

Lost and Found Study Guide

Lost and Found by Carolyn Parkhurst

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Plot Summary

Lost and Found by Carolyn Parkhurst is a story that traces the adventures of multiple pairs of contestants as they work their way through a game show by the same name. Selected for their potential for conflict under stress, team members must work together to decipher clues, unravel keywords and complete challenges that will test their mettle at every turn. At the conclusion of each round, the last pair to reach the meeting place is eliminated.

Laura and her daughter Cassie make up one of the initial teams, chosen after Cassie reveals to producers that she recently gave birth to a daughter her mother had no idea she was carrying until after the birth. The producers are hoping her story finds its way into the fluid and ever changing script. Jeff and his brother Carl were selected when Jeff revealed to the producers that Carl's son Benjamin almost died as an infant and required Carl to donate part of his liver to keep him alive. Juliet and Dallas are chosen for their former child star television fame and Betsy and Jason were high school sweethearts who recently reunited after a twenty year separation. Justin and Abby joined the game in the hopes that the public exposure would help them to spread the word that God is the answer to a gay lifestyle and a normal relationship with the opposite sex although both still struggle with the concept of a heterosexual relationship.

Each couple is constantly being filmed and are required to wear microphones, making privacy impossible for the duration of the game and they are not allowed to contact or inform friends or family of their participation or status until the show has aired. Along the way, contestants will be given clues that will take them from Egypt to Japan to Sweden to Denmark, coping with transportation issues, language barriers, and occasional Daredevil Rounds that test their courage and endurance. Whenever a team is eliminated, producer and show host Barbara Fox films their answer to the question, "You've lost the game, but what have you found?", and the producers tell contestants it is their hope that something profound or revealing will be their answer. Although that would be enough for most people to handle, there are several added twists including an opportunity to swap partners half way through the game. After a month of challenges that took the contestants to all corners of the globe, Laura and Carl cross the finish line in first place together. In the last half of the game, they not only work well together, but discover a shared compatibility that they enjoy after the game is over.



Chapter One: Laura and Chapter Two: Cassie

Chapter One: Laura and Chapter Two: Cassie Summary

Lost and Found by Carolyn Parkhurst is a story that traces the adventures of multiple pairs of contestants as they work their way through a game show by the same name. Selected for their potential for conflict under stress, team members must work together to decipher clues, unravel keywords and complete challenges that will test their mettle at every turn. At the conclusion of each round, the last pair to reach the meeting place is eliminated.

Laura and Cassie head downstairs to the lobby, having gathered all of their things (including the six scavenger hunt items that they have to carry throughout the rest of the game) together. Laura grabs the cage with the parrot in it, one of the items collected so far, and cameraman, Brendan films them as they leave. Their back packs are already full to overflowing. The other teams are already waiting in the lobby and producer Barbara Fox arrives and does a quick spot before sending the teams out. The rules are easy. Each segment involves a new city where the contestants follow clues to find the next item, and all items found must be kept until the end. Breaking or losing an item is reason enough to disqualify a team. After each segment, the slowest team is sent home, but not before Barbara delivers her signature line. "You've lost the game, but what have you found?" Laura has already decided that when they are eliminated, she will tell the camera that she has found her daughter.

On this day, they are in Aswan, Egypt, and Cassie is frustrated that they only see so little of each country. The clues are sealed in small white envelopes that the teams all open at the same time. A poem inside gives the clue to the next item and also contains a keyword which the teams are supposed to figure out when they get where they are going in each round. They are supposed to guess the word the judges want, but if they are wrong, they get a ten minute time out penalty while the other teams continue on. They get started, and Cassie thinks about her pregnancy, and how all she had thought about during the sex involved was Mia. The bus ride to the temple is four hours long and Cassie looks out the window at all of the things they are not allowed to stop and spend time at.

Chapter One: Laura and Chapter Two: Cassie Analysis

Laura and Cassie get ready to go and Cassie is already sniping at Laura although the day has barely begun. Their cameraman, Brendan, loves the friction, knowing it makes for great film, and can't help grinning every time he notices it. They get down to the lobby where the rest of the teams wait, and Laura realizes that she already hates them



all. Cassie sits with Wendy, leaving Laura to sit beside Betsy. It is obvious that she and Jason are not getting along at the moment, and Betsy displays that by angling her back to Jason to talk to Laura. The producer, Barbara Fox, seems to Laura to be the most unnatural person she has ever seen and she can't help but wondering by what fluke she landed this kind of a job. The crew sets up and she does her opening spot for 'Lost and Found'. Laura thinks about the background story the interviewers wanted from her, and how she went on about Cassie leaving for college, and their last chance to travel the world together before she embarks on a life of her own. The truth is something entirely different though. Four months earlier, Cassie woke Laura during the night for help with the baby she'd just delivered. This was a surprise in more ways than one. Laura had no idea her daughter was even pregnant. The baby girl is healthy, but when Cassie refuses to even feed her, Laura knows without asking that she won't be keeping her daughter. The show and travel is more a distraction and change of scenery.

Cassie is discouraged by how little of each place they have a chance to see. Her impressions of Egypt are limited to the dubbed television show she watched in the hotel. The teams are all given their clues and Laura is sure they are looking for the temple of Abu Simbel. Laura has tried to talk to Cassie more times than she can count, but still knows nothing of the circumstances surrounding her pregnancy. She also has no idea that her daughter is gay. Her boyfriend Dan is the father of her baby, but the act that began their child was one during which Cassie imagined he was her best friend, Mia. She fakes her way through it, and to her credit, doesn't panic when Dan announces his condom broke. He promises to stick by her if anything happens. They get on a bus along with most of the other teams, headed for the temple. Cassie still has a hard time believing that they are sitting across from Juliet and Dallas, watching them behave like normal people. Juliet Jansen is the first girl that Cassie ever developed a serious crush on, and she remembers fantasizing about her when she used to watch the sitcom she was on, 'Best Friends.' Dallas is also a child star, having appeared in a stupid sitcom called President Scooter about a ten-year-old child who becomes President. Laura wants to talk strategy, but Cassie simply puts her headphones on to shut her out. Laura has a surprise coming yet. She has no idea that Cassie told the interviewers about her baby and that is likely the reason they were selected in the first place - they're waiting for the inevitable explosion.



Chapter Three: Carl and Chapter Four: Juliet

Chapter Three: Carl and Chapter Four: Juliet Summary

Brothers Carl and Jeff make a side deal with Abby and Justin, taking a taxi to the temple while the other teams all go by bus. It is important to conserve their limited funds, but at times a head start is worth the extra. Carl and Jeff spend most of the ride joking around with the natural ease that comes from having a good sibling relationship. When they get to the temple, they split what seems to be a huge bill, vowing not to take another cab without negotiating the price first, and go inside the larger of the two temples belonging to Ramses II. It doesn't take them long to figure out the the poem clue they were given at the hotel refers to a name on one of the many statues inside. They find the right one, and manage to be the first team to get the correct keyword to Barbara, earning the next envelope and clue.

Juliet and Dallas are the last team to find the clue. Juliet knows that she has to keep smiling, acting as she always feels she must in the public eye. They only manage to get to the airport first because one of the other teams gets stuck in a cab that breaks down. Still, all the other teams catch an earlier flight and they are the only team on this one. They read the newest clue, and don't have any ideas, so Dallas leans over and asks another passenger if he can help. He lets them tear out the page in his Cairo guidebook that contains the locations of belly dancing shows in Cairo. Dallas has only one concern and that is to see some mummies before leaving Egypt while Juliet is more concerned with how her appearance will play later on the networks, even imagining the airplay and jokes that will follow, convinced she can use it to bolster her television career.

Chapter Three: Carl and Chapter Four: Juliet Analysis

Carl isn't thrilled with the idea of sharing a cab with Justin and Abby. He has nothing against them personally, or God for that matter, but has no desire to get into the inevitable debate over it. Jeff is describing a dream and Carl tells him it is a classic indicator of anxiety. Carl and Jeff are using unpaid leave and vacation time to manage the month of filming and travel. When Justin asks why Carl and Jeff joined the show, Jeff breaks into song, spelling out DIVORCE in a yodel, telling Justin that he and his brother do everything a year apart from each other from birth, to marriage, and then to divorce, Jeff is always a year behind Carl. Justin, when asked the same question, admits that the program is a great way to get their message to the people. With the help of God, gay people can find happiness in a traditional relationship like they have. Carl thinks about his marriage, still not sure why it ended. He knows that the strain of having their son certainly contributed, but he misses being a Daddy, even though Jackie is generous with the time he gets to have with Benjamin. It just isn't the same as being



there to see what his favorite toys are, what words he is learning and other spontaneous growth changes. Despite it all, Carl is enjoying his time with Jeff who seems to make everything more fun. Jeff discovers the answer to the keyword clue, and they take it out to Barbara who tells them they are correct, earning them an hour head start.

Juliet and Dallas are the last ones to leave the temple. Juliet's whole reason for participating is the opportunity to be on television again. She knows that it is a competition, but is also aware that this is as much of an acting job as she has ever had. They are alone on the plane to Cairo and would have been last but for the two stewardesses who's cab broke down. It is all she can do not to cheer on the way by, knowing how that would have looked on film. Juliet takes a hint from Dallas and asks another passenger on the plane where they might find belly dancers. He allows Juliet to tear the relevant page from his guidebook. Dallas looks at the list and Juliet tells him to keep his cool and remember WWPSD or What would President Scooter Do? Dallas isn't amused. Juliet keeps the publicity in mind as she placates Dallas whose biggest concern is finding a mummy before they leave Egypt.



Chapter Five: Abby and Chapter Six: Laura

Chapter Five: Abby and Chapter Six: Laura Summary

Abby and Justin are also looking for sequins from a belly dancer, and Justin is convinced that the producers of the show put this challenge in just to see if the Christians can handle it. Justin navigates and gets them to the Hotel Barona and two acrobats are performing inside. Abby tries to keep her eyes on the stage floor, looking for errant sequins. She is afraid that the camera will pick up on the intensity of her desire. She turns to see Cassie, who then becomes part of the fantasy playing itself out in her mind.

Laura puts the three sequins into a plastic bag and curses when her finger finds the trilobite fossil. Behind her, the bird imitates her, making Cassie laugh. They hail a cab and ask to be taken to the Northern Cemetery and the driver is reluctant but she insists. Entire neighborhoods of makeshift dwellings full of squatters are set up amongst the mausoleums and tombs, laundry strung out between them. Some families have used metal roofing and they can see that their living room is largely occupied by the gravestone with chairs on either side. They even have television. Another taxi passes them with Carl and Jeff inside and Laura urges the driver to speed up. The driver accelerates, but blows a tire, leaving Laura and Cassie to run the remaining distance with their bags. When they finally arrive, they are thrilled to discover they aren't last, but they still have to remain with everyone else until the whole group has assembled again. Wendy and Jillian are the last to arrive, and look bedraggled and almost relieved that it is over. They will be sequestered with the other eliminated teams until the game is complete.

Chapter Five: Abby and Chapter Six: Laura Analysis

Abby and Justin met through an ex-gay ministry called Redemption. Abby always wanted to go to Egypt. She loved the segment in school that dealt with it. They find the Hotel Barona which advertises belly dancing on a placard outside, and Justin needs a minute to compose himself before going in. Justin has less trouble with the fare than Abby does however. She met Justin at her first Redemption meeting, and likes the way she feels when she is with him. He is convincing, dynamic, and Abby knows exactly who she is when she is with him. Redemption taught them that to eliminate a lustful thought that is inappropriate, it must be surrendered to Jesus. They are supposed to imagine pulling the thought out and throwing it to the ground like garbage. Abby's lustful thoughts are littered over six countries already, and though Abby tries to be discrete, Justin notices and smiles. Abby remembers how she felt on her wedding day - ashamed that their friends all knew the truth, but when she put on her wedding dress, she felt as though it was what had been missing from her life for years.



Laura and Cassie share a laugh when Laura inadvertently teaches the parrot to say 'Damn it', and Laura enjoys the moment of natural fun. She wonders how she could have missed her daughter's pregnancy. She admits to having been preoccupied with herself, and is ashamed of that knowledge. Having recently lost over a hundred pounds, Laura had decided to put herself and her new body out there, and joined a dating site where she met Curtis. Looking back on the whole thing now, she can't believe she didn't see the signs earlier, but Curtis was a lunatic. She extricates herself from the relationship, but knows now that she let her daughter down, and wonders if she or her daughter will ever forgive her. Thinking about it now, she can't imagine the pain and suffering her little girl endured alone and knows the regrets will haunt her for the rest of her life. Six teams remain after Wendy and Jillian are eliminated.



Chapter Seven: Cassie and Chapter Eight: Justin

Chapter Seven: Cassie and Chapter Eight: Justin Summary

It takes thirteen hours to get to Osaka from Cairo, and then to Beppu. She spends some of the flight talking to Juliet, and some of it marveling that she had. They are taken to a Japanese Inn called a ryokan where after the producer informs them that they will be taking a bus to their first location. The contestants know by this stage of the game that a Daredevil Round is forthcoming. First, each team must prove they still have every 'found' item on the list. They all try to guess what the upcoming challenge might be. The bus takes them to a beach where six red parasols wait in a row. This time, one member from each team will be buried in volcanic sand up to their necks, and the one to stay there the longest will receive an hour's head start on the other teams. Those participating are taken to locker rooms to change into robes. Barbara calls out the minutes, and Cassie's mind drifts. After ten minutes, Dallas is out, Trent manages thirteen and Cassie manages eighteen before needing to get out. She follows the others into the warm water nearby.

Justin knows he is going to win this Daredevil Round. Jeff confirms it when he quits at twenty-one minutes and Justin is sure that he could have continued. Once out and dressed, Justin and Abby are introduced to their cameraman for this leg of the contest. Ken is tough and manly - exactly what Justin aspires to be. This time, their instructions are to split up. They are given cell phones and must find the keyword that applies in both places. They get into a taxi and Justin asks the driver to take them to the airport. Abby looks through the guidebook to find a list of theme parks to try to determine which two they are supposed to go to. They both presume that the two locations will be in the same city, the haiku directing them to find an American icon twice displayed in two theme parks. One is supposed to be located in a mini world and the other close to Lincoln's nose. They decide to head to Tokyo and Ken films Justin as he takes Abby's hand in his own.

Chapter Seven: Cassie and Chapter Eight: Justin Analysis

By the time Cassie accepted the fact that she was actually pregnant, she and Dan had split up, and Mia wasn't her friend anymore either. Her mother constantly seemed busy with Curtis, and Cassie felt as though she hardly spoke to anyone. One day she tried to use as few words as possible and at the end of the day had managed to utter only twenty one words the entire day. That night, she resolves to see how long it takes anyone to notice she is even pregnant. She is still waiting on the day her daughter is



born. On the flight to Osaka, Cassie sits across from Juliet, still finding it hard to believe that she is there, and remembering the crush she'd had on her as a twelve year old. Of course, none of that prepares her for falling in love with her best friend Mia. As they are preparing for the Daredevil Round in Japan, they are loaded onto a bus and Cassie happens to notice a young girl outside with her mother. The scene causes her chest to tighten and she fights back tears as she realizes that she gave up all of these kinds of moments. She agrees to do the Daredevil Round, but is beaten by Justin who lasts almost twice as long.

Justin knew he would win. He has no trouble beating the rest and after twenty one minutes he is the only one to remain. He gets out and kisses Abby, again proud to be her husband. He goes back to the dressing room and pays little to no attention to the men there with him. Before Abby, this would not have been the case. He puts his faith in her and in God, sure that God knows they are frail and subject to mistakes. Justin and Abby get into a taxi, with a whole hour between them and the next team to leave. He finds himself observing Abby and thinking about how his life has changed since giving up homosexuality. Now, he feels a sense of symmetry and purpose whereas before he had felt empty and ashamed of himself and the life he was leading. Still, the change is difficult for him and he still finds using terms of endearment for his wife strange and embarrassing for reasons he can't explain.



Chapter Nine: Juliet and Chapter Ten: Carl

Chapter Nine: Juliet and Chapter Ten: Carl Summary

Juliet and Dallas work on the clue in the taxi to the airport as well. They also believe Tokyo is the logical option, and are relieved to see teams in front of them buying tickets to the same destination. Carl and Jeff are ahead of them in the ticket line up, and Jeff discovers that only eight seats remain on this flight after they purchase their tickets. Since each team also has to buy tickets for the camera and sound people, that means that only two teams will be getting on this flight with them. Juliet overhears this conversation, and calls Cassie and Laura over to them, offering to team up with them. Dallas disagrees at first, but Juliet insists. Juliet puts her hand on Cassie's shoulder, and leans in close, telling her that there are only eight tickets remaining. Laura objects at first, but Cassie talks her into it quickly. Juliet adds honey to her voice as she expresses how much fun she thinks they'll have.

Jeff spends time talking to Laura on the flight, lightly flirting with her. He tells her jokes that are inane, and stories that Laura politely laughs at until Carl steps in, asking her what she does off camera. She tells them about her job as an office administrator at the school her daughter used to attend. Carl is reminded of his own son, Benjamin, and like any proud parent, is quick to produce photos of his three year old son. Laura remembers that age, and says so, while Carl who is looking at Cassie remarks that it won't be long before she can expect grandchildren. Laura looks as though someone has hit her and Carl knows his comment was a mistake although he has no idea why. He apologizes, unsure what to say to her to undo what he's done. Jeff sees what is going on, and jumps in with lame jokes, trying to diffuse the situation. Once they get to Tokyo, the teams all scatter. Carl is surprised to see how many of the signs are in English. At an information kiosk they get advice directing them to take the train to Kinugawa which is just outside of Nikko. From there, buses to the theme parks are available. In Kinugawa, Jeff and Carl split up, each going to a different theme park as instructed. The cameraman goes with Jeff and Carl is to meet a new one at the park. When he arrives, he can see Barbara at the entrance, getting into her booth.

Chapter Nine: Juliet and Chapter Ten: Carl Analysis

Juliet thinks about the reality of a television program such as the one they are on, and contemplates the kind of exposure she is likely to get. She knows that some things will increase the air time - her options being an injury, a romance with Dallas or one of the other male contestants or perhaps even pursuing the vibe she felt from Cassie. Interesting direction, but risky. Still, it intrigues her, but she doesn't want to offend or alienate her audience either. She decides that a little bit of harmless flirtation might help.



She begins by teaming up with Laura and Cassie, managing to get them on the early flight together.

Jeff is also flirtatious, turning his attentions to Laura. Finally, Carl intervenes, asking her about her life off camera. They discuss children and he tells her about Benjamin and how he is the reason that Carl is on the show. What he doesn't reveal is how guilty he feels about being away from his son for a whole month, and how concerned he is about the risks he is taking despite how big a difference half a million dollars would make for him and his family. He makes a comment that Laura can expect grandchildren soon, having no idea how true his comment really is and Laura pales. Carl has no idea what he has said wrong, but apologizes while Laura tries to pull herself together. Just like it is for Cassie, any mention of grandchildren or sight of newborns is difficult and upsetting. Laura still struggles to deal with not only the secret pregnancy, but the birth, and the loss of her granddaughter - all in the span of twenty four hours. It's a great deal to digest. When they get to Tokyo, the teams all split up. Carl and Jeff take a train part way, and then separate to go to different parks as directed. For the first time since this all started, Carl finds himself alone. No Jeff, no cameraman. Though it is only temporary, he enjoys the momentary freedom. By the time he gets to the park, he is already missing Jeff to his great surprise.



Chapter Eleven: Abby and Chapter Twelve: Laura

Chapter Eleven: Abby and Chapter Twelve: Laura Summary

Abby is enjoying her time alone immensely. She wanders around Tobu World Square, trailed by a new cameraman and sound man while their previous crew, Ken and Stefan, stayed with Justin who headed for Western Village. She is amazed by the miniatures of New York, the pyramids, Versailles, the Eiffel Tower and even the Temple of Abu Simbel. Each scene is assembled with incredible detail including bonzai trees and tiny people. She can see Central Park's hot dog vendors and at the Parthenon, there are tourists on the steps eating ice cream. The details are so good that they even include traffic accidents and small bank robbers. Justin calls her on the cell phone they were issued and tells her about the park he is in. They begin comparing the things they are seeing, looking for American icons located in both parks. Nothing presents itself immediately, so they agree to keep looking and hang up. Abby goes back to the American section where even the World Trade Center still exists. More teams begin to show up and it appears as though any head start they had as a result of Justin's performance in the volcanic sands is now lost. Abby's mood darkens as she crouches to look at the details of the exhibits. Finally, looking through the window of the Hanover Trust Building, she sees a miniature Marilyn Monroe posed with her skirt in the air around her. For a brief moment, Abby loses the will to continue. She waits until the feeling passes, and then calls Justin telling him she's figured it out.

Laura thinks about the night she drove Cassie and her daughter to the hospital. She spends time wandering around Western Village, having short and abrupt conversations with Cassie and dodging Japanese cowboys. She sees what is supposed to be a representation of Marilyn Monroe in a saloon, and tells Cassie who goes to Barbara with the phone connection still active. Their answer is correct, but another surprise follows. For the segment, it's everyone for themselves. They are not even to acknowledge each other if they cross paths. A clue is presented to her and she discovers her next destination is Tokyo's Kitchen Town where she is to find a futomaki roll that can't be eaten. She already misses Cassie. Carl and Jeff arrive at the train station, and Dave begins filming again when he sees Carl sit beside Laura. He has no idea what 'kitchen town' is either. They ask some children, but get no answers so they finally just get on the train heading for Tokyo and hope that on the way they'll discover where they are supposed to go. Laura looks out the window and sees Cassie standing on the platform as the doors close and the train pulls out. She waves to Laura, smiling.



Chapter Eleven: Abby and Chapter Twelve: Laura Analysis

Abby is happy to have a bit of a break from Justin. He is such an intense man that she needs to be away from him now and then just to maintain her own identity. When her cell phone rings, she waits a minute before answering, enjoying the moment of time alone. Justin simply says 'It's me' when she answers, and she finds that she likes that degree of intimacy where a greeting like that one leaves no doubt as to who is on the other end of the line. When they aren't able to identify what they are seeking, they agree to keep looking and hang up. Back in the American section of the park, Abby sees an Italian couple who were on the bus with her, and again they are in each others arms, oblivious to the rest of the world. Abby can't help watching, unable to imagine a moment like this in her own life where she and Justin would feel such an urgent need for each other. Even holding hands with Justin in public the first time was difficult for her. It reminds her of the first time she walked down the street holding a woman's hand. For one block, they had walked quietly, hand in hand, but then a noise from behind broke the spell and their contact. At every moment, Abby is filled with two kinds of shame - one for being the woman she was, and the other for leaving that part of herself behind.

Laura thinks about the night her granddaughter was born. She remembers driving as slow as she could to the hospital, head spinning, while Cassie sat in the back seat holding her. It seemed surreal. She remembers how she felt when Cassie was born, and compares the experiences in her mind. On the way, she had asked Cassie what she thought of her baby, and after a moment of consideration, she tells Laura that her daughter's head is pointy, giving Laura an unexpected laugh. She is reminded of other times she has made the night time trek to the local hospital. The next clue Barbara gives them is confusing and in a twist, it's every contestant for themselves. No helping or collaborating. Cassie has no trouble with the concept, but Laura worries about whether or not she will be okay, realizing for the first time that she hasn't given Cassie much of a chance to spread her wings. Carl joins Laura on a bench and offers to team up with her, but Laura, doing her impression of Barbara, reminds him that it is every man or woman for themselves this round. They get on the same train and head towards Tokyo, and Laura notices Cassie is still on the platform at the last moment. She smiles and waves at Laura as they pull out, seemingly unconcerned that she has missed the train.



Chapter Thirteen: Cassie; Chapter Fourteen: Justin; and Chapter Fifteen: Abby

Chapter Thirteen: Cassie; Chapter Fourteen: Justin; and Chapter Fifteen: Abby Summary

Cassie has discovered that another train will get her closer to kitchen town than the one her mother and the others are on. It is also opposed to the one everyone else took which will require transferring and get them to kitchen town half an hour later than Cassie will arrive. Cassie's task is to find 'tako,' which she believes is octopus. She hasn't seen Juliet or Dallas since their flight, and wonders if they are ahead or behind. On the train, Cassie buys a drink called Pocari Sweat, and considers sending the can to Dan to add to his collection of strange food items. Cassie has no trouble finding Kappabashi and then locating a store which seems to have what she is looking for. She goes inside to discover another American couple with a baby inside and quickly buys the tako she needs and then opens the next envelope to discover the Meeting Place for this round is the Sensoji Temple in Tokyo.

Justin follows Ken through alleys and past stores to an area known as Ni-Chome, infamous for having more gay bars than anywhere in the world. On the train, Ken reveals he is gay and offers to give Justin the magazine that is corrupting him, for his own salvation. Justin is lost. He follows Ken to 'Hotel Coco' and suggests Ken go up before him after they'd decided on the decor of the room. The room is decorated in red velvet, resembling a whorehouse. Five minutes later, Justin follows Ken up to room 17, all will to reform gone.

Abby checks in at Sensoji Temple and Barbara tells her to settle in until the others have arrived, reminding her that she is still not allowed to communicate with her partner and warning her that a shocking announcement is yet to come. She wanders around the courtyard, and has her fortune read. Cassie arrives next and they talk. Cassie asks her if she and Justin plan to have children and when Abby admits they probably will. When Justin arrives, he and Abby don't speak, as per Barbara's instructions. The remaining contestants slowly trickle in. Riley brings the wrong sushi and is sent back to kitchen town but still manages to return before Dallas and Juliet arrive. Finally, three hours after everyone else, they arrive. Barbara gathers them together and tells them that the last team might not be eliminated. Beginning with Abby, each contestant in order of their arrival will be asked to select a new partner for the duration of the game. The last two to be chosen will be eliminated. Abby chooses Justin; Cassie chooses Juliet; Carl chooses Laura; Jeff chooses Trent but Trent refuses, so Jeff selects Dallas instead; Trent chooses Riley and that leaves only Betsy and Jason who are sent home. Abby asks Justin what took them so long, and Justin comes up with credible delays. He blanches



when Abby tells him that she'll watch it when it airs. Justin hails a cab, and Abby settles in comfortably beside him.

Chapter Thirteen: Cassie; Chapter Fourteen: Justin; and Chapter Fifteen: Abby Analysis

Cassie enjoys the expression on her mother's face as the train pulls out and she realizes that Cassie isn't on it. She knows that her mother doesn't believe she is capable of doing anything on her own. The fact that she alone figures out that her mother and the others are not on the most direct route to kitchen town fills her with an absurd kind of pride. A drink on the train makes her think about Dan, and regret the way she treated him. She remembers the scene that occurred after the baby was born and she had to get him to sign the adoption papers. She never even told him she was sorry. The truth was that she had only actually even dated Dan because he was friends with Mia's boyfriend, and it would mean they could spend more time together. For so long, her feelings for Mia were her own little secret, nourished and cherished. When Cassie looks at Abby and Justin, all she wants to do is tell them that they are gay, and should just get over it. She finds kitchen town, and locates a store that looks promising. Inside, there is an American couple and their new baby. Cassie can hardly look at the little girl, so pretty it almost bring tears to her eyes. She buys the tako and knowing she will run into babies everywhere, she turns to the parents and asks how old she is, but at the same time knows that nothing will ever be right again.

Justin is falling, and he knows it. Ken reveals that he is gay on the train, beginning by allowing Justin to see an explicit magazine in his bag. From there, it is easy to push him over the edge. Ken takes him to the Hotel Coco, and after selecting a theme room, Ken precedes Justin upstairs. Justin stays in the lobby, cursing his own weakness, but still unable to turn away. Imagining he is someone else, he follows Ken to room seventeen.

Abby is the first to arrive at Sensoji Temple. She checks in with Barbara and is told to wait for the others to arrive. Cassie is next to show up, and they talk about Justin and the future. When Cassie asks her if she misses women, Abby almost loses her composure. She admits that sometimes she does, and a flood of memories come back to her. She thinks about her first kiss, and how normal it felt to her. She leans in close to Cassie and whispers "Every single day" to her under her breath so that the cameras. When everyone has returned, Barbara has them all choose new partners, and some of the choices are surprising. Abby stays with Justin, to his great relief, but Cassie chooses Juliet instead of Laura. She looks so disappointed that Carl chooses her when his turn comes. Then they all head to the hotel. Abby asks Justin what took them so long, and he claims that they got lost, Ken had camera trouble, and he got lost. It sounds plausible, and Abby tells him she'll watch it when it airs. Justin blanches.



Chapter Sixteen: Barbara Fox; Chapter Seventeen: Carl and Chapter Eighteen: Juliet

Chapter Sixteen: Barbara Fox; Chapter Seventeen: Carl and Chapter Eighteen: Juliet Summary

At the production hotel, Barbara watches as the crew sifts through the hours of footage gleaned during the day. There are three producers in total - Eli, Kate and Jeremy. The group is pleased with the outcome of the contestant switches. Barbara watches as Jeremy, Kate and Eli go through the footage and all laugh at the footage taken of Dallas and Juliet, frustrated and in the wrong location. They also have footage of Cassie's stricken face after coming into contact with the couple and their young daughter in kitchen town and hope that she will reveal her own pregnancy on air so that the shot will have significance. All of the applicants are chosen for their potential for conflict and the producers can only hope that these conflicts will reveal themselves on film, doing what they can to lead the contestants into situations that will facilitate this. When Eli watches Justin's footage, he is stunned to see cameraman Ken Sutphen introduce himself, admit he is gay, and then reveal that Justin is not as rehabilitated as he claims. The footage that follows is more than graphic. No one can decide what the best course of action is, but they are all aware that this footage is huge. Since Justin signed all of the releases, he has no legal recourse available to him and all that remains is to have Ken do the same. The next phone call made is to the legal department.

Carl and Laura join the rest of the remaining teams for breakfast downstairs. Afterward, a list is made so that the producers will know who is responsible for what found items, and then Barbara finally appears. This time, there are two clues and contestants must choose either letters, or numbers. Riley and Trent and Cassie and Juliet choose numerical clues while the remaining teams choose letters. The letter clue is "Jaws IV: Ask Nude Jerk" and those with the number clue don't look confident either. Carl and Laura sit in the lobby, and finally work out that the clue is an anagram. Before they can figure it out, Cassie and Juliet leave, having already figured out where they are going. Carl and Laura finally figure out that Sweden is their likely destination, and head for the airport where they hope to find maps, saving time now. Carl jokes with Laura until he makes her smile, and then Carl feels as though he has accomplished something.

Cassie figures out the numerical clue in no time, realizing the numbers are coordinates and she and Juliet are the first to make it to the airport. They still don't know exactly where they are going, so they head for the bookstore to look at a map. They manage to make the clerk understand that they are looking for a global atlas, and when they have it, Juliet defers to Cassie, telling her that her map reading skills are atrocious.



Chapter Sixteen: Barbara Fox; Chapter Seventeen: Carl and Chapter Eighteen: Juliet Analysis

Barbara is amused when she considers how the new partnerships will fare. She hadn't warned them that they would also be required to sleep together, and imagines that more than one couple will have a sleepless night or two as a result. Barbara is the second host so far and hopes that she will be able to cement her position should the show 'survive' and be back for a third season. Sitting with the crew at the end of the day is what Barbara imagines parents must feel like after their children are finally in bed. She watches the footage until Justin's film is run, and gets the attention of everyone in the room. No one is sure whether this is Emmy material, or a legal nightmare.

Carl and Laura get ready for their first segment together as a team, assembling with the others for breakfast. The clue is an anagram and they soon discover that Sweden is the most likely destination. Carl thinks about the events that led to him and Jeff's acceptance as contestants. Later, Jeff reveals that he told the producers about Carl's son Benjamin and his illness. Carl is angry at first and decides that they will not get the story from him.

Juliet likes Cassie a great deal, but is still trying to decide if flirting with her is the best thing to do. Cassie is pretty, though she carries a bit more weight than Juliet usually would like. Either way, Juliet knows she can play off the fact that Cassie is definitely attracted to her. This is so important to Juliet that she doesn't want to make a mistake. Dallas believes that the best route to the finish line is simply to have fun, but Juliet doesn't relax that easily. She is also used to being the one who is in the spotlight, and having Cassie out think her makes her a bit edgy. She quickly realizes that unless her attitude changes, she will alienate Cassie.



Chapter Nineteen: Cassie; Chapter Twenty: Justin; and Chapter Twenty-One: Abby

Chapter Nineteen: Cassie; Chapter Twenty: Justin; and Chapter Twenty-One: Abby Summary

It takes little time for Cassie to figure out that they are going to Scandinavia. A clerk at the SAS counter named Elin helps them to discern their destination is actually Jukkasjarvi, in Swedish Lapland. Juliet leaves the details to Cassie and with Elin's help, they manage to book a flight from the airport to Copenhagen, then to Stockholm and then finally to Kiruna. They discuss the time differences and length of flights, and just as they are ready to leave, Erin recognizes Juliet who comes to life with the recognition.

Justin and Abby manage to discern that the letters in their clue are an anagram, and a helpful concierge points them in the direction of the Swedish Embassy. Twenty minutes later, they are headed for the airport, and in no time they are on a plane to Copenhagen along with Cassie and Juliet, and Carl and Laura. Abby and Justin play hangman, and he tells her that he hopes they will have a baby soon. Abby admits that she still has so many thoughts that she wishes she didn't have anymore. Justin comforts her, and prays with her.

When Abby and Justin get to Kiruna, they are exhausted and disoriented. While Abby is in the washroom, Justin makes friends with a Swedish couple who offer to drive them to Jukkasjarvi. When they get underway, Bengt asks how they came to be on the television show, and Abby shrinks as Justin gives his now standard response - "We have both left homosexuality, and we're eager to spread the word." Bengt and Nanna are skeptical, and ask Abby if she feels the same way, but Abby is too tired to lie. She thinks about the three times that she felt without question the presence of God. They find Barbara waiting outside Lapland's only wooden church and Bengt and Nanna agree to wait for a moment in case they can be of help for the next clue. They hurry over to Barbara, just ahead of Carl and Laura, and are given the clue "What's missing?" Justin asks Bengt and Nanna if they know what it means to be told that it is likely the Ice Hotel, gone by May each year. As they head back to Barbara with the answer, Nanna recognizes Juliet. Justin and Abby are given a Daredevil Round envelope after presenting Barbara with the correct clue word 'hotel', and are directed to the site of the Ice Hotel for their challenge. Nanna and Bengt have met Juliet in the meantime, and offered her and Cassie a ride, leaving Justin and Abby to take their taxi. Bengt wishes them luck with their metamorphosis and they all speed towards the next challenge.



Chapter Nineteen: Cassie; Chapter Twenty: Justin; and Chapter Twenty-One: Abby Analysis

Cassie chastises herself for forgiving Juliet so easily. When she figures out that they are going to Scandinavia, Juliet hopes for Sweden where she is well known. The comment almost makes Cassie laugh. She wonders if it was such a great idea to choose Juliet as a partner instead of her mother. Still, on their first night in the hotel, Cassie is sure that she is making a friend, and she hasn't had a friend in what feels like a long time, so she is enjoying the experience. She almost reveals her daughter's birth to Juliet, but stops herself, knowing that the cameras never stop filming. She thinks about the adoption, and what her baby's life will be like.

Justin is fidgety and anxious the day after his encounter/slip with Ken. He tries to compensate by lavishing physical attention on his wife, but he is merely going through the motions. Later, he showers and prays for strength and forgiveness, feeling as though he deserves neither. On the plane to Stockholm, Justin thinks about penance, and his conscience is briefly soothed. He remembers his life before and after Redemption.

Abby remembers the first time she heard the word 'gay' used. She was only about six when she heard the term on television and asked what it meant later at the dinner table. Her father explained it to her simply and without prejudice. She was eighteen when she first told her parents that she was gay and their reaction was a surprise to Abby. They actually grieved. Abby and Justin are exhausted, and have been traveling for twenty four hours and she can hardly believe it when Justin manages to secure a ride with locals. All she can think about is sleep, and she is quietly embarrassed when Justin feels it is his personal mission to tell everyone in the world that they are reformed, having been gay previously. Their hosts are understandably confused and waste little time trading them in for the film star, Juliet who is well known in this region of the world.



Chapter Twenty-Two: Laura; Chapter Twenty-Three: Carl; and Chapter Twenty-Four: Cassie

Chapter Twenty-Two: Laura; Chapter Twenty-Three: Carl; and Chapter Twenty-Four: Cassie Summary

Laura and Carl learn about the Ice Hotel from their cab driver on the way there. Barbara welcomes them and tells them about how the ice hotel takes shape in the winter. This challenge has them all hooked up to EEG machines where their ability to stay awake, despite the quiet and warm bed that is to be provided. In the morning, the team that stays awake for the longest will get a two hour head start on the others. Carl and Laura climb into bed as do Cassie and Juliet. Cassie jokes about her mother being in bed with another man and Laura returns the jibe regarding Cassie in bed with a strange woman, seeing something revealing in the look on her daughter's face. Suddenly, Laura realizes that Cassie is gay, and has carefully kept that secret.

Carl and Laura talk, the lack of cameras making it easier to be intimate. He shares his fear with her that he won't be a good parent, but Laura assures him that isn't the case. They talk about everything and anything, careful not to tread on issues that are too sensitive, but Carl can see himself telling Laura his deepest secrets once they are done filming. Jeff and Dallas show up in the middle of the night. Carl and Laura have kept each other conscious for over three hours and it is getting harder. They play games and listen to the conversations being had by other contestants. Cassie and Juliet have been disqualified. By dawn there is still no sign of Riley and Trent. Carl can see that Laura is fading. He reaches over and putting his hand between her breasts, covers her microphone. She does the same for him after her initial surprise, and asks her what she would tell him without the cameras present. When she makes a joke, he begins by telling her about Benjamin. She tells him about her previous weight issues, and they joke back and forth, staying awake easier now. He admits her really likes her, and she responds by giving him all the reasons he shouldn't, including Cassie's pregnancy and daughter's birth.

It doesn't take long for Cassie to realize that Juliet is a completely different person when the cameras are on. They had been in bed for almost an hour when Cassie is stunned to hear Juliet ask her if she has a girlfriend. Juliet lets her hang for several moments before adding that as a child star, she found it difficult to make friends. Then she starts a tickle fight with her but her attention to the camera makes Cassie call and end to it. Since Riley and Trent arrive so late, the rest of the teams get a little bit of time off while they wait for them to complete the Daredevil Round but the free time is limited. Riley and Trent are disqualified after only forty five minutes. Carl and Laura win the two hour head start. The next segment involves taking photographs of specific art works and they



learn that the Stockholm subway is often referred to as Tunnelbana. The first of four they find quickly, having been recognized by their cab driver. Jeff and Dallas are right behind them, and Juliet's expression sours when she hears a British voice recognize Dallas and asks for his autograph. The next clue will lead them to London.

Chapter Twenty-Two: Laura; Chapter Twenty-Three: Carl; and Chapter Twenty-Four: Cassie Analysis

Laura is enjoying her partnership with Carl. As much as she loves Cassie, working with Carl is definitely easier. Carl also makes it fun for Laura, who is now free to be herself and enjoy the adventure. Laura and Carl are the first to change and Laura thinks about how nice this challenge would have been with Cassie, and how nervous she is about spending the night with Carl in bed. The thoughts continue to Cassie's baby, and how she imagined that night could have gone instead. She thought of the stories she would have told her in those intimate hours before the birth. She would have told her about her birth, and the difficulties Laura faced afterward, but most importantly, she would have told Cassie that regardless of the hardship, it was all worth it.

For Carl, this is the first woman he has been in bed with since he and Jackie split up. Since there is no cameraman for this, he feels an intimacy with Laura that they haven't enjoyed to this point. He even finds himself considering sharing his feelings about Benjamin and his earlier illness. Jeff and Dallas finally arrive and Carl feels a twinge of jealousy to see that they are having so much fun together. He realizes that he is more lost without Jeff than Jeff is without him. By morning, Carl sees that Laura is getting sleepy. He covers her microphone, as she does for him, and then can't help himself from telling her about Benjamin. He wants her to know her better and her to know him. Laura responds by admitting that she used to be overweight. Before the conversation is over, she has revealed most of the reasons she believes she is not a catch for anyone, but Carl isn't deterred. In fact, he recognizes how hard the entire incident with Cassie must have been for her, and lies there, holding her hand.

Cassie realizes that the time she is spending with Juliet is carefully orchestrated to ensure that she is shown in her best light for the cameras. She pulls away from her during a contrived tickle fight, and the silence and discomfort that follows leads to sleep and disqualification for that round. When Cassie wakes next to her later in the morning, her first thought is that she should have let the touching go on for a little longer. She thinks of the one girl she had kissed so far, on the day she learned for sure that she was pregnant and how it ended her friendship with Mia. When it comes time to follow the next clue, they find themselves in the Tunnelbana looking for specific works of art. Even in the tunnels, Juliet is recognized by most people. She is less than thrilled when Dallas is also recognized and even less so when they learn that the destination is London.



Chapter Twenty-Five: Juliet; Chapter Twenty-Six: Justin; and Chapter Twenty-Seven: Abby

Chapter Twenty-Five: Juliet; Chapter Twenty-Six: Justin; and Chapter Twenty-Seven: Abby Summary

There is no air travel for this leg of the game. Instead, they are instructed to drive to London - a twenty-four hour drive including the ferries in between. They will drive through seven countries. When they begin to cross the bridge that spans the distance from Sweden to Denmark, Juliet tells Cassie she needs to stop. Juliet gets out and her microphone picks up the sounds of vomiting. Cassie joins her at the rail, and holds her hair while she empties her stomach for the cameras. They get back into the car, and Cassie suggests they find a place to clean up.

Justin enjoys his trip by car with Abby. They find Barbara at Trafalgar Square but still don't know what the keyword is. Justin's eyes wander and he catches sight of Ken sitting near the fountain. He waves casually as Abby gets his attention again. Ken is smiling broadly, and Justin has a hard time ignoring him. They figure out the keyword and get the next set of envelopes from Barbara. Justin tells Abby to read the clue while he finds a restroom. The cameraman follows despite Justin's objections, but leaves Justin to go in alone. Ken walks in a moment later. He asks Justin if he's ready to admit that the ex-gay thing is a fallacy. Justin assures him that one afternoon with him would hardly have him ready to give up God. Justin is ready to leave, but Ken stops him. He tells him that he is despicable and reveals that he filmed their entire encounter. Justin blanches, for a moment unable to breathe. He tells Ken to get out, and after a moment by himself realizes that their entire meeting had just been recorded by the microphone he wears. He leaves, and sees Abby across the square. He tries to compose himself, and knows he has to try to protect her.

When Justin reaches her, he is somber, and asks her about the clue. She tells him she was waiting for him and asks him if he is alright. Claiming indigestion, they read the clue together. She tries to tell him that she is having difficulties in England, but he seems oblivious to her inner struggle, unable to understand why it is bothering her now - ten years later. Abby is stunned by his reaction. She catches up with him as he is loading everything into a cab.



Chapter Twenty-Five: Juliet; Chapter Twenty-Six: Justin; and Chapter Twenty-Seven: Abby Analysis

Juliet's show never aired in England, and she is able to be invisible. That on its own wouldn't be an issue, but the increased camera time Dallas is getting as a result is forcing her to become more creative to make herself more visible. She is still wondering how to use Cassie in order to accomplish her goal. Part of her thinks it's amusing that Cassie and Laura think they have reason to feud when to Juliet their lives look idyllic. They embark on the twenty four hour drive to London, but before they can get across the bridge to Denmark, Juliet's stomach wins the battle for supremacy. Cassie holds her hair back while she vomits over the railing for the cameras, her embarrassment acute. Her trials are far from over however. Next, to her horror, she begins to cry. Her body shakes with sobs, unable to stop.

The trip with Abby is just what Justin needed. It is an image of perfection in his mind - a man traveling with his wife towards a common purpose. He hasn't seen Ken since the day of their intimacy, although even a week later, he finds his mind returns to those events again and again. At times like those, he finds it helps to remember the lessons he learned while watching Fantasy Island and the morality plays that each episode contained. None of this helps him when he sees Ken again in Trafalgar Square for the first time since their tryst. His emotions are everywhere at once. He can't help but notice Ken is in shorts, admiring his legs in spite of his efforts to ignore them but is embarrassed by his feelings at the same time. He manages to meet Ken in the restroom, but the meeting doesn't go the way he planned. Instead of telling Ken that their meeting was a one time slip of his will, he learns that Ken recorded the entire incident, and has every intention of making it public. Justin is sick at the thought, but knows that he has to protect Abby at all costs. He has to behave like a man now.

Abby watches Justin approach, gleaned a small amount of satisfaction from the fact that he doesn't look his usual cheery self. She chastises herself for not communicating her feelings better, and for expecting him to know what is in her mind. She resolves to improve her communication with him. Justin knows that Abby spent a year of England, but has no idea of the extent of her experiences there. He knows about the simple pleasures like the Lilt soda she enjoyed and has heard her stories, but he doesn't know that this is the place where Abby found love in the arms of a woman. At the age of twenty, Abby had tried to live a life that was honest and encompassed who she was. Being there now simply reminded her of how great a fraud she was. Her attempt to confess her feelings to Justin falls on deaf ears and she is stunned by his lack of perception to her needs.



Chapter Twenty-Eight: Laura; Chapter Twenty-Nine: Cassie; and Chapter Thirty: Juliet

Chapter Twenty-Eight: Laura; Chapter Twenty-Nine: Cassie; and Chapter Thirty: Juliet Summary

Laura and Carl talk to a self proclaimed poet laureate who helps them with their clue. Their destination is the Ballydugan Weavers House which is part of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum outside Belfast. Abby and Justin, as well as Cassie and Juliet are on the same flight. Cassie teases her mother about the poet laureate who helped them, and remembered her fondly. Since the mood is light and pleasant, Laura tells Cassie that she thinks they should write a letter to be read in the future, and Cassie is furious. She is unapproachable on the plane, and Carl distracts Laura from her daughter by showing her that condensation is causing snow to fall on them. Without over thinking it, she leans over and kisses him gently, thinking 'Our first kiss was in the snow.'

When the plane lands in Belfast, Cassie exits as soon as she can. They load their gear into a cab and head for the Ballydugan Weavers House. Their destination contains a series of buildings including a mill, a forge, a weavers house and a farmhouse. They head for the Weavers House and Cassie offers to be the one to work the loom. After a demonstration, she gets to work on the cloth that they must then take to the seamstress. Carl and Laura enter as Cassie is given a warning to not to tangle the thread or she will have to start again. Laura takes the challenge on, and shortly thereafter, Abby does as well. Finally, the Lost and Found logo appears on the fabric and Cassie and Juliet are able to move on. Juliet is charged with the next task - sewing the pieces together. Carl and Justin will also be sewing. Those not sewing wait in the outer room, and Laura can't help putting Cassie on the spot yet again by insinuating that she and Juliet might not be the best suited couple. When Juliet comes out with a sewn christening dress, Cassie loses all semblance of control. After pulling out their collected items one at a time and doing as much damage as she can, Juliet quietly steps forward and joins her, taking out her half of the found items and wrecking what she can of them. Only then does Cassie allow Laura to comfort her in any way.

After Cassie calms somewhat, producer Kate informs them that shooting is temporarily suspended and confirms what they already know. Cassie's actions have eliminated them. Kate tells them they will continue to the meeting place where Barbara will disqualify them officially. Then they will be continue to the finish line off camera with the others as they are too close to the end to be sent to the sequester site. Once the details are settled, Dallas and Jeff enter the cottage. They see the carnage remaining from Cassie's breakdown, and she congratulates them, telling them they are now in the final three. Cassie opens the final envelope to see where they have to go, and the



instructions send them to the Wishing Chair at the Giant's Causeway. Taking only the parrot, they leave.

Chapter Twenty-Eight: Laura; Chapter Twenty-Nine: Cassie; and Chapter Thirty: Juliet Analysis

Laura is enjoying her time with Carl. Though they haven't so much as kissed, she feels the tenderness of romance. It was a feeling she had always wanted, and had not attained with Cassie's father, Jim. Though they live a thousand miles apart, she still finds herself wondering if the possibility exists that they can make a relationship work. She hasn't seen Cassie much in the last few days, and wishes she could find an opportunity to talk to her. Laura thinks that they should write a letter to Cassie's daughter. The adoption is an open one that affords them the chance to still play a part in her life. She remembers the morning of her granddaughter's birth - every detail, every nuance. She tries to tell Cassie that they should write a letter, but the cameras inhibit her from saying much more. Cassie is furious, and on the verge of tears when she storms away. Laura wants to kick herself. She keeps looking back at Cassie and Juliet, her mind going from one subject to another, until Carl pulls her attention away. He shows her that the air vent is snowing on him, and in the magical moment it creates, she kisses him.

Cassie thinks about cowbirds and how she is similar to them. She's starting to think about whether the adoption was the right thing to do, and will likely always wonder if she made the correct decision. The pain seems unending. One thing is certain. Writing a letter is not going to change anything. Juliet has been quiet since her illness in Sweden. They get to the Weaver's House that is the site of their next challenge, and begin creating the cloth. From there, they are required to create a garment. Each group must contain both a weaver and a seamstress, so once the sewing begins, Cassie and Laura are left together in the outer room. At first, the conversation is light. Then Laura tells Cassie about a crush she once had on a girlfriend of hers. The cameraman springs to attention, and Cassie tells her to stop but Laura can't seem to help herself. She adds that she supports her, but wonders if Juliet is right for her. Cassie feels trapped, and tells her mother to shut up. Laura apologizes, but the damage is done. When shortly afterward Juliet comes out with the garment she had just finished, Cassie loses the thread of control that she has been clinging to for weeks. Juliet holds up a christening gown, complete with the Lost and Found logo. The entire birth rushes back at her, filling her with regret and remorse. Cassie is crying, holding the tiny dress and lost in a sea of grief. When Laura approaches to comfort her, Cassie's grief turns to anger. She accuses the producers of orchestrating an emotional break down, and then accommodates them by destroying as many of the items they have collected so far as she can. Juliet watches at first, and then helps her to wreck whatever is left. Finally, Cassie lets Laura comfort her, wanting and not wanting her all at the same time.

Juliet is glad she supported Cassie, even if she helped to cost them a million dollar split. Part of her is still poised in her genuine response to Cassie's grief, while another smaller voice is already surmising how this will play in the talk show circuit. She is only half



listening as Kate describes how their exit will be filmed, and the other half of her is doing internal dialog, questioning whether she can really continue her new found attitude without ruining it. Can she change her on camera persona, reaching a point at which she doesn't care what others think. She puts her arm around Cassie, telling her everything will be okay, and after learning where the meeting place is, they take the parrot and leave.



Chapter Thirty-One: Carl and Chapter Thirty-Two: Justin

Chapter Thirty-One: Carl and Chapter Thirty-Two: Justin Summary

Carl and Jeff find themselves sewing dresses together. Jeff's friends will never let him live this down when the show finally airs. Justin grumbles, unhappy with the task. Finally, Carl finishes so he and Laura can head to the Giant's Causeway. Called the Eighth Wonder of the World, it is a mass of basalt columns formed by cooling lava. Seeing it stretched out before them is breathtaking. All of the columns are polygons, perfect and packed together like linoleum flooring. From a distance, they look like skyscrapers in a city. Cassie and Juliet are already there, and their exit interviews are being filmed. Barbara smiles when they reach her, telling them that as a result of the disqualification of Cassie and Juliet, they are in first place. Pointing to the indentation that is known as the Wishing Chair, she tells them that legend claims anyone who makes a wish sitting in it will see their wish come true. They are both to sit in the chair and make a wish. Producer Eli instructs them that this is the time to reveal any secret hopes, dreams or desires. Laura goes first, while Carl stands out of earshot. When she is done, Carl takes his turn. His first wish is rejected, but then he utters a truth that Eli approves of. He wishes that he and Laura have a future together.

When Justin and Abby arrive at the Giant's Causeway, he has managed to calm himself down to a degree. He begins by apologizing to her, being as gentle as he can. Justin can't help but call it God's glorious work when he sees it, and Barbara doesn't comment. Barbara informs them that they are in second place, and describes their last task. Abby goes first, and when Justin's turn comes Eli informs him that they know he has spoken with Ken. This is his chance to respond, Eli says, and perhaps ask his wife's forgiveness. Eli adds that tears would be a nice touch if he can manage them. Justin thinks about the secret he has and hopes that it will be enough. He and Abby had been held up by delays with their flight and were the last to arrive on the island of Rhodes in Greece. They were supposed to figure out which one of eleven gates would still admit them by approaching the knights guarding them, but competing for last place, they were given the extra direction to check door number three. The hint helped them to beat the other team, and stay in the game while their opponents were eliminated. It hadn't seemed important at the time, but now Justin could clearly see that it was just one more example of the corruption involved in the whole production, and he planned to expose it all for what it was - a sham. This was the only proof he had, but he couldn't be sure that they hadn't paid Ken to approach him. When Eli says they are ready, Justin says he wishes the lies would stop. He insists the audience was duped and the outcome predetermined. Eli calls cut and tells Justin they won't air it, but Justin doesn't care. He says he will tell the press everything. For a brief moment, Justin thinks he's won, but then Eli bursts out laughing, as do the crew members all around him. Then he reminds



Eli of the disclaimers that run frequently. They have already admitted publicly that extra clues might be given and that not all segments will be aired. Once again, they ask him to make a wish they can use. They are all waiting for him to do something, and in a moment of action he feels is justified, he makes his move.

Chapter Thirty-One: Carl and Chapter Thirty-Two: Justin Analysis

To Carl, the whole situation seems surreal, from sitting in a farmhouse and sewing dresses with his brother, to having the company of a former homosexual. He isn't sure what he can say to Laura but recognizes that perhaps she and Cassie have begun to mend their relationship tenuously. He feels hopeful, knowing that no matter what happens in a few days this will all be finished, and win or lose he will get to see Benjamin again. The best part of all was that three hours earlier, Laura had kissed him unprovoked. Carl and Jeff work alongside Justin who believes that the producers have concocted this segment merely to emasculate him. Carl finishes before the others and hurries out to where Laura still waits. In the car, they talk about what each of them would do with the money if they won. Carl would put the money somewhere safe so that if Benjamin's health required it, there would be no issue. He says none of this on camera. Instead, he talks about putting money aside for education, and perhaps buy a motorcycle. Laura admits that she used to think about travel, but her experiences on the show have squelched that need. Now, she tells him quietly, she'd consider moving. They talk about the legends that surround the Giant's Chair and they both agree that the love story version is the one they prefer. Barbara greets them, and they are instructed to sit in the chair separately and make a wish. They do so, and before he leaves the chair, he silently gives voice to his true wish. Laura calls to him and he steps towards the woman he hopes will one day be his.

Justin is glad that Abby is driving, knowing he is too agitated to do so himself. He is terrified. Abby is distant and upset with him and has been since Trafalgar Square. He knows that there is no question he has sinned, but he can't bear to have his faith and his name slandered. The only solution he can think of is to find a way to derail the entire program, and keep it from being aired at all. He's ashamed that he ever decided to take part in the show. This is a show that encourages treachery and greed. The more he thinks about it, the further inflamed he becomes. When they finally get to the Giant's Causeway, Justin has a plan. The first step is to gain Abby's forgiveness. As soon as they arrive, he gets out and apologizes to her for being less than supportive in Trafalgar Square. Abby says she understands, but her demeanor is still strained. He isn't sure what to say to her after that, so they go down to where Barbara waits. Abby is the first to sit in the Giant's Chair, and in just minutes, she is done. Next is Justin's turn. Eli tells him that now is his chance to set any record straight. His plan is to use his 'wish' time to expose the game for the sham he knows it is, but his plan backfires when everyone from the producer to the cameramen are laughing. Eli explains that their legal department has long since covered them for that eventuality. When Eli once again pushes Justin to get his wish done, Justin snaps deciding that violence is justified.



Chapter Thirty-Three: Abby and Chapter Thirty-Four: Barbara Fox

Chapter Thirty-Three: Abby and Chapter Thirty-Four: Barbara Fox Summary

Abby can't see Justin's face from where she is sitting and isn't sure what his wish might be. She can hear Justin's voice rise, and then sees him pick up the ski pole and hit the cameraman in the arm, his camera falling and smashing on the ground. He uses the weapon on Barbara next, hitting her in the face. The next instant Justin has the ski pole against Eli's throat. Eli is calm as Abby approaches, begging Justin to let him go, but Justin is resolute. One of the PA's manages to sneak up behind Justin and grabs him by the hair and he is surprised enough to release Eli just long enough. Eli pulls himself together quickly and announces that they are of course disqualified. Abby stares at Justin in disbelief. He tells her that the show is evil, and his only aim was to stop it from airing. Eli assures him that won't happen, asking Justin if he wants to tell Abby the truth. Barbara approaches, and asks Justin a second time to be truthful but Justin isn't able. Barbara questions the marriage vows they made, particularly the one about forsaking all others and smiling cruelly, she tells Abby that they have film of her husband breaking that vow with another man. Abby can hear the sirens in the distance. Justin reaches for her, but she twists from his grasp. Justin begs Abby's forgiveness, but her mind is elsewhere. Laura offers aid, but there is little she can do as Justin is led away between two policemen. She decides that her last marital act will be to accompany them to the station. For the first time, she imagines a different life for herself - a happier one.

Barbara and the crew contemplate the impact of Justin's behavior. They are all only too aware that this will only boost the ratings for Lost and Found. Barbara also knows that her future is suddenly secure, and that her name will be one that is well known. The media already has the story, but footage won't be leaked. To see Justin lose his composure, the public will have to tune into the show. That is the only way that they will see first hand how a man hit a woman with a ski pole. She would be laughing out loud if there weren't others around. Barbara has finally found her place.

Chapter Thirty-Three: Abby and Chapter Thirty-Four: Barbara Fox Analysis

Abby imagines that Justin's wish is probably going to be something like he hopes that all gay people find the strength to rehabilitate and find the light of Christ. She has never seen Justin violent before and she wonders what the consequences of his actions will be. When one of the PA's manages to distract Justin long enough to release Eli, they restrain him and Eli composes himself. He is shaken, but after a deep breath, he announces their disqualification. The authorities are called and before they arrive,



Barbara reveals what Justin is so upset about. At first, Abby is angry, and hurt, but mostly she feels foolish. Justin is telling her that he needs her help and love to get through, but Abby's mind is elsewhere. Barbara asks for her reaction to the news, and adds their signature ending... "Abby, you've lost the game, but what have you found?" Abby has no idea how to answer. She begins the climb back up, overwhelmed. Then she realizes that this is one of those rarest of moments. She is absolutely convinced of the existence of God, and He is with her. She looks back at her marriage and realizes that had Justin held the line, she would have walked it with him into old age. Now, it is clear that if Justin couldn't do it, she isn't required to either. Suddenly, her future looks brighter than it has for a very long time, and she knows that it will be a happier life that she makes for herself.

Barbara thinks about Justin's attack and knows that it is one of the best things that could have happened. Even the crew realizes the impact this will have as the news is leaked to the media. Of course, none of the footage will be aired - yet. She imagines that after watching the season air, most people would be ready to land a blow themselves, but there is a possibility that she will garner sympathy as well. Oddly, it doesn't matter which way it goes. Either way, Barbara Fox will be a name that is linked to Lost and Found forever and after that, who knows? One thing is certain. The loose tooth and bruised cheek are worth it.



Chapter Thirty-Five: Laura and Chapter Thirty-Six: Cassie

Chapter Thirty-Five: Laura and Chapter Thirty-Six: Cassie Summary

Laura and Carl hurry off the plane with their second to last clue in hand. They are headed for Truth or Dare, New Mexico. Juliet and Cassie are on the plane as well, and to everyone's surprise, there are no charges laid against Justin. Laura spends a great deal of time thinking about the prize money on their last leg. Laura navigates, and enjoys the thrill of being in America again. Once they reach Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, they stop at a cafe with tables on the sidewalk and begin questioning people to see if anyone knows of a hotel 'marked by a mountain mosaic'. Laura is about to give up when a woman announces that the Sierra Grande has a sign with a mosaic. They hurry to the hotel and waste no time grabbing their 'found' items and running into the lobby. Laura goes to the desk and asks if they have a clue for them and is handed another envelope directing them to bottle up some healing waters. The clerk tells Carl that their hot springs have restorative powers and sends them downstairs where they find a basket filled with empty flasks. They fill one with water and hurry back up to deliver it to Barbara. She asks them for their found items, one at a time, and they produce them. When they are done, she solemnly announces that they've won Lost and Found. Carl picks Laura up and swings her around and kisses her as she shrieks happily. Then all the eliminated contestants join them. Cassie races towards Laura and hugs her fiercely before asking for a car. The rest of the night is filled with laughter, music and dancing. The following day will be filled with interviews and legalities.

Cassie thinks about going home. When her mother asks her if she's looking forward to it, she admits that she is dreading the return to her room. Laura puts her hand on Cassie's arm and describes the night she was born. She suggests that Cassie, if she wants to, could tell the story of her daughter's birth each year on her birthday, as Laura has done for her these many years. When she adds that a picture should be coming soon, Cassie cries. Juliet has promised to keep in touch, but Cassie knows that might not happen. When they get home, the house looks smaller to Cassie somehow, and she realizes that she could live anywhere.

Chapter Thirty-Five: Laura and Chapter Thirty-Six: Cassie Analysis

Laura tells Carl that his father would be proud. One of his sons was definitely going to win the game. Laura is getting excited even though she knows the money will be split, and once she sets aside money for Cassie's education, pays of the house, car, and credit cards, there won't be enough left for her to quit her job and live happily ever after.



That isn't to say she isn't grateful, or eager to win. She tells Carl that she is looking forward to meeting Benjamin. Yesterday, she wouldn't have dreamed of voicing such a thought, but after screening their wishes the night before, the producers informed Carl and Laura that they had both wished for the same thing, winning a secret challenge that they had no idea even existed. No one else had even come close. Their prize for succeeding was a trip to a South Seas resort together. Today, Laura has no trouble imagining meeting Benjamin. Together, Laura and Carl succeed in completing the last task, and after checking to ensure that they have submitted all of the items found, they are announced as the winners of Lost and Found. A party follows. Carl and Laura dance like newlyweds; Cassie dreams of the things they can do with their new found wealth; the producers and camera crews are able to relax and enjoy the party and even Abby laughs and smiles more than she has throughout the entire game. Laura finally knows how to answer Barbara's final question, but isn't sure how to put it into words.

Cassie knows that real life is still waiting for her. School, her lack of friends, Mia, and all the things she left behind are still there and will have to be dealt with. She wonders if things will change in a few months when the show airs and all is revealed. Cassie finds herself hoping that Carl and her mother work out. On the flight home, they talk gently about the baby, and Cassie cries, but this time without anger. In the taxi on the way home she admits that she should have told her mother she was pregnant, and Laura finally admits that Cassie shouldn't have had to tell her. She should have known. Coming home is a strange mix of nostalgia and transformation.



Characters

Cassie Gardner

With her mother on 'Lost and Found,' Cassie is not the most cheerful candidate on the show. She is a typical seventeen-year-old girl who is straining at the apron strings while at the same time craving the security of the family unit. With just her mother, who works a full time job at the school Cassie attended as a child, Cassie isn't exactly plagued by an overbearing parental unit. In fact, she spends a great deal of time feeling isolated from the rest of the world. Her father died in a car accident so early in her life that she has no recollection of him.

Cassie discovers at an early age that she is gay, although she doesn't recognize it as such at the time. In those days, she simply saw her interest in a particular television star as an adolescent crush. She gave little thought to what that meant until she met Mia. Mia turns Cassie's life upside down. Mia is Cassie's best friend. Cassie even begins dating Dan because he is friends with Mia's boyfriend Reece. That way, she is able to spend more time with Mia, using Dan as her beard. Her whole life changes when Dan manages to convince her to have sex while on an AP history field trip. She acquiesces, but the whole time he is touching her, she is imagining it is Mia. It is the only way her body will register any excitement. When Dan reveals the condom he used broke, Cassie doesn't give it much thought, and certainly doesn't panic. Dan is more upset, promising to 'be there for her' if anything comes of their interlude. When Cassie realizes she is pregnant, she tries not to think about it, almost hoping she is mistaken, but thinking she still has time to deal with it regardless. Her hormones and emotions are high when she and Mia are out shopping, and confined in a changing room with her, Cassie forgets herself in an unguarded moment and leans in, kissing her best friend. Mia might have reacted a hundred different ways, but Cassie would never have believed that her best friend would simply, slowly, freeze her out.

Alone, and without her best friend, Cassie faces her dilemma alone. She discovers that her pregnancy is too far along to abort, and quietly carries the child to term without telling a soul not even her mother. At the age of seventeen (four months previously), she quietly gives birth to a baby girl at home. She ties off the umbilical cord with a shoelace, and then wakes her mother. Laura is stunned, and tries to control the anger, surprise, and shock of her initial reaction, but can't quite keep herself in check as she surveys the scene Cassie presents her. It isn't until Cassie refuses to feed her baby girl that Laura realizes her daughter has no intention of keeping her baby. This of course sets off another tumble of emotion.

Four months later, they are a team on a scavenger hunt style game show, competing with other teams for a chance to win a million dollars. Laura has no idea that Cassie revealed her daughter's birth to the producers and that this is the likely reason they were chosen to participate. As the game progresses however, Cassie becomes increasingly emotional whenever she is confronted with young children, or mothers with



their babies. When one of the challenges involves the creation of a Christening style child's dress, Cassie comes apart. The producers happily film her emotional tirade as Cassie manages to disqualify herself and her current teammate. Laura continues on with another contestant to win the game and her half of a million dollars.

Laura Gardner

Laura is an administrator in an office at an elementary school. She originally takes the job to be close to Cassie, her daughter, as she went to school, and kept on afterward, enjoying the job itself. Laura has raised her seventeen year old daughter, Cassie mostly on her own. In a year, Cassie will be headed to college, and leaving home. This opens up a wide range of possibilities for Laura, and part of her fears the unknown. For the last seventeen years she's been Cassie's Mom. It is an identity or a shield of sorts that hid her even from herself. Now, with Cassie leaving, Laura would be facing the unknown. It is both nerve racking and exhilarating. Until four months ago, she had been somewhat preoccupied. While Cassie hid in her room, trying to conceal her pregnancy, Laura almost married a man she really didn't know. She met Curtis on line through one of the many dating services out there. It was a halfway mark for Laura, having recently lost a great deal of weight, and wanting to test drive the new and improved Laura. Even though she'd managed to lose a hundred pounds, she hadn't regained her confidence, so the dating site was her compromise. Since Laura had taken off so much weight, and was still sensitive about it, she didn't give voice to the thoughts that her daughter was putting on a few extra pounds. She knew how it felt to have someone point out the very thing you struggled with each day.

Laura's husband and Cassie's father died in a car accident early in Cassie's life, and Laura became a widow at the young age of twenty six. The marriage had been all but over anyway, but the fact that Laura had been thinking about divorce at the time of the accident only serves to amplify the guilt she feels. To cope, Laura ate. she ate a lot. When she finally loses the weight, and finds the courage to think about dating again, she meets Curtis through an on line site. He is attentive, although a little strange at times, and seemed a bit more needy than most. He sends her email cards, often twice a day, compares her to food and after only two months is sure he is ready to take Cassie on as her surrogate father. They are making plans to get married when Laura gives her head a shake and wakes up.

None of this makes up for the fact that she doesn't notice her own daughter's pregnancy however, and she will have to find a way to deal with it. When they get the phone call that they've been accepted to join the 'Lost and Found' show, Laura hopes it will give her and Cassie time to bond, heal, and find their way forward together. Instead, she finds love where she never expected to and her life takes a turn that surprises her and Cassie.



Carl

Carl and his teammate Jeff are brothers from Boston. They were born a year apart, married a year apart and divorced a year apart and Jeff quips that he is always one step behind his older brother, Carl. Carl's marriage ends when his son, Benjamin is two (a year previously) and he and his wife Jackie can't cope with the extra stress of child rearing. It is Jeff's idea to participate in Lost and Found after having tried to get on both Survivor and The Amazing Race without success and Jeff talks Carl into coming on the show with him. At first a bit reluctant, Carl finds he is enjoying it more than he thought he would, largely because of Jeff's company.

Carl's son Benjamin had health troubles early in life. Doctors had difficulty diagnosing his ailments, but finally realize that he is in need of a liver transplant. Carl volunteers to be the donor, and surgery is performed successfully, but the impact of Benjamin's illness remains. Carl and his wife live in constant fear for his health, and the strain takes its toll on their marriage, eventually separating them. Carl is motivated to do well, hoping that by winning the game, he will ensure Benjamin's possible medical needs are always met, and his future is secure. Instead, to his surprise, he finds Laura. Carl selects Laura as his new team member after watching Cassie choose Juliet instead of her mother for the last leg of the contest. Her disappointment is so apparent that Carl can't help but rescue her from the situation. Teamed up more than halfway through the game, they discover feelings for each other that neither expected. By the time Carl and Laura actually win the game, both are looking forward to a possibility of a future together and to win an additional romantic holiday as well.

Juliet Jansen

Former child star, Juliet's claim to fame is a television program called Best Friends. She began working in television at the age of thirteen months, her first job a commercial for an all purpose cleaner. From there, she did oatmeal and diaper commercials until at the age of three, she was cast to play a role in a sitcom called Partners in Crime. Some of her earliest memories go back to the filming of that show. After that, she played several guest spots and smaller roles in movies, before getting cast for Best Friends. After that show ended, Juliet's career was difficult for a time. She was at an age that was either too old or too young for the roles she wanted, and suing her parents for mishandling her income didn't help her situation. As such, she believes that this coverage will be what gets her career back on track. The truth is that this is all that Juliet has ever known. She has been famous for her entire life but has also been trying to get on a reality show for some time. Since her whole life has played out on television, the very idea seems made for her.

Juliet is aware of how fickle a reality show can be and as ready to stab anyone else in the back as may be necessary in order to succeed. She works to keep her perspective, but knows that hobnobbing with the 'little people' will only help her exposure and boost her desirability. She has been on television long enough to know that some things sell



ratings, and some don't. There are things she can do to increase her on air time, and she mulls over the options as she sees them. She can suffer an injury, but then the game would be over for her. She could romantically link herself with Dallas, but questions the wisdom of that partnership on any level. She could form a link with another player and she finds her thoughts drifting to Cassie from whom she'd felt a definite vibe earlier on. When Cassie selects her as a new partner, it is all too easy. A little flirting is just what is needed, and Cassie certainly seems receptive. She isn't sure how far to push it however, and contemplates the reaction to a shared kiss while Cassie is having a crisis on her own.

Juliet has never traveled well by car. She starts to feel ill as they are going over the Oresund Fixed Link - a bridge that stretches on for a long time, linking Sweden to Denmark and asks Cassie to stop. She gets out of the car, followed by cameraman, Elliott, and when Cassie gets out of the car to help hold her hair out of the way, Juliet is violently ill. The wind is so strong that they are both flecked with it when she is finished, mortified by the whole experience, but Cassie maintains her cool. Her compassion and understanding is just enough to push Juliet over another edge, and the camera catches her emotional upheaval as well, documenting her tears for all to see.

Jeff

Jeff and his brother Carl are from Boston. They were born a year apart, married a year apart and divorced a year apart - and Jeff quips that he is always one step behind his older brother, Carl. It is Jeff's idea to participate in Lost and Found after having tried to get on both Survivor and The Amazing Race without success. Jeff has always been a bit of a clown, and brings that out in Carl when they are together as well. Carl and Jeff are the first to figure out the riddle at the temple and give Barbara the correct keyword - 1819. Jeff has a Labrador retriever.

Justin

Justin is half of the couple that others are nicknaming 'Team Brimstone' because of the general tone of their participation. Justin first meets Abby at an ex-gay ministry called Redemption. Justin is not only dynamic in his demeanor, but convincing as well. An atheist at one time, he had gotten into an argument with a Christian, and come away a believer himself. It is the event that shapes his life, but Abby is the reason he can hold his head up. He is a man who has a wife that loves him. This defines Justin and he thanks God for her each and every day. Justin firmly believes that as long as he is repentant, there is no need for him to feel ashamed.

When Justin and Abby are tasked with separate challenges, cameraman Ken is sent with Justin while another cameraman is sent with Abby. Ken believes Justin is a hypocrite, and dangerous to all young, gay men. He manages to make his sexual preferences known to Justin, and sets out a temptation that Justin is unable to avoid. What Justin doesn't realize until later is that Ken filmed the entire sordid affair, and



informed the producers of his golden footage. When Ken reveals this to Justin towards the end of the game, Justin loses his composure, realizing that his whole life is about to come apart on National television. Of course, he realizes after his frank conversation with Ken that the entire ordeal was recorded by the microphones. He tries to compose himself to return to Abby, but is even more disturbed that he will be exposed as a hypocrite. He tries to think of a way to sabotage the program entirely, but his attempt to do so is lame. He is ashamed that he ever joined the game and hopes he can fix everything. When it comes to his turn to sit down and respond to Ken, Eli reminds him that now he has a chance to apologize to Abby - before she sees the segment for herself. He even tells Justin that tears might work, and Justin decides to go another way. He waits for the filming to begin, and charges the show and its producers with fraud, telling the audience that the winner is predetermined. Eli stops him, and tells him that his rants are futile. Disclaimers are run that prevent this kind of problem. Justin hardly hesitates before taking a ski pole and swinging it at the cameraman. The struggle that ensues is a shock to Abby and manages to get them disqualified, but not until after Barbara forces Justin to reveal all to Abby.

Abby

Abby is Justin's wife and half of what others nicknamed 'Team Brimstone.' Abby met Justin at a Redemption meeting where she was attempting to cast out the part of herself that is gay. She is comforted by Justin's surety that being gay is an abomination that can be cured with faith in God, and leans on him for support. She marries him, believing that by doing so she has purged herself of the part of her that prefers women over men. This in no way eradicates the memories or the desires that she has, despite the loving and steadfast comfort of her partner. When Abby discovers that her husband was filmed in bed with one of the cameramen, she is liberated from the farcical life she's been leading. She understands that his failure is indicative of a basic truth. She is who she is and wishing to be straight cannot make it so. Somehow, that fact gives her greater comfort than her entire marriage to Justin had.

Dallas McKinley

Former child star, Dallas is twenty-three years old now. His claim to fame is a program called President Scooter. Dallas is Juliet's partner until they reach the segment during which they are instructed to select new partners if they so desire. Dallas is almost eliminated when Cassie selects Juliet, who accepts. Jeff rescues him at the last moment after Trent turns him down. Dallas and Jeff finish in second place.

Barbara Fox

Barbara is the second host of the show so far, and at the age of forty three, she hopes that it will be her big break. She is a small woman with short blond hair who presents herself to be rigid to the point of almost unnatural, but this is simply her on air persona,



used to glean the position. Barbara has acted in the past, including a year long engagement on a soap opera. She also had smaller roles on sit coms and prime time dramas, even cast in an Academy Award winning movie, but her role hadn't made it past the cutting room floor. She was an anchor on a morning program in L.A. for three months, and for two years she worked as a field reporter for an entertainment magazine show. Barbara has a long list of credentials, but is mostly still an unknown. Her face is somewhat recognizable, but her name is not exactly a household name. This is the show she is hoping will change that. She is seen as an 'ice queen' of sorts by the contestants, but none of them seem to realize that this is the way she chose to present herself and not her off camera personality. This is the second season of Lost and Found, and the producers hope that Barbara's persona will come off better than the host used for the first season.

Betsy and Jason

Once high school sweethearts, they are recently reunited after a twenty-year separation. When they are eliminated, Betsy admits that what she has learned is that you can't go back.

Mariah and Brian

First team to be eliminated. Brother and sister from San Francisco. Brian is a schizophrenic who stopped taking his medications at some point during the game. After an episode in the natural history museum in Quebec where Brian had to be escorted out, they were eliminated.

Riley and Trent

These are millionaire inventors who are young and struggle with daily activities.

Wendy and Jillian

These are middle-aged flight attendants from Milwaukee, this team is eliminated from the competition early.

Ken

The cameraman assigned to Justin and Abby after the Daredevil Round in Osaka, Ken is a rugged and tough kind of man who has worked in countries all over the world. He is quiet for the most part, but pleasant. Tall and blond, he is very muscular. Ken is also gay and a fact he has yet to reveal.



Eli

This is one of the producers.

Brendan

This is the camera man for Cassie and her mother who thinks that Cassie makes for great film.

Elliott

This is another cameraman, assigned to Cassie and Juliet when Juliet has her minor breakdown.

Bengt and Nanna

This is the Swedish couple who take Abby and Justin to Jukkasjarvi.



Objects/Places

Lost and Found

Scavenger style television show filmed in the 'reality' style that has been done previously by shows like The Amazing Race and Survivor.

Aswan

This is the southernmost city in Egypt and where the story opens with seven remaining teams.

Temples of Abu Simbel

This is a cliff with four giant statues of Ramses carved into it. There are two temples on the site and the smaller is built for the favorite wife of Ramses II, Nefertari. The second statue on the left side is missing its upper half, which lie broken in the sand below.

Hotel Barona

This is the hotel where Justin, Abby, Cassie, and Laura get their sequins for this portion of the game.

Northern Cemetery

This is the final destination for each time in Egypt, this cemetery is home to more living than dead.

Beppu

This is the next destination after the teams leave Cairo.

Ryokan

This is a Japanese Inn.



Daredevil Round

Thrown in to shake things up every third country or so, Daredevil Rounds are when the teams are asked to do something difficult/dangerous/crazy stunt and the winning team is given a substantial head start on the next leg of the contest.

Oresund Fixed Link

This is a bridge that stretches on for a long time, held up by cables and linking Sweden to Denmark.

Redemption

This is an ex-gay ministry that teaches retraining for those who no longer want to be gay. Redemption is where Justin and Abby meet.

Kappabashi

Nicknamed kitchen town, Kappabashi is the section of Tokyo that sells restaurant supplies of all kinds. They sell a variety of plastic food used to display menu items for restaurants, etc.

Ni-Chome

A region in Tokyo where there are more gay bars per block than any other place in the entire world.

Hotel Coco

This is the gay hotel that Ken takes Justin to, exposing him for a fraud.

Belize (Reject Rendezvous)

This is the location where contestants who have been eliminated must wait for the rest to finish.

Narita Airport

This is where Cassie and Laura look up their numerical clue to take them to their next destination in Sweden.



Jukkasjarvi

Located in Swedish Lapland, this is where the numerical or alphabetical clue takes the contestants after they leave Tokyo.

Carnet

This is the customs process that the camera crews must go through.

Kiruna

In Swedish Lapland, Kiruna has a population of twenty six thousand.

Theater of Sleep

This is the name of the Daredevil Round in Jakkasjarvi.

Tunnelbana

This is the Stockholm subway often referred to as the world's longest art gallery, filled with sculptures and murals.

Oresund Fixed Link

This is a long bridge held up by two triangles of cables that takes them from Sweden to Denmark. The bridge slopes into the water, becoming a tunnel for the last few miles of the crossing.

Giant's Causeway

This is called the Eighth Wonder of the World, it is a marvel that occurs naturally.

Hot Springs

This is a resort town that in 1950 responded to a publicity dare and voted to change their town's name to Truth or Consequences.

Themes

Reality Television vs Reality

Reality television is the most popular television craze of our age. There are a multitude of shows that now depict just about any kind of reality that you can imagine, ranging from bachelors looking for new partners to shows seeking the next vocal extravaganza. Ordinary people from all walks of life dream of making it big, striking it rich, or finding true love. This story combines the excitement of travel with the challenge of figuring out clues and taking on daredevil style stunts to further a team's advantage. Those who are fortunate enough to be selected will do almost anything in order to be first at the finish line and collect their prize.

The remainder of us fall into the voyeur category. We sit in our living rooms watching these shows, identifying with what is represented as a cross section of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. We can all imagine what it would be like to win a million dollars and most would enjoy the opportunity to try their hand at winning. It is the same reason that many spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars each year on lottery tickets or other games of chance. For many, it is the only opportunity we have to pull ourselves out of debt, take a vacation, or ensure that our children get a decent education.

This novel does a wonderful job of representing the production side of reality television - the real world. In their reality, the only good contestant is one with a good story. The best television is the kind where people who are stressed to their limit come apart at the seams. In fact, as this novel represents, in many cases contestants are selected for that very possibility, and then scenarios that bring their private crisis to the forefront are thrown in their path at every opportunity. This is where voyeurism comes into play. The truth is that we need to know that everyone is struggling just as hard as we are. It gives us comfort to know that we are not in this struggle alone. That is the true reality of reality television.

The Fine Art of Parenting

Parenting is the most important job a person will ever have in their lifetime. Unfortunately, this fact is coupled with the reality that anyone can become pregnant, and have children. There are no exams, no criteria that must be met, and no base line of intelligence that is required. If you take a minute to consider the fact that the children we raise will not only be responsible for us in our old age, but also for raising the next generation, you might pause to consider why we are so blasé about the truth of this responsibility. The old adage, 'It takes a village to raise a child' was once used to explain how children learn from their parents, siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts and whatever people a parent socializes with. Children are like sponges, absorbing information from any and every source. There was a time when this adage applied in



most families. Now, in this changing reality of broken marriages, mixed families and transient lifestyles, it hardly applies.

Where are our children getting the bulk of their practical education? In most families that are still intact, or have reformed with new partners, both mother and father figures are required to work in order to maintain financial balance. Families are more spread out, and the internet is becoming more and more important. We have no time to instill in our children the important facts of life, and tell them about the responsibility of the torch we pass on to them. Children glean more information from television, the internet, and friends than they do from family or extended family. It is a frightening trend. As we rely more and more heavily on sitters to raise our children, and the electronic age to educate them, we grow farther and farther away from the only parenting model that works. Children need their parents to be active participants in their lives. They need to learn from our experience, benefit from our mistakes, and respect the path they follow. It is the only way that they will be able to continue the fine art of parenting.

In this story, Cassie finds herself pregnant after having sex with a young man that she is only dating so that she can be closer to her best friend, Mia. Cassie is gay. She hasn't told her mother, and revealed the information to her best friend by kissing her - alienating her in one flash of impulsive behavior. When she discovers that she is pregnant, she says nothing, keeping the fact a secret from her mother and her friends. If Laura had been more engaged in her daughter's life, and paid more attention to the verbal and non-verbal cues presented, she would have known, or perhaps at least suspected that her daughter was gay. If that information been brought out into the open, Cassie would likely not have become pregnant.

There are no handbooks, rules, guidelines or instructions that come with the most important job we will ever have. The fine art of parenting is one that should not be entered into lightly, or without thought to the lifetime of responsibility that follows.

Gay, Or Just Happy?

This novel touches on a subject that is touchy and sensitive to most people regardless of their sexual orientation. Those who are heterosexual have a difficult time understanding those who are either bisexual or gay and with good reason. To most heterosexual people, anything else is unnatural. Though public perception from a legal standpoint has certainly changed in the last twenty years, people are a little slower to follow.

Justin and Abby join Lost and Found in order to have the opportunity to tell people that they don't have to be gay. They can be happy in a traditional relationship under the watchful eye of God (which opens another can of worms we won't dwell on here). All they have to do is believe that everything they feel is wrong, and should be cast out. Justin takes this challenge on with a vengeance, hoping to educate the world that gay is wrong and is an abomination when the truth is that the real abomination is intolerance. Abby struggles to convince herself that life with Justin is right.... proper, and tries to



convince herself that what she really feels is just wrong. Her desires, her thoughts, and her needs are dealt with by seeking redemption, but finding Redemption does not give Abby the peace of mind she so badly desires. Both Abby and Justin led lives with gay relationships before joining Redemption, but were made to feel as though what they were doing was evil. They were shunned by family, and forced to live outside of normal familial acceptance. It is this rejection and isolation that led them to believe that what they were doing was inherently wrong - something that needed to be corrected. Cassie refuses to acknowledge her sexual preference, instead using her boyfriend Dan as a beard to spend more time with Mia, who is her true love interest.

If we are even half as tolerant of our diversity as we claim, those who are gay would not have to pretend to be happy. They would know that they had as much right to happiness as anyone else and with true acceptance, would find it.



Style

Point of View

The point of view used in *Lost and Found* by author Carolyn Parkhurst is a third-person omniscient narration in which a panoramic view of the entire story is given. This is revealed in the changing first person perspectives of each character as represented by the chapter named for them. Each of the main characters is presented revealing the thoughts and feelings they have. Using this method, the author is able to inform the reader of each character's knowledge and experiences, as told from their individual perspectives. The narration is reliable and competent without confusion or conflict.

This style of writing is almost essential for this kind of a story where teams are pitted against each other in an effort to win a great deal of money, and each team is selected for its potential for dramatic or explosive film opportunities. Each of the main characters is laid bare emotionally in one form or another throughout the game, some disqualified for emotional or physical outbursts; some reduced to tears and others to violence. In each case, the character, and his or her motivations are clear and concisely presented, allowing the reader to share an intimate moment in that character's life.

Setting

Lost and Found is a novel in which several pairs of contestants are selected to participate in a game show that involves traveling to all corners of the earth, and retrieving or collecting scavenger hunt style items that must be held onto until the finish line. The pairs are chosen from all regions. The book joins the game in progress on the sixth leg of the game and only seven teams remain. At each segment of the game, the contestants are required to solve riddles, figure out keywords, and retrieve items. The book begins in Aswan, Egypt where the remaining contestants have spent the night. From there, they travel to Cairo, and then head to Japan. In Japan, they visit several theme parks and Kappabashi (the kitchenware and restaurant supply district) before being sent to Sensoji Temple chosen as the meeting point for this leg. There, they are given a opportunity to change partners and spend the night. The next day, their clue will take them to Sweden. They are headed to the northern region of Lapland and the town of Jukkasjarvi. When they have completed the tasks in Sweden, and learned to use a weaver's loom in Ireland, they will drive across the Oresund Fixed Link to Denmark. They must sit in the Wishing Chair at the Giant's Causeway and then the remaining teams will head to Truth or Consequences, New Mexico for the grand finale.

Language and Meaning

Lost and Found written by Carolyn Parkhurst is written in regular English language despite the fact that much of the story takes place in regions of the world that are not native English-speaking countries. Although the language is simple and unchanging



from chapter to chapter, the characters themselves face challenges as they travel from one culture to another, tasked with unraveling clues that will lead them to the items they must collect as they go along. Each leg of the game takes them to another culture, and the author is adept at drawing the reader into each country by revealing some of the challenges associated. Many of the tasks the contestants are asked to complete are related to the country they are in. In Japan, for example, the contestants are required to find their way to a region that caters specifically to the restaurant trade, selling plastic representations of the food common to the region. Once they arrive, they must locate the traditional food type listed from that region, and purchase a plasticized version as one of the many 'found' items they will collect along the way. In Ireland, they are required to operate a weaver's loom to create a piece of cloth that was then stitched into a christening dress in an area that has been preserved as part of that country's heritage. In Sweden, they are sent north to Lapland where they spend the night in an area that typically is reserved for the construction of the yearly ice hotel.

By incorporating the details specific to each country, Parkhurst lends credibility to the story she weaves and although the language itself remains consistent, the use of country specific descriptions such as the drive across the Oresund Fixed Link between Sweden and Denmark lend an authenticity to her tale.

Structure

Lost and Found is a novel that is three hundred and four pages in length, and is divided into thirty six chapters. Each chapter ranges in length from two to eleven pages and contains an average of seven to ten pages overall. The chapters are titled using the character names that each chapter is about. The author uses a first person perspective for each chapter, giving the reader an in depth look at the character and the motivation driving them.

The main characters are distinguished by the number of chapters devoted to them by name. Cassie, for example, is featured in a total of seven chapters. Each chapter reveals a little bit more about who she is, and how she feels about herself and her life. Her mother Laura is featured in six chapters, and in many cases these chapter precede the chapter devoted to Cassie. Carl, the love interest that is developed for Laura is featured in five chapters and Juliet is also featured in five chapters as her character and Cassie interact. Abby is given six chapters while her husband Justin is featured in five. Barbara Fox, one of the main producers and the host of the game show 'Lost and Found' is featured in only two chapters. Her character development only requires a small amount of description.

The pace of this novel is steady, and filled with flashbacks that are important to character development, but this in no way impedes the reader's enjoyment of this story. Instead, these glimpses into the lives of the main characters serve to make them more realistic and the story much more believable.

Quotes

"I'm Barbara Fox and I'm standing in a hotel in Aswan, the southernmost city in Egypt, with the seven remaining teams in a scavenger hunt that will cover all the corners of the earth" (Chapter 1, p. 8).

"What would President Scooter do?" (Chapter 4, p. 31).

"Just because they have a different culture doesn't make them weird" (Chapter 6, p. 45).

"Don't you dare scratch" (Chapter 7, p. 59).

"Did you come here to win the game or to make friends?" (Chapter 9, p. 70).

"I'm having a little trouble with this" (Chapter 12, p. 87).

"Are you and Justin going to have kids?" (Chapter 15, p. 103).

"I hope you'll all think of me someday when you're casting Lost and Found: Washed-Up Hosts Edition" (Chapter 16, p. 114).

"We have both left homosexuality, and we're eager to spread the word" (Chapter 21, p. 152).

"I've got to say, this is the weirdest first date I've ever been on" (Chapter 22, p. 167).

"When this show airs, the whole world is going to see what a hypocrite you are" (Chapter 26, p. 203).

"They want me to have a breakdown, they want me to tell everyone" (Chapter 29, p. 228).

"Maybe it was all a grand leap of faith" (Chapter 31, p. 240).

"Abby, you've lost the game, but what have you found?" (Chapter 34, p. 255).

"You have carried these items on a journey that covered all the corners of the earth" (Chapter 35, p. 267).

Topics for Discussion

What are the basic rules of the game? What are some of the challenges they are given along the way? What kind of footage are the producers hoping to get? What changes with every leg of their quest and why?

What are Daredevil Rounds? How often are they issued? What examples of Daredevil Rounds have been issued in this game? Where were they issued? What is the purpose of a Daredevil Round?

What kinds of items are the teams asked to collect on their quest to the finish line? Which of their 'found' objects created the biggest challenges for the producers of the show? Why were these objects such a problem to keep? What special circumstances existed to maintain these items for each team, and why?

What television history does Juliet have? What shows has she acted in, and what kind of roles was she cast in? How does she feel that this gives her an advantage over the other teams? How many minutes does she calculate will actually air of this show, and in how many episodes? What options does she consider to increase her portion of this time?

What is unusual about Abby and Justin? What is the message they want the world to know? How likely are they to succeed as a couple? Why? What trap is set and for which one of them? How is it used? What is the outcome as a result? Where is this team eliminated and why?

What struggle is Cassie having on occasion? What triggers her anxiety? What happens that changes Cassie's chances of finishing the game? What or who sets Cassie up for an emotional scene? Where does it happen, and what is significant about the experience?

What secret does Carl prefer to keep to himself? What happens during the game that changes his possible future? When does Carl change partners? Why does this happen? What makes him select the partner that he does? At what point does he begin to think his life might be profoundly changed by this game and why?

Who is Barbara Fox? What kind of persona does she represent herself to be? How do the contestants feel about her? What are the main differences between the character she represents herself to be, and the real Barbara? What made Barbara choose to represent herself the way that she has? What advantage does she hope for as a result?

Where does Abby have the most difficulty and why? What does she try to do about it? Why isn't she supported by her husband at this juncture? What doesn't Justin



understand about this particular leg of the game show and how it affects her? How does he view her issues in this place and why?

What mistakes does Laura make where Cassie is concerned? What event is likely the main reason they were chosen for this game show? When does Laura discover that the producers are aware of this? In which ways during the game does Laura try to bond with Cassie, and why is each such an abject failure?

Who does Cassie bond with during the adventure? When did Cassie first become aware of this contestant's existence? What is the significance of this? What is Cassie's second foray into this emotional field and what is the outcome?

What task does Justin have the most problems with during this game show? Why is he so upset about having to complete the task at hand? What does he believe is at the root of this particular task and how does he respond to his part in completing it? Why?

What is the Giant's Causeway? Where is it found? What legends are associated with its creation? What task must be completed at this site? What do the producers hope will occur? What is the secret challenge? Who wins it, and what is the prize? How does this change things for the pair who won and why?

What items have to be presented at the end before the winning team actually qualifies to win? How many items are there and where was each item collected?