

# **Red Lily Study Guide**

## **Red Lily by Nora Roberts**

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# Plot Summary

"Red Lily: In the Garden Trilogy" by Christopher McDougall is the the story of a ghost that haunts a house until it is avenged.

Hayley is a single mother who has found herself in a wonderful situation. She lives with a very distant cousin and friends in the beautiful Harper House. Hayley feels very fortunate to have her friends in her life because they give her the opportunity to work at the nursery and they help her take care of her daughter. They are like family to her.

Harper House is a beautiful old house, but it is haunted by a ghost. The ghost, Amelia Connor, is drawn to the children in the house. Hayley sees her when the ghost comes to sing to Lily. Amelia isn't always pleasant. Sometimes she is scary and harmful to the adults, but she would never harm the children.

Hayley is very attracted to Harper, the son of her friend Roz. Her daughter loves the man as well. She visits with him one evening and kisses him. As she walks home, Hayley become uncharacteristically angry and snaps at her daughter. She feels horrible about it later and doesn't know what came over her. Back in the carriage house where Harper lives, he is dreaming about kissing Hayley when the ghost trashes his kitchen.

Soon it becomes apparent to everyone that Amelia is possessing Hayley. She says mean and spiteful things. Hayley tries to fight back mentally, but sometimes she catches glimpses of the ghost. They know she has to be put to rest, but they don't know how or even who she really is.

Harper and Hayley become even closer, and they realize that they are in love. He buys her a bracelet she is drawn to. Through a series of events, they discover that the bracelet once belonged to Amelia. As their love grows, Amelia becomes more aggressive. She appears with a blade and rope and flings Harper into a wall. She also gets into Hayley's head, encouraging her to steal from her friends.

Hayley fights back with the help of her friends. They remind her that she is strong and Harper is strong, too. Roz tells Hayley that she feels fortunate to be able to watch her son fall in love with someone she, herself, loves. She reminds Hayley that Harper was there, holding her hand when Lily was born. Hayley is very moody and learns that she is pregnant. Harper proposes to her, and they begin to plan their wedding. The growing relationship between the two sets Amelia off, and Hayley gets more frequent glimpses into Amelia's life. She is finally put to rest in the family graveyard.

They know they need to find Amelia's missing body so they can put her to rest. Together they go to the old nursery and Hayley is possessed by Amelia. She learns that the woman had tried to hang her baby son as well as herself, but a nursemaid saved the child. As death surrounds her, Amelia floats into a dark and cold space. When Hayley tells the others about this, Harper realizes that it's probably the pond. He dives down, searching for her and finds her.



# Prologue - Chapter 4

## Prologue - Chapter 4 Summary

"Red Lily: In the Garden Trilogy" by Christopher McDougall is the the story of a ghost that haunts a house until it is avenged.

In the Prologue, it's January of 1893 in Memphis. A woman who was once beautiful and clever is now destitute, desperate and demented. She was the mistress of a powerful man, and her life was filled with riches, servants and fabulous friends. People once envied her — a thrilling feeling for the daughter of a housemaid. Things changed.

She has a son and at first she doesn't want him, but her feelings change. He becomes the only thing she loves more than she loves herself. She looks forward to his birth, and she doesn't mind the pain of delivery since she knows it is followed by joy. The woman is told that she delivered a girl, and the girl is stillborn. She knows they lie to her.

Grieving, the woman sinks into despair and madness. Reginald took her son. Months after she gives birth, he finishes their affair. He doesn't need her anymore now that he had his son. Reginald tries to pay her off with money and a trip to England, but she wants him to pay in a different way. Now she is penniless. The woman dresses up in a gray dress and fixes her hair. She is ready to go to Harper House to take back what is rightfully hers.

Getting to the house is expensive, but she feels it's worth the cost so her son James can come back with her in comfort. At the house, she knocks on the door and tells the man who answers that she is there for James. He says there is no James in residence. The woman pushes past him and meets up with the master's wife, Beatrice. The woman says she pities Amelia Connor and wishes she hadn't had her brat foisted on her. Amelia asks for her son back, and Beatrice kicks her out of the house.

She comes back later during the cold night. Amelia is wearing a white nightdress, and she is ready to kill them all and take her sweet James. She knows that she can't do it, however. She thinks of another way for them to pay. She goes to the carriage house to get what she needs then moves toward the house, singing to her baby.

In Chapter 1, it's July 2005 in Harper House. Hayley is exhausted, but every time she stops rocking, her daughter Lily begins to squirm. It's 4 o'clock in the morning, and she has already been up twice before to soothe her fretful daughter. She thinks about how tough it is for single mothers and wonders if she would have made it if she were all on her own. Thankfully, she has friends who are willing to help. These friends are so close that she considers them family. She lives in a beautiful Harper House, has a great job, and has a wonderful friend who cooks their meals. Logan and Stella were recently married, and Mitch and Roz were on their honeymoon. Haylee knows that she should probably find a new place to live. She wishes she could find a place close by, even on



the property like the carriage house where Harper lives. Harper is an extremely attractive friend who is Roz's son. He is amazing with Lily, and he's very smart.

Lily is finally asleep so Hayley tries to get some rest as well. She wakes up hearing some singing. The room is ice cold. She sees a figure in a gray dress singing an old lullaby. She hasn't seen the ghost for several weeks and doesn't know what to say. She reminds herself to note all the details of this experience so she can share them with Mitch. Hayley has seen the ghost acting crazy, but right now she seems calm. She tells the ghost that Lily had her inoculations that day so she is fussy. She tells the ghost it is all right to go.

David fixes her some blueberry pancakes for breakfast and comments on her tired visage. She tells him they had a visitor the night before. He is concerned, and she reassures him. Hayley comments that she feels that she is getting into a rut, and David suggest that she get some new shoes. She also decides to go get a new haircut. After a day of primping and shopping, she comes back feeling like a new woman. At work, she daydreams about finding someone to love. Harper interrupts her musings and tells her that his mother is home.

In Chapter 2, Hayley goes up to the house to see Roz. The honeymoon was wonderful, and they came back bearing gifts. Roz says that she likes to think of herself as an honorary grandmother to Lily. Hayley mentions that she's looking for someplace to live, and Roz tells her she wants her to stay.

David is making a special welcome home dinner that evening, and Hayley enjoys dressing up for it. She feels like a new person who is back in the game.

Harper is downstairs thinking about how happy he is for his mother. He thinks Hayley looks amazing, but tries to tell himself not to think about it since she is sort of a cousin as well as an employee. He knows he has to keep the relationship at friendship level.

It's great being back together with everyone. Hayley thinks about families. She thinks of Harper and what it would be like if he were married, and it makes her ache inside. After dinner, the children go out to play and the adults gather together to talk about Amelia. Mitch is bringing them up to date on his research. They have a hard time tracking down any solid evidence, but there is a grandmother who remembers comments from her own mother and a cousin who worked at Harper House. The adults in the room figured that Amelia had died on the property. They figured that she is haunting the house until she is avenged, but don't know how.

Hayley tells them that she saw the ghost the previous night. Mitch records her story as she talks about the singing. She also mentions a time when she looked out the window and saw the ghost walking toward the carriage house.

Before Hayley goes to bed, she and Harper go to check on Lily. The room is cold, and she sees the ghost sitting in a rocking chair once again. When she turns to look at Hayley, her eyes are bulging and her rims are violent red. Hayley speaks, and the form



begins to disintegrate until it is only a skeleton wearing rags. Harper offers to stay with Hayley that evening, but she tells him she will be all right.

In Chapter 3, Harper seeks Hayley out the next day, knowing he can't be obvious about his concern for her. He asks for some help with his work in the grafting house. As they work, she flirts with him and likes the way he reacts to her flirting.

When they are finished working together, Harper takes a swim in the pond. It is something he has done since childhood. He decides to distract himself by going out, but when he gets home, he doesn't feel like going out anymore. He loves his house and the flowers that surround it. The flowers make them think of Lily and how much he loves her. David comes over to see if he wants to go out with him, but he declines. While they are talking, Hayley and Lily walk by. Lily runs to Harper in delight. She calls him da-da, and Hayley is extremely embarrassed.

In Chapter 4, Hayley is having a hard time concentrating at work. She is feeling abnormally low, and doesn't know what's wrong with her. When Stella comes to talk with her, she admits to Stella that she likes Harper. She can't believe she has fallen for Roz's son and feels as if it's wrong. Stella reassures her.

A few days later, Hayley is watching a black and white romantic movie. She begins having a daydream about herself and Harper, and the scene shifts and becomes very realistic. The lilies in her daydream become roses, and strange thoughts go through her head. She is now a woman in control of the man she is pleasuring. She sees her blonde hair. Hayley panics and pulls herself out of the dream, hearing laughter as she grasps her own dark hair. She runs downstairs and sees Mitch. She asks him to get Roz. While she is waiting she sees a picture of Reginald and asks Mitch if it really is Reginald.

They talk about the dreams Stella once had. The dreams became more disturbing over time, and it was in the dreams that Amelia told them her name. Hayley tells them that Amelia is moving on to her. She tells them what just happened. The man in her dream is Reginald.

## Prologue - Chapter 4 Analysis

In the Prologue, the book opens with a scene from the past. It's a tragic scene about a woman who once had power and beauty who became insane after her child was taken from her. It was a child she hadn't even wanted at first, but he became the only thing that she ever could love aside from herself. She enters Harper House and has a confrontation with the mistress of the house who is now raising her son unwillingly. The reader finds out that the name of the insane woman is Amelia Connor. The reader also understands that the woman is going to do something drastic, but doesn't know exactly what she is going to do. This sets up the mystery of the story.

In Chapter 1, a little more than 100 years later, Hayley is living in Harper House. She lives a good life, surrounded by friends who are so close they could be family. She doesn't take her situation for granted, and she reflects on what it would have been like if



she had to raise her daughter on her own. This chapter introduces the reader to the main characters of the book - everyone living in Harper House and on its grounds. While reading this chapter, the reader discovers that Hayley sees the ghost on a regular basis, and the ghost is very unstable.

In Chapter 2, Hayley loves her job, working in a nursery. She also loves the people who own the place. They love her and her daughter Lily as well. All of the people in Harper House are familiar with the ghost in the house, and they have decided to work together to figure out why she is haunting the place. Mitch is in charge of the research, and they all agree to share every detail regarding their experiences with the ghost with each other. The first time the ghost is mentioned in this book, she is calm. In this chapter, Harper and Hayley go to check on Lily, and the ghost's face is scary. She disintegrates in front of them until she is a skeleton in rags. Harper offers to stay with Hayley, offering security, but even though she is attracted to him, she turns the offer down. She can face her troubles on her own.

In Chapter 3, even though he respected Hayley's wishes to stay alone that night, Harper is concerned for her and finds an excuse to check up on her the next day. They are both attracted to each other, but don't realize it. Hayley flirts with him, and he jumps into the pond. It's a place he has gone to since he was young.

This chapter gives the reader a glimpse of the closeness between Harper and Lily. He can't understand the depth of love he feels for the little girl, and she calls him da-da.

In Chapter 4, something is going on with Hayley. She feels strange and unusually depressed. She thinks it might be because she is attracted to Harper and doesn't want to act on her feelings. There might be more to it, though. The ghost manages to get into her dream state, and she gets a glimpse into the ghost's thoughts. Even though her dream is unnerving, Hayley is quick to share the details with the others in the household.



# Chapters 5-9

## Chapters 5-9 Summary

In Chapter 5, Hayley looks outside Stella's kitchen window, watching the summer evening activities as Lily plays with Logan. It's an evening filled with lazy contentment, and she remembers days like this when she was a child. Now she is the mother.

She talks with Stella about how good life is, and she dreams about how wonderful it would be to have someone as crazy about her as Logan is of Stella. She tells Stella that she doesn't know what's wrong with her lately, but she keeps getting caught in a "poor-me" routine. She asks Stella to give her a smack next time she starts feeling sorry for herself.

That's the kind of personality she has. When her mother left, she learned to survive. She and her dad had a great life together, and she had done well in school and had gotten a good job. When her father died, she struggled, turning to a friend for comfort. Lily was a result of that, but she felt as if it was a positive thing. She didn't even tell Lily's father because she didn't want to ruin his life—he was moving on and getting married to someone else. Instead of feeling down, she moved on to raise the child on her own, although it hadn't worked out like that. Hayley comes up with an idea to make things better. She wanted to act, even if she failed.

Walking down the path, Hayley let Lily go. The girl ran to Harper's front door. They knocked, and Hayley stepped aside so when Harper opened the door, all he saw was Lily. He greets her then Hayley steps out, and he invites them into the house. They talk about her dream, and Hayley tells him that Harper looks like Reginald. She says she was extra sensitive to how similar they looked because the daydream began with her thinking about Harper. She kisses him. They agree that they are both interested in each other but want to take things slowly.

On the way back to the house, Lily is throwing a temper tantrum, and Hayley snaps at her. The house seems like a far-away mirage. Roz comes into view, and she snaps back into focus, feeling nauseous. Later, after she tucks Lily in, she talks with Roz. Hayley says she doesn't know what's wrong with her - it's like she's feeling pregnant again, but that's not a possibility since she isn't having sex. Roz says maybe she should, and she offers to babysit if Hayley wants to join the dating scene again. She also says that sex might be one of the keys to Amelia. When women in the household have sex, she gets more active. It's particularly strong when sexual energy is tied with love.

In the carriage house, Harper is thinking about the evening. He falls asleep and dreams about making love with Hayley. The dream is interrupted by crashing. The ghost had trashed his kitchen and written a message with ketchup saying, "I will not rest."





In Chapter 6, Mitch looks at photographs of Harper's destroyed kitchen. He comments on the fact that the ghost has never entered the carriage house before. Hayley and Lily come in, and the guys don't hide the pictures fast enough. Hayley sees them and gets upset.

Later, at work, Hayley asks Stella for some manual labor since she can't think straight. She tells Stella that the incident in the carriage house was her fault since she pursed Harper there. It's extremely hot out, and Harper is concerned when he sees her doing heavy labor in the heat. He makes her rest, and he tries to kiss her, but she fends him off. Hayley says they should stay friends and not throw sex into the mix. He is upset and argues with her.

Her vision wavers, and she feels like she is looking at Harper through a wave of heat as anger within her spikes. She spews vile words out, and he notices that her eyes changed. She becomes a seductress. Harper tells Hayley he likes her just the way she is. She vaguely remembers what she said and feel ill. They go home and talk to the others. Harper tells them Amelia was talking through Hayley.

In Chapter 7, the three woman are talking together, and Hayley admits to Roz that she put the moves on Harper. She is very apologetic, and Roz tells her that Harper is a grown man and can make his own decisions. Hayley admits that she feels guilty because she thinks she brought on the ghost's attack. Roz says that Harper will be able to handle it. Hayley tells the others what happened at work, explaining how she sort of faded back when words came out of her mouth that she didn't put there. They were ugly words. Stella reminds her that it wasn't really Hayley speaking.

Hayley is very unnerved. She turns to the Internet to find out more about ghosts and possession. Harper comes to visit her, and he tells her how much he wants to be with her. He doesn't want the ghost to separate them. She tries to pretend she's not interested, but when they kiss, it's very obvious that she still is interested.

She sees Amelia in the doorway with a storm raging around and through her. She looks bloody and filthy and carries a long, curved blade in one hand and a rope in her other hand. Her face is filled with rage. Harper moves forward to tell the ghost that she is dead, and he is hit with a blow that sends him five feet back into a wall. Hayley runs forward and tells the ghost that she can't harm Harper. He is her great-great-grandbaby, and she used to sing to him. Hayley is sent sprawling by a gust of wind, and she hears a scream then the ghost is gone. Both she and Harper hear singing over the baby monitor. Amelia is sitting in the rocking chair, looking neat, calm, and quiet. Her face is filled with grief and what Hayley thinks is a look of regret.

They talk about their relationship, and Harper invites Hayley out to dinner. He decides to sleep in Stella's old room that night so they can sleep easier. Hayley realizes that she cares about him more than she thought she would. She thinks about how she didn't really want her baby at first, but after the panic, anger and denial, she realized she wanted her baby. She realizes she can have it all. She can play the man until he comes begging, and Harper House will finally be hers and her child's, at last.



In Chapter 8, the next day Hayley talks to Roz about the weird dreams she is having. Mitch comes in and tells them that he thinks he found her and asks them to get together with the others. Before he leaves, he tells them that the ghost's name is Amelia Connor, and she was born in Memphis on May 12, 1868. There is no death certificate on record.

The adults gather together, and Mitch tells them how he came across the name. They discovered that Amelia's mother worked at a house called The Willows, owned by the Lucerne family. Roz says that she will smooth the way as they try to get information from the people who own The Willows.

Hayley hasn't been on a date in a long time and she thoroughly enjoys it. She tells Harper about Lily's father and her relationship with her own father. She tells him how she went to see Lily's father to tell him about the baby, and he was telling her how he fell in love with somebody so she didn't tell him. She had planned to name her daughter Eliza, but when Harper brought red lilies into the room after the baby was born, they were so beautiful that she named her daughter Lily.

When they get home from the date, Hayley discovers that her bedroom is completely torn apart. Nothing is damaged, but all the clothes from her drawers and closet are heaped on the bed. She begins to put things away and wishes she could afford better fabrics and designer labels. Roz has incredible quotes and jewels, and she wouldn't notice if some were missing. She stands in front of the mirror and talks to the reflection saying that it isn't her. She doesn't know what the ghost needs or how she gets inside of her, but Amelia can't make her take things from her friends.

In Chapter 9, Hayley is happy to be working since Amelia doesn't seem to be interested in visiting her work. She makes a list for Mitch documenting every time and every place where she wasn't herself. A woman comes into the shop, and it's cousin Jane. She has had a complete makeover and look fabulous. It's a very happy reunion for everyone. By the time they hit August, everything seems very peaceful. Amelia could be heard singing in the baby's room, but there have been no signs of any problems. They wonder if identifying who she was is enough to make her leave them alone. Stella talks with Hayley about her relationship with Harper, and Hayley tells her that she is waiting for Harper to make the next move.

Harper is talking with David, telling him that it's hard for him to take things slowly. David recommends that Harper take her out to a fancy dinner and get a hotel room. He invites her, and she gets dressed up, but has no idea what's really in store for her. Before she leaves, she looks in the mirror and sees herself in a red dress, but it's not the one that she put on. This one is long, and her hair is arranged in elaborate blonde curls. She tells the apparition that she isn't her. As she walks away, she reminds herself that she knows who she is, and she knows who Amelia is, and they aren't the same. When she looks back at the mirror, she is herself.



## Chapters 5-9 Analysis

Chapter 5 offers the reader more insight into Hayley's background and personality. She craves calmness and family time, and she isn't a complainer. She is a survivor who understands and appreciates love in its various forms. This is important because it's in contrast to the woman Amelia is full of discontent.

Hayley is a woman who takes action. When she is alone and pregnant, she doesn't wallow in self-pity. Instead, she moves on to find a home and job. She doesn't use people. The reader knows that Amelia used men, getting what she could from them. In contrast, Hayley doesn't even tell Lily that he has a child because he is in love with someone else, and she doesn't want to ruin his life.

When Hayley snaps at Lily, the reader understand that this is not normal for her. Something is going on. As the chapter ends, Amelia moves into a new arena - the carriage house.

In Chapter 6, the adults in the house work together. They are friends, family, and researchers together. It's a tight-knit group. When Hayley starts acting strangely, they share the details together and don't hold things against her. They realize that Hayley is possessed by the ghost at times, but want to help her rather than shun her.

In Chapter 7, Hayley feels conflicted. She is falling for Harper, but has a hard time not feeling guilty about this with Roz. It's particularly bad when she has to admit that she said horrible things to Harper. Roz is very reassuring, reminding her that it's not her words when she is nasty. It's Amelia talkign through her.

In this chapter, the reader sees that Amelia can affect people physically as she thrusts Harper against the wall. Still, even after a raging appearance, she appears calm around the children. They know she won't ever hurt the children. As the chapter ends, Amelia begins to take over Hayley's thought processes so seamlessly that the reader only knows the transition because the thoughts aren't true to Hayley's personality.

In Chapter 8, the adults find out more about Amelia and are determined to find out what happened to her. They have a birth date, but no death date.

Harper invites Hayley on a date, and the reader sees the family-like connection between Harper and Hayley and her daughter. He doesn't know it before this point, but influenced the naming of the girl.

At the end of the chapter, Amelia once again takes over Hayley's thoughts. This time, Hayley fights back mentally. The ghost is trying to tempt her to steal from her friends, but Hayley is stronger than that. Her love for her friends is more powerful, and she refuses to listen to the ghost.

In Chapter 9, work becomes a respite for Hayley since Amelia isn't interested in going there. Things are more peaceful than they have been in a while. The relationship

between Hayley and Harper is getting stronger, and they decide to go out for a special dinner. As Hayley prepares to leave, she sees Amelia in the mirror for the first time. She reminds herself that she isn't the ghost.



# Summary and Analysis for Chapters 10-14

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 10-14 Summary

In Chapter 10, Harper and Hayley go to dinner in Memphis to a place where she has never eaten before. He leads her past the dining room and upstairs where a room is filled with flowers, candles, champagne, and wonderful food. They spend an amazing night together. The next day, she looks in the gift shop to buy some gifts to thank her friends for taking care of Lily. She is drawn to a beautiful diamond and ruby bracelet with heart-shaped stones, and Harper decides to buy it for her. She is worried about the cost and tries to persuade him not to get it, but he insists.

In Chapter 11, Hayley has a hard time talking with Roz when they get home because they are talking about her son. Roz encourages the relationship and compliments Hayley on her new bracelet. Hayley admits that she is in love with Harper, and Roz says she already knows.

She tells Hayley that love is a gift to be taken and received freely. Hayley responds by saying that love is a lie. Roz shudders and asks if that's how she justifies the choices she makes. She finds out that the other woman made life, her son. Now she is there to get her son. Roz tells her that her son is long gone. He was her grandfather and a good man. The other one responds that she should have killed his father. Roz asks what she did do, and the other woman says she came in at night and now everything is gone. They hear Lily crying through the monitor, and Hayley slides to the floor. Roz calls for the men, and Hayley says that she is dizzy, has a headache and feels nauseous.

When the men come in, they use a tape to record everything that just happened. Mitch points out that the woman was used to getting gifts for sex so that's how she related to the bracelet Hayley is wearing. They realize that Hayley is the conduit, most likely because she is a young mother. She tells them about seeing Amelia in the mirror the night before. As she thinks back, she realizes that the woman in the mirror wore a necklace of rubies and diamonds, and she also realizes that she wore the very same bracelet that she is now wearing. The bracelet is Amelias. Later, Harper tries to persuade Hayley to move out. She won't do it.

In Chapter 12, David and Harper feel like detectives. They are going to talk to an old woman about the bracelet since her mother owned it, and she sold it when she was settling her mother's estate. They discovered that the bracelet had once belonged to a wealthy man's mistress.

Harper talks with his mother about his relationship with Hayley. He tells her about his visit with the older woman who sold the bracelet. She expresses concern over what happened to Amelia, pointing out that she is their blood. As they reminisce together,



they realize that Amelia has done some mean things to them over the years—far longer than they previously realized. She is filled with hate and anger because she is trapped.

In Chapter 13, Harper is at work, thinking about Hayley. He realizes that she is The One for him. When his former girlfriend comes in and greets him, Hayley sees them together and becomes jealous. Later when they talk about it, Harper makes it very clear that she is the only one that he wants. She goes to make him something to eat, and thoughts that he is lying go through her head. He should pay. She tells herself those are not her thoughts, and she won't have them in her head.

In Chapter 14, Harper asks Hayley to spend the night with him that night. He sets up a portable crib for Lily in the spare room. He has some toys from his childhood for Lily to play with as well. They both admit to each other that they love each other.

After they tuck Lily in, they start to have sex. Hayley knows that she is loved. She rolls over on top of him and tells him that is what he wants, it's what they all want. He looks at her and realizes that it's not really Hayley speaking. He tries to push her off of him, and she tells him that she knows how to use the body better than Hayley. He speaks to Hayley, telling her that she is stronger than Amelia and she shouldn't let her do this. He kisses her and says he loves her, calling her by name. She comes back to him. Even though it's awkward, they tell Mitch what happened.

Later, Harper teaches Hayley some things about gardening. He shows her how to create a new type of plant since he is making one for Lily. They talk about the night before. Later in the day, Hayley talks with Stella and says that she and Harper are in love. Stella is very happy for them.

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 10-14 Analysis

In Chapter 10, the evening is magical when Harper and Hayley have dinner together in Memphis, the town where Amelia was born. Everything seems calm, and nothing strange occurs. The only occurrence slightly out of the ordinary is Hayley's attraction to a bracelet that Harper subsequently purchases for her as a sign of affection.

In Chapter 11, the relationship between Hayley and Harper is stronger than ever, and Hayley admits to Roz that she loves Roz's son. As they converse, Amelia takes over Hayley's body. Keeping up the conversations, Roz learns more about the ghost, but the conversation breaks off as Lily's voice comes through the baby monitor.

The adults share everything, and this is no different. As they talk, Hayley remembers seeing Amelia in the mirror the night before. As she re-lives the experience, she realizes that the bracelet she was so drawn to is the one Amelia was wearing the night before. Gifts for her were payment for sex. It makes Amelia bitter, and she doesn't understand gifts of love. Even though things are escalating, Hayley, true to character, refuses to back down. She won't move out even when Harper requests it.



In Chapter 12, David and Harper visit the woman who sold the bracelet, and they learn that it's very likely the one owned by Amelia. Later, as Harper talks with his mother, they realize that Amelia has shown hatred and anger toward real love for a long time. David shows his love for his mother by planting the type of tree his mother loved and Amelia destroyed. It's a symbol of new life after a death, and a sign that they are stronger than Amelia. They won't let her dictate to them.

In Chapter 13, Hayley sees Harper with a former girlfriend and becomes jealous. The anger she feels upon seeing them together is similar to the rage and anger Amelia shows. Still, Hayley talks things out with Harper, and they are comfortable in their love for each other. Amelia puts doubting thoughts in her head, but Hayley is strong enough to push these thoughts away.

In Chapter 14, Amelia becomes stronger as she possesses Hayley, but it's not enough to drive Harper away. He is patient and gentle, reaching out to Hayley until she responds to him. They are becoming a family unit and their life is happy.



# Summary and Analysis for Chapters 15-17

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 15-17 Summary

In Chapter 15, Hayley loves researching using her new laptop. She is learning a lot, and she also enjoys getting back in touch with her friends from Little Rock. Roz comes to talk with her, and addresses the sensitive issue regarding what happened the other night while Hayley and Harper were making love. They begin talking about the romance between Hayley and Harper and about the love between them. Roz asks Hayley who held her hand while Lily was born. It was Harper. Roz says that she feels lucky because she watched her child fall in love with someone that she loves herself.

Hayley admits that she is more scared now than ever before because she doesn't want The Bride to hurt Harper. Since she has been privy to the ghost's thought processes, she knows that she sees Reginald in Harper. The more Hayley feels for Harper, the stronger Amelia's objections. Hayley says that Amelia is getting stronger, and Roz points out that she is strong as well, and so is Harper.

Hayley hopes she has the wherewithal to go against the vindictive spirit, but she also realizes that she has some sympathy for the ghost. Still, Amelia has no right to take out her anger on the people in the household. She wonders what it had been like for Amelia.

She sits at the dressing table putting on rouge. Pregnancy is difficult with her widening waist and morning sickness, but she also notices something that's good. Reginald is extremely pleased and is very generous. In the future, she plans to ask for a larger house in addition to other items. She feels the baby move inside her.

The next morning, Hayley remembers the experience vividly. She talks about it with Mitch and says that she feels as if it's a bid for sympathy. In her opinion, now that she has been part of Amelia's thoughts, Hayley thinks that Amelia was already a little bit crazy during the pregnancy. Harper asks how she can feel sorry for the ghost, and she says it was the change in her when she felt the baby move. Amelia really loved the child that was taken away from her.

Hayley's car breaks down, and she has to find a new one. She bargains and gets a good deal. After purchasing the car, she, Lily and Harper go out for lunch then have some ice cream. It seems like a nice family outing even though they aren't officially a family. After they get home, Hayley is unusually tired and falls asleep. She feels unbearable pain as if her body is ripped in two then she hears the cry of a baby. She wakes up and calls Harper. She tells him that they told Amelia that the baby was stillborn, but the woman had heard her son cry.





In Chapter 16, Harper is talking with Mitch and David, telling them how awful Hayley looked when he got to her. They think it would be better if Hayley left the house, but they know she refuses. They wonder what's wrong with the women in the house, and David says the women feel connected. Mitch goes over everything that just happened. Hayley was taken through the childbirth and its dramatic aftermath. Even though she was napping with Lily, the child wasn't disturbed. This reminds them that the baby is safe. Amelia is using Hayley to give them information that they could never find.

When Hayley wakes up again, she sees Roz next to her. She shares her experience with the older woman. They both agree that Amelia loved her child and didn't deserve what happened to her. Still, Hayley acknowledges that the way Amelia loved the child wasn't right, and she wouldn't have been a good mother. She was obsessive with the love. She wouldn't have loved the baby if it had been a girl. If she had kept the boy, he wouldn't have become the man that he was. Everything would have been different.

Hayley talks with Mitch in the library about her experiences. After they talk for a while, his cell phone rings so she leaves. She sees Harper outside and is filled with love for him. She knows he wants her to leave for her own safety, and she doesn't want him to be mad at her so she goes over to talk with him. He gives her some flowers, and they are interrupted as Logan calls them inside, telling them that something is up.

Mitch tells them that he has been in touch with the descendants of the housekeeper who worked in the house during Reginald Harper's time. They found a letter written by the housekeeper. It was written January 12, 1893, a few months after the baby was born. The letter mentions the baby boy, and the writer comments on her concern because the mistress never sees the child. She suspects there is something troubling about the situation with the baby. There was no preparation for the child, and one day the baby was simply there as if a stork had delivered him. The housekeeper also writes about a woman who came to the house. She was calling for her baby and didn't seem totally sane. The mistress was cruel to her, the one who called herself Amelia Connor. As Mitch puts the pages down, Hayley lifts her head and smiles saying, "But I came back."

In Chapter 17, Hayley repeats that she came back for what was hers. Mitch talks with her, and Hayley says that she watches after the boy, singing to him night after night. She asks them to find her because she is lost. They asked her what happened to her, and she says that they know because they did it. Her body shudders.

Hayley says that the letter got to Amelia, and Amelia is very confused inside. Roz and Stella are concerned about Hayley, and they realize that they need to find the ghost's grave. Hayley's moods are going up and down. She wonders if she has some sort of chemical imbalance. While she is in Wal-mart shopping, she grabs a pregnancy test. When she gets home, she realizes that she is pregnant.

David comes in, and she tells him that she is pregnant. He reminds her that Harper is in love with her. She finds Harper in the grafting house and tells him the news. He is very happy about it and wants to get married.



## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 15-17 Analysis

In Chapter 15, just as Hayley is drawn to Harper, she is also scared of her love for him. It seems to make Amelia more violent. Roz encourages her, pointing out how they are stronger than the ghost. The more Hayley sees into Amelia's life, the more she identifies and sympathizes with the woman, yet she is also very aware that the woman's anger and actions are not appropriate. The woman is obsessed with her revenge.

In Chapter 16, the possessions are taking their toll on Hayley, and it's concerning to all of Hayley's friends. They learn more about Amelia through a letter that confirms what Hayley has been saying after her periods of possession. The ghost is taking over Hayley's body more frequently.

In Chapter 17, they know for certain that Amelia wants them to find her body, but she doesn't know where it is. When all seems dark and confusing, Hayley discovers that she is pregnant. This turns out to be a good thing, even though it's a surprise. It gives the family something positive to focus on as they plan a wedding.



# Summary and Analysis for Chapters 18- Epilogue

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 18-Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 18, Harper goes to talk with his mother about the baby, and she is very happy. At twilight, he takes Hayley for a walk in the garden and proposes to her. She agrees to marry him. They make the announcement to the others and begin to plan a wedding.

That night Hayley is sleeping with Harper, and she feels completely content. She imagines herself walking toward him in a white dress. Suddenly, she is filled with hate. The house is dark, but she will play in the sunlight with her son. She thinks about burning down the stables, but she wants to get her son first. She goes into the carriage house and finds some rope.

Harper turns in bed, but Hayley isn't there. Noticing that the terrace doors are open, he grabs the baby monitor and runs outside to find her. He sees muddy footprints in the carriage house and grabs his phone to call his mother to tell her that Hayley is missing. Suddenly, he sees Hayley on the third-floor terrace. He reaches her as she faces him and says, "death for life." She struggles against him insisting that she will have her son. He reminds her that she has a daughter named Lily and pleads with Hayley to stay with them. Her body sags, and Hayley tells Harper that she is cold.

In Chapter 19, Hayley says that she doesn't remember getting up or going out. She identifies a bit with Amelia since they were both unmarried and pregnant. Still, she realizes that Amelia is just sad and bitter. Hayley wonders why Amelia was going into the ballroom. They wonder why she had some rope, and Hayley wonders if she was going to hang herself in the ballroom. Harper tells her that the nursery was on the third floor back then.

Hayley spends the day in Stella's house, relaxing. When Stella comes home, she tells her that she has a feeling that Amelia wants the baby inside her. Stella admits that she has been having dreams again, but her dreams are of a Dahlia growing out of a grave. They agree that they need to get back to the old nursery. Later, they talk with Roz and agree that they are going to all go up together-the six of them.

The family and friends have dinner together and talk about the wedding. Hayley asks David to give her away. She talks with Harper and says the only way to deal with Amelia is to settle the situation. She asks Harper to be with her and trust her to do what's right. He says he is with her.



In Chapter 20, the group goes up to the third floor, and Hayley can see how Harper House once looked. She is in the ballroom looking at the chandelier and imagining a time when she would teach her son to waltz with her. She searches for the nursery and finds the crib. After cutting through the rope with her blade, the woman forms a noose. She ties the rope to the lamp, pulls the gris-gris from a bag and sprinkles it around a chair. Using the blade, the woman slices her palm and lets the blood drip on the gris-gris to bind the work.

She picks up her son, but he starts to cry. After climbing up on the chair, she slips a noose around her own neck and the smaller noose around his. A nursemaid comes in and grabs the baby as Amelia kicks the chair away.

The group is in the parlor, trying to warm Hayley. She tells them that Amelia was going to kill the baby. The nursemaid saved the baby. Hayley realizes that Amelia doesn't know where she is buried. She won't be able to be put to rest until they find her. The women know that Amelia distrusts men so they go back up to the nursery together, without the men. Hayley buckles, feeling the pain Amelia felt as she dies. She only sees dark, and she floats away.

When the women rejoin the men, Hayley says that she saw Amelia die and felt her slip into the dark and cold, floating away. Harper asks if it felt like sinking, and she agrees that it was. He suggests that they look in the pond.

At dawn the next morning, Harper begins searching the pond in his scuba gear. After several hours, he realizes he has to finish for the day and start again the next day because customers will be coming in soon. He is almost out of air when his light catches something below. He finds Amelia's bones, weighed down by bricks and stones. He swims close to her, and a blow knocks him back. He sees Amelia gliding through the water, her eyes filled with lunacy. She comes at him it begins squeezing his neck. Harper thinks of Hayley and refuses to give up.

He speaks to Amelia in his mind, telling her that he remembers her singing to him. He knows she won't hurt him. He cuts his palm, showing his blood and tells her that it's her blood in him. He says he will take her home so she doesn't have to be alone or lost anymore. She releases him, and he says he'll come back for her. He surfaces and tells the others that he found her.

In the Epilogue, the adults are gathered in the graveyard. Amelia is buried with her son's rattle and his picture. Even though she did horrible things, she is still part of their family. Now, they can look forward to their future.

## **Summary and Analysis for Chapters 18-Epilogue**

### **Analysis**

In Chapter 18, after Hayley agrees to marry Harper, Amelia becomes more intense. She takes over Hayley's body for a longer period of time. Harper shows his love and



dedication by going out after Hayley, but remembering to bring the baby monitor. He is protecting both Hayley and Lily. Even when Amelia is acting crazy, he speaks through her, begging Hayley to come back to them and reminding her of Lily. Roz is proven right when he is strong enough to protect Hayley mentally and physically. Now, they have a new direction to follow as well. They know Amelia was heading for the third floor of the house.

In Chapter 19, Hayley know Amelia better than anyone else since they share the same mind during possession. She knows Amelia is after her baby. Just as the love between Harper and Hayley sets Amelia off, defending her loved ones makes Hayley more determined to put an end to the hauntings. After learning that the nursery used to be on the third floor of the house - the direction Amelia headed, the women realize they need to go up together, with the men, to visit the nursery.

In Chapter 20, Hayley fully realizes the extent of Amelia's insanity and anger. She is ready to kill the son she loves, thinking it will bind him to her forever. The group figures out what happened to Amelia's body, and Harper finds it. Instead of being happy that it's found, Amelia's ghost lashes at Harper and attacks him. He reminds her of the blood connection and explains that he isn't Reginald. He is truly her descendant. This works, and she lets him live.

In the Epilogue, while the group of family and friends knows that Amelia was insane, they also understand that she had been treated horribly. They give her a proper funeral and look forward to a future without hauntings.



# Characters

## Hayley Phillips

Hayley is a young single mother who lives at Harper House. She is generally upbeat and caring. When life hits her with hardship, she faces it head-on. This is shown when she and her dad move on after her mother leaves them. It's also shown in the way she pulls her life together after her father dies.

When Hayley discovers that she is pregnant, she has a difficult time with it at first, then she forges ahead to create a new life for herself and the baby. When Amelia begins to possess her, she doesn't cower. Instead, she mentally fights back against the ghost and her angry, evil thoughts.

Hayley shares her experiences with her friends, even when the experiences reflect poorly on herself. All she wants is what's good for everyone and she's brave enough to face hardship to benefit everyone. This is shown when she stands up to Amelia even when the ghost physically attacks Harper.

## Harper Ashby

Harper is the son of the woman who owns Harper House. He is very respectful and caring. Even though he loves Lily and Hayley, he is willing to go slowly with the relationship. The protective part of his nature tries to help take care of Hayley once Amelia begins to possess her. Hayley refuses to move away, and he respects this decision even though he doesn't like it.

He is a hard and patient worker as is seen in his workings with the plants as he creates new types of plants. Harper is also very caring when it comes to his mother. She talks with him about a tree that she loved because she fell in love under it. The tree was very special to her and Amelia destroyed it. Harper shows his love for his mother by replacing the tree.

## Amelia Connor

This is the ghost who haunts Harper House. She is also referred to as The Bride. She sings to the children but can get violent toward the adults.

## Reginald Harper

This is Roz's grandfather. He took his mistress' son away from her and he had people tell her that she had a stillborn daughter.



## **James**

This is the son that the rich man's mistress had. His name was changed by the family who raised him. His true mother tried to hang him.

## **Beatrice**

This is the wife who could not bear Reginald a son. She was forced to raise the son of her husband's mistress, and she despised this fact.

## **Lily**

This is the Hayley's young daughter. The Bride sings to her, and the child is drawn to Harper.

## **Roz**

This is the mistress of Harper House. She is Hayley's good friend and the mother of Harper.

## **Mitch**

This man is a genealogist and professor who is married to Roz. He is in charge of the research relating to the ghost.

## **Stella**

This character is the manager of the nursery where Hayley works. She offers her house as a respite for Hayley and has dreams of a Dahlia coming out of an unmarked grave.

## **David**

This character is Harper's childhood friend. He manages Harper House and enjoys cooking for others. He agrees to give Hayley away when she gets married.

## **Logan**

This is Stella's husband. He is a landscape architect.



# Objects/Places

## In the Garden

This is the nursery where Hayley works. Amelia doesn't bother her here.

## Harper House

This is where Hayley lives. It's a beautiful place with lovely gardens. It's haunted by a ghost who loves children but can become violent to adults.

## Nursery

This is a room that is rarely entered. It's on the third floor. It's where Amelia died.

## Carriage House

This is where Harper lives. The ghost goes here to destroy his kitchen.

## The Pond

This is where Harper played as a child. He goes here to find Amelia's body.

## Bracelet

This is what Hayley is drawn to. Harper buys it for her, and they later learn that it belonged to Amelia.

## Rocking Chair

This is what Amelia is in when she sings to the children.

## Blade

Amelia is seen with this when she comes from the Carriage House. She uses it to draw blood.





## **Rope**

This is what Amelia wraps around the baby's neck and around her own neck.

## **Ballroom**

This is the room Amelia enters before heading toward the nursery. Walking through it makes her more angry and envious.

## **Memphis**

This is where Amelia was born and where Harper takes Hayley on a date.

## **The Willows**

Harper goes here to learn about the jewelry he purchased for Hayley.

## **Grafting House**

This is where Harper spends his time working. He is patiently making a new flower for Lily.



# Themes

## How Anger Destroys

Dealing with anger is a very important theme in this book. Amelia has been treated very unfairly and she is determined to get revenge. She was once the mistress of a very powerful man. She was pregnant with his son and grew to love the child. When the child was born, she was told that it was a stillborn girl, and the child was taken away. Determined to get her child back, she went to the house to ask for her son. She was rejected.

Her obsession with obtaining revenge leads to her own insanity. While she plans to curse others, she ends up cursed herself. Amelia is very confused and unhappy, and she lashes out at others. She has some satisfaction when she is able to enter Hayley's body, but Hayley fights against the spirit of anger. Hayley turns to her friends for help, and they stand by her, keeping the angry feelings at bay. Her friends remind her that she is stronger than Amelia and can overcome the negativities.

Amelia loved her son, but she was so determined to lash out in anger that she almost caused his death. The confusion she felt in the following century caused physical destruction to property. The ghost also tried to kill her own great grandson due to confusion and insanity that built up from her anger. He is trying to help her by finding her body and she tries strangling him underwater. He has to work hard to get her to understand that he isn't Reginald. He is actually of her own flesh and blood.

## The Importance of Family

Family is a very important element in this novel. Many generations have lived in Harper House. Both Harper and his mother currently live there, and they are very close to each other. This is shown as they talk together about the mother's relationship with his father. She talks about falling in love under a special tree and says that the tree was destroyed. Her son plants a new tree for her. He shows great respect for her and goes to her for advice.

Haley is so close to the others in the house that she feels as if she is part of the family even before she and Harper become romantically involved. Roz considers herself a surrogate grandmother to Lily because she loves the girl so much.

Amelia became enamored with her son as she felt his life growing within her. There was a true connection between mother and child that was strong enough to make her love him more than she had loved anything else before.

As Amelia's story comes too light, the members of the family are determined to find her body and put her to rest. They understand that she made some horrible choices in her lifetime. But they also know that she is their blood relative and should be treated with



some respect. After they find her body, they bury her in the family cemetery, along with her son's rattle and a picture of him.

## The Power of Love

This story couldn't exist without love. The story shows how love can be a wonderful thing, and it also shows how it can lead to destruction. Amelia doesn't understand what love really is. She expects affection and gifts in return for sex and doesn't understand how someone can give gifts without expecting something in return. This is shown by her reaction of anger and bitterness after Harper gives the bracelet as a gift to Haley.

Amelia has an unhealthy love for her son. It borders on obsession and is a catalyst for anger and revenge after her son is taken away from her. She is so eager to get revenge and is so desperate to have her son with her forever that she is willing to kill both herself and her son. In her own insanity, she feels as if her love will keep them together forever even after death.

On the other hand, the love between family and friends is very healing and supporting. Hayley survives and overcomes the possession of the ghost thanks to the love offered her by the others at Harper House. She and Harper love each other, and it all begins with friendship. They take things slowly, and over time they realize that they are ready to become family with Lily and their new baby. This makes everyone at Harper House happy.

# Style

## Point of View

The story begins in the third-person subjective from the viewpoint of a woman who lived in Memphis in 1893. Because of this perspective, the reader sees events as they unfold, but they also have insight into the way, Amelia Connor thinks and feels.

Chapter 1 takes place in July of 2005 and the point-of-view shifts. It is still third person but it's now from Hayley's viewpoint. This holds true for most of the story, but every once in a while there are shifts in the point-of-view between Hayley, Amelia, Harper, and Roz. Sometimes the shift in the point-of-view occurs within a single paragraph.

Generally, the shift occurs in a natural manner so the reader doesn't get confused. However, the shifts between Amelia and Hayley can get confusing. This makes sense since Amelia possesses Hayley, sliding in and out of her mind. The reader comes to learn the finer nuances of the shift. Amelia's tone and language are harsh and bitter. She also refers to her son rather than a daughter.

## Setting

"Red Lily: In The Garden Trilogy" by Nora Roberts takes place on an estate with beautiful grounds. The ghost haunts the house and is seen walking to the carriage house. Eventually she appears in the carriage house, wreaking havoc. There is a nursery nearby where the main characters work. The Bride doesn't go there so Hayley has a place of respite.

The house is very large, which is important to the story because many people can live there. There is a third story of the house that is rarely visited, adding to the mystery of the story.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is basic English. It covers life in the late 1800s and life in the early 21st century, and the language reflects this. The older language is more formal while the more modern dialogue is filled with typical modern bluntness. Each character has a unique style of speech, with Amelia's standing out because her verbiage is filled with anger and hate.

The author is descriptive, using interesting adjectives and adverbs that enhance a reader's vocabulary. Instead of saying something such as "She has dark hair," the author writes, "It's gorgeous hair, that glossy mahogany."

## Structure

"Red Lily: In The Garden Trilogy" by Nora Roberts is the third book in a trilogy. After the copyright information, there is a list of all the books written by Nora Roberts. The books are arranged in categories such as single titles, series, and anthologies.

The dedication page is followed by some quotes then a prologue. The prologue takes place in the past and shows events that occurred in the ghost's life while she was living. Chapter One begins in 2005, and the rest of the book takes place in this time. The 20 chapters are numbered rather than named. They run between approximately 10 and approximately 20 pages. The last chapter is followed by an Epilogue. The epilogue is followed by the Table of Contents.



## Quotes

"She looked pretty calm for a psychotic ghost, Hayley decided" (Chapter 1, p. 15).

"Ladies and gentlemen, I do believe I'm back" (Chapter 2, p. 27).

"We're a bunch of rational adults sitting around talking about a ghost," Stella reminded him. "It doesn't get much more creepy" (Chapter 2, p. 36).

"Maybe you can get inside me, but you can't make me do something like that" (Chapter 8, p. 144).

"Love's a gift, Hayley, to be taken and received freely" (Chapter 11, p. 184).

"How could something so loved, so desired, punish her this way" (Chapter 15, p. 261).

"How could something so small be so huge? And already be so loved" (Chapter 18, p. 299).

"It's not your first thought, even a conscious one, but it's there, this knowledge that the thread's spinning out. Life cycles" (Chapter 18, p. 301).

"This morning, it felt like everything crashed down on my head, like a whole bookcase, and every book smacked me with the hard edge. Now it turns out it was flowers falling, and I'm covered in all these soft petals and perfume" (Chapter 18, p. 307).

"Hate was a furnace, rage the fire that stoked it" (Chapter 18, p. 309).

"He swam through the lilies toward her, swam away from death toward life" (Chapter 20, p. 348).

"I don't feel sad," Hayley declared. "Not anymore. This feels right. More than right, it feels kind" (Epilogue).

"Whatever she did, she deserved better than what was done to her." Stella sighed. "I'm proud I was part of this, of giving her back her name, and I hope, giving her peace" (Epilogue).

"With their hands clasped, they walked away from death, into love, and life" (Epilogue).

## Topics for Discussion

The book opens with a quote about grafting. How does this relate to Harper and Hayley?

Why does The Bride possess Hayley rather than someone else?

How does Hayley change when she is possessed?

How does Hayley control the possession throughout the story?

Describe in detail the role Harper has in Lily's life.

How does the group of friends uncover the truth regarding Amelia's tragic tale?

Why do they feel they should help the ghost?