

I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I'd Have to Kill You Study Guide

I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I'd Have to Kill You by Ally Carter

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Plot Summary

"I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" by Ally Carter is a novel about a sophomore girl who attends spy school. When Cammie meets Josh on a routine mission, she and her friends decide to investigate him which leads to Cammie's entrance into the world outside of Gallagher Academy. However, when her worlds collide, Cammie is forced to decide who she really is. "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is an entertaining novel about a teenage girl living a double life as a spy and as a normal girl in love with a normal boy.

Cammie is excited to begin her sophomore year at Gallagher Academy, a spy school disguised as a snooty boarding school for heiresses, especially since she gets to take Joe Solomon's Covert Ops class. This class will be the first time that she and her peers get to do anything like real spy work. On their first mission at the town carnival, Cammie is unnerved when Josh, a normal boy, notices her, despite the fact that she is a pavement artist and is never seen unless she wants to be. Since Gallagher Girls are disliked by the locals, Cammie claims she is homeschooled. When she finally tells her best friends, Bex and Liz, about Josh, the girls decide to investigate him by helping Cammie sneak out of school to pursue a relationship with him.

Cammie is nearly busted at the Fall Harvest Dance when Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon join the festivities. When the Gallagher Girls go to town, Cammie hides as Josh's friend harass her classmate for fear of blowing her cover. Liz is furious that Cammie chooses Josh over her peers. After seeing Cammie walking with the Gallagher Girls, Dillon, Josh's best friend, confronts Cammie, and when she admits to attending Gallagher Academy, Cammie and Josh break up. As Cammie walks away from Josh, Mr. Solomon kidnaps her for her real-life Covert Ops final. Though Cammie escapes, the girls' mission is nearly blown when Josh arrives to save Cammie.

After the girls pass their final exam, Josh is taken back to Gallagher Academy where Headmistress Morgan tells him the truth about the school. Though Cammie's mom is disappointed in her daughter's lies, she is happy that Cammie is capable of love. Just as Cammie thinks that maybe she is allowed to be with Josh, he tells her to thank her mom for the tea, leaving it unclear whether he was given normal tea or memory-altering tea. Cammie decides to continue studying on the Covert Ops course. Although she does not know what next semester will bring, she knows that Bex, Liz, and Macey will be beside her.



Section 1: Chapter 1 & 2

Section 1: Chapter 1 & 2 Summary

"I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" by Ally Carter is a novel about a sophomore girl who attends spy school. When Cammie meets Josh on a routine mission, she and her friends decide to investigate him which leads to Cammie's entrance into the world outside of Gallagher Academy; however, when her worlds collide, Cammie is forced to decide who she really is. "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is an entertaining novel about a teenage girl living a double life as a spy and as a normal girl in love with a normal boy.

In Chapter 1, Cammie attends the Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women where it is considered cool that she can make herself seem invisible. Though it is technically a school for geniuses and it is disguised as a snooty boarding school for heiresses, even Cammie's mother, Headmistress Morgan, does not correct her when she refers to it as spy school. As school opens for the new semester, Cammie is joined by Liz. As Cammie and Liz goes downstairs in uniform at 6:30 P.M., Liz wonders why Bex is late, certain Cammie knows something since her mother is the headmistress. Cammie finally feels at home when they sit at their usual table in the Grand Hall, and when Anna Fetterman approaches them, terrified that they have Covert Operations this year, the first time they get to do anything like real spy work, the girls are all shocked and curious to learn Buckingham will not be teaching the class this year. Headmistress Morgan's welcome speech is interrupted by the entrance of a handsome and debonair man and Cammie does not even notice Bex slip in at the table because Bex is so good at spying.

In Chapter 2, Bex finally tells the girls that the new teacher is Joe Solomon, a friend of her father's, after much coaxing and begging. On the first day of classes, the girls are admitted to the sublevels where they find that the Covert Operations classroom does not seem to belong in the elegant Gallagher mansion, and more shocking, Mr. Solomon is late. When he finally arrives, five minutes late, he quizzes them in various languages before telling them to close their eyes and questioning them about his appearance. Though he has never taught, he has survived as a spy for eighteen years so he knows what he is doing, and he will get them ready for what goes on out there. As he says the lucky ones come home in a box, he locks eyes with Cammie whose eyes fill with tears because her father went on a mission and never came back. Mr. Solomon tells the girls to get good or get dead, and Cammie partially wants to run to her mom and tell her that he implied Dad was not good enough; however, she fears Mom will agree. Kicking them out of class forty-five minutes early, Mr. Solomon assigns their homework which is to notice things. As Bex and Cammie take the elevator upstairs, Buckingham calls them and grabs them to see Headmistress Morgan just as the red light above them begins to whirl and an electronic voice announces CODE RED.



Section 1: Chapter 1 & 2 Analysis

Chapter 1 introduces the narrator, Cammie Morgan, and explains that she goes to the Gallagher Academy, a spy school which is disguised as a boarding school for heiresses. Cammie writes this, her first Covert Operations Report, to summarize what happened last summer. If she is ever on a mission, Cammie wants Bex beside her and Liz manning the computer; her two best friends are also introduced in this first chapter. Cammie feels at home at Gallagher Academy once her classmates join her. She arrived at school earlier than her peers since her mother is the headmistress. Cammie and Bex are excited to take Covert Ops this year, but they are shocked when they learn Professor Buckingham has retired, and their speculation about the new teacher is swiftly rewarded when Joe Solomon enters the Grand Hall during Headmistress Morgan's welcome speech. The girls are so distracted by this handsome man's appearance that they do not even notice when Bex joins them, a fact that Cammie attributes to Bex being a natural-born spy.

In Chapter 2, Bex explains that Joe Solomon is her father's friend and will teach the Covert Ops course. On the first day of classes, the girls forgo breakfast in favor of doing their makeup since they have class with Solomon. Cammie and Bex are excited as the optical scanner verifies their identities before admitting them to the sublevels where they have never been before. During class, Mr. Solomon quizzes the girls in things they know before questioning them about his appearance, and realizing they are not fully aware of their surroundings, he tells them they are very smart but also kind of stupid. He considers himself an expert in his field since he has survived being a spy for the past eighteen years. Next year, they may take the elevators one floor lower if they impress him, but if he suspects they are not gifted in fieldwork, he will save their lives by putting them on the Operations and Research track. When Mick Morrison asks if they will learn firearms, Mr. Solomon says it is too late to do any good if they need a gun. Cammie is distraught when Mr. Solomon insinuates that her father was not good enough and that is why he never came home from a mission, but she opts against telling her mother for fear Headmistress Morgan will agree with Mr. Solomon. Mr. Solomon tells the girls to notice things and kicks them out of class forty-five minutes early, something that never occurs at Gallagher Academy. As Bex and Cammie reach the main floor, Professor Buckingham summons them for Headmistress Morgan as the alarms alert them to a CODE RED.



Section 2: Chapter 3 & 4

Section 2: Chapter 3 & 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, as the rest of their classmates hide the evidence of spy school, Cammie's mom asks Cammie and Bex to do a tour since the juniors and seniors are indisposed due to class assignments. The McHenry family is waiting out front because they are out of options, but Cammie and Bex's mission is to ensure they do not find out how exceptional the Gallagher Academy really is. As the girls greet Senator McHenry and his wife, a beautiful girl dressed in punk clothes with a stud in her nose exits the limo. In her office, Headmistress Morgan gives the family an abridged version of the school's history before asking Bex and Cammie to take Macey on a tour which initiates the make-sure-she-knows-she'd-be-miserable phase of their mission. Macey objects to eating and uniforms, but she is outraged when she learns they cannot use cell phones. As she races back to refuse to attend school at Gallagher, Mr. Mosckowitz intercepts her, acting like an alcoholic to distract her from the purple smoke seeping from the chemistry lab. Macey insults Bex when she attempts to pull her away, but as Bex gets her spy face, Joe Solomon appears to welcome Macey to the school. He leads her to the second floor corridor to show her the beautiful mosaic on the ceiling before walking the girls to the Hall of History.

In Chapter 4, Cammie, Bex and Liz rush to Headmistress Morgan's office to learn why a fourth bed is being installed in their suite, and Mom shows them Macey's high test scores, claiming Macey will bring diversity to the school, has family connections, an underutilized intellect and a certain quality about her. Pointing to the Gallagher family tree, she also shows them that Macey is a descendent of Gilly Gallagher. During Cammie's traditional Sunday night dinner with Mom, Cammie tells Mom that Mr. Solomon knows about Dad, and proud Cammie handled it well, Mom promises it will get easier. On Monday, Headmistress Morgan tells Macey the truth about Gallagher Academy, and though Macey seems ready to bolt, her opinion of the school changes when she learns she can never tell her parents the truth about her school, indicating Macey's dysfunctional family situation.

Section 2: Chapter 3 & 4 Analysis

In Chapter 3, Buckingham drags Cammie and Bex to the headmistress' office while the school erupts into a state of organized chaos as evidence of the spy school is hidden. The girls are asked to give a tour to Macey McHenry, the daughter of a famous senator who has been kicked out of several prep schools and is applying to Gallagher Academy because it is her last option. Headmistress Morgan gives the family an edited version of the school's history and sends Cammie and Bex to give Macey a tour of the school during which their mission is to make sure Macey realizes she will be miserable here. Outraged to learn that the school does not get cell phone reception, Macey rushes into a hallway where the teachers try to hide the purple smoke billowing from the chemistry



lab, and just as Bex begins to go spy-like after Macey insults her, Mr. Solomon's attractiveness distracts Macey as he pulls her upstairs to show her the beautiful mosaic on the ceiling which Cammie has never noticed, making her feel that she failed her first homework assignment. Cammie feels nauseous when Macey suggests Mr. Solomon was hired for Headmistress Morgan.

In Chapter 4, Cammie does not appreciate having three girls in a four-girl suite until the maintenance guys ask where they want the extra bed. When the girls questions Headmistress Morgan, she informs them that she plans to accept Macey to the school because she has a certain quality about her and is a descendent of Gilly Gallagher. Macey will take classes with the younger students to catch up, but Mom expects the girls to befriend her, and they agree, knowing they do not really have a choice. When Cammie tells her mother about Mr. Solomon's comments about Dad, Mom promises it will get easier, and Cammie notes "my mom's the best spy I know- so I believed her" (page 46). On Monday morning, Cammie, Liz and Bex are summoned to Headmistress Morgan's office to meet their new roommate. When Macey complains that all prep schools are the same, Mr. Solomon throws a dagger at her which Buckingham catches with a copy of "War and Peace". The headmistress then gives Macey an unabridged version of the Gallagher Academy's history. Macey can use the knowledge she learns anywhere in the world if she stays, but they can make her forget this ever happened if she wants to leave; however, no one can ever know what she has learned today, especially her parents. Macey smiles, unexpectedly.



Section 3: Chapter 5 & 6

Section 3: Chapter 5 & 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Cammie, Liz, and Bex are stunned when Covert Ops class is cancelled and a note tells them to meet outside at 7 P.M. in street clothes. At lunch, she is surprised again when Macey sits with them and acts as if she is one of them. When she insults Liz, Bex pins her, promising a quick, important lesson, but Mr. Solomon breaks up the fight and says Bex, Liz and Cammie can take point tonight since Bex is so eager to show off. By 6:45 P.M. the sophomore spies are dressed as normal girls, and Cammie is distraught that they turn to Macey for fashion advice. When it is time to leave, they meet Mr. Mosckowitz who drives an Overnight Express truck into town as Mr. Solomon lectures them on the importance of legends, false histories. The girls will be posing as normal teenage girls tonight. Their mission is to find out what kind of soda Professor Smith, the most paranoid person on the planet who has known them all since seventh grade, drinks with his funnel cake. Cammie knows Mr. Solomon gave them this mission because it is impossible, but she grabs the cross necklace which conceals a camera, knowing she will need it.

In Chapter 6, Cammie tries to blend in while keeping an eye on Bex who stays within sight of Mr. Smith. When Mr. Smith flips, Bex keeps walking past him while Cammie takes over tailing him, keeping him on the edge of her vision. Mr. Smith nearly sees her, so she slips behind a group of older women but loses her visual when one woman thinks she recognizes Cammie and starts talking to her. Cammie loses contact with Bex and Liz when she is splashed by the dunking booth, and when she rushes toward the funnel cake stand, she finds Bex and Liz sitting on a bench being interrogated by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith throws his Dr. Pepper bottle in the trash and promises to see Liz and Bex back at school. As they walk away, Cammie retrieves the Dr. Pepper bottle and her mission is accomplished. Time to return to the world where she is invisible but not unknown. However, she notices a boy across the street seeing her.

Section 3: Chapter 5 & 6 Analysis

In Chapter 5, the Gallagher Girls are all occupied with rumors about Macey during the next three weeks. Cammie notes "things were about to get interesting" (page 54) when Mr. Solomon cancels class and tells the girls to meet outside in street clothes that evening. At lunch, Macey stuns her by sitting with them and acting like one of them, but when she insults Liz and Bex comes to her friend's defense, Mr. Solomon breaks up the fight and announces Bex and her friends will take point tonight since Bex wants to show off. Bex and Cammie are excited; taking point is a reward, not a punishment. That night, Cammie decides she will never trust her friends again when they eagerly turn to Macey for fashion advice. As Mr. Solomon drives the girls into town, he tells them they will be posing as normal teenagers, and their mission is to find out what kind of soda Mr. Smith drinks with his funnel cake since the three people that are hardest to follow are those



who are trained, know they are being followed or that the spy knows and Mr. Smith is all three. Mr. Solomon hands Cammie, Bex, and Liz earpieces and hidden cameras, warning that he will not come to their rescue. Cammie knows the mission is impossible, but she grabs the cross necklace which conceals her camera and microphone.

In Chapter 6, Cammie, Liz, and Bex try to avoid being seen by Mr. Smith while keeping him in their sights. Liz loses sight of Cammie who finds it easy to be invisible by being still and common enough. When Cammie tails Mr. Smith, she ducks to avoid being seen, but she loses sight of Mr. Smith. Her equipment is ruined when she is splashed at the dunking booth, and when she finally locates her team, they are being interrogated by Mr. Smith. Recalling that the mission is not yet over, Cammie is furious that Mr. Solomon sent them on an impossible mission without telling them how to proceed if they are caught. She could save her sisters but not at the risk of the sisterhood. Once they walk away, Cammie retrieves the Dr. Pepper bottle that Mr. Smith threw in the trash can, but then she notices a boy across the street seeing her, foreshadowing the role this boy will play in the remainder of the novel.



Section 4: Chapter 7 & 8

Section 4: Chapter 7 & 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Cammie drops the bottle in shock, but the boy retrieves it for her, teasing her for picking through the trash. The boy deduces she is new in town since he has never seen her, and Cammie wants to explain she is the girl that no one sees, except he saw her. Lying that she is homeschooled and refusing his offer to escort her home, Cammie rushes away after telling him her real name and learning his name is Josh. Reaching the school, Cammie feels certain she does not want to be near Mr. Solomon right now, but as she goes toward her bedroom, Mr. Mosckowitz intercepts her because she needs to go to the Covert Ops classroom for a debriefing.

In Chapter 8, the Covert Ops class is silent as Cammie enters, and she is disturbed that two seats are empty. Mr. Solomon seems indifferent when she announces that she got the bottle. Showing pictures of Liz and Bex from earlier tonight, Mr. Solomon asks what happens to spies that get made. He shows pictures of beaten girls, claiming they will start with Liz because that will hurt Bex more than punches. This is what the girls are signing up for. Cammie begs him to stop, but he tells her "once this starts- it doesn't stop. It never stops" (page 89). No one raises their hand when he asks who wants to be a spy now. Mr. Solomon announces Covert Ops will be optional next year, but it is mandatory this year. He promises they will never be this scared again this semester before opening a glass partition to reveal Liz and Bex. Back in their room, Cammie starts to apologize, but Bex and Liz say she did what they would have done. They tell her that Mr. Smith is not mad, but he is impressed because he did not see Cammie at all, causing Cammie to remember someone did see her, but she does not tell her friends about Josh.

Section 4: Chapter 7 & 8 Analysis

In Chapter 7, Cammie is so surprised that she drops the bottle; no one sees her when she does not wish to be seen. The boy's easy smile makes Cammie forget her mission and legend as she struggles for a lie, claiming her cat, Suzie, likes to play with bottles. His interest in Cammie is apparent as he asks if she is new in town, and she lies that she is homeschooled. She learns his name is Josh, and it is apparent that Josh will play a major role in the narrative. Walking home, she forgets for a moment why she is holding the bottle, but then she recalls the truth and the legend. She thinks about Josh and how he made her feel like just another girl. At school, Cammie is summoned to the Covert Ops classroom, foreshadowing the continuance of her lesson.

In Chapter 8, Cammie does not know why Bex and Liz's seats are empty once she reaches the classroom, and seeming indifferent to the fact that Cammie retrieved Mr. Smith's bottle, Mr. Solomon proceeds to show photos of girls being tortured, chiding Cammie for losing two-thirds of her team. He tells the class that this is what they are



signing up for and asks who wants to be a spy now, obviously intending to dissuade the girls from following their career path as spies in the field unless they can handle the challenges and dangers it presents. Later, Cammie wants to apologize to Bex and Liz for leaving them, but they assure her that she did the same thing they would have done. They tell her that Mr. Smith is impressed because he did not even know Cammie was with them, but this causes Cammie to remember Josh who did see her. She does not tell her friends about Josh because it is nice to have something only she knows in a place where everyone knows her story.



Section 5: Chapter 9 & 10

Section 5: Chapter 9 & 10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Cammie begins Driver's Ed the next afternoon with Liz, Bex and Macey. As they ride, she wonders if Josh was real, ducking in her seat when she gets her answer. Bex's attention in the attractive boy wanes when he gives them the Gallagher Glare, but Cammie's comment about his hair, which Bex does not mention, causes her friends to question her later. Liz is shocked that Josh saw Cammie because no one sees her when she does not want to be seen. She wants to include him in their summary of the mission, but Cammie objects, so Bex suggests checking him out on their own.

In Chapter 10, Liz drags Cammie from bed to the forensics lab on Saturday morning to run the fingerprints on the Dr. Pepper bottle, but Josh is not in the system. After researching Josh's address in the public school database and ascertaining his family will be at a surprise party for Keith Jones that night, the girls hide in the bushes outside Josh's house. The street is busy because the Joneses live at the end of the block. Bex begins to pick the lock, but Cammie opens the unlocked door. She freezes inside, feeling guilty for trespassing not only on a house but on a way of life. Bex sends Cammie outside to install a transmitter in a tree, but when Josh approaches his house and Cammie warns them, Bex and Liz climb onto the roof, ready to repel as Josh exits. Since the girls do not see him, Cammie steps out and greets Josh, asking about the party and pretending to know Keith. Bex shoots a tracking device into Josh's Nike as he asks Cammie to get a Coke with him, and he does not sound proud when he admits he has lived here his whole life. When Josh's friend appears, Cammie promises to catch up, running away and ducking behind a SUV. Josh's friend asks who she is, but Josh says Cammie is nobody, just some girl.

Section 5: Chapter 9 & 10 Analysis

In Chapter 9, Cammie enjoys learning to be a lady in Culture and Assimilation the day after that first mission, and at the end of class, Madame Dabney announces they will begin Driver's Ed after school, beginning with Cammie, Liz, Bex and Macey. That afternoon, Bex begins the lesson, and her driving is terrifying. When Macey takes over at the wheel and things calm down, Cammie thinks that it was unfair to ask them to tail Mr. Smith. As she wonders if Josh was real, she gets her answer and ducks in her seat. Bex notes the hot guy next to them but disregards him when he gives them the Gallagher Glare, the way people in town look at them as though they are spoiled. Cammie refuses to look, no matter how wavy his hair is, but Bex never mentioned his hair. Back at their room, Liz cannot believe Cammie did not tell them; no one sees her when she does not want to be seen! She wants to include Josh in their summary of the mission because he could be a honeypot, trying to infiltrate the school through Cammie. Cammie refuses because she does not want Josh being examined by strangers, and



after she tells them the whole story, Bex suggests checking him out on their own to see if there is something strange. Liz agrees, claiming he is either a honeypot or Cammie's soul mate.

In Chapter 10, Cammie is not proud of what comes next, but she is not exactly ashamed either which is not surprising since her whole life has been that kind of contradiction. Liz begins her investigation by examining Josh's fingerprints on the Dr. Pepper bottle, but when the results indicate he is a typical teenager, she intercepts his family's emails, learning they will be attending a party that night. The girls decide to set up surveillance at his house, but things go wrong when Josh returns home because the party is at the end of his block. Realizing he is about to see Bex and Liz rappelling off his roof, Cammie steps forward and greets Josh as he exits his house. She rushes away after his friend approaches him, but Cammie is bothered when he tells his friend that she is nobody, foreshadowing her new obsession with understanding boys.



Section 6: Chapter 11 & 12

Section 6: Chapter 11 & 12 Summary

As Bex insists it does not mean anything in Chapter 11, Cammie tries to hide her hurt that Josh called her some girl, joking it would have never worked anyway. They enter the Covert Ops classroom to find three tables upon which Mr. Solomon dumps bags of trash, telling them that everything a person touches says something about them and welcoming the girls to the science of Garbology. The girls trade driving days with another group so as they drive on a rainy Thursday, Cammie finds it odd that Liz is not terrified by Bex's insane driving. Pulling out a remote control, Liz promises it will be a small explosion as she blows the tire in front of Josh's house. While Liz distracts Madame Dabney, Cammie joins Bex at the trunk where Bex switches Josh's trash for another bag. Back in their room, the girls dig through the Abrams' trash, and Cammie hopes to find answers she so desperately wants. She is terrified when Liz hands a piece of paper to Bex, but Bex assures her the note from DeeDee about seeing Josh at the carnival means nothing since he threw it away. Uncertain why he threw the note away, Cammie realizes she will never speak Josh's language. Finding pamphlets for various churches, Bex suggests that Josh is looking for Cammie since he believes she is homeschooled for religious reasons. Macey enters and asks his name.

In Chapter 12, Bex tries to say the trash is Covert Ops homework, but Cammie tells Macey about Josh. Macey says it sounds like Josh is playing it cool in case she does not like him, and though he told his friend that Cammie is nobody, Macey suggests he is marking his territory or ashamed at liking the weird new girl. She thinks Cammie still has a chance. Realizing that Macey knows about boys, Cammie begs her for help; however, Macey will only help Cammie if she helps Macey get out of the newbie class. Mr. Solomon tells his class that this is a business of alliances. It only takes one thread of commonality to form a bond and make an ally. This is what Cammie has with Macey. As the girls help Macey with her homework that night, Liz asks what the note from DeeDee means, and Macey explains it means he is in demand, but it is hard to say whether or not he likes DeeDee. Either way, he is out there, and there is nothing she can do about that. Bex agrees; that's their area of expertise.

Section 6: Chapter 11 & 12 Analysis

In Chapter 11, Cammie, Bex and Liz's Summary of Surveillance indicates Josh is a person of interest because he observed Cammie on two routine assignments. They list his address, known associates, school information and family information. Cammie tries to hide her hurt from her friends concerning the fact that Josh said she is nobody, but Liz and Bex exchange a look that indicates they do not believe her. Their Garbology assignment in Covert Ops foreshadows the girls' decision to dig through the Abrams' trash which occurs later that week during Driver's Ed. Cammie does not know whether to be impressed Bex cares so much or worry that her friend is destined for a life of



crime. Digging through the Abrams' trash, the girls find a love letter from DeeDee, and Cammie tries to brush aside her jealousy, but she is revitalized when Bex finds a lot of church pamphlets and suggests Josh is looking for her since she told him that she is homeschooled for religious reasons. The girls are so caught up in their research that they do not hear the door open until Macey asks his name.

In Chapter 12, Cammie is flattered that Macey asks if she has gotten to second base yet, though she knows she should not allow boys to distract her from her mission. Bex tries to lie about what they are doing, but Cammie tells Macey the truth, and as Macey interprets Josh's behavior, Cammie realizes that Macey knows about boys. The girls form an alliance, as detailed in *Covert Ops*. Macey agrees to help Cammie with Josh if Cammie helps her get out of the newbie class. The girls work on both situations, and when Macey points out that her expertise is stunted because Josh is out there, Bex agrees that is their area of expertise, foreshadowing the girls' further adventures outside of the confines of the Gallagher Academy.



Section 7: Chapter 13 & 14

Section 7: Chapter 13 & 14 Summary

In Chapter 13, Cammie thinks about Operation Josh for the next two weeks until they finally catch a break on October 1 when they intercept an email that Josh will be returning videos at AJ's Movie Rentals that night. Macey, Bex and Liz help Cammie get dressed, do her hair and makeup and fill her purse with acceptable items, causing Cammie to wonder if every girl on a date is really in deep cover. She has to wear the cross and spread cat hair on her clothes to become her legend, and though Cammie always thought being a spy was challenging, "turns out, being a girl is the tricky part" (page 144). The girls walk her downstairs to the most remote secret passageway and wish her luck as she slips behind the tapestry.

In Chapter 14, Cammie tries to act normal as she sits on a bench for a couple hours, thinking of all the things she should be doing. Just as she is ready to give up, Josh greets her. When he notes he has not seen her lately, Cammie lies that she was in Mongolia with the Peace Corps. She claims she is waiting on her mom to finish a class. Josh says he has to go but asks to call Cammie, making her fairly sure she is not nobody. Josh looks sad when Cammie refuses, but she claims her parents have strict rules but she will be here tomorrow. Josh says maybe he will see her around. Back in her room, Cammie yells as she asks Macey why he said he might see her, and when Liz says she will have to go and will know he likes her if he shows up, Macey says he is probably curious. Then, the question becomes how much he likes Cammie.

Section 7: Chapter 13 & 14 Analysis

In Chapter 13, Cammie obsesses about Josh until they finally get a break two weeks later when Liz intercepts an email which states Josh will be at AJ's Movie Rentals sometime that night. The girls plan to have Cammie coincidentally show up. In Covert Ops, Mr. Solomon tells his class to know their legends well because going undercover means putting themselves in a position where subject approaches them, not where they approach subject. This gives Cammie advice for how to encounter Josh. Bex, Liz and Macey help Cammie get ready, ensuring that she matches the specifications of her legend which causes Cammie to wonder if every girl on a date is in deep cover. She also realizes that being a girl is trickier than being a spy. Her friends wish her luck as she disappears behind the tapestry into the secret passageways.

In Chapter 14, Cammie is about to give up on Josh, but when he greets her, she is speechless though she knows fourteen languages, and she finds it sweetly modest when Josh reminds her of his name. Cammie makes up an excuse for why she has not been around lately, lying that she was in Mongolia with the Peace Corps. She is fairly certain that she is not nobody when Josh asks for her number, but when she tells him she will be there again tomorrow, his indifferent claim that maybe he will see her around

makes her self-conscious. Cammie yells at Macey later about her uncertainty, and when Liz suggests that they will know Josh is interested if he shows up, Macey objects that they will have to find out how much he likes Cammie. Cammie feels there is no end to the things they have to learn.



Section 8: Chapter 15 & 16

Section 8: Chapter 15 & 16 Summary

In Chapter 15, spy training has become part of Cammie's DNA, so when she is sitting on a dark street the next night and hands cover her eyes, she slams Josh to the ground. Explaining herself, Cammie claims Mom insists a girl needs to be able to take care of herself. As Cammie and Josh walk, she is lost in this new society of the normal American family as he tells her about his parents. They lose track of time as they walk through Roseville and Josh asks Cammie questions about herself. She tells him her birthday is November 19, her Dad is an engineer and she has sisters, but Josh never doubts anything she says since it is all true in a way; Cammie knows that her legend will live from that moment on. When she lies that Dad's job is not a family business, Josh tells her she is lucky to have free will as he shows her his family's pharmacy. When the clock chimes 10 P.M., Cammie has to go, and she is sad when she has to tell Josh she cannot see him tomorrow for fear someone will notice her sneaking out of school three nights in a row. She suggests they can secretly communicate by leaving notes for each other in the Roseville gazebo, and when Josh notes that she is not a normal girl, Cammie realizes he is pretty smart too.

In Chapter 16, Josh and Cammie communicate by leaving notes in the gazebo for a few weeks before Josh asks her to the movies on Friday. At first, Cammie is excited about the date, but then she starts to worry about what to do and how to act. Liz is interrupted from decoding Josh's handwriting when Mr. Solomon reminds them of the career fair on Friday. Bex refuses to consider postponing Cammie's date, insisting no one will even miss her in the crowd. The plan is for Bex, Liz and Macey to claim Cammie just walked away anytime someone asks for her. Cammie sneaks away and into the secret tunnels.

Section 8: Chapter 15 & 16 Analysis

In Chapter 15, Cammie's spy training takes over when Josh puts his hands over her eyes, and as she helps him off the ground, she wonders what it means when he asks her not to tell his friends because that means he assumes she will meet his friends. Josh asks her to take a walk, and Cammie is surprised to find it is difficult to walk when she is actually trying to be seen. As they reach a playground, Josh tells her about breaking his arm on the monkey bars and how his mom was upset. As he talks about his family, Cammie is lost in this new society since she has never had a glimpse into a normal American family before. Everything that Cammie tells Josh about herself is true in a way so she knows her legend will live from now on. When it is time to go, Cammie objects to meeting Josh again the next night for fear someone will catch her sneaking out of school three nights in a row, so she suggests corresponding by leaving secret notes in a loose stone in the town gazebo. She realizes Josh is pretty smart when he notes that she is not a normal girl, though he can never know the extent of her abnormality.



In Chapter 16, Josh and Cammie continue to communicate by their secret means for several weeks before he finally asks her on a date. Though the date is scheduled for the same day as their career fair, Bex refuses to let Cammie cancel, and Cammie's friends plan to cover for her. After Bex and Macey leave Cammie at the tapestry, a man approaches her, introduces himself as Max Edwards who is in Interpol and gives her the advice that not everyone can live this life. Giving her his business card, he tells Cammie she will always have a place with Interpol. Once he leaves, Cammie slips behind the tapestry, and changing clothes halfway down the tunnel, she loses the business card never to see it again.



Section 9: Chapter 17 & 18

Section 9: Chapter 17 & 18 Summary

In Chapter 17, Cammie panics when she sees the strange look on Josh's face as she meets him at the gazebo, but when he says she looks amazing, she has never felt less invisible, and she does not want to disappear for the first time in a long time. He apologizes for not checking the movie times, but they already missed the movie. Cammie is sure the mission is compromised and tries not to sound too disappointed, but Josh asks her to grab a burger and she agrees. He holds the diner door open for her, and they sit at a booth. When a group of teens enter, Cammie cannot count on Josh because he is panicking too. Her cover is not blown, but her confidence is shaken, especially when a pretty blond girl greets Josh and he identifies her as DeeDee. DeeDee sits down next to Josh as Dillon, Josh's best friend, slides in next to Cammie. Explaining that Cammie is new in town, Josh tells Cammie that he has known DeeDee forever, and Dillon agrees that DeeDee is one of the boys. Noting that this is the mystery woman, Dillon understands why Josh has been keeping her to himself. Cammie is furious when Dillon suggests mooning the Gallagher Girls, but she cannot defend her school for fear of blowing her cover. Josh finally pushes DeeDee out of the booth, throws money on the table and takes Cammie's hand, leading her away. Normally, Cammie does not like hand holding because it makes it difficult to run fast, but she and Josh are strolling. Apologizing for Dillon, Josh insists his friend is big on talk but not on action, promising the Gallagher Girls are perfectly safe. Objecting to talking about DeeDee, Josh stops, and Cammie feels like they are in the middle of a merry-go-round as he gets closer. Before she knows it, something she has dreamt about her entire life happens, and it was everything a first kiss should be, "warm and sweet and very much the beginning of... well... just the beginning" (page 185).

In Chapter 18, three weeks later, Liz reminds Cammie of their project which is due on Wednesday, but Cammie insists they can work on it tomorrow because Josh has something big planned for tonight. As Cammie heads to the library and her second favorite passageway, Mom greets her. She was just coming to find Cammie and see if she wants to do something tonight like go into town. Thinking the offer is odd, Cammie tries to come up with an excuse, and luckily, Macey appears and claims that Cammie promised to help with her organic chemistry paper. Headmistress Morgan just did not want Cammie to be alone tonight, but she is proud of her for befriending Macey. Rushing away, Cammie runs into Macey who does not like lying to Headmistress Morgan. She asks Cammie if he is worth it because she does not see what is so special about Josh that Cammie would risk losing what she has. Cammie likes Josh because he is a normal boy, and though Macey knows lots of normal boys, Cammie does not.



Section 9: Chapter 17 & 18 Analysis

In Chapter 17, Cammie is self-conscious at first when Josh greets her, but his compliment takes away her desire to be invisible for a change. Josh jokes that when his mom found out about his date, she nearly forced him to bring a corsage. Since they missed the movie, Josh invites Cammie to dinner instead. After ordering, Josh leans back in his seat, and Cammie knows from Liz's notes on body language that this means he is feeling pretty confident. As silence overtakes their table, Cammie wonders if the CIA really stole their voices until she notices that the silence only seems to be affecting them. When a group of teens enter, causing Cammie to panic, she reminds herself that no one knows her, she is not wearing her uniform, and "if push came to shove I could... well... push and shove" (page 178). When Josh tries to dismiss his friends, Dillon suggests climbing the wall and mooning some rich girls. Cammie looks confused, so Josh explains that the Gallagher Academy is a snooty boarding school for rich delinquents, but Cammie cannot defend her school, no matter how badly she wants to do so. Dillon thinks that homeschooling is weird, but DeeDee says it is nice, making it hard for Cammie to hate her. Josh finally pulls Cammie away, and after Josh excuses Dillon and refuses to talk about DeeDee, the world seems to center around Josh and Cammie as Cammie receives her first kiss.

In Chapter 18, Cammie puts off a school assignment, obviously more concerned with Josh than homework at the moment. When Mom intercepts her as she tries to sneak away for her big date with Josh, Macey appears to save Cammie, giving her a reason that she cannot go into town with Mom tonight; however, Macey confronts Cammie about the situation because she does not like lying to Headmistress Morgan and she hopes Josh is worth it. Cammie understands why Macey would think this way, since for her, nothing in life has ever been earned and this is her only chance at being part of a family. Like Macey, Cammie is looking for something she has never experienced, but in contrast to Macey's situation, Cammie is looking for normality.



Section 10: Chapter 19 & 20

Section 10: Chapter 19 & 20 Summary

In Chapter 19, Josh is nowhere in sight when Cammie arrives at the gazebo, but he pulls up in a minivan and presents her with a corsage, teasing that she did not think he would remember the special occasion. Cammie has no clue what he is talking about. Josh pulls up to a pasture, and as they walk toward a barn, he explains it is the Fall Harvest Dance but they can do something else if she would prefer. Cammie kisses him and assures him she would love to dance. When Josh tries to pay the entrance fee, he learns his mother has already paid it, and he apologizes as Mrs. Abrams rushes towards them and hugs Cammie. Mr. Abrams brags about his pharmacy and how Josh will own it one day, and when Mrs. Abrams expresses the wish for Cammie to feel comfortable in their home, Cammie fantasizes about the recon they could set up with that kind of access. As Dillon waves them over, Cammie thinks the Abrams are normal parents, and she begins to understand Josh a little better. Ignoring his family and friends, Josh holds her closer which is a good thing because it provides the cover she needs as Mom and Mr. Solomon enter the barn. Cammie claims she needs to sit down, and as Josh goes to get her punch, she begins to fly, literally.

In Chapter 20, Bex covers Cammie's mouth as she explains they have to get her out of here because Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon are there. As they pull Cammie outside, she protests that she cannot leave Josh behind, promising it will be alright and she will convince Josh to leave the party, so the girls drive away. As Cammie considers her options, DeeDee approaches, arriving late so she would not be a wallflower for too long which makes Cammie realize that DeeDee is a chameleon too. When DeeDee asks why Cammie is outside, alone, Cammie claims she has a headache, and DeeDee offers to tell Josh that Cammie needs to leave. At the gazebo, Cammie refuses to let Josh drive her home, but he presents her with a present and tells her happy birthday. DeeDee helped him pick out the silver earrings to go with her cross necklace. Cammie is hypnotized because "no girl has ever had a nicer boyfriend, and no girl has ever been less deserving of him" (page 214).

Section 10: Chapter 19 & 20 Analysis

When Josh picks Cammie up in Chapter 19, he teases her about remembering a special occasion, but Cammie has no clue what he is talking about. This foreshadows the discovery of what this special occasion is supposed to be. Josh looks beautiful as he drives, and Cammie learns little things about him the more time they spend together, like how he got his scars. She can never tell him about her scars. This, along with later events in this chapter, indicates Cammie's growing concern with all of the aspects of her life which she is forced to hide from Josh. When they reach the Fall Harvest Dance, Cammie is uncomfortable as she is greeted by Josh's parents. As the Abrams talk to Cammie, she fears it will not take them long to realize she does not belong here, but



she decides to milk her legend for all it is worth. Josh blows his friends off because he would rather dance with the "prettiest girl at the party" (page 203), and Cammie realizes she may not be the only one deep undercover. When he tells her she is lucky no one is waiting for her to be some kind of chosen one, she lies and agrees. Luckily, Josh pulls Cammie closer just as she needs cover from Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon who enter the barn. Claiming she needs to sit down and sending Josh away to get her punch, Cammie finds herself flying into the air, foreshadowing her friends' rescue attempt.

In Chapter 20, Cammie finds herself in the top of the barn with Bex, Liz, and Macey. The girls constructed pulleys in the barn to pull Cammie out of there. Macey agrees with Liz that Mom and Mr. Solomon are not dating; she overheard Mom talking to Mr. Solomon about going out after Cammie turned her down, so they slipped a tracker in Headmistress Morgan's purse and activated the tracker in Josh's shoe in case something like this happened. They drag Cammie outside, but she refuses to disappear on Josh and assures them that she will convince him to leave. As DeeDee walks away, Cammie envies her because she can share everything with Josh, and she wonders if Josh would still like her if she could; however, she will never know because DeeDee will always be real to him while Cammie will always be a legend, again showing Cammie's growing distress that she is forced to lie to Josh. When Josh gives Cammie earrings as a birthday present before leaving her at the gazebo, Cammie is upset that he remembered her legend's birthday, though she knows he is the nicest boyfriend ever and she does not deserve him. Looking at herself from the outside, she wonders why she does not know how lucky she is, that such wonderful moments are rare, and that such moments always end.



Section 11: Chapter 21 & 22

Section 11: Chapter 21 & 22 Summary

In Chapter 21, Cammie feels guilty since it is not really her birthday, and pushing the wrong lever by accident, she finds herself in a different passage which leads to her mother's office. Watching Headmistress Morgan cry, Cammie realizes November 19 is her father's birthday, and she slips away into the silence. The next day, Cammie is eager to see her mother, but she finds Professor Buckingham and Mr. Solomon with her mother. They tell her that Bex's dad has missed his last three call-ins and ask whether they should tell Bex. Cammie says no because there will be plenty of time for grief later. Hiding as she cries for Bex's father, Cammie surprised herself by telling Macey the truth when she approaches and asks what is wrong. Macey agrees that they cannot tell Bex, making Cammie realize that Macey is the only person who knows all of her secrets.

In Chapter 22, Mr. Solomon shows the class pictures on a projector for two seconds, then makes them close their eyes and tell him what is wrong with the picture. Cammie does not understand how he can challenge Bex as if nothing is wrong, and she cannot answer his question because what is wrong is that she cannot look her best friend in the eye. Mr. Solomon presents the girls with papers because the school needs to know if they plan to continue studying Covert Ops next semester, and he warns them not to take the decision lightly. Cammie looks at the paper as if it is poisonous, and the realization of the permanence it indicates leaves a bad taste in her mouth.

Section 11: Chapter 21 & 22 Analysis

In Chapter 21, Cammie feels horrible because it is not her birthday, and she does not know if it is worse that Josh remembered or she forgot that she told him her birthday is November 19. As she pulls the fireplace lever, she accidentally knocks a torch holder which reveals an unknown passage, and following it, Cammie hears crying. Seeing her mom's tears, Cammie realizes why she chose November 19 as her legend's birthday, and she slips away but does not cry because she lets Mom be the weak one tonight. She whispers "happy birthday, Daddy" (page 219) into the silence. On Sunday, Cammie has to see Mom by noon to somehow apologize for forgetting her father in that small way. Bursting into Mom's office, she is surprised to find Mr. Solomon and Professor Buckingham staring at her and knows that something is obviously wrong. Asking for Cammie's help since she has first-hand experience, they explain Abe Baxter, Bex's dad, missed three call-ins and they are trying to decide whether to tell Bex. Cammie surprises herself when she tells them not to tell Bex; Bex still has the promise of her father, and Cammie does not want to take that away too soon since there will be plenty of time for grief. As Cammie hides in a secret corridor and cries for Bex's father, swallowing tears for her own father, she regrets showing Macey the passage when Macey asks what is wrong. Cammie does not know why but she tells the truth, and when Macey says they cannot tell Bex, Cammie is shocked to hear the "we" in Macey's



statement. Cammie realizes that Macey knows all of her secrets, so for the first time, she is not entirely alone. After Macey leaves, Cammie recalls Dad taking her to a circus and watching the tightrope walker. Dad looked like he knew how it felt up there without a net, and now Cammie knows "all I could do was keep putting one foot in front of the other, hoping none of the secrets on my shoulders would make me lose my balance" (page 223).

In Chapter 22, Cammie has difficulty focusing on her classwork with the secrets looming over her. She thinks that it is unfair that the world never knows what people like Abe Baxter sacrifice. When Mr. Solomon presents the class with paperwork in order for them to formally declare their intention to continue studying Covert Ops after this semester ends, Cammie is disgusted at the idea, and the permanence of the situation unnerves her.



Section 12: Chapter 23 & 24

Section 12: Chapter 23 & 24 Summary

In Chapter 23, Cammie knows it is a bad idea to join her classmates when Mom gives them permission to go to town on Saturday because it means they could see her with Josh or he could see her with the Gallagher Girls, but she needs a few hours of forgetting her sadness. On Saturday, she leaves the other sophomores to go to the pharmacy for aspirin. Since Josh is out on a delivery, Cammie enjoys an ice cream sundae, ducking when Anna Fetterman enters to get her inhaler refilled. Dillon and his friends enter and harass Anna for attending Gallagher Academy, reminding Cammie why Gallagher Girls should not fraternize with town boys. The harassment lessens but continues when Macey and Bex enter and protect Anna. Bex glares at the boys, and when Anna receives her prescription, the girls leave. Watching Anna stroll away with her saviors, Cammie cannot turn from the window even when Josh greets her because Liz is standing on the sidewalk, staring at her as if she does not know her, "as if she didn't want to" (page 235).

In Chapter 24, Liz looks at Cammie like she hardly knows her that night. When Cammie explains she could not compromise the mission because Dillon is Josh's friend but she would have stopped it if things got out of control, Liz asks if she would have stopped it even if it meant losing Josh. Macey enters as Liz claims it has gone too far, but Cammie argues that Josh is worth it. Liz never thought Cammie would choose a boy over her friends, but Cammie never thought her friends would make her choose. Macey interjects that Liz has no clue what kind of sacrifices Cammie is willing to make for her friends as Cammie rushes from the lab and through the passageway. Outside of Josh's house, Cammie begins to cry as she thinks about the life she has and the one she wants.

Section 12: Chapter 23 & 24 Analysis

In Chapter 23, Cammie goes to town with her classmates on Saturday even though she knows it is a bad idea. While she waits for Josh in the pharmacy, she hides when Anna Fetterman enters, not revealing herself even when Dillon and his friends harass Anna. Though she wants to help Anna, Cammie is frozen between herself and her legend, so she tells herself that Anna will be fine. Finally, Macey and Bex enter the pharmacy and rescue Anna from the local boys, but Cammie cannot stop watching the window, even after Josh joins her, because Liz is standing outside, looking at Cammie in disgust as though she does not know her best friend.

In Chapter 24, Liz is furious with Cammie for abandoning one of their sisters for the sake of her legend. She does not ask her real question, "if it came down to a fight between the real me and my legend, which one would I choose" (p. 238). When Liz says that she did not think Cammie would choose a boy over her friends, Cammie objects that she never thought her friends would force her to choose. Surprisingly,



Macey comes to Cammie's defense, telling Liz that she has no clue how much Cammie is willing to sacrifice for her friends, obviously aware of how badly Cammie is affected by keeping the secret about Abe Baxter from Bex. An hour later, Cammie stands in front of Josh's house with no clue what she hopes to accomplish. Watching Josh with his family, Cammie thinks about Bex, her mom and her life, both the one she has and the one she wants. She starts to cry but figures it is a girl's right to cry sometimes for no reason.



Section 13: Chapter 25 & 26

Section 13: Chapter 25 & 26 Summary

In Chapter 25, Liz tells Cammie that she deserves someone who is good to her like Josh the next night. When Buckingham calls Bex, Macey and Cammie exchange looks of dread, but they are relieved that Buckingham tells Bex that her father called and said to tell her hi. As Bex and Cammie are leaving the hall, Liz rushes up to them in a panic because, per an email she intercepted, Dillon saw Cammie with the Gallagher Girls and is determined to get proof tonight. Reviewing their options, Cammie realizes she only has one choice, to tell Josh the truth.

In Chapter 26, Cammie plans to tell Josh an abridged version of the truth after dropping off her paperwork expressing her desire to continue studying Covert Ops. When Cammie reaches Josh and his friends, Dillon accuses her of going to the Gallagher Academy, and when she apologizes, Josh dismisses his friends to ask Cammie if she was just bored. Cammie lies that she was bored and wanted to see if she could get away with it, wishing him good luck with his free will while she uses her free will to walk away from the boy who showed up what she is missing and back to the life she has chosen. If she had looked back, she might have seen the van.

Section 13: Chapter 25 & 26 Analysis

In Chapter 25, Liz asks if Cammie went to see Josh last night when they see each other at supper the next night, and she sounds concerned when she asks if Cammie broke up with him. She is glad that Cammie did not because she deserves someone who is good to her. Cammie's fears for Bex prove to be in vain, luckily, when Buckingham tells Bex that her father called. Twenty minutes later when Bex asks what Cammie wants to do as they leave the hall, Cammie wants to celebrate with Bex even if her best friend does not know why, but Liz rushes up to them in a panic; it is about Josh. Dillon emailed Josh that he saw Cammie with the Gallagher Girls and promised to get proof at 9 P.M. tonight since Josh insists he trusts Cammie. Reviewing their notes on what to do if their cover is blown, the options are misdirection, sympathy or elimination, but Cammie knows there is another option. Since it will be bad if Josh comes looking for her, Cammie gets dressed because she really only has one choice, and when Bex asks what she will tell him, Cammie says "the truth" (p. 247), foreshadowing their fight and break-up.

In Chapter 26, Cammie clarifies that she plans to tell Josh an abridged version of the truth, that she goes to Gallagher, thinking that perhaps it is fitting that a relationship began with lies ends with one: "No, I never really loved you. No, I don't care that you're hurt. No, I never want to see you again" (page 248). First, Cammie drops off the form that Mr. Solomon gave them weeks ago because she cannot bear to carry it over the wall with her now that she knows which side of the wall she belongs on. As Cammie approaches Josh and his friends, Dillon asks her about school, insisting he knows that



she goes to Gallagher Academy. Cammie objects at first before apologizing to Josh. Dismissing Dillon, Josh asks if it is true, that Cammie is a Gallagher Girl, and the term is an insult on his lips. He asks if he was a charity case or if she was just bored, and Cammie confesses she was bored and wanted to see if she could get away with it, noting that Mr. Solomon was right about the worst torture being to see someone you love get hurt. Giving Josh the earrings and suggesting he give them to DeeDee, Cammie wishes him good luck with his free will as she uses hers to walk back to the life she has chosen and is bound to and away from the boy who showed her what she is giving up. She does not turn back, but if she had, she probably would have seen the van.



Section 14: Chapter 27 & 28

Section 14: Chapter 27 & 28 Summary

In Chapter 27, Cammie fights as she is pulled backward, and when she hears a familiar voice, she is pissed about how literally Mr. Solomon meant it when he said their final exam would be real-life practice. Mr. Solomon explains that the class must retrieve a disk and Cammie, who has been captured for interrogation, telling her she cannot be certain they cannot track her location. Fifteen minutes later, Cammie is tied to a chair and locked in a room with Mr. Mosckowitz. Apologizing for using a forbidden move, she makes him nervous about how it could affect him, allowing her to escape and tie him up. As she leaves the room, Cammie hears Liz's voice on her silver necklace which Liz fixed and upgraded. Using a body heat detector, the girls find a dozen figures and know this must be the location of their package. There is only one way to retrieve it, and when Liz objects, Anna volunteers. When a male voice announces he has called 911, Cammie has to prevent her classmates from attacking Josh who saw the van and came to rescue Cammie. As he trips the alarm, he asks Cammie to tell him the truth, so she says she goes to Gallagher Academy, her Dad is dead and these girls are the closest thing she has to sisters. She tells him not to come looking for her because she cannot see him again and he will be better off for it. Bex hands Cammie her gear, and turning to hide her tears, Cammie repels down the zip line, doing what she was born to do instead of thinking about what lies behind her.

In Chapter 28, Cammie's classmates tell her what is going on because they are "Gallagher Girls on a mission- doing what we do best" (page 266). Cammie does not think about what just happened as Bex uses acidic cream in a lipstick tube to open a hole in the roof. When a maintenance guy attacks them, they stick him with tranquilizer. There is no response when they check in with the Beta and Charlie teams, and climbing twenty feet up onto shelves, Bex and Cammie see two men patrolling below as Mr. Solomon sits on the package. Bex tells the Beta team they are in position as a beefy hand drags Cammie down and says it is over. Bex is also captured, so Mr. Solomon says they failed the mission; however, Liz cuts the power and the lights, and a fight ensues as it rains Gallagher Girls. Mr. Solomon insists they failed and he does not want to see them next semester, but Cammie points to Anna retrieving the disk as the room fills with dust and smoke. Josh says they need to talk, and Mom agrees, so since the test and lies are over, Cammie does the only thing she can: she introduces Josh to her mother.

Section 14: Chapter 27 & 28 Analysis

In Chapter 27, Cammie realizes that she is being abducted as her Covert Ops final exam when she hears familiar voices. Doing as she has been trained, Cammie imagines the journey, blindfolded, and realizes they are heading toward the industrial complex on the south edge of town. Fighting as they drag her from the van and tie her



up, she feels bad when she kicks Mom. Cammie knows her classmates will come for her because they are Gallagher Girls. Cammie tricks Mr. Mosckowitz into freeing her, and as she escapes, she is joined by her classmates. The girls suspect the disk is in the building on the north side of the complex, and joining her friends, Cammie realizes why Mom went on a mission two days after Dad's funeral; "sometimes a spy doesn't need a cover so much as she needs a shield" (page 260), and the mission diverts Cammie's attention away from Josh. As the girls plan how to retrieve the disk, Josh steps forward in his attempt to rescue Cammie. Cammie tells him that he needs to leave her alone and rappels down the building to escape from him, hiding her tears.

In the penultimate chapter, Cammie and her classmates continue with their mission, ignoring Josh's interference. Unfortunately, Cammie and Bex are captured by the enemy forces, but just when Mr. Solomon declares that they have failed their mission, the rest of the girls spring into action, cutting the power and attacking their teachers as Anna Fetterman slips inside to grab the disk. Josh calls Cammie's name, and Cammie realizes that Mr. Solomon did not plan for the contingency of a regular boy having the misfortune to love an extraordinary girl. Since the lies and the tests are now over, Cammie introduces Josh to her mother, foreshadowing the conversation that Headmistress Morgan has with Josh in Chapter 29.



Section 15: Chapter 29

Section 15: Chapter 29 Summary

It is difficult for Cammie to sleep that night, knowing Josh is locked in Mom's office with Headmistress Morgan. At 7 A.M., Cammie is shocked that Josh is still in Mom's office, and he leaves as she enters, claiming he will wait. Cammie has no time to tell him to leave because Mom demands her attention. Cammie enters the office with her mom and Mr. Solomon, and she is shocked when Mom says it was nice to finally meet Josh. Mr. Solomon tells her to give them some credit, pointing out that is how they found her last night. Chiding Cammie for being reckless and careless, Mom says it was still a rather impressive display and she had one of the most extensive Covert Ops exercises the school has ever allowed. Mom is not proud of Cammie for lying and breaking the rules, but she is proud of one thing. Dad and Mom were not sure they wanted Cammie to go to Gallagher Academy because they did not want this to be the only life she knew, but when Dad died, Mom needed to come home. Still, she worried that Cammie would spend her childhood learning to be hard and strong without ever learning it is acceptable to be soft and sweet too. Being a spy does not mean turning off the part of herself that loves, and if Mom thought that Cammie would have to give that part up, she would take her far from here. As Cammie joins Josh in the hallway, Josh says that her being a spy explains a lot. They gave him the grand tour, but he knows he can never tell anyone. Cammie apologizes for lying and for not being normal, but Josh does not know why she made up a whole other life since there is nothing great about being normal. He sees the truth, though, that Cammie needed a normal life for a while, and Cammie realizes that Josh now knows her secret and she does not have to lie anymore. As he turns to leave, she realizes they will not let him leave, unless they trust him, unless it is alright for her to love him. Cammie tells Josh that she spends winter break in Nebraska, but she will be back, and he says he will see her around, smiling so that she knows he will be looking. As Cammie begins to look forward to a new semester without lies, Josh tells her to thank her mom for the tea and walks away. Cammie joins her friends for the finals, entrenched again with girls who are in the same world as her. She wonders if she would go back to an ignorant, happy life if she could, but she is in too deep now; "I know what goes bump in the night, and I know how to fight it" (page 284). Walking upstairs with Liz, Bex and Macey, Cammie does not know what next semester will bring, if Josh will talk to her or what he will remember, but she knows who will be beside her and, as every spy knows, sometimes that is enough.

Section 15: Chapter 29 Analysis

In Chapter 29, that night is long and hard for Cammie who is unable to sleep because Mom is locked in her office with Josh. The best case scenario is that he is given memory modification tea, but Cammie refuses to think about the worst case scenario. When she goes to her mother's office in the morning, she is surprised that Josh is given permission to wait for her after she speaks to her mother. Mom lectures Cammie about



being reckless, but she is impressed that Cammie got away with it. Mom is hurt that Cammie did not come to her though, and when Cammie says she did not want Mom to be ashamed, Mr. Solomon laughs. Mom would never have gotten away with as much at her age; that was Cammie's dad in her. Telling Cammie that her dad always said she would be good, Mr. Solomon admits he was especially hard on Cammie this semester because he has already lost one member of the Morgan family that he cares about, but if she is determined to be in this field, he will make sure she is ready because he owes Dad that much and more. As Mr. Solomon leaves, Cammie feels there is much more to the story about how he knew Dad and why he came to Gallagher Academy. Mom is also proud that Cammie is capable of love because she feared that Cammie would not be able to love if she came to the Gallagher Academy and was raised as a spy. Just when Cammie thinks she could not love Mom more, Mom tells her she would have been alright if Cammie had decided not to pursue Covert Ops. Cammie rejoins Josh in the hallway, and realizing that she no longer has to lie to him, she thinks that maybe this means she is allowed to love him; however, as he leaves, he tells her to thank Mom for the tea, leaving it uncertain whether he was given regular tea or memory-altering tea. Cammie does not know what will happen next semester or even if Josh will remember her, but she knows that her friends will be beside her and at the end of it all, that is what matters most.



Characters

Cameron Morgan

Cameron Morgan, also known as Cammie or the Chameleon, is the narrator of "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You." She is a sophomore at Gallagher Academy, spy school, where her mother is headmistress, and she is known as a pavement artist since no one sees her when she does not want to be seen. Cammie still mourns the fact that her father never returned from a mission. Her best friends are Bex and Liz, and eventually, Macey. Cammie is excited to begin her sophomore year at Gallagher Academy, a spy school disguised as a snooty boarding school for heiresses, especially since she gets to take Joe Solomon's Covert Ops class which will be the first time she and her peers get to do anything like real spy work. On their first mission at the town carnival, Cammie is unnerved when Josh, a normal boy, notices her, despite the fact that she is a pavement artist and is never seen unless she wants to be. Because Gallagher Girls are disliked by the locals, Cammie claims she is homeschooled. When she finally tells her best friends, Bex and Liz, about Josh, the girls decide to investigate him by helping Cammie sneak out of school to pursue a relationship with him.

Cammie is nearly busted at the Fall Harvest Dance when Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon join the festivities, and when the Gallagher Girls go to town, Cammie hides as Josh's friends harass her classmate for fear of blowing her cover. Liz is furious that Cammie chooses Josh over her peers. After seeing Cammie walking with the Gallagher Girls, Dillon, Josh's best friend, confronts Cammie, and when admits to attending Gallagher Academy, Cammie and Josh break up. As Cammie walks away from Josh, Mr. Solomon kidnaps her for her real-life Covert Ops final. Though Cammie escapes, the girls' mission is nearly blown when Josh arrives to save Cammie. After the girls pass their final exam, Josh is taken back to Gallagher Academy where Headmistress Morgan tells him the truth about the school. Though Cammie's mom is disappointed in her daughter's lies, she is happy that Cammie is capable of love. Just as Cammie thinks that maybe she is allowed to be with Josh, he tells her to thank her mom for the tea, leaving it unclear whether he was given normal tea or memory-altering tea. Cammie decides to continue studying on the Covert Ops course, and though she does not know what next semester will bring, she knows that Bex, Liz and Macey will be beside her.

Josh Abrams

Josh Abrams, known as the Subject, in Cammie and her friend's mission reports, is a regular guy that Cammie meets at the Roseville town carnival. He sees Cammie when he should not, causing her friends to decide to investigate him in case he is a honeypot, a boy trying to infiltrate the school through Cammie. Josh's family owns the town pharmacy, but Josh does not want to go into the family business and yearns for free will to decide his own destiny. On their first mission at the town carnival, Cammie is unnerved when Josh, a normal boy, notices her, despite the fact that she is a pavement



artist and is never seen unless she wants to be. Because Gallagher Girls are disliked by the locals, Cammie claims she is homeschooled. When she finally tells her best friends, Bex and Liz, about Josh, the girls decide to investigate him by helping Cammie sneak out of school to pursue a relationship with him.

When Josh takes Cammie to the Fall Harvest Dance to celebrate her legend's birthday, Cammie is nearly busted when Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon join the festivities, and when the Gallagher Girls go to town, Cammie hides as Josh's friends harass her classmate for fear of blowing her cover. Liz is furious that Cammie chooses Josh over her peers. After seeing Cammie walking with the Gallagher Girls, Dillon, Josh's best friend, confronts Cammie, and when admits to attending Gallagher Academy, Cammie and Josh break up. As Cammie walks away from Josh, Mr. Solomon kidnaps her for her real-life Covert Ops final. Though Cammie escapes, the girls' mission is nearly blown when Josh arrives to save Cammie. After the girls pass their final exam, Josh is taken back to Gallagher Academy where Headmistress Morgan tells him the truth about the school. Though Cammie's mom is disappointed in her daughter's lies, she is happy that Cammie is capable of love. Just as Cammie thinks that maybe she is allowed to be with Josh, he tells her to thank her mom for the tea, leaving it unclear whether he was given normal tea or memory-altering tea. Josh shows Cammie what she is giving up by becoming a spy.

Rebecca Baxter

Rebecca Baxter, known as Bex or Duchess, is a tough and beautiful Gallagher Girl. She is from England. Her parents are spies and Bex is a natural at spying, able to sneak around without being noticed. She is also Cammie's best friend, and she helps Cammie sneak out of Gallagher Academy for her dates with Josh. Bex and Macey rescue Anna Fetterman when she is being harassed by Dillon at Abrams & Son Pharmacy.

Elizabeth Sutton

Elizabeth Sutton, known as Liz or Bookworm, has a genius intellect and was invited to Gallagher Academy because of her high test scores. Her normal parents do not know the truth about her schooling. One of Cammie's best friends, Liz helps Cammie sneak out of school to date Josh, but she is very disappointed when Cammie does not rescue Anna from Dillon and his friends at the pharmacy for fear of compromising her legend.

Macey McHenry

Macey McHenry, known as Peacock during missions, is the daughter of a famous senator. Her parents want her to attend Gallagher Academy because they are out of options since she has been expelled from every other prep school for behavioral reasons. Cammie, Liz and Bex find Macey to be snobby, but when Headmistress Morgan decides to admit her to the school because of her connections and the fact that she is a descendent of Gilly Gallagher, the girls are expected to befriend Macey. Macey



agrees to help Cammie learn about boys under the condition that Cammie helps her get out of the newbie class. Macey and Bex rescue Anna from Dillon at the pharmacy. Macey becomes one of Cammie's closest friends, and she is the only one who knows all of Cammie's secrets.

Rachel Morgan

Rachel Morgan is Cammie's mother and the headmistress of Gallagher Academy. She is a beautiful spy who still mourns the disappearance of her husband during a mission.

Joe Solomon

Joe Solomon is the handsome new Covert Ops teacher. He is strict and harsh with his students, but he is especially tough on Cammie because he has already lost one member of the Morgan family that he cares about.

Anna Fetterman

Anna Fetterman is one of the weakest Gallagher Girls, and when Dillon and his friends harass her at Abrams & Son Pharmacy, Bex and Macey rescue her.

Professor Buckingham

Professor Buckingham is the former Covert Ops teacher who has retired and now runs errands for other teachers and the headmistress.

Dillon

Dillon is Josh's best friend who hates the Gallagher Girls. He harasses Anna at the pharmacy and tells Josh when he sees Cammie walking with her classmates.

DeeDee

DeeDee is a beautiful blonde girl that Josh has known forever. She likes Josh, but she is too friendly for Cammie to dislike. She helps Josh pick out earrings for Cammie's fake birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Abrams

Mr. and Mrs. Abrams are Josh's parents who Cammie meets at the Fall Harvest Dance. They are friendly and give Cammie a glimpse into a normal American family.

Madame Dabney

Madame Dabney is the teacher of Culture and Assimilation as well as Driver's Ed.



Objects/Places

Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women

The Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women is the main setting of this novel. Located in Roseville, VA, it is a school for training spies, but it is disguised as a snooty prep school for heiresses. The locals despise the Gallagher Girls for this reason. This is also where Cammie and her friends attend school and where Cammie's mom works as headmistress.

Roseville, VA

This novel is set in Roseville, VA, the small town where the Gallagher Academy is located. Cammie meets Josh at the town carnival and then continues to sneak into town for their subsequent dates. The locals in Roseville despise the Gallagher Girls, believing the cover story that the girls are spoiled heiresses.

Sublevel One

Sublevel One is the floor underneath the basement in Gallagher Academy where the Covert Ops classroom is located. Cammie and Bex are excited to descend to the sublevel for the first time as the retinal scanner in the mirror verifies they are sophomores before opening to reveal the elevator which takes them to Sublevel One.

Grand Hall

The Grand Hall is the lunch room at Gallagher Academy. A sign indicates which language and accent will be spoken at each meal. This is where Joe Solomon first appears.

Abrams & Son Pharmacy

Abrams & Son Pharmacy is Josh's family's pharmacy in town, but Josh does not want to go into the family business. This is also where Anna Fetterman is harassed by Dillon and his friends as Cammie hides to avoid compromising her legend. Luckily, Macey and Bex rescue Anna.

601 North Bellis

601 North Bellis is Josh's address which Liz locates from the public school records. Liz, Bex and Cammie install recon at his house while his family is at a party, and Cammie



intercepts Josh to avoid him seeing Liz and Bex rappelling from his roof. Bex also coordinates a tire explosion during Driver's Ed in order to steal the Abrams' trash so they can learn more about Josh.

Roseville Town Carnival

For the girls' first Covert Ops mission, Mr. Solomon takes them to the Roseville town carnival to follow Mr. Smith and find out what kind of soda he drinks with his funnel cake. Mr. Smith spots Bex and Liz but not Cammie; however, as Cammie retrieves his bottle of Dr. Pepper from the trash, Josh unexpectedly spots her which is unusual since Cammie is never seen when she does not want to be seen.

Town Gazebo

The town gazebo is where Josh and Cammie walk during their fourth encounter. Since Cammie cannot give him her phone number or email address, they use the gazebo to correspond, leaving letters behind a loose block and flipping the block backwards to signal a new letter.

Fall Harvest Dance

Josh takes Cammie to the Fall Harvest Dance on November 19 to celebrate her legend's birthday. When Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon arrive, Bex, Macey and Liz try to extract Cammie, but she refuses to leave Josh, convincing him to leave early instead.

Industrial Complex

The industrial complex on the south edge of town is where Mr. Solomon takes Cammie after he "kidnaps" her for her Covert Ops final. The girls' mission is to retrieve Cammie and a stolen disk. Tied up, Cammie tricks Mr. Mosckowitz into freeing her and escapes to join her classmates. As the girls plan how to retrieve the disk, Josh nearly ruins the mission when he arrives to save Cammie. The girls manage to divert Mr. Solomon and his guards while Anna Fetterman retrieves the disk, allowing them to pass their final exam.

Secret Passageways

Gallagher Academy contains many secret passageways which Cammie uses to sneak out of the school and into town for her dates with Josh.



Themes

Sisterhood and Friendship

One of the most important themes in "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is the concept of friendship and sisterhood as evidenced by Cammie's close relationships with her friends. At the beginning of the novel, Cammie is eager for her classmates to return to school and she does not feel like she is really home again until they join her at Gallagher Academy. When Mr. Solomon alludes to Cammie's dad, Bex is concerned for her friend's feelings, demonstrating her sisterhood. Mr. Solomon taunts Cammie when Bex and Liz are captured on their first mission, telling her they will torture Bex first because the worst pain they can inflict is making her listen to Liz's pain because of their friendship. Cammie is distraught at the idea of her friends being hurt, even though she knows it is not really happening. Headmistress Morgan expects Cammie, Liz and Bex to befriend Macey McHenry when she admits the heiress to the school, despite the fact that the girls think Macey is a snob. After Cammie confides in Bex and Liz about Josh, the girls help her investigate him, setting up recon at his house and digging through his trash. They also help her sneak out of school to date him. Eventually, Macey also learns about Josh and agrees to help Cammie understand boys if Cammie helps Macey get out of the newbie class.

Macey does not think that Josh is worth Cammie risking the loss of what she has at the Gallagher Academy, showing her concern for her friend. Liz, Bex and Macey try to extract Cammie from her date at the Fall Harvest Dance with Josh because Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon go to the dance. Cammie protects Bex from the news that her father has missed three call-ins, and Macey agrees with Cammie's decision not to tell Bex. Cammie is shocked to realize that Macey is the only person who knows all of her secrets. When Cammie does not protect Anna Fetterman from Dillon and his friends at Abrams & Son Pharmacy for fear of compromising her legend, Liz is disappointed in her friend, but Macey defends Cammie to Liz. During their Covert Ops final exam, Cammie knows her classmates will rescue her because they are Gallagher Girls, and when Josh arrives to save her, she tells him that her classmates are the closest thing she has to sisters. At the end of the novel, Cammie does not know what next semester will bring, but she knows who will be beside her, her friends, and sisters.

Secrets and Lies

Appropriate for Cammie's status as a spy-in-training, this novel is filled with the theme of secrets and lies. To begin with, the Gallagher Academy is disguised as a prep school for delinquent heiresses when it is, in fact, a spy school. When Cammie first meets Josh during her first Covert Ops mission, she lies to him that she is homeschooled and owns a cat in order to account for the fact that she is digging a Dr. Pepper bottle out of the trash in order to complete their mission to learn what soda Mr. Smith drinks with his



funnel cakes. At first, Cammie does not tell Liz and Bex about Josh, but when she finally confides in them, they help her investigate Josh and sneak out to date him. Cammie's relationship with Josh is filled with lies as she hides her life as a spy and acts as if she is leading a normal life, lying about her family and friends. This secret comes out during the Covert Ops final exam when Cammie is "kidnapped" by Mr. Solomon and Josh follows to rescue her.

Cammie also keeps Josh a secret from her mom, teachers and most of her classmates as she sneaks out to date him. When Josh's existence is revealed during the Covert Ops final exam, Cammie learns that Mom and Mr. Solomon knew she was sneaking out of school to see Josh all along. Cammie also does not tell Bex when Headmistress Morgan, Professor Buckingham and Mr. Solomon tell her that Abe Baxter, Bex's father, has missed three call-ins, opting to let her best friend keep the promise of her father for as long as possible, even though the secret eats at Cammie. Cammie confides in Macey about Bex's father, realizing that Macey is the only person who knows all of her secrets. Once the lies and tests are over after the Covert Ops final exam, Cammie introduces Josh to her mother. Headmistress Morgan tells Josh the secret of Gallagher Academy, and Josh forgives Cammie for her lies, realizing she needed to live a normal life for a while but telling her that there is nothing great about being normal. At the novel's end, it is unclear whether Josh will be allowed to remember the secrets of Gallagher Academy or if Headmistress Morgan gave him memory-altering tea. Cammie knows it is too late to go back to an ignorant life because she knows what is out there and she knows how to fight it.

Spy vs. Normal Life

A major theme in "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is the contrast between Cammie's spy life and her normal life as her legend. Cammie attends Gallagher Academy as training to become a spy, but when she meets Josh on her first Covert Ops mission, she and her friends investigate him. Then, Cammie proceeds to date Josh, lying and acting like a normal girl and even inventing a whole normal life where her parents are a typical American family like his. During this charade, Cammie realizes that being a spy is easy and being a girl is the difficult part, and she also wonders if every girl on a date is really in deep cover. Macey helps Cammie decipher Josh's words and actions since she has the most experience with normal boys. When Cammie waits to run into Josh outside of AJ's Movie Rentals, her spy training comes into effect when he covers her eyes in greeting and she slams him to the ground because being a spy is ingrained into her DNA at this point.

While dating Josh, Cammie neglects her spy studies, and Macey does not believe Josh is worth the risk of Cammie losing everything she has; however, Cammie likes Josh because he is normal. Bex, Liz and Macey try to extract Cammie from the Fall Harvest Dance when Headmistress Morgan and Mr. Solomon join the festivities, but Cammie refuses to leave. At Abrams & Son Pharmacy, Cammie betrays Anna Fetterman by not defending her against Dillon and his friends for fear of revealing her legend. This causes Liz to question whether Cammie would choose her real self or her legend if it came



down to a fight between the two. After her argument with Liz, Cammie thinks about the life she has and the one she wants, and when she breaks up with Josh, she walks away from the boy who showed her what she is giving up by becoming a spy. Cammie's two worlds collide during the Covert Ops final exam because Josh follows her to the industrial complex after seeing Mr. Solomon kidnap her. Cammie chooses to continue studying Covert Ops because she is in it too deep to go back to a normal, ignorant life.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is the first-person and limited. This is proven by the fact that the narrator knows her own thoughts and feelings as well as what she observes or is told; however, she is not privy to others' thoughts and emotions unless they decide to share willingly. The narrator is Cammie, a fifteen-year-old spy-in-training who ventures into the rest of the world after meeting a normal boy, Josh. The point of view is mostly reliable in regards to what Cammie sees and knows, but there are circumstances where her observations prove to be inaccurate. The point of view in this novel is important as it focuses on Cammie and her legend, the actuality of who she is compared to who she pretends to be. The events of the novel are focused on Cammie, and this point of view allows the reader to maintain their attention on the narrator.

The novel contains a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. This is useful to the portrayal of the narrative as it allows the focus to remain largely on Cammie's thoughts and feelings concerning both her real life and the one she makes up for her legend. It is also useful since it shows Cammie's interactions with both her peers and Josh, allowing a sharp contrast between the two lives she is living. The novel's viewpoint remains focused on Cammie throughout the entirety of the narrative.

Setting

This novel is set in the real world, in Roseville, Virginia. The characters consist of locals to the town as well as Gallagher Girls who are perceived to be snooty heiresses since the Gallagher Academy is disguised as a boarding school for rich girls, but in actuality, the Gallagher Girls are highly intelligent girls who are being trained as spies. Because of the Gallagher Girls' cover story, the local townies hate the supposedly rich, spoiled girls. The Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women is the main setting of this novel. Located in Roseville, VA, it is a school for training spies, but it is disguised as a snooty prep school for heiresses. The locals despise the Gallagher Girls for this reason. This is where Cammie and her friends attend school and where Cammie's mom works as headmistress. This novel is set in Roseville, VA, the small town where the Gallagher Academy is located. Cammie meets Josh at the town carnival and then continues to sneak into town for their subsequent dates. The locals in Roseville despise the Gallagher Girls, believing the cover story that the girls are spoiled heiresses.

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language and accent will be spoken at each meal. This is where Joe Solomon first appears. Abrams & Son Pharmacy is Josh's family's pharmacy in town, but Josh does not want to go into the family business. This is also where Anna Fetterman is harassed by Dillon and his friends as Cammie hides to avoid compromising her legend. Luckily, Macey and Bex rescue Anna. 601 North Bellis is Josh's address which Liz locates from the public school records. Liz, Bex and Cammie install recon at his house while his family is at a party, and Cammie intercepts Josh to avoid him seeing Liz and Bex rappelling from his roof. Bex also coordinates a tire explosion during Driver's Ed in order to steal the Abrams' trash so they can learn more about Josh. The town gazebo is where Josh and Cammie walk during their fourth encounter. Since Cammie cannot give him her phone number or email address, they use the gazebo to correspond, leaving letters behind a loose block and flipping the block backwards to signal a new letter. The industrial complex on the south edge of town is where Mr. Solomon takes Cammie after he "kidnaps" her for her Covert Ops final. The girls' mission is to retrieve Cammie and a stolen disk. Tied up, Cammie tricks Mr. Mosckowitz into freeing her and escapes to join her classmates. As the girls plan how to retrieve the disk, Josh nearly ruins the mission when he arrives to save Cammie. The girls manage to divert Mr. Solomon and his guards while Anna Fetterman retrieves the disk, allowing them to pass their final exam. Gallagher Academy contains many secret passageways, which Cammie uses to sneak out of the school and into town for her dates with Josh.

Language and Meaning

The language used in "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is quite casual and informal. The sentences and syntax is fairly proper without being overly complex. This style of writing is beneficial since the novel was written for teenagers and young adults. The language is appropriate as it mimics how they speak, allowing readers to associate with the characters in the novel, thus inspiring empathy with the characters' plights. The familiarity of the language is also useful because it encourages readers to feel like they are listening to a peer confide in them.

The language utilized in this novel tends to characterize the characters, modern American teenagers, as well as the society in which they live. It also characterizes the spy culture in which Cammie and her peers are immersed. The novel contains a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. This is useful to the portrayal of the narrative as it allows the focus to remain largely on Cammie's thoughts and feelings concerning both her real life and the one she makes up for her legend. It is also useful since it shows Cammie's interactions with both her peers and Josh, allowing a sharp contrast between the two lives she is living. The language aids the writing style because the more difficult spy concepts are fully explained. Overall, the language is easy to understand, and Cammie's sarcasm and personality are conveyed well throughout the narrative.

Structure

This novel is comprised of twenty-nine chapters and two hundred, eighty-four pages. The chapters average approximately ten pages in length, and they are numbered, rather than titled. The chapters are fairly short but quite detailed. The entire novel occurs over the course of one semester, around three months, but larger portions of this time are skimmed over frequently while specific events that occur over a matter of several hours are focused on extensively.

"I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" by Ally Carter is a novel about a sophomore girl who attends spy school. When Cammie meets Josh on a routine mission, she and her friends decide to investigate him which leads to Cammie's entrance into the world outside of Gallagher Academy; however, when her worlds collide, Cammie is forced to decide who she really is. "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" is an entertaining novel about a teenage girl living a double life as a spy and as a normal girl in love with a normal boy. The novel's pace is fairly slow, but it is easy to read since the common language aids reader comprehension. The story is mostly linear with a few references to Cammie's younger days when her father was still alive as well as allusions to his death. Overall, this novel is very entertaining and an enjoyable story to read.



Quotes

"She's always telling us that the worst part of the spy life isn't the danger- it's the paperwork. After all, when you're on a plane home from Istanbul with a nuclear warhead in a hatbox, the last thing you want to do is write a report about it. So that's why I'm writing this- for the practice" (Chapter 1, p. 2).

"Welcome to Covert Operations. I'm Joe Solomon. I've never taught before, but I've been doing this stuff for eighteen years, and I'm still breathing, so that means I know what I'm talking about. This is not going to be like your other classes...Ladies, I'm going to get you ready for what goes on. Out there. It's not for everyone, and that's why I'm going to make this hard on you. Damn hard. Impress me, and next year those elevators might take you one floor lower. But if I have even the slightest suspicion that you are not supremely gifted in the area of fieldwork, then I'm going to save your life right now and put you on the Operations and Research track" (Chapter 2, p. 19).

"Let me lay it out for you. Best-case scenario: all the girls go ga-ga for him and lose focus, which I'm sure is very important at the Gallagher Academy. Worst-case scenario: he's an inappropriate-conduct case looking for a place to happen. The only people who teach at these places are freaks and geeks. And when you've got a headmistress who looks like that, it's easy to see what Mr. Eyecandy was hired for... You're the Gallagher Girl. If you can't figure that out, then who am I to tell you." Macey, Chapter 3, pages 38-39

"Macey McHenry will bring a much-needed level of diversity to the Gallagher Academy. She has family connections that will allow entry into some very closed societies. She has an underutilized intellect. And... she has a quality about her." Headmistress Morgan, Chapter 4, pages 42-43

"Macey. I know this must come as quite a shock to you. But we're really just a school for exceptional young women. Our classes are hard. Our curriculum unique. But you may use what you learn here anywhere in the world. In any way you see fit. If you stay." Headmistress Morgan, Chapter 5, page 50

"I started to rip the note from the mirror, to save it as a piece of Gallagher Academy history, because two things were extraordinary about it. First, I'd never even heard of a class being canceled, much less witnessed it myself. Second, Joe Solomon had just invited fourteen girls to go on what amounted to a moonlight stroll. Things were about to get interesting" (Chapter 5, p. 53-54).

"If you can be still enough, and common enough, then it's really easy to be invisible" (Chapter 6, p. 70).

"Maybe that's because I'm the girl no one see, I wanted to say. But he had seen me, I realized, and that thought took my breath away as surely as if I'd been kicked in my stomach" (Chapter 7, p. 80).



"They won't start with Bex, you know. They'll start with Liz... These people are very good at what they do. They know Bex can take the punches; what hurts Bex most is listening to her friend scream... This is what you're signing up for. Look at what is happening to your friends! Who wants to be a spy now?" (Chapter 8, p. 88-89).

"So what? So, he saw you! Cammie, no one sees you when you don't want to be seen" (Chapter 9, p. 99).

"In other words, I'm not proud of what comes next, but I'm not exactly ashamed of it either, if that makes any sense. Sometimes I think my whole life has been that kind of contradiction. I mean, all I've heard for the last three years has been Don't hesitate, but be patient. Be logical- trust your instincts. Follow protocol- improvise. Never let your guard down- always look at ease" (Chapter 10, p. 103).

"If you ever wonder whether or not someone is too good for you, I'd advise going through their trash. Really. No one looks superior after that" (Chapter 11, p. 125).

"It sounds like he wants to play it cool... That he might like you, and he wants to keep his options open in case you decide you don't like him, or if he decides he doesn't like you" (Chapter 12, p. 133).

"Most of all, remember that going into deep cover does not mean approaching subjects. It means putting yourself in a position where the subject approaches you" (Chapter 13, p. 142).

"All these years I'd thought being a spy was challenging. Turns out, being a girl is the tricky part" (Chapter 13, p. 144).

"Right then, there was nothing else I wanted" (Chapter 15, p. 158).

"I'm going to give you some advice, Cammie. Not everyone can live this life, you know. Not everyone has it in their blood- the stress, the risk, the sacrifice" (Chapter 16, p. 174).

"I'd never felt less invisible in my life. I forgot about Bex and Macey and their great bodies, Liz and her gorgeous blond hair. Even my mother faded from my mind as I saw myself through Josh's eyes. For the first time in a long time I didn't want to disappear" (Chapter 17, p. 176).

"I hope he's worth it... Really? He is? 'Cause I don't see what's so special about him that you'd risk losing what you've got" (Chapter 18, p. 191).

"That didn't stop me from looking at him in a new way as he steered us to the opposite side of the barn, away from his friends, away from his parents. For the first time, I realized I might not be the only one in deep cover" (Chapter 19, p. 203).

"But I would never know, because things would never be equal. DeeDee would always be flesh and blood to him, and I'd always be a legend" (Chapter 20, p. 213).



"I had to see my mother; I had to know that she was okay and apologize somehow for forgetting my father in that small way. I had to know if that was the beginning of the end of my memories" (Chapter 21, p. 219).

"What was wrong was that I hadn't been able to look my best friend in the eye for days. What was wrong was that people like Abe Baxter live and die, and the whole world goes on- never knowing what they've sacrificed. There was so much wrong that I didn't know where to start" (Chapter 22, p. 225).

"Every moment I spent in town while it was swarming with Gallagher Girls was a moment they could see me with Josh, or Josh could see me with them" (Chapter 23, p. 227).

"If it had been her instead of Anna in Dillon's sights, would I have saved her; if it came down to a fight between the real me and my legend, which one would I choose?" (Chapter 24, p. 238).

"Ignorance is bliss, after all. But the problem is, for spies, ignorance is usually pretty short-lived" (Chapter 25, p. 245).

"Mr. Solomon was right- the worst kind of torture is watching someone you love get hurt" (Chapter 26, p. 253).

"Okay, Ms. Morgan, you know the drill: there are no rules. You can hit as hard as you want to hit. You can run as fast as you want to run" (Chapter 27, p. 257).

"What do I have to say? Do I have to tell you that my father's dead, and my mom can't cook, and that these girls are the closest thing I have to sisters? Do I have to say that you and I can't ever see each other again? Because it's true. It's all true. Don't come looking for me, Josh. I can't ever see you again. And you'll be better for it" (Chapter 27, p. 264).

"Her ashamed? You think she could have gotten away with as much as you did at your age? That wasn't your mom in you- that was your dad... He always said you were going to be good" (Chapter 29, p. 277).

"But the thing I worried most about was that you'd spend your childhood learning to be hard and strong and never learn that it's okay to be soft and sweet. Doing what we do, it doesn't mean turning off the part of yourself that loves, Cam. I loved your father...I love your father. And you. If I thought you would have to give that up... to never know that... I would take you as far away from this place as we could go" (Chapter 29, p. 279).

"I don't know what's going to happen next semester. I don't know if Josh will ever talk to me again. I don't know what he'll remember, or what we'll face in CoveOps, or even what Mr. Smith will look like come September. But I know who will be beside me, and as every good spy knows- sometimes that's enough" (Chapter 29, p. 284).



Topics for Discussion

Why is Cammie called the Chameleon?

Compare and contrast Bex, Liz and Macey.

Why does Cammie lie to Josh about who she is?

Describe the Gallagher Academy, both in actuality and as seen by the town.

How does Cammie manage to pursue a relationship with Josh?

Who is Joe Solomon? Why is he especially hard on Cammie?

What do the events in this novel teach Cammie about her life?