn to listen to music and go dancing. Lydia also belongs to a travel club and talks Haven's mother into going with her, first to Las Vegas, and then to Europe.

Lydia has had and raised four daughters and her experience in weddings gives her the position of wedding planner for Ashley's wedding.



# Objects/Places

## Camp Believe (Sisterhood Camp)

Camp Believe (Sisterhood Camp) is an isolated camp where girls are supposed to be able to improve themselves as women. Afternoon seminars include self help groups like "Peer Pressure: Where Do I Fit In" or "Like Mother, Like Me" and activities include swimming, horseback riding and lanyard making.

## Lakeview

The neighborhood that Halley and Scarlett live in, Lakeview is comprised of several cul-de-sacs and streets that are bracketed by signs that assure everyone that Lakeview is a neighborhood of friends. The new airport is located only three miles away, creating a constant onslaught of airplanes landing or taking off above them.

## The Arbors

A development of fancy Tudor houses that includes a golf course, pool and country club, The Arbors is where Ginny and her family lives.

## Milton's Market

Milton's Market is the grocery store in which Scarlett and Halley both worked and where Michael later got a job as the Junior Assistant to the Produce Day Manager.

## Aspire

The kind of car that Scarlett drives is an Aspire.

## Topper Lake

A twenty minute drive from Halley's house, Topper Lake is where Macon takes her for her birthday.

## Alfredo's

Halley's parents celebrate Halley's sixteenth birthday with her at Alfredo's.



## **So You're Pregnant - What Now?**

So You're Pregnant - What Now? is the title of a book that becomes a bible for Halley and Scarlett as Scarlett's pregnancy evolves.

## **Teen Mothers Support Group**

Scarlett joins a Teen Mothers Support Group at the urging of guidance counselor, Mrs. Bagbie, which meets two days a week.

## **Evergreen Rest Care Facility**

The home that Grandma Halley is staying in after her fall is the Evergreen Rest Care Facility.

## **Lamaze**

Lamaze lessons are pre-delivery classes that most first time mothers take, and that Halley attends with Scarlett.

## **Seventeen**

Seventeen is a teen magazine that Scarlett and Halley spent a great deal of their youth pouring over.

## **Prom**

Prom is a celebration for graduates.

## **Myrtle Beach (That Summer)**

Ashley got her yellow butterfly tattoo on the inside of her left ankle at Myrtle Beach.

## **Little Feet**

Little Feet is the children's shoe store where Haven begins working in Lakeview Mall when she is just fifteen, and has since been promoted to assistant sales person.





## **Vengo**

Vengo is the name of the Italian restaurant that Haven's father takes her on the first Thursday night regular dinner they have after his honeymoon, and where Haven sees Sumner.

## **Pop Tarts**

Haven's breakfast of choice is Pop Tarts.

## **Senior's Center**

Sumner goes to dance with seniors for cash at the Senior's Center.

## **Lakeview Mall**

Halley works at Little Feet and Sumner works as a security guard at Lakeview Mall

## **Ranzino's**

The name of the pub at the Holiday Inn where Lydia begins taking Haven's mother every Thursday night is Ranzino's.

## **Las Vegas**

Las Vegas is the first place that Lydia takes Haven's mother along with her travel club.

## **The Old-Timers**

The Old-Timers is the name of the travel club to which Lydia belongs to and in which she involves Haven's mother.



# Themes

## Love vs Sex (Someone Like You)

In Book 1: *Someone Like You*, Scarlett decides to have sex with her boyfriend Michael who had only two weeks previously had told her he loved her for the first time. They'd done everything right. They'd waited until they were with someone they loved before having sex for the first time. They had used a condom, but it had failed. Still they hadn't panicked. No one gets pregnant the first time, right? Scarlett soon learns she was wrong. Not only does she find herself expecting, but also must face the issue alone but for her best friend Halley. Her mother is insistent that she abort the baby at first, and when Scarlett is unable to do so, she turns her attention to giving the baby up for adoption, despite Scarlett's insistence that she is going to keep her baby; and the father of the baby, Michael, is killed in an accident the day after Scarlett loses her virginity to him. Despite the obstacles against her, Scarlett, though fearful, keeps her composure and bonds with and then delivers her baby.

Scarlett struggles with the decisions that her best friend Halley makes during this time. While Scarlett is dealing with the enormity of her responsibility, Halley is contemplating having sex with Michael's former best friend Macon because he is tired of waiting for her to put out. She isn't proclaiming her undying love for Macon or his for her. Instead, she is concerned that her reluctance to put out is driving Macon away. Scarlett tries to help Halley, telling her that she is making a decision for the wrong reasons, but Halley thinks Scarlett is comparing too much of her own situation with Halley's and they argue.

Before Halley sleeps with Macon, she has an epiphany. Having met Macon behind her mother's back on New Year's Eve, Halley had decided to sleep with him, but after having too much to drink and smoke, she is ill at a critical moment and chickens out. Angry, Macon drives her home, getting into an accident on the way. She hears him tell her to hold on, and hears him say he loves her for the first time, but oddly, now it is too late. Her time with Macon is over. Lying in the hospital, Halley realizes that she isn't willing to give her virginity to someone who doesn't think it is a big deal the first time. She realizes that she deserves more.

## Family Ties That Bind (That Summer)

In Book 2: *That Summer*, Haven drifts from her family for a time, when it seems that everything around her is coming apart at the seams. The trouble begins when Haven's father tells her mother that he is leaving her for the 'Weather Pet', Lorna Queen from his station. He moves out, shattering the family unit, and for a time, Haven's mother is devastated, but then Lydia moves in next door and the healing begins. For Haven however, the family isn't a balanced unit anymore. Where once she and her father who share a calm and unflappable demeanor had been the balance for her mother and Ashley who tend to be overly emotional or dramatic, now Haven faces them on her own.



The next change had come when Ashley announced her engagement to Lewis. It is then that Haven begins to blame Ashley for having split up with Sumner. In Haven's mind, Sumner had been the only one who ever made her sister happy. The summer that Sumner spent with them at the beach is one of Haven's happiest memories, and one of her saddest is the day that she announced that she couldn't see Sumner anymore.

Filled with resentment, Haven becomes angrier and angrier. She manages to behave herself through her father's wedding, but as her sister's wedding approaches and her mother suggests they sell the house, she begins to unravel. Sumner's return to the area only makes things worse as her memory of their past is still so vivid in her mind. Haven withdraws into herself more and more, and the day before Ashley's wedding is when it all comes to a head. When Ashley finally finds Haven wandering in the woods in the rain and the dark, she takes her home, questioning her recent behavior and demeanor. Finally Haven just asks her sister why she ever split up with the guy that Haven had been convinced was perfect for her. Ashley explains that Sumner had cheated on her and broken her heart, answering all of Haven's questions at once. Ashley, in the position of big sister, tells Haven that the first boy is always the hardest, and giving it some thought, Haven has to agree. Now, knowing the truth, she hugs her sister and words are unnecessary. As Ashley walks up the aisle to her husband to be, she stops to hug Haven and tell her she loves her. Haven knows that everything will be fine and the future looks bright.

## Ugly Duckling Syndrome (Both Books)

In both of these stories, a young girl is struggling to find herself and her place in life. In *Someone Like You*, Halley sees herself as little more than an outline - a shadow of what is yet to come. She is content to be in the shadows while her best friend Scarlett is in the spotlight. Known as Halley, Scarlett's best friend, is okay by her. When Macon begins to pay attention to her, at first she is surprised that he would want anything to do with her at all. Scarlett tells her that Macon should consider himself fortunate if Halley thinks him worthy of dating. This message doesn't get through, but after dating for several weeks, Halley begins to feel differently. Macon pressures her to have sex with him, but Halley is reluctant. It would be her first time, and her instincts are guiding her, telling her that she shouldn't. Macon becomes angry, causing an accident that wakes Halley up. She realizes that she is worthy of love, and of having someone believe she is beautiful.

In *That Summer*, Haven is facing a similar issue. Haven is just shy of six feet tall and is just fifteen. Her height is a constant source of embarrassment to her and as a result, she slouches to try to appear shorter. Haven feels as though she doesn't fit in her body. Her sister Ashley is perfect and petite, with small feet and a perfectly proportioned body. Haven struggles to fit in, and is too aware that her body has still not stopped growing. Haven finds herself one morning just before her sister's wedding. She is standing in front of the mirror when she realizes that she suddenly fits into herself. It is a magical moment and it is the first time that she hasn't felt too tall, or too skinny to fit in.

Many young girls face the ugly duckling syndrome, where parts of them grow either slower or faster than others. It is a gift of adulthood that generally evens things out, and enables us to see the real beauty that lies within us all.



# Style

## Point of View

Someone Like You, by Sarah Dessen is a fictional story for young adults that is told in the first person perspective by the main character, Halley Cooke. In this tale, Halley's best friend Scarlett loses her boyfriend in an accident just after they have sex for the first time. The condom breaks and Scarlett finds herself pregnant, and without the baby's father to help. Her mother immediately insists on an abortion, but Scarlett is unable to go through with it. She decides to keep Michael's baby. Meanwhile, her best friend Halley becomes involved with Michael's best friend Macon. Macon is a wild child who likes to party and lives life on the edge. Halley is astounded that he even gives her a second look. She begins spending more and more time with him, despite her parent's objections. When he pressures her to have sex with him, she resists, but as time goes on, he becomes increasingly distant. Halley decides that to keep him, she should sleep with him. Scarlett advises against it, but Halley isn't listening. She sneaks out with Macon on New Year's Eve, intending to have sex with him, but changes her mind when she sees where he takes her. The party is loud and the house is a pig pen. Upstairs, the bedroom smells like cat litter and the bed is only now being vacated by the young couple who rutted before them. Halley changes her mind, becoming physically ill, and Macon finally loses his patience. In his anger driving her home, he gets into an accident which hospitalizes her. Halley grows up in that moment, realizing she wants more from life. She deserves to love, and to have a man who loves her. Halley says goodbye to Macon, and helps Scarlett to deliver a healthy baby girl.

That Summer, by Sarah Dessen is a fictional story for young adults that is told in the first person perspective by Haven McPhail, the main character. In this story, Haven reveals the turmoil she feels as her mother and father divorce, and her father remarries. This is only the beginning of the changes that will occur. Her sister Ashley becomes engaged to Lewis, and their wedding falls close on the heels of her father's wedding to the weather girl at his station. Haven feels like her life is coming apart at the seams. Then Sumner returns to town, having left to attend school elsewhere. Sumner had dated Ashley and spent a summer with them at the beach. Around him, Ashley had laughed more, smiled more, and generally tolerated Haven more. As such, Haven had come to have strong feelings of friendship for Sumner, and had been devastated when her sister said goodbye to him. When he returns, it is as though it is a sign. He always seems to be near when Haven's life was coming apart. The more things had changed, the more Haven had come to believe that the changes all began when Ashley and Sumner split up. Haven blames her sister, hating her for the confusion and pain she feels until finally Ashley reveals the truth. Sumner hadn't been the perfect boyfriend that Haven had believed him to be. In fact, his cheating on Ashley is what split them up. This news changes things between Haven and her sister, and Haven realizes that Ashley had been devastated both by Sumner's behavior and her father's leaving. Between the two, she had almost lost her faith in men. Haven finally understands that her family will always be her family, and takes strength from it.



## Setting

Someone Like You, the first of the two novels this book contains, is set almost entirely in Lakeview, which is a neighborhood that encompasses several cul-de-sacs and streets that are bracketed by hand carved signs and wooden posts. The only other real distinguishing feature is the new airport. The story begins while Halley is at camp, one week into a two week stay. She gets a phone call from her best friend Scarlett who tells her that her boyfriend Michael was just killed in an accident. Devastated, she asks Halley to come home, and Halley does. Scarlett and Halley both have jobs at Milton's as cashiers. The story revolves around small town living and lifestyle.

That Summer, the second story in this book is also set in Lakeview. Haven works in Lakeview Mall at a children's shoe store called Little Feet. Most of the story is set between the mall, Haven's home, and the area in between like the park where Haven occasionally still hides from the world under the slide. Again, small town living reveals itself in the lack of privacy and the fact that everyone knows everyone else's business. This issue is fueled by one or two town gossips who make it their personal mission in life to keep everyone informed.

## Language and Meaning

Both of the stories contained in 'How to Deal' by Sarah Dessen are told in a format and manner that would be acceptable for a young adult audience. The language is straight forward and easy to understand, with most of the dialogue occurring between siblings or between young adults and their parents. The subject matter touches on some subjects which are sensitive to anyone who has a daughter or two, and realizes the difficulties they face when they begin to date. In the first story, Scarlett discovers she is pregnant. Though she had loved the young man with whom she'd slept, and they had used a condom, she soon learns that there are no guarantees in life. The condom broke, and two days later, the young man she loved enough to give her virginity to is killed in an accident. Her best friend Halley becomes both birthing coach and partner as Scarlett deals with the stresses of pregnancy, and faces the fact that she will be a single parent.

In the second story, Haven learns about trust and family. When the family unit dissolves, Haven struggles to cope with the myriad of changes. Her father leaves first, and then Ashley becomes engaged. Her father remarries shortly after leaving, and Ashley's wedding is set for soon after. In the midst of it all, her mother announces her intention to sell the house. Haven searches her mind for a time that was happy, and returns again and again to the summer that she and her family, along with Ashley's boyfriend Sumner, spent at the beach in Virginia. It was a happy time, and Haven comes to resent the changes that have occurred since. When the pressure builds to a crescendo, Haven finally snaps. Ashley finds her and brings her home again, on the way giving her a harsh dose of reality. The memories Haven has are wonderful, but not entirely accurate. Ashley hadn't initiated the break up that Haven believed started it all. In fact, Sumner had, with an act of unfaithfulness that Ashley couldn't and wouldn't forgive.



## Structure

How to Deal by Sarah Dessen is actually two complete novels joined in one book for their similarities. The first book, *Someone Like You*, consists of three main segments which are further divided into nineteen chapters. The first section, Part I, is titled *The Grand Canyon* and is four chapters in length. This section introduces Halley and Scarlett, and reveals Michael's death and the reaction that Scarlett has to losing her boyfriend and the first love of her life. The second segment, Part II, is titled *Someone Like You*, and is thirteen chapters in length. This segment deals with Halley and Macon, spanning the length of time that they dated, and reveals the reason for their break up. The third and final segment, Part III, is simply titled *Grace*. Comprised of only two chapters, this segment deals with the aftermath of Halley's accident, and the birth of Scarlett's daughter named Grace Halley Thomas. In all, this first book spans one hundred and eighty-one pages.

The second book, *That Summer*, consists of thirteen chapters containing a total of one hundred and twenty-five pages. These thirteen chapters are each between six and fifteen pages in length with most ranging between nine and eleven. Each chapter is labelled with the chapter number only, and there are no subheadings or subsections that further divide the segments.



## Quotes

"Well, maybe if you'd stayed the whole time you might have gotten more out of it." Ch. 1, Pg. 16

Halley's mother to Halley after she picks her up from camp to go home to lend her support to Scarlett after Michael's death.

"The Jedi Mind Trick is when you tell someone what you want them to think, and then they think it." Ch. 3, Pg. 40

Macon to Halley as they sit outside the Guidance office.

"I thought there was no way it could happen the first time." Ch. 5, Pg. 65

Scarlett to Halley as she reveals that she is pregnant and carrying Michael's baby, having had sex with him for the first time on the day before he died.

"This isn't about you, it's about Ginny and her huge mouth." Ch. 8, Pg. 93

Scarlett to Halley after Halley apologizes for the hundredth time for not noticing that Ginny was in a stall in the bathroom before she and Scarlett began their conversation about her baby.

"It's not like we're gonna go and get pregnant or anything." Ch. 9, Pg. 98

Scarlett to Marion as she is getting ready to go out, sarcastically referencing the fact that the horse is already out of the barn.

"The big deal is that this is my house and my bed, and my father is due home at any time." Chp. 11, Pg. 119

Halley to Macon as he gets increasingly bold and wants more from her.

"I know I'm doing the right thing and they can't make me think any different." Ch. 13, Pg. 131

Scarlett to Halley after her meeting with Mr. Averby.

"God, you just can't listen to me, you just can't understand that I might be right, I might know what's best, you always have to prove it to yourself, and look what happens, look at this..." Ch. 16, Pg. 155

Halley's mother to Halley after Macon crashes the car as he is taking her home.

"I'm going to make him just as happy as I can, and I'm so glad we're all going to be a family." Ch. 1, Pg. 16

Lorna to Halley and Ashley as she prepares to marry their father.

"I don't need anyone but Lewis and we're going to elope, I swear to God we are." Ch. 3, Pg. 30

Ashley to her mother and Lydia after she learns that Carol has called to say she can't attend.





"She has a breakdown just about every other day though." Ch. 5, Pg. 45  
Haven to her father in response to his query as to how Ashley is doing.

"She's probably grown another four feet and we'll have to get fitted later again." Ch. 7,  
Pg. 65  
Ashley to her mother as she complains about Haven's continued growth and the  
problems associated with it.

"He was hoping I'd just lose interest.... He didn't even have the guts to call me and tell  
me he had a new girlfriend." Ch. 10, Pg. 98  
Casey to Haven after Rick calls her long distance to break up with her.

"If you're accosting the customers and running out on your job, obviously something is  
going on that we need to discuss." Ch. 11, Pg. 105  
Haven's mother to Haven the day before Ashley's wedding, soon after Haven threw a  
shoe at a customer and walked out of her job at Little Feet.

"I have planned this day and done too much for too long for you to decide to ruin it  
purely out of spite." Ch. 12, Pg. 110  
Ashley to Haven on the afternoon before her wedding in an effort to break through  
whatever problem Haven is having.



## Topics for Discussion

Where is Halley sent two weeks before school starts again during summer vacation? Why doesn't she want to go? What are the plans that she had instead? Why does Halley qualify for a scholarship in this instance?

What does Halley's mother do for a living? What other extra curricular events or projects is she or was she involved in that tie into her profession? In what way might her education interfere with the manner in which she deals with her daughters and why?

What event brings Halley home early? Who needs Halley's help? What issues arise in the coming weeks that are affected by this event? What decisions must Scarlett make?

What is the first gift that Michael gives to Scarlett? What other gifts does he give her over time? What gift does Michael give her two weeks before he dies? Why does this last gift cause Scarlett so much pain?

What emergency does Scarlett have that requires Halley to join her in the restroom at work? What test has she taken, and how many times? What other signs are present to confirm this test?

How does Marion respond to the news when Scarlett tells her? What does she believe is the best solution to this situation? What plans does she make? What information does she want from Scarlett beforehand?

What does Scarlett do when Marion takes her to the clinic? Who does she call? Who else comes to her aid? What compromise is reached with Marion and who negotiates the truce between her and Scarlett? What is the outcome of this situation?

How much time does That Summer span? What are the major events that occur in this time period that change Haven's life so dramatically and how?

Who does Haven believe is the perfect mate for her sister Ashley? What brought her to this conclusion and why? What did Haven overhear that makes her believe that Ashley broke up with him and not the other way around?

Where does Haven's father work? What is his position there? How does his position affect the time he spends with Haven and in what way? Who does Haven see during the first meeting she and her father have after his wedding to Lorna?

How many jobs does Sumner have? What are they? Which one surprises Haven the most, and why? Which job does he have that benefits both Ashley and Haven at different times?

Who is Halley's father's new wife? Where did he meet her? What is her position? What nickname does she have and why? What is she called behind her back?



What happens the day before Ashley's wedding that creates chaos for Ashley? What compromise does she threaten in anger and frustration? What suggestions are made that will solve this issue?

Where and when does Halley finally lose her composure? What does she do? What is the outcome of her outburst? What does she do immediately afterward, and where?

What does Ashley tell Halley when she finds her in the woods? How does this change the way Halley has always believed things went? What words of wisdom does Ashley impart at this time?