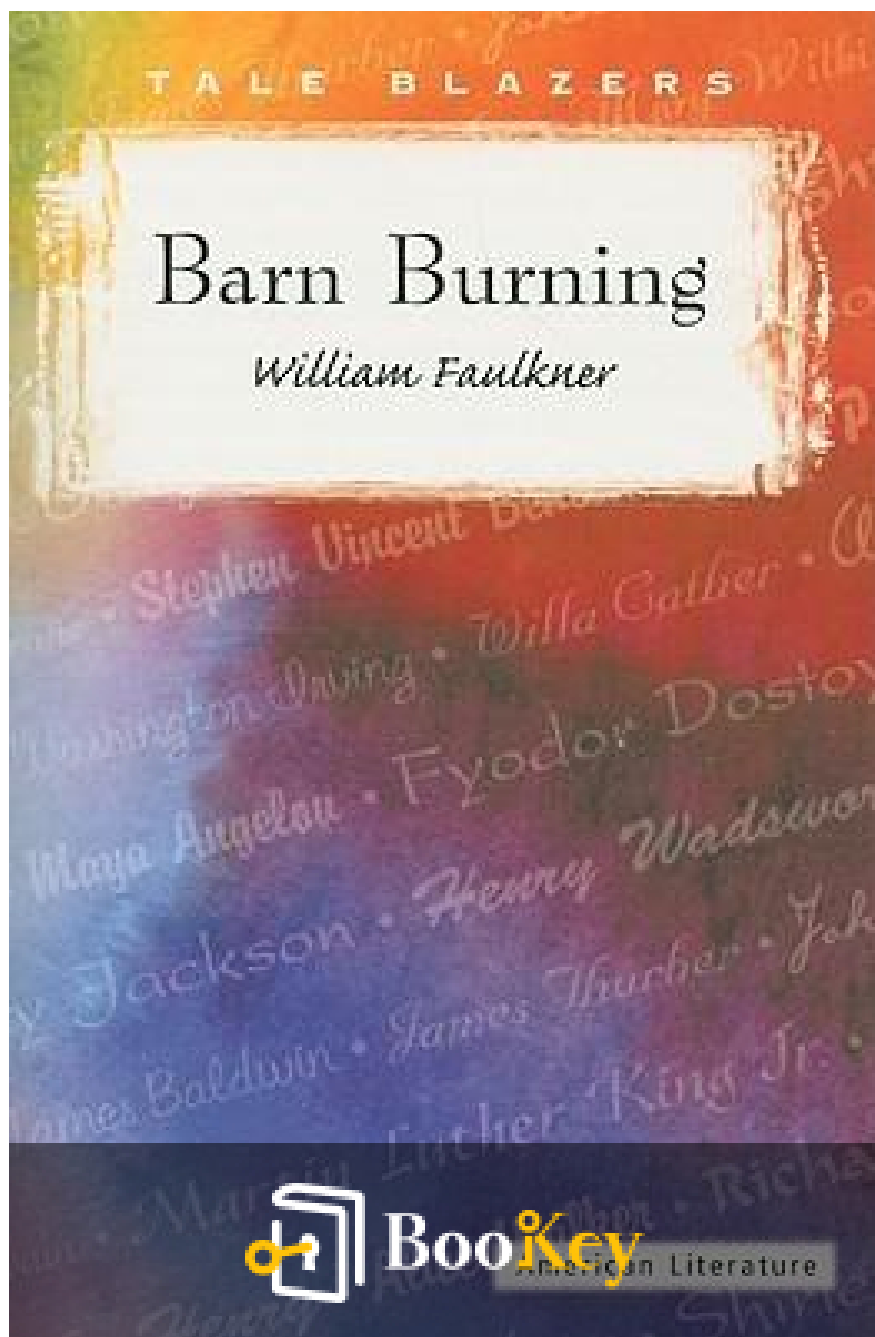


Barn Burning PDF (Limited Copy)

William Faulkner



More Free Book



Scan to Download

Barn Burning Summary

A Struggle Between Loyalty and Justice in the Deep South.

Written by Books OneHub

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

In William Faulkner's haunting short story "Barn Burning," the oppressive weight of familial loyalty collides with the harsh realities of social injustice, painting a vivid portrait of morality and conflict in the American South. At its center is the young protagonist, Sarty Snopes, who grapples with his allegiance to his father, Abner Snopes, a bitter embodiment of rebellion against the oppressive landowners. As Abner's destructive impulse to burn barns reveals the deep-seated class struggles and the perils of blind loyalty, Sarty finds himself at a crossroads where he must choose between kinship and conscience. Faulkner masterfully captures the complexities of human relationships and the ethical dilemmas that define our identities, inviting the reader to ponder the sacrifices we make for family and the cost of standing against wrongdoing.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

William Faulkner, an acclaimed American author and a Nobel Prize laureate, is renowned for his intricate narratives set in the American South, particularly in his fictional Yoknapatawpha County. Born on September 25, 1897, in New Albany, Mississippi, Faulkner's writing is characterized by its rich, stream-of-consciousness style and a deep exploration of themes such as social class, race, and the moral complexities of human existence. His works often reflect the turbulent history and culture of the South, blending personal and collective experiences. Notable for his innovative use of time and narrative perspective, Faulkner's storytelling resonates deeply with readers, making him a seminal figure in 20th-century literature. His short story "Barn Burning," explores the conflict between loyalty to family and the moral obligations to stand against injustice, encapsulating his profound insights into human nature.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



Summary Content List

Chapter 1: 1. A Rose for Emily

Chapter 2: 2. The Hound

Chapter 3: 3. Turn About

Chapter 4: 4. That Evening Sun

Chapter 5: 5. Dry September

Chapter 6: 6. Delta Autumn

Chapter 7: 7. Barn Burning

Chapter 8: 8. An Odor of Verbena

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary: 1. A Rose for Emily

When Miss Emily Grierson dies, the entire town attends her funeral out of a mixture of respect and curiosity, particularly to see her decaying home that has been a testament to a bygone era. Once a prominent member of society, Miss Emily had lived in isolation for years after the deaths of her father and her mysterious suitor, Homer Barron. Her home, once elegant, now stands out like an eyesore amid modern encroachments. The narrative explores her life as a reflection of the town's memories and values, starting from the time when Colonel Sartoris, the deceased mayor, absolved her of taxes based on a concocted story of her father lending money to the town, a charity Miss Emily would never accept openly.

As the new generation of town leaders attempts to collect taxes from her, they face resistance from Miss Emily, who refuses to acknowledge their authority and insists on her tax-exempt status derived from Colonel Sartoris. Even when a smell emanates from her property, leading to covert attempts to address the issue, the town enacts a kind of collective sympathy towards her, regarding her as a relic, a figure of pity rather than scorn.

After her father's death, she clings desperately to the past, struggling with grief to the point of denying his death for days. The narrative details her eventual relationship with Homer Barron, a Northern laborer who brings something new into her life. While the townspeople hope for a marriage,



Homer's drinking and alleged preferences reveal a complicated dynamic, which soon turns into gossip and concern over Miss Emily's declining status.

As Miss Emily grows older, her home becomes more locked away from the world. Her brief engagement with life, marked by the companionship of Homer and the lessons she taught, fades away. The townsfolk witness her again after a long absence, only to find her transformed, more reclusive, and ultimately cut off from society. The tale delves into themes of isolation, the impact of time on tradition and familial ties, and the stubbornness of both people and places in holding onto their identities.

When Miss Emily passes away, the curiosity of the townspeople escalates as they finally venture into her home. What they discover is a shocking testament to her tragic existence—Homer Barron's decomposed body in her bed, indicating that she had not only held onto the past but had also resorted to extreme measures to avoid losing him. This macabre revelation underscores the themes of love, loss, and the lengths to which individuals will go to retain the remnants of their pasts, showcasing the complexity of human emotions and the haunting stillness of decay that parallels Miss Emily's life and death.



Chapter 2 Summary: 2. The Hound

In this gripping chapter of William Faulkner's "Barn Burning," we delve into the mind of Cotton, a solitary bachelor living on the edge of a desolate bottomland. The narrative opens dramatically with Cotton startled by the deafening gunshot from his own ten-gauge shotgun. The blast resonates deeply within him, reverberating both physically and psychologically. He reflects on his motive behind the shot, expressing a sense of disillusionment as he recalls the events that transpired.

The chaotic aftermath—the sound of a galloping horse and the abrupt silence left in the wake of the gunshot—imprints on Cotton's mind. He feels a compulsion to face the consequences of his actions, taking time to steady himself amidst the shock. The tension escalates as he grapples with the moral weight of death, a theme that hangs heavily over him throughout his solitary existence.

Following the incident, Cotton's routine is characterized by a methodical return home, where he meticulously cleans his shoes and shotgun as if to scrub away the grim reality he has just encountered. His evening is spent in a hollow, restless tranquility, listening to the mournful howls of the hound that belonged to the horse's owner, Houston, stirring a complex mix of guilt and recognition within him. The bond between Houston and his dog is left unexamined as Cotton reflects on his own existence—marked by poverty



and a hard life that stands in stark contrast to Houston's.

As gossip swirls at Varner's store about Houston's mysterious disappearance, Cotton's voice stirs the dormant conversations, revealing his inner turmoil and disdain for Houston's perceived superiority. The townsfolk question Houston's motives, hinting at the depth of his character—the secretive man he was—and Cotton finds himself unsettlingly aware of how closely his fate intertwines with the conversations unfolding around him.

Throughout the chapter, Faulkner captures Cotton's mounting anxiety, punctuated by the relentless howling of the dog, which becomes a haunting reminder of his actions. As he contemplates disposing of the body in a decrepit stump, Cotton's weariness speaks to the physical and psychological exhaustion resulting from his burden. The narrative crescendos as Cotton faces the hound in a desperate struggle, revealing his frail humanity—the thin line between hunter and hunted.

Ultimately, Cotton's confrontation culminates with his capture after a violent encounter with the dog. In chains beside the Sheriff, he is led away, ultimately finding himself in a jail cell where he becomes an outsider looking in—a reflection of his inner conflict. The haunting pleasures of life outside—food and community—are stark reminders of his current isolation. As the chapter closes, bitterly resentful of what he perceives as an unfair system, Cotton clings desperately to his identity, despite the forces



conspiring to strip it away.

Faulkner's storytelling skillfully intertwines themes of class struggle, isolation, and the burdens of guilt, encapsulating Cotton's character as a study of despair and determination doomed by circumstance. The vivid imagery and deep psychological insights make this chapter both engaging and profound, exploring the darker sides of human nature and societal expectations.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 3: 3. Turn About

In Chapter 3 of William Faulkner's "Barn Burning" titled "Turn About," we encounter a vivid scene that introduces several notable characters amidst the backdrop of war. The chapter opens with an American captain, depicted in a somewhat unremarkable military attire, encountering a drunken young English officer, Mr. Hope, who is being held upright by a military policeman. The captain notes the chaos of the streets filled with soldiers and civilians, implying a sense of normalcy in the disorder of wartime life.

As the captain navigates the situation, Mr. Hope, young and slightly dainty, tries to regain his composure, exhibiting a kind of naïve charm in his faltering speech and whimsical ideas about military life. His drunkenness leads to humorous exchanges, particularly around the British navy and their peculiar behaviors, as he confuses the American captain about the operation of navy launches. The captain, while bemused, takes responsibility for ensuring that Mr. Hope is safely returned to his ship.

The narrative shifts as they wait for a vehicle to take Mr. Hope back, and

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 4 Summary: 4. That Evening Sun

In "That Evening Sun," we meet a community in Jefferson where changes are reshaping life, especially for the Black residents. The story evokes nostalgia for a time when the streets were less busy and more vibrant, filled with the hardworking lives of Black women like Nancy, who carried bundles of laundry on their heads. Nancy stands out with her tall, slim figure and her dignity, despite the hardships she faces.

The narrative shifts to reveal an unsettling, complex relationship between the white children—Quentin, Caddy, and Jason—and Nancy, who is portrayed as both a caregiver and a figure of tragedy. The children, especially Caddy, often check on her, urging her to prepare breakfast for their family. Nancy is caught in a cycle of dependency and sorrow, often reportedly neglecting her duties. Their father seems to harbor disdain for Nancy's difficult situation, viewing her as a burden.

As the story progresses, we learn that Nancy's life is marred by her abusive relationship with Jesus, a man with a violent past. Nancy's mental health deteriorates, leading to incidents of public humiliation that mirror the larger societal inequalities regarding race and gender. Her bold confrontations with white men highlight her desperate struggle for recognition and respect, underscoring the theme of systemic oppression.



Nancy's character embodies the theme of fear and helplessness; she is tormented by visions of Jesus lurking in the shadows, which deepens her sense of entrapment. Despite the children's innocent longing for play and connection, the reality of Nancy's despair seeps into their lives, creating an uncomfortable juxtaposition between childhood innocence and adult struggles.

The children's interactions reveal their naivety as well as a burgeoning awareness of the societal divisions that separate them from Nancy. The tension builds when the children, particularly Jason, want to retreat to their safe spaces while still being drawn to Nancy's home for the allure of fun. However, fear, sadness, and the weight of reality ultimately shroud the innocent desire for adventure.

By the end of the chapter, Nancy is left alone, embodying the loneliness of her existence while the children are forced to acknowledge the pain that exists beyond their privileged lives. The story closes with a haunting note, leaving the reader to reflect on the realities of race, gender, and the lingering effects of history on both individual lives and community dynamics. Faulkner deftly captures the complexity of human experiences, blending childhood memories with the stark truths of social inequality, making "That Evening Sun" a poignant and thought-provoking exploration of its themes.



Chapter 5 Summary: 5. Dry September

In "Dry September," a tense atmosphere envelops the small town of Jefferson as a rumor spreads like wildfire about an incident involving Miss Minnie Cooper and a Black man named Will Mayes. The chapter opens in a barber shop where local white men, reeking of sweat and pomade, grapple with their prejudices and the implications of the rumor. The argument escalates between those who have faith in Mayes's character and those who claim a white woman must be believed over a Black man. McLendon, a former soldier, stirs the group into a frenzy, insisting that they cannot allow a Black man to go unpunished for supposedly harming a white woman.

Minnie Cooper emerges as a deeply troubled woman, caught between her faded social status and the new fascination the town has for her as an object of gossip. Once vibrant and socially engaged, she now spends her days with her elderly mother and aunt in a house filled with the remnants of her past vitality. As her friends rally around her after the incident, it becomes clear that Minnie's fragile mental state is unraveling, inching toward hysteria as she attempts to process her role in the town's fevered reaction to her distress.

The barber, who knows Will Mayes personally and believes he is innocent, tries to intercede as McLendon and other men set out to confront Mayes. Their plan is shrouded in violence, demonstrating the depths of racism that fuels their actions. The barber's efforts reflect a moral struggle against the



tide of rampant racial injustice, showcasing his internal conflict as he grapples with both his empathy for Mayes and his place among his fellow whites.

As the men corner Mayes, he becomes a victim of their unchecked rage. The narrative crescendos with the barber's desperate attempt to distance himself from the mob mentality and the violence about to be unleashed. Despite his awareness of Mayes's integrity, he ultimately fails to change the course of events, highlighting the tragic nature of the societal forces at play.

Furthermore, Minnie's recent social isolation is underscored as she prepares for a night out, hoping to reconnect with her former self. Instead, she is met with the harsh reality of her position in society, finding herself both the center of attention and an object of pity, further complicating her sense of identity.

The chapter culminates in a stark portrayal of racial tension and the profound impacts of community dynamics, underscoring themes of injustice, gender expectations, and the costs of societal norms. The swift shift from gossip to violence encapsulates the destructive power of rumor and the deeply entrenched racism within the community, leaving a haunting impression as the dust settles on the dark night of September.



Chapter 6: 6. Delta Autumn

In Chapter 6 of "Delta Autumn," we follow Uncle Ike McCaslin, an elderly man with decades of hunting tradition behind him, as he embarks on another deer hunting trip into the Delta. This journey is steeped in nostalgia, reminding him of the days when he hunted bears with fellow young men and traveled by wagon. Now, he rides in cars with the younger generation, gradually coming to terms with his own mortality and the diminishing wilderness around him.

As they approach the hunting grounds, tensions arise in the car ride. The younger men express frustration over the state of the country and their sense of hopelessness, referencing looming threats from war. Uncle Ike remains reflective, contrasting their cynical outlook with his belief in the resilience of the land and the spirit of the people who inhabit it. The dialogue reveals generational differences in attitudes toward hunting, manhood, and the nature of existence, highlighting a bittersweet connection between past and present.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



★★★★★
22k 5 star review

Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

...tes after each book summary
...understanding but also make the
...and engaging. Bookey has
...ding for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages
Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway
to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity
is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

...ding habit
...o's design
...ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the
important parts of a book. It also gives me enough
idea whether or not I should purchase the whole
book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for
summaries are concise, ins
curated. It's like having acc
right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen
to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary
of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a
great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with
busy schedules. The summaries are spot
on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh
I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 7 Summary: 7. Barn Burning

In Chapter 7 of "Barn Burning" by William Faulkner, the story resonates with themes of loyalty, poverty, and the harsh realities of family dynamics. The chapter opens in a musty store where a Justice of the Peace court is in session, filled with anxiety and desperation. Young Colonel Sartoris Snopes, the protagonist and son of Abner Snopes, sits in a nail keg, absorbed by the palpable smells of cheese and fear that permeate the room. The tension builds as his father, Abner, faces off against his neighbor, Mr. Harris, who accuses him of burning down a barn.

The boy is called to testify, and he feels the pressure of his father's expectations, fearing he must lie to protect him. Abner's cold demeanor and inflexible resolve are evident, and when the Justice ultimately dismisses the case but warns Abner to leave town, the family is forced to uproot again, adhering to a cycle of instability due to their father's resentful and impulsive nature. This experience weighs heavily on Sartoris, who feels the deep pull of familial loyalty but is also beginning to grapple with the moral implications of his father's actions.

The chapter poignantly captures the family's travel to yet another temporary home, describing the dusty, transient lifestyle they endure. As they settle down at a new place, tension continues to build. Abner's oppressive control over his family manifests when he brutally reprimands them, particularly



when addressing issues about the rug they've borrowed. This scene highlights his refusal to submit to the authority of others, mirroring his earlier conflict with the Justice.

The boy's awareness of his father's relentless rise against the world begins to spiral into a moment of reckoning. As Abner faces major repercussions for his actions, including owing damages for the destroyed rug, Sartoris experiences a shift in perspective about his father's relentless pride. The building conflict culminates in a violent episode where Sartoris must confront the frightening reality of his father's brutality and choices.

The chapter serves as a turning point, reflecting Sartoris's internal struggle between blind loyalty to his father and a burgeoning conscience that recognizes the brutality and chaos his father's actions wreak upon their lives. He ultimately takes a stand for his beliefs, leading to a momentous and heart-wrenching climax that leaves him grappling with feelings of despair and a longing for a better life. As the chapter closes, Sartoris finds himself disillusioned yet resolute to escape the cycle of his father's violent legacy, thrusting him into a world of uncertain futures, depicted in vivid detail by Faulkner. The absence of resolution leaves Sartoris in a poignant state of yearning for safety while simultaneously burdened by the ties of blood and loyalty.

Key Points	Details
------------	---------

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Key Points	Details
Themes	Loyalty, poverty, family dynamics
Setting	A musty store during a Justice of the Peace court session
Main Character	Colonel Sartoris Snopes, son of Abner Snopes
Conflict	Abner Snopes accused of burning down a barn; tension with neighbor Mr. Harris
Sartoris's Dilemma	Pressure to lie for his father; struggle with loyalty vs. morality
Family Dynamics	Cycle of instability; Abner's control and brutality towards family
Turning Point	Sartoris confronts the reality of his father's actions and brutality
Character Development	Sartoris begins to question his father's pride and humanity
Climax	A momentous confrontation leading to Sartoris's disillusionment
The Ending	Sartoris feels a longing for a better life and grapples with the burden of loyalty



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The struggle between loyalty and moral conscience

Critical Interpretation: You stand at a crossroads, much like Sartoris, where the weight of family loyalty collides with your understanding of right and wrong. This chapter inspires you to reflect on the relationships in your life and the expectations that come with them. Just as Sartoris grapples with his father's harshness, you too may find yourself challenged by the integrity of your beliefs versus the ties that bind you to loved ones. Consider this an invitation to evaluate those loyalties: Will you sacrifice your moral compass for devotion, or will you find the courage to confront the uncomfortable truths? The struggle teaches you that true loyalty sometimes means advocating for what is just, even when it feels like an uphill battle. In this, you can discover strength, hope, and the possibility of breaking negative cycles, forging a path toward a more authentic existence.



Chapter 8 Summary: 8. An Odor of Verbena

In Chapter 8 of William Faulkner's "Barn Burning," tensions rise in a gripping narrative filled with themes of loyalty, honor, and the shadow of violence. The story unfolds after supper at the Wilkins household, where Bayard Sartoris is confronted by Professor Wilkins, who bursts into his room, heralding news about the fate of Colonel Sartoris—Bayard's father—who has been killed. The urgency of the moment weighs heavily on Bayard, and there's an air of inevitable tragedy as he prepares for the confrontation that lies ahead.

As Bayard dresses, he considers the cloak he takes with him, feeling a premonition that he may never return to the Wilkins' home. Ringo, his steadfast companion, whom he describes as a brother more than a servant, is waiting, having already saddled fresh horses. Their unspoken bond becomes evident, as they ride off into the evening, reminiscent of their childhood adventures in the haunting backdrop of the Civil War.

The narrative shifts to Bayard's thoughts about his heritage and the legacy of violence that weighs upon the Sartoris family. His impending confrontation with Ben Redmond, who is associated with his father's death, lingers ominously in the air. Faulkner explores the churning emotions within Bayard—his struggle between adhering to a code of honor that demands vengeance and the possibility of opting for a different path, a deeper



understanding of morality that transcends bloodshed.

Through a series of vivid scenes, including Bayard's recollections of previous familial ties and the ghostly shadow of his late father, Faulkner delves into the personal anguish experienced by Bayard as he navigates these new and dark waters. The tension culminates as Bayard arrives in town, aware of the quiet violence that surrounds his family's reputation. George Wyatt and other locals, who have a shared past with the Sartoris family, wait expectantly for the outcome of the confrontation.

In a gripping climax, Bayard meets Redmond in his office. The confrontation underscores the complexities of their shared history and the reality of their circumstances—a reflection of Southern society still grappling with the consequences of the Civil War. Bayard's decision not to fire upon Redmond, despite the loaded pistols and the weight of expectations, is a poignant moment. The surrender of the cycle of vengeance indicates his struggle for self-definition against the family legacy.

As the chapter draws to a close, Bayard experiences profound changes in his own identity. The scent of verbena in the room—symbolizing the past and its inescapable hold—captures the bittersweet nature of his heritage and the healing yet burdensome love that surrounds him. Faulkner's lyrical prose invites readers into a world of moral ambiguity, leaving lingering reflections on honor, family ties, and the choices that shape one's destiny. The chapter



masterfully encapsulates the complex emotions surrounding legacy, violence, and the pursuit of peace in the wake of a long-standing feud.

More Free Book



Scan to Download