

Rock and a Hard Place: A Young Adult Novel Study Guide

Rock and a Hard Place: A Young Adult Novel by Angie Stanton

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Plot Summary

Rock and a Hard Place is a novel by Angie Stanton. In this novel, Libby Sawyer has recently suffered the deaths of her mother and sister in a car accident. Consumed by grief, Libby's father has abandoned her at the home of her aunt. Like something out of a fantasy, Libby meets Peter Jamieson, lead singer and songwriter of a sibling boy band. Peter falls for Libby immediately and they begin spending every spare moment on the phone. However, Peter becomes distracted from work and his brother, Garrett, takes it upon himself to remove the distraction by breaking up with Libby for him. Libby then finds herself caught in the center of a police investigation into her aunt's illegal drug activity and shipped off to a group home, leaving Peter with no way of locating and correcting the wrong. Rock and a Hard Place is a teenager's fantasy come to life in a poignant story of first love.

Libby Sawyer is sitting alone under a tree, watching the cars go by on the highway as she draws. When a tour bus stops in the reserve, Libby is curious about the seemingly perfect family that disembarks. This curiosity draws one of the young men to her. They talk for a few minutes and Libby finds the encounter sweet, but does not expect to see him again. Therefore, when the same bus arrives at the reserve a short time later, Libby is delighted when Peter seems pleased to see her again. They talk for more than an hour before Peter must leave again.

Libby's mother and sister were killed in a car accident and her father left her with an aunt when grief made it impossible for him to cope. Libby's aunt is an uncaring woman who spends the majority of her time drinking and watching the home shopping network. Therefore Libby's only solace is her drawings and school. Peter quickly becomes a highlight in her life as well. When Peter returns a third time, he gives Libby a phone so that they can keep in touch as he and his brothers go off on tour to promote their new album, Triple Threat.

For months Libby and Peter speak on the phone multiple times a day and see each other when they can. Peter becomes aware of Libby's unhappy home life and begins to plot a way to get her out of there. However, before he can, his father has a heart attack and Peter finds himself embroiled in family business as well as band business. Garrett, Peter's older brother, decides that Libby has become too much of a distraction for Peter. Garrett calls Libby and tells her that Peter no longer wants to see her. Libby believes what she hears and is dejected.

When Peter learns what Garrett has done, he is very angry and determined to make things right with Libby. However, before Peter can reach Libby, Libby is sent to a group home after her aunt is arrested for dealing drugs. As Peter searches for her, Libby struggles to survive among the juvenile delinquents that make up her new home. Finally Libby can take no more and she runs away, finding herself at the mercy of kind people in a small town in Georgia.



Six months pass as Peter continues to search for Libby and Libby fights to win her independence from the state of Wisconsin. Just as things appear to be coming together for Libby, she discovers that Peter has launched a national campaign to find her. Libby does what she can to reunite with Peter, accepting free tickets to one of his concerts as part of his campaign. When Libby attends the concert, Peter's brother takes her on stage and they are reunited in front of thousands of fans.

Peter and Libby spend a glorious twenty-four hours together, but Libby soon realizes that their opposing responsibilities will make it impossible for them to have a relationship. Libby tells this to Peter, but he refuses to accept it. Two weeks later, Peter arrives in Libby's tiny adopted town and sweeps her off her feet, convincing her that they can make their relationship work if they try hard enough.



Chapters 1-7

Chapters 1-7 Summary

In Chapter 1, Libby Sawyer sits under a tree at Parfrey's Glen, a nature preserve across the highway from her home, and watches the cars pass on the highway as she draws. A large bus pulls into the park and Libby watches as a perfect family climbs out. It makes Libby think of a time when she had a perfect family like that. This thought brings Libby both happy memories and grief. As the three teen boys play with a Frisbee Libby watches. Then one of the boys comes over and begins talking to her. Libby is surprised by how friendly he is and how happy it makes her to have someone to talk to for the first time in more than a year. The boy tells her his name is Peter and that his family has a band, that they are on tour. Peter seems to expect Libby to recognize him, but she does not. Libby soon realizes that she must go and she rushes home, careful that Peter cannot see where she goes. When she arrives home, her unpleasant, drunk aunt is waiting unhappily for her.

In Chapter 2, the next day, Libby goes to school where she has no friends. In fact, Libby is something of an outcast because she lives with the town drunk. Libby is called into the office of Miss Orman, a young counselor who has made Libby her personal project. They talk about college and Libby tells her about meeting Peter. At the same time, Peter is in the middle of a photo shoot with his brothers. Later there is an interview before their concert in Madison Square Garden. Garrett proves himself to be a flirt, flirting overtime with the interviewer.

In Chapter 3, Libby is sitting on a rock in Parfrey's Glen when she is surprised by Peter. He and his family are traveling through the area again on their way to Minneapolis. Peter and Libby spend a little more than an hour together. When Peter sees the scars on Libby's hands, he asks her about them. She tells them they are the result of a car accident. Peter kisses each scar and calls them angel kisses. Adam, Peter's youngest brother, comes find him and tells him it is time to go. Peter asks if he can call Libby, but she does not have a phone. Instead they agree to meet the following Saturday.

In Chapter 4, Libby tries to look Peter up on the school computer during class, but she is caught and nearly gets detention. Libby goes to Miss Orman and promises to sell tickets for the bus for an away football game if Miss Orman will let her use her computer. On the computer, Libby learns that Peter is a much bigger star than she imagined. She decides she must get his CD, but she does not have the money to buy one. At the same time, Peter begins to write a song called Angel Kisses while his family questions, and teases, him about Libby.

In Chapter 5, Peter is distracted before a concert as he thinks about Libby. However, it does not impact his professionalism on stage. Back in Rockville, Libby is selling tickets to the bus for the football game as asked. Libby begins to think of all that money and



how just a little would help her buy a CD. Against her better nature, Libby decides to steal what she needs to get the CD.

In Chapter 6, Libby skips the rest of her classes, buys the CD, and returns to school just in time to catch the bus. Libby listens to the CD over and over again that night. A few days later, Peter has to beg his father to stop at Parfrey's Glen as planned due to rain. With his mom's help, Peter gets his wish. His family drops him off and goes into town for lunch.

Chapter 7. Peter finds Libby standing in the rain and takes her to a dry place where they can talk. Peter gives Libby a cellphone so that they can talk to each other whenever they want. Then he kisses her. The moment Libby gets home, she sets up the phone and receives her first call from Peter. They talk late into the night. That Monday at school, Libby is called in to the principal's office and confronted about the missing money. Libby learns that she will have to serve detention and work to pay the money back.

Chapters 1-7 Analysis

The first few chapters introduce the main characters and the relationship that will drive the plot. Libby is a young girl who once had a normal family, but something tragic happened leaving her to live alone with her crazy aunt. Libby is terribly unhappy in her life and has no friends to speak to. Libby is also cut off from the modern world without a computer, cellphone, or television. This leaves Libby oblivious to the current fads, trends, and celebrities. Therefore when sibling boy band, Jamieson, stops for lunch in her private retreat, she has no idea who they are.

Peter Jamieson is the heart of the band, the songwriter and lead singer. He is also the kindest member of the band, mature beyond his seventeen years. When Peter sees a young girl watching him and his brothers, he mistakenly thinks they have been recognized. Peter speaks with Libby and finds it refreshing that she has no clue who he is and that she seems to like him simply for him. Libby is everything Peter can imagine wanting in a girl, therefore he is thrilled to run into her a second time in the same nature reserve.

Libby and Peter's relationship grows quickly. In order to stay close, Peter gives Libby a cellphone so that he can speak to her whenever he wants. At the same time, Libby begins to learn who Peter is. Unlike other high school girls who have suddenly found themselves with a famous boyfriend, Libby keeps this information pretty much to herself. Instead, Libby relishes every second she gets with Peter because he seems like a light in her very dark world. This suggests to the reader that Libby has made Peter her savior. The reader can only wonder if this young man will be able to live up to expectations.



Chapters 8-14

Chapters 8-14 Summary

In Chapter 8, Libby returns home from school to find her angry aunt waiting for her. Aunt Marge confronts Libby about her stealing and punishes her by making her clean the filthy house. Libby begins in the kitchen. As she begins going through the junk on the table, she discovers two envelopes addressed to her and a letter from her father. Libby confronts her aunt, but Aunt Marge is unapologetic and claims the letters stopped coming months ago.

In Chapter 9, several weeks later, Peter comes to spend the entire day with Libby. At Parfrey's Glen, Libby mentions that she would like to see Peter perform, so he puts on an impromptu performance for her. This shocks Libby into wanting to be honest with Peter. Libby tells Peter how her entire family was in a car accident, but her mother and sister did not make it. Devastated by his loss, Libby's father lost his job and then their home. A short time later, Libby's father brought her to Aunt Marge and disappeared. Libby still hopes he will come for her someday. Then she cries in Peter's arms.

In Chapter 10, that night, to celebrate his eighteenth birthday, Peter takes Libby out in a rented Jeep. They go to a drive-in restaurant and then see a movie. Peter insists on taking Libby all the way home and she reluctantly allows it. Peter tells Libby he wants to help her run away from her aunt, but Libby is hesitant. As they approach the house, Libby is hoping her aunt will be passed out in front of the television, unaware of Libby's late night out. However, Aunt Marge is waiting and she descends on the car the moment they park.

In Chapter 11, Aunt Marge drags Libby out of the car and Peter is forced to leave. However, he parks nearby and calls Libby to make sure she is okay. A short time later, Aunt Marge receives a visit from Miss Orman. Miss Orman wants Aunt Marge to agree to allow Libby to attend the homecoming dance. Aunt Marge is reluctant, but she agrees to get Miss Orman to leave.

In Chapter 12, Libby goes to Miss Orman's apartment after school to get ready for the dance. Miss Orman does Libby's hair and has borrowed a dress for her to wear. They are both excited. Peter calls from the airport and tells Libby he will meet her in an hour. However, two hours later, Libby is still waiting for Peter at the dance. She is worried, but her phone is dead so she cannot call him.

In Chapter 13, Peter is on the phone with Libby when several officials at the airport meet him. He hangs up and talks to the men who tell him that his father has had a heart attack and they are holding a plane for him. Peter rushes with his bodyguard, Roger, back to the plane and has only enough time to call his brother to find out how his dad is doing.



In Chapter 14, Libby forgives Peter instantly upon learning about his dad. However, the situation reminds her of the deaths of her mother and sister. A short time later, Peter and his family are renting a house on Venice Beach. Peter calls Libby as he goes for a run. Peter and Libby are plotting for her to join him on tour in order to escape her aunt. In fact, he will be coming for her in three days. However, the following morning Garrett calls Libby on Peter's phone and tells her that Peter is breaking up with her. He says their relationship is incompatible because of his career.

Chapters 8-14 Analysis

Libby's home life has been difficult for more than a year. However, Libby has now discovered that her aunt has been hiding her father's letters to her and taking the money they include. Not only this, but that the letters stopped several months ago. Based on the tone of the one letter Libby found, the reader must wonder if Libby will ever see her father again. The reader must also be concerned for Libby's welfare due to the negligence of her aunt. No one truly cares for Libby except for Miss Orman, who tries her best to help Libby, and Peter.

Libby and Peter grow closer together thanks to the phone that allows them to communicate many times a day. Peter even comes to spend his eighteenth birthday with Libby, suggesting that his feelings for her run deep. Libby even tells Peter the darkest part of her history, how her mother and sister died and her father abandoned her. This only serves to make Peter care for her more, but it also makes him worry more about her as he is forced to leave her again with her aunt.

Libby and Peter begin to plot a plan for Libby to run away and join Peter on tour. It seems like a risky plan that could be destroyed with one word from Peter's parents or a call to the police by Libby's aunt. However, they are young and do not think things through as completely as they probably should. Peter has, though, become Libby's savior as predicted in earlier chapters. Perhaps he can save her or help her save herself.

As Libby begins hoping, she suffers two disappointments. First, Peter fails to make it to her homecoming dance because his father has an ill-timed heart attack. The second, Garrett calls Libby and tells her that Peter wants to break up. Libby believes Garrett even though the reader can clearly see this is a scheme on Garrett's part to control his brother's life. However, it serves its purpose and Libby suddenly finds herself cast aside again.



Chapters 15-20

Chapters 15-20 Summary

In Chapter 15, Libby is caught crying behind the barn by her aunt. Aunt Marge has little sympathy for Libby and sends her walking to school. As Libby passes the door to the barn, she glances in and sees marijuana plants growing and dried plants packaged for sale. Aunt Marge threatens Libby if she says anything and calls her stupid for not seeing it before. Libby leaves for school. Miss Orman pulls over to give Libby a ride. Libby blurts out what she saw in the barn and then tells her only friend about Peter breaking up with her. Miss Orman immediately goes to the office to report what she knows.

In Venice, Peter discovers that Garrett has destroyed his cellphone. With some questioning, Peter also discovers what Garrett did to Libby. Peter and Garrett get into a physical scuffle. When Peter's parents come to break it up, Peter discovers that his parents agree with Garrett that Libby was a dangerous distraction. That night, Libby has trouble sleeping until she hears someone breaking into the house.

In Chapter 16, Libby is accosted in her room and handcuffed to her bed. It is the police. Later, Libby is taken to a squad car where she is questioned. The police then try to find somewhere she can go, but when they learn she has no friends or family, they arrange to place her in a group home.

In Chapter 17, it is Thanksgiving and Peter is sharing the day with his immediate and extended family. Peter is still angry, therefore when his mother forces him to say what he is grateful for, he makes an angry tirade against his family. Peter is sent off to do the dishes. His step-cousin joins him. She clearly likes him and Peter resents her attention until he realizes what a jerk he is being. He eventually calms down and has a good time. Later, Peter's mother thinks he has finally come around and is moving on from Libby. However, when Peter plays a piano version of Angel Kisses, the song he wrote for Libby, it is clear he loves her much deeper than anyone suspected.

In Chapter 18, Libby is living in a group home. She has gotten a job at a restaurant in the mall to keep from having to spend too much time around the juvenile delinquents who are now her roommates and housemates. Libby returns home and is nearly stabbed by her roommate and raped by another housemate. At the same time, Peter learns hours before a concert that Libby is missing and his family has exhausted all attempts to find her.

In Chapter 19, Miss Orman takes a call from Peter asking for information on Libby. Miss Orman promises to call him if she hears anything. Later, as they prepare for a concert, Adam and Garrett show Peter a video slideshow they have created of pictures of him and Libby taken when Adam came across Peter and Libby at Parfrey's Glen. Peter is touched and takes it as a cry for forgiveness. Back at the group home, Libby is assaulted by her roommate. Libby runs away the first chance she gets.



In Chapter 20, Peter is in Paris when he gets the call from Miss Orman about Libby. Now Peter feels there is no way he will ever find her again. At the same time, Libby gets off a bus in a tiny town in Georgia called Pebble Creek. Libby takes a room at a tiny hotel on the edge of town. The next day, Libby is at a loss as to what to do next. She cuts her hair, but it is all uneven so the clerk fixes it for her. When the clerk is called away on an emergency, Libby volunteers to watch her kids. In exchange, the clerk offers her a meal and information on a job she might qualify for.

Chapters 15-20 Analysis

In the aftermath of Garrett's stunt, the reader is left wondering what happens when Peter simply calls her. However, Garrett thought of that. Garrett destroyed Peter's phone so that Libby cannot call him and shut off the service to Libby's phone. Suddenly her lifeline to Peter is gone. The timing could not be worse. That night there is a raid on Aunt Marge's farmhouse and barn. Aunt Marge is arrested for growing and distributing marijuana while Libby is sent to a group home in Milwaukee. Now Peter cannot find her to tell her it was all a mistake. At the same time, Peter finds himself feeling betrayed as his family proves to have all been in on the scheme to destroy his life with Libby.

Libby is in a worse situation than she was with her aunt. Now Libby must contend with dozens of kids who have nothing to lose. Libby knows she must be her own savior now. For this reason, Libby runs away and tries to find a way to make a life for herself. However, by doing this, Libby takes away the last chance Peter had of finding her.



Chapters 21-27

Chapters 21-27 Summary

In Chapter 21, it is six months later. Libby is living in Pebble Creek under the name Jill Munroe from her mother's favorite television show, *Charlie's Angels*. Jill has been working with a local retired attorney to become emancipated from the state of Wisconsin and learns that she has gotten exactly what she wanted. Libby no longer has to hide or seek permission to live her life as she wants. However, when Libby returns to the hotel where she has been living, she learns that her friend, DarLynn, has discovered who she is. Jamieson was on one of DarLynn's favorite entertainment shows promoting their new tour and a contest they have been sponsoring to search for Libby. There is a picture and DarLynn recognizes Libby in it.

In Chapter 22, Libby and DarLynn go to the public library the next morning to fill out the survey that is required to win free tickets to a Jamieson concert and prove her identity. They get all the answers right and win the tickets. On the other end, Garrett is alerted of another winning survey. He tells Peter, but dismisses it when the name is not right. However, Peter recognizes the name Jill Munroe and insists it must be Libby. Peter wants to go to Georgia right away, but must wait until the following day.

In Chapter 23, Peter arrives in Pebble Creek and looks for Libby at the local diner. The owner, Peggy, tells him where Libby lives. Peter goes to the hotel, but Libby is not there. However, the helpful clerk shows him Libby's room and he is able to confirm that it is her.

In Chapter 24, two days later, Peter has to argue with the venue manager against cancelling the concert due to an approaching storm. Peter wins and the concert is only delayed. However, even this delay does not help Libby get there on time because of troubles with DarLynn's truck. She manages to reach the venue just before the concert begins, but there is such confusion that Libby slips inside before the security guard can identify her as the Libby Peter has been searching for. Libby is quickly lost in the crowd.

In Chapter 25, Libby happily watches the concert from the audience, excited to be so close to Peter. Peter is informed that Libby is there, but no one knows how to find her in the crowd. Peter suggests Garrett and Adam go out into the audience and search for her. It is Adam who finally finds Libby while Peter is on stage singing *Angel Kisses* for her. Adam leads Libby to the stage and she and Peter reunite under the watchful stare of thousands of fans.

In Chapter 26, Libby and Peter spend that night talking in her suite at the hotel and the following morning hiking in the hills. However, when Peter announces that he has arranged for Libby to go on tour with her beginning that fall, Libby realizes that they cannot make this relationship work. Libby tells Peter that they both have too many



responsibilities to make it work. However, Peter is reluctant to allow Libby to walk away again.

In Chapter 27, Libby is at work two weeks later when Peter drives up in his tour bus. Peter gives Libby a new cellphone and tells her that he has arranged for them to go on a countrywide vacation for the next two weeks. Peter has also bought a condo in Boston so he can be near Libby while she attends college. Peter insists they can make it work and Libby agrees.

Chapters 21-27 Analysis

Libby has saved herself. She has moved to a small town in Georgia and made a life with the kind people who took her in there. Libby has even become emancipated by the state of Wisconsin so that she can make her own decisions and not hide any longer. Libby's life is finally looking up. She has made plans for the future and she now has the means and the right to see them come true.

As Libby makes a life for herself, Peter continues to miss her and wonder where she is. Peter has convinced his whole family of Libby's worth and now they are all on board with helping him find and rescue her. Peter and his brothers turn their next tour into a search party for Libby. They place a survey on the internet that only she would know all the answers to. However, fans have figured out how to answer the survey correctly and Peter has suffered disappointments at every concert so far.

Libby learns of the search Jamieson is conducting for her and decides to reach out. She completes the survey and wins tickets to their final concert. She struggles to get there on time, but when she does, she is reunited with Peter on stage. Once again Peter attempts to rescue her, planning out their future without concern to her desires. However, Libby no longer wants to be saved. For this reason, she tries to end their relationship, but regrets it immediately. Luckily for her, Peter is stubborn and he makes an attempt to prove they can make their relationship work.

Libby has grown a great deal in the course of this novel, mostly out of necessity. She has become a strong young woman who can take good care of herself. Peter proves to be something of a knight in shining armor, loving Libby enough to want to save her. However, he also learns how to compromise, proving that he has done some maturing in the course of the novel as well.



Characters

Libby Sawyer/Jill Munroe

Libby Sawyer is a sixteen-year-old girl. Over a year ago, her mother and sister were killed in a car accident. So despondent with grief, her father lost his job and their house. He finally took her to her Aunt Marge's and disappeared. Libby is an outcast in her new town because of her tragedy and her crazy aunt. She spends her days cut off from the world, always studying or drawing.

Everything changes for Libby when she meets Peter Jamieson. Peter is a famous singer with a sibling boy band, but Libby is unaware of this. For this reason, she and Peter are able to forge a genuine affection for one another. Peter wants to save Libby from her circumstances, but before he can interference from his family and the arrest of her aunt causes Libby to disappear from his life.

Libby has been allowing people to control her life all her life. However, when she finds herself stuck in a dangerous group home, she finally realizes she must take her own life into her own hands. Libby runs away from the group home and tries to make it on her own. Libby does well and finds herself in a bright position. It is then that Peter finally finds her and they reunite.

Peter Jamieson

Peter Jamieson is the middle brother in the Jamieson family and the lead singer/songwriter of their family band. Peter enjoys the music, but has never been a fan of the trappings of fame. Hence Peter is unsure he will ever find a girl who will love him for himself. When Peter meets Libby, all this changes. Peter falls head over heels for Libby. As part of their love, Peter wants to save Libby. When Libby disappears from his life, Peter is devastated and he spends all his spare time searching for her. When they are finally reunited, Peter will do anything he can to keep from losing her again.

Karen Jamieson

Karen Jamieson is Peter's mother. Karen is a loving mother who goes out of her way to keep her sons humble despite their quick rise to fame. However, when Peter begins to become obsessed with Libby, Karen cannot help but voice her concerns. While not as adamant that Libby is bad for Peter as her husband and eldest son, Karen cannot disagree that Libby is a distraction. Karen backs Garrett when he forces the break between Libby and Peter, but regrets it when she finally realizes how deep Peter's love for Libby really is. Karen throws in with the rest of the family in an attempt to help Peter find Libby.



Garrett Jamieson

Garrett Jamieson is Peter's older brother. Garrett fancies himself something of a lady's man as well as the manager of the band. Garrett takes it upon himself when his father has a heart attack to take over the day to day management of the band. When Garrett decides that Libby is too much of a distraction for Peter, he calls her and ends the relationship. Garrett then breaks Peter's phone and disconnects Libby's phone so that they cannot contact one another. This proves to be a fatal error when Libby is moved into a group home and the phone is their last chance of finding her. In the end, however, Garrett makes amends by doing all he can to help Peter find Libby.

Aunt Marge

Aunt Marge is the sister of Libby's mother. Aunt Marge is a drunk and a unkind woman. Libby was told as a child that Aunt Marge still harbors hurts from childhood trauma, but Libby does not know what this trauma might be. However, Libby does learn that Aunt Marge is a marijuana grower and distributor. The night Garrett tells Libby that Peter no longer wants to see her, Aunt Marge is arrested and Libby is placed in a group home.

Miss Orman

Miss Orman is a young counselor at Libby's school who has taken Libby on as a kind of special project for herself. Miss Orman is supportive of Libby and tries to encourage her to make friends. Miss Orman is also instrumental in arranging for Libby to go to the homecoming dance at her school. However, when Libby needs her the most, Miss Orman is out of town and unable to help. It is Miss Orman who gives Peter the information that Libby has run away from the group home.

Adam Jamieson

Adam Jamieson is Peter's youngest brother. Adam is something of an amateur photographer and he is responsible for taking multiple pictures of Libby that the band later uses in a publicity campaign to find her. Adam is also the one who finds Libby in the crowded arena in order to bring her to the stage where she is reunited with Peter.

Jett Jamieson

Jett Jamieson is Peter's father. Jett is a strong-willed, determined man. Peter gets some of his traits from him. However, Jett is one of the most outspoken about the dangers of Peter's relationship with Libby, causing a rift between him and his son until the family finally comes around and agrees to help Peter find Libby.



DarLynn

DarLynn is a young mother whose husband has been sent to jail, leaving her to care for their three children and his hotel alone. Libby meets DarLynn when she spends a night at her hotel that turns into six months. DarLynn and Libby become close friends and it is DarLynn that shows Libby an interview with Peter in which he talks about his search for Libby. DarLynn also accompanies Libby to Red Rocks to see Peter in concert and be reunited with him.

Libby's Father

Libby's father was driving the car that was involved in the accident that took his wife and daughter's lives. Perhaps this is a large part of the reason he falls into a deep depression and loses everything, deciding to abandon Libby and go off on his own. The reader comes to suspect because of his absence, the lack of letters, and the inability to locate him, that Libby's father might have killed himself out of grief.



Objects/Places

Cellphone

Peter gives Libby a cellphone so that they can keep in touch with one another.

CD

Libby buys a Jamieson CD with stolen money so that she might be able to hear Peter's music. Her roommate in the group home later steals this CD. Libby is assaulted over the accusation and she decides to run away based on this incident.

Dress

Miss Orman borrows a dress for Libby to wear to the homecoming dance.

Family Pictures

One of the only things Libby takes with her when she runs from the group home is a family photo and her Jamieson CD.

Marijuana

It is discovered that Aunt Marge grows and distributes marijuana. For this reason, her home is raided and she is charge for growing and distributing as well as child neglect.

Jamieson Survey

Peter creates and distributes a survey that only Libby would know all the answers to in an attempt to find her. Unfortunately, determined fans have figured out the correct answers and use them to get free tickets to Jamieson concerts.

Tour Bus

The first time Libby sees Peter he is coming out of his family's silver tour bus. At the end of the novel, Libby finds Peter coming out of this same bus outside her place of employment in Pebble Creek.



Group Home

Libby is placed in a group home with dangerous teens after she is taken from her aunt's care.

Rockville

Rockville is the town in Wisconsin where Libby lives with her aunt.

Pebble Creek

Pebble creek is the tiny town in Georgia where Libby ends up after running from the group home.

Red Rocks

Red Rocks is the town in Colorado where Libby attends a Jamieson concert and is finally reunited with Peter.

Boston

Libby decides on a college in Boston. Peter buys a condo there so they can be close to one another whenever possible.



Themes

Love

Love is a major theme of this novel. Without the love between Libby and her family, there would not have been the overwhelming grief at the loss of her mother and sister. Without love in the Jamieson family, Peter's family would not have interfered in his relationship with Libby, separating them almost permanently. It is the love of his family to inspire them to help Peter find Libby again.

However, the most important theme of love is the love that exists between Libby and Peter. Libby is a lost person when Peter finds her. She has lost everything and finds herself isolated and grieving. At the same time, Peter seems to have it all, but he is missing the unconditional acceptance he can only find with someone who cares for him as a person, not him as a rock star. For this reason, when Peter and Libby find one another, it is clearly a match that will have profound impact on their lives. For this reason, and those mentioned above, love is a major theme of the novel.

Responsibility

Peter has a responsibility to his family as a member of their band as well as a member of the family. For this reason, Peter's life is in constant motion as he works with the band, the many reporters, and the other obligations of his life. Peter has grown up quickly because of this and is a very mature young man for his age. When Peter meets Libby he is instantly drawn to her and the responsible side of him wants to save her.

Libby has few responsibilities when Peter first meets her except to her studies. However, as life implodes around Libby, she finds herself forced to save herself and make her life work on her own. Soon Libby has a full time job, she is studying for the GED, and preparing to go to college. Libby has discovered what it is like to be a responsible adult. Responsibility later threatens to pull Libby and Peter apart, making it a major theme of the book.

Learning to Save Oneself

Libby has spent her life allowing others to make decisions for her. Her mother told her how to dress and how to behave. Her mother died. Her father told her that she had to stay with her aunt. Her father disappeared. Miss Orman guides Libby through her school work, but fails to be there for Libby when she needs her most. Libby's aunt refuses to allow Libby to get a job to hide the fact that she is a drug grower and distributor. Peter comes into Libby's life and promises to save her, even planning to take her on tour with him.

As Libby's life falls apart again in the aftermath of her aunt's arrest, she realizes that she has allowed people to run her life for her and never taken responsibility for herself. When Libby is in a group home and finds herself in physical danger all the time, she finally realizes that the only person who can save her is herself. Libby runs away and takes steps to care for herself. She gets her GED and prepares to go to college. Libby has learned to save herself, making it an important theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third-person omniscient point of view. This novel uses several characters as narrators, including Libby Sawyer, Peter Jamieson, Aunt Marge, Miss Orman, and Karen Jamieson. Using so many different characters to narrate the novel makes this point of view third person omniscient both because of the pronouns used and the switching from character to character.

The point of view of this novel is mildly confusing as the author often moves from character to character with little warning or foreshadowing. However, the use of multiple narrators allows the reader to see several sides of the story, giving the reader a fuller view of the story than they might have if the first person or a non-omniscient third person point of view were used. For this reason, this point of view works well with this plot.

Setting

The novel has multiple settings. The novel, set in modern times, begins in a nature preserve in Wisconsin. However, due to the fact that Jamieson is an international sensation, the novel follows Peter on tour throughout the United States and into Europe. At the same time, Libby finds herself moving from her aunt's dilapidated farmhouse to a group home in the city to a small town in Georgia.

The setting of this novel is important for several reasons. The fact that the novel is set in modern times allows the author to introduce a cellphone for Peter to offer Libby in an effort to remain close. It also allows for the idea of a sibling boy band to find so much success at such a young age. However, the modern also presents a few problems that the author has trouble addressing, such as Libby's complete ignorance of Jamieson at the beginning of the novel and the lack of interest in Libby after Jamieson has created a national campaign in search of her. The towns and cities that the characters travel to are mere backdrop to the story, giving the story some added color but offering little more.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. The novel's main characters are teenagers, therefore much of the language is appropriate to their age and experience. The novel does not contain any foreign phrases or words, nor is there any slang that a reader might not comprehend.

The language of this novel works well with the novel because it is authentic to the characters and the intended audience. The language is very simple, therefore even the

youngest readers should have little trouble comprehending it. The language is very appropriate to the plot.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-seven chapters. Each chapter is fairly short, though some tend to be very long. The chapters are often divided into several sections, each section an indication in a change of narrating character or scene. The story is told in a linear fashion and tells the story with narration and dialogue.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows the developing relationship between Libby and Peter as well as Peter's attempts to find Libby after she disappears. One subplot follows the relationship between Peter and his family. Another subplot follows the situation between Libby and her aunt. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Libby watched the cars zip by on the highway, longing for her dad's SUV with out-of-state plates to take the exit and put her life back together" (Chapter 1, p. 9).

"Imaginary gymnasts did flips in her stomach. She thought Peter would be a distant memory, like so many others she stashed safely away" (Chapter 3, p. 69-70).

"The only way she could get Peter's CD was to be creative. Taking this money qualified" (Chapter 5, p. 126).

"Entering the gloomy farmhouse felt like walking into a prison" (Chapter 8, p. 166).

"Peter held Libby crying in his arms. He didn't move, afraid he might frighten her back to her stoic façade" (Chapter 9, p. 201).

"She cried for his father's suffering as he fought for his life" (Chapter 14, p. 267).

"It wasn't their normal upbeat, chatty concert, but there existed an incredible energy that no audience had ever witnessed. Peter felt drained with nothing left to give" (Chapter 18, p. 381).

"The spectacular view of Paris from the Eiffel Tower was wasted on Peter. He could only think about Libby and pray she was safe" (Chapter 20, p. 403).

"The veil of secrecy lifted" (Chapter 21, p. 451).

"She hoped the deluge of rain was a sign of cleansing and would bring her good fortune and not an omen of bad luck" (Chapter 24, p. 492).

"Peter wouldn't let her out of his sight" (Chapter 26, p. 516).

"No one can predict the future, but right now you're the most important thing to me. I will regret it for the rest of my life if we don't give this a chance" (Chapter 27, p. 553).

Topics for Discussion

Who is Libby? What happened to her family? Why is she waiting for her father to return? Where does Libby live? Why is she an outcast at her school? Why does Libby not have access to television, computers, or cellphones? How does this impact her first meeting with Peter Jamieson?

Who is Peter Jamieson? What is his claim to fame? How does he meet Libby? Why is Peter immediately drawn to Libby? What does Peter know of Libby's past in these early meetings? How does this impact his feelings for her? Why does Peter provide Libby with a cellphone? What does she use it for? Why does Libby spend so much time talking with and visiting Libby? What does this suggest about his character and their future?

How does Peter's family feel about him dating? Why do they encourage his relationship with Libby initially? When do their feelings change? Why does Peter's family feel Libby is a distraction? Is it? How does Peter's family interfere in his relationship with Libby? How does he react to this interference?

What happens to Libby's aunt? Why is Libby placed in a group home? What is the group home like? Why does Libby make the decision to run away? Where does she go? For what reason? How does Libby expect to survive on her own? Does she? Explain.

Why can Peter not contact Libby after Garrett ends their relationship? Why does Peter want to contact her? How does Peter feel when he learns about Libby's placement in the system? Why can Peter not find out exactly where Libby is? Who does he turn to for help? What does Peter do when all hope of tracking Libby down is lost? For what reason?

Why does Libby seek emancipation from the state? What does she hope this will do for her? When does she learn she was successful? What are Libby's future plans? How does Libby learn that Peter is searching for her? Who tells her? How does Libby manage to get invited to a concert where she is reunited with Peter? Is this a happy reunion?

Why does Libby think there is no future in her relationship with Peter? What is standing in their way? Why does Libby balk at the idea of Peter telling her how to live her life? What does Libby want from her relationship with Peter? How does Peter conform to Libby's desires? What does this suggest about their future?