

# **The Voice on the Radio Study Guide**

**The Voice on the Radio by Caroline B. Cooney**

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## Plot Summary

The Voice on the Radio by Caroline Cooney is the third in the 'Janie' series, a total of four books. Author Cooney weaves a story that centers on a teenage girl and her two families. Janie Johnson, born Jennie Spring, had been kidnapped as a child - lured away by a young and troubled girl, Hannah Johnson, who then had given Jennie to her mother telling her she is her own. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson happily take on the task of raising their granddaughter, treating her as their own. Everything is fine until one day in the cafeteria at school when Janie sees her picture on a milk carton. Now, a year after everything has come to light and the grudging realization by the Spring family that the Johnson parents are blameless, Janie is finding her way.

In this continuing story, Janie has the opportunity to get to know the Spring family better. Though reluctant to expose herself emotionally at first, in this segment of the saga Janie not only begins to open up, but even bonds with her birth family when she discovers that Reeve is not who she believed he was.

It begins simply - Jodie wants to go to Boston to scout possible universities. The Spring family is still adjusting to the reality of Janie's return, and only agree to let Jodie go when her brother Brian offers to go along to keep her safe. Approval is given and they eagerly make plans for this rare chance at freedom, deciding to stop and see Janie on the way. Janie decides to go with them, hoping to surprise her boyfriend Reeve who goes to college in Boston. When they get there, they check into the Marriott, and settle in to listen to the radio show Reeve works on. What they hear next changes everything. It turns out that Reeve is very well known for the show he's been broadcasting for several weeks. A betrayal beyond belief will affect Janie to her very core, and deeply impact her Johnson and Spring families. A pact of secrecy is made, but of course nothing will ever be the same now. Jodie's dreams of going to college in Boston are over, spoiled by this trip. Brian can't reconcile that the person he so admired could behave with so little care. Until then, it had been them against the world. Now, the damage is much more personal.

Brian, Jodie and Janie are hoping to bury the whole mess, giving Reeve no choice but to comply. He hasn't been entirely honest with them though. Reeve still has a secret. Janie, Jodie and Brian are not the only ones to have heard his broadcast recently. Will he be able to keep his secret?



# Chapter One

## Chapter One Summary

The Voice on the Radio by Caroline Cooney is the third in the 'Janie' series, a total of four books. Author Cooney weaves a story that centers on a teenage girl and her two families. Janie Johnson, born Jennie Spring, had been kidnapped as a child - lured away by a young and troubled girl, Hannah Johnson, who then had given Jennie to her mother telling her she is her own. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson happily take on the task of raising their granddaughter, treating her as their own. Everything is fine until one day in the cafeteria at school when Janie sees her picture on a milk carton. Now, a year after everything has come to light and the grudging realization by the Spring family that the Johnson parents are blameless, Janie is finding her way.

Reeve is a college student now, and has been for almost a month and a half. Janie, his girlfriend, is still in high school and it is still nineteen months before she graduates and can join him. Reeve is doing his first live deejay spot on the college radio station, and eleven minutes into the hour, he dries up. Derek Himself, as Derek is known on the radio, reminds him that he can turn the mike back to him any time he can't handle it, making Reeve more determined to succeed, and yet, he can't think of a single thing of interest to say. At home, Janie and her best girl friend Sarah-Charlotte sit on her bed looking at bridal magazines. Janie dreams of Reeve waiting at the altar for her. Sarah-Charlotte asks her which one of her fathers she sees walking her down the aisle, and Janie hardly hesitates before insisting they both will - one on each arm. They make up sample wedding invitations, and Sarah-Charlotte reminds her that she has to use her real name, or it won't be legal. Seeing the name Jennie Spring still makes her stomach flip. Reeve, meanwhile, struggles to think of something of value to discuss with his listeners. Finally, he begins...."Once upon a time....," and Derek stares at him, stunned. Everyone else in the station stops what they are doing. He repeats it, thinking furiously about how to continue. Then the words just come, and he finds himself telling a story about a girl who one day saw her own face on a milk carton under the word MISSING. Jodie is enjoying the amount of space the new house has. There had been a brief and unsettling period when Janie lived with them again, but now it seems spacious. Stephen is gone to college, and the twins, Brian and Brendan, keep each other busy. As the only other one around, Jodie discovers that her mother consults her about everything from paint to furniture. Her parents had refused to move out of their cramped little house while Jennie had still been missing, even after a decade without a single word. Months later, it still brings chills to Jodie to think about Jennie finding her own face on the carton. Jodie turns her thoughts back to college. As the only daughter again, Jodie's choices are made based on how easily she can get a train home for visits. She knows that if she goes to a school in either Rhode Island or Massachusetts, she can get home easily. She thinks about Hills College, and the fact that Janie's boyfriend Reeve attended it. Meanwhile, Reeve is telling their story. Neither Janie, nor either of the families had ever given interviews to the press of any kind. Only Reeve knows the



whole, intimate story on both sides. He looks around, seeing he has the attention of everyone in the station, knowing he has a treasure trove of information for his listeners.

## Chapter One Analysis

Janie is lonely. Her boyfriend Reeve is in his first year of college away from home and she misses him like crazy. They email, fax, text and call, but nothing is the same as his arm around her and her head on his shoulder where it belongs. Reeve tells her he is about to go on the air at a live radio station, and when the moment actually comes, he finds that just ten minutes into the hour he begins to crack. By eleven minutes in, his banter has dried up, and he is one short step from dead air - the kiss of death for any deejay. He had done fine when he volunteered but now he is in an earlier slot, one that might actually be heard. Janie and Sarah-Charlotte are in Janie's room indulging in one of their favorite pastimes - looking through bridal magazines, and dreaming about their futures. Janie can easily see herself walking down the aisle to a waiting Reeve, although she hasn't so much as broached the marriage conversation with him for fear of scaring him off permanently. Sarah-Charlotte asks her who would give her away, and after brief consideration, she announces both her fathers would, although inside, she wonders how they would feel about it. Sarah-Charlotte uses the opportunity to ask Janie about New Jersey. This is code for her biological family - the Springs. Janie hates the questions and wishes the issue would just go away. The only one she's ever really talked to about it is Reeve, and even that had taken some time. For the first while after she had seen herself on the milk carton, she had just carried it around and thought about the implications. How had she ended up with this family? Had she been kidnapped? If she goes to the police, would her current parents be taken to jail? The thought is too unsettling, so Janie does nothing at first. Of course, the upset extends to both sides. Janie's birth parents, who had named her Jennie when she came into the world, had never stopped looking, never stopped hoping they would see her again. They had refused to move from their cramped little house as long as she was still gone. Now, having passed that finally, Jodie is enjoying their new house. Stephen has gone to college, Janie has returned to the parents who raised her after just a year, and Jodie feels a certain freedom opening up to her. She enjoys the thought of going away to college, and begins looking at brochures. It would be fun to attend the same college as Janie's boyfriend, Reeve. She can't know that at that moment, Reeve is telling his radio audience their personal, private, and never before told story. Had she known about this invasion of their privacy, she'd have thought much less of him, as likely would Janie. However, Reeve isn't thinking about any of that as he closes his first hour. He knows he has a hit, and the consequences never enter his mind. He thinks instead about what a hit he will be, how much material he can still milk from the story, and how good he feels he is at it.



# Chapter Two

## Chapter Two Summary

Sarah-Charlotte is curious as to what kind of wardrobe Janie will be taking to New Jersey the next time, but Janie is much more interested in the new High Stepper Horse Barbie she has just added to her collection. Sarah-Charlotte picks out a flexible Barbie and prepares her to work at Pizza Hut. She suggests that Janie go to visit Reeve, but Janie doesn't think her parents will let her go. WSCK is a station that plays mostly local dorm bands excepting from 10pm to 11pm. At that time of night, they are all talk radio, and Reeve can see himself as the next radio king. He continues the story of Janie, drawing in the crowd, making them want more. He reveals her innermost fears, thoughts, reservations, and desires. In the Spring household, lives are changing. Brendan is now the star in sports while Brian enjoys shopping days, studying and surprisingly, history. Brian's new life, separate from his twin emotionally and educationally, leaves him feeling a little lonely at times, but books filled the gap. If it hadn't been for finally having his own room, he would have never discovered how much he enjoys just reading. It is just one of the many things that change after Jennie's return. Mrs. Spring even tries to stop being so paranoid about each of her remaining children, but still isn't able to stop panicking whenever any of them are out of her sight for any length of time. In Boston, Reeve continues to use Janie's story as his on-air security blanket. After the first episode finishes, Vinnie, WSCK's station manager, takes four calls back-to-back praising Reeve and the Janie segments and putting an uncharacteristic smile on his face. The callers want more.

## Chapter Two Analysis

Sarah-Charlotte knows how much Janie misses Reeve and suggests that Janie go to Boston. To Janie, Boston may as well be Ethiopia. She knows she'd never be allowed. Next she suggests that Janie get Reeve to drive down, even for just an afternoon, and Janie reminds her that he doesn't even have a car. She changes the subject, talking about her expectations for Barbie and Janie thinks about how Sarah-Charlotte really is her best friend. She wonders if it is too late to have that kind of friendship with her sister Jodie. Reeve isn't giving Janie a second thought outside of his storytelling. He never for one minute considers the consequences if she hears about it, or worse still, is confronted by it. All Reeve cares about are the ratings he is able to generate. In the Spring household, growth is changing them all. Brian and Brendan, though once reflections of each other, now grow in their own directions. Brian loves learning. He wants to tell Stephen that he has discovered that about himself, but for some reason he never does. Stephen, who now lives in Colorado, is not very forthcoming about his new life and somehow Brian isn't able to share the thing that would have brought them so much closer together. Instead, he continues to spend time with his mother, understanding her loss and pain perhaps better than the others, and knowing how hard it still is for her not to fear he will vanish without a trace like Jennie had. The new house

has so much space that she can actually stockpile for the first time, and she concentrates her energies into filling it. Reeve is less empathetic, enjoying the accolades that accompany his new story hour on WSCK. Even station manager Vinnie is smiling when he tells Reeve the callers want more.



# Chapter Three

## Chapter Three Summary

Reeve, Vinnie, Cal and Derek listen to Reeve's hour again without the commercial breaks afterward. Thirty-nine calls come in, wanting more, and this is only Reeve's first night. He watches Derek on the air, absorbing technique and style. Vinnie instructs him to maintain the same format for the following night, and Cal wonders if they should only have him on twice a week, to keep the audience primed and wanting more. Reeve just sits there, enjoying that they are talking about him. He feebly tries to make this his first and last 'Janie' broadcast, understanding with sudden clarity how horrified she would be if she heard, but when they tell him he has style, and is a natural, his own ego surpasses any need for privacy that Janie might feel. They soothe his nerves by assuring him that she'll never hear it in Connecticut.

Stephen is surprised the first time they visit the Spring family in Connecticut. They all go to meet the kidnap family together and are stunned to realize that they like the Johnsons. Stephen even likes Janie's boyfriend Reeve who lives next door. Though they are about the same age, Reeve is just more sophisticated and independent than Stephen and quickly became his role model. Reeve and Janie had driven down before Stephen left for college, and Reeve's grin is huge when he sees the extra inches on Stephen. Four weeks later, he had flown to Colorado for college, putting the whole complicated, emotional mess behind him for now. In Colorado, no one insists on knowing his every move, and no one knows about the Spring family saga. Late at night, he thinks to himself... I'm free. Meanwhile, Brian, Brendan and Jodie bear witness to the painting and decorating of the new house, and then the mega shopping trips to fill the extra space they now have. Brian and Stephen both admire the Johnson house, choosing colors like they have and hoping their mother won't notice. Given his own room, Brian discovers he likes reading and history. Mrs. Spring watches the new house come together, so busy she hardly has time to think, but at night, when it's quiet, she remembers and part of her continues to wait for Jennie to come home.

Reeve continues to do Janie stories. He tells his audience about how Janie convinces him to cut classes one day, and drive to New Jersey. He reveals how they had found the Johnsons and had watched as kids with the same red hair as Janie's got off the bus eliminating any lingering doubts she might have had. He describes their reaction, and how Janie had hidden so they wouldn't see her, begging him to drive. Still, afterward she is left with the same question - now what?

## Chapter Three Analysis

Reeve listens to the recording of his latest Janie broadcast with the manager and two other deejays. Vinnie compliments his radio voice - something he is not prone to do, and thereby giving his opinion more validity. To Reeve, his voice sounds different,





unfamiliar. He listens as the voice on the tape embellishes the story of Janie's life somewhat, just for dramatic effect. Listening to the story for a moment brings Janie right to him, and with sudden clarity, he feels sick about the broadcast he's just finished, and consoles himself by assuring himself that she will never hear it anyway. He thinks about what she would say if she knew, and thanks Vinnie, trying to back out of doing any more segments, but Vinnie is adamant that he continue, turning Janie's name into a noun, and insisting that he 'do another Janie' the following night. He tries to explain that Janie wouldn't like it, and Cal is stunned to realize that Reeve hadn't even changed her name to protect her privacy somewhat. Telling Reeve he has style, he manages to begin the process of changing Reeve's mind.

The Spring family had begun house hunting the previous June, and Stephen hated how uncertain his parents had sounded as they tried to decide whether or not to ensure Janie had a room of her own. It had been bad enough that they'd given up on calling her by the name with which she was born - Jennie. Part of him hates Janie for having such a profound impact on him and his family. Jodie still hopes that she and Janie can be sisters in the real sense again. It had taken only days to find a house, having waited twelve years for Jennie's return in the cramped little house they lived in when she disappeared. The Spring and Johnson families meet, and are surprised to find that they like each other, but it's hard. Jennie isn't Jennie anymore. Now she is Janie, and the Spring family gives in, beginning to call her that as well. The hurtful part is when, after coming home, Janie still wants to return to her life with the Johnsons. It is almost like losing her all over again.

At college, Reeve allows himself to be talked into continuing the Janie saga. He tells his audience about their trip to find the Springs in New Jersey, and how the sight of the Spring siblings getting off the bus eliminated all doubts Janie might have had. They all share the gene that gives them very red and very identifiable hair. He tells them how they felt, him gripping the wheel so hard he thought he'd break it, and her, crouching on the floor and begging him to drive. He doesn't give the actual Janie a second thought.



# Chapter Four

## Chapter Four Summary

In November, Sarah-Charlotte arranges Lipstick Day at school. When Van asks Janie for her print, she is happy to comply and he shows off the jawbone space he saved just for hers. She carefully plants one on him after reapplying color. A school photographer corners her, trying to get her photo for the yearbook, but she puts her hand up every time, insisting that she isn't a senior. When he admits they plan to do a milk carton segment featuring her, she is horrified. She would never be normal if they wouldn't let her forget. She rips the camera from Tyler's hands and suddenly has the attention of the entire gymnasium. She wants to run, hide, and wait for the moment to pass but Sarah-Charlotte convinces her to stand her ground. She hands the empty camera back to Tyler and tell him to get lost. In a moment or two, the staring stops and a part of her wills Reeve to come home.

While WSCK had often gotten requests, on Tuesdays and Thursdays they are now all about Janie. Each week the numbers grow, and the calls keep coming. Reeve shares things with his audience that he hasn't even told his parents, honoring her desire to keep the whole thing quiet. Most of the time, when she had brought her anxieties to surface, he had listened, ignoring her words and imagining her with less clothing on. He tells them how Hannah Johnson kidnapped Jennie and, calling her Janie, then left her with her parents, claiming to be her mother. She had asked them to raise the girl, and left, never to return. Reeve's sister Lizzie is determined to become a lawyer, choosing the profession that would most allow her to talk while others listened, and for the first time, Reeve feels like he understands her. Reeve is beginning to have as much fun with the phone as he does with the mike, talking to people who are calling to ask him questions about the Janie saga. When Derek introduces him, he can hear the exclamation points in his voice. In conspiratorial tones, he tells them the inside story - he delivers Hannah to them. He is becoming more and more recognized, and the notoriety is something he truly relishes. His roommate, Cordell suggests that he use last names, but Reeve is still trying to keep it all generic.

When Sarah-Charlotte takes Janie home from school, they see a reporter on her front porch, recognizing him as the one who had been so persistent for so long. Sarah-Charlotte asks her if she wants to escape, but Janie knows that her mother is home alone, and pushing past the reporter without a word, she goes into the house. When her father gets home and hears about it, things get even worse. He admits that he'd been thinking about Hannah, and had gone on the internet to search for her. She sends a letter to Reeve telling him about her day, and about how much she misses him. She mentions coming to see him on campus.



## Chapter Four Analysis

On Lipstick Day, boys and girls alike paint themselves in bright lipstick and the goal is to gather as many prints as possible on your face. Janie has prints everywhere and Sarah-Charlotte had ensured that those who had arrived unarmed were soon using one of the disgustingly bright or gaudy colors that she'd brought from home. During the course of the day, Tyler, the school photographer makes an effort to get her picture, but Janie evades him. He finally admits that the yearbook this year will have a section devoted to her kidnapping. Janie is mortified, wishing only that she could put the whole mess behind her. This is the first day that she had felt even remotely close to herself since it all came out, and the feeling is short lived thanks to Tyler and his milk carton segment. She takes the camera from Tyler, drawing even more attention to herself. Sarah-Charlotte helps her to stand her ground instead of running to hide herself away until it passes. A few minutes later, things go back to normal. She wishes Reeve were there with her, missing him terribly.

Reeve is still broadcasting Janie's life. This episode on the radio deals with how Jennie came to be Janie. He tells his audience how Hannah Johnson kidnaps Jennie, and then takes her home to her parents, claiming she is her own daughter. Then, she insists that they will likely do a better job at raising her than she could, and disappears from their lives again, this time forever. Derek is unhappy with Reeve's instant celebrity status. Vinnie fawns over him, and nothing Derek does garners him the phone responses that Reeve gets. Now he is little more than a lead in for Reeve. Janie doesn't have a driver's license yet, having relied on Reeve to take her to school the previous year, and Sarah-Charlotte now that he is gone. A reporter is standing outside Janie's house when Sarah-Charlotte drops her off and at first, she offers to drive away, rescuing her for the second time that day, but she refuses. Knowing her mother is alone in the house, she pushes past the reporter without a word and goes in. Later, her father adds to the stress level when after hearing about the reporter he admits to having been thinking about Hannah a great deal lately. After all these years, and even knowing what she'd done, they still hope and want to see her one day. Somehow, Janie understands that it is up to her to be their hopes and dreams fulfilled. She sends Reeve an email, missing him terribly. She talks about paying him a visit.



# Chapters Five and Six

## Chapters Five and Six Summary

The idea that Janie might come to campus horrifies Reeve. He knows that there are quite a few people who would know who she is immediately. He tries to figure out a way to avoid the whole campus with her. He calls her, and asks her about the day she had told him was so horrible in her email. She tells him about Lipstick Day, and the yearbook photographer. Then she tells him she wants to come see him, and he pretends that it would be great, but that he has no accommodations for her. When she adds that all she wants is to be somewhere where no one knows her for a while, he laughs, but in an odd way. She asks him to send her a tape of his show, and he claims he is merely a 'new kid', memorizing bad lyrics to songs no one knows. After he gets off the phone, he thinks about how he ended any chance of her sharing his college life. The next morning Janie has breakfast with her parents, and when they point outside, she sees Reeve's jeep in the driveway. She races out and hugs him, then begs him to let her just forget about school for the day. Reeve has other ideas however. He decides to attend her classes with her. They spend that evening together, and she tells him about the reporter. Quietly, Reeve acknowledges to himself that he is doing what the reporter and yearbook photographer had tried and failed to do. He is careful to construct his answers to her questions accordingly. On the train back to Boston, he makes the decision to quit, but back in the studio he thinks perhaps he can just back off some. He tells Vinnie he's going to quit, but Vinnie knows better, and tells him so. Vinnie assures him he is addicted to himself, and when Derek surprises him by giving him a cue to go on with another Janie, he swings the microphone back and walks out without a word. As he walks, he passes his physics professor, Dr. Brookner, who stops him to admit how much he and his wife are enjoying the Janies. He confides that they hate the music but can't help listening. Reeve decides that he owes it to his audience to do one more.

Jodie tells her mother that she wants to drive to Boston to investigate the six colleges there. Her mother is nervous about her going alone for the weekend, and listening to how important it is to her, Brian offers to accompany her. Jodie is thrilled, and her parents can't say no. Brian is interested in the history that Boston has to offer. Jodie suggests that they could stop off and visit the Johnsons as well, and Brian sees his mother's face fall. Jodie can hardly believe she is allowed to go. It feels like her life is finally beginning.

## Chapters Five and Six Analysis

Reeve has been talking about Janie on the air for a month already, and the story is a big part of who he is. Deep down he knows he shouldn't be doing it, but he is having such a good time that he just pretends the rest of it doesn't exist. He cuts classes so often now that he is hardly even a student. He calls Janie and her relief to hear from him is obvious. She can picture him and she tells him about how awful her day was, imagining



him there with her. She tells him that she is just material - a page in a yearbook, and the anxiety in his voice makes her feel better. He manages to deflect questions about the station, and after he says goodbye to her, he thinks about the depth of his betrayal. If Janie is upset about a page in a yearbook, he knows she would be horrified, and devastated to learn of his actions. Instead, he drives down to see her, surprising her by being parked in her driveway the next morning. Janie is delighted, and when he joins her classes for the day to spend time with her, she is on top of the world. Every girl is green with envy as he stares at her, making his feelings for her obvious. When she tells him she has gym class, he promises to be waiting when she is done. While she is in gym class, he talks to the school yearbook adviser, and manages to get the milk carton page removed from their yearbook plan. Janie laughs when he tells her, feeling on top of the world. Reeve had forgotten how good it felt to be with Janie, and to be the center of her existence. When he gets back on the train to Boston, he knows he has to quit and separate himself from the Janies. He tells Vinnie, who laughs and insists he is addicted to the sound of his own voice. When they cue him to go on, he quietly leaves the building without a word, feeling good about himself. When he runs into his physics professor and discovers that even he and his wife are hooked on the Janies, he decides to do one more for his audience. He walks on, feeling better. The idea that he had been willing to quit for her seemed to be enough.

Jodie wants to go to Boston to check out colleges. Time is running out, but her parents are busy with Brendan's game schedule, having never missed one, and can't attend. When Jodie insists time is running out, Brian offers to accompany her. Together, he knows his parents won't disapprove. Despite knowing now where Janie is, the impact of her kidnapping is still so strong. Brian feels like he is finally beginning to find himself, but one look at his mother's face when Jodie suggests a visit to Janie on the way is enough to convince him that the damage to her is permanent. Jodie feels like her life is just beginning and she can hardly wait. She is already convinced that she will never have a family of her own. The risk is too great. Instead, she covets her freedom.



# Chapter Seven

## Chapter Seven Summary

Jodie drives fast and quietly, heading first for the Johnsons house to see Janie. Sarah-Charlotte is there but when Jodie politely explains that this is her only night alone with her sister, she bows out without a fuss. They talk about Reeve, and how he likes college in Boston and Jodie confesses to being a little bit jealous. Janie tells her about his job at the station, and Jodie comments that Boston sounds wonderful. They have a fast food dinner from Boston Chicken, and Janie's father encourages them to hurry so that they can get to Boston before it gets too late. Janie defends her, and Jodie wishes they had more time to get to know each other better. She asks Janie if she wants to join them in Boston for two days. Jodie tells them that they have a room at the Marriott, and Janie, glowing, begs her parents to let her go. Janie adds that they can even drop in on Reeve. They joke about catching Reeve with another girl and how they would punish him. Jodie and Janie had never been more like sisters. When Brian adds that her reliable big sister will be there, Mrs. Johnson sends a silent message to her husband, agreeing to let her go. As spokesman, Mr. Johnson gives Janie their permission.

## Chapter Seven Analysis

Jodie drives to see Janie first, thrilled to be on her way, having looked forward to every moment. Janie can't help but comment about how polite Jodie and her family are whenever they come up, in stark contrast to how she felt they represented themselves. Although Jodie hadn't intended to start a serious conversation, she finds herself telling Janie that she could start by calling her birth parents Mom and Dad, as a gift to them. Jodie tells Janie that she'd like to spend some time in the city - to learn how to function but Janie assures her that if she's learned how to live without her, she is already ahead of the game. She tells Janie that she loves numbers and hopes to be famous for something other than for having a sister who'd been kidnapped. In a moment of honesty, she tells Janie that in some ways she still hates her for that. Janie's expression reveals she already knows that. Jodie continues to set an example of behavior for Janie. When she invites Janie to come with them to Boston on the spur of the moment, she can immediately see that Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are not comfortable about the idea, though it is obvious that Janie is thrilled. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson know that they have little choice. They give their permission.



# Chapter Eight

## Chapter Eight Summary

Brian relegates himself to the back seat, happy they would see Reeve soon. They talk briefly about Hannah, and how Jodie and Stephen had searched for her in New York; they talk about the impact of finding her at all; and then they go on to subjects that Janie prefers. She keeps trying to get Reeve's radio station on the dial, but is unsuccessful. They drive straight to the Marriott and check into their room. Reeve, meanwhile, is taking calls at WSCK. Reeve wants to shake things up a little bit with his next broadcast. So far, they've all been 'Gently Janies'. This time, he plans to deliver a gut wrenching Janie to his audience. Brian and the girls check into the Marriott just after 10pm. Brian finds WSCK on the radio, and they listen as Reeve introduces Visionary Assassins as usual. They lie back on the beds to listen and hear Derek Himself introduce Reeve with an upcoming 'twofer'. Reeve is planning to do a Janie and a Hannah. His voice begins, telling the audience about how Janie didn't 'have enough love' to go around for her birth family. He tells the readers she didn't need her family anymore, and that they were little more than clutter to her. Then he begins to talk about Hannah, telling his audience how evil she is, despite the fact that no one in either family really felt that way. It just makes for better radio. Then he lowers his voice, and tells the listeners that Janie's prayer had been that Hannah would just do them all a favor and stay lost. Reeve finishes, and plays two V.A. tunes back to back. The show has sapped him of energy. He answers the phone to hear a woman's voice and when Reeve asks who he is speaking to, she reveals her name as Hannah.

## Chapter Eight Analysis

Brian is looking forward to seeing Reeve. In truth, he wants to be just like him - tall, handsome and popular. Reeve loves the feeling of control he gets working at WSCK. Even just answering phones allows him to pick and choose who to talk to - cutting off all others as creatively or abruptly as he pleases. Jodie describes how cleansing it had been for her and Stephen to look for Hannah in New York, even though they hadn't even come close to finding her. Reeve readies for his show, refusing to worry about being found out. In fact, he decides, anyone who fears being caught already knows they are wrong. All Reeve wants to do is enjoy his new found notoriety. Once Brian and his sisters get settled into the Marriott, Brian helps to locate Reeve on the radio. Janie doesn't say a word as Reeve is introduced and begins his show by telling the audience that Janie wanted nothing to do with her birth family. On the bed, Janie retreats inside herself like a Barbie doll. Jodie is feeling murderous, alternating hating Reeve's guts and wishing she had a weapon that she could use to end his voice. She isn't able to speak, aware that as the oldest, it is up to her to set an example. On the air, Reeve introduces a 'Hannah'. Janie is filled with increasing horror as Reeve tells his audience that Janie wanted Hannah to stay gone. Janie thinks about how upset she had been about the page in the yearbook. This betrayal is unspeakable by comparison. Brian



feels like he needs to do something. He can see that Jodie looks ready to strangle someone and Janie just sinks into the bed, her expression flat and empty. She picks up the phone and dials the number for WSCK. Reeve is finished with his Hannah story, and plays some music while he answers the phone. The first caller is a woman who identifies herself as Hannah.





# Chapter Nine

## Chapter Nine Summary

Reeve looks around, but no one is paying any attention to him. For a moment, he can't speak at all. The voice tells him that she needs to know one thing, like so many before her have, and Reeve disconnects without a word. He spends the next few minutes convincing himself that the caller could not possibly have been 'the' Hannah. When the phone rings again, he wonders if he should answer at all. He wonders if someone is playing a joke on him, but no one in the station is looking his way. It doesn't seem likely. He picks up the phone, relieved to hear an ordinary caller. He puts another CD on, still feeling weak kneed. The phone lights up again, and he picks it up. A voice calls him by name, identifies himself as Brian Spring, and tells him that he, Jodie and Janie just listened to his show from their room in the Marriott. He suggests that Reeve get over there. When he hangs up, Janie says the first thing she's uttered since the show began. She shouts at Brian, telling him she doesn't want Reeve in the same room as her. Jodie finds a blanket and puts it over her shivering sister who can't believe Reeve sold her. She knows this is a secret she will have to keep to herself. For the first time since Reeve began at the station, he wishes the phones would just stop and give him a chance to think. Derek asks him if he is okay, noting that he hasn't logged the last few calls. Reeve sits there, even after Vinnie takes over the mike at 11pm. Reeve rewinds the tape with Hannah and Brian's calls on it. He finally leaves, and reluctantly goes to the Marriott, knowing he can't avoid it. He thinks about trying to explain his actions to Janie but knows there is no excuse.

## Chapter Nine Analysis

Reeve can't understand why he hung up. Now he wishes that he'd taken the time to ask a single revealing question to ascertain whether or not it really was 'the' Hannah. His pulse thrums and his heart beats a staccato pace as he waits, watching the phone and wondering if she will call back. He realizes for the first time that his broadcasts had been analogous to building a bomb. He just isn't sure who will suffer in the explosion. He keeps willing the whole situation to go away and tells himself that no one really listens to the station anyway. He almost promises himself that he'll quit, attend his classes, and avoid the cafeteria, but then a regular call comes in, and the horror of the moment fades only to return with the next caller. When Brian gets through, he identifies himself and tells Reeve that Jodie and Janie are with him. When Reeve learns that they just listened to his show from a room in the Marriott, he feels sick. A moment ago, he'd thought the worst thing that could happen was that 'Hannah' would call back. Now he knows better. Janie doesn't want to see Reeve at all. She doesn't even want to be in the same hotel with him let alone the same room. She thinks about the lies he's told her - how he'd made it sound as if he was only a gofer. She realizes that this is one more horror she won't be able to tell her parents. Reeve thinks about the approaching Thanksgiving holiday with horror. Janie would tell her folks, who would tell his folks, who would share



it with his brother and sisters, and all would know what a horrible and disgusting human being he is. Janie wants to cry, but isn't able to. The two words she had always dreamed of between them had gone from 'I do' to 'The End'. Brian instructs the girls that they are not to tell anyone about Reeve and Brian agrees that he won't even tell Brendan. Reeve removes all traces of the calls from Brian and Hannah before leaving. He doesn't want to go to the Marriott, but his feet take him that way anyway.



# Chapter Ten

## Chapter Ten Summary

The hotel is quiet and on the way up to the sixth floor Reeve tries to decide how to handle himself. There is no easy way and, once inside, all Reeve can do is apologize again and again. Jodie starts, asking Reeve how he could do it. How could he say what he had? He tries to tell them it was surreal, but Jodie calls him on it immediately, insisting that he used their story to buy listeners. Again, he has no defense. Janie is next to give voice to her feelings and Reeve hangs his head. As his length of broadcasts becomes common knowledge, Jodie realizes how long he's been doing these stories about them. He has no answer when she asks how much he's disclosed to his audience. Reeve sits down beside Janie and peeling the blankets back, tells her face to face that he's sorry, but Janie has no capacity to forgive yet. What is so difficult is that Reeve is still the same person that they all liked so much when they met him. It is hard to reconcile the monster with the Reeve they liked.

Reeve has the good sense to stop trying to defend himself. Jodie puts into words just some of the impact his invasion of their privacy would cost. Still looking at Janie, she gets off the bed, putting it between them and makes him promise not to say another word about them. With resignation, he promises. Janie's inclusion of them doesn't go unnoticed. Reeve disgusts himself. Brian adds that the entire incident will be kept quiet, between just the four of them. Finally Janie tells him what he already believed would be true. She asks him to leave her alone. Don't call, Don't show up...Don't come near her. He tries to tell her that he loves her, but she insulates herself from him and turns herself off. Brian escorts him to the door, and all but pushes him out. In a way, Reeve realizes, her soul has been raped by his broadcasts.

## Chapter Ten Analysis

Reeve considers using the excuse that he required a confession of sorts to move past the whole event but knows how lame that sounds. Instead, when Jodie opens the door, he goes in silently. No one says a word until Reeve breaks the ice by telling them he is sorry. Brian feels primitive, wanting only to beat him half to death. He so desperately wants to be able to protect his sisters from what Reeve has done. Reeve has no defense and by the time he gets to the door of their hotel room, he knows that. All he can do is tell them how sorry he is and truthfully, he is. Jodie, like Janie, is filled with anger and disappointment. Finally, Jodie begins to cry - something she rarely does, and Brian is confused and is fighting a headache.

Reeve immediately agrees when Janie asks him to stop broadcasting their lives. It surprises him to know that they plan to keep quiet about it all, and he may not have to face his parents and hers. They explain that their reasons are to protect them, not him, and he has trouble meeting Janie's eyes. Janie tells him the one thing he has yet to



ascertain - they are done. She tells him to leave her alone. She doesn't want to see him. She doesn't want to know him. She simply wants him to go away. Brian shows him the door and leaves him there, closing it behind him.



# Chapter Eleven

## Chapter Eleven Summary

It is raining, and the T is closed. Reeve walks through the shadows, thinking about Hannah and wondering why she'd called the station. He replays the conversation in his mind, finally sliding down the wall of a building and sitting on the sidewalk like a vagrant. The expression on Janie's face returns to haunt him and his heart aches. He wishes he could turn the clock back to that first broadcast, and replace the idea to talk about Janie with fishing, or hiking, or photography, or politics, or just about anything else. Mostly, he wishes he would have taken the time to really think it through - really consider the consequences of his actions.

Back at the Marriott, Brian and Jodie are asleep, drained and exhausted. Only Janie still sits in the same armchair she was in when Reeve left. Reeve goes the only place he feels comfortable, WSCK, where Vinnie introduces him to three new recruits. Reeve isn't able to participate in the usual banter, and sits back listening as Vinnie tells the newbies where things are. When he gets to the recordings on the shelves, he proudly announces his plans for the Janie tapes - syndication. Reeve thinks quick and grabbing an old book bag from under the table, he loads the tapes from the dates that the Janie's were broadcast. Then, taking them, he calmly walks out. He walks to the center of the Charles River bridge and then one at a time, he throws them into the river. Now the only thing that he has to concern himself with is whether or not his broadcasts would bring Hannah back into Janie's life. For the first time in his life, Reeve feels as though he has absolutely no control over anything.

## Chapter Eleven Analysis

Reeve leaves the Marriott, head hanging. Never before has he felt so little self worth, pride, or dignity. He walks through the rain, heedless of discomfort, finally sinking to the pavement in despair. Unable to face anyone in his dorm, Reeve heads to the only other sanctuary he knows - WSCK. Vinnie gives him a strange look when he gets there, and Reeve tells him he has insomnia. Vinnie is giving a few new hopeful future deejays the grand tour of the station while Reeve sits sullenly, wondering if Hannah will call again. His interest in the conversation Vinnie is having increases when talk of the 'Janies' turns to the recorded tapes of every episode since the beginning. Gleefully, he tells them how he plans to sell the tapes into syndication after they've been gone through and condensed into one single tape. When Vinnie leaves the room to continue the tour, Reeve takes an abandoned book bag out from under the desk and quickly fills it with the tapes that cover the time period he was on the air. With as much nonchalance as he can muster, he walks the tapes out the front door. Then he walks to the Charles River and one by one consigns the tapes to the deep.



Janie sits watching her siblings sleep. She thinks about how soft Reeve is inside, wishing he had the character that both Jodie and Brian displayed even though they were younger than him. She wishes she could turn back the clock so that things could be the way they were. She can't believe Reeve turned on her. It is the ultimate betrayal. Having held her through most of the worst of those times, he knows how difficult it had been for both families. He had seen what the publicity had done, and even if he had forgotten all of that, Reeve had seen how upset she had been over the yearbook incident. How could he now claim he didn't know?



# Chapter Twelve

## Chapter Twelve Summary

Jodie no longer wants to keep her appointment at Hills College, and cancels. They have breakfast in the hotel, and then Brian convinces them to walk to the Old State House to see where the Declaration of Independence was read. Brian loves the history of Boston. Janie wanders with them, her head so preoccupied that Brian has to stop her from walking out into traffic. They walk to the Old Corner Bookstore where Brian buys a copy of Paul Revere and the World He Lived In. Janie sees his purchase and teases him about being a closet historian. Jodie suggests he wrap the book in a Stephen King jacket so that his twin isn't horrified by his sudden change of interests. Brian is just happy to see and hear the banter between his sisters, but nothing tops the moment that Janie refers to his mother and father as their mother and father. He is so surprised that he brings it to her attention and Janie confirms it. Yes, our parents. Our Mom and Dad. It is a moment that Brian will remember, and look forward to sharing with their mother. They head for Simmons College with Jodie, despite her reluctance, reminding her that they have to have some normal stories to share with Mom and Dad before going home. One thing is certain. Janie decides that all of her parents, both sides, have enough to worry about, and she has no intention of telling them any of what Reeve has done. Right now, for the most part, both sets of parents have arrived at the okay stage, and Janie will not allow anything to jeopardize that. Jodie takes her hand as they walk.

## Chapter Twelve Analysis

Brian talks his sisters into going to the Old State House with him and then to the Old Corner Bookstore. They talk about how everyone has two sides to them, one of them a side that can be stronger and be called upon when needed. Brian is just relieved to see Janie smile. They head for Simmons College so that Jodie can attend an interview despite the fact that the whole issue with Reeve has soured her for the city of Boston for the time being. Janie reminds her that it will be easier to tell Mom and Dad about their trip if there is something about the trip that they can actually share. Brian realizes that Janie has just referred to them as a family, and knows that he can share this part as well, without including Reeve. He hasn't missed the fact that this is the first time that Janie has actually behaved and sounded like it is them against the world instead of her against them all. It is the first time that Janie has referred to them as her Mom and Dad, and though Brian is sorry that it had taken something so drastic to initiate this kind of a breakthrough, he is grateful for it none the less. He looks forward to seeing the look on his mother's face when he tells her that Janie called her Mom. Jodie takes her hand as they walk along, and Brian can feel the intensity of their shared feelings.



# Chapter Thirteen

## Chapter Thirteen Summary

When Janie gets home, her mother is filled with questions and hugs. In keeping with their plans, Janie talks about how grand Boston is; how they had walked and walked; how much history there is to see; and uses the chatter to deflect the conversation away from Reeve entirely. She tries to hide how angry she still is, and still answer the questions both her mother and father have for her. She looks at them, and suddenly realizes that she loves both sets of parents. The thought eases the rage she feels to some degree, replacing it with a lump in her throat. At the same time, Jodie and Brian are facing similar conversations at home. They sit at the table eating supper, listening to Brendan tell them about the games of his they missed. At least it saves them from the inevitable questions. Jodie casually mentions that Janie and Reeve are having problems, and Mom asks if she might want to come down for Thanksgiving. Jodie promises to call and ask, but is even more tempted to call Stephen. When she goes up to her room to call Janie, her sister immediately reveals that Reeve has been calling her, and admits that she had been glad to hear his voice. Jodie is mortified, and while she admits that he has a great voice, she still wants to cause him grievous bodily harm. Janie tells Jodie that she can't decide if Reeve is just a turkey, or a rattlesnake. Her call waiting beeps and when she answers, Reeve begs her to talk to him. She tells him he's hurting her and to stop calling.

## Chapter Thirteen Analysis

When Janie gets home, she knows almost immediately that maintaining the 'okay' front is going to be even more difficult than she had thought. She hugs her mother a second time to stall having to answer the riot of questions. At that moment, she hates Reeve for putting her in this position. With sudden clarity, she realizes that she loves both sets of parents. She retreats to her room and thinks about everything, coming to the conclusion that if their trip to Boston had finally helped her to reach a place where she loved all four parents, the trip had been a success. As she retreats to her room, she hears her father comment on her lack of discussion about Reeve, and wondering if his time at college would cool their relationship. Janie doesn't correct them. Instead, she sits in her room and thinks about Reeve and what he had done. The extent of his betrayal is still too much to swallow. In the Spring household, Brian and Jodie are facing similar questions at the dinner table. Brian is still worried about Janie, and sick inside about Reeve. He eats nothing, and Jodie, who manages to eat some, is sorry she did soon after. Brendan is oblivious to his twin's discomfort, as are his parents. Mom asks them if Janie might want to come for Thanksgiving, and Jodie offers to call her. When she does, Janie immediately tells her that Reeve has been calling. Jodie listens to her sister, knowing she needs to talk, and thinking about the fact that it had taken this issue with Reeve to bring them to the point where they feel like sisters. Janie wonders what her life would have been like if she had not been coaxed into the car with Hannah.





# Chapter Fourteen

## Chapter Fourteen Summary

Reeve talks to his mother on Monday morning. She is excited that the whole family will be getting together for the holiday. It will be the first time that they are meeting his brother Todd's fiancée, Heather. Both of his sisters will also be there, making it impossible for Reeve to talk his way out of coming home for the weekend, although he does try. He tells his mother that he had been invited to spend the holidays with friends in New Hampshire, but it doesn't work. His experience with Vinnie at WSCK doesn't go much better. Vinnie doesn't seem to be aware of the missing tapes yet, and when Reeve asks him for a private chat, he refuses. Undeterred, Reeve announces that he won't be returning after the holiday weekend but Vinnie doesn't believe him. Vinnie follows him to his dorm and tells Reeve that Visionary Assassins will be playing a special club date that a recording company is sending a representative to hear. Reeve is genuinely happy for them but still refuses to do any more Janies. Vinnie tells him that it could be his big chance as well, and despite temptation, Reeve forces himself to think about the two families involved, and refuses. They try every argument they can think of, and though Reeve continues to refuse, he doesn't sleep well that night. He thinks about how weak he is, and knows that after a tough Thanksgiving, he might give in. The only option left to him is to quit school entirely. Perhaps the following fall he could find his way into another college. He wants to talk to Janie so badly. In the morning, he goes to the cafeteria where strangers stop him to tell him how much they like his show. They ask if he's doing another Janie that night, and he runs from the building without answering. He keeps jogging until his body won't let him continue. Then he makes his way back to the cafeteria where Derek joins him. He can see Reeve's reluctance, and tells him he can come in and just answer phones if he wants or perhaps study. Derek and Vinnie both know that if they can get him into the station, his willpower will evaporate. He thinks about the woman who called herself Hannah and wonders how much a jock who can lure a kidnapper out of hiding would be worth.

## Chapter Fourteen Analysis

Reeve decides not to attend the family Thanksgiving. He hates himself, and doesn't want to face any of his family. It is hard enough to discover that you are an unqualified louse, but even more difficult to face that realization from those whose opinion matters most. Reeve's mother won't accept his excuses however, and simply insists that he participate. His luck isn't much better at the station. Derek is furious when Reeve announces that he won't be coming back. He berates him for taking his time slot, and forcing him to cope with being relegated to playing Reeve's sidekick. He threatens to throw Reeve away if he insists on throwing away the audience he built. His resignation is refused. His dorm is no safer. Vinnie calls in the Visionary Assassins and using them as reinforcements, he follows Reeve into his room, blocking his exit. They try everything they can think of to get him to return to the station and continue his Janie broadcasts,



but Reeve stands fast. Whenever he feels himself beginning to falter, he thinks about the Springs and the Johnson families, and finds the courage to put them first. Doing the right thing gives him little peace however. He lies in his dorm, wide awake while everyone around him sleeps, thinking about Janie and wondering if it is possible to fix what he has done. Finally, he sleeps. In the morning, he heads for the cafeteria like usual, forgetting for a moment, his popularity. Two girls approach him to tell him how much they enjoy his shows, and to ask if another one will be broadcast before Thanksgiving. He murmurs excuses, feigning another appointment and leaves. He jogs until his body won't let him continue, and then returns to the cafeteria, hungry and tired. Derek sits with him and tries to convince him to work in the background if nothing else. Reeve knows how weak he really is, and so do Vinnie and Derek. They are all only too aware that if he goes back into the building, he won't be able to help himself. Armed with that knowledge, he realizes that eventually, just being near the station will lure him back in. He has no choice but to leave the college entirely.



# Chapter Fifteen

## Chapter Fifteen Summary

When Reeve gets home, his sisters greet him, looking stunning. Even his brother Todd looks tanned, happy and in love. His bride to be is equally stunning, and Reeve is able to fold into himself. Reminding himself that he has willpower to spare, Reeve walks next door to face Janie and her parents. The Johnson family eats Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant, dressing up for the occasion. Mrs. Johnson invites him to take Janie for a ride, providing he returns her within an hour since they have company coming for coffee and dessert. Reeve turns to Janie, and sees her blank expression, but appreciates whatever chance he'll have to talk to her. Once outside, she turns to him and informs him that she merely went with him to avoid family conflict. She gets into the car, slamming the door before he can reach it. He cruises the places they used to go together, and seeing her tears, he begs her not to cry. She tells him to just drive until enough time has gone by that he can take her back. As far as she is concerned, they are broken up. She tells him not to call, not to fax or contact her any other way. He tells her that he plans to quit college and Janie can hardly believe that he loved selling her out so much that he actually has to quit college. Without thinking, he puts his hand over hers and she yanks it away, sick of him, and asks him to take her home. He begs her to just listen but she can't even look at the person pretending to be the Reeve that she loved so much. He tries to convince her that he still loves her and in a moment of desperation, he reminds her that she isn't perfect either, citing her initial behavior with the Spring family. That is the final straw for Janie who insists that she hates him. On Friday, his sisters and brother go to New York City for the day and Reeve stays behind. He tells his parents that he plans to quit college, get a job and work for a time, perhaps returning the following September. Reeve's father loses his temper, promising Reeve that if he gets a job at Dairy Mart, he will no longer have the support of his parents, free room and board, or bills paid. Surprised, he throws out the idea that perhaps he could just go to a state university instead, but again his father cuts him off, telling him he'll stay right where he is.

## Chapter Fifteen Analysis

Reeve goes home for Thanksgiving, and sits with his happy, perfect family feeling like he hardly belongs. He meets his brother's wife to be, and the mood is so festive that no one really notices his lack of participation. He manages to get Janie out of the house for a drive, but she only agrees to keep from telling her family what a louse she thinks he is. He tries to apologize, and makes excuses for his behavior that all fall on deaf ears. Janie only wants one thing and that is for him to leave her alone. All he can think about is how he destroyed his relationship with her. On Friday, Reeve waits until his siblings have gone into New York City for the day, and then sits down to talk with his parents. He tells them that he has decided to leave college at the end of the semester, and work until the following September. Reeve's father makes it very clear that this is something



that won't happen. He can hardly believe that his son would throw away the education that he worked so hard to get him into. His mother is no happier. She tells him that if he quits, he will find that they are done paying his way through life. Reeve tries to get his legs under him again but it is clear that they don't care what his issue at school is. Their suggestion is that he simply try harder.

Mr. Spring is elated when he sees Stephen at the airport. For four whole days they will be together, and he is as excited as a kid at Christmas. He loves his oldest son, and everything about him. When he hugs him at the airport, the hug is long, and this first holiday in the new house will be great. Since Jennie/Janie had been returned to them, even though she had not stayed, he finds he has a new lease on life. He loves their new home, enjoys his job and his life is close to perfect. The only thing that could have improved it were if Janie could find it in her to relax with them one day. For now, the fact that they are together is enough for him.



# Chapter Sixteen

## Chapter Sixteen Summary

Reeve tries to be happy for Todd and Heather, and supportive of Megan and Lizzie. Lizzie follows him into the den, and closing the door she tells him that they have to talk about Hannah. After making him promise not to tell Janie about their conversation, she reveals that her law firm is handling some of the issues related to the cult she had joined. Surprisingly, they had kept very detailed records from which Lizzie finds Hannah. Reeve can hardly breathe. She tells Reeve Hannah is dead and when he asks Lizzie if she is sure, she assures him it is a matter of public record.

On Sunday, Mr. Spring gets ready to take Stephen to the airport. Stephen, openly hostile the last time he and Janie were in the same room, gives Janie a kiss on the cheek and she tells him that she'll see him for Christmas. Mr. Spring knows he won't be back before Janie leaves, so he turns to say goodbye. She throws her arms around him telling him to drive careful and adding 'Dad'. Inside again, Brian does dishes and Janie stands among them and realizes that she needs her mother. She needs to explain what happened in Boston. Janie sits in the arms of the mother who had not held her in more than twelve years, and pours her heart out. Tears mingle with explanations and apologies, while her mother holds her, stroking her hair. Unable to talk for grief, Jodie takes over and tells their mother what happened. Her face hardens, but she continues to rock and cuddle Janie, instinctively knowing that it is more important than any words she could find. Finally, Janie straightens up and Kleenex are passed around. When Janie asks her what she should do next, she suggests that Janie relegate Reeve to the history column in her life. Jodie and Brian think about Reeve and history. Both feel the need to relegate Reeve to history also. Janie has a difficult time with that thought. She still loves him. Mrs. Spring feels a wonderful release. Her baby has finally come home. She reminds Janie that Reeve loved her once, and that sometimes people make mistakes, hurting the ones they love. The analogy is not lost on her. She apologizes to her mother, knowing she hurt her, and that her mother loves her anyway. Janie can see that what she shares with this family is more than just red hair. It's also strength.

It is late when Janie gets home and Reeve's family is in the driveway. Todd calls out to her, asking her to come over and meet his fiance. Jodie takes one look and says goodbye, to Janie's horror. When the car pulls out, she walks over and meets Heather, welcoming her to the area. Lizzie and Megan call out that they'll see her for Christmas and Mrs. Shields goes inside. Reeve and Janie are left standing in the driveway and her heart aches as he struggles to find the words that will make her stop hating him. Finding the strength of the Spring family, she holds out her hand, telling Reeve they should talk.



## Chapter Sixteen Analysis

Being with his family is exhausting for Reeve. He feels like such a heel and undeserving of the happy, successful, honest and trustworthy family he has. He retreats to the den to try to regroup and Lizzie follows him in, telling him that she has news about Hannah. The cult had kept records. Reeve feels sick. Now it will all come out and there will be no more secrets. Janie will never forgive him. He is so consumed by the thought that he almost doesn't hear his sister tell him that Hannah is dead and has been for some time. She reminds him not to tell anyone else, adding that she knows she can trust him. While relieved that Hannah will not appear, having Lizzie talk about trust and him in the same sentence makes him feel ill. He knows he still has to stay away from WSCK, realizing that there may be some truth to Vinnie's comment that he is addicted.

Janie is finally beginning to feel like she is part of the Spring family. When Stephen leaves for the airport, she hugs him and his pleasure is genuine. He no longer hates her. The trip to Boston had helped her to bond with Brian and Jodie, and a minor breakdown has her in the arms of her mother. In a moment of weakness, she confesses the truth about their Boston trip, taking comfort from her mother for the first time. Mrs. Spring holds her as she cries, stroking her hair and soothing her, rocking her gently. Her expression hardens but her manner never does, and when Janie recovers herself, and asks for advice, she offers a solid and intelligent suggestion. Accept that Reeve is history and move on. Mrs. Spring tells Janie how proud she is that she is so concerned with protecting her mother and father. Seeing the difficulty that Janie is having with relegating Reeve to the history column, Mrs. Spring talks to her about their own history. She reminds her that sometimes people that you love do things that are insensitive, and thoughtless, but it doesn't mean that they don't love you. Janie realizes immediately that her mother is referring to her, and letting her know in a backhanded way that she understands. Janie apologizes for hurting her. She tries to explain, and makes the observation that a mother's forgiveness is different from a girlfriend forgiving her boyfriend. Mrs. Spring agrees, but lets her know that if she chose to, it would be alright to forgive Reeve. Brian and Jodie don't feel as forgiving. In fact, they are horrified that their mother would even suggest that their sister forgive Reeve. Then, considering history, Jodie realizes that she can't make Reeve responsible for which college she decides to attend. Brian just wants to escape the room, and does so at his first opportunity. When Jodie takes Janie home, they discover Reeve and his family in the driveway, saying their goodbyes, and they notice Janie right away, calling her over. She goes reluctantly, despite Jodie's efforts to get her to come in, and lend her moral support. Jodie wants nothing to do with Reeve at the moment. Janie walks over, meeting Todd's fiance Heather, and then finding herself alone in the driveway with Reeve. Seeing his obvious discomfort, she decides to give him a break and holding out her hand, she suggests that they talk.



# Characters

## Jane (Janie) Elizabeth Johnson (aka Jennie Spring)

Janie has auburn-red hair like her birth sister, but has no idea that is the case. Janie, kidnapped as a young child, has lived most of her life with the Johnson family. She had come to them by way of their daughter Hannah who had told them that Janie was her daughter. Claiming they would do a better job raising her than she could, Hannah leaves the child with her parents and disappears. No one knows the truth until Janie spots herself on the back of a milk carton one day. It takes time and courage before she looks into it fully, unwilling to accept it at first, and reluctant to bring that kind of nightmare down on the mother and father who raised her. Finally, with the help of her boyfriend Reeve and his sister, they confirm that she is indeed the little girl on the carton. Now, Janie's life is filled with two sets of parents, a sister, two brothers, and enough confusion to last a lifetime.

Janie learns a great deal about herself in this third book of a four book series. Already aware and having met her birth family, Janie is trying to cope with the fact that a second set of parents and siblings are now part of her life. While reluctant at first, Janie learns that she shares more with this birth family than just the genes that gave them all the same red hair. Janie has a birth sister named Jodie, and brothers named Stephen (the oldest) and twins Brian and Brendan. In this book, they learn to accept and appreciate each other. In the arms of her birth mother, she finds forgiveness, understanding, and strength that helps her to deal with the betrayal of her boyfriend.

## Reeve Shields

Reeve is six feet tall and his single goal in life before college had been to reach and breach the six foot mark. Once he'd accomplished that, he wanted muscles, so he acquired them. By then he was in his senior year in high school. He decided to be an A student, and once decided, it was accomplished. All he had to do was begin studying, and he planned to keep that up in college as well, but then he'd gone into WSCK and his plans to study went out the window.

Reeve is trying his hand at becoming a deejay on his local college radio station, WSCK, a station that plays little more than dorm bands and talk shows. He hadn't planned to become a deejay, and he had actually only gone into the studio to avoid facing the freshman dorm of fifteen hundred college students that were new to him. Even his roommate had made him nervous. The ten by twelve room they would be sharing is made much smaller by the fact that his roommate, Cordell, has opted out of cleanliness of any kind - personal or otherwise. Reeve finds himself lost for words during his first broadcast live, and in a moment of desperation, he begins to tell the personal story of Janie - her kidnapping, the discovery of her birth family, and her deepest feelings





surrounding these issues. When the storytelling is an unqualified success, he is unable to stop despite the certain knowledge that Janie would be mortified.

## **Derek (aka Derek Himself)**

Derek is an experienced deejay. He thinks very highly of himself and his abilities on the air. Like many deejays, he holds the mike or at least touches it whenever he speaks, maintaining contact to be sure of its power. He leans forward with every sentence, as though diving into each one. Derek seldom sits when he is on the air, filled with pent up energy. Derek's call sign on the radio is 'Derek Himself' but the call sign takes on a ridiculous note when Reeve sails ahead of him in the ratings in a very short time. He allows himself to be relegated to introducing the show Reeve broadcasts, accepting his reduced status until Reeve announces that he's found his conscience and wants to quit. Derek berates him for edging him out and then deserting the station that he cares about.

## **Sarah-Charlotte**

Sarah-Charlotte has white-blond hair and has been Janie's best friend for what seems like forever. She enjoys many of the same things as Janie including Barbies and the myriad of styles, jobs, clothing, and situations that they can be used in. She and Janie spend a great deal of time together and have no secrets from each other. They talk about her birth family and boyfriends, marriage and the future.

## **Jodie Spring**

Jodie is Janie's birth sister. She, like Janie, is a redhead and loves the idea that she has a sister again. Jodie has been raised to be strong and confident, and has no problem with confronting Janie regarding her behavior with her birth family. It is on Jodie's suggestion that Janie begins calling their parents Mom and Dad, and begins to see the pain she caused them. Jodie and her brother Brian pick Janie up to take her to Boston with them where she hopes to surprise Reeve. The surprise works both ways as they discover Reeve's betrayal of Janie and by extension of them. Jodie supports her sister, and helps her to understand that she has strengths as yet untapped.

## **Brendan Spring**

A twin to Brian, Brendan is Janie's birth brother and is the more athletic of the twins. While Brian enjoyed the same athleticism as a younger boy, his adolescent interests are leading him away from the team sports that Brendan so enjoys. He is supported by his family, who attend as many of his games as possible. Brendan tends to have a bit of tunnel vision, behaving as though his accomplishments outweigh the schedules of the other family members.





## Stephen Spring

Stephen is in college in Colorado when his parents finally move from the cramped space in which they had been. He has been yearning for his freedom for some time, and leaves with hardly a backward glance shortly after Janie comes back into their lives. At first, he hates Janie for being taken and disrupting the family to a degree where they all lose their freedoms as a result. A Thanksgiving holiday repairs the issue and as he says goodbye to Janie, he realizes he no longer blames her or holds her responsible.

## Brian Spring

Twin to Brendan, Brian is the academic of the two boys, having recently discovered a desire to learn and study history. It is his historical interests that inspire him to escort Jodie to Boston so that she can interview with various colleges in the area. Brian is with Jodie and Janie when Reeve's betrayal is discovered, and wants to protect them from the pain Reeve is causing, but at the same time wrestles with the fact that he respects and admires Reeve.

## Hannah Johnson

Hannah is a pretty girl, but has little in the way of backbone. Described as a rag doll, she lives on the fringes. She drops out of her life to join a cult that promised her that God would be on her side. Years pass, and Hannah has been gone from home for some time. She kidnaps a young girl named Jennie Spring. The reasons she did so are never explained, but Hannah takes the young girl home to her own mother and father, and tells them that it is her baby girl. She insists that they'll be better parents than she could ever hope to be, and leaves her behind. She isn't seen again.

## Jonathan Spring

Father in the Spring family, Jonathan is a good man. After his daughter Jennie is taken, he spends many years fearing a similar fate will befall one of his other children. As a result, he is probably more protective than he should be, but now that they know the truth and Jennie/Janie is back in their lives, Jonathan feels like a new man. He loves their new home, his job has regained some of its appeal and he feels younger than he has for years.

## Mrs. Spring

Strong and confident, Mrs. Spring can hardly believe that her long lost daughter has been found. She waits patiently for Janie to come around emotionally, enduring her cold and distant behavior without complaint or comment. For a year, she continues to wait for

her daughter to come home, and it isn't until Reeve's betrayal occurs that Janie realizes that the Springs are her family in more ways than one.



## Objects/Places

### Hills College

Reeve goes to Hills College in Boston.

### Visionary Assassins

"Visionary Assassins" is the name of a band containing three guys that Reeve favors and that becomes known as the band linked to his sessions on air.

### New Jersey

The Spring family lives in New Jersey.

### Broadcast Booth

Designed for a calming effect, the broadcast booth has soft gray carpeting on the floors and also the walls which are covered by posters, sick jokes, and photos of jocks suspended for using inappropriate language or content on air.

### WSCK

Reeve broadcasts his 'Janies' from radio station WSCK.

### Marriott

Brian, Jodie and Janie stay at the Marriott Hotel when they come to Boston. This is where they are when they hear Reeve's broadcast for the first time.

### Charles Bridge

Reeve dumps the Janie tapes over the side of the Charles Bridge in Boston.

### Old State House

The Declaration of Independence was signed in July of 1776 at the Old State House in Boston.



## **Old Corner Bookstore**

Longfellow, Hawthorne, and Oliver Wendell Holmes used to read at the Old Corner Bookstore in Boston.

## **Paul Revere and the World He Lived In**

Brian selects the book Paul Revere and the World He Lived In from the shelves at the Old Corner Bookstore.

## **Connecticut**

Janie lives with the Johnson family in Connecticut and has lived there since their daughter Hannah dropped her off claiming she was her daughter.

## **Flower Dairy —Milk Carton**

Janie first sees her name and face on a Flower Dairy milk carton, coming to the conclusion that she'd been kidnapped.

## **New York Times**

Janie researches her own kidnapping in the New York Times.

## **Price Club**

Mrs. Spring shops at the Price Club, making an effort to stock the space she has in their new house.

## **New Jersey**

The Spring family lives in New Jersey.

## **Lipstick Day**

Lipstick Day is a school event where girls wear bright and gaudy lipstick and the boys try to collect as many lip prints as possible.



# Themes

## Fear Factor Fallout

Traumatic events in a person's life can change and restructure the way a victim thinks, feels, responds, and lives. In this story, Janie/Jennie is a prime example of how fear can affect the way a person lives their life. Janie is kidnapped as a child and given to another couple. While the couple is unaware of the child's history, thinking it is their own granddaughter, and Janie is raised as their own, the fact that she was not born to them is brought to Janie's attention one day by way of a milk carton photo. To find yourself on a milk carton would unnerve anyone, and for Janie, it unravels her whole life, forcing her to rethink everything she thought she knew. Her mother and father aren't her mother and father. What a frightening thing to discover, and deal with. Janie meets the couple who are her birth parents, and the siblings who are her brothers and sister, but holds them at arm's length, afraid to even get to know them. Her fear keeps her from being able to accept them, love them, or to be a part of the family to which she once belonged.

Her birth family is in even worse condition. They have suffered the traumatic loss of their youngest child, and it changes who they are. It changes how they react to everyday situations, and makes them fearful of the unknown. They remain in the same house, afraid to move for fear that she would come back one day and not find them. They fear crowds of people, certain that danger lurks around every corner. They overcompensate for their loss by focusing all of their remaining strength on ensuring that the rest of their family stay safe. No one is allowed the kind of freedom Janie knows growing up. Her siblings are never more than an arm's length from a parent or a teacher. They are delivered and picked up from school each day where one parent or the other escorts them to the teacher and hands them off like a baton in a relay race. There are no solo trips to the library or swimming pool and no hanging out with friends. These children live their lives like captives. When Janie returns, and they know she is safe, the truth of their behavior comes to light, and for the first time since her kidnapping, they are able to breathe.

Fear can cripple, but it can also be a catalyst for change. Whether we choose to let fear rule that change or inspire it is a choice we will all make in our lives.

## Parental Imperatives

Janie is given the opportunity to learn about family values on two different levels. On one side, she has the parents who raised her. They are experience weary, having had a difficult time with their only daughter Hannah, and now putting all of their hopes, dreams and expectations on Janie as their last hope. Janie recognizes their need for her to be successful. It is the only thing that will validate them as parents, and ensure that they don't blame themselves for the outcome of their first daughter's life. Janie is only too



aware of their hopes and expectations. She is also aware that as the only child remaining at home, she is responsible for ensuring that their hopes and dreams are fulfilled.

When Janie meets her birth family, she discovers an entirely different dynamic. In this family, there is strength where the couple who raised her were emotionally weak. In this family, there is fortitude, courage, and the expectations are different as well. While the couple who raised her are hoping that Janie vindicates them as parents, proving that they are not failures and that Hannah's broken life is not their fault, her birth parents have no such anxieties. Instead, they provide guidance and love, support and advice when needed, and security. While their emphasis on security might be a bit stringent, their family unit is strong, self-assured and happy. It gives Janie courage, where until now she had always learned flight as a response to stress or pain. Now, she learns to stand her ground. Where before she might have hidden until the issue resolved itself, now she faces it head on and takes strength and courage from her birth family, learning that she also has these qualities.

As parents, we pass on to our children our hopes, dreams, fears, and failures. We unconsciously guide them, using our experiences to educate them, and they use what they see in us to propel them through their lives. If they see fear, and insecurity, they will likely learn fear and insecurity as a response mechanism. If instead they are raised in an environment of strength, honor, and honesty, they will move forward with courage, and find their way in life without fear. Parents are tasked with preparing their children to join the world as decent, intelligent, capable human beings that will be an asset to themselves and those around them. Anything less is a failure of the parents to properly prepare their children for the world. It is imperative that parents actively educate their children to succeed as decent adults themselves.

## The Price of Fame

Reeve is Janie's boyfriend. They are separated in age just enough that Reeve enters college a year ahead of her, and goes to Boston alone. Janie misses him terribly, but they talk, text and send cards back and forth frequently. When Reeve arrives at college, despite being popular in high school, he finds the experience unnerving. He hasn't had to prove himself in many years, and now he is somewhere new. No one knows him. He is so unprepared that he finds he is too nervous to even enter the dorms filled with strangers. Instead, he goes into the local radio station, and becomes a night volunteer deejay, believing it would be easy. He discovers that is not the case, and while he struggles to come up with something to say, Derek Himself repeatedly offers to step in and save him. Instead of admitting defeat, Reeve does something unspeakable. He uses Janie's personal tragedy as a way to fill time. He has no idea that he will be so wildly successful and that an audience would be receptive. Acceptance is so important to Reeve that he doesn't think about what a private person his girlfriend is. He gives no thought to how she would feel about his broadcast. Instead, he begins lying to her, justifying it as he goes along, despite knowing that what he is doing is wrong.



Weeks pass, and Reeve's popularity soars. People call him by name in the cafeteria, and he all but stops going to classes of any kind. He becomes so popular that Derek Himself becomes little more than the man who introduces him. The station manager is elated, thinking syndication is in the future. Then Janie comes to visit unexpectedly with Brian and Jodie. They arrive in the evening, and tune into Reeve's program just in time to hear him introduced, along with the promise that he would deliver two 'Janies' and a 'Hannah' for his eager listeners. Time stops for the three siblings as Reeve's voice comes over the air, revealing their deepest secrets, fears, doubts and desires.

The price of fame is large. Reeve takes a loving girlfriend, and turns her into an enemy by exposing her most private feelings to the world. He loses the respect of her siblings, and gains their anger in its place. He loses his place in college, having cut so many classes that failure is inevitable. He loses the respect of his parents when he confesses that he wants to leave college (never telling them the truth of course) and he loses respect for himself, seeing himself through their eyes. His brief bout with fame leaves his life a wreck and yet a part of him still craves the attention. A part of him is still struggling with the desire to return and continue. In Reeve's case, the price of fame is high. To keep it, he must destroy the rest of his life and begin again. Though Reeve is smart enough to know that his family and his life have more value, still a piece of him struggles, wanting the recognition, wanting the fame. It is an addiction he must break himself of to regain his self respect.

# Style

## Point of View

The Voice on the Radio by Caroline Cooney is a novel that is written in the first person perspective. The narration is shared by two main characters - Janie and Reeve. These narrators refer to themselves in the first person and reveal their thoughts and feelings to the reader. Using this point of view, the author manages to convey the conflict and turmoil of the main characters so that the reader is better able to understand and relate to the subplots and contexts of the interrelationship between the two families involved.

The chapters generally share the point of view between the two characters, starting with one, and then leading into the other. In this manner, the reader is able to understand both the actions of the main characters, and their responses to each other as a result. Much is revealed in the story, paced to encompass the main concept and several subplots which tie this segment together with the others in the series. Janie grows emotionally as she is betrayed by someone close to her, and supported emotionally by those she rejected in the past. She discovers more about herself, and her birth family, and learns that forgiveness is part of love.

## Setting

The Voice on the Radio by Caroline Cooney is set entirely in the United States. It begins in Boston where Reeve is attending Hills College. He is a part time deejay for a local radio station called WSCK - a taste of a kind of popularity he'd never known before. His girlfriend Janie lives in Connecticut with her parents, the Johnsons, but has recently discovered that they are not her natural parents. In fact, as a very young child, she had been kidnapped from her home in New Jersey with the Spring family. Now, a year after that revelation, Janie finds herself going back and forth from her home in Connecticut to her birth home in New Jersey. Janie travels to Boston to surprise Reeve and is surprised herself when Reeve's voice on the radio broadcasts her deepest secrets, fears, and tears. It is a blow to her and to her birth siblings who have also been deeply affected by the events that Reeve so confidently now reveals to an unknown audience. Janie's parents in Connecticut live right next door to Reeve's parents. After going to Boston, Janie is unable to face her parents in Connecticut, unwilling to add to their burdens by revealing the truth, but in New Jersey, Janie's birth parents are just what she needs. Their strength enables her to confess the truth to them so that when she returns to the Johnson home, she is ready to deal with Reeve.

## Language and Meaning

The Voice on the Radio is written in simple and everyday English, using grammar and composition that is consistent with the comprehension levels of young adults. The story flows in a straightforward and uncomplicated manner, using characters in the age range





of the readers, and their parents. The sentence structure is basic and the vocabulary is consistent with the targeted age range.

This story is the third in a four book series, and tells the story that surrounds Janie and her birth family. Janie has known she was kidnapped for more than a year now, and has met and spent time with her birth family, but as yet Janie has been unable to lower her guard around them. Her character is emotionally drained but she draws strength from her boyfriend Reeve. Reeve is the boy next door who sweeps her off her feet and then shortly after leaving for college, commits the ultimate betrayal, sharing her intimate and personal story with anyone who was listening to the college radio show where he has been volunteering. The betrayal, while one that upsets Janie's entire world, is not without its positive sides. Janie discovers a strength within that is a part of her biological family, and finds herself bonding with them in ways she previously believed impossible.

It is an emotional story with a strong and happy ending.

## Structure

The Voice On The Radio by Caroline Cooney is a work of fiction that is one hundred and twenty-three pages in length, and is divided into sixteen separate chapters. The chapters range in length from four to twelve pages and are labeled simply by their chapter numbers.

This is the third in a series of four 'Janie' books by this author. In this part of the series, Janie has already discovered her birth family, and has met them. They accept her as Janie instead of Jennie, and make an effort to understand her desire to live with the Johnsons instead of them. This segment reveals that Janie's boyfriend Reeve has been using her kidnapping and subsequent familial drama as fodder for a minor league radio station at Hills College in Boston. Reeve believes that the distance that he is from Janie will prevent her from discovering his betrayal, but he is wrong. In a surprise visit to Boston to see Reeve, Janie discovers his secret. She, Brian and Jodie listen to his show, and confront him afterward.

While Reeve's betrayal is absolute and unforgivable, it is the catalyst that enables Janie to finally close the distance between herself and her birth family. All in all, this is a story of love, forgiveness and understanding.



## Quotes

"Once upon a time." Ch. 1, pg. 14

Reeve's beginning to the Janie series of broadcasts that are aired Tuesdays and Thursdays on WSCK.

"When it sounded as if you'd finished talking, Reeve, we got thirty-nine calls wanting more about Janie." Ch. 3, pg. 25

Vinnie's response to the public's reaction to Reeve's first Janie broadcast.

"She's not gonna hear you down in Connecticut." Ch. 4, pg. 27

Vinnie, convincing Reeve to ignore his conscience.

"We're going to have the whole thing in the yearbook." Ch. 4, pg. 35

School photographer to Janie when she is reluctant to have her photo taken, informing her that she is to be the feature story in the yearbook.

"Reeve, I'm just material to them. I'm not a person." Ch. 5, pg. 46

Janie to Reeve, telling him how horrified she had been to discover the yearbook plans her school had.

"You love the sound of your voice." Ch. 6, pg. 54

Vinnie to Reeve, explaining why he won't quit like he just threatened to do.

"You could start by calling our parents Mom and Dad." Ch. 7, pg. 58

Jodie to Janie when they pick her up to take her with them to Boston for a surprise visit to see Reeve.

"Along with a couple of Janies, Reeve's promised us a Hannah." Ch. 8, pg. 67

Derek introducing Reeve to an audience that includes Janie, Jodie, and Brian.

"We're Here, We're Yours, We're Sick, how can I help you?" Ch. 9, pg. 73

WSCK's signature answer to callers that call into the station.

"You took our story, the hard parts, the insider stuff, the things that hurt the most, and you sold it." Ch. 10, pg. 80

Jodie to Reeve when they confront him after hearing his show for the first time.

"We're gonna sell 'em, ... Syndicate the Janies to a hundred radio stations, like Rush Limbaugh or Howard Stern or Imus." Ch. 11, pg. 87

Vinnie to Reeve after his promise to Janie not to broadcast another word about them.

"So you don't have to lie about everything when Mom and Dad ask how Boston went." Ch. 12, pg. 94

Janie to Jodie, explaining why it is still important for her to keep at least one of her interviews in Boston.



"I can't decide if he's a rattlesnake, or just a turkey." Ch. 13, pg. 100  
Janie to Jodie as she tries to explain how she feels about Reeve.

"You didn't keep the promises when you were going out with her. Why would you decide to be honorable now that you're not going out with her?" Ch. 14, pg. 102  
Vinnie to Reeve when he tries to quit doing the Janies.

"I'm going to tell my parents you have a girlfriend in Boston, the distance was too much, you forgot me." Ch. 15, pg. 108  
Janie to Reeve as she allows him to take her for a drive on Thanksgiving weekend.

"When we came in from saying good-bye, all of a sudden, this room - it was my room; and you - you were my mother." Ch. 16, pg. 121  
Janie explaining her feelings to her birth mother for the first time.



## Topics for Discussion

How does Janie's birth family react to her kidnapping? What are some of the main changes that occur in their lives as a result? How does each birth family member respond to Janie after they are first reunited and why?

How does Reeve respond to his college experience? What are his first impressions of Hills College? How does he cope with the new surroundings? What are some of the main differences between his last year of high school and his first year of college?

Why are the Johnsons more fragile as parents than the Springs? What are some of the main differences between the two sets of parents? What similarities are there?

How does Janie come to be at the Johnsons' home to begin with? Who brings her and why? What are the Johnsons told? How do they respond and how does the situation affect how they handle Janie?

Who is Stephen to Janie? How does he respond to her initially? Where does Stephen go? What happens that changes his opinion and / or demeanor? Who initiates this change?

What secret does Reeve keep from Janie about his college experience? Why does he not want to share the truth? What makes him continue what he is doing? How does he justify his behavior?

How does Janie first discover that Reeve has been lying to her? Why is that a small betrayal? What is the more obvious betrayal? Why does Janie feel so strongly about it? Who else is with her when she makes the discovery? How do they respond?

Who is Vinnie? How does he respond to Reeve's feelings of guilt and shame? What does he tell Reeve? How does he think Reeve should behave and why? How does Reeve respond?

How does Reeve's 'job' change his college experience before Janie finds out? How does it change things after she finds out? What decision does he make during his Thanksgiving break? How do his parents respond and why?

What pact is made by those who are with Janie when she discovers the depth of Reeve's betrayal? Why is this pact made? Who is it made to protect?

Who is the first to break the pact? Who is told and why? What is the outcome of the information coming to light? What suggestions are made and why?

How should Janie respond to Reeve's behavior? How would you respond in Janie's position? What would you do if you were Reeve? Would you have done what he did? Why or why not?



What does Janie discover about herself and about the Spring family? How does she finally resolve her place with her birth family? When does she have a breakthrough where the Spring family is concerned and what is the catalyst? What is the outcome?

Why does Janie apologize to Mrs. Spring? How does Mrs. Spring subtly let Janie know how she feels? What analogy does she use and in what situation? What conditions create Janie's revelation?