

Suite Scarlett Study Guide

Suite Scarlett by Maureen Johnson

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Plot Summary

"Suite Scarlett" by Maureen Johnson is an entertaining novel about Scarlett Martin, a fifteen-year-old girl whose family owns a hotel in New York City. After Scarlett receives the duty of caring for the Empire Suite on her fifteenth birthday, her summer is thrown into chaos when Mrs. Amberson, an eccentric actress, decides to move into the Hopewell for the summer and becomes involved in the production of "Hamlet" that Spencer, Scarlett's older brother, is acting in. "Suite Scarlett" is an entertaining account of the ways a teenage girl's life changes and the things she learns about herself in one summer as she does the best she can to protect her family.

After Scarlett receives the key to the Empire Suite on her fifteenth birthday and her parents give Spencer three days to get an acting job before forcing him to attend culinary school, Mrs. Amberson checks into the Empire Suite. Mrs. Amberson decides to hire Scarlett as her assistant after determining that she is going to write a book about her life. Therefore, Mr. and Mrs. Martin agree to let Spencer act in a production of "Hamlet" after he gets the role of Guildenstern. While helping Spencer practice his lines, Scarlett meets and is enthralled by Eric, Spencer's scene partner.

When the play's practice space is condemned, Scarlet and Spencer sneak the cast into the basement to rehearse. However, when Mrs. Martin catches them, Mrs. Amberson claims it was her idea because she has decided to financially back the play in exchange for being made the co-director. Mrs. Amberson arranges for the cast to be coached by the famous Billy Whitehouse, but when she learns that her nemesis Donna Spendler is up for a role on Broadway, she sets Donna up for a fake TV audition, causing Donna to lose her Broadway role and shave her hair with the assistance of Scarlett, Spencer and Eric.

Meanwhile, Scarlett and Eric begin to flirt and make out, but Eric tells Scarlett he cannot be a boyfriend right now after she sees him fighting with another girl outside his apartment. Spencer, able to tell something is wrong with Scarlett and to guess what that is, punches Eric during their scene. At the play's dress rehearsal, Donna finds the cast and warns them they are about to be shut down, and Mrs. Amberson moves out of the Hopewell because she decides she has done enough harm.

Refusing to let Spencer's dream die, Scarlett arranges for a meeting between Mrs. Amberson and Donna during which they work out their misunderstanding from thirty years earlier. Scarlett also arranges for Lola and Marlene, her sisters, to take their parents out for the day so that they can use the hotel to host the play. Scarlett has to make their guests leave immediately following the play when she learns that her family is returning early, but she manages to pull the affair off without getting caught. The next day, Mrs. Amberson convinces Mr. and Mrs. Martin that it would be lucrative to host plays in their hotel. She hires Scarlett as her assistant for the talent agency she wants to begin with Spencer as her first client.



Section 1: pages 1-22

Section 1: pages 1-22 Summary

"Suite Scarlett" by Maureen Johnson is an entertaining novel about Scarlett Martin, a fifteen-year-old girl whose family owns a hotel in New York City. After Scarlett receives the duty of caring for the Empire Suite on her fifteenth birthday, her summer is thrown into chaos when Mrs. Amberson, an eccentric actress, decides to move into the Hopewell for the summer and becomes involved in the production of "Hamlet" that Spencer, Scarlett's older brother, is acting in. "Suite Scarlett" is an entertaining account of the ways a teenage girl's life changes and the things she learns about herself in one out-of-control summer as she does the best she can to protect her family.

In Act I, the Hopewell is a family-run hotel on the Upper East Side which has been in business for over 75 years. The bastion of the Jazz Age of glamour, the guest rooms are named and decorated with original furnishings. The Empire Suite is of special note, but the most unusual thing about the hotel is the total involvement of the owners, the Martin family. Though the service is sometimes patchy, the personal touch makes all the difference.

In A Party Best Avoided, Scarlett Martin wakes on June 10 to the noise of one of her siblings showering in the adjacent bathroom. She yells for the occupant to let her know when they finish, but she is nearly asleep when her older brother, Spencer, bounces into her room. Though he rarely sleeps past 5 A.M. due to working the breakfast shift at the Waldorf-Astoria, he switched to the lunch shift today to be here for Scarlett, and he urges her to hurry. Unfortunately, Marlene, their youngest sister, beats Scarlett to the bathroom, so at 8:03 A.M. on Scarlett's fifteenth birthday, she still has not showered as she takes the elevator downstairs for her birthday breakfast. In the dining room, Scarlett is surprised by an acrid stench since family birthday breakfasts follow a strict tradition; however, when her dad brings a plate of waffles into the dining room, he explains that Belinda, their cook, is not working today. Opening presents, Scarlett is happy when she opens her new cell phone, but then comes the small, traditional box which contains the key to the Empire Suite as each Martin is assigned a room to care for on their fifteenth birthday. Dad then sends Marlene away and announces that the rest of them need to have a talk.

In Sink, Sank, Sunk, the narrator notes that Scarlett is the only one of her friends who has not left the city, due to her family not being rich. Apologizing for doing this on Scarlett's birthday, Dad explains that they had to let Belinda, their last regular staff member, go today, but he promises that they will get by, like they always do. Lola is taking a year off of school to help out, and he asks Scarlett to help at the hotel instead of looking for a summer job. Also, Dad and Mom remind Spencer that they gave him a year after graduation to make his way as an actor before forcing him to go to culinary academy; the year ends in three days, so he will lose his scholarship then if he does not agree. The Martin parents leave so their children can talk it over. Spencer is distraught,



but his day gets worse when a black Benz pulls up in front of the building and Lola leaves with Chip, her rich boyfriend who Spencer cannot stand. Spencer leaves for work soon after, and Scarlett thinks that she needs a plan because she has nothing but an empty hotel room at the moment.

Section 1: pages 1-22 Analysis

Act I is a short blurb discussing the Hopewell, a hotel run by the Martin family in New York City. The excerpt is from "Whaddya Say We Do New York", a supposed 8th edition guidebook about New York. It specifies that the Empire Suite is especially notable and that the Martin family is totally involved in the hotel's service. This short introduction serves to foreshadow the novel's focus on the Hopewell, the Empire Suite and the Martin family.

In the first actual chapter, A Party Best Avoided, the main character, now 15-year-old Scarlett Martin is introduced, as are her parents and her siblings, Spencer, Lola and Marlene. It is immediately apparent that Scarlett is very close to her older brother, Spencer, and that she does not get along nearly as well with her younger sister, Marlene. The surprising stench in the dining room is quickly followed by the announcement that Belinda, their cook, is not working today, foreshadowing the discovery that Belinda has been let go due to the family's financial difficulties. After they eat, Scarlett's siblings present their gifts from oldest to youngest, according to tradition which ends with her parents' gift. This year is special, though, because Scarlett knows what she is getting. Besides the cell phone that she receives, Scarlett opens a box containing the key to one of the rooms in the hotel, the Empire Suite, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing that the Empire Suite would play an important role in the novel. Each Martin is given a room in the hotel to care for on their fifteenth birthday, a tradition that started four years ago with Spencer, but the Empire Suite is the most expensive room and is rarely occupied, so this is either a great honor or an attempt to prevent Scarlett from dealing with guests. The fact that Marlene, the youngest, is sent away before the family discussion foreshadows something negative is going to be discussed which Mr. and Mrs. Martin want to protect Marlene from knowing about.

In Sink, Sank, Sunk, it sounds wonderful to be raised in a small hotel in New York City if you do not actually have to experience it. All of Scarlett's friends have left town for the summer, working on extracurricular activities to improve their college applications. Only Scarlett is left behind, due to a lack of funds. Fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing, Mr. Martin tells his three oldest children that they had to let their cook go because they cannot afford to keep employees. Lola is already taking a year off before college to help out in the hotel, and he asks Scarlett to help over the summer instead of getting a job as she planned. He also reminds Spencer that he needs to make a decision about culinary school as his year to get an acting job is up in a few days, foreshadowing Spencer's frantic haste to find an acting job. As Spencer, Lola, and Scarlett discuss this recent turn of events, Lola leaves when her boyfriend, Chip, arrives. After Lola leaves, Spencer comments that she does not even look happy with Chip. Scarlett is upset she cannot get a summer job so she can have money, and Spencer plans to call everyone he



knows to find an acting job. He makes Scarlett promise that she will never date a bank account, regardless of how broke their family might be. After Spencer leaves for work, Scarlett grabs her key to the Empire Suite. On her fifteenth birthday, she has no job or prospects. All she has is an empty hotel room and people lying that everything will be fine. She needs a plan because something has to give.



Section 2: pages 23-39

Section 2: pages 23-39 Summary

In *The Good Ship Reality Has Docked*, Scarlett tries to make the best of her birthday, wandering through the stores and Central Park before going home trying to write on her computer. Her attempts to write are interrupted by the sounds of Lola's phone call with Chip during her after work bubble bath. After Lola's bath, Lola asks Scarlett to take Marlene to an event in the morning because she has to go somewhere with Chip. Scarlett's objections are cut short when Spencer bounces in to tell them he has an audition to replace the original actor playing Guildenstern in a presentation of "Hamlet" being held in a parking garage way down Broadway. After Lola clarifies her disapproval of Spencer's plan and her belief that he should use more common sense so he will not be poor like their family, she bribes Scarlett by offering to let her wear the black Dior dress that Chip bought her if she takes Marlene to the set of "Good Morning, New York." Scarlett agrees that she "might as well start the summer on a high note" (p. 31).

In *The Good Burn*, Scarlett and Marlene disagree a bit in the morning, and Marlene's battle with cancer is explained, which includes the fact that Lola and Marlene bonded during Marlene's illness while Scarlett and Spencer spent their time together. When Lola tells Marlene that Scarlett is taking her to this morning's event, Marlene objects so Lola bribes her with a makeover. Lola tries to convince Scarlett that Marlene likes her, and though Scarlett does not believe her, she cannot refuse Lola's request. As Scarlett searches for shoes, Mrs. Martin calls and demands she get downstairs immediately, so Scarlett rushes downstairs to the front desk.

Section 2: pages 23-39 Analysis

In *The Good Ship Reality Has Docked*, New York City is not a great place to send your birthday when you're alone with no money and worried that your family is on the verge of a total financial collapse. After exploring the city, she returns home and tries to write but is interrupted by Lola talking to Chip on the phone. Lola asks Scarlett to take Marlene to an event the next day, foreshadowing Scarlett's trip with Marlene, and Spencer's announcement that he has an audition for "Hamlet" foreshadows his role in the play. Though Lola points out that is not what their parents meant, Spencer argues that he needs this show because agents and casting directors will be there. He cannot act while he is in school, and he does not want to work in the hotel his entire life. After he storms out, Lola tells Scarlett that she is not trying to be hard on him; she just wants him to be practical because he needs to use common sense to avoid being poor. She points out that they should be rich, but they barely even own the hotel anymore. Lola obviously thinks Spencer should accept the scholarship, but for now, she focuses on her plans for tomorrow. Lola bribes Scarlett to take Marlene to the set of "Good Morning, New York" by allowing her to wear the black Dior dress that Chip gave her. Scarlett agrees, somewhat reluctantly.



In *The Good Burn*, Scarlett smells burning hair in the morning when she heads to the bathroom, but Marlene locks her out. It is complicated to have a cancer survivor for a little sister. Scarlett and Marlene had fun together until Marlene was diagnosed with cancer when she was seven and spent seven months in and out of the hospital. Lola spent a lot of time with Marlene while Spencer took care of Scarlett; the pairs set and never altered. Marlene is part of the Powerkids, a group of survivors who go on trips together. Lola brings Scarlett coffee, prepares her clothes and fixes her hair before telling Marlene that Scarlett is taking her to the show. Marlene complains and objects, but Lola promises her it will be fun, asking Marlene to let Scarlett take her as a favor and promising to get her a makeover later in the week if she agrees. Lola tries to convince Scarlett that Marlene loves her and wants to be like her, but Scarlett does not believe the obvious lie. Still, it is hard to deny Lola anything because she is always so sincere. As Scarlett looks for shoes since she is nearly ready to leave, Mom calls from the front desk, telling her to drop what she is doing and get downstairs now; Mom's voice tells Scarlett this is not a drill, so Scarlett grabs a pair of flip flops and runs downstairs.



Section 3: pages 40-59

Section 3: pages 40-59 Summary

In *A Guest Arrives*, Scarlett meets Mrs. Amy Amberson, a somewhat eccentric woman, at the front desk, and Mrs. Martin informs Scarlett that Mrs. Amberson will be spending the summer in the Empire Suite. Scarlett rushes upstairs to air the room out with Mrs. Amberson on her heels, and after Scarlett gives her guest her cell phone number to contact her if she needs anything, Mrs. Amberson asks to call her O'Hara, insisting that they will be great friends.

In *The Star*, after Scarlett tells her sisters about her new guest, Chip's car picks them up, but Marlene is upset that he drops her and Scarlett off at the corner of 6th Street because she wanted her friends to see her exit a chauffeur driven car. In the studio, Scarlett is asked to be a volunteer on the show, causing Marlene to look furious. Just before the show's cooking segment goes live, Scarlett's phone rings, and she is forced to explain to Mrs. Amberson why she is in the studio. Mrs. Amberson asks Scarlett to pick up some tea for her and to meet her for lunch at 12:30 in the lobby of the Algonquin Hotel. After agreeing, Scarlett drops her phone as the show goes live. Once the show ends, Marlene refuses to go home because she wants to come to lunch with Mrs. Amberson. Scarlett finds the prospect of them meeting to be entertaining and therefore she agrees.

Section 3: pages 40-59 Analysis

In *A Guest Arrives*, a woman steps forward when Scarlett calls for her mom, so Scarlett offers assistance, causing the woman to complain about her twenty-nine hour flight from Thailand and to comment on the Martins' family picture. Scarlett does not like it when the woman notes that Mr. and Mrs. Martin must not believe in birth control. While the woman questions Scarlett about her siblings, Mom returns and introduces Scarlett to Mrs. Amy Amberson who will be staying in the Empire Suite all summer. Mrs. Amberson has read that the family takes care of the rooms and notes that the Empire Suite came highly recommended. At Mom's instructions, Scarlett heads upstairs to open the windows, but Mrs. Amberson follows her and goes on the balcony to smoke while Scarlett "wakes the room up". Scarlett gives Mrs. Amberson her cell phone number so she can be alerted if her guest needs anything, but as she leaves, Mrs. Amberson asks if she can call her O'Hara, noting that she can feel they will be great friends and she is always right about these things, foreshadowing their relationship.

In *The Star*, Scarlett explains about her guest when she rejoins Marlene and Lola, and since Marlene continues to complain that Lola is not taking her, Lola offers to convince Chip to take Marlene out on his boat after her makeover. Scarlett takes the stairs and meets her sisters out front where Chip is waiting to drive them. In the car, Chip complains that his parents are sending him to a steering wealth class in Boston, and he



insists Lola must go with him, showing his needy nature and his expectation that Lola will cater to him. Scarlett rushes to catch up as Marlene joins the other Powerkids. During the show's filming, Scarlett is asked to be on the show as a volunteer for the cooking segment, causing Marlene to be jealously furious, and when Scarlett's phone rings, Mrs. Amberson asks Scarlett to meet her for lunch, foreshadowing the type of time-consuming guest that Amy Amberson will be. After the show, Scarlett tells Marlene she did not mean to get picked to be on television, but Marlene is still upset that Scarlett did not say no, showing her irrational and spoiled attitude about many things. Marlene refuses to go home when Scarlett meets Mrs. Amberson for lunch, and deciding that they will meet eventually anyway, Scarlett agrees, enjoying the prospect of her spoiled sister meeting her eccentric guest.



Section 4: pages 60-83

Section 4: pages 60-83 Summary

In Lunch Date, Mrs. Amberson is waiting when Scarlett and Marlene arrive in the lobby at the Algonquin Hotel. Mrs. Amberson offers to treat the girls to lunch and so Scarlett orders the cheapest meal and water. Marlene however has no such compunctions. After Marlene wanders to a distant couch to make a phone call, Scarlett asks about Mrs. Amberson's past in New York, and Mrs. Amberson tells her she used to be a Broadway girl. She asks what Scarlett does with her time, and Scarlett says she writes. Mrs. Amberson seems to grow bored, so she gives Scarlett money for the meal and her errands, leaving Scarlett confusedly holding \$500. Scarlett is relieved when Spencer calls to say he needs her, refusing to tell her whether he got the part unless she meets him in the park at 4 P. M.

In The Scene Partner, Scarlett rushes to the park to meet Spencer after taking Marlene back to the hotel. Spencer's hug makes it obvious that he got the part, and he tells her that he needs her help to learn his line. Spencer then introduces her to his scene partner, Eric, an attractive guy who mentions seeing Scarlett on television earlier today. Scarlett also recognizes Eric from a commercial he was in, and he jokes that they are both stars. Eric asks Scarlett to stick around for a few days to help them, and she knows she will remember this first exchange with Eric for a long time. She is amazed by Eric's voice as the boys practice their lines, but when Spencer announces they need to go because it is family night at the Hopewell, Eric assumes they are rich; Scarlett and Spencer quickly correct his mistake, and as he walks with them and tells them that he is from a small town in North Carolina and that he misses his parents, Scarlett invites him to join them.

In One Big, Happy Family, while Spencer and Eric go upstairs to clean up, Scarlett goes to the dining room to warn the family that they have company and is surprised to learn that Mrs. Amberson will also be joining them. When Chip's black Mercedes pulls up, Marlene runs outside to invite Chip to join them also. Everyone eats in silence except Mrs. Amberson who talks incessantly. Eric tells everyone that he and Spencer are in "Hamlet" together, and Spencer's parents look shocked at this new development. After the family's guests leave, Spencer worries about talking to his parents about his acting role.

Section 4: pages 60-83 Analysis

In Lunch Date, Scarlett and Marlene join Mrs. Amberson for lunch. When Scarlett explains about the Powerkids' event, she is strangely satisfied when Mrs. Amberson does not praise Marlene for being a cancer survivor like most people do, validating Scarlett's belief that Marlene will not always be treated specially. Scarlett orders a cheap meal while Marlene orders exactly what she wants without regard to price, indicating the



difference between the sisters. While Marlene talks on her phone, Scarlett questions Mrs. Amberson about the time she spent in New York on Broadway. Mrs. Amberson is dismissive when Scarlett mentions Spencer's theatrical aspirations, but when she questions Scarlett about not being away for the summer and learns Scarlett is not rich, she says it is better to work for what you want. Mrs. Amberson grows bored after learning that Scarlett writes, and she leaves Scarlett with \$500 to pay for the meal and run her errands. Spencer's phone call foreshadows the revelation that he received the part.

In *The Scene Partner*, foreshadowing is fulfilled when Spencer tells his sister that he got the part. As Spencer begins rehearsing, Scarlett tells him about her new guest and their lunch date. Spencer also introduces Scarlett to his scene partner, Eric, and Scarlett's attraction to Eric foreshadows their romantic involvement, as does Eric asking Scarlett to stick around. Eric and Spencer proceed to a showdown of their acting skills, falling, faking punches and doing backflips, but it all comes down to who can walk on their hands the longest so Eric wins. Scarlett and Spencer quickly correct Eric's mistake when he assumes they are rich since they live in a hotel, but as they leave to join their family for family night, Eric mentions that he misses his parents, so Scarlett invites him to join them, another indication of her romantic interest. Spencer looks at her oddly since they normally do not bring people to their family nights, but Eric agrees.

In *One Big, Happy Family*, Scarlett tells her family that Eric is joining them and is surprised to discover that Mrs. Amberson has also been invited to the Martins' family night. Mrs. Amberson notes that all of the Martin children are named after classic films, insisting that their parents knew what they were doing whether they realized it or not. As Chip also joins them, Mrs. Amberson notes that Lola is stunning, and Scarlett assumes that Eric is looking at Lola but is surprised to find that he is smiling at her, foreshadowing the relationship between Scarlett and Eric. Mrs. Martin brags about her children all getting into specialized schools, and Eric notes that his town only had one school but it seems like everyone in New York does something special, looking at Scarlett and again foreshadowing his interest in her. After Mrs. Amberson excuses herself, Scarlett and Spencer walk Eric outside, but Scarlett has no time to revel in Eric's extended handshake because Spencer needs help to think of a way to avoid ruining his life since his parents want to talk about his new role.



Section 5: pages 84-106

Section 5: pages 84-106 Summary

In *The Day of Reckoning*, Scarlett suggests that Spencer should tell his parents that the play is a joint NYU-Julliard production since some of the actors are from the renowned schools. Trying to write while waiting for Spencer, Scarlett is distracted by thoughts of Eric. When Spencer tells Scarlett and Lola that he told his parents that it is an invitation audition for Julliard and they will think about it and let him know tomorrow, Lola disapproves because she thinks Spencer should plan for his future with more certainty; Scarlett insists it is possible, but Lola claims it would take some sort of miracle.

In *The Short Arm of the Law*, Mrs. Amberson and Scarlett walk through the city in the morning with Mrs. Amberson comparing her memories to the modern city. In a grocery store, a security guard finds cans of tuna in Scarlett's purse, but pretending that Scarlett is a delinquent in the rehabilitation process, Mrs. Amberson manages to extract Scarlett from the situation without trouble. Scarlett is furious and leaves Mrs. Amberson, disregarding her guest's cryptic comment that this is going to work out splendidly.

In *Deal of a Lifetime*, Scarlett calms down as she returns to the hotel, but when she finds her parents in the dining room, they tell her that Mrs. Amberson spoke to them this morning about hiring Scarlett to help her write her book. They agreed that Scarlett can take the job since Mrs. Amberson is offering to pay \$500 a week. They have also decided to allow Spencer to act in the play since the culinary school said he can reapply for the scholarship and this is a chance for him to do what he really wants. They feel better about letting Spencer take this chance because of Scarlett's opportunity, and though she knows the summer will be a minefield, Scarlett will at least make money so she agrees. Dad sends Scarlett to the Laundromat, and on her way, she runs into Eric who insists on carrying the heavy bag of linens for her. Scarlett tells Eric about her new job and her crazy new boss, and he notes that she has done more weird things than anyone he knows though he has only known her a few days. He also tells her that he needs a job, and before leaving her at the Laundromat, he makes her promise to tell him stories about her new employment, promising to make a point of seeing her again. Scarlett fully accepts her new job at that moment.

Section 5: pages 84-106 Analysis

In *The Day of Reckoning*, Spencer worries about telling his parents, and he is glad they like Eric because it helps that he is not in a show with a complete freak. Scarlett and Spencer's conversation is interrupted by Chip, Marlene and Lola who tells Spencer that he needs to tend to his guest and then talk to their parents. Thinking that Eric is attending NYU, Scarlett suggests telling their parents that the play is a joint NYU-Julliard production, foreshadowing the Martins' approval. While Lola and Scarlett wait in their room for Spencer, Scarlett's attempts to write are disrupted by thoughts of Eric,



again foreshadowing her interest in Eric. Eventually, Spencer returns and tells his sisters that their parents have agreed to think about it and let him know tomorrow, but he told them it is an invitational audition for Julliard and even mentioned a possible scholarship to NYU, foreshadowing his parents' decision to let him act in "Hamlet". Lola disapproves but tells him to make his own decisions, noting that he should let her make hers as well. After Spencer leaves, Lola notes that she worries about Spencer because he needs to think more rationally, but she also says that Scarlett should worry about herself since she has her own problems. Scarlett suggests things could work out this time as she thinks that something definitely happened between her and Eric, and Lola says it is possible but would take some kind of miracle.

In *The Short Arm of the Law*, Mrs. Amberson invites Scarlett to accompany her in the morning so she can get reacquainted with the city. They walk around as Mrs. Amberson explains that the city was genuinely frightening when she lived here in the 1970s and 1980s. She overheard Scarlett and Spencer talking about Spencer's problem last night, but she insists he is not the only one with a problem. She came to New York to revive her acting career, but as she lived in New York during a very important period, she wonders if she should be writing her story, foreshadowing her decision to do just that. Walking past other places she recalls, Mrs. Amberson leads Scarlett into an exotic grocery store, but as they leave, the security guard finds three cans of tuna fish in Scarlett's purse. Mrs. Amberson quickly jumps into the conversation, claiming she is a counselor for a teen reach program and is working at transitioning Scarlett out of a bad home environment where she had to steal to feed her siblings. She persuades the guard not to arrest Scarlett by paying for the tuna, donating \$100 to the food bank charity the store is sponsoring and agreeing Scarlett will never return to the store. As Mrs. Amberson hails a cab, Scarlett is speechless as her guest raves about her talent. Mrs. Amberson assures Scarlett that she would not have let her get in trouble, but furious, Scarlett orders the cab driver to pull over, exiting as Mrs. Amberson praises how well she did and insists this is going to work out splendidly. Scarlett does not know what she means and does not care, but this foreshadows Mrs. Amberson's decision to hire Scarlett as an assistant.

In *Deal of a Lifetime*, Scarlett learns from her parents that Mrs. Amberson has decided to hire her as an assistant to help write her book, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing regarding Mrs. Amberson's decision to write a book as well as her intention to hire Scarlett. Because of this opportunity, the Martin parents have also decided to allow Spencer to act in the play, making Scarlett's decision to work for Mrs. Amberson more important as it would negatively affect her brother if she declined the offer. As Scarlett runs errands for the hotel, Eric joins her, carrying her heavy bag of laundry, and when she tells him about her morning adventures with Mrs. Amberson, he is entertained and makes her promise to tell him more about her new job, indicating his interest in Scarlett. The fact that Scarlett accepts her new job fully at that moment indicates her reciprocated interest in Eric.



Section 6: pages 107-125

Section 6: pages 107-125 Summary

In Act II, the Empire Suite was the last room completed in J. Allen Raumenberg's 1929 refurbishment, and he manipulated shades of light and dark so the room always seems suspended in the hour of twilight. The room's first inhabitant was a dancer, Clara Hooper, so the room had a strong connection to the theater world from its start.

In *The Inhabitant*, Scarlett checks her email since Mrs. Amberson ponders how to write a life and she is stuck waiting for her employer to form one cohesive thought for the book. At Scarlett's questions, Mrs. Amberson tells her about working as a waitress when she first moved to New York, but she is distracted when Lola arrives with Chip. Mrs. Amberson decides to go to a Turkish bath so she tells Scarlett to take a few hours off and "do something frivolous" (p. 113). In the *Orchid Suite*, Lola tells Scarlett she took off work to help Chip plan his mother's fiftieth birthday party this weekend, and after she leaves, Scarlett turns to her computer. Thoughts consumed with Eric, she watches his commercial thirteen times before deciding to call Spencer since he is likely with Eric, and Spencer asks her to meet him in the park in an hour to help him with something.

In *A Minor Problem*, Spencer tells his sister that rehearsal was cancelled because their rehearsal space was condemned and they cannot afford another space. Scarlett suggests rehearsing in the basement at the Hopewell, but Spencer objects their parents will never allow it, so they devise a scheme to sneak the cast in without their parents' knowledge. Since Scarlett has run of the basement because she tends to Mrs. Amberson's laundry, she offers to stand guard, allowing her to be at the rehearsal to help Spencer and see Eric.

Section 6: pages 107-125 Analysis

Act II discusses the Empire Suite a bit more, including its ties to the theater because of the fact that its first inhabitant was a dancer. This foreshadows the continued importance of the Empire Suite, and by association, Mrs. Amberson, in Scarlett's life.

In *The Inhabitant*, Scarlett is irritated by Mrs. Amberson's lack of progress on her book, so she begins to ask her questions about her time in New York, but Mrs. Amberson's answers are distracted when she notices Lola arrive with Chip. Deciding to go out instead of working, Mrs. Amberson instructs Scarlett to "do something frivolous" (p. 113). Instead, Scarlett goes to her room where she learns Lola took off work to help Chip plan a party for his mother, paralleling the other times in the novel that Lola calls out of work to do things for Chip which foreshadows Lola losing her job. Scarlett's obsession with Eric and watching his commercial continues to foreshadow her romantic interest in her brother's scene partner, so she decides to call Spencer. Spencer was



about to call Scarlett because he needs her help with a problem so he asks her to meet him in the park in an hour.

In *A Minor Problem*, Spencer is devastated that his acting troupe lost their rehearsal space, so Scarlett helps him devise a scheme to use the basement at the Hopewell without their parents' knowledge. Scarlett is excited that Eric is coming, but she talks to Spencer about padding the basement door to prevent sound. She manages to find a way for her to attend the rehearsals in order to stand guard but using the excuse that she needs the washer and dryer to do Mrs. Amberson's laundry. When Mrs. Amberson returns as Scarlett collects her clothes, she chides Scarlett for doing laundry on her day off and offers to take her out for fun, but Scarlett insists she has to visit a friend who came home early from vacation because she was stung by bees. Mrs. Amberson's concern with Scarlett being so serious foreshadows her overbearing interest in Scarlett and her discovery of the basement rehearsals.



Section 7: pages 126-148

Section 7: pages 126-148 Summary

In *The Risks of Being Lucky*, Scarlett and Spencer manage to sneak the cast into the basement for two nights without their parents noticing, but on the third night, their mother asks to speak to Spencer and Scarlett during Spencer and Eric's major scene. Everyone is shocked when Mrs. Amberson announces it is wonderful and starts discussing the play with Trevor, the director. She tells Mrs. Martin that they were just rehearsing in the basement tonight because there was an issue with their rehearsal space, and she tells the cast to break while she talks to Mrs. Martin, Scarlett and Spencer.

In *A Spy in the House of Denmark*, Mrs. Amberson tells Scarlett's mother that she has become involved with the play, having jumped at the opportunity to become the company's new artistic director and main financial backer when she learned they were having financial troubles. Outside, Mrs. Amberson tells Scarlett that she saw the actors coming and going from her balcony the past two nights and snuck downstairs to observe; she really plans to financially back the show since she is stagnant with her book and originally came to New York to reconnect to her theatrical roots. She will find them a space to rehearse and really develop the show. Downstairs, the cast looks haunted but hopeful, and Mrs. Amberson offers them financial backing if she is brought on as the co-director. The cast immediately agrees, filtering out until only Mrs. Amberson, Scarlett, Spencer and Eric are left. When Mrs. Amberson sends Scarlett out to buy tea, Eric follows Scarlett and walks her to and from the deli since he does not like girls to walk alone in the city at night. He leaves as Scarlett nears her front door, but he is still watching as she enters the hotel, and Scarlett notes that this is very good.

In *The Guru*, fervent knocking at 5 A.M. reveals Mrs. Amberson who needs Scarlett in forty minutes. When Scarlett reaches the Empire Suite forty minutes later, Mrs. Amberson announces that they are going to visit Billy Whitehouse who she has known since he was a poor, young actor. After her coaching session, Mrs. Amberson tells Billy that she has acquired a show and needs him immediately, so he agrees to do it tonight and tomorrow, telling her to bring her new company to his studio at 7 P. M.

Section 7: pages 126-148 Analysis

In *The Risks of Being Lucky*, Scarlett and Spencer meet the cast and crew in Central Park at 6:30, and everything goes well with the cast sneaking out around 11 that night. Spencer jokes that he feels cheated because he would have thrown parties in high school if he had realized that the basement was so ignored. He also complains that Stephanie, the actress playing Ophelia, is annoyingly professional since she will not date anyone in the cast, but he notes that it will not matter when they get caught tomorrow. They escape their parents' notice on the second night also, but on the third



night, while Scarlett watches Eric and Spencer's major scene, her mother comments on the acting and calls Spencer and Scarlett to the stairs to talk. Surprisingly, Mrs. Amberson interjects, acting as though this is her idea as she tells Mrs. Martin there was a problem with the rehearsal space. This foreshadows Mrs. Amberson's involvement in Spencer's play.

In *A Spy in the House of Denmark*, the foreshadowing concerning Mrs. Amberson's involvement with Spencer's play is quickly fulfilled as she tells Mrs. Martin that she has decided to financially back the play in exchange for becoming their artistic director. In response to Mom's concern about Spencer's career choice, Mrs. Amberson praises his talents until Mrs. Martin agrees that it sounds like quite an opportunity. After Mrs. Martin leaves, Mrs. Amberson tells Scarlett that she saw the cast sneaking in and out of the hotel, so she has decided to help with the show in exchange for being brought on as the co-director, an offer the cast readily agrees to when she suggests it, again foreshadowing her involvement with the play. Scarlett's interaction with Eric near the end of the chapter continues to foreshadow their imminent romantic relationship.

In *The Guru*, Mrs. Amberson drags Scarlett with her the next morning to visit Billy Whitehouse, a famous acting coach. At Billy's studio, Scarlett is amused that Mrs. Amberson looks guilty when Billy chides her for smoking, and she enjoys watching him order her boss around as he unblocks her inner voice. Once Mrs. Amberson's session ends, she tells Billy about the show, and he agrees to help coach the actors, foreshadowing the cast's classes with Billy Whitehouse.



Section 8: pages 149-163

Section 8: pages 149-163 Summary

In *The Other Famous Whitehouse*, Scarlett is released to contact the actors about their meeting, but her plans to sleep are disrupted when her father asks her to clean the Sterling Suite and tells her Lola is sick in bed. In their room, Lola confesses that she got fired because of missing so much work, but she plans to go to Boston with Chip this weekend since she has no job, and she asks Scarlett to take Marlene to the Powerkids dinner at the Hard Rock Café on Saturday night since she is not telling her parents the real reason she is going to Boston. Scarlett goes to Spencer's room since Lola's conversation with Chip on the phone prevents sleep, and when she tells him they are going to see Billy Whitehouse tonight, he is ecstatic to meet the famous acting instructor. That evening, Billy opens the door for Mrs. Amberson and the actors who all look dazed to learn from such an acclaimed artist. While most of the actors crowd around Billy after the session, Eric leaves immediately, leaving Scarlett to wonder why.

In *The Exciting Lives of New Yorkers, Revealed*, Billy leads the cast through their paces for two days, and during their last session on Saturday, Scarlett steps into the hall to use her phone and returns to find Mrs. Amberson huddled with Billy and obviously upset when he tells her Donna Spender is coming in later. She orders Scarlett to cancel her plans with Trevor and Eric to visit potential rehearsal sites, and when Scarlett tells Eric, he asks what she is doing. She invites him to accompany her and Marlene to the Hard Rock Cafe and is amazed when he agrees. When he asks why her family is not rich, Scarlett speaks the truth never spoken among the Martins; things were okay until Marlene got sick. Then, Mrs. Amberson calls and demands to see Scarlett within the hour, so Eric offers to take Marlene home, hailing a cab for Scarlett who quickly speeds across 44th Street, away from Eric.

Section 8: pages 149-163 Analysis

In *The Other Famous Whitehouse*, Scarlett learns that Lola has been fired for missing so much work, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. Since Lola has decided to go to Boston with Chip this weekend, she asks Scarlett to take Marlene to a Powerkids dinner at the Hard Rock Café on Saturday evening, foreshadowing Scarlett's trip to the Hard Rock Café. Spencer is amazed and excited when he learns he is going to study under Billy Whitehouse, and at Billy's studio, many of the other cast members are also excited to be around the famous actor. Billy instructs Mrs. Amberson and Scarlett to join the cast as he blindfolds them all and has them speak their lines, working with the energy of the room. Even Scarlett feels the energy and is reluctant to remove her blindfold once it ends. When Eric leaves immediately following the session, Scarlett is confused, but this foreshadows Eric's secretive nature.



In *The Exciting Lives of New Yorkers, Revealed*, Mrs. Amberson's irritation at the mention of Donna Spendler foreshadows the prank she plays on the other actress, and since Eric's plans with Mrs. Amberson are cancelled, he asks what Scarlett is doing, indicating his romantic interest in Scarlett yet again. Scarlett invites Eric to accompany her and Marlene to the Hard Rock Café, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing regarding her trip to this restaurant on Saturday evening. On the way, Eric wishes his life was as exciting as Scarlett's, and she worries he will realize everyone in New York leads a more exciting life than she does. Eric wonders why the Martins are not rich, and Scarlett confesses that their financial difficulties resulted from Marlene's illness. Scarlett always feels bad that she did not feel worse about her sister's illness, but Eric insists that she is fearless and ready to tackle any problem put in front of her. She is amazed that he looks at her with interest which again demonstrates his romantic interest in Scarlett. Mrs. Amberson's phone call ends Scarlett's time with Eric and foreshadows some sort of emergency, or at least that is what Scarlett expects as she leaves Marlene in Eric's care and rushes to check on her guest.



Section 9: pages 164-189

Section 9: pages 164-189 Summary

In *The Play's the Thing to Catch the King*, Mrs. Amberson tells Scarlett that Donna Spendler is a selfish person who does not care how her ambitions affect other people, so she plans to convince Donna to audition for a fake TV show, causing her to blow her audition for a big role on Broadway. With a veiled threat against Spencer's career, Mrs. Amberson convinces Scarlett to assist her, promising the prank will not ruin Donna's career. She asks Scarlett to send Spencer to her because she will need a small crew to pull off the fake audition.

In *Performance*, Mrs. Amberson gives Eric, Spencer and Scarlett directions for how they will play the role of the television crew, and though Scarlett is ready to leave when she learns she will be reading a role for the fake audition, Donna's arrival prevents her from leaving.

In *The Heart of the Empire*, Donna Spendler announces that she was pleased to receive the call, but as she reads through her part, it is obvious that Scarlett is not an actress, so Eric explains she is the coproducer's daughter and is helping out. They film the scene repeatedly with Eric occasionally calling Hollywood for instructions, Hollywood being Mrs. Amberson who tells them to continue delaying Donna. Eventually, they have Donna and Spencer square off in an improvisation scene that causes Scarlett to fight laughter. Eric offers his hand for her to squeeze, releasing it reluctantly at the end of the scene.

In *The New Space*, Mrs. Amberson gets a lead on a space for rehearsal, a former church in East Village. She also has Scarlett call Donna to announce the studio is sending a stylist to give her a buzz cut. When Eric arrives to help Scarlett organize the church for rehearsal, they flirt, and he kisses her, admitting he has wanted to do so since they first met but also suggesting they should not tell Spencer.

Section 9: pages 164-189 Analysis

In *The Play's the Thing to Catch the King*, Scarlett is surprised to find Mrs. Amberson sitting in bed surrounded by pens and papers, but her boss is not dying as she was led to believe. Mrs. Amberson tells her about her cigarette case which someone bought to congratulate her on getting a part without knowing that she had wanted it for some time. Making Scarlett promise to keep her secret, Mrs. Amberson explains that Donna Spendler is the type who will do anything to get ahead, regardless of the cost to other people, and since Donna is auditioning for a big Broadway role tomorrow, Mrs. Amberson wants Scarlett to help her sell Donna on an audition for a fake television show. This fulfills the earlier foreshadowing regarding Mrs. Amberson's animosity toward Donna Spendler. When Scarlett hesitates, Mrs. Amberson asks how she would feel if



someone actively ruined Spencer's career, her question containing the veiled warning that Mrs. Amberson is currently in control of Spencer's play. This indicates the type of person Mrs. Amberson actually is. She promises the prank will not ruin Donna's career, but she will need a small crew to pull off the fake audition, so she asks Scarlett to send Spencer to her. This foreshadows the prank against Donna.

In Performance, Scarlett stays up all night improving the manuscript, and in the morning, Mrs. Amberson tells her that she is not telling Eric and Spencer the exact details of her plan, but they know it is a setup; they just think it is for a reality show she is working on, and this foreshadows complications with Eric and Spencer. At the studio, Mrs. Amberson instructs her pretend crew to keep Donna going for as long as possible because she wants to give people an idea of what actors go through to get a part. Eric is playing the casting director, Spencer is his assistant, and Scarlett will read the role of the young victim. When Scarlett objects that she is not an actor, Mrs. Amberson assures her she is a natural before leaving. As Scarlett is ready to back out, a buzz at the door announces that is it show time.

In The Heart of the Empire, the fake audition goes according to plan with Donna being stalled too late to audition for her Broadway role. During the improvisation scene that nearly causes Scarlett to laugh, Eric holds her hand to calm her, but his continued contact indicates his romantic interest in Scarlett yet again. After they finally let Donna leave, Spencer, Eric and Mrs. Amberson praise Scarlett for doing such a good job, but she feels guilty as she recalls that she helped ruin Donna's chance at a Broadway role.

In The New Space, Mrs. Amberson finds a space for the cast of "Hamlet" to rehearse, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing regarding her in depth involvement with the play. She also continues to demonstrate her animosity toward Donna Spender when she has Scarlett call and tell her a stylist is coming to cut her hair for the TV role. When she leaves Scarlett to move stuff in the church while she meets someone about costumes, Eric arrives to help. Eric praises Spencer's talents at acting, but Scarlett insists Eric is amazing. Eric kisses her, breaking contact only when Mrs. Amberson phones Scarlett to announce she is on her way back. Eric admits he has wanted to kiss Scarlett since they first met but suggests they should not tell Spencer. This chapter fulfills the earlier foreshadowing regarding Scarlett and Eric's romantic interest in one another, but Eric's request that they keep their relationship a secret foreshadows his own secret which is the reason for his hesitance in revealing his feelings for Scarlett. Deciding they have time before Mrs. Amberson returns, he kisses Scarlett again.



Section 10: pages 190-212

Section 10: pages 190-212 Summary

In *Cracks*, Scarlett cannot stop thinking about the kiss on the train home, but when Spencer questions her, she insists she is just having female troubles because the look on his face tells her he will not like it if she tells him about Eric. Spencer's curiosity is distracted when they see Chip's car in front of the hotel, and when Lola gets out and asks Spencer to nicely tell Chip to leave, Spencer actually feels bad for Chip since Lola actually dumped him.

In *Lola Sees A Dinosaur*, Lola tells Scarlett that they were at a benefit and a rich girl commented on the fact that Lola always wears the same dress, causing Lola to walk out with the horrible image of being around those type of people for the rest of her life. Chip offered to buy her a new dress, but he does not understand the idea of not having money. Spencer enters and promises to be nice to Lola who leaves to tell Marlene and her parents about the breakup and losing her job.

In *Celebration*, Mrs. Amberson announces that they are going to have a party tonight to celebrate their hard work, and while she and Scarlett decorate, she tells Scarlett stories about her life. Scarlett enjoys hanging out with the cast, but she is ecstatic when Eric asks to meet her outside. Eric shows Scarlett his nearby apartment, and after making sure Scarlett did not mind when he kissed her, Eric kisses her again until Spencer knocks on the door looking for his sister. Scarlett is shocked that it is already 1:30 in the morning which means she has been with Eric for over two hours. Since Spencer seemed unhappy, she goes downstairs alone.

In *The Impossible Break*, Spencer is upset that Scarlett did not answer her phone, and though he covered for her with their parents, he is furious that she did not tell him about Eric. He was scared also because no one knew where she was. He ignores Scarlett's apologies, furious that she lied to him, and when Spencer says Eric will not have time for her once he starts college, she is stunned by his harshness. Spencer objects that Scarlett is messing with his show, but she insists it is not about Spencer. Spencer tells her to forget it and locks his bedroom door, leaving his sister alone in the hallway.

Section 10: pages 190-212 Analysis

In *Cracks*, Spencer questions Scarlett on the way home because she is acting oddly, and she lies to him because she can tell he would not like her relationship with Eric. She feels horrible because she never lies to Spencer, but just as she decides to tell him, Eric texts her about how happy she has made him. Luckily for Scarlett, Spencer is distracted when they arrive home and learn that Lola has broken up with Chip. From the balcony, Mrs. Amberson notes that Scarlett had an interesting night and expresses her belief that they are going to get more interesting, foreshadowing the truth of this prediction.



In *Lola Sees A Dinosaur*, Lola tells Scarlett about her breakup, explaining that though she has always wanted to be around rich people, she no longer does because they cannot understand her life. This includes Chip. Spencer promises to be nice to Lola because she is upset about losing her job and breaking up with Chip, but he comments that Lola seems too calm about the breakup, almost as if she is relieved. Marlene is distraught at the news, so Spencer leaves because he has had enough drama for one night. Regardless of her siblings' drama, Scarlett feels more content than ever before as she reads Eric's text again.

In *Celebration*, Mrs. Amberson throws a party for the cast, indicating the fact that she is fully capable of being generous, though this idea is sometimes at odds with her actions, especially in regards to Donna Spendler. This contrast in behavior also foreshadows the fact that there is a very traumatic reason behind Amy Amberson's animosity towards Donna. During the party, Eric and Scarlett's romantic relationship progresses as he takes her to his apartment. He leads her to his apartment, assuring her that he will understand if she is uncomfortable going inside, and inside, he shows Scarlett his box set of *"Gone With The Wind"*, telling her it is a family tradition and he felt Scarlett's name was a sign when they first met. Eric kisses Scarlett again, fulfilling the foreshadowing regarding their relationship; however, when Spencer finds Scarlett at Eric's, his disapproval indicates that Eric was right to hide his relationship with Scarlett, yet it also indicates that there is a reason behind Spencer's disapproval as he does not seem to be overbearingly protective.

In *The Impossible Break*, Spencer's disapproval becomes more apparent as he discusses the situation with Scarlett. He is furious that she lied to him, but Scarlett does not tell him that the lie was Eric's idea. Scarlett is hurt and stunned by the mean things that Spencer says to her concerning Eric, but Spencer insists she is threatening his show, indicating that he would have a problem with Eric if things went badly; even in his anger with Scarlett, Spencer makes it apparent that he would take her side over his scene partner's. The chapter ends with Spencer locking Scarlett out of his room for the first time, indicating exactly how angry he is.



Section 11: pages 213-246

Section 11: pages 213-246 Summary

In Act III, like all hotels in New York, the Hopewell has reported sights of Antoinette Hemmings' ghost, a girl who lost a role because of an illness and took pills, leaving a note for her roommate to call the paper because she was determined to be noticed. Unfortunately, she died because her roommate returned late.

In *Punch in a Velvet Glove*, Scarlett is miserable at the rehearsals since Spencer is not speaking to her, so by Friday morning, she invites him out to eat but he walks away. Later, when Scarlett jabs herself with a needle during rehearsal, Spencer agrees to go to dinner, but Scarlett cancels on her brother when Eric invites her out after rehearsal.

In *That Is The Question*, Eric and Scarlett hold hands as they go to the top of the Empire State Building, and Scarlett feels weak in the knees when he kisses her. On the way down, she asks if they are dating, but Eric jokes that they have not had an official date yet. Feeling awkward, Scarlett makes an excuse to leave. After rehearsal the next day, Scarlett asks Spencer to dinner, but he has plans to go to a cast bonding party. She asks why he is so upset since Eric is his friend, but he insists they just work together and is even more angry when he learns Eric is the one who wanted to keep the secret. As Eric leaves, he tells Scarlett that he is going to the cast party, insincerely offering to call her later. Scarlett goes home, in the opposite direction of the cast.

In *The Loneliest Girl in New York*, Scarlett and Marlene have an argument at home during which Scarlett tells Marlene that people are not always going to care that she was once sick. When Lola comes home, she demands that Scarlett fix things with Spencer, locking her out of their room until she talks to their brother. Instead, Scarlett visits Mrs. Amberson and confides about her problems with Spencer and Eric. Mrs. Amberson comes up with a plan to intrigue Eric with Scarlett's independence while simultaneously making Spencer feel appreciated and guilty so that he will forgive his sister. After all that, Mrs. Amberson will place Scarlett on the stage during Spencer and Eric's big scene so she will be directly in front of both of them; Mrs. Amberson promises that this will fix both of Scarlett's problems.

Section 11: pages 213-246 Analysis

Act III begins with an anecdote about an actress who died in the Hopewell in an accidental suicide; she had planned to be found but died because her roommate was late. This foreshadows the direction this portion of the novel will take.

In *Punch in a Velvet Glove*, Mrs. Amberson is busy with public relations work so she sends Scarlett to watch the rehearsals in her place, but Scarlett is miserable because Spencer will not speak to her though Eric covertly kisses her when the opportunity arises. By Friday, Scarlett can take no more so she accosts Spencer and invites him out



to eat, but he walks away. Lola confronts Scarlett to tell her to fix whatever is wrong with Spencer because the silence between them is creepy. That afternoon, Scarlett is startled by a scene while sewing and jabs her thumb, so Spencer helps her clean it and agrees to go to dinner; however, when rehearsal ends, Eric asks Scarlett to hang out, and she agrees because Spencer will forgive her eventually but she may never have another chance with Eric. Spencer is upset when Scarlett cancels, treating her coolly and telling her he will not search the city for her again. Spencer's agreement to reconcile with his sister is negated by her obvious disregard of his feelings in favor of spending time with Eric.

In *That Is the Question*, Eric and Scarlett's romance progresses as they visit the Empire State Building, but Eric's reaction to Scarlett's questions about their relationship status foreshadows the discovery that Eric is hiding something. The next day, Mrs. Amberson sends Scarlett to be her eyes at the dress rehearsal, so Scarlett takes notes, excluding Eric and Spencer's mistakes. Spencer's rejection of Scarlett's peace offering indicates he is still angry, but the fact that his anger increases when he learns that Eric was the one who suggested keeping the secret foreshadows the revelation of Eric's secret and the fact that Spencer at least suspects what is going on. When Scarlett asks why Spencer cannot just let her be happy, Spencer argues that she does not seem happy. Scarlett then turns to Eric for plans, but he is also going to the cast party and his insincere offer to call her later continues to foreshadow the discovery of his secret.

In *The Loneliest Girl in New York*, Scarlett works on addressing hotel brochures while watching television, finding the show soothing until Marlene stomps into the room and changes the channel. Scarlett tells her sister she needs to act normal or people will think she is evil because people are not always going to care that she used to be sick. Mom yells at Scarlett, but Scarlett insists it is true. When Lola comes home, she asks about Scarlett's argument with Marlene and tells Scarlett to fix things with Spencer because she cannot fight with all three of her siblings at once. Scarlett goes to Spencer's room but is still angry, and since Lola locks her out of their room, she visits Mrs. Amberson who takes her out to eat. When Mrs. Amberson asks what is wrong, Scarlett confides about Eric and Spencer. Mrs. Amberson notes Spencer is worried about having an issue with Eric if he hurts Scarlett and is jealous because he has to share his sister's attention. She also thinks Eric is reluctant to be in a relationship because actors must seem available. Still, she has a plan to fix Scarlett's problems. She will send Scarlett to Eric with a book before rehearsal, and though he will invite her inside, Scarlett will go to the coffeehouse to write. He will join her and be intrigued by her independence. Meanwhile, Mrs. Amberson will take Spencer to the theater early and subtly tell him how sad Scarlett seems except when watching him perform so he will feel appreciated and guilty. She will also put Scarlett on the stage during Spencer and Eric's scene so she is at the forefront of the action. This plan foreshadows the events of the next chapter. Given Scarlett's apparent bad luck, the plan also foreshadows the fact that it will go disastrously wrong. It seems that Mrs. Amberson is aware of lots of truths in everyday reality which means Scarlett never knows what is going on; it is a scary thought, but it explains a lot.



Section 12: pages 247-268

Section 12: pages 247-268 Summary

In *A Plan Unfurls*, Scarlett follows Mrs. Amberson's instructions exactly the next day, but Eric does not invite her inside, foreshadowing something is wrong. She tells him she will be writing at the coffee shop, so he offers to stop by on his way to rehearsal, but he does not leave his apartment until twenty minutes before rehearsal, and as he waits on his stoop, a girl joins him, seeming annoyed as she rants at Eric before storming off. The appearance of this other girl foreshadows the discovery that Eric has a girlfriend. Clueless as to what happened, Scarlett joins Eric who announces they need to figure out an answer to Scarlett's question. He tells her that he cannot be a boyfriend right now so maybe they should not go on like this, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing that Mrs. Amberson's plan would go horribly wrong. Knowing that he means it, Scarlett leaves him and enters the church, trying to breathe. Onstage during the fight scene, she tries not to panic because Spencer can tell something is wrong, and after an unusual look crosses Spencer's face, he punches Eric in the face instead of using the fake punch they have rehearsed, showing his dedication to his sister. As Eric stumbles, Scarlett decides it is time to go, immediately.

While Spencer holds his crying sister in *Miss Calculations*, Mrs. Amberson joins them, and sending Spencer inside, she announces she will come up with another plan; however, she gives Scarlett the afternoon off since Scarlett asks her to stop helping. At home, Lola gives Scarlett a message which Scarlett discards on her dresser. Spencer returns home some time later and tries to comfort his sister. He suspected that Eric was seeing someone but did not mention it because he was not certain. As Spencer rubs his sister's hair, he knocks the message Lola gave her off the dresser, just out of sight.

In *The Importance of Towels*, Lola wakes Scarlett in the morning to suggest the Hopewell should invest in nice towels, but Scarlett is not up to faking enthusiasm because she is still upset that Eric dumped her. Feeling guilty, she offers to watch the front desk, crying as she watches Eric's commercial repeatedly. Just as she decides to leave for coffee, Donna Spendler walks up and asks to join her. She left a message for Scarlett yesterday because she realized something was off with the audition, and when she investigated, she found out that the show did not exist. Donna was able to find Eric, Spencer and Scarlett online, and since she knows they did not set her up, she tells Scarlett to have the mastermind behind the fake audition contact her, threatening that it is easy to get a bad reputation in both the theater and hotel businesses.

Section 12: pages 247-268 Analysis

In *A Plan Unfurls*, Eric does not invite Scarlett into his apartment the next day, and he does not appear on his stoop until right before rehearsal when Scarlett sees him arguing with another girl. When Scarlett joins him, he tells her that they should not



continue like this since he is not ready to be a boyfriend right now. Scarlett rushes into rehearsal, but while she is on the stage, Spencer can tell something is wrong, so he punches Eric in the face during what is supposed to be a fake punch. Scarlett rushes out of the church.

In Miss Calculations, Spencer joins Scarlett as she sits alone on the playground, reminding her of the time he set himself on fire and suggesting she pretends not to notice how stupid he is. Scarlett wants to argue that she is the one who is stupid. Spencer holds his sister while she cries, unable to hold it back anymore. He will have to answer for punching his scene partner. Despite Spencer's earlier anger at Scarlett, he is still quick to take her side, demonstrating his unfailing devotion to his younger sister. Joining them, Mrs. Amberson sends Spencer inside before noting that her plan did not work out as anticipated, but she will come up with another plan. Scarlett asks Mrs. Amberson to stop helping her, so Mrs. Amberson gives her the afternoon off. At the front desk, Lola gives Scarlett a message, but Scarlett leaves the note on her dresser and lays down until Spencer comes home a couple hours later with her favorite food. When she asks why he punched Eric, Spencer says that he had never seen that look on Scarlett's face before, and his mind took it literally when they told him to hit Eric. Scarlett asks if Spencer knew Eric was seeing someone else, and Spencer confesses that he suspected as much because Eric avoided questions about whether he was seeing anyone; plus, it all fell into place when he found out that Eric was the one who did not want to tell Spencer about him and Scarlett. Spencer did not tell Scarlett, though, because he was not sure. Again, Spencer demonstrates his devotion to Scarlett. Since Scarlett just wants to sleep, Spencer rubs her hair, and she does not hear when his arms hit the note, sending it fluttering under the edge of her bureau where it can hardly be seen. The mention of this note foreshadows its importance for the remainder of the novel which is revealed in the next chapter.

In The Importance of Towels, Scarlett feels bad for her lack of excitement at Lola's suggestion that the Hopewell needs better towels, so she offers to watch the front desk. She feels worse as she dwells on Eric, demonstrating how hurt she is by his betrayal, but her injury worsens when Donna Spendler approaches her. Donna mentions the message she left yesterday, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing concerning how important that message was. Donna recognized Eric from his commercial, and when she searched him online, she found Spencer and Scarlett also. She wants to know why they set her up, but Scarlett claims she does not know anything. She leaves her number for whoever did it to contact her, promising that she is angry though she is not screaming and threatening that it is easy to get a bad reputation in the theater and hotel businesses before leaving. Scarlett knows this is not good; the show, her hotel and Spencer are all under Donna's threat, and they do not know it. This scene foreshadows the threat that Donna poses to "Hamlet" and its cast as well as the Hopewell. Scarlett's concern for her family indicates her loyalty and foreshadows her determination to make everything right.



Section 13: pages 269-286

Section 13: pages 269-286 Summary

In *A Cozy Dinner*, Mrs. Amberson is indifferent when Scarlett tells her about Donna's visit, insisting Donna does not have the nerve to cause trouble and refusing to talk to Donna because she needs to focus on the play. When Chip arrives with flowers, Scarlett invites him inside, but he sadly refuses. Seeing the flowers a few minutes later, Lola asks what Spencer did to Chip, and Spencer does not understand why she does not want Chip to stay away. During dinner, Mrs. Amberson drinks a frightening amount of whiskey while talking to Mr. and Mrs. Martin about the play. She mentions an amazing actor she once knew who is now very successful in Hollywood before excusing herself. Scarlett tells Spencer that she is going with him tomorrow because she feels something much bigger is going on now.

In *Something Is Rotten In Denmark*, while the cast prepares the parking garage for the show, Mrs. Amberson sends Scarlett to get pizza, and Eric follows her. He explains that Sarah, the girl outside his apartment, was his girlfriend from home who he had just broken up with because he was not ready to be with her forever. He was waiting to do it in person, but he made a move on Scarlett because he was afraid she would meet someone else. Sarah surprised him by visiting, but their talk did not go well. Eric was trying to do the right thing but ended up hurting two girls, and he is not sure about dating Scarlett because he will be busy once school starts and is afraid to hurt her. A woman brushes past them, demanding to speak to whoever is in charge, and recognizing the voice, Scarlett turns just in time to catch a glimpse of short, silver hair.

In *Combustion*, Scarlett runs after Donna who stops short when she sees Mrs. Amberson. After Mrs. Amberson refuses to get coffee but offers to call Donna sarcastically, Donna tells her the show will be shut down within a few hours because the performance violates several city zoning ordinances. Mrs. Amberson asks Donna to settle things with her privately, but Donna insists it is out of her hands. Though Mrs. Amberson suggests it is time to get creative, the cast looks disappointed and Trevor says they do not have time to advertise for another space, leaving Mrs. Amberson looking cornered. Scarlett follows her outside, and Mrs. Amberson admits it is possible she did not think this through. Since this is all her fault, she decides it is best for her to leave since she has done enough damage, and Scarlett watches in disbelief as Mrs. Amberson walks away.

Section 13: pages 269-286 Analysis

In *A Cozy Dinner*, Mrs. Amberson's indifference indicates her desire to avoid a confrontation with Donna, but her refusal to talk to Donna also foreshadows an escalation of Donna's plans. The fact that Chip brings flowers to Lola indicates that he wants to reconcile, and Lola's reciprocated desire is hinted at by her fear that Spencer



was not nice to Chip. Mrs. Amberson's excessive drinking at dinner indicates that she has begun to consider Donna's threats, foreshadowing Donna's interference with the play, and her conversation about the actor she once knew foreshadows the discovery of his involvement in the animosity between Mrs. Amberson and Donna. Scarlett's decision to go to Spencer's rehearsal the next day, despite her problems with Eric, foreshadows a major event and indicates her concern for her brother.

In *Something Is Rotten In Denmark*, Eric follows Scarlett outside during rehearsal when she is sent to get pizza. He explains about the girl she saw outside his apartment and that he broke up with her, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing. Still, he is not sure he should date Scarlett because he worries he will hurt her when he goes to school in the fall. Their discussion is interrupted by the arrival of a woman asking to speak to the person in charge, and Scarlett's glimpse of short, silver hair foreshadows that this person is Donna Spendler.

In *Combustion*, the foreshadowing from the previous chapter is quickly fulfilled when Scarlett identifies Donna. Donna's announcement that the show is about to be shut down fulfills the earlier foreshadowing that her anger would affect the show, but she tells Mrs. Amberson that it is out of her hands when Mrs. Amberson begs her to talk privately. Mrs. Amberson demonstrates her characteristic positivity at first, deciding they will now get creative, but without anyone in the cast agreeing, she seems cornered. Outside, she confesses this is all her fault and decides she has done enough damage. Scarlett is astonished as Mrs. Amberson announces that she is walking away from all of it. This foreshadows the show's continued problems as well as Scarlett's decision to fix everything.



Section 14: pages 287-315

Section 14: pages 287-315 Summary

In Act IV, Honey and Jinx produced gin in the Hopewell Hotel during Prohibition, rigging the Diamond Suite with a laundry chute that contained a system of pulleys to the basement.

In *Desperate Times*, Scarlett cannot believe it when Mrs. Amberson moves to the St. Regis, but Spencer says it is because "all of our stuff falls apart when you touch it" (p. 289). He suspects Mrs. Amberson and Donna knew each other, but Scarlett is spared from answering when Lola enters and announces they are completely empty for the first time. Scarlett grabs her bag and phone, promising to return. At the St. Regis, she finds Mrs. Amberson in the middle of having her chakras adjusted, and when she asks why Mrs. Amberson left, Mrs. Amberson says she has caused enough problems and there is nowhere for the show to move in only a day. Scarlett insists they will do the show, but the only way to do that is to get to the bottom of Mrs. Amberson and Donna's problem. Mrs. Amberson argues that it is not that simple, but as a knock sounds at the door, Scarlett tells her "it kind of is" (p. 295).

In *The Final Battle*, Mrs. Amberson stares at Donna in horror as Donna asks why she sabotaged her after so many years have passed without hearing from Amy Amberson. When Scarlett insists on hearing their story, Amy explains that she met Donna and Rick, her beloved, at an audition, and they all moved in together. When they auditioned for a television show, Donna and Rick were called out to Hollywood, but Amy stayed behind, and eventually, Rick left her for Donna; however, more importantly, Amy found out three years later that she received a call for the audition which she declined, and since Donna was the only other woman living in the apartment, she assumes Donna sabotaged her. Donna explains that she came home one day to find Rick in the apartment with another girl, and that he later told her he knew Amy would have beaten him out for his role if she had gotten the audition; Rick took Amy's spot, not Donna. The show never aired, but Rick received other jobs and became a star. The women are furious at Rick. Donna also tells Amy that she just wanted to find out who had sabotaged her and did not mean to get the show shut down; she accidentally tipped off the wrong people. Scarlett announces that they need to take care of the show now. She knows where they can have it, but Donna and Amy must help her with the "how."

In *Family Bonding*, Scarlett invites Marlene to a secret sibling conference because such a bold plan requires rewriting the rules. She needs Marlene to help her have Spencer's show in the hotel without their parents' knowledge. She has nothing to offer Marlene, but she is asking her for help because they need her. Back in her room, Scarlett tells Spencer they can have the show in the dining room, and when he argues their parents will never allow it, she insists they will not tell them. Marlene enters, and Scarlett explains that she needs Lola and Marlene to take their parents out for the day on Chip's boat. Lola objects to using Chip, claiming half the reason she broke up with him was



because Spencer and Scarlett hated him so much. Spencer apologizes, claiming he did not think Lola paid attention to him, and she says of course she does since he is her older brother. Lola agrees to ask Chip for help which leaves the job of convincing their parents to go out up to Marlene. After Lola calls Chip who agrees, Lola and Marlene go downstairs to talk to their parents.

Section 14: pages 287-315 Analysis

Act IV begins with an anecdote about the Hopewell being used to produce gin during Prohibition, foreshadowing the importance of versatility in the hotel industry which plays a large role in the culmination of the novel.

In *Desperate Times*, Scarlett feels betrayed by Mrs. Amberson's abandonment, and when Lola tells her that the Hopewell is now completely empty, Scarlett immediately concocts a plan to save her family which is foreshadowed by the fact that she promises to return to her brother and sister before rushing from her room. Showing a change from the timid girl in the beginning of the novel, Scarlett confronts Mrs. Amberson about abandoning the show and about her issue with Donna. The knock at the door and Scarlett telling Mrs. Amberson that it is as simple as getting to the bottom of her problem with Donna foreshadows Donna's imminent arrival.

The foreshadowing concerning Donna's arrival is immediately fulfilled as *The Final Battle* begins with Donna entering Mrs. Amberson's hotel room. Scarlett notes that other people are getting run over, so they need to settle their issue, asking why they sabotage one another. The women tell Scarlett how they met at an audition and became friends. Amy met Rick at the same audition, and the three rented an apartment together and were happy. Then, another audition came along, and all three of them made it through nine rounds and were waiting for a call to go to the final audition in Hollywood. Rick's call came on Monday night, and just when Amy was losing hope on Wednesday, Rick bought her the cigarette case, though he did not know she had her eye on it. Donna received a call on Thursday, but Amy's call never came. When her best friend and boyfriend left for Hollywood, Amy was happy for them and heartbroken at the same time. Donna interjects that the audition went badly for her because Amy was not there. Amy planned to join Rick, but Donna stayed out west, and eventually, Rick called Amy to leave her for Donna. Still, Mrs. Amberson says this is not about Rick. Three years later, she learned that the casting director called her and spoke to her, but she said she was not interested; since Amy never received this call, she assumes Donna sabotaged her. Donna objects that she never did that, recalling coming home one afternoon to find Rick with another girl from the audition. She also tells Amy that she suggested Rick buy her the cigarette case because Amy had told her about it. Donna also recalls how Rick told her later that he always knew Amy would get the part but was never worried about Donna, so he took Amy out of the running. Swearing vengeance, Donna also explains that she did not mean to ruin "Hamlet"; she accidentally tipped off the wrong people. Uncharacteristically demanding, Scarlett announces they are going to take care of the show. She already has a plan, but she needs Donna and Mrs. Amberson's help to execute it, foreshadowing that it will be quite a production to pull her plan off.



In Family Bonding, Scarlett turns to Marlene for help in executing her plan, showing the beginning of a bridge in the gap between Scarlett and her sister. Scarlett reveals that her plan is to host the play in the hotel without their parents finding out which means that she needs Lola and Marlene to help her by getting their parents out of the hotel for the day; she even has a plan which is to convince Chip to take Mr. Martin, Mrs. Martin, Lola and Marlene out on his boat. Lola objects to this plan because she does not want to use Chip, and when she says that Spencer and Scarlett's animosity played a role in her decision to dump Chip, Spencer feels guilty that she paid attention to him. Regardless of the squabbles between the four siblings, they all pull together to help Spencer with his dream. Chip agrees to the plan, and Lola and Marlene leave to work on their parents' part in all of this. Spencer goes along with this plan because the only other option is to do nothing, but he does not believe it will work. This plan foreshadows how Scarlett will help her brother by ensuring the play is seen.



Section 15: pages 316-353

Section 15: pages 316-353 Summary

In *The Players Arrive*, Mrs. Amberson pulls up at the hotel as soon as Mr. and Mrs. Martin leave with Lola and Marlene, and the cast begins to arrive thirty minutes later. They use the Metro and Sterling Suites to change and the kitchen as their backstage where they store props. The cast spends the day carrying tables from the dining room to the basement and transforming the hotel into a theater. Mrs. Amberson sends Scarlett upstairs to change while the caterers set up, and Scarlett is stunned by Eric's beauty when he and Spencer emerge from Spencer's bedroom. She wishes them luck. Downstairs, she is impressed that the front desk has been converted into a full bar, and since the guests start arriving an hour in advance, Mrs. Amberson sends Spencer and Eric downstairs to entertain the crowd. They are quickly followed by the rest of the cast and Mrs. Amberson who welcomes their audience and pulls Scarlett along to watch the show.

In *Meanwhile*, In Denmark, Scarlett is amazed that the dining room has been completely transformed, and the rain outside fits perfectly, but when "Hamlet" begins, she completely forgets the outside world. During intermission, she chats with Spencer and Eric, and though she knows it is not an accident when Eric brushes against her, she orders herself not to think about it; however, when she checks her phone to find three calls and no messages from Lola and there is no answer when she calls Lola back, Scarlett decides to stay at the front desk as the play resumes, waiting an hour before Lola calls her back and announces they will be home in half an hour due to the rain. Panicking, Scarlett bribes the caterers to clean up immediately, and as soon as the play ends, she tells Mrs. Amberson about their new conundrum. Mrs. Amberson convinces their guests to reconvene at the St. Regis bar while Scarlett orders Spencer to get the cast out of the hotel, insisting they can figure out what to do with the set later. Spencer says they do not need to worry because Chip's car has pulled up, but Scarlett is not ready to give up, so she tells the cast not to move, rushes into the lobby and asks her parents if they had a nice ride.

In *The Greatest Show That Never Was*, Scarlett and Spencer talk to their parents about their trip for a few moments, and when Mr. Martin decides to check the mousetraps in the kitchen, Spencer offers to do it while Marlene insists that her dad needs to check her room first because she thinks she has a mouse. Scarlett suggests her parents should go to bed because they look tired, and as soon as they disappear into the elevator, she gets the cast out, leaving only Eric and Trevor who stay behind to restore the hotel to its previous condition. They spend all night restoring the rooms, and near 5 A.M., Eric appears beside Scarlett, telling her that he wants to kiss her but is afraid she does not want him to. He does not think he will dump her once he gets to college, but he does not know who he will be then. Scarlett hates that he is so honest, and luckily, Spencer interrupts so that she does not have to make a decision, urging Eric to leave because they need to move the truck.



In *The Thing In The Box*, Lola is unstrapped something unfamiliar from her wrist when Scarlett wakes, and she shoves it into her drawer when Scarlett asks about it. Lola asks what is wrong with Scarlett, and Scarlett tells her all about her situation with Eric. Lola likes that he is honest, noting that it seems like he does not know himself right now. Soon, Spencer enters and asks if there is any news about the play, so Scarlett finds a review that calls Spencer spectacularly gifted. When Lola goes to shower, Scarlett looks in the drawer and finds a Cartier box with a watch. Spencer is afraid that Lola will take Chip back, but Scarlett reminds him that Chip saved them and they have to be nice to him for Lola's sake. As Spencer agrees, Lola thanks him, admitting she does not know what to do about Chip yet, but she tells him their parents want to talk to him about the show they are supposed to attend tomorrow. Spencer says he needs a nap because he is sure his acting career is over, and Scarlett promises to call Mrs. Amberson who is in charge of follow up.

In *The Girl In the Moon*, Mrs. Amberson left a message for Scarlett that she would be coming to their family dinner tonight, but Mrs. Amberson will not answer her phone or tell Scarlett her plan when she arrives. At dinner, Mrs. Amberson talks about everything but the show for thirty minutes, and when Mr. Martin finally mentions that they are excited to see Spencer's show tomorrow, Mrs. Amberson claims she ran into an old friend, Donna, who helps advertise the arts to tourists and suggested bringing the show into a hotel so guests could see the process up close. Mrs. Amberson insists she did not understand how it could work, but Donna made some calls, and there is enough interest to fill the Hopewell for a month. Mrs. Amberson could come back to help with the play if they are interested. Asking for a minute to discuss the proposal, Mrs. Martin sends her kids to check inventory, do dishes and move Mrs. Amberson back into the Empire Suite. She also gives Spencer a card from a commercial casting agent regarding a washing machine commercial. A few hours later, Mrs. Amberson is back in the Empire Suite telling Spencer that he needs an agent, and when she sends him to the deli for her, she tells Scarlett that she would be a perfect talent agent, asking Scarlett to be her assistant after school. She promises not to be disruptive and offers to pay commission, pointing out that the arrangement will mean success for Spencer and happiness for the whole Martin family. She tells Scarlett this starts now and flies out of the room. Looking at her reflection, Scarlett asks if this is the future she wants, grinning because apparently it is. She runs after Mrs. Amberson because "now was now, and there was a show to do" (p. 353).

Section 15: pages 316-353 Analysis

In *The Players Arrive*, Mr. and Mrs. Martin leave with Lola and Marlene, signaling the beginning of Scarlett's plan's success. The cast, along with Scarlett and Spencer, arrange the hotel to act as a theater for "Hamlet", and Scarlett is astounded by the transformation. Her reaction to seeing Eric in the hallway indicates that she is still romantically interested in him and foreshadows a possible reunion in their future. Once the cast goes downstairs to begin the show, Mrs. Scarlett insists Scarlett accompany her to witness their show, sharing credit with Scarlett who has had such a large role in making sure the show must go on.



In *Meanwhile*, In Denmark, Scarlett is immersed in the play, indicating how well the performance goes, and her interaction with Eric during the intermission continues to foreshadow their possible reunion. The mysterious call from Lola foreshadows a problem, and the foreshadowing is soon fulfilled when Lola calls back to tell Scarlett that they are on their way home. Scarlett takes charge immediately, bribing the caterers to clean up early and in a hurry, and when she informs Mrs. Amberson of their dilemma, Mrs. Amberson is effective in clearing their guests out of the lobby. Spencer is ready to give up when Chip's car arrives while the cast is still inside and the set has not been taken down, but Scarlett is more resilient, ordering the cast to be still while she greets her parents nonchalantly.

In *The Greatest Show That Never Was*, the Martin children all work together to prevent their parents from finding the cast or the set, and amazingly, their plan succeeds. With the Martins' parents in bed, Scarlett and Spencer work with Eric and Trevor to restore the hotel to its previous condition, and fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Eric approaches Scarlett about their relationship before he leaves; however, he is forced to leave the hotel before they resolve their issues, leaving the option open.

In *The Thing In The Box*, the relationship between Scarlett and Lola seems to improve as the girls talk about their romantic relationships with one another. Spencer is happy with the play reviews that call him talented, but when their parents ask about the show they are supposed to attend the next day, he is sure his acting career is over. Again showing her newfound strength and determination, Scarlett refuses to give in, promising to call Mrs. Amberson who is supposed to be in charge of making sure the rest of the play's showings take place.

In *The Girl In The Moon*, Mrs. Amberson's secretiveness during the day foreshadows that her plan is a surprise, indicating that it will affect Scarlett as well since she does not let Scarlett in on her surprise. Mrs. Amberson does not mention the play at dinner until Mr. and Mrs. Martin ask about it, and then, she claims that Donna suggested that it would be a good idea to host the play in a hotel. Donna's returned loyalty is obvious as she has helped Mrs. Amberson gather information and even interested guests to sell the Martins on the idea. After explaining how lucrative the idea could be, Mrs. Amberson allows the Martins to make plans, and Mrs. Martin immediately begins ordering her children to arrange things so they can partake in Mrs. Amberson's scheme, making it apparent that the Martins are going to host plays in the Hopewell Hotel. The card from a casting agent that Spencer receives foreshadows that he will have a career as an actor. Once Mrs. Amberson returns to the Empire Suite, she tells Scarlett that she wants to become a talent agent and asks Scarlett to work as her assistant, foreshadowing their continued relationship and fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing that Mrs. Amberson's prediction that they would be great friends would come true. Scarlett is surprised to find that this is the future she wants, indicating how greatly Mrs. Amberson has altered her life during the summer.



Characters

Scarlett Martin

Scarlett Martin is the protagonist of "Suite Scarlett." She is a fifteen-year-old girl whose family owns a small hotel in New York City. Scarlett has blonde curly hair, and she is very close to her older brother, Spencer. After Scarlett receives the key to the Empire Suite on her fifteenth birthday and her parents give Spencer three days to get an acting job before forcing him to attend culinary school, Mrs. Amberson checks into the Empire Suite. Mrs. Amberson decides to hire Scarlett as her assistant after determining that she is going to write a book about her life, and because of this, Mr. and Mrs. Martin agree to let Spencer act in a production of "Hamlet" after he gets the role of Guildenstern. While helping Spencer practice his lines, Scarlett meets and is enthralled by Eric, Spencer's scene partner. When the play's practice space is condemned, Scarlet and Spencer sneak the cast into the basement to rehearse; however, when Mrs. Martin catches them, Mrs. Amberson claims it was her idea because she has decided to financially back the play in exchange for being made the co-director. Mrs. Amberson arranges for the cast to be coached by the famous Billy Whitehouse, but when she learns that her nemesis Donna Spendler is up for a role on Broadway, she sets Donna up for a fake TV audition, causing Donna to lose her Broadway role and shave her hair with the assistance of Scarlett, Spencer and Eric.

Meanwhile, Scarlett and Eric begin to flirt and make out, but Eric tells Scarlett he cannot be a boyfriend right now after she sees him fighting with another girl outside his apartment. Spencer, able to tell something is wrong with Scarlett and to guess what that is, punches Eric during their scene. At the play's dress rehearsal, Donna finds the cast and warns them they are about to be shut down, and Mrs. Amberson moves out of the Hopewell because she decides she has done enough harm. Refusing to let Spencer's dream die, Scarlett arranges for a meeting between Mrs. Amberson and Donna during which they work out their misunderstanding from thirty years earlier. Scarlett also arranges for Lola and Marlene, her sisters, to take their parents out for the day so that they can use the hotel to host the play. Scarlett has to make their guests leave immediately following the play when she learns that her family is returning early, but she manages to pull the affair off without getting caught. The next day, Mrs. Amberson convinces Mr. and Mrs. Martin that it would be lucrative to host plays in their hotel. She hires Scarlett as her assistant for the talent agency she wants to begin with Spencer as her first client.

Amy Amberson

Amy Amberson is an older actress who returns to New York City to revive her acting career, and she decides to spend the summer in the Empire Suite at the Hopewell Hotel. Mrs. Amberson is tall and confident with short brown hair with a darker streak through it. After Scarlett receives the key to the Empire Suite on her fifteenth birthday



and her parents give Spencer three days to get an acting job before forcing him to attend culinary school, Mrs. Amberson checks into the Empire Suite. Mrs. Amberson decides to hire Scarlett as her assistant after determining that she is going to write a book about her life. When Mrs. Martin catches the cast of "Hamlet" rehearsing in the Hopewell basement, Mrs. Amberson claims it was her idea because she has decided to financially back the play in exchange for being made the co-director.

Mrs. Amberson arranges for the cast to be coached by the famous Billy Whitehouse, but when she learns that her nemesis Donna Spendler is up for a role on Broadway, she sets Donna up for a fake TV audition, causing Donna to lose her Broadway role and shave her hair with the assistance of Scarlett, Spencer and Eric. At the play's dress rehearsal, Donna finds the cast and warns them they are about to be shut down, and Mrs. Amberson moves out of the Hopewell because she decides she has done enough harm. Refusing to let Spencer's dream die, Scarlett arranges for a meeting between Mrs. Amberson and Donna during which they work out their misunderstanding from thirty years earlier. Mrs. Amberson helps Scarlett and Spencer facilitate hosting the play at the Hopewell. The next day, she convinces Mr. and Mrs. Martin that it would be lucrative to host plays in their hotel, and she hires Scarlett as her assistant for the talent agency she wants to begin with Spencer as her first client.

Spencer Martin

Spencer Martin is Scarlett's tall and slender older brother who wants to be an actor. He evades his parents' pressure to accept a scholarship to culinary school when he lands the role of Guildenstern in a production of "Hamlet". He dislikes Lola's boyfriend, Chip, and he punches Eric during a scene because he can tell Eric upset Scarlett. Spencer receives an invitation to a commercial audition after the play, and Mrs. Amberson intends for Spencer to become her first client as a talent agent.

Lola Martin

Lola Martin is Scarlett's tall, thin, and beautiful older sister. She dates Chip, a rich guy that Spencer and Scarlett despise, and she loses her job after calling out several times to attend events with him. Lola eventually dumps Chip, but she convinces him to take her, Marlene and their parents out on his boat so Scarlett and Spencer can host the play at the Hopewell.

Marlene Martin

Marlene Martin is Scarlett's bratty younger sister who survived cancer when she was 7 years old. Marlene convinces their parents to take the day off so the play can be performed at the Hopewell.



Mr. Martin

Mr. Martin is the father of Scarlett, Spencer, Lola, and Marlene, though he is often mistaken for their older brother. He is the owner of the Hopewell.

Mrs. Martin

Mrs. Martin is the mother of Scarlett, Spencer, Lola and Marlene. She looks vaguely French with pale skin, dark eyes and dark, curly hair.

Eric

Eric is Spencer's scene partner from North Carolina who begins a relationship with Scarlett, but he avoids titling their relationship because he has a girlfriend at home. He breaks up with his girlfriend from home but fears dating Scarlett because he worries he will hurt her when he goes to college in the fall. Eric is still interested in Scarlett, but he tells her it has to be her decision. Eric is tall and thin with sandy hair, and Scarlett thinks he is gorgeous.

Chip

Chip is Lola's rich boyfriend who Spencer and Scarlett despise. Lola breaks up with Chip, but he agrees to take her, Marlene and their parents out on his boat so the play can be performed at the Hopewell, primarily because he wants to get back together with Lola.

Billy Whitehouse

Billy Whitehouse is a famous acting coach and one of Mrs. Amberson's friends. Mrs. Amberson convinces him to coach her cast. Billy is very tall with groomed white hair.

Donna Spendler

Donna Spendler is Mrs. Amberson's nemesis who Mrs. Amberson plays a prank on, causing Donna to lose a role on Broadway. When Donna searches for the person who set her up, she accidentally alerts the wrong people who shut down production of "Hamlet" in the parking garage. Scarlett forces Mrs. Amberson and Donna to work out their differences and help her host the play at the Hopewell. Donna is a bit older than Mrs. Amberson and has perfectly coiffed gray hair which is cut into a crew cut after Mrs. Amberson's prank.

Trevor

Trevor is the director of "Hamlet" who permits Mrs. Amberson to become his co-director in exchange for financial backing.



Objects/Places

New York City

"Suite Scarlett" is set in New York City.

The Hopewell

The Hopewell is a small hotel in New York City that is owned and operated by the Martin family. Due to financial difficulties, the Martins have been forced to let go of all of their real employees, so the family tends to the needs of their few guests.

Empire Suite

The Empire Suite is the most expensive room in the Hopewell. Scarlett is given the key to the Empire Suite for her fifteenth birthday, indicating that taking care of the room is her responsibility. The next day, Mrs. Amberson checks into the Empire Suite for the summer.

Algonquin Hotel

Mrs. Amberson takes Scarlett and Marlene to lunch at the Algonquin Hotel the day after her arrival, and this is where she gives Scarlett \$500 to run her errands.

Orchid Suite

The Orchid Suite is the room that Scarlett and Lola share.

Maxwell Suite

Spencer's room is the Maxwell Suite.

Central Park

Scarlett meets Spencer in Central Park to help him practice his lines, and this is where she first meets Eric.



Hopewell Basement

After the play's original rehearsal space is condemned, Scarlett and Spencer sneak the cast into their basement to rehearse. They are caught on the third day, but Mrs. Amberson claims it was her idea and offers to financially back the play.

Church in East Village

Mrs. Amberson rents a church in East Village for the play's rehearsals after the cast is kicked out of the Hopewell basement.

Parking Garage

Originally, "Hamlet" is supposed to be performed in a parking garage at the end of Broadway, but when Donna's inquiries into who set her up accidentally alerts the wrong people that the garage does not have the proper permits the day before the play starts, the cast is ready to concede defeat.

Eric's Apartment

Eric takes Scarlett to his apartment during the cast's party, and Spencer is upset when he finds his sister and Eric making out in the apartment. Scarlett is upset when Eric does not invite her up after their disastrous relationship talk, and after seeing him arguing with a girl in front of his apartment, she is even more distraught when he tells her that he cannot be a boyfriend right now.

Hopewell Dining Room

After losing the parking garage for the play, Scarlett arranges for the performance of "Hamlet" to occur in the Hopewell dining room. Lola and Marlene convince their parents to spend the day on Chip's boat, and the play goes well. The Martin children even avoid being caught. The next day, Mrs. Amberson proposes that the Martins can make money by hosting plays in the hotel, claiming it was Donna's idea, and the Martins readily agree to the lucrative proposal.



Themes

Dreams

One of the predominant and most important themes in "Suite Scarlett" is dreaming. All of the characters, like all people, have dreams about who they want to become and what they want to do. Some of their dreams are very obvious while others are more obscure. To begin with, Scarlett wants a summer job so she will have money, but her parents tell her that they need her help during the summer; luckily, Mrs. Amberson decides to hire Scarlett as her assistant when she chooses to write a book. Scarlett's other dream is to be an author. Meanwhile, Spencer dreams of becoming an actor, and his parents remind him that his year to get an acting job is almost up. He contacts everyone he knows and acquires the role of Guildenstern in a parking garage production of "Hamlet". Throughout the novel, Scarlett does her best to aid Spencer with his dream, as does Mrs. Amberson who offers to financially back the production in exchange for being made co-director. Every time something goes wrong with the plans for the play, Scarlett and Mrs. Amberson are there to get things back on track.

Mrs. Amberson used to dream of being an actress, but now she is an established actress which is why she decides to help Spencer and the cast of "Hamlet" with their production. She also dreams of writing a book, but that aspiration is quickly put aside in lieu of a more active role in the theater. Mrs. Amberson's decision to sabotage Donna Spendler's audition for a major role on Broadway comes from her thwarted dream of auditioning for a television show in Hollywood some thirty years earlier, a failure she attributes to Donna who she believes sabotaged her. The women work out their differences when they learn that Donna did not cause Mrs. Amberson's failed ambition. At the end of the novel, Mrs. Amberson decides to become a talent agent and asks Scarlett to be her assistant. Scarlett hesitates for only an instant before realizing this is the future she wants as it presents an opportunity to ensure her brother's success in the theatrical world as well as financial stability for her family's hotel.

Persistence

Persistence plays a large role in "Suite Scarlett" as persistence is the reason that "Hamlet" is performed. To begin with, Spencer is very persistent in trying to find an acting role as his time to do so is nearly expired, per his agreement with his parents; however, throughout the novel, he is the one who is frequently ready to give up on his dream of acting while his sister is the one who sees it through to the end. Though Scarlett seems pretty easy-going and passive in the beginning of the novel, she becomes increasingly persistent throughout the narrative, likely a result of her close association with Mrs. Amberson who seems to never accept rejection. When the rehearsal space used by the cast of "Hamlet" is condemned, Scarlett suggests holding rehearsals in the Hopewell basement. Once Mrs. Martin learns of this arrangement, Scarlett and Spencer are rescued by Mrs. Amberson who claims it was her idea and



facilitates the right to add creative input to the production in exchange for financial backing.

From there, Mrs. Amberson finds the cast a new practice space, helps set them up with an acting coach and engages in public relations to get the play noticed. Unfortunately, when Donna Spendler tries to find out who sabotaged her audition for a large role on Broadway, she accidentally alerts the wrong people to the fact that the parking garage where "Hamlet" is to be performed did not acquire the correct permits, shutting the play down. At this point, Mrs. Amberson decides to walk away and moves out of the Hopewell. Still, Scarlett is not ready to give up. She facilitates a reconciliation between Mrs. Amberson and Donna, engaging their help to host the play's performance at the Hopewell. She also conspires with her siblings to prevent her parents from learning about the scheme. Even when her parents arrive home early, Scarlett does not lose hope. Instead, she manages to keep the cast quiet while sending her parents to bed, thus keeping their performance at the Hopewell a secret. Mrs. Amberson regains some of her persistence the next day when she suggests to Mr. and Mrs. Martin that they could profit from hosting plays in the hotel and as she decides to become a talent agent.

Loyalty

A very important theme in "Suite Scarlett" is loyalty, and this concept inspires some of the other major themes as well. For example, Scarlett's loyalty to and faith in Spencer is what keeps her persistent about making sure "Hamlet" is performed throughout the novel. Her loyalty is also obvious in her dedication to helping her family with the hotel, despite the fact that she had hoped to get a summer job to make money. Luckily, she is able to get a job as Mrs. Amberson's assistant, and her loyalty to Mrs. Amberson causes her to get into several scrapes, but at the end of it all, Scarlett is in a much better position. She also demonstrates her loyalty by helping Lola with Marlene even though Marlene does not like Scarlett.

Spencer's loyalty to his sisters is obvious as he is nice to Chip for Lola, even though he does not like her. He also punches Eric, his scene partner, when he realizes Eric hurt Scarlett, despite possible repercussions to himself. Lola and Marlene are also loyal to Scarlett and Spencer, and this can be seen at the end of the novel when they help get their parents out of the hotel so that "Hamlet" can be performed in the Hopewell. Overall, the Martin family is very loyal to each other, and this loyalty facilitates their success both in the theater and in the hotel business, especially once they acquire Mrs. Amberson as part of their inner circle.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in "Suite Scarlett" is recounted from the perspective of a third-person and limited narration. This is proven by the fact that the narrator is privy to Scarlett's thoughts and feelings but not those of the other characters, yet Scarlett is not the one who tells her story. Additionally, the narrator reports on the events that occur throughout the novel. This is important as it allows the novel to maintain focus on the main character, Scarlett, and the ways that she changes during her summer with Mrs. Amberson.

The distribution of exposition and dialogue in the novel is fairly equal which is extremely important for explaining what is going on throughout the narrative as well as for showing the interactions between the characters. This is beneficial as it allows readers to see the relationships forming and analyze how these relationships affect the decisions that the characters make. The viewpoint of the novel is shown solely through Scarlett's eyes, focusing on her thoughts and motivations as well as the ways that she changes throughout the novel, becoming more determined and less passive.

Setting

"Suite Scarlett" is set in the real world, specifically in New York City. The main characters are members of the Martin family, the owners of the Hopewell Hotel, and their guest, Mrs. Amberson. Many of the secondary characters are involved in the theater industry which is important as the story is set around the play in which Spencer is cast. Moreover, there is an emphasis on wealth compared to poverty in the novel as the Martins are poor despite owning a hotel in New York City.

"Suite Scarlett" is set in New York City. The Hopewell is a small hotel in New York City that is owned and operated by the Martin family. Due to financial difficulties, the Martins have been forced to let go of all of their real employees, so the family tends to the needs of their few guests. The Empire Suite is the most expensive room in the Hopewell. Scarlett is given the key to the Empire Suite for her fifteenth birthday, indicating that taking care of the room is her responsibility. The next day, Mrs. Amberson checks into the Empire Suite for the summer. Mrs. Amberson takes Scarlett and Marlene to lunch at the Algonquin Hotel the day after her arrival, and this is where she gives Scarlett \$500 to run her errands. The Orchid Suite is the room that Scarlett and Lola share. Spencer's room is the Maxwell Suite. Scarlett meets Spencer in Central Park to help him practice his lines, and this is where she first meets Eric. After the play's original rehearsal space is condemned, Scarlett and Spencer sneak the cast into their basement to rehearse. They are caught on the third day, but Mrs. Amberson claims it was her idea and offers to financially back the play. Mrs. Amberson rents a church in East Village for the play's rehearsals after the cast is kicked out of the Hopewell



basement. Originally, "Hamlet" is supposed to be performed in a parking garage at the end of Broadway, but when Donna's inquiries into who set her up accidentally alerts the wrong people that the garage does not have the proper permits the day before the play starts, the cast is ready to concede defeat. Eric takes Scarlett to his apartment during the cast's party, and Spencer is upset when he finds his sister and Eric making out in the apartment. Scarlett is upset when Eric does not invite her up after their disastrous relationship talk, and after seeing him arguing with a girl in front of his apartment, she is even more distraught when he tells her that he cannot be a boyfriend right now. After losing the parking garage for the play, Scarlett arranges for the performance of "Hamlet" to occur in the Hopewell dining room. Lola and Marlene convince their parents to spend the day on Chip's boat, and the play goes well. The Martin children even avoid being caught. The next day, Mrs. Amberson proposes that the Martins can make money by hosting plays in the hotel, claiming it was Donna's idea. The Martins readily agree to the lucrative proposal.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel is casual and informal. The sentences are constructed properly but without excessive complications. All of this is appropriate for the novel's target audience: adolescents. The language used aids comprehension of the novel as it speaks in a familiar tone and style to the targeted readers.

The language in this novel tends to characterize the individuals characters, the New York lifestyle and the theater as much of the novel revolves around the production of "Hamlet" in which Spencer is cast. The distribution of exposition and dialogue in the novel is fairly equal which is extremely important for explaining what is going on throughout the narrative as well as for showing the interactions between the characters. This is beneficial as it allows readers to see the relationships forming and analyze how these relationships affect the decisions that the characters make. The language chosen for this narrative is beneficial in propagating the audience's understanding as it is common vernacular used amongst American teens. Overall, the language is easy to understand and contains an entertaining use of sarcasm that will keep the reader engaged throughout the narrative.

Structure

"Suite Scarlett" is comprised of 353 pages which are divided into acts, mimicking the play that is at the heart of the novel. Act I contains 12 chapters, Act II contains 15 chapters, Act III is comprised of 9 chapters, and Act IV consists of 8 chapters. The chapters average 8 pages in length and are titled vaguely according to the contents, often referencing "Hamlet", the theatrical production that plays such a large role in the narrative. The chapters are short but detailed, and they range from covering minutes minutely to summarizing several days as the entire novel occurs in the period of one summer.



"Suite Scarlett" by Maureen Johnson is an entertaining novel about Scarlett Martin, a fifteen-year-old girl whose family owns a hotel in New York City. After Scarlett receives the duty of caring for the Empire Suite on her fifteenth birthday, her summer is thrown into chaos when Mrs. Amberson, an eccentric actress, decides to move into the Hopewell for the summer and becomes involved in the production of "Hamlet" that Spencer, Scarlett's older brother, is acting in. "Suite Scarlett" is an entertaining account of the ways a teenage girl's life changes and the things she learns about herself in one out-of-control summer as she does the best she can to protect her family. The novel's pace is fairly slow, but it is easy to read. The action is mostly linear, but Scarlett and Spencer occasionally provide background by talking of their pasts. Overall, the novel is an entertaining and enjoyable account of finding herself and helping her family through their struggles.



Quotes

"What is most unusual about the Hopewell, though, is the total involvement of the large Martin family who own and run the hotel. Though the service is occasionally patchy, the personal touch makes all the difference" ('Act I,' p. 2).

"No points for style. Really, it sucked through and through. In fact, I think that was the most suck ever compacted into ten minutes. You couldn't cram any more in" ('Sink, Sank, Sunk,' p. 18).

"Nobody wants to be poor. But you need to use some sense if you want to avoid ending up that way. Look at us. Look at where we live...We should be rich, too. But we're not. I'm pretty sure we barely own this place anymore. We can live in it, but if we left it, we'd have nothing but debt. This place owns us" ('The Good Ship Reality Has Docked,' p. 29).

"Get down here now. Now- now. Whatever you're doing, drop it" (The Good Burn, p. 39).

"We're going to be great friends, O'Hara. I can feel it, and I'm always right about these things" (A Guest Arrives, p. 49).

"The opposite of rich is the best thing to be, anyway. There's nothing like working for what you want. It's the only way" (Lunch Date, p. 63).

"We all know what we're doing. Whether we realize it or not." (One Big, Happy Family, p. 77).

"I need to get reacquainted with the city. It's been a good twen...while since I've been here. Do you even know what New York was like in the seventies and eighties? This Disneyland that you live in is not the New York I had to deal with. You didn't ride the subway after ten at night unless you had a deep desire to get mugged at knifepoint. Times Square was porn central. It was a genuinely frightening place" (The Short Arm of the Law, p. 93).

"Mrs. Amberson spoke to us this morning. Has she told you her idea?... You don't seem happy about it. I thought you'd be excited about working on a book" (Deal of a Lifetime, p. 102).

"I've only known you for a day or two, and you've managed to do more weird stuff than anyone I can think of" (Deal of a Lifetime, p. 105).

"How do you write a life? The tangled web. So many stories" (The Inhabitant, p. 109).

"I have great hopes for you this summer, O'Hara. I don't buy this stern, determined exterior of yours. There's a romantic underneath. I'm sure of it" (The Inhabitant, p. 112).



"This was the truth never spoken among the Martins. No one talked about the fact that the financial troubles were directly related to Marlene's long illness, the piles of bills that medical insurance didn't cover, the single injection that cost thousands a dose, the hospital costs that ran into the hundreds of thousands. Obviously, there was no price too high for her cure- but it had taken its toll. If Marlene had been well, life would have been very, very different" (Revealed, p. 160).

"You know what I think, O'Hara? I think I do know your type after all." (The New Space, p. 189).

"Interesting night, O'Hara? I have a feeling they're only about to get more so. See you in the morning" (Cracks, p. 194).

"Do you want to know what really bothers me? What makes me mad is that you couldn't just tell me. You looked right at me and lied to my face" (The Impossible Break, p. 211).

"Really, nowhere was good. Except with Eric. He had both perfumed and poisoned her entire world" (The Loneliest Girl in New York, p. 235).

"You know what? It isn't always going to work. Not everyone, for the rest of your life, is going to care that you used to be sick. You'll have to act normal, like the rest of us. Because if you don't, everything will just think you're evil and miserable. I'm not even sure they'd be wrong" (The Loneliest Girl in New York, p. 236).

"I can't really be that right now... A boyfriend. And if I can't give you that, I'm not sure we should go on like this" (A Plan Unfurls, p. 252).

"You should know that I work both with theater people and the tourist industry. It's easy to get a bad reputation in the theater world, and it's also easy for a hotel to get the wrong kind of publicity. I am taking this very seriously, Scarlett. Don't think for one second that the fact that I'm not screaming and yelling means that I'm not angry. Whoever it was can contact me here. They should make it soon" (The Importance of Towels, p. 268).

"Sarah was my girlfriend from home. When you saw me, I had just broken up with her" (Something Is Rotten In Denmark, p. 279).

"We're doing the show when we said we would. But the only way that's going to happen is if you and Donna get to the bottom of whatever has been bothering you for the last thirty years or however long its been" (Desperate Times, p. 295).

"It makes so much sense. There were only ten spots on that cast. Rick told me later, when we weren't getting along so well, that he was never afraid that I'd get one of those ten places. He never thought I was good enough, but he was definitely concerned about you. He took you out of the running, Amy. He took your spot, not me" (The Final Battle, p. 303).



"I'm going along with this, because the only other option is to do nothing at all. But it's never going to work" (Family Bonding, p. 314).

"I don't think we have to worry... Because Chip's Mercedes just pulled up. And everyone is getting out. I believe the phrase 'game over' applies" (Meanwhile, In Denmark, p. 330).

"I couldn't follow how that could possibly work either, but she pointed out to me that I, as the director of a theater company, could potentially join forces with you, bring the production of 'Hamlet' here... A group from Florida. They'd be interested in coming for a week. A Japanese tour operator is interested for three days. A small company from England, four days. Another from France. A community group from Ohio. All of these people are looking to book soon, before the rates go up in the fall. There's probably enough here to fill this whole place for a month, if you were, you know, interested" (The Girl in the Moon, p. 346-348).

"If this business is a success, which it will be, you could end up making your entire college tuition. And what will you be working for? Success for your brother! Happiness for your family! Think about that, O'Hara. In the meantime, I know wonderful people in the design department at the Manhattan Theater Club. We can get a whole new set built. This starts now" (The Girl in the Moon, p. 352).



Topics for Discussion

How does Mrs. Amberson's arrival affect Scarlett's summer?

Who is Donna Spendler? Why does Mrs. Amberson hate her so much?

Why does Eric break up with Scarlett? Why is he afraid to date her again?

What setbacks does Spencer's play experience?

How does Mrs. Amberson help and hurt Scarlett and Spencer?

How does Scarlett change throughout this novel?

What are the new career paths for each of the Martins and Mrs. Amberson when the novel ends?