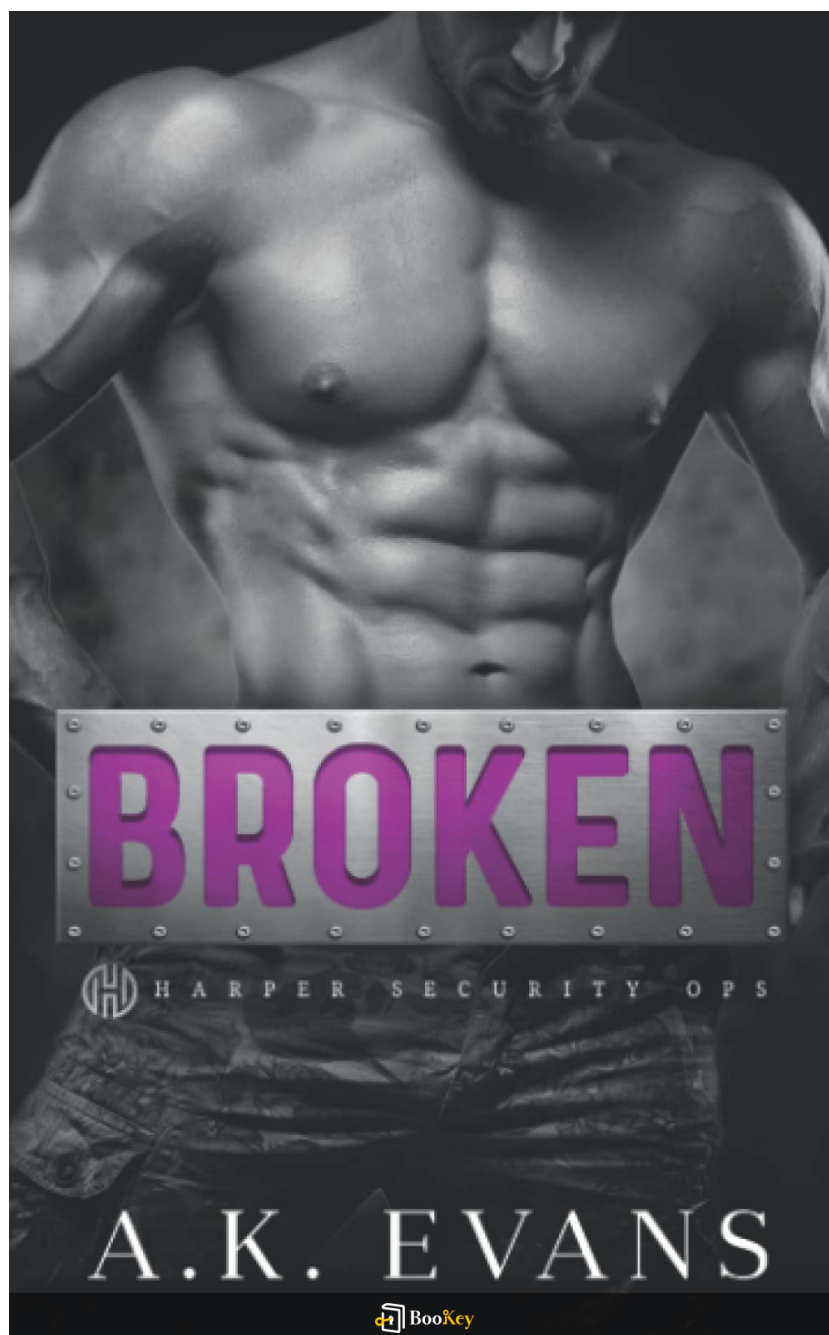


Broken PDF (Limited Copy)

A.K. Evans



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Broken Summary

Healing through love amidst shattered dreams.

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About the book

In "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we delve into the raw and turbulent hearts of two individuals who have been shattered by their pasts, yet find hope and healing in each other's embrace. As they navigate the complexities of love while battling the emotional scars left by previous relationships, readers are taken on a poignant journey of vulnerability, resilience, and the transformative power of connection. This gripping tale explores the delicate interplay of trust and redemption, making it impossible not to root for characters who must confront their fears and the shadows of their histories to reclaim their futures. Immerse yourself in a world where brokenness speaks louder than words and love is the ultimate catalyst for change.

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About the author

A.K. Evans is a contemporary romance author known for her emotionally charged storytelling and relatable characters that captivate readers across genres. With a background in literature and a passion for crafting intricate plots, Evans weaves tales that explore the complexities of love, loss, and personal growth. Her writing resonates with a diverse audience, reflecting both the joys and challenges of modern relationships. A.K. Evans continuously strives to push the boundaries of romance fiction, creating narratives that are both engaging and thought-provoking, captivating fans and newcomers alike.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1. Skye

Skye is grappling with profound exhaustion and emotional turmoil five months after a painful betrayal from Simon, her boyfriend, and Maria, her best friend. Despite the heartache, she's found a sense of pride and strength in moving on from them without engaging in confrontation. Instead of dwelling on her grief, Skye focuses on her cherished bookstore, The Next Chapter, passed down from her grandmother. The bookstore has always been her refuge, allowing her to escape into the comfort of stories, especially during difficult times like her parents' death and her recent heartbreak.

As she navigates life post-betrayal, Skye invests in her bookstore, enhancing the customer experience with wheeled carts for easier book shopping. This renovation is a homage to her grandmother's legacy and a step toward building her future, even if it feels lonely without Simon and Maria in her life. While her work becomes her primary focus, she struggles with insomnia, hinting at the lingering emotional wounds and the reality of her solitude.

Just as she begins to settle into her new life, a disruption occurs when a piece of wood crashes through the storefront window. This startling incident introduces Cooper, an unfamiliar but strikingly assertive man. He explains that the piece of wood was meant to secure his truck from the weather, and now he's responsible for fixing the damage. Despite her initial fear, Skye is

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quickly taken by his commanding presence and dedication to rectifying the situation.

Their interaction reveals a blend of uncertainty and intrigue, as Skye finds herself captivated by Cooper, whose confidence and concern stand in stark contrast to the betrayal she endured. As Cooper takes charge to fix the window, Skye's mix of anxiety and curiosity about him hints at the possibility of new beginnings, leaving readers eagerly anticipating how their relationship might unfold against her tumultuous backdrop.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Change and New Beginnings

Critical Interpretation: Skye's journey teaches us the power of resilience in the face of betrayal. Instead of allowing her heartbreak to define her, she channels her energy into revitalizing her bookstore, a sanctuary of her past. This decision inspires you to view life's upheavals as opportunities for growth. When faced with challenges, consider how you might redirect your focus toward building a future that honors your resilience and dreams. The arrival of Cooper symbolizes the unexpected chances life offers us after loss, urging you to remain open to new experiences and connections that can transform your narrative.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Cooper

In Chapter 2 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we meet Cooper, a dedicated and somewhat perfectionistic operations and maintenance manager at a confectionery company called Westwood. As he grapples with a minor disaster—a gust of wind has sent a piece of wood through the glass door of a local bookshop—his sense of responsibility weighs heavily on him. Though he has successfully created a temporary fix for the door, he understands that it's not an ideal solution and feels guilty for potentially affecting someone else's business.

While waiting to speak with Skye, the bookshop owner, his admiration for her grows. He notices her stunning physical features, from her flowing hair to her bright blue-gray eyes, and he appreciates her kind demeanor, especially her easygoing nature in light of the accident. Their conversation reveals Skye's warm, understanding spirit as she reassures Cooper that accidents happen, making it clear that she's not harboring resentment toward him. Cooper finds himself captivated by her sweetness, recognizing a stark contrast between her gentleness and his own more chaotic life.

After discussing the necessary repairs, Cooper offers Skye his contact information, wanting to ensure she can reach him should any issues arise before he completes the repair. Skye's simple acceptance of the situation further endears her to him, and he hopes to see her smile again soon.

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Upon returning to his workplace, Cooper encounters his sister Ivy and best friend Marco, who both tease him about the mishap and show interest in the mysterious "woman" involved. As Cooper explains the ongoing repairs and the challenges of managing his workload, he struggles with juggling his responsibilities while wanting to fix his mistake for Skye. His day complicates further when he learns that the replacement glass will take eight weeks, urging him to consider other options to ease the situation for her.

The chapter explores themes of responsibility, attraction, and the chaos of life, highlighting Cooper's internal conflict between his work commitments and the desire to forge a connection with Skye. Through his interactions, readers sense Cooper's deep-seated values and the burgeoning interest he has in Skye, setting the stage for potential future developments in both his personal and professional life.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace responsibility with kindness and humility

Critical Interpretation: In your own life, like Cooper, you may sometimes feel overwhelmed by the weight of your responsibilities, especially when mistakes happen. This chapter inspires you to embrace your role in addressing these challenges with kindness, not just toward others, but also toward yourself. By acknowledging your imperfections and being open to learning from your experiences, you can foster genuine connections, like the one developing between Cooper and Skye. Remember that showing vulnerability and a willingness to make amends can lead to deeper relationships and personal growth, encouraging you to approach life's chaos with a bit of grace and humor.

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Chapter 3: 3. Skye

In Chapter 3 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we see Skye navigating the aftermath of her best friend Maria's betrayal. Skye's inability to sleep has taken an unexpected turn for the better. She has become more aware of the people around her, particularly Cooper, a kind and handsome contractor who has offered to fix the shattered door of her bookstore. A phone call from Cooper sets the stage for their growing connection, as he insists on coming in early to complete the repair, showcasing both his diligence and his thoughtfulness.

Their first face-to-face meeting is filled with tension and nervous excitement. Skye's encounter with Cooper reveals her vulnerability, especially as she grapples with her feelings for him while still processing her past. She notices how much of a presence he has and feels an undeniable attraction, while also becoming increasingly aware of her fears regarding relationships after being hurt.

However, the atmosphere shifts dramatically when Maria unexpectedly

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Chapter 4 Summary: 4. Cooper

In Chapter 4 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we delve deeper into the emotional turmoil that Skye is experiencing after confronting her ex-boyfriend Simon and former best friend Maria, who have betrayed her trust. The scene opens with Cooper, a kind-hearted acquaintance, checking on Skye after witnessing her distress. Despite his initial questions feeling inadequate, he offers her reassurance, revealing a hint of vulnerability and protective instinct toward her.

Skye's painful backstory is unraveled as she shares the betrayal she faced through an email rather than in person, confirming the emotional scars left by both Simon and Maria. Cooper expresses disbelief and anger on her behalf, reinforcing the notion that what happened to her was entirely out of line. Their connection deepens as Cooper reveals a personal motivation for stepping in—his two sisters—and how any man betraying them would compel him to act.

As the conversation continues, Skye reveals her intention to skip a long-standing charity event due to the emotional distress of facing both her ex and her former friend, now pregnant together. Cooper counters her hesitation with a surprising offer to accompany her to the benefit, asserting that she shouldn't let their betrayal dictate her happiness. He proposes that they go together, presenting the idea as a way for her to reclaim her joy

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rather than giving it up entirely.

The chapter transitions into the deeper personal motivations driving both Skye and Cooper. Skye is conflicted; she longs for Cooper's companionship while also wanting to maintain her vow to steer clear of romantic entanglements after her heartache. Nonetheless, a spark is evident as they discuss the charity event, and when Cooper casually mentions his connection to the Westwood family, Skye's disbelief at this revelation lights up the moment.

As the chapter unfolds, Skye contemplates how she might communicate her boundaries regarding relationships to Cooper, fearful of appearing ungrateful for his kindness. The tension between her attraction to him and her desire for emotional independence creates a rich internal conflict. Ultimately, she agrees to Cooper's invitation to a "pre-date," which he cunningly frames as preparation for the event, signaling both characters' growing interest in each other despite Skye's caution.

With humor and genuine care, Cooper's charm gradually begins to chip away at Skye's defenses. By the end, she is faced with a mix of excitement and apprehension, unsure where this new connection might lead. Themes of betrayal, healing, and the complexities of new relationships emerge, highlighting how unexpected kindness can spark hope and revitalization in the aftermath of hurt. As the chapter closes, there's a sense of looming

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possibility for both characters, setting the stage for their unfolding journey together.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Don't let past betrayals dictate your happiness.

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at a crossroads in your life, where the weight of betrayal feels insurmountable, yet a glimmer of hope beckons. This chapter reminds you that you possess the power to reclaim your joy, even when hurt lingers in your heart. Just like Skye, you may find yourself hesitating to embrace new opportunities out of fear—fear of being hurt again or fear of what others might think. But in choosing to rise above the pain, you open yourself to unexpected connections and moments of joy that could redefine your path. The courage to confront your past, to step into the light of new possibilities, could be the catalyst for healing and growth in your life. Take Cooper's example to heart; just because someone has hurt you doesn't mean you have to shy away from happiness. Learn to cherish what life has to offer, step out of the shadows of betrayal, and allow kindness to transform your outlook.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5. Skye

In Chapter 5 of "Broken," Skye grapples with the emotional fallout from her tumultuous past, particularly the betrayal by Simon and Maria. Sleepless nights have become an ingrained part of her life, leading her to overanalyze her relationships, primarily fixating on the hurt from the past. However, recent interactions with Cooper Westwood begin to shift her focus as she anticipates their upcoming date.

Cooper reaches out to Skye soon after fixing a door at her bookstore, initiating a conversation that feels light yet meaningful. He engages her in a way that stirs feelings she thought were buried, showing genuine care for her well-being and work life. Despite telling herself this is just a friendly gesture to help her deal with her ex, Skye can't shake the excitement she feels about their connection. Their exchange, full of flirty banter and subtle hints, adds a layer of complexity to their budding relationship.

As the days pass, Cooper's constant communication deepens Skye's resolve to move on from her past while also amplifying her anxiety about their date. The reader witnesses Skye's preparation for their dinner at Savor, which includes choosing a dress and engaging in grooming rituals that underline her nervous anticipation. She worries about maintaining her emotional guard, as Cooper's charming demeanor and attentiveness continue to draw her in.

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When the date finally arrives, Skye's insecurities clash with her growing attraction to Cooper. His arrival, coupled with a sincere compliment about her appearance, only intensifies her feelings. The chapter closes with the pair entering the restaurant, setting the stage for a potentially transformative evening for Skye, who is torn between her guarded instincts and her desire to embrace new possibilities with Cooper.

This chapter explores themes of betrayal, healing, and the complexities of opening one's heart after being hurt. It highlights Skye's journey from despair to the brink of hope, showcasing her vulnerability and the allure of new connections that challenge her previous assumptions about love and trust.

Aspect	Summary
Character Focus	Skye
Emotional Struggle	Skye grapples with the emotional fallout from betrayal by Simon and Maria.
Relationship Dynamics	Skye's interactions with Cooper Westwood begin to shift her focus away from her past hurt.
Cooper's Influence	Cooper engages Skye with meaningful conversations, awakening buried feelings.
Date Anticipation	Skye prepares nervously for a dinner date with Cooper at Savor.

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Aspect	Summary
Thematic Elements	The chapter explores betrayal, healing, and the complexities of new relationships.
Emotional Climax	Skye's insecurities clash with her attraction to Cooper as they arrive at the restaurant.
Conclusion	The chapter ends with the potential for a transformative evening for Skye.

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Chapter 6: 6. SKYE

In this chapter of "Broken," we delve deeper into the developing relationship between Skye and Cooper during dinner. Skye is anxious and feels a mix of nervousness and excitement, especially as Cooper starts to share details about his life and work at Westwood's. To distract herself from her swirling emotions, she asks about his job, only to discover that he's not only involved with chocolate production but also manages the entire operations and maintenance side of the business. His responsibilities surprise her, and she finds herself impressed by the variety and challenges of his role.

As their conversation unfolds, Skye learns that Cooper comes from a large family of six children, which sparks feelings of envy within her. Having lost her own family, she struggles with the loneliness that defines her life. His pride in his siblings and the closeness of his family contrasts sharply with her isolation, making her long for the kind of familial bonds she lost when her parents died tragically in a robbery when she was just eight years old. This revelation deepens Cooper's understanding of Skye's solitary life and her past traumas, including the recent heartbreak from her ex-boyfriend,

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7. COOPER

In Chapter 7 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we dive deeper into Cooper's world, where family responsibilities and personal connections intertwine. The chapter opens with Cooper at the chocolate factory, dealing with a malfunctioning conche machine alongside his friend Marco. While they tackle repairs, Cooper's mind is preoccupied with a meeting called by his family—a task he loathes as it typically disrupts his work.

As he heads to Wyatt's office, the anticipation of what's to come clouds his thoughts. Upon arrival, he finds not only Wyatt, his brother, but also his dad, Malcolm, and Tate, along with his younger sister, Jules, and their mom, Evelyn. They're visibly excited, hinting at something significant unfolding. Jules, who has been secretly planning with the others, reveals her dream of opening a bakery after finishing her pastry program. This revelation surprises Cooper, but he quickly learns that she needs his help to make it a reality.

The mood shifts from tension to warmth as Cooper agrees to support Jules, reassuring her of his unwavering commitment to their family ties. The exchange is sweet, showcasing the strong bond they share and Cooper's willingness to assist despite his busy schedule. Family loyalty and love are strong themes here, as he balances his personal ambitions with those of his loved ones.

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As the chapter continues, Cooper's thoughts drift to Skye, the woman who has recently entered his life. He's captivated by her, reflecting on their budding connection and the chemistry they share. Their text exchanges reveal a playful and genuine rapport, emphasizing Cooper's desire to be there for her, as she navigates her own struggles from a past relationship. The chapter ends on a high note, with Cooper eager to plan another meeting with Skye, hinting at potential romance in the air.

Throughout, the chapter captures Cooper's frustrations with work, his joy in family connections, and the excitement of new love, highlighting the delicate balance between responsibility and personal happiness. The storytelling is rich and engaging, drawing readers into Cooper's life while also leaving them curious about his evolving relationships.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of family support in achieving personal dreams

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate through your own aspirations and responsibilities, let Cooper's journey remind you of the power of family support. Just as he stepped up for Jules, pledging to help her pursue her dream of opening a bakery, consider how your loved ones can uplift you in your endeavors. Finding balance between individual ambitions and collective dreams is not only possible but can lead to profound connections, showing you that pursuing your path doesn't need to happen in isolation—your family can be both your anchor and your wings.

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Chapter 8 Summary: 8. SKYE

In Chapter 8 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye reflects on the concept of fate and how it intertwines with her life, especially after Cooper's suggestion that fate might guide their paths. Despite her cynical outlook on life's hardships, which include the loss of her parents and a betrayal by her ex-boyfriend and best friend, Skye is drawn to Cooper's positivity and kind nature. This chapter unfolds during their midday outing to a lakeside park, where they rent a canoe, showcasing a budding connection between them.

Their dialogue reveals Skye's internal conflict about the pretend relationship they are fostering to fool Simon and Maria, her ex and his girlfriend. While Skye is careful to not label their time together as a date, Cooper is eager to deepen their bond and insists on getting to know her better. He expresses a desire for the charade to be convincing, which hints at his genuine interest in her that transcends their initial agreement.

As they share personal details, Skye learns more about Cooper's close family ties and his willingness to help his sister achieve her dreams. This familial bond resonates with her, prompting her to share her own precious memories of her parents, which leads to an emotional moment between the two. Cooper's tenderness in reassuring her about her past further cements their connection.

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The dynamic shifts as they flirt and engage in lighthearted banter, revealing personal quirks and preferences, and highlighting their growing comfort with each other. Skye's walls begin to lower as Cooper encourages her to break free from her fears. They make plans for the charity event and Cooper's birthday celebration, with Skye tentatively agreeing to attend under the condition that he picks her up, reinforcing her vulnerability.

As their day comes to a close, both characters leave with a sense of hope and excitement for what lies ahead. Skye finds herself smiling for the first time in months, recognizing that perhaps there is room for happiness and connection in her life after all. This chapter beautifully captures themes of love, vulnerability, and the juxtaposition of past traumas against potential new beginnings, illustrating how even unexpected relationships can spark joy and openness.

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Chapter 9: 9. COOPER

In Chapter 9 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we delve into Cooper's evolving feelings for Skye after a magical canoe outing that leaves him questioning his long-held beliefs about relationships. He confides in his brother Wyatt, seeking advice on how soon one can know if someone is "the one." Wyatt reflects on his own relationship with Rhea, which took a few encounters to feel significant, offering Cooper reassurance that he's on the right track.

While in Wyatt's office, Cooper realizes their youngest brother, Liam, is present. The mood is tense, given Liam's heartache from a past relationship. Despite this, he insists he wants the best for his brothers, showing the complex dynamics within the family as they navigate love and loss.

Cooper shares details about Skye, revealing her recent painful breakup, where her ex's infidelity led to a complicated situation with her former best friend. This backdrop raises the stakes for Cooper, who is aware that Skye isn't ready for a relationship and is still healing. His feelings for her clash with her caution, and he seeks to understand how to navigate their budding

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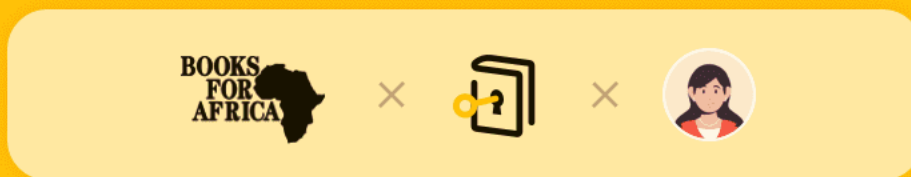
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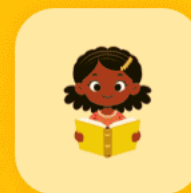
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Chapter 10 Summary: 10. SKYE

In Chapter 10 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye feels a mix of anxiety and anticipation as she prepares to attend a charity event. It's been months since she last saw Simon, her ex-boyfriend who betrayed her trust, and tonight is the first time she'll confront him, along with Maria, the woman who showed up at her bookstore. Despite her nerves, Skye finds solace in the thought of Cooper, her supportive friend, who is accompanying her to the event.

When Cooper arrives, Skye is taken aback by how incredibly handsome he looks in a suit, which ignites a different kind of nervousness in her. He compliments her beauty, making her feel appreciated and cherished, especially since Simon never gave her such affirmations during their relationship. Their conversation reveals deeper feelings and trust as Cooper promises to protect her from Simon. Skye acknowledges the difference in how she feels with Cooper compared to her past with Simon, emphasizing her gratitude for Cooper's support during a challenging time.

As they drive to the venue, Skye communicates her fears and anxieties about encountering Simon, and Cooper reassures her with his calming presence. Their connection deepens as Cooper's touch and words reassures her in a way Simon never did. Upon arriving at Westwood's, they walk hand in hand, creating a sense of intimacy and comfort that Skye hasn't felt in a long time.

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They unexpectedly run into Cooper's sister, Ivy, who is responsible for organizing the event. Skye is shocked to learn that Cooper has been talking about her to Ivy, highlighting how much their relationship has blossomed. As Ivy leaves to attend to her responsibilities, Skye feels a growing sense of belonging, both with Cooper and within the event's atmosphere.

However, the moment of peace is interrupted when a familiar voice calls out Skye's name, stirring a mix of emotions as she braces for her encounter with Simon. This chapter beautifully illustrates themes of trust, healing, and the contrasts between past pain and present hope, showcasing Skye's journey toward reclaiming her confidence with Cooper by her side.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of supportive relationships in healing past wounds

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 10 of 'Broken,' you witness Skye's transformation through the unwavering support of Cooper, who not only reassures her but also fosters a sense of security that empowers her to confront her past. This illustrates how crucial it is to surround yourself with people who genuinely care and uplift you, reinforcing the idea that healing from emotional wounds is often easier when you have the right support system. As you navigate your own life, let this insight encourage you to seek and cherish relationships that foster growth, confidence, and resilience, allowing you to face your own challenges with renewed strength.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11. SKYE

In Chapter 11 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye faces an emotionally charged encounter with her ex-boyfriend Simon and former best friend Maria, who betrayed her by starting a relationship together. As Skye turns to face them, she feels a mix of betrayal and anger, especially as they appear happy and expectant, flaunting their new life without a hint of remorse for their actions. Driven by hurt, Skye instinctively seeks comfort from Cooper, who supports her quietly yet confidently.

Maria tries to engage Skye in conversation, unaware of the pain she has caused. Meanwhile, Cooper steps in to defend Skye's honor, claiming that Maria should never have made her back away from these events in the first place. His unexpected support helps Skye realize that she's better off without Simon, especially as Cooper's presence shows her that not all men will treat her poorly.

The situation takes a turn when Cooper introduces himself to Simon and Maria, revealing his identity as part of a respected family with a charitable background. It becomes clear that Simon is experiencing a sense of regret witnessing Skye with someone so much better than him. As the tension diffuses, Cooper and Skye move on to enjoy their evening together, emphasizing the chemistry growing between them.

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During dinner, Cooper surprises everyone by announcing a generous donation of one million dollars to a reading foundation, driven by his desire to make a difference in the community and connect with Skye's love for reading. Skye is touched by this gesture, realizing how attentive Cooper is to her passions and feelings. Their conversation flows easily, and amidst the chaos of emotions, Skye finds herself smiling again. The chapter ends with Skye feeling lighter, as she begins to let go of her past hurt and embrace the moment with Cooper, ready for the fun that lies ahead. This chapter beautifully explores themes of betrayal, friendship, healing, and the hope that comes with new beginnings, all while showcasing the budding connection between Skye and Cooper.

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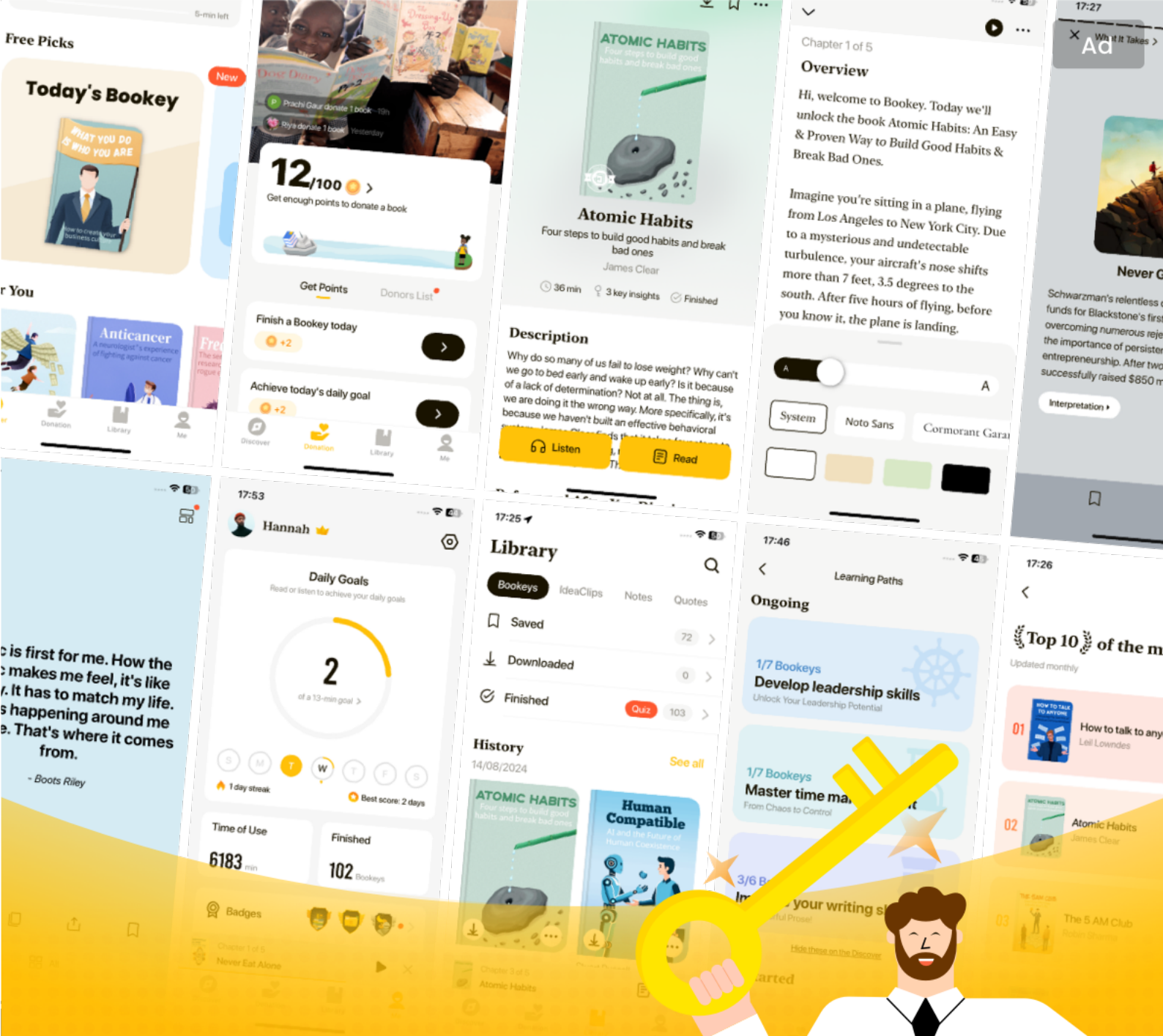
Chapter 12: 12. COOPER

In Chapter 12 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Cooper reflects on the greatest night of his life spent with Skye, feeling a deepening connection between them. Their evening began with a dinner that exceeded all expectations, showcasing Skye's infectious love for food and their easy, engaging conversation. Cooper notices how relaxed and open Skye has become around him, a stark contrast to the tension that characterized their first outing together. Their dancing becomes intimate, marked by little signs of affection that indicate Skye's growing comfort and attraction to him.

The moment they encounter Skye's ex-boyfriend Simon and his date Maria initially worries Cooper, but it surprisingly frees Skye from lingering anxiety, allowing them to enjoy the rest of their night fully. As they dance, Cooper feels hopeful, sensing that tonight may be the right time to express his feelings to Skye. The night draws to a close as they consider when to leave, with Skye expressing how much fun she's had and looking forward to their next meeting.

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13. SKYE

In Chapter 13 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye bids farewell to her friends Joan and Valerie after a busy day at work, feeling both excited and anxious about her upcoming date with Cooper. As she navigates the sticky summer air, she reflects on her growing feelings for him, especially after their wonderful evening at the charity benefit. Rather than being burdened by painful thoughts of her past, her mind is filled with thoughts of Cooper, particularly the intimate moments they shared.

As she prepares for her evening with him, Skye grapples with the idea of potentially deepening their relationship, recalling Cooper's gentle nature and his offer to support her through her struggles. Although she feels the tug of fear about getting hurt again, she is also eager to discuss her feelings with him, but decides to wait, knowing that today is his birthday.

After rushing to get ready, Skye eagerly greets Cooper at her doorstep, celebrating his birthday with enthusiasm. She surprises him with a thoughtful gift—a pocketknife engraved with a playful reminder of their first encounter. His reaction warms her heart, and they share light banter over the gift and some cupcakes she's baked for him. They both enjoy the treats, further cementing their connection with shared laughter and teasing.

As they drive to Cooper's family gathering, Skye realizes she hasn't

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celebrated her own birthday in years. She hesitantly confesses to Cooper that she has no one to celebrate with, but he reassures her that he is there for her, expressing hope that their relationship can grow beyond friendship. Cooper's steady support helps her feel more secure about the future.

Upon arriving at Cooper's family mansion, Skye is struck by the grandeur of the place and feels a wave of anxiety about facing the crowd. However, with Cooper's reassuring presence and promise to stand by her side, she begins to feel more confident as they make their way toward his family, highlighting a theme of support and connection amid personal fears. The chapter ends with Skye embracing the unknown as she steps into a new social realm with Cooper.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14. SKYE

In Chapter 14 of "Broken," titled "Skye," we dive into Skye's experience at Cooper's birthday party, set against the backdrop of his impressive and expansive family home. As they arrive, Skye is overwhelmed by the crowd and the lavish surroundings, leading her to doubt whether she truly fits into Cooper's world, which is filled with affluence and warmth. Her nerves surface as she struggles with the pressure of meeting so many new faces, worrying about how his family might perceive her.

Skye and Cooper navigate through the party guests, with Cooper holding her hand reassuringly. He takes her through introductions, showcasing his family—his parents, Evelyn and Malcolm, and his siblings. Their welcoming nature alleviates some of Skye's fears about not being good enough for Cooper, and she slowly begins to feel more at ease amidst the chaos and warmth of the celebration.

As they move towards the food, Skye's anxiety resurfaces, particularly when faced with the abundance of various dishes. Cooper is perceptive to her feelings and encourages her to be herself, which helps her bond with him more deeply. Their connection is highlighted through intimate moments, such as when Cooper feeds Skye a shrimp and they share a playful exchange, enhancing the tenderness of their relationship.

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The conversation at the table shifts when Rhea, one of Cooper's family members, asks Skye about her own background, revealing a poignant part of her story—she's the sole owner of a family bookstore after tragically losing her parents at a young age. While this brings a brief moment of tension, Evelyn, Cooper's mother, seamlessly redirects the conversation, showcasing the family's sensitivity and connection.

Skye's insecurities surface again when Cooper's family playfully teases him about his personality at work, leading to her concern about whether she truly knows the "real" Cooper. However, their banter reassures her of his fundamentally kind nature. The lighthearted environment allows Skye to relax further, and they begin to bond over shared interests, such as their love for gardens.

By the end of the chapter, Skye realizes that despite her initial fears, she feels a growing sense of belonging with Cooper's family. The interactions reveal a recurring theme: the challenge of self-acceptance in relationships, and the warmth of familial love. The chapter concludes with Skye feeling hopeful and excited about what the future holds for her and Cooper, contemplating the gifts she wants to share with him later.

Through a vivid depiction of emotions and a deepening connection between Skye and Cooper, this chapter beautifully illustrates the complexity of love, acceptance, and the longing for familial bonds.

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Chapter 15: 15. COOPER

In Chapter 15 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we delve into Cooper's thoughts and emotions as he celebrates his 27th birthday. Growing up, he was filled with excitement for special moments, but as he matured, that thrill faded, leaving him with a greater appreciation for simply being with family. Today, however, everything feels revitalized, largely thanks to Skye, whose presence ignites the kind of anticipation he hasn't felt in years.

Cooper is particularly eager to see Skye in her bikini, and when she finally emerges, she is stunning, sparking a whirlwind of feelings in him. Their playful banter reveals both attraction and a budding connection, as Cooper admires her beauty while Skye reciprocates with shy compliments. Their interaction builds a palpable tension; Skye's request for sunscreen application allows for intimate moments as he applies it to her back. Their chemistry is undeniable, though both seem to hold back, navigating their way through a delicate mix of flirtation and uncertainty.

As they join friends and family for a lively volleyball tournament, Cooper

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Chapter 16 Summary: 16. COOPER

In Chapter 16 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, the focus is on the budding relationship between Cooper and Skye after a celebratory birthday party. The chapter opens with Cooper arriving at Skye's home, eager to extend their time together. Skye invites him in to retrieve cupcakes she made just for him, revealing her thoughtful nature. Their playful banter showcases their growing comfort with one another, underscoring both Cooper's attraction to Skye and her struggles with self-image, as she brushes off compliments he pays her about her beauty.

As they discuss plans for the upcoming 4th of July holiday, Skye expresses her desire to spend time with Cooper while he's with his family at the lake house. Cooper reassures her that he wants her there too, reflecting his commitment to include her in his life. This moment reveals a shift in their dynamic—Cooper's determination to break down the emotional barriers Skye has erected due to her past experiences.

Their conversation turns intimate when Skye thanks Cooper for the enjoyable day and the two share an awkward yet significant moment where they almost kiss. The misunderstanding leads to a deeper connection when they finally share a passionate first kiss that leaves them both breathless and wanting more. Cooper is overwhelmed by his feelings for Skye, realizing she is someone he can't easily walk away from.

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The chapter not only highlights their romantic tension but also illustrates themes of hope and patience. Cooper's internal dialogue shows his struggle between wanting to rush into a relationship and his understanding that he must give Skye the space she needs. His friend Marco's inquiries about Cooper's feelings for Skye further illuminate Cooper's deepening bond with her and his hopes for a lasting relationship.

As the chapter concludes, Cooper reflects on his day-to-day life and the contrast it holds with the feelings Skye stirs within him. The anticipation of the next day's conversation about their relationship adds an exciting tension to the narrative, leaving readers invested in the characters' journey toward love and emotional healing. The chapter captures the message that vulnerability can lead to meaningful connections, even in the face of past traumas, making it a pivotal moment in their story.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17. SKYE

In Chapter 17 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we find Skye and Cooper en route to his family's lake house, where excitement and a mix of emotions fill the air. Skye is still savoring Cooper's bold declaration from their previous encounter, where he promised to prove she couldn't live without him. This promise lingers in her mind, making her question her own feelings and desire for a deeper connection with Cooper. She reflects on how, since he entered her life, she's felt happier than she has in months.

As their conversation unfolds, Skye reassures Cooper she wasn't calling him a liar but was surprised by his confidence. Cooper, in turn, playfully points out that it seems she might be the one convincing him of their bond, especially since she reached out to him to spend time together. This leads to an intimate moment where Skye realizes that she indeed wants to be with him and shares in his feelings.

Their camaraderie deepens as Cooper describes the upcoming family gathering. He depicts a lively and affectionate family dynamic, highlighting traditions like games and fireworks, making Skye feel excited rather than nervous about joining them. For her, something has shifted; the thought of mingling with Cooper's family no longer feels daunting but rather a fun opportunity to forge new connections.

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The chapter is rich in character development, showcasing Skye's growth from uncertainty to eagerness, and revealing Cooper's caring nature through gestures like bringing her breakfast and sharing affectionate moments. Themes of love, family connection, and self-discovery resonate throughout as Skye grapples with her feelings, ultimately embracing the evolving relationship she shares with Cooper. The promise of a joyful day ahead at the lake house fills her with hope and anticipation, marking a turning point in her journey toward finding happiness with him.

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Chapter 18: 18. SKYE

In Chapter 18 of "Broken," Skye and Cooper attend a family gathering centered around an Ultimate Frisbee tournament, which brings out Cooper's competitive side alongside that of his brothers and cousins. The atmosphere is warm and intimate, contrasting with the larger party they previously attended, making Skye feel more at ease. As Cooper prepares to join the game, he prioritizes Skye's comfort, offering her the chance to hang out with his sisters instead, showcasing his caring nature.

Skye sits with Cooper's sisters, Rhea, Ivy, and Jules, who are all impressed by Cooper's demeanor while playing—revealing a side of him that Skye hadn't seen before. The sisters discuss how Cooper seems more relaxed and happy with Skye, suggesting that her presence has a positive effect on him. This realization fills Skye with warmth as she realizes her impact on him and vice versa.

As the frisbee game progresses, Rhea shares her own love story with Wyatt, describing how they met and how persistent he was in pursuing her, much

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Chapter 19 Summary: 19. SKYE

In Chapter 19 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye's day unfolds amidst the excitement of an Ultimate Frisbee game, where she bonds with Ivy, Jules, Ava, and Rhea. The atmosphere shifts when she spots Cooper and Wyatt approaching, but her concern deepens upon seeing Cooper's bloodied face. Despite his attempts to downplay his injuries, Skye insists on tending to his wounds, showcasing her caring nature. The playful banter between Cooper and Wyatt lightens the mood, but the chemistry between Skye and Cooper begins to simmer as they interact.

Inside the bathroom, as Skye cleans Cooper's cuts, a sense of intimacy builds between them. Their teasing exchanges reveal a playful rapport, with Cooper acknowledging Skye's worry and Skye feeling flustered by their closeness. She is acutely aware of the desire building within her, complicating her thoughts as she touches him. Their flirtation escalates into a tender kiss, interrupted comically by Wyatt, who teases Cooper about his newfound affection.

Post-kiss, Skye encourages Cooper to rejoin the game, while her thoughts crystallize into a realization: she is ready to embrace a deeper connection with him. Her reflections on her past relationship with Simon juxtapose her feelings for Cooper. Skye recognizes that Cooper treats her with a warmth and respect she never experienced before, and she becomes determined to



pursue a genuine relationship with him.

As the chapter closes, Skye sets out to explore the lake house property with Cooper's grandmother, feeling a profound sense of belonging. She reflects on the fate that brought her here, hinting at promised love and healing. This chapter beautifully illustrates themes of vulnerability, healing through connection, and the bittersweet nature of moving past hurt toward a potential future filled with hope and love.

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Chapter 20 Summary: 20. COOPER

In this captivating chapter, we join Cooper and Skye as they enjoy a quiet moment together by a firepit, sharing s'mores under the summer sky.

Cooper finds solace and joy in Skye's company, appreciating the way she revels in simple pleasures. Their playful banter extends beyond casual conversation, as they explore their growing attraction.

The scene shifts from lighthearted to charged when Skye, after noticing Cooper's lingering gaze, questions what he's thinking. This leads to a heartfelt exchange where they confront their feelings for one another. Cooper expresses how much he admires her ability to find joy, while Skye describes herself as a simple girl, a claim Cooper disputes. The chemistry between them intensifies, especially when she playfully licks chocolate off his thumb, a moment filled with unexpected intimacy.

As the evening progresses, Skye acknowledges the complexity of their relationship. She reveals her fears about getting involved, stemming from past traumas and losses that have left her feeling vulnerable and alone. Cooper listens intently, understanding the weight of her emotions, and reassures her of his intentions—to cherish and heal her heart. He openly shares his feelings, detailing the ways she brightens his life, and conveys his desire to explore a deeper connection.

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Skye lays bare her inner turmoil, admitting that while she likes him immensely, she is scared to open herself up again. Cooper, recognizing the depth of her fears, reassures her that he is committed to being a dependable presence in her life. Finally, the tension culminates in a poignant moment of silence, filled with anticipation. After a seemingly eternal wait, Skye reaches out, bringing her face close to his and initiating a kiss, which Cooper deepens, solidifying their bond.

This chapter masterfully captures themes of vulnerability, healing, and the complexities of relationships, illustrating how two people can navigate their fears while seeking connection amidst uncertainty. With rich character development and palpable chemistry, the groundwork is laid for a poignant exploration of love blossoming against the backdrop of past heartache.

Key Elements	Details
Characters	Cooper, Skye
Setting	Firepit under the summer sky
Main Activity	Sharing s'mores and enjoying each other's company
Themes	Vulnerability, Healing, Complexity of Relationships
Conflict	Skye's fears about getting involved due to past traumas
Key Moments	Heartfelt exchange about feelings, intimate moments including licking chocolate off thumb, and a kiss



Key Elements	Details
Character Development	Cooper's commitment to cherish Skye; Skye's struggle with opening up
Conclusion	Solidifying their bond through a kiss, highlighting their connection amidst uncertainty

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Vulnerability

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, the powerful moment between Skye and Cooper teaches you the importance of embracing vulnerability in relationships. As Skye opens up about her fears and past traumas, you realize that allowing yourself to be vulnerable can lead to deeper connections and healing. You are inspired to reflect on your own hesitations about intimacy, understanding that sharing your truths with someone who genuinely cares can be the first step towards building a strong, supportive partnership. Just like Cooper reassures Skye, you too can find solace in knowing that vulnerability, rather than weakness, can pave the way for profound love and understanding.

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Chapter 21: 21. SKYE

In Chapter 21 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye finds herself enveloped in a powerful connection with Cooper Westwood. His influence isn't just about his imposing physique or standing in the town; rather, it lies in how he makes her feel safe and cherished. Their shared kisses soothe Skye's previous anxieties, allowing her to fully engage in the moment. Cooper's persistence pays off as he becomes a constant and reassuring presence in Skye's life, giving her the confidence to embrace a potential romance despite her past heartbreak.

Their intimate interactions escalate quickly as Skye expresses her desires, yearning for Cooper's touch. She feels a deep need for connection, and Cooper is more than willing to respond to her requests with tenderness and passion. Their physical closeness ignites both of their desires, culminating in an electric exchange where Skye experiences the heights of pleasure and intimacy. The scene is rich with a mix of longing, vulnerability, and trust, showcasing the bond they have built.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22. SKYE

In Chapter 22 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, we delve into Skye's transformative experience with Cooper, a man who has broken down the emotional barriers she built in response to her tumultuous past. Skye reflects on her journey filled with uncertainty and how Cooper's persistent and protective nature has drawn her closer to him, making her feel a confidence she hasn't experienced before. As they find themselves in her bedroom, she's acutely aware of the significance of the moment, feeling it could be the turning point in her life.

Cooper carries Skye to her bed with a deep intent, his eyes searching her features as if to commit this moment to memory. Skye reciprocates his gaze and begins to kiss him, igniting a passionate exchange that quickly intensifies. They engage in a push-and-pull dynamic, where Cooper's desire is evident, yet he expresses a desire to savor the moment fully. Skye reassures him, emphasizing that their first experience together doesn't have to be perfect, but rather that it should happen between them, which is what truly matters.

As the scene unfolds, they slowly begin to undress one another, taking their time to appreciate each other's bodies. Skye is entranced by Cooper, feeling beautiful and desired. When they finally come together intimately, their connection shifts from tender to fierce, capturing the primal essence of their

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attraction. The passion escalates, filled with intense sensations—sweat, gasps, and shared sounds of pleasure—as they reach the peak of their union.

After reaching an overwhelming climax together, they lie intertwined, basking in the afterglow of their connection. Skye feels an overwhelming sense of gratitude toward Cooper, recognizing the depth of her feelings for him. Their interaction highlights the ease of their chemistry, celebrating the intimate and beautiful experience they've just shared, and reinforcing the emotional bond that has developed between them. As they prepare to clean up and possibly re-engage, Skye can't shake the feeling of wanting to follow Cooper wherever he may lead, symbolizing her deepening trust and commitment to him as a partner. This chapter poignantly encapsulates themes of vulnerability, intimacy, and the power of human connection in overcoming personal trauma.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 23. SKYE

In this pivotal chapter of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye and Cooper are basking in the afterglow of their intimate connection. They find themselves in bed together, a moment filled with vulnerability and warmth. Skye has a question nagging at her, but she's hesitant to spoil the blissful atmosphere. Cooper, perceptive as always, recognizes her tension and encourages her to voice her thoughts.

When Skye finally asks Cooper to stay the night, he's taken aback but quickly ensures her that he wants to be there. This moment highlights their trust and the deepening bond between them. As they embrace, they share a heartfelt conversation about Skye's struggles with sleep, revealing shadows from her past that still haunt her. Cooper's unwavering support and resolve to help her feel safe and secure become evident, which deeply moves Skye.

As their conversation unfolds, Skye shares that her sleepless nights are not due to memories of her ex, Simon, but rather because she's been missing Cooper. This revelation leads to an emotional exchange where Cooper asserts his commitment to her, promising to help her regain the comfort and restful sleep she deserves. His declaration that she's not alone anymore brings tears of joy to Skye's eyes, marking a significant turning point in their relationship.

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After another passionate encounter, they drift off to sleep wrapped in each other's arms, signaling the start of a new chapter in their lives together. The morning brings a sense of comfort and connection. Cooper awakens to find Skye peacefully nestled against him, reinforcing the intimacy they've built. Their playful banter and flirtation continue as they talk about their feelings and the day's plans, revealing their mutual affection and excitement for the future.

Cooper reflects on how far they've come, feeling grateful for Skye's trust and their evolving relationship. Their morning together culminates in more shared affection before they part ways, with Cooper promising to return for dinner, reinforcing his determination to be a constant presence in her life. The chapter beautifully captures themes of love, healing, and the importance of connection, portraying a blossoming relationship that offers hope and companionship amid past traumas. Through Cooper's dedication and Skye's newfound trust, they begin to forge a path forward, leaving loneliness behind.

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Chapter 24: 24. SKYE

In Chapter 24 of "Broken" by A.K. Evans, Skye is on a high after hosting the best book club meeting ever, where every member enthusiastically enjoyed the chosen book. The atmosphere is filled with camaraderie and excitement as they discuss their shared experience. The meeting highlights Skye's growth and her ability to connect with new friends, particularly Cooper's sisters, Ivy, Rhea, and Jules, who have recently joined the group and found joy in reading.

However, the chapter takes a sharp turn when Skye hears her former best friend, Maria, calling her name. Skye's initial happiness quickly spirals into tension and anger as Maria approaches, pregnant with Skye's ex-boyfriend Simon's child. Despite Maria's apologies and pleas for reconciliation, Skye firmly sets boundaries, expressing her hurt and inability to forgive her for the betrayal. This confrontation reveals the emotional turmoil Skye has faced but also her strength in standing up for herself.

After dismissing Maria, who leaves remorseful, Skye's friends rally around

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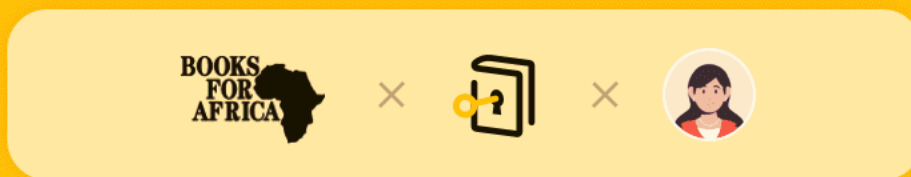
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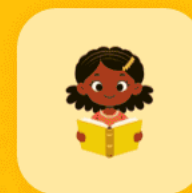
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Chapter 25 Summary: 25. COOPER

In this chapter of "Broken," Cooper enjoys a lighthearted conversation with his best friend Marco before heading to spend a special weekend with Skye, who has recently hired additional help at her store, allowing her a weekend off. As they talk, Marco expresses envy over Cooper's relationship with Skye, hinting he also wants to find someone special while teasing about his single status. Cooper feels a deep sense of gratitude for Skye, realizing she has changed his life for the better.

However, the mood shifts dramatically when Cooper arrives at Skye's house only to find her visibly upset and confronted by her ex-boyfriend, Simon. Tensions rise as Simon attempts to discuss unresolved issues regarding Skye's strained relationship with her best friend, Maria, while ignoring Skye's clear disinterest in speaking with him. Cooper steps in, asserting his protective nature and making it clear that Skye is now off-limits to Simon. He confronts Simon with a fierce intensity, driving him away and demonstrating his commitment to Skye's well-being.

In the aftermath of this confrontation, Skye reveals her feelings for Cooper, stating, "I love you." Cooper, overwhelmed with emotion, reciprocates her feelings and the two share a passionate kiss, marking a significant turning point in their relationship. Skye admits that seeing Cooper stand up for her was both impressive and a significant boost to her feelings for him. They



both express a mutual excitement about their blossoming relationship.

What follows is an intimate moment between Cooper and Skye as they move inside, where their connection deepens in a passionate encounter. The physical intimacy adds another layer to their relationship, showcasing how their emotional bond has blossomed into a deeper, more physical attraction.

Afterward, they share a tender conversation about Skye's parents and grandmother, revealing insights into her childhood and her longing for family connections. Skye recalls the love and care her parents showed her and assures Cooper that they would have loved him. This conversation further cements their bond as they explore their future together, with both characters eager to see where their relationship will lead.

As the chapter concludes, Cooper reflects on the importance of prioritizing his relationship with Skye over work, realizing that while professional responsibilities are ever-present, the moments they spend together are invaluable. This sentiment resonates with the theme of cherishing love and companionship, emphasizing how meaningful relationships offer the support and joy that enrich life. The chapter beautifully captures the transformative power of love, protection, and the anticipation of a shared future.

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