

Into the Woods Study Guide

Into the Woods by Virginia C. Andrews

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Plot Summary

Into The Woods by V.C. Andrews is the fourth book in the De Beers Family Series. Well known for her sagas that span several novels, V.C. Andrews again finds her stride in this novel, which could easily be read on its own as a stand alone novel, or as part of the series in sequence.

The Houston family is a typical naval family unit. Roland Houston is a dedicated career man who is on the path to becoming an admiral one day. In the eyes of his wife, Jackie Lee and only child, daughter Grace, he is already there. The family is a close one, partly by necessity since the constant moves prohibit forming lasting friendships of any kind. Shortly following a move to Norfolk, supposed to be the most stable of all moves to date, Roland is killed in a helicopter accident, and the Houston family comes apart. Jackie Lee puts on a brave face, and retreats to Florida where a friend from her school days now runs a restaurant, and offers her employment. Dallas quickly advises Jackie Lee that her smartest course of action now would be to find a wealthy widower to ensure the rest of her life is lived in comfort and security. Encouraged, and directed to recognize those who are most eligible, Jackie Lee soon finds her way into the heart of Winston Montgomery, and begins her climb to social status. Their marriage is the Palm Beach event of the year, and for a time, life is exactly as Jackie Lee wants it to be. She is wealthy, healthy, and able to do as she pleases, able to buy her way into the A-list of society. This is short lived however, as those with 'old money' soon tire of her marriage to money and she is no longer invited or included in their world. When Winston dies suddenly, this only becomes more evident. Jackie Lee's new wealth does nothing for her status. Bored and lonely, she soon finds herself in the company of a career gigolo, Kirby Scott, who will take them from riches to ruin in more ways than one.

Kirby Scott loses interest in Jackie Lee who is only concerned with improving her social standing, and instead begins to exhibit an unhealthy interest in Grace. He starts by convincing her that his interest is only in her happiness, bringing tears to her eyes when his conversation hits a little close to home, but his paternal interest is soon replaced by the intimate and lingering kiss he bestows on her as he is leaving. Grace is so stunned, she doesn't even have time to object before he is gone, but the damage is done. Guilt worms its way into her heart, and when he comes to her the next time in the middle of the night, she is so trapped in a fog of sleeping pills that she isn't even aware of who he is until he has taken her for the first time. She struggles, but without conviction, and he is sure that she is as thrilled with the experience as he is. By morning, he has taken her again, and left, leaving her to question the events, and her sanity. The resulting pregnancy will turn their lives upside down again as Jackie Lee tries to salvage what she sees as their reputations. Her not entirely noble efforts will have Grace talking to her father, attempting suicide, and finally sent to a clinic for treatment.



Chapter 1: The Life and Chapter 2: My Personal Radar Screen

Chapter 1: The Life and Chapter 2: My Personal Radar Screen Summary

Into The Woods by V.C. Andrews is the fourth book in the De Beers Family Series. Well known for her sagas that span several novels, V.C. Andrews again finds her stride in this novel, which could easily be read on its own as a stand alone novel, or as part of the series in sequence.

Daddy's letters always begin with "Dear Sailor Girl." At the age of fifteen, Roland comes home to announce his newest transfer - this one to Norfolk, Virginia where he will be assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight - the Dragon Whales. He is to be an instructor at Heliops - a transfer that can last as long as three years and involves a promotion to Lieutenant Commander. They have hardly even begun to unpack when Grace meets Autumn Sullivan and is invited to dinner. They are confronted by a car load of kids from the area who challenge Autumn, asking if she has already told Grace about her recent abortion. Horrified, Autumn denies it at first, but then recants and hurries into her house, leaving Grace standing on the street. Grace follows, knocking on her door. Her father answers, confused that they have arrived separately, but takes her up to Autumn's room. The door is locked, and he and Grace's sister Caitlin both try to convince her to come out. When she doesn't respond, he breaks down the door and discovers Autumn has cut her wrists. Grace doesn't wait to see, heading home as quickly as she can. Her parents meet her and she tells them what Wendi and Penny said that upset Autumn so much.

Wendi and Penny corner Grace to find out how much she knows about Autumn's suicide attempt. Grace tells them she saw nothing, and studiously avoids Penny and Wendi for the rest of the week. By the end of the week, Grace is given the okay to go and see Autumn, and at first, Autumn is filled with questions, talking as though she'd just gotten over a flu, but when the questions about school dry up, she tells Grace how she really became pregnant. Roofies, she confesses. Telling her that none of this is her fault, Grace promises to come back soon. Just days afterward, Autumn is simply forgotten about though Wendi and Penny seem pleased with themselves when they discover that Autumn's family had indeed sent her to a private school elsewhere. After they had been in Norfolk for about a month, Grace's mother surprises her by coming up to talk. She tells Grace that she and her father had decided to try to have another child, and her father has a similar conversation with her soon after, telling her that he has trouble accepting the idea that she will be bringing boys home in no time for his approval or rejection.



Chapter 1: The Life and Chapter 2: My Personal Radar Screen Analysis

When she is little, Grace believes that everyone lives as they do - nomadic, temporary, impermanent. Grace quickly learns not to make friends, and that memories are painful and best locked away. A little voice tells her to be careful who you allow to touch your heart because the deeper you love, the deeper the pain is when they leave - and they always leave. Grace put a brave face on with each move, but vows privately that one day she will live in the same place for a long time, and really get to know people. She wonders if it will make her any happier. When Grace first meets Autumn in Annapolis, Autumn latches on to her as though she is a life preserver, and in some ways, perhaps she is. Grace barely gets to know her before other girls from their gated community cruise by to ask Grace if Autumn has shared her secret abortion yet. Autumn is in tears by the time they leave, at first claiming it is all a horrible lie because they hate her but then quickly admitting it is the truth. Grace is stunned and Autumn is so horrified that she bolts home, leaving Grace standing on the street. Grace follows, still thinking her invitation to dinner is open, and not wanting to leave things the way they were. Autumn's father opens the door and introduces himself, taking Grace up to Autumn's room. Autumn has locked the door and refuses to answer so her father finally breaks it down to get in, discovering that his daughter has cut her wrists. Grace doesn't wait to see, running home to the security of her parents and tells them what happened and what caused it.

Grace is faced with the curiosity of Autumn's tormentors on the first day of school. Penny and Wendi show no signs of regret or remorse as they buttonhole Grace for "all the gory details." Grace asks why they thought it was necessary to treat her with such cruelty, but neither girl is inclined to take responsibility for what happened - even partially. Instead, they claim they were only trying to help her avoid making a huge social mistake on her first day in town. Penny even comments that Caitlin herself is worried that she will lose her boyfriend as a result of her sisters' actions. A warning is given next that Grace should take care not to go telling everyone about their part in Autumn's suicide attempt or she might find herself in an even worse predicament. Grace goes to see Autumn after a week, and Caitlin greets her with surprise, saying she wouldn't have blamed her if she hadn't come at all. She goes up to Autumn's room and finds her just lying on the bed. After some attempts at normal conversation, Autumn tells Grace how she came to be pregnant. Grace realizes that Autumn was raped, and not at all promiscuous as suggested by Wendi and Penny. Autumn blames her mother for having told one of the other mothers, and letting the whole thing come out into the open to begin with. Grace makes up her mind that she will be friends with Autumn in that moment, but Autumn, though happy to hear it, is certain that she will be sent away, and equally certain that she is hated by her entire family. Before Grace can talk to her again, her family sends Autumn to a private school. Grace can see that Wendi and Penny are like the queen bees of the area, and most of the sons and daughters of other navy personnel treat them with deference and respect, fawning over anything they say, and agreeing. They seem confident that Grace will soon be begging them for their friendship. When Grace's mother announces that they are going to try to give her a little



brother or sister, Grace hides her initial jealousy and fear of replacement, and behaves like a grown up although she worries that the baby would become her father's new "Sailor Girl." Grace's father is next, and Grace reassures him as well. He admits that he still thinks of her as a little girl and they laugh about the likelihood that Grace will soon be bringing boys home for his approval or rejection. Grace isn't bothered by his "hands on" approach, feeling comforted by his concern and interest, and feeling loved and secure. She feels sorry for Autumn.



Chapter 3: A Convenient Sprain and Chapter 4: Men And Their Toys

Chapter 3: A Convenient Sprain and Chapter 4: Men And Their Toys Summary

Grace celebrates her fifteenth birthday, catches up on assignments and studies for finals. Trent Ralston (the boy Autumn had a crush on) asks if they can study together, and eager to get started, he suggests that evening. Grace gives him her address and leaves his name at the gate. When he is more than twenty minutes late, Grace's mother asks if he is coming, and Grace shrugs, telling her she plans to study regardless. Her mother leaves to visit someone and Grace studies until the phone rings. Trent explains he sprained his ankle and just returned from the hospital, but still wants to study, hoping she will come to his home. In anticipation that she will agree, he has sent a taxi, which arrives as they discuss it. Grace decides to go, leaving her mother a note to explain. When she arrives, Trent is on a crutch and they study hard for a good hour before he drags out his baseball card collection, and explains their significance to her. Grace knows little about baseball, but understands their value, impressing him even more. Finally, he leans forward and kisses her, looking into her eyes for approval or rejection, before kissing her again. He stops before getting too carried away, taking the painkillers he had earlier refused in order to study. Grace helps him into bed and gets into the cab he already called and prepaid. Grace's mother and father are in the kitchen and she endures some harmless teasing before going up to bed. Her father comes up shortly after to apologize and to tell her he is happy that she likes Trent, if a little jealous as well.

The next day she and Trent take every moment they can together but his many friends and admirers give him little time alone. Trent is confident after his study session with Grace. The questions are just a review of what they studied, and he has no problem with the exam at all. Every time he looks at Grace and smiles, a collection of girls are green with envy. When he asks her to study English with him as well, telling her he will even come to her house. Grace's mother suggests they invite Trent for dinner as well, and he accepts. They go shopping, stopping on the way to watch the helicopters lift off at the request of her father and both are impressed with how his men seem to respect him. They head home with groceries and dinner is a success. Grace and Trent begin studying and Grace's mother stops in only briefly. When she leaves, Trent feels safe enough to kiss her before they return to their studies. When the doorbell rings a short time later, Grace hurries downstairs to find her mother unconscious and two officers helping her onto the couch. She immediately knows the truth. A helicopter accident has taken her father's life. Devastated, Grace doesn't even notice when Trent slips out and goes home. The funeral is typically proper and full of naval ceremony. Trent calls but even his voice isn't enough to lift her spirits. Her mother decides that when the school year is finished, they will go to Florida where she can get a job with her friend Dallas.



Chapter 3: A Convenient Sprain and Chapter 4: Men And Their Toys Analysis

Grace and her parents invite Autumn's family to her fifteenth birthday, but they don't come. The end of the school year is approaching, and Grace has little time to do much but study, catch up, and prepare for the end of the year finals. When Trent Ralston approaches her one day to tell her how impressed he is that she manages to keep her grades up despite all of their constant moving, she can't help but warm to him. She admits that she has a secret, which he immediately offers to buy at any price. She tells him that she studies - period. No tricks, no television on, no music - just studying. When he asks her if she will study with him, Grace can hardly believe he is serious, but he is and wants them to start that evening. She gives him her address, and goes home on air. She tells her mother that he is coming, attempting to be nonchalant about it, but her mother can see right through her. Grace tries to hide her disappointment when he is more than fifteen minutes late, but is determined to use the time to study regardless. Her mother goes out for a short time, and Trent calls shortly afterward to apologize, explaining that a sprain kept him in the hospital until just that moment. He insists they still have time to study if Grace will come to him, and she considers it, thinking first about Autumn's experience, and then about how her mother advised her not to live in fear or she will miss a great deal of life. She makes the decision to go at the same time as the taxi Trent sent in anticipation arrives. She leaves a note, and Trent seems happy to see her. They go up to his room where they study in earnest for over an hour before he finally suggests a break. He shows her his collection of baseball cards, impressed that her eyes don't glaze over immediately. Although she knows little about the subject, she understands the value of the cards. He kisses her, looking into her eyes for her reaction before kissing her again. Grace is in heaven. Just his touch is enough to send her places she has never been. She worries that he might get carried away but pain has him taking the pain killers the doctor prescribed, and Grace helps him into bed before going home in the taxi he calls and prepays. Her mother and father are waiting up for her, and can't resist some harmless teasing, seeing the look on her face and knowing that Trent is important to her.

The next day, Grace and Trent spend as much time together as they can. When his friends notice that he prefers to talk to her, she suddenly becomes more popular too but doesn't care. As long as they get time together, nothing else matters. He does well on the test that day, crediting her with his success, and asks if she will study English with him that night as well. She happily agrees, and her mother is receptive as well, extending the invitation to include dinner. Trent accepts and quickly decides that he really likes her mother. They go up to study, and Grace finds herself watching the clock, and wondering where her father is. When the doorbell rings, she knows without being told. She goes downstairs and sees her mother who has fainted while two soldiers help her to the couch. She stays with her, hardly aware that Trent quietly slipped out. The funeral is typically navy, and Grace feels numb through it all, hardly able to imagine that her father is actually in the box they are putting in the ground. She keeps thinking that he will just show up anytime, but of course he doesn't. Grace finishes the school year, and listens as her mother tells her that she has decided that they will move to Florida



where she will take a job as a waitress in her friend's restaurant. Grace can hardly imagine any of it, and hates that she will be leaving Trent before they even had a chance. They promise each other they'll write, but both know that this is goodbye for them. He kisses her, and they are gone.



Chapter 5: Two Girls Together and Chapter 6: Augustus and Phoebe

Chapter 5: Two Girls Together and Chapter 6: Augustus and Phoebe Summary

The trip to Florida is about eight hundred miles and Grace's mother believes they can do it easily in two days. They talk a great deal, and Grace learns things about her mother that she never knew before. On the second day, they decide to stop for the night instead of pushing straight through, having an early breakfast, and talking about the future. Dallas greets them enthusiastically when they get there, and assures them they will love Florida in no time. Dallas takes them to a condo that she has already stocked with everything from bedding to cleaning supplies and both Grace and Jackie are surprised and pleased. While Jackie and Dallas talk, Grace goes out to watch a pair of ducks in the courtyard pond.

Grace calls Trent twice, leaving messages, spending most of the time with her mother, and occasionally going to the pond to feed the ducks. She keeps hoping to run into Auggie, and finally one day finds him there meditating. They discuss how everything talks to us if only we could free our minds and listen. He reveals that he knows about her father and the accident, and claims he still communicates with her now, telling her it is all energy. He takes her to his laboratory where he tells her he is working on the problem of time travel. Grace meets Auggie's grandmother, Clarissa Dorahush, who admits Auggie's parents were killed in a car accident five years earlier, and adds that if Grace's mother needs anything, she is in the book. Phoebe Tremont finally calls Grace and invites her to go with her and some of her friends to the beach. Grace agrees, and they pick her up shortly afterward. The rest of the day is spent verbally sparring with a girl who is used to getting her own way, and her friends who are used to supporting her viciousness. Grace has moved enough times to hold her own, much to Phoebe's disappointment, getting the upper hand more than once as Phoebe tries repeatedly to make her look bad, or stupid. She manages to create the beginnings of an enemy. The only positive aspect of the day is one of the younger men in the group, Randy, with whom Grace finds it easy to be friends.

Chapter 5: Two Girls Together and Chapter 6: Augustus and Phoebe Analysis

Grace can see that though the pain eases on her mother's face, the light in her eyes has yet to return. They talk a great deal on the way to Florida, and Grace realizes that a change has occurred. Somehow, the death of her father changes the way her mother treats her - talking to her about subjects she never would have before as though they are equals now. Grace realizes that her mother waited until she was mature enough to



understand the things she is now hearing. They talk about relationships, marriage and friendships with frank openness that Grace enjoys. When they get to Florida, Jackie drives them to the restaurant run by Dallas and Warren first, and then Dallas takes them to the condo she has already arranged for them. Dallas helps them unpack and Grace enjoys watching her mother relax and laugh a little. She goes outside where she meets an above average student named Augustus Brewster.

When Dallas leaves, they try to unpack but Grace is unable to put out the many ornaments and memories that her father gave her from his many stops. She finally manages to run into Auggie, having tried on several occasions, and fed the ducks many times. They have a conversation that she realizes is typical for him, and often goes over her head until he explains himself. He takes her to his condo where he has created a laboratory in his bedroom. She can't begin to absorb the complexity of the math involved in his equations. She also meets his grandmother, Clarissa Dorahush, who tells her a little bit more about Auggie. His brilliance keeps him isolated, home schooled, and too smart for most ages - younger because they require explanations for everything, and older because they don't enjoy being around someone often more intelligent than they are. It is isolating. Grace also learns that Auggie lost both his parents in a terrible car accident five years earlier. Phoebe Tremont and her friends pick Grace up to take her to the beach with them, but instead they end up in Roger Winston's old Cadillac, driven way too fast back to his house where his parents are guaranteed absent. Phoebe insists on calling Grace Grassy, and Grace can quickly see that she wants to be the focus of attention, preferably at Grace's expense. She tries several times to outsmart Grace, but Grace isn't easily rattled by people, having moved as often as she had, and none of Phoebe's games work. Instead, she makes herself look bad over and over again, and doesn't like it. Grace's mother begins working at the restaurant.



Chapter 7: A Game Of Secrets and Chapter 8: Counteroffensive

Chapter 7: A Game Of Secrets and Chapter 8: Counteroffensive Summary

Phoebe is relentless. When one attack is unsuccessful, she immediately begins to plan another. Grace is quick witted however, and none of Phoebe's attempts to make Grace look bad actually work and she often becomes the butt of her own mean behavior. Instead of backing down, Phoebe is even more determined. When drugs and alcohol don't work, she suggests they play a game called Secrets. When Grace manages to outsmart her there as well, she stomps out in a huff, leaving Grace in the house with Randy. Grace doesn't mind. Randy is nice to her, and his stuttering is something Grace simply ignores, unlike the rest who tease him mercilessly. He calls her a few days later to invite her to a movie, and tells her everything she can expect from her new school, insisting on riding the bus home with her afterward. Augustus is on the front lawn when they arrive, and his irritation at Randy's presence is obvious. Grace tries to be a peacemaker, but Auggie walks off. When Randy turns to leave, Grace thanks him for the evening, and kisses his cheek. He walks away smiling, and she wonders who is more unhappy - herself, Randy or Augustus.

Grace sees Randy twice more before school starts, and her mother soon becomes one of the highest tipped servers at the restaurant. On weekends, Grace helps out as hostess and though Phoebe comes in occasionally to get money from her father, she ignores Grace. Phoebe continues in her efforts to make Grace look foolish in school, spreading the nickname "Sailor Girl" until other kids salute her in the halls as she passes. Grace smiles and salutes them back. Grace finds herself wishing she could be in a home study program like Augustus. She calls her mother at work to tell her about her most recent confrontation, but they are busy and she later tells Grace that there was a problem at work. A large amount of money is missing and is finally found in the staff room under her mother's things. Grace knows Phoebe is responsible, and waits up for her mother to tell her. Augustus is standing at the door when she hangs up, and tells her that his grandmother is in the hospital. Grace invites him in and shares her supper with him. He talks about how she saved him when his parents died. She tells him about her issues with Phoebe, and he agrees that challenging her was a mistake, telling her the best course of action is to do nothing. He helps her with her Math homework and surprises her by kissing her, telling her she is the first girl that he has ever kissed that way. When her mother comes home, she tells her about Phoebe and she agrees that she is likely responsible. Then, to Grace's surprise, she admits to having met a man who is recently widowed as well. Grace is not entirely happy about the prospect.



Chapter 7: A Game Of Secrets and Chapter 8: Counteroffensive Analysis

Phoebe doesn't quit easy. She is used to being the center of attention, and to having everyone listen to her directives. Grace doesn't play that game, and won't be trodden on to make Phoebe look better. Instead, she gives as good as she gets, often turning Phoebe's pranks back on herself. The only positive part of the whole experience is Randy, whom Grace finds friendly and supportive. At risk of Phoebe's wrath himself because of his stuttering, he still comes to Grace's defense on more than one occasion. He even invites her out socially afterward. Augustus is not thrilled with her new friendship with Randy, and at their first meeting, he is less than gracious, walking away from them after forcing Grace to run interference. Grace gives Randy a kiss on the cheek, thanking him for the evening, and anything that Auggie might have said to bother him was gone. Grace recognizes that the common thread all three of them share is loneliness, and wonders who suffers most.

Without other military brats in school, Grace finds she is very different from the others, and isolated as a result despite Randy's efforts to ease her into the new year. Phoebe is relentless, first trying to single Grace out in school, and using everything at her disposal to put her down, but Grace is quick, and intelligent. She often manages to deflect the barbs, and Phoebe more often than not is the one who looks bad after a confrontation. It soon becomes apparent that she needs to take a different approach, so she does. In the meantime, Grace begins to make friends, and spends time with Randy at school. Roger tells Grace that she is the most frustrating person Phoebe has ever met. He admires Grace's ability to hold her own. Grace asks him for a ride home. He agrees, but hurries out of the parking lot before Phoebe can see before relaxing. On the way home, he warns her that Phoebe will not let this go admitting he doesn't like her all that much himself. He offers to help Grace study the following night, and she accepts but doesn't tell her mother deciding it is a mistake and resolving to cancel. When she tries the following day in school, he acts as though he has no idea what she is talking about. Grace feels set up, and can't help but the barbs being shot in her direction. Responding is a mistake. Auggie shows up and tells her that his grandmother is in the hospital after heart problems, and Grace realizes how small her problems are by comparison. She feeds him, and after helping her with her Math, he kisses her. He tells her that it makes him feel "like not wanting to disappear." When her mother comes home, she tells her about the incident with Phoebe and she agrees that Phoebe is likely the one who committed the theft at work. Then she tells Grace that she's met a widow, and Grace can't understand how she could even begin to think about anyone else.



Chapter 9: Mommy and Mrs.Greenstein

Chapter 9: Mommy and Mrs.Greenstein Summary

Grace goes to school intending to ignore Phoebe, but when Ashley approaches her to "see if she is alright after her mother's arrest for theft," Grace loses her composure. She shouts, Ashley baits further, and Grace snaps, grabbing her by her hair, and dragging her to the floor. Her screams bring students and teachers alike. When Grace gets home, she tells her mother everything. Then Grace learns that Mrs. Dorahush passed away the previous night. Grace immediately goes to Augustus' condo and learns that a government car has already taken him away. Her mother promises to help her try to find him.

Randy calls, and she tells him she will be at the school for a meeting in the morning. Then Augustus calls, and tells her he is being sent to a research facility in New Mexico, and that he'll miss her, but can't write or call. The next morning Grace goes to the school with her mother. Jackie Lee and Mrs. Greenstein exchange cold, and not so vague threats before she takes Grace home. Once there, she apologizes to Grace for having to go to that school.

Since it is the weekend, Jackie suggests Grace come to the restaurant with her and Grace is glad for the distraction. Phoebe and Roger come in and she tries to needle Grace who just looks at Roger. The next day, Jackie Lee seems excited, and spends more time than usual on makeup and hair. Grace doesn't figure it out until Mr. Winston Montgomery comes in for dinner. He sits in Jackie Lee's section, and she lights up when she sees him, spending as much time in between customers with him as possible. Dallas informs Grace that he is very wealthy, and recently widowed, but none of that matter to Grace. She just sees her mother fawning over an old man. Dallas finds that funny, and tells Grace what a catch he is. When the night is finally done, he is the only customer left. Dallas finishes cashing out for Jackie Lee who takes Grace home and gets herself ready to go out. Grace is stunned. This is something new, and Grace questions her. Jackie Lee snaps at her for asking, and apologizes. She tells Grace not to worry, and heads out to the waiting limousine. Grace goes back to bed, making a promise to her father that she will never forget him, even if it means she has to forfeit her own happiness.

Chapter 9: Mommy and Mrs.Greenstein Analysis

Grace is unable to follow the advice to just ignore Phoebe. Phoebe doesn't do her own dirty work. She sends Ashley to bait her. Phoebe has been telling anyone who'll listen that Jackie Lee was caught stealing money from the very people who tried to help her, and was arrested the night before. Ashley loudly asks Grace if she is alright, following her mother's arrest and Grace loses her temper for the first time. When Grace is finally pulled off of Ashley, she is sent to the office where Principal, Mrs. Greenstein is called.



She tells Grace to sit while she checks on Ashley to determine if the police should be called. Grace tries to explain herself, but Mrs. Greenstein doesn't believe her. She is suspended, pending an inquiry to decide whether expulsion is warranted. Once she gets home and explains the whole situation to her mother, she learns that Mrs. Dorahush died during the night and suddenly her problems seem minuscule. She hurries to Auggie's condo, but he is already gone. The gardener explains that he was taken earlier, and Jackie Lee promises to help Grace try to find him.

Randy calls to check on her, and she assures him that she is okay. When the phone rings again, she thinks he is calling back, but Augustus is on the other end. He tells her he's been taken to a facility where there are more people like him, and he will have everything he needs to continue his work at his disposal. Soon, he is sure he will disappear entirely, and Grace is more than disappointed that she won't get to know him better. Like Trent, Grace had just begun to have feelings for Augustus, and now he is taken from her too. It seems as though the men in her life are ripped from her as soon as she opens her heart to them.

The next morning, she and her mother go back to the school where Jackie Lee and Mrs. Greenstein discuss Grace and the situation that caused her suspension. Jackie Lee explains the animosity between Phoebe and Grace, but the Principal is not interested. She is only concerned with Grace and how best to punish her behavior. Jackie Lee warns her that if it happens again, there will be much more done about it. They go home, and she apologizes to Grace, understanding the predicament she is in, and sorry that she ever made the decision to move from Norfolk where Grace had just begun to make friends and fit in. Grace goes with her to the restaurant, and things are fine until Mr. Winston Montgomery arrives. Grace sees him as an old man, but Jackie Lee and Dallas see him as widowed, rich and the catch of the day. Grace is stunned to see her mother behaving the way that she is - flirting shamelessly. When they go home for the night, Grace gets into bed, but Jackie Lee gets ready to go out. Grace questions her, but is soon told that everyone deserves to have a little fun now and then. Jackie Lee climbs into a waiting limousine while Grace goes to bed, promising her father that she will not forget him.



Chapter 10: A Bridge To Cross

Chapter 10: A Bridge To Cross Summary

Jackie Lee doesn't get home until after Grace gets up the next morning and Grace can't understand how her mother could possibly have lost track of time until morning. Jackie Lee is patient at first, but finally tells her to drop it. She tells her about Winston's estate and how the night went, so exuberant that Grace is jealous. Then she gets undressed and announces she is going to have a nap. While she is sleeping, a box of mixed, long stemmed roses are delivered with a note from Winston.

Grace goes out to feed the ducks, missing Augustus and wishing he was there to talk to. A moving van comes to empty his condo, but everything is being put in storage they tell her. She manages to grab a piece of paper with his calculations on it, and puts it in her jewelry box. Then she makes linguine, hoping the smell will wake her mother. It does, and she sees the roses, flushing with pleasure and muttering "hook and sinker." She gets dressed and while they eat lunch, tells Grace all about the beach front estate. The phone rings and Montgomery asks for her mother. He invites them out for an afternoon on his yacht the following afternoon, so Jackie Lee takes them out shopping for the occasion, spending nearly eight hundred dollars. Then she decides to have her hair done in a shop in West Palm Beach. It is immediately apparent that Montgomery has had a hand in this as well when 'Rene' attends to her. Grace wanders around the shops with fifty dollars from her mother who comes back out again, having cut her hair short. Grace hates it and voices her opinion. She storms out, hardly watching where she is going until her mother drives up along side her and tells her to get in. Jackie Lee explains that life is changing for them both, and they have to change with it. They both cry so hard that she has to pull over, and eventually the police arrive to see if she is okay. Grace apologizes, and they hug, somehow a little bit stronger.

Chapter 10: A Bridge To Cross Analysis

When Grace gets up the next morning, she discovers her mother's bed has not been slept in, and she isn't even home. At first, Grace is worried, but when her mother arrives and says that she had hoped that Grace would still be sleeping, Grace goes from worried to angry. The guilt on her mother's face only makes things worse. Finally she tires of defending herself and tells Grace to let it go - a first. Jackie Lee goes to have a nap while Grace feeds the ducks, missing Augustus. A box of roses in mixed colors is delivered for Jackie Lee from Winston and Grace somehow feels as though her mother is betraying her father. She makes lunch afterward, and tries to be polite as Jackie Lee avidly describes the opulence of the evening and the way that Winston lives. When Winston calls to invite them out for a day on his yacht, Grace is reluctant to the point of rude, claiming she has nothing to wear. That leads to a shopping spree that Grace knows they cannot afford, followed by the ultimate betrayal. Jackie Lee cuts off her long hair, so favored by her father and copied by Grace. She tells her mother she hates it,



and storms out. Jackie Lee follows her in the car, and tells her to get in. Then she gives Grace a lecture on the facts of life. Her father is gone, and isn't coming back. Somehow, they have to adapt, and grow with their new situation, whether they like it or not. Either way, Jackie Lee has no intention of giving up her life and Grace's in the process. They both cry so hard that Jackie Lee has to pull over. Finally, a police car joins them, and she tells him they are fine. It is the truth. Grace is sorry she was so hard on her mother, and tells her so, hugging her tight through their tears. They pull out feeling stronger somehow.



Chapter 11: The Myth of Icarus

Chapter 11: The Myth of Icarus Summary

After a quick and simple dinner, Jackie Lee goes to bed, exhausted. Randy calls and invites her to a movie but Grace has to decline and promises him they will see each other during the week. The next morning, Jackie Lee prepares herself with more care than usual, and laughs when Grace tells her to relax - they are only going for a picnic on a boat. When they arrive at the gates of the estate, Grace can hardly believe Winston lives there. The yacht is huge and well staffed. They get under way, and Grace is given a crash course by Captain Gene. Lunch is served in one of Winston's favorite places, and Grace can't help but enjoy herself. Jackie Lee has already booked the day off, and on their way back Winston gives Jackie Lee a Rolex watch to help them both keep track of time. Grace walks along the beach, and when she gets back, her mother is waiting, as is the limousine to take them home. Jackie Lee tells her that Winston is taking them out for dinner the following evening, and the night off has already been arranged. The next morning, they go shopping again for something to wear that evening. She insists Grace try on a dress with a Coco Chanel label, priced at almost one thousand dollars. Grace is horrified, but tries it on while her mother goes in search of shoes which turn out to be almost as expensive. Then she finds herself a dress costing twenty five hundred dollars with eleven hundred dollar shoes to match. Grace can hardly breathe. When her mother doesn't pay, Grace questions her to discover they have an account in that store. Winston arrives at five and Winston reveals that he is taking them to his favorite restaurant on Paradise Island in the Bahamas for dinner. The entire evening is surreal. Winston dances with them both, and is a perfect gentleman. When they get home, the answering machine is blinking. Dallas is crying and tells them Phoebe has been in a car accident. The boy driving was high on pot and they crashed. A boy is dead, and Phoebe is just hanging on. Grace feels terrible, sure that the driver is Roger and can hardly believe his life is over. When she learns that the boy who died was sitting in the back seat - Randy - Grace topples over, unconscious.

Chapter 11: The Myth of Icarus Analysis

Grace learns that by defending her, Randy has isolated himself further, and she asks him not to do that anymore. She thinks about her father, wishing he was there to give her advice. Then she admits to herself that she is looking forward to an outing on a yacht, and tries on one of the expensive outfits purchased earlier. The next day, Winston is right on time, and at first it almost seems as though he has been primed to converse with her, but finally she decides that he might legitimately like her, and begins to relax. The gates to his estate are like arriving in Disneyland and the feeling continues as they go through his estate to the boat at the dock where his staff are waiting. They go aboard and are taken to his favorite picnic spot. The day is wonderful, and Grace can't help but enjoy herself. She and her mother are both stunned when Winston presents her with a new Rolex to help them keep track of time. When it is time to go home, Winston is



nowhere to be seen, but Jackie Lee assures Grace they will see him the following day. The limousine takes them home where exhausted, they fall into bed. The next morning, they go shopping again. Grace can't help but notice the price tags, and is stunned to find her mother spending almost five thousand dollars on two dresses and two pairs of shoes, despite the elegance of their appearance. That evening, Winston takes them for a magical dinner, using his private jet to get them to his favorite restaurant in the Bahamas. He dances with them both, and the evening is like a dream until they get home again. A message from Dallas brings them crashing to reality. Phoebe was in a car accident, and clinging to life while another boy in the car was killed. Grace is shocked, thinking Roger was killed, but when she discovers that the boy who died was actually Randy, who had been in the back seat, her whole world dissolves and she falls to the floor unconscious.



Chapter 12: Twenty Dozen Roses

Chapter 12: Twenty Dozen Roses Summary

The accident is the talk of the school. Later, at home, Grace learns that Winston is taking them to dinner, and tries to beg off, but her mother won't hear of it. Winston picks them up and talks to Grace about losing Randy, telling her a story about a friend he lost in college. When he is finished, tears are streaming down her face. He gives her a handkerchief and his hand which Grace holds on to as Jackie Lee looks on, smiling. Life continues. The job at the restaurant becomes more and more part time for her mother as Winston continues to spend time with them. One day, Grace learns that their bill at the boutique is being paid by Winston and Grace is astonished. Shortly after leaving for one of many events her mother and Winston attended, she storms back into the house, furious. She tells Grace that men require training too, and that they should never be allowed to dictate who a woman sees or when, especially when it is other women involved. She refuses to talk to him until he sends her dozens of roses by way of apology. Grace soon discovers that they are a prelude to a proposal as well which comes two days later. She tells Grace that they will marry at Joya del Mar in two months and hopes that Grace will be happy for them. When Grace asks if she loves Winston, she says she is very fond of him and will make him a good wife. He will be happy, and they will be secure. Jackie Lee is determined to have the finer things in life and knows that Winston is the man who can give them to her. Grace tries to accept it all, but knows that the day they get married will be the day her father fades from their lives, just like closing a book.

Chapter 12: Twenty Dozen Roses Analysis

Grace goes through the day in a fog, and begins to wonder if she is some kind of Jonah, bringing bad fortune to those who come too close. Jackie Lee tells her she won't let this spiral of misfortune continue. In fact, she expects Grace to join her and Winston for dinner. Grace objects, but is overruled. Winston is remarkably perceptive, able to not only identify with the sorrow Grace feels, but break through her fragile cover and find her underneath. Jackie Lee is pleased with what she sees. As days turn into weeks, Jackie Lee sees more and more of Winston, and works less. Dallas is understanding and helpful, giving her as much time off as she wants or needs. Grace discovers that Winston has been paying for all of their clothing and is horrified at first, but her mother disagrees, telling her that it makes Winston happy to do it. Grace feels as though they are taking advantage of Winston. Grace has avoided making friends, afraid to get close to anyone again. She wonders if her mother is falling in love with Winston. When Phoebe finally comes back to school, she is treated like a celebrity, but thankfully she finally leaves Grace alone. Grace spends more time confiding in Winston than in her mother who can't seem to cope with anything negative either in thought or deed. One night Grace's mother returns from a charity ball unusually early and extraordinarily angry. She tells Grace that Winston presumed to suggest who she should and shouldn't



have for women friends. She insists he take her home, and her refusal to speak to him for two days may have contributed indirectly to the speed with which his proposal followed. Four days later, Jackie Lee is sporting a six carat clear marquis engagement ring. When Grace questions her love for Winston, she assures Grace that she will make him happy for the rest of his life, and in return, they will want for nothing ever again. Grace tries to be positive, but can't help but feel as though her father is being forgotten.



Chapter 13: Happy Forever

Chapter 13: Happy Forever Summary

Jackie Lee quits working right after she becomes engaged. She is now fully involved with selecting fonts for stationary and invitations, decorations, caterers and florists and has little time for anything else, including Grace. She spends more time with Winston. A week before the wedding, they move into Winston's estate, although Jackie Lee maintains propriety by sleeping in a guest room until the wedding. Grace slowly becomes familiar with the many staff members at the estate, and is relieved of all household chores. She feels like a Princess. Winston keeps their honeymoon destination a surprise and worries about the time that Grace will have to spend alone. He even suggests she join them, which she declines. The wedding is everything Jackie Lee ever wanted. Phoebe tries to bait Grace but is not successful and Grace puts things into perspective by telling Phoebe that she would trade it all in a heartbeat to have Randy back before walking away. Winston takes Grace onto the dance floor and stays with her even when the tempo increases. Winston and Jackie Lee leave for their honeymoon the next morning - a yacht trip throughout the Mediterranean. They return laden with gifts, photos, stories, and Jackie Lee sporting a new hairdo and color. Seeing her with black hair is a shock, and takes some getting used to. Grace steps back as much as she can while her mother assumes the position of a woman with wealth, going to luncheons and managing their social schedule. Grace avoids as much of it as possible, and Winston notices, joining her on the beach. He tells her he's been thinking that she should have her driver's license and offers to teach her. True to his word, he begins the next day, and tops off his instruction with a driving instructor before she takes and passes her test. Grace and Winston spend more and more time together, discussing current events or books and one day he comes to her asking for her help. He leads her to the front of the estate where a red BMW convertible sits. He hands her an envelope with her name on it, and barely conceals a smirk when she opens it to find registration in her name and two sets of keys. Her mother jumps out from behind a bush yelling surprise and Grace can't help but throw her arms around Winston as he and her mother exchange grins.

Chapter 13: Happy Forever Analysis

Their wedding is set for two months hence and Winston has told her that she can have whatever she wants. Every now and then, Grace tries to ground her mother, reminding her that she is deeply invested in a party for people she doesn't even know, but Jackie Lee becomes defensive. She tries to convey how important an event this wedding is, but the whole thing leaves Grace numb for the most part. Once they move onto the estate, Grace has nothing but time on her hands. She can spend her time doing as she pleases and feels like a real life Cinderella waiting for the next term to begin at the private school she would be attending in the fall. Winston and Jackie Lee have a fairy tale wedding and leave to take a yacht trip around the Mediterranean. Jackie Lee calls



Grace almost every day to check on her and make sure she is okay, telling her that Jakks who is the butler on the estate has the numbers at which they can be reached in an emergency. Jackie Lee is already settling into the idea of wealth and appears to have little trouble with the transition. In no time, her conversations include tidbits such as the fact that she and Winston have selected the villa where they plan to spend next summer. When they return, laden with gifts, Grace hardly recognizes her mother. Winston seems amused by it all, and has already had time to accustom himself to her new, shorter hairdo - now black in color, but Grace can hardly stop herself from staring. They bring home so many boxes for Grace that she is simply overwhelmed by it all, and Grace can easily see that her mother is happy. She quickly slides into the role of social coordinator, creating an office in one of the dens and working with Winston's personal secretary to keep their social engagement calendar straight. They are booked for many weekends in advance, and this soon includes many weekdays as well. Grace can't help but feel as though the whole thing smells of snobbery, but Jackie Lee insists that there is no shame in associating with others in their class, but Grace can't figure out what class she is referring to. Grace can hardly stand this new side of her mother. It's phony and unsubstantial. To make matters worse, Jackie Lee is insisting that a 'coming out' party of sorts should be held for Grace, who is horrified by the thought that they would force her to 'beg for friends' from the social register. The only positive part of it all is the relationship that is developing between Grace and Winston. He is sensitive to how she feels, communicative and down to earth. He even teaches her how to drive, telling her she should have the same advantages as other girls her age. Then he and Jackie Lee surprise Grace with a brand new, red BMW convertible. Grace can't help but throw her arms around Winston when he tells her it is for her.



Chapter 14: Welcome To Palm Beach

Chapter 14: Welcome To Palm Beach Summary

Attending private school is both different for Grace, and in many ways the same. The seniors are a tight knit group who have known each other for years, and spend a great deal of time comparing what they have vs. what they are getting. They seem to introduce themselves in that manner as a way to assure themselves that Grace knows just how important they are. None of it really impresses her. For the most part, their reception of Grace is ice cold and when she talks to her mother about it afterward, Jackie Lee accuses her of sounding like a snob herself. The teachers are a highlight however, and Grace likes every one of them. It seems as though the feeling is mutual. Grace is one of the few students who bothers to do the required reading, or homework assigned, and is one of the few to raise her hand to answer questions in class. Kids in this school didn't even bus their own tables after lunch and when she picks up her own, a young man tells her she may put a poor woman out of work by doing that herself. Basil is one of the less popular young men in the school, only in attendance because of the generosity of his parents, but ignored by the student body as a whole. Grace finds they have more in common than she does with most of the others. Jackie Lee insists that Grace be properly introduced to the 'right' people and with the help of her new Palm Beach friends - the Carriage sisters - they plan a party for her. Grace does her best to ignore them, concentrating on her sailing lesson with Winston instead and discovers she loves it as much as he does. Grace takes to calling him Daddy Winston in front of her mother who while horrified at first, even finds herself doing it at times. He surprises them both by asking Grace if she will consent to allowing him to formally and legally adopt her. Grace agrees, seeing how important it is to them both, but feels as though she is closing a door on her father forever. The party is a nightmare of preparation and execution as Grace is taught the social etiquette to which she is to adhere. Feeling like a mannequin, she complies with their direction, pasting a plastic smile on her face and enduring. Instead of introducing her to the 'right people', it gave them an opportunity to embarrass her. Grace knows what her mother refuses to admit. They will always be outsiders there.

Chapter 14: Welcome To Palm Beach Analysis

The students at EJW school are like any others who still divide themselves into social groups - the in crowd and those who wish they were. The most obvious difference can be heard in their conversations. The girls are just like younger versions of their mothers and it seems as though they have no life beyond the clothes and jewelry they wear, or the cosmetic surgery they are planning (or in some cases have already had done). To Grace, they are more concerned with appearances than grades, and when one student approaches her asking to copy her homework, Grace refuses, setting the tone immediately and making her first enemy. The only exception seems to be a less than popular young man named Basil. Most of the other students ignore him, and he returns



the favor, but he and Grace talk now and then. Grace is stunned when her mother buttonholes her about her choice in friends, telling her that now that they are a family of means, she has to consider how her choices reflect on them. When she implies that having money means having to safeguard who your children associate with, Grace can't help but ask why it is more important now for her to monitor Grace than it ever has been before. She was always trusted to make her own judgments in the past. Now, did her mother care more because she married money? Jackie Lee insists that if Grace can't insert herself into the proper social circles on her own, they will just have to help her to do so. Grace tries to talk to Winston when he returns, and he does his best to diffuse the situation, promising to teach her how to sail. Grace still resents the social interference however, and dreads the coming 'party'. When he leaves, Grace realizes how grateful she is that he is around. True to his word, that Saturday he takes her for her first sailing lesson, and they don't return until late that afternoon, much to Jackie Lee's dismay who seems to do her best to ensure they don't have a chance to continue these lessons, but Winston is determined. The party comes despite Grace's best attempts to ignore it, and is every bit the horror show that she was afraid it would be. Marjorie Meriweather asks Grace if all her guests have arrived yet, and Grace asks if someone is missing, not really knowing who was on the guest list to begin with, but understanding dawning when Basil arrives. Jackie Lee accuses Grace of extending the invitation, and orders her to fix it. She goes over and explains that his invitation was someone's idea of a bad joke, and embarrassed, he leaves. Grace is mortified at their behavior and her part in it.



Chapter 15: A Man Like Winston Montgomery

Chapter 15: A Man Like Winston Montgomery Summary

The incident with Basil stops Jackie Lee from interfering in Grace's social life once and for all. She quickly becomes a confirmed loner, concentrating on school work and spending her weekends with Winston and her mother. Winston continues Grace's sailing lessons and when the summer arrives, he takes them to the villa he and Jackie Lee discovered on their honeymoon. They spend their time shopping in exotic places and the summer flies by. Winston asks Grace what she has in mind for the future and agrees with her idea to seek early graduation and attend a nearby junior college. They celebrate her excellent diploma results in Bermuda for the weekend and Grace settles on a junior college named Jupiter Beach, registering for the spring. Then she finds herself with older students, more mature and interested in their studies like herself, but still has no interest in the boys her age. She finally accepts an invitation from a popular jock named Charlie, who picks her up for dinner and takes her to a house party afterward, ever conscious of the financial differences between them. He coaxes her upstairs for more privacy, but when it becomes apparent that sex is what he really wants, she asks him to take her home. Jackie Lee is waiting up, but doesn't understand when Grace says they simply weren't right for each other. Thankfully, her time at Jupiter Beach is short. After the summer, Grace decides to attend the University of South Florida in Saint Petersburg. She does meet and begin dating a young man named Walker Thomas, another member of the sailing team Grace joins, but after allowing herself to begin feeling something for him, he reveals that he has a girl back home, and is returning to her. Grace loses interest in the sailing team after that as well. She decides to go with Winston and Jackie Lee to Cannes for the summer, and Winston has to admit that keeping them both happy is a physical challenge for him. He plays tennis with Grace and golfs with Jackie Lee (although privately admitting that the latter was like watching paint dry), and often does both in the same day. Grace grows ever fonder of Winston, using him as a yardstick to which any potential suitor has to measure up. Grace returns to school, but her interest in all of it is dwindling. By Christmas, she is thinking about taking a year off. Winston pleads with her to reconsider, but fate intervenes again. Winston dies during the night.

Chapter 15: A Man Like Winston Montgomery Analysis

Jackie Lee worries that Grace is becoming introverted. The novelty of Jackie Lee wears off in social circles as well, and she sometimes discovers that she has been left out of one event or another. Winston suffers the worst for it, trying to excuse the social snubs and soothe her ego. Grace goes sailing often, but never invites others her age to join her. They spend the summer in a villa on the Mediterranean, and Grace is actually



disappointed to be returning home. She and Winston talk about the future, and he agrees with her plans to try for early graduation and then a junior college before university. It makes the senior year at EJW easier on Grace, enabling her to relax and settle into her studies. She graduates as planned and attends Jupiter Beach which is filled with older students but Grace develops a crush on her philosophy teacher, Dr. Berger. Jackie Lee continues to expect Grace to date, or show interest in a boy or two from her new school and finally blames Winston for trying too hard to direct her social life. It is the first time that they have cross words with each other since the incident before their marriage. She accuses Winston of stopping Grace from enjoying the most exciting time in a young woman's life. Finally, to appease her mother, Grace accepts an invitation from a young man named Charlie, one of the school's basketball stars. Jackie Lee is thrilled, and treats him as though he is royalty but his interest in Grace is limited to what she is willing to put out, and the evening is cut short. She tries again in University, getting to know a young man named Walker, but he reveals he has a girlfriend at home and is returning to her. Grace is hurt and angry, and even less inclined to date after that experience. When she announces during Christmas break that she is thinking about taking a year off of school, Winston pleads with her to reconsider. As fate would have it, that would be their last conversation. Winston dies during the night, and Grace stands in the hall, hearing helicopters in her mind.



Chapter 16: None So Blind

Chapter 16: None So Blind Summary

At Winston's funeral, it seems that the only sympathetic faces are on Warren and Dallas. The rest treat Jackie Lee and Grace with disdain or wry amusement while the available men line up for a chance at the recent widow of Joya del Mar. Grace is glad when it is over. Jackie Lee tries to talk Grace out of leaving school for a year, but is unsuccessful. She announces that she will not be the widow draped in black, but the invitations dwindle, and it isn't long before she realizes that without Winston, she has no social standing. The first six months are a trial. Grace drops out of college, and becomes more and more adverse to leaving the estate. Jackie Lee throws dinner parties that are attended by the idle rich who simply want to gain gossip regarding how she is coping. Only Dallas remains true in friendship, despite the fact that they had drifted apart somewhat. She tells anyone who will listen that her daughter is on a sabbatical, and will be going to school abroad soon. Grace can't even be bothered to deny it. Privately, she tries to convince Grace to return to school to help her manage the financial aspects of the estate, even pining the advice that she end the lease on the jet, but Grace is unmoved.

One night, Jackie Lee decides to put herself out there again, and the next morning Grace wakes to find a stranger wearing Winston's robe. Kirby Scott puts a great deal of energy into winning Grace's approval or at least acceptance while she watches her mother fawn over him shamelessly. Soon he is a regular fixture at the estate, and Jackie Lee does all that she can to work her way back into the 'in' crowd but without much success. Months pass, and Kirby begins paying an unusual amount of attention to Grace although Jackie Lee doesn't seem to notice. As Grace tries to decide how to talk to her mother about it, they announce their engagement, and their intention to get married in the Virgin Islands somewhere.

Later, Kirby comes to Grace's room and insists that he wants them to be friends. He asks her to give him a chance to make them both happy and not base her opinions of him on the past or on what others say. He even tells her that he hopes the day will come where she will call him 'Daddy'. The wedding goes off without much more than a blurb in the society pages. While they are gone, Grace only hears from her mother twice, unlike her honeymoon with Winston during which she had called every day. They return with new outfits and a new bathing suit for Grace which Kirby picked out himself. Kirby points out that everyone is happy and it is all up to Grace now to keep it that way. He offers to teach her how to sail board, having long since ordered them and Grace reluctantly agrees for the sake of her mother's happiness.



Chapter 16: None So Blind Analysis

Grace begins to feel like a Typhoid Mary. Everyone she cares about, with the exception of her mother, dies. Winston's funeral is filled with mourners who ultimately blame Grace and Jackie Lee for his death. Grace keeps thinking she'll turn around and see him sitting there, and remembers their conversations, thinking she'll never sail again. Finally, she realizes that she has completely neglected her mother, so lost in her own grief that she hadn't thought about how her mother was coping.

Before Grace has a chance to talk to her mother about Winston's death, her mother has decided not to wallow in self pity. She dresses herself up and goes out for a night on the town. When Grace wakes in the morning, it is to find Kirby Scott coming down the stairs in Winston's robe. Kirby is smooth and has an answer for everything. He invites her to join them on a sailing outing, and she refuses, asking her mother why she suddenly likes sailing when before she couldn't be convinced to join her and Winston. Even the Carriage sisters corner Grace in the mall one day and deliver a caution to both her and her mother. Kirby tries harder and harder to wriggle his way into acceptance. He even tells Grace that he hopes she calls him Daddy one day and Grace is mortified.

Their engagement, and then the marriage smacks of desperation to Grace, although Jackie Lee ignores the criticisms and sarcasms, focusing only on what she wants to see. Grace is astounded that her mother can be so blind where Kirby is concerned. When they return from their wedding and impromptu honeymoon, Jackie Lee seems to be on top of the world. She hardly talks to Grace at all while they are gone, claiming to have been having such a great time, she simply forgot. Besides, she adds, Kirby had told her not to baby Grace so much. At that moment, Grace hates her mother for bring Kirby into their lives. He begs her to give him a chance, promising that if she does, and discovers she still doesn't like him, he'll leave. He coerces her acceptance by reminding her that there were likely times in her life where she made a less than favorable impression and would have liked to have had a second chance, claiming that is all he is looking for. Then, he offers to teach her how to sail board, having ordered the boards in hopes she'd agree. Grace has to admit her mother is happy, and deserves to be, so Grace reluctantly agrees.



Chapter 17: A Taste Of What's To Come

Chapter 17: A Taste Of What's To Come Summary

Grace tries on the clothing, liking all of it, but is reluctant to wear the extraordinarily revealing bathing suit Kirby purchased. Jackie Lee begins a campaign to win her way back into the social life of Palm Beach. She and Kirby throw one elaborate party after another, hiring entertainers from musicians to magicians and Joya del Mar becomes party central. Unfortunately, reciprocating invitations are not forthcoming and she is unable to get back on the 'A' list.

Kirby makes Grace his 'special project'. He begins teaching her to wind surf as promised and Grace discovers it is exciting and is beginning to enjoy herself. A wipe out leaves her without the top to her new suit, and she turns away from Kirby, embarrassed, who pretends not to notice. From then on, wind surfing is done in a one piece. Eventually, Grace agrees to go sailing with him as well. Grace begins to warm up to Kirby and starts thinking about college again. Kirby talks to her, getting a little close to the truth, and brings tears to Grace's eyes. Emotionally vulnerable, he kisses her as though he is her mate instead of her step-father, telling her he would love to help bring her to 'flower'. Grace's mind reels when he leaves, and his kiss fills her with guilt. She withdraws more and more, and Jackie Lee is so busy with committees and planning events that she neglects Kirby even more, working one charity event after another.

Kirby spends more time in Las Vegas which is a relief to Grace who begins to have trouble sleeping. It creeps up on her, and she wonders if Augustus Brewster is right and she is now beginning to disappear. Finally, desperate for sleep, she begins taking her mother's sleeping pills. The prescription allows for a refill, so Grace fills it, and relies more and more heavily on them. One night, Grace is in a blurred state and Kirby comes to her. She thinks it is her father, and greets him happily. She keeps her eyes closed in the dark, but wonders why he doesn't call her Sailor Girl like he used to. He massages her feet, and is suddenly naked and in bed with her. She struggles to open her eyes, realizing for the first time this isn't her father, but can't seem to resist. He kisses her, smothering her feeble arguments and takes her for the first time. She feels him finish and retreat from her, and before morning, he comes at her again. Grace is so drugged that she doesn't make a sound. In the morning Grace wakes, thinking she dreamed it all until she showers, and the truth is evident. She gets dressed and goes downstairs where Jackie Lee invites her to go out with her. Grace numbly goes into the dining room for breakfast, unaware that it is two in the afternoon. She eats and goes outside in a fog, half wondering if she is still asleep and all of it is a dream. She hears her mother call her and thinks she sees her father behind her and jumps off the chair to greet him, but when she gets there, neither her mother or father is here. Her legs come out from under her and she collapses.



Chapter 17: A Taste Of What's To Come Analysis

Jackie Lee begs Grace not to hurt Kirby's feelings after she reveals the bathing suit isn't her style, and Grace reluctantly agrees, hoping that her mother remains as happy as she is now. Jackie Lee begins entertaining in high style, throwing extravagant parties and each more unique than the one before. She consumes more alcohol and goes through Winston's wealth like water. She explains it all away by insisting she never had much of a chance to be young and foolish.

Kirby does his best to convince Jackie Lee that his primary goal is to work on Grace until she finds the same happiness her mother enjoys. Jackie Lee is so thrilled that a part of Grace wonders if she has given Kirby a fair chance after all. Grace begins to wonder if perhaps she's been too hard on Kirby, and not only finds herself enjoying his company, but begins to wonder if perhaps they'll manage to create a family once more. He takes an obvious interest in Grace and how she feels, and one day even takes it upon himself to suggest that she takes life too seriously, and is too defensive. He tells her that she gives off a superiority that comes off as condescending when boys her age are around. Then he asks her if she has been sexually active, and Grace becomes defensive. Before she can stop them, tears come to her eyes, and he apologizes for making her cry, kissing her on the cheek. He holds the pose until Grace finds it hard to breathe with how close he is. Then he kisses her on the mouth, and tells her that he can help her, beginning with teaching her how to kiss, and he kisses her again with an intimacy that leaves her breathless, holding her tightly by the shoulders and using his tongue. She can hardly speak as he tells her how he would be happy to help her blossom. He says he's noticed her flirting with him, and tells her she is perfect - even more beautiful than her mother. He kisses her again, telling her it is only the beginning and then leaves. It is some time before he comes to her again. In the meantime, having trouble sleeping, Grace begins taking her mother's sleeping pills, filling her refill to ensure she has her own supply. When Kirby finally comes back to her, she is in a state of semi-consciousness and is even confused about who he is to begin with. Then, when he climbs into bed with her and enters her, she is too disconnected to stop him. He finishes, and comes at her one more time before morning, then leaves. Grace wakes, thinking it was all a dream until she gets up to shower. Her life goes into a tailspin.



Chapter 18: Subterfuge

Chapter 18: Subterfuge Summary

The next time Grace opens her eyes, she is in bed. Jaxx, the butler, tells Jackie Lee he will be downstairs if she needs him further and leaves. She asks Grace if she needs to take her to the hospital, and Grace tells her no so her mother resorts to tough love, telling her to pull herself together and be ready to go out for dinner with Kirby that evening. Grace lies there for some time before getting up, showering, dressing and fixing her hair. When Jackie Lee opens the door, Grace's appearance leaves her speechless. She tells Grace to wash, and get back into bed. When the doctor arrives, Grace tells him about the pills she is taking - just to sleep. Jackie Lee is surprised when Grace reveals the bottle of pills she had refilled from her prescription. He notes that she must be taking three or four a day, considering what remains, and sends her to a neurologist for tests. Kirby doesn't return for dinner either, and Jackie Lee comes home telling Grace how mortified she was to be stood up in the restaurant. It takes some time, but Grace finally falls asleep and when she wakes, Jackie Lee is getting her ready to go to the doctor.

Grace is confused, but doesn't want to admit it. She is sent for tests, and finding nothing physically wrong, is then sent to a therapist - a fact her mother tries to hide from the Palm Beach gossips. Kirby is seldom around and Grace finds that she likes Dr. Anderson. After nearly four months of therapy, Grace comes home one day to find Jackie Lee crying. Kirby has depleted their fortune, she tells her. Their only choice now is to move into the beach house and rent the estate out. Grace can't possibly tell her the truth now. Her mother would be horrified to know that Grace is pregnant. When the Eatons move into the estate, Jackie Lee behaves as though there has been a death in the family. The servants would of course stay with the main house as well. One night, after having moved everything, Jackie Lee is telling Grace about how she felt when she told Grace's father she was pregnant with her, and Grace uses the opening to admit to her own pregnancy. At first she doesn't understand, but then insists Grace must be wrong. When she finally realizes that Grace is more than seven months gone, she is beside herself, shrieking at Grace for having kept it secret. Grace admits she was afraid, and filled with guilt and self loathing. She asks Grace if anyone else knows and when Grace assures her no one does, she tells Grace she isn't pregnant, hatching a scheme to take the pregnancy on as her own, along with the baby when it comes.

Chapter 18: Subterfuge Analysis

After getting her back to bed Jackie Lee questions her, telling her she doesn't understand this kind of emotional hysteria and threatens to have her committed if she doesn't pull herself together. When Jackie Lee leaves, she tells Grace to be ready to go out for dinner when she returns in a couple of hours. Grace does as she is told and when her mother returns, she is without words at first. She turns Grace to the mirror so



Grace can see what she has done. Her bra is on top of her shirt, her hair is down on one side and up in a pig tail on the other and her lipstick is above and below her lips but not on them. She has one earring on, and one off. She tells Grace to get back into bed, calling the doctor. When nothing shows up on the tests, the doctor suggests that Grace see a therapist and an appointment is made with Dr. Anderson the next day.

Kirby comes home and Grace hears them arguing. He comes in to see her afterward, wrapped up in his argument with her and questioning her current state. He reminds her that having been such a flirt with him, to confess all to her mother or doctor would be a serious mistake. After four months of therapy, Grace comes home to find her mother in tears. She reveals that they are broke, and will have to move to the beach house and rent out the estate. Grace can't possibly add to her burden now, and certainly can't reveal what she has been struggling with. Grace knows for sure she is pregnant, but how can she tell her mother without her blaming herself for that as well? Dr. Anderson had been pushing to open that final secret, and Grace had resisted him so far, too terrified to reveal the truth. For the next two months, she is overwhelmed with guilt, asking herself over and over how it could possibly have happened without her consent. Thankfully, Kirby is mostly gone by then. She can't seem to find a way through the mess she is in. When she finally manages to tell her mother, she is more than seven months along, and Jackie Lee can't believe it, denying it all at first. The worst of the shock is realizing who the father is, and probing Grace to see if her participation was voluntary. Grace tells her about the effect of the pills, and how Kirby had later returned to tell her that she was equally at fault, having flirted with him and allowed him to do what he had done. Hating him even more, Jackie Lee hatches a plan to take the pregnancy on as her own, along with the child. Grace wonders what hope there is for a child who will be raised by two women who hate its father.



Chapter 19: One Last Salute and Epilogue

Chapter 19: One Last Salute and Epilogue Summary

Jackie Lee is so effective at mimicking her pregnancy that Grace sometimes wakes having dreamed she wasn't the one pregnant at all. Dr. Cook comes once a week, cooperating with Jackie Lee's wish to keep up the deception. Meanwhile, she gorges to put on pounds, and manages to imitate a pregnant woman. For Grace, the last month is the worst. Jackie Lee imitates every pain, even commenting about how hard her baby is kicking. When her water breaks, Dr. Cook is called and four hours later Grace gives birth to a son and Dr. Cook asks Jackie Lee what she will name him. Grace feels like she is losing her mind as her mother takes 'Linden' to her room just in case anyone should drop by. Grace wants her baby near her, but her mother refuses, bringing him only for feedings. One day, Grace even finds her in bed allowing Linden to suckle on her empty breast. Finally, a few weeks later, Grace refuses to surrender him to her after a feeding. They argue and Jackie Lee wins, taking Linden from her. She begins to pressure Grace to go back to school, telling her that if she doesn't, her sacrifice was for nothing. One night, standing on the dock, she sees her father again. She tells him about her son, and then he slowly just disappears, leaving Grace screaming his name until Jackie Lee comes out. The next day, she admits that she is nervous leaving Linden in her care while she goes shopping. She sees her father again, and teaches Linden how to salute. Jackie Lee is furious whenever Grace mentions having seen her father, threatening to have her committed. Grace feels herself disappearing more with every day. One night he comes for her and tells her it is time. He goes with her to say goodbye to Linden, taking care not to wake him, and they walk hand in hand to the dock. Grace sees the ship her father points to, and he tells her it is their tender. Warning her not to look back until she got there, Grace steps into the tender. It's cold but when she asks her father why, there is no answer. Then she can see her mother's face, telling her what a fool she is. Her father had gone ahead without her.

Later Dr. Anderson comes to see Grace, and suggests that possibly the orders had been rescinded. He leaves the room to talk to Jackie Lee, and Grace can hear her crying before she dozes off. When Dr. Anderson comes back, he tells Grace that new orders have come. It has all been arranged that Grace will go to a clinic where Dr. Beers will help her. When the time comes to leave, Jackie Lee is adamant that Grace not kiss Linden goodbye because it will upset him, and Grace learns that she is being taken to South Carolina. Grace is numb, and realizing how far from Linden she is going to be settles in her chest like a rock. She shakes her mother's hand off and raises two fingers in a salute that she and her father once shared. When Linden returns it, she is sure that he saw her father as well, and that she'll be back.



Chapter 19: One Last Salute and Epilogue Analysis

Grace never leaves the beach house during the day, wandering onto the beach only after dark and never for long. Jackie Lee 'confesses' her pregnancy to Thelma Carriage, assuring the news will be spread far and wide. Jackie Lee is so convincing that Grace finds she is a little jealous that her mother seems to be enjoying the pregnancy and expectation of birth more than she is. The first time Grace mentions it, her mother turns on her, telling her that she is doing it all for her sake so that her reputation will remain intact. Jackie Lee is so successful that she almost manages to convince Grace that she is pregnant and Grace herself isn't. When the baby is born, Dr. Cook treats it as though it is Grace's brother, not her son and Jackie Lee even names him. It all seems surreal to Grace, who is allowed to feed Linden, but little else. Grace begins to feel as though her mother would be much happier if she would just leave her and Linden alone. She begins to see her father again, and talks to him about Linden. He tells her that she should look at the pictures of him at that age, and she pulls them all out later, agreeing that he did look like his grandson does now. She leaves them out, thinking he might like to see them, and wakes to him chuckling over them late in the night. She talks to her father, and he tells her he has come for her. He goes with her to say goodbye to Linden, and then they walk down to the dock. Listening to her father's calm, sensible voice, she walks with him off the dock and into the water under the impression she is going with her father onto a ship in the distance. When her father stops answering her, she turns to see her mother telling her how stupid she was.

A visit from Dr. Anderson gets Grace admission into a clinic in South Carolina under the care of Dr. Beers. Until that very moment, she hadn't known where she was going and her first and only thought is of Linden and how far away they will be from each other. She turns and salutes him like her father used to do with her, and when he returns it the same way she used to, she knows that she will return, just like her father always came back for her.



Characters

Grace Houston (aka Sailor Girl)

Grace is fifteen when they move to Annapolis in the latest transfer that her naval father has accepted. Her whole life has been a series of moves and upheavals, but her close family ties make happiness possible. As such however, Grace tends to keep friendships to a minimum, knowing that the time they spend in any one town is short. She spends a lot of time reading, and thinks of herself as a butterfly that is still in its cocoon, ready to emerge, but filled with fear rather than excitement.

Their latest move to Norfolk is one that both her father and mother claim will have some permanence, so Grace begins to open herself up just a little bit. She makes one friend, whose own troubles take her away shortly afterward, and then becomes interested in a boy she meets and he in her. They begin by studying together, and he has dinner once at her home. Grace looks forward to introducing him to her father, but before that can happen, he is killed in a helicopter accident, forcing them to move again. This move takes them to Florida where her mother begins to work as a waitress for an old school friend and her husband. The job leads her to her second marriage to a regular widower, Winston Montgomery who becomes Grace's stepfather. While difficult for Grace to accept at first, she grows to love Winston, who later even adopts her. He teaches her how to sail, and spends more time with her than his new wife who is busy arranging their social calendar and making sure she finds her way into the A-list parties and events.

When Winston dies, Grace is as devastated or even more so than her mother is. Grace begins to feel like a Typhoid Mary, who carries a terrible disease that kills everyone but her. When her mother begins dating again, Grace is mortified and even more so by her choice in partners. Even the Palm Beach gossips warn her that Kirby is no good, but her mother is having a good time. When she announces their engagement, Grace is hurt and disgusted. She retreats from them both, wanting nothing to do with any of it, but Kirby is persistent. He keeps playing on her need for stability, and a father figure until she agrees to give him an honest chance. Their marriage is the joke of Palm Beach and lasts long enough to bankrupt them.

Kirby not only takes the Montgomery fortune, but leaves behind a son after taking advantage of Grace when sleeping pills become her constant companion. In a desperate attempt to save her reputation, Jackie Lee insists that she will play the part of the pregnant, jilted wife, taking over for Grace to save her the shame of being an unwed mother, or revealing the father. Grace is driven further and further into herself, giving birth to a son who is treated like her brother, and ignored or encouraged to leave by her mother. Grace begins to see her father, having conversations with him, and one day even attempting suicide at his suggestion that 'it is time'. Her life is saved, but her mental status is a mess. Jackie Lee and her doctor send her to a clinic to be treated by Dr. Beers.



Jackie Lee Houston (Grace's Mother)

Jackie's eyes are navy blue in color and Roland used to say it was proof that she belonged with a navy man - him in particular. She is as loyal as a person could be to her husband, and her admiration of him is obvious. Jackie Lee is a beautiful woman. She has apricot brown colored hair that is shoulder length. She is five feet ten inches tall, and has a naturally regal bearing. Jackie Lee could hypnotize at a glance. Jackie Lee has a quick wit and sense of humor, and believes in the love and strength of the family unit. She gets married relatively young, and begins to follow her Navy husband from one post to another.

When Roland dies, something changes in Jackie Lee. She becomes insecure, and doesn't like the feeling. She retreats to a school friend who gives her a job as a waitress and begins to give her an education in how to retire with a wealthy widow. Before too long, Jackie Lee has met and is able to ensnare Winston Montgomery, reeling him in as surely as a fish on a line, and marrying him to ensure their financial stability. When Grace asks her mother if she loves Winston, she answers that she loves him enough. It is conceivable Jackie Lee felt that she would never know another love like the one she experienced with Roland, and so set her sights on a different outcome, but the truth seems to be more simply a grab for financial freedom and instant social status. Though she treats Winston well enough, the most rewarding part of the marriage seems to be her climb into the correct social registers. All of that begins to ebb once the shine wears off of their marriage, the invitations to A-list parties and events dropping, but Jackie Lee is determined. Winston dies in his sleep however, and his friends and social acquaintances no longer have to hide how they feel about his gold digging wife and her daughter. They are social pariah.

Jackie Lee mourns for only a short time before putting herself officially on the market again where she meets and soon marries Kirby Scott. Jackie Lee feels the thrill of youth and entertainment for a while but she has no success buying her way back into the social register. Instead, Kirby spends the Montgomery fortune, leaving Jackie Lee with virtually no money, and taking advantage of her daughter before he leaves. The upcoming birth of her grandson is the last straw, socially speaking. To avoid the unkind comments and to keep Grace's reputation intact, she assumes the boy herself, faking a pregnancy and birth, and taking Linden from her daughter almost immediately. In her way, this is another start for Jackie Lee, and a reason to exist. The only deterrent remaining is Grace herself, who is a constant reminder that the illusion isn't real. When Grace begins talking to her father, and almost drowns herself, Jackie Lee is presented with the perfect opportunity to clear her out, so she takes her to a clinic and checks her in.

Kirby Scott

Jackie Lee's third husband, Kirby is tall, well muscled and evenly tanned. He has blue eyes, and has the sculpted body of a model. His true failing is that he knows it. Seen as



a gigolo by anyone of any status, he worms his way into Jackie Lee's life by simply showing her a good time. He takes her out, wines and dines her, and enjoys a youthful exuberance she hasn't seen in some time. She falls for his doting facade, allowing him full access to the Montgomery fortune. He sees the money as his ultimate goal, and spends it lavishly, enjoying it more than even Jackie Lee had. Kirby, like Jackie Lee, has no social standing however, and all the parties and extravaganzas in the world do nothing to get them on the A-list where they both want so badly to be. When Jackie Lee becomes agitated, and more demanding, he retreats, finding excuses to pursue investments in unlikely places like Las Vegas. As his relationship with Jackie Lee cools, he begins to take an even more active interest in Grace. He comes to her under the pretense of wanting to help her find her way in life, and then kisses her with passion that leaves her feeling breathless and guilty at the same time. He sees her stunned silence as acceptance, and isn't around enough to recognize or care about the damage his behavior causes. Instead, he slips into her room on an occasion when sleeping pills have become her constant companion, and takes her for the first time. She is unable to defend herself against his intrusion, too drugged to muster the strength or will to throw him off. He has sex with her one more time before morning and leaves, leaving his child to begin its growth in her. He manages to squander the Montgomery fortune, leaving Grace and Jackie Lee destitute, and abandons them, never knowing about the son he gave to his step daughter.

Augustus Brewster

Known commonly as Auggie by his friends, he is a lanky and tall young man with reddish brown hair that comes down over his eyes. Auggie speaks German, Italian, French and a small amount of Mandarin. He is sixteen years old chronologically, but much older mentally. When he was in the second grade, he tells Grace, he had been found reading *A Tale of Two Cities*, and was sent to a psychologist who recommended that Auggie would thrive in a more specialized school environment. He is one of a dozen students selected to attend a government school in preparation for a career as a research scientist.

Dallas Tremont

Dallas is a high school friend of Grace's mothers. Inseparable in those days, they lose touch after Jackie's marriage to a naval husband, but still never forgot each other. Dallas is about the same height as Grace's mother, and has light brown hair that curls to just under her chin. Her eyes are large and hazel, and her smile lights up her face. She can easily be considered as pretty, slim and feminine in her appearance.

Warren Tremont

Warren has a round face with dark and curly hair. His eyes are like two black pearls and his nose is on the long side. His lips are strong and his face is cleanly shaven. He is a



stout man with a pear shaped body and when he smiles, his dark eyes glimmer. He loves his wife Dallas, and is a capable and competent business man, but his one failing is the blinders he wears where his daughter Phoebe is concerned. He doesn't seem to recognize her manipulations for what they are.

Phoebe Tremont

Phoebe is the daughter of Dallas and Warren - a girl born into a privileged lifestyle and accustomed to having financial security. She spends money as though she is on temporary shore leave and has no regard for anyone or anything beyond herself. She is a petty and vindictive young woman who takes great pleasure in berating others in an effort to elevate herself. She tries Grace on for size from the very beginning but with little success, because Grace is not easily intimidated. Frustrated, she becomes increasingly devious, almost managing to get Jackie Lee fired for theft at her family's restaurant by committing the theft herself and planting the money amongst Jackie Lee's possessions. When that is unsuccessful, she spreads the lie around school that Grace's mother was arrested for the theft. In a true example of karmic justice, she is driving too fast and wrecks her car, killing one young man and causing herself serious injury in the process. It will be some time before she is well enough to torment anyone.

Mrs. Greenstein

The principal at Grace's new school in Florida, Mrs. Greenstein is not much taller than Grace is. She has wide shoulders and a small chest with wide hips beneath. She has dark eyes that scowl more often than not. Mrs. Greenstein is a reactionary, preferring to deal with the actions at hand rather than the events that caused them. As a result, the only one facing disciplinary action after a brawl in the hallways is Grace, despite the fact that her record of behavior is exemplary, and she had been provoked mercilessly.

Winston Montgomery

Winston is a tall, distinguished looking man with hair that has already gone gray, but is styled. His jaw is narrow but his nose is nearly perfect and his mouth is firm and strong. His eyes are bluish gray, and have a glint about them, and his speech is crisp and sharp with annunciation. His voice had the kind of resonance that could be associated with radio personalities.

Winston and his family have major interests in pharmaceuticals, and he is more than semi-retired. He lives on an estate in the Palm Beach region and recently lost his wife. Winston becomes Jackie Lee's second husband and accepts both her and Grace into his life completely. His love for them is genuine and pure. He even adopts Grace as his own daughter, and never fails to treat her and her mother with the utmost respect and love. Winston dies in his sleep, leaving a larger hole than either Jackie Lee or Grace would have believed possible in his passing.



Roland Stemper Houston (Grace's Father)

At a height of six foot two inches, and a weight of 180 pounds, he has always been a trim man. He has light blue eyes that have small specks of hazel in them, and he calls his daughter Grace, Sailor Girl. This is as much a term of endearment as it is a reminder that they are a naval unit and as much a part of his naval career as he is.

His daily routine includes regular gym training that is as much a part of his life as breathing. Roland is a good husband and a terrific father who appreciates and loves his family. Together, they are a happy and secure unit despite the constant moves to accommodate his career path in the Navy. He is married to Jackie Lee, a Navy wife in every respect, who never complains about the constant upheaval. He loves Grace to distraction, even creating a special salute that is two fingered and used as a special message of love and temporary separation between them.

Roland is killed in a helicopter training exercise not long after their transfer to Norfolk.

Autumn Sullivan

Two months younger than Grace, Autumn is in the same grade and classes as she is. Her hair is amber colored, and her face is covered in freckles that are tiny and the color of rust. Autumn is heavier both in weight and in her chest size than Grace is, and both cheeks are deeply dimpled. She stands just a little over five foot one inches in height, and is a bubbly and excitable girl. Autumn has brown eyes.

She has a sister named Caitlin and does not consider her to be close. They have lived in Annapolis for almost a year and her father is a gourmet cook. Autumn likes a boy named Trent Ralston.

Caitlin Sullivan

Autumn's older sister, Caitlin is a high school senior. Her boyfriend, Jarvis Martin, is the son of Vice Admiral Martin, and is already on track to go to Annapolis.

Wendi Charles

Wendi's father is a captain and a fighter pilot.

Wendi claims that since naval families move so often, the girls in those families tend to be more promiscuous, since they don't have to be too concerned about their reputations. Wendi is extremely popular, and just as insensitive and catty.



Penny Martin

Penny is the daughter of Vice Admiral Martin and her brother Jarvis is dating Caitlin - Autumn's older sister.

Basil Furness

Basil Furness has light brown hair and is making a poor showing of growing a beard to hide the fact that his complexion is poor. He has a thin frame, and his eyes seem a bit beady over a nose that is long and also a little thin. His lower lip is thicker than his upper lip making it almost appear as though it is swollen and he can easily be described as unattractive.

Charlie Packard

Charlie is one of the basketball stars at Jupiter Beach Junior College, and the first young man from whom Grace accepts an invitation at that school. He comes from a family of modest means. He is six feet, two inches tall, has light brown hair and blue eyes. While he had dated other girls, none had developed into anything long term and Grace thinks that he might be looking for something substantial instead. Her dinner date with him turns into an expectation for sex, and is the first and last date they have.

Kaye Underwood

Not overly attractive, Kaye has a rounded face and is probably about twenty five pounds overweight. She has short hair, and has little if any fashion sense, preferring to wear the same clothes almost every day. Kaye wants to work in the hotel and travel industry, and accepts room and board with a French family so that she will learn the language. Grace meets her in France where she enrolls in a language school.

Dr. Anderson

Dr. Anderson is the therapist to whom Grace is sent when no physical reason can be found for the state she is in.

Bunny and Asher Eaton

Bunny and Asher Eaton take over the estate when Kirby cleans out Jackie Lee's entire fortune, forcing her and Grace to move into the beach house and rent out the estate.



Linden Montgomery

Linden is the son to whom Grace gives birth, and that her mother pretends is her own as a way of warding off the shame she feels would come from the circumstances surrounding the birth and Grace's pregnancy. He is a healthy boy, and is given Winston's last name instead of Kirby's in order to further distance Kirby from their lives entirely. Linden is a happy baby, and despite Grace's efforts to have him acknowledge her as his mother, he is raised by his grandmother as her own. From then on, Grace is simply a reminder of the subterfuge.



Objects/Places

San Diego

San Diego is the city in which Grace and her family moved to when she was fourteen, and moved from when she was fifteen.

Norfolk, Virginia

Grace's family transfers to Norfolk, Virginia when she is fifteen.

HC-8

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight is called HC-8.

Dragon Whales

Dragon Whales is the name given to HC-8.

Ch-46 Sea Knight

Ch-46 Sea Knight is a type of helicopter used in search and rescue, and for vertical replenishment used to support the Atlantic Fleet.

Heliops

The Atlantic Fleet Helicopter Operations School is called Heliops.

Mother Dotty's Kitchen

Mother Dotty's Kitchen is the first diner Grace and her mother stop at on the way to Florida, it has old fashioned appeal with red leather booths and plenty of chrome.

Tremont Inn

Tremont Inn is the restaurant owned by Warren and Dallas in a Palm Beach County region known as Palm Beach Gardens. It is only open for dinner, and is where Jackie is offered a job and accepts.



Fuchia Street

Fuchia Street off of Holly Drive is where Dallas has arranged a condo for Grace and her mother to live.

Quackie and Queenie

Quackie and Queenie are the pair of ducks that live in the pond outside of the condo into which Grace and her mother are eased when they arrive in Florida.

Joya del Mar (Jewel of the Sea)

The name of Winston Montgomery's beach front estate is Joya del Mar (Jewel of the Sea).

Paradise Island, Bahamas

Winston takes Grace and Jackie Lee for dinner on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Edith Johnson Wood School

Edith Johnson Wood School is the private school that Grace will attend located in North Palm Beach on a tract of land that is 250 acres of palm trees, fountains, waterways and bridges. Only 750 students attend this exclusive school in total.

Jupiter Beach

Jupiter Beach is the junior college that Grace selects after early graduation from high school.

University of South Florida

Grace decides to attend University of South Florida but leaves before completing.

Boat House

Grace and Jackie Lee are forced to move into the estate's boat house after Kirby cleans them out financially.



Themes

Happiness Is A State Of Mind

Grace and Jackie Lee move as frequently as need be to keep up with the career path that will take Roland to his goal of being an Admiral one day. They sacrifice friendships, and permanent homes and schools to follow him wherever he is stationed, ready to leave with less than a moment's notice. From childhood, Grace learns that nothing is permanent, and that to make friends will only cause her heartache eventually. As such, she is an independent child, and her relationship with her parents is the only one that has any sense of permanence. Roland is proud of his wife and daughter, and when he accepts the posting to Norfolk to teach, he believes they are finally somewhere where they can stay for a while. Grace begins to get to know some of the girls in her school, and discovers that there are many people who do not have the same happy and secure home life that she enjoys. As she looks for a way to fit in, she discovers that most people do not enjoy the happy life she has at home, and feels privileged to do so. She even begins to date, finding a boy she likes and trusts, but all of that ends on the day that her father dies. It is then that young Grace realizes that happiness is fleeting, and is a state of mind that is not permanent. She struggles to follow her mother's example - not to allow fate to determine their outcome. This move is a sobering reminder of how happiness is a state of mind. It is the first of many such reminders they will endure.

Money Can't Buy Everything

When Grace and Jackie Lee move to Florida after Roland's death, life changes forever. Until then, they had always considered themselves to be a naval family, and now they are more like refugees. Jackie Lee takes a job as a waitress in a restaurant owned and operated by her longtime school friend, Dallas, and her husband. Dallas immediately schools Jackie Lee in the art of winning a rich husband, telling her that all she has to do is land a rich widower, and her life will be set. Though she doesn't approach this on a conscious level, Dallas makes sure she knows who the most eligible bachelors are, and how much they are worth. When Jackie Lee begins to date Winston, Dallas assures her she has won the lottery, encouraging her and allowing her the time to pursue him which Jackie Lee does with abandon. At first, Grace is horrified, still reeling from her father's death, but she grows ever fonder of Winston, who is a decent and caring man. The wedding is the social event of the season, and Jackie Lee is quickly learning how to spend money as though it is water. When Grace asks her if she loves Winston, she tells her that she loves him enough, and that she will make him a good wife. To Grace's surprise, they become a family again. Winston Montgomery is generous to a fault, and enjoys watching his new wife spend money. Jackie Lee does so, reveling in their new status as the idle rich. In fact, her status appears to be more important than her new husband. For a time, they are the toast of Palm Beach - invited to all the A-list parties and events, and holding many of their own. When Winston dies suddenly one night,



Jackie Lee learns that her status depended on him. Money can't buy her way back to the A-list that was more important to her than her husband.

Oh Brother, It's A Son!

When Grace realizes she is pregnant, the guilt is overwhelming. She keeps hearing Kirby's voice telling her that she helped to seduce him, and that would be the story he told if the truth about their liaison ever became known. Every time she works up the nerve to talk to her mother about it, another issue erupts making it impossible for Grace to add to her mother's misery. Instead, she keeps it to herself until she is almost seven months pregnant, and then can wait no longer. When she reveals the truth, her mother is angry, then mortified, and finally resolves to find a solution to their ever growing shame. She does what many mothers did in earlier times when their daughters found themselves pregnant out of wedlock. She decides to take the child on as her own, immediately laying the groundwork to convince everyone around her that she is pregnant. She gorges herself to add weight to her body, mimics Grace's every discomfort, and leaves Grace feeling like she isn't having a child at all. When Grace gives birth to a son at home, the doctor is called and, complicit, he behaves as though Jackie Lee gave birth and not Grace. Her son is taken from her immediately, under the guise that someone might look in the window and observe their deception. At first Grace complies, unable to see another way, but as the days turn into weeks, and her time with her son is limited to feedings, her mind begins to slowly retreat. Grace is unable to absorb the loss, and unable to grieve publicly or privately for the son who became a brother. Her mother, true to her convictions, behaves in every way as though this child is her own, and the only thing that ruins the deception is Grace's presence. She pressures Grace to leave, to return to school and thereby honor the sacrifice she made for her. For Grace, there is no shame greater than being unable to raise the son she had or to be acknowledged as his mother. The bond is not one she can simply think away.

Style

Point of View

Into The Woods by V.C. Andrews is a novel written entirely in the first person perspective, narrated by the main character, Grace Houston-Montgomery. Her narration begins when her father is given another of many transfers in his navy career, but this time to Norfolk, Virginia. This is the transfer that he has been hoping for, and will allow them to remain in one place for a little longer than in the past. Grace is eager to settle in somewhere, and even dares to begin caring for a young man who shows interest in her, but fate is not kind. Grace chronicles their spiral into unhappiness after her father is killed shortly thereafter in a helicopter accident.

Grace is a competent narrator, giving the reader a bird's eye view of a naval family's life, and then the disorientation and lack of an adequate network of friends to help them work through the loss of the anchor in their lives. Without forming stable relationships along the way, they have little to fall back on in their time of need. Grace documents her mother's desperate attempt to marry her way into a more stable situation, and the unexpected joy Grace finds in the honest and loving friendship that Winston Montgomery provides. Grace even calls him Daddy after a time. While her mother concerns herself with social status, Winston teaches Grace how to sail, and by example, how to love life. When Winston dies, Grace loses another big part of her heart, and begins to see herself as a version of Typhoid Mary - feeling as though all those she loves eventually perish. Her narration continues to be reliable, if somewhat unstable after she is impregnated by her third stepfather, and spirals into depression when her baby is taken from her to be raised as her brother instead.

Setting

This novel is set in a variety of places, and gives the reader a glimpse into the life of a navy family. It also reveals the tragedy that their lives become when one third of the family is gone. The story begins in San Diego where the Houston family is stationed, and reveals the nomadic existence they live as Roland comes home to announce yet another transfer after only a year in this city. Their next place of residence is to be Norfolk, Virginia where he assures them they will be able to stay for longer than usual. This is a promise he is unable to keep, going down in a helicopter accident a short time after their move. Afraid and directionless, Jackie Lee moves her daughter Grace to a new beginning in Florida. There, they slowly work their way into the hearts of Winston Montgomery, and become part of the social circle of Palm Beach.

Winston's wealth allows them the luxury of constant travel, beginning with the honeymoon in the Mediterranean where they discover the perfect villa to spend the following summer. Grace is taken to France where she learns the language. They remain on the estate in Palm Beach from there on, despite the death of Winston, and



subsequent squandering of his considerable fortune by Jackie Lee's next choice for a husband. They move only one more time and that is to the beach house when finances become so dire that they are forced to rent out the estate in order to survive.

Language and Meaning

Into The Woods is a novel set in middle class America, and written in straight forward English language and structure. With only a brief foray into French by Grace when she is answering her mother's questions in a drug induced state of confusion, the novel is easy to follow and understand. Since the story begins with the descriptions of a navy family's life as seen through the eyes of a fifteen year old girl, there are several naval references that lend an authenticity to the story such as her father's honorary reference to her as his "Sailor Girl," and similar such phrases employed by the family like "anchors aweigh" to symbolize another move or "launch or drop anchor" meaning explain or drop the subject. The author takes time to describe the subsequent posting to Norfolk by revealing Roland's new position as an instructor in the Atlantic Fleet Helicopter Operations School and describing the job description as operating "Heliops" which is the name given to the school.

When Roland dies soon after, the story shifts from one of naval bases to social graces as Jackie Lee begins the long and arduous trek up the social ladder with her second husband, Winston Montgomery. She quickly finds herself mired in the quagmire that is the A-list in Palm Beach, desperately trying to beg, borrow or buy her way into social and financial acceptance. Authenticity is gained here by the author's use of caterers, social faux pas, and the usually insincere front that is common place as Jackie Lee is first the curiosity of Palm Beach, and later the social leper when Winston dies and she and her new husband manage to squander his fortune.

Structure

Into The Woods by V.C.Andrews is a novel that is 448 pages in length, and is divided into nineteen chapters not including the prologue and the epilogue. The chapters range in length from twenty to just under thirty pages, averaging about 24 pages in length and each chapter is a clearly defined change or milestone in the lives of Jackie Lee and her daughter Grace. The first four chapters, spanning 91 pages in length deals with their lives as a naval family, revealing the lack of permanence, few friendships and social impermanence of the life of a navy family. Chapters Five through Eight, spanning 94 pages take Jackie Lee and Grace to Florida where Jackie Lee goes to work for Dallas and Warren Tremont in their restaurant, and introducing Jackie Lee to the man who will become her second husband, Winston Montgomery. They also cover the onset of issues between Grace and Phoebe Tremont who seems determined to put Grace in her place. It is Grace's first peek into social climbing and how financial status affects popularity and leverage. Chapters Nine through Thirteen, spanning 112 pages, deal with the social event of the year in Palm Beach and the planning involved in the wedding of Jackie Lee to Winston. Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen detail how their lives change with

Winston, and reveal his untimely death. The remaining four chapters spanning 102 pages show Jackie Lee's desperate attempt to win her way back into social status, her marriage to Kirby Scott and his subsequent squandering of the Montgomery fortune. They also deals with his impregnation of Grace, and Jackie Lee's solution to the crisis.



Quotes

"Someday your father will be an admiral, and they will have to swallow their jokes whole or choke on them."

Ch. 1, Pg. 6

Mother to Grace when an older boy teases her about her father's rank or lack thereof.

"It's an investment, taking a chance, and any investment involves some risk, and some risk means being somewhat foolish."

Ch. 1, Pg. 8

Mother to Grace, explaining what love is and why it can be foolish at times.

"Every father has to realize there will come a day when he will no longer be the center of his daughter's world, when someone else will step in and capture her attention and interest."

Ch. 3, Pg. 69

Grace's father to her after her first study session at Trent's house.

"If you can understand the basic language and you free yourself of the obstacles, you can hear more important or deeper things in the world around you."

Ch. 6, Pg. 120

Augustus to Grace the second time they see each other at the duck pond.

"You're the first girl I've kissed like that."

Ch. 8, Pg. 183

Augustus to Grace after kissing her.

"Your mother is a thief and a terrible one at that, stealing from the very people who tried to help her."

Ch. 9, Pg. 189

Ashley to Grace after the incident in the restaurant when Phoebe tries to frame Grace's mother for theft.

"There are many bridges to cross in this life, and this just happens to be another, but it's a possible bridge to a better life for us."

Ch. 10, Pg. 228

Jackie Lee to Grace as she tries to explain how it is essential for them to move on.

"The secret is reaching a level of enjoyment and holding it for a while and then retreating or knowing when to retreat."

Ch. 11, Pg. 242

Winston to Grace and Jackie Lee as they discuss the "Palm Beach state of mind."

"They decide the important things, and every time a woman tries to take a piece of that away from them they cry that she's not a woman or she's too ambitious."

Ch. 12, Pg. 268



Jackie Lee to Grace as she explains her opinion that most of the power in the world is in the hands of men and that most of them fear women - afraid they will take over.

"There are daughters of people I would like you to meet, girls with whom you can share things in common now, Grace, but to do that you have to come along with me occasionally."

Ch. 13, Pg. 297

Jackie Lee to Grace, still nagging her about her social status, or lack thereof.

"If the other mothers even heard you were considering such a thing, they wouldn't let their daughters and sons come."

Ch. 14, Pg. 314

Jackie Lee to Grace as she warns her not to even consider inviting Basil to the party she is putting together for her.

"I'd rather be with a substantial person than a substantial family."

Ch. 15, Pg. 337

Grace to her mother after her mother complains about her choice in friends, having recently met Kaye.

"With you drooping about all day and night with the servants standing and waiting for constant instructions and the financial people driving me crazy, I've decided I need to get out."

Ch. 16, Pg. 352

Jackie Lee to Grace after she decides that mourning Winston is getting old.

"If I bring anything to this marriage, I hope it will be doing things that make Grace a happier and more confident young woman."

Ch. 17, Pg. 375

Kirby to Jackie Lee and Grace in an effort to sway Grace's opinion of him and to cement his status with Jackie Lee by suggesting his primary interest is reflected in Grace's happiness.

"When I come back I expect to see you up and about, your hair washed and brushed, and you in one of the pretty outfits you have."

Ch. 18, Pg. 394

Jackie Lee's version of a pep talk to get Grace out of bed and back into life after Grace begins abusing sleeping pills.

"I have to practice and get into the state of mind so I don't make any mistakes when I'm in public."

Ch. 19, Pg. 417

Jackie Lee to Grace after Grace voices her feelings about her mother's feigned pregnancy even when the two of them are home alone.



Topics for Discussion

Why is the relationship in the Houston family one that is both strong and weak at the same time? What makes them strong? Why might their family unit be considered fragile? What are they missing and why is it important?

What special connection do Grace and her father have? What mannerisms or phrases do they share? What is the last thing Grace remembers about her father?

How does Jackie Lee cope with Roland's death? In what way is her response a mistake? How does Grace respond to her father's death? What helps her to cope? Where does Grace learn this coping mechanism and why?

What does Dallas convince Jackie Lee is the most important thing she can do for herself? How does she help Jackie Lee to accomplish this goal? Who else is involved in this and why?

How does Jackie Lee describe her feelings for Winston after Grace discovers they are officially engaged? What appears to be Jackie Lee's primary concern? What does she insist she will never be and why?

Who is the first person to kiss Grace in more than a familial way? How does she feel about it? What is her response? How does this affect her status?

Who approaches Grace for help with homework in Norfolk? Why is Grace reluctant to agree at first, and what changes her mind? Where is their first homework session, and what significant events occur?

How many husbands does Jackie Lee have in total? What does each of her husbands bring to the relationship? Which is the best marriage when all factors are taken into consideration and why?

Where does Grace meet Augustus? What is unusual about him? What subject interests him the most and why? What event is the reason that Grace and Augustus do not explore the possibilities of their friendship? What happens as a result?

When does Jackie Lee begin to lose her social standing in Palm Beach and why? How does she respond?

Why does Grace begin taking sleeping pills? Where does she get them? How is she affected? What happens to her as a result of her diminished capacity while taking the pills?

How far along in her pregnancy is Grace before she reveals it to Jackie Lee? Who is the father? Why does she wait so long? How does she feel about the baby she is carrying? Why?



What is Jackie Lee's solution to Grace's pregnancy out of wedlock? What steps does she take to ensure her plan is successful? Who is complicit in her plan and why?

Who does Grace begin seeing? What does he tell her to do? What is the outcome of her actions? Where is she sent and why?