

# **Princess in Pink Study Guide**

## **Princess in Pink by Meg Cabot**

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# Plot Summary

Princess in Pink by Meg Cabot is the fifth book in the popular Princess Diaries series. In this novel, sixteen-year-old Genovian Princess Mia hopes her boyfriend will invite her to prom while dealing with a strike in the hospitality industry which results from an unfortunate incident that occurs during her birthday dinner. Princess in Pink is an engaging epistolary narrative about the problems of a typical girl who also happens to be the princess of Genovia.

As Mia's fifteenth birthday approaches, Mia laments the fact that her boyfriend, Michael, has not yet invited her to prom. Her friends believe he will ask her on her birthday, and Mia hopes that they are right. On Mia's birthday, Michael and his band perform a song written for Mia, and at dinner, Mia is pleased with her gifts; however, Grandmere's poodle escapes from her purse and trips Jangbu, the busboy, who spills lobster bisque on Grandmere and is fired.

The next day, Mia's best friend, Lilly, decides to fight against Jangbu's unfair dismissal, starting a protest which quickly escalates. At Mia's birthday party, Mia mentions prom to Michael while playing Seven Minutes in Heaven, but she is distraught when he says he would rather go bowling. Her night worsens when Lilly enters the closet with Jangbu during her turn at the game, leaving her boyfriend, Boris, devastated. The party ends when Mia's stepfather catches Lilly and Jangbu in the closet. Though Boris pleads with Lilly, she disregards his broken heart, but luckily, Tina is there to comfort him and become his new girlfriend.

The busboys' strike extends to the entire hospitality industry in New York, causing prom to be cancelled since there is nowhere to hold it. Mia's classmates blame her since the strike is Grandmere's fault. Luckily, Grandmere arranges for prom to be held on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, and Mia convinces Lana that prom will only be reinstated if she hires Michael's band to play, thus convincing Michael to take her to prom. While Michael's band plays at prom, Mia's mother goes into labor, so Mia and Michael rush to the hospital to greet Rocky, Mia's baby brother. Lilly laments losing Boris, but Boris and Tina are happy together. Mia is perfectly happy because she has become a big sister and was able to attend prom; she feels that she has finally become self-actualized.



## Section 1: pages 1-19

### Section 1: pages 1-19 Summary

Princess in Pink by Meg Cabot is the fifth book in the popular Princess Diaries series. In this novel, sixteen-year-old Genovian Princess Mia hopes her boyfriend will invite her to prom while dealing with a strike in the hospitality industry which results from an unfortunate incident that occurs during her birthday dinner. Princess in Pink is an engaging epistolary narrative about the problems of a typical girl who also happens to be the princess of Genovia.

The edition of The Atom, the school newspaper for Albert Einstein High School, for the week of May 5 lists the science fair winners, talks about the lacrosse team's victory and about Mia Thermopolis, Genovian princess, building homes for the poor during her spring break. On Wednesday, April 30, in Biology class, Mia tells Shameeka that she wishes Lilly would stop mentioning her in her letters to the editor because she is fine with covering the lunch menu since, as a freshman, she needs to pay her dues. Shameeka asks if Michael has invited Mia to prom yet since it is in less than two weeks, and though he has not, Mia is sure he will ask her soon. She would not go with anyone else anyway because she loves Michael. Shameeka hopes he asks soon because she does not want to be the only freshman girl at prom. In Health & Safety class, Mia writes a note to Lilly complaining that the substitute teacher assigned her a report on ice worms because she and Shameeka got caught passing notes. Mia also asks if Lilly's brother has mentioned prom to her, but Lilly insists that Michael does not discuss things like prom with her; however, if he invites anyone, it will definitely be Mia. She suggests Mia should ask herself why an outdated dance ritual is so important to her. Arguing that "prom plays a key role in the socialization process of the adolescent" (page 10), Mia lists movies as examples of the importance of prom. Mia chides Lilly for minimizing her pain when she has a legitimate concern. She is very stressed because she turns 15 tomorrow and is nowhere near being self-actualized. Plus, her father wants her to spend the summer in Genovia, her mother is pregnant, her boyfriend is leaving for college and her best friend does not understand why prom is so important. In Gifted & Talented class, Mia knows her friends have more important things on their minds besides prom, yet only she and Shameeka are thinking about prom at all. Prom is next week, and Michael still has not asked her. Shameeka suggests Mia could ask Michael, but imagining the difference between Michael asking her and her asking him, Mia insists asking him is not romantic. It is obvious that Michael is not thinking about prom since he is arguing with his band mates about their new song, a criticism of the situation in the Middle East. Mia believes this is what she gets for falling in love with a genius. Still, they are perfectly happy together, so she cannot imagine why he has not asked her to prom yet. Lilly mocks Mia for obsessing over it still, but when Michael asks what Mia is obsessing about, Lilly says Mia is worried about her ice worm essay.



## Section 1: pages 1-19 Analysis

This novel begins with a copy of Mia's school newspaper, *The Atom*, for the week of May 5. This serves to set up some background information about Mia and the typical high school she attends. It also includes Lilly Moscovitz's letter to the editor concerning Melanie Greenbaum's article about sexism which shows Lilly's tendency toward activism and foreshadows her involvement in the busboy protest. In Biology, Mia and Shameeka discuss prom and Mia's concern over the fact that Michael has not yet invited her, foreshadowing the importance of Mia's obsession with prom in this novel. Mia works on her report about ice worms, but she cannot focus because Michael has not invited her to prom yet. When Mia tells Lilly, her best friend, about her prom concerns in Health & Safety, Lilly dismisses her concerns as trivial. In argument, Mia lists movies to demonstrate the importance of prom in the adolescent's socialization process; the movies alluded to as an example of the importance of prom are as follows: *Pretty in Pink*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Valley Girl*, *Footloose*, *She's All That*, *Never Been Kissed* and *Back to the Future*. Lilly's suggestion that Mia invite Michael to prom results in an argument about whether Mia can do that which ends only when the bell rings. This dissent combined with Lilly's mockery of Mia's obsession with prom foreshadows the argument between the two best friends. This journal entry also serves to highlight Mia's concerns which foreshadows the focus of the novel on the following: prom, spending the summer in Genovia, Mom's pregnancy and her argument with Lilly. When Boris provides Mia with information that will be useful for the essay, Mia does not understand how Lilly puts up with him, and this foreshadows Lilly breaking up with Boris.



## Section 2: pages 20-37

### Section 2: pages 20-37 Summary

In French class on Wednesday, April 30, Tina understands how Mia feels because she has also always wanted to go to prom with the man she loves. She suggests Michael will ask Mia tomorrow on her birthday, and while Mia thinks it would make a great birthday present, she hopes he does not do it at her birthday dinner with her family. He is the only non-family member attending, and he is also coming to her party on Saturday night. In fact, Michael would be the best boyfriend ever if Mia could just nail him down about prom. Tina thinks Mia should just ask him, but Mia does not want to ruin prom being special, especially since her dad is dragging her to Genovia because she signed a contract seven months ago, before she fell in love. There is no way she is spending the summer before Michael goes to college in Genovia because it could be romantic if Dad did not ruin it all. In the limo on the way home from the Plaza, Grandmere asks what Mia wants for her birthday so Mia makes a list of ten items, including going to prom. Mia explains what prom is, and Grandmere suggests she should go alone. Mia cannot go alone because prom is only for seniors. Grandmere agrees that Mia should not ask Michael, but she suggests Mia can subtly hint about the subject. Mia doubts that will work since she is not good at subtlety. On Thursday, May 1 at 12:01 a.m., Mia announces she is now 15. She does not feel or look different so maybe her fifteenness will happen on the inside. She already has five birthday emails, the best being from Michael and signed with love. She is still thrilled when he tells her that he loves her, but she does not understand why he has not asked her to prom yet. Now that she is 15, Mia decides it is time to set aside childish things, so she makes a list of pledges which should help her become self-actualized and ready for joy. Her desire to go to prom will be difficult because she does not want Michael to feel pressured, but she has to go to prom with him!

### Section 2: pages 20-37 Analysis

Tina's fascination with the idea of going to prom with the man she loves foreshadows Tina finding her love and going to prom. Mia thinks she would be lost without Tina since no one else at school seems to understand romance. Her suggestion that Mia should approach the subject of prom with Michael shows repetition as Shameeka and Lilly also suggested this; Mia's refusal shows that she is more traditional than her friends since she believes it is the man's place to invite the woman to prom. Mia's concern with spending the summer in Genovia continues as she emphasizes that Dad is ruining her romantic notion of her last summer with Michael before he leaves for college. During princess lessons, Grandmere knows something is wrong but suspects Mia is upset about spending the summer in Genovia and insists they will have fun excavating the tomb of their ancestress in Genovia. Looking at a corpse does not compare to the summer Mia wants to have with Michael. Grandmere asks what is wrong because Mia is not listening to her important lecture on tipping. She hopes Mia is not still upset that



her mother plans to give birth at home with a midwife, but Mia suspects Grandmere is right that Mom will want to go to the hospital when she feels the labor pains. When Mia shares her concerns about prom with Grandmere, Grandmere offers her advice which is to subtly hint to Michael that she wants to go to prom, foreshadowing Mia's attempt to do so. At midnight, Mia finally turns 15, foreshadowing her birthday celebration; however, her obsessive disappointment with the issue of prom continues, and she insists she can become self-actualized if she attends prom as Michael's date. She hopes Tina is right about Michael asking her to prom for her birthday.



## Section 3: pages 38-51

### Section 3: pages 38-51 Summary

In "Thursday, May 1, My Birthday, Algebra," Josh has asked Lana to prom, and though one of Mia's resolutions is to be nicer to people, she wants to stab Lana with a pencil because Lana is practically gloating about prom. In G & T class, Mia praises Michael for sitting with her at lunch and bringing her favorite meal. She realizes something is going on because Michael made sure that Mrs. Hill is still in the teachers' lounge and Boris came out of the supply closet before the bell rang. In French, Mia writes about how Michael's band showed up in the G & T classroom to play a song Michael wrote for her, "Princess of My Heart." Later, Mia writes in the ladies' room at Les Hautes Manger that she is having the best birthday ever. Her parents are getting along, and even Grandmere is nice to Michael when he arrives late because of detention. Everyone gives Mia her gifts after Michael arrives. The best gift is from Michael who follows Mia to the bathroom so he can give her the gift privately. When he presents a box wrapped in gold foil, Mia objects since he already wrote her a song, but she secretly wonders if it is prom tickets. It is almost as good; the gift is a necklace with a tiny silver snowflake from when they went to the Nondenominational Winter Dance. Mia kisses Michael right there without caring who sees or whether it ends up in the tabloids because she is so happy. A noise from the hallway interrupts Mia's entry, especially when she realizes it is the sound of Grandmere screaming.

### Section 3: pages 38-51 Analysis

In Algebra on Mia's birthday, Mia's dislike of Lana is apparent as she expresses envy because Lana is going to prom while Michael still has not invited Mia. Mia knows she has a lot to be grateful for and does not mean to be ungrateful, but she does not think that one perfect night at prom is too much to request for her birthday. She worries that Michael feels like he has a lot to live up to for her birthday present, but she will be happy with him asking her to prom; however, Michael brings Mia lunch for her birthday and even performs a song he wrote for her, showing how much he loves her. This seems to suggest that Mia should broach the subject of prom with Michael because it appears that he cares enough about her to take her to prom if she tells him how important it is to her. The teachers waited until the song ended before giving the band detention, but Mia is amazed that Michael is romantic enough to write a song for her and get detention for her. Being 15 is looking good other than spending the summer in Genovia and the issue with prom. For her birthday, Dad gives Mia an expensive pen to further her writing career, and she receives a cell phone from Mom and Mr. Gianini so they can reach her when Mom goes into labor. Grandmere bestows a letter of sponsorship for an African orphan named Johanna, and Lars gives Mia a NYPD Bomb Squad baseball cap. Mia's favorite gift is a necklace from Michael that she writes about in the ladies' room of Les Hautes Manger. The sound of Grandmere screaming foreshadows the imminent fiasco, showing that Mia's happiness thus far on her birthday is only the calm before the storm.





## Section 4: pages 52-68

### Section 4: pages 52-68 Summary

On Friday, May 2, at midnight in the loft, Mia should have known things were going too well to be true. While she was in the ladies' room, Rommel, Grandmere's toy poodle, escaped from Grandmere's purse, causing chaos since the restaurant's patrons thought he was a large rat, and he eventually tripped a busboy who spilled lobster bisque on Grandmere. Mia believes Grandmere deserved it for bringing a dog to her birthday dinner; however, the busboy, Jangbu, was fired, and Mia's arguments with Grandmere and the maître d' were in vain. Mia feels guilty since Jangbu lost his job because she was born. She is sure he wishes she was not born, and she cannot blame him. In Algebra on Friday, May 2, the news about Grandmere and the incident is all over the city, and Lilly tells Mia that Grandmere has really done it this time. Mia is distracted by how hot Michael looks and wishing he would ask her to prom, but her thoughts return to Grandmere and Jangbu as she notes the papers do not mention Rommel or even hint that this was all Grandmere's fault. Lilly suggests they should go to Les Hautes Manger after school to protest Jangbu's unfair dismissal, but Mia feels she has enough to worry about. In French, Mia is furious that Mr. Gianini has the nerve to suggest that her relationship with Michael is distracting her from her schoolwork since she did not do well on her last quiz. Mia disagrees; one bad grade does not mean her grades are slipping or that she is spending too much time with Michael. In Biology, Shameeka tells Mia she should ask Michael to the prom because she cannot accept if he does not ask by the party since a girl has to have some pride and cannot let him take her for granted. She advises Mia to let him know she is in charge. In G & T, Lilly will not stop talking about Jangbu's plight. The editor of the school newspaper asks Mia to write the story, but Mia cannot write against Grandmere, even though she was wrong! Tina asks what Mia is going to do about Michael not asking her to prom yet, and she suggests Mia should mention it at her party. As Lilly continues her tirade, Mia explains she cannot join the protest after school because she has princess lessons, so Lilly accuses her of not caring about Jangbu's figuratively starving three children. Mia agrees to ask Grandmere to convince the manager to give Jangbu his job back since that is the least she can do.

### Section 4: pages 52-68 Analysis

The next several pages of the novel fulfill the earlier foreshadowing concerning the fiasco that takes place at Les Hautes Manger on Mia's birthday. She received nearly everything she wanted for her birthday, but she is not destined for a normal life as proven by the fact that Grandmere brought her dog, Rommel, to dinner with them. Grandmere insists Rommel has Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and will lick his fur off if left alone, but Mia thinks his problem is living with Grandmere. Rommel escaped from Grandmere's purse and tripped a busboy, Jangbu, who spilled soup on Grandmere and lost his job. Trying to appeal to Grandmere's good nature, Mia asked what the difference is between Jangbu and Johanna, her sponsored orphan, but Grandmere insists the



difference is that Jangbu spilled soup on her. Mia's next three entries, at 1 a.m., 1:05 a.m. and 1:10 a.m. mention that she is never taking off the necklace from Michael, except when she goes swimming so she will not lose it, and he loves her! Lilly's reaction to the incident at Les Hautes Manger foreshadows her involvement with the pending protest and with Jangbu, and the fact that the story spread throughout the city foreshadows how important it will become in Mia's imminent life. Lana slaps a copy of the New York Newsday on her desk, showing a picture of Grandmere leaving the restaurant with Rommel, and asks why Mia's family is so full of freaks. Mia agrees it is a good question, showing her irritation with her family, especially Grandmere. Mia being asked to write about the incident foreshadows her story being published. This section reveals that Mia is concerned with Jangbu's plight, but she is more focused on her own, personal problems, like prom.



## Section 5: pages 69-84

### Section 5: pages 69-84 Summary

In the limo on the way home from Grandmere's, Mia is irritated that Grandmere is acting like the incident never happened. She tells Grandmere that her friends are picketing, and when she turns on the television, she is surprised to see the news covering Lilly's protest which includes busboys from all over the city. Grandmere comments only on Lilly's clothing because she is impossible. Back at the loft, Mia comes home to find Mom and Mr. Gianini arguing over baby names and about where to buy supplies for Mia's party. Mia puts on headphones and turns on the computer for solace, but Lilly has already sent a mass email to everyone at school about supporting the Jangbu protest. She also sent a personal email to Mia saying she missed her at the rally and Jangbu is coming tomorrow. Michael also emails Mia to ask why she was so quiet during G & T, so Mia tries to implement subtlety in her response by saying she feels like she has forgotten something about this time of year. Unfortunately, Michael suggests she seems to be forgetting algebra and offers to help her study on Sunday. Depressed because her boyfriend is so clueless, Mia goes to bed. In "Saturday, May 3, Day of the Big Party," Mom invites Mia to accompany her and Mr. Gianini to buy party supplies, but Mia is so depressed that she pretends to have a sore throat. Alone, Mia feels like a failure because her boyfriend has not asked her to prom, she does not want to spend the summer in Genovia, she cannot help her best friend with the protest though the situation is her fault, and she does not care about her slipping Algebra grade. She decides that perhaps watching Lifetime movies will give her the courage to face her own problems. At 7:30 p.m., half an hour before the party is to begin, Mia writes that watching Lifetime movies is not a good idea because watching what other women endured makes her feel inadequate. Even worse, Mom and Mr. Gianini had a great time at BJ's without her. She cannot work up enthusiasm over their purchases, so she thinks maybe she cannot bear the weight of her newfound womanhood since she has turned 15. She wonders if this is all about Michael not asking her to prom yet, realizing she should be happy she has a boyfriend at all. Still, she thinks having a birthday party is a bad idea because unpopular princesses should not have parties, even for their unpopular, nerdy friends. She is sure no one will come, and she will spend the party alone, but the buzzer rings meaning a guest has arrived, and Mia prays for the strength to make it through the night.

### Section 5: pages 69-84 Analysis

Grandmere's complete and total indifference concerning the incident with Jangbu is obvious as Mia shows her the protest on television and her only reaction is to comment on Lilly's clothes. Foreshadowing begins to be fulfilled as Lilly emails the entire school about her protest plans. Mia finds it exhausting to have a boyfriend and a best friend who are both geniuses: "their mental gymnastics are totally beyond me" (page 75). Mia also receives an email from Tina who thinks they should play Seven Minutes in Heaven



during the party because no one can resist anything his girlfriend asks while they are getting hot and heavy in a closet. This foreshadows Tina's scheme, and it also shows that Tina is a good friend who takes Mia's concerns about prom seriously, opposed to Lilly who thinks Mia's obsession with prom is frivolous. Mia tries to employ Grandmere's advice by subtly hinting to Michael about prom, but her attempt fails miserably, leading to her depression that lasts into the next morning. In an attempt to cheer herself up, Mia decides to watch Lifetime movies; however, this just further depresses her as she realizes the seriousness of the things that other women have endured, making Mia's own concerns seem frivolous and juvenile. She describes the plights of the heroines in "The Taking of Flight 847: The Uli Derickson Story," "The Abduction of Kari Swenson," "A Cry for Help: The Tracey Thurman Story," "Sudden Terror: The Hijacking of School Bus #17," "She Woke Up Pregnant," and "Miracle Landing." She wonders if her negativity is all related to her concern about prom, leading to her feelings that she is too unpopular to have a birthday party. Despite Mia's feelings about her unpopularity, the arrival of a guest foreshadows the imminent party.



## Section 6: pages 85-102

### Section 6: pages 85-102 Summary

At 2 a.m. on Sunday, May 4, Mia writes that her life is officially over since everyone is obviously part of a plot to drive her mad. When Lilly arrives with her arms around Jangbu, Mia is shocked she brought him without asking especially since her boyfriend is in the next room. Luckily, Lilly releases Jangbu to remove his jacket as Boris comes over to greet her. Mia does not tell Michael for fear he will start a fight since Boris is his friend. Things are looking up until Tina convinces Mr. Gianini to go to the store for more soda and Ling Su gets Mom to show her artwork in the studio. Tina announces they are going to play Seven Minutes in Heaven. Michael and Mia begin kissing in the closet, but when Mia mentions prom, Michael says prom is even stupider than this game. He suggests going bowling instead, and as he continues to mock the prom, Mia starts crying because her boyfriend has no interest in attending prom. Their turn ends, and Mia forgets her grief when Lilly announces it is her turn and drags Jangbu into the closet. She cannot believe how cavalier Michael is when he tells Boris tough break. Mr. Gianini returns and ends the party when he finds Lilly and Jangbu in the closet. Now, Mia lays here broken because she has seen hopes and dreams crushed under despair in Boris's face when Lilly emerged from the closet. Her own eyes are hollow and haunted by the dream of prom which is now over, as is her life.

### Section 6: pages 85-102 Analysis

The beginning of Mia's journal entry on Sunday, May 4 at 2 a.m. indicates that her birthday party did not go well. Tina had begun discussing her plan to play Seven Minutes in Heaven when she arrives, and Boris asks where Lilly is since he has not seen her since the protest that afternoon. Michael arrives with a music mix which he begins to play. Lilly's arrival with her arms around Jangbu foreshadows her decision to break up with Boris, and this is foreshadowed more heavily later when Lilly chooses Jangbu to spend seven minutes in the closet with her during Seven Minutes in Heaven. When Mia and Michael enter the closet, Mia finally mentions prom to him, but she is devastated when he tells her that prom is lame. Mia is also irritated that Michael does not react to Lilly choosing Jangbu over Boris. Mia asks if Michael is going to do something, but he does not care who his sister locks herself up with; he would punch the guy if it were Mia, but Lilly can take care of herself. He feels badly that Jangbu is being taken advantage of, but he says Boris will get over it. After Mr. Gianini sends Mia's guests home, Mia laments in her room, comparing her despair about prom to Boris's despair at seeing Lilly with Jangbu. At 9 a.m. the next morning, Mia finds it hard to despair when her mother and stepfather are listening to such loud music. It is enough to make her consider moving to Genovia, but she decides she just wants them to turn the music down.



## Section 7: pages 103-119

### Section 7: pages 103-119 Summary

Around noon, Mia's plans to spend the day in bed are ruined when Mom attempts to give her a sex talk about her relationship with Michael. At 7 p.m., it seems everyone calls to check on Mia today. Dad calls to ask about the party, and Grandmere insists on Mia accompanying her to dinner on the 7th with the sultan of Brunei. She notices Mia seems upset, but when Mia tells her that Michael does not want to go to prom, Grandmere offers to call Prince William. Mia explains Michael is not going with someone else: he does not want to go at all, so Grandmere says that Mia just needs to find the right incentive. Still, Mia cannot imagine what would make Michael get over his prejudice against prom. At 9 p.m., Mia receives an email from Michael explaining that things are tense because of Boris and Lilly's breakup, but he is trying to stay out of it and reminds Mia that it is not her problem either. He tells her to call him if she wants to grab dinner or work on her algebra homework. She has not heard from Lilly, but she is curious what Lilly has to say for herself, as is everyone else. She receives instant messages from Tina, Shameeka and Boris about what is going on with Lilly. Boris wonders if Lilly is upset with him, and Mia wants to kill Lilly for this because, "it's so hard when your best friend is a genius riot grrrl feminist/socialist champion of the common man" (page 119).

### Section 7: pages 103-119 Analysis

Near noon, Mom suggests they should talk. Mom knows about Lilly and Jangbu being in the closet, and since she knows Michael and Mia are very much a couple, she offers to set up an appointment with the gynecologist if Mia wants to discuss birth control, though she would prefer Mia to wait until she is older. Mia assures Mom that she and Michael are not having sex. Noting how late Mia is in bed, Mom hopes she is not upset about Mr. Gianini ruining her party, and since Mia refuses to tell her she is upset that Michael does not want to go to prom, Mom finally leaves. Mia cannot believe Mom tried to have the sex talk with her when Lilly has gotten to more bases than she has even though Mia is the one who has supposedly found her soul mate. "Life is so unfair" (page 109). When Grandmere calls later and finds out Mia is still upset about prom, Grandmere again offers advice which is that Mia should find the right incentive to change Michael's mind, and based on Mia's previous attempt to follow Grandmere's advice, this foreshadows Mia trying to find the right incentive to convince Michael to escort her to prom. The email that Michael sends Mia indicates that he knows she is upset but does not understand why she is upset; this indicates that Michael might take Mia to prom if she would just tell him how important it is to her. It seems like Michael does not realize how upset Mia is about prom which is likely since she did not tell him how she feels. Mia also receives several emails concerning Lilly's behavior, indicating that no one understands why Lilly acted the way she did at Mia's party, and Mia is very irritated with her best friend's actions.



## Section 8: pages 120-140

### Section 8: pages 120-140 Summary

On Monday, May 5 in Homeroom, Mia finds out that Lilly was at a citywide busboys strike yesterday. Lilly looks pleased when Mia's limo stops to pick her up, so Mia asks if she has talked to Boris yet, but Lilly ignores her and talks about the march on City Hall. In Biology, Mia tells Shameeka that Michael thinks prom is lame, but Shameeka thinks she should talk to him about it. Mia refuses because she is afraid Michael will think she is lame for liking prom. In G & T, there is an uncomfortable silence because Boris is not practicing the violin because he is so heartbroken, but Lilly pretends not to feel his grief. She had refused to talk to him privately at lunch, telling him that he needs to accept that she is no longer in love with him. Now, Boris stares at Lilly, and Mia seems to be the only person in the room who notices that something is happening. In the nurse's office, Mia could tell what was coming because, as a writer, she naturally observes human interactions. Boris jumps up and insists that Lilly can not do this to him, but when Lilly gently tells him she is in love with Jangbu, he grabs a heavy globe and threatens to drop it on his head if Lilly does not retract her statement. She tells him to go ahead, and though Boris seems to reconsider, he drops the globe, and it bounces off his head. Michael rushes to Boris while Lars runs to get the teacher. As Mia presses her sweater to the wound to stop the bleeding, Lilly starts crying, and a teacher sends Boris to the nurse's office. The nurse compliments Mia's quick reaction, and Mia is impressed with herself for not fainting at the sight of blood. When Tina asks if Boris tried to stab himself with a protractor later in French class, Mia tells her what really happened, and Tina thinks it is romantic. Mia agrees, hoping that Lilly is rethinking her love for Jangbu, but Tina says she has always thought Boris is cute and he has great hands.

### Section 8: pages 120-140 Analysis

Lilly's involvement with the busboys' strike progresses as it spreads from a protest against Jangbu's unfair dismissal to a citywide strike, foreshadowing that the situation will worsen before it improves. Mia cannot believe how everything has gotten out of control because of Rommel and Lilly. Mia does not speak to Michael because she is still mad about prom; she has not told him how important it is to her, but she feels that a soul mate should know. Lilly ignores Mia's questions about Boris; she is so cold that Mia does not know why she is friends with her sometimes, foreshadowing their pending argument. Shameeka's advice that Mia should talk to Michael about prom reinforces the idea that Michael would relent if he knew how Mia feels, yet Mia does not want Michael to think she is lame because she likes prom. Mia is disappointed in Lilly for behaving so coldly toward Boris, but she is impressed with her own reaction to Boris's theatrics which result in him being sent to the nurse's office. Tina thinks the story is romantic, and combined with her comment about Boris having great hands, this foreshadows Tina beginning to date Boris now that Lilly has dumped him.



## Section 9: pages 141-159

### Section 9: pages 141-159 Summary

On Monday, May 5, in the limo on the way to princess lessons, Mia enjoys how everyone at school is talking about Michael and her saving Boris's life. When Mia arrives for princess lessons, Grandmere tells her that she has found the perfect prom dress at Chanel so they need to schedule a fitting, but when Mia explains that she and Michael are still not going, Grandmere insists Mia needs to find the right incentive; Michael wants what every man wants. Mia thinks Grandmere is a genius as she realizes she should convince the prom committee to let Michael's band play at prom. At 9 p.m. at the loft, Mia finds out that Lana Weinberger is the head of the prom committee which means Mia's plan is hopeless since Lana hates her. She realizes other people have worse problems, though, like Boris who emails her to express gratitude for her help and to admit Lilly is a wild mustang that he cannot tame. Deciding to check on Lilly, Mia emails her, but Lilly responds with commentary about missing Mia at the press conference and how romantic Jangbu is. Shocked at Lilly's dismissal of Boris' pain, Mia suggest Lilly should spare some sympathy for Boris, but Lilly refuses to be held hostage by Boris's antics, and she furthermore mocks Mia's writing at the school paper and the time she spends watching television, calling Mia weak and telling her to leave problems to people like Lilly. Mia furiously decides that Lilly is no longer her best friend. When Mia checks her email before bed at 11 p.m., she nearly cries because Michael had written to ask if she is mad at him, then wrote again saying he knows she would tell him if she was mad, but he hopes it is not because he would not beat Jangbu up at her party because it is a bad idea to get involved in Lilly's love life. Mia does not understand why he will not take her to prom! In G & T on Tuesday, May 6, Mia is having a horrible day. Mia decides to compose a poem, "Spring Fever," and submit it to The Atom anonymously; "the way I see it, I have nothing to lose. It's not like things can possibly get any worse" (page 159).

### Section 9: pages 141-159 Analysis

Enjoying the praise that follows "saving Boris's life," Mia thinks that Mom should let her deliver the baby instead of hiring a midwife, and maybe she should reconsider becoming a writer because "my talents may lie in a completely different sphere" (page 141). In the lobby of the Plaza, Mia is irritated when she learns she will need good science and math grades to get into medical school. She wonders why the educational system is conspiring to keep her from her career goals by requiring math. When Mia tells Grandmere that she is not attending prom, Grandmere offers her advice yet again, suggesting that she simply needs to find the right incentive to persuade Michael to invite Mia to prom. The implication is that she is suggesting sexual favors, but Mia misunderstands and decides Grandmere is ingenious for suggesting she should get Michael's band to play at prom. Grandmere is confused by Mia's epiphany, but Mia is impressed that her grandmother is being modest for the first time ever. Still, she tries to





convince Grandmere to get Jangbu reinstated at his job, yet Grandmere insists Jangbu can return to his native country, showing her continued indifference regarding the strike. Mia's discovery that Lana is in charge of the prom committee results in despair as she knows Lana will never agree to Skinner Box playing at prom. She turns her attention to Lilly and Boris, but she is very disappointed in Lilly's attitude and dismissal of Boris's pain. Their conversation leads to a fight between Lilly and Mia, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. More importantly, Michael's email indicates that he realizes Mia is upset, though he does not understand why, and this concern suggests that Michael would relent on his stance concerning prom if he knew how important it is to Mia. On Tuesday, May 6 at 3 a.m., Mia still cannot believe Lilly's nerve in saying that Mia wastes her time watching television. As proof of the ridiculousness of Lilly's claim, Mia lists the valuable tips she has learned from movies. Stating that she is having a horrible day on May 6, Mia offers the following as proof. She failed her pop quiz in Algebra, plus she had no one to partner with for her Health & Safety project since she and Lilly are not talking. She accidentally ate meat at lunch, and Michael still has not changed his mind about prom.



## Section 10: pages 160-179

### Section 10: pages 160-179 Summary

On Tuesday, May 6, at St. Vincent's Hospital, Mia notes that things got worse, and it is her fault for saying they couldn't. Mom passes out in the frozen foods section at the Grand Union, but luckily, firefighters are there to take her to the hospital. Mia is bored in French class when her cell phone rings, and she is shocked to receive a call from Captain Pete Logan telling her about Mom's situation. Mia rushes to Mr. Gianini's classroom with Lars, and the three of them rush to the hospital where they learn that Mom passed out because she was dehydrated, but the hospital staff assures them that Mom and the baby are fine. They are allowed to visit Mom in the emergency room briefly, and she assures them that it is not a big deal. Now, Mia and Lars sit in the waiting room, waiting for Mom to be released. Michael walks in. Later, at the loft, Mia is amazed that Michael is so sweet. He had been worried because she had rushed out of class, so he had called her dad and found out what was wrong. He had rushed to the hospital after school. CNN is airing a special about proms, but when Mia asks Michael if it looks fun, he says bowling would be more fun. If she wants to go dancing, he will take her to the Rainbow Room. Furthermore, he says that he might go if his band mates were going, but they would not be caught dead at something as lame as prom. Mia does not understand why Michael thinks prom is so lame, but she refuses to let it ruin her nice family night with Mom and Mr. Gianini. While working on her Health & Safety report about Asperger's Syndrome, Mia becomes convinced that she and her friends suffer from the disease, but she is disappointed when Mom insists they do not because the disease would give her an excuse to forgive Lilly's behavior and would explain Mia's obsession with prom. At 3:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, Mia realizes what she has to do though she does not want to do it. Michael said he would go to prom if his friends were going, but Mia cannot believe how low she has to stoop. The Atom, week of May 12, publishes Mia's article about the "Incident at Les Hautes Manger" in which Mia blames Grandmere and Rommel for Jangbu's unfair dismissal. "Spring Fever" is also published anonymously, and a story about Boris's head injury appears along with Lilly's letter to the editor about the need to help the people in Nepal by promoting tourism.

### Section 10: pages 160-179 Analysis

Mia's next entry begins by admitting she jinxed herself by claiming things could not get worse, obviously foreshadowing that they did get worse. She proceeds to explain how Mom fainted and was taken to the hospital, and Mia's concern for her mother and her unborn sibling shows her love and devotion to her family. She is also impressed that Michael rushed to the hospital after school to support her. Mia realizes prom is not so important after the scare with Mom; but, of course she still wants to go. Mia tries to convince Michael that prom will be fun in vain, but his comment about possibly going if his band mates were planning to attend reinforces Mia's belief that it would be a good idea to get the prom committee to hire Skinner Box to play at prom. Mia begins working



on her report about Asperger's Syndrome for Health and Safety class, but as she lists and describes the symptoms of the disorder, she becomes increasingly convinced that she, Lilly, Michael, Boris and Tina need to be tested. Maybe her teacher suspected as much and assigned her this disease because of it! Later, Mia asks Mom if she suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, but Mom reminds her of when she thought she had Tourette's last month when she did a report on that disease. She assures Mia that she does not have Asperger's, and though she admits Lilly is not normal, she doubts Lilly has Asperger's either. Mia is disappointed because then she could forgive Lilly, but there's no excuse for how Lilly has treated her if she is not suffering from a disease. Mia is also sad that she does not have the disease as it would mean her obsession with prom is a symptom of the disease which she cannot control. Mia's concern about stooping so low at 3:30 a.m. on May 7 foreshadows her decision to ask Lana to allow Skinner Box to play at prom. Meanwhile, the new edition of *The Atom* fulfills the earlier foreshadowing regarding the anonymous publication of "Spring Fever" as well as the publication of Mia's article about the incident at Les Hautes Manger. The appearance of this article in which Mia blames Grandmere for the strike also foreshadows Mia's fight with Grandmere and Dad as a result. Boris also submits a letter to Lilly, pleading with her not to let their love die this way.



## Section 11: pages 180-199

### Section 11: pages 180-199 Summary

On Wednesday, May 7 in Algebra, Mia does it, but it does not go well. She asks Lana to allow Skinner Box to play at prom, but Lana refuses, mocking Mia and her friends as geeks. In G & T, hotel workers join the busboys' strike, and the restaurant union is expected to follow soon, costing the tourism industry millions of dollars because of Rommel. Lilly attends a press conference which is televised, and Michael is disgusted because he believes Lilly's interest in the welfare of busboys has more to do with her interest in Jangbu. At the Plaza, Mia is unprepared for the chaos caused by the strike. Grandmere is on the phone, arguing about room service, and Dad tells Mia that the union representatives are meeting in the mayor's office in hopes of working out a negotiation. Grandmere tells Mia she has something for her in the bedroom, and Mia opens the door to see the prettiest pink prom dress ever, causing a lump in her throat since she is still not going to prom. Grandmere insists Mia try it on so she can get the necessary alterations, but it fits perfectly and Mia removes it sadly since Michael will never see it since he hates prom. Mia returns to the main room in time to see Lilly come across the television blaming Grandmere and offering Mia's article as proof of Grandmere's fault in Jangbu's dismissal. Grandmere and Dad turn to stare at Mia, looking very unhappy. On Thursday, May 8 in Homeroom, The Atom publishes an article announcing that prom is canceled due to the strike, and as a result, Mia gets dirty looks, and someone even writes "Genovia sucks" in graffiti. Lana even accuses Mia of getting prom cancelled intentionally because Lana would not allow Skinner Box to play.

### Section 11: pages 180-199 Analysis

Mia laments having to grovel to Lana. Mia arrives to class early and tells Lana she needs to ask her something, but Lana refuses before hearing the question. Continuing, Mia suggests Lana should hire Skinner Box to play at prom, yet Lana only mocks the band of geeks before refusing again. Mia does not have time to beg on her knees because Michael arrives. She is still upset about prom, fighting with Lilly, her inadequate first story, her fear for Mom and spending the summer in Genovia; it is too much for one 15-year-old girl to handle, and it is amazing she has managed to maintain the little composure she has left! Mia's comments about the busboys' strike spreading to include the restaurant union fulfills the earlier foreshadowing concerning how this affair would escalate. Mia loves the prom dress that Grandmere buys her, but she is sad because she still is not planning to attend prom as Michael has not relented. When Grandmere sees Lilly use Mia's article about the incident as proof that Grandmere should apologize in a press release, this fulfills the earlier foreshadowing that Mia casting blame on Grandmere in her article would lead to arguments with her family. At 10 p.m., at the loft, Mia does not understand why they are so upset; she told the truth, and they cannot blame her for exercising her journalistic integrity. They call Mom, but Mom agrees with Mia, though she thinks Mia should apologize just to keep the peace. Mia disagrees



because this fiasco has caused her so much heartache. Luckily, she stuck the prom dress in her bag right before Grandmere told Lars to remove Mia from her sight. Mia cannot believe her country's reputation is being besmirched because of prom, but she knows she needs to do something since it is her fault; she just does not know what to do. In Algebra, Lana blames Mia for getting prom canceled because she would not allow Skinner Box to play, and when Mia insists it is Grandmere's fault, Lana says all Genovians are the same, even though Mia is the only Genovian she has ever actually met. The animosity toward Mia because prom is cancelled foreshadows Mia's need to fix the situation.



## Section 12: pages 200-219

### Section 12: pages 200-219 Summary

In Biology class, Shameeka is not mad at Mia because she knows prom being canceled is not Mia's fault. She also tells Mia that Tina asked Boris to grab an iced hot chocolate yesterday, and they were holding hands this morning. Mia and Shameeka skip their next class to drag Tina into the third-floor stairwell to find out what is going on with Tina and Boris. Tina admits she has always wanted a romantic boyfriend, and Boris fits her idea of the perfect boyfriend other than his looks because he is loyal, passionate, intelligent and musical. He is also a good kisser. At the loft at 3 p.m., Lars gets Dad's permission to take Mia home early from school for her safety because of the projectiles being launched at her. When someone rings the doorbell, Mia hopes it is Michael. Later, Mia writes that her guest was the wrong Moscovitz, and she cannot believe Lilly's nerve in visiting her. Mia invites Lilly in coldly since it would not be princess-like to slam the door in her face, but she is stunned silent when Lilly begins crying and ranting about Boris and Tina. Lilly wants her boyfriend back, and she cannot believe Tina did this to her. Mia reminds Lilly of how she treated Boris, and she also defends Tina who has been a better friend to Mia lately than Lilly has been. Lilly admits that she yielded to her lust with Jangbu, but that is over now because she cannot be with a guy who is willing to sell his life story to the press. Jangbu is making a small fortune by selling his story to several publications. Mia feels sorry for Lilly but is not yet ready to forgive her. She warns Lilly that she does not have a chance of getting Boris back and advises her to leave him and Tina alone if she really cares about Boris. Agreeing, Lilly also apologizes to Mia for calling her weak before she leaves. When someone rings the doorbell again, Mia is horrified to hear Grandmere's laughter. On Friday, May 9, at 1 a.m., Mia lays on the futon couch in the loft, believing this must be a nightmare. Grandmere is unable to stay at the hotel because of the strike, so she turns to family and insists on staying at the loft. After she barges in, Dad calls to talk to Mom, insisting there is nowhere else for Grandmere to go, so Mia is forced to give up her room and sleep on the couch.

### Section 12: pages 200-219 Analysis

Shameeka tells Mia that Tina and Boris went out yesterday and were holding hands this morning, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing that Tina and Boris would end up dating. Tina believes he is her Mr. Rochester, a concept Mia cannot understand since she thinks Boris is insane, even though she likes him. Shameeka points out that Boris does not have to be perfect for Tina forever, but still, Mia cannot imagine Boris and Tina together. As Mia's peers become more angry about prom being cancelled, they begin to turn against Mia. Mia is furious at Grandmere because her peers all hate her, and she worries what will happen if she can never return to school. She does not like AEHS, but it is better than homeschooling or being sent to school in Genovia. Lilly cries to Mia about losing Boris, but Mia tells Lilly to leave Boris and Tina alone. Lilly and Mia finally make up, ending their feud. The sound of Grandmere's laughter foreshadows her



arrival, and this foreshadowing is quickly fulfilled as Mia learns that Grandmere is going to stay with her family since there is no service available at the hotel. Listening to Grandmere snore, Mia hopes the strike ends soon. It is bad enough to live with a neurotic cat, a pregnant mother and her Algebra teacher, but the addition of the dowager princess of Genovia is driving Mia insane.



## Section 13: pages 220-232

### Section 13: pages 220-232 Summary

On Friday, May 9 in Homeroom, Mia writes that she is attending school today because it is Senior Skip Day so most of the people who hate her are not at school today. Plus, it is better than staying home since Grandmere orders her around and monopolizes the bathroom. Mom threatens vengeance against Mia and Mr. Gianini for leaving her alone with Grandmere today. The school is calm without the seniors. Michael still came to school to escape home where his parents are lecturing Lilly about skipping school for the protests. Things are looking up though because Michael kissed Mia when they stopped for breakfast. In Algebra, Mia is excited because good things rarely happen to her. Grandmere calls to say she took care of the problem with prom by finding a place it can be held despite the strike. Impressed that Grandmere saved prom for AEHS, Mia realizes she can still save prom for herself, so she tells Lana that Grandmere can acquire a new location for prom on one condition. When Lana agrees, Mia kisses her forehead and rushes to Michael's classroom to tell him the prom committee chose his band to play at prom so his friends will be there. She begs him to say yes because she wants to go to prom so badly and she believes she can achieve self-actualization if she and Michael go to prom together. Michael agrees since Mia feels so strongly about it, so she kisses him before returning to Algebra class to tell Lana that Skinner Box will definitely play at prom. At home, Mia tries to ignore the bickering between Mom and Grandmere so she can focus on the joy of going to prom.

### Section 13: pages 220-232 Analysis

Mia is ecstatic to return to school and escape Grandmere, but her irritation at Grandmere quickly dissipates when Grandmere tells her she has arranged for prom to be held in an alternate location. Mia comes up with an idea to save prom for herself as a result, bribing Lana to let Skinner Box play by insisting that is the condition on which the alternate location can be utilized. Lana's agreement foreshadows Michael agreeing to attend prom, and this foreshadowing is quickly fulfilled when Mia tells Michael the plan and he agrees that Skinner Box will perform at prom. Mia is ecstatic at her good fortune and cannot focus enough to care about anything other than the fact that she and Michael are going to prom together. At the loft around 7 p.m., Mia is irritated by Mom and Grandmere's bickering because she needs to focus on going to prom tomorrow. She wants to tell them to shut up, but instead, she decides to listen to the mix Michael made for her birthday and try to drown them out with the Flaming Lips. Two minutes later, she switches to Kelly Osbourne because not even the Flaming Lips can drown out Grandmere.





## Section 14: pages 233-245

### Section 14: pages 233-245 Summary

At 7:04 p.m. on Friday, May 9, Mia can finally hear herself think. Michael calls to let her know the band will be practicing all night. The guys are not thrilled about playing prom, but Michael insists a gig is a gig. Mia cannot wait to enter prom on Michael's arm. Tina is also going, with Boris since she is his new muse. When the phone rings, Mia hopes it is Dad saying the strike is over and he is sending the limo for Grandmere. When Tina calls at 7:30 to express excitement about prom and ask how they got so lucky, Mia tells her "because we are both kind and pure of heart" (page 237). At 8 p.m., Mia feels sorry for Lilly who found out Boris is taking Tina to prom. She cries about ruining her life, and Mia assures her that she will love again. On Saturday, May 10 at 7 a.m., Mia complains that Rommel and Fat Louie woke her up while they were fighting. She decides to get ready for prom at Tina's house, though she is sorry to leave Mom and Mr. Gianini alone with Grandmere. At 2 p.m., Mia and Tina return to safety at Tina's house after getting their nails done. This is how she is supposed to spend prom, though she is sorry Mom cannot be here. The strike negotiations are not promising, but Mia's only concern today is looking beautiful for prom. At 8 p.m., in the limo on the way to prom, Mia is so excited that she can barely contain herself. She and Tina look fabulous, and she knows the boys will be amazed when they meet them at prom.

### Section 14: pages 233-245 Analysis

The fact that Boris invites Tina to prom indicates the progression of their relationship, and it also foreshadows Mia's decision to prepare for prom with Tina. At 7:10 p.m., Mia writes that Michael called to discuss the playlist for prom, but when he asks about the yelling in the background, Mia explains it is Mom and Grandmere arguing about whether Grandmere can smoke in the loft; Grandmere insists even Hitler and Mussolini allowed her to smoke at tea. Michael points out that Grandmere was a small child during World War II, and Mia is stunned because she has always thought Grandmere had been brave and diplomatic because of her stories about saving the palace from the Nazis. Still, Mia cannot be mad at her because Grandmere saved prom. Tina and Mia become increasingly more excited about prom, but Lilly continues to be sad that she chased Boris away. It is hard to deal with Lilly's crisis when she is so happy. Mia is surprised when Lilly admits that she never let Boris get to second base, but she knows the news will make Tina happy as she wonders if she and Michael will get to second base since it is prom and she is wearing a strapless gown. Mia's decision to get ready for prom at Tina's fulfills the earlier foreshadowing, and Mia and Tina enjoy spending the day getting ready for prom. Mia's sole focus of the day is to look beautiful for prom; she is a normal girl for this one day and refuses to allow herself to dwell on anyone's problems, including her own. She decides that fifteen is the best age ever, and Mia believes she is the luckiest girl in the world as they arrive at prom.



## Section 15: pages 246-256

### Section 15: pages 246-256 Summary

At 9 p.m., on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, Mia is so happy that Grandmere caused the strike because otherwise, prom would have been held at Maxim's and Michael would have never agreed to come. It sucks that she cannot dance with Michael since there is no music when the band breaks, but on their last break, Michael puts his arm around Mia's shoulder, and she thinks they got to second base, though she is uncertain if it counts since it was outside of her bra. Her cell phone rings. On Sunday, May 11 at 1 a.m., Mia is at the maternity ward in St. Vincent's Hospital. Not only has she become a woman tonight, she also has become a big sister! Her brother, Rocky Thermopolis-Gianini, is born five weeks early, but the doctors expect him and Mom will be fine. Grandmere and Mom had been alone when Mom's water broke because Mr. Gianini had gone to the store to escape Grandmere. Grandmere had called for help, and neighbors helped hail a cab and summon Mr. Gianini. Mia, Michael, Lars, Dad, Lilly and Hans meet at the hospital, and two hours later, Mia's baby brother Rocky is born. At 3 p.m. in the loft, Mia writes that the strike is officially over and Grandmere has returned to the Plaza. The restaurateurs had caved to the busboys' demands, except Jangbu who collected money for his story and moved back to Nepal, financially secure for life. At the hospital, Mia is also happy because Michael told Dad that he cannot hold Mia to her contract to spend the summer in Genovia because she is a minor. Dad is not pleased, but it is obvious he knows that he has been beat. Mia loves having a boyfriend who is a genius. Now, she can stay in New York for most of the summer. Plus, she has a baby brother, has written her first story for the paper and has gotten a poem published, and she had gotten to go to prom; "Oh, my God. I'm self-actualized. Again" (page 256).

### Section 15: pages 246-256 Analysis

Mia's arrival at the prom fulfills the earlier foreshadowing that Mia would get to attend prom. In fact, she has a magnificent time until her cell phone rings because Mom goes into labor; however, becoming a big sister only improves Mia's wonderful night. Mia, Michael and Lars meet them at the hospital about thirty minutes after Mia receives the call, and Dad, Hans and Lilly join them soon after. It is a tense two hours before the doctor announces it is a boy, and Mia is disappointed for a split second because she wanted a sister to share things with; however, it does not seem so terrible when she thinks of all the things she can do with a baby brother. When Mr. Gianini starts crying, Mia realizes she and Mom have been chosen to raise an awesome man, just like Michael, except Mia swears that Rocky will not think prom is lame when he is old enough to attend. Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, the strike finally ends. After Mia had left prom, Boris had taken over lead guitar for Michael, and Lana had gotten upset because Josh, her date, ruined prom and her last memories before he leaves for college. Mia does not have to worry about Michael going to college because he is going



to school nearby, and her memory of prom night will always be Michael waiting with her family for Rocky to be born as he tells Dad that Mia cannot be held to her contract to spend the summer in Genovia since she is a minor. By the end of the novel, all of Mia's concerns are neutralized, and she decides, yet again, that she has finally become self-actualized.



# Characters

## Mia Thermopolis

Mia Thermopolis is the main character and narrator of *Princess in Pink*. She is the fifteen-year-old Princess of Genovia who lives in New York City with her mom, stepfather and cat, Fat Louie. The novel is written as a part of Mia's journal so the entire narrative is comprised of Mia's thoughts and reactions to the events that occur. As Mia's fifteenth birthday approaches, Mia laments the fact that her boyfriend, Michael, has not yet invited her to prom. Her friends believe he will ask her on her birthday, and Mia hopes that they are right. On Mia's birthday, Michael and his band perform a song written for Mia, and at dinner, Mia is pleased with her gifts; however, Grandmere's poodle escapes from her purse and trips Jangbu, the busboy, who spills lobster bisque on Grandmere and is fired.

The next day, Mia's best friend, Lilly, decides to fight against Jangbu's unfair dismissal, starting a protest which quickly escalates. At Mia's birthday party, Mia mentions prom to Michael while playing *Seven Minutes in Heaven*, but she is distraught when he says he would rather go bowling. Her night worsens when Lilly enters the closet with Jangbu during her turn at the game, leaving her boyfriend, Boris, devastated. The party ends when Mia's stepfather catches Lilly and Jangbu in the closet. Though Boris pleads with Lilly, she disregards his broken heart, but luckily, Tina is there to comfort him and become his new girlfriend. The busboys' strike extends to the entire hospitality industry in New York, causing prom to be cancelled since there is nowhere to hold it. Mia's classmates blame her since the strike is Grandmere's fault. Luckily, Grandmere arranges for prom to be held on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, and Mia convinces Lana that prom will only be reinstated if she hires Michael's band to play, thus convincing Michael to take her to prom. While Michael's band plays at prom, Mia's mother goes into labor, so Mia and Michael rush to the hospital to greet Rocky, Mia's baby brother. Lilly laments losing Boris, but Boris and Tina are happy together. Mia is perfectly happy because she has become a big sister and was able to attend prom; she feels that she has finally become self-actualized.

## Lilly Moscovitz

Lilly Moscovitz is Mia's best friend. She is a genius and an activist, and Mia notes that "it's so hard when your best friend is a genius riot grrrl feminist/socialist champion of the common man" (page 119). Lilly mocks Mia's concern about prom. The day after Mia's birthday and the incident at Les Hautes Manger, Lilly decides to fight against Jangbu's unfair dismissal, starting a protest which quickly escalates. At Mia's birthday party, Lilly enters the closet with Jangbu during her turn at *Seven Minutes in Heaven*, leaving her boyfriend, Boris, devastated. The party ends when Mia's stepfather catches Lilly and Jangbu in the closet. Though Boris pleads with Lilly, she disregards his broken heart, but luckily, Tina is there to comfort him and become his new girlfriend. Lilly remains



involved with the strike, but this leads to a huge fight between Mia and Lilly during which they do not speak for several days because Lilly calls Mia weak. Lilly appears on television several times as she promotes the strike which extends to the entire hospitality industry in New York City, causing prom to be cancelled.

Eventually, Lilly visits Mia unexpectedly. Mia invites Lilly in coldly since it would not be princess-like to slam the door in her face, but she is stunned silent when Lilly begins crying and ranting about Boris and Tina. Lilly wants her boyfriend back, and she cannot believe Tina did this to her. Mia reminds Lilly of how she treated Boris, and she also defends Tina who has been a better friend to Mia lately than Lilly has been. Lilly admits that she yielded to her lust with Jangbu, but that is over now because she cannot be with a guy who is willing to sell his life story to the press. Jangbu is making a small fortune by selling his story to several publications. Mia feels sorry for Lilly but is not yet ready to forgive her. She warns Lilly that she does not have a chance of getting Boris back and advises her to leave him and Tina alone if she really cares about Boris. Agreeing, Lilly also apologizes to Mia for calling her weak before she leaves. Lilly meets Mia and Michael at the hospital on prom night when she learns that Mia's mother went into labor.

## Grandmere

Grandmere is the dowager princess of Genovia and Mia's grandmother. She teaches Mia's princess lessons. At Mia's birthday dinner at Les Hautes Manger, Grandmere's poodle escapes from her purse and trips Jangbu, the busboy, who spills lobster bisque on Grandmere and is fired. Grandmere refuses to acknowledge the incident, even as it causes an increasingly widespread strike. She tries to help Mia with her prom issue, suggesting that Mia needs to find the right incentive to convince Michael to escort her to prom. Grandmere also buys Mia a prom dress, but she is furious when Lilly reads Mia's article about the incident at Les Hautes Manger since Mia blames Grandmere and Rommel for the fiasco. When prom is cancelled because of the strike, Grandmere arranges for prom to be held on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, making it hard for Mia to be angry at Grandmere for anything else since she saved prom.

## Michael Moscovitz

Michael Moscovitz is Mia's boyfriend and Lilly's older brother. Michael plays in the band, Skinner Box, and he writes and performs a song for Mia on her birthday entitled "Princess of My Heart." When Mia asks Michael if they are going to prom, he tells her that prom is lame and he would rather go bowling. After prom is cancelled and Grandmere arranges for it to be held at an alternate location, Mia convinces the head of the prom committee to hire Skinner Box to play, claiming that is the only way that prom will be held, so that Michael agrees to attend prom with Mia since his band is playing. Michael leaves prom to accompany Mia to the hospital when she learns that her mother



has gone into labor. At the hospital, he tells Mia's dad that Mia cannot be held to her contract to spend the summer in Genovia because she is a minor.

## **Helen Thermopolis**

Helen Thermopolis is Mia's pregnant mother who eventually gives birth to Rocky Thermopolis-Gianini, Mia's baby brother.

## **Mr. Gianini**

Mr. Gianini is Mia's stepfather and Algebra teacher.

## **Boris Pelkowski**

Boris Pelkowski is Lilly's boyfriend who is heartbroken when she dumps him for Jangbu. He drops a globe on his head during G&T as part of his attempt to convince Lilly to take him back. Tina comforts Boris and becomes his new girlfriend.

## **Tina Hakim Baba**

Tina Hakim Baba is one of Mia's friends. She dates Boris after Lilly dumps him. Tina and Mia prepare for prom together.

## **Lars**

Lars is one of Mia's bodyguards.

## **Hans**

Hans is one of Mia and Grandmere's bodyguards.

## **Rommel**

Rommel is Grandmere's toy poodle who escapes from her purse during Mia's birthday dinner at Les Hautes Manger. Rommel trips Jangbu, causing the busboy to spill lobster bisque on Grandmere and lose his job. This leads to the busboy protest which escalates into a full-blown strike throughout the hospitality industry in New York City.



## **Jangbu Panasa**

Jangbu Panasa is the busboy at Les Hautes Manger who is fired when he trips on Rommel and spills lobster bisque on Grandmere. Lilly begins a protest against Jangbu's unfair dismissal, and she also breaks up with her boyfriend, Boris, and begins dating Jangbu. Ultimately, Jangbu sells his life story to the tabloids and returns to Nepal with enough money to be wealthy for the rest of his life.

## **Lana Weinberger**

Lana Weinberger is the head of the prom committee and Mia's nemesis. She refuses to hire Skinner Box to play at prom until prom is cancelled due to the strike and Mia insists they can only hold the prom on the observation deck of the Empire State Building if Lana allows Skinner Box to play. Lana agrees reluctantly. Lana's prom night is ruined by her boyfriend's obnoxious behavior.

## **Phillipe Thermopolis**

Phillipe Thermopolis is the prince of Genovia and Mia's father.

## **Rocky Thermopolis-Gianini**

Rocky Thermopolis-Gianini is Mia's baby brother who is born on prom night. Mia plans to raise him to be the perfect boy.



# Objects/Places

## Albert Einstein High School

Mia attends school at Albert Einstein High School.

## The Atom

The Atom is Mia's school newspaper. She writes the lunch menu weekly, but her editor also asks Mia to write a story about the busboy strike. Mia also anonymously publishes a poem, "Spring Fever."

## New York City

New York City is the main setting of Princess in Pink since this is where Mia lives with her mother and stepfather.

## Genovia

Genovia is a small country of which Mia is a princess. She is upset because she signed a contract with Dad to spend the majority of the summer in Genovia, but she is happy when Michael tells Dad that he cannot hold Mia to the contract because she is a minor.

## Princess of My Heart

Princess of My Heart is the song that Michael writes for Mia's birthday, and Skinner Box performs it for her at school.

## Les Hautes Manger

Mia's birthday dinner is celebrated at Les Hautes Manger, and it goes well until Rommel trips Jangbu who is fired after spilling soup on Grandmere.

## Spring Fever

Spring Fever is the poem that Mia writes and anonymously publishes in The Atom.





## **Grand Union**

Mom is shopping at Grand Union when she faints from dehydration. Luckily, firefighters take her to the hospital.

## **St. Vincent's Hospital**

Mom is taken to the Emergency Room at St. Vincent's Hospital after she faints at Grand Union. She also gives birth to Rocky in the maternity ward at St. Vincent's at the end of the novel.

## **Skinner Box**

Skinner Box is the name of Michael's band which plays at prom.

## **1005 Thompson St, Apt 4A**

Mia lives at 1005 Thompson St, Apt 4A with her mother, stepfather and her cat, Fat Louie. This is also where her birthday party is held.

## **Empire State Building Observation Deck**

When prom is cancelled because of the strike in the hospitality industry, Grandmere arranges for prom to be held on the observation deck of the Empire State Building. Mia uses this as leverage to convince Lana to allow Skinner Box to play at prom so she can convince Michael to take her to prom. Mia and Michael leave prom early when Mom goes into labor.



# Themes

## Mia's Obsession with Prom

The most frequently recurring theme in this novel is Mia's obsession with prom. The novel begins with Shameeka and Mia discussing the fact that prom is only two weeks away and Michael still has not invited Mia. Mia cannot focus on her schoolwork because she does not understand why Michael has not yet invited her to prom. Lilly mocks Mia's obsession with such an antiquated dance ritual. Several of Mia's friends suggest that Mia should just ask Michael to prom, but she refuses because that is not nearly as romantic as Michael inviting her to prom. Tina suggests that Michael might ask Mia to prom on her birthday, and Mia begins to look forward to that possibility; however, her birthday passes without an invitation to prom, so at her birthday party several days later, Mia mentions prom to Michael while playing Seven Minutes in Heaven, but he tells her that prom is lame and he would rather go bowling. Mia is distraught and feels that her life is over. Shameeka believes Mia should just talk to Michael about how important prom is to her, but Mia fears that Michael will think she is lame for wanting to go to prom.

When Mia shares her concerns with Grandmere, Grandmere suggests that Mia just needs to find the right incentive to convince Michael to go to prom with her. Mia thinks Grandmere is a genius as she realizes she should convince the prom committee to let Michael's band play at prom. She comes upon a problem, though, when she learns that the head of the prom committee is her nemesis, Lana Weinberger. Still, Mia talks to Lana because Michael says he would go to prom if his band mates were going to attend. Unfortunately, Lana refuses to book a band filled with geeks for prom. After prom gets cancelled because of the strike in the hospitality industry, Grandmere arranges for prom to be held somewhere else despite the strike. Realizing she can still save prom for herself, Mia tells Lana that the new location is contingent on hiring Skinner Box to play at prom, and once Lana agrees, Mia rushes to Michael's classroom to tell him the prom committee chose his band to play at prom so his friends will be there. She begs him to say yes because she wants to go to prom so badly and she believes she can achieve self-actualization if she and Michael go to prom together. Michael agrees since Mia feels so strongly about it, so she kisses him before returning to Algebra class to tell Lana that Skinner Box will definitely play at prom. Mia is ecstatic at her good fortune and cannot focus enough to care about anything other than the fact that she and Michael are going to prom together. On the day of prom, Mia and Tina get dressed together, and Mia refuses to be concerned about anything other than looking beautiful for the dance. Mia cannot believe how lucky she is as she attends the prom, but her night improves even more when her mother goes into labor and gives birth to Rocky, making Mia a big sister. Mia realizes she and Mom have been chosen to raise an awesome man, just like Michael, except Mia swears that Rocky will not think prom is lame when he is old enough to attend.



## Busboy Strike

One theme in *Princess in Pink* is the busboy strike which affects many aspects of Mia's personal life. The issue begins at Mia's birthday dinner at Les Hautes Manger. While Mia is in the ladies' room, Rommel escapes from Grandmere's purse, causing chaos since the restaurant's patrons think he is a large rat, and he eventually trips a busboy who spills lobster bisque on Grandmere. The busboy, Jangbu, is fired. Mia feels guilty, but her attempts to convince Grandmere and the maître d' to reinstate Jangbu are in vain. The story has spread all across the city by the next morning, and Lilly suggests they should go to Les Hautes Manger after school to protest Jangbu's unfair dismissal, but Mia feels she has enough to worry about. As Lilly continues her tirade, Mia explains she cannot join the protest after school because she has princess lessons, so Lilly accuses her of not caring about Jangbu's figuratively starving three children. Mia agrees to ask Grandmere to convince the manager to give Jangbu his job back since that is the least she can do. Grandmere refuses to acknowledge the incident, even when Lilly's protest appears on the news. Mia cannot believe it when Lilly arrives at her birthday party with Jangbu whom she chooses to accompany her into the closet when they play *Seven Minutes in Heaven*. On May 4, Lilly attends a citywide busboys' strike, and Mia cannot believe how badly things have spiraled out of control. Lilly seems pleased with herself about the march on City Hall, infuriating Mia. Mia and Lilly wind up fighting about Lilly's dismissal of Boris's pain, and Lilly insults Mia. The Atom, week of May 12, publishes Mia's article about the "Incident at Les Hautes Manger" in which Mia blames Grandmere and Rommel for Jangbu's unfair dismissal. Eventually, hotel workers join the busboys' strike, and the restaurant union is expected to follow soon, costing the tourism industry millions of dollars because of Rommel. Lilly attends a press conference which is televised, and Michael is disgusted because he believes Lilly's interest in the welfare of busboys has more to do with her interest in Jangbu.

At the Plaza, Mia is unprepared for the chaos caused by the strike. Grandmere is on the phone, arguing about room service, and Dad tells Mia that the union representatives are meeting in the mayor's office in hopes of working out a negotiation. When Lilly appears on the television blaming Grandmere and offering Mia's article as proof of Grandmere's fault in Jangbu's dismissal, Grandmere and Dad turn to stare at Mia, looking very unhappy. On May 8, The Atom publishes an article announcing that prom is canceled due to the strike, and as a result, Mia gets dirty looks, and someone even writes "Genovia sucks" in graffiti. Mia cannot believe her country's reputation is being besmirched because of prom, but she knows she needs to do something since it is her fault; she just does not know what to do. In Algebra, Lana blames Mia for getting prom canceled because she would not allow Skinner Box to play, and when Mia insists it was Grandmere's fault, Lana says all Genovians are the same, even though Mia is the only Genovian she has ever actually met. Grandmere is unable to stay at the hotel because of the strike, so she turns to family and insists on staying at the loft. After she barges in, Dad calls to talk to Mom, insisting there is nowhere else for Grandmere to go, so Mia is forced to give up her room and sleep on the couch. Listening to Grandmere snore, Mia hopes the strike ends soon. Mia is excited when Grandmere calls to say she took care of the problem with prom by finding a place it can be held despite the strike. On the day



of prom, the strike negotiations are not promising, but Mia's only concern today is looking beautiful for prom. At 3 p.m. in the loft, Mia writes that the strike is officially over and Grandmere has returned to the Plaza. The restaurateurs had caved to the busboys' demands, except Jangbu who collected money for his story and moved back to Nepal, financially secure for life.

## Mia's Problems

Besides the prom, Mia spends a great deal of the novel stressing about various issues that arise in her personal life. Obviously, prom is the one that takes the most precedence in her mind; however, there are actually bigger issues at play here. For starters, the problems with the busboy strike results from Mia's birthday dinner during which Rommel trips Jangbu and causes him to spill lobster bisque on Grandmere, and as a result, Jangbu loses his job. This leads to the busboy strike which quickly extends throughout the service industry. Mia is stressed because she is nearly 15 and is nowhere near being self-actualized. She does not want to spend her summer in Genovia, but she signed a contract with her father to spend the majority of the summer in Genovia. By the end of the novel, Michael tells Mia's dad that he cannot hold her to the contract because she is a minor, so this problem is eventually eliminated. Mia is also upset that Lilly does not understand why prom is so important, but this concern is soon replaced by the fight the girls have due to Lilly dumping Boris, her involvement with the busboy strike and her decision to insult Mia. Eventually, the girls make up; Lilly regrets dumping Boris, learns more about Jangbu and apologizes to Mia.

Another issue that causes stress for Mia is the fact that her mother is pregnant. She is concerned that Mom wants to deliver her sibling in the apartment with a midwife, but she is sure Grandmere is right that Mom will want to go to the hospital as soon as she feels the labor pains. Still, Mia is worried when Mom faints from dehydration and is taken to the Emergency Room. Mom goes into labor during prom and gives birth to Mia's younger brother, Rocky. The article that Mia writes for the school paper about the strike in which she blames Grandmere and Rommel causes dissension in her family, and prom being cancelled due to the strike leads Mia's peers to verbally attack her and throw things at her. To make matters worse, Grandmere decides to stay at Mia's apartment since she cannot tolerate the lack of service at the hotel, and Mia cannot stand living with Grandmere who commandeers Mia's bedroom. Mia also struggles with her grade in Algebra, and she is forced to work on her Health & Safety report alone because she is not speaking to Lilly when the project is assigned. Mia decides to focus only on looking beautiful on prom day, disregarding all of her other concerns. The next day, she is extremely happy because she attended prom, the strike ends, and Michael told Dad he cannot hold Mia to her contract to spend the summer in Genovia because she is a minor. Additionally, her baby brother has been born, and she has written her first real story for the school newspaper. Mia feels that she has finally become self-actualized.

# Style

## Point of View

Princess in Pink is an epistolary novel written from the point of view of a first person, limited narrator. The point of view is reliable. The type of point of view is verified by the fact that the narrative is limited to Mia's thoughts and feelings which is significant since the novel is compiled as Mia's journal. The use of this point of view is important because it maintains the focus on Mia and the problems that arise in her life which come largely from being part of the royal family of Genovia but also from being a typical teenager.

The novel is written using mostly exposition which is appropriate since the novel is supposed to be part of Mia's journal. The small amount of dialogue that is used is actually Mia's recollection of conversations she has. This distribution is useful because it maintains the focus on Mia's experiences and her reactions to those experiences. The viewpoint of the novel is told solely through Mia's eyes.

## Setting

This novel is set in the real world, in modern-day New York City. The characters are mostly average Americans with the exception of Mia, Dad and Grandmere who are Genovian royalty. This status leads to many of the novel's crises, such as the busboy strike.

Mia attends school at Albert Einstein High School. New York City is the main setting of Princess in Pink since this is where Mia lives with her mother and stepfather. Genovia is a small country of which Mia is a princess. She is upset because she signed a contract with Dad to spend the majority of the summer in Genovia, but she is happy when Michael tells Dad that he cannot hold Mia to the contract because she is a minor. Mia's birthday dinner is celebrated at Les Hautes Manger, and it goes well until Rommel trips Jangbu who is fired after spilling soup on Grandmere. Mom is shopping at Grand Union when she faints from dehydration. Luckily, firefighters take her to the hospital. Mom is taken to the Emergency Room at St. Vincent's Hospital after she faints at Grand Union. She also gives birth to Rocky in the maternity ward at St. Vincent's at the end of the novel. Mia lives at 1005 Thompson St, Apt 4A with her mother, stepfather and her cat, Fat Louie. This is also where her birthday party is held. When prom is cancelled because of the strike in the hospitality industry, Grandmere arranges for prom to be held on the observation deck of the Empire State Building. Mia uses this as leverage to convince Lana to allow Skinner Box to play at prom so she can convince Michael to take her to prom. Mia and Michael leave prom early when Mom goes into labor.



## Language and Meaning

The language used in *Princess in Pink* tends to be casual and informal. The grammar is typical of how a teenaged girl would write in her journal which is appropriate for the epistolary format of the novel. This language aids comprehension as the reader becomes well-acquainted with Mia who seems like an average American teenager, despite being Genovian royalty. The language characterizes Mia's unique position as a typical American teen with typical problems as well as the additional problems that arise from being Genovian royalty.

The novel is written using mostly exposition which is appropriate since the novel is supposed to be part of Mia's journal. The small amount of dialogue that is used is actually Mia's recollection of conversations she has. This distribution is useful because it maintains the focus on Mia's experiences and her reactions to those experiences. The language aids the writing style because it is easily comprehensible for the target audience of American teenagers to understand. Overall, the language used assists in making the novel easy to read.

## Structure

*Princess in Pink* is comprised of 256 pages which are divided into 70 journal entries. Each entry averages around five pages in length. The entries are titled according to the date, time and place where Mia writes. The entries are fairly short, and some are vague while others are more detailed. Each entry spans a brief amount of time as the entire novel takes place between April 30 and May 11, less than two weeks.

*Princess in Pink* by Meg Cabot is the fifth book in the popular *Princess Diaries* series. In this novel, sixteen-year-old Genovian Princess Mia hopes her boyfriend will invite her to prom while dealing with a strike in the hospitality industry which results from an unfortunate incident that occurs during her birthday dinner. *Princess in Pink* is an engaging epistolary narrative about the problems of a typical girl who also happens to be the princess of Genovia. The pace of the novel is fairly slow, but it is easy to read. The story is linear with minimal background information provided. Overall, the novel is very entertaining and enjoyable.



## Quotes

"Only that Michael is my one true love and he's graduating and so if we don't go to the prom this year I'll never get to go. Unless we go when I'M a senior, but that won't be for THREE YEARS!!!!!!!!!!!! And besides, by that time Michael might be in graduate school. He might have a beard or something!!!! You can't go to the prom with someone who has a BEARD."

Wednesday, April 30, Health and Safety, page 9

"Still. It could have been totally romantic, if my dad hadn't gone and ruined it all."

Wednesday, April 30, French, page 23

"Well. That's it. I'm fifteen now. Not a girl. Not yet a woman."

Thursday, May 1, 12:01 a.m., page 35

"Is it wrong of me to want to be my boyfriend's property? I mean, it's not like I'm willing to usurp my identity or take his name or anything if we got married (being a princess, even if I wanted to, I couldn't, unless I abdicated the throne). In fact, chances are, the guy I marry is going to have to take MY name. I just, you know, wouldn't mind a LITTLE possessiveness."

Thursday, May 1, My Birthday, G & T, page 42

"Oh, but wait. This is ME we're talking about. I think that, at fifteen, it's time I admitted what I've known for quite some time now: I am simply not destined to have a normal life. Not a normal life, not a normal family, and certainly not a normal birthday."

Friday, May 2, midnight, the loft, page 52

"Good heavens, Amelia. I already got you an orphan. Are you saying you want to adopt a busboy as well?"

Grandmere, Friday, May 2, in the limo on the way home from Grandmere's, pages 69-70

"I AM AN UNPOPULAR NERD PRINCESS!!!!!! UNPOPULAR NERD PRINCESS SHOULD NOT HAVE PARTIES!!!!!!!!!!!! NOT EVEN FOR THEIR UNPOPULAR NERD FRIENDS!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Saturday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., half hour before my party is to begin, page 84

"The prom? Are you crazy? The prom's even stupider than this game."

Michael, Sunday, May 4, 2 a.m., page 93

"God. My best friend has been to more bases than I have. And I am the one who is supposed to have found my soul mate. Not her. Life is so unfair."

Sunday, May 4, noon, the loft, page 109

"Yes. Oh, Shameeka, what am I going to do? I've been dreaming of going to prom with Michael my whole life, practically. Well, at least since we started dating, anyway. I want



everyone to look at us dancing and know once and for all that I am the property of Michael Moscovitz. Even though I know that's sexist and no one can ever be the property of another human being. Except... except I so want to be Michael's property!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Monday, May 5, Bio, page 125

"In situations where opposing parties are striving to achieve détente, and yet are failing to reach it, it is always in your best interest to step back and ask yourself what the enemy wants."

Grandmere, Monday, May 5, on the way home from the Plaza, page 144

"Never mind that last e-mail. It was stupid. I know if I'd done something to upset you, you'd have told me. Because that's the kind of girl you are. That's one of the reasons we're so good together. Because we can tell each other anything."

Michael, Monday, May 5, 11 p.m., page 154

"OH, MY GOD. It is EXTREMELY hard to be life-mates with a musician. Talking about marching to your own drummer. Michael marches to his own BAND."

Monday, May 6, the loft, page 169

"Well. I wouldn't go so far as to say that Lilly is normal. But I highly doubt she is suffering from Asperger's."

Mom, Monday, May 6, the loft, page 175

"Really, if you think about it, this is all entirely too much for one simple fifteen-year-old girl to bear. It is a wonder I have been able to maintain what little composure I have left, under the circumstances."

Wednesday, May 7, Algebra, page 184

"GENOVIA SUCKS!!!!!!!!!! The reputation of my principality is being besmirched, and all because of a stupid dance being canceled!"

Thursday, May 8, Homeroom, page 197

"But I want you to know that I realized I wasn't in love with Jangbu before all this stuff with the strike happened. I knew I had never stopped loving Boris when he picked up that globe and dropped it on his head for me. I mean, Mia, he was willing to get stitches for me. That's how much he loves me. No boy has ever loved me enough to risk actual, physical pain and discomfort for me... and certainly not Jangbu. I mean, he's WAY too caught up in his own fame and celebrity. Not like Boris. I mean, Boris is a thousand times more gifted and talented than Jangbu, and HE isn't caught up in the fame game."

Lilly, Thursday, May 8, later, the loft, page 210

"I will get you both for leaving me alone with her all day today. I don't know how, and I don't know when. But when you least expect it... expect it."

Mom, Friday, May 9, Homeroom, page 221

"I know it's lame. I know it is, Michael. But that does not alter the fact that I have been dreaming of going to the prom for my entire life, practically. And I really believe that I





could achieve total self-actualization if you and I went to the prom together tomorrow night."

Mia, Friday, May 9, Algebra, page 227

"Not that any of that is my concern. Not today. Because today, the only thing I am going to worry about is looking beautiful for the prom. Because today, I am just like any other girl on her prom day. Today, I am a PROM PRINCESS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m., Tina's place, page 243

"Thank you, Grandmere. Thank you for being such a complete freak. Because without you, my dream of entering the prom on the arm of my one true love would never have come true."

Saturday, May 10, 9 p.m., the Empire State Building observation deck, page 246

"I can command the Royal Genovian Air Force. As well as the Royal Genovian Navy. But the one thing in the world I have no control over, Helen, is your womb. Now come along."

Grandmere, Sunday, May 11, 1 a.m., St. Vincent's maternity ward, page 250

"So I've finally got my room back... and it looks like I'll be staying in the city for at least the majority of the summer... and I have a baby brother... and I wrote my first actual story for the school paper, AND had a poem published... and I think my boyfriend and I might have gotten to second base. And I got to go to the prom. TO THE PROM!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Oh, my God. I'm self-actualized. Again."

Sunday, May 11, 3 p.m., the loft, page 256



## Topics for Discussion

What happens on Mia's birthday that causes a lot of drama in her life?

Why is Mia so upset about prom?

Describe Mia's birthday party.

Why do Lilly and Mia end up fighting?

Who is Jangbu, and how does he affect Mia's personal life?

How does Mia feel about Grandmere throughout the novel?

Why does Mia decide that fifteen is the best age ever by the end of the narrative?