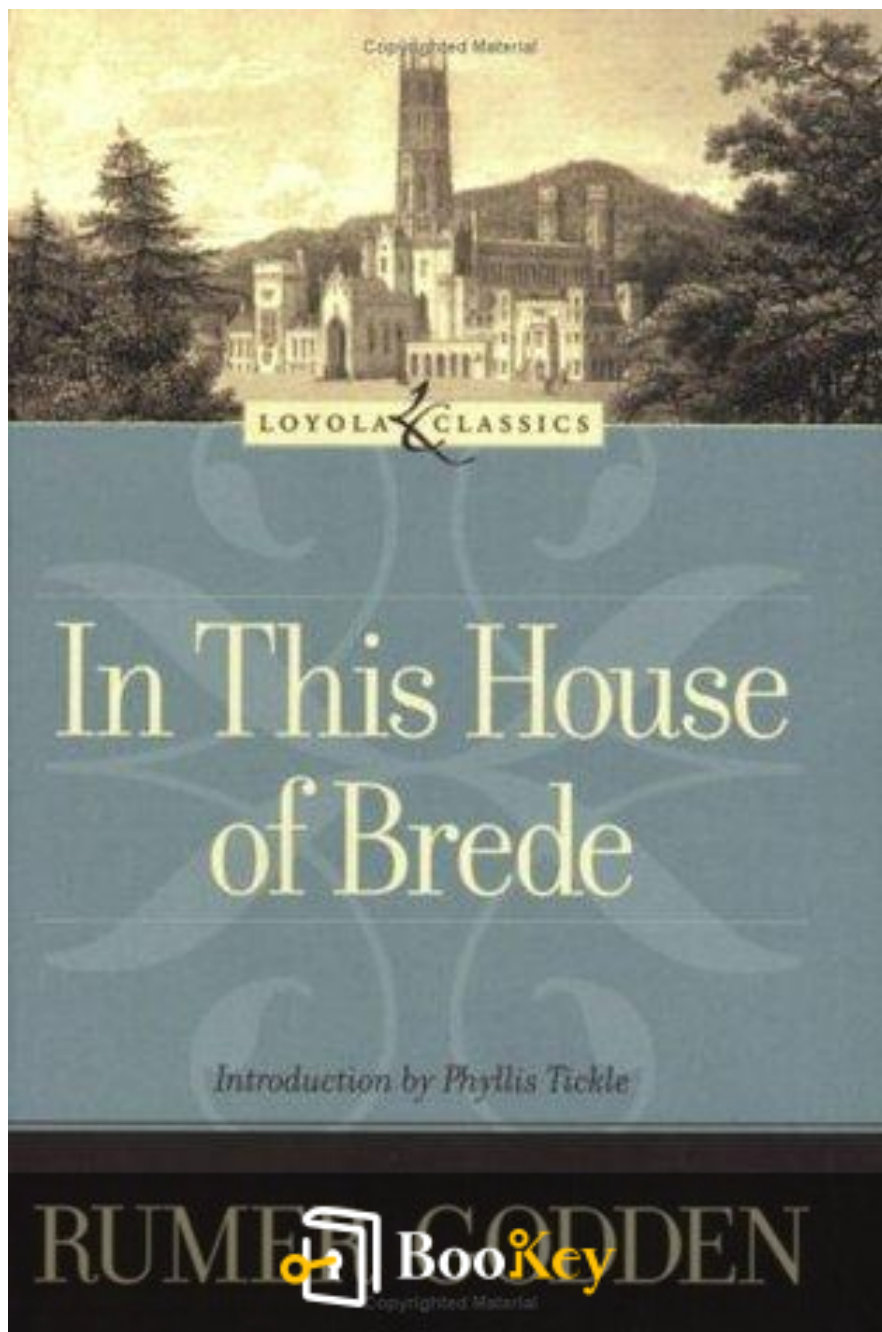


In This House Of Brede PDF (Limited Copy)

Rumer Godden



More Free Book



Scan to Download

In This House Of Brede Summary

Finding faith and belonging within a hidden community.

Written by Books OneHub

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

In *This House of Brede* by Rumer Godden is a profound exploration of the inner sanctum of a Benedictine convent, where the clash of human desires and divine aspirations unfold amid the serenity and challenge of monastic life. The narrative follows the journey of Philippa, a successful and independent woman, as she seeks solace and purpose within the cloistered walls of Brede, grappling with her past while striving to embrace the vows of faith, community, and humility. Godden masterfully weaves themes of love, sacrifice, and the quest for spiritual fulfillment, inviting readers into a world where the sacred and the mundane intertwine, and where every character's struggle echoes the timeless pursuit of meaning in both solitude and togetherness. This rich, evocative novel beckons those who yearn for deeper understanding of the complexities of devotion and the transformative power of belonging.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

Rumer Godden, an acclaimed British author born in 1907 in Dharamshala, India, is celebrated for her profound storytelling and rich character development, often drawing from her own multicultural experiences. Her writing reflects her extensive travels and deep engagement with themes of faith, identity, and the complexities of human relationships, which resonate through her diverse body of work, including novels, children's books, and autobiographies. Godden's literary contributions, such as "In This House of Brede," showcase her unique ability to evoke the tensions between personal desires and the pursuit of spiritual fulfillment, making her a significant voice in 20th-century literature. A masterful observer of life's intricacies, she captivates readers with her nuanced exploration of both the ordinary and the extraordinary.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



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

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

New titles added every week

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

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



Summary Content List

Chapter 1: 1

Chapter 2: 2

Chapter 3: 3

Chapter 4: 4

Chapter 5: 5

Chapter 6: 6

Chapter 7: 7

Chapter 8: 8

Chapter 9: 9

Chapter 10: 10

Chapter 11: 11

Chapter 12: 12

Chapter 13: 13

Chapter 14: 14

Chapter 15: 15

Chapter 16: 16

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 17: 17

Chapter 18: 18

Chapter 19: 19

Chapter 20: 20

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In the opening chapter of "In This House of Brede," we are introduced to the prominent Brede Abbey, its rich history, and the community of nuns living there. The abbey has developed a relationship with the nearby town, where townsfolk have grown accustomed to the nuns' presence and routines, including their external sisters who manage interactions with the world outside. The nuns lead a quiet, disciplined existence characterized by prayer and communal work, their lives framed by the ringing of the abbey's bells that call them to worship and daily activities.

As the chapter unfolds, we meet Sister Philippa, a relatively new postulant who has been at Brede Abbey for nearly four years. She often finds solace in the tower of the abbey, where she reflects on her life choices and expresses her contentment and longing for the sea. The chapter shares her thoughts about her past, including her sense of being an outsider among the younger novices and her candid observations about them. Philippa's character development is marked by her growing attachment to the abbey, which she begins to regard as her home.

The tranquility of abbey life is disrupted by the looming death of Abbess Hester, the beloved matriarch of the community who has ruled for thirty-two years. As the nuns keep vigil, the atmosphere is infused with tension and sorrow, reflecting their deep respect and love for her. Through descriptions



of their concern and prayers, we see the bond between the nuns deepen as they await the inevitable.

Dame Ursula, a senior nun, maintains authority among her peers and guides the younger novices. The community's dynamics are further explored through their reactions to Abbess Hester's illness and the interplay of personalities, including the hopeful yet naive Sister Cecily, fresh from the outside world. The visitations of Sister Julian, who was once favored by the abbess and is now leaving to pursue a different path in life, add complexity to the nuns' emotional challenges.

Ultimately, the chapter culminates in a poignant moment as Abbess Hester's final hours draw near. The intensity of the situation amplifies feelings of regret and unresolved emotions within the community—especially surrounding Sister Julian's departure and the abbess's last wishes. This emotional turmoil exemplifies the theme of duty, love, and the challenges of community that the nuns face, setting the tone for the exploration of their relationships, struggles, and sacrifices that will follow in the narrative.

Through rich imagery and character development, the chapter paints a vibrant picture of life in Brede Abbey, balancing the themes of faith, community, and the ever-present cycle of life and death.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of community and interconnectedness

Critical Interpretation: As you reflect on your own life, consider how vital it is to foster connections with those around you, just as the nuns at Brede Abbey do. Their lives are woven together by shared routines, prayers, and challenges, illustrating that love and support within a community can anchor you during turbulent times. Embracing your own community can lead to deeper relationships, mutual respect, and a sense of belonging, ultimately enriching your life experience and teaching you the power of compassion and solidarity.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 2 Summary: 2

In Chapter 2 of "In This House of Brede" by Rumer Godden, the solemn atmosphere surrounding the death of Abbess Hester is vividly depicted. As the bell tolls throughout the Abbey, the nuns gather, deeply affected by the loss of a beloved leader. Dom Gervase, called upon to administer the sacraments, conveys the gravity of the Abbess's passing, providing absolution and extreme unction. The nuns' reactions are varied; some are stoic while others sob quietly, particularly the younger postulant, Cecily, who is visibly shaken and requires comfort from Philippa.

As the nuns business-like prepare for the next steps, concerns arise about Dame Veronica, the cellarer, who is not present for the preparations of the Abbess's body. Her character is explored, revealing her struggles with the responsibilities her role demands and her artistic sensibilities. There is a notable tension among the nuns regarding how to respond to the death – a mix of maintaining monastic order and acknowledging grief.

The funeral rites are woven through scenes of the sisters praying, processing, and laying the Abbess to rest with honor. Amidst this ritual, an underlying sense of unease grows; the community feels a profound emptiness following the longtime leader's passing. The next Abbess becomes a topic of discussion, stirring feelings of apprehension as Dame Emily steps up to fill the role temporarily. The contrast between her and the previous Abbess is



palpable, with an air of worry about her well-being becoming evident.

Cecily's background unfolds, revealing her struggle for acceptance and the heavy expectations borne from her family. The narrative contrasts her longing for a supportive community with her experience in the Abbey, deepening the exploration of identity and belonging. The chapter concludes with a sense that while the rituals continue and the community must press on, the shadow of the loss requires a reckoning that will shape their future.

Themes of grief, community, the weight of expectation, and the complexities of identity emerge vividly as the nuns navigate the intersection between their shared faith and individual emotions in the face of loss. The unfolding dynamics within the Abbey hint at a time of potential change, juxtaposing the continuity of monastic life against personal sorrows and emerging responsibilities.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 3: 3

In Chapter 3 of "In This House of Brede," the community grapples with the shocking news of their prioress, Dame Emily, who has suffered a severe health crisis following a secret battle with cancer. As the acting head, Dame Perpetua seeks guidance from Doctor Avery, who reveals the extent of Dame Emily's condition and hints at the urgent need for a leadership transition due to her heart issues.

Tension rises among the nuns as they navigate their grief and the uncertainty of their future without both their beloved Abbess and Prioress. Abbot Bernard visits, concerned that Brede, facing simultaneous loss, has never encountered a situation quite like this. Dom Gervase, the young chaplain, is drawn into the turmoil, revealing his struggles with past failures while providing comfort, even as he feels the weight of having to support the community.

The chapter shifts focus to the practicalities of the Abbey's leadership, particularly regarding the election of a new Abbess. There's palpable anxiety

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

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



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

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

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 4 Summary: 4

In Chapter 4 of "In This House of Brede," Dame Catherine Ismay becomes the thirteenth Abbess of Brede, a pivotal moment that is steeped in tradition and deeply emotional implications for her and her fellow nuns. The chapter opens with Dame Domitilla and Dame Perpetua reflecting on the significance of the number thirteen, both in Catherine's election and in the history of their convent. The narrative explores the rich lineage of the nuns at Brede, tracing back to the Benedictine nuns who faced persecution during the Reformation and later the French Revolution. Dame Ursula shares a poignant story about Mother Flavia Vaux, who received a humble wooden cross from Princess Marie Hortense of Savoy, symbolizing sacrifice and resilience.

Catherine grapples with the weight of her new role, coming to terms with the responsibility that comes with being an Abbess, a position she never imagined for herself. The narrative captures her internal conflict as she reflects on her past life, filled with joy and connection, contrasting it against the solitude and leadership expected of her now. She recalls her childhood vow with her brother Mark, which adds to her sense of duty but also compounds her feelings of alarm.

Dame Catherine has to navigate her new authority with grace, receiving the homage of the other nuns, which isn't easy for a shy person like her. As she



adjusts to her new responsibilities, she feels an overwhelming mixture of awe and fear. The atmosphere in the convent shifts as the nuns show their support, and the little rituals and gestures of care, like the small welcome gifts in her room, signify the community's love and expectations.

The narrative also highlights the complexities of the vows taken by the nuns, especially the vows of stability, conversion of manners, and obedience.

Dame Ursula emphasizes that their lifestyle is not merely about deprivation but a deep commitment to giving and serving. The chapter subtly illustrates the struggles the nuns face while trying to balance their convictions with the inherent imperfections of human nature.

Events culminate as Catherine kneels in prayer, overwhelmed yet accepting her calling. She recognizes that she cannot shoulder this burden alone and seeks strength in her faith. Meanwhile, the touching moment between the elderly Sister Ellen and the new Abbess Catherine reveals the deep bonds within the community, as Ellen supports and comforts Catherine in her vulnerability.

This chapter is rich with themes of tradition, sacrifice, the complexities of leadership, and the nurturing bonds of community. It beautifully intertwines the past and present of the convent, illustrating how history shapes individual lives and collective identity.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The significance of community support in leadership

Critical Interpretation: As you stand at the precipice of a new role or challenge in your life, remember the lesson that Dame Catherine learns: leadership is not a solitary journey. Embrace the connections around you, recognize the value of support from your community, and allow their strength to bolster your own. Just as Catherine finds solace and guidance in the love and rituals shared among the nuns, you too can draw resilience from the people who care for you, transforming fears into courage and uncertainty into confidence.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In Chapter 5 of "In This House of Brede," the life at Brede Abbey flows steadily, much like the river Rother winding through the countryside. Sister Philippa, now seeing the seasons transition for the fifth time, reflects on how the monastery embodies a separate rhythm from the outside world. The chapter paints a vivid picture of autumn's arrival with its changing leaves, the crisis of apple picking, and the buzzing activity among the nuns as they prepare their harvest for the winter months. Sister Hannah, a farmer's daughter, leads the charge in taking honey from her bees, showcasing her connection to the land as much as to her faith.

As the seasons shift, the nuns engage deeply with nature, gathering in the gardens, contemplating the beauty of birds and the quietude brought by winter's snow. The community faces challenges, like fewer young novices to help keep the Abbey running and the intrusion of tramps who seek food. Yet, compassion remains a key theme; the nuns share whatever they can, embodying their vow of poverty through acts of kindness. Sister Priscilla's complaint about the difficulties of feeding the birds signals a yearning for generosity, despite their constraints.

Spring brings renewal, which excites the nuns, as they witness the blooming of flowers and the births of animals. The atmosphere of Brede Abbey is alive with enthusiasm, especially from newer members like Sister Cecily, who



feels the need for beauty and warmth amidst the austerity of their surroundings. The gardens may be untamed, but the nuns find resilience in their simplicity, choosing to appreciate their fortunate circumstances compared to urban religious communities.

As Abbess Catherine steps into her new role, a sense of calmness emerges in the Abbey despite lingering apprehensions voiced by some sisters. The election of Abbess Catherine introduces a sense of renewal and confidence, with various nuns offering their support and admiration for her humility and clarity in leadership. Character development is further illustrated as Philippa grapples with her own insecurities, especially regarding her inability to sing—a fear that separates her from the more musical members of the community.

Amidst the changing seasons, new tensions arise within the Abbey. Sister Agnes continues to harbor a deep-seated distrust towards Philippa, believing her to be cold and deceitful, failing to appreciate the nuances of Philippa's character. Abbess Catherine works to create a supportive environment while also confronting the complexities of relationships within the community. Despite occasional rifts, the bond among the nuns is reinforced through common experiences and shared faith, culminating in various discussions and musical practices that cement their unity.

As Christmas approaches, the Abbey fills with the spirit of the season, and



events like the Christmas Matins become significant moments of connection for the community. Cecily's character blossoms against the backdrop of these ceremonies, encapsulating the hope and joy that religious observances can bring even amidst personal struggles.

Overall, Chapter 5 intricately weaves together the natural beauty surrounding Brede Abbey with the rich emotional tapestry of its inhabitants. Themes of teamwork, community spirit, the challenges of leadership, and the internal conflicts faced by the nuns are explored, all contributing to a profound understanding of monastic life. Each sister brings her history and struggles into the mix, forming a complex but cohesive family where every season—and season in life—has its unique beauty and challenges.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 6: 6

In Chapter 6 of "In This House of Brede" by Rumer Godden, Abbess Catherine navigates the complexities of leading the Brede community after the death of Lady Abbess Hester. The chapter begins with Abbess Catherine reflecting on her newly acquired authority and responsibilities, as she tries to manage the emotional and logistical aftermath of Hester's passing. The nuns observe a 'cell' day, allowing them time for personal reflection and work, which prompts various activities within the community, from gardening to music sessions.

Cecily, a novice, expresses her desire to attend a music session led by Dame Maura, but the novice mistress, Dame Ursula, insists on Cecily's participation in preparations for an upcoming performance. Their responses reveal the unwavering commitment and discipline instilled in them, marking the character depth within the community dynamics.

The chapter continues to develop the character of Sister Cecily, who demonstrates both talent and determination, contrasting with her fellow

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



★★★★★
22k 5 star review

Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

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

Fantastic!!!



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

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

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

Love it!



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

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



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

Awesome app!



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

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



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

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In Chapter 7 of "In This House of Brede," Abbess Catherine grapples with the immense responsibilities of her new position, feeling overwhelmed and isolated. She likens herself to a bird trapped under a net, struggling to maintain composure amid her troubles. Despite her internal struggles, she carries out her duties diligently, attending choir, chapter meetings, and social gatherings without revealing her stress. Many of the nuns begin to notice her frail appearance, acknowledging the toll that leadership has taken on her.

Catherine reflects on the story of the Visitation, contemplating Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth not just as an act of support but also as a search for guidance from someone wise. She yearns for a confidant but finds herself alone as Dame Emily, her former prioress, remains hospitalized, and she feels distanced even from her council.

The chapter centers on the restructuring of the Abbey's leadership following recent upheavals. Abbess Catherine makes strategic appointments to her council, opting for fresh perspectives like Dame Anselma, despite objections regarding her youth. The modifications include establishing Dame Beatrice as prioress and Dame Agnes as cellarer, amid discussions and debates about capability and authority. The Abbess hopes to instill a sense of mentorship among the nuns, encouraging them to prepare the younger generations for future leadership.



As the chapter unfolds, Catherine confronts her own past mistakes, particularly regarding Dame Veronica, who has suffered from the consequences of her actions. While Veronica desires to atone through hard labor, Catherine wisely assigns her to use her writing talents for a proposed book aimed at children, reflecting an understanding of what true penance should entail.

The impending financial difficulties of the Abbey loom large, stemming from unmet obligations tied to the altar and the new apse construction. The nuns engage in conversations filled with emotion about possible solutions, including selling parts of the Abbey's land for development to settle debts. Opinions diverge starkly: some fear the loss of the natural beauty surrounding their home, while others see the pragmatic need for financial security. Abbess Catherine remains torn, and the emotional weight of her decisions is palpable. She chooses to involve the community transparently, laying out the dire financial situation before them.

When Sister Philippa proposes selling part of the Abbey land to alleviate their financial burden, opinions are mixed. While some see it as a sensible solution, others resist the idea, feeling it would compromise their sacred space. A note of tension threads through the room as emotions flare during these discussions, particularly with Dame Agnes voicing her concerns about compromising their faith and values for financial gain.



Ultimately, the community votes on the proposed plan, and while some embrace the idea of selling, a significant voice of dissent arises in Dame Agnes. With one black ballot against the decision, the tension remains unresolved, setting the stage for the Abbey's continued struggles with its identity and priorities. As construction begins and changes sweep through Brede, a bittersweet balance of hope and sorrow pervades the air, leaving Abbess Catherine to ponder the true cost of their decisions.

Throughout this chapter, themes of leadership, the search for wisdom, the balance of authority and compassion, and the tension between spiritual ideals and practical needs serve to deepen the characters and the Abbey's narrative, showcasing the complex interplay between individual responsibilities and community life.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 8 Summary: 8

In Chapter 8 of "In This House of Brede," the arrival of the sculptor Stefan Duranski marks a significant turning point for the nuns at Brede Abbey. Abbess Catherine, filled with joy as she fetches Sister Emily home from the hospital, finds herself in a world of new possibilities as they prepare for the installation of a new altar. The physical arrival of Stefan and his crew, juxtaposed against the excitement of Sister Emily's return, sets the stage for an unexpected transformation within the abbey.

Stefan is depicted as a youthful, enthusiastic presence, contrasting sharply with the solemnity usually associated with the abbey. His carefree demeanor and directness surprise Abbess Catherine, who finds herself both charmed and disarmed by his open appreciation of beauty, including her own. Their conversation reveals layers of warmth, as they connect beyond their titles, acknowledging their shared humanity.

As Stefan sets to work on the altar, his artistic process becomes a source of life and energy for the nuns. His approach—playing guitar on breaks and taking time to appreciate their liturgical practices—infuses a sense of creative joy into the monastery. This exchange benefits the community, fostering a sense of hope and excitement amidst their routine.

While Stefan brings enthusiasm, he also raises questions among the nuns



about values and appearances. Some are puzzled by his unkempt, casual attire, while others appreciate his authenticity and dedication. Abbess Catherine encourages them to embrace this change, emphasizing the importance of art and beauty in their lives and how it aligns with their spiritual journeys.

Meanwhile, tensions begin to emerge around the potential Clothing of Sister Cecily and Sister Hilary. The community debates Cecily's readiness for the habit, recognizing her seemingly perfect demeanor but also questioning her depth and struggle for identity. Their discussion reveals differing perspectives on what it means to be a religious sister and how personal struggles enrich that experience.

A pivotal moment occurs when Cecily bravely confronts Abbess Catherine to request her Clothing earlier than planned. Her assertion catches everyone off guard and showcases her deep conviction and inner strength. This courageous act forces the Abbess to reconsider her decision, hinting at the power of personal conviction and how it can influence communal decisions.

Ultimately, Cecily's Clothing is set against the backdrop of a cold, rainy day, a striking contrast to the warmth of her spirit. As she is welcomed into the community during a moving ceremony, her transformation signifies not only a personal commitment but a collective journey towards acceptance and grace. The nuns, witnessing both her beauty and her spirit, are left



contemplative about their own paths.

The chapter intricately combines themes of personal and communal growth, the importance of art, the struggles of personal identity within a religious context, and the deep bonds that form through shared experiences. The introduction of Stefan as a catalyst for change within the Abbey creates a vibrant atmosphere that challenges the nuns to reflect on beauty, faith, and their own individual journeys, leading to a profound transformation that resonates throughout the community.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of embracing change and beauty in our lives

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, you witness how the arrival of Stefan Duranski injects a vibrant energy into Brede Abbey, urging you to recognize that embracing change can open doors to new possibilities and deepen your connection to beauty in everyday life. Just like Abbess Catherine, you may find yourself challenged to step away from routine and allow the unexpected to enrich your spirit; it encourages you to appreciate not just the solemnity but the joy in your journey, celebrating creativity and love as vital components of your own path.



Chapter 9: 9

In Chapter 9 of "In This House of Brede," the nuns at Brede Abbey are grappling with chilly weather and stringent austerity measures imposed by Dame Agnes, who is obsessively cutting costs, leaving the community feeling cold and underfed. Amid this turmoil, the presence of sculptor Stefan Duranski brings warmth and activity to the abbey as he works on a statue, creating a sense of liveliness and purpose that contrasts starkly with the somber atmosphere.

Abbess Catherine, trying to balance the community's needs against financial difficulties, feels overwhelmed by the constant demands of the nuns, each with their dietary restrictions and personal needs. She struggles not only with money matters but also with the emotional state of her community and her own doubts as a leader. Catherine's efforts at frugality clash with her understanding that, sometimes, money must be spent to truly support the nuns, revealing the continual conflict between material constraints and spiritual needs.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 10 Summary: 10

In Chapter 10 of "In This House of Brede," the community of nuns at Brede Abbey is buzzing with a mix of joyful anticipation and worry, as significant changes unfold. Dame Beatrice marvels at how the events surrounding the abbey are unfurling like a tapestry, leading to newfound richness thanks to a large donation. They discuss a remarkable offer for a precious ruby, which has been a part of their cherished cross, yet Dame Beatrice expresses a sentimental longing for it as it was before, implying that its true value lay in its emotional significance rather than monetary worth.

Dame Philippa, a key figure in this chapter, has just taken her Solemn Profession—committing herself to a monastic life. Her ceremony, attended by few outside of the community, is a moment of deep joy marked by the strong support of her fellow sisters. Despite her newfound status and the unique challenges of being a professed nun as a widow, Philippa feels a sense of liberation, ready to amalgamate her past self with her spiritually committed identity.

In a surprising twist, Philippa's past comes rushing back when an old colleague, Penny Stevens, comes to her with troubling news—she is pregnant and afraid of her husband Donald's reaction. The conversation reveals Penny's turmoil; although excited initially, she fears that Donald will be angry and feel hindered by the responsibilities of fatherhood, as he had



wanted to delay having children. Philippa counsels her firmly, telling her that the baby is a privilege, and the conversation leads to her expressing a harder truth—termination should not even be a consideration.

Donald later arrives, anxious and desperate for help, as Penny's health has seriously declined after an abortion. Philippa, filled with compassion, guides him as they navigate the hospital complexities and emotions following this crisis. She emphasizes the sanctity of life and the gravity of the choices made, reminding Donald of his duty as a husband and encouraging him to support Penny as she needs him.

The chapter intertwines themes of faith, the significance of life choices, and the burdens of past mistakes as Philippa confronts her own history while assisting others in crisis. Her growth as a character is palpable; she evolves from her former self into a source of strength for others, finding purpose in the communal life at the abbey. Complex interpersonal dynamics emerge, highlighting the nuns' relationships, with underlying tensions regarding individual duties and responsibilities.

Overall, while Chapter 10 showcases moments of joy and celebration through Philippa's profession, it is also deeply rooted in the struggles of personal and shared loss, the wisdom borne from experience, and the commitment required to nurture faith and community amidst individual trials.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The sanctity of life choices and their impact on the future

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at a crossroads in your life, much like Dame Philippa did as she embraced her monastic commitment while guiding others through their struggles. Her realization that every choice we make carries profound consequences can inspire you to approach your decisions with intention and mindfulness. Just as Philippa advocated for the preciousness of life, you too can learn to see the beauty in every moment and relationship, understanding that the paths you choose shape not only your future but also ripple through the lives of those around you. Embrace the responsibility that comes with your choices, and let them be a source of strength and purpose in your journey.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 11 Summary: 11

In Chapter 11 of "In This House of Brede," the nuns at Brede Abbey are deeply affected by the death of Pope Pius XII. They hold memorial prayers and participate in the funeral rites, paying homage while contemplating what changes a new pope might bring. The election of Pope John XXIII, previously Cardinal Roncalli, brings a mixture of excitement and skepticism among the nuns. While the younger members hope for a progressive leader, the older nuns mourn the loss of Pope Pius, expressing doubt about the new pope's potential for change.

As the news of Pope John XXIII spreads, the atmosphere at Brede shifts from sorrow to a burgeoning hope for expansion and new beginnings, especially as discussions arise about potential new foundations. The nuns are fascinated by the mention of Japanese postulants, a radical idea that resonates with their longing for growth and outreach.

The arrival of Father Vincent Conway and Mr. Paul Konishi introduces the nuns to exciting prospects. Konishi, a wealthy businessman from Japan, seeks to establish a contemplative monastery in his home country. His dreams unfold as he tells tales of Japan's Christian heritage, igniting the nuns' imaginations about the beauty and tranquility of the contemplative life he envisions—a life starkly contrasting with the commercialism consuming modern Japan.



The nuns, captivated by Konishi's vision, consider accepting his five potential postulants, whose varying backgrounds and aspirations promise to enrich Brede's community. However, doubts about their true vocations surface, reflecting the nuns' commitment to genuine spiritual calling over mere ambition. Mr. Konishi's fervent hope to help found this monastery fills the air with anticipation, leading to their increased curiosity about Japanese culture.

As the chapter progresses, the nuns' conversations shift to practicalities, including overcoming language barriers. The discovery that Dame Philippa, who feels a deep connection to Japan, speaks fluent Japanese brings a spark of optimism, inspiring a renewed enthusiasm about the prospective postulants.

Amid the excitement, Philippa struggles with her own inner turmoil, feeling the weight of expectation and emotional conflict. Her request to take on extra penance reveals her desire for spiritual growth, but also her struggle with self-discipline. This moment serves as a powerful reminder that while hope and new opportunities blossom at the Abbey, personal challenges remain, reflecting the complex nature of faith and growth within a community setting.

In summary, this chapter captures the profound impact of leadership changes



within the Church on the nuns' lives and their longing for expansion into new territories. The intersection of faith, culture, and personal struggle creates a vivid narrative about hope, spiritual commitment, and the essence of community.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

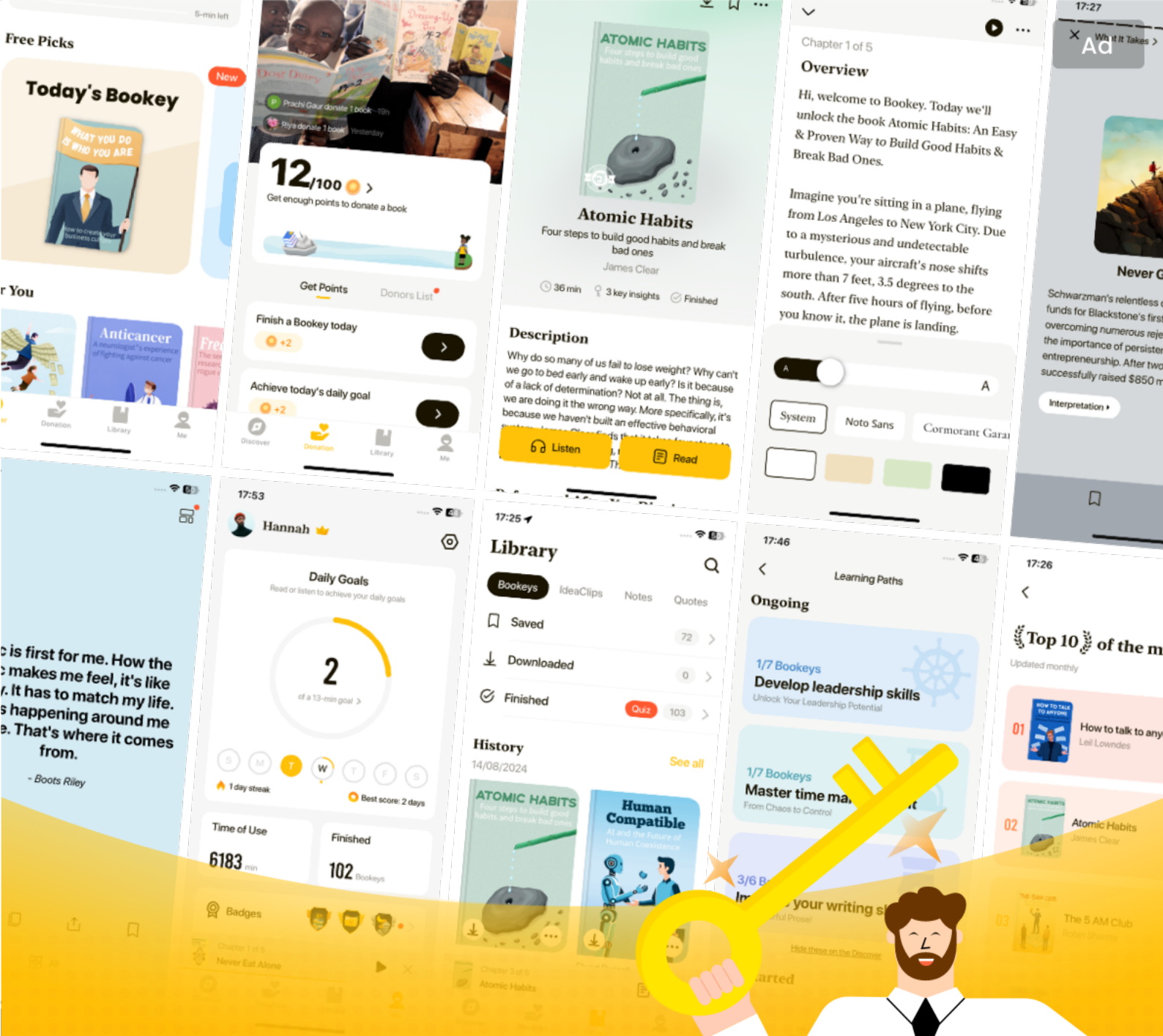
Chapter 12: 12

On a cold, windy Lent day, Philippa receives a summons that she has anticipated but dreads. Abbess Catherine and Mother Prioress are waiting for her, and they appoint Philippa as the zelatrix for a group of Japanese postulants, a role she feels unprepared for, especially given her past experiences with Sister Polycarp, a newer nun. Philippa protests, expressing her concerns about being suitable for the role, as she still grapples with her emotional scars connected to her lost son, Keith.

As their conversation unfolds, it becomes clear that Philippa carries the immense weight of grief over her son's tragic death—an event that has marked her deeply. Through flashbacks, she recounts the harrowing circumstances of Keith's death when he was just five years old. During a seemingly innocent outing at a vineyard, Keith had been excited to find a nugget of gold, leading to a series of events that culminated in him disappearing into a cave. Despite desperate attempts to save him, Keith was trapped for three days before he was eventually found, lifeless.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



World' best ideas unlock your potencial

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to download



Chapter 13 Summary: 13

Chapter 13 of "In This House of Brede" by Rumer Godden is deeply immersed in the solemnity and significance of Holy Week as experienced by the nuns at Brede Abbey. The chapter opens with the nuns fully engaged in liturgical practices, highlighting their devotion. Under the guidance of Dame Clare, they participate in the Tenebrae services, which mourn the Passion of Christ with ancient chants, linking their rituals back to the very origins of Christian worship. Cecily stands out as she performs the Lamentation, channeling the spiritual connections of the apostles.

As Maundy Thursday progresses, Abbess Catherine embodies Christ's humility by serving her community at the midday meal, creating an atmosphere of warmth and care. The refectory is beautifully prepared, filled with symbolic foods and flowers, reinforcing the themes of service and reverence. Later, Abbess Catherine washes the feet of twelve nuns as a reenactment of Christ's washing of the apostles, emphasizing the spirit of servitude and love.

Good Friday introduces a heavy atmosphere as the nuns engage in deep meditation and prayer, recounting the harrowing details of Christ's crucifixion. The mood starkly shifts on Holy Saturday when a new fire is celebrated, symbolizing the resurrection. As the Paschal candle is lit, Cecily's vision of light spreading throughout Christendom illustrates hope



and renewal, critical themes that resonate within the narrative.

The chapter also explores personal struggles, particularly through Cecily and Philippa. As they navigate their faith and identities, the tension between their pasts and their present in the abbey creates internal conflict. Cecily grapples with letters from her past life, specifically from Larry Bannerman, reflecting her need for clarity about her identity as Sister Cecily versus Miss Elspeth Scallon. Abbess Catherine wisely encourages her to be kind and to share her experiences, suggesting that expressing her life in the abbey may further affirm her commitment to her new identity.

Conversely, Philippa deals with the ramifications of the community's decisions regarding Japanese postulants, feeling isolated and misunderstood. While others express disappointment about the delay in the postulants' arrival, Philippa's refusal to help is seen as a personal failing by the community. This inner conflict leads to her feelings of alienation and a sense of being at odds with her fellow nuns.

The chapter takes a dramatic turn as a chicken-pox outbreak affects Philippa. Her illness leads her to a forced isolation where she comes to terms with her sense of self. During this time, Sister Polycarp tends to her with unexpected compassion, creating a bond between them despite their differences in perspective. This period of being shut away becomes a transformative experience for both women, with Philippa reflecting on her past hurts,



including her loss of a child.

By the end of the chapter, as Philippa emerges from her isolation, she is not only physically restored but also enriched by her introspections and her interactions with Sister Polycarp. The chapter closes on a hopeful note, suggesting that Philippa is ready to embrace her role in the abbey once again, though there remains a tension about her journey toward complete acceptance of her place within the community.

Overall, this chapter deftly interweaves themes of faith, service, personal struggle, and redemption, all set against the poignant backdrop of Holy Week, revealing the profound internal and external transformations of the characters at Brede Abbey.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 14 Summary: 14

On New Year's Day, the Japanese postulants at Brede Abbey celebrated a tea ceremony, marking a significant moment before their upcoming Clothing as nuns. This group, led by Father Vincent and Mr. Konishi, had joined the community six months prior, and their journey toward nunhood was both a joyous and emotional milestone. Abbess Catherine had individually asked each postulant if they truly desired to be clothed, to which they all expressed their commitment.

Among them was Yoko Matsudaira, a widow with a complex past as a Samurai daughter who had faced considerable tragedy during wartime. She embodied both strength and compassion, longing for a contemplative life that allowed her to pray for those she had met in her struggles. The rest of the postulants—Mariko, Sumi, Yuri, and Kazuko—each brought their unique backgrounds and personalities to the community, navigating their new environment with varying levels of ease and adaptation. Mariko was particularly striking and confident, while Kazuko struggled with feelings of inadequacy and jealousy.

Throughout December, as the women adjusted to monastic life, Philippa, a prominent figure in the community, observed their dynamics closely. She noted that while some of the postulants thrived, others, like Kazuko, remained withdrawn and insecure. The tea ceremony became a focal point,



where the Japanese tradition of tea preparation contrasted with the simpler ways of the English nuns. The ceremony was beautifully executed, with meticulous attention to detail in the setting and procedure, highlighting the differences in culture and still allowing for a connection through shared faith.

Dame Philippa's role evolved as she took on more responsibility with the postulants, especially Kazuko, providing guidance to help her overcome her feelings of inferiority. This nurturing approach began to reshape the dynamics of the community, inviting fresh perspectives as new postulants from the West joined. The conversation among the nuns heated up around the idea of blending new traditions with the old, with debates about maintaining the monastery's integrity while also embracing change.

As the Japanese postulants prepared for their Clothing, Philippa convinced Mariko to wear a standard habit instead of a ceremonial dress, emphasizing the significance of their collective identity as nuns over individual beauty. Ultimately, the day of Clothing arrived, showcasing a transformation where the differences among the postulants faded as they donned their nuns' habits, resembling not just one another but also embracing their new life in unity.

The chapter elegantly weaves themes of identity, cultural integration, and personal growth within the tapestry of monastic life. As the community adjusts to the new dynamic brought by the Japanese postulants, it reflects on



how faith and service can transcend cultural boundaries, nurturing a more profound sisterhood that embraces both tradition and evolution.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of collective identity over individual beauty

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing among a group of individuals from diverse backgrounds, each on their unique journey. Like the postulants of Brede Abbey, who were encouraged to prioritize their collective identity as nuns over the superficial allure of individual beauty, you too can find inspiration in the idea of unity. In a world that often emphasizes competition and comparison, embracing a shared purpose can foster deeper connections and a sense of belonging. By valuing the strength in community and supporting one another on your paths, you not only uplift yourself but also contribute to the greater good, creating a tapestry of collective strength woven from distinct threads of individuality.



Chapter 15: 15

In this engaging chapter of "In This House of Brede" by Rumer Godden, we dive into a vibrant summer filled with deep spiritual encounters and significant character growth. The chapter opens with McTurk introducing two Buddhist monks from Tibet to the nuns at Brede. Their presence brings a new layer of contemplative dialogue about faith, as Lobsong Rimpoche expresses his admiration for the monastic life at Brede, revealing an unexpected connection between diverse spiritual traditions.

Philippa, reflecting on the cyclical nature of prayers and liturgy at Brede, conveys a sense of fulfillment in the continuous rhythm of monastic life, likening it to the spinning of prayer wheels. The chapter charts the passage of time through various Church feasts, evoking a sense of joy and community among the nuns as they navigate traditions, such as the raucous freedom granted to the novitiate on Holy Innocents Day, and the solemnity of Ash Wednesday.

As the narrative flows, we witness the dynamics among the nuns,

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



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

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

New titles added every week

Brand

 Leadership & Collaboration

 Time Management

 Relationship & Communication



Business Strategy

 Creativity

 Public

 Money & Investing

 Know Yourself

 Positive Psychology

 Entrepreneurship

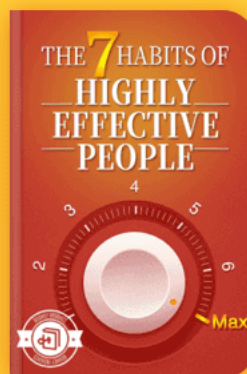
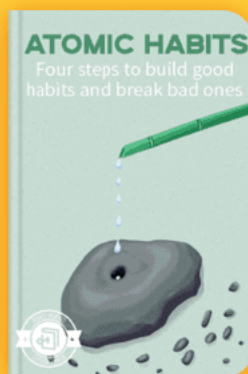
 World History

 Parent-Child Communication

 Self-care

 Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 16 Summary: 16

In Chapter 16 of "In This House of Brede," the story unfolds around Sister Cecily, who, nearing the end of her five-year trial period at the monastery, grapples with a deep personal struggle. She approaches Abbess Catherine with a peculiar request: to stop her music practice, specifically the organ and singing outside the choir. This surprising plea indicates Cecily's realization that music might be interfering with her spiritual life. As the Abbess navigates Cecily's request, we see the young nun's vulnerability, especially after learning that her hands have suffered from gathering nettles for St. Benedict's feast, which leads to a tense situation with Dame Maura, the music director.

The narrative reflects the theme of personal sacrifice and the complex relationships within the monastic community. Dame Maura, who becomes too attached to Cecily, is forced to confront her feelings and the ramifications of her affection. Their emotional connection culminates in a moment of shock when Dame Maura kisses Cecily's blistered hands in empathy, prompting Cecily to flee in panic, feeling unworthy and embarrassed.

As the chapter progresses, Cecily's internal conflict intensifies. She considers transferring to a more austere order, the Cistercians, believing that she would thrive under stricter discipline. This notion is examined through



dialogue with Dame Clare, who encourages Cecily to reflect on whether her desire for separation stems from a need for solitude or simply a reaction to her recent emotional turmoil.

Another subplot involves the ongoing challenges with the nuns' numerous cats, which play a role in the community's dynamic. Abbess Catherine is faced with the necessity for control as the population of cats, and their impact on the nuns' focus, becomes overwhelming.

Meanwhile, the chapter also highlights Dame Agnes's academic triumph, as she receives news that her scholarly work will be published, bringing her joy amid community challenges. This contrasts with Dame Veronica, who struggles with her jealousy and the repercussions of listening in on private conversations.

Through these character arcs, the chapter explores themes of vocation, attachment, jealousy, and the search for identity within the monastic life. Cecily's journey encapsulates the struggle to balance personal aspirations with communal responsibilities, ultimately illustrating the broader quest for divine purpose amid human emotions and relationships in a cloistered setting.



Chapter 17 Summary: 17

In Chapter 17 of "In This House of Brede," the tension surrounding Sister Cecily, formerly Elspeth Scallon, deepens as Mrs. Bannerman, her mother, arrives at the abbey. The chapter opens with Dame Domitilla informing the prioress, Dame Beatrice, about Mrs. Bannerman's request to see Cecily. Beatrice expresses concern that the visit will unsettle Cecily, who is already experiencing doubts about her vocation. Abbess Catherine decides she must meet Mrs. Bannerman herself, alluding to troubling reports about Cecily's state of mind.

As spring unfolds outside, it brings with it restlessness within the cloister. The novices, including Sister Agatha and Sister Polycarp, struggle with their emotions, mirroring the seasons' chaotic beauty. Yet, the tension primarily centers on Cecily, who seems to be battling fears about her future. Abbess Catherine worries for Cecily, who has been apprehensive and lost in her reflections.

When Mrs. Bannerman meets the Abbess, she is visibly distressed, attributing her son Larry's singular obsession with Cecily to her daughter's impact on his life, lamenting that her imminent death leaves her son in emotional turmoil. The Abbess reassures that Sister Cecily is not for sale — her heart and life are not commodities to be exchanged. The reality of the matter is presented starkly: Cecily is now a young woman at a crossroads,



and the future is hers alone to determine.

When Cecily eventually arrives, Mrs. Bannerman expresses her urgent desire for her daughter to return home. The moment is poignant — Cecily feels the weight of her mother's longing, and it sharply contrasts with her commitment to her calling. Surrounded by memories of love and family at Lamberton, Cecily feels the compelling pull towards home but understands the irrevocable nature of her choice. Earlier doubts evaporate as she kneels in chapel, experiencing a spiritual awakening that solidifies her resolve. She recalls moments from her past that anchor her identity, reaffirming her decision to remain in the convent and pursue her vocation fully.

Cecily's internal conflict resolves as she grasps the reality of her commitment to God over familial ties. It's a metaphorical journey from being enveloped in swirling mists to standing firm on solid ground, recognizing that her path is a wedding of sorts—not to a man or a family, but to a divine calling. The chapter culminates in Cecily's empowered choice to embrace her vocation, ready to confront Mrs. Bannerman with empathy but also with firmness, signaling her maturation and deepening faith as she confidently embodies the role of Sister Cecily.



Chapter 18: 18

In Chapter 18 of "In This House of Brede," the nuns at Brede Abbey experience a rare moment of connection with the wider Church as they gather to watch the opening of Vatican Council II via television, a first for the community. Abbess Catherine warns them this may be a unique occasion, emphasizing the historical significance of the Council, which followed a long gap since the last one in the 19th century. As the nuns watch the majestic scenes from Rome, their imaginations run wild with visions of its grandeur, and their senses come alive with the smells and sounds of the vibrant city.

The excitement and hope surrounding Pope John XXIII's initiative to initiate the Council contrasts starkly with the anxiety about his failing health; the nuns' prayers intensify upon hearing news of his critical condition. His death, a poignant moment for all involved, marks the end of an era and leaves a palpable sense of loss within the Abbey. Despite this, the Council continues under Pope Paul, prompting deep reflections among the nuns on the changes that are sweeping through the Church.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

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



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

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

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 19 Summary: 19

In Chapter 19 of "In This House of Brede" by Rumer Godden, the narrative centers around a significant and remarkable Solemn Profession ceremony at the abbey, marking the moment when four Japanese women—Julia, Grace, Susanna, and Colette—are welcomed as fully professed nuns. This event is both a joyous occasion and an unusual one for the community, as Abbess Catherine points out, emphasizing the diversity and cultural exchange represented by the new members. The celebration features the participation of high-ranking clergy, including the Bishop of Nagano, and the atmosphere is filled with excitement and reverence, highlighted by the arrival of families from Japan.

Each of the new nuns brings their own familial connections, with some having their relatives present to support them. Yoko, coming from a prominent background, attracts attention in the media, while the others enjoy a more private, reflective day, preferring to focus on their new spiritual journey. The moment is a blend of ceremony and personal introspection, as the new nuns start to integrate into the life of Brede, with Abbess Catherine hinting at their eventual full incorporation into the community.

Meanwhile, Mr. Konishi is actively planning for the future by seeking to establish a new house for aspirations of growth and renewal within the congregation, further fueling a sense of hope and progress. He is eager to



start building but is reminded by Abbess Catherine that patience is essential, as they await more postulants who will join their ranks.

Cecily, a seasoned nun by now, reflects on her past in her correspondence with Dame Maura, revealing a transformation of spirit. No longer the wide-eyed visionary, she finds joy in the quiet routine of monastic life and in serving the community, particularly in music, where her voice has matured impressively.

The chapter culminates in a poignant reunion when Dame Maura returns to Brede and hears Cecily sing during Benediction. The haunting beauty of Cecily's voice stirs profound emotions in both the congregation and in Dame Maura, who recognizes the depth of her friend's growth. The music resonates with themes of hope, longing, and divine reassurance, marking a moment of spiritual fulfillment amid the tranquil rhythms of monastic life.

Amidst this gathering of cultures, the voices of the nuns—both new and seasoned—echo themes of faith, community, and the shared journey towards spiritual enlightenment as they await the coming of the Lord. The chapter encapsulates a balance between the vibrancy of new beginnings and the deepening bonds of tradition and love, portraying the continuous evolution of faith within the serenity of Brede Abbey.



Chapter 20 Summary: 20

On a warm evening before Corpus Christi, we find Philippa in a poignant moment as she awaits the passing of Dame Emily Lovell in the infirmary. Over the years, Philippa has dedicated herself to guiding the Japanese nuns, the 'samas,' nurturing their community. She reflects on her unexpected journey from assisting in the laundry to becoming a key figure in the preparation for the impending foundation at Suwa, set to be an enriching spiritual home.

As the Japanese foundation approaches, Philippa grapples with her evolving role within Brede. Feeling bittersweet about her deepening connection to the community, she is shocked when she is appointed infirmarian after being released from her duties with the Japanese sisters. Despite her initial fear and disbelief, she grows into her role, finding intimacy in caring for the sick.

Dame Emily, though slowly fading, is a source of profound reflection for Philippa. While caring for her, Philippa learns about vulnerability and tenderness. The dying nun's presence serves as a reminder of faith and the beauty of acceptance in life's final moments.

The night is steeped in anticipation and calm, as Philippa contemplates the cycle of life and death. The peaceful atmosphere is disrupted when news arrives of Dame Colette's sudden passing, a shock to everyone, including



Abbess Catherine. This unexpected loss unsettles the community just days before the departure of the Japanese nuns.

As Philippa interacts with the other sisters, she feels the weight of everyone's grief and uncertainty about the future. The uncharacteristic disarray in the community is palpable; Philippa's thoughts spiral into self-doubt and anguish over her potential future as a leader in this new phase of their journey.

Yet amidst her turmoil, there are moments of connection, as seen in her exchanges with the Japanese nuns who seek comfort in her presence. Despite her internal struggles, Philippa channels her energy into her work in the infirmary, finding a respite through action.

Dame Agnes offers Philippa comfort and insight about the monastery's history, hinting at the sacrifices inherent in fostering a loving community. This conversation sparks a realization in Philippa about her own calling. Ultimately, she takes a decisive step towards her future, seeking Abbess Catherine to express her intentions, highlighting her growth and readiness to embrace change.

Chapter 20 encapsulates themes of duty, spirituality, and the continuous evolution of community bonds, intricately woven with the experiences of loss and renewal. Philippa's journey is one of self-discovery, revealing her



deepening commitment to her sisters, paving the way for her vital role in the upcoming changes at Suwa.

More Free Book



Scan to Download