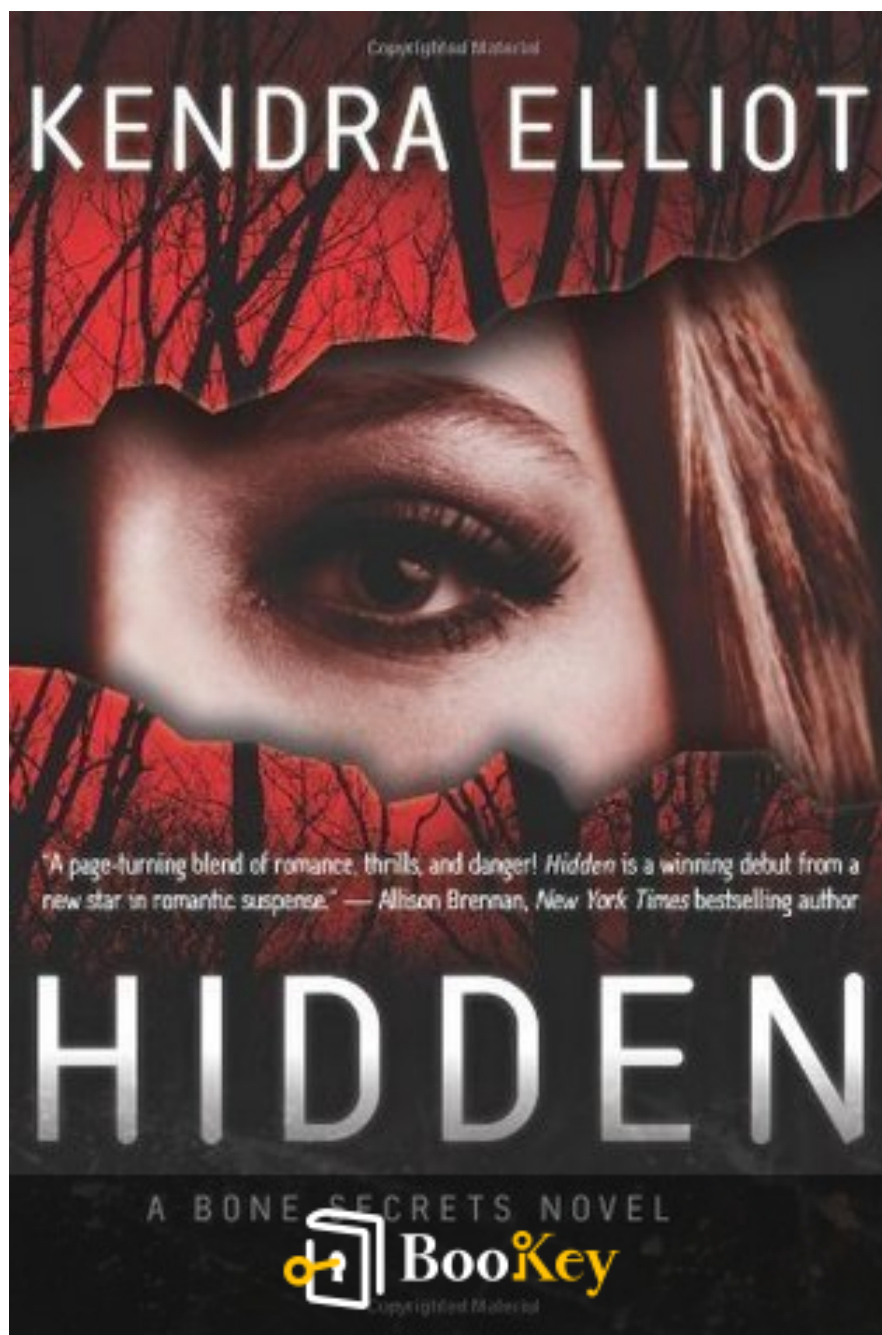


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Kendra Elliot



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Hidden Summary

Secrets unravel as darkness descends on a small town.

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About the book

In **Hidden** by Kendra Elliot, a chilling mystery unfolds as FBI agent Mercy Kilpatrick is thrust into a web of secrets that could shatter her world. When a chilling discovery disrupts the tranquil life of a small Oregon town, Mercy must confront not only the threat posed by a cunning murderer but also the painful shadows of her own past, which she has desperately tried to bury. As she races against time to prevent further violence, the lines between her professional duties and personal demons blur, leading her to unexpected alliances and revelations. Will Mercy unravel the truth before it consumes her? Grim yet gripping, **Hidden** invites readers to explore the depths of human resilience and the thin line separating safety from fear.

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About the author

Kendra Elliot is a bestselling author known for her gripping romantic suspense novels, which often feature strong, resilient characters faced with formidable challenges. With a background in mystery writing and a keen understanding of human emotions, Elliot has the unique ability to weave together intricate plots that keep readers on the edge of their seats. Her passion for storytelling is reflected in her popular series, which includes the widely acclaimed Amelia Gray and Bone Secrets series, earning her a dedicated fan base and numerous accolades in the literary world. An avid traveler and outdoor enthusiast, Elliot infuses her love for nature and adventure into her work, creating vivid settings that complement the intense narratives she crafts.

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Summary Content List

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

Chapter 5:

Chapter 6:

Chapter 7:

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

Chapter 10:

Chapter 11:

Chapter 12:

Chapter 13:

Chapter 14:

Chapter 15:

Chapter 16:

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 17:

Chapter 18:

Chapter 19:

Chapter 20:

Chapter 21:

Chapter 22:

Chapter 23:

Chapter 24:

Chapter 25:

Chapter 26:

Chapter 27:

Chapter 28:

Chapter 29:

Chapter 30:

Chapter 31:

Chapter 32:

Chapter 33:

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Chapter 34:

Chapter 35:

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Chapter 1 Summary:

Lacey Campbell stands at the frigid scene of a crime in Boondocks, Oregon, where she's arrived to investigate a body discovered in the crawl space of a dilapidated apartment building. Despite the biting cold and the unwelcome snow, she feels a surge of determination as she makes her way toward the designated site, navigating carefully to avoid slipping. After an awkward encounter with a skeptical police officer who initially assumes she is a reporter, Lacey asserts her identity as a forensic odontologist from the medical examiner's office, finally gaining access.

Upon entering the tent, Lacey quickly becomes immersed in the gruesome discovery before her: a partial skeleton unearthed from the crawl space, mainly consisting of a skull, ribs, and long bones. The scene fuels her keen interest, as she is not only here for the macabre spectacle but also to help solve the mystery surrounding the victim's identity and fate. Dr. Victoria Peres, the stern forensic anthropologist overseeing the recovery, is notorious for her no-nonsense approach, and Lacey knows she must navigate this dynamic delicately.

As they work together, Dr. Peres establishes that the remains belong to a young woman, suggesting signs of a violent death, possibly related to a vehicle accident. The bones appear to have been discarded rather casually, which raises questions about the circumstances of their placement. Lacey's

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instincts kick into gear as she examines the teeth, noting that they reveal hints of previous dental care. This detail excites her—could it help identify the victim?

Despite her professionalism, Lacey feels a deepening connection to the remains, wondering about the life of the woman who now lies forgotten beneath the snow and concrete. The emotional weight of the case strikes her differently than previous assignments; there is something personal about this young victim, likely a reflection of her own petite stature. As they sift through evidence, the atmosphere is tinged with both solemnity and scientific intrigue.

An unexpected distraction arises when a man on an ATV skids into the snowy parking lot, eliciting irritation from the surrounding officers. Lacey watches as this newcomer displays an unrefined confidence, and to her surprise, he catches her eye and gives a flirtatious wink. This moment brings a flicker of warmth amidst the chilling backdrop, stirring feelings of attraction within her.

The chapter sets a gripping stage, blending the intense atmosphere of a crime scene investigation with Lacey's personal reflections and budding emotions. Themes of resilience in the face of morbid curiosity, the quest for justice, and the human connections that arise even in dire circumstances are woven throughout Lacey's journey, hinting at the complexity of her character as she

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juggles her professional duties and personal challenges in a world that feels cold, both literally and metaphorically.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience in adversity

Critical Interpretation: In the face of life's chilling challenges, much like Lacey Campbell in the grim landscape of her investigation, we too can find the strength to confront our own daunting circumstances. As Lacey navigates the snow and the daunting task of identifying a forgotten victim, her unwavering determination teaches us that resilience is key. This chapter reminds us that even in the coldest, most unwelcoming moments, we have the power to push forward, to seek justice, and to remember those who are overlooked. It inspires us to stand firm against adversity, embracing our struggles as opportunities for growth and connection.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we catch up with Jack Harper as he returns to Lakefield, his hometown, where he unexpectedly finds himself involved in a complex and chilling situation. After receiving a call about a disturbance, he arrives to a snowy scene, finding a group of police officers, including his old friend Officer Terry Schoenfeld. Their friendly banter brings a touch of warmth to the otherwise grim atmosphere, but it quickly becomes clear that something serious is unfolding.

Jack learns from Terry that a skeleton has been discovered in the crawl space of one of the buildings he manages. The discovery is shocking, especially since the skeletal remains seem to have been placed there recently rather than being buried for years. As a property developer and the owner of the building, Jack feels the weight of the situation deeply—what does this mean for his family's reputation and his business? His anxiety builds as he tries to get more details about the scene and the victim.

Just before he can get too consumed by the gravity of the situation, Jack's attention is drawn to a mysterious woman in the vicinity, Lacey. She's involved in examining the remains and is seemingly unfazed by Jack's presence, maintaining her authority amidst the chaos. Lacey possesses a keen insight into forensic anthropology, and as they interact, there's a palpable tension—Jack's attraction to her contrasts sharply with Lacey's

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determination to keep the crime scene secure.

The investigation reveals more than just a skeleton; it unveils a connection to Lacey's past as well. She identifies the dental bridges found with the remains, realizing they're not only outdated but tied to a deeper emotional trauma connected to her friend Suzanne, who disappeared over a decade ago at a gymnastics invitational. Her memories flood back, revealing that they once shared a moment just before Suzanne vanished, intertwining her personal history with the current crime scene.

As Jack grapples with the implications of the skeleton and pushes for answers, Lacey is also in turmoil as she re-examines her past and what happened to Suzanne—the ninth victim of a notorious serial killer known as the Co-Ed Slayer. The chapter builds suspense and intrigue, laying the groundwork for the entwined journeys of Jack and Lacey as they confront both their pasts and the ongoing investigation. Themes of regret, police work, and the heavy burden of resolving unresolved mysteries resonate throughout the narrative, setting up a gripping storyline that promises to delve deeper into the characters' histories and the shadows of their small town.

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Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "Hidden," we follow Jack Harper as he finds himself at a crime scene alongside Oregon State Police detectives Mason Callahan and Ray Lusco. They've arrived in Lakefield to investigate a mysterious skeleton that has just been uncovered. Jack, who previously served as a police officer in the area and was shot on the job years ago, is approached by the detectives who seem to have a keen awareness of his past. While he offers up rental records of the property as a gesture of goodwill, the conversation quickly shifts when a woman named Dr. Campbell interrupts, insisting that the detectives see a crucial piece of evidence she claims to have discovered—a police badge found with the remains.

As the detectives look at the badge, Jack's heart drops when he recognizes the badge number; it's linked to a former colleague, suggesting deeper implications about the victim's identity. The narrative intensifies as Detective Callahan realizes there's a significant connection between this skeleton and a long-closed case involving the notorious "Co-Ed Slayer," a serial killer responsible for a series of abductions and murders of young

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we find Cal trapped in a dim, dank basement, captured and bound to a chair by a mysterious tormentor. The atmosphere is thick with tension and the smell of decay, amplifying the horror of his situation. Cal's mind races as he struggles to remember how he ended up here, fighting against the pain and confusion that stem from a blow to his head in the garage, just after parking his truck.

As the kidnapper hums a repetitive tune, Cal can't quite recall its name, which seems fittingly ironic given the stark contrast between the cheerful melody and the grim environment adorned with a disturbingly fresh American flag. This juxtaposition of freedom and entrapment serves to heighten the sense of dread.

The captor proves to be not just cruel but psychologically manipulative. He taunts Cal, referencing his career as a cop and questioning whether he's ever killed anyone. The mention of Frank Settler, a fellow officer who succumbed to guilt after accidentally shooting a child, causes Cal to recoil in pain. The kidnapper's twisted reasoning suggests an obsession with control, discipline, and the dark underbelly of humanity, likening himself to infamous serial killers like Ted Bundy while relishing in the anticipation of Cal's suffering.



Cal's captivity takes a terrifying turn as the kidnapper showcases a table of torturous tools, including Cal's own shotgun, making it clear that this is a personal vendetta. The captor's gleeful reminiscence over a girl's blue headband reveals a deeply disturbed mind, reinforcing Cal's fear that he's dealing with a truly unstable individual.

The chapter peaks with the man's revelation of a grand plan that involves manipulating the police into a chaotic and futile chase, using Cal as a pawn in a cruel game. As the man prepares to inflict pain, the reader is left in suspense, feeling Cal's desperation and fear while grappling with the psychological games at play.

This chapter encapsulates themes of pain, control, and the psychological horror of captivity while deepening the reader's understanding of both Cal's character and his perilous situation. It paints a vivid picture of his struggle not just for physical survival, but for sanity and clarity against a backdrop of madness.

Element	Description
Setting	Dim, dank basement with a smell of decay and a fresh American flag.
Main Character	Cal, a police officer, captured and bound to a chair.
Conflict	Cal is struggling with memory loss and physical pain after a blow to the head.

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Element	Description
Kidnapper's Behavior	Psychologically manipulative, taunting Cal about his career and past.
Psychological Elements	Kidnapper parallels himself to serial killers, shows obsession with control.
Suspense Elements	Kidnapper reveals torturous tools and hints at using Cal as a pawn in a larger plan.
Themes	Pain, control, psychological horror, survival of sanity.
Emotional Tone	Desperation and fear as Cal grapples with his situation.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The power of resilience in the face of adversity

Critical Interpretation: Imagine yourself in a situation that feels utterly hopeless, where every moment is drenched in fear and confusion, just as Cal experiences in his captivity. This chapter serves as a reminder that even in our darkest hours, the strength to fight back and reclaim our lives lies within us. By drawing from Cal's unwavering spirit amidst psychological torment, you can find inspiration to confront your own challenges with courage and determination. Instead of succumbing to despair, let this narrative motivate you to harness your resilience, emerging not just as a survivor, but as a person who can navigate through the shadows and into the light.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

As the evening approached, the detectives found themselves grappling with a brutal murder that sent shockwaves through their investigation. Retired cop Calvin Trenton was discovered dead in his own bed, tortured, with signs of severe cruelty and a sinister message seemingly directed at the police. Detective Mason Callahan, exhausted and frustrated, was immersed in the details of the case while wrestling with the haunting images of Trenton's demise. The circumstances were chilling—Trenton, who had been off the force for five years, was not only murdered but also clearly positioned in bed as if to mock the authorities. His loyal dog, a Rottweiler mix, defended the corpse fiercely, adding to the eerie scene.

Mason was disturbed by seemingly unrelated coincidences linking Trenton's death to an earlier case involving Suzanne Mills, a victim of the infamous Co-Ed Slayer. The investigation diagram he had created showed connections through various individuals, including forensic worker Dr. Lacey Campbell, who had ties to both Trenton and Mills. Each connection painted a picture that left Mason uneasy, sensing a hidden thread that tied the past to the horrifying present. The complexity of the case weighed heavily on him, leaving him feeling that the usual neat resolutions he hoped for were slipping away.

Meanwhile, Mason's partner, Ray Lusco, who was intensely focused on his

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work, balanced his life outside the precinct with a loving family life. Mason admired Ray's ability to juggle his demanding job with intimacy and connection at home, something he felt he lacked. As Ray prepared to leave for the evening, Mason, caught in the vicious cycle of his thoughts, told him to go home to his wife and children. The contrast between their lives struck Mason sharply, dragging him into reflections about his own broken marriage and distant relationship with his almost-adult son, Jake.

As Ray departed, urging Mason once again to take care of himself, Mason returned to his investigation, feeling the weight of Trenton's murder loom larger with each passing moment. His dedication to uncovering the truth grew fiercer, igniting an anger within him that propelled him deeper into the twisted connections of the case. With the clock ticking and unraveling mysteries at every turn, Mason was determined to find the truth behind the murder, even as unsettling memories from the Co-Ed Slayer's case began to resurface, threatening to complicate everything he thought he understood.

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Chapter 6:

In Chapter 6 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we find Lacey at dental school, grappling with the stress of her recent life events while observing her fellow students, particularly Nick, as he tackles a challenging cavity on a young girl. The scene captures the chaotic yet routine atmosphere of the clinic, filled with dental students and patients alike. Lacey's sharp instincts as a seasoned student shine through as she guides Nick, who becomes flustered by her presence.

However, Lacey's mind is far from focused on dentistry. She's haunted by the discovery of the remains of her best friend, which has stirred up a whirlwind of emotions as she faces the aftermath of this traumatic event. The weight of her grief is compounded by her strained relationship with her father and her protective friend Michael, whose messages she has been avoiding, not ready to dive into the painful conversation about the past. The tension crescendos when she learns that Michael, a newspaper reporter, has reported on the shocking discovery, leaving her feeling exposed and vulnerable.

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Beautiful App



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

Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we catch up with Jack Harper, who is grappling with the emotional turmoil stirred up by an article in the paper linking him to a series of murders, specifically involving a former girlfriend, Hillary, one of the victims of the so-called Co-Ed Slayer. His friend Terry calls him, discussing the chilling details of the old cases and the recent discovery of a skeleton on Jack's property. The chapter delves deep into Jack's reflections on his past, raising questions about his connection to these tragic events as he comes to terms with the abrupt resurgence of memories and emotions tied to his short relationship with Hillary.

As Jack learns that Dr. Lacey Campbell, a specialist who was at the discovery site, was also a witness years ago during the abduction of another victim, his anxiety intensifies. The unfortunate intertwining of his past with a renewed investigation into the murders presents Jack as a man under siege, worried about how the media will exploit his connection to the victims and his recently deceased partner, Cal Trenton. There's a palpable sense of paranoia as Jack questions whether someone might be framing him. His need to protect his family's business, Harper Developing, from potential scandal becomes a driving motivation.

Simultaneously, we see Lacey's character develop through her experience at the medical examiner's office, dealing with the aftermath of a recent fire that

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claimed the lives of two young girls. She displays both professionalism and a profound emotional response to the loss of life, especially as she encounters the grieving parents of one of the victims, pushing her to confront her own fears and the weight of her past. Lacey's memories of a traumatic event where she witnessed her friend Suzanne's abduction surface, which opens the door to her connection with Jack, both of them haunted by their pasts.

When Jack visits Lacey at her office, the tension between them is palpable. He seeks answers about the cases, their history, and the current predicament surrounding them. Their dynamic is layered with mutual trauma, sorrow, and a budding connection as they share their stories. Jack's vulnerability and Lacey's strength create a bond, even as the shadows of their experiences linger just beneath the surface.

As the chapter unfolds, themes of guilt, vulnerability, the consequences of trauma, and the struggle for redemption resonate strongly. Jack and Lacey are drawn together by their pasts, their present circumstances igniting a potential for partnership that transcends mere attraction. The chapter concludes on an emotionally charged note, with Jack asserting his intent to connect with Lacey further, promising to keep her informed about the ongoing investigation, solidifying the foundations of their alliance as they both navigate the treacherous waters of their shared history.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In this chilling chapter, we delve into the mind of a calculated and disturbed individual, reveling in his sinister fantasies and meticulously laid plans. The opening lines capture his urge to escape into the invigorating embrace of exercise, but his mind is fixated on darker pleasures. As he lounges in a lavish hotel room with a woman he views merely as a temporary distraction, he fights off violent impulses—specifically, a temptation to kill her. The contrast between his outward control and inner turmoil is striking, revealing his deep-seated need for discipline and power.

He views the woman beside him, a “simple hooker,” as a mere pawn in his grand scheme—an interval that brings rewards following his complex machinations. It’s clear he sees his actions not just as a means to an end but as a game, where he carefully manipulates those around him while suppressing the more brutal sides of his nature. This internal conflict is evident as he reflects on past experiences that shaped his dark tendencies, including a childhood incident where he cruelly tied up a dog, watching it suffer instead of freeing it—a moment that marked the beginning of his twisted understanding of control and power.

The bland interactions with the woman serve to highlight his detachment from humanity; he considers her life expendable, yet he refrains from impulse-driven actions, clinging to his plans with a chilling focus. His

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memories peel back layers of his troubled upbringing—the absence of a father figure and a long-standing resentment that curiously intertwines with his violent impulses. This chapter is a powerful exploration of his psyche, highlighting themes of control, power, and the fine line between discipline and cruelty. As he smiles, contemplating his next steps, we're left on edge, knowing that darkness looms in his future endeavors.

Aspect	Summary
Chapter Focus	Delving into the mind of a disturbed individual fixated on control and power.
Main Character	A man in a hotel room, conflicted between his violent urges and a façade of calm.
Struggle	Sways between exercising restraint and a temptation to kill a woman beside him.
View of Women	Considers the woman a temporary pawn, indicating detachment from humanity.
Past Trauma	Reflects on childhood experiences, including cruelty to a dog, shaping his twisted view of control.
Themes	Exploration of control, power dynamics, and the line between discipline and cruelty.
Ending Tone	Leaves readers on edge, foreshadowing darker actions in the future.



Chapter 9:

In Chapter 9 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, the tension between Lacey and Michael escalates as they confront the murky investigation surrounding Jack Harper, a man linked to recent murders. Michael strongly advises Lacey to steer clear of Harper, who is under police scrutiny, especially after a victim's body is found on his property. Lacey passionately defends Harper, arguing that dating a victim does not make him a killer, and desperately tries to convince Michael that his suspicions are unfounded.

The dynamic between Lacey and Michael reveals a complex history; they were once lovers, but their relationship has evolved into a deep, almost familial bond. Michael's protective nature stems from his past as an investigative journalist, where he has tackled gritty subjects like pedophilia and corruption. His curiosity is piqued by the case, leading him to explore links between the victims beyond what has been officially stated. As they discuss the medical examiner's findings regarding Suzanne, Lacey's emotions surface, especially when Michael suggests connecting another victim, Amy, to the current murders. Lacey is distressed by the thought,

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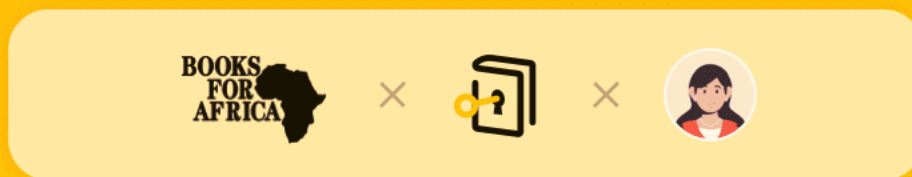
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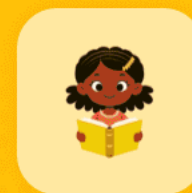
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Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 10 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, Mason Callahan and his partner Ray visit the sleek offices of Jack Harper, a wealthy figure connected to a case involving historical crimes and a recent murder. The atmosphere is tense as the detectives seek to unravel Harper's past and his possible ties to the skeleton found in Lakefield. Upon entering the office, Mason is struck by the understated luxury, indicating that Harper is not just affluent but someone with a strong presence, as Harper manages to control the room effortlessly.

As the conversation unfolds, Harper reveals that he was visiting his father in an adult foster care home the day the skeleton was discovered, which adds complexity to his character. The mention of his father's Alzheimer's disease shows a personal struggle for Harper, reflecting themes of family and guilt. The detectives push for details about his connection to Hillary Roske, a woman he dated before her disappearance, and as tensions rise, Harper becomes defensive, indicating that he's under immense pressure from the ongoing media scrutiny and police investigations.

Mason and Ray's probing questions reveal Harper's connections to a series of past crimes, particularly the "Co-Ed Slayer" case. Mason senses Harper's irritation as the man's defenses rise, especially when the name of Dr. Campbell, a survivor of one of the Slayer's attacks, is mentioned. This

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mention hints at Harper's deeper involvement and possible secrets that haven't been fully explored.

Harper's frustration boils over, leading him to demand a lawyer and cut the interrogation short. As he exits, he grapples with the overwhelming pressure of his public image crumbling under the weight of past associations and current accusations. His sister Melody enters soon after, visibly worried and questioning Harper's ability to navigate the crisis unfolding around them. Their dialogue reveals a strained but loving bond, underscoring the familial pressures he faces alongside professional ones.

The chapter closes with Harper's determination to push through the turmoil and maintain control over his business and personal life, suggesting themes of resilience amid chaos and the burdens of legacy. As he aids his sister in managing the fallout, it becomes clear that the stakes are high, and their shared fears for the future of Harper Developing loom large.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In this gripping chapter of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we delve into the mind of a frustrated and insecure character who battles feelings of inadequacy due to his short stature. He finds himself in the luxurious home of a tall, wealthy lawyer, reveling in the high-end possessions around him, including expensive golf clubs and a collection of electronics. His resentment toward society's preference for height propels him toward a darker path, as he dreams of revenge against those who bullied him in his youth.

This character's background emerges as he reflects on painful past experiences — from being mocked in school to finding solace in academics and manipulation as tools for success. He harbors twisted admiration for those who have committed school shootings, feeling a disturbing kinship with their anger and fantasizing about how he could achieve his own notoriety.

An unexpected turn arises with the mention of Lacey Campbell, a woman connected to a recent case. Her presence sparks a shift in his plans, igniting both intrigue and caution about how to proceed. He considers diverting from his original plan in favor of engaging with her, seeing potential for a twisted 'gift' that could weave her into his dark ambitions.

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As the chapter builds tension, the character accumulates items from the lawyer's home, symbolizing his desire to gain wealth and power while retreating further into his obsession. Just as he prepares for his next move, he is interrupted by the ominous sound of an approaching car, signifying that the night is about to escalate.

Through vivid descriptions and intense internal dialogue, the themes of insecurity, revenge, and obsession unfold, leaving the reader on edge as they anticipate the character's next steps in his dangerous journey.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Danger of Obsession and Resentment

Critical Interpretation: This chapter illuminates how unchecked feelings of insecurity and resentment can lead one down a dark path. It serves as a reminder that allowing ourselves to become consumed by envy and revenge can erode our capacity for joy and connection with others. You might find inspiration in recognizing the power of self-acceptance and the importance of seeking healthy outlets for frustration. Instead of spiraling into bitterness, choose to cultivate gratitude for your unique strengths and pursue positive goals, turning potential darkness into light.

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Chapter 12:

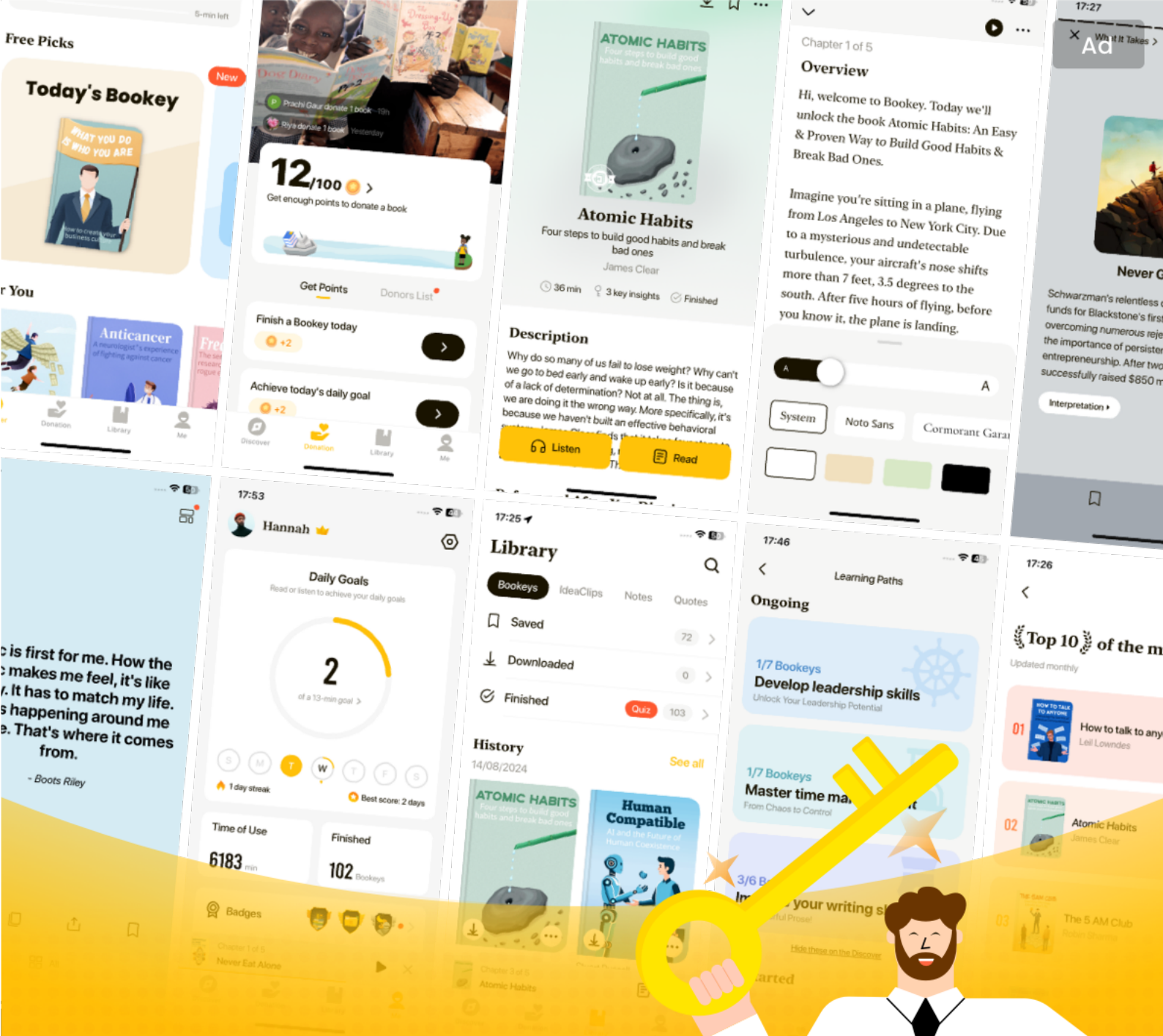
In Chapter 12 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, detectives Mason Callahan and Ray Lusco navigate the snowy streets of Portland's West Hills while attempting to interview Dr. Campbell, a forensic dentist linked to a cold case involving a murdered girl named Suzanne. The chapter opens with the duo's frustration over finding their interview location and highlights the contrast between the affluent neighborhood's grand homes and the treacherous weather conditions.

Upon entering Dr. Campbell's magnificent house, Mason notes her nervous demeanor and senses a tension between her and Michael Brody, a reporter who has intruded into the interview setup under the pretext of being supportive. Brody's intense presence becomes a distraction as he pesters Dr. Campbell, questioning her past interactions with a convicted murderer, Calvin Trenton, who is central to the case they are investigating.

As Mason probes further, it becomes clear that Dr. Campbell, who had already exhibited signs of stress, is overwhelmed by the memories of her

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In this gripping chapter, Lacey navigates a chilly Portland evening to attend a First Thursday art event, where crowds fill the streets to admire local art and cuisine. She is particularly motivated by the work of her dental student, Stuart Carter, whose sculptures are featured. As she walks through the icy streets, her mind drifts to darker thoughts, especially about the recent murders linked to the infamous DeCosta case, which haunts her. The memories of her past trauma associated with DeCosta flood her with guilt and anxiety, especially about a friend named Suzanne who did not survive.

She recalls the depths of her survivor's guilt and the struggle with her mental health after the traumatic events, marked by her reliance on Vicodin and a significant decision to flush them away a year after Suzanne's disappearance. Lacey is determined not to let fear control her life anymore, feeling empowered by the steps she has taken to protect herself and regain some sense of normalcy.

An unsettling yet familiar warmth envelopes her as she meets Jack Harper, a police officer who has been significant in her life lately, especially since he reached out to her wanting to discuss his police interview. Their chemistry is palpable, and she makes an internal note to keep things platonic even as her attraction to him grows. Their evening progresses with playful banter and a shared experience of navigating the crowded gallery scene, revealing Jack's

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protective instincts and Lacey's enjoyment of their connection.

However, things take a thrilling turn when Lacey unexpectedly runs into her ex-husband, Frank, and his new partner in a coffee shop. The confrontation is tense, revealing Frank's lingering animosity and Lacey's resilience. Jack, visibly protective, stands by her side as Lacey maintains her composure despite Frank's aggressive demeanor. This encounter not only serves to reinforce Lacey's strength but also highlights the evolving dynamic between her and Jack, who, despite the situation, stands firm beside her.

As the chapter closes, the reader is left to ponder the past's grip on Lacey and the potential danger lurking around her as she tries to forge a new path, with Jack emerging as a significant figure in her life. Themes of survival, trauma, and the search for connection are woven throughout Lacey's journey, making her tale both engaging and relatable.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, Jack and Lacey share a tense yet charged moment after leaving a coffee shop. Jack's protective instincts swell as he grapples with feelings of jealousy and attraction towards Lacey, who is clearly in emotional turmoil following a confrontation with her ex-husband. Their dialogue reveals the complexity of Lacey's past—a short and turbulent marriage that ended seven years ago, leaving behind resentments that still linger. As they discuss her ex and share witty banter, there's an undeniable chemistry brewing, and Jack is determined to push past Lacey's defenses.

After a flirtatious exchange, Jack leans in and kisses Lacey, igniting a spark that leaves both of them breathless. Despite her initial hesitation, Lacey reciprocates, but the weight of their respective histories looms large. The kiss awakens Lacey's desires while also stirring up conflicts about her unresolved feelings and vulnerabilities. As they part, Lacey can't shake off the impact of a single, electrifying moment that keeps her up at night, making her question her choices and loneliness.

The next morning, Lacey faces a different kind of turmoil. Bundled in her robe and braving the icy conditions outside her house, she finds a mysterious package addressed to her. Inside, she discovers a disc that leads her to a shocking video of her past—an old recording showing her missing friend



Suzanne, tied and pregnant in a dimly lit room. The gravity of the moment hits Lacey hard as she watches her friend in distress, revealing a chilling link to her own heartache.

The scene cuts abruptly to Jack, who is caught on-camera leaning into Lacey's truck, kissing her just prior to the video ending. This revelation sends Lacey into a spiral of panic and nausea as she confronts the haunting reality of Suzanne's fate, while also grappling with the raw emotions sparked by her kiss with Jack. The chapter ends on an intense note, blending themes of attraction, unresolved trauma, and the haunting echoes of the past, setting the stage for Lacey's internal conflict and the deepening relationship with Jack amidst their shared search for truth.

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Chapter 15:

In this gripping excerpt from Chapter 15 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we dive deep into the mind of a calculating individual who meticulously plans his actions while waiting in a coffee shop. He wrestles with annoyance over his latte, reflecting on the barista's mistakes and the distinct chill of a harsh winter day that reminds him of the unfamiliar weather conditions in Portland. As he sips his drink, his thoughts spiral into darker territories—specifically about Lacey, a woman who has inexplicably stirred feelings of jealousy and concern within him.

The narrative reveals a complex character who has a chilling past, having committed heinous acts with cold precision. The memories of his former victim, Suzanne, float through his mind, evoking a mix of fondness and regret, showcasing his internal conflict. While he had managed to remain in control during his past actions, he now finds himself questioning his plans regarding Lacey—she disrupts the previously well-structured narrative of his life. With each moment spent at the café, he reflects on the importance of execution and thoroughness, underscored by his disdain for those who lack

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Chapter 16 Summary:

In Chapter 16 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, Detective Mason Callahan delves into a tense interrogation involving Dr. Lacey Campbell and Harper, as they examine a disturbing DVD that reveals unsettling truths about a murder case linked to Lacey's past. The chapter opens with Mason replaying a particularly incriminating kiss on the DVD, highlighting the tension in the room as he questions the implications of Lacey's past relationships, particularly with her ex-husband, Frank Stevenson. Lacey's emotions are laid bare, portraying her as both vulnerable and fiercely protective, especially regarding the recent discovery of Suzanne's remains.

As Mason and his colleague, Detective Ray Lusco, piece together the timeline of events and connections to the dead men, Lacey expresses deep concern for the missing baby she believes might be tied to the horrific events surrounding Suzanne's abduction. The male detectives try to impress upon her the real danger of someone watching her, but Lacey is unyielding, determined not to let fear dictate her life. Harper is caught between his professional instincts and his growing personal feelings toward Lacey, indicating a complex connection that is rapidly evolving.

When Lacey storms out, insisting that she will not hide, Jack, who has been outside, quickly realizes he must be there for her despite their relatively new acquaintance. His protective instincts kick in as he contemplates the

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potential dangers she faces, feeling compelled to keep her safe from the lurking threat. Their interaction is charged with emotion—Lacey's grief over Suzanne and the unborn child reveals the depth of her turmoil, and Jack's desire to comfort her speaks to his growing affection.

Meanwhile, Mason and Ray exchange looks of frustration over their inability to provide the protection Lacey needs. As they assess the situation, the implications of the video and the potential for Lacey to be in imminent danger weigh heavily on them. The chapter closes with the tension unresolved, as the characters' emotional stakes rise high—Lacey's resolve to stand her ground, Jack's fierce determination to protect her, and the uneasy awareness of lurking threats that loom in their lives. The blend of personal connections, trauma, and the looming presence of danger creates a gripping atmosphere, leaving readers eager for what comes next.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courage to confront fear

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, Lacey's unwavering determination not to let fear dictate her life serves as a powerful reminder that courage does not mean the absence of fear, but rather the choice to confront it head-on. This lesson is significant for you as it encourages the practice of standing firm in the face of adversity, fostering resilience and empowerment in your own life. Like Lacey, who chooses to face the lurking danger around her instead of succumbing to panic, you too can draw strength from your own vulnerabilities, allowing them to fuel your resolve and inspire those around you to do the same.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

In Chapter 17 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, Lacey Campbell finds herself in a precarious situation. After a tense encounter with her ex-husband, Frank Stevenson, she discovers a championship ring hidden in her lab coat pocket at the dental school—a ring that doesn't belong to her, but to a woman named Suzanne. This unsettling discovery propels her into a wave of anxiety as she realizes someone has invaded her personal space. Racing to meet Jack, her ally and protector, she feels increasingly vulnerable in the deserted halls of the dental school.

When she encounters Frank unexpectedly, he tries to assert his presence using a key card he still possesses, which amplifies Lacey's feelings of dread. Their conversation escalates as he corners her, revealing a darker side of their tumultuous past. Determined to fend him off, she attempts to escape his grasp, culminating in a panic-inducing moment where she feels trapped. Just as things seem to take a turn for the worse, a janitor named Sean intervenes, striking Frank with a mop handle and saving Lacey from harm. This act of bravery reinforces Sean's unexpected loyalty to Lacey after she had previously helped him with a dental issue.

Meanwhile, Jack, anxiously waiting for Lacey, learns of the altercation through a call at the police station and immediately rushes to her side, angry and protective. When Lacey eventually returns home, it becomes clear that



the situation has taken a psychological toll on her. Their late-night conversation reveals deeper layers of their pasts, especially Lacey's troubled marriage to Frank, marked by jealousy, violence, and manipulation concerning financial matters. As they navigate through their feelings, Jack reveals his frustration towards Frank and his protective instincts over Lacey become increasingly apparent.

Their dialogue unveils historical nuances that complicate Lacey's feelings for Frank, who had once been a supportive figure until his bitterness and gambling addiction tore them apart. Jack's concern heightens as he uncovers the depths of Frank's issues, including a potential ongoing debt problem. The chapter ends on a tense note with an unexpected, aggressive knock at the door, leaving readers on edge, eager to discover what comes next.

This chapter explores themes of empowerment and vulnerability, juxtaposed with the struggle against controlling relationships. Lacey's journey reflects her resilience in facing her past, while Jack's protective nature showcases the evolving dynamics of their relationship amidst the backdrop of danger and trauma. The intensity of their situation propels the narrative forward, pulling readers into the emotional turmoil and suspense that defines their plight.

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Chapter 18:

In this intense chapter of "Hidden," tensions rise as Lacey is confronted by Jack and Michael, two men vying for her attention and protective instincts. It's early morning, and Jack, whose overprotectiveness is both comforting and annoying to Lacey, insists she shouldn't answer the door when a late-night visitor knocks. Despite Jack's attempts to keep her from opening the door, Lacey knows who it is—Michael Brody, her friend with whom she shares a complicated history.

As Michael steps into the house, the atmosphere grows charged. Both men exude physicality and confidence, yet their personalities clash; Jack's assertiveness contrasts with Michael's more reserved demeanor. After a brief, shared moment of scrutiny, Michael's concern for Lacey's safety surfaces when he learns she was nearly assaulted by a man named Frank. The protective instincts of both men unite as they focus on Lacey, revealing a theme of possessiveness intertwined with care.

A debate ensues as they discuss a video related to Lacey's recent trauma,

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Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, the scene unfolds in a wealthy neighborhood gripped by shock following the murder of Richard Buck, a prominent lawyer. The atmosphere is tense as police cars flood Barrington Drive, blocking civilians from entering. The chilling weather reflects the somber mood as a crowd of neighbors and reporters huddle near the yellow crime scene tape, eager for gossip and details about the crime. Among them is a self-styled journalist named Jeff Thomas, who views this as an opportunity for excitement rather than a tragic event. He engages an older neighbor, Evelyn Wakefield, hoping to gather information about the victim.

Evelyn reveals her long-standing acquaintance with Buck, sharing that he had defended a notorious serial killer, which has fueled neighborhood gossip about the murder being revenge for that case. Jeff's demeanor is charming, but beneath his surface lies a sinister ambition; he delights in the chaos his actions have caused. As the police uncover details of the murder, including that Buck's legs were broken—echoing a pattern from previous cases—Jeff's twisted satisfaction grows.

Meanwhile, Detective Mason is keenly aware of the stakes. He argues with Lusco about opening a suspicious package addressed to Buck found at the crime scene, convinced it holds crucial evidence tied to the murder and potentially to a series of linked slayings that suggest a revenge-seeking

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assailant. When the package is finally opened, a baggie containing hair and a gold ring with Dr. Campbell's initials is discovered, intensifying the urgency of the investigation. Mason realizes they must protect Dr. Campbell, a vital figure linked to prior cases involving the serial killer.

The chapter effectively intertwines the perspectives of Jeff, whose fascination with the inner workings of crime contrasts sharply with Mason's focus on justice and prevention. Themes of revenge, the consequences of past actions, and the thin line between chaos and order resonate throughout the narrative, creating a gripping atmosphere filled with tension and unpredictability. As both characters navigate their worlds—one in pursuit of notoriety, the other in pursuit of truth—the stakes continue to escalate, setting the stage for further conflict and revelation.

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Chapter 20 Summary:

In Chapter 20 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, the scene unfolds in the snowy town of Mount Junction, Oregon, a place that reflects both beauty and mystery. Michael Brody, a reporter, arrives in town, tasked with investigating the accidental death of a gymnast named Amy Smith. As he studies his map and prepares for the search, Michael battles his feelings of protectiveness over Lacey, his ex-girlfriend. The strained dynamic between them is emphasized; Lacey's new association with Jack Harper acts as a thorn for Michael, intensifying his sense of competition and concern.

As Michael investigates the site where Amy's car was found, he becomes increasingly perplexed by the nature of the accident. He questions everything from the circumstances surrounding the crash to the terrain of the riverbank, pondering if there's more to Amy's death than meets the eye. This scrutiny draws connections between multiple victims who have suffered similar injuries, suggesting a deeper, possibly sinister narrative at play.

Meanwhile, Jack Harper grapples with his own struggles as past headlines reignite. A front-page article details his previous connection to campus murders, painting a shadow on his current life and relationship with Lacey. He navigates the fallout from the article, facing pressure from business associates concerned about their potential ties to the old crimes. Jack's desire

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to clear his name and support Lacey amidst the chaos is palpable, especially as he refocuses on professional commitments while attempting to mend his rocky relationship with her.

Lacey, in the midst of her own turmoil, seeks solace in the familiar environment of her gymnastics academy. The gym represents a safe harbor for her; the routine and energy of the children provide a much-needed escape from the surrounding chaos. However, the day is fraught with anxiety as she confronts the repercussions of the police's investigation into a series of recent deaths, thinking of those connected to her past. The emotional strain is evident as Lacey grapples with her feelings for both Jack and Michael, intertwining her fears for safety with her complicated relationships.

The chapter effectively highlights themes of protection, trust, and the shadow of past traumas. Michael's investigative journey symbolizes the quest for truth amid emotional confusion, while Jack's struggle demonstrates the impact of history on present relationships. Lacey's navigation through her anxiety serves as a reminder of how deeply personal history can affect one's present life, especially when intertwined with violence and loss. In a gripping atmosphere thick with suspense and emotional tension, the characters are left to confront the ghosts of their past, each pursuing their own path toward understanding and resolution.

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Chapter 21:

In Chapter 21 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we meet Jack, who feels out of his element at a charity gala organized by his capable sister, Melody. Despite usually being comfortable in formal attire, tonight he is restless, primarily because he hasn't seen Lacey since their confrontation the previous day. Knowing she will be at the event only intensifies his anxiety. He wanders the decorated hotel ballroom, attempting to distract himself while searching for her.

The gala supports a cause that brings dental care to low-income areas, although Jack is preoccupied with Lacey, who appears stunning in a backless black dress. However, his anticipation takes a hit when he sees Lacey talking to another man named Michael, a local reporter he has a contentious history with. The tension escalates as he realizes that Lacey seems captivated by Michael, sparking jealousy and confusion for Jack.

As the evening unfolds, Jack's tension reaches a boiling point, especially after Michael makes a move to dance with Lacey, which infuriates Jack.

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 22 Summary:

Lacey was engulfed in a whirlwind of emotions as she rode home with Michael, her anger simmering beneath the surface. The confrontation between Michael and Jack had left her reeling, and while she recognized that neither man had fully instigated the fight, Michael's reckless words had crossed a line. As Michael parked outside her house, she braced herself for a showdown, determined to set him straight about his behavior.

Their terse silence was shattered as Lacey vented her frustrations, expressing her outrage over the previous events and the potential danger posed by the killer still at large. Michael, although apologetic, defended his instincts of protectiveness and admitted to pushing Jack's buttons to gauge his reaction. Just as their argument began to simmer down, Lacey noticed a shadow lurking near her house, instantly shifting their focus to a more pressing threat.

When Michael dashed out of the vehicle with a gun, Lacey's heart raced. The situation escalated quickly as Michael confronted the shadowy figure, leading to a violent scuffle between him and the assailant. Lacey, torn between panic and a need to help, called 911 to report the altercation, emphasizing the presence of a gun and her worries for Michael's safety.

Meanwhile, in a nearby city jail, Mason was amused at the sight of Jack



Harper, clad in a tuxedo but disheveled after his earlier fight. Mason enjoyed watching Jack's irritated reactions, knowing the circumstances behind his arrest revolved around Lacey. Their banter highlighted Jack's frustration at being unable to protect Lacey when, unbeknownst to him, trouble was brewing at her house.

Back with Lacey, chaos reigned as sirens blared, and soon it became clear that the intruder was Sean, a familiar face from Lacey's past. Tensions rose, and Lacey's concern for Sean deepened as he was taken into custody, potentially linked to dark circumstances surrounding her home and the killer still at large.

As the dawn broke, Lacey and Michael struggled to cope with the fallout from the night's events, their tempers flaring at each other. Jack was still in jail, but Lacey's focus shifted when she received a frantic call from Chris, whose wife Kelly was missing. Instinctively, fear gripped her heart as she considered the plight of her friend.

With time ticking away, Lacey's desperation mounted. She urged Detective Callahan to take immediate action, fully aware that Kelly's disappearance may intertwine with the very danger threatening her life. The chapter culminated in Lacey's terror; she felt a chilling certainty that the threats were far from over. The frantic search for Kelly unveiled a deeper layer of urgency and dread, setting up a gripping path ahead as they faced an unseen



enemy.

Section	Details
Characters	Lacey, Michael, Jack, Mason, Sean, Chris, Detective Callahan
Summary	Lacey is angry after a confrontation between Michael and Jack. She confronts Michael about his reckless behavior. The situation escalates when a shadowy figure is spotted near Lacey's house, leading to Michael confronting the figure and a violent altercation. Lacey calls 911 for help. Meanwhile, Jack is in jail, frustrated that he cannot protect Lacey. The shadowy figure is revealed to be Sean, who is taken into custody. Lacey receives a troubling call about her friend Kelly's disappearance, urging Detective Callahan to act quickly as she senses ongoing danger.
Themes	Protectiveness, danger, emotional turmoil, urgency
Conflict	Lacey's internal conflict about Michael's actions and the external threat posed by the assailant.
Climactic Moment	Lacey's discovery that Sean, a person from her past, is involved, and the rising urgency regarding Kelly's disappearance.

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Chapter 23 Summary:

In Chapter 23 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, the tension escalates as Jack grapples with his feelings for Lacey Campbell while trying to protect her amidst growing threats. He has been eavesdropping on her phone call, realizing she's worried about her missing friend, Kelly. It's clear Jack wants to know more about Lacey, but their connection is complicated by the dangerous circumstances surrounding them.

When Lacey starts to faint after a conversation with the detective, Callahan, Jack instinctively rushes to her aid and prevents her from falling. Lacey is distraught because Kelly, who had witnessed a traumatic event involving Lacey, is missing. The revelation leaves Jack anxious and more determined to keep Lacey safe, especially after realizing Kelly was the last person to see her injured.

Brody, Lacey's bodyguard, also appears to be concerned, but Jack's protective instinct kicks in, and he admonishes Brody from getting too close to Lacey. As Callahan reveals that they received a disturbing card addressed to Lacey—hinting at a plan by the killer for a “special party” on the anniversary of a past conviction—Jack's anger surges. The card, innocuous on the surface, holds a menacing undertone that hints at the killer's confidence and potential next move, heightening the urgency of the situation.



Callahan suggests Lacey should disappear for her own protection, and Jack wholeheartedly agrees, knowing he cannot let her out of his sight.

Meanwhile, Brody is determined to investigate further, indicating a growing partnership between him and Jack, despite the underlying jealousy.

As Jack watches Lacey say goodbye to Brody, he realizes he must prioritize her safety over his feelings. The chapter conveys a deepening bond between Jack and Lacey, alongside the rising stakes of danger surrounding them. Jack's vow to keep Lacey safe sets the stage for the challenges they face ahead, as they navigate the fine line between emotion and the urgent need for protection. The chapter encapsulates themes of love, jealousy, and the perils of underestimating an unseen threat, leaving readers on the edge of their seat.

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Chapter 24:

In Chapter 24 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, tensions escalate as Lacey grapples with her safety and the emotional fallout from her past. The chapter opens with Lacey adamantly resisting Jack's suggestion to stay at a friend's house, fearing the unknown and the risk of endangering others. Despite her reluctance, Jack insists on protecting her, highlighting the seriousness of their situation—her friend is missing, and danger lurks close by.

Once they reach Alex Kinton's home, Lacey's initial wariness of the stoic man softens as he welcomes them inside. Jack tries to lighten the mood as he reconnects with Alex, who appears emotionally detached. This sets the stage for Lacey's struggle as she navigates her discomfort in intruding on Alex's solitude versus her need for safety. She is drawn into their camaraderie, yet feels the weight of her own insecurities and the emotional burden of loss, especially when talking about her late friend Suzanne.

As the chapter unfolds, discussions turn deep; Lacey and Jack analyze the

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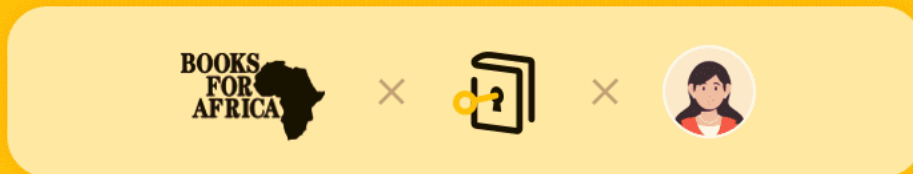
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Chapter 25 Summary:

In this tense chapter from "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, the protagonist wrestles with anxiety and frustration over Lacey's sudden disappearance from his radar. After sending an impulsive note and video to her, he finds himself questioning his choices and the impact of Lacey on his meticulously laid plans. His instinct tells him to stay calm and focused, but Lacey's magnetic presence continually disrupts his resolve.

Determined to discover Lacey's whereabouts, he drives around town, even checking Harper's condo without success, which heightens his concern that she might be in hiding from the danger he fears she's facing. He returns to her house to wait, anxiously pondering his approach as he reflects on the mistakes he's made.

When an older neighbor named Jefferson Carson knocks on his car window, the protagonist tries to keep his cover as he gathers information about Lacey. Carson shares that he's witnessed police activity at her home and hints at an unknown man spending the night, which sends the protagonist into a spiral of jealousy and suspicion about Lacey and Harper's relationship.

As he wrangles with these emotions, the narrative reveals the protagonist's darker thoughts and his growing unease. The chapter paints a vivid picture of his internal struggle—a mix of desire, suspicion, and protective



instincts—as he contemplates the implications of Lacey's choices and connections. The themes of jealousy, obsession, and the unpredictability of relationships take center stage, leaving readers hanging on the edge of their seats, wondering what the protagonist will do next and how it will affect Lacey.

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Chapter 26 Summary:

In Chapter 26 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we dive into the tense interactions between Michael, an investigator, and Amy Smith's parents, Gary and Janet. Michael returns to Mount Junction to gather information linking tragic events surrounding Amy's death to unsolved murders in the region. As he interacts with the Smiths, the chapter highlights the emotional turmoil they've endured since Amy's presumed murder. Gary's fury towards Michael is palpable, expressing anger about the renewed police attention, while Janet tries to maintain some composure, advocating for the truth about their daughter.

Michael learns about Amy's boyfriend, Matt, and the troubling theft of personal photos prior to her death. As he contemplates their significance, the dynamics in the Smith household reveal the complexities of grief and unresolved trauma. Janet's calmness contrasts sharply with Gary's agitation, illustrating the strain that Amy's death has placed on their marriage. The tension is heightened as they discuss Amy's fame as a gymnast, which sparked unwanted attention, potentially leading to dangerous situations.

Meanwhile, Lacey, another key character, is grappling with intense emotions following a distressing video that has surfaced, triggering memories of her missing friend, Kelly. She feels a growing connection with Jack, who seems genuinely concerned about her welfare. Their dialogue reveals Lacey's past



traumas and her struggles with intimacy, further complicated by Jack's reputation as a womanizer. Despite her reservations, Lacey finds comfort in Jack's presence, creating a moment of vulnerability that fosters a deeper bond.

Mason Callahan, another investigator, is deeply entangled in piecing together the tragic narrative, pursuing leads about a potential connection between past murders and the current investigation. His interactions with Ray highlight a frenetic search for answers among conflicting evidence, demonstrating the complexities of their investigation. As they navigate the chilling threads connecting various suspects, Mason's intuition suggests that deception runs deeper than it appears, particularly in light of the mother-son dynamic of the DeCosta family.

Overall, this chapter weaves themes of grief, the search for truth, and the struggle for connection in the face of trauma. The emotional weight carried by each character serves as a poignant reminder of the toll that unresolved pain can take, while the investigative threads suggest that the past is intricately linked to the present, leaving readers eager to uncover the truth behind the mysteries at play.

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Chapter 27:

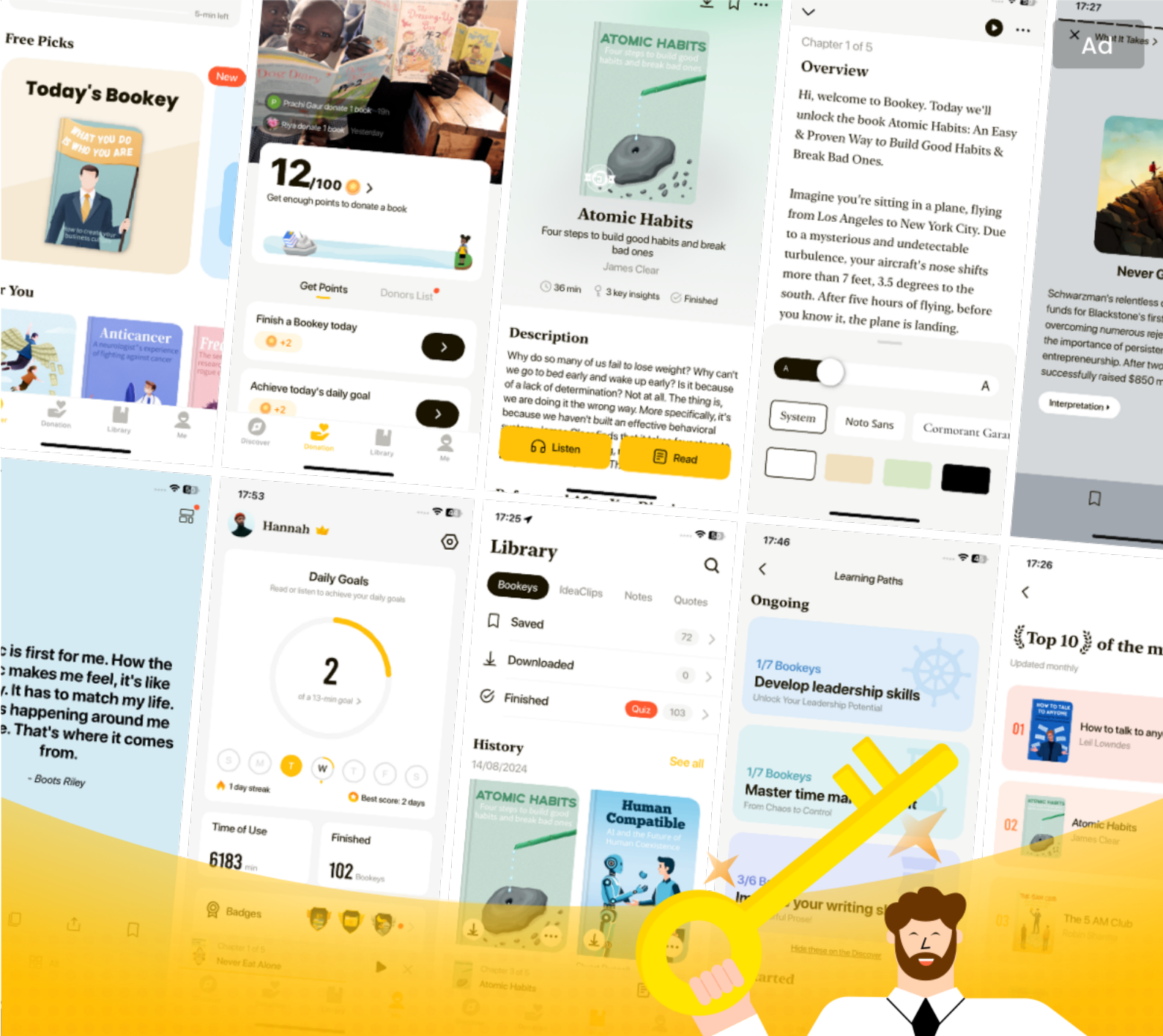
In Chapter 27 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, Jack grapples with intense emotions over his feelings for Lacey, who is staying under the roof of his friend Alex. As they share drinks and talk, it's clear that Jack is struggling with a powerful attraction that interrupts his usual charm and confident demeanor. He reflects on his past, particularly a traumatizing shooting incident that led to him leaving the police force. This past haunts him, especially as he contemplates how he failed to protect a pregnant woman named Rosalinda.

Meanwhile, Jack shares a drink with Alex, who observes his growing attachment to Lacey. They have a candid conversation about Jack's vulnerabilities and feelings of inadequacy, especially when it comes to his ability to protect Lacey from the threat of a killer who has recently targeted women like her. Through the haze of alcohol, Jack is torn between his instincts to guard Lacey and his past failures as a cop.

Back at the house, Lacey is drawn to Jack, intrigued by his vulnerability and

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Chapter 28 Summary:

Michael Brody finds himself outside a mysterious compound in Southeast Oregon, frustrated by the cold reception he receives from the gatekeeper when he attempts to inquire about the whereabouts of Dave DeCosta's mother, Linda. He's abandoned leads from his earlier investigations in favor of pursuing a new angle suggested by Lusco about DeCosta's family, convinced that their story holds crucial answers related to a string of murders linked to the DeCosta family. After deciding he needs a way into the compound, he pivots to think about alternative access routes, ultimately seeking help from a local veterinarian, Jim Tipton, who points him to a farrier named Sam Short.

Sam proves to be a confident, quick-witted woman who engages Michael in a lively conversation about the controversial lifestyle within the compound, explaining her family's past with polygamy while expressing disdain for its practices. Impressed by her spirit, Michael convinces her to help him get into the compound under the guise of doing work with the horses. While all this unfolds, tension brews between Lacey and Jack back at Alex's kitchen, where unresolved feelings and embedded past traumas lead to awkwardness and longing glances. Jack is intent on following a lead that could connect them to missing people, including Kelly.

Lacey finds herself swept along on an unexpected trip south of Hood River

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to a company-owned cabin, which turns out to be unexpectedly lavish. As they arrive, she and Jack share a moment of playful competition racing to the front door. Their chemistry boils over when Jack tries to kiss Lacey, igniting a passionate connection that pulls them closer together again, momentarily pushing aside the heat of their complicated realities. However, their moment is interrupted by logistical concerns about getting into the cabin and getting a fire going, but the atmosphere remains electric between them.

While Lacey's emotional tension rises, Michael and Sam make their way into the compound, where he hopes to uncover valuable information from Linda that could be pivotal in their ongoing investigation. As both parties converge on their respective paths, the stakes heighten, highlighting themes of connection, tension between personal desires and duty, and the shadows of past traumas as they seek to navigate through dangerous waters in search of the truth. The dynamic between Michael's determination and Lacey's burgeoning relationship with Jack sets the stage for an engaging unfolding of mystery, emotion, and suspense.

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Chapter 29 Summary:

In Chapter 29 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we follow Michael and Sam as they confront a woman named Lila, who is connected to the investigation of a potential killer. The chapter opens with a sense of urgency as Sam pushes through her discomfort to knock on the door of a double-wide mobile home, eager to gather information. Michael, intrigued by Sam's determination and spirit, accompanies her, although he senses something deeper troubling her about their surroundings.

When they meet Bruce, a young and awkward teenager, they learn Lila is watching the little kids, prompting Sam to head towards Lila's home.

However, Sam surprises Michael by abruptly leaving when Bruce invites her for dinner, revealing her unease about being in that environment. This subtle characterization shows a vulnerability in Sam that Michael previously overlooked, deepening his curiosity about her past.

Once they reach Lila's home, an older woman opens the door, exuding weariness and hesitation. The description of Lila's dilapidated surroundings paints a stark picture of a life burdened by hardship. Michael tries to engage her but quickly realizes that Lila is withdrawn and unhelpful, alluding to her own troubled circumstances. When he raises the stakes by mentioning that innocent people are dying and her son is a suspect, Lila's reaction is defensive and fearful, highlighting the tension in the situation.



Sam, noticing Lila's trepidation, steps in, believing she can elicit a response that Michael couldn't achieve. This change in dynamics showcases Sam's strength and capability, positioning her as a crucial partner in the investigation. Outside, Michael grapples with the oppressive atmosphere of Lila's home, frustrated by the lack of information and the smell that lingers in his memory.

Intercut with their mission, there's a menacing subplot as a mysterious individual reflects on a woman named Lacey Campbell, who's seemingly missing. This character's obsession with tracking her adds layers of tension and danger to the story, suggesting a parallel narrative that could intertwine with Michael and Sam's investigation. As he anxiously searches for Lacey's whereabouts, the reader senses a shift in his control as he strategizes on how to lure the elusive Jack Harper, alluding to a deeper conflict brewing beneath the surface.

The chapter effectively blends character exploration with suspense, focusing on themes of fear, helplessness, and the pervasive impact of their dangerous circumstances. Michael's respect for Sam grows as he recognizes her resilience, while the unfolding drama regarding Lacey amplifies the tension, ensuring the reader is left eager for what comes next.

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Chapter 30:

In Chapter 30 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we find Jack and Lacey in a cozy cabin during a snowstorm, creating an atmosphere filled with warmth and intimacy. Jack leans against the fireplace, watching Lacey prepare hot chocolate, and their relationship has shifted dramatically from the tension-laden moments of a few nights prior. With her relaxed demeanor and soft smile, it's clear that she has come to a decision about Jack, one that he hopes mirrors his own feelings for her.

As the snowflakes swirl outside, Jack expresses his desire to make love, rejecting Lacey's worries and creating a moment of passionate connection between them. Their chemistry is electric; he pulls her into a kiss that quickly escalates into a physical exploration full of longing and urgency. Lacey, emboldened by their intimate moment, begins to undress Jack, revealing both their desires and the vulnerability that comes with such closeness.

The scene is charged with physical affection—Jack's deliberate touches,

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Chapter 31 Summary:

In Chapter 31 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, we witness a tense escalation in the investigation surrounding a series of kidnappings. Detective Mason Callahan receives a tip about a potential suspect's address from Brody, prompting him to spring into action. However, shortly after, he learns that Melody Harper has gone missing, presumably taken by the same kidnapper who has already targeted Kelly Cates. Mason realizes the urgency and potential danger for both women, ordering a SWAT team to prepare for a possible hostage rescue at the suspect's home in Molalla.

Meanwhile, Lacey and Jack Harper have shared a passionate night together, but their tranquility is shattered when Jack receives the devastating news about his sister. As he learns of Melody's abduction, Lacey grapples with guilt, blaming herself for bringing danger into Jack's life. Despite her anguish, Jack remains supportive, urging her to focus on the task at hand—rescuing his sister before it's too late.

In a separate, chilling narrative, Melody finds herself trapped in a cold, stripped-down bathroom, reflecting on her dire situation. She recalls the moment she was abducted, realizing how things could have been different if she had been more vigilant. As she desperately tries to escape, she modifies the bathroom environment, crafting makeshift weapons from broken glass in a bid to defend herself. Just as she begins to lose hope, the relentless noise of

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a raid reverberates through her prison, igniting a flicker of hope for rescue.

Jack arrives at the scene, plagued by anxiety and anger while the police prepare to storm the house where Melody is believed to be held. But when they bring out a man named Frank Stevenson, Lacey's ex, the scenario takes an unexpected turn. Jack quickly deduces that this is a ruse, and his true focus shifts back to Lacey, fearing she might be in danger.

The chapter culminates in a flurry of emotions as Mason discovers that Melody has been rescued, but the threat isn't over. Jack's fears are confirmed when he learns Lacey is missing, as she has become the kidnapper's next target. The emotional rollercoaster leaves both Mason and the reader reeling—this case is far from resolved, and the stakes couldn't be higher, reinforcing the themes of danger, guilt, and the impact of love amidst chaos.

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Chapter 32 Summary:

In Chapter 32 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, tension escalates as the protagonist cleverly evades law enforcement after they launch an investigation into his activities. Using a house down the street where he was asked to pet-sit, he skillfully watches the police focus on his residence while he hides in plain sight, utilizing the owners' absence to his advantage. His mother unknowingly tips him off, believing she is supporting him, but her warnings serve his sinister plans instead.

He lures Dr. Lacey Campbell, whom he recognizes and manipulates into following him under the pretense of police protection. The moment he traps her in the house, she realizes the danger she's in too late; he subdues her with a cloth, echoing methods he has previously used, and relishes her struggle. This chapter confronts the reader with the chilling nature of his character—his twisted sense of power and control over his victims, as he reflects on his past and the influences of his brother Dave, who was just as ruthless yet less meticulous.

The cabin where he retreats holds memories of his youth, marked by shadowy lessons learned alongside his brother about violence and subjugation. He contemplates his gruesome legacy, detailing his signature approach to killing and how he's refined his methods, elevating them to a form of art rather than mere violence. He recalls his motivations intertwined

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with obsession, particularly his fixation on gymnasts since adolescence, and how these encounters turned deadly when they didn't conform to his desires.

As the chapter unfolds, the protagonist's thoughts oscillate between nostalgia and violent intent. He's haunted by past failures, especially with a former victim, Suzanne, leading him to a complex reflection on relationships, control, and loss. His plan is methodical and unyielding, with Lacey captured as part of his expected victim list and the troubling memories of his brother looming large over him.

With an air of confidence born from meticulous planning, he believes he is close to achieving his ultimate goal but is not without paranoia of being discovered. His awareness of the past and present intertwines with a sense of impending doom, both for his victims and himself, as he navigates a dangerous trajectory marked by revenge, manipulation, and sinister ambition. The relationships and motivations he reveals underscore the dark themes of obsession, control, and the chilling duality of a seemingly common man harboring monstrous impulses.

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Chapter 33:

Jack sat despondently on the curb, grappling with intense guilt and fear after the recent traumatic events involving his sister, Lacey, and her close call with a killer. Relief washed over him upon learning that Lacey was safe, but he couldn't shake the feeling that he had failed to protect her. Memories of past mistakes haunted him, and visions of a future with Lacey filled his mind just as quickly as panic about her safety consumed him. He felt an urgent need to act, knowing the police were still trying to gather information rather than moving quickly enough to find her.

As he waited for updates from the detectives, Callahan and Lusco, he tried to control his mounting frustration. Conversations between them hinted at the killer possibly having escaped, prompting Jack's determination to take matters into his own hands. Meanwhile, Lacey was in a dire situation, waking up cold and bound in a dark, confined space where the remnants of her confrontation with Bobby DeCosta, the younger brother of a known killer, haunted her.

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Chapter 34 Summary:

In Chapter 34 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, tension rises as Michael confronts Lila, the mother of the killer, demanding information on her son, who has gone missing along with Lacey. Michael's emotions are a mixture of anger and betrayal, feeling let down by everyone involved, especially Lila and Harper, who he believed should be protecting Lacey. Despite Michael's intense fury, Sam intervenes with a calmer approach, prompting Lila to provide details about an isolated hunting cabin where her son might be hiding, which raises alarms about the potential dangers hidden there.

Meanwhile, Lacey finds herself in a precarious situation, tied up and facing Bobby DeCosta, the neighbor she first thought was trustworthy. It's revealed that DeCosta has a connection to Kelly, adding layers to Lacey's understanding of the unfolding drama. As he threatens her, Lacey grapples with her fear, reflecting on the fate of a child, Jessica, who she has connected with deeply. The realization that Jessica, the daughter of a murdered woman named Suzanne, might be at risk deepens the stakes as Lacey recalls the child's haunting eyes.

Emotional turmoil is palpable as Jack and his friend Alex navigate treacherous terrain towards DeCosta's cabin, desperate to rescue Lacey. Jack's determination is fueled by his love for her and the haunting realization that time is running out. As he tries to find gaps in the police operations, the

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sense of urgency grows. A series of miscommunications, misunderstandings, and uncalculated risks manifest the chaos surrounding the rescue efforts.

Back at the cabin, DeCosta's temperament shifts; his initial desire to protect Lacey devolves into violence after she rejects his misguided advances. This chilling portrayal of his instability heightens the suspense, demonstrating how quickly danger can escalate. Lacey's struggle for survival underscores her resilience, but the looming threat of the killer and his violent tendencies leaves the reader breathless with concern for her fate.

As the chapter unfolds, Elliot deftly intertwines themes of betrayal, the complexity of relationships, and the lengths one will go to protect their loved ones. The narrative builds to a thrilling crescendo, leaving readers eagerly anticipating the impending confrontation between the characters. The interplay between love, loyalty, and evil creates a vivid backdrop for the unfolding drama, making it clear that the fight for survival is far from over. Each character's motivations and emotional struggles weave together in a gripping tapestry that keeps the tension alive as the stakes rise ever higher.

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Chapter 35 Summary:

In Chapter 35 of "Hidden" by Kendra Elliot, tension escalates as Mason and Ray, part of the response team, watch Captain Pattison receive urgent communication. Their instincts heighten when they learn one of the snipers has heard a woman scream from a nearby cabin. A gut-wrenching fear grips Mason as he imagines the worst: that DeCosta has harmed Lacey. However, Ray reassures them that DeCosta is more interested in a dramatic confrontation than in murder.

Meanwhile, inside the cabin, Lacey is in dire straits. DeCosta, furious and unhinged, physically assaults her while taunting her with a chilling demeanor that reveals his sadistic nature. Lacey's fear juxtaposes with her fierce determination to survive, and she hopes that Kelly, a companion, will come to help despite threats from DeCosta. Just when it seems all hope is lost, chaos erupts as a rock crashes through the window, startling DeCosta and giving Lacey a brief moment of respite.

As Lacey struggles against her restraints, Jack appears, armed and resolute, to save her. In a heart-pounding confrontation, DeCosta makes clear that he has rigged the cabin with explosives, creating instant stakes that could lead to a catastrophic outcome. Jack's intent is clear: he aims to eliminate DeCosta to save Lacey, although the odds are against him.

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In a desperate act, Jack manages to shoot DeCosta, but the criminal triggers the explosives, igniting the cabin. The chaotic aftermath sees Jack searching for Lacey amidst the thickening smoke and flames, leading to intense uncertainty about their fates. At the same time, back at the response command, panic ensues as they witness the cabin engulfed in flames, and hope for survival hovers on a knife's edge.

As the narrative unfolds, tension builds with each character's fight for survival. The chapter ends in a harrowing scene as Jack emerges from the inferno, carrying Lacey, but their fate remains uncertain as they are rapidly surrounded by chaos and fire. The themes of love, sacrifice, and the primal instinct to survive resonate throughout, driving home the emotional stakes as both characters confront terror in its many forms. The chapter leaves readers breathless, desperate to know if Jack and Lacey will escape the clutches of danger unscathed.

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