

# **Something Like Fate Study Guide**

**Something Like Fate by Susane Colasanti**

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# Plot Summary

"Something Like Fate" by Susane Colasanti tells the story of 16-year-old Lani. At the end of her junior year in high school, Lani connects with a terrific guy named Jason. He is her best friend's latest crush. Lani is caught between her growing attraction for Jason and her loyalty to her best friend, Erin.

Lani isn't very close to many people, but she is very close to her gay friend, Blake. She is even closer to her best friend, Erin. As the book opens, Erin is obsessed with a new boy in her life named Jason. She asks Blake and Mani to meet him. When they do meet, there is an instant connection between Lani and Jason. Blake sees it, and Lani feels it although she tries to deny it. She doesn't want to hurt her best friend.

As the weeks go by, Lani and Jason eat together at lunch and get to know each other better. They discover that they have a lot in common. The two attend a small school and their friendship doesn't go over well with others. The kids in the Golden Circle feel that Lani left them because she was too good for them. In reality however, she stopped hanging out with them because she didn't feel connected anymore. Now the kids in the Golden Circle are suspicious of her and her relationship with Jason.

She continues to try to keep her feelings under control. Soon it becomes too difficult and Lani feels like they are fated to be together. Jason admits that he likes her and she tells him that she likes him too. He had been afraid to tell her because he thought she was dating Blake. She accidentally tells him that Blake is gay.

Even though they know they like each other, Lani doesn't want to hurt Erin so she doesn't kiss Jason. Erin leaves for camp for the summer, and Lani isolates herself at home and at work. Blake encourages her to go after love. As she works, she wonders if she is making the right choice, avoiding Jason. When she meets him in the grocery store, she feels as if it's a sign to pursue their relationship. Jason tells her he and Erin broke up and they make plans to get together soon.

They spend time over the summer getting to know each other, kissing for the first time on the 4th of July. Lani sneaks out at night to meet with him regularly. They keep their relationship secret until after Erin comes home.

Jason ends up telling Erin about the relationship in an email. She is furious and Lani agrees to stop seeing Jason. Almost everyone at school treats her as an outcast - even Blake who is mad at her because the fact that he is gay has now become public knowledge.

Lani lives as an outcast for a while and then helps Blake when he is in trouble. They become close once again and he encourages her to get back together with Jason. After some soul-searching and after looking at some positive role models, Lani realizes that she can change her fate. She confronts Erin and they become friends again. She also talks with Jason and they begin dating again.



# Chapters 1-10

## Chapters 1-10 Summary

"Something Like Fate" by Susane Colasanti tells the story of 16-year-old Lani. At the end of her junior year in high school, Lani connects with a terrific guys named Jason. He is her best friend's latest crush. Lani is caught between her growing attraction for Jason and loyalty to her best friend, Erin.

The book opens with a two-sentence comment stating that the person speaking didn't know it was going to come out like it did, but they wouldn't have taken it back if they had known.

In Chapter 2, Blake and the main character are talking about horoscopes. The weekly horoscope is an integral part of the main character's life. She checks in every Monday, and he questions how she doesn't know that it's bogus. He challenges her to prove that it isn't a waste of time. She says it won't be a problem. She goes to one of her favorite websites for horoscopes and reads it. While it's not all accurate, she argues that it isn't all applicable to her since she's only 16. The part that is accurate is extremely accurate. She tells Blake that it's not just about the horoscope, it's also about astrology in general. She is the perfect Taurus.

Blake asks what her horoscope says and she thinks about her relationship with him. They have been best friends for two years and have never fought. The only person that she is closer to is Erin, her fearless best friend. As she thinks about her friends, she reflects on the fact that Blake is wonderful and extremely handsome. He is also gay, but no one aside from her knows that. His father would kill him if he found out that his son was gay.

Since she spends so much time with Blake, and others don't know that he's gay, kids at school often think that they are a couple. Blake is a Capricorn, and she finds his horoscope for him. They use their Magic 8 Ball to confirm what they are reading.

Chapter 3 - Erin is in love with a boy named Jason, and the main character asks her about him. She has had a few classes with him, but she has never really talked with him. Erin and Jason are part of a large group of mutual friends that the main character calls the Golden Circle. It is the same group that the main character was once part of. She began to drift away from them when she felt as if all the parties were the same, and her connections with them were superficial. This offended Bianca, one of the people in the group, who called her on it. Bianca felt that the main character looked down on the group even though they had a reputation for being helpful and friendly. Erin is a good fit for the group since she loves volunteering, especially with little children. After Bianca confronts the main character, the main character pretty much drops out of the group.



Erin starts gushing about Jason, and she thinks that Energy is throwing them together. Erin is as obsessed with fate as the main character is. The two of them make a chart at the beginning of the year. Each month they would research a topic related to fate so that by the end of the year, they would be experts. They are currently studying dream analysis.

The main character reflects on her relationship with Erin. They are more than just best friends bonded for life. They share an intense history. Lately, however, things seem to be changing. They are drifting apart although the main character doesn't know why.

Chapter 4 - The main character is making signs to promote recycling. Marnie and Bianca were supposed to help her, but they canceled at the last minute. Danielle helps her for a while. The main character is the president of the school's environmental club, One World. She thinks she inherited her love for the earth by genetics since her mother is an environmental health specialist and her father builds greenhouses.

After finishing the sign, she gets an IM from Erin telling her that Jason called. During the conversation, she told Jason that she thought he was cute and funny. The main character wishes that she was as fearless as her best friend.

Chapter 5 - They attend a small school where everyone knows everyone else. The main character doesn't really fit in any group, but she isn't an outcast either. It's just difficult for her to relate to people. She just doesn't feel a connection. Erin invites Blake and the main character to join her and Jason for pizza. Jason is late, and it makes Erin nervous. They are just about to order when Jason shows up. Erin pretends that she didn't notice that he is late, and she introduces him to Blake and Lani.

Jason remembers Lani from a time when they took algebra together. She vaguely remembers him. He draws perfect circles. After they eat, Jason offers to drive Lani home since they are going in the same direction. She feels amazingly comfortable with him. They realize they have the same lunch hour. Lani tries to get Jason talking about Erin, and she mentions that they have been best friends for a long time. Jason tells her that Erin told him, and he asks her about the car accident that she and Erin were in together. She tells him that she doesn't really like talking about it.

Later, Blake calls Lani and comments on how attracted Jason was to her. Lani points out that he isn't attracted to her because he's going out with Erin. The Magic 8 Ball agrees with Blake.

Chapter 6 - In art class, they are doing pottery, and Lani is not good at it. Connor is very good at it, and he encourages her. She appreciates his calming effect on her. As they are working, Sophie tries to sit down next to Ryan, and he verbally attacks her. Lani tells the girl that she can sit next to her. Ryan is mean to many students, especially Blake. Lani refuses to let Ryan provoke her. Sophie thanks them for letting her sit with them. Connor tells her that she can sit with them any time.

Chapter 7 - Lani is almost 17 years old, and she can't swim. They are going to have a family reunion in Hawaii the summer after she graduates, and she really wants to swim



in the ocean when she's there. She is taking a swimming class so she can learn. The only problem is, she is terrified of drowning. She is the oldest kid in the class at swimming lessons, and although her instructor is encouraging, she panics every time her feet leave the floor of the pool.

Chapter 8 - At lunch the next day, Lani is reflecting on her pathetic attempts at swimming, and Jason comes up behind her. They talk and laugh together. After lunch, Jason throws everything into the garbage can, and Lani lectures him about recycling. He tells her that if she can convince him that recycling will make a big difference, he will promise to recycle for the rest of the school year. She challenges him to recycle for the rest of his life. She looks forward to showing Jason what she knows.

Chapter 9 - Erin and Lani go to town together, and this time, Lani encourages Erin to go in with her to visit a psychic. Erin tells Lani that she did a star chart and used numerology, and the results showed that she and Jason are highly compatible. The psychic, Coral, appears and tells them that she does tarot readings and palm readings. Her readings of Erin seem very accurate. Coral tells Lani that she is going to have some conflict soon.

Chapter 10 - Lani loves the kite festival that occurs in the spring. She is reading a brochure with the rules and enjoying the brightly colored kites. Jason is there as a contestant. He joins Erin and Lani, and they discuss the science behind kite flying. Lani mentions that she loves hot air balloons. Erin goes off to get a snow cone, and Jason and Lani continue talking. Jason thinks that Blake and Lani are boyfriend and girlfriend. She tells him that they are not and wonders why he asked since according to her experiences, when a guy asks if a girl has a boyfriend, it generally means they are interested. She can't believe that he is interested in her, though, since he likes Erin.

## Chapters 1-10 Analysis

Chapter 1 - The first chapter only contains two sentences, but it immediately lets the reader know how the main character feels about all the events that occur in the book. She didn't like what happened, but she wouldn't change the results.

In Chapter 2, the reader meets the main character and her best friend Blake. The reader also understands that she has another best friend named Erin. There is no name given to the main character, but the reader understands that she isn't very trusting and she says that there are very few people in her life that she can count on. Blake offers comfort, and they never fight. Still, she feels closer to Erin than Blake. She and Erin have a special bond even though their friendship is more volatile. The main character is obsessed with fate, and she is aware of the fact that her best friend has a temper, and she is also fearless. Erin is a Leo so this makes sense. The main character is quieter, and she wishes she were a bit more like Erin.



Because they are so close, other kids think that the main character is dating Blake. She is the only person who knows that he is gay. He shares the secret with her, but not with Erin.

Chapter 3 focuses on the way the main character fits in socially. The first time the main character's name, Lani, is mentioned is when the fate study chart is mentioned. Erin and Lani are linked by fate as well as by their interest in fate. The chapter closes with Lani asserting that no matter what happens she knows she can count on Erin for anything, and she knows that Erin will do anything for her. There is a sense of foreshadowing that something is going to happen to change this.

In Chapter 4, the environment is very important to Lani, and this chapter gives some of her background, which explains why saving the earth is so important to her.

Chapter 5 - Erin is very excited about a new boy she is interested in named Jason. She wants to share him with her best friends. She is so busy trying to impress him that she seems unaware of the instant connection between Jason and Lani. Blake, who is close enough to Lani to share his deepest secrets, immediately sees the connection. Lani feels the connection as well, but she denies it to Blake, and even to herself. She doesn't want to put her friendship with Erin in jeopardy.

Chapter 6 - Connor is introduced during the sixth chapter. He is able to calm and guide Lani. The interactions among students in this chapter show that Connor and Lani are kind, reaching out to help the underdogs like Sophie. Ryan is very different. He is a bully.

Chapter 7 - This chapter shows a weakness in the heroine. Even though she is very much a water person, she is terrified of drowning. This doesn't stop her from trying to learn how to swim. She tries to conquer fear by taking swimming lessons.

Chapter 8 - Lani is upset with herself for doing so poorly in swimming lessons. As she thinks about this, Jason joins her for lunch and turns her frustrations around.

Chapter 9 - When Lani and Erin visit a psychic, the story takes a twist. The reader discovers that the friendship between the two of them is in jeopardy. The girls don't seem to understand what is going to happen, but the reader already has a clue since the reader is privy to the obvious connection between Lani and Jason.

Chapter 10 - Jason and Lani discover that they have more interests in common as they talk together at the kite festival. Lani is starting to realize that Jason really might be interested in her when he asks whether or not she has a boyfriend. As the chapter ends, she is questioning whether or not he is really interested in her, and this time, she doesn't try to deny it or push it away.



# Chapters 11-17

## Chapters 11-17 Summary

In Chapter 11, after the kite festival, Lani and Jason sit together for lunch. It's not going over well with their friends. Bianca this seems particularly annoyed about it. Lani can't wait until the next year when they're going to be allowed to leave the campus for lunch.

Jason asks Lani if she likes codes. She loves them, and tells him so. They write in code to each other. Lani loves the intensity Jason demonstrates. She particularly loves the fact that when he is serious, his eyes change color.

In Chapter 12, it's Lani's birthday, and she thinks about how cool astrology is. Her birth chart and moon sign show how everything is connected. Blake is coming to celebrate her birthday with her, and Erin is coming along as well, bringing Jason. Lani wants to invite Danielle, but Erin talks her out of it since the two of them don't get along very well. When Danielle asks which Lani is doing for her birthday, she says she's going to have some time alone. Lani hates lying to her friend, but doesn't want to hurt her feelings by telling her that Erin and Blake are coming over, but Danielle isn't invited.

Blake can't believe that Erin is going to bring Jason to Lani's house, and Lani tells him that it's no big deal. Blake reminds her that it's obvious that Jason likes her and that she likes him. Lani says that she won't confirm or deny her own feelings, but she knows that Jason likes Erin.

They all have a fun evening eating dinner, watching movies, eating cake, and playing Twister. Blake challenges Erin to another game, and Jason and Lani go out to the back porch swing. They look out at the old railroad track, and Jason says that his grandfather was a train conductor. He loves to walk the tracks to sort out problems.

In Chapter 13, in art class, they are studying pointillism. Lani thinks it's very difficult, but Connor is great at it. Art class get out early, and Lani meets up with Danielle, who is coming out of gym class. Danielle asks Lani if anything is going on between her and Jason. Lani says that they're just good friends.

Some internal drive encourages Lani to take a different route to English class even though she knows it's going to take her out of her way and most likely make her late for class. She runs into Jason in the hallway, and they make plans to meet for lunch.

In Chapter 14, it's a typical spring Sunday, and Lani's mother is working in the garden while her father works on a crossword puzzle in his recliner. Erin is over visiting. The only thing that isn't typical is the feeling of guilt that Lani has. Erin is happy that Lani is sitting with Jason at lunch, expecting Lani to find out more information about the relationship between Erin and Jason. Lani doesn't want to tell her that every time she brings up Erin's name, Jason changes the subject. Erin raves about how wonderful he is. Erin is determined to only see the fact that she and Jason are fated to be together.





Lani sees things differently, but she feels as if it's a kind of truth that she should never tell her best friend.

Chapter 15 - Lani feels connected to Jason in a very strong way. She feels extremely comfortable with him, and they share the same sense of humor. They even shorten words the same way. Bianca comes over to talk with them at lunch time, and Lani knows that she is really just trying to figure out what's going on between her and Jason.

Jason mentors kids after school, and he invites Lani to come along. She mentions the fact that it's a good day because she doesn't have swimming lessons. Jason is interested in the fact that she takes lessons and tells her that he is a lifeguard. Erin mentors as well, and Lani wants to run the mentoring idea by her. Erin is thrilled that Lani is going to join her and Jason. Before they go out, they stop at Jason's house. Lani meets Jason's dog and sees his bedroom. She had the same poster that he does. They both collect things from "Little Prince." Lani reminds herself that she has to ignore the connection between her and Jason.

Chapter 16 - Jason and Lani are walking to lunch together, and Lani has the hiccups. As they talk about how to get rid of them, Lani discovers that they both view tastes as colors and shapes. Connor comes over to talk while they are eating at their table. He is grabbing a quick snack.

The next day in art, Lani thinks it's obvious that Connor wants to say something to her, but he doesn't at first. After a while, Connor asks her if he can sketch her, thinking that she would be a great anime model. Her thoughts lead her back to Jason, and she realizes that everything makes her think of Jason. This is her chance for love, and she wonders how she can keep fighting it. She wonders if Jason is thinking the same thing and knows there is only one way to find out for sure.

Chapter 17 - Lani spends a week trying to get the courage to talk to Jason. On Monday, her horoscope says that the payback will be immense if she takes a risk when she would normally play it safe. The Magic 8 ball agrees with this. She decides that she is going to ask Jason for sure.

Jason seems to be in a very good mood when she meets him in the hallway. She is trying to find a way to talk with him when Greg interrupts them. He asks Jason if he is going to a party, and he ignores Lani. Jason and Lani both talk at once after Greg leaves, and Jason asks her if he can talk with her. They go into an empty classroom. Lani wants to turn on a light, but Jason likes it somewhat dark. She agrees. Jason tells her that he really likes her. She asks him why he didn't say anything before, and he mentions that he thought she was going out with Blake. She is so surprised that she blurts out the fact that Blake is gay then quickly covers her mouth. She tells him that she didn't mean to say that, and no one can know about it. He says he understands.

Lani tells Jason that it's extremely important that no one knows about Blake because his father will kill him if he finds out he is gay. He asks Lani how she feels about him, and she realizes that she has to tell the truth. She says that she likes him as well.



He pushes back her hair, and she tells him not to, worried that he will see her scar. She knows her reaction is weird so she explains that she has a scar on her forehead. He asks to see it, and she shows it to him. He says that the scar has character. Jason is standing very close to her, and she knows that he is going to kiss her. She wants to kiss him back.

## Chapters 11-17 Analysis

In Chapter 11, Lani and Jason are getting closer. They move from an attraction and connection to a close friendship. They share quirks that link them closer together.

In Chapter 12, on Lani's birthday, she begins to show that she is shifting loyalties. She is willing to deny her friendship with Danielle in order to please Erin. Blake gives her an opportunity to get closer to Jason, and they talk about what they do to work through problems. Lani doesn't really have a release, and this shows the reader that she is unused to conflict. It also hints that there is going to be trouble when she is faced with adversity and can't find an outlet.

In Chapter 13, the art class is studying pointillism. This is a form of art where a full image is made of tiny dots. From close range, it doesn't appear like a complete image. It's only when one steps back to see all the dots that the image appears. This is symbolic for the situation Lani and Erin find themselves in. Erin is so focused on her own attraction to Jason, she doesn't see the full picture.

Chapter 14 contrasts Lani's old world with her new world. Things outwardly appear normal, but she is changing. She is no longer pushing aside her feelings for Jason, but instead of pushing away from the feeling, she decides to keep them from her best friend, and she feels guilty about this.

In Chapter 15, Jason asks Lani to join him for mentoring. She still has enough respect for Erin that she clears it with her friend before she agrees. Before they go, she discovers more areas where she and Jason share a common link. Erin sees it, too, but she doesn't seem to recognize any sort of threat.

In Chapter 16, as Lani and Jason get closer to each other, Connor comes around more frequently. Lani seems as oblivious to the fact that he wants to be with her as Erin is about the connection between Jason and Lani.

In Chapter 17, Lani believes so strongly in fate that she is ready to change her life based on the fact that her horoscope and the Magic 8 ball tell her to take a risk. The focus of this chapter is unveiling. Lani and Jason share the fact that they like each other, Lani blurts out Blake's secret, and she also shares her scar.



# Summary and Analysis for Chapters 18-23

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 18-23 Summary

Chapter 18 consists of two sentences. Lani is questioning how she can betray the girl who saved her life.

In Chapter 19, when the girls were 10, Erin's mom was driving them back from snowboard camp when the weather became nasty. Erin's mom wanted to pull over, but they couldn't see to pull over. The car hydroplaned and they slipped into the lake. Erin's mom was unconscious, and the girls were trapped. Lani knew they were drowning, but Erin screamed at her to get in the back. They all lived through the ordeal.

Everyone in the town heard about the accident, and the girls were treated with respect in school. It linked Lani and Erin together in everyone's eyes. They had survived together. Lani knows she would have died without Erin. She had just panicked and never would have moved out of the rising water if Erin hadn't yelled at her.

In Chapter 20, it's an extremely hot day in the summer, and Erin is going off to camp. She will be in Vermont for two months. She wanted both Jason and Lani see her off so they were both there. Lani always panicked when she and Jason were around Erin, fearing that their closeness would show to her friend. She didn't kiss Jason that day they admitted they liked each other. It was very difficult not to.

Erin says goodbye to them and reminds them that the next time they see each other, they will officially almost be seniors. She asks them to write. They hug and say goodbye then the bus pulls away.

In Chapter 21, Blake is now completely hooked on horoscopes. He can't believe they are so accurate. It's summer, and Erin doesn't have the opportunity to see many people. She had a meltdown at her last swimming lesson and quit, and now she's happy for a bit of isolation. She works part-time at Bear Creek Berry Patch.

Blake and Lani talk about the summer. He has a summer internship at a glassblowers' studio. His father isn't thrilled. Blake thinks that Lani is avoiding Jason, and he tells her that she should fight her feelings for him.

After dinner, Lani talks with her mother about relationships. She asks about similarities and differences in a relationship. All she knows is that she feels very connected to Jason.

In Chapter 22, Lani loves her job because she is a berry freak. She is teaching a little girl how to find the best berries. She is thinking about Jason, knowing that she is avoiding him. Danielle had invited her to a picnic, and she turned down the invitation



because she knew it was where Jason was lifeguarding. Lani wonders if she is wrong to stay away. As she stands in the field, she asks Energy to reveal her fate with a sign. If she gets the sign, she will let herself go and quit avoiding the truth.

In Chapter 23, summer is the perfect time for laziness. Lani is thrilled to be free of homework. The only problem is that she misses Jason. Five days have passed since she asked for a sign. Her mother comes in and asks her to go to the supermarket. She has to take the car she isn't comfortable driving.

Lani is relieved to get to the grocery store. While she is picking out vegetables someone comes over and taps her cucumber with his. It's Jason. He says he is lost in the supermarket. He meant to pick up raspberries and found himself at the vegetables. Lani feels as if Energy is giving her a sign since she was in a raspberry field when she asked for a sign.

Jason asks if she has heard from Erin. He tells Lani that he and Erin broke up. Lani doesn't know how to respond. When he says they should hang out together sometime, she agrees. She calls him immediately after she gets home, and he answers right away. She tells him that she misses him, too.

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 18-23 Analysis

Chapter 18 is the first chapter in Part II. Just like the first chapter of the book, it's extremely short, but it packs a punch.

In Chapter 19, the reader sees why Lani is so fearful of water. The reader also understands why Lani and Erin are so connected. They went through a very traumatic experience together. Erin literally saved Lani's life.

In Chapter 20, Jason picks gravel of Lani's arm - an action that shows that they are more than casual acquaintances. Lani is on edge, reading more than necessary into Erin's reactions because she is feeling guilty about the way she feels about Jason. The reader sees her struggle as she finds herself fighting and hiding her attraction to Jason. The reader sees how hard she is working to avoid betraying Erin. She didn't even let Jason kiss her after they both admitted that they liked each other. She has self control, but she is still holding back by not letting Erin in on the truth of what's really going on.

In Chapter 21, with Erin gone, Lani removes herself from temptation by isolating herself. She is spending her summer with her parents and with Blake. He is willing to stand up and displease his father in regards to the glass working internship, but both he and Lani know that the reality of his sexual orientation would turn his father completely against him. Since this comes up several times in the book, the reader understands that it's a subplot that is building momentum.

Lani's connection with her parents contrasts that of Blake and his dad. She is comfortable with her parents. This is shown when she asks her mom questions about

relationships, and her mother offers advice without prying into why she is asking the questions.

In Chapter 22, once again Lani turns to fate to see how she should act and behave. She asks Energy to step in and show her a sign as to what she should do with Jason and their attraction to each other.

In Chapter 21, it shows that Lani doesn't like to drive because of the negative environmental impact. This goes along with her passion for Earth and recycling habits. However, in Chapter 23 a different reality emerges. Lani isn't good at driving - especially standard vehicles.

She sees the signs from Energy that she is looking for as she runs into Jason in the grocery store. When he tells her that he and Erin broke up, she doesn't seem to be upset by the fact that he did it by mail. She also doesn't jump right into his arms. Lani waits until she gets home before calling him to tell him that she wants to get together with him because she misses him.



# Summary and Analysis for 24-28

## Summary and Analysis for 24-28 Summary

In Chapter 24, Jason and Lani are walking along the old railroad tracks. They pass a playground and realized that they vaguely remember playing at the playground together when they were young. Lani thinks fate decided that they were destined to be together long ago.

They decide to go out for ice cream at The Fountain. Lani is excited because she has been avoiding the place, not wanting to run into Jason. Still, she's nervous because she doesn't want school friends seeing them together. She's happy to discover that there is no-one there that they know.

They talk about their summer and jobs. Jason is more intense than ever before. He says lifeguarding and mentoring make him feel like he is protecting others, and he likes that. Upon questioning, Lani admits that she gave up swimming. He tells her he will teach her.

In Chapter 25, the two teens find a good spot to set up their blanket for the 4th of July fireworks. The sunset is beautiful, and they enjoy popsicles as the sun sets. After the finale, everyone rushes off, but Jason and Lani stay. It's a perfect evening. They count fireflies and talk. Jason reaches over, and they hold hands.

Lani says she can't do this to Erin, and Jason says Erin would want her to be happy then he kisses her. The evening is so perfect, Lani forgets to keep her eye on the time. She has an 11 o' clock curfew, and it's already 1:15 am. Jason drives her home, and neither one of them wants the evening to end.

In Chapter 26, Dad is doing a crossword puzzle and Lani helps him. She loves spending time with him even though they don't talk much. Dad comments on her good mood, and she considers telling him why she's so happy but decides against it.

She and Jason have been seeing each other daily. Greg sees them and comments on it while they are at work. He tells her to stop it since Jason is with Erin. She points out that Erin is her best friend.

Her parents were upset that she missed her curfew so they gave her a set curfew rather than a flexible one. They know she hangs out with Jason, but they don't realize how serious it is. Her parents think the teens are just friends. Lani feels guilty every time she gets a letter from Erin. In the letters, Erin writes about how upset she is that Jason dumped her when she thought everything was going well.

Lani wants to tell Erin about their relationship, especially when Erin starts writing about another guy, but Jason wants her to hold off on telling her. He tells her this while he is rowing. Jason is taking steps to help Lani become more comfortable with water.



In Chapter 27, the day is extremely hot, and Lani is helping her mother in the garden. She uses examples to fish around and question what's going on with Jason, Erin and herself. Her mother gets right to the point, and Lani knows that Erin is going to be hurt, and she can't stop it.

The curfew is bogus and Lani begins to sneak out at night to meet up with Jason. One time while they are out, Greg calls to tell Jason to come to a party. He doesn't want to go.

In Chapter 28, school starts in two weeks. Jason and Erin agree to tell Erin about them when she gets home. They try to stay away from the public eye. Lani goes to the beach, but she won't go in the water. Jason is lifeguarding, and she is trying not to look at him. Connor joins her and asks her out on a date. She says that she's seeing someone, but it's a secret.

## Summary and Analysis for 24-28 Analysis

In Chapter 24, even though Jason and Lani are honest with each other, their relationship is not worry-free. When they are out together, Lani is constantly on edge if they are in a public place. She doesn't want people to see them together. As they talk about their lives, Lani realizes that they are more connected than she ever previously imagined. She opens up to Jason and admits her fear of water. Instead of ridiculing her, he is quick to offer help. Her desire to overcome her fear of water is more powerful than the fear itself, and she is willing to consider letting him help her. This is symbolic of the fear she feels about hurting Erin. She needs to face the situation head-on.

In Chapter 25, on the Fourth of July, Jason and Lani share a perfect evening. They are so enthralled with each other that they miss curfew. It's an evening of liberation, and it's also the first time they kiss.

In Chapter 26, Lani has a great relationship with her father, and that is shown in this chapter. She doesn't talk with him much, but she loves being with him. She and Jason are getting together regularly, and she thinks it's time to tell Erin, but he persuades her not to. She listens to him, but feels guilty. Jason helps her get a bit more comfortable with the water, and she is also becoming more comfortable with their relationship.

In Chapter 27, even though Lani is very close to her parents, she is still willing to break their rules in order to meet up with Jason. This is shown as she sneaks out of the house at night.

In Chapter 28, Jason and Lani do what they can to keep their relationship a secret until after Erin comes home. Connor is more blatant about his interest in Lani when he asks her out. She trusts him enough to let him know she is seeing someone else. He takes it well.



# Summary and Analysis for Chapters 29-36

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 29-36 Summary

In Chapter 29, the last week before school begins is a blur. On Monday Lani and Mom run into Jason's mother at the grocery store. On Tuesday she and Jason have arts-and-crafts time making posters for One World. As they work, Lani tells Jason that she and Erin had been to the psychic, and the psychic knew about him. On Wednesday Jason has to work so Lani gets together with Blake. They have a great time playing together with the Slip 'n Slide. On Thursday Blake and Lani go to the pet store. On Friday Jason surprises her with a ride in a hot air balloon. On Saturday, Lani agrees to go in the pond with Jason. She glides in the water, holding on to him, until she isn't scared anymore.

Chapter 30 has two sentences showing that things go horribly wrong for Lani.

In Chapter 31, Erin is home, sitting on the front porch, and talking about what a loser Jason is. She can't believe he broke up with her by letter when when was away. Lani had been hoping that she would be raving about a new guy, but all she talks about is how nasty Jason was to her. Lani is waiting for Jason to tell Erin what's really going on. She tries to change the subject, but Erin won't let it go. After she leaves, Lani calls Jason. She tells him that things are different now that Erin is back. She doesn't want to see him until Jason talks with Erin. He says he'll take Erin to The Fountain to tell her. Lani is bothered by the fact that he is taking Erin to "their" place, but doesn't tell him that. Jason calls her back and says that Erin hung up on him. They decide to wait until school starts in two days. It seems like forever to Erin.

In Chapter 32, the first day of school is horrible. There is a rumor going around that Blake is gay. The only person other than herself and Blake who knew that is Jason. She doesn't want to believe that he said something, but the rumor had to get out somehow. He denies it. Blake confronts Lani, asking if she told anyone. She admits she told Jason. He is completely furious and storms off. She chases him and says she doesn't think Jason said anything. He asks where they were when she told Jason, and she said it was in an empty classroom in the school.

In Chapter 33, Blake didn't go to school the next day, and Lani is hoping he will show up the day after. Jason walks up to her and tells her that he is trying to talk to Erin, but she won't let him. They agree to meet for lunch under the staircase in the science wing. Blake shows up, but brushes her off. While Lani is waiting for Jason under the stairs, she hears some girls gossiping about Blake. She discovers that Ryan overheard the conversation while he was in the Guidance office because of a weird vent thing. Jason joins her, and she tells him what she learned about Ryan. They kiss, and Lani suddenly doesn't care about anything else.





In Chapter 34, Jason calls Lani and tells her that he emailed Erin with the truth. Erin calls her and everything seems fine at first. She asks about Blake then brings up Jason's email. She accuses Lani of stealing her boyfriend, saying she trusted her. Erin tells Lani that she emailed the email to the entire class, and she brings up the accident.

Lani apologizes and says she will do anything to fix the situation. Erin tells her to stop seeing Jason. Lani agrees to break off her relationship.

In Chapter 35, everyone at school knows the truth and hates her. Even Danielle is mad at her because Erin told Danielle how she wasn't invited to Lani's birthday party and Lani lied to her. Lani had called Jason the night before, explaining that they could no longer be together. At lunch she has to eat alone since no-one wants to be near her. She tries really hard not to cry.

In Chapter 36, life is horrible for Lani and she doesn't want to go to school. When she gets there, she sees kids gathered at the lockers, talking and laughing. Someone painted the word HOMO on Blake's locker. It makes Lani angry and sad. Blake comes to his locker and pretends nothing is wrong. Lani walks over to him and faces the crowd of kids. She offers to help Blake clean his locker, and he hugs her.

She hopes Blake is friends with her again, but he just goes to class after they clean it. Connor is the only person being nice to her. She is thankful that he is willing to be her friend.

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 29-36 Analysis

In Chapter 29, the week before school begins again is like a calm before a storm. Lani has a wonderful time with Jason and with Blake. She and Jason have fun together making crafts and going up in a hot air balloon. She and Blake play like children on the Slip 'n Slide.

Chapter 30 is a two-sentence chapter where the reader finds out that things really go wrong for Lani.

In Chapter 31, Erin is hanging out with Lani and Lani feels extremely guilty. Erin is expressing how upset she is at Jason, but Lani still doesn't tell her about her relationship with Jason. Lani has shown in the past that she isn't good at taking action, and it's no different this time. Jason wants to tell Erin himself, and he wants to do it in a spot that Lani feels is a special place for the two of them. He is oblivious to this fact, and she doesn't clue him in. It ends up being a non-issue as Erin refuses to meet with Jason anyway.

In Chapter 32, when word gets out that Blake is gay, Lani doesn't know who to trust. She wonders if Jason betrayed the secret. After talking with him, she believes he is innocent and professes his innocence to Blake.



In Chapter 33, Lani finds out how the secret got out about Blake. Jason and Lani end up kissing in the stairwell. The attraction between them is just too strong.

In Chapter 34, Jason broke up with Erin in a letter, and now he tells her that he and Lani are together. Erin lashes out at Lani who is confused about what she is supposed to do. She chooses her best friend over her boyfriend.

Chapter 35 - In the past, Lani was separate from groups of students by her own choice, but now they turn on her against her will. She is ostracized from everyone, and it's very difficult to deal with.

Chapter 36 - Lani stands up to defend Blake, and it's the first time she steps forward on her own. It's not enough, though. He ignores her after showing gratitude for her defense.



# Summary and Analysis for Chapters 37-43

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 37-43 Summary

In Chapter 37, Lani is holding orientation for One World. Bianca and Marnie ask if she's going to hold a workshop on how to steal your best friend's boyfriend. Later, Lani has a hard time eating. She has lost her appetite at home as well. Her parents are concerned and try to talk with her, but she won't tell them what's really going on.

Lani goes out to her porch and finds Blake there. His father kicked him out of the house. The next morning she explains what happened to her mother and father and asks if Blake can stay with them. Her mom says it's not possible. She will talk to child protective services and see what she can do. Blake is allowed to stay for another night, though.

In Chapter 38, the poster Lani made for One World is in shreds. She is eating alone under the stairs because she wants time alone. She knows Blake would eat with her, but he's away today. He is now living with his uncle. The night before, Blake and Lani were playing a game, and Jason kept calling. She finally picks up, and Jason asks her to meet with him. As they talk, Lani realizes that she is so focused on the pain she is causing Erin that she hadn't thought about the pain she is causing Jason. She thinks things can't get worse then she goes to Communications class. Someone has put up a nasty website about her. She feels completely betrayed.

In Chapter 39, a week later, Connor finds her and says he has to show her something. He takes her to her secret place under the stairs and shows her a note from Jason. She doesn't want to read it, but he encourages her to, saying that she and Jason are obviously meant to be together, but they aren't, and that's a problem.

In Chapter 40, two weeks after Connor gave Lani the note from Jason, she still ached for him. She is looking for her English paper when Jason walks up to her. He tells her that he has to be with her then he kisses her and says he loves her. She goes off to class, even though she knows he wants her to say she loves him, too. During class, she starts crying. She wonders if she can change her fate by taking steps to change it.

In Chapter 41, Blake finally had a good day at school. Sophie figured out that Ryan did it and announced it to everyone. He admits that he told everyone the rumor about Blake. Lani goes home with Blake to his uncle's house. He tells her that he talked with Erin about Lani and Jason. Blake encourages Lani to get back together with Jason.

At his uncle's, they watch a film, and Blake's father shows up. Blake asks him if he knows what it's like to have a father who hates. Instead of saying that he really loves his son, Blake's father leaves.



In Chapter 42, Lani is home thinking about Blake and his dad. She realizes that she has to take control of her fate, and she calls Erin. They meet at The Fountain and they talk things out.

In Chapter 43, Lani feels free after talking to Erin. She finds Jason walking the train tracks. When she tells them they can be together again, he tells her how hurt he was. They work it out and head into their future together.

The chapter ends with a postcard from Hawaii. Lani is thanking Jason for never giving up on her.

## Summary and Analysis for Chapters 37-43 Analysis

In Chapter 37, the stress Lani is feeling at school follows her home as she loses her appetite, concerning her parents. Even though she is close to them, she doesn't want to talk with them about what's really going on. Just when everything seems against her, Blake shows up on her porch. He needs a place to stay and comes to her.

In Chapter 38, at school, the poster that Jason and Lani made for One Earth is symbolically in shreds, just like their relationship. She spends some time alone reflecting on all the people she is affecting. All along she has been feeling as if she is betraying others, and now in Communications class, she is the betrayed. It gives her different perspective.

In Chapter 39, Connor shows that he is a great friend who cares about her happiness when he helps Jason reach out to her. As he talks about fate, Lani starts viewing it differently. She wonders if she can be more proactive, changing her destiny with her own decisions.

In Chapter 40, Jason shows that he is ready to step up and make his own fate when he confronts her in the hallway. She knows how she should react, but she doesn't. Lani's own reaction doesn't make her happy. It makes her cry.

In Chapter 41, Blake and Lani are good friends once again. They enjoy spending time together and just like in the beginning of the book when he encouraged her to date Jason, he now prods her to return to Jason. When his own father confronts him, he stands up to his father, modeling assertiveness in a tough situation, inspiring Lani.

Chapter 42 - Connor has Lani thinking about influencing her own fate, then Jason and Blake model proactive, assertive behavior. Lani finally puts the pieces together and realizes she can control her own destiny to some extent. She calls Erin and arranges a meeting.

Chapter 43 - Now that secrets are out and feelings are discussed, Lani is free. She is friends with Erin again, and she is free to date Jason. There is a brief moment of uncertainty when he expresses how she hurt him, and she isn't sure he wants her back. They work it out and face their fate together.

The book ends with a postcard that shows how Lani conquered her fear and how she is still connected to Jason.



# Characters

## Lani

Lani is a 16-year-old girl when the book begins. She loves the earth and she is obsessed with fate. She isn't super popular, and she isn't an outcast, either. The girl doesn't feel a connection with most people so she only has a few close friends. She considers Erin to be her best friend, connected to her for life due to a tragedy that brought them together.

Even though she feels loyal to her friends, Lani discovers that she is falling for Erin's boyfriend. She tries to hold her feelings back, but they eventually take over. She begins dating him herself. Still, she doesn't want to hurt Erin so she tries to keep the relationship secret. When the truth comes out, she chooses her best friend over her relationship with Jason. Lani becomes an outcast in the school and has to figure out who she really is before she can fix the mess she has created with those who are closest to her in life.

## Jason

Jason is an easy-going popular boy who sees life in a unique manner. He sees tastes in colors and shapes, makes up codes, and talks in an abbreviated language. When he's upset, he likes to walk the train tracks as he sorts things out. He is dating Erin, but feels an attraction for Lani. He breaks up with Erin by letter.

The teenage boy is a lifeguard who patiently teaches Lani to swim without ridiculing. He has an interest in flying kites. When Lani pushes their relationship aside, he is understanding even though he doesn't agree with what she is doing. Instead of lashing out at her or rejecting her, Jason waits for her to sort out her own feelings. He is ready for her when she wants to get back together again.

## Blake

This character is one of Lani's closest friends. He shares a secret with her that she accidentally lets out.

## Erin

This character is Lani's closest friend. Although they are drifting apart as this story begins, they have a bond that will last forever because when they were younger, they survived an accident together when this character saved Lani's life.



## **Mom**

This character is an environmental-health specialist. She also loves gardening. She offers advice without prying.

## **Dad**

This character builds greenhouses. He also loves doing crossword puzzles.

## **Coral**

This is the psychic that Lani and Erin went to see when they were in town. She told Lani that she would have several loves in her life.

## **Danielle**

This character is Lani's friend who feels betrayed when Lani doesn't invite her to her birthday party and lies about what she planned to do that evening.

## **Ryan**

This character is a bully who picks on Blake. He overhears the conversation between Jason and Lani.

## **Sophie**

This character is in Lani's art class. When Ryan is mean to her, Lani is kind.

## **Connor**

This character is from Canada. He is interested in Lani romantically, but when that doesn't work out, he still supports her as a friend.

## **Bianca**

This character is part of the popular crowd. She is very suspicious of Lani's relationship with Jason.



## **Greg**

Erin tries to set Lani up with this character, but she has no interest in him. He sits at the Golden Table and invites Jason to events while ignoring Lani.

## **Uncle Rick**

This is the character who takes Blake into his home after Blake's father kicks him out.





## Objects/Places

### Cafeteria

This is where Lani and Jason sit together and learn more about each other. It's also where Lani feels completely isolated when everyone turns against her.

### Echo Lake

This is right behind Lani's house. She sits on her porch and looks out over it.

### Under the stairs

This is a secret place Lani goes to be alone. She overhears girls talking about Blake while she is here and learns how the rumors got out.

### Classroom by the Guidance Office

This is where Jason and Lani admit they have feelings for each other. They don't know that everything they say can be heard through the vents.

### Water

This is what Lani is terrified of and yet she wants to overcome the fear.

### Art Class

Lani struggles in this, but Connor encourages her.

### Horoscope

Lani is addicted to this and checks it every Monday. She gets Blake interested in it as well.

### Psychic

Lani and Erin go here together and Lani finds the results amazingly accurate.



## **Magic 8 Ball**

This is what Lani turns to for advice. It confirms her decisions to try new things.

## **Pizza Parlor**

This is where Erin takes Blake and Lani to meet Jason for the first time.

## **The Fountain**

This place has amazing gelato. Lani thinks of it as her special place to go with Jason.

## **Hawaii**

This is where Lani is going after graduation. She is determined to overcome her fear before she goes there.



# Themes

## The Role of Fate in Life

Lani is obsessed with the idea of fate. She checks her horoscope every Monday to see what is coming up in her life. She confirms decisions that she is going to make by checking with her Magic 8 Ball. She goes to a psychic to see what her future holds according to a palm reading and tarot cards. Lani feels that she was destined to be connected with Jason because fate threw them together in a horrific accident. She also feels that she is meant to be together with Jason due to a cosmic connection and the words of the psychic.

When Lani is uncertain about whether she should pursue a relationship with Jason, she asks for Energy to show her sign. Later on in the book, it seems as if everything is against her, and it makes her question the concept of fate. She comes to the realization that she doesn't have to wait around for things to happen to her. She can change her fate by becoming proactive in some of her own actions. This spurs her to stand up for herself and confront Erin, and they become friends again. Her own proactive actions also lead to a true connection with Jason.

## Friendship and Betrayal

Friendship is a very important element in this book. As the book opens, Lani is not connected to many people through friendship. She has chosen not to be part of the popular crowd because she doesn't feel connected with them, and she doesn't feel drawn to many people. She has a close core of friends which includes Lake, Erin, and Danielle.

As the book progresses, the reader discovers that the few friendships that Lani has are in jeopardy as she inadvertently betrays her closest friends. She accidentally let out a secret about Blake which leads to his being bullied at school and losing his home. Her connection with Jason jeopardizes her friendship with Erin who was certain that she and Jason were fated to be together. She almost loses Jason because she is trying to please Erin. When all seems lost, Connor befriends Lani, helping guide her through the tough times.

## Secrets and Withholding Truths Can Harm

The main conflicts in this book arise from concept of keeping secrets. Blake shares the secret that he is gay with Lani, and she inadvertently let the secret out, putting their own friendship in jeopardy. Lani keeps her feelings about Jason a secret from Erin, and her lack of honesty nearly destroys their friendship.



Lani even loses her friendship with Danielle because she keeps her birthday party a secret from the other girl. When Danielle hears about it, she is hurt and feels betrayed. She doesn't want to continue being a friend with Lani, especially since Lani also lied to her about her own feelings for Jason. Destruction and betrayal follow as each of the secrets comes to light. Lani loses Danielle as a friend, Erin lashes out against her, Blake doesn't want to be with her, and her relationship with Jason is cut off as she tries to regain Erin's friendship.



# Style

## Point of View

"Something Like Fate" is written in a first-person and subjective point of view. The story is told from Lani's perspective. Because it's written in this perspective, the reader is privy to her thoughts and torn emotions. The reader also understands how she thinks others relate to her. This is important because the story revolves around secrets, and Lani has the best of intentions, but they backfire on her. Since the reader can see her thought processes, the reader can relate to her and sympathize with her even when she makes the wrong choices.

## Setting

This story takes place in a small community where everyone knows each other in school. This is an essential detail in the story because Lani can't escape the gossip that comes out when everyone hears how she betrayed Erin. The same holds true for Blake. Lani is very connected to the earth and the environment. She lives in an area with farms, and she works on a berry farm. She has a lake in her backyard, which is ironic since she is terrified of water. Challenges surround her, but she overcomes them in the long run.

## Language and Meaning

Lani is entering her senior year of high school, and the language in this book reflects this. It's relaxed language, filled with typical teen lingo that runs the gamut from sarcasm to online chatting and abbreviated writing. However, Lani also uses some bigger words and lingo appropriate for her education level and upbringing. She is particularly knowledgeable on language related to the environment, which makes sense since she is involved in the environmental club at school, her father makes greenhouses, and her mother is an environmental-health specialist.

## Structure

"Something Like Fate" by Susane Colasant consists of three parts. Each part begins with some quotes. All the chapters in the book are labeled only by numbers. Part One covers the months of April and May of Lani's junior year in high school. It contains 17 chapters. Part Two covers the months of June through August. It includes chapters 18 through 29. Part Three covers September and October of Lani's senior year. It includes chapters 30-43. The chapters vary in length, and the first chapter in each part contains only two sentences that hold significance on what is to come. The final page of the last chapter highlights a postcard that Lani writes to Jason from Hawaii. The reader knows she was going to Hawaii after graduation. This postcard is followed by

acknowledgements grouped under headings such as "The Sun," "The World," and "The Star."

## Quotes

"He likes blending in. It's just easier that way" Chapter 2, p. 6).

"We're both obsessed with fate. Anything that helps us make sense of this life is fascinating" (Chapter 3, p. 13).

"I just don't believe in putting more hatred out into the world when someone's directing bad energy at you" (Chapter 6, p. 35).

"Jason gets me. He even gets stuff I didn't know I was trying to say" (Chapter 12, p. 74).

"Like with the whole fate thing. Do we have control over our fate, or will our lives turn out the same way no matter what we do" (Chapter 13, p. 81).

"A person often meets his destiny on the road he took to avoid it" (Chapter 17, p. 112).

"Connections are all around us, and if we're open to them, we become more aware of them" (Chapter 24, p. 139).

"If this isn't something like fate, I don't know what is" (Chapter 24, p. 143).

"My life finally has the chance to be everything I've always wanted it to be" (Chapter 29, p. 186).

"Erin's just clinging to the memory of who she used to be" (Chapter 35, p. 217).

"Our glitter Earth was perfect. Too bad the real Earth isn't" (Chapter 38, p. 236).

"We're irrevocably tied together by history, a history that can never be erased" (Chapter 41, p. 257).



## Topics for Discussion

How does Lani feel about fate? What makes her feel this way?

In what ways does Lani find a connection to Jason?

Contrast Lani's relationship with her parents to Blake's relationship with his father.

In what ways does Lani betray her friends throughout the book?

In what ways do Lani's friends betray her throughout the book?

How does Lani grow mentally throughout the story?

How does Lani's perception of fate change between the beginning of the story and the end?