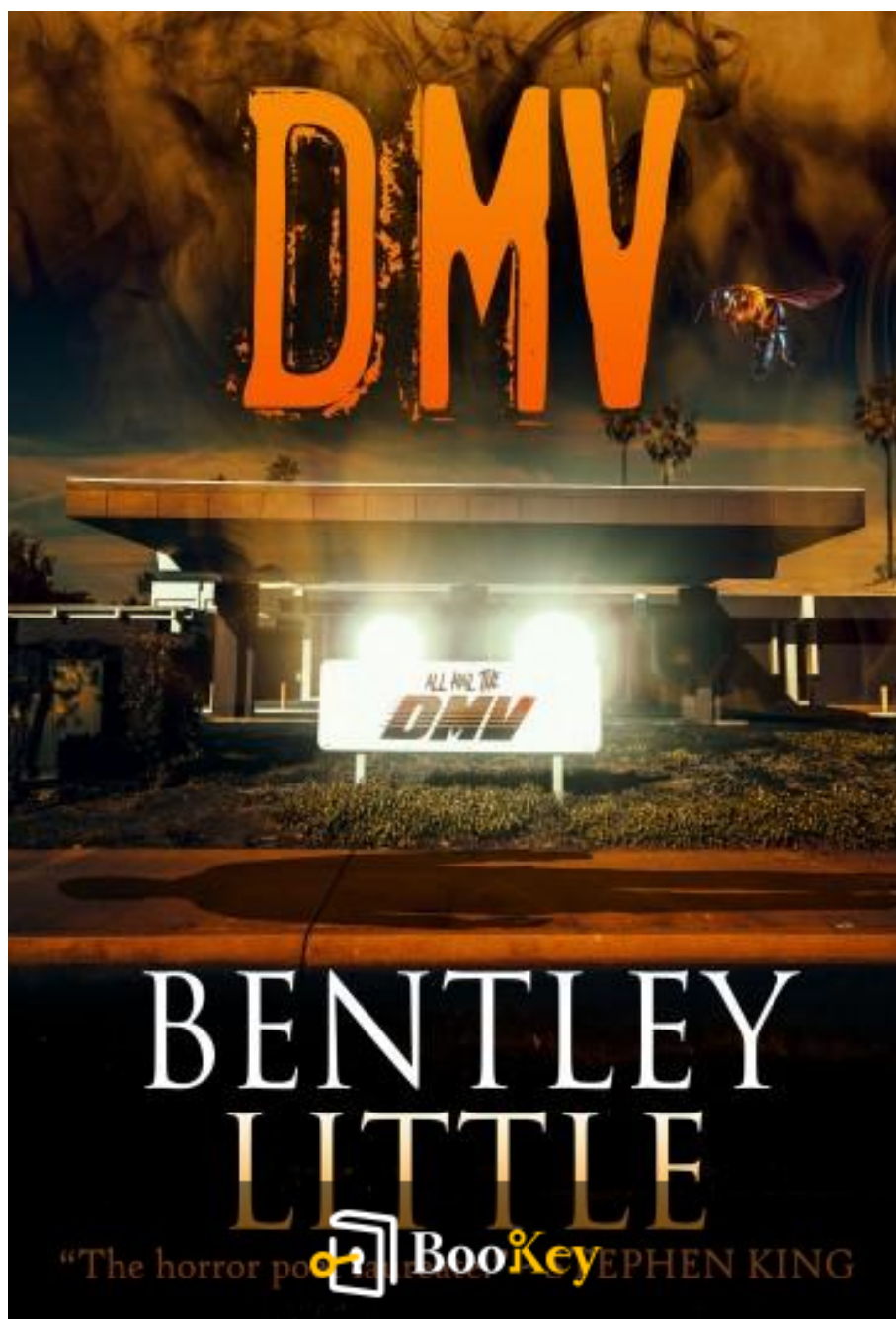


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Bentley Little



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Dmv Summary

A chilling descent into bureaucratic horror.

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About the book

In Bentley Little's gripping novel "DMV," the seemingly mundane experience of obtaining a driver's license morphs into a nightmarish journey through a bureaucratic hellscape where the mundane intersects with the macabre. As the protagonist navigates endless lines, indifferent employees, and bizarre obstacles, the DMV transforms into a labyrinth of surreal horror, revealing deep-seated fears about identity and the facelessness of modern society. With a sharp satirical edge, Little invites readers to explore how a simple trip can expose the absurdity and anxiety lurking within everyday life, making this an unforgettable ride that will leave you questioning the very nature of bureaucracy and its impact on our humanity. Brace yourself for a chilling experience that reminds us all how the ordinary can become extraordinary in the most unsettling ways.

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About the author

Bentley Little is a critically acclaimed American author best known for his gripping horror novels that often explore the unsettling aspects of everyday life. Born in 1960 in Arizona, Little has made a name for himself with his unique ability to blend the mundane with the macabre, crafting narratives that reflect contemporary fears and societal issues. He earned a degree in English from Arizona State University and began his writing career in the 1990s, quickly gaining recognition for his imaginative storytelling and vivid characterizations. His works often draw comparisons to Stephen King, and Little's distinctive voice has carved out a place for him in the realm of modern horror fiction, with "Dmv" being one of his many notable contributions.

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Summary Content List

Chapter 1: One

Chapter 2: Two

Chapter 3: Three

Chapter 4: Four

Chapter 5: Five

Chapter 6: Six

Chapter 7: Seven

Chapter 8: Eight

Chapter 9: Nine

Chapter 10: Ten

Chapter 11: Eleven

Chapter 12: Twelve

Chapter 13: Thirteen

Chapter 14: Fourteen

Chapter 15: Fifteen

Chapter 16: Sixteen

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Scan to Download

Chapter 17: Seventeen

Chapter 18: Eighteen

Chapter 19: Nineteen

Chapter 20: Twenty

Chapter 21: Twenty One

Chapter 22: Twenty Two

Chapter 23: Twenty Three

Chapter 24: Twenty Four

Chapter 25: Twenty Five

Chapter 26: Twenty Six

Chapter 27: Twenty Seven

Chapter 28: Twenty Eight

Chapter 29: Twenty Nine

Chapter 30: Thirty

Chapter 31: Thirty One

Chapter 32: Thirty Two

Chapter 33: Thirty Three

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Chapter 34: Thirty Four

Chapter 35: Thirty Five

Chapter 36: Thirty Six

Chapter 37: Thirty Seven

Chapter 38: Thirty Eight

Chapter 39: Thirty Nine

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Chapter 1 Summary: One

In the opening chapter of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we meet Todd Klein, an author grappling with the backlash of online criticisms following the release of his latest novel. Despite selling well, he feels disheartened by scathing reviews that tear apart his work and self-worth. His wife, Rosita, tries to uplift him and point out that he should disregard the negative feedback, but Todd's insecurity about his writing keeps him fixated on the harsh comments. Their dinner together reveals the comfort they find in routine and each other, especially as Rosita enjoys cooking during her time off, but Todd remains burdened by the DMV appointment looming the next day.

The DMV visit evokes a strong sense of dread for Todd, who has to take a written test due to previous traffic violations. He recalls his past experiences with the DMV, particularly his first driving test administered by an intimidating figure named Cliff. This recollection stirs nostalgia and anxiety, showcasing Todd's apprehensive nature as he prepares for the day ahead. Despite practicing online tests and initially feeling confident, he struggles with the anxiety reminiscent of his school days, particularly compounded by the chaotic atmosphere at the DMV.

When he arrives at the DMV, the experience is far from smooth. A long line awaits him despite his appointment, and he grows increasingly frustrated at the apparent disorganization. After finally reaching the front of the line,



Todd learns he's been misclassified in their system, leading to confusion and more delays. An unfriendly clerk named Doris dismisses his attempts to rectify the situation, leaving him feeling powerless and angry.

Throughout this chapter, themes of insecurity, identity, and the battle against bureaucratic inefficiency come to the forefront. Todd's internal conflict about his writing serves as a metaphor for his struggles with the DMV, where systems fail and human interactions are fraught with frustration. The foundation of his character highlights the dichotomy of success versus personal satisfaction, encapsulated in his interactions with Rosita and his memories of Cliff, hinting at deeper reflections on the passage of time and the burdens of adulthood.

As Todd finishes these challenges, readers are left feeling the tension building towards the next chapter, where both Todd's confrontation with the DMV and Zal's day at work, filled with its own bureaucratic woes and humorous interactions about romance and career security, set the stage for intertwining narratives that critique the mundane aspects of daily life, especially the inefficiencies of systems like the DMV.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace resilience in the face of criticism

Critical Interpretation: In the challenging moments reminiscent of Todd's experience with online criticism and the daunting DMV visit, you are reminded of the importance of resilience. Life can often throw harsh judgments your way, much like Todd felt when faced with scathing reviews of his work. However, it's in these moments that your true character shines. By choosing to rise above negativity and focusing on the supportive relationships around you, such as the inspiring presence of a loved one, you can cultivate the strength to navigate life's bureaucratic labyrinths. Let Todd's journey inspire you to embrace feedback as a tool for growth rather than an obstacle, reinforcing the idea that your worth is not defined by others' perceptions, but by your determination to keep moving forward.



Chapter 2 Summary: Two

In Chapter 2 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, the atmosphere is buzzing at Data Initiatives as the team celebrates landing a significant contract with the DMV. Zal Tombasian, a programmer, feels both relief and excitement at this news, especially since it promises job security after the previous project ended with layoffs. His friend Bernard shares his enthusiasm, and their project manager Murdoch lays out the scope of their work, which include revamping scheduling systems and processing learner's permits. The atmosphere in the office is one of optimism, as the team feels reassurance about their future in a turbulent job market.

After work, Zal heads home, reflecting on how his parents' house still feels very much like their home, as his childhood belongings dominate the space. His sense of nostalgia clashes with his desire for independence and personal space, revealing his struggles with moving on from his parents' legacy. As he unwinds by gaming online with friends, it's clear he finds solace in these escapist activities.

However, the following morning, his excitement deflates when he gets pulled over for having expired tags on his vehicle, despite having submitted his renewal paperwork in advance. This leads to frustration as he receives his first-ever ticket, underscoring the irony of working on a project to improve the DMV systems while facing a personal bureaucratic failure. His



colleague, Bernard, jokingly offers to help him out, highlighting the camaraderie among coworkers even during stressful times.

During lunch, conversations shift to Zal's social life, with friends unsuccessfully trying to set him up with a new girl at work, revealing their concern for his isolation yet underscoring the pressure he feels to conform to social expectations. The chapter closes with Zal returning to work, his mind still occupied by the ticket and his unresolved feelings about his parents' house.

Together, these events explore themes of job security, nostalgia, the pressure of adulthood, and the complexities of modern bureaucracy, all while highlighting the humorous and relatable struggles of contemporary life.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace change and personal growth amidst challenges.

Critical Interpretation: In the face of life's uncertainties, like Zal's shift from the security of his childhood home to the unpredictability of adulthood, we are reminded that embracing change is essential for personal growth. The frustrating experience of receiving a ticket, despite his professional efforts to improve the DMV, symbolizes the often ironic twists in our journeys. This chapter inspires us to acknowledge our struggles, however mundane, and use them as stepping stones toward developing resilience and independence, ultimately propelling us towards a more fulfilling life.



Chapter 3: Three

In Chapter 3 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we follow Jorge Guitierrez through a tough morning filled with anxiety about his job prospects and the tension in his relationship with his wife, Beverly. After lying to her about the disappointing job fair he attended, Jorge is already stressed about accumulating bills and the pressure of not being the primary breadwinner, which adds to his sense of dread. Later, he meets his sister Rosita for lunch, where she expresses concern about his decision to quit his job without another lined up. Despite her intentions to help, Jorge feels defensive, fearing that she and Beverly have been collaborating against him.

The story also explores family dynamics, particularly the tension between Jorge and Rosita, and the contrasting financial situations they experience—Rosita's family seems to thrive, flaunting vacations and home ownership, while Jorge and Beverly struggle. At the lunch, the siblings begin to bond over shared family issues, but Jorge quickly feels the pressure of his job search looming over him.

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Chapter 4 Summary: Four

In Chapter 4 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, we follow Todd Klein, a somewhat reluctant author juggling the pressures of a new book release and the accompanying publicity that comes with it. The chapter opens with Todd receiving a phone call from Chyla Reynolds, his publicist, who's eager to set up promotional radio appearances—ideas he finds ridiculous and undignified. Instead of excitement, Todd feels dread, especially when Chyla mentions emerging complaints about cultural appropriation related to his book's portrayal of an Asian character. This frustrates Todd since he believes his character reflects reality, drawing from his own life experiences.

As Todd grapples with the uncomfortable feedback, he's annoyed by Chyla's suggestion to do publicity stunts to counteract the criticism. After ending the call, he's left feeling distracted and conflicted—not just because of the feedback on his book but also due to his looming DMV test that he's stressed about passing. The DMV becomes a symbol of his worries, which are compounded by a dream he has about failing the test.

Meanwhile, we see glimpses of Todd's relationship with his wife, Rosita. Their banter showcases their supportive dynamic, and Todd's internal reflections highlight his struggles with artistic integrity versus commercial expectations. As they chat about the upcoming challenge of his driving test, Rosita encourages him to channel his experiences into his writing, hinting



that the DMV might be good material for his next book.

The narrative shifts as the focus turns to Danny Wilding, a teenager whose life is forever altered by the unexpected death of his father. After a seemingly normal day where Danny is preparing for his driver's test, everything changes in an instant when his mother receives a heartbreaking phone call informing her of his father's death. This profound loss overwhelms Danny, who feels an unbearable guilt, irrationally linking his attempted driving test with his father's demise. He struggles with feelings of isolation, guilt, and confusion, as the chapter portrays the stark contrast between his life before and after the tragedy.

Through Todd and Danny's experiences, the chapter delves into themes of identity, the impact of familial relationships, the burden of expectations, and the unavoidable grip of loss. Both characters face their own dilemmas—Todd with the pressures of publicity and navigating criticism in his career, and Danny grappling with the shattering reality of losing his father. Overall, it's a poignant exploration of life's unexpected twists and the emotional toll they take on individuals.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace Vulnerability in the Face of Criticism

Critical Interpretation: This chapter illustrates the importance of embracing vulnerability and facing criticism head-on, a lesson that can inspire your own life. Just like Todd Klein grapples with feedback on his work, you too may encounter challenges and opinions that test your confidence. Instead of shying away from critique, view it as an opportunity for growth. Acknowledge your feelings of discomfort, but don't let them paralyze you. Instead, use feedback to refine your path, embracing the complexities of your own experiences and perspectives. Remember, just as Todd learns to channel his struggles into his writing, you can transform your challenges into strengths, making you more resilient and authentic.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Five

In Chapter 5 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, we follow Danny Wilding as he prepares for his driving test, a significant milestone that he had always wanted to share with his dad. Unfortunately, his father is too busy to accompany him, leaving Danny feeling a mix of disappointment and anxiety. He drives to the DMV with his mother, who tries to offer support despite his worries about going in alone. Once at the DMV, Danny is taken aback by the orderly chaos inside, contrasting sharply with the horror stories he had expected to hear. However, he encounters a strange clerk who ominously warns him about the sacrifices needed to earn a driver's license, casting a shadow over this transition into independence.

After completing his paperwork, Danny returns to the car, only for his mother to receive shocking news that changes everything: his father has died. This devastation shatters Danny's world, propelling him into a suffocating grief where he avoids his friends out of guilt, feeling that enjoying life would betray his father's memory. He reflects on the many small tasks and comforts his dad provided, becoming painfully aware of his absence in everyday life.

Struggling with nightmares that intertwine his father's death with the DMV experience, Danny grapples with guilt and irrational thoughts, convinced that his attempt to get his license is somehow intertwined with his father's



sacrifice. He wrestles with the implications of this tragedy, questioning if he even wants to drive anymore, fearing it will diminish the memory of his dad.

The chapter closes with a powerful exploration of the transition from life “Before” to life “After,” as Danny confronts the chaotic reality of his new existence, marked by loss and the haunting sense that nothing will ever return to the way it was. This emotional upheaval is mirrored in his reflections about the significance of driving and independence, leaving him feeling trapped in a world that feels foreign and overwhelmingly dark.

Through Danny's journey, themes of loss, guilt, and the heavy weight of familial relationships resonate deeply, setting a stark tone that underscores the fragility of life and the painful complexities of moving forward after a tragedy.

Key Aspect	Description
Protagonist	Danny Wilding
Significant Event	Danny prepares for his driving test, intended to be shared with his father.
Parental Absence	Father is too busy to accompany Danny, leading to feelings of disappointment and anxiety.
DMV Experience	Contrasts with horror stories; Danny is met by a strange clerk warning him about sacrifices for a driver's license.
Shocking	Upon leaving the DMV, Danny learns of his father's death, which deeply

Key Aspect	Description
News	affects him.
Grief Response	Danny feels guilty about enjoying life and reflects on his father's influence and absence.
Nightmares	Danny experiences nightmares linking his father's death and the DMV, feeling guilt about wanting to drive.
Themes	Loss, guilt, familial relationships, and the transition from life before to after the tragedy.
Emotional Aftermath	Danny grapples with the chaotic reality of life after his father's death, feeling trapped and overwhelmed.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The impact of loss on personal growth and independence

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, as you navigate Danny's grief and the overwhelming pressure of moving forward after losing a loved one, you are reminded that loss is a fundamental part of life that shapes who you are. Danny's experience highlights that while the pain of losing someone can feel insurmountable, it can also serve as a powerful catalyst for personal growth. You too may find that in moments of profound sadness, the challenge of honoring those you've lost can inspire you to strive for independence and pursue your own milestones. Embracing this journey, albeit filled with sorrow, allows you to carry their legacy forward, making their memory a part of your growth rather than a measure of your guilt.



Chapter 6: Six

In Chapter 6 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, we follow Rosita, a library employee grappling with the challenges of her job during a particularly busy Saturday. The library is understaffed, and while Rosita is relieved to have earlier work hours, her new Saturday shifts mean she's now working six days a week. The influx of patrons on weekends, including a noticeable number of homeless individuals and children, forces her into a more controlling role rather than allowing her to assist as she prefers.

Amid the chaos, Rosita deals with a peculiar situation involving a man named Tyson Buddrick, who comes to renew his library card with an unconventional driver's license. The document lacks necessary details and contains bizarre personal information, leading Rosita to conclude it's not valid. Despite Buddrick's insistence that his license is legitimate, including having used it without issue in the past, Rosita must refuse his request for library access. The confrontation becomes tense, culminating in Buddrick's angry exit, leaving Rosita unsettled.

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busy schedules. The summaries are spot
on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh
I've learned. Highly recommend!

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Chapter 7 Summary: Seven

In Chapter 7 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we find ourselves in the daily life of Zal, a programmer who is experiencing a mixture of awkwardness and curiosity as he inadvertently enters the realm of romantic matchmaking orchestrated by Judi at work. Zal's discomfort peaks when he encounters Violet Benning, an attractive research assistant. With his heart racing and an internal battle of whether to engage or retreat, the scene depicts his struggle with social interactions, compounded by Bernard's playful jibes.

As the lunch breaks unfold, Zal and Violet bond over discussions about language nuances, showcasing their mutual social awkwardness. Bernard's humorous commentary lightens the atmosphere, and Zal starts to feel a sense of connection with Violet, who, unbeknownst to him, seems to enjoy his company.

The chapter transitions to an important work meeting about a complicated DMV project, where Zal and his colleague Bernard meet two freelancers. The freelancers, Boo and Gary, express their frustrations about the chaotic nature of the project, hinting at the struggles they face. The tension in their conversation highlights the bureaucratic complexities of dealing with the DMV, which leads to humorous moments as they navigate professional obstacles.



After the meeting, the chapter takes a more serious turn, exploring Zal's personal frustrations when he discovers that rather than receiving his new car registration sticker, he has mistakenly received last year's sticker. This oversight represents a broader theme of inefficiency and ineptitude often associated with bureaucratic institutions. Feeling exasperated yet determined, Zal prepares to tackle the DMV issue the next day, expressing a sense of responsibility towards improving the flawed system.

As the chapter wraps up, Zal's mundane frustrations intertwine with a budding romantic potential, leaving readers with a sense of hope and the anticipation of potential developments with Violet. Themes of romantic possibility, professional challenges, and bureaucratic absurdities weave together to create an engaging snapshot of modern life, particularly focusing on the peculiarities of the DMV experience.

The interplay of humor and genuine emotion makes Zal's journey relatable, allowing readers to reflect on their own interactions, frustrations, and aspirations, especially in a world measured by efficiency and a touch of romance amidst the chaos.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Awkwardness in Social Situations

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 7 of 'DMV', we witness Zal confronting his social awkwardness while building a connection with Violet. This experience serves as a powerful reminder that it's okay to feel uncomfortable in new interactions—embracing those awkward moments can lead to unexpected relationships and personal growth. Just like Zal, when you allow yourself to step out of your comfort zone and engage with others despite your fears, you might discover connections that enrich your life and open doors to new experiences. So the next time you find yourself hesitating, remember that embracing your awkwardness could lead to meaningful relationships and opportunities that you never anticipated.

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Chapter 8 Summary: Eight

In Chapter 8 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Todd Klein finds himself grappling with personal and professional challenges. The chapter starts with a phone call from Robinson, an old acquaintance who has written a review of Todd's new novel for the Chicago Tribune. Despite the review being generally positive, Robinson's tone strikes Todd as arrogant and patronizing, leading Todd to feel a mix of irritation and indifference. Reflecting on his evolution since college, Todd acknowledges he feels more secure in expressing his opinions without needing anyone else's validation, although he does question why he sent Robinson a copy of his book in the first place.

As Todd gears up for his upcoming DMV test, he faces anxiety fueled by warnings from friends about how difficult current tests have become. His lunch with his wife, Rosita, lends him some reassurance, and he sets off for the DMV feeling more confident. Upon arrival, he's struck by the modernized testing process, which contrasts sharply with his past experiences. Instead of filling out a paper test, Todd faces a series of bizarre and irrelevant questions on a computer, including one that references Robinson directly. This leaves him feeling increasingly paranoid and frustrated, culminating in his failure of the test and the clerk's rude dismissal.

After this disheartening experience, Todd seeks solace in the library and vents his frustrations to Rosita, who suggests researching the oddities of the



DMV questions, especially since one involved his former friend. Todd decides to visit the nearby police station, hoping to discuss the legality of the DMV's questioning methods with Lieutenant Jim Briggs, an acquaintance from his past. Briggs is taken aback at the strange circumstances surrounding Todd's test and, while he can't intervene directly, promises to look into it.

Meanwhile, intercutting with Todd's narrative is Jorge's own harrowing experience as he finds himself in a training camp linked to the DMV, having been forcibly recruited. He and the other “recruits” are restricted from communication and are highly suspicious about their circumstances. Sharing his room with Durrell, a chatterbox whom he distrusts, Jorge grapples with feelings of being monitored and controlled. He navigates the camp's strict regimen while cultivating plans for escape and evasion, convinced there's something sinister at play.

Both Todd and Jorge's arcs blend themes of personal growth, anxiety, and resistance against bureaucratic absurdity, culminating in a shared sense of foreboding about the DMV and its expanding authority over their lives. The chapter portrays the tension of trying to reclaim individual identity in the face of a system that appears invasive and unyielding. Todd's and Jorge's experiences vividly illustrate the balance of mundane frustrations and the surreal creep of authoritarian control in their lives.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace personal growth and self-assertion in the face of adversity

Critical Interpretation: This chapter's exploration of Todd's journey emphasizes the significance of reclaiming your identity and confidence amidst the pressures of societal expectations and bureaucratic systems. Rather than seeking validation from others, you are encouraged to trust in your own opinions and abilities, embracing personal growth as a vital tool for navigating life's challenges. Just like Todd's decision to reflect on his past and confront his fears at the DMV, you too can find strength in acknowledging your journey and standing firm in your uniqueness, even when faced with overwhelming odds.



Chapter 9: Nine

In Chapter 9 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we follow Jorge, a reluctant recruit at a mysterious training camp believed to be linked with the DMV. Awakening in darkness, he feels disoriented and unsure of the facility's location, which is surrounded by thick woods. Since arriving, he's had no access to personal belongings or communication, except to send letters home, which adds to his anxiety about the situation. He reflects on how he had to maintain a brave front for his partner, Beverly, while trying to navigate this strange and oppressive environment against his will, as he feels that he has been coerced into this training.

As the days go by, Jorge becomes increasingly suspicious of the camp. New and modern facilities appear film-like, with a realistic DMV office at the center. Despite the impressive setup, he's stuck in cramped quarters with a roommate named Durrell, whose lack of interest in training raises Jorge's suspicion that Durrell might be an undercover agent sent to gauge his actions and thoughts. The paranoia deepens as Jorge wonders whether all the recruits are being monitored and if he is the only genuine applicant.

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Chapter 10 Summary: Ten

In Chapter 10 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we follow Danny and his mother as they navigate an unsettling situation stemming from a letter they received about his deceased father's old Jeep. The chapter opens with Danny finding a DMV envelope addressed to his dad, which leads to the shocking revelation that the Jeep was used in a robbery, making them legally liable—even though they sold the vehicle three years ago. Danny's mother struggles to understand how this could be possible and feels overwhelmed by the situation, stressing how they are now responsible for a crime linked to something they no longer own.

The emotional weight of the letter resonates deeply in Danny, reminding him of the void left by his father's death. He grapples with his feelings of sadness and anger as he finds it increasingly difficult to process his father's absence, especially in moments where he longs for his dad's comforting presence.

After some investigation, Danny's mother discovers that they had donated the Jeep to a children's charity, which leads to a frustrating phone call with a DMV representative named Ralph Brandt. Despite providing documentation proving they are not responsible for the Jeep, the DMV insists they have the right to confiscate their other vehicles under asset forfeiture laws. This bureaucratic process highlights themes of helplessness and the struggle



against a faceless system. Danny offers solutions like contacting consumer advocates to help prove their case, which his mother appreciates, indicating that he is stepping up in this new family dynamic.

As tensions rise, their conversation shifts to concerns about Danny's older sister, Jill, who has been drifting further into trouble since their father's death. Danny reflects on his worries for her safety, especially after witnessing her getting into a stranger's car, hinting at her reckless behavior. This added layer of family anxiety contributes to Danny's internal struggle, as he feels the weight of responsibility not only for himself but also for Jill.

The chapter takes a darker turn when Jill finally comes home, seemingly intoxicated and triggering a confrontation with their mother. In an attempt to connect with Danny, Jill reveals she witnessed a hit-and-run accident, and in a shocking twist, claims their father was the driver involved. This explosive revelation leaves the chapter on a cliffhanger, raising questions about the possible supernatural implications tied to the father's mysterious death and how it haunts their family.

Overall, this chapter beautifully intertwines themes of grief, family dynamics, and the struggle against an indifferent bureaucratic system, while also pushing the narrative toward darker, more mysterious waters as secrets resurface. The emotional depth and complexity of the characters create a vivid connection with the reader, making it an engaging and



thought-provoking chapter.

Key Points	Details
Situation Introduction	Danny finds a DMV letter about his deceased father's Jeep, which reveals the Jeep was involved in a robbery.
Legal Complications	Despite selling the Jeep three years ago, Danny and his mother learn they are legally liable due to asset forfeiture laws.
Emotional Impact	The letter triggers feelings of sadness and anger for Danny, intensifying his grief over his father's death.
Investigation Outcome	They discover the Jeep was donated to charity, but the DMV refuses to acknowledge their documentation proving non-responsibility.
Bureaucratic Struggle	The chapter illustrates the helplessness against an indifferent system, as Danny suggests contacting consumer advocates for help.
Family Dynamics	Concerns about Danny's sister, Jill, arise as she spirals into trouble, highlighting family stress post their father's death.
Cliffhanger Revelation	Jill claims she witnessed a hit-and-run accident involving their father, leading to suspense about the implications of his death.
Themes	Grief, family dynamics, struggle against bureaucracy, and dark revelations tied to the father's mysterious death.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The burden of responsibility in the face of unforeseen circumstances

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 10 of 'DMV,' the characters grapple with the shocking realization that they are held accountable for a crime linked to a vehicle they no longer own. This profound experience emphasizes how life can throw unexpected challenges your way, often testing your resilience and sense of responsibility. It serves as a powerful reminder that, even when you feel overwhelmed and helpless, stepping up to confront these burdens can lead to personal growth and a deeper understanding of your family's dynamics. Just as Danny navigates the complexities of his family's struggles, you too can find inspiration in facing your own challenges head-on, embracing your role in creating solutions, and supporting your loved ones through difficult times.



Chapter 11 Summary: Eleven

In Chapter 11 of **DMV** by Bentley Little, the tension mounts as Zal, a character focused on his job at the DMV project, faces an unexpected situation upon arriving at work. He is called into a private meeting with his manager, Murdoch, and learns that he must sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) tied to the DMV project. However, the NDA contains alarming clauses, suggesting intense physical punishment for breaches, which both Zal and Murdoch find troubling. After discussing it with his colleague Bernard, Zal's initial worry transforms into a shared concern about being subjected to such extreme measures by their employer, reflecting a broader theme of corporate overreach and control.

At lunch, Zal finds himself with Violet, the colleague he admires, making the lunch feel more like a date. They engage in personal conversations, and Zal begins to feel more connected to her. This moment captures the theme of personal relationships blossoming amid workplace tension, emphasizing Zal's desire to navigate both romantic interests and professional anxieties.

As the day progresses, Murdoch calls everyone together to announce an updated NDA that removes the draconian terms of the previous one. This revised agreement instills a sense of relief among the employees, signifying a temporary victory over the threatening corporate measures they had faced earlier.



Later, Zal attends traffic school following a recent infraction. The experience begins with a strange cult-like chant led by the instructor, Mr. Ford, signaling a bizarre tone the chapter takes. The day features discussions about driving mistakes and culminates in an odd singalong, blending dark humor with the unusual environment of behavioral training. Afterward, Zal returns home, receives a certificate from the DMV acknowledging his completion of traffic school, and is left puzzled by its childlike design and the underlying message that he is "a superstar."

This chapter intertwines workplace dynamics, personal growth, and the encroachment of authority into personal lives, highlighting Zal's struggles against a cumbersome corporate system while his interpersonal relationships evolve. The absurdity of the NDA and the traffic school's procedures contrasts with everyday life, reinforcing themes of authority, compliance, and the search for personal connection amidst chaos.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The illusion of control in corporate environments can lead to personal growth and connection.

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 11 of *DMV*, the surreal experience with the non-disclosure agreement and the bizarre traffic school session reveals how oppressive workplace dynamics can initially stifle individual expression and freedom. Yet, as Zal navigates these challenges, he begins to forge deeper connections with his colleagues, particularly with Violet. This chapter inspires us to confront the absurdities of our own environments—be it workplaces or societal expectations—and seek authentic relationships, emphasizing that amidst chaos, we have the power to connect and grow. So, when faced with daunting authority or bewildering situations, remember that these can become opportunities for personal development and the meaningful connections we cherish.



Chapter 12: Twelve

In Chapter 12 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we find Todd Klein grappling with a sense of restlessness following the release of his latest book. Feeling discontent, he vacillates between reminiscing about past acquaintances and contemplating his current life choices. Despite recent successes, he finds himself haunted by missed connections and the passage of time, reflecting on how the vastness of his potential has diminished.

After a brief foray outside, he returns home and checks his email, finding a request from his publisher to blurb a memoir by a young woman with a turbulent past—a request Todd declines, annoyed by the industry's tendency to elevate marketable stories over genuine talent. His discontent grows when he reads a scathing review of his latest novel from a critic named Robinson, highlighting how criticisms often feel personal rather than constructive. He shares his frustrations with Rosita, his supportive wife, who encourages him to move on and focus on dinner amid worries about her brother Jorge's situation at a mysterious DMV training camp.

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Chapter 13 Summary: Thirteen

In Chapter 13 of "DMV," Rosita is plagued by an unsettling feeling that something is wrong, which she instinctively connects to her brother, Jorge, who has been missing for two weeks. Despite Todd, her husband, being skeptical of her intuition, Rosita decides to visit Jorge and his wife, Beverly. Upon arriving, she discovers Beverly in distress, overwhelmed by the lack of information about Jorge's whereabouts. Rosita attempts to comfort her, sharing some vague reassurances about Jorge's training camp at the DMV, even as her own fears grow louder.

Beverly reveals her own worries, including a series of strange issues she's been experiencing that seem linked to the DMV—such as unwanted robocalls and unsolicited jury duty notices. Rosita is alarmed as Beverly expresses her increasing fear that something sinister is at play. The two women bond over their shared anxiety for Jorge, with Rosita promising to research their concerns further and reach out for help.

After leaving Beverly's home, Rosita reflects on her complicated relationship with Jorge, recognizing that despite their differences, her concern for him has brought them closer. She contemplates reaching out to their parents in Mexico but opts not to since it wouldn't help the situation.

Meanwhile, Todd discusses his potential options for DMV preparation



classes to help him pass his driving test, even though Rosita remains wary of the people involved in such programs. That night, after a strange blackout occurs throughout their area, Rosita feels compelled to drive toward the DMV, where a disturbing and surreal dream sequence unfolds in her mind. She envisions a horrifying scene involving a guillotine and Jorge's severed head being held aloft, indicating a deep-seated fear for his safety.

The chapter ends with Rosita waking from her nightmare deeply shaken, yet the feelings of unease linger, foreshadowing the ominous mysteries surrounding the DMV and Jorge's fate. This chapter delves into themes of intuition, familial bonds, and the unsettling capabilities of seemingly mundane institutions, setting the stage for the unfolding dark narrative surrounding Jorge's experiences in the DMV training camp.



Chapter 14 Summary: Fourteen

In Chapter 14 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Jorge, a trainee at a disconcerting DMV training camp, writes daily letters to his wife Beverly, fearing they might not be sent or received due to suspicious mail handling by the camp administrators. His letters often contain a sense of desperation and humor, such as signing off with "Fuck the DMV." Jorge is increasingly aware that the people around him, including instructors and cafeteria staff, exhibit bizarre physical traits that unsettle him and provoke questions about the nature of the camp.

In a new class session, Ms. Lane, the instructor with unnaturally large hands, introduces the trainees to counter etiquette, revealing how DMV employees have significant latitude to manipulate customers' experiences based on personal grievances. Jorge feels the weight of this corrupt power wielded by the DMV and begins to suspect that the camp serves a darker purpose. Despite the absurdity of the lessons, his peers seem compliant, further isolating him in his skepticism.

Taking matters into his own hands, Jorge starts jogging around the compound, ostensibly for exercise, but really to scout potential escape routes. During one of these jogs, he discovers a hidden graveyard on the property, which raises alarming questions about who might be buried there and why. The graves, unmarked and scattered, suggest a sinister atmosphere



surrounding the camp that challenges Jorge's sanity as he grapples with nightmarish imagery in his dreams.

The chapter culminates with Jorge experiencing a surreal encounter upon returning to his quarters. He finds a stranger claiming to be his roommate Durrell, further amplifying the sense of disorientation and dread. The chapter effectively builds suspense, emphasizing themes of isolation, control, and the horrific absurdity of bureaucracy, leaving the reader intrigued about Jorge's fate in a disturbingly surreal world.

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Chapter 15: Fifteen

In Chapter 15 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, the story centers on siblings Danny and Jill, who are grappling with the aftermath of their father's tragic accident. Their mother, now working a second job to manage increased family financial strain, encourages Danny and Jill to seek part-time employment as well. They are haunted by the memory of the hit-and-run accident involving their father, which leaves them uncertain and anxious about its implications.

As they attempt to make sense of what happened, Jill reveals her conviction that she witnessed their father's death, a notion that weighs heavily on Danny as he questions the credibility of her memory. Their search for answers takes a sinister turn when an unannounced visitor claiming to be from "DMV Home Support" shows up at their house, demanding Danny take his driving test immediately. The situation rapidly escalates when the man forces his way in, and Danny, gripped by fear, finds himself unable to resist.

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Chapter 16 Summary: Sixteen

In Chapter 16 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, Todd Klein finds himself at a dilapidated building where he believes he's supposed to receive underground DMV test preparation. Hesitant at first, he steps inside, guided by a scarred man who introduces himself as "Number One," part of a group of former DMV employees who help people like Todd navigate the tricky testing system. Todd learns that the group operates anonymously to evade the DMV, which targets anyone who becomes visible in the system. They insist on caution, indicating that Todd's brother-in-law, Jorge, has been captured by the DMV and is now likely in a training camp, the fate of which ranges from becoming a full-fledged employee to suffering severe injury or even disappearing altogether.

As Todd begins his crash course on acing the DMV tests, he grapples with the distressing news about Jorge's fate and the impending threat to himself and his loved ones should he attract the DMV's attention. His girlfriend, Rosita, grows increasingly anxious about Todd's commitment to this shadowy tutoring while urging him to inform Jorge's family and consider reporting the situation. Despite their efforts to reach authorities and garner help through social media, they face harsh skepticism, which furthers Todd's sense of helplessness.

The training session swells with tension as Todd learns more about how to



cheat the DMV system. His unease grows as he witnesses the physical scars borne by the tutors, clues to the dark world they inhabit. As he prepares for his upcoming test, Todd reflects on the gravity of their predicament, hoping that his efforts will lead to a successful outcome for both himself and Jorge.

The chapter ends on a suspenseful note, with Todd feeling the weight of uncertainty about not just his DMV test, but also the safety of Jorge and the potential danger looming over his loved ones. The imagery of the scarred tutors and the secretive operations highlights the pervasive sense of dread surrounding the DMV, transforming a simple bureaucratic process into a nightmarish ordeal. Themes of fear, conspiracy, and the fight for agency in a bureaucratic system resonate strongly, setting up an enthralling and suspenseful narrative as Todd navigates this treacherous path.

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Chapter 17 Summary: Seventeen

In Chapter 17 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we delve into Zal's life as he prepares to host a surprise birthday party for Bernard. With no family to celebrate with, Zal has been piecing together a group of friends and acquaintances for holidays over the years, but now he faces the daunting task of showcasing his home, which still carries the remnants of his parents' life. Attempting to impress his crush, Violet, he remodels his house on a tight budget, clearing out old memorabilia and replacing it with his own collection of books and posters.

As the party day arrives, Zal is anxious about the surprise element being spoiled. Unfortunately, Bernard and his wife show up early, foiling the plan. The birthday celebration unfolds with a mix of awkward interactions and unexpected surprises. Zal's nervousness is compounded by his desire to make a good impression on Violet, who arrives amidst the chaos. Their conversation reveals a connection, with both characters admitting to feelings of uncertainty about their lives and future aspirations. Violet's candidness about drifting in her career resonates with Zal, deepening their bond.

Meanwhile, the narrative introduces a darker undercurrent in the form of peculiar initiation rituals related to the DMV project Zal is working on. The conversation hints at secrets and bizarre experiences related to the department, leaving Zal intrigued yet cautious. As the night progresses, Zal



finds joy in Violet's company, and their playful interactions hint at the budding chemistry between them.

After the party, Zal is unexpectedly confronted by his angry neighbor, who accuses him of stealing traffic cones used to reserve parking space. This conflict hints at deeper themes of community and confrontation, emphasizing the diverse personalities in Zal's life. The chapter ends with a sense of hope as Zal contemplates future interactions with Violet, reigniting a spark of excitement in his otherwise mundane existence.

In this chapter, themes of belonging, aspiration, and the complexity of social interactions are woven together, encapsulating Zal's struggles with identity and connection amid a comical yet chaotic backdrop. The narrative captures the essence of adult relationships, the weight of expectation, and the potential for new beginnings, setting the stage for further developments in Zal and Violet's journey.



Chapter 18: Eighteen

In Chapter 18 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Rosita becomes increasingly obsessed with uncovering the darker secrets of the DMV after her brother Jorge goes missing. She spends her work hours and free time scouring social media for testimonies about the agency, only to find that while minor complaints about long wait times are easily found, more horrifying personal accounts are buried. Through shared stories, she learns of women being coerced into committing violence during driving tests and others being imprisoned for failing written tests. These chilling accounts motivate Rosita and her friend Beverly to figure out how to leverage this information to press the DMV for answers about Jorge.

Amidst this turmoil, Rosita struggles with her personal life, particularly her reluctance to share the truth of Jorge's disappearance with her parents, opting instead to assure them he is fine. The narrative shifts to a tense day at the library where Rosita works, bringing into focus budget cuts that threaten their jobs and the introduction of DMV services in the library, which she finds unsettling. The chapter escalates dramatically with a sudden gunman in

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Chapter 19 Summary: Nineteen

In Chapter Nineteen of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Jorge is trapped in a nightmarish training facility, where he realizes that everyone around him, including his fellow trainees, is being replaced by clones sharing their names but lacking their personalities. This unsettling environment leads him to suspect that his old roommate, Durrell, might have been killed for failing to gain Jorge's trust. As he navigates daily life in this facility, Jorge finds himself under constant surveillance, feeling more isolated and paranoid with each passing day. Reflecting on his loved ones, especially Beverly, he wonders how she is handling his disappearance and hopes she is searching for him.

During a tense breakfast, Jorge ignores a friendlier new trainee named Durrell, who he believes is a spy, and engages in a petty act of rebellion by remaining in the cafeteria after hours—a move that leads to his detention by aggressive guards. The routine is monotonous; he tracks his captivity like a prisoner attempting to count days. Eventually, the trainees are led to a hard-to-describe classroom where Mr. Lane, a strange yet charismatic instructor with an unsettling physical quirk—one long arm—takes over. He begins his lecture with a confrontational demonstration of 'stress management' by humiliating and torturing a fellow trainee, known as B.D. This gruesome display sets the tone for the culture of fear that permeates the DMV training.



As B.D. is bound and tortured by guards, Mr. Lane emphasizes the harsh realities of working at the DMV, instilling a sense of terror among the trainees. He asserts the DMV's authority over them using violent intimidation, underscored by racial overtones as he targets Jorge with comments that highlight systemic prejudice within the organization. The instructor's cult-like fervor for the DMV's mission makes Jorge increasingly defiant.

Meanwhile, Todd receives his new driver's license, which reveals a deeply unsettling number that matches the tattoo on his great-grandmother who survived Auschwitz. This revelation plunges him into a whirlwind of anxiety and fear about government surveillance, drawing stark parallels between past and present injustices. He frantically tries to change his license number, believing it's an offensive reminder of his family's trauma, only to be met with bureaucratic dismissiveness and threats from a menacing DMV representative.

Both Jorge and Todd confront the terrifying reality of an oppressive system that keeps them trapped, whether it's Jorge's forced indoctrination or Todd's insignificance under a new identity. The chapter intertwines their narratives against a backdrop of violence and the oppression of individuality, leaving readers with a profound sense of dread about bureaucratic control and the loss of personal identity. Their stories build toward a chilling climax,



suggesting that the fight against this monstrous system isn't just necessary;
it's a matter of life and death.

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Chapter 20 Summary: Twenty

In Chapter 20 of Bentley Little's "DMV," Todd Klein receives his new driver's license, which he had anxiously awaited. At first glance, he appreciates its timely arrival before his old license expires, but a sinister twist awaits. Upon inspecting the card, Todd is shocked to discover that his new license number is strikingly familiar: it's the exact number tattooed on his great-grandmother during her time at Auschwitz. This discovery sends chills down his spine, as he grapples with the weighty coincidence of being assigned such a haunting number.

Determined to change this unwelcome association, Todd searches online for solutions and reaches out to the DMV help desk via email. He soon receives an unsettling response from a policeman named Jim Briggs, who hints at something urgent involving the DMV that he can't discuss. His concerns deepen when an ominous figure from the DMV unexpectedly appears at his home, delivering a cold and straightforward message: his new number, 341579, is now an unchangeable part of his identity. The man's demeanor and insistence leave Todd feeling threatened and powerless, reflecting the bureaucratic nightmare he is trapped in.

As Todd's frustration escalates, he turns to his email, trying to reach higher powers to address his grievances. The chapter conveys a sense of impotence against the faceless DMV system, culminating in an unsettling local news



report. The report reveals that eight people have been killed in a suspicious fire at a former DMV office, including Todd's former tutors. This shocking connection raises alarming questions about the agency’s potential involvement in dark and sinister activities, leaving Todd paralyzed with fear for his own safety and the safety of those around him.

The themes throughout this chapter resonate with issues of identity, control, and the potentially sinister nature of bureaucratic institutions. Todd's journey illustrates a man wrestling with the implications of his past and present, navigating a system that is increasingly unyielding and threatening. The narrative drives home a feeling of dread that permeates not just Todd's life, but also the eerie, interconnected world of the DMV and its tragic hold over individuals.

Element	Summary
Chapter Title	Chapter 20
Main Character	Todd Klein
Plot Point 1	Todd receives his new driver's license, but its number is the same as his great-grandmother's tattoo from Auschwitz.
Plot Point 2	Todd seeks help from the DMV, receives a cryptic response from officer Jim Briggs.
Plot Point 3	An ominous figure delivers a message declaring Todd's new license number as unchangeable.

Element	Summary
Conflict	Todd feels threatened by the DMV's bureaucratic power and hostility.
Climactic Event	A local news report reveals a suspicious fire at a former DMV office, killing eight people, raising questions about the DMV's involvement.
Themes	Identity, control, and the sinister nature of bureaucratic institutions.
Overall Tone	Sense of dread and helplessness permeating Todd's life and experiences with the DMV.

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Chapter 21: Twenty One

In this gripping chapter of "DMV," we enter the chaotic morning after Danny's family discovers their Honda has gone missing. Danny's mother, in a frantic state, interacts with Mr. Lee, revealing her belief that the car was stolen after they had a pizza night. As she heads to the police station, Danny begins contemplating the night's events, particularly his suspicion that the Honda was likely taken by skilled thieves. Amid this tense background, Danny experiences a bizarre and unnerving encounter with ominous figures from the DMV, who inform him that since his family is down a vehicle, they have supplied him with a stolen red sports car. In absurdly bureaucratic fashion, they indicate that he is licensed to drive the stolen vehicle, leaving him confused and uneasy.

As the story unfolds, the narrative shifts back to Danny's sister, Jill, who is revealed to have been physically harmed by her recent date. This disturbing revelation escalates the stakes, as Danny feels compelled to protect her and urges her to speak to their mother, who has her hands full dealing with the added crisis of the car theft. The emotional distance in their sibling

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Chapter 22 Summary: Twenty Two

In Chapter 22 of “DMV” by Bentley Little, the story unfolds as Zal and Violet grow closer, although there are underlying tensions due to personal issues Violet is facing. This chapter brings a blend of workplace drama and supernatural intrigue, emphasizing themes of uncertainty and the unknown.

Zal and Violet, who park next to each other each morning, have a meaningful exchange after Zal notices Violet is upset, hinting at her emotional struggles following an unspecified incident. Despite his concern, Violet is not ready to open up, ultimately leaving Zal feeling unsettled as he returns to work. Once at his desk, Zal’s routine is disrupted when Bernard identifies a strange issue with the DMV database: dead people’s driver’s licenses have been renewed without any living associates, sparking a concern of potential fraud amidst the bizarre revelation that “the dead can drive.”

During lunch, Zal takes a moment to check on Violet, who seems to have regained composure but still keeps her problems to herself. Their conversation reveals a budding connection, but Zal’s worries linger. The afternoon takes a strange turn when their boss, Murdoch, informs them that they must undergo an initiation process mandated by the DMV to access sensitive information. The ominous mention of initiation raises Bernard’s eyebrows, and they both express skepticism and concern, with Zal recalling



an earlier chilling remark about being prepared.

Later, uncomfortable with his nighttime neighbor's odd behavior regarding traffic cones, Zal confronts him, leading to an escalating and tense confrontation, which highlights Zal's desire to assert his boundaries. The man's deeply problematic history manifests when he reveals his violent nature and military background, setting up Zal's apprehension.

The next day, Zal and Bernard arrive at a nondescript warehouse for their DMV initiation. What begins as a perplexing situation becomes surreal and horrifying when they encounter a seemingly abnormal ritual involving apparitions and, more disturbingly, a figure that transforms into a cloud of bees. Their participation in the ritual leads to them being stung by bees, initiating a bizarre and unsettling journey marked by surreal shifts between reality and horror.

As they face the strange phenomena within the DMV's initiation process, they are hit with a wave of existential dread and confusion, culminating in their realization that the experience is both real and otherworldly. The chapter intertwines elements of psychological horror, exploring human fear in the face of bureaucratic demigods and their surreal practices.

Meanwhile, the narrative shifts to Jorge, who receives devastating news about his wife Beverly's death, triggering a frantic desire to escape the DMV



training program he is trapped in. His grief transforms into rage as he confronts the cold nature of the institution, similar to Zal's own struggles against an oppressive system. As Jorge tries to challenge the authority of his captors, he discovers how the DMV distorts reality and life itself, using dark and haunting means to keep its employees in line.

The chapter deeply explores themes of power dynamics, emotional trauma, and the impact of bureaucracy on individual lives, fusing dark humor with macabre twists that leave both Zal and Jorge grappling with their new realities. Each character navigates personal crises, presenting a stark commentary on the nature of control and the fight for agency amid oppressive forces.

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Chapter 23 Summary: Twenty Three

In Chapter 23 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Jorge Guiterrez receives devastating news in the form of a letter from Beverly's mother, revealing that Beverly has died from a sudden stroke. This news completely shatters Jorge, igniting a fierce desire to escape the oppressive DMV training camp where he feels trapped. Fueled by grief and anger, Jorge storms out of his room, intent on confronting the administration and demanding to leave. His desperation escalates when he finds Mr. Line, the camp administrator, who coldly dismisses Jorge's pleas, emphasizing the institution's priority over individual tragedies.

Despite Jorge's attempts to fight back and free himself, he is restrained and overpowered by the camp's staff, eventually blacking out after a violent struggle. Upon regaining consciousness, he finds himself in the cafeteria, consumed by grief, realizing that no actions can bring Beverly back. The loss of his wife leaves him feeling utterly defeated and hopeless.

Mr. Line then leads Jorge to a mysterious temple, where a grotesque statue—actually a mass of swarming insects—commands worship. Jorge is overwhelmed by his emotions, praying for Beverly's return. Following an unexplainable period of unconsciousness, he awakens in an upscale suite within the camp, deprived of any sense of how he arrived there, but with the painful knowledge that Beverly is truly gone.



As Jorge is manipulated by Mr. Line into accepting his situation, telling him he is now part of "the family," a sharp contrast accompanies Jorge's internal battle against despair and anger. Mr. Line presents Jorge with questionable information about Beverly's character, attempting to undermine his grief and assert the DMV's control over him.

The chapter encapsulates themes of loss, despair, and the dehumanizing authority of the DMV camp. Jorge's emotional turmoil and the functionality of the DMV as a chilling institution serve to highlight the absurdity and horror of his circumstances, as he becomes embroiled in a sinister system that seeks to exploit and brainwash him. The intensity of Jorge's grief is palpable, creating a gripping atmosphere as he struggles to reconcile his heartache with the oppressive reality around him. The narrative foreshadows darkness yet to come, establishing an unsettling mood in the lives entangled within the DMV's grasp.



Chapter 24: Twenty Four

In Chapter 24 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, the tension escalates as Rosita receives an alarming late-night call from her sister-in-law, Beverly, who claims that her husband, Jorge, has left her for another woman. Shocked and concerned for Beverly's mental state, Rosita wakes her husband Todd, and they decide to visit Beverly's house despite the late hour. As they drive, Rosita experiences a haunting encounter when she believes she sees Will Caskey, the perpetrator of a horrific library shooting, driving next to them. This shocking sight leaves her rattled, unable to shake the feeling that something is amiss.

When they arrive at Beverly's home, they find it eerily dark, and Rosita fears for Beverly's safety. However, upon entering, they discover Beverly is seemingly okay but still shaken. Their conversation spirals into speculation about the DMV's sinister influence and whether Jorge has been involved in some sort of nefarious scheme related to the DMV.

Todd reveals troubling information about the education sessions he attended,

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Chapter 25 Summary: Twenty Five

In Chapter 25 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, the story plunges into an intense and eerie atmosphere as Danny is awakened by his sister Jill, who's sitting on his bed in her underwear, during the nighttime chaos of their home. Her whisper reveals a shocking twist: their father has returned home, despite having died in a previous tragic accident. The siblings are gripped by fear, remembering their father's dark past, particularly the incident where he killed a woman and her baby while driving. They can't reconcile the father they loved with the monstrous figure Jill describes, igniting a palpable tension between their memories and the horror of his return.

As they navigate through their fear, the children decide to quietly leave their home, worried about the implications of confronting their resurrected father, who is now described in unsettling terms – almost puppet-like and beyond recognition. The siblings feel the urgency of their situation intensified by strange noises emanating from the house. This sense of dread escalates as they encounter their father, who appears disheveled and mentally disturbed, marking a horrific transformation that shatters their memories of him.

In a frantic escape attempt, they are interrupted by their mother's voice, but before they can flee, Danny is overwhelmed by the sudden appearance of their father. The return of an unsettling figure from their past isn't the only threat; two security-like men arrive in a white van, seemingly there to take



the siblings away. Their hopes for safety quickly dissolve when a black bag is pulled over Danny's head, forcing them into a dark uncertainty.

The scene transitions as Danny and Jill are transported to a re-education camp run by the DMV, a terrifying institution that seems to loom large over their lives. During their transport, they become aware that their kidnapping is not a random occurrence but a bureaucratic nightmare rooted in their father's influence, as the organization holds damning information and power over them. The chilling realization dawns on them that they are not just in physical captivity but part of a warped system enforcing its version of law and order.

In this nightmarish environment, Jill tries to reach out for help, only for the dispatcher to coldly reveal that they are in a sanctioned facility, further deepening their horror. They meet a sinister figure who embodies the DMV's creepy control, detailing their supposed infractions that led to their detention with disturbing specifics about Jill's personal life.

As the chapter unfolds, it becomes clear that the DMV represents a harrowing entity exercising tyrannical control over lives, blurring the line between authority and monstrosity. The combination of familial betrayal, monstrous transformation, and institutional horror creates an atmosphere thick with dread and uncertainty, raising questions about power, safety, and the moral implications of authority. The siblings' plight becomes emblematic



of innocence caught in a corrupt bureaucratic system, setting the stage for an intensifying conflict as they face the grim realities of their situation in a society steeped in paranoia and control.

Section	Summary
1. Awakening	Danny is awakened by his sister Jill, who reveals that their father has returned home despite being deceased.
2. Dark Past	The siblings recall their father's horrific past, including a fatal accident where he killed a woman and her baby.
3. Fearful Escape	The siblings decide to leave their home quietly to avoid confronting their father, described as unsettling and unrecognizable.
4. Kidnapping	As they attempt to escape, they are confronted by their father and two men in a van who seemingly abduct them.
5. Re-Education Camp	They are transported to a DMV-run re-education camp, highlighting the bureaucratic nightmare based on their father's past.
6. Realization of Control	Jill learns from a dispatcher that they are in a sanctioned facility, emphasizing the DMV's control over their lives.
7. Institutional Horror	The DMV represents a tyrannical entity enforcing control, challenging the siblings' innocence amidst a corrupt system.
8. Conclusion	The chapter closes with a focus on themes of paranoia, authority, and the moral implications of power.

Chapter 26 Summary: Twenty Six

In Chapter 26 of "DMV," Todd, a struggling author, receives unexpected news that his book, **Across the Divide**, has made it onto the USA Today bestsellers list. Although it's a low spot at number 98, it's a milestone for Todd, bringing calls from his agent and publisher. However, his delight quickly turns to anxiety when his publicist, Chyla, mentions a personal detail about him that he's kept hidden—his great-grandmother was a Holocaust survivor. This raises suspicions in Todd's mind that the DMV, which recently issued his driver's license with a peculiar number, may be spying on him.

The narrative shifts as Todd receives a call from his neighbor Beverly, apologizing for recent tensions regarding her missing husband, Jorge. Todd reassures her that he'll further investigate alongside a police officer friend, Jim, who has been transferred to the DMV. Their subsequent meeting at Fichtner Park reveals Jim's grim discovery that the DMV is hiding dark secrets related to recent deaths, suggesting that people may have been murdered, potentially under the agency's direction.

The tension escalates when a swarm of bees suddenly engulf Jim after their conversation, making Todd jump into action to save him. Despite his efforts, Jim is left unconscious and severely injured, prompting Todd to call for help. Afterward, Todd's mind races with implications of the DMV's possible



involvement in a larger, sinister operation possibly targeting his brother-in-law as well.

Meanwhile, the chapter paints a dual narrative as it transitions into Zal's storyline in Chapter 27. Zal is adjusting to a new relationship with Violet, yet his work at the DMV becomes increasingly creepy as he uncovers disturbing anomalies in their computerized system. He finds troubling license types and restrictions that hint at darker functionalities within the DMV, including a "hit-and-run" license that raises the possibility that his own parents' tragic deaths may have been related to these very practices.

As Zal and his colleague Bernard dive deeper, they unearth shocking classifications tied to personal details, suggesting a deep invasion of privacy. The looming threat of being "marked for termination" becomes real when Zal discovers a red dot next to Violet's name in the system. This revelation leads them to contemplate their own safety and the implications of their findings.

A press release from the DMV further complicates things, as it threatens to shut down in-person services and push for total online management, leaving Zal and his colleagues scrambling to meet unexpected deadlines under pressure. Amidst this chaos, Violet's determination to investigate further reflects a growing sense of urgency, leaving the chapter on a cliffhanger filled with tension and dread, emphasizing the overarching theme of



surveillance, power, and the bureaucratic horrors lurking beneath the everyday facade of bureaucracy.

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Chapter 27: Twenty Seven

In Chapter 27 of "Dmv," we delve deeper into the unsettling world surrounding Zal and his evolving relationship with Violet. After spending nearly a week together, Zal finds himself feeling lonely in her absence. They've established a meaningful connection, making plans for a more serious relationship, but the shadow of Zal's missing neighbor, Howard Lang, looms large. Zal is troubled by the vague implications of Lang having been "taken care of," a phrase that suggests a sinister possibility regarding his fate.

As the day unfolds at work, Zal is met by Violet, who shares his sense of unease about their missing neighbor. Their flirtatious banter soothes some of Zal's anxiety, but the atmosphere at the DMV remains tense. Zal interacts with a mysterious digital system that showcases bizarre and disturbing license plate designs, highlighting the incompetencies and outdated practices of the DMV. Bernard, Zal's colleague, also uncovers unsettling inconsistencies within the DMV's protocols, revealing that personal data—including reading preferences and physical attributes—determine a

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Chapter 28 Summary: Twenty Eight

In Chapter 28 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, Jorge finds himself trapped in a surreal nightmare that blurs the line between reality and absurdity at his training camp for the DMV. His bizarre dream features an ominous DMV office filled with malformed applicants and a sinister examiner resembling a skeletal figure who drones the rehearsed mantra of "Ten and two." He wakes up in the present, haunted by memories of his late partner Beverly and a growing sense of unease about his surroundings.

As the trainees gather for breakfast, Jorge notes the diminishing numbers of his cohort and the unsettling sense that many had been spies posing as fellow trainees. With a mix of nostalgia and melancholy, he relishes the breakfast reminiscent of a happy family gathering, but his reflective moment is interrupted when Mr. Line announces that it's time for the next phase of their training—a mock DMV office experience designed to assess their ability to handle "typical" DMV operations.

Jorge's trepidation grows as he enters the pristine office, which feels eerily inviting—nothing like the DMV he knows. Despite its glowing facade, he remains aware of the underlying horror that had plagued him since arriving, including the fate of a fellow trainee, B.D., who was gruesomely punished. Jorge is eventually assigned to take ID photos at Window 12 under Ms. Chung's supervision, where he learns that his station allows for some degree



of discretion, hinting at potential moral corruption in the operations.

Suddenly, the tone shifts drastically when a fellow trainee named Holly is punished for a minor administrative error. In a grotesque display, she is severely punished in front of a crowd as ants swarm around her, leading to amputation of her pinky finger amidst chants of “All hail the DMV.” Jorge watches, frozen with horror, as the officials—who outwardly appear cheerful—reveal their true monstrous nature.

As the chilling reality of their situation sinks in, Jorge is flooded with despair and the tragic memory of Beverly, emphasizing themes of loss, absurdity, and the horrors of bureaucratic dehumanization. The chapter concludes on a disquieting note as Jorge resumes work, battling the psychological manipulation surrounding him while coming to terms with the nature of the institution he is now a part of, drawing the reader deeper into the unsettling atmosphere of Little's narrative.



Chapter 29 Summary: Twenty Nine

In Chapter 29 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Todd Klein finds himself in a dire situation as he visits his friend Jim Briggs in the hospital. Jim, recovering from a severe bee sting that has left him incapacitated and heavily medicated, symbolizes the broader dangers that Todd and his family face due to their ongoing investigation into a troubling training camp linked to the DMV. There's a real sense of paranoia hanging in the air, as Todd and his girlfriend, Rosita, are increasingly wary of being watched by the DMV.

Despite warnings from Rosita and Jim's mother about potential surveillance, Todd feels a moral obligation to speak with Jim, who represents their only shot at unraveling a sinister plot. Todd whispers to Jim, urging him to remember anything that might help locate Jorge, who has mysteriously disappeared. However, this moment of vulnerability is short-lived as Todd exits Jim's room, feeling the weight of responsibility and dread.

As Todd attempts to leave the hospital, he is suddenly pulled over by a patrol car under suspicious circumstances. The officer, a menacing figure adorned with a white supremacist tattoo, escalates the interaction into a terrifying confrontation. Todd's heart races not only from fear of being wrongfully accused but also because the officer keeps referring to him by an ominous digitized number instead of his name, amplifying his sense of helplessness.



The encounter takes a drastic turn when Todd is ordered out of his vehicle and forcibly taken to a dimly lit DMV office, shrouded in antique decor and a sinister atmosphere. An elderly woman and a pale man await him, representing the unsettling nature of the DMV and the threat it poses. The old woman's bizarre behavior culminates in her physically attacking Todd, further emphasizing the chaotic and violent nature of this world. Just when he begins to comprehend the implications of his situation, he's bagged and abducted, underscoring the book's chilling themes of institutional paranoia and the loss of autonomy.

In tandem, Rosita's narrative unfolds as she panics over Todd's mysterious absence. When he doesn't return home after his hospital visit, she frantically checks with various sources, including Jim's girlfriend and the police, but with no success. As her fear escalates, so does her suspicion that the DMV is somehow involved. The chapter paints a vivid picture of her anguish and urgency as she tries to unravel Todd's whereabouts. The tension amplifies further when representatives from the DMV show up at her door under the pretense of wanting to revoke her driver's license, revealing their malicious intent and indicating a greater conspiracy at play.

Together, these interconnected stories weave a rich tapestry of fear, paranoia, and desperation, showcasing how ordinary citizens find themselves ensnared in a terrifying system that preys on vulnerability and obedience. This chilling chapter builds suspense and highlights the themes of control,



surveillance, and the deterioration of safety in everyday life.

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Chapter 30: Thirty

In Chapter 30 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we follow Rosita Klein's frantic search for her husband, Todd, who is late for dinner and uncharacteristically unresponsive. As worry escalates, Rosita recalls that Todd had gone to visit a police officer friend, Jim Briggs, in the hospital. She calls the hospital but learns Todd left hours ago. Filled with dread, she contacts the police about his disappearance, only to be informed that he can't be reported missing until 24 hours have passed.

As she grapples with panic, Rosita delves deeper into her thoughts, considering the disturbing possibility that the mysterious events related to the DMV might somehow be linked to Todd's absence. Despite her rising anxiety, she ultimately decides to check for social media posts about similar experiences, discovering unsettling stories about others who vanished after dealing with the DMV. But as she attempts to reach out for help, her computer starts acting bizarrely, further fueling her worries.

The chapter takes a turn when two men from the DMV show up at her door,

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Chapter 31 Summary: Thirty One

In Chapter 31 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Zal experiences a crucial moment of revelation. He meets Violet after work, who has been secretive yet tense, hinting at some discoveries about the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Their relationship defines itself with Violet stating Zal is her boyfriend, which fills him with joy. However, the mood shifts as Violet reveals shocking information: the DMV's history is far more sinister and ancient than anyone realizes. It has governed human transportation for centuries, dating back to times of emperors and even being linked to themes of evil, operating in secrecy much like a cult.

As Violet dives into her findings, she uncovers that the DMV was seen as a natural force, intertwined with ancient beliefs and mythologies, and has been connected to numerous disappearances over the years, including people who crossed paths with their bureaucratic machinery. Zal feels the weight of their investigation as they acknowledge their status as enemies of this powerful entity. Bernard, Zal's friend, joins the fray, expressing belief in Violet's findings. They realize that the DMV is not just a mundane agency but a global and nearly omniscient control force, shrouded in enigma and increasingly suspicious of those questioning its authority.

As the chapter unfolds, tensions rise with the thought that the DMV might be surveilling their actions. Zal's mind races with paranoia, yet they decide



to continue the investigation, knowing they might be in imminent danger. The chapter highlights themes of power, surveillance, and the fear of oppressive institutions while developing the romantic connection between Zal and Violet, marked by their shared fight against a daunting adversary. Ultimately, Zal's protective instincts for Violet when learning about the DMV's darker side deepen, as they both face escalating stakes in their pursuit of truth and justice.

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Chapter 32 Summary: Thirty Two

In Chapter 32 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, we dive into the harrowing experiences of siblings Danny and Jill as they find themselves imprisoned in a grim facility that resembles a DMV re-education camp. The story opens with Danny pretending to be asleep to avoid answering his sister's chilling question about their father, hinting at deeper family traumas. Both children endure a humiliating night chained to their beds in diapers. The atmosphere is oppressive, with a sense of danger lurking as Danny recalls a fellow detainee, Thea, who had stood up defiantly but was brutally beaten and taken away, an event that amplifies their sense of fear.

As morning arrives, the siblings are released for bathroom access and served meager food. The reality of their situation begins to settle in as they meet a cruel instructor who refers to them collectively as "dummies." The unsettling educational routine entails a graphic demonstration about vehicle collisions, with Jill coerced into acting as a crash-test dummy. Her defiance is crushed by the instructor, leading to a horrific mock accident where she sustains real injuries. Danny watches helplessly as Jill is injured, her pain depicted vividly with blood and fear evident in her eyes. The instructor's disregard for Jill's well-being highlights the camp's disturbing practices.

When the instructor shifts focus to the fictional hit-and-run driver, a shocking act of violence erupts as he kills the driver with a knife,



underlining the brutality of the environment. Despite the grim display, Danny's thoughts revolve around his sister, pleading for help as she loses consciousness. Paramedics take Jill away, and amidst the chaos, the instructor mocks the situation, carelessly oblivious to the children's trauma.

As Danny struggles with their dire circumstances, he is introduced to Todd, a new recruit who seems more composed and recognizes the absurdity of their situation. They strike up a conversation about their predicaments, exchanging ideas on escaping and contemplating the legality of their imprisonment. The narrative reveals a growing camaraderie among the detainees, amplifying their shared trauma.

In a later session, the remaining recruits, including Danny and Todd, encounter another harsh instructor advocating for manual labor as part of their punishment. They are led to a grim area known as The Pit, a place that serves as a reminder of the recalcitrant inmates with whom they share space and suffering. The chapter culminates with Danny's increased determination to rescue his sister and break free from the camp's clutches.

Overall, Chapter 32 explores themes of powerlessness, cruelty, and the resilience of the human spirit in dire situations. As the characters are subjected to humiliating and traumatic experiences, their desperate desire for survival and freedom drives the narrative forward, creating a palpable sense of urgency and dread.



Chapter 33: Thirty Three

In Chapter 33 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Jorge endures an intense and surreal training period at the DMV, where he and other recruits are subjected to grueling conditions and bizarre punishments as part of their orientation. Jorge grapples with fatigue and memories of his late spouse, Beverly, as he meticulously sorts forms under the relentless pressure of an unforgiving system. The environment is dystopian; mistakes lead to horrifying consequences, illustrated by the shocking punishment of his fellow recruit, Mitchell, who suffers a gruesome fate for a minor error.

As the chapter unfolds, Jorge's growing awareness of the brutality around him leads to a pivotal moment. An encounter with a racist clerk prompts him to react violently, suggesting a troubling acceptance of aggression as a means of survival in this oppressive setting. Amidst this chaos, Jorge discovers a form labeled "Application for Civilian Entrance to Department of Motor Vehicles Training Camp," realizing it could be a way to communicate with the outside world. He memorizes the form number in hopes of sending word to his sister Rosita and brother-in-law Todd, who he

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Chapter 34 Summary: Thirty Four

In Chapter 34 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, Rosita awakens to find her car impounded and evidence that someone has entered her home while she slept. Feeling violated and frantic, she discovers a ransacked office, evidence of a sandwich made by an unknown intruder, and a note from the DMV instructing her to get more milk. Just as she decides to call the police, a text from her brother, Jorge, changes everything. He's alive and at a DMV training camp with Todd, Rosita's husband, and instructs her to retrieve a specific DMV form (A131/2B) to find him.

Rosita shares this urgent message with her sister-in-law, Beverly, and they quickly plan to obtain the form. However, they arrive at a seemingly abandoned DMV office, which feels sinister with its heavy silence and ominous atmosphere. Inside, they're greeted by a chilling scene: numerous dead bodies scattered across the floor, while zombified employees continue to mindlessly perform their duties. The horror escalates as they realize the office is alive with a terrible buzzing sound and the unsettling sight of a towering structure reminiscent of a warped modern skyscraper.

Despite the pervasive dread, they approach the forms counter, where the clerk mechanically hands over a form for entrance to the training camp. As they navigate through the eerie office, they encounter swarms of insects covering former people, blurring the lines between life and death. Rosita



reflects on the grotesque transformation of the DMV, sensing it has become a hellish reflection of what it once represented.

Meanwhile, Zal and his friends, all part of the DMV "family," formulate a risky plan to infiltrate a DMV office and gather information to combat the disturbing practices they've uncovered. Zal's morning begins with a sense of normalcy, but dread quickly creeps back in as they confront the possibility of being surveilled. A tense encounter with Mr. Garcia, a nearby resident, reveals the reach of the DMV's influence, hinting at a larger, unseen threat.

As they set off towards a nearby DMV office, the group experiences harassment from a police officer who, reminiscent of the oppressive atmosphere Rosita encountered, embodies the DMV's troubling power. A poignant moment occurs when Zal spots the spectral figures of his deceased parents, raising questions about the DMV's capabilities and their own chances of overcoming such a formidable force.

Overall, the chapter crafts an atmosphere of escalating horror as characters navigate the bizarre, oppressive world of the DMV, highlighting themes of violation, dread, and the struggle for agency in a nightmarish bureaucratic reality. The eight-hour permits they secure symbolically mark a crucial step towards reclaiming control over their fates, but no one is certain what awaits them at the training camp.



In the face of mounting tension and eerie encounters, Rosita, Beverly, Zal, and Bernard's interconnected stories weave a chilling narrative of desperation and rebellion against a monstrous system.

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Chapter 35 Summary: Thirty Five

In Chapter 35 of "Dmv" by Bentley Little, we find Zal waking up next to Violet, feeling a moment of bliss before reality intrudes. Their idyllic morning quickly turns anxious as they confront the looming threat of the DMV, which Zal suspects is watching them. This anxiety is confirmed when their neighbor, Mr. Garcia, knocks on their door, visibly sleep-deprived and distressed about his own DMV problems. Zal starts to wonder if his neighbor knows too much about his work with the DMV's computer systems, causing him to feel paranoid and prompting a call to his friend Bernard.

When Bernard arrives, he proposes a reckless but bold plan: they should infiltrate a DMV office under the pretense of performing upgrades on their systems. Though Zal fears the legal repercussions of such a move, Bernard persists, believing it would allow them to uncover the truth about the DMV's dark operations. Violet surprises Zal by insisting she wants to join, motivated by a personal stake in the corruption intertwined with her father's situation.

Their trip to the DMV office brings alarming surprises. The building appears abandoned, which raises more questions. Just as they start to doubt their plan, the doors open invitingly, but what they find inside is horrifying: a chaotic scene reminiscent of a horror show, with eerie yellow lighting, dead



bodies, and zombified workers. They encounter two frantic women, Rosita and Beverly, who reveal that their husbands have been taken by the DMV for "job training." This newfound alliance deepens the stakes; they need to team up to rescue their loved ones and address the systemic horrors of the DMV.

The chapter takes a dark turn as the group sets off to the training camp where the husbands are held captive. Their drive becomes fraught with danger as they face numerous threats on the road, including the surreal experience of encountering Zal's parents, who are seemingly alive yet buried in their funeral attire. As they struggle against the overwhelming power of the DMV, they remind themselves of the tools they have at their disposal: their permits, their knowledge of the system, and their determination to fight back.

Zal and his companions muster the courage to confront the DMV's stronghold, facing uncertainty about what lies ahead while showcasing the themes of resistance against a corrupt system, the bonds of love and loyalty, and the terrifying lengths institutions will go to control individuals. The chapter builds tension, mixing surreal horror with a sense of urgent, determined action among the characters who find themselves up against an unimaginable foe.

Key Points	Summary
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Key Points	Summary
Characters	Zal, Violet, Mr. Garcia, Bernard, Rosita, Beverly
Initial Situation	Zal wakes up happily next to Violet, but anxiety kicks in about the DMV watching them.
Neighbor's Distress	Mr. Garcia arrives, sleep-deprived and worried about his DMV issues, raising Zal's paranoia.
Plan to Infiltrate	Bernard suggests breaking into DMV for upgrades, despite Zal's fear of legal issues.
Violet's Motivation	Violet insists on joining the infiltrating plan due to connections with her father's corruption.
DMV Encounter	The DMV office appears abandoned but is filled with horror elements: corpses and zombified workers.
Alliance Formation	They meet Rosita and Beverly, whose husbands are taken by DMV, leading to a joint rescue mission.
Journey to Training Camp	The group faces surreal dangers, including haunting encounters with Zal's parents at a funeral.
Themes	Resistance against corrupt systems, love, loyalty, and institutional control.
Tension Build-up	The chapter mixes horror and action as they prepare to confront the DMV's power.



Chapter 36: Thirty Six

In Chapter 36 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Todd wakes up in a grim situation where he's chained to a bed in a bizarre bureaucratic setting. After a brief and tense wait, he manages to escape his restraints and heads straight for the bathroom, eager to avoid the humiliating diaper they provided him. Reflecting on a recent encounter with DMV officials who had flattered him to get his cooperation, he feels a mix of hope and despair about his potential fate and that of his brother-in-law, Jorge. He's particularly concerned about Danny, a young boy worried about his missing sister, whose fate hangs in the air.

During breakfast, Todd and Danny join a group of familiar faces who are plotting an escape from the prison-like facility. Among them is an old man named Purvis, who claims he has been imprisoned for years, echoing fears about how the DMV could be concealing their operations. Todd's thoughts drift to the dark history of incarceration and how current events feel disturbingly cyclical. He begins organizing their escape efforts, studying staff behaviors to pinpoint weaknesses in their control.

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Chapter 37 Summary: Thirty Seven

In Chapter 37 of "DMV" by Bentley Little, Rosita and her companions enter a camp with a mix of fear and determination, clutching their permits tightly. The atmosphere is tense as they encounter Mr. White and Mr. Black, two men clearly associated with the ominous DMV facility and who are shocked by the unexpected arrival of additional guests alongside Rosita and Beverly. As Rosita asserts their right to search for her brother Jorge and his friend Todd, she cleverly uses their permits to gain ground.

Jorge, upon being reunited with Beverly, expresses relief and confusion, revealing that he mistakenly believed she was dead. They quickly strategize—only for Jorge to reveal that Todd is actually in another part of the camp, a re-education facility behind a wall. Instead of panicking, they regroup and decide to find Todd, emphasizing the urgency of leaving before they are trapped.

Navigating through the camp, Jorge recalls his earlier experiences there and manages to guide their group to a door hidden within a mural on the wall. Upon entering the re-education camp on the other side, they witness firsthand the oppressive environment and the dismal state of the detainees. Jorge successfully identifies Todd, and to Rosita's shock, Todd insists on rescuing another boy, Danny, who lost his sister.



As they make their escape, they face disorienting obstacles—particularly the unsettling realization that the camp they are in is far more sinister than anticipated. The mention of a temple fueled by workers’ desperate energy pushes their resolve: they confront the strange essence of the DMV entity, which manifests through honey and bees. Jorge and the others come together to destroy the hive-like figure, unleashing a chaotic yet liberating force as they break down its influence.

As they escape, they witness the frenzy of the DMV staff, realizing that while they may have disrupted operations temporarily, the deeper corruption underlying the DMV remains intact and persistent. The chapter concludes with Rosita and her friends escaping back to the real world, but with the lingering sense that the battle against pervasive evil is far from over. The sense of dread and the unknown permeate as they drive away, reflecting on what lies ahead and the challenges that will continue to resonate beyond the camp.



Chapter 38 Summary: Thirty Eight

In this gripping chapter, the tension peaks as Zal, Jorge, and their group venture into a bizarre and sinister temple that embodies the terrifying force behind the DMV. The atmosphere is thick with dread as they confront a statue made of bees, believed to be central to the DMV's unsettling influence. As they navigate their plans to sabotage this otherworldly power, Zal grapples with the overwhelming implications of their task.

Upon arriving at the temple—a space combining elements of the primitive and the modern—they are quickly met with a tranquil yet hypnotic sound that threatens to pull them into submission. Jorge's frantic warning jolts Zal and the others into action, and they race to the temple in hopes of disabling the bewitching statue before it can further ensnare them.

The group witnesses an eruption of chaos and horrific transformations as Jorge successfully destroys the statue with a bicycle seat. The dark, pulsating energy released reveals its true nature: a collective consciousness of bees, alive and malevolent. In a shocking turn, the bees coalesce into a monstrous shape, warning Zal of the elemental evil around them—one that manipulates insects and humans alike.

As the atmosphere shifts, they witness ants crawling to form this new abomination, unveiling the DMV's ancient and primal grasp over society.



Amidst a frantic struggle, they devise a method to disrupt the swarm through natural elements within the temple but quickly realize they must escape as the structure collapses around them.

Afterwards, they find themselves in an abandoned DMV complex thrown into disarray, chaotic screams intermingling with alarms as they breathe a sigh of relief that they have temporarily halted the organization's hurdles. Yet, there's a collective understanding: their battle is not over. Zal, still scarred by their experiences, recognizes that although they have managed one victory, the shadow of the DMV still looms large, entrenched deeply in society.

The story then shifts to life post-DMV as the group attempts to grapple with their traumatic experiences. They seek to take purposeful action by exposing the injustices at the DMV, and though they struggle with the aftermath of their paranormal encounter, they form tentative bonds, hinting at a shared endurance despite the darkness they faced.

As the chapter winds down, the group reflects on their journey, acknowledging losses and changes, especially for Danny, whose sister is tragically gone. The narrative explores themes of resilience in the face of overwhelming evil and the struggle to reclaim normalcy after a surreal confrontation with malicious forces, leaving readers questioning the pervasive nature of hidden control and what it truly means to escape from a



system that weighs upon them.

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Chapter 39: Thirty Nine

In Chapter 39 of Bentley Little's "DMV," the story picks up with Todd and his companions making their way back from the chaos of the DMV camp. As they hit the highway, Todd's thoughts are filled with the rules and strange realities they've encountered. The highway reflects the chaos they left behind, with car crashes and honking drivers, making Todd feel the world is still in disarray.

Upon returning to the DMV office, they find the building badly damaged from a fire, a stark metaphor for the destruction of a system that had oppressed them. Despite their exhaustion, they come together in a moment of camaraderie, discussing their next steps. Bernard and Zal plan to continue dismantling the DMV's corrupt systems, sowing seeds of hope for a better future. However, Beverly points out the inherent challenges of trying to totally stop a government agency.

They soon learn that Danny, a boy grieving his sister, needs a ride home. The mood shifts as they navigate his return to an uncertain family situation,

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Best Quotes from Dmv by Bentley Little with Page Numbers

Chapter 1 | Quotes from pages 47-116

1. Why did he let this online bullshit get to him?
2. Ignore those assholes.
3. It's an addiction. That's what it is.
4. He raised an eyebrow. 'Joe Blow from Kokomo, MO?' Where'd you come up with that?
5. You're right. I shouldn't waste my time.
6. I should just cut off all internet access in this house.
7. He hadn't had to take the test since first moving to the state.
8. The concern was irrational—he had always been prepared for exams and had always done well—but he'd experienced it nonetheless.
9. I need brain food when I'm writing, not when I'm taking a driver's test.
10. I'll be fine.

Chapter 2 | Quotes from pages 117-176

1. "Job security!" he boomed.
2. I have to say that they couldn't have picked a better or more dedicated group to work with.
3. As far as we can foresee. The pre-planning alone should take us well into next year.
4. Nearly all of the programmers in the conference room were grinning, and more than



a few faces were filled with expressions of gratitude and relief.

5. He was lucky enough to be able to own his own home.

6. One of these days, though, he was going to get around to clearing things out, selling things off and putting his own stamp on the residence.

7. It was strange, Zal considered, how infrequently he thought about his parents.

8. It was much easier to skate along on a superficial plane than dive deep into those waters.

9. He was leaning toward fighting it, on the chance that a judge would understand that he had sent in his forms on time.

10. They did not yet have access to any of the DMV systems, and neither of them would have jeopardized their careers by doing something illegal, but it was the thought that counted.

Chapter 3 | Quotes from pages 177-242

1. I'm not here to give you a hard time. Honest. I'm just worried about you. You and Beverly both. And I want to make sure things are going to be okay.

2. I'm looking for work. But it's hard. I went to a job fair yesterday, I've sent out probably a dozen resumes. This afternoon, I'm going to be hitting a bunch of businesses and filling out applications. I'm trying.

3. You had a perfectly good job, with benefits and a 401K, and you threw it all away. You quit because of some little—

4. Knock some sense into you.

5. I guess I'm not what you're looking for.



6. But I'm not letting people die. And I'm for sure not committing a crime.
7. The system is designed to spot potential.
8. You will live, work, eat, breathe the DMV, and when you complete the course, you will be qualified to work at any one of our branches.
9. I want you out of my house.
10. Working for the DMV involves much more than just following orders.

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Chapter 4 | Quotes from pages 243-297

1. "I want you to call me as soon as the test's over."
2. "You can do it. I know you can."
3. "People sacrifice for the opportunity to have a license. Do you understand? Sacrifice."
4. "It's always an adventure."
5. "Go get 'em, Tiger."
6. "Just to let you know: having a driver's license is a privilege not a right. You have to earn your license."
7. "There was Before. And there was After."
8. "In a thousand different ways, the loss of his father was brought home to him and impacted his life and made Danny realize just how much he not only missed his dad but relied on him."},{

Chapter 5 | Quotes from pages 298-334

1. You can do it. I know you can.
2. Having a driver's license is a privilege not a right. You have to earn your license.
3. People sacrifice for the opportunity to have a license.
4. There was Before. And there was After.
5. The world had changed, and Danny would give anything to have his life go back to the way it had been.
6. In a thousand different ways, the loss of his father was brought home to him.
7. I felt guilty, as though I had caused my dad's death.



8. Intellectually, Danny knew this was all just a coincidence, but emotionally it didn't feel that way.
9. I'm stuck here in this new confusing, chaotic existence.
10. But nothing was ever going to be the same.

Chapter 6 | Quotes from pages 335-380

1. Oftentimes, Rosita wished that her parents had not returned to Mexico.
2. She often thought of how a fine line separated her between her husband and brother.
3. The thought made Rosita happy; there was nothing she loved more than snuggling in a warm bed when the weather was cold.
4. The thing is, I kind of did.
5. He was belligerent and hostile, but it didn't seem like he was lying.
6. At least he has one.
7. I'm telling you, this guy's ID had a cartoon for a picture and listed his shoe size.
8. But if you bring in something with your name and address on it, like a utility bill, we can reinstate you.
9. She wanted to see the end of 'Chopped' and find out who won.
10. He didn't intend to get another one just because of an idiotic mistake.





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Chapter 7 | Quotes from pages 381-437

1. "You know, my parents had this book about that. I found it on their bookshelf after they died."
2. "One is that language has specified rules and standards that need to be followed. The other is that language is always evolving, that it can't stand still or it becomes ossified."
3. "Why not just say 'soon?' But lately I've heard newscasters say 'sooner than later,' which is idiotic...Things would be so much more logical."
4. "We need our space."
5. "It's a bureaucratic nightmare, which means job security."
6. "That's the spirit!"
7. "That smile made him feel more hopeful than he had in a long while."
8. "She looked genuinely pleased to see him."
9. "I owe you one."
10. "Maybe he hadn't evolved at all."

Chapter 8 | Quotes from pages 438-501

1. Apparently, he was becoming more mature.
2. He was evolving.
3. If he liked something, he liked it. If he hated something, he hated it.
4. He didn't feel the need to have a reason for his judgments.
5. What good was celebrity, even low-level celebrity, if you couldn't leverage it and throw your weight around to get things done?
6. It just seems like a huge abuse of authority.



7. I want to retake the test.
8. Big Brother's watching me.
9. This is on the level, right? You're not joking with me? This isn't some kind of prank?
10. Yes, it is.

Chapter 9 | Quotes from pages 502-560

1. "He knew the whole point of this camp was to break him down, brainwash him, make him into a good soldier, but there was no way in hell that was going to happen."
2. "He wasn't some weak-minded pato who could be programmed to join the team."
3. "Jorge vowed that as soon as he was released, he would bring everything to light. These bastards were going to pay."
4. "It was clear that the towering barricade was meant to not only discourage but prevent people from both entering and leaving the camp."
5. "The actual training was going well, however. For the moment, they were alternating between two classrooms."
6. "Against his will, Jorge found the classes interesting. He was legitimately learning a lot."
7. "What he wanted most was to escape from this place, to get back home, but that, it seemed, was impossible."
8. "Oh, he was coming back here, Jorge thought. Something was being kept secret, and if they didn't want him here, this was exactly where he ought to be looking for it."
9. "He didn't know the time, but he could judge the rhythm of the camp by the bells that rang at regular intervals."



10. "He made it back to the classroom just as the final bell rang."

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Chapter 10 | Quotes from pages 561-608

1. There was so much about his father that he'd taken for granted, and it was only since he'd been gone that Danny realized how truly lucky he had been, how lucky they had all been, to have him.
2. His dad had always been the one telling them to cheer up, look on the bright side, that whatever was weighing them down was only temporary and would soon be gone.
3. But this was not something that was ever going to go away. It was the way life was now.
4. I probably don't tell you enough, but you're a good kid. We're...I'm lucky to have you.
5. They still weren't used to his dad being gone, and sometimes it took a moment to remember that he was no longer here.
6. You heard that guy. I need my car to go to work.
7. It really was his responsibility to help look out for his sister, and the truth was that he'd been doing a poor job of it.
8. What am I going to do with her?
9. She looked genuinely distressed, and Danny felt a wave of gooseflesh surf down his bare arms.
10. That's not the worst part.

Chapter 11 | Quotes from pages 609-662

1. "I don't want to be threatened with torture or death or anything."
2. "They think they own us."



3. "I'll quit, find another job, but they're not bullying me into letting them have dominion over my body."
4. "It was a joke sent out by an ex-employee."
5. "I can live with this, it was normal."
6. "Time flies. Although, technically, it's not called traffic school anymore. It's behavioral training."
7. "If it were not for behavioral training class, you would have to pay for your tickets and be dinged by your insurance companies for your infractions."
8. "You will never renew your license without our help."
9. "Sometimes sacrifices are required."
10. "You may think you'll never need it, but I guarantee that you will."

Chapter 12 | Quotes from pages 663-714

1. This was without a doubt the best possible life he could have had—but because his options were not as wide open as they had once been, because time had robbed him of potential.
2. What makes you think that? We keep track. And for whatever reason, you're on their list.
3. You may think you'll never need it, but I guarantee that you will. And you'll have it when that time comes.
4. Well, you've seen the light, and I'm hungry. Let's eat.
5. For the first time, a signing was making him feel better instead of worse.
6. It is not as easy to leave the department as you might think it is. Sometimes sacrifices



are required.

7. You're a good sister. Jorge's lucky to have you. We're all lucky to have you!

8. There's probably other similar cases. There's probably been lawsuits.

9. I just want Jorge back.

10. Nothing will. I promise.

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Chapter 13 | Quotes from pages 715-767

1. "Something was wrong. Rosita could feel it."
2. "The uncomfortable sense that there was a problem involving her brother stayed with Rosita for the rest of the afternoon."
3. "It's this whole being kept in the dark that scares me."
4. "It's the not knowing that makes everything so much worse."
5. "I told you, Todd talked to his cop friend, and this DMV camp is legit."
6. "I just want Jorge back."
7. "Get some sleep. Everything will be okay."
8. "I might have been looking in the wrong place. Jorge can't be the first one this has happened to."
9. "There are probably groups that fight against this stuff. Maybe lawyers who work pro bono."
10. "Nothing will," Rosita promised, though her assurance was based on nothing but hope.

Chapter 14 | Quotes from pages 768-820

1. Still, he kept writing. Just in case.
2. Just in case. In his more optimistic moments, he thought that maybe the letters he sent out were being delivered, but the ones being sent to him were not.
3. Jorge stared at Ms. Lane as she spoke. She had big hands, he noticed.
4. You'll be able to have fun, too.
5. The DMV, Jorge was quickly learning, had a lot of power. Too much power, as far as



he was concerned.

6. Maybe, he thought, the cemetery had been here before the camp had been built, had been on the property when the DMV bought it and had simply been left as is when the land was acquired.

7. Who was buried here? Recruits who would not comply? Instructors no longer of use?

8. It was not time for dinner—the appropriate bells had not yet rung.

9. Why would a Department of Motor Vehicles training camp have a graveyard at all?

10. And what would happen to him if that occurred?

Chapter 15 | Quotes from pages 821-881

1. "...whatever the reason, there was serious belt-tightening going on in the family."

2. "I saw him die. I was there."

3. "Most people hate the DMV because it ignores them."

4. "Because once you are noticed... it never stops."

5. "There's nothing to do but wait. Either he'll come out, or he won't."

6. "Every passed test is a victory."

7. "You're on the DMV's radar. That's how we found you."

8. "This is a unique signifier that cannot be duplicated and thus provides protection from identity theft."

9. "You will pass. Which they will not expect and which is not supposed to happen."

10. "We do what we do, Mr. Klein. And we do all we can."

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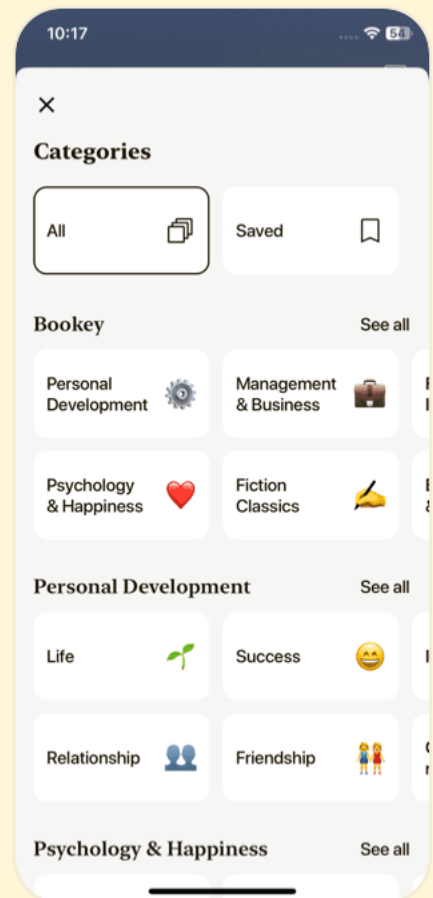
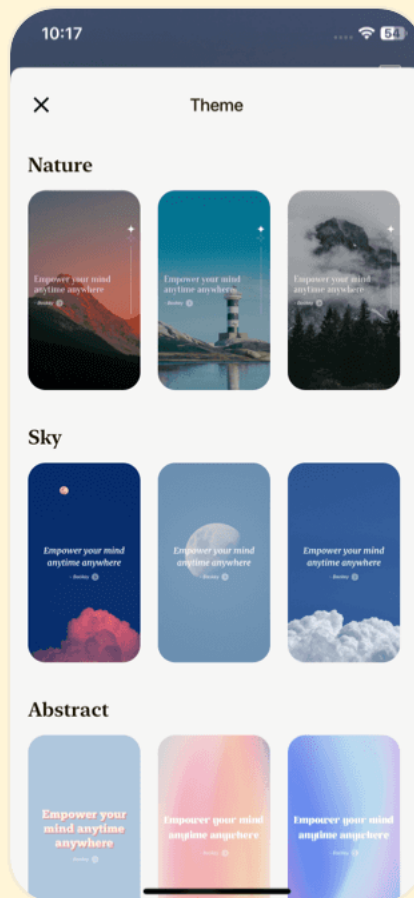
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Chapter 16 | Quotes from pages 882-954

1. "We know your names, of course, but for our protection, tutors use no names."
2. "We are here to help. Do you want our help or do you not?"
3. "You're on the DMV's radar. That's how we found you. However it happened, whatever you did to draw attention to yourself..."
4. "Most people hate the DMV because it ignores them. Their forms are lost, their requests disregarded—they're invisible. It makes them furious, but they don't realize that they're the lucky ones."
5. "Once you are noticed... it never stops,"
6. "So we can try to find out about your brother-in-law, but just be warned: this isn't going to stop."
7. "We do what we do, Mr. Klein. And we do all we can."
8. "Your test will follow one of the six progressions. All you have to do is apply the proper tactic."
9. "Every passed test is a victory."
10. "And you will pass. Which they will not expect and which is not supposed to happen."

Chapter 17 | Quotes from pages 955-1019

1. "She was the main reason he had gone to all this trouble, although he did not want her to know that."
2. "He must have gone outside and walked back in more than twenty times in an effort to gauge what her first impression would be."



3. "In the real world, outside of work, there was less structure and more pressure, and made having a natural conversation more difficult."
4. "I know I should have some great passion, something I've always desired, some secret ambition, but the truth is I don't. I'm just kind of drifting."
5. "I miss them every day," he admitted.
6. "But these days, or to my parents at least, she's the disgrace because she got married so young."
7. "You're one of those."
8. "Things were going far better than he could have hoped."
9. "Finally, they were finished, alone, and the house was quiet."
10. "You could invite me back again some time, when there aren't so many people around."

Chapter 18 | Quotes from pages 1020-1074

1. "I vowed to myself that I would find him before my parents called again."
2. "God forbid the public should have access to information."
3. "If I want to keep my job, I should probably show them that I take it seriously."
4. "There's nothing to decide. And this is probably the best time to be there."
5. "But it takes a certain kind of person to adapt to the strains of this life."
6. "The job will not only put stress on you, but will put stress on your relationships."
7. "Mistakes have consequences, and punishment, of necessity, is swift and severe."
8. "You need to be trustworthy, which means you need to be genuine."
9. "You have a leg up on your compadres here, you'll be eligible for bilingual pay."
10. "Life as part of the DMV is more wonderful than you can possibly imagine."





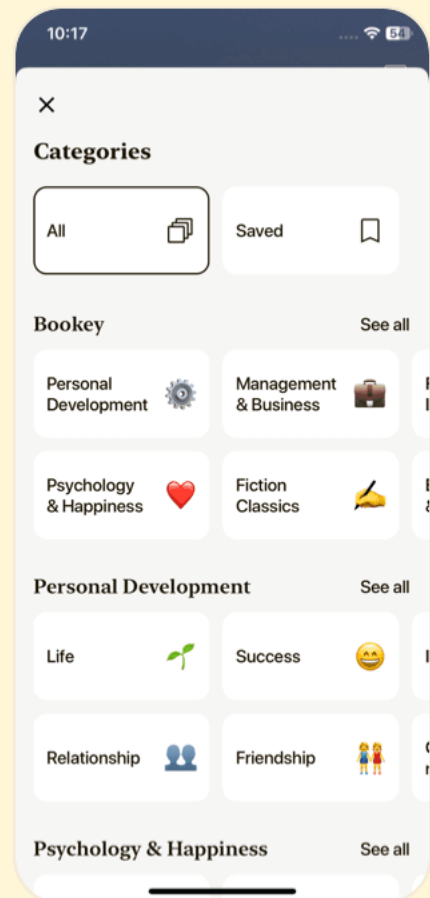
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Chapter 19 | Quotes from pages 1075-1124

1. “Most people outside of the DMV family don’t know what real pressure is. But as you will learn, it can either be your friend or your enemy.”
2. “You are the gatekeepers, the ones who determine which of them shall be granted the privilege of driving on public streets, and as such you need to be trustworthy, which means you need to be genuine.”
3. “In our business, mistakes have consequences, and punishment, of necessity, is swift and severe.”
4. “The job will not only put stress on you, but will put stress on your relationships.”
5. “Many marriages have crumbled under the strain of the job. But, rest assured, it is worth it. Life as part of the DMV is more wonderful than you can possibly imagine.”
6. “You process some jig or chink or cholo, that goes in the license... this way the person can be tracked.”
7. “Listen and learn, and you will go far.”
8. “You have to be authentic.”
9. “It is how decisions are made in regard to who is allowed to drive a vehicle.”
10. “You are Three Four One Five Seven Nine.”

Chapter 20 | Quotes from pages 1125-1176

1. There had to be some way to get his license changed.
2. Strange, he thought, how people who were up in arms, literally, about gun registration, afraid that the government would use that information to keep track of them, had no qualms about the DMV not only knowing their height, weight, hair and



eye color, but assigning them a number by which they were identified.

3. What does that mean for Jorge?

4. It was time to stand up for himself.

5. If I can get my phone number changed or be assigned a new credit card number, I can certainly get a new driver's license number.

6. It didn't help.

7. If the people who were responsible for the fire... the DMV... were willing and able to kill eight people, they were certainly capable of tapping Jim's phone.

8. How could anyone fight against that?

9. What are we going to do?

10. You're, what, from the help desk? What is your name? And who is your supervisor?

Chapter 21 | Quotes from pages 1177-1254

1. It doesn't matter. I know what happened. When doesn't make any difference.

2. I'm talking to them in person.

3. It's free.

4. You are specifically licensed to drive a stolen vehicle.

5. Not following proper procedures. Not obeying the rules.

6. We thought you deserved something nice.

7. It may be legal, but it's wrong.

8. We've got to hit the road! Places to go, people to see. Have fun and drive safely!

9. So are they going to be arrested?



10. My advice? Let it go. Don't get involved, and stay as far away from the DMV as possible.

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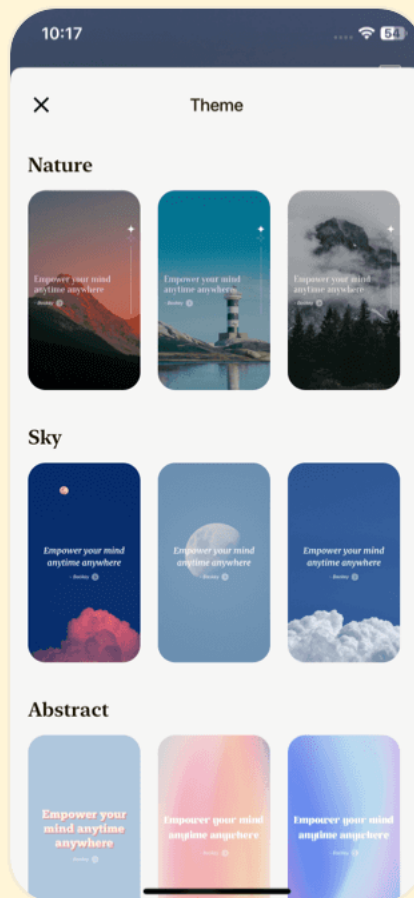
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Chapter 22 | Quotes from pages 1255-1336

1. "I'm here."
2. "Your wife is dead, and there is nothing you can do about it. Except honor her memory by completing your training."
3. "Your training is not yet completed."
4. "People die all the time...but the hard truth is that whether your wife is alive or dead, the DMV still needs employees and you still need a job."
5. "Maybe so. Or perhaps you are merely not there yet. But either way, your place is here with us."
6. "Relax," said a buzzing voice in his head, a soft language that was neither English nor Spanish but that he still understood. "Relax."
7. "Well, my place isn't here!"
8. "Beverly was careful with money!"
9. "You no longer require a roommate. You have worshipped in the Temple. You are part of the family now."
10. "You're in your new crib. Isn't that what you folks from the barrio call it?"

Chapter 23 | Quotes from pages 1337-1395

1. "Beverly was dead? It was impossible, Jorge told himself, but as much as he tried to believe it was not so, he knew that it definitely was possible."
2. "Your wife is dead, and there is nothing you can do about it. Except honor her memory by completing your training—"
3. "Maybe so. Or perhaps you are merely not there yet. But either way, your place is



here with us."

4. "His angry desire to escape was gone... Grief had supplanted rage, and he was filled with a sense of utter hopelessness."

5. "What am I doing? Beverly is dead. Why am I here?"

6. "He was filled with a complete and utter hopelessness and he wished with all his heart that he had been the one to die, not Beverly."

7. "He could see none of the drivers, but he heard a car door open and slam shut, and a moment later... he realized that until now, he had not seen a single motor vehicle."

8. "Your training is not yet completed. Life goes on, and the hard truth is that whether your wife is alive or dead, the DMV still needs employees and you still need a job."

9. "He felt the faint stirrings of despair within him. No!"

10. "And he did, as a buzzing voice in his head softly urged, 'Relax.'"

Chapter 24 | Quotes from pages 1396-1446

1. "Nothing good ever came from a call this late."

2. "I think she might do something."

3. "Maybe it's not what it seems."

4. "I think we need to go over there and talk to her. Be with her."

5. "Isn't it?"

6. "It's the DMV. So far, they've kidnapped Jorge... my license number is from a Nazi concentration camp..."

7. "You think they wouldn't stoop to this?"



8. "Maybe it was just someone who looked like him."

9. "I thought it was him at the time, but now I'm not so sure."

10. "I believe it."

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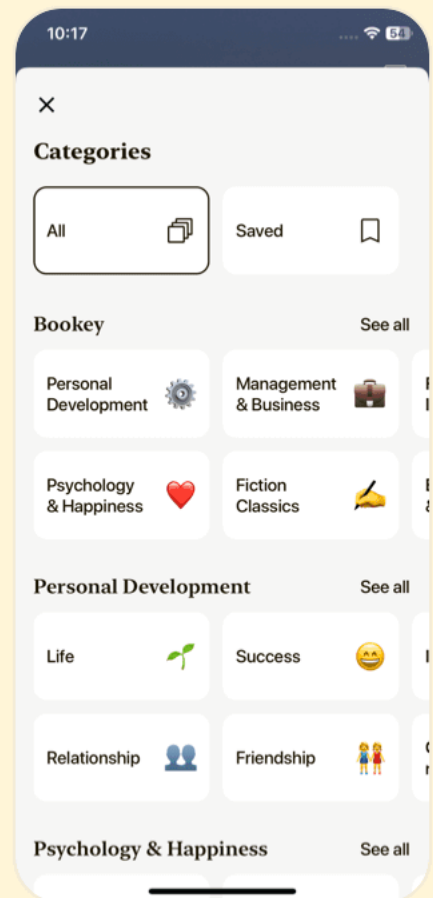
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Chapter 25 | Quotes from pages 1447-1496

1. "Daddy's home."
2. "He's dead." Hearing the word spoken aloud somehow made it more real.
3. "Maybe we should get out of here."
4. "Who says he's leaving? Besides, I'm not sure a locked door could keep him out. He's dead."
5. "But now the prospect of actually seeing his resurrected dad scared him more he would have thought possible."}, {

Chapter 26 | Quotes from pages 1497-1554

1. "Across the Divide had made it onto the USA Today bestsellers list."
2. "It's a perfect storm. I'm pretty sure they'll bite. And this is national exposure."
3. "You had a perfect right to be mad, and it's my fault that we didn't tell you earlier. I'm sorry."
4. "Stay as far away from the DMV as possible. Renew your license when you need to, pay for your tags each year, but otherwise don't have any contact. That place is toxic..."
5. "Evil?" Todd offered.
6. "They can't get away with this, though."
7. "They can and will. And they have been for a long time."
8. "Never Again a valiant rallying cry against a reality that is already here."
9. "This is real life."
10. "They're kidnapping people and sending them to training camps to apply for jobs."



Chapter 27 | Quotes from pages 1555-1620

1. "You were trying to snoop. But that's okay. You think I haven't looked things up about you? I am in research."
2. "It's your call. How that photo is taken is up to your discretion...that's why Window Twelve is the best place in the office to work."
3. "The Department of Motor Vehicles is a unique institution, providing services to the public that are available nowhere else, which necessitates that we operate at the highest possible level."
4. "We expect a lot from all of you, and thanks to the excellent training provided by this glorious camp, we are seldom disappointed."
5. "Work hard, enjoy your work. Work hard, enjoy your work!"
6. "Now each person gets only one picture. There are no re-dos or second chances. You take the photo and that's it."
7. "We need to document this. From now on, when you come across something screwy, mark it and print it out."
8. "I'll do it. Since this directly affects me, and I'm apparently marked for termination, I'm going to look into it as well."
9. "But you don't have access to the system."
10. "I'm part of the family, as they keep telling me, so I should be able to check out the system from my computer at home."





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Chapter 28 | Quotes from pages 1621-1678

1. "He was alone, and at that moment knew he was fully awake."
2. "The specifics of the dream faded... but the feeling of disquiet it had engendered remained."
3. "It seemed like a wonderful place to work... that the training camp had its own graveyard."
4. "What happened if he wasn't chosen? Could he leave and go back to his room?"
5. "Verbal communication is vital when you work for the Department... you clearly state 'Yes!'"
6. "Each person gets only one picture. There are no re-dos or second chances... it's your call."
7. "You must know something."
8. "I don't know if you can hear me... but we'll figure out some way to communicate."
9. "Stay there..."
10. "The camp will teach you a lesson."

Chapter 29 | Quotes from pages 1679-1721

1. I felt a responsibility. After all, I was the one who'd called Jim and wanted to talk.
2. Just try to think, try to remember...you must know something.
3. I have no idea if he heard me or not.
4. What is it? What—
5. Things could go very wrong here very fast.
6. Alive or dead, he had to be somewhere; he had not just disappeared into thin air.



7. It was not just a lone psycho cop I was dealing with, but the DMV as well.
8. Maybe he'd been mugged and found his way back home.
9. You can take my license when you pry it from my cold dead fingers.
10. There was a growing belief that this was somehow connected to the DMV.

Chapter 30 | Quotes from pages 1722-1769

1. "Even if you are who you say you are, you can't just come to someone's house and take their license."
2. "You can take my license when you pry it from my cold dead fingers."
3. "Alive or dead, he had to be somewhere; he had not just disappeared into thin air."
4. "It should have been impossible to sleep, but she was one of those people who, rather than remain up all night, fell into a deep slumber when she was under stress."
5. "Your husband, however, may pick up the vehicle at any time."
6. "The thing is, most people, including me until I dug this up, think that the DMV is a state agency. And it is. But the state DMV reports to a federal DMV which reports to the global DMV."
7. "Like I said, they're secretive. Like a cult. so there's a lot of stuff I couldn't find out."
8. "Don't you wonder why the DMV suddenly wants everyone to register online? Why they don't want anyone coming into their offices anymore?"
9. "That's what I'm calling it. They don't call it that. To them, it's just the DMV, and all these hierarchal distinctions are organic, the way things are and the way they're supposed to be."



10. "We can't let them get away with this. We need to do something about it."

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Chapter 31 | Quotes from pages 1770-1837

1. You have to promise that this goes no further than us, though. You can't tell anyone.
Not even Bernard.
2. Believe me, it's not.
3. I know it sounds crazy, but it's true.
4. We'll find a way.
5. The thing is, a lot of the early references I found indicate that people viewed the DMV as part of the natural order.
6. Most people, including me until I dug this up, think that the DMV is a state agency.
And it is. But the state DMV reports to a federal DMV which reports to the global DMV.
7. You're being polite, and that's sweet.
8. We can't let them get away with this.
9. For God's sake, let us out!
10. What that 'P' means is that you are authorized to administer punishment in the event of an accident such as this.

Chapter 32 | Quotes from pages 1838-1932

1. "Do you think he did? Danny? Do you think he killed her?"
2. "I don't know," Jill said. "Forever?"
3. "You may address me as 'Sir.'"
4. "Drive carefully now."
5. "Note that she was wearing her shoulder harness but—uh oh!—the air bags did not



deploy."

6. "In an accident, the victim often loses control of bladder or bowels."

7. "This is why you must always go to the bathroom before getting into a vehicle."

8. "If you had, or she had—you might have been able to do something about it."

9. "What that 'P' means is that you are authorized to administer punishment in the event of an accident such as this."

10. "We'll get out of here. And we'll bring your sister with us."

Chapter 33 | Quotes from pages 1933-2013

1. Jorge refused to give them the satisfaction, though, and through sheer force of will, he kept the tiredness at bay and pushed on.

2. Overwork and perpetual tiredness had managed to push grief aside.

3. If a form said to do something, they did it, no questions asked.

4. Heart pounding, he glanced quickly around to see if anyone was looking in his direction.

5. He wouldn't have done it if he hadn't been so tired, but that racist jibe was the snot sauce on this shit sandwich of a day.

6. Jorge punched him in the gut.

7. He was going to keep that in mind.

8. Jorge knew that if he punched up, he would be taken down.

9. "What do the regulations say?"

10. He was almost certain that the DMV really did consider him one of their own now.





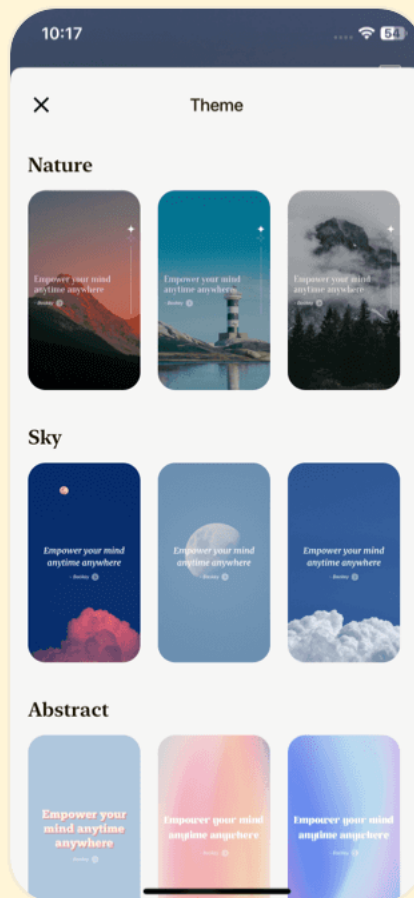
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Chapter 34 | Quotes from pages 2014-2080

1. It was clear from the nametags and uniform attire that these were the corpses of DMV employees.
2. 'Still alive. Todd at camp, too. Get DMV form A131/2B. Find us.'"
3. She wasn't sure, since the details were so skimpy, but the way she read it, this DMV form A131/2B would somehow help her find out where he was.
4. Jorge actually got a message out to us, and we need to act on it. Now.
5. I don't know. But we're wasting time.
6. It's literally a two-line text.
7. This place has changed since the last time I was here.
8. Rosita had no idea why such a permit would even be offered to members of the public.
9. We could definitely use the help.
10. 'We're here to stop them from doing what they do with their computers.'

Chapter 35 | Quotes from pages 2081-2133

1. "At this particular moment, he was completely happy."
2. "If we had enough time and enough hands on deck, we probably could steer this Titanic in a different direction."
3. "What's the plan?" "Eat breakfast. And after that?" "I'm not sure."
4. "So let's see how far we can push that. Let's see what it really means."
5. "That's a chance I'm willing to take. It's the right thing to do."
6. "My dad's been designated a victim. I'm fine with being an accessory."



7. "I don't think we're going to solve anything, but...maybe we'll be able to help. A little."
8. "If things have devolved to that extent— I don't think tweaking a few computer programs is going to make much of a difference."
9. "There might be a massive backlog if they tried something like that."
10. "You may enter."

Chapter 36 | Quotes from pages 2134-2176

1. Maybe he didn't even need to try and escape. Maybe all he had to do was wait.
2. History wasn't a straight line, it was a circle.
3. If Purvis was telling the truth, either the man had no friends or family and had not been missed—or else the DMV had been able to completely cover its tracks.
4. He didn't know enough about this place yet to formulate a workable escape plan, but he already had the others monitoring the movements of the staff.
5. It was a shock to see Jorge here, and while Todd had no idea what was going on, he knew that he could not leave without bringing Rosita's brother with him.
6. The thought that Todd was imprisoned here filled her with sorrow and anger.
7. And if they were to disappear, they would probably never be found.
8. As soon as we're free, we'll blow the lid off this motherfucker.
9. We stay together, no one's splitting up. It'll make it easier and we'll get out faster.
10. But I think there's something we can do to stop them first.





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Chapter 37 | Quotes from pages 2177-2265

1. For the first time, Rosita felt the stirrings of real hope.
2. We are also part of the DMV ‘family.’
3. What I have here, what we all have, in fact, is permission from the Department of Motor Vehicles to enter this facility.
4. And yet here we are.
5. I’m not going to stand here and argue with two recruiters about a policy that seems pretty cut and dried.
6. We’re getting you out of here.
7. They didn’t think we’d bring others. And these guys know what they’re doing.
8. As soon as we’re free, we’ll blow the lid off this motherfucker.
9. We stay together. No one’s splitting up.
10. Just because it looks calm out there doesn’t mean it is.

Chapter 38 | Quotes from pages 2266-2347

1. If he had learned anything over the past few months, it was that the DMV was a lot more than just a government agency. Its roots ran far deeper, and its influence was far wider, than anyone knew.
2. This may be our only chance.
3. Whatever the DMV was, its origins were in the natural world, in an entity so primal that it had been here before the advent of human beings.
4. He understood, on a fundamental level, that evil was not just a word that could be applied to acts that were wrong or bad, but was a palpable, tangible thing.



5. There's only one way in and one way out, and if those goons show up, we're trapped.
6. Maybe it'll just be normal. At least for awhile.
7. What were they going to do if the noise started up again? This close, fingers in ears would probably not be enough to keep out the hum.
8. This was the real temple, he thought. This was where their god lived.
9. They might manage to disrupt things here or even destroy what was in the clearing, but it would not be permanent, and it would all come back sooner or later.
10. The massive amount of corroboration online had lent even more credibility to the allegations, and in addition to being examined by journalists, the DMV's actions were being investigated by other government agencies.

Chapter 39 | Quotes from pages 2348-2375

1. But maybe it won't be exactly the same.
2. We finish our work.
3. Thank you for everything.
4. He knows how to get in touch if he needs us.
5. The poor kid's been through a lot. It's probably better if he just moves on.
6. We're doing the Lord's work on our own time.
7. There's nothing to back it up, but I'm willing to take that chance.
8. I can't drive again.
9. If it had been up to him, Todd would have sent the material to major news outlets.
10. We really do need to get going.





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Dmv Discussion Questions

Chapter 1 | One | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Todd Klein's emotional reaction to the reviews of his latest book?

Todd Klein feels discouraged and depressed after reading the reviews for his latest book, "Across the Divide". Although the book has sold well, the negative comments weigh heavily on him. He is tempted to respond to these reviews under a pseudonym to contradict the harsh opinions but refrains out of fear of humiliation. Todd acknowledges that despite the sales figures, the negative feedback from a small percentage of readers has a significant impact on his confidence.

2.Question:

How does Rosita, Todd's wife, respond to his concern about the negative reviews?

Rosita tells Todd to ignore the negative reviews, recognizing that they repeat the same criticisms he has faced in the past. She reassures him that the book is doing well in terms of sales and that it has received some positive reviews. Her attitude reflects a desire to encourage Todd to rise above the criticism and focus on the positives, rather than participating in what she perceives as an unhealthy obsession with online opinions.

3.Question:

What events lead up to Todd's DMV appointment?

Todd's DMV appointment comes after he has received multiple traffic tickets, which has triggered a requirement to take a written test for his license renewal. Previously, he had been able to renew his license by mail, avoiding in-person tests. However, due to

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two tickets and a minor accident, Todd is required to visit the DMV to take the written test in person. He expresses irritation and anxiety about the appointment.

4.Question:

What is Todd's experience at the DMV like when he arrives for his appointment?

Upon arriving at the DMV, Todd is greeted by a long line of people waiting outside, leading to an already frustrating experience. After navigating through various lines and dealing with unfriendly staff, Todd discovers that his printout confirms an appointment for a vision test, not the written driver's test he believed he had scheduled. This mix-up leads to rising frustration as he learns he may have to wait in line again or reschedule, leading to anger and a desire to lodge complaints about the service.

5.Question:

What significant memory does Todd reflect on while at the DMV?

While waiting in line at the DMV, Todd has a flashback to when he took his first driving test many years ago, recalling the examiner named Cliff who had administered the test. This memory is tinged with anxiety given that he currently feels overwhelmed by the possibility of failure at the DMV. The recollection highlights his nervousness about the present situation and how he hasn't been to the DMV in years, making the experience feel even more daunting.

Chapter 2 | Two | Q&A

1.Question:

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What announcement does Murdoch make at the beginning of Chapter 2, and how does it impact the team?

Murdoch announces, 'We landed the DMV!,' which generates immediate excitement and relief among the coders and programmers in the office. The news that they secured the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) account means job security for Zal Tombasian, Bernard, and their colleagues, who had previously worried about potential layoffs once their current project (the county payroll project) was completed. Given the scale of the DMV project, the team realizes it not only ensures their employment but might also require hiring additional staff for future support and updates, ensuring long-term job stability.

2.Question:

How does Zal feel about his living situation and how it affects his personal life?

Zal reflects on his living situation with a sense of discomfort and nostalgia. He lives in his childhood home, which is filled with his deceased parents' belongings, including outdated décor and knickknacks. This lingering connection to his past affects his dating life, as he acknowledges that most of his first dates only remain as dates rather than progressing into more meaningful relationships. Zal recognizes the need to redecorate and personalize the house, suggesting he feels stuck between his past and his current single adult life.

3.Question:

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Describe the interactions between Zal and the police officer. What leads to the ticket being issued?

Zal is pulled over by a police officer who informs him that his vehicle's tags have expired. Despite Zal's protest that he had sent in his renewal paperwork two months prior, the officer explains that the absence of the sticker on the license plate necessitates issuing a citation. Zal tries to reason with the officer by explaining his connection to the DMV project aimed at improving efficiency, but the officer insists on writing up the ticket regardless. This encounter is frustrating for Zal as it reflects the very inefficiencies they are meant to fix through their work at Data Initiatives.

4.Question:

What humorous exchange occurs at lunchtime that highlights Zal's social life?

During lunch, Bernard humorously comments on the misconceptions people have about colors, specifically puce and chartreuse, showcasing his quirky knowledge from a PBS show. As they joke around, Judi and Hu enter the break room and tease Zal about a new single woman in their office, suggesting he should pursue her. Zal, however, groans in annoyance at the continued attempts of his friends to fix him up, demonstrating his discomfort with his single status. Bernard humorously suggests that Zal gives off a 'sad pathetic vibe' due to his lack of social activity, further emphasizing how Zal's friends perceive his solitary lifestyle of gaming and eating junk food.

5.Question:

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What emotional conflict does Zal grapple with regarding the memory of his parents in Chapter 2?

Throughout Chapter 2, Zal grapples with the avoidance of memories relating to his deceased parents. He acknowledges that while he rarely thinks of them, it might be a coping mechanism to steer clear of overwhelming emotions. As he reflects on the dated aspects of his home and how they remind him of his childhood, he contemplates the necessity of sorting through his parents' belongings to make the house his own. This inner conflict highlights his struggle to move forward in his own life while being anchored by the memories and remnants of his past.

Chapter 3 | Three | Q&A

1.Question:

What job-related challenges is Jorge facing at the beginning of Chapter 3?

At the start of Chapter 3, Jorge is experiencing significant difficulty in his job search. He feels defeated after having lied to his wife, Beverly, about the outcome of a job fair he attended, which he describes as a complete bust. He received quick rejections from three out of four companies he had recently applied to, indicating a lack of interest in his applications, which adds to his feelings of dread and financial pressure as bills begin to accumulate. He is also grappling with shame as he recognizes that Beverly is the primary breadwinner while he is currently unemployed.

2.Question:

How does Jorge's lunch with his sister Rosita reflect his personal insecurities?



During the lunch with Rosita, Jorge's insecurities are highlighted through his defensive attitude and reluctance to accept advice or support. He feels judged and lectures about leaving his job without having another lined up, which he knows is true but isn't willing to confront. His feelings of jealousy toward Rosita, who appears to have a more stable life because of her successful husband, intensify his sense of inadequacy. The dynamic shows how his sister's offers for support are met with defensive resistance; he worries that they might be conspiring against him with Beverly concerning his job search.

3.Question:

What peculiar encounter does Jorge face after leaving the restaurant, and what does it foreshadow?

After leaving the restaurant, Jorge encounters two men, Mr. White and Mr. Black, who approach him under the guise of offering a job opportunity with the DMV at a high starting salary. Their sudden appearance and insistence strike Jorge as threatening, especially when they don't take 'no' for an answer. This encounter foreshadows a deeper, more sinister involvement with the DMV, suggesting that the offer may not be legitimate and alludes to potential dangers or coercion that may come into play later in the story.

4.Question:

What is significant about the employment aptitude test Jorge is presented with?

The employment aptitude test that Jorge takes is significant as it is not a typical job assessment. Instead of focusing on standard job qualifications or skills relevant to working at the DMV, the questions are morally unsettling



and designed to probe his decision-making under extreme scenarios. This unusual content hints at a more disturbing and twisted nature of the work he is being allegedly recruited for at the DMV, suggesting that the job could involve ethical dilemmas that may conflict with Jorge's moral compass. The test's stark questions also serve to characterize Jorge's personality as a man unwilling to compromise his ethics.

5.Question:

How does the chapter end and what does it imply about Jorge's future?

The chapter ends with Jorge being told he has been accepted into DMV training camp after an aptitude test he did not even take. This abrupt acceptance into a mysterious 'training camp' implies a loss of control over his own life and choices. The insistence from Mr. White and Mr. Black that he will go reflects the threatening nature of this employment opportunity, casting doubt over what the DMV entails. This unsettling conclusion heightens the tension for Jorge's future, hinting at a potentially dangerous path ahead as he feels coerced into accepting a job that may not align with his values.





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Chapter 4 | Four | Q&A

1.Question:

Who is Chyla Reynolds and what role does she play in Todd's life in Chapter 4?

Chyla Reynolds is Todd's publicist, assigned to him by his publisher. Her role involves attempting to generate publicity for Todd's newly released book. However, Todd is reluctant to engage in her suggested publicity stunts, which he perceives as lacking dignity and only benefiting the sales marginally.

2.Question:

What is Todd's initial reaction to Chyla's suggestion for a radio promotion?

Todd is skeptical about Chyla's suggestion for promoting his book through radio remotes, especially since he believes that his book won't appeal to morning radio listeners. He expresses doubt that such promotions will lead to significant sales, arguing that he would rather not engage in what he considers humiliating stunts.

3.Question:

What complaint does Chyla bring to Todd during their conversation?

Chyla informs Todd that they received complaints regarding cultural appropriation related to his novel. An Asian critic has taken issue with Todd's portrayal of a Chinese character who speaks broken English and confuses personal pronouns, leading to broader criticism online.

4.Question:

How does Todd defend his narrative choices concerning the Chinese neighbor in his novel?

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Todd defends his writing by asserting that his character reflects real-life experience, including that he has lived next to a Chinese neighbor who displayed similar speech patterns. He argues against the concept that only individuals of a specific background should portray those experiences in fiction, likening this to the broader implications of authorship and imagination in writing.

5.Question:

What significant event occurs toward the end of Chapter 4 that shifts Todd's focus and concerns?

Toward the end of Chapter 4, Todd learns about the possibility of appearing on a podcast, which serves as a potential platform for promoting his book. However, he also grapples with his frustration over the abrupt ending of a phone interview he conducted that left him puzzled about the nature of the podcaster's time constraints.

Chapter 5 | Five | Q&A

1.Question:

What emotions does Danny experience regarding his father's absence during his driving test preparation?

Danny feels disappointed and disheartened that his father cannot accompany him to the driving test, as their shared experiences during Driver's Ed classes were meaningful to him. He recalls how his dad supported him during the study sessions for the written test, and the absence of his father during this last step makes him feel a loss of connection and preparation. Danny also tries to suppress his feelings of disappointment



out of respect for his father's work commitments, but ultimately wishes that both parents could be there with him.

2.Question:

How does the interaction between Danny and the DMV clerk affect Danny's feelings about obtaining his driver's license?

The interaction with the DMV clerk leaves Danny feeling uneasy and discouraged. The clerk speaks in a tone that suggests skepticism toward Danny's potential to pass on the first try, and he ominously emphasizes that obtaining a driver's license is a privilege earned through sacrifice. This unsettling conversation contributes to Danny's anxiety about the test and makes him question the meaning of sacrifice in relation to his father's unexpected death, leading him to link his father's heart attack to his own ambitions of driving.

3.Question:

Describe the impact of Danny's father's death on Danny's daily life and mental state after the event.

After his father's death, Danny's life drastically changes; he feels isolated and guilty for continuing normal activities or having fun while his father is gone. He withdraws from friends and avoids social interactions, preferring to stay in his room, and he engages in unhealthy sleep patterns, going to bed earlier and exhibiting symptoms of depression. Danny also starts feeling the practical implications of his father's absence at home, realizing more responsibilities fall on him and his family. His loss deepens his internal



conflict, as he grapples with feelings of guilt over potentially causing his father's death.

4.Question:

What does the dream sequence about the DMV reveal about Danny's emotional state?

Danny's dream about the DMV is a manifestation of his guilt, anxiety, and irrational thoughts post-trauma. In the dream, he has a conversation with the clerk that echoes his real-life experience, intensifying the feeling of responsibility for his father's death. The imagery of his father's death occurring while he's preoccupied with the DMV underscores Danny's internal struggle between wanting to obtain his driver's license and feeling undeserving or guilty about doing so, as he believes there was a 'sacrifice' related to it. This dream reflects a blend of his fears about adulthood and the profound impact of his loss.

5.Question:

How is the theme of sacrifice portrayed in this chapter, especially in regard to Danny's perception of his father's death?

Sacrifice is a prominent theme in this chapter, particularly in how Danny internalizes the clerk's comments about needing to earn one's license through sacrifice. As he processes his father's sudden death, Danny irrationally connects his desire for independence (symbolized by getting his driver's license) to his father's untimely passing. He begins to believe that there was a cost associated with achieving his personal milestones, which



manifests in feelings of guilt for wanting to move forward with his life while mourning his father's death. This belief complicates his emotional recovery and reinforces the sense that he must atone or compensate for his desire to drive.

Chapter 6 | Six | Q&A

1.Question:

What challenges is Rosita facing at the library in Chapter 6?

In Chapter 6, Rosita is facing several challenges at the library. First, she is dealing with the fact that the library is currently understaffed, having lost three full-time employees. This situation increases her workload and the workload of her remaining colleagues, pressuring them to pick up the slack. Additionally, her schedule has changed; while she is relieved to no longer work late hours on Mondays and Wednesdays, she has had to take on extra Saturday shifts, resulting in her working six days a week. On Saturdays, she notices a significant increase in library traffic, with more homeless individuals and children, which forces her to act more as a traffic coordinator rather than focusing on her preferred role at the Reference desk.

2.Question:

What incident occurs involving Tyson Buddrick and his driver's license?

In the chapter, Rosita encounters Tyson Buddrick, a middle-aged man with an unusual driver's license. The license has only six digits in the number section instead of the standard eight and features bizarre personal information, such as shoe size and favorite color, rather than the usual identifiers like height and eye color. Additionally, instead of



a photo, there is a cartoonish depiction of Mr. Buddrick. When Rosita and a colleague Grace Hamel, ultimately determine that the document is not a legitimate form of ID, Tyson becomes frustrated and reacts angrily, declaring that his license is real and stating he has used it to get tickets from police. Despite his insistence, Rosita informs him that without proper identification that meets the library's requirements, he cannot renew his library card, leading to a tense confrontation before he leaves angrily.

3.Question:

How does Rosita react to her encounter with Tyson Buddrick?

Rosita demonstrates a mix of professionalism and concern during her interaction with Tyson Buddrick. When he gets upset about the denial of his library card renewal, she maintains her composure while trying to explain the library's policies. After he storms out, Rosita picks up his book, titled 'Mass Shootings and Their Aftermath,' and decides to place it into the reshelving pile without letting her colleague see it, indicating that she is unsettled by the title in light of the confrontation. Later, she reflects on the incident and finds it disturbing, especially considering the violent nature of her dream that night, where she envisions Tyson coming back to the library with a weapon, indicating that the encounter has deeply affected her.

4.Question:

What are Rosita's thoughts on her family dynamics, particularly regarding her husband Todd and brother Jorge?

In Chapter 6, Rosita reflects on her family dynamics with her husband Todd and her brother Jorge, revealing the complexities of her role as a mediator



between the two. She acknowledges the tension between Todd and Jorge, noting that they have never really gotten along, and she often finds herself defending one to the other to smooth over conflicts. Additionally, she expresses feelings of sadness and regret regarding her parents' decision to return to Mexico for retirement, feeling a sense of morbid anxiety that they would be 'crawling home to die.' Rosita wishes that her parents had remained in the US where they could have benefited from her support and helped keep Jorge in check, further emphasizing her desire to maintain family unity amidst the chaos.

5.Question:

What thematic elements are present in Chapter 6, particularly related to the DMV and societal issues?

Chapter 6 touches on several thematic elements, particularly the challenges of bureaucracy and the absurdity of modern societal issues epitomized by the DMV. Rosita's encounter with Tyson Buddrick's bizarre driver's license symbolizes the inefficiencies and confusion surrounding governmental agencies, suggesting how disconnected bureaucracies can become from reality—including the individual identities of the citizens they serve.

Additionally, the chapter explores themes of anxiety and fear regarding safety and gun violence, as illustrated by Rosita's haunting dream of a mass shooting and her concerns about patrons in the library. This convergence of personal and societal issues hint at broader themes of insecurity and the struggle for normalcy in a chaotic world.





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Chapter 7 | Seven | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Zal's reaction to Judi's matchmaking attempt with Violet, and how does this affect his behavior during lunch?

Zal feels embarrassed and mortified by Judi's attempt to set him up with Violet, a young and attractive woman he has just met. His face heats up in response to her presence, highlighting his discomfort with the situation. Rather than sit with Judi and Violet as suggested, he deliberately chooses to sit at a smaller table nearby, indicating his desire to distance himself from Judi's intervention. His actions suggest a mix of social awkwardness and a reluctance to engage in what he perceives as an aggressive intrusion into his personal life. Despite his annoyance, he eventually participates in the conversation between the two tables, revealing a complex blend of feelings as he navigates this unexpected social scenario.

2.Question:

Describe the dynamic between Zal, Bernard, and the new freelancers Boo and Gary during their initial meeting.

The dynamic between Zal, Bernard, Boo, and Gary is characterized by playful banter and a contrast between professionalism and casualness. Bernard introduces Zal to the freelancers, and his humorous remarks, such as calling himself the 'older fatter one' and trying to tease Boo about his name, lighten the mood. Boo's dry sense of humor—acknowledging the implications of being named after a character known for being less than capable—creates an informal atmosphere. Zal feels somewhat overshadowed by Bernard's confidence but becomes engaged when discussing the



complicated nature of the DMV project with the freelancers. The chemistry among them builds as they delve into the challenges of their work, fostering a sense of camaraderie but also showcasing their different personality types—Bernard's outgoing nature, Zal's more reserved demeanor, and the freelancers' relaxed vibe.

3.Question:

What are some of the theories about language discussed between Zal and Violet?

During lunch, Zal and Violet engage in a discussion about theories of language, specifically contrasting two schools of thought. Violet explains that one theory posits that language follows specific rules and standards that must be adhered to (the 'strict' view), while the other argues that language is inherently evolving and must adapt to remain relevant. Zal contributes to the conversation by referring to a book from his parents, 'Strictly Speaking' by Edwin Newman, and they both express differing opinions on the validity of each perspective. Violet identifies more with the evolving language view, emphasizing that rigidity in language can lead to obsolescence. Their exchange showcases their intellectual compatibility and provides a glimpse into their personalities—Violet's knowledge and Zal's capacity to relate personal experiences to broader concepts.

4.Question:

What issue does Zal discover with his car registration after returning home, and how does this tie into the overarching DMV theme of the chapter?



Upon arriving home, Zal finds that his car registration has arrived, but to his dismay, the sticker is the wrong color and represents last year's registration instead of the current one. This blunder reflects the inefficiencies and frustrations commonly associated with the DMV, echoing the struggles that both he and Todd face throughout the chapter regarding bureaucratic red tape and systemic errors. Zal's concern about receiving another ticket due to an administrative mistake illustrates the ongoing theme of incompetence in the DMV system. This emphasizes not only Zal's personal frustration but also highlights the critical need for updates and improvements in the DMV's processes, which is a central element in the narratives connecting Zal's work life and Todd's experience.

5.Question:

How does Zal's interaction with Violet reflect his character development throughout Chapter 7?

Zal's interaction with Violet marks a significant moment in his character development as it reveals his struggle with social anxiety juxtaposed against an underlying desire for connection. Initially, he feels awkward and shy, apprehensive about acknowledging her interest in him. However, as the chapter progresses, he opens up during their conversation about linguistic theories, showcasing his intellectual side and finding common ground with her. His nervousness lessens as he interacts with Violet, especially when she expresses genuine pleasure in seeing him. This moment of connection indicates potential growth in his confidence when dealing with romantic



interests. Despite lingering doubts, such as questioning whether Violet perceives him as out of her league, Zal's decision to approach her rather than avoid contact suggests a burgeoning willingness to engage more fully in his personal life, hinting at a promising path toward overcoming his social awkwardness.

Chapter 8 | Eight | Q&A

1.Question:

What message does Todd receive from Robinson, and how does he react to it?

Todd receives a phone message from Robinson, who informs him that he has written a review of Todd's new novel for the Chicago Tribune. While Robinson claims that the review is overall positive, he mentions needing to be 'a little hard' on Todd in places, suggesting a mixed review. Todd reacts with irritation but does not feel surprised; he ultimately realizes that he does not care much about Robinson's opinion and feels a sense of personal growth for not being overly affected by the criticism.

2.Question:

What concerns does Todd have about taking the DMV test, and how does he prepare for it?

Todd is apprehensive about taking the DMV test because he has heard from others, including his friend Palmer and his partner Rosita, that the tests have become significantly more difficult over the years. His father had to take the test multiple times before passing, which adds to Todd's concern. To prepare, Todd studies a booklet and takes online practice tests, increasing his confidence that he will perform well despite



the warnings.

3.Question:

Describe the testing process Todd goes through at the DMV and the unexpected nature of the questions he faces.

When Todd arrives at the DMV, he is surprised by the change in the test format. Instead of a simple paper-based test, he is directed to a side room to take a computerized test with a series of unusual questions. The first two questions relate directly to driving laws, but they quickly become absurd, including metaphorical analogies and even a specific question about whether Todd is a better driver than Robinson. Todd finds the peculiar questions both baffling and intrusive, leading him to question the legitimacy of the test.

4.Question:

How does Todd respond to his failure in the DMV test, and what actions does he contemplate afterward?

After failing the DMV test without even being allowed to answer the last question, Todd feels frustrated and angry. He initially wants to complain and effect change regarding the testing processes he has experienced. Todd considers leveraging his status as a somewhat well-known author to raise awareness about his experience and potentially raise a complaint against the DMV.

5.Question:

What does Todd discuss with Lieutenant Briggs regarding the test, and



what conclusions does Briggs suggest?

After failing the test, Todd visits the police station to speak with Lieutenant Briggs. He shares his concerns about the bizarre test questions, particularly the one referencing Robinson, and questions their legality. Lieutenant Briggs acknowledges that this behavior seems wrong and agrees that it resembles an abuse of authority. However, he states that only a lawyer could provide a definitive answer about the legality of such questions and promises to investigate Todd's claims further.

Chapter 9 | Nine | Q&A

1.Question:

What circumstances led Jorge to find himself at the 'training camp'?

Jorge was taken to a 'training camp' for a job at the DMV after being approached by two men at his home who coerced him to come with them. He was blindfolded during the transport and had all personal belongings confiscated, rendering him cut off from communication with the outside world, including family, as they were only allowed to write letters.

2.Question:

How does Jorge perceive the environment and people within the camp?

Jorge's perception of the camp is skeptical and paranoid. He describes it as being set up impressively, resembling a movie set, but he also views it suspiciously, likening it to a concentration camp. He is particularly distrustful of his roommate, Durrell, suspecting he might be an informant assigned to spy on him. Jorge also notes a lack of diversity



among the recruits and trainers, which adds to his sense of unease.

3.Question:

What notable event occurs when Jorge explores the camp grounds?

During his second afternoon, Jorge tries to explore the camp grounds and comes across a high concrete wall that surrounds the camp, which fills him with suspicion and a desire to escape. While exploring, he discovers a clearing filled with what appear to be beehives. When he approaches them, he is confronted and grabbed by two security guards, which heightens his sense of paranoia about being monitored and controlled.

4.Question:

What is significant about Jorge's interactions with his fellow recruits, particularly in the cafeteria?

Jorge's interactions in the cafeteria reveal his growing paranoia and lack of trust towards his fellow recruits. He questions Jean, who sits with him, accusing her of spying, which leads her to leave. His interactions show his isolation and belief that no one can be trusted, as he feels like he is being watched and that everyone around him may have ulterior motives.

5.Question:

What does Jorge resolve to do regarding his situation at the camp?

Jorge resolves to maintain a facade of compliance while secretly looking for a way to uncover the truths about the camp and potentially escape. He plans to gather information discreetly and return to the areas that are marked as



restricted, believing that something significant is being hidden there that could explain the absurdity of his situation.

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Chapter 10 | Ten | Q&A

1.Question:

What was the main subject of the letter from the DMV that Danny's mom received?

The letter stated that Danny's dad, who had passed away, was legally liable because the Jeep he had owned, which had been sold three years ago, was allegedly used in a robbery. This surprising information shocked both Danny and his mom, as they could not comprehend how they could be responsible for something linked to a vehicle they no longer owned.

2.Question:

How did Danny's mom react upon reading the DMV correspondence regarding the Jeep?

She expressed confusion and anger upon reading the letter. Initially, she could not understand why they were legally liable for a vehicle that had been sold years ago. As she read further, her feelings intensified into anger, especially upon realizing the implications that came with the liability and potential penalties.

3.Question:

What solution did Danny's mom propose to resolve the situation with the DMV?

Danny's mom planned to call the DMV to explain the situation, stating that Danny's dad had donated the Jeep to a children's charity three years prior, thereby absolving them of any liability. She wanted Danny on the call to witness the interaction. Additionally, she was open to the idea of taking the matter to court if necessary.

4.Question:

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What actions did Danny and his mom take to protect their vehicles from being confiscated by the DMV?

Danny's mom decided to move their vehicles (a Kia and a Honda) to different locations, trying to hide them from any potential DMV confiscation. She first put one car in their neighbor's empty garage and then moved the other car across the street to another neighbor's driveway, believing this might prevent the DMV from taking them since they could argue that the cars were indeed not theirs.

5.Question:

What concerning development regarding Jill, Danny's sister, did Danny become increasingly aware of throughout the chapter?

Danny was significantly worried about his sister Jill's behavior since their father's death. He had observed her spiraling out of control, engaging in risky behavior like getting into a car with a strange man. By the chapter's end, Jill confided in Danny about witnessing a hit-and-run where their father was the driver, which Danny found shocking and alarming, heightening his concern for her well-being.

Chapter 11 | Eleven | Q&A

1.Question:

What is the primary reason Murdoch meets with Zal privately at the beginning of Chapter 11?

Murdoch calls Zal into his office to have him sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA)



that the DMV requires from employees. Murdoch explains that it's a standard procedure to protect proprietary intellectual property and ensure legal recourse against unauthorized sharing of information.

2.Question:

What specific clause in the initial NDA raises concerns for Zal?

Zal is alarmed by a clause in the NDA that states dissemination of DMV protocols could result in 'punishment involving but not limited to intense physical pain.' He quotes this alarming part to Murdoch, leading Murdoch to realize that they should not sign the NDA in its current form.

3.Question:

How does Bernard react to the situation regarding the NDA?

Bernard expresses skepticism about the NDA from the very beginning. He believes that the company will ultimately push employees to sign it regardless of its absurdity. He states he would rather quit than be bullied into accepting such terms, indicating his strong stance against the company's demands.

4.Question:

What changes occur during the meeting where Murdoch presents the revised NDA?

During the meeting in the conference room, Murdoch presents a revised NDA from the DMV that is much more reasonable, lacking any mentions of physical punishment. The new agreement only specifies that contractors



must keep project information confidential and is a far more acceptable term for Zal and his colleagues, leading to Zal's decision to sign it.

5.Question:

What unexpected event happens to Zal at the end of Chapter 11, and what does it imply?

After signing the new NDA, Zal receives a seemingly automated message from the DMV congratulating him on signing the NDA and successfully completing a traffic school course. He also gets a bizarre certificate saying 'You Are A Superstar!', which leaves him confused and concerned about the implications of this odd recognition, suggesting that his connection with the DMV might be deeper or more peculiar than he anticipated.

Chapter 12 | Twelve | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Todd's emotional state at the beginning of Chapter 12, and what causes it?

Todd feels restless after the release of his new book. This feeling often follows the launch of a new publication, regardless of whether he is working on another project. He finds himself wandering mentally about his past acquaintances and contemplating the different paths his life could have taken, which leads him to a state of melancholic reflection regarding the limitations of his choices now.

2.Question:

Why does Todd refuse to blurb the memoir of a young woman with a troubled past?

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Todd declines to provide a blurb for the memoir because he believes it perpetuates a frustrating trend where individuals gain fame and recognition more for their marketable backstories than for their true talent in writing. He feels a commitment to artistic integrity and does not want to endorse someone whose accomplishments he believes disproportionate to their actual skills.

3.Question:

How does Todd react to the negative review of his book, and what action does he take afterward?

Initially, Todd laughs at the reviewers' criticisms but becomes annoyed when he realizes the reviewers are unjustified and personal in their attack. He shares the review with his wife, Rosita, showing his frustration by declaring that he will no longer send copies of his books to that specific critic, marking a definitive shift in his response to such negativity.

4.Question:

What concerns does Rosita express about Jorge's situation during her dinner conversation with Todd?

Rosita expresses deep concern over the lack of communication from her brother Jorge, which she feels is abnormal, saying that such a situation would not occur unless he was in a highly unconventional environment. She hints at the possibility of calling the police due to the worry that something serious might be happening to him, which reflects her growing anxiety about his well-being.

5.Question:

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What alarming encounter does Todd have at the book signing, and what does it involve?

During Todd's book signing, a stranger, who eventually reveals himself as someone connected to the DMV, approaches him. The man hints that Todd is on the DMV's radar and suggests that Todd may not be able to pass his future tests without their assistance. The encounter becomes increasingly menacing when the man implies that Todd's wife, Rosita, could also be affected and warns him about the DMV's practices.

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Chapter 13 | Thirteen | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Rosita's initial sense of foreboding about in Chapter 13?

Rosita experiences a strong feeling that something is wrong, particularly concerning her brother Jorge. This intuition is described as a deep discomfort that lingers throughout her workday, and she believes her sense of unease is connected to Jorge's situation.

2.Question:

How does Rosita's visit with Beverly highlight the tension surrounding Jorge's disappearance?

During her visit, Beverly is in a state of distress, sobbing because she has not heard from Jorge in two weeks. Beverly's despair signifies the emotional toll of uncertainty, and it emphasizes the troubling nature of Jorge's absence, as both women express doubt about the legitimacy of the DMV camp where Jorge has gone.

3.Question:

What new information does Beverly share with Rosita regarding her own strange experiences?

Beverly reveals she has been receiving frequent unsolicited calls and paperwork related to the DMV, such as jury duty notifications and voter registration packets, despite her numbers being unlisted. This raises alarms for Rosita as it hints at potential harassment or manipulation associated with the DMV, fueling their fears about Jorge's situation.

4.Question:

How does Rosita's perception of Todd and the overall situation change during her



visit to Beverly?

Rosita's perception of Todd is conflicted; she senses he dismisses her intuition and worries for Jorge. However, her resolve strengthens upon seeing Beverly's emotional state, reinforcing her bond with her family and her determination to uncover the truth about Jorge, even if it means navigating Todd's skepticism.

5.Question:

What climactic moment does Rosita experience in her dream about Jorge at the DMV?

In her dream, Rosita witnesses a horrifying scene inside the DMV where a guillotine is employed, culminating in the shocking revelation of Jorge's severed head being held aloft by a guard. This dream symbolizes her deepest fears about Jorge's fate and serves as a stark portrayal of danger associated with the DMV, heightening the suspense surrounding his mysterious training.

Chapter 14 | Fourteen | Q&A

1.Question:

What are the main themes explored in Chapter 14 of 'DMV' by Bentley Little?

Chapter 14 explores several themes, including isolation and paranoia, abuse of power, and conformity versus individuality. Jorge's isolation is highlighted by his emotional connection to his family through letters, reflecting his feelings of loneliness in the training camp. His paranoia is illustrated through his suspicions about the strange



behaviors and appearances of the DMV staff, along with the potential censorship of his letters. The theme of abuse of power emerges in the class taught by Ms. Lane, where she gleefully explains the latitude trainees have in mistreating patrons, reinforcing the control the DMV holds over individuals. This power dynamic raises questions about morality and the society's acceptance of such abuse.

2.Question:

What does Jorge suspect about the administration and letters he sends?

Jorge suspects that the letters he sends to his wife Beverly and sister Rosita may be being censored or lost by the DMV administration. His interaction with Mr. Dodge, where he is told that letters could be read before being discarded, leads him to believe that he is not only isolated physically but also emotionally, as his attempts to stay connected with his family are blocked. This suspicion illustrates his growing distrust of the institution he is trapped in, contributing to his overall sense of paranoia.

3.Question:

How does Jorge's perception of his instructors contribute to the chapter's atmosphere?

Jorge's observations of his instructors, such as Ms. Lane with her oversized hands and the various oddities among other staff members, contribute to a surreal and unsettling atmosphere. His fixation on these physical abnormalities symbolizes a deeper discomfort with the organization itself, suggesting that the people within it are not entirely human or right. This bizarre depiction amplifies Jorge's feelings of being in an oppressive and



dehumanizing environment, fostering a sense of dread and anticipation throughout the chapter.

4.Question:

What significant discovery does Jorge make while scouting around the training camp?

While jogging around the training camp, Jorge discovers an unmarked graveyard hidden behind a hill. The graves, devoid of any names or markers, raise alarming questions about who is buried there, alluding to potential dark practices within the DMV institution. This discovery intensifies his fear and heightens his need to escape, symbolizing the lethal secrets that may lie behind the bureaucratic facade of the DMV, further emphasizing themes of control and death.

5.Question:

How does Ms. Lane's attitude during the training class reflect the overall tone of the chapter?

Ms. Lane's attitude, particularly her enjoyment in exercising power over patrons and her gleeful anecdotes about manipulating individuals at the DMV, sets a mocking and sinister tone for the chapter. Her disregard for proper etiquette and her explicit enjoyment of the authority she wields exemplify the toxic environment within the DMV. This atmosphere of intimidation and cruelty permeates the chapter, reinforcing Jorge's feeling of dread and foreshadowing the dark revelations he encounters around the camp.



1.Question:

What challenges are Danny and Jill facing in Chapter 15 regarding their family situation?

Danny and Jill are struggling with financial instability after their father's death, which has prompted their mother to take a second job as a cashier. They are also dealing with the emotional fallout from the accident, which has made Jill more cautious and withdrawn. There is uncertainty concerning potential life insurance payouts from their deceased father, contributing to an atmosphere of tension and stress in the household.

2.Question:

What event prompts the arrival of the DMV representative at Danny and Jill's home?

A man identifying himself as a DMV representative arrives at Danny and Jill's home because Danny missed his appointment for the driving test. This situation is compounded by the unusual nature of the visit, as the man mentions the DMV's Home Support Program, which is designed to administer driving tests at home for those who are unable to attend the office.

3.Question:

How do Danny and Jill react to the unexpected visit from the DMV representative?

Initially, both Danny and Jill feel threatened by the random appearance of the DMV representative at their home. Jill is particularly alarmed and quickly shuts the door on



him, expressing her disbelief about the legitimacy of the DMV Home Support Program. They are frightened by the man's insistence that Danny must take the driving test despite their reluctance.

4.Question:

Describe the driving test that Danny is subjected to during the chapter. How is it different from a typical driving exam?

Danny's driving test is atypical and feels more like an unsettling experience than an official examination. He is ordered to perform reckless driving maneuvers, such as cutting off other drivers and doing donuts in a parking lot, which are not standard or legal driving tasks. The individual administering the test appears disinterested, further adding to the bizarre nature of the circumstances, and the test ultimately leads to Danny receiving a bizarre, cartoonish driver's license that does not resemble him.

5.Question:

What implications does Danny's new license have, according to the DMV representative?

The DMV representative presents Danny with a provisional driver's license, outlining several severe restrictions that come with it. Most notably, Danny is informed that he cannot drive at night unless accompanied by a licensed adult over twenty-one, is restricted in the number of passengers he can carry, and is prohibited from eating, texting, or talking on the phone while driving. Additionally, a disturbing clause seemingly allows for certain familial relations in inappropriate contexts, which leaves both Danny and Jill feeling



confused and disturbed.

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Chapter 16 | Sixteen | Q&A

1.Question:

What motivated Todd to seek help from the DMV defectors?

Todd was motivated to seek help from the DMV defectors after feeling frustrated by his previous experiences at the DMV and learning about the harsh realities behind the agency's operations. He was particularly troubled by his brother-in-law, Jorge, who had been taken by individuals claiming to be from the DMV to a training camp. Todd hoped that the defectors could provide him with the knowledge necessary to pass his DMV tests and perhaps also assist in locating Jorge.

2.Question:

Who are the 'tutors' that Todd meets at the DMV prep session, and what do their physical conditions suggest about their past?

The tutors Todd meets are former DMV employees who have been maimed or injured, suggesting they have endured severe experiences related to their work at the DMV. For instance, one tutor is missing a thumb, another has a dead arm, and there are various facial scars among them. This hints at a dark, possibly traumatic past that they have in common, underscoring the ominous underbelly of the DMV that they are trying to protect Todd from.

3.Question:

What key warning do the tutors give Todd about the DMV?

The tutors warn Todd that he is now on the DMV's radar and that his brother-in-law was likely targeted because of Todd's actions. They caution him about the dangers of



being noticed by the DMV, explaining that once someone draws their attention, the DMV will relentlessly pursue that individual and everyone associated with them until they 'break them down.' This creates a sense of urgency and fear for Todd and amplifies the stakes of his situation.

4.Question:

How does Todd's partner, Rosita, react to his involvement with the DMV defectors, and what actions do they decide to take?

Rosita is initially suspicious of Todd's involvement with the DMV defectors. She worries that it might be a scheme to collect personal information. However, after hearing Todd's account of Jorge's situation and the tutors' unsettling warnings about the DMV, she becomes more determined to take action. They decide to contact the authorities, including 911 and local media, to raise awareness about the threats posed by the DMV and hopefully find out where Jorge is.

5.Question:

What emotions does Todd experience upon completing the DMV prep course, and what does he feel about the overall situation?

Upon completing the DMV prep course, Todd feels a mix of relief and apprehension. Although he has received the training he believes will help him pass the DMV tests, he also feels a sense of incompleteness and lingering dread about the threat posed by the DMV. The abrupt ending of his training session, coupled with the scarred appearances of those who helped him, leaves Todd uneasy about the implications of his success and how it



ties back to the unresolved situation with Jorge.

Chapter 17 | Seventeen | Q&A

1.Question:

What motivations does Zal have for redecorating his house before the birthday party?

Zal is motivated to redecorate his house primarily to avoid embarrassment and to make a good impression, especially on Violet, whom he has feelings for. He has no immediate family and has thus created a makeshift family from friends to celebrate holidays. This party is significant as it is the first time his friends will see his home, and he wants it to reflect his personality rather than that of his deceased parents. The pressure to present a more 'cool' and inviting environment is heightened by the desire to impress Violet.

2.Question:

What challenge does Zal face when hosting Bernard's surprise birthday party?

Zal faces the challenge of not only planning the party but also dealing with the unexpected arrival of Bernard and his wife, Maddie, which jeopardizes the surprise. The initial setup of the house creates anxiety because Zal feels that guests could discover remnants of his parents' decor, which he has been trying to hide in order to establish his own identity in front of his peers, especially Violet. His nervousness about social interaction, combined with the pressure of hosting, complicates the situation further.

3.Question:

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Describe the dynamics between Zal and Violet during the party. How does their interaction develop?

During the party, the dynamics between Zal and Violet are characterized by a mixture of nervousness and excitement. When Zal finally has the chance to speak with Violet, he engages her over shared interests such as Harry Potter, which helps to ease the initial awkwardness in their conversation. Their interaction reveals a mutual attraction that is subtly hinted at through physical contact, like Violet touching Zal's arm. As they clean up after the party, their conversation flows more naturally, indicating a growing bond. The invitation for Violet to return to his house later suggests an openness to pursuing a deeper connection.

4.Question:

What is the significance of Bernard knowing about the surprise party beforehand?

Bernard's awareness of his surprise party beforehand adds a layer of humor and complexity to the situation. His nonchalant response about how he found out indicates a level of camaraderie and familiarity among the coworkers. It also implies that workplace relationships can sometimes involve the sharing of private information without the involved parties being fully aware. This moment highlights the theme of connection among colleagues and sets a lighthearted tone at the beginning of the party, easing some of the tension that Zal feels regarding hosting.

5.Question:



How does Zal's perception of his neighbor affect the story?

Zal's perception of his neighbor as an arrogant and intrusive person who uses traffic cones to reserve parking space on a public street contributes to the narrative's conflict and adds depth to Zal's character. It showcases Zal's frustrations not only with being a host trying to create a welcoming atmosphere but also with dealing with irritating aspects of adult life, such as difficult neighbors. This tension hints at his broader struggles with social interactions and community dynamics, further emphasizing themes of isolation and the desire for belonging.

Chapter 18 | Eighteen | Q&A

1.Question:

What kind of research has Rosita been doing about the DMV, and what disturbing findings did she uncover?

Rosita has been investigating the DMV during her downtime at work and in her free time. She expected to find reliable information about the agency, but her search yielded only minor complaints about long wait times and unfriendly staff. However, through social media, she discovered numerous detailed and horrifying personal testimonies about people's experiences with the DMV. These included a woman who unintentionally killed a man during her driving test due to an examiner's directive, another who was locked in a small cell for two days after failing a test, and a man who was stripped and humiliated after trying to change his address. These accounts raised serious concerns for Rosita, especially regarding her brother Jorge's whereabouts.

2.Question:

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How does the chapter reflect on the budgetary issues faced by the library and its impact on Rosita and her coworkers?

The chapter highlights the precarious financial situation of the city budget, which affects the library and its staff. Rosita and her colleague Michelle discuss the likelihood of layoffs and budget cuts, as the city council considers slashing library funding amidst financial strain. Rosita is worried that the city will replace paid employees with volunteers or reduce hours to avoid paying benefits. This context underscores the uncertainty and stress looming over Rosita and her coworkers while they also have to navigate their daily responsibilities within the library.

3.Question:

What events transpire during the gunman incident at the library, particularly in regard to Rosita's actions?

When a gunman, identified as Will Caskey, begins shooting in the library, Rosita quickly reacts to protect a mother and her son who are frozen in fear. She leads them to safety by guiding them away from the gunfire and hiding them under a table, all the while trying to stay quiet. She also emerges from hiding afterwards to check on her coworker Michelle, showing her bravery despite the terrifying situation. The chaotic nature of the gunman's rampage exposes the vulnerability of the library patrons and staff, while Rosita's instinctive protective response illustrates her character.

4.Question:

What internal conflict does Rosita face regarding her job at the library



after the shooting incident, and how does she resolve it?

After the unsettling shooting incident, there is tension between Rosita and Todd, her partner, who insists that she should quit her job at the library for safety reasons. Rosita, however, is resolute in her decision to return to work, arguing that the chances of another shooting are slim and that being close to the police station makes the library safe. She feels a strong commitment to her job, especially with budget cuts looming and a need to demonstrate her dedication to avoid layoffs. This resolve highlights her strength and determination, as she prioritizes her role in the library despite her underlying fears.

5.Question:

What ominous computer screen does Rosita encounter at the Reference desk, and what does it signify?

Upon returning to the Reference desk, Rosita encounters a strange and disturbing computer screen featuring a cartoon red convertible filled with smiling people barreling toward the viewer, ending with cartoon blood that forms the letters 'DMV'. This violent imagery not only unsettles Rosita but connects back to the horrifying experiences associated with the DMV that she has been researching. It raises alarms for her, especially as the caricatured driver resembles Will Caskey, hinting at a deeper connection between his actions and the disturbing nature of the DMV.





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Chapter 19 | Nineteen | Q&A

1.Question:

What are the circumstances surrounding the new instructor, Mr. Lane, and how does Jorge perceive him?

Mr. Lane is introduced as a new instructor at the training facility where Jorge is being indoctrinated. Jorge immediately notices that Mr. Lane has one arm that is longer than the other, which distracts him. He finds the instructor's appearance unusual and recalls a strange familiarity, suggesting he might have seen Mr. Lane before. Throughout Mr. Lane's introduction, Jorge feels a deep sense of unease, especially given that Mr. Lane's methods seem cruel and unusual as he takes a trainee, B.D., and subjects him to humiliation and physical pain to illustrate a lesson about authenticity in the DMV workplace.

2.Question:

What does Jorge suspect about the purpose of the DMV training facility, and how is that reflected in his isolation and distrust of others?

Jorge suspects that the training facility is not genuinely focused on education but rather on indoctrination into a 'cult' mindset surrounding the DMV. He feels isolated and under constant surveillance, as he has noticed replacements among the staff and trainees, including a new version of his roommate, Durrell. This constant scrutiny fuels his paranoia and makes him distrustful of his peers and instructors, preventing him from forming genuine relationships or planning an escape.

3.Question:

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What is the significance of B.D.'s punishment during the class and what does it reveal about the environment Jorge finds himself in?

B.D.'s punishment serves as a shocking demonstration of the high-pressure environment of the DMV training program. Mr. Lane uses physical torture as a teaching method to impress upon the trainees the importance of authenticity and to instill fear about the consequences of failure. This event profoundly affects Jorge, causing him to question what is real and to reflect on how far the DMV will go to maintain control over its employees. It serves to heighten the oppressive atmosphere of the training, reinforcing the idea that mistakes carry severe repercussions.

4.Question:

How does Jorge reflect on his personal life, particularly concerning Beverly, while in captivity at the facility?

Jorge frequently thinks about Beverly and speculates on her mental state due to his disappearance. He worries that she might be struggling to understand his absence, questioning if the DMV has fed her a cover story, and hopes she is out searching for him. This persistent concern for Beverly emphasizes Jorge's humanity and keeps him grounded in his thoughts about escape. It reflects his desire for connection and the impact of isolation on his psyche, contrasting sharply with the harsh realities of his environment.

5.Question:

How does the chapter illustrate the oppressive nature of the DMV training program and its broader implications?



The chapter paints a chilling picture of the DMV training program as an institution that values conformity and compliance above all else. Through Jorge's experiences, including the metaphor of ants marching together and the brutal punishment of B.D., the narrative critiques a system that seeks to strip individuality from its employees. It suggests that the DMV has become a microcosm of a larger oppressive machinery of government, leaving those involved feeling powerless and dehumanized. Jorge's critical observations signal his awareness of the dangers of bureaucratic control over personal identity.

Chapter 20 | Twenty | Q&A

1.Question:

What significant change occurs when Todd receives his new license, and why is it disturbing to him?

When Todd receives his new driver's license, he discovers that the license number has been changed from his original number to '341579.' This new number shocks him because it is the same number that was tattooed on his great-grandmother at Auschwitz during the Holocaust. This connection to his family's tragic history disturbs him deeply, evoking feelings of dread and prompting him to reassess the significance of this new identification.

2.Question:

How does Todd attempt to address his concerns regarding the new license number, and what responses does he receive?



Todd first attempts to address his concerns by logging onto the DMV website to inquire about modifying his license number. He submits a question to the help desk but finds no constructive information on the website regarding such changes. He then receives an email response from Officer Jim Briggs, who had previously tutored him for the DMV test. Jim forwards Todd's concerns to the appropriate department but cannot discuss work-related matters. Todd then attempts to reach out to Jim directly for more personal insights, but Jim is cryptic and suggests that Todd watch the news later, leaving Todd feeling anxious and suspicious.

3.Question:

Describe the encounter Todd has with the DMV representative who visits his house. What is the representative's demeanor, and what message does he convey to Todd?

The DMV representative who visits Todd's house presents himself as a stern and imposing figure. His demeanor is impassive and almost threatening, as he delivers the message that Todd's new license number is permanent. The man coldly states, 'You are Three Four One Five Seven Nine,' as if it is an order rather than a fact, which adds to the unsettling nature of the interaction. He further emphasizes that it is impossible for Todd to change this number until the next renewal period, demonstrating a lack of empathy towards Todd's concerns. This encounter leaves Todd feeling powerless and frustrated.

4.Question:

What disturbing news does Todd learn from the local news broadcast



after his frustrating day with the DMV?

After Todd's frustrating day dealing with the DMV and the unsettling revelation about his new license number, he learns from the local news that eight people were killed in a suspected arson fire at a building in the arts district. Shockingly, six of the victims were confirmed to be former employees of the DMV. This news not only heightens Todd's fear regarding the DMV but also implies a sinister and potentially lethal connection to the bureaucratic system he has found himself entangled in.

5.Question:

How does Todd feel about the implications of his new license number in relation to his great-grandmother's history and the broader societal context?

Todd feels deeply uneasy about the implications of his new license number. It not only ties him personally to his great-grandmother's tragic past as a Holocaust survivor but also brings about a realization of the bureaucratic identification systems in place that can strip individuals of their identities. He reflects on society's pushback against government tracking in some contexts, such as gun registrations, juxtaposed with his own society's normalization of having a number assigned that defines his identity. This conflict leaves Todd feeling caught between personal history and societal commentary, creating a profound sense of anxiety and helplessness as he grapples with what this means for his own future.

Chapter 21 | Twenty One | Q&A

1.Question:

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What did Danny find out about his family's car at the beginning of the chapter?

At the beginning of Chapter 21, Danny discovers that their Honda was confiscated by the DMV during the night while his family was unknowingly asleep. His mother expresses frantic concern as she discusses the incident with Mr. Lee, confirming that the car was no longer in their driveway.

2.Question:

How does Danny's mother plan to handle the situation with the DMV after realizing the Honda is missing?

Danny's mother decides to go to the police station in person to address the situation concerning their stolen Honda. She expresses frustration at the idea of calling the police and being put on hold, indicating her desperation to resolve the issue directly and swiftly.

3.Question:

Describe the encounter that Danny has with the mysterious man from the DMV. What offer does the man make to Danny?

Danny encounters a strange man from the DMV, who, alongside a test examiner named Tanya, informs him that they are there to help since his family is missing a vehicle. The man offers Danny a free car, specifically a stolen red sports car, claiming it is his right to drive it because his driver's license has been updated to reflect 'Stolen Vehicle' status. This bizarre scenario raises ethical concerns and leaves Danny feeling confused about the implications.

4.Question:



How does Jill respond when Danny attempts to discuss her bruises?

Jill initially reacts defensively when Danny confronts her about her bruises, insisting that he cannot tell their mother any details about what happened.

When pressed, she reveals that her date went horrifically wrong, involving intimidation and violence, but she is hesitant to seek help from their mother or the police. Her emotional turmoil creates a tense atmosphere and showcases her vulnerability in a difficult situation.

5.Question:

What does the officer inform Danny's family about the stolen red sports car?

Officer Briggs confirms that the red sports car was indeed reported stolen, and arrangements are being made to tow it away and return it to its rightful owner. Despite the unsettling nature of the stolen vehicle now on their property, the officer reassures them that no charges will be brought against Danny, Jill, or their mother, but he advises them to stay away from the DMV to avoid further complications.





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Chapter 22 | Twenty Two | Q&A

1.Question:

What emotional state is Violet in when Zal first sees her at the parking lot, and how does Zal respond?

When Zal first sees Violet in the parking lot, it is clear that she has been crying, as indicated by her red eyes. Zal feels anxiety about her emotional state and is unsure whether to pry into her personal business or act as though nothing is wrong. He struggles with indecision and tries to initiate a conversation by commenting on her lateness, but Violet simply apologizes and they walk in silence. Zal is clearly affected by her distress, indicating that he cares about her well-being.

2.Question:

What alarming discovery do Zal and Bernard make at work regarding driver licenses?

Zal and Bernard discover that there are hundreds of driver licenses that have been automatically renewed for individuals who are deceased and have no associated addresses. Bernard expresses concern that this could either be a significant bug in the system or fraudulent activity on a massive scale, suggesting a serious issue with the DMV operations that they are analyzing.

3.Question:

What is the nature of the initiation process that Zal and Bernard are required to participate in for their work with the DMV?

Zal and Bernard are informed by their project manager, Murdoch, that they are required



to participate in an initiation process requested by the DMV. Although the specifics of this initiation are not disclosed to them, Murdoch conveys that it is a mandatory requirement for them to continue with the project and keep their jobs, creating a sense of foreboding about what they will experience.

4.Question:

What strange occurrence do Zal and Bernard witness inside the DMV office during their initiation?

During their initiation at the DMV, Zal and Bernard witness a bizarre transformation of the small bald man who initially greets them. He moans about his head being 'full of bumblebees' before collapsing and deflating, resulting in a cloud of bees emerging from his body, which then flies away. This surreal and unsettling event deepens the mystery of their initiation and raises the tension about what they are about to encounter.

5.Question:

How does Zal react to the email he receives concerning his neighbor, Howard Lang, after his initiation?

After his initiation, Zal receives an email from the DMV informing him that his neighbor, Howard Lang, who had been harassing him by blocking the street with cones, has been taken care of and will no longer be a problem for him or his neighbors. The use of the phrase 'remanded for re-education' in the email is ominous to Zal, implying that the DMV has taken drastic measures regarding Lang, making Zal uneasy about the implications of their power and influence.



1.Question:

What news does Jorge receive in the letter, and how does it affect him?

Jorge receives a letter informing him that his wife, Beverly, has died of a sudden stroke. The letter is accompanied by a newspaper obituary and a funeral announcement. This devastating news causes Jorge to feel as though his heart has stopped, leading him into a state of shock and despair as he grapples with the reality of her death.

2.Question:

How does Jorge initially react to the news of Beverly's death?

Jorge immediately feels a mix of disbelief and anger. He tries to convince himself that her death is impossible while also acknowledging that it could indeed be true. His emotions escalate as he decides he must leave the DMV camp to return home, feeling desperate and vowing to fight his way out if necessary, reflecting his overwhelming sense of helplessness and determination.

3.Question:

What is Mr. Line's response to Jorge's plea to leave, and how does Jorge react to it?

Mr. Line responds to Jorge's emotional plea with a cold, dispassionate attitude, stating that whether his wife is alive or dead, the DMV still requires employees and that Jorge's training must be completed. This callousness infuriates Jorge, leading him to lash out physically at Mr. Line, but he is quickly subdued by security.

4.Question:



Describe the atmosphere and significance of the Temple Jorge is led to. What does he see inside?

The Temple is described as a dark, windowless building with a modern yet primal design, housing a large statue that is actually a mass of swarming insects. The air is warm and sweet-smelling, creating a surreal, almost mystical atmosphere. Inside, Jorge encounters carvings of various forms of wheeled transportation and finds himself drawn to a massive altar, overwhelmed by grief and driven to pray for Beverly's return. This marks a turning point as he begins to surrender to the DMV's influence.

5.Question:

What change occurs in Jorge after he prays in the Temple, and what new location does he find himself in afterward?

After praying fervently in the Temple, Jorge loses consciousness and awakens in a luxurious new bedroom, now part of a suite, which symbolizes his advancement to a 'new level' in the DMV camp. His surroundings are comfortable and disorienting, suggesting a deeper entrenchment within the DMV's grasp. He finds himself wearing luxurious pajamas and realizing that he is perceived as having become part of the DMV family, further indicating a shift in his identity and circumstances.

Chapter 24 | Twenty Four | Q&A

1.Question:

What was the late-night phone call about that Rosita received from Beverly?



Rosita received a distressing phone call from her sister-in-law, Beverly, who claimed that her husband, Jorge, had left her. Beverly was upset and mentioned that a woman referred to as a 'whore,' called her from the bathroom after being with Jorge and gloating about him leaving Beverly to move in with her.

2.Question:

How did Rosita and Todd react to Beverly's call?

Initially, Rosita was concerned that Beverly might do something drastic due to her emotional state. Despite Todd being hesitant about going out at midnight, Rosita insisted they go to support Beverly. Todd eventually agreed to accompany Rosita, showing a sense of urgency to ensure Beverly's safety.

3.Question:

What unsettling encounter did Rosita experience while driving to Beverly's house?

While driving, Rosita spotted a black Camry with a driver who she recognized as Will Caskey, the shooter from the library incident. This was alarming for Rosita because she had seen him dead and removed from the library after the shooting, which raised disturbing questions about what she had witnessed.

4.Question:

What was Todd's explanation for the possible appearance of Will Caskey?

Todd suggested that it might have just been someone who resembled Will



Caskey or perhaps it was a figment of Rosita's imagination due to her stress and fatigue. However, Rosita was adamant that it was indeed Will Caskey, describing him as looking unnaturally white and grinning.

5.Question:

Why did the atmosphere seem tense and unsettling when Rosita and Todd arrived at Beverly's house?

Upon arriving at Beverly's home, Rosita felt a sense of dread as the house appeared dark and lifeless, which she described as looking 'dead.' This added to her anxiety about what had transpired with Beverly, especially after their earlier conversation. When Beverly opened the door, she appeared shaken and uncertain, which added to the unease surrounding the situation.





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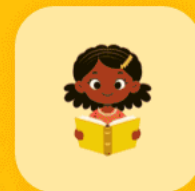
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Chapter 25 | Twenty Five | Q&A

1.Question:

What do Danny and Jill discover when they hear their father is home?

Danny and Jill are initially alarmed to find that their father, who they believed was dead, has returned home. This revelation is frightening for both of them, as they remember the circumstances surrounding their father's death—he had a heart attack, and it's revealed that he had previously been involved in a horrific incident where he hit a woman and her stroller. The thought of their father being in their home, especially with the implication of his potential resurrection, causes them both deep fear and confusion.

2.Question:

How do Danny and Jill behave when they realize their father is back, and what actions do they take?

Danny and Jill react with fear and uncertainty upon seeing the car their father used to drive, which is now parked in their driveway. They decide not to confront him directly. Instead, they consider staying hiding in their rooms but realize that their father's presence presents a bigger threat than just their fear. They quietly agree to sneak out of the house, with Jill leading the way as Danny clutches his shoes and socks. They tiptoe down the hallway despite hearing unsettling noises from their parents' bedroom and an eerie chittering sound coming from within the walls.

3.Question:

Describe the transformation of Danny and Jill's father when they encounter him.



How do they react?

When Danny and Jill finally see their father, he appears radically changed—he is described as 'gangly and ungainly,' moving awkwardly like a marionette. His features seem distorted; he has an uncontrolled smile, and his eyes roll around without focus. This horrifying sight is terrifying to both children, who realize that the man before them is not the father they remembered. They experience a mix of horror and instinctive fear, prompting Jill to grasp Danny's hand and pull him away, ultimately leading them to make a desperate escape.

4.Question:

What is the significance of the re-education camp mentioned in the chapter?

The re-education camp symbolizes a disturbing reality where individuals are punished for non-conformity and for breaking societal rules or laws. When Danny and Jill are captured and taken to the camp, they initially believe they have been kidnapped, but a dispatcher reveals that their detention is legally sanctioned by the DMV due to their father's recommendation. This reflects a broader commentary on oppressive societal structures that seek to control individuals through fear and manipulation, and it raises questions about consent and autonomy in a dystopian context.

5.Question:

How does the chapter illustrate the themes of fear and control over identity?



The chapter highlights the pervasive fear Danny and Jill feel regarding their father and the concept of a 're-education' program designed to control behavior. This fear is exacerbated by their realization that their identities and those of others are subject to manipulation by an authoritarian system, represented by the DMV. The eerie transformation of their father and the threat of being imprinted for identification purposes suggest a loss of individual identity and autonomy. Their plight illustrates the dangers of a world where the state seeks to categorize and control its citizens, stripping away their humanity.

Chapter 26 | Twenty Six | Q&A

1.Question:

What significant news does Todd receive at the beginning of Chapter 26?

Todd learns that his book, 'Across the Divide,' has made it onto the USA Today bestsellers list, entering at number 98 on the expanded online list. This news comes from his agent and is further confirmed by a congratulatory call from the president of the publishing house.

2.Question:

How does Todd's publicist, Chyla, suggest to capitalize on his newfound success?

Chyla proposes that Todd should have a profile written about him by freelance writer Alanis Malaga. She believes that this profile, especially since Todd is on the bestseller list, will give him national exposure. Additionally, she mentions a personal aspect of Todd's life - that his great-grandmother was a Holocaust survivor - which she sees as a



compelling angle for the profile.

3.Question:

Why does Todd become angry during his phone call with Chyla?

Todd becomes angry when Chyla mentions his great-grandmother's history as a Holocaust survivor, which he feels she should not have known about. He is suspicious that someone from the DMV may have leaked this personal information to her, raising concerns about privacy and how much information the DMV might have about him.

4.Question:

What disturbing information does Jim Briggs share with Todd during their meeting?

Jim reveals to Todd that things at the DMV are worse than he had thought. He suggests that the DMV is responsible for the deaths of certain individuals, specifically the 'renegades' who ended up dying in a fire, indicating that he believes the DMV had them killed. Jim expresses his inability to investigate or expose these actions due to his position within the DMV.

5.Question:

What shocking event occurs at the end of Todd's meeting with Jim?

As Todd and Jim are speaking, Jim's car becomes engulfed by a swarm of bees, causing Jim to scream in pain and eventually lose consciousness. Todd, witnessing this, jumps into action to sweep the bees off Jim using a stick. He



manages to remove the majority of the bees and calls 911 for help as Jim lays unconscious and in need of medical assistance.

Chapter 27 | Twenty Seven | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Zal's emotional state regarding Violet's absence after she stayed over for nearly a week?

Zal feels a sense of loneliness and emptiness in the house now that Violet has returned to her parents. He expresses that their time together made him realize they are emotionally compatible—sharing daily routines like commuting to work, meals, and spending evenings together—strengthening their bond as a couple. This grew to the point where he plans to eventually ask her to move in permanently.

2.Question:

What disturbing elements does Zal discover while working on the DMV's computer system?

Zal uncovers several disturbing anomalies in the DMV's system, such as bizarre license plate designs that include a painting of a lynched African American man and a drawing of genitalia, as well as a 'hit-and-run' driver's license that permits dangerous behavior without penalty. He also finds that certain individuals can be marked for 'termination,' which deeply unsettles him as it raises the troubling possibility that his parents' deaths might have been sanctioned within the DMV's system.

3.Question:

How do Zal and Bernard respond to their findings in the DMV's system?

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Upon discovering the unsettling features of the DMV system, Zal and Bernard are initially shocked and contemplative about the implications of their findings. They recognize the need to document their discoveries, as Bernard suggests they print out any irregularities they find. Despite the pressing need to address their findings, they hesitate to report to their project manager, Murdoch, fearing repercussions or disbelief.

4.Question:

What does the red dot next to Violet's name signify, and how does Zal respond to this alarming discovery?

The red dot next to Violet's name on the DMV system indicates she is marked for 'termination,' which shocks and terrifies Zal. While Bernard downplays the potential seriousness of the situation, Zal is haunted by the implications and wonders if it foreshadows something dire for Violet. This revelation escalates his concern for her safety and prompts him to inform her about what he found in the system.

5.Question:

What urgent announcement does Murdoch make during the meeting, and how does it affect Zal and his colleagues' work?

Murdoch announces the DMV's press release regarding the launch of a new online registration system, which insists on an expedited timeline for implementation, leaving Zal and his colleagues in disbelief. The employees are expected to focus solely on urgent updates rather than the comprehensive changes they initially intended to make. This revelation adds pressure to their already strained situation, as they need to work quickly while also



grappling with the bizarre findings they've encountered in the system.

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Chapter 28 | Twenty Eight | Q&A

1.Question:

What significant event occurs in Jorge's dream at the beginning of Chapter 28?

In Jorge's dream, he envisions himself in an endless plain where he observes a long line of ants entering a black box, which symbolizes the DMV office. The dream transitions quickly, morphing the ants into cars and the black box into the DMV office, indicating his subconscious anxiety and apprehension towards the DMV and the driving test he is about to undertake.

2.Question:

How does Jorge's dream reflect his feelings about his reality?

The dream embodies Jorge's feelings of helplessness and fear regarding the DMV training camp he is part of. The imagery of ants and a trapdoor leading to a pit symbolizes his perception of the DMV as a grotesque, dehumanizing system where he feels powerless, reminiscent of the trauma he's experienced with the loss of his partner, Beverly.

3.Question:

What does Mr. Line announce to the trainees during breakfast, and how do they respond?

Mr. Line announces that it is not exactly graduation day, but the trainees will be moving on to the next level of their training. He explains that they will work in a mock DMV office and experience a typical day, which includes interaction with customers and coworkers, emphasizing fun and education in the process. The trainees



enthusiastically respond affirmatively to his directives, demonstrating their indoctrination and compliance.

4.Question:

Describe the process by which the trainees are assigned to work stations in the office. How does Jorge react to being chosen last?

The group of trainees is instructed to stand at each station, where a supervisor evaluates them and chooses one trainee by placing a hand on their head. The chosen trainee is then required to bow before the station and follow directions given by the supervisor. Jorge feels anxious as he is the last to be picked, fearing what might happen if he is not chosen. This reflects his trepidation about his situation and concerns about his ability to perform under scrutiny.

5.Question:

What brutal punishment does Holly face, and how does Jorge respond to the situation?

Holly is punished for a mistake made while processing forms, resulting in her being restrained and covered in ants that subsequently lead to the severing of her left pinky finger as a form of punishment. Jorge feels a profound sense of powerlessness and despair as he witnesses this horrific event, realizing the depths of violence and control exercised by the DMV in the training camp. Despite wanting to intervene, he knows that he would face worse consequences if he acted.



1.Question:

What condition is Jim Briggs in at the beginning of Chapter 29, and why is Todd Klein visiting him?

Jim Briggs is in the hospital, recovering from serious injuries due to bee stings that have swollen his mouth and throat, leaving him unable to communicate verbally. Todd Klein visits Jim because he feels a sense of responsibility for the situation after calling Jim to meet, leading to the incident. Todd believes Jim may know information about Jorge's whereabouts and the location of a training camp that they are investigating.

2.Question:

What does Todd attempt to communicate to Jim during his visit, and what strategies does he suggest for Jim to respond?

Todd whispers to Jim, hoping he can hear him despite being heavily medicated and unable to speak. He implores Jim to remember any details about the training camp they are searching for and suggests that if Jim can write, he should do so, or attempt to communicate through whispering or sign language to convey any information he has.

3.Question:

How does Todd react when he is pulled over by a police patrol car after leaving the hospital?

Todd's stomach drops with anxiety when he realizes a police car is behind him, expecting it to pass but instead it stops behind him with lights flashing. Feeling uneasy, he pulls out his registration and license in preparation for the officer's approach. He



tries to remain compliant and friendly, but is caught off guard when the officer accuses him of driving suspiciously and orders him to exit the vehicle.

4.Question:

Describe the encounter Todd has with the police officer. What unsettling details do we learn about the officer during this encounter?

During the traffic stop, the officer not only draws his gun but also refers to Todd by a numerical designation, 'Three Four One Five Seven Nine,' which he recognizes as a number linked to his family history. The officer exhibits authoritarian behavior, seeming aggressive and unstable. Todd notices a white supremacist symbol tattooed on the officer's wrist, indicating a potentially dangerous ideology, amplifying his fear and realizing the encounter could escalate quickly.

5.Question:

What is revealed about the DMV when Todd is taken to their office, and how does this setting contribute to the overall tension of the chapter?

The DMV office that Todd is taken to is unsettlingly unconventional, appearing abandoned and filled with outdated equipment. The presence of an old woman who kicks Todd and a coldly indifferent man in a suit creates an atmosphere of dread and bureaucracy gone awry. This strange setting reinforces the paranoia and fear that Todd and others have about the DMV, suggesting that it is more than a simple licensing agency and plays a sinister role in the story.



Chapter 30 | Thirty | Q&A

1.Question:

What was Rosita's main concern in Chapter 30 of 'DMV'?

In Chapter 30, Rosita's main concern was the mysterious and distressing absence of her husband, Todd. He was late for dinner, which was unusual since he was supposed to be the one cooking, and he had not called to explain where he was. This absence escalated her anxiety, leading her to frantically call places Todd might have been, including the hospital where his police friend Jim Briggs was located, but she found out that Todd had left the hospital hours before.

2.Question:

What actions did Rosita take to try to locate Todd?

Rosita attempted to locate Todd by calling various people and places, starting with a call to St. Joseph's hospital to see if he was still visiting his friend Jim Briggs. After confirming that he had left hours before, she called the police, though they informed her that she needed to wait 24 to 48 hours before filing a missing person report. Feeling increasingly desperate, she also utilized an app to check local accident and assault reports but found no leads on Todd's whereabouts. When all her attempts to reach him failed, she turned to social media in hopes of crowdsourcing information, which ultimately led her to a troubling story about another woman who disappeared after visiting the DMV.

3.Question:

How did Rosita's perception of the DMV evolve during this chapter?

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Throughout Chapter 30, Rosita's perception of the DMV shifts from a typical bureaucratic agency to something more sinister and connected to her husband's mysterious situation. Initially, the DMV was just a context to her problem—an institution involved in driver's license issuance—but as she connected the dots between Todd's disappearance and the horror stories shared on social media, her fears led her to suspect that the DMV might have a role in his fate. This realization culminates when she receives a visit from two DMV representatives who inform her that Todd's vehicle has been impounded, raising her alarm that the DMV's involvement was not coincidental.

4.Question:

What psychological state does Rosita experience in this chapter?

In this chapter, Rosita undergoes a significant emotional journey marked by anxiety, panic, and ultimately dread. Initially, she tries to remain calm, insisting that Todd will return soon, but as time passes without any communication from him, her stress builds into a full-fledged panic attack. She experiences frustration and helplessness when she realizes that the police cannot assist her without a waiting period and her repeated attempts to reach Todd lead to dead ends. Her feelings oscillate between denial about the potential outcomes of Todd's absence, including the terrifying thought that he might be dead, to rationalizing his disappearance in less threatening terms. By the end of the chapter, she is in a state of fear as she confronts the possible implications of the DMV's involvement in Todd's disappearance.

5.Question:

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What do the characters Mr. White and Mr. Black represent when they confront Rosita?

Mr. White and Mr. Black, the representatives from the DMV, symbolize the oppressive and bureaucratic nature of the DMV that Rosita and other characters have already associated with fear and danger. Their condescending demeanor and the unctuous way they deliver the news about Todd's impounded vehicle suggest an unsettling authority. They embody the sinister forces that Rosita fears are connected to her husband's disappearance. Their appearance not only serves to escalate the tension in the narrative but also reinforces the overarching theme that the DMV is more than just a typical government agency; it is portrayed as an entity capable of exerting control and inflicting harm, contributing to Rosita's feeling of being trapped in a nightmare.

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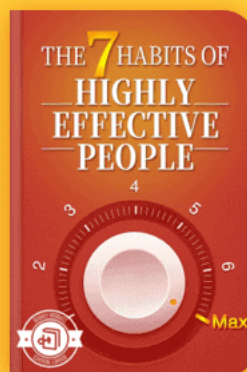
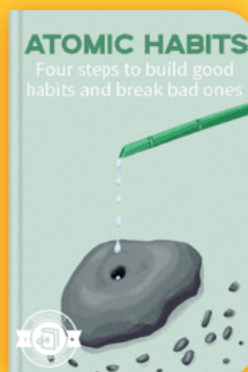
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Chapter 31 | Thirty One | Q&A

1.Question:

What prompted Zal to meet Violet at her desk after work?

Zal had been asked to meet Violet at her desk right after work, assuming that she had uncovered something important in her research. Violet had previously instructed him to be patient but exhibited increasing unease, leading Zal to wonder if whatever she found might have frightened her.

2.Question:

What surprising information did Violet reveal about the history of the DMV?

Violet discovered that the DMV has existed long before motor vehicles, tracing its origins back to the Civil War in America, Shakespearean England, and even ancient Rome during Caligula's reign. She explained that the DMV has always been involved in regulating transportation throughout history, making it almost a mythological entity that was viewed as part of the natural order of society.

3.Question:

What was Zal's initial reaction to the information about the DMV that Violet presented him?

Zal was skeptical and uneasy about the implications of Violet's findings concerning the DMV's extensive and obscure history. He doubted the authenticity of the documents she provided and was concerned about the secrecy and suspicious nature of the DMV's operations.

4.Question:

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What alarming discovery did Zal and Violet make regarding her father's driver's license?

Zal found out that Violet's father's driver's license had an asterisk next to it, indicating that he had been designated as a victim. This meant that he could be struck by other drivers with impunity, raising serious concerns about his safety and the implications of being labeled this way.

5.Question:

How did Zal and Violet plan to address the dangers posed by the DMV after uncovering this information?

Zal and Violet expressed that they needed to find a solution to the issue surrounding her father's unsafe status. They discussed the need to keep him off the roads and pledged to work together to figure out a way to confront the dangers posed by the DMV, emphasizing the urgency of the situation.

Chapter 32 | Thirty Two | Q&A

1.Question:

What event does Danny's instructor force upon Jill during the demonstration, and what are its implications?

Danny's instructor forces Jill to act as a 'crash test dummy' by ordering her to strip and then drive a car around a mock town. During the demonstration, she is violently 'hit' by a pickup truck, resulting in serious injuries including a broken leg and significant bleeding. This represents not only the physical dangers they face in the camp but also the dehumanization and humiliation inflicted on them, stripping them of their dignity in



front of a group.

2.Question:

How does Danny react to Jill being chosen for the crash test demonstration, and what does this reveal about his character?

Danny reacts with immediate concern and anger, yelling at the instructor to pick someone else. This reaction demonstrates his protective nature towards Jill and his moral outrage at the situation. It also highlights his desperation and helplessness in the face of their captivity, solidifying his role as a caring older brother who is aware of the horrors happening around them.

3.Question:

What does the instructor's response to Jill's injury indicate about the values and operations of the DMV camp?

The instructor's dismissive attitude toward Jill's life-threatening injury, stating 'She'll be fine' and focusing instead on teaching a lesson about the consequences of not going to the bathroom before driving, reveals the brutal and detached values of the DMV camp. It showcases how the institution prioritizes harsh lessons and punishment over compassion or care for the individuals, treating them as mere subjects for indoctrination rather than as human beings.

4.Question:

Describe the significance of the scene where the instructor murders the pickup driver in front of the group. What does this act symbolize?



The scene where the instructor brutally murders the pickup driver symbolizes the unchecked violence and perverse justice system within the DMV camp. It illustrates the idea of administering immediate punishment for perceived wrongdoings without due process, reflecting a twisted morality where the DMV employees act as the law, judges, and executioners. This act further instills fear in the captives and emphasizes the oppressive environment in which they are trapped.

5.Question:

How does the chapter end with respect to Danny's knowledge about Jill's fate, and how does this affect his emotional state?

The chapter ends with Danny learning from the instructor that Jill's legs have been amputated, and she is being fitted for prosthetics to showcase a demonstration about drives with disabilities. This horrifying news deeply traumatizes Danny, filling him with despair and leading him to believe that they are going to kill her. It underscores his helplessness and the emotional toll that the brutal realities of their situation are inflicting upon him, burdening him with fear and grief for his sister's wellbeing.

Chapter 33 | Thirty Three | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Jorge's mental state during his training hours at the DMV as described in this chapter?

Jorge is feeling exhausted and overwhelmed due to the relentless and monotonous



nature of his training at the DMV. He has been at his station for at least 24 hours, working tirelessly to ensure accuracy in filing forms. The bright, cheerful lights and sunny music are getting to him, and he compares his experience to that of medical interns, expressing skepticism about the DMV's intentions behind this rigorous training. Despite this, he refuses to give into fatigue or make mistakes, suggesting a sense of determination and resilience.

2.Question:

What happens to the other trainees as they undergo their working shifts?

Several of Jorge's fellow trainees suffer severe punishments for their mistakes during the training. For instance, a trainee named Mitchell is punished for allowing a man to pass an eye test without wearing glasses, which leads to him being strapped into an old-fashioned electric chair, and he has a pencil shoved into his eye as a punishment. Another trainee, Marcine, is caught napping and is stripped, whipped, and has all her hair shaved off, leaving her bloodied. These punishments create a tense atmosphere and emphasize the high stakes and brutality of the training environment.

3.Question:

How does Jorge react to a racist insult from a fellow DMV employee, and what does this reveal about him?

When an officious-looking clerk refers to Jorge with a degrading term, Jorge reacts instinctively by punching the man in the gut. This reaction indicates



that he is reaching a breaking point due to the stress of the environment and the accumulation of insults he has faced. Interestingly, rather than reprimanding him, his supervisor Ms. Signal smiles and nods in approval, which implies that violence might be an acceptable way to handle conflicts at the DMV. This incident reveals both Jorge's vulnerability to stress and his unwillingness to tolerate racism.

4.Question:

What significant form does Jorge encounter, and what does he intend to do with it?

Jorge comes across a form titled 'Application for Civilian Entrance to Department of Motor Vehicles Training Camp.' Upon realizing the implications of this form—that someone from outside could fill it out to gain access to the camp—he becomes excited. He thinks that if he can get this form to his sister Rosita and his brother-in-law Todd, they could potentially expose the horrors happening at the DMV training camp. Acknowledging the danger of being monitored, he chooses to memorize the form number instead of taking it with him.

5.Question:

What are the contrasting environments and atmospheres described when Jorge is at the DMV versus when Rosita and Beverly enter the DMV later?

When Jorge is in the DMV environment, it is characterized by a harsh and brutal atmosphere, with frequent punishments and an underlying sense of



dread. The staff members are complicit in a terrifying system that punishes mistakes severely, illustrating a cold and mechanized approach to human errors. Conversely, when Rosita and Beverly later enter the DMV, the atmosphere is chaotic and filled with death. The once bureaucratic space is now littered with bodies of DMV employees, and the presence of a disassociated, hazy fog adds an eerie quality. The buzzing sound behind the scenes, alongside the unsettling sight of people in the office engaged in monotonous tasks, suggests a more sinister transformation of the DMV into a place of horror where participants have become mere cogs in an unnatural machine.

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Chapter 34 | Thirty Four | Q&A

1.Question:

What significant event happens when Rosita wakes up in Chapter 34?

Rosita discovers that her car has been impounded, and she finds a receipt on Todd's pillow indicating the seizure. More importantly, she realizes that someone intruded into her home while she was asleep, which leaves her feeling violated and anxious about her safety.

2.Question:

How does Rosita react upon finding the DMV-related note in her kitchen?

Rosita is disturbed to find that someone made a sandwich in her kitchen, leaving a note from the DMV that says "You need more milk!" This revelation, coupled with the chaos of her ransacked house, heightens her sense of violation and urgency to resolve the situation.

3.Question:

What crucial message does Rosita receive from her brother Jorge, and what implications does it have for the story?

Jorge's text informs Rosita that he is still alive and that Todd is at a training camp with him. He urges her to obtain DMV form A131/2B to find them. This message becomes pivotal, driving Rosita to take action to rescue her brother and husband.

4.Question:

How do Rosita and Beverly plan to retrieve Todd and Jorge, and what does this reveal about their situation?



Rosita and Beverly decide to go directly to the DMV to obtain form A131/2B, believing it will provide them with access to the training camp where Todd and Jorge are being held. This plan reveals their immediate desperation to take matters into their own hands due to the perceived ineffectiveness of legal authorities.

5.Question:

What does Rosita encounter upon entering the DMV, and how does this setting contribute to the atmosphere of dread?

Inside the DMV, Rosita finds a gruesome scene filled with dead bodies, which initially leads her to think they are customers, but they turn out to be DMV employees. The unsettling atmosphere is compounded by the employees' zombie-like behavior and a bizarre glowing geometric structure, contributing to a sense of horror and dread that suggests the DMV is far more sinister than anyone realized.

Chapter 35 | Thirty Five | Q&A

1.Question:

What is the significance of Zal and Violet's morning together at the beginning of Chapter 35?

Zal wakes up feeling extremely content with Violet beside him, highlighting a rare moment of happiness amidst the chaos surrounding them. This juxtaposition serves to emphasize the tension in their situation, as they are fully aware that the DMV is likely targeting them. Their intimate moment is short-lived, as immediately after Violet questions their next steps, the reality of their predicament sets in.

2.Question:

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How does Mr. Garcia's visit impact Zal's perception of his situation?

Mr. Garcia's visit shakes Zal's sense of security. Garcia, appearing disheveled and anxious, reveals that he was on hold with the DMV all night, leading to concerns about the DMV's control and the potential consequences of their actions. Garcia's knowledge that Zal is working on the DMV's computer system raises alarms for Zal, as he did not disclose that information to anyone. This encounter escalates Zal's paranoia and sense of being surveilled.

3.Question:

What plan does Bernard propose for Zal, Violet, and himself regarding the DMV, and how does Zal react?

Bernard proposes that they 'invite' themselves to a DMV office to see how the system operates firsthand, despite the risks involved. He believes that by posing as part of the team working on the computer systems, they might be able to gather intelligence on the DMV's operations. Zal expresses doubt about the feasibility and legality of the plan, recognizing that it carries the risk of severe consequences if caught. Bernard's determination to act, however, sways Zal, and Violet insists on joining the effort.

4.Question:

What do they find when they arrive at the DMV office?

Upon arriving at what they expect to be a functioning DMV office, they discover it appears abandoned with an unsettling atmosphere inside. The murky air, dead bodies, and employees resembling zombies create a



horrifying scene that feels more like a nightmare than an official government agency. This unsettling discovery thoroughly disrupts their preconceptions about the DMV, signaling that things are much worse than they anticipated.

5.Question:

How do the main characters react to the bizarre and terrifying situation they encounter at the DMV?

As they explore the eerie DMV office, fear and confusion set in. Zal, Bernard, and Violet are initially shocked and hesitant but are motivated to help the trapped women in the office. Zal's instinct to communicate with the unresponsive DMV employee suggests a mix of desperation and determination; they must act swiftly to aid those in distress. The encounter with grotesque figures wraps the narrative in horror, indicating not only the extent of the DMV's sinister operations but also the protagonists' resolve to confront and fight back against this terrifying reality.

Chapter 36 | Thirty Six | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Todd's state of mind at the beginning of Chapter 36, and what are his immediate needs?

At the beginning of Chapter 36, Todd is in a desperate state, having just woken up with a pressing need to pee. He is not willing to use the diaper that had been put on him before bedtime, indicating a sense of defiance or dignity despite his grim situation. Todd also feels urgency and anxiety as he awaits the unlocking of his shackles,



highlighting his desire for freedom and normalcy.

2.Question:

What interactions does Todd have with other inmates and staff during this chapter, and what do they reveal about his situation and state of mind?

Todd interacts primarily with Danny, a young inmate who is visibly distressed about the disappearance of his sister, indicating that mortal danger looms in their environment. Todd also encounters an Aryan-looking young man who allows him to leave his restrained position, highlighting the power dynamics at play within the camp. Additionally, Todd reflects on his imprisonment, considering the possibility that they might be monitored or need to escape, revealing his growing preoccupation with survival and an escape plan.

3.Question:

Discuss the significance of Todd's reflections on his own fame and the broader implications of legality in his situation. What does he mean when he states, "History wasn't a straight line, it was a circle"?

Todd reflects on how his limited fame could lead to efforts from the outside to discover his whereabouts, showcasing his hope for rescue. He contrasts this with the tragic historical echoes of legalities that justify imprisonment and horrendous acts, referring indirectly to the historical injustices faced by his family, particularly his great-grandmother. When he says, "History wasn't a straight line, it was a circle," he suggests that patterns of oppression



and legality can repeat themselves, implying a cyclical nature to injustice where past atrocities can occur again under the guise of legality.

4.Question:

What news does Danny share about his sister, and how does Todd respond to it? What does this indicate about the themes of loss and survival?

Danny shares that he has not seen his sister for three days and fears that she might have been sacrificed as part of the DMV's operations. Todd refrains from affirming Danny's fears about his sister's potential death, thus opting for a more guarded hope, possibly to prevent further distress to Danny. This interaction underlines the themes of loss and survival throughout the chapter, demonstrating the emotional toll of their captivity and the psychological struggle to maintain hope amid despair.

5.Question:

Explain the demolition derby scenario introduced in this chapter. What does this reveal about the environment in which Todd and the others are held?

The introduction of a demolition derby involving DMV internees showcases an absurd and darkly comedic aspect of their confinement. It emphasizes the hostile and dehumanizing environment of the camp, where inmates are subjected to brutal games that reduce their humanity to mere entertainment for their captors. This scenario highlights the destructive nature of the Department of Motor Vehicles' operations and serves as a commentary on



the absurdity of their situation, as inmates are forced to compete in dangerous and degrading activities instead of working towards rehabilitation or freedom.

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Chapter 37 | Thirty Seven | Q&A

1.Question:

What initial hope does Rosita feel when they arrive at the camp, particularly regarding the DMV staff's response to their presence?

Rosita feels a stir of real hope when the DMV staff, represented by Mr. White and Mr. Black, show confusion upon seeing her group, particularly because they were not prepared for the additional guests, Zal, Violet, and Bernard. This unexpected element suggests an opportunity for Rosita and her companions to take advantage of the situation, as they had no concrete plan but the disarray in the DMV's expectations could potentially help them.

2.Question:

How does Rosita use her permit to assert control in the situation with Mr. White and Mr. Black?

Rosita tightly holds her entry permit as a key element of leverage. When confronted by Mr. White and Mr. Black, she confidently asserts that their permits grant them unrestricted access to the camp, emphasizing the lack of requirement for chaperones. This display of authority, specifically holding up the permit, visibly flusters Mr. Black and compels him to comply by going to fetch someone in charge, demonstrating Rosita's tactical use of the permit to navigate a tense situation.

3.Question:

What complications arise regarding Jorge's location and the quest to find Todd as the chapter progresses?



The complications arise when Jorge explains that Todd is actually located in a different facility, referred to as a 're-education camp,' which is situated on the other side of the wall. This revelation is concerning for Rosita because it suggests that their permits likely do not apply there, complicating their rescue mission. Jorge's uncertainty about his employment status with the DMV adds further stress, as it raises questions about how to access Todd safely without alerting the DMV staff.

4.Question:

What dynamic is revealed in the conversation between Jorge and Beverly when they reunite, specifically related to misunderstandings and communication before their arrival?

When Jorge reunites with Beverly, there are clear misunderstandings, such as Jorge thinking that Beverly had died from a stroke and Beverly initially uncertain if Jorge had broken up with her. Their immediate emotional reunion is punctuated by confusion about messages sent and received, highlighting the chaos and the miscommunication that resulted from their separation in the context of the larger disturbing events involving the DMV and the camp.

5.Question:

What significant realization does Zal come to regarding the nature of evil and its connection to the DMV?

Zal comes to a profound realization that the entity or force behind the DMV and its operations is a deeply entrenched and primal form of evil. He identifies that this evil transcends simple human organizations; it



manipulates communal societies like those of bees and ants, using their instincts and collective abilities for its own purposes. This acknowledgment of evil as a tangible force, rather than just a conceptual one, underscores the existential threat posed by the DMV and its control over people's lives.

Chapter 38 | Thirty Eight | Q&A

1.Question:

What significant event occurs in Chapter 38 that relates to a supernatural entity in the DMV camp?

In Chapter 38, Zal and his companions confront a large statue made from bees in what Jorge refers to as the DMV 'temple.' Jorge believes this statue is a deity associated with the DMV's cult-like activities. The group is determined to destroy this entity, which leads to a climactic battle where Jorge swings a bicycle seat at the statue, causing it to disintegrate into a swarm of angry bees. This event reveals not only the supernatural elements at play but also the influence and power of the DMV, extending beyond a mere government agency.

2.Question:

Describe the entity that Jorge and Zal encounter in the temple and its significance in relation to their mission.

The entity they encounter is depicted as a large, humanoid statue covered in swarming bees, representing a deity that the DMV members worship. This statue is significant as it embodies the corrupt and supernatural force behind the DMV's operations. The act of destroying the statue is intended to disrupt this malevolent influence, suggesting that



the entity is deeply tied to the power dynamic within the DMV and symbolizes the broader themes of control and manipulation present throughout the narrative.

3.Question:

What role does the sound play in Chapter 38, and how does it affect the characters during their escape?

The sound that permeates the temple is described as an all-encompassing noise that evokes a sense of hypnosis and tranquility among the characters. It's reminiscent of the bees' humming but holds a more sinister power, meant to sedate and control those who hear it. When Jorge realizes the potential danger of the sound, he warns the others to plug their ears, leading to their hurried escape from the guards. The sound influences Danny, a young boy in the group, causing him to show signs of succumbing to its calming effect until he is pulled back to reality by his friends.

4.Question:

What impact does the defeat of the bee statue have on the living worshippers in the temple?

After Jorge successfully destroys the bee statue, the worshippers in the pews, who had appeared submissively bowing, begin to deflate and collapse. This symbolizes their connection to the hive mind of the bee entity, suggesting that their autonomy was compromised under its influence. As the worshippers collapse, black bees exit their bodies, indicating a release from the control of the hive-like structure that the DMV represents. This moment encapsulates the themes of liberation and the struggle against oppressive



forces.

5.Question:

What does Zal reflect on regarding the nature of evil and the DMV's origins at the end of Chapter 38?

As Chapter 38 progresses, Zal reflects on the nature of evil and its connection to the DMV, contemplating that true malevolence is not just an abstract concept, but a palpable, tangible force tied deeply to nature and society. He recognizes that the DMV's origins are rooted in manipulating communal societies, such as ants and bees, which serve as metaphors for the organization's control over individuals. This realization emphasizes the pervasive and primal nature of the evil they are facing, and Zal acknowledges that despite their actions in the temple, they have only managed to delay the DMV's influence rather than eliminate it entirely.

Chapter 39 | Thirty Nine | Q&A

1.Question:

What is Todd's mental state as he drives back from the camp with the group, and what does he reflect on during the journey?

Todd's mental state is overwhelmed and reflective. As they drive back to civilization, he is filled with thoughts about the rules and regulations of the motor vehicle code that he had learned during the camp. He notes the chaos on the highway, with crashed cars and aggressive drivers, which parallels the chaotic environment they just escaped from at the camp. This suggests he is trying to process the traumatic events he experienced

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while being hyper-aware of the chaotic world around him.

2.Question:

What condition do Todd and the group find the DMV building in upon their return, and how does Todd feel about it?

When Todd and the group arrive at the DMV building, they see it enveloped in yellow caution tape, indicating it has been burned and is in disrepair.

Many letters from the signs have fallen off, humorously transforming 'DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES' into 'MEN OF TOR HI.' Todd feels a sense of satisfaction or even vindication at seeing the DMV in ruins, thinking 'Good' about the destruction, indicating his disdain for the agency and what it represents.

3.Question:

What roles do Bernard and Zal plan to take after returning to the DMV, and how do they justify their continued involvement with the agency?

Bernard and Zal plan to return to their work at the DMV to essentially sabotage it from within, as they still have access to the computer systems because they are technically contracted employees. They justify their actions by explaining that while the agency is in disarray due to the events at the camp, they will use this opportunity to modify and delete harmful programs and set back the DMV's operations to try and make a positive difference.

4.Question:

Describe the situation that Danny finds himself in when he returns



home. What does Todd witness, and how does he feel about it?

When Danny returns home, he finds his mother in a state of distress, bruised and bloody, sitting naked on the edge of the bed, while his father's remains are grotesquely sprawled on the floor. Todd witnesses this traumatic scene and instinctively covers the mother with an afghan out of respect and discomfort. He feels empathy for Danny, recognizing the heavy emotional burden the boy carries, regarding the loss of his sister and what happened to his parents, and feels conflicted about his role in providing support.

5.Question:

How do Todd and Rosita decide to protect themselves as the story concludes, and what changes do they plan to make in their lives?

At the end of the chapter, Todd and Rosita decide to opt out of the DMV system as a means of protecting themselves from any lingering threats associated with the agency. They acknowledge that this choice means they will have to rely on public transportation instead of driving, indicating a significant change in their lifestyle. Todd expresses comfort with this decision, demonstrating their desire to create a life outside the influence of the DMV.





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