

# **Princess in the Spotlight Study Guide**

**Princess in the Spotlight by Meg Cabot**

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# Plot Summary

Amelia (Mia) Mignonette Grimaldi Thermopolis Renaldo has just learned that she is heir to the throne in Genovia when she is also hit with the news that she is about to be a big sister in Meg Cabot's novel "Princess in the Spotlight". In this story, the self-conscious teenager learns that not everything is as it appears to be. During the course of the two-week period that Mia's journal covers, she becomes better acquainted with both the good and bad qualities of being a public figure. She also makes surprising discoveries about both her best friend and her father that improve her opinion of people in general.

Mia's journal begins as she is preparing one morning for school and learns that her unwed mother is pregnant. Mia spends the rest of the day wondering how her mother and algebra teacher could have been so careless, and thinking about things she needs to encourage her mother to do, and not do, now that she is pregnant. Meanwhile, Mia is faced with a television interview with Beverly Bellerieve, of the television show Twenty-Four/Seven. In this interview, Mia accidentally tells that her mother is expecting. She also talks openly about her high school, causing issues for more than one person.

Mia's paternal grandmother, who is in New York giving Mia princess lessons, complicates matters for Mia by deciding to plan a wedding for Mia's mother, who only wants a small ceremony at city hall. Mia tries to convince her grandmother that her mother isn't interested in the large, celebrity-filled ceremony that she is planning, but her grandmother will not listen. Mia turns to her father to stop the wedding, but is worried that he is too afraid of his mother to go against her wishes.

At this same time, Mia learns that she has a secret admirer. Mia hopes the admirer is Michael Moscovitz, her best friend's brother whom she has had a crush on for years. The novel comes to a climax as Mia's mother and algebra teacher disappear the day of the wedding. It turns out that Mia's father helped them plan an escape and elopement in Cancun, a trip that the three of them kept secret to keep Mia out of trouble with her grandmother.

When Mia's grandmother flees to the privacy of her hotel suite to hide because Mia's mother does not show up at the wedding, it is Mia that convinces her to come back to the "wedding" reception. She uses on her grandmother the same lessons that the older princess taught her granddaughter during princess lessons. She reminds her grandmother that a princess has to be strong and must not hide behind her wealth and privilege.

During this same time period, Mia's English teacher has given her class an assignment of keeping a journal for class. One of the assignments is to describe a profound moment. Although Mia does not ever recognize the profound moments in her life, she has several in the course of these two weeks. She keeps looking for something a teenager would consider profound, like seeing Michael with his shirt off.



# Monday, October 20, 8 a.m.

## Monday, October 20, 8 a.m. Summary

Amelia (Mia) Mignonette Grimaldi Thermopolis Renaldo has just learned that she is heir to the throne in Genovia when she is also hit with the news that she is about to be a big sister in Meg Cabot's novel "Princess in the Spotlight". In this story, the self-conscious teenager learns that not everything is as it appears to be. During the course of this two-week period that Mia's journal covers, she becomes better acquainted with both the good and bad qualities of being a public figure. She also makes surprising discoveries about both her best friend and her father that improve her opinion of people in general.

In this opening section of Mia's diary, Monday, October 20, 8 a.m., it is a usual Monday morning until Mia's mother comes out of the bathroom looking dazed. Mia assumes her mother is premenstrual, but when she declines Midol, Mia is afraid something bad has happened. Mia's mother announces that she is pregnant. To make matters worse, Mia's mother is pregnant by Mia's algebra teacher.

## Monday, October 20, 8 a.m. Analysis

This book is set up in the form of a diary with date, day and time headings prefacing each entry. The major conflict of the book is announced right away, Mia's mother is pregnant. The matter is further complicated by the fact that Mia's unwed mother has gotten pregnant by Mia's algebra teacher. Mia is shocked. In her teenaged brain, she was afraid that something she had considered "really bad" like the cat eating another sock or the electricity getting turned off had happened. Although Mia is obviously a teenager, demonstrated by her writing patterns and the phrases that she uses, she seems to take some responsibility for keeping her mother, who seems slightly absent-minded, straight. For instance, she remarks that she has to take the bills out of a salad bowl where her mom stores them or else they might not get paid. Mia also refers to a confused look on her mother's face as if she has seen this look often.



# Monday, October 20, Homeroom - Still Monday, October 20, Still G & T

## Monday, October 20, Homeroom - Still Monday, October 20, Still G & T Summary

In her Monday, October 20, Homeroom entry, Mia tries not to be upset by her mother's news. But, she also writes all of the reasons that she has to be upset including that fact that she only learned last month that she is the only heir to the throne in Genovia. Now, her mother is going to be a single mother, again.

In her entry, Monday, October 20, Still Homeroom, Mia wonders why her mother and Mr. Gianini had not used birth control. She takes it for granted that since her mother cannot remember to buy toilet paper, she also would not remember to use birth control.

In her Monday, October 20, Algebra entry, Mia is surprised to learn that her algebra teacher does not yet know that he is a father. As Mia looks at her teacher, she wonders what her brother or sister will look like. She describes her mother as being "totally hot" but says that Mr. Gianini is only average looking, with huge nostrils. Mia almost feels sorry for her teacher, but believes he should have taken the opportunity to be responsible.

Later on in the day in her Monday, October 20, English entry, Mia's English teacher tells the class they will be responsible for keeping a journal. The journal is eventually supposed to detail the student's innermost thoughts and feelings. Mia wonders why she would tell these things to her English teacher when she won't even tell them to her mother. Mia decides to keep a fake journal that she will turn in to her teacher.

Mia begins her English journal with details about her parents, her background and a description of herself. Although the truth, especially that she is the sole heir of the throne of Genovia seems far-fetched, Mia points out that none of the information that she has given in the introduction of her journal has been fake.

In her Monday, October 20, Lunch entry, Mia suspects that her best friend, Lilly, knows that something is wrong. Lilly points out to Mia that she has been writing in her journal all morning. Returning to her mother, Mia wonders how her mother and Mr. Gianini could have gotten pregnant without thinking of the impact that it would have on others around them.

In her Monday, October 20, G&T entry, Mia wonders how often her mother and Mr. Gianini might have had sex in the last month. Her train of thought then moves to the diet that her mother should be eating as a pregnant woman.



In the following section, Monday, October 20, Still G&T, Lilly catches Mia looking up the proper diet for a pregnant woman. Lilly assumes that Mia is the one who is pregnant. Mia tells Lilly that she is looking up the information for a science project. Meanwhile, Lilly's brother Michael, whom Mia has a crush on, listens to the conversation.

In her journal entry, Mia writes about the history of her father's and her mother's family. She also writes out an acceptable diet for a pregnant woman and makes a to do list of things to throw away and to buy before her mother arrives home from work.

## **Monday, October 20, Homeroom - Still Monday, October 20, Still G & T Analysis**

One of the themes that emerges in this section of the novel is Mia's reference to herself as the adult of the family. Her mother, who works as a painter, is apparently the absent minded artistic type. Mia indicates in her journal that her mother cannot remember to buy toilet paper, stuffs her bills into a salad bowl and forgets to pay them, and often gets confused by directions on microwave pizza boxes. Mia blames her mother's pregnancy on her lack of adult-like characteristics. She wonders why her mother didn't use birth control, and why she and Mr. Gianini didn't think in advance of the impact that having a baby would have on all parties involved. Notice also that although Mia is only fourteen years old, she is already searching the Internet for the proper foods for her mother to be eating in order for her to have a healthy pregnancy. She also plans to buy for her mother the things that are good for her and the baby and dispose of those things that are not healthy.

Another aspect of this novel that is interesting is its form. The book includes not only Mia's personal journal, but also a journal that she has been assigned to keep up with by her English teacher. The assigned journal allows writer Meg Cabot to introduce the details of Mia and her life — such as a physical description, her family lineage, and the manner by which she learns that she is the sole heir of the Genovian throne — and keep the journal style of the book.

What is spectacular about Mia is that she is a typical teenager who has just been thrown into a less than typical life. She is already dealing with a huge amount of stress in learning about her coming inheritance, and now has a little brother or sister on they way, courtesy of her algebra teacher. In the midst of all these stressors, Mia struggles with her attempt to try to be a normal teenager with a secret admirer, a crush of her own, bad grades and an unusual family life.



# Monday, October 20, After school - Later on Tuesday

## Monday, October 20, After school - Later on Tuesday Summary

In her Monday, October 20, After School journal entry, Mia reports that her grandmother has a surprise for her. Mia decides to pretend that she didn't get the phone message.

In the entry Later on Monday, Mia's writes that her grandmother plans to tell Mia about her surprise at dinner. Meanwhile, her mother plans to have Mr. Gianini visit their loft to tell him her news.

In her entry, Monday, October 20, 11 p.m., Mia writes that her grandmother's surprise, an interview with Beverly Bellerieve on the television show Twenty Four/Seven, was very disappointing. While she, her father and grandmother are discussing the details of the interview, Mia can't block out the idea that her mother is talking to Mr. Gianini about the baby. She wonders how he will take the news and makes plans to sic Lars, her bodyguard, on Mr. Gianini if he is not ecstatic. When Mia returns to the loft, her mother and Mr. Gianini are still talking. Mia gets an instant message from Michael asking what was the matter with her all day. Their chat session is interrupted when Mia's mother knocks on the door.

In her entry Still Later on Monday, Mia writes about how her mother pulls her into the living room where Mr. Gianini is waiting. She tells Mia that they will be getting married.

In her Tuesday, October 21, 1 a.m. entry, Mia writes that her mother has requested that Mia let her tell Mia's father about the coming marriage in her own way.

Later, in her Tuesday, October 21, 2 a.m. entry, Mia suddenly realizes that if her mother and Mr. Gianini get married, it means her algebra teacher will be living with them. She makes a note to have the bathroom lock fixed. She also indicates that her head, and her throat hurts.

In her Tuesday, October 21, 9 a.m. entry, Mia wakes up unable to talk. When she goes to her mother's room, she finds that Mr. Gianini has slept over. Mia's mother tells her that she will call the school and tell them she is sick.

In her entry, Later on Tuesday, Mia records that her mother stays home from work with her. She keeps a chart that shows her temperature throughout the day. She believes that if she continues to be sick, she will not be able to attend her interview.





## Monday, October 20, After school - Later on Tuesday Analysis

Mia gets another unexpected surprise in this section as she learns that her grandmother has set up a television interview for her. Mia dreads this interview and does not consider it to be a good surprise. When she wakes up sick the day after she learns about the interview, Mia is happy because she believes this sickness will keep her from having to follow through with the interview.

One topic that is introduced in this section is the relationship between Mia's parents. Mia is surprised that her mother has agreed to marry Mr. Gianini. Her mother had always told her that she did not get married to Mia's father because she was a feminist and did not want to be part of the male hierarchy that is part of a traditional wedding and marriage. Mia had suspected, however, that her mother and father did not get married because her father never asked. This suspicion appears to grow even more realized when Mia's mother does agree to marry Mr. Gianini.

Meanwhile, Mia notes her father's unusual interest in Beverly Bellerieve's marital status. It appears that instead of being interested in Mia's interview and her feelings about this interview, Mia's father is interested in hitting on the American journalist. It appears that Mia's father is a womanizer who enjoys having relationships with various women.



# Even Later on Tuesday - Later on Thursday

## Even Later on Tuesday - Later on Thursday Summary

In her entry, Even later on Tuesday, Lilly brings Mia her homework from school. Mia realizes how much Lilly and her grandmother are alike. When Mia tells her grandmother that she is sick, and probably won't be able to attend the interview, her grandmother scolds her. She recalls being sick on her wedding day and still carrying on with her expected duties. Mia then lists her homework assignments, which she believes are unreasonable.

In her Wednesday, October 22 entry, Mia has a temperature of 102 degrees. She goes to the doctor. When the doctor gags her with the throat culture, Mia escapes to her limo. The doctor agrees to skip the throat culture in exchange for a photo of them together in the limo. He prescribes antibiotics and cough syrup. Mia believes this to be one of her most embarrassing moments and she lists the other most embarrassing moments of her life. She realizes they all involve her grandmother.

In her Thursday, October 23 entry, Mia reports that she has a secret admirer. She has received a letter from "A Friend" written to her on school letterhead. The admirer writes to her that he liked her before she knew she was a princess. Mia hopes the friend is Michael.

Later on Thursday, Mia is watching an episode of Baywatch and wonders if she has been promised in marriage to a prince, like the girl in the show. Lilly irritates Mia when she fails to realize the significance of the episode. The end of the chapter includes a list of Mia's homework as well as a chart of stars' breasts and whether the friends think these body parts are real or not.

## Even Later on Tuesday - Later on Thursday Analysis

In this section of the novel, Mia finds some comparisons between her grandmother and Lilly, her best friend. She comes to this conclusion because neither of these women will allow Mia to feel sorry for herself even though she is sick. This idea that Mia is not allowed to feel sorry for herself follows one of the themes of the novel, that of the strong female. While men are generally seen as the heroes of a story, this novel features women who are strong both emotionally and intellectually. Mia's mother has raised a daughter on her own. Mia takes after her mother by trying to take charge of and look after her mother when she learns her mother is pregnant. Mia's best friend is also a strong female. She is much more outspoken than Mia, not hesitating to ask Mia's father if Mia has already been promised in marriage. On the reverse, Mia's father appears to



be a weaker character with his inability to commit to Mia's mother and his constant womanizing.

The drastic differences of Mia's life are demonstrated in this section of her journal. She is worried both about things that her sudden knowledge that she is an heir to a throne has put on her plate as well as the things about which the typical teenager is concerned. For instance, Mia watches a television episode about a princess who has been betrothed to marry a man and worries that she might already be promised in marriage to a man. In the same entry Mia reports the homework that she has been sent from school, along with a list of stars whom she and Lilly believe might have had breast implants. Although Mia is a princess, she is still worried about things like her own breast size, which she believes is inadequate and the identity of a secret admirer.

A happy surprise for Mia in this section of the novel is that she has a secret admirer. This person will not tell Mia their identity but does tell Mia that he liked her before she knew she was a princess. Mia hopes that this secret admirer is Michael. She tries to find clues that her admirer is Michael, but is not able to find anything substantial. Notice, however, that in the lists of homework that Mia includes in her journal entries, she never seems to have to worry about her Biology homework. Her partner in this class, Kenny, always seems to have done this work, or will take care of this work, for her.



# Even Later on Thursday - Even Later on Friday

## Even Later on Thursday - Even Later on Friday Summary

In the entry, Even Later on Thursday, Mia writes that she has gotten an e-mail from Michael. He signs his message "Love Michael." She also has a message from her secret admirer signed JOCROX.

In her Friday, October 24, Algebra entry, Mia writes that Michael walked her to her locker, but she does not think that he is Jo-C-Rox. In this section Mia also includes a poem about her view from her Algebra classroom.

In her entry, Friday, October 24, World Civ, Mia lists the five types of government. She then lists the five people whom she believes might be her secret admirer.

In her entry, Friday, October 24, G&T class, Mia writes about Boris's new violin music by Bartok. Even though they lock him in the supply closet, the music is so bad that Michael goes to the nurse's office for ibuprofen. When Michael returns from the nurse, Mia gives him some of her cough medicine because the nurse would not give him any ibuprofen. At the conclusion of this entry Mia writes about the things that she needs to stop thinking about.

In her entry, Later on Friday, Mia reports that she got called to the principal's office because she gave Michael the cough syrup. Mia is so embarrassed that she considers requesting to be home schooled. In her English journal, Mia lists her favorite food, movie, television show, and book.

In the entry Even Later on Friday, Mia wonders what she will write about as an experience that moved her profoundly. In this entry, Mia also includes a grocery list.

## Even Later on Thursday - Even Later on Friday Analysis

In these entries, Mia continues to try to determine the identity of her secret admirer. She hints to Michael about mail but does not get a response from him. Although she wants to believe the Jo-C-Rox is Michael, she can't find any evidence that he is her admirer. Through her journal entries, Mia tries to get her mind back on track and stop being distracted by the identity of her secret admirer.

One of the things that bothers Mia about her homework is an assignment that her English teacher has given to Mia's class. She is to write a journal entry that tells about a



profound moment in her life. Mia notes that a friend of hers plans to write about a time that he contracted cholera and almost died. Mia wishes that she had an experience like this that she could write about. She seems to consider her life as not profound while she perhaps has had one of the most profound experiences that any teenager could ever hope to have as she has learned that she is the future ruler of a country. This reality doesn't seem to have set into Mia yet, though.



## **Saturday, October 25, 2 p.m., Grandmere's suite - Saturday, October 25, 7 p.m., on the way to Lilly's house**

### **Saturday, October 25, 2 p.m., Grandmere's suite - Saturday, October 25, 7 p.m., on the way to Lilly's house Summary**

Mia starts her Saturday with an entry written at 2 p.m. while at her Grandmere's suite waiting for her interview. Her throat hurts and she feels sick to her stomach. She doesn't know what questions she will be asked and the interview is two hours late. Beverly Bellerieve is very beautiful and tries to make Mia feel comfortable. Mia's father is attracted to Beverly.

Mia believes that she is most sick because her father had asked her if her Algebra teacher was living in the loft just after she arrived at her Grandmere's hotel suite. His question gets Mia wondering how he will react when he learns her mother is not only getting married, but is also pregnant.

In her entry, Saturday, October 25, 7 p.m. on the way to Lilly's house, Mia writes that she really messed up during the interview. When Beverly asked her if she had any big news recently, Mia accidentally made mention of being happy about being a big sister, and gave information about her mother and Algebra teacher's wedding. At this news, Mia's father drops his whiskey glass and her grandmother had started hyperventilating. Although Mia's dad tells her that he will explain to her mother what happened, she is still glad that she is not going straight home. Mia also can't remember what she might have said during the rest of the interview.

### **Saturday, October 25, 2 p.m., Grandmere's suite - Saturday, October 25, 7 p.m., on the way to Lilly's house Analysis**

Stress begins to affect Mia as she prepares for her interview. She still doesn't feel good and her visit to her Grandmere's suite has started on a bad note when her father asks her if Mr. Gianini is staying in their loft. This mention has gotten Mia's mind focused on what is going on at home, so it is no surprise that when Beverly asks her about any important news, Mia's mind automatically goes to her mother's pregnancy. Beverly is really referring to Mia's Algebra grade being raised from an "F" to a "D." Her announcement takes not only Beverly but also her father and grandmother by surprise. Because Mia's mother had wanted to tell her father about the pregnancy and coming



wedding in her own way, Mia is afraid her mother will be angry with her because of the slip but her father tells her that he will take care of it. On the way to Lilly's house, Mia worries because she cannot remember what she talked about during the rest of the interview.

In these entries, Mia also compares herself to other royal family members. She writes how she has heard that Prince William gets the questions that he will be asked during his interviews a week in advance so he can prepare answers. Mia writes that those in Genovia must not be given the same courtesy as she has no idea what she will be asked. To make matters even worse, Mia's grandmother is obsessing about Mia's makeup and insists that she must have blue eye shadow. She has told Mia she looks like a hooker, when Mia would prefer that her grandmother be nice and tell her she looks wonderful.

Because Mia slips the news that her mother is expecting, she gets to write about the reaction from both her grandmother and her father when they hear the news. Mia's father drops his whiskey glass and puts his head in his hands. It must be taken into consideration, however, that he had to have known something like this might happen since he had already asked Mia if her Algebra teacher was living in the loft. Mia's grandmother starts hyperventilating and is made to breathe into a paper bag.



# **Sunday, October 26, 2 a.m., Lilly's bedroom**

## **Sunday, October 26, 2 a.m., Lilly's bedroom Summary**

Mia writes her next journal entry on Sunday, October 26, at 2 a.m. in Lilly's bedroom. She has just learned that she is the only one of her friends who has never been French kissed. Because Mia had nothing significant to confess, Lilly made her do a dare in which she had to drop an eggplant onto the sidewalk from her sixteenth story bedroom.

After she drops the eggplant, Mia leans out the window to admire her vandalism but Michael grabs her from behind to keep anyone from recognizing her. Michael warns them that Mia could get arrested if they air the footage of Mia's face or mention her name in connection with the incident. In this journal entry, Mia includes a list of things to buy and a list of things to do.

## **Sunday, October 26, 2 a.m., Lilly's bedroom Analysis**

In this section of her novel, Mia writes about her feelings of inadequacy because she has just learned that she was the only girl in her class who had not been French-kissed. The importance in Mia's mind of having a boyfriend is one major theme in this journal. She seems to feel that some of her worth is based on whether or not she has a significant other. For this reason, it is the high point of Mia's night when Michael grabs her from behind and pulls her down in order to keep her from being recognized as the one who dropped the egg plant from Lilly's bedroom. Michael also defends Mia and stands up to his sister by demanding that she not give away Mia's identity when she airs this segment of her show. He explains Mia could get in trouble for her part in the prank, something Mia does not need.





## Sunday, October 26, 7 p.m. - Monday, October 27, Bio

### Sunday, October 26, 7 p.m. - Monday, October 27, Bio Summary

In her entry on Sunday, October 27, 7 p.m., Mia writes that she leaves Lilly's apartment with dread. She is afraid that her mother will be disappointed in her. When she does get home, Mia's mother is not angry with her, but instead welcomes her with a hug and tells her she understands the mistake.

Also during the day, Mia, her mother and Mr. Gianini plan the wedding. Since it will take place on Halloween, they decide to dress up with Mia being the Empire State Building, her mother as King Kong and Mr. Gianini as Fay Ray. Lilly calls and asks Mia why she hadn't told her about the television interview. She has seen the commercials on television. She is upset with Mia because Beverly is a role model of hers. Lilly also informs Mia that Mia had given her the rights to her first interview. When Mia finally sees the commercial, she realizes that her grandmother was right about insisting on the blue eye shadow. Mia then lists things that her grandmother has been wrong about.

In her Sunday, October 26, 8 p.m. entry Mia writes that she is angry with her mother for ordering foods that are not good for the baby. Mia gives everything but the toilet paper to their next-door neighbor, Ronnie.

In an entry written Sunday, October 26, 9 p.m., Mia writes that she has received another e-mail from Jo-C-Rox. He tells her that she looked great on the commercials for the television interview and that she needs to work on her Algebra. Mia writes back asking who her admirer is, but does not get an answer. She thinks of Michael because of the reference to Algebra. She believes with her luck, however, it will be some boy in school who breathes through his mouth.

In her Monday, October 27, G&T entry, Mia writes that everyone at school has seen the commercial for her television interview. She is more worried about what she might have said during the interview than the fact that everyone who sees the interview will know about her mother's relationship with Mia's Algebra teacher. Her friend, Tina Hakim Baba, said her father would always receive a courtesy tape of his interviews prior to them being aired in case there was anything that he didn't agree with.

With this in mind, Mia calls her father to see if a courtesy tape could be arranged. She is surprised to learn that Beverly Bellerieve is in his hotel room. Beverly convinces Mia that the interview will be fine. Mia includes a math word problem at the end of this entry and wonders why it matters.



In her entry on Monday, October 27, Bio, Mia writes that she believes she will die of embarrassment because Lana Weinberger walked up to her and Michael and asked if they were going out together. Mia indicates that Michael blew off the comment. Mia also notes that she needs to remind her mother to visit a geneticist to make sure she and Mr. Gianini are not carriers for Tay-Sachs.

## **Sunday, October 26, 7 p.m. - Monday, October 27, Bio Analysis**

In this section of her journal, Mia shares her opinion of her grandmother's ideas. Although she agrees that she might have been right to insist upon the blue eye shadow for the interview, Mia believes that her grandmother has not been right about much else. Things that her grandmother has been wrong about include Mia's figure filling out when she became a teen and her statement that Mia's father would settle down when he found the right woman.

Mia also writes about the wedding plans that she and Mr. Gianini are making. Instead of a traditional wedding ceremony, they plan to be married at city hall. Since it is Halloween, they decide to dress up, not in wedding clothes, but in costumes. They plan for Mia to be the Empire State Building while Mia's mother dresses as King Kong and Mr. Gianini dresses as Fay Ray. As Mia has already told her readers that her mother is a feminist, her choice of reversing gender roles, with herself dressing as the male hero and Mr. Gianini as the female in need of rescue is appropriate.

Consider also in this section Mia's neighbor, Ronnie, who has had a sex change operation. While he was originally a man, Ronnie seems the most traditional female in the novel as she is concerned about the weight she might gain from eating the food that Mia has given her. Consider also the way that Mia characterizes most of the males in her school. While she hopes that her secret admirer is Michael, she is afraid that he will turn out to be one of the mouth-breathers that attend her high school. She is critical of both the other boys in her school as well as herself in this assessment as she figures that these are the only type of people whom she can attract.



## Monday, October 27, After school - Monday, October 27, Later

### Monday, October 27, After school - Monday, October 27, Later Summary

In her Monday, October 27, After school entry, Mia discovers that her grandmother is working with a Genovian event planner to arrange Mia's mother's wedding. Mia tries to help her grandmother understand that her mother wants a small ceremony but her Grandmere believes this idea is ridiculous. When Mia suggests she should talk to her father about the wedding, her grandmother says that Mia will be lucky to find him since he spends all this time with Beverly Bellerieve. She says if he isn't careful, he will end up in the same position as Mia's mother. Mia realizes, however, this isn't possible because of her dad's infertility. To make matters worse, Rommel, Grandmere's poodle is hiding under his mistress' chair, moaning in fright, Mia believes, at the sight of her. Mia's grandmother asks Mia to have her mother and Mr. Gianini get together a list of guests, minus Mia's mother's "free-spirited" friends. Her grandmother also asks her opinion of a dress that Mia knows that her mother would hate.

Unfortunately, her grandmother has planned the wedding for Friday, the same day as a party that Mia had intended to attend. When Mia mentions the wedding is planned for Halloween, Vigo indicates they want the wedding out of the way before Mia's mother starts to show that she is expecting a baby. As they are discussing that matter, Grandmere and Vigo decide to tell Mia what the rules for her future consort, or boyfriend, will be. Mia glues in her journal that piece of paper on which her grandmother makes her write the things that will be expected of her future boyfriend. With the list of rules she is given, Mia wonders what sort of man would want to marry her. At the conclusion of this chapter, Mia lists the five worst things about being a princess.

In her entry entitled Monday, October 27, Later, Mia writes that she had intended to tell her mother about the wedding plans her grandmother was making as soon as she got home. When she arrived, however, her mother was in the bathroom throwing up because of morning sickness. She is so sick that Mr. Gianini tapes Mia's television interview so that she won't miss it. Mia again forgets about the wedding as she watches the interview because she believes it was awful. Mia includes portions of the interview in her journal in an attempt to remind herself to never agree to another television interview.

Lilly is the first to call about the interview. She hounds Mia for calling all of them freaks. She is angry because Mia has told the whole country there are cliques at the high school of which she and her friends are not part, and that they do nothing in the gifted and talented class. Shameeka calls Mia next. She informs Mia that her father is making her call off the Halloween party because her father now believes that the high school kids are all sex addicts and alcoholics. Tina Hakim Baba calls next. Instead of being angry with Mia, she is happy that her name was said on television.



Mia's Grandmere is next to call. She is unhappy because there were no pictures of the palace shown during the television show. As she is talking at Mia, however, Beverly does show some pictures of the palace. Her grandmother is pleased and hangs up on Mia, leaving her feeling completely dejected. She tries to talk to her mother about transferring to a private school, but her mother only tells her that the interview wasn't as bad as Mia thinks it was.

In her room, Michael sends Mia an instant message. He complements Mia for telling the truth in her interview. He also tells her that Lilly is upset because more people watched Mia's interview than ever watch Lilly's show. At the conclusion of the message, Michael asks Mia if she will watch The Rocky Horror Picture Show with him and some others from the computer club on Friday. Because of the wedding, though, Mia isn't sure if she can go or not. Mia concludes her journal entry by listing the five best and worst things about being in love with her best friend's brother.

## **Monday, October 27, After school - Monday, October 27, Later Analysis**

The interview that Mia had dreaded so much has finally aired on television. As soon as it is over, Mia begins to feel the repercussions from it. Michael is the only one who is complimentary of Mia's performance. Her mother, who is also dealing with morning sickness, tells Mia the interview was not as bad as she thought. Lilly, on the other hand, is furious with Mia. She believes that Mia has completely \_\_\_\_\_ her. Mia later learns from Michael that Lilly is most upset because Mia did not mention during the interview that she was a member of Lilly's clique, a group that Lilly considers to be very exclusive. Shameeka calls, angry with Mia because her father has made her cancel her Halloween party because of the information shared during her interview. To make matters worse, Mia's grandmother calls her upset because Beverly Bellerieve didn't show footage of the palace during her interview. As she talks to Mia, however, she is distracted by pictures of the palace finally appearing on television and hangs up on Mia, an action that makes Mia feel completely dejected. Through all the excitement of her interview, its airing, and the negative attention that Mia gets, she forgets to mention to her mother and Mr. Gianini the big wedding that her Grandmere is planning.

It is also during this time that her grandmother and Vigo decide to tell her about the rules that any boyfriend that she has must follow. These rules don't make Mia feel any more comfortable about the possibility of ever finding a boyfriend. She feels that no man would want to follow the rules that have been set forth by Vigo.



## **Tuesday, October 28, Principal Gupta's office - Tuesday, October 28, G&T**

### **Tuesday, October 28, Principal Gupta's office - Tuesday, October 28, G&T Summary**

In her entry, Tuesday, October 28, Principal Gupta's office, Mia writes that as soon as school started on Monday, she was called to the principal's office. She notes that most of the kids in her school have supported the comments she made during her interview. Michael is even nicer to Mia and offers to check her Algebra problems on the way to school.

In her entry, Tuesday, October 28, Algebra, Mia writes that the principal is concerned about her happiness at Albert Einstein High School. The principal suggests to Mia that if she were to participate in more extracurricular activities, she might feel better about her self and her popularity. Mia flatly explains the conditions of her life. She is barely passing Algebra and taking lessons so she can properly rule a small country. Principal Gupta tries to convince Mia that the cheerleaders and athletes do not run the school, but has little luck. Mia believes that the principal is living in a fantasy world.

In her entry, Tuesday, October 28, G&T, Mia writes that Mrs. Hill must have gotten a warning about her time spent in the teacher's lounge during G&T because she doesn't leave the room during that day's class. Mia has also learned that Lilly is mad at her because she was secretly writing a book about the socioeconomic divisions at the high school.

### **Tuesday, October 28, Principal Gupta's office - Tuesday, October 28, G&T Analysis**

In this section of the book, Mia writes about the way that her principal reacts to her interview. Instead of being impressed by her principal, however, Mia is offended and feels that her principal is totally out of touch with reality. One of her comments that Mia is most offended by is Principal Gupta's idea that cheerleaders and jocks don't run the school. She is lulled into the belief that she is in control of the school. From Mia's point of view, and the points of view of many of the people who she goes to school with, the cheerleaders and jocks are running the school.

Mia is also shocked by the principal's suggestion that she would be happier in school if she were involved in an extracurricular activity. Mia's common sense personality comes out when she bluntly reminds her principal that she is failing Algebra and has to have a tutor. She is also involved in princess lessons because she will one day be in charge of a small country. She simply tells the principal that she has no room on her plate for track

or yearbook. Beside, Mia takes into consideration the idea that she is clumsy and barely able to walk without hurting herself. She wonders what might happen if she tried running.



## Tuesday, October 28, Bio - Wednesday, October 29, English

### Tuesday, October 28, Bio - Wednesday, October 29, English Summary

In her entry, Tuesday, October 28, Bio, Mia writes that Kenny has also invited her to go see Rocky Horror. Mia writes that she considers asking Kenny if Michael has mentioned if he likes her, but decides against it. At the conclusion of this entry, Mia writes a poem entitled "Ode to Michael."

In the next entry, Tuesday, October 28, 6 p.m., On the way back to the loft from Grandmere's, Mia writes about the wedding plans that her grandmother is making. Mia has again tried to tell her grandmother that her mother will not want this sort of wedding. Her grandmother argues that Mia's mother is not rational because she is pregnant. Seeing that she will not be able to make her grandmother understand, Mia decides to see her father but he isn't in his suite.

In the entry, Tuesday, October 28, 10 p.m., The loft, Mia returns home to find a family whom she doesn't recognize, sitting in the loft. It is only after the woman speaks to her that she realizes it is her mother's parents. Mia follows the phone cord and finds her mother in the closet talking to Mia's father on the phone. Phillippe asks to speak to Mia. He tells Mia to put the family in the limo to the SoHo Grand where he will pay for them to stay. He assures Mia that he will take care of the wedding that his mother has planned.

When Mia first tells her grandparents they are being sent to a hotel, her grandmother is unhappy, but brightens when she learns it will be paid for. Mia's grandmother asks her to take Hank, her cousin, to school with her on the following day. Although Mia tries to discourage the idea, but Hank and his mother are insistent. When she returns to the loft, Mia's mother is upset because she sent her parents to a hotel when they can all the way from Indiana to see her. Mia realizes this outpouring probably is the result of a hormonal imbalance. Mia vows to herself that she has to stop her grandmother's plans for the big wedding.

In her entry, Tuesday, October 28, 11 p.m., Mia has gotten another e-mail from Jo-C-Rox telling her that she looked beautiful during her television interview. She writes back begging him to tell her who he is. In her English journal, Mia starts to write about her most profound moment but gets no further than "My most profound moment was...". She instead writes an essay about a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote.

In her entry on Wednesday, October 29, English, Mia writes that having her cousin follow her around school has distracted her schoolmates from her television interview. She soon discovers that the girls in her school are attracted to Hank.



## Tuesday, October 28, Bio - Wednesday, October 29, English Analysis

Mia's main concern in this section of her journal is how upset her mother is becoming when she learns about Grandmere's wedding plans. The first she learns of the wedding is when her parents from Versailles, Indiana show up in her house. Mia feels guilty for her mother having to learn about her Grandmere's plans in this way. Mia and her father take charge of putting Helen's parents in a hotel. When Mia returns and sees how upset her mother is about the situation, she swears that she will put an end to her grandmother's plans.

Another idea that is a focus in this section of the novel is the effect parents can have even on their grown children. Mia feels that her father is scared of his mother. She believes this is why he has not put an end to the wedding that Grandmere is planning. Mia also sees the effect that her mother's parents have on her. Although she is only a teenager, Mia vows to stop her grandmother's plans. Mia also makes the comment that while his mother used to lock him in the dungeon of their castle when he was a child, he is not nearly as messed up when it comes to parents as her mother is.





## **Wednesday, October 29, G&T - Wednesday, October 29, 10 p.m.**

### **Wednesday, October 29, G&T - Wednesday, October 29, 10 p.m. Summary**

In her entry for Wednesday, October 29, G&T, Mia reports that Hank and Lilly are missing. Mia blames herself because she allowed Hank to go with Lilly to see the part of a set for a school play that she painted. Lilly and Hank don't come back after the visit to the set of the play.

In her next entry, Wednesday, October 29, World Civ, Mia writes there is still no sign of Hank and Lilly.

In her Wednesday, October 29, Bio entry, there is still no sign of Hank and Lilly. Mia also lists the homework that has been assigned to her during the day. She indicates she has no idea how she will be able to concentrate on homework with Lilly and Hank missing.

In her entry, Wednesday, October 29, Algebra Review, Mia writes that Lars and Mr. Gianini both believe the police should be notified that Lilly and Hank are gone. Mia imagines that Lilly has fallen in love with Hank. She imagines Hank and Lilly having unprotected sex with Lilly getting pregnant. At the conclusion of this entry, Mia writes down the Algebra functions on which she is working.

In her entry on Wednesday, October 29, 7 p.m., Mia writes that Hank and Lilly have returned home. Although Mia asks both of them where they were, they will only tell her that they were walking around.

During her princess lesson that day, Mia's father tells her that his Grandmere has already sent out the wedding invitations. He tells Mia not to worry, that he will take care of it. Grandmere and Vigo are pleased because they already have many acceptances to the wedding. Listening to the guest list, Mia is afraid her mother will go running when she sees who is at her wedding. When Vigo shows Mia the dress she is supposed to wear at the wedding, she can't help but try it on. Even though the bust has to be taken up, Mia wishes that Michael, or even Jo-C-Rox, could see her in the dress.

In her Wednesday, October 29, 10 p.m. entry, Mia watches an episode of Lilly Tells it Like it Is that she has never seen before. It is the episode that Lilly taped at the slumber party with all the girls talking about French-kissing and Mia dropping the eggplant. She discovers that Lilly had taped a conversation between herself and Mia where Mia is talking about her desire to start a shelter for abandoned and stray animals. Lilly had asked her if starting this animal shelter in Genovia would be her first act when she became ruler there.



In the interview, Mia also describes the worst thing about being a princess. She says this is having to call ahead for a bodyguard before she did anything, including going to the store. She also says that she worries if the people of Genovia will like her just before she drifts off to sleep. Words float onto the television screen declaring this to be the real interview with the princess of Genovia.

When Mia questions Lilly about the interview, Lilly defends herself saying she wanted the people to see the real princess of Genovia. When Mia suggests Lilly could have told her about the plans, Lilly indicates that if she had, Mia would not have agreed to the interview. Mia believes she might not have sounded quite as crazy in this interview as in the one for Twenty Four/Seven, but realizes she is starting not to care. She wonders what Michael thought of her pajamas.

## **Wednesday, October 29, G&T - Wednesday, October 29, 10 p.m. Analysis**

One thing to note in this section of Mia's journal is her quickness to take responsibility for things, even those things that are out of her control. For instance, Mia feels responsible for Lilly and Hank running off together even though there was nothing she could have done to prevent it. Instead of thinking positively about the situation, Mia automatically begins to think about worst-case scenarios about the two. She has Lilly pregnant by Hank and living in a trailer park in Indiana before the two have been gone long enough to make a baby. Similarly, Mia takes responsibility for and bears the guilt of the wedding that her grandmother is planning for her mother. Even trying on the beautiful dress that is intended to be her maid of honor dress makes Mia feel guilty. However, there is really no reason for her to feel guilty because she has little or no control over her grandmother's actions. Mia shouldn't feel bad about liking a dress just because it is intended for an occasion someone else doesn't want to happen. It is part of Mia's personality, however, to take responsibility for what is happening around her and try to make things right even if it isn't in her ability to do so.

Mia's reaction to the airing of the "secret" interview by Lilly on her television show is another interesting aspect in this portion of Mia's journal. While she felt like she made a fool of herself during her interview with Beverly Bellerieve, Mia doesn't feel as badly about the interview with Lilly even though she didn't realize she was even being interviewed. After she watches the show, Mia only briefly considers what others might think of what she said while on air. Mia writes that she believes she is already getting to the point where she doesn't worry about what others think.



# Thursday, October 30, English - Friday, October 31, Homeroom

## Thursday, October 30, English - Friday, October 31, Homeroom Summary

In her entry entitled Thursday, October 30, English, Mia writes that Hank did not go with her to school that day. The night before, the entire family had gone out to eat at a steak restaurant. Mia assumes he is not feeling well because of the amount of meat he ate. She notes that many at Albert Einstein High School miss Hank. Boris is the only one pleased when he learns that Hank will not be at school that day.

In her Thursday, October 30, World Civ entry, Mia lists the things that she needs to do before Mr. Gianini moves into their loft.

In her next entry, Thursday, October 30, G & T, Mia writes that Hank and Lilly have gone missing again. Lilly had made an excuse about having cramps to go home for the rest of the day. Mia knows this excuse is a bad one because Lilly does not have cramps. Mia wonders what it is that has attracted Lilly and Hank to one another.

In her Thursday, October 30, 7 p.m., Limo back to the loft entry, Mia writes about her shock at discovering her maternal grandmother in her Grandmere's hotel room when she arrived for her princess lesson. The two women are talking about how stubborn their children are. Mia learns from the conversation that a limo is scheduled to pick them up at the loft the next evening for the wedding. Even though Mia tries again to tell her Grandmere her mother doesn't want a big wedding, her grandmother will not hear of it.

In her More Thursday, October 30, 9 p.m. entry, Mia writes that Mr. Gianini has everything moved into their loft and that they have made good use of the foosball table. Mr. Gianini has told Mia she should call him Frank but Mia can't bring herself to do so. When Mia asks about the wedding, Mia's mother just tells her not to worry about it.

Mia instant messages Lilly but Lilly will not tell her where she and Hank went or what they were doing. Mia does recognize it as a profound moment when Lilly mentions that in relationships, people must establish bonds of trust. Mia relates this advice not only to a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship but also to those between parents and children, friends, and everybody. It is at this point that Mia gets an instant message from Jo-C-Rox asking if she is going to Rocky Horror the next day. Because Michael had invited her to Rocky Horror, Mia concludes that Jo-C-Rox is Michael.

In her entry, Friday, October 31, Homeroom, Mia writes that she woke up with a sense that something bad was about to happen. The only thing that gets her out of bed is the belief that Michael is her secret admirer and by that evening, will have admitted it.



## Thursday, October 30, English - Friday, October 31, Homeroom Analysis

Mia wakes up the day that her grandmother has planned a huge wedding for her mother with a feeling that something bad is going to happen. Although she had asked her mother about the wedding the night before, her mother nonchalantly told her not to worry about it. Mia admits to herself that the only reason that she gets up out of bed and goes to school is because she believes she has finally figured out for sure that Michael is Jo-C-Rox. She has received a message from Jo-C-Rox the night before asking if she was planning to attend Rocky Horror. Mia only remembers that Michael had asked her to go with him to see this movie. She forgets that Kenny, her Biology partner, had also asked her if she was going with the group to see the movie.

Also in this section, Hank and Lilly have gone missing again. Mia continues to assume the two are having a rendezvous somewhere and wonders what has attracted the two to one another. She sees Hank as an unintelligent hick while Lilly is practically a genius. In addition, she wonders why Lilly has cheated on Boris to be with a person like Hank.

When Mia asks Lilly about what she and Hank are doing on their secret visits together, Lilly only tells Mia that trust is an important part of any relationship. Although Lilly is referring to the trust that must be present in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, she also indicates this trust must be present in a relationship between two friends. After Mia gets offline from talking to Lilly, she takes this trust issue a step further and realizes trust must also be present in a relationship between children and their parents. This is significant since Mia admits that she has had trouble trusting her father since her revealed to her that he had been lying all these years about his true identity as the prince of Genovia.



# Friday, October 31, Algebra - Friday, October 31, French

## Friday, October 31, Algebra - Friday, October 31, French Summary

In her entry for Friday, October 31, Algebra, Mia writes that Mr. Gianini is not teaching his class that day. Mia finds this strange because Mr. Gianini had told her he would be coming in later that day. She writes that Michael also didn't ride in the limo to school that day because he had trouble printing out a paper. Mia believes it is because Michael is afraid to face her after admitting he is Jo-C-Rox.

In her entry Friday, October 31, G&T, Mia has finally found out what Lilly and Hank were doing together. She swears never to accuse Lilly of anything but good intentions again in the future. It turns out that Lilly was helping Hank prepare for an interview with Calvin Klein for an underwear commercial. He visits during lunch in fancy clothes with his hair styled to show his gratitude to Lilly for believing in him enough to help him achieve his dream. Before he leaves, he kisses Lilly, than tells Mia that his parents will need to find someone else to work in the hardware store. Hank turns to walk out of the cafeteria, but is stopped by Boris who hits him for kissing Lilly.

In her Friday, October 31, French entry, Mia writes that she borrowed Lar's cell phone to give her maternal grandmother Hank's message. She finds out from her grandmother that the wedding is still on. Mia is disappointed because she knows that she will never make it to the movie from the wedding on time. She also wonders if Michael will ever ask her out again if she does not show up. She also writes that she and Michael had talked at length that day about Lilly helping Hank become a model. During this discussion, Michael did not mention a word about Rocky Horror.

Also in this entry Mia makes a note to herself to look up a word Michael used that she didn't understand. She also lists reasons why Michael might not be willing to admit that he is Jo-C-Rox. She also includes a list of her homework for the day.

The next entry is for Mia's English Journal where she describes the evening of October 31 starting at 3:16 p.m. when she arrives home at the loft. At 3:52 Mia knocks on her mother's bedroom door and discovers that she is not at home. When she checks the bathroom, her mother's important toiletries are missing. It is at this point that Mia begins to suspect something is up.

At 3:55 Mia's father calls. She tells him that her mother and Mr. Gianini are missing but he tells her not to worry about it. Mia continues to push and her father tells her that she has a letter from her mother that she can have at 8 p.m. She hears Beverly Bellerieve's voice in the background. Her father hangs up on her before she can ask any more



questions. At 5 p.m. the limo arrives to pick Mia up for her pre-wedding beauty appointment.

At 7 p.m. there is still no sign of Mia's mother at the Plaza Hotel. Mia's father tells her that her mother is at home napping. She has Lars call home but no one answers. At 7:30 Mia waits with the other bridesmaids in a small room off the White and Gold Room. At 7:45 the guests, including Mr. Gianini's parents, Martha Stewart, Donald Trump and John Tesh begin to arrive.

At 8 p.m. Mia demands that her father give her the letter from her mother. At 8:05 Grandmere and Vigo seem to have realized that the bride and groom aren't going to show up. At 8:10 Mia's father addresses the guests. He tells them that Helen and Frank have slipped away to Cancun where they will get married. He invites the guests to join him for the planned dinner that was intended to follow the wedding. When Mia learns the two have gone to Mexico she voices the concern that her mother will drink the water there and her brother or sister will be born with flippers. At 8:20, John Tesh starts to play but Mia's Grandmere tell him to be quiet.

Mia includes in her journal the text from her mother's letter that tells Mia she had wanted Mia to be able to truthfully tell her grandmother that she knew nothing of her mother's plans. Mia's mother tells her that she is sorry Mia is not there for the wedding but that they will have another ceremony once they return home. She thanks Mia for her strength during the past week.

## **Friday, October 31, Algebra - Friday, October 31, French Analysis**

It is in this section of Mia's journal that she learns that both her father and Lilly were worthy of the trust they had been requesting of her. Mia assumed the worst of Lilly when she and Hank began running away together. Before she even knew the whole story, Mia had Lilly a slave to lust that made her turn her back on the things, such as school attendance, that she'd always thought were most important. Mia assumes Lilly is cheating on Boris and lying to her. In reality, Lilly is helping Hank to better himself by realizing his dream of being a male model. Similarly, Mia had doubted her father's ability to go against his mother's wishes and help her mother get out of the wedding Grandmere had planned. Mia's father, however, had planned for the two to slip away, unbeknownst to anyone but the three of them, for an elopement in Mexico.



## **Friday, October 31, 9 p.m. - Saturday, November 1, 2 p.m.**

### **Friday, October 31, 9 p.m. - Saturday, November 1, 2 p.m. Summary**

In her Friday, October 31, 9 p.m. entry, Mia writes that she is in shock that her father defied his mother to help Mia's mother. When Mia exclaims to her father that he actually helped rig the wedding, he asks her why she is so surprised. Mia admits she believed her father was scared of Grandmere. He tells her that his mother is really not scary, she just has to be handled properly. He tells Mia he will always be around to support Mia and her mother. When her father asks if they had been good parents, Mia says they've been okay even though she could have done without being a princess. Mia writes this could have become a profound moment between herself and her father if Vigo had not come running up to tell them that Grandmere had locked herself in her hotel suite and was refusing to come out.

When they arrive at the suite, Phillipe knocks on the door but his mother will not let him in. As her father has no luck, Mia asks him to let her try. It is when Mia reminds her grandmother how she taught her that a princess had to be strong and face her problems no matter what they were. She accuses her grandmother of hiding from her problems, the very thing she'd taught Mia not to do. It is at this point that Mia's Grandmere opens the door. She tells Mia that she fully intended to return to the party but had just come upstairs to put on more lipstick. She slips her hand through Mia's elbow, ignoring her father, and tells her to come along. Mia asks her to wait and slips her arm through her father's. To Mia, this was a profound moment.

In her entry Saturday, November 1, 2 p.m. Mia writes that the prior evening had not been a complete waste. She indicates that Hank had a wonderful evening. Mia also gets to talk to her mother on the phone. She tells her mother that her parents are mad at her because she knows that is what her mother wants to hear. About 11 p.m. Mia's dad asks her if there is some place she would rather be. Mia thinks about the movie, but realizes she won't be able to get into the theater without a costume. Martha Stewart hears Mia's predicament and makes Mia a wand out of ivy and drink stirrers, and a crown out of menus and a glue gun she had in her purse. She tells Lars he is James Bond.

As they leave the hotel, a bunch of reporters questions Mia about her mother's elopement. Mia takes the opportunity to tell them that Albert Einstein High School is a good school, a comment that she directs at Shameeka's father. When they finally reach the theater, the line to see the movie wraps around the building. As the limo driver drives around the building, Mia and Lars scan those waiting for Mia's friends. They finally find the group and Michael has gotten two extra tickets just in case they did show up. Kenny tugs on Mia's skirt. He, too, is excited that Mia made it to the movie.



Mia writes that it was not until the movie started that she realized there was something strange going on. She had maneuvered herself so that she would be able to sit next to Michael. Instead of Lars being on the other side, though, Kenny has worked his way to her other side. While Mia is trying to talk to Michael, Kenny is trying to talk to Mia. She also notices while she is looking to see what parts of the movie Michael is laughing at, Kenny is looking to see what parts of the movie Mia is laughing at.

After the movie they go to Round the Clock to eat and Mia finds herself in between Michael and Kenny again. It was only when Kenny asked her if she'd had any strange mail lately that she realized that Jo-C-Rox was Kenny. Kenny tells Mia how she reminds him of Josie in the rock group Josie and the Pussycats. Mia hopes the evening is a bad dream, but is glad that she did not say anything about Jo-C-Rox to Michael. Kenny asks her if she'd like to go out with him sometime. Mia can't bring herself to say no to Kenny, so she agrees. Kenny puts his arm around Mia. When Michael notices, he glances at Lars as if he wants him to put an end to this show of affection. Michael stands up and announces he thinks it's time to call it a night even though some people are still eating.

Mia realizes she doesn't have any money. She asks Lars for money but Kenny tell her that he will pay for the pancakes. Lars tries to pay Michael for the movie tickets, but he will not take the money. With two guys paying for her, Mia feels as if she has been on a date with two guys at once. As they are waiting to get in the car, Michael finally tells Mia that he thinks that she looks really nice in her dress.

On Saturday, Mia is supposed to be helping her grandmother write thank you notes but is really writing in her journal. Her maternal grandparents have stopped by to say goodbye before they leave for Indiana. Mia has plans to go watch an anime marathon with Kenny later in the day. After that, Mia is headed to Lilly's to work on her next show. She will spend the night with Lilly where she hopes Michael will come to breakfast with his robe untied, something she would consider a very profound moment.

## **Friday, October 31, 9 p.m. - Saturday, November 1, 2 p.m. Analysis**

In this section of the novel, Mia finally learns the identity of her secret admirer. She is somewhat disappointed and rather embarrassed to learn that Jo-C-Rox is Kenny. When it does finally occur to her, however, Mia is surprised that she had not realized his identity before that time since Kenny is such a big anime fan. Mia likes Kenny and doesn't want to hurt his feelings so she agrees to go out with him. Meanwhile, it appears that even though Michael was not writing secret love letters to Mia, he also has some affection for her as he decides it is time for the party to break up once he sees Kenny put his arm around Mia's shoulders during supper. During the evening, Kenny paid for her pancakes and Michael her movie ticket so Mia feels a little bit like she's been on a date with two guys, an overwhelming idea for a girl who has never been on a single date before.





Although Mia appears to still be looking for her profound moment, she has had several profound moments during the course of the evening. First she has learned that her father is not scared of Grandmere. In fact, he tells Mia that Grandmere is really not scary, she just has to be handled properly. In this case the old adage that it is easier to get forgiveness than permission appears to be the way that Phillippe has chosen to handle his mother. It does not appear that this forgiveness will come easily as Grandmere ignores her son after Mia talks her into coming out of her hotel suite, and is still not talking to him the next day.

Mia also realizes as she links her arm through her father's as the two of them walk with Grandmere back down to the botched wedding dinner that she is a connecting factor between her grandmother and her father. There is both a physical and emotional link between the three of them. Though there are things about each other that her grandmother and father don't understand, Mia could be the link to help heal this relationship. Despite these moments of growth and realization, however, Mia keeps looking for a really profound moment, like getting to see Michael with his shirt off.



# Characters

## Amelia (Mia) Mignonette Grimaldi Thermopolis Renaldo

Mia is the main character of this novel. The novel is written as Mia's journal so the point of view of the story is hers. Mia is a fourteen-year-old freshman at Albert Einstein High School in New York. She describes herself as an Amazon as she is nearly six feet tall, with big feet and hair that looks like a yield sign. She also notes on several occasions that she is flat chested. She is the daughter of single mother Helen Thermopolis. Her father is Artur Christoff Phillipe Gerard Grimaldi Renaldo whom Mia thought was only an important politician in the small country of Genovia until about a month prior to this journal. Since that time Mia has learned that her father is actually the Prince of Genovia. Because he has become sterile as a result of cancer treatments, Mia has learned that she is the only heir to the throne of Genovia.

In addition to her high school classes, Mia is also taking princess lessons from her grandmother, the dowager princess of Genovia, in preparation for Mia's introduction to the people of Genovia. She also struggles with the things that a typical teenager deals. She is failing Algebra and has a tutor just to help her raise this grade to a "D." Mia has also just learned that her mother is pregnant with her Algebra teacher's baby. Mia's goal in this novel is to keep her mother from getting caught up in an elaborate wedding that her paternal grandmother is planning. Although Mia is not able to stop her grandmother's plans, her father steps in and secretly makes other arrangements for Mia's mother and Mr. Gianini. Through this move, Mia gains respect for her father, whom she has had trouble trusting since she learns that he lied to her about his identity.

## Lilly Moscovitz

Lilly Moscovitz is Mia's best friend. Both of Lilly's parents are psychoanalysts. Mia has a crush on Lilly's brother, Michael. Although the two are best friends, Mia begins to realize in these journal entries that Lilly tells her boyfriend, Boris, things that she does not tell Mia. For instance, Mia is disturbed to learn during a taping for a session of Lilly's television show, Lilly Tells it Like it Is, that Lilly has French-kissed Boris.

Lilly is a very strong female character who will not let Mia feel sorry for herself even when she is sick. Lilly has plans to write a book about her experience in high school. It is only after Mia's interview with Beverly Bellerieve that she learns that Lilly has already started a book about the socioeconomic cliques found in their high school. Lilly is angry with Mia for her comments about the cliques in high school because she feels Mia has stolen her story. Lilly is also angry with Mia because Beverly Bellerieve is one of Lilly's idols. She feels Mia stole a chance for her to meet her role model.



Lilly surprises Mia when she takes off with Mia's cousin Hank on several occasions. Mia believes her friend has fallen in love with Hank and the two are messing around during their time together. In reality, however, Lilly is helping Hank to realize his dream of becoming a male model.

## **Artur Christoff Phillipe Gerard Grimaldi Renaldo**

Phillipe is Mia's father and Grandmere's son. He and Helen Thermopolis had a fling in college which resulted in Mia being born. In the past, Phillipe has told his daughter that he is an important politician in Genovia but has not mentioned that he is the ruling prince. It is not until he is diagnosed with testicular cancer and the treatments leave him sterile that he is forced to tell Mia that she is next in line for the throne. After this revelation, Mia does not trust her father as much, especially when he tells her that he will take care of the huge wedding that his mother has planned for Mia's mother. In secret, however, Phillipe has planned a get-away for his daughter's mother and her fiancé so they don't have to attend Grandmere's elaborate ceremony.

One of the main characteristics of her father that Mia seems to obsess on is her father's attraction to women. The only thing about Mia's television that seems to interest him is the woman who is going to interview her, Beverly Bellerieve. Before they meet this lady, Mia's father asks only about her marital status and if she is in a relationship. When Phillipe meets Beverly and realizes how attractive she is, he attempts to start a relationship with her. Mia is surprised on several occasions when she tries to contact her father and learns that he is with Beverly. In Mia's list of things that her grandmother has been wrong about, Mia includes her grandmother's idea that her father would settle down when he found the right woman. So far this hasn't happened.

## **Helen Thermopolis**

Helen Thermopolis is Mia's mother. Mia has spent most of her life with her mother, who works as an art painter in New York. At the beginning of Mia's journal, Helen has just realized that she is pregnant. The father of the baby is Mia's Algebra teacher, Mr. Gianini. Helen wants a small wedding at city hall after Mr. Gianini proposes to her. Mia's grandmother, however, plans a big wedding with high society guests that Helen would not have liked. It is through her daughter and her daughter's father's actions that Helen is kept out of the wedding that she would not have liked.

## **Mr. Frank Gianini**

Frank Gianini is Mia's algebra teacher and father of her mother's baby. At the end of the novel, Mr. Gianini marries Mia's mother, which makes him her step-father. When Mr. Gianini begins to move his things into Mia and her mother's loft, Mia realizes that her Algebra teacher is cooler than she realized. His belongings include a wide screen television, a Foosball table and a pinball machine. Mia also notes that even though Mr. Gianini is practically related to her, he doesn't give her a break on her Algebra grades.



She also wonders what her baby brother or sister will look like since Mr. Gianini has really huge nostrils.

## Michael Moscovitz

Michael is Lilly's older brother. He tutors Mia in Algebra during their gifted and talented class. Mia begins receiving messages from a secret admirer whom she hopes is Michael, but turns out to be her Biology partner. On the evening that Lilly is taping her television show and dares Mia to drop an eggplant from the window, it is Michael who takes precautions to see that she doesn't get caught. At the conclusion of the novel, it appears that Michael also has some feelings for Mia though he doesn't seem willing to admit to her that he likes her.

## Hank

Hank is Mia's cousin. When Mia first sees Hank, he is wearing overalls and speaks in a country accent. Mia does not recognize Hank as being attractive until she notices that all of the girls in school are attracted to him. Lilly also surprises Mia by seeming shocked the first time that she sees Hank. Hank and Lilly run away together and make Mia believe they have run away together. In reality, however, Lilly has been helping Hank achieve his goal of becoming a male model. When he gets his first gig as an underwear model, Hank tells his parents that he won't be returning to the family hardware store.

## Kenny Showalter

Kenny Showalter is Mia's Biology partner. Kenny is an anime fan. He sent Mia several instant messages and one letter using the handle "Jo-C-Rox." During the course of her journal, Mia indicates several times that Kenny has taken care of her Biology homework for her. At the conclusion of the novel Mia agrees to go on a date with Kenny because she really likes him and does not want to hurt his feelings.

## Lars

Lars is Mia's bodyguard. Mia indicates in one portion of her journal that Lars has several ex-wives and for this reason does not have much money. She writes about this when she considers paying Lars to hurt Mr. Gianini if he does not react to her mother's news that she is pregnant as Mia believes that he should. Lars lets Mia borrow his cell phone on several occasions. He also suggests to Mia that someone needs to call the police because Hank and Lilly have been missing for so long.



## Beverly Bellerieve

Beverly Bellerieve is the journalist who interviews Mia for the television show Twenty Four/Seven. Mia describes Beverly as being very beautiful and as being very good at making her feel comfortable. Mia's father, however, is attracted to Beverly and spends quite a bit of time with her after Mia's interview. Mia also learns that Beverly is one of Lilly's role models in the journalism business.

## Shirley Thermopolis

Shirley Thermopolis, also called mamaw, is Mia's grandmother on her mother's side. Mia's mother and her parents were estranged until they were invited to New York for the wedding that Grandmere has planned. Mamaw is upset that she is being sent to stay in a hotel until she learns that the hotel will be paid for by Mia's father.

## Principal Gupta

Principal Gupta is the principal at Albert Einstein High School in New York. Mia is called to the office by Principal Gupta after she shares her codeine cough syrup with Michael for trafficking a controlled substance on school grounds. Principal Gupta takes Mia's cough medicine away from her. Principal Gupta also calls Mia to the office after Mia's interview is aired on Twenty Four/Seven and suggests that Mia would be happier if she was involved in an extra curricular activity. Mia believes her principal is completely out of touch with reality.

## Tina Hakim Baba

Tina Hakim Baba, like Mia, also has a bodyguard who goes with her to school because her father is a sheik who fears Tina will be kidnapped. Tina is one of the few people who is pleased with Mia's interview on the television show Twenty Four/Seven. Tina is made happy simply because Mia mentioned her name on television.

## Mrs. Spears

Mrs. Spears is Mia's English teacher. It is Mrs. Spears who assigns writing a journal to Mia as a homework assignment. One of the homework assignments given by Mrs. Spears that Mia finds particularly difficult is the assignment to write about a profound moment.

## Vigo

Vigo is the Genovian event planner who Mia's Grandmere flies to America to help her plan Mia's mother's wedding. Vigo also serves as the royal protocol expert. He is the



one who tells Mia how any boy whom she ever dates must treat her during their relationship. It is also Vigo who tells Mia and her father that Grandmere has locked herself in her hotel suite when Helen and Mr. Gianini do not show up for the wedding.

## **Ronnie**

Ronnie is Mia's next-door neighbor. Ronnie has had a sex change operation and is now taking estrogen shots. It is to Ronnie that Mia gives all of the food that she believes will be bad for her mother's baby.

## **Fat Louie**

Fat Louie is Mia's cat. He is an eight-year-old, orange and white cat who weighs 25 pounds. He has a bad habit of eating socks and hiding bottle caps behind Mia's toilet.

## **Rommel**

Rommel is Grandmere's miniature poodle. Although Mia loves animals, the poodle seems to be terrified of Mia because he always covers and moans whenever Mia is around. Rommel has a nervous disorder that has made all of his fur fall out. In order to keep him from getting cold, Mia's grandmother dresses the dog in sweaters and coats.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Terry Cloth Robe**

When Mia's mother emerges from the bathroom wearing this terry cloth robe instead of her regular kimono, Mia knows something is wrong.

### **Princess Lessons**

In order to be ready for her presentation to the Genovian people, Mia has to take princess lessons from her paternal grandmother.

### **Genovia**

Genovia is the fictional country where Mia is sole heir to the throne.

### **Lilly Tells it Like it Is**

Lilly Tells it Like it Is is the name of Lilly Moscovitz's cable television talk show. It is for this show that Lilly dares Mia to drop the eggplant from her bedroom window.

### **Plaza Hotel**

The Plaza Hotel is the hotel where Mia's father and grandmother are staying while they are prepping Mia for presentation to the people of Genovia.

### **Albert Einstein High School**

Albert Einstein High School is the high school that Mia attends.

### **TwentyFour/Seven**

TwentyFour/Seven is the name of the talk show that interviews Mia. She feels as if she makes a complete idiot of herself during this interview and also tells the world her mother is pregnant.

### **SoHo Family Medical Practice**

It is to this doctor's office that Mia is taken when she gets sick.



## **Codeine Cough Syrup**

Mia's doctor prescribes her codeine cough syrup which she shares with Michael to help his headache. Because of this, she is called into the principal's office and accused of a controlled substance.

## **Dirty Dancing**

"Dirty Dancing" is Mia's favorite movie.

## **Baywatch**

"Baywatch" is Mia's favorite television show.

## **IQ 83**

"IQ 83" is Mia's favorite novel.

## **An Eggplant**

An eggplant is what Lilly dares Mia to drop out of her sixteenth story bedroom window for her television show about how deviant teenagers have become.

## **M1 City Bus**

An M1 city bus is where the majority of Mia's dropped eggplant lands.

## **City Hall**

City Hall is where Mia's mother and Mr. Gianini plan to get married.

## **Jefferson Market**

Jefferson Market is the store from which Mia and her mother often have groceries delivered.

## **White and Gold Room**

The White and Gold Room of the Plaza Hotel is where Mia's grandmother plans an outrageous wedding for Helen and Mr. Gianini.





## **Crackhead**

Crackhead is the name of Michael's webzine.

## **Vera Wang Wedding Gown**

A Vera Wang wedding gown with a big poofy skirt is one of the dresses that Grandmere is considering for Mia's mother's wedding.

## **Versailles**

Versailles is the city where Mia's maternal grandparents live.

## **Who is Julia?**

"Who is Julia?" is a movie that Mia watched on the Lifetime Channel while she was sick. She later uses this novel to illustrate a journal entry for her English class.

## **Lars' Glock**

It is when the people in line for "Rocky Horror" see Lars' glock that they stop murmuring about Mia and Lars cutting line.

## **Village Cinema**

It is at the Village Cinema that Mia and her friends watch "Rocky Horror".

## **Round the Clock**

It is at this all night restaurant that Mia and her friends eat after they watch "Rocky Horror".



# Themes

## Strong Female Characters

One of the more prominent themes in this novel is the presence of strong female characters. The women in this novel tend to take active roles while the males seem to take a back seat. One of these strong women, though she may not realize her strength, is Mia. Mia uses her strength to try to protect her mother from stress and uncomfortable situations during her pregnancy. She throws away or gives away food that could be dangerous to a pregnant woman and her baby even though her actions make her mother mad. Mia also has the courage to use her grandmother's teachings on her grandmother. When her Grandmere hides in her hotel room after she learns that Helen and Frank have eloped, left the country and will not be at the wedding that she planned for them. She stands up to her grandmother, who is accustomed to helping run a country, that she is acting childish and immature. Mia's words make an impact on her grandmother and she goes back to the wedding reception, as she has always told Mia a princess should.

As a dowager princess, Mia's Grandmere is also a strong character. Although she is often overzealous in her actions, Grandmere is not afraid of doing what she thinks is best. Lilly, Mia's best friend, is another strong female character. Lilly is a self confessed feminist. Lilly is not afraid to give her opinion of the things that happen around her and is active in telling her viewpoint, as is shown in her television show Lilly Tells it Like it Is. Although she seems a little scatterbrained, even Mia's mother is a strong female character in the novel. She is a single mother who has successfully raised a child while still pursuing a career.

Meanwhile, the male characters seem less influential than the female characters. For instance it is Mia who is able to get her grandmother to come out of her hotel suite even though both Mia and her father tried to persuade her to rejoin the wedding party. It is also Lilly, a female character, who helps Hank achieve his dream of becoming a model. Mia also describes all of the males in her high school as being either jocks or mouth breathers, which is not exactly a positive comment on the boys in her school.

## Dating and Marriage

Dating and marriage is also a significant topic in this novel. There are several levels on which this theme is addressed. First, there is the lack of a marriage between Mia's mother and father. Mia's mother has told her that she did not get married because she did not want to have to submit to the male hierarchy that seems to come with a marriage relationship. Mia believes, however, that her father never asked her mother to marry him.



Next is Helen's relationship with Mr. Gianini. For a second time, Helen has gotten pregnant out of wedlock. This time, however, Mr. Gianini proposes marriage, which Mia's mom accepts. Mia is worried about the way that her father will feel once he knows that her mother is getting married, but the relationship does not seem to faze him. He seems too busy trying to pursue another woman with whom he can have a relationship.

Another factor in this theme is Mia's idea of dating. Although she has never dated or had a boyfriend, she already has an idea how things should work. Her best friend shocks her when Mia suspects that Lilly is going out with another person even though Lilly already has a boyfriend. At the end of the novel, Mia is shocked by her own actions because she feels as if she has been out on a date with two boys after the Rocky Horror experience. Mia is given a reality check when her grandmother and Vigo tell her about all the rules that any boy who dates her must follow. As she contemplates this list of rules, Mia wonders who would want to date her. Regardless, it is important to Mia and her self-esteem that she have a boyfriend. She describes herself as the only girl in her high school without one and feels that she is inferior in this respect.

## Maturity

Maturity is an idea that is touched upon quite frequently in this novel. Mia indicates several times that her mother is immature. She stuffs bills in a salad bowl and forgets to pay them. On top of this she can't even remember to buy toilet paper. The greatest infringement that Mia's mother makes on her daughter's expectation of maturity occurs when she gets pregnant. Mia cannot believe that her mother, and her Algebra teacher would be so immature as to not use contraceptives when they knew the risk of getting pregnant was a possibility. Mia also wonders if the two ever thought of the impact that a new baby would have on the rest of the family. Mia even worries about the affect the baby will have on the family cat.

Meanwhile, Mia shows a great deal of maturity as she tries to see that her mother has both the correct nutrition and the correct atmosphere while she is expecting. Not many fourteen year olds would be interested in seeing that their mother ate a proper diet while she was pregnant, much less plan to sic their bodyguard on the father of the baby if her was not happy with the situation. Mia's maturity again shows when it is she who is able to convince her grandmother to come out of her hotel suite and attend to her guests even though she feels as if she has been betrayed by her family.



# Style

## Point of View

"Princess in the Spotlight" is told from the first person point of view of Amelia (Mia) Mignonette Grimaldi Thermopolis Renaldo. Mia is both the main character and narrator of the story. The novel is written in the form of a journal kept by Mia during a 12-day period in her freshman year of high school. Because this is a journal the only appropriate point of view is the first person point of view.

The story is told through exposition. Again, this is the only appropriate form for a story that is told in the form of a journal. Although Mia does include the content of some conversations in her entries, the conversations aren't actually taking place as she is recording them. This form is most appropriate to keep the reader focused on Mia and her thoughts about and reactions to what is happening to her.

## Setting

The novel is set in New York City. SoHo, the area where Mia lives in a loft with her mother, is a real neighborhood in lower Manhattan. This loft, along with the hotel where Mia's father arranges for her maternal grandmother and grandfather to stay before the wedding, is one of the many settings for this novel. The Plaza Hotel, also a real location in Manhattan in New York City, is another major setting in this novel. It is in the penthouse suite of this hotel that Mia's grandmother stays while she is in New York to give her granddaughter princess lessons. Mia's father also stays at this hotel while in New York. Her grandmother's suite in the hotel is also where Mia's interview with Beverly Bellerieve is conducted.

The wedding, planned by Mia's grandmother for Mia's mother and algebra teacher is also set to take place in the Plaza Hotel. City hall, however is where the two had planned to get married. Other important settings in the novel include Lilly's parent's apartment as well as the school that Mia attends, Albert Einstein High School. Mia and her friends watch the movie *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Village Cinema. They later eat at a restaurant called Round the Clock.

Other settings that are mentioned in Mia's diary but not actually visited include Genovia, the fictional country that Mia will rule over eventually. Versailles is another place that is mentioned but is never actually visited in the novel. Versailles is the city where Mia's mother, Helen grew up and where her parents travel to New York from for the wedding. Another setting that is mentioned but is not actually visited is the Handy Dandy Hardware store, the store that Helen Thermopolis' parents own.



## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is very informal, in fact, it exercises typical slang used by teenagers. In her journal, Mia writes in complete sentences and portrays her thoughts in words that are probably more advanced than most ninth-graders would use. Although Mia is under quite a bit of stress, she still manages to describe what goes on around her with a humor that is both biting and intelligent. She pokes fun at her grandmother for having eyeliner tattooed on her eyelids, and for dressing her poodle up in mink and chinchilla coats. Along with others, Mia also makes fun of herself, describing herself as a flat chested Amazon with yield sign shaped hair.

## Structure

This book is structured as a journal used to record day to day and even moment to moment thoughts and happenings. The book covers a time span of 12 days, just under two weeks. It begins on Monday, October 20 when Mia learns her mother is pregnant and continues through November 1 after Mia's mother and algebra teacher have gotten married, and Mia has learned the identity of her secret admirer. Mia titles each entry with the day and date, and usually includes the time of day and where she is writing, or what class she is in at school.

Because this is a journal, Mia's writing tends to be stream of consciousness as she reacts to what is happening to her. The plot of the novel is not complex, but does have several intertwining subplots. The main plot of the novel deals with the resolution of Mia's mother realizing that she is pregnant through her marriage to Mr. Gianini. Through this plot, Mia fights against her paternal grandmother to allow her mother to have the type of wedding that she wants.



## Quotes

"My mom is having my Algebra teacher's baby." Monday, October 20, 8 a.m.; pg. 18

"Also last month, I found out that I am the sole heir to the throne of a small European country." Monday, October 20, Homeroom; pg. 18

"I guess nobody ever would have told me, either, if my dad hadn't gotten testicular cancer and become sterile, making me, his illegitimate daughter, the only heir he'll ever have to his throne." Monday, October 20, English; pg. 26

"I mean, I know Gifted and Talented isn't a real class at all. It's more like study hall for the socially impaired." Still Monday, October 20, Still G&T; pg. 32

"Somebody really needs to tell Grandmère that surprises are supposed to be pleasant." Monday, October 20, 11 p.m.; pg. 42

"I really need to see about getting more of an allowance. I mean, who ever heard of a princess who only gets ten bucks a week spending money? You can't even go to the movies on that." Monday, October 20, 11 p.m.; pg. 46

"It is very hard to concentrate on the fact that I am about to be interviewed by this world-renowned television news journalist, when all I can think about is how my poor dad is going to feel when he finds out my mother is marrying my Algebra teacher and also having his baby." Saturday, October 25, 2 p.m., Grandmere's Suite; pg. 92

"People who excel at sports have traditionally been treated like gods in our society, while people whose brilliance is cerebral are routinely ignored, or worse, mocked as nerds or geeks." Monday, October 27, Later; pg. 144

"No, it's the fact that my dad—my dad—helped them to do it. He actually defied his mother. In a BIG way." Friday, October 31, 9 p.m.; pg. 272



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Mia's opinion of herself. How is this opinion typical of a teenager? What is your opinion of Mia after reading her journal? How does your opinion of Mia differ from her own opinion?

How realistic is it that Mia's Grandmere, the dowager princess of Genovia, and her father, the prince of Genovia, are both able to spend an extended time in America with Mia? Who is ruling the country while they are absent?

Consider the differing opinions that are voiced about Mia's television interview. Compare and contrast these opinions. How do the differing opinions affect Mia's view of herself?

Do you believe Mia's parents were right in not telling her that it was a possibility she might be heir to the throne in Genovia? How do you believe this situation should have been handled?

How does the relationship between Mia's parents affect Mia?

One of the themes of the novel deals with the way that Mia's priorities clash with those around her. Describe one of the instances in which the things other people think Mia should be interested in clash with the things that are really important to her. How does Mia handle these clashes? Do you believe she could have handled them in a better way?

Consider the idea of adulthood as presented in the novel. In what ways does Mia act more responsibly than the adults around her? In what areas does she need to mature?

Why is Mia writing these journals? How do her reasons for writing the journals affect the information that she puts in them?

This book has been rewritten into a popular movie "The Princess Diaries." In what ways are the portions of the movie that are inspired by the book different from Cabot's book? Why do you think these changes were made? How do the changes alter the story as it is presented in the book? Which do you prefer?