

Something Blue Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Something Blue is a story about karma, self-realization, and finding true friendship and love. Darcy Rhone is a beautiful, well-connected publicist living in New York City. She thrives on maintaining appearances and believes her beauty is the key to getting a life of wealth and status. Instead, Darcy's self-centered ways lead to losing those closest to her, including her best friend and her fiancé. Darcy is finally forced to reexamine her life which leads to her decision that she needs to become a better person. Something Blue is about one woman's quest for the perfect life in Manhattan and London from a best-selling author of women's literature.

When Darcy is introduced to Dex by Rachel, she immediately believes he is perfect for the lifestyle she seeks. Darcy and Dex start dating and, following a seven-year courtship, they become engaged. Darcy admits she and Dex don't have much in common, but the life she envisions they will enjoy together is more important to Darcy than chemistry and shared interests. That is until Darcy meets Marcus.

Though Darcy doesn't think much of Marcus at first, when she sees his high-fashion date, Darcy's perception of Marcus begins to change. Soon Darcy begins to flirt with Marcus at every opportunity. Although Marcus attempts to deflect her advances, he is helpless against Darcy when they are alone one night in the Hamptons. The following morning, Marcus is repentant, but Darcy suffers little guilt. Marcus attempts to keep his distance, but Darcy is convinced she will get him and succeeds. When Darcy and Marcus find out she is pregnant, Marcus doesn't want to accept it and insists Darcy explore her options. Darcy, however, insists she wants to keep the baby. Darcy plans to break up with Dex immediately but Dex says the words before she has the chance.

Darcy arrives at Rachel's apartment to tell her about the break-up with Dex. In the midst of Darcy's confession of her own affair, Darcy notices Dex's watch on Rachel's nightstand. When Darcy finds Dex in Rachel's closet, her world crumbles. Darcy becomes obsessed with thoughts of Dex and Rachel. Darcy talks about them incessantly which at first amuses, then annoys Marcus. Darcy is continually disappointed by Marcus' behavior. Marcus is a slacker, a sloppy dresser, and isn't serious about what is important to Darcy. She is not the only one disappointed. When Claire, the social maven, hears Darcy is dating Marcus, she obviously disapproves. When Darcy's mother finds out Darcy is pregnant by Marcus, an argument erupts between mother and daughter resulting in Darcy and Marcus fleeing Darcy's family home.

Marcus kicks Darcy out of his apartment after an argument about baby names and later dumps her. Darcy is reeling from her losses. To add to Darcy's despair, Claire cuts her off when she finds out Darcy is pregnant. Just as Darcy is feeling at her lowest, Annalise calls. After hearing an update from Darcy, Annalise suggests Darcy stay with another childhood friend, Ethan, who lives in England.



True to form, Darcy insinuates herself not only into Ethan's apartment, but also into his life. From sleeping in his bed from her first night on, to questioning Ethan's whereabouts, Darcy behaves more like a suspicious wife than a roommate. On Thanksgiving Day, Darcy's feelings for Ethan begin to change. As Ethan shows Darcy his favorite places in London, Darcy becomes interested despite herself. At one moment, as Darcy and Ethan sit on a chair in Holland Park, Darcy is overcome with the desire to kiss him.

One night after a bad dinner out with Ethan's friends, Ethan shatters Darcy's view of herself. Darcy also finds out Rachel and Dex's affair began before her own affair with Marcus. When Darcy complains of Rachel's betrayal, Ethan shuts her down telling her she would have done the same thing. The following morning, Darcy feels her baby kick for the first time and decides to make a change. Her first day turning a new leaf, Darcy meets and befriends Meg and Charlotte, who give her the number of an obstetrician/gynecologist and invite Darcy to a dinner party.

Darcy is happy with her new doctor, Geoffrey Moore, until he surprises her with the news she is having identical twin boys. Darcy, who believed in her heart she was having a girl, is destroyed by the news. Darcy decides to switch doctors and eventually does when she and Dr. Moore begin dating.

Geoffrey is everything Darcy is looking for in a man, yet Darcy still longs to spend her free moments with Ethan. When Ethan begins dating Sondrine, Darcy feels her space in Ethan's apartment is threatened. Ethan proves her wrong when he builds a nursery in the room Darcy no longer sleeps in. Both Geoffrey and Sondrine have a problem with Darcy and Ethan's living situation. Geoffrey continues to prod Darcy about living with him. When Darcy has a pregnancy scare, it becomes obvious she wants to be with Ethan or alone. Darcy breaks up with Geoffrey the following week, when Geoffrey visits with brochures of new homes.

Darcy goes into labor a week early. Ethan is by Darcy's side throughout her delivery and sleeps on a cot by Darcy's hospital bed every night until she and the babies go home. Darcy and Ethan spend the next few weeks feeding, bathing, changing babies and barely getting time to bathe themselves. Yet in the midst of it all, their feelings for one another continue to grow. Ethan breaks up with Sondrine one night over oysters. Ethan and Darcy joke about his methods before Ethan takes Darcy in his arms.

Darcy and Ethan marry two years later in Holland Park in front of an audience of family and friends including Rachel, Dex, and their baby daughter. When Rachel stands to give a speech at the reception, Darcy is surprised and moved by her friend's words.



Prologue

Prologue Summary

Something Blue is a story about karma, self-realization, and finding true friendship and love. Darcy Rhone is a beautiful, well-connected publicist living in New York City. She thrives on maintaining appearances and believes her beauty is the key to getting a life of wealth and status. Instead, Darcy's self-centered ways lead to losing those closest to her, including her best friend and her fiancé. Darcy is finally forced to reexamine her life which leads to her decision she needs to become a better person. Something Blue is about one woman's quest for the perfect life in Manhattan and London from a best-selling author of women's literature.

Darcy describes herself as being beautiful since birth, having the fortune of being a C-section delivery and foregoing a deformed head through natural birth. Darcy grows up in Indianapolis where her beauty and ideals are cultivated by her mother. Darcy is very popular in school, but she considers herself a benevolent ruler, never letting her beauty allow her to be mean-spirited. Darcy has a just-get-by attitude, believing her beauty will propel her where she wants to be.

Rachel, Darcy's best friend, is considered by Darcy to be average-looking. Rachel is very smart and mature, even when they are children, and it is due to Rachel's attributes that Darcy experiences doubt in her beauty being enough. Darcy is never swayed enough to study harder, however, as she always assuages her doubt by comparing her beauty to others. She maintains her popularity through college, joining the best sorority, dating the best-looking men, and just making the grade.

When Darcy follows Rachel to New York City, she quickly enters the elite social scene. Rachel begins to ask if Darcy is worried about her karma, but Darcy believes she is a good person, even if she didn't earn her job, apartment and fiancé in the traditional sense. When she compares herself to Rachel who is single, working at a job she doesn't like, and has poor fashion sense, Darcy believes she has made the right choices in her life.

Prologue Analysis

Darcy, the main character, introduces herself. One sees that Darcy thinks very highly of her beauty and believes her physical assets will propel her where she wants to be. Rachel, who is not as beautiful, is studious and mature. Best friends since they were little girls, Rachel attempts to keep Darcy grounded. Even at a young age, Rachel worries about Darcy becoming an empty woman.

Darcy admits there are moments when she falters in her belief that her beauty is all she needs. Those moments are mainly when Rachel worries about Darcy's karma. Darcy

also admits that in the end when she compares her beauty and fun lifestyle to Rachel's boring shoes and life, Darcy believes she has and knows it all.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Darcy breezes into her and Rachel's studio with the news that Dex has called off their wedding. Darcy then confesses that she has been having an affair with Marcus, is pregnant with his child, and will be marrying Marcus. Darcy apologizes to Rachel who recently dated Marcus, but explains they were overcome by their emotions.

Darcy pauses as she notices the custom Rolex she bought for Dex on Rachel's bedside table. Darcy walks over to it and questions Rachel bluntly. Darcy's best friend stumbles around excuses, finally saying the watch belongs to her. Darcy picks it up and reads out loud the inscription Rachel helped her to choose. Darcy begins looking for Dex. When she reaches the closet, Rachel attempts to block her but is unsuccessful. Darcy finds Dex in his underwear, crouching in the corner of Rachel's closet.

Having heard Darcy's unwitting confession, Dex is unconcerned about getting caught and actually appears mildly amused with the situation. Darcy attempts to muster anger and venom, but is easily thwarted by Dex who sarcastically congratulates her on her pregnancy. She is clearly at a disadvantage, having confessed her affair, and it is apparent by her behavior. Darcy weakly throws Dex's watch at him and misses. She then declares Rachel is dead to her as she exits.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Although Darcy informs Rachel she has betrayed both her and Dex, Darcy is nonetheless horrified by what they have done to her. She is overwhelmed by the situation that is heavy with drama, and which she did not design and cannot control. Dex is amused at the situation and behaves sarcastically, causing Darcy to nearly lose her composure.

Rachel's behavior at the beginning of the chapter becomes clear when Darcy finds Dex in Rachel's closet. Rachel is interested in the particulars of Darcy and Dex's break-up, particularly in what Dex said. Rachel also is not upset about Darcy's affair with Marcus. Darcy's confession appears to lessen both Rachel and Dex's guilt.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Darcy replays her sob-story to anyone who would listen on her way to Marcus' studio, and then to Marcus himself in detail when she arrives. Darcy is disappointed in Marcus when he laughs about the irony of it. Marcus doesn't understand Darcy's anger and reminds her they are guilty of the same crime their friends are. Darcy explains that of the four of them, she has been dealt the worst hand. When Marcus replies that he dated Rachel and is Dex's groomsman, Darcy insults him by playing down his importance in the wedding and by saying he and Rachel were never serious.

Darcy makes childish plans for revenge on Dex and Rachel. When she suggests to Marcus that she commit suicide, he doesn't take the bait. Instead, he jokingly tells her she will be quickly forgotten as the dead usually are. Darcy decides she will get back at Rachel and Dex by living happily ever after with Marcus and their baby girl.

Darcy breaks the news about her and Dex's break-up to her parents. Darcy reveals that Dex broke up with her and then tells them of Rachel and Dex's betrayal. As has become her way of telling the story, Darcy leaves out her own cheating and pregnancy for another man. Darcy's parents give her the reaction she has been looking for. Immediately upon hearing her story, Darcy's mother starts crying, and Darcy's father elects to take care of all the wedding calls and cancellations. Darcy's mother is perfectly incredulous, given Rachel's looks in comparison to Darcy's. She tells Darcy that Rachel has probably been after Dex from the beginning. Darcy's parents soothe her by reminding her how beautiful she is and assuring her she will find someone better.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Darcy continues to deny the magnitude of her role in the demise of her relationship with Dex. Darcy replays the scene in Rachel's apartment to anyone who will listen. She will portray herself the sole victim to garner as much sympathy as she can.

Although Marcus uses light-hearted humor to attempt to open Darcy's mind, she will not be swayed and, in fact, gets angry with him for not seeing the situation as she does. Darcy mentions committing suicide more to shock Marcus than with any gravity. However, as the reader will learn, Marcus does not appear to take Darcy very seriously.

The reader should pay close attention to the discourse between Darcy and her parents. As with most parents, they are completely on her side. Darcy's father quickly comes to her aide for all practical matters. Her mother offers what a girlfriend would, complete animosity toward Rachel and Dex. When Darcy's parents assure her that she will find someone better because of her beauty without mention of her character, the reader should take notice. This exchange offers more insight into the history behind Darcy's shallow view of life.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Rachel decides to introduce Dex, her good friend and great catch to Darcy. Darcy instantly believes Dex is perfectly suited for her ideal life. After their initial meeting and waiting a few days for his first phone call, Darcy ensures she and Dex quickly become a couple.

While Dex is similar to Rachel in his interests in scholarly and worldly issues, Darcy is interested in celebrity gossip and fashion. Their differences are evidenced one night when Darcy switches the channel during a documentary Dex is watching, explaining she is tired of poor people. Darcy admits she and Dex don't have much in common, but she believes he appreciates her honesty.

Darcy believes herself the model girlfriend with the exceptions of two incidents Darcy doesn't classify as cheating. Darcy kisses Jack after a night of bar-hopping. Darcy quickly dismisses the incident as something she wanted to do at the time and lets Jack down easy the next day. When Darcy cheats with Lair, she goes back to his hotel and goes further than kissing but does not sleep with him. Darcy and Lair maintain e-mail correspondence for a short while before Darcy goes back to being the consummate girlfriend.

When Darcy and Dex get engaged, Darcy vows to be loyal and live happily ever after with him. Darcy plays down the lack of excitement and commonalities in their relationship, believing that Dex's assets make him a great catch, nonetheless.

Chapter 3 Analysis

It appears Darcy's self-absorption offers her a limited view of the reality of others' desires. When she is introduced to Dex, Darcy falls for what is on the surface and imagines what is beneath, creating the perfect catch she seeks. She does not mention liking Dex or being attracted to him, only that he is perfect for the life she wants. Darcy chooses to overlook their differences and lack of chemistry believing that Dex's wealth, status, and promising career are worth more to her.

It may be due to the lack of excitement in their relationship that Darcy believes she is admirable for having only two indiscretions during her seven-year relationship. Darcy does not appear to feel any guilt for what she has done and believes a promise to herself to be a loyal fiancée is enough repentance.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Marcus, Dex's former college roommate, accepts the honor of being Dex's fifth groomsman to balance out Darcy's bridal party. When Darcy meets Marcus at Aureole for the first time, Darcy quickly dismisses him when she takes in his messy appearance. When Darcy realizes he is with a pretty, more fashionably-dressed woman, Darcy looks at Marcus with a more appraising eye. Darcy, who is angry with Dex for suggesting the tweed suit she wore, is still able to maintain the spotlight throughout the evening.

A few weeks after meeting Marcus, Darcy throws a surprise party for Rachel at their favorite club. Darcy and Marcus are hanging out at the bar together when Darcy challenges him to a drinking contest. Dex approaches Darcy and Marcus and questions her. Darcy tells him the empty shot glasses on the bar belonged to Marcus. Marcus agrees, covering for her. Darcy begins flirting with Dex. Dex returns to the bar with Rachel, ending Darcy and Marcus' suggestive conversation and contest.

On the Forth of July weekend, Dex and Rachel cancel plans to go to the Hamptons, leaving Darcy, Marcus, and Claire together at the rental house. One night after Claire goes to bed, Darcy and Marcus take up another game of shots. Marcus tells Darcy they shouldn't go any further, but Darcy insists she wants to have sex with him. Marcus is immediately remorseful, and Darcy admits she cries a little when she looks at her ring and thinks of Dex.

Chapter 4 Analysis

We gain more insight into Darcy's character as well as one of the story's themes as Chapter Four opens. When Darcy meets Marcus, she is unimpressed with him until she sees his date, Stacy. Darcy only begins to have an open mind about Marcus when a person Darcy sees as on her level approves of him. Darcy then recreates Marcus in the image of a man with sex appeal and a sense of humor, which first leads to Darcy wanting to know more about him and later to her wanting to conquer him.

The reader also gains more insight into Darcy's competitive nature. As she sizes up Stacy, Darcy first is envious of the other woman's outfit, then gages if Stacy is prettier. Darcy decides she is more beautiful than Stacy and also the better conversationalist, which puts her ahead of Stacy in assets.

Darcy feels no guilt in flirting with Marcus at the bar or on the phone, and feels little guilt about their tryst on the lawn. This is foreshadowing of what will occur in the following chapter between Darcy and Marcus when it becomes apparent that once Darcy decides she wants to be with Marcus, she can not be deterred.



When Darcy cries in the shower after her tryst with Marcus, what exactly makes her cry when she looks at her engagement ring? Is it the thought of Dex sleeping alone as she says, or is it because she believes it is a fitting response given the drama she is creating?



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Darcy and Marcus discuss the night before. Marcus wants to drop it by saying they did a terrible thing and should let it go. Darcy replies that she cannot. She persists, asking Marcus if she is meant to be with him. Marcus tells her that is not going to happen. Darcy tries another approach, asking Marcus if he will continue to date Rachel. When he says yes, Darcy asks him if he would choose her over Rachel if she were single. Marcus tells her he would try to have sex with them at the same time, and then seriously tells her it would be a close call. Darcy wants Marcus to say it would be a close call because of Dex, but Marcus doesn't satisfy her curiosity.

For the rest of the weekend and once they return to Manhattan, Marcus ignores Darcy. She sends him e-mails and calls him repeatedly, to no benefit. Finally, Darcy decides to show up at Marcus' apartment with a Pulp Fiction video and a six-pack of beer. After light cajoling, Marcus allows Darcy entrance into his messy studio. Still distrustful, Marcus directs Darcy to sit in the futon opposite the sectional where he would sit. Darcy promises to behave herself and remain platonic if they sit together. By the time the movie is halfway through, Darcy makes her move, and she and Marcus have sex on the sofa.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Darcy's morning-after conversation with Marcus is an example of her manipulative tactics. It is also a study in Marcus' struggle against involvement with Darcy. Darcy pursues Marcus with questions in attempt to get the answers she wants. Instead, Darcy drives Marcus away as he ignores her the rest of the weekend.

Marcus' continued indifference toward Darcy in Manhattan only causes her to become obsessed with him. She needs to know he wants her. She needs to know this more than actually wanting him herself. She no longer mentions Dex as she becomes focused on getting Marcus. This behavior by Darcy foreshadows future chapters when Darcy's obsessive behavior contributes to the destruction of Darcy's relationships.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Marcus stops resisting Darcy. Although he doesn't initiate contact, whenever Darcy calls him, he is available for her. Darcy still doesn't understand why he won't ask her to call off her wedding. Darcy comforts herself by saying Dex is a better prospect for marriage. When Darcy leaves her engagement ring at Marcus' apartment, she begins to wonder if she should marry Dex. To spare Rachel's feelings, Darcy tells her she slept with a man from work once. Rachel comforts Darcy by saying she is suffering cold feet and assures her Dex is the right man for her.

Three weeks before her wedding, Darcy convinces Marcus' doorman to let her into Marcus' apartment so she can surprise him. Darcy is surprised herself when Marcus enters the apartment with a giggling date. Darcy is nude but for a pair of heels and scrambles to put on one of Marcus' T-shirts. Marcus' date offers to leave. Darcy agrees, pointing at the door and assuring her Marcus will call. When Marcus' date exits the apartment, Darcy attacks Marcus, feebly throwing her fists at him. Marcus demands to know where Darcy believed their relationship would go once she was married. Darcy tells Marcus she wants him to want her on a deeper level. Marcus tells Darcy he does want her before storming off to his bathroom and slamming the door. When Darcy enters, she reads into the look on his face and tells him she loves him, too.

That night, when the two are enjoying a bout of unprotected make-up sex, Marcus warns Darcy he is about to orgasm. Darcy thinks pregnancy might be the perfect solution. Instead of pulling away, Darcy throws caution to the wind and thrusts her body onto Marcus harder. Marcus tells her she is crazy and warns her to never do it again. Darcy placates him, but internally doesn't believe she will get pregnant. When Darcy gets Marcus to say he kind of loves her, Darcy believes she has broken him.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Darcy's pride is wounded, because Marcus has not asked her to call off her wedding. Darcy claims she has no intention of doing so; she only wants Marcus to want her to. What Darcy admits she wants is for Marcus to live up to the passionate ideal she has created in her mind. One will learn the less attention Marcus pays Darcy, the deeper she wants to be involved with him.

Darcy wants someone who will play out drama with her according to her script. When she sneaks into Marcus' apartment and is surprised by Marcus and his date, Darcy essentially kicks the other woman out and then attacks Marcus in true dramatic form. Though Darcy is having an affair with Marcus, she is nonetheless upset he is with another woman. This is akin to the response exhibited by Darcy when she finds Dex in Rachel's apartment.



The argument that ensues between Darcy and Marcus pushes Marcus to say what Darcy has been waiting for. One takes notice of Darcy's reaction when Marcus tells Darcy he kind of loves her. Instead of feeling a surge of love, Darcy feels triumphant. It is evident that Darcy has almost certainly viewed Marcus as a conquest and way out of her marriage. Darcy has paid no regard to her fiancé, who she promised to be loyal to, or Rachel who was dating Marcus, or Marcus himself as he repeatedly attempted to prevent their affair.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

It is a week before Darcy's wedding, and she is at Marcus' apartment taking a pregnancy test. When she informs Marcus the test is positive, instead of expressing the elated response Darcy is looking for, Marcus is worried and confused. His disappointment is compounded when he sees that she has used his favorite Broncos cup to pee in. Marcus presses that Darcy should explore her options and even suggests she see a therapist. Darcy insists she is happy to be having a baby with him although she admits to herself she has never thought of having a baby. Darcy tells him she has no issues, she loves him, is keeping the baby, and canceling the wedding.

Darcy leaves Marcus' apartment determined to break-up with Dex. Although Darcy initiates the conversation, it is Dex who deals the breakup blow by saying he doesn't think their marriage would be a good idea. Darcy believes Dex is feeding off of her waning feelings and is making a preemptive strike. Feeling sorry for Dex, Darcy kisses his cheek and wishes him well.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Darcy is determined to live out her new fantasy. She is happy to have found her solution in a positive pregnancy test. Blinded by what she wants, Darcy does not examine Marcus' behavior toward the test results. Marcus first responds by asking Darcy to take another test. After the second test, Marcus suggests therapy. It is apparent Marcus does not want to have a child and believes something is wrong with Darcy because of her desire to keep it. This response from Marcus foreshadows his words in Chapter Fourteen when he ends their relationship.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Darcy wakes in Marcus' bed for the first time. She awakens Marcus to ask him if he thinks Dex and Rachel are together, and to discuss what she should say to her co-workers that day. Marcus tells her what happened is nobody's business. Darcy explains it is her duty to inform them of a few details, given that some are guests.

Darcy decides to follow Marcus' advice and send a mass e-mail informing her friends and co-workers of her canceled wedding. Before Darcy can send her e-mail, she is called down to the conference room by her supervisor, Cal, to discuss a golf tournament. Darcy decides she is going to make Cal give the project to someone else, even if she has to cry. When Darcy arrives at the conference room, she is surprised with a congratulatory party and a Tiffany's box. Darcy has found the perfect arena for her news. She tells the group she has called off her wedding. A hush falls over the room, and Darcy is quickly ushered out by Claire.

Wanting complete sympathy, Darcy replays the story of Dex and Rachel's betrayal to a perfectly outraged and confused Claire. Darcy declares Claire her new best friend. She decides to go home for the day but asks Claire to read her e-mail before she sends it. Happy in her new role as best friend, Claire reads the note more than once before giving her approval. Darcy leaves the office basking in the attention of her colleagues on her way out.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Darcy wakes up with Dex and Rachel on her mind for the first of many more mornings. When she wakes up Marcus to discuss Rachel and Dex, this is a foreshadowing of what is to become of Darcy. Her pregnancy and life with Marcus has been put out of her mind as she now focuses on having been wronged by Rachel and Dex.

When Darcy is surprised by her co-workers with a party, she is eager to give them her even bigger surprise. True to form, Darcy gives the version of truth that puts her in the best spotlight saying she, not Dex, called the wedding off. She chooses to look strong at the center of the crowd. However, when she is alone with Claire, Darcy can not resist drawing sympathy with her edited version of the break-up. Darcy plays both sides of the fence to garner the responses she wants.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Marcus reluctantly agrees to discuss wedding plans. Darcy wants to get married before her pregnancy begins showing and has also decided she no longer wants to get married by the justice-of-the-peace. Marcus jokes about inviting Rachel and Dex, and then asks if they can have the conversation another time. Darcy resigns telling herself Marcus is just not the wedding-planning type.

Later, after checking her voicemail, Darcy is again upset that she has not heard from Rachel or Dex. Marcus reminds Darcy she told them she didn't want to speak to them anymore. Darcy explains to him it is necessary that she speak to Dex as they have wedding plans to cancel. When Marcus tells her to call him, Darcy stubbornly responds that Dex should call her. A disinterested Marcus is pulled into Darcy's indignant vacillation. Darcy tells him he needs to start getting interested in the saga he is a part of.

Darcy enjoys a few more days of wedding drama through calls and e-mails to friends and a talk with Claire. Angry she still hasn't heard from Rachel or Dex, Darcy finally calls Dex at his work under the pretense of going over details of their canceled nuptials. She is disappointed by Dex's detachment but consoles herself by saying the finality of their break-up had not hit him yet.

Darcy spends the night of what would have been her wedding with Marcus in his studio. Although Darcy puts on a brave front, she does feel wistful about the missed wedding and tells Marcus it would have been a great party. Marcus agrees that he could be drinking for free with his buddies. Though Darcy is disappointed in Marcus' reply, she consoles herself by believing Marcus is happy to have won her from Dex.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Darcy is thriving on the drama of her situation. Darcy's only issues are Rachel and Dex, who will not step up to play their parts in the saga. Darcy continues to wait for calls of apology from Rachel and Dex but they are not forthcoming. Marcus also refuses to play his position and side with Darcy in all things against Rachel and Dex.

As Chapter Nine progresses, one should take note of Marcus' behavior toward Darcy. Marcus began his interaction with Darcy appearing only mildly interested. Marcus has not become more interested in Darcy or the situation she continues to obsess about. Instead, Marcus seems more detached from Darcy and the situation created by his and Darcy's affair. Darcy tries to hide her growing knowledge of Marcus' lack of interest and instead attempts to explain away his behavior. When Marcus puts off the wedding conversation, when he appears indifferent about spending her wedding night with her, Darcy imagines a place in Marcus where he cares for her deeply.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Darcy manipulates Marcus into accompanying her to her first prenatal visit. Darcy's name is called, but Marcus remains seated, adamant he is not going in with her. When another pregnant woman looks at Marcus with disapproval, Darcy snaps at Marcus under her breath. Marcus rises, following her to the examination room. Darcy regrets choosing a female doctor when she sees that her doctor, Jan, is taller and has bigger breasts than she does. After a short question and answer about Darcy's medical history and last period, Jan tells Darcy her due date is May second. Darcy says she hopes the date is off as the second is her ex-fiancé's birthday. Jan assures Darcy that few babies are actually born on their due date. Darcy questions why that happens and the doctor pauses before she answers. Darcy muses that Jan would have answered the question faster had she been older or less attractive. Darcy goes on to conclude Jan finished last in her classes, barely graduated, and got her job as her boyfriend is a surgeon.

When Jan steps out of the room, Darcy takes the opportunity to compare herself to the doctor with Marcus, asking him who he thinks is prettier. When Marcus gives the answer she wants, Darcy presses and asks him if she will still be prettier than Jan when she's bigger. Marcus is less enthusiastic when he answers. Jan returns and begins Darcy's examination. Marcus, who only moments earlier openly appraised the doctor's thighs, looks away uncomfortably.

Darcy leaves the doctor's office with an appointment for her ultrasound and a prescription for prenatal vitamins. When Marcus voluntarily takes her hand and smiles at her when they are waiting at a crosswalk, Darcy burns the image in her mind. Marcus' smile assured her that he was happy to be marrying Darcy and happy to be having a child with her.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Darcy's doctor's appointment is another opportunity for the reader to witness Darcy's competitive spirit. Darcy is disappointed to find her doctor has more appealing assets than she does. As Darcy mentioned in Chapter Four, she must be the tallest and most beautiful in the room. When Marcus appraises the doctor, it is apparent Darcy is jealous.

It should be noted the way Darcy interprets Jan's pause before answering her question about her due date. Darcy perceives it as an imperfection and immediately pounces, assuming the doctor much less intelligent than she should be. Darcy goes as far as to paint a picture of Jan's mediocre educational background. This is Darcy's way of bringing Jan down to her level. Still unsatisfied with the picture she has painted in her mind, Darcy turns to Marcus when the doctor leaves the room. Yet, she is unconvinced



when he affirms she will be prettier than Jan when she is further advanced in her pregnancy.

The walk following the doctor's appointment appears to foreshadow a wonderful new start between Darcy and Marcus. The day is beautiful, and Darcy feels happy. To complete the moment, Marcus takes Darcy's hand of his own volition and smiles at her as they wait at a crosswalk. Has the doctor's visit made the baby become real not only to Darcy, but also to Marcus?



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

When Dex moved out of his and Darcy's apartment, he took the kitchen table and a few smaller items. Darcy is happy to see the old fashioned pine table gone, and plans to purchase one more fitting for the apartment she imagines she will buy with Marcus. Darcy decides to drag Marcus along with her to Crate and Barrel to replace the table.

Darcy instantly finds the table she has in mind on the store's second floor. She asks Marcus' opinion, and he answers with his usual indifference. Marcus looks over Darcy's shoulder and informs her that Rachel and Dex are behind her. Darcy becomes frantic and wants to make sure she looks good but has left her compact at home. Darcy has to resort to Marcus' opinion, who says she looks fine. He suggests they go over and speak to Dex and Rachel. Darcy asks him if he is crazy, then questions him again about a brief conversation he had with Dex on the phone. Marcus again tells Darcy that it was short. Marcus decides they should leave, admitting he is not in the mood to talk to the other couple either. Instead of leaving as Marcus suggests, Darcy pulls him down to hide behind a piece of furniture and spy on Dex and Rachel.

Darcy critiques the two and quizzes Marcus on what he thinks of Rachel's hair and Dex's taste in furniture, and then asks if Marcus thinks the two are moving in together. Marcus answers all of Darcy's questions to her dissatisfaction. When he answers one of her questions with a heavy sigh, Darcy tells him not to lose his temper with her, reminding him that what they are seeing is important.

Darcy then notices Dex and Rachel are tanned and realizes the couple went on the Hawaiian honeymoon. Darcy cannot believe it. She complains that Dex said he would eat the tickets. When she begins to get loud in her indignation, Marcus decides he is leaving and heads down the stairs. Darcy follows him and continues out the door, her eyes filled with tears. Outside, Marcus offers his sympathy. Darcy questions him about Rachel's appearance and again asks about the short phone conversation Marcus and Dex shared.

Darcy's topic of conversation doesn't change once they return to Marcus' apartment. She asks Marcus to promise to take her to Hawaii for their honeymoon. In the mood for sex, Marcus promises to take her anywhere. Darcy attempts to redeem the day by calling Crate and Barrel to order the table and by having sex with Marcus, but her mind cannot be swayed from thoughts of Rachel and Dex.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Darcy's joy at finding her table is short-lived as Marcus informs her that Rachel and Dex are in the store, as well. Darcy doesn't want to be seen by them but cannot contain her curiosity, and pulls Marcus into her spying. Darcy seeks affirmation from Marcus with



the questions she asks him but, as usual, Marcus is not playing along. Instead, it is apparent he is annoyed as he continues to sigh as Darcy drills him with questions. Darcy finally admonishes him about losing his temper with her.

When Darcy realizes Dex and Rachel have gone to Hawaii, it becomes clear who shoulders most of the blame for hurting Darcy. Instead of Dex, Darcy questions how Rachel could betray her. Darcy claims she would never do the same, but one can see from Darcy's behavior, it is very possible she would commit the same act.

Darcy says she feels buyer's remorse. She wonders if she should have stayed with Dex. Readers should take note that she doesn't explain herself by saying she loves Dex; instead the action would only be to prevent his and Rachel's relationship. It is clear by this chapter that Darcy has become obsessed with Dex and Rachel. Just as with Marcus, loss of communication with Dex and Rachel drives Darcy into her near-constant thoughts of them.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Darcy's situation continues to deteriorate on her thirtieth birthday. It is a day of firsts. It is Darcy's first experience with morning sickness, and her first time not being greeted with a big "happy birthday" and her Pillsbury sticky buns with pink candles. Darcy vomits in the bathroom and then spends a few moments lying on the tiled floor dramatically moaning for an unresponsive Marcus before crawling back into bed. As she lies there, her mind returns to her obsession with Rachel and Dex. When Marcus wakes up, Darcy complains about her morning sickness. She then wishes herself a happy birthday. Marcus promises Darcy he will come through when she returns from work.

Darcy is uplifted when Claire gives her gifts of yellow roses and a green crystal heart on a silk cord from Baccarat. When Claire takes Darcy to lunch, she agrees that Rachel and Dex are rude not to have contacted Darcy. Darcy tells Claire she is dating Marcus and, at first, Claire's expression is unreadable. As the conversation progresses, it becomes obvious that Claire disapproves of Darcy's choice.

Darcy's night is a repeat of her morning's disappointments. Marcus is dressed sloppily and refuses to change. It starts to rain, and Marcus proudly states he has not owned an umbrella in years. He offers Darcy a Duane Reade bag to cover her head. Marcus takes Darcy to an off-street Italian restaurant in the Village with bad food and ambiance. Darcy is rejuvenated when Marcus hands her a Tiffany's box after dessert but is instantly deflated when she sees a pair of mass-produced bean-shaped silver earrings inside.

As Darcy and Marcus lay down for bed, Darcy makes a sarcastic remark about not getting an engagement ring. An argument immediately starts. When Darcy tries to get a rise by saying she wishes she were with Dex, Marcus responds with cold silence. Darcy perceives the look in his eyes as indifference, remembering Rachel believed indifference was the opposite of love. After a long silence, Marcus ends the fight by apologizing. They profess their love for one another and kiss goodnight. As Darcy falls asleep, she is worried with thoughts of their relationship and future, and of her history with Dex and Rachel.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Darcy continues to be let down by Marcus. She is beginning to realize they are not a match, no matter how much she tries to force the image in her mind to play out. Her birthday is riddled with let downs marked by Claire's disapproval when she learns Darcy and Marcus are dating. Darcy somehow remains hopeful throughout her birthday that Marcus will prevail and surprise her. When they are in bed at the end of the night, Darcy will not go to sleep without letting Marcus know what he was supposed to give her.



Just as Darcy remained hopeful about Marcus, so she is with Rachel and Dex. Darcy spends the day waiting for correspondence from one or the other. When she checks the mail, Darcy again suffers disappointment finding no cards from either ex-best friend or ex-fiancé. Just as Darcy needed Marcus to want her, she needs Rachel and Dex to want to reconcile with her to put Darcy in control of the situation. As it stands, Darcy has no control over her situation. Dex and Rachel are keeping their distance as ordered, leaving Darcy no one to shun.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Marcus blames his and Darcy's incessant arguing on Darcy's constant preoccupation with Dex and Rachel. Darcy promises to change, but worries if their relationship and child is what she really wants. Darcy calls her mother to tell her she will be visiting with her new boyfriend. Her announcement takes Marcus by surprise, and he tells her he has golf plans. After arguing and cajoling, Marcus agrees but warns Darcy about making plans for him without his knowledge again.

Although Darcy's parents try to like Marcus, he doesn't help them by being sociable. Marcus is quiet on the drive from the airport, despite Mr. Rhone's efforts at conversation. When they arrive at Darcy's family home, the situation only worsens. Jeremy and his girlfriend Lauren announce their engagement to Darcy and Marcus. The couple is planning their nuptials for early May, coinciding with the due date of Darcy's baby. Darcy is worried that attention will be taken off of her. She takes Marcus to the kitchen for another beer and complains to him about Jeremy's wedding announcement, claiming her family was not thinking about what she had just gone through. Darcy then blames Marcus for not getting her an engagement ring, preventing their own announcement.

During dinner, Jeremy tells a story about a patient who left his wife for someone thirty-one years his junior. Marcus jokingly retorts his new wife hasn't been born yet. Uncomfortable silence passes before Lauren tells Marcus it was a good joke. Unable to take anymore, Darcy excuses herself during dessert, announcing that she is going to bed. Marcus follows her upstairs but Darcy points out the guest room. Marcus tries to appeal to Darcy by massaging her shoulder but Darcy berates him for the joke he made and laments about how she will tell her family she is having his baby. Back in her childhood room, Darcy looks at old pictures and reminisces about her life in high school. She begins crying as she thinks of who she has become.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Darcy realizes her fantasy is falling apart. When Darcy asks Marcus what he thinks is wrong at the chapter's opening, a different facet of Darcy's character is revealed. This is the first instance when Darcy seeks advice and attempts to act on it. Darcy realizes she must do what she can to keep Marcus. When Marcus tells her she is too focused on Dex and Rachel, Darcy immediately tries to put them out of her mind.

Darcy feels her position in her family is threatened by Lauren, Jeremy's newly announced fiancée. The couples' wedding coinciding with her due date threatens to take the spotlight off Darcy and her babies. Later, when Lauren calls Mrs. Rhone "Mom"



and mentions cooking with her, Darcy does not hide her displeasure. Darcy's barbed responses are lost on Lauren, whose happy personality only irritates Darcy further.

Darcy watches Marcus' interaction with her family with disapproval. From the moment he meets her father in the airport, Darcy is ashamed of his behavior. During cocktails in her parents' home, Darcy looks at Marcus drinking out of a beer can. It is as if she is seeing Marcus for the first time, without Stacy by his side.

When Darcy goes to her childhood room alone, she hopes that Marcus will follow her but is again disappointed by him. When Darcy cries when looking through her old photos, she is crying in realization that she is becoming a person who regrets her choices.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

The following morning, Darcy's mother visits Darcy's room to console her and grab her dirty laundry. Mrs. Rhone assures Darcy she likes Marcus, but Darcy knows her mother is not telling the truth. Darcy's mother tells her she can always dump him and start over. She then asks for Darcy's laundry. When Mrs. Rhone goes to retrieve the mesh bag of laundry from Darcy's suitcase, what she finds instead is a book about pregnancy. When Mrs. Rhone hears Marcus is the father, she collapses in tears and tells Darcy she is ruining her life. The two argue, and Darcy storms out of her parents' home with Marcus.

Darcy and Marcus' relationship goes well for a few weeks before their arguments arise again. One Saturday, after an argument about baby names, Marcus kicks Darcy out of his apartment and ignores her calls the rest of the weekend. When he does call her, it is to tell her he wants to speak to her in person and will arrive soon. Darcy knows a break-up is imminent. However, when Marcus arrives, she tries to change his mind by using the baby as leverage. Marcus will not be swayed and reminds her that keeping the child was her decision, just as she decided to get pregnant. Marcus informs Darcy he wants nothing to do with her or the baby. He leaves the apartment apologetically informing Darcy, "I'm just not that into you anymore."

Chapter 14 Analysis

It appears Darcy's drama is out of her control. Darcy believes Marcus behaves terribly throughout the visit but expects her mother to be happy about her pregnancy and impending marriage. Darcy's interaction with her mother previous to Chapter Fourteen foreshadows Mrs. Rhone's response. Like Darcy, she is mainly concerned with appearance and status, both of which Marcus lacks.

Mrs. Rhone is only substantiating how Darcy feels about Marcus herself, but hearing her own view through her mother's eyes sparks rebellion in Darcy. Instead of using the opportunity to get out of her relationship with Marcus, Darcy defends her decision and behaves much like a petulant child.

When Marcus breaks up with Darcy, it is apparent the end was a long time coming for him. Darcy is again in a drama without the upper-hand. Marcus doesn't want her or the child she is carrying. His reaction to the pregnancy tests in Chapter Seven has foreshadowed his decision to leave Darcy's life entirely. Marcus' trite parting line underscores his behavior throughout the story. Marcus is using another bad joke to ease out of an awkward situation.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Feeling bereft of anyone to turn to, Darcy calls Dex at work and begs him to see her. When Dex arrives at Darcy's apartment, Darcy has to coerce him inside. Dex immediately asks for his box but Darcy tries to get him to discuss his relationship with Rachel. When Dex finally admits their relationship is going great, Darcy leaves to get his things. In her bedroom, Darcy dumps a pair of shoes out of their box and commences to throw together in an assortment of miscellaneous items including, at the last minute for its weight, their engagement photo in a heavy silver frame.

Dex comments on the light weight of the box, disgusted Darcy has lied to get him to her apartment. Darcy breaks down in tears. She begs Dex to stay with her. She tells him she and Marcus have broken up. Dex apologizes but is resolute. Grasping, Darcy tells him the child she is carrying is his. Dex is immediately suspicious. He tells her to tell the truth. Darcy insists she miscalculated and found out the baby is due earlier than she thought. Dex is steadfast in his decision to stay with Rachel. Darcy finally gives in and goes on to badger Dex with questions about his and Rachel's relationship, ultimately asking if he loves Rachel. Dex apologetically tells Darcy he does. Dex goes on to tell Darcy he would like to help her, because he can see she's not in a good place. He sadly wishes her well when Darcy kicks him out.

Chapter 15 Analysis

That Darcy tries to rekindle a relationship with Dex underscores how pathetic Darcy says she feels. We don't know if she truly thinks she can get Dex back. We do know she just doesn't know what else to do. When Darcy says she is pregnant for Dex, it is desperation at its climax. Dex's response indicates he still remembers what he heard from Rachel's closet; that he and Darcy hadn't slept together in so long it was not possible for him to be the father.

The reader should take note of Dex's change of tone as the chapter progresses. Dex knows Darcy has called him to her apartment under false pretenses and is angry. As Darcy lies to Dex and begs him, her desperation becomes apparent to him. It is apparent he has enough feelings left for Darcy that he feels saddened by what her life has become. Through Darcy's angry remarks, he continues to wish her well.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Darcy spends the next three days in her apartment reeling over her losses. Claire arrives at Darcy's apartment to find her sprawled on her sofa. When Claire hears the news of Darcy's break-up, she is happy to find her friend's sub-par mate is gone and immediately thinks of a better suited man she would like to introduce Darcy to. Claire promises to introduce Darcy to eligible Josh before Jocelyn, a co-worker Darcy viewed as competition, could get to him. Claire also asks Darcy if they can be roommates again. Both suggestions lift Darcy's spirits.

Darcy is confident that Claire is ready for the final secret in her story. Spinning scenes in her head about roommates sharing baby duty, Darcy tells Claire she is pregnant by Marcus. At first, Claire does not believe her. When Claire is convinced, Claire quickly downs her margarita.

Claire tries to put on a brave face and make the best of Darcy's situation. However, it is apparent to Darcy that Claire is only behaving for appearances. Darcy suddenly realizes how shallow their friendship is. Claire quickly drinks Darcy's margarita before making an excuse about dinner plans with Jocelyn, and leaves.

Darcy endures a work week of being ignored by Claire. She hears through office gossip that Claire and Jocelyn are moving in together. One day in the bathroom, Jocelyn informs Darcy that she has been introduced to Josh. Darcy breaks down and decides to take a leave of absence. Cal gives her as much time off as needed and takes a look at Darcy's mid-section as he wishes her well. Darcy realizes Claire has gossiped to the office about her pregnancy and adds Claire to the list of people who will feel the wrath of Darcy's revenge.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Darcy feels a few of her problems are washed away at the start of Claire's visit. With Claire, Darcy has a best friend, a hook up with a potential boyfriend, and a new roommate and partner in baby care. However, when Claire finds out Darcy is pregnant, Darcy loses her new dream. Claire tries to disguise her feelings, but it becomes clear to Darcy that Claire is only waiting for her moment to exit.

Darcy spends a week at work in a new role; the role of the unpopular. Claire has instantly become close to Jocelyn and is giving her everything promised to Darcy. Darcy is stunned by Claire's betrayal. However, what Claire has done is in accordance with her character. She has been described by Darcy as an opportunist. Claire partners herself with the beautiful to gain and retain her connections. A single, pregnant Darcy serves Claire no purpose, except for Claire to use the telling of Darcy's story to enjoy the momentary office spotlight.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

After a few days of listening to empowering music and trying to figure out her next step, Darcy receives a call from Annalise, a close friend from childhood still living in Indianapolis. After discussing Darcy's situation, Annalise suggests Darcy return to her parents. Darcy explains that Indianapolis is the opposite of what she needs, adding she is not speaking to her mother. After further discussion about what Darcy needs, Annalise suggests Darcy stay with another old friend, Ethan, who lives in London. Immediately, Darcy sees it as her best option.

When Darcy, Annalise and Rachel were in the fourth grade, Darcy dragged the other two girls over to meet Ethan who was in their class for the first time. Darcy didn't think much of Ethan until one day in fifth grade. Darcy watched Ethan look through a card catalogue and decided she would like him. Darcy believes Rachel, who has liked Ethan since fourth grade, will be happy to share her crush on Ethan. Instead, Rachel is upset and wants her crush to herself. Still, Darcy writes Ethan a note asking him to be her boyfriend. The two hold hands for a few days before Darcy redevelops a crush on a popular boy and breaks up with Ethan. The friends remained close until adulthood, though Darcy mainly receives updates on Ethan through Rachel, whom he is closest to.

Darcy called Ethan and began begging to stay with him before he had a chance to say no. Ethan, like Annalise, suggested Darcy's parents' home and has his idea shot down. He gives in and agrees to a few weeks. Darcy begins to fantasize about meeting the man of her dreams in a Notting Hill patisserie and living happily ever after. She names her dream man Alistair.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Darcy is at her most desperate. Although she tries to uplift herself with music, after a look through her contact list, she realizes her rift with Dex, Rachel, and Claire has cut her off from all these people. Annalise's phone call couldn't have come at a more opportune time for Darcy. Annalise's suggestion of Darcy staying with Ethan is the perfect solution for Darcy. After convincing Ethan to allow her a short visit, Darcy immediately begins writing the script of her new life.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Two weeks of preparation later, Darcy has sublet her apartment and sold her wedding dress and engagement ring. With enough money to last through her pregnancy, Darcy is off on a business class red-eye to London.

Darcy is in a London cab anxiously awaiting her arrival at Ethan's apartment and graciously conversing with her driver. When Darcy arrives at Ethan's address, he is shocked by her quantity of luggage. Darcy is also in for disappointment. Ethan's apartment is clean and neat but small. Darcy's bedroom is so small, she can't think of where to blow up her air mattress once her suitcases are assembled in the room. Darcy attempts to mask her disappointment but is unsuccessful. Ethan offers for her to stay at a hotel.

Once Darcy has showered, dressed, and decided to pick up a good hair dryer, Ethan takes her to lunch at a pub near his home. After a conversation about Victoria and David Beckham, Darcy probes him about Rachel. At first, Ethan does not answer, but eventually he gives into answering a few questions. Darcy quickly takes it too far by asking a question about Rachel and Dex's relationship, and Ethan shuts her down.

At Ethan's apartment after lunch, Darcy begins unpacking. After she makes repeated trips to his room for hangers, Ethan decides to go out to write. Darcy is upset believing that Ethan was going to spend the entire day with her. Ethan hands Darcy an A to Zed; Darcy complains she doesn't like maps. He tells her to go to Knightsbridge, a short cab away, where she will find stores like Harrods and Harvey Nichols. Darcy brightens at the store names. She decides her new life deserves a new wardrobe.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Darcy is determined to make a new life in London but it is clear her outlook on life has not changed much. Although Darcy attempts to hide her disappointment in Ethan's apartment, Ethan sees through her false smiles and words.

Darcy expects Ethan to drop everything for her arrival, and she is clearly affronted when he tells her he is leaving her alone in the apartment. Darcy tries using her usual methods to get Ethan to stay but Ethan is not one to cater to Darcy's self-centered behavior. As Ethan hands Darcy the A to Zed, he is heedless of Darcy's complaints about using maps. Ethan instead proves how well he knows Darcy by mentioning how close the expensive shopping area is and watching her face light up. Darcy is only too happy to wardrobe her new life. Darcy's love for London shopping foreshadows Chapter Twenty-Seven when she is forced to tell Geoffrey she is out of money.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

After a day of shopping, Darcy returns home to wait for Ethan to get home. When he does arrive, Darcy sniffs him and questions him on his lateness and whereabouts. Then, Darcy decides to model her new clothes for Ethan while he watches the news. After Ethan silences her during a segment on a suicide-bomber in Jerusalem, Darcy gives up and goes to her room to get ready for bed which includes blowing the bed up.

Darcy cannot find comfort on her luxury air mattress. She tries sleeping on the sofa but becomes dizzy from having her feet elevated over the armrest. Darcy resorts to trying Ethan's bed. Darcy wakes him and explains her problem, begging him to allow her to sleep beside him. Ethan acquiesces telling Darcy not to try anything. Aside from Darcy knocking over a pile of books on the way to the bathroom, the night passes uneventfully. So begins Darcy's routine of feigning an attempt to sleep in her own room only to sneak into Ethan's room later.

After weeks of Darcy's schedule of shopping all day and eating take out with Ethan every night, Ethan decides to spend the following day, which is Thanksgiving, with Darcy. Ethan questions if she has been to the National Gallery, and Darcy tells him she has. Ethan questions Darcy about the works in the gallery, and he quickly surmises she is lying. Ethan tells her he will give her a day of culture.

Ethan takes Darcy on a tour of his favorite places, including Holland Park and the National Gallery, giving her a history of nearly everything they see. As they sit on a bench in Kyoto Garden, Ethan's favorite place in Holland Park, Darcy suddenly wants to kiss him. As she watches Ethan close his eyes and inhale deeply, she restrains herself and analyzes her feelings as growing fondness for a friend. Despite a minor slip from Darcy about living with Ethan during a conversation about Darcy's pregnancy, the two spend an enjoyable day together. Darcy tells Ethan this as they tuck into his bed that night. When Ethan agrees, Darcy is sure she has bought herself more time in London.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Darcy immediately insinuates herself into Ethan's personal space. When he arrives home, she sniffs his clothes and questions his whereabouts, behaving like a jealous girlfriend instead of a roommate. Darcy's behavior with Ethan as he watches the documentary is reminiscent of her behavior with Dex in Chapter Three. This time, instead of turning the television off, she parades her outfits in front of Ethan. Ethan, unlike Dex, is not her fiancé and is not amused by her as he impatiently waves Darcy off.

Darcy and Ethan enjoy one another's company on Thanksgiving. One can assume it is mainly due to the difference in Darcy's behavior. Instead of controlling the direction of



the conversation, Darcy listens as Ethan expounds on the history of their surroundings. As Darcy begins to think about Rachel and Dex, she almost immediately brushes them from her mind, preferring to listen to Ethan. This is a complete turnaround from Darcy's former behavior of dwelling on the couple to the point of constantly talking about their betrayal. When Darcy is stricken with the impulse to kiss Ethan, she thinks her feelings through before acting on them, contrary to her behavior with Jack where Darcy acted on her impulse only to wonder on it later.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Darcy convinces Ethan to take her out to meet his friends. She hopes Ethan has invited handsome, eligible friends and seeks assurance from him she doesn't look pregnant in her outfit. Ethan and Darcy arrived late to the restaurant, and Darcy is disappointed when she sees Ethan's friends are a non-descript man and heavy woman who does not look happy to meet her. Darcy finds it immediately apparent that she and Phoebe will not get along. Phoebe appears to know something about Darcy that causes Phoebe to smirk at her. Darcy spends the dinner in silence.

After dinner, Phoebe affirms Darcy's suspicions by telling Darcy she met Rachel months before and liked her. Darcy storms out of the restaurant determined to find her way back to Ethan's alone. After many wrong turns, Darcy finds herself back outside the restaurant where Ethan is waiting to take her home.

When they arrive at Ethan's flat, Ethan explains Rachel's visit. He tells Darcy of Rachel's guilt for her feelings for Dex. As they talk further, Darcy figures out that Rachel and Dex began dating before Darcy cheated on Dex with Marcus. She is outraged and feels people have been laughing behind her back. Ethan reasons Darcy would commit the same act given the circumstances. Ethan continues to tell Darcy she doesn't understand friendship, and he believes her to be shallow and misguided and berates the way Darcy is treating her pregnancy. Darcy attempts to fight what he says but part of her believes him to be right. Ethan goes to his bedroom after Darcy weakly defends herself by saying she takes prenatal vitamins. Darcy tries Ethan's door after some moments in the living room. When she finds the door locked, Darcy is filled with mixed emotions.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Phoebe dislikes Darcy not only on site, but from meeting Rachel months before and obviously garnering some version of how Darcy and Dex broke up. Phoebe is a large, unattractive woman. She takes pleasure in seeing an intelligent woman with average looks stealing the fiancé of a beautiful and apparently shallow woman. Darcy finds herself in an unusual situation for her. Though she is the most beautiful at the table, Darcy cannot win Ethan's friends over. For the first time, Darcy finds herself the object of instant dislike.

Ethan is obviously disgusted that Darcy wants to appear as if she isn't pregnant as she pursues Mr. Right. Ethan voices his opinion at the end of the night when he mentions Darcy's treatment of her pregnancy. Darcy's usual response would be to fight what Ethan is saying about her but instead reflects on what he is saying. Darcy finds validity

in what Ethan is saying. Therefore, when she attempts to defend herself, her words do not hold much weight.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Darcy wakes the following morning to her first baby kick. She thinks over her argument with Ethan the night before and decides to make a change. Darcy makes a list of seven things she must do to improve herself including finding a doctor, girlfriends she won't compete with and a job. After making her list, Darcy begins her quest to become a better person by cleaning Ethan's apartment and writing a letter to her mother.

Sitting in a coffee shop after mailing her mother's letter, Darcy listens in on the conversation between a young mother and her friend. Darcy finds an opening and smiles at the young mother who then invites Darcy into their conversation. The women introduce themselves as Meg and Charlotte.

Darcy and the women enjoy a long conversation during which Darcy gives them a brief background of her situation. Instead of condensation at meeting a single unemployed pregnant woman, the women are thrilled with Darcy's news and full of suggestions. Darcy leaves the coffee shop with an invitation to a dinner party, a promised introduction to an eligible bachelor, and suggestions for both an Ob/Gyn and a job at a nursing home.

Darcy welcomes Ethan home with salad, wine, and telling him about the baby kicking. The two stray into a conversation about Ethan's broken marriage. Ethan talks of the difficulty he had in walking away from a baby he believed was his and loved since the womb. Darcy sympathizes with his decision and affirms he made the right one for himself. As Darcy looks at Ethan, she is overcome by the same feelings she experienced on Thanksgiving. She again resolves not to act on her impulses. At the end of the night, Ethan invites Darcy back into his bed, confirming to Darcy he missed her the night before. Darcy falls asleep thinking of how much Ethan will like her change.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Darcy's pregnancy has finally become real to her. What has also become real to her is how alone she is, and how much she misses Rachel. Of all the people Darcy has lost a connection with, the loss of Rachel is the most painful. Darcy is led to thinking of Ethan's charge that she isn't a good friend, and her feeling of shame is a first for Darcy. One can see that Darcy is coming into a true realization of her poor actions and the resulting situation. When Darcy goes as far as to write a list and immediately act on it, it becomes apparent that Darcy is ready for change.

It seems karma is on Darcy's side as quickly as Darcy changes her behavior. When Darcy meets Meg and Charlotte, Darcy receives a windfall of good luck. Not only does Darcy gain two new friends, she also gets a referral to a doctor, an idea for a job, and a promise to meet an eligible man.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Darcy travels to the nursing home determined to get a job. Darcy tries every attempt at persuasion but still the director turns her down. A patient tells her not to come back. Not deterred, Darcy decides to have breakfast at the Muffin Man and look through the classifieds.

Darcy observes a woman that reminds her of the storybook character, Madeline. She watches the woman and listens in as she makes plans with the person she spoke with on her cell phone. Moments later, Ethan enters the café, and Darcy invites him to sit. Ethan declines explaining he is meeting someone. Darcy realizes her Madeline character was talking to Ethan. Darcy declines an invitation to sit with them. She is jealous as she looks at the couple and rushes to eat. Ethan calls Darcy over as she is leaving and introduces his friend as Sondrine.

When Ethan arrives that night, Darcy immediately begins questioning him about his whereabouts and about Sondrine. Darcy wants to know everything about their date and how they met. Darcy and Ethan discuss the lack of success in Darcy's application to the nursing home. Ethan thinks the career shift would be too much of a change for Darcy and is happy she didn't get the job. After a little more conversation, Ethan tells Darcy it's time for bed. She happily trots after him ready to relish any time she has with Ethan before he and Sondrine become serious.

Chapter 22 Analysis

When Darcy applies for a job with the nursing home, one has a look at the Darcy of Manhattan. Darcy is insistent the director give her the opportunity although it is obvious she does not have the qualifications for the job. Darcy attempts to use her beauty to get around not having a working permit or previous experience. Contrary to Darcy's previous behavior, she does not resent the director for not giving her a position. Instead, Darcy brushes it off, determined to find a job elsewhere.

When Darcy sees Ethan with another woman, it is apparent by her behavior that her feelings for Ethan are growing beyond fondness. Darcy attempts to remain cordial and unconcerned. Yet, when Ethan returns late that night, Darcy can't help but to momentarily relapse into drilling him with questions. When Ethan compliments Darcy on her radiant appearance, Darcy is humbled. One has a clearer understanding of Darcy's growing feelings for Ethan when she follows him to bed. Although she is starting to feel wrong now that Ethan has a girlfriend, she nonetheless wants to relish her moments by his side.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Darcy has an appointment with the doctor recommended by Meg and Charlotte. The block of beautiful townhouses puts Darcy at ease as she enters Dr. Moore's office. Darcy is filled with excitement when Dr. Moore begins her ultrasound. Darcy shouts when she sees the baby sucking its thumb.

As the ultrasound progresses, Darcy begins to worry. The Doctor explains he is taking measurements but Darcy questions him at every turn. At one juncture, Darcy asks if everything is normal. Dr. Moore affirms everything is and then asks her if she is ready for big news. Nothing could prepare Darcy to hear that not only was she not having a girl, but she was having identical twin boys. Darcy is horrified and has a hard time believing what has happened. As quickly as she can, she exits the doctor's office declining a cup of tea and conversation with Beatrix.

When Darcy arrives at Ethan's apartment, she is wet from walking in the rain all day. Darcy tells him her devastating news. Darcy believes God is punishing her for her behavior when living in Manhattan. Ethan thinks it is wonderful news. After Ethan's dinner and admiring her matching ultrasounds, Darcy is feeling somewhat better about having boys. When Darcy touches her toes to Ethan's that night in bed, and whispers "Love you," she wonders for a moment if she went too far. Ethan eases her mind by wiggling his toes against hers and replies in kind.

Chapter 23 Analysis

Darcy is distraught by the news she is having twin boys. Darcy wants one girl and at first believes there must be a mistake. Darcy believes God has inflicted the twins on her as punishment, and in a way one can see karma at work. Darcy's ideals of the daughter she would have emulate the manner in which she was raised. Instead of having one child upon which Darcy can impress ideas of appearances and competition, Darcy is having two children at once. Now, she'll have to manage the fight for competition at its highest level.

Ethan is happy to hear Darcy's news and calls it a miracle. Ethan's words ease Darcy's anxiety. As she thinks of Ethan's nurturing ways, Darcy's mind turns to Rachel. Darcy's change is ever more evident as her memory of Rachel becomes a happy one, unblemished by thoughts of Dex and Rachel's relationship.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Darcy and Ethan are both heading out for a night on the town. Darcy is going to Meg's house for the dinner party, and Ethan is going out to dinner with Sondrine. Ethan insists Darcy take a cab and offers her money. In the cab, Darcy is overcome with an anxiety she can't remember feeling. Darcy realizes it is the first time in seven years she is going out socially without the safety net of being in a relationship. Darcy's anxiety increases when she sees the assortment of individuals assembled in Meg's living room. Darcy listens to the geopolitical conversation waiting for someone to bring up the Royal Family she knew of in magazines. Instead, the conversation passes over Darcy's head as the group discusses England's monarchy and Tony Blair.

When Meg inquires about Darcy's job search, Darcy tells her she has not had any luck, but has seen Dr. Moore and has found out she's having a boy. Darcy feels guilty about her half truth but still feels slightly embarrassed to be single and expecting twins. As dinner is ending, Darcy turns and is surprised to find a late guest, Dr. Geoffrey Moore, has arrived. After recognizing Darcy, Dr. Moore makes the mistake of telling the group Darcy is having twins. After an uncomfortable few moments, the topic is changed. At the end of the night, Dr. Moore offers Darcy a ride home. During the ride, Geoffrey congratulates Darcy on her twin boys and tells her he has a son named Max. Darcy realizes that the doctor is interested in her and, when they arrive at Ethan's flat, Darcy invites Geoffrey inside. By the end of the night, he asks Darcy if she could switch to another doctor in his practice before kissing her. As Darcy kisses the doctor, her real-life version of Alistair, and her mind strays. She's becoming fixated on Ethan and Sondrine.

Chapter 24 Analysis

Darcy is experiencing her first night out socially as a single woman. Darcy realizes she is at a disadvantage when she arrives at Meg's house. Meg's friends are not the type of people Darcy is used to. Darcy feels guilty for telling her new friends she is only having one boy, but one can see Darcy feels she is grasping for her dignity in the cerebral crowd. Darcy's embarrassment over her situation only increases with the arrival of Geoffrey Moore. Geoffrey shocks the room with the news of Darcy's twins, and Darcy admits she can not handle the attention his news garners. Darcy still can not escape how she feels about the importance of appearances. For all to know that she's an unmarried, unemployed mother of twins who also lies, is nearly too much. True-to-form however, Darcy attempts to turn the situation around by explaining she is still in shock at the news.

Geoffrey offers Darcy a ride home at the end of the night. Darcy believes he is making amends, but does feel a charge when Geoffrey touches her and senses his attraction to her. When Darcy is sure of Geoffrey's intentions, it appears Darcy is closer to finding her



perfect man. Geoffrey is a perfect Englishman asking Darcy to switch doctors before even asking her for a kiss. This is a precursor to Geoffrey's calm but loving manner towards Darcy. Darcy experiences a sweet first kiss with Geoffrey, but her mind becomes fixated on Ethan and Sondrine. This further validates Darcy's growing feelings for Ethan and foreshadows Darcy's preoccupation with Ethan and Sondrine on New Year's.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

When Darcy finds out Ethan and Sondrine's relationship is getting serious, she decides to throw herself into her relationship with Geoffrey. Meg and Charlotte think Darcy and Geoffrey are the perfect pair. They tell her this revelation during a walk through New Hyde Park one afternoon. After an evening out, Geoffrey invites Darcy to his apartment. A tour around Geoffrey's apartment leads the two to his bedroom where Darcy and Geoffrey slowly undress and make love. When Darcy looks into Geoffrey's eyes the following morning, she knows he is hers.

Geoffrey introduces Darcy to his son Max shortly after their first night together. Darcy is determined to get through to the four-year-old. Eyeing the truck Max held, Darcy commences making truck noises and creates a story about where the truck is headed, exciting the little boy. At the end of the night, Geoffrey expresses his happiness at the connection between Darcy and Max.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Darcy illustrates the difficulty in changing oneself completely in her decision to pursue Geoffrey. Darcy does like Geoffrey, but she mainly decides to date him based on Ethan's relationship with Sondrine, and Darcy's own desire to secure her life in London.

Darcy shows a different side of herself in her interactions with Max. She is determined to get the child to like her. Unable to resort to her usual tactics, Darcy uses Max's toy to bring him out of his shell. One should note Darcy doesn't only want to get along with Max for the sake of her relationship. Darcy may possibly need to prove to herself she can get along with a little boy.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

Geoffrey invites Darcy away with him and Max for Christmas. Darcy declines, deciding to spend the holiday with Ethan. Darcy and Ethan purchase a last minute, patchy tree and decorate it. Ethan and Darcy discuss baby names while appraising their tree before deciding to open their gifts. Ethan gives Darcy a sweater he hopes she will wear home from the hospital. When Darcy gives Ethan her gift of a messenger bag, Darcy realizes that Ethan is still suffering writer's block and assures him that things will be better in the New Year. Ethan convinces Darcy to call her mother. Darcy suffers through a stilted, cool conversation after which she breaks down in tears. Ethan consoles her by telling her she did her best and will be a better parent to her sons.

On Christmas Morning, Darcy feels let down after opening the gifts the night before. Telling her he has another gift for her; Ethan surprises Darcy with a free-styled poem. At the end of the complimentary, yet humorous piece, they both erupt with laughter. Ethan hugs Darcy just as one of the babies kicks. When Ethan gently pushes Darcy's belly, they are rewarded with another kick. Ethan asks if Darcy is in any pain and offers her a massage.

As Darcy enjoys the massage, her mind drifts. She wonders what it would be like to have sex with Ethan. She wondered what Ethan thought about as he spent a prolonged time kneading the small of her back. When the massage is over, Darcy rolls over and thanks Ethan. However, he says nothing. Darcy believes he felt something just as she did. Ethan breaks their awkward silence by asking that they hit the kitchen where they would spend the day cooking their Christmas feast.

When the phone rings, Darcy and Ethan lay under a blanket watching candles and dozing after enjoying dinner and dessert until they were stuffed. Believing the call to be Sondrine or Geoffrey, neither wants to answer the phone. Ethan finally picks it up. When Darcy learns Rachel is on the line, she goes to Ethan's bedroom. A few moments later, Ethan enters to ask if he can tell Rachel how she is doing. After declining, Darcy gives Ethan permission. Darcy sneaks out behind Ethan to eavesdrop. Darcy listens for a few moments as Ethan tells Rachel about her twins before asking Rachel about her relationship with Dex. When Ethan congratulates Rachel, Darcy assumes Dex has proposed. When Ethan ends his conversation with Rachel, he checks in on Darcy and thanks her for a memorable Christmas. Darcy smiles but when Ethan is gone, she cries into her pillow.

Chapter 26 Analysis

Although Darcy's relationship with Geoffrey is going well, she continues to want to spend her time with Ethan. It is becoming apparent that Ethan shares Darcy's feelings.



Although one is not privy to his thoughts, the words of Ethan's poem about Darcy reveals a change in the way Ethan sees and feels for Darcy. The two spend the holiday together appearing more like a couple than friends. When Ethan massages Darcy, their feelings as well as Darcy's tension are released. Unlike Darcy's tension, Ethan and Darcy's feelings for one another linger. Darcy knows Ethan is feeling something for her as his hands linger over her body. As has become the routine, Ethan quickly breaks the spell before he or Darcy decide to take another move toward one another.

When Rachel calls, Darcy tries hard not to care but it is becoming clear that Darcy misses Rachel and is losing the ability to lie to herself about it. When Darcy sneaks out to eavesdrop on Ethan and Rachel's conversation after giving Ethan permission to talk about her, Darcy is obviously broken-hearted hearing of her best friend's engagement. Again showing strength and growth, Darcy stops listening in and tries to stop thinking about Rachel and Dex.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

Darcy and Geoffrey spend New Year's Eve on their first double date with Ethan and Sondrine. Though the restaurant is perfect, the group suffers through stilted conversation. Darcy and Sondrine do not warm up to one another, and Darcy can tell the men do not find much in common either. When the group move on to an exclusive club in Berkley Square, Sondrine plays the social butterfly role Darcy knows well from her own nights out in New York City. When Darcy questions Ethan about his feelings about Sondrine talking to an especially eligible-looking man, Darcy is happy to find Ethan isn't concerned.

Geoffrey dotes on Darcy all night and introduces her to all his friends. When the New Year rings in, Geoffrey sweeps Darcy into his arms. However, as they kiss, Darcy is looking beyond Geoffrey's shoulder for Ethan and Sondrine. When Darcy's eyes meet Ethan's, she blows him a friendly kiss. Geoffrey tells Darcy he is falling in love with her as Ethan returns the gesture. Darcy wants to tell Geoffrey she loves him, but as she continues to look at Ethan, she cannot form the words. When Geoffrey tells Darcy he loves her later that night in bed, Darcy returns the sentiment, thinking of all the things he has done for her.

Darcy begins to feel uneasy about her relationship with Geoffrey. As Geoffrey offers to take care of Darcy financially when he learns she has blown her savings, Darcy knows she has to accept his offer having no one else to turn to. She tries to believe she is not using him as they both love each other but Darcy cannot maintain her peace of mind. She finally tells Meg and Charlotte about her concerns. Both women explain Darcy's feelings as normal anxiety over becoming a mother. Meg and Charlotte prescribe preparing for motherhood to ease her mind.

Darcy follows their advice for a few weeks, but the unease will not leave her. Ethan also suggests Darcy needs to nest. He then tells her his idea for the babies' nursery, Darcy's current room. Darcy is happy Ethan still wants her to live with him, but tells Ethan that Geoffrey wants her to move in with him. Ethan is a little taken aback at the seriousness of Darcy's relationship but recovers saying they should paint the babies' room anyway, just in case. Darcy goes nursery shopping with Meg and Charlotte and is surprised when her friends buy her an expensive crib-bedding set and curtain they noticed her admiring. As Ethan and Darcy finish decorating the nursery, Darcy admits the shopping trip and decorating lifted her spirits, but she still worries about her decision to be with Geoffrey.



Chapter 27 Analysis

Darcy spends New Year's preoccupied with Ethan and Sondrine. Although Darcy has not admitted her feelings have gone beyond fondness for Ethan, it is apparent to even Geoffrey as Darcy eats off Ethan's plate that Darcy may be unaware of her feelings for Ethan. It serves to wonder if Darcy suggests the double date to see for herself the seriousness of Ethan and Sondrine's relationship. At the stroke of midnight, Darcy is in the arms of Geoffrey, but her mind is on Ethan.

In the weeks that follow, Darcy's reservations about her relationship with Geoffrey begin to grow. Although Geoffrey professes his love for her and she returns the sentiment, Darcy cannot escape her doubt. Darcy follows her friends' advice and prepares the nursery for the babies but she knows it will not assuage her worry, though Darcy has not admitted to herself why she feels this way about her relationship.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

On Valentine's Day, Darcy initiates another double date with Geoffrey, Ethan, and Sondrine. Her hopes that the night will go better than New Year's fall as the group doesn't seem to get along any better. Sondrine and Geoffrey are both visibly annoyed at the announcement of the nursery set-up in Ethan's apartment. When Geoffrey announces that he and Darcy are moving in together, Sondrine is elated with the news though Darcy still seems unsure.

Before dessert, Darcy excuses herself to the bathroom. Although Darcy is initially dismayed when Sondrine decides to accompany her, when Darcy is standing over the toilet and sees blood, it is Sondrine who comes to her aide and gets Geoffrey into the women's bathroom.

At the hospital, Darcy's new doctor, Dr. Smith, gives her a pelvic exam before the nurse straps monitors on Darcy's stomach to measure contractions and trace the babies' heartbeats. Darcy holds her breath until she hears the two separate heartbeats. At that moment, Darcy feels an immense need to have Ethan by her side. When Ethan enters the room appearing as if he were crying, Darcy opens her arms for a hug and knows she is in love with Ethan.

Chapter 28 Analysis

Valentine's Day sheds light on many undercurrents running through the previous four chapters. Darcy initiates this second double-date of the foursome even after their date on New Year's did not go well. It is increasingly apparent that Geoffrey and Sondrine have a problem with Darcy and Ethan's living situation. Sondrine, feeling threatened by Darcy, plays a role Darcy is well versed in from her days in New York City. Darcy shows her growth in maintaining her composure instead of resorting to Sondrine's snide banter.

Darcy remains in step with her character as in a climactic moment she finally realizes her feelings for Ethan. Proving her love for him, Darcy decides she is breaking up with Geoffrey to be alone if she can't be with Ethan.



Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

Geoffrey returns to Darcy's room to inform her she will have to be on bed rest for the remaining six weeks of her pregnancy. Geoffrey assumes Darcy will move in with him and assures her that he will take care of her. Ethan steps in to object, telling Darcy he will write from home and take care of her. Darcy is happy Ethan wants her with him and, after making sure she won't be an imposition, she accepts his offer.

Later that night, Geoffrey drops Darcy and Ethan home, and assures Ethan that Sondrine will arrive home safely. When the two drive off, Darcy and Ethan agree Geoffrey and Sondrine are angry with them. Darcy apologizes for ruining Sondrine's Valentine's Day, but Ethan shrugs it off.

The following morning, Darcy wakes to a phone argument between Ethan and Sondrine. Darcy listens in thinking that Sondrine's early morning dramatics are something Darcy herself would have played before moving to London. When Ethan finally hangs up with Sondrine, Darcy inquires if she is alright. Ethan responds that Sondrine is fine.

Darcy commences to spend her first of many days in bed. Ethan makes her meals and sits with her as she eats. In the afternoon when they take a nap together, Ethan falls asleep first. As Darcy gazes into his face, she knows she wants him to be the father of her children.

Chapter 29 Analysis

When Geoffrey drops Darcy and Ethan home after the hospital, each of these relationships are at a crossroads. Although Ethan attempts to make light of Geoffrey and Sondrine's feelings, one can see his concerns are only for Darcy and her unborn children. This is further solidified with Ethan's argument with Sondrine the following morning. Although it is clear to Darcy that Sondrine is angry about Darcy staying with Ethan, Ethan attempts to play down Sondrine's feelings. When Darcy realizes she wants Ethan to be the father of her children, the scene is less dramatic and more genuine. One can understand the progression that has led to Darcy falling in love with Ethan.



Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

Darcy enjoys her moments alone with Ethan though they are constantly interrupted by calls or visits from Geoffrey. One day during Darcy's thirty-first week, Geoffrey arrives for one of his visits. When Geoffrey hands Darcy brochures of a potential home for them, Darcy seizes the moment to tell him she doesn't feel right about their relationship. Geoffrey brushes her lack of feelings aside, telling her that she is probably just confused. Darcy insists she cannot continue their relationship. As Geoffrey leaves, Darcy stops him to ask if they can remain friends, to which Geoffrey is happy to oblige.

Later that night, Darcy tells Ethan that she has broken up with Geoffrey. When he asks how she feels, Darcy responds that she is mainly sad she will have to return home sooner than she expected. Ethan insists he wants Darcy to stay as long as she wants. He goes on that he is excited about the babies and has enough money saved to take care of them. Darcy is grateful for his offer, but feels her time with Ethan is running out.

Chapter 30 Analysis

When Darcy breaks up with Geoffrey and informs Ethan of her decision, she is without hidden agenda. Darcy does not cling to false hopes of Ethan leaving Sondrine for her, or finding another dream man. Darcy has reconciled herself to loving a man she will not have and returning home to raise her sons alone.

One should take note that Ethan offers to take care of Darcy financially in order to convince her to stay. Ethan has previously claimed to pride himself on his solitude. He insisted he didn't want Darcy to stay longer than a few weeks. Months later, Ethan has not only set up a nursery for Darcy's babies, but is offering to take care of her until she is back on her feet. It appears Ethan's feelings for Darcy are growing past friendship.



Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Summary

Darcy reaches her thirty-second week milestone with a sense of huge accomplishment knowing her babies can now be born safely. Ethan surprises Darcy with a chocolate cake and a present from Rachel, explaining he was instructed to wait for the right time. When Darcy unwraps the two beautiful white receiving blankets trimmed in blue silk, she is overcome with emotion. Darcy reads the note Rachel enclosed, and is moved to find that Rachel thinks of her everyday and misses her. She tries to hide her emotions from Ethan as she reads over lines in the letter aloud to him. Darcy asks him if he thinks Rachel really thinks of her daily. Ethan replies that he does and asks Darcy if she thinks of Rachel as frequently. Darcy continues with the letter instead of responding.

Two weeks pass while Darcy considers what to say to Rachel in a thank-you note. One evening as Darcy looks through a small photo album she has carried to London, she reminisces on her friendship with Rachel and what truly led to them betraying one another. Darcy admits that she was as accountable as Rachel and Dex were. As Darcy vows to never cheat on Ethan should they ever get together, she goes into labor.

Ethan rushes over and runs frantically into the apartment yelling to Darcy that there is a cab waiting outside. As Ethan bends to grab Darcy's bag, she notices and comments on the nicotine patch on his back. She is touched when Ethan responds he has quit smoking for the babies. Ethan stays by Darcy's side at the hospital, even helping Darcy to undress though he suffers momentary embarrassment. Darcy reminds Ethan what he is in for and laughs.

Under the euphoric numbness of the epidural, Darcy's first son is born. Ethan is given the honor of cutting the umbilical cord, and the baby is swaddled and placed in Darcy's arms. Darcy looks into his face and decides to name him John. As Darcy prepares for the second birth, the epidural begins to wear off. When the second baby boy is delivered in pain and with a wail, it is after midnight. Darcy is in awe that she has had identical twins with different birthdays. Again, Darcy looks into his eyes, and he seems to tell her his name, Thomas. Darcy goes further to give each of her sons one of Ethan's names, naming them John Noel and Thomas Ethan. Ethan expresses his gratitude and joy by telling her he loves Darcy and her sons.

Chapter 31 Analysis

Darcy is touched by Rachel's gift and letter more than she chooses to let on but her response to Rachel's offering was foreshadowed in Chapter Twenty Five when Darcy admits missing Rachel more than anyone else she has lost a connection with. Darcy spends two weeks trying to articulate the words for a thank-you note to Rachel. Maybe it



is pride that prevents Darcy from writing a letter until she finally forces herself to evaluate her own role in the demise of her relationship with her best friend.

As karma would have it, Darcy goes into labor once she decides to forgive her best friend. When Darcy gives birth to her twins with Ethan at her side, she illustrates her love and appreciation for him by naming her children after him. When Ethan professes his love for Darcy and the babies, it appears his feelings of love are just as intense as Darcy's feelings have become for him. This foreshadows Ethan's eventual break-up with Sondrine in Chapter Thirty-Two.



Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Summary

The morning after the babies are born, Ethan talks Darcy into calling her mother. Darcy is nervous at first but Ethan prompts her conversation with statistics about the babies and their similarities and differences, warming Darcy up. Darcy's mother expresses concern about Darcy being in London alone and promises to visit after Jeremy and Lauren's wedding. Darcy thanks her and expresses her regret for not attending the wedding. Darcy hangs up in tears, but tries to joke it off by calling it post partum depression. When Darcy tells Ethan she can't wait for her mother's visit, she is surprised by her own response.

Darcy decides to call Rachel next. Not knowing how to start, Darcy immediately sputters out that she has had the twins. Rachel congratulates her, and they talk about the babies and discuss how Darcy is doing before Darcy inquires about Rachel. When Darcy asks straight out about Rachel and Dex's engagement, Rachel is forced to tell Darcy she and Dex married the day before. Darcy is sincere when she congratulates Rachel, and they mention the coincidence of the births and wedding happening the same day. Darcy and Rachel exchange best wishes which Darcy extends to Dex before hanging up.

In the weeks that follow, Ethan is by Darcy's side through panicked thoughts of SIDS, sleepless nights, and days where brushing teeth and putting on clothes are afternoon afterthoughts. Through it all, Darcy feels their love building in everything they do for one another. One day, as Darcy and Ethan take the twins for a walk in Holland Park, Ethan tells Darcy he broke up with Sondrine over oysters the night before. Darcy asks Ethan how he feels about it, and they joke for awhile. Ethan responds by stopping and pulling Darcy to him, telling her that she had a scent like oranges. Darcy understands in that moment Ethan broke up with Sondrine for the same reason she broke up with Geoffrey.

Chapter 32 Analysis

The day following the babies' births is a day of reconciliation for Darcy. When she calls her mother at Ethan's prompting, Darcy experiences a warmer discourse with her. As the mother and daughter discuss baby statistics, it appears all bad feelings have dissipated. Darcy hangs up the phone in tears and though she attempts to joke it away, it is obvious Darcy is overcome with happiness at reconciling with her mother. On a high from the call, Darcy decides to call Rachel. Both Darcy and Rachel tread lightly at first. When Darcy asks Rachel about her engagement to Dex and finds out Rachel and Dex married the day before, Darcy's sincerity when she congratulates Rachel speaks to her growth since arriving in London.

One should take note of the karma at work here. When Darcy initially learns her due date of May second, she hopes the baby will be early to avoid being born on Dex's



birthday. Darcy gets her wish and, instead of being born on Dex's birthday, they are born on the day Dex marries Rachel.

When Ethan informs Darcy he broke up with Sondrine, Darcy knows their opportunity to be together has come. After being friends for so long, the two are unsure how to proceed. Ethan rambles the reasons for his break-up with Sondrine seeming to be at a loss as to how to bridge the gap from his step away from Sondrine to the step toward Darcy. When Ethan mentions Sondrine's natural scent turning him off, the conversation finally moves in the direction Darcy is hoping for. At the moment Ethan tells Darcy that she smells like oranges, it becomes clear to her that Ethan is in love with her.



Two Years Later (Chapter 33)

Two Years Later (Chapter 33) Summary

Darcy and Ethan get married in Holland Park on a beautiful summer day. Darcy sneaks a peek at Ethan as the string quartet begins to play and is overcome with emotion. Deciding to take the path alone, Darcy takes a deep breath and takes her private walk towards her future husband.

Darcy takes in the faces of her friends and family as she walks down the aisle. When her eyes rest on Rachel, Dex, and their baby daughter, Darcy smiles at Rachel and raises her bouquet to show that a ribbon of blue silk taken from the babies' blankets are wrapped around her lilies.

After the ceremony, Darcy reflects to the day Ethan proposed. On that fall day, Ethan surprises Darcy with the note she wrote to him in fifth grade asking him to be her boyfriend. Ethan tells Darcy to turn the note over. When Darcy reads the question "will you marry me?" Ethan produces a cushion-cut diamond ring, explaining he wants to make their family forever.

Just as Darcy believes the speeches are over, Rachel stands and gives a heartfelt speech. Darcy is moved by Rachel's final words, "To Ethan and Darcy, true love and true friendship."

Two Years Later (Chapter 33) Analysis

Darcy's life in London has come full circle in Holland Park. Holland Park is a fitting setting for Darcy and Ethan's wedding as it has been the scene of many pivotal moments in Darcy and Ethan's relationship. Darcy's decision to walk the bridal path alone is very significant. When she was marrying Dex, Darcy did not have a problem with excess for the show of it. Over two years later, Darcy is getting married only for what it means to Ethan, her boys, and herself. As Darcy says, she has come a long way, learning what it is to be a genuine person and friend and to genuinely fall in love with a friend.



Characters

Darcy Rhone

Darcy Rhone is the main character and narrator of the novel. Darcy is a beautiful woman who uses her physical attributes to gain popularity and success. Darcy is raised in Indianapolis, the eldest of two and the only girl. Darcy's beauty and outlook on life is cultivated by her mother who perfectly curls Darcy's hair every morning before school. Though Darcy has her main group of friends in school which includes Rachel, Annalise, and Ethan, Darcy circulates in the more popular cliques, as well. Always the benevolent leader, Darcy makes sure she is never mean and monitors the behaviors of other popular girls.

Darcy uses her energies, aligning herself with the most popular and influential groups. She does not believe in applying herself to getting the best education as she coasts through high school and then Indiana University. Darcy graduates college with a 2.9, but is a part of the best sorority and has dated the most eligible men on campus. There are moments throughout Darcy's youth and more often as an adult when Rachel questions Darcy about her karma. While Darcy begins to understand that intellect and hard work reaps accolades while using one's beauty appears offensive, she convinces herself she is a good person deserving of her PR job, fiancé, and apartment on the upper west side.

Darcy also maintains she is a good girlfriend to Dex, but when she kisses Jack after meeting him at a bar and later makes out with Lair in his hotel room, it becomes apparent that Darcy forgets all else when she is confronted with something she wants. When Darcy and Dex get engaged, Darcy has an affair with Marcus, proving again that Darcy has little concern for Dex's feelings or the sanctity of their relationship. When Darcy loses Dex to Rachel, who she considers average-looking and unfashionable, Darcy learns beauty is not enough to maintain happiness or protect her from betrayal.

Darcy travels to London to start a new life and hopefully find the man of her fantasies. Darcy's life in London begins to play out the way she imagines as Darcy finds new friends and meets the perfect man. Darcy is unprepared for the feelings she has for Ethan. She wants to maintain their friendship and tells herself to ignore it but it becomes difficult to commit to her relationship with Geoffrey. When Darcy has a pregnancy scare, it becomes clear to her that she loves Ethan and must be alone since she cannot be with him.

Ethan Ainsley

Ethan's family moves to Indianapolis when Ethan is in fourth grade. He is befriended by Darcy, Rachel and Annalise. When Ethan is in fifth grade, Darcy becomes Ethan's first girlfriend. After a few days of holding hands, Darcy breaks up with Ethan. He remains



friends with Darcy but, having more in common with Rachel, he is closest with her. Ethan and Darcy kiss for the first time in high school after a party, but nothing develops.

Ethan moves to London as an adult, where he is married. When Ethan finds out his wife is pregnant, he is thrilled. When the child is born, Ethan finds out the child is not his. Ethan suffers through the difficult decision of letting go of a child he loved since the womb.

Ethan is a lover and writer of architecture. He enjoys his solitude, but when Darcy arrives, Ethan's solitary life is over as she moves herself into his bedroom. Ethan likes Darcy and comes to enjoy her company but is torn due to his loyalties to Rachel. Ethan begins to develop feelings for Darcy as he becomes closer to her. Ethan's feelings for Darcy aren't so strong that Ethan won't tell Darcy what he honestly thinks of her behavior. What Ethan may not know is that his honesty is the main reason for Darcy's determination to become a better person.

As Ethan's feelings for Darcy begin to grow, he becomes conflicted in his loyalties to Rachel and his girlfriend Sondrine. When Darcy has a pregnancy scare, Ethan reaches a turning point in his feelings for Darcy. When Darcy gives birth and names her sons after him, Ethan finally expresses his love for her and the twins. Ethan still has to break-up with Sondrine before he can truly tell Darcy how he feels.

Marcus

Marcus is raised in Montana and goes on to attend Georgetown University. Marcus meets and befriends Dex in college. Marcus is not as serious about his studies as Dex and, maybe for this reason, the two only room together freshman year. Marcus and Dex remain close friends after graduation. When Dex invites Marcus to be the fifth groomsman in his wedding, Marcus is happy to oblige.

Marcus moves to Manhattan a few months before Darcy and Dex's wedding and lives the life of a consummate bachelor. Marcus lives in a messy studio, dates often, and calls out of work when the inclination or hangover arises. Marcus is all these things; still he is not the type of man who would sleep with his friend's fiancée. That is until Marcus meets Darcy Rhone. Darcy seems nice enough to Marcus at first. He even returns Darcy's flirtatious advances on one occasion but it is Rachel that Marcus begins dating shortly after Rachel's birthday. Marcus wants to resist Darcy but has decided she wants more than flirting. On one drunken night, Marcus falls prey to Darcy's advances.

Marcus has fallen into a situation he does not want. Within a matter of weeks of his affair with Darcy, he has lost a friend, has become a father, and is on his way to becoming a husband. What Marcus viewed as harmless flirting has ballooned into a lifetime of responsibility with a woman he is not that into.



Geoffrey

Geoffrey is a successful doctor living in London. He is also divorced and shares custody of his four -year-old son, Max. Geoffrey is Darcy's initial Ob/Gyn in London. When Geoffrey finds out Darcy is having twin boys, he is quietly overjoyed for the beautiful stranger. When Geoffrey sees Darcy again at Meg's party, he unwittingly embarrasses her with what he thinks is good news. To apologize, and to get to know her better, Geoffrey offers to drive Darcy home.

Geoffrey quickly becomes enchanted with Darcy. Geoffrey also becomes threatened by Darcy's living situation with Ethan. When Geoffrey and Darcy go on a double date with Ethan and Sondrine on New Year's, Geoffrey becomes increasingly agitated as Darcy eats off Ethan's plate but will not try Geoffrey's own dish. Geoffrey professes his love to Darcy when the Ball drops. Geoffrey wants to give the world to Darcy, if she would let him but he can not escape his unease about Ethan and Darcy's relationship.

Rachel

Rachel has been Darcy's best friend since childhood. Not as beautiful as Darcy, Rachel is mature and studious. As a child, Rachel is promoted to the gifted and talented class with Ethan, making Darcy jealous and causing her to make fun of Rachel's class. Rachel attempts to keep Darcy grounded, warning her about becoming an empty woman when the girls are only twelve by using a game called psychiatrist. When Rachel graduates college, she moves to New York City for law school and was followed by Darcy who is looking for the elite social scene. Rachel introduces Darcy to her good friend Dex, who is also a law student.

Dex Thaler

Dex is introduced to Darcy by Rachel. Dex dates Darcy for seven years before proposing. Doesn't appear to have anything in common with Darcy outside of their good looks. Dex, like Rachel, is interested in serious topics while Darcy is interested in celebrities and fashion.

One week before Dex and Darcy's wedding, Dex announces he doesn't think they should go through with it and tells her he doesn't think he loves her. Darcy believes Dex is sensing her feelings have changed, but when she finds Dex in Rachel's closet with his pants off, one has a clearer idea of Dex's motivations.

Charlotte

Charlotte is one of the women Darcy befriends on her first day of change. Charlotte is sitting in a cafe with her baby daughter Natalie and her friend Meg when Darcy smiles at her and inquires about Natalie. Charlotte invites Darcy to their table and is thrilled to



hear Darcy is expecting. Though Charlotte is married, she finds nothing wrong with Darcy's single status. She even has a chap in mind to introduce to Darcy, as well as a new doctor and job prospect.

Meg

Meg sits in a coffee house with Charlotte when Darcy is invited over by Charlotte. Meg is excited to hear Darcy is having a baby and divulges to Darcy that she and her husband are trying to have a baby. Meg is not as excited about introducing Simon to Darcy, as he is a ginger, but she acquiesces he is a good chap. Meg is happy to invite Darcy to her upcoming party as Darcy promises to be a new friend.

Sondrine

Sondrine is Ethan's French girlfriend. When Sondrine meets Darcy at the Muffin Man, she is cordial enough. However, as her relationship with Ethan becomes more involved, Sondrine is concerned about Ethan and Darcy's living situation. When Sondrine and Ethan go on their second double date with Darcy and Geoffrey for Valentine's Day, Sondrine is visibly annoyed about Ethan setting up a baby nursery in his apartment. She is thrilled to hear from Geoffrey that he and Darcy are moving in together. Sondrine's joy is short-lived as Darcy has a pregnancy scare which leads to Ethan taking care of her while on bed rest for the remainder of her pregnancy.

Claire

Claire is not one of the beautiful people, but she is the most connected according to Darcy. Claire uses her talents to align herself with the most beautiful and influential in order to get and maintain contacts. Claire has been vying for her place as Darcy's best friend since she and Darcy were roommates. When Claire finds out Rachel has betrayed Darcy, Claire is happy to fill the shoes of best friend to Darcy.

When Claire finds out Darcy is not getting married and is dating Marcus, a man Claire deems unworthy, Claire is disappointed but believes the fling will blow over. When Darcy divulges that she is pregnant, Claire can go no further. Claire's partner in the social scene needs to be without flaw, and a knocked up single woman, even if that woman is Darcy Rhone, is useless to Claire, outside of being used as fodder for the gossip mill.

Mrs. Rhone

Mrs. Rhone is Darcy's mother. On the day of her beautiful daughter's birth, Mrs. Rhone knows Darcy is meant for finer things. Mrs. Rhone meticulously curls Darcy's chocolate brown hair daily, setting her daughter apart from the other little girls with their haphazard



locks. She is rewarded for her efforts when Darcy gets engaged to Dexter Thaler, a handsome law school graduate from a good family.

When Mrs. Rhone finds out her daughter's wedding is off, she believes Darcy's beauty will lead her to a better catch. Mrs. Rhone instead finds her daughter is pregnant by a sub-standard man and believes Darcy's life is ruined.



Objects/Places

Indianapolis

Indianapolis is where Darcy grows up. Darcy's parents and friend Annalise continue to reside there.

Manhattan

Manhattan is where the first half of novel takes place.

Rachel's Apartment

Rachel's apartment is where Darcy finds out Dex and Rachel are sleeping together.

Marcus' Apartment

Marcus' apartment is where Darcy spends the night that would be her wedding night.

Darcy's Apartment

Darcy's apartment is the scene of Darcy's desperate plea for Dex's return to her life.

Darcy's Job

Darcy's job is where Darcy is thrown a surprise engagement party and instead surprises co-workers with news of her wedding cancellation.

Darcy's Parents' Home

Darcy's parents' home is where Darcy's parents meet Marcus. It's also where Darcy has an argument with her mother about pregnancy and where Darcy finds out about Jeremy and Lauren's engagement.

London

London is where Darcy plans to start her new life.



Ethan's Apartment

Ethan's apartment is where Darcy stays for her duration in London.

Holland Park

Holland Park is the setting of Darcy's first tour of London, and where Darcy realizes he has feelings for Ethan. This is also the place where Ethan tells Darcy he broke up with Sondrine, where Ethan proposes, and where Darcy and Ethan are married.

The Muffin Man

The Muffin Man is the café where Darcy meets Sondrine for the first time.



Themes

Competition

Darcy is competitive even as a child. Due to her mother's coaching, Darcy believes beauty is her avenue toward popularity and success. Contrary to what Darcy professes, competition doesn't stop with her best friend. Rachel is plain in looks but superior in intelligence. As a child in fifth grade, Darcy becomes jealous when Rachel is promoted to a gifted class. Therefore, Darcy belittles her friend's success. When Darcy finds out Rachel has a crush on Ethan, Darcy decides she likes him, too. At first, Darcy says she hopes Rachel will be happy they like the same boy, but when Rachel instead professes her claim on Ethan, Darcy decides to ask Ethan to be her boyfriend.

As an adult, Darcy has to be the most beautiful and tallest woman in the room. When she doesn't find herself in that position, she looks for an alternate way to win the spotlight for herself and hopefully show up the woman she competes with in the process. Darcy's competitive spirit often blinds her to the wants and needs of others. When Marcus appears indifferent to her and perhaps because Rachel likes him, Darcy pursues Marcus relentlessly. Darcy surprises Marcus by waiting in his apartment naked, but is surprised herself when Marcus arrives with a date. Darcy is furious but nonetheless has the brevity to notice and bask in the other woman's envious appraisal of her body.

Darcy believes all women want to be the most attractive in their group and poses the thought to Rachel one day. When Darcy notices the look on Rachel's face, Darcy amends her statement by telling her she does not compare herself with friends. When Darcy makes her list of things she will change about herself, she finally acknowledges she needs to acquire friends whom she will not compete with.

Self Absorption

Darcy's self-absorption leads to shallow behavior as Darcy sees the world only through her eyes of want. As Marcus tries to prevent their first sexual encounter by reminding Darcy of the people they would hurt, Darcy's response is to insist what she wants by removing her underwear. Though Darcy has cheated on Dex repeatedly by the time they break-up, when Darcy finds Dex with Rachel, Darcy becomes the only victimized party in the situation. Darcy maintains being most victimized by Rachel though Darcy did not consider Dex nor Rachel's feelings when she pursued Marcus. Darcy has no regard for breaking up the friendship between Marcus and Dex. She instead belittles their friendship in comparison to her friendship with Rachel.

When Darcy and Marcus find out she is pregnant, Darcy does not consider Marcus' wants or feelings as she first pees in his favorite mug, and then insists she is keeping the baby and marrying Marcus. Darcy takes Marcus home to meet her family, indicating



to them she and Marcus are in a serious relationship. When Jeremy and Lauren announce their engagement, Darcy is hurt by their announcement so soon after her own canceled wedding. Darcy then blames Marcus for preventing her announcement of their engagement and pregnancy. So engulfed in her own wants, Darcy does not realize there is nothing about their relationship that Marcus wants. Marcus attempts to stay with Darcy and half-heartedly goes along with her self-absorbed dramatics attempting to offer clarity through humor. However, as their sex life stagnates and Darcy becomes ever more absorbed in those who have betrayed her, Marcus has had enough of Darcy and wants nothing to do with her or their child.

In London, Darcy continues to behave in a self-absorbed way. Though Darcy has amassed enough savings to last her until she gives birth, she immediately goes on a shopping spree for herself. Darcy does not buy anything for her pregnancy or her baby, and is happy to know she can fit into clothes only one size larger than her usual size. Darcy parades her new outfits in front of Ethan, disregarding that he is engrossed in the news on television. Darcy believes Ethan will drop everything for her visit and is petulant when instead of catering to her whims, Ethan hands Darcy a map and leaves her to her own devices.

Karma

Karma shows itself to Darcy in a number of ways in the story. When Darcy finds Dex and Rachel together, karma is rewarding Darcy twofold. Darcy has betrayed Dex by kissing one man and making out with another while still Dex's girlfriend. When Darcy and Dex become engaged, she initiates an affair with Marcus and is pregnant. Darcy betrays Rachel by pursuing a man she knows Rachel likes and has dated. One could say Darcy is also reaping her behavior as a child when she asked Ethan to be her boyfriend knowing it would hurt Rachel.

Rachel's share of karma intertwines with Darcy's as Rachel becomes the benefactor of Darcy's broken engagement. When Darcy and Ethan's friendship deepens, it is another example of karma intervening in Rachel's life. As Darcy eventually takes Rachel's place as Ethan's best friend and Rachel marries Dex, it is as if karma has caused Rachel and Darcy to switch positions.

As Darcy turns her life around, karma becomes a strong theme in the story. When Darcy decides to become a better person and acts on it, the universe quickly begins to turn in Darcy's favor. When Darcy hears the news of her twin boys, she supposes God is smiting her for previous bad behavior. However, Darcy begins to see her twins as the blessings Ethan sees.

There is a culmination of karma at Darcy's wedding. Nearly three years before, Darcy was planning to marry Dexter Thaler who is well-bred, classically handsome and successful. Today, Darcy is marrying Ethan who shares none of Dex's perfect-on-paper attributes. Today, Darcy is marrying her best friend instead of the man she shared nothing in common with aside from good looks. Three years ago, Darcy required five



bridesmaids to make a statement of grandeur. Today, Darcy walks the bridal path alone to make her own personal statement. Darcy has come a long way and grown along her path.

Self-Realization

Darcy is first led to reexamine her behavior when she is still with Marcus. Marcus tells Darcy her obsession with Rachel and Dex is ruining their relationship. Darcy immediately tries to change but soon re-focuses on Marcus's faults believing him to be the main cause of the deterioration of their relationship.

As Darcy's feelings for Ethan begin to grow, Darcy begins to have moments when she questions her actions, believing perhaps she could have handled her relationship with Dex differently. Darcy mentions feeling a moment of shame as she thinks over the demise of her relationship with Rachel.

Possibly due to Darcy's genuine feelings for Ethan, his words make an impact that remains with her. Ethan chastises Darcy for being a bad friend to Rachel and for not planning for her children. Darcy tries to deny it but feels much of what Ethan says about her is true. The following morning, Darcy resolves to become a better person. Darcy creates a list of seven things about herself she has to improve upon and immediately acts on them.



Style

Point of View

Something Blue is written in the first person point of view. Becoming more popular in contemporary fiction, this point of view provides a limited perspective on events as the reader is restricted to looking at situations through the main character's eyes. The first person point of view also lends a sense of intimacy and alliance with the main character. The main theme of the novel is self-realization and growth of the main character. Writing the novel in the first -person allows the reader to experience first hand how life events alter the main character's view of herself and how she changes her life.

The story is told in narrative and dialog. Darcy tells her story in retrospect, often setting up the scene of her tale by explaining how she feels and what she is thinking at the time. This method of writing puts the main character, Darcy in position to gain sympathy from the reader. If the novel were written from Rachel's point of view, the reader would more likely sympathize with the more plain and less outgoing woman. Even as the novel is written from Darcy's point of view, an astute reader will see beyond Darcy's feelings and words and into Darcy's self absorbed and shallow behavior. The reader may be led to sympathize instead with Rachel, Dex, and at moments Marcus, who appears to be the most manipulated by Darcy as she attempts to train him to be the man she wants.

Setting

The first half of the novel is set in Manhattan. Darcy relocates to Manhattan when Rachel decides to go move there for law school. Darcy lives on the upper west side of Manhattan, a mostly wealthy neighborhood. Darcy lives in the perfect city for the lifestyle she wants. Manhattan is a city full of trendy spots, celebrities, and the best fashion in the country. Darcy soon gets a job as a publicist, and the world of celebrities and gossip opens for her. Darcy is in the perfect element for her destruction.

London is the setting of the second half of the novel. London is the city where Darcy dreams of replicating her life with a real happy ending. As Darcy shops Harrods and Harvey Nichols, she imagines meeting the love of her life in Notting Hill. Ethan's apartment is far from Darcy's high expectations, being in the basement of the building and offering a tiny bedroom for Darcy to sleep in.

Holland Park is the setting of many important events in the story. Holland Park is the first place Ethan takes Darcy when he takes her on a tour of his favorite places in London. It is in Holland Park's Kyoto Garden where Darcy feels the first burgeoning of feelings for Ethan. Holland Park is also where Darcy and Ethan take the twins on their daily walk, and where Ethan tells Darcy on one of those walks that he has broken up with Sondrine. Darcy and Ethan marry in Holland Park and, just before, Darcy walks



down the aisle she reminisces on the day Ethan proposed to her on a walk they took in the park.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is relaxed and conversational. The dialogue is interspersed with modern slang terms which add individuality and realism to the characters. Curses are used sparingly and not to shock. Rather they are used to emphasize the depth of feeling the character is attempting to convey.

The novel is written in narration and dialogue which leads the reader naturally from the main character's thoughts to what is being said by the characters in each scene. The main character time stamps the beginning of each chapter by informing the reader of how much time has passed before giving an update on what is occurring. This gives the reader a clear indication of how much is changing in Darcy's life in such short periods.

Structure

There are thirty-four chapters in this novel. The chapters are untitled and average eleven pages, though some chapters are as short as five pages. The story is told in retrospect with the chapters transitioning chronologically with the exception of Chapter Three when Darcy gives background on her relationship with Dex. The narrative structure is loose and the main character's thoughts run on at moments.

The plot of the story is straightforward. Darcy pursues the life she believes a woman if her beauty deserves. Darcy finds the perfect man in Dex but due to a lack of chemistry and common interests, Darcy cheats on Dex with three different men. With each indiscretion, Darcy goes further. The first time, it is only a kiss with a man Darcy never sees again, but by the time Darcy meets Marcus, she actively pursues an affair with him. Darcy continues to be self absorbed as she vilifies Rachel and Dex for having an affair while minimizing her own affair with her fiancé's friend and man dating her best friend. Ignoring her lesson on karma, Darcy travels to London with the same self-absorbed, shallow behavior. It isn't until Ethan goes into a litany of Darcy's wrongdoings that Darcy stops to honestly analyze her behavior and decides to make a change.

Though the novel is relatively long, it is an easy read, given the straightforward structure and language. Written with a balance of dialogue and Darcy's narrative thoughts and feelings, the reader is led to feel like a receiver of gossip. One may want to walk away, but still crave to hear the story to the end. Something Blue is an entertaining novel from beginning to end while exhibiting how shallow self-absorption can lead to self-realization and change.



Quotes

"Your girlfriend really sucker punched you good, huh?" Chapter 1 pp 7

"What the fuck?" Chapter 1 pp 11

"Well I'm just saying its your own prerogative to tell people to mind their own fuckin' business." Chapter 8, pp 66

"The opposite of love isn't hate, it's indifference." Chapter 12 pp 106

"Thirty-one years, huh? Well I guess that means my second wife hasn't been born yet." Chapter 13 pp121

"I'm just not that into you anymore." Chapter 14 pp130

"So how far away is your homeland?" Chapter 17 pp 155

"What are you doing in my bed?" Chapter 19 pp 180

"Yes. Yes. It's all terribly, beautifully normal." Chapter 23 pp 237

"In that simple but soulful embrace, one simple truth was confirmed in my heart: I was in love with Ethan." Chapter 28 pp 292

"It was love as a verb, as Rachel used to say. Love that made me more patient, more loyal and stronger." Chapter 32 pp 330

"Here's to Ethan and Darcy, true love and true friendship." Chapter 33 (Two Years Later) pp 336



Topics for Discussion

Discuss competition. Does Darcy's competitive spirit contribute to her betraying Dex and Rachel? Is it good to have a competitive nature? Can competitiveness go too far?

Why is using one's physical attributes to gain status distasteful as opposed to using one's mental abilities?

Why does Darcy pursue an affair with Marcus? Is it because of attraction? Misgivings about her marriage? Is it because Rachel likes Marcus? Discuss.

Compare and contrast Darcy and Rachel? How are they different? In what ways do they appear the same? Explain.

Compare Rachel and Ethan. How are they similar? Could Ethan's similarities with Rachel be a factor in Darcy's growing feelings for him?

When does karma appear to have the largest impact on Darcy's life?

Does karma manifest itself in Ethan's life? Is Ethan positively or negatively affected by karma? Explain.

Discuss the point of view of the novel. Would the author have benefited from the use of another point of view? What if the story was written from Rachel's point of view? What if the story was written from the third person omniscient point of view?