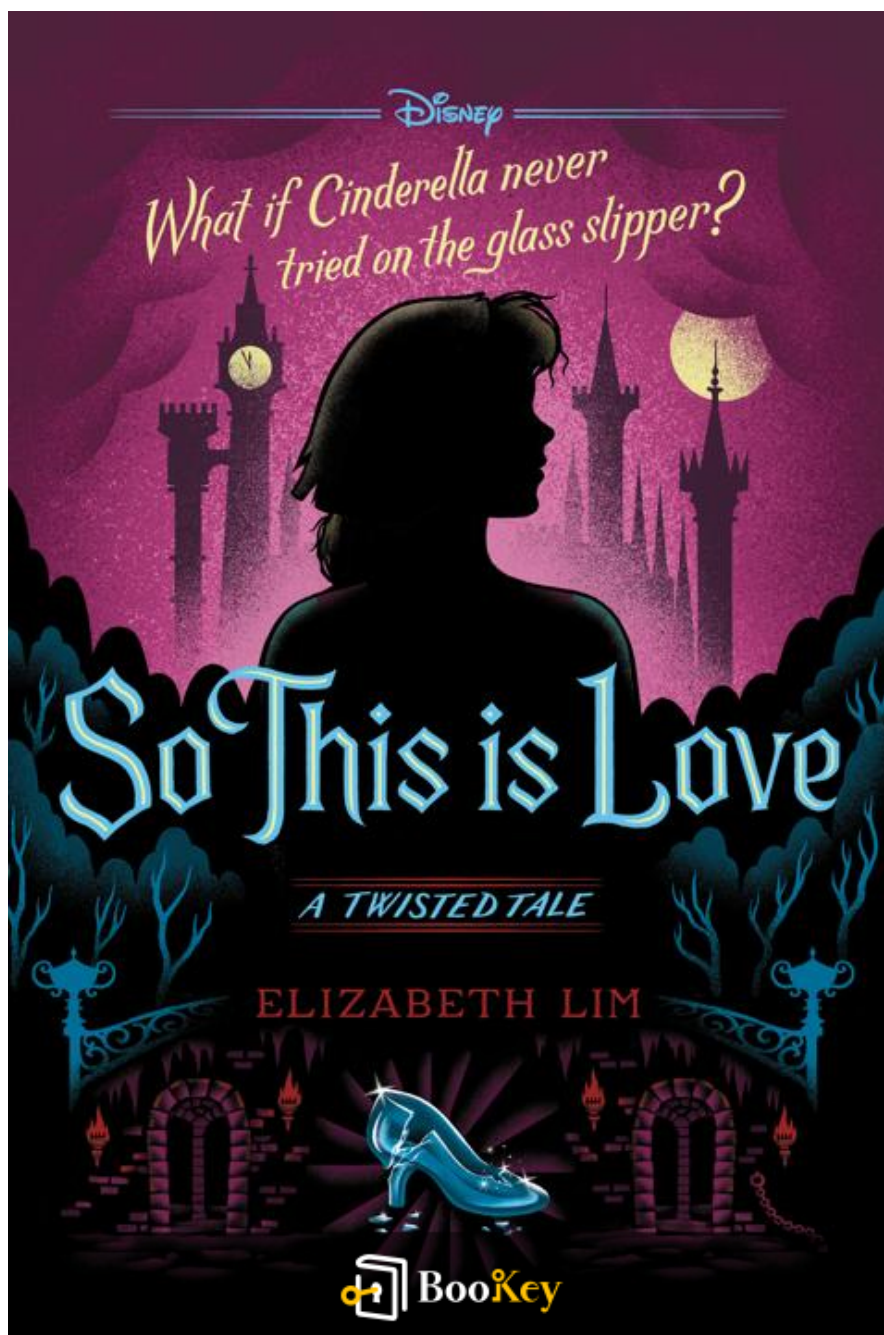


So This Is Love PDF (Limited Copy)

Elizabeth Lim



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So This Is Love Summary

A tale of love's transformative journey through magic.

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About the book

In "So This Is Love," Elizabeth Lim weaves a magical tale of romance and self-discovery that dares to ask the questions of what it truly means to love and to be loved in return. Set against a backdrop of vibrant kingdoms and enchanting wonders, the story follows the journey of a young heroine who grapples with her identity and destiny, all while navigating the intricate web of emotions that accompany her heart's desires. As she uncovers hidden truths and faces unforeseen challenges, readers are invited to immerse themselves in a world where fairy tales come to life, and every choice echoes with the possibility of new beginnings. With themes of courage, sacrifice, and the enduring power of love, Lim's narrative captivates the imagination and resonates deeply with anyone who has ever dared to dream of their own happily ever after.

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About the author

Elizabeth Lim is a talented author and storyteller known for her captivating young adult novels that weave together elements of fantasy, romance, and adventure. With a background in both writing and music, Lim's ability to create vivid and enchanting worlds shines through in her works, such as her critically acclaimed "Six Crimson Cranes" series and the enchanting reimagining of classic fairy tales in "So This Is Love." Her passion for storytelling is evident as she draws inspiration from her own experiences and cultural heritage, inviting readers to embark on magical journeys filled with hope, love, and self-discovery. Lim's unique voice and imaginative style have earned her a devoted fanbase and a prominent place in the realm of contemporary fantasy literature.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

In Chapter 1 of "So This Is Love," we are swept into the excitement surrounding a royal ball at King George's palace, a grand event that Cinderella has longed to attend. Despite arriving late and feeling out of place without an invitation, Cinderella's heart races with hope for just one dance, a taste of freedom after a life filled with hardship under her stepmother's oppressive rule.

As she explores the empty palace, she encounters a charming young man who guides her to the ballroom, sparking an immediate connection. The moment they dance, Cinderella is engulfed in joy, feeling as if they are the only two people in the room. Their dance is not just a physical one; it's an exchange of warmth and unspoken understanding, hinting at something deeper between them.

After their waltz, they retreat to the gardens, where Cinderella shares fond memories of her mother, who cultivated roses. Through heartfelt conversations, the young man's kindness allows Cinderella to reveal her dreams and desires, including a longing for love and companionship, which she has been deprived of for so long. Their connection deepens, culminating in a first kiss that awakens feelings within Cinderella that she thought were lost forever.



However, as the clock chimes midnight, the urgency of her fairy godmother's warning rushes back to her. In a panic, Cinderella bids farewell to the young man, running through the gardens back to her carriage just in time to watch the magical world around her dissolve back to her everyday life. As she transforms back into her rags, the reality of her situation hits her hard, yet she clings to the glass slipper, a symbol of the magical night she experienced.

Filled with a bittersweet mix of joy and sorrow, Cinderella reflects on the beauty of the evening and the hope it has given her for the future, not yet realizing that fate may intervene, forcing her to confront the possibilities that lie ahead. The chapter beautifully explores themes of longing, connection, and the fleeting nature of magical moments, setting the stage for Cinderella's journey of self-discovery and love.



Chapter 2 Summary:

As dawn broke over the kingdom, Cinderella began her day in surprisingly good spirits after the ball, where she unexpectedly danced with Prince Charles, now revealed as the prince of Aurelais. However, her joy quickly turns to concern when her stepmother, Lady Tremaine, announces that the Grand Duke is searching for the owner of the glass slipper left behind at the ball. The news stirs a whirlwind of hope and dreams within Cinderella—thoughts of escaping her life of servitude and perhaps even marrying the prince.

Cinderella's radiant anticipation soon fades as Lady Tremaine's jealousy and cruelty come to the forefront. When Cinderella prepares herself for the Grand Duke's visit, she is tragically trapped in her attic by her stepmother, who closes the door on her aspirations. In a desperate bid for freedom, Cinderella tries to catch the duke's attention from her window but fails, revealing the depth of her loneliness and despair.

As the Grand Duke departs without discovering her, Cinderella is left reflecting on her life and the oppressive environment created by her stepmother and stepsisters. Despite her feelings of entrapment and hopelessness, she clings to the other glass slipper, a symbol of the possibility of change. The chapter deepens Cinderella's character as she confronts her reality and begins to question the motives of her stepmother, positioning her



on a path toward self-discovery and empowerment.

The story weaves themes of hope, love, and family dynamics, showing how Cinderella navigates the tension between her dreams and the harshness of her current existence. This chapter captures her emotional turmoil and desire for a life beyond her confines, setting the stage for her eventual rebellion and quest for freedom.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Hope can be a catalyst for change.

Critical Interpretation: Just like Cinderella, in moments of despair and entrapment, you may find yourself holding onto a glimmer of hope that fuels your dreams of a better life. This chapter encourages you to recognize the power of hope as it propels you towards self-discovery and empowerment, inspiring you to confront your challenges and strive for the future you desire, regardless of the obstacles that may seem overwhelming.



Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, we find Ferdinand, the Grand Duke of Malloy, in a state of frustration and disillusionment. He reflects on his current situation: tasked with an exhausting quest to find the owner of a glass slipper, an obligation that has him feeling more like a messenger than a nobleman. The chapter opens with his disdain for his current responsibilities, particularly after a humiliating encounter with Lady Tremaine's daughters, who chaotically vied for the slipper.

As he rides through the city, Ferdinand's mind drifts to nostalgic memories of his father's statue and the great respect nobility once commanded—contrast that with the present, where commoners freely show disrespect. He's particularly vexed at the sight of pigeons perched atop his father's statue, symbolic of a decline in respect for lineage and royalty. This moment encapsulates Ferdinand's inner conflict about his identity and purpose, haunted by the weight of the legacy he feels he must uphold.

The chapter skillfully reveals Ferdinand's mounting frustration with not only

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In this gripping chapter, Cinderella's world continues to unravel as her stepmother, Lady Tremaine, confronts her about attending the ball. The chapter opens with Cinderella, feeling trapped and desperate, crafting a mental escape plan, even contemplating finding the Grand Duke to reveal the truth about the missing glass slipper. However, reality quickly overcomes her hopes when Lady Tremaine and her stepsisters, Anastasia and Drizella, invade her attic, mocking her and searching for answers.

The tension escalates as Lady Tremaine accuses Cinderella of lying about her attendance at the ball and implies that she must have stolen her gown and shoes. The stepsisters' cruelty surfaces as they begin to ransack Cinderella's modest room, searching for evidence of deceit. In a moment of panic, determined to protect the glass slipper, the embodiment of her fleeting happiness, Cinderella throws it against the wall, shattering the only remnant of the night that brought her joy.

Lady Tremaine, turning her focus entirely on Cinderella, scorns her, reminding her of her status as an orphan and servant, emphasizing the total lack of value she holds in the family. Despite the cruel words, Cinderella bravely defends herself, reiterating her worth as her father's daughter. Yet, no matter how she tries to bridge their differences, Lady Tremaine dismisses her; the stepmother's disdain runs deep, fueling their fraught relationship.



Cinderella relives snippets from her past, reflecting on her first encounters with Lady Tremaine and her stepsisters, highlighting her innocent desire for family acceptance, which ultimately turned into her worst nightmare. The chapter exposes the bitter reality of her stepmother's cunning nature, revealing Lady Tremaine's intent to sell Cinderella to a man who deals in "troublesome girls." This dark revelation brings the weight of Cinderella's plight crashing down on her once again.

As the weight of despair sinks in, Cinderella grapples with the fleeting hope that the glass slipper once represented, questioning her decision to ever attend the ball. This chapter beautifully captures Cinderella's internal struggle—a blend of courage and resignation—and sets up a powerful narrative about resilience in the face of adversity. She realizes, in the depths of her despair, that all she can do is wait, reinforcing the themes of hope, resilience, and the quest for belonging amidst unrelenting cruelty.



Chapter 5 Summary:

As dusk settled over Cinderella's world, she found herself trapped in her room, anxiety swirling through her as she surveyed the remnants of chaos left by her cruel stepmother and stepsisters. Locked away and desperate for freedom, she clung to memories of the magical night at the ball, where she danced with the prince, with a lingering hope that her Fairy Godmother could come to her aid again. Calling out for Lenore, her Fairy Godmother, she was greeted not by the warmth of magic, but by the reality of her situation. Lenore appeared, offering comfort but revealing the limitations of her powers—magic was forbidden in Aurelais, and she could not help Cinderella escape her dire predicament.

Cinderella was faced with the chilling news that a man named Mr. Laverre was coming to take her away. Drained but resolute, she pleaded for Lenore's help, fearing a grim fate awaited her. However, her Fairy Godmother could only offer a few words of encouragement and return her mother's green beads, a symbol of her heritage and strength. With the promise of support externally out of reach, Cinderella steeled herself for the return of her stepmother.

The tension escalated when Lady Tremaine arrived, bringing Mr. Laverre, who bore nefarious intentions. Cinderella, horrified at the prospect of being sold, scrambled for survival as Laverre overpowered her. In a desperate



struggle, she managed to escape from him, dodging his grasp after a fierce altercation and employing a shard of her shattered glass slipper to free herself from her bonds.

Outside, amidst a storm, Cinderella and her loyal dog, Bruno, faced the harsh reality of their new world—alone, hungry, and without a home. They took refuge in the doorway of a bakery, where Cinderella mused on the lessons from her stepmother's cruel words. However, rather than succumbing to despair, she resolved to forge her path. Emphasizing her determination to build a new life, she made a vow to Bruno: starting the next day, they would no longer be helpless. As the rain poured around them, a sense of hope flickered in Cinderella's heart. With each challenge, she grew more resolute, ready to confront whatever lay ahead.

Aspect	Summary
Cinderella's Situation	Trapped in her room by her cruel stepmother and stepsisters, feeling anxious and desperate for freedom.
Fairy Godmother's Limitations	Lenore, Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, appears but cannot help her due to forbidden magic in Aurelais.
Threat from Mr. Laverre	Cinderella learns Mr. Laverre is coming to take her away, heightening her fear of a grim fate.
Attempted Escape	Cinderella struggles against Mr. Laverre's attempts to overpower her and escapes using a shard of her glass slipper.
Struggles and	Outside, Cinderella and her dog Bruno face harsh realities but she

Aspect	Summary
Resolve	vows to build a new life and no longer be helpless.
Theme of Hope	Cinderella's determination grows as she resolves to confront challenges with hope in her heart.

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Chapter 6:

Cinderella wakes up to the sound of her dog Bruno barking, only to discover she's outside, disoriented and confused. Her initial thoughts are interrupted when a seamstress named Louisa, running late for work, encounters her. Louisa, tall and kind, helps Cinderella to her feet and expresses concern for her well-being. Their conversation unfolds, revealing Cinderella's difficult past and the loss of her father, which deeply affected her life. While Louisa is sympathetic, Cinderella tries to brush off her situation, insisting she will be fine.

As they talk, Louisa learns about Cinderella's name— a combination of her father's term of endearment and her stepfamily's mockery. Their connection deepens as they share stories, and Louisa reveals that she works at the palace. This revelation stirs emotions in Cinderella, reminding her of the life she fled. Time slips away quickly as the palace clock chimes, prompting Louisa to rush off to work while also expressing her intent to help Cinderella find a better situation.

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of "So This Is Love," we find Crown Prince Charles Maximilian Alexander in a state of turmoil regarding the search for the mysterious maiden who fits the glass slipper—the girl who captured his heart at the royal ball. Despite the urgent nature of his feelings, he is met with frustration as his father, King George-Louis Philippe III, and Grand Duke Ferdinand, who has been appointed to lead the search, seem dismissive of Charles's determination to seek her out personally.

The chapter opens with Charles entering the royal dining chamber, his mind racing as he demands updates on the search. The Grand Duke informs him that, after a thorough inquiry, no eligible maidens have been found among the nobility in the first two precincts of Valors. Charles insists on extending the search to all households, noble and common, but Ferdinand argues against it due to pressing state matters. This interaction reveals Charles's desperation and sense of duty to find the girl he believes might be his true love, contrasting sharply with the bureaucratic attitudes around him.

As tensions rise, the mention of Aunt Genevieve's unexpected arrival adds a layer of personal conflict for Charles. The king's distraction regarding his sister's visit, which he has clearly avoided for years, adds familial tension to the political strife. When the king chokes on his food during breakfast, it's a stark moment showcasing his frailty, but amidst the chaos, he displays a



dismissive attitude toward his health, which concerns Charles deeper.

Continuing to feel sidelined, Charles suggests that he should participate in the council meetings to aid his father and the kingdom, highlighting his desire for more responsibility and involvement. However, his father deflects this request, insisting he focus on personal matters first. This dynamic shows the growing rift between Charles's proactive nature and his father's protective instincts as a parent, who believes in shielding his son from the burdens of the crown, even as Charles longs for the chance to prove himself.

The chapter closes with Charles feeling both protective of his father and determined to find the girl who has enchanted him. He takes solace in his usual retreat—the gardens—where he hopes to gather his thoughts and perhaps recall something about the girl who has occupied his own heart. As he heads to the stables for a ride, there's a palpable sense of longing and resolve, setting the stage for his quest to uncover not just the identity of the girl he loves, but also to navigate the complex familial and political landscape of Aurelais.

Themes of duty versus desire, the weight of expectations, and the search for genuine connection resonate throughout this chapter, as Charles grapples with feelings of helplessness while trying to assert his own agency in a world filled with tradition and obligation.



Chapter 8 Summary:

In Chapter 8 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, the bustling city of Valors awakens at dawn as Cinderella navigates its lively streets with her new friend Louisa. As she takes in the vibrant atmosphere, the memories of her lonely past with Lady Tremaine begin to fade, replaced by dreams of a hopeful future—like opening her very own flower shop someday.

As they approach the palace, Cinderella's excitement mingles with anxiety. Upon entering, she and Louisa encounter Madame Irmina, the strict overseer at the palace, who initially dismisses Cinderella, insisting there's no place for her among the royal household. Louisa, however, advocates for her, arguing that they'll need more help with the arrival of a new princess. Their exchange underscores the tension between social status and worth, particularly in the starkly hierarchical world of the palace.

Madame Irmina ultimately allows Cinderella to stay, but only under the condition that she strictly obeys palace rules. Louisa gives Cinderella a quick lesson on palace life, explaining the unique terms they use to describe their quarters and the expectations placed on staff, hinting at the inherent challenges and snobbery possible in the noble setting.

The atmosphere thickens when the Grand Duke arrives, likely due to Princess Genevieve's mysterious absence since the ball. Unbeknownst to



everyone, Cinderella is the lady he seeks, having left behind her glass slipper that night. Cinderella's heart races at the thought of revealing her identity, but apprehension holds her back. The Grand Duke tasks her with keeping an eye on the duchess and reporting back to him—a decision that places her in a precarious position as she grapples with her dual lives as a servant and the potential lost princess.

As Cinderella adapts to her new role, the chapter deftly captures her inner conflicts, the themes of identity and belonging, and the stark contrasts between different social strata. The stage is set for Cinderella's journey of self-discovery and the attempts to navigate the tangled web of palace intrigue, while still holding on to dreams of a life filled with love and recognition.

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Chapter 9:

In Chapter 9 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Cinderella finds herself navigating the daunting halls of the palace, tasked with serving the Duchess of Orlanne, Genevieve. As she approaches the duchess's chambers, she encounters the brash and demanding personality of her new mistress. The duchess, dressed elegantly yet exuding a fierce temperament, surprises Cinderella by initially dismissing her with disdain, pointing out her dirty appearance and lack of experience. However, the dynamic quickly shifts when Cinderella stands her ground, providing honest feedback about the duchess's clothing, which impresses Genevieve enough to reconsider her attitude.

As the chapter unfolds, Cinderella helps the duchess prepare for lunch but feels increasingly out of place. Despite Duchess Genevieve's sharp tongue and demanding nature, there's an underlying vulnerability to her character that Cinderella begins to uncover, especially through the portraits that reveal the duchess's past relationship with her brother, the king. This glimpse into their familial bond hints at complex emotions that define their current

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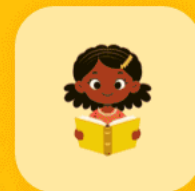
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Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 10 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Prince Charles is grappling with feelings of responsibility and the weight of royal expectations as he navigates his late arrival to lunch with his father and Aunt Genevieve. Trying to devise excuses for his tardiness, he reflects on his recent ride outside the palace, where he sought solace from the constraints of his royal life. Lost in memories of his childhood and escaping the pressure of his title, he fails to notice the time passing.

As he makes his way to the dining hall, Charles encounters a new servant, a young woman with striking blue eyes, who captivates him instantly. He feels an inexplicable connection to her, an echo of familiarity that stirs a longing within him. Yet, he brushes off the encounter as he hastens to join his aunt and father, regretting not having taken the time to learn more about her.

Charles then speaks with Madame Irmina, a palace staff member, inquiring about the girl with the lavender sash. He learns that she recently arrived as an orphan with nowhere to go, which adds layers to his intrigue about her. Despite being raised to believe in the nobility of his potential bride, Charles can't shake off his intuition that this girl might not be what everyone expects. Instead of feeling excited at reuniting with his family, he's tormented by thoughts of the mysterious girl he danced with at a recent ball—a girl who managed to see him beyond his title and left without a



trace.

Fueled by hope, Charles resolves to enlist Aunt Genevieve's help to find this elusive dream girl, clutching onto the possibility that maybe, just maybe, she's more than a fleeting memory. Through his reflections, the chapter powerfully highlights themes of self-identity, the longing for genuine connection, and the tension between royal duty and personal desire.

Charles's journey from the shadows of royal expectations toward the warmth of personal relationships hints at an evolving narrative of love and longing against his privileged yet isolating background.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

Cinderella is still grappling with her feelings after a fleeting encounter with Prince Charles, realizing he doesn't remember her. Determined to distract herself, she throws herself into her duties as the duchess's attendant. The grandiose palace proves more challenging than she expected, as Duchess Genevieve, her new mistress, is demanding and has a precise nature, which keeps Cinderella busy. Despite Genevieve's strictness, Cinderella finds herself warming up to her, particularly after discovering the duchess's love for reading—something that had always been forbidden by her cruel stepmother.

One day while fetching books for Genevieve, Cinderella encounters her beloved dog Bruno in a troubling situation with Madame Irmina, who insists there are no pets allowed in the palace. However, in a surprising turn of events, Duchess Genevieve intervenes and expresses her newfound fondness for Bruno, deciding to keep him despite the palace rules. This act not only saves Cinderella's dog but also provides Cinderella with a chance to bond with the duchess.

As Cinderella shares her past with Genevieve, revealing the loneliness they both experience due to losses in their lives, a deeper connection forms between them. The duchess becomes candid about her own struggles with family and the weight of expectations, particularly regarding Prince Charles,



hinting at various secrets surrounding the royal family. She reveals her brother's intentions for Charles to secure a wife and prepare for the throne, drawing concerns of succession and family dynamics into the conversation.

Amidst their developing friendship, Cinderella discovers a peculiar message scribbled in one of the books she borrowed, hinting at the restoration of magic and adventure. This further fuels her curiosity about the world around her, bridging her mundane life with the fantastical stories she longs for.

As the chapter unfolds, themes of loneliness, the yearning for genuine connection, and the struggles for identity emerge through Cinderella’s interactions with both the duchess and her own memories. Ultimately, Cinderella’s new role takes on a significance far beyond mere servitude, evolving into a path of rediscovering herself amidst the palace’s grandeur and secrets.

Key Points	Description
Cinderella's Feelings	Cinderella reflects on her fleeting encounter with Prince Charles and struggles with the fact that he doesn't remember her.
Duties as Duchess's Attendant	To distract herself, Cinderella immerses in her new role as the duchess's attendant, facing challenges under Duchess Genevieve's demanding nature.
Connection with Duchess	Despite Genevieve's strictness, Cinderella finds common ground through their mutual love of reading, a passion forbidden by her stepmother.

Key Points	Description
Bruno's Situation	Cinderella discovers her dog, Bruno, in trouble with Madame Irmina. Duchess Genevieve intervenes and decides to keep Bruno, strengthening their bond.
Shared Struggles	Cinderella and Genevieve connect over their loneliness and family struggles, including Genevieve's concerns about Prince Charles's future and family expectations.
Mysterious Message	Cinderella finds a peculiar message in a borrowed book about the restoration of magic, which ignites her curiosity for adventure.
Themes	The chapter explores loneliness, the desire for connection, struggles for identity, and Cinderella's journey of self-discovery amidst palace secrets.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The power of connection in overcoming loneliness

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, as Cinderella navigates the challenges of her new role, she learns that genuine connections can emerge in the most unexpected places. The friendship she develops with Duchess Genevieve not only alleviates her feelings of isolation but also allows both women to share their struggles, reminding you that forging relationships can be a vital source of support and understanding. This realization encourages you to seek meaningful connections in your own life, particularly during times when you feel alone, reinforcing the transformative power of empathy and shared experiences.

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Chapter 12:

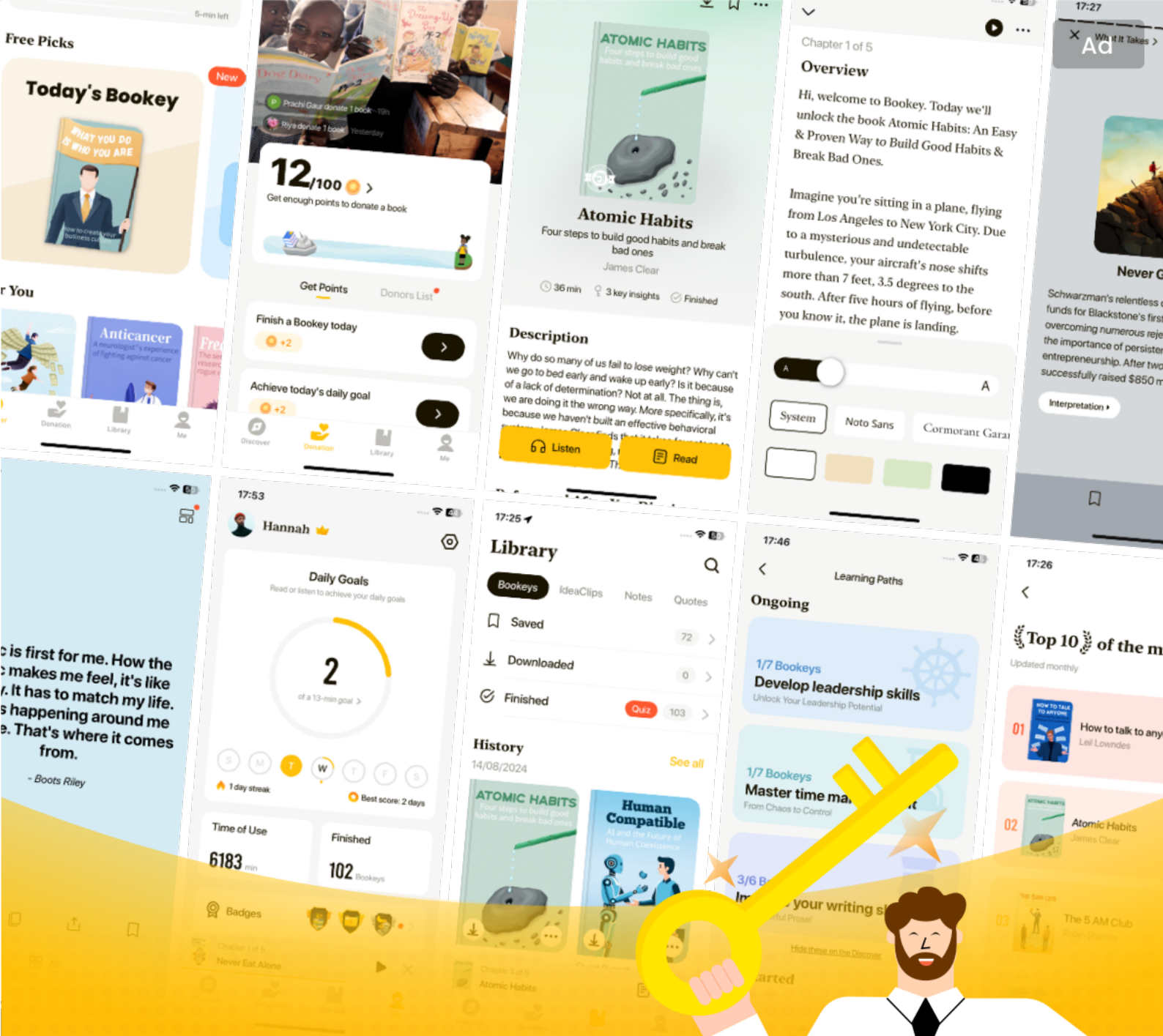
In Chapter 12 of "So This Is Love," Cinderella faces her fears about confronting the Grand Duke Ferdinand, a man she instinctively distrusts. As she enters the duke's grand office, she is hit by the heavy atmosphere and the smell of burnt wax, suggesting his intense and occupied nature. When he finally acknowledges her presence, he eagerly demands a report on the duchess, pressing Cinderella for meaningful information that she struggles to fabricate. The duke reveals his manipulative side, insisting on her loyalty to the kingdom while subtly intimidating her about her position.

During their conversation, Cinderella learns about the complexities of the duchess, Genevieve, and her troubled history with the king, which the duke manipulates to further his own interests. Despite the pressure, Cinderella maintains her composure, carefully choosing what to reveal about the duchess's sleeping troubles. The duke's curiosity about Genevieve's health hints at deeper political tensions, amplifying Cinderella's sense of unease.

Upon returning to the duchess, Cinderella's concern for her well-being leads

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In Chapter 13 of "So This Is Love," we dive into the intricate web of court politics and manipulation surrounding Ferdinand, the Grand Duke of Malloy, and Prince Charles. The chapter opens with Ferdinand preparing to meet the prince, hoping to persuade him amidst the ongoing search for the maiden who fit the glass slipper. The mood in the palace is tense; bright sunlight spills into the room, mirroring the weight of expectation hanging over the prince, who has become increasingly consumed by his desire to locate the slipper's owner.

Ferdinand observes that Charles has changed during his time away at university, where he encountered radical ideas about governance that challenge traditional monarchical values. Rather than enjoying his princely privileges, Charles has become fixated on the slipper quest, displaying a devotion that astonishes Ferdinand. Instead of focusing on crucial state affairs, the prince is preoccupied with what Ferdinand considers a frivolous obsession, showcasing a rift between the youth's ideals and the Grand Duke's conservative approach.

As Ferdinand attempts to engage Charles, the prince is curt and dismissive, reflecting his frustration with the Grand Duke's previous failures. Charles resists Ferdinand's suggestions and insists on hearing directly from his father about state matters, signaling his rebellion against Ferdinand's



influence. This interaction reveals a strained mentor-student dynamic, with Charles’s defiance highlighting his emerging sense of agency and autonomy as a future ruler.

Ferdinand, realizing he has lost ground, feels the urgency of his ambitions growing. He reflects on the king’s health and his waning influence over the royal family. As he reads a physician's report noting the king's stress, Ferdinand becomes increasingly agitated, sensing that his long-constructed plans are now at risk. With the king more reliant on his son and less on his advisor, Ferdinand fears being stripped of his powerful position.

His thoughts turn to a seemingly trivial detail—information about a sleeping draught shared by a new palace maid. Ferdinand's keen mind recognizes its significance, revealing his ruthless ambition and willingness to exploit even the smallest details to maintain power. The chapter ends with Ferdinand plotting his next move, embodying themes of ambition, power struggle, and the contrast between youthful idealism and established authority, setting the stage for further conflict in the story.

Chapter 13 Summary
Main Characters: Ferdinand (Grand Duke), Prince Charles Setting: Palace, tense atmosphere with bright sunlight reflecting expectations. Plot Highlights: Ferdinand prepares to persuade Charles amidst the slipper quest.

Chapter 13 Summary

Charles has changed at university, adopting radical ideas about governance. Charles is dismissive towards Ferdinand, showing frustration with past failures. Strained mentor-student dynamic is evident as Charles seeks autonomy. Ferdinand fears losing influence as the king's health declines.

Insights about a sleeping draught from a maid intrigue Ferdinand, revealing his ambition.

Themes: Ambition, power struggle, youthful idealism vs. established authority.

Conclusion: Ferdinand plots his next move, setting the stage for further conflict.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, we find Charles, the crown prince of Aurelais, struggling with the expectations placed on him and reflecting on his mysterious connection with a girl he met at a recent ball. The chapter opens with Charles feeling relieved after the departure of Ferdinand, the Grand Duke, whom he dislikes and distrusts, especially regarding the ongoing search for the girl who left behind a glass slipper. His thoughts are interrupted by an attendant, Pierre, who informs him that his Aunt Genevieve is waiting for him.

Determined to escape the expectations of royalty, Charles opts for a plain carriage and an old university jacket rather than his royal attire. This decision shows his desire to embrace his identity as Charles, rather than the crown prince, at least for a little while. As he joins Aunt Genevieve, she teasingly reminds him of his habitual tardiness, but their bond quickly becomes apparent, marked by playful banter and shared memories, which provide a comforting background as they embark on their outing.

During their ride through the town, the conversation shifts to more serious topics. Charles expresses the frustration of feeling lost and lovelorn over the girl he believes is meant for him. His aunt, eager to understand this mysterious figure, encourages him to share his feelings. Charles reveals that unlike other young women, this girl didn't know about his royal status,



which makes her special in his eyes. Their discussion naturally evolves into thoughts about societal issues, as Charles reflects on the poverty he witnessed during his studies—insight that he had never absorbed while living in the palace.

Aunt Genevieve offers wisdom and candid observations about the burdens of royalty, especially concerning marriage and the political aspirations of Ferdinand. Charles's concern deepens when Genevieve hints that King George plans to abdicate, foreshadowing a turbulent shift in the kingdom's leadership, which could challenge his ability to enact meaningful change for the people.

Their conversation touches on the nature of love and marriage, prompting Charles's realization that he may have made a rash promise to find the girl from the ball solely based on her fitting the glass slipper. Genevieve wisely advises him to clarify his feelings and to ensure any relationship is based on genuine love rather than superficial expectations.

As they discuss the possibility of a future ball to facilitate the girl's reappearance, Genevieve suggests making it a masquerade to help Charles discern true feelings. The chapter ends with a mix of hope and uncertainty, as Charles agrees to the plan while reflecting on the weight of his duties and the changing dynamics within the palace and the kingdom.



Overall, this chapter beautifully explores themes of identity, love, and the responsibilities that come with leadership. Charles's internal struggles and his relationship with Aunt Genevieve provide depth to his character, while the socio-political landscape sets the stage for potential conflicts and growth in the story ahead.

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Chapter 15:

In Chapter 15 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Cinderella embarks on a venture to the Royal Library, a place she usually visits to fetch books for the duchess but now seeks to explore for herself. The library is situated in the southern wing of the palace, adorned with a rich tapestry of royal art, and while she surveys the portraits lining the hall, she feels a bittersweet connection to the past, especially when she sees a youthful Prince Charles' portrait—a reflection of his lost childhood.

As Cinderella navigates the library's shelves, her excitement bubbles over as she contemplates the various books she could choose. However, her curiosity soon leads her to a surprising and unsettling truth: magic is not only forbidden but has been systematically erased from the kingdom's history. This revelation comes during a tense exchange with Mr. Ravel, the librarian, who bluntly warns Cinderella against prying into the subject of magic, indicating severe consequences such as execution for those who practice it.

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Chapter 16 Summary:

In Chapter 16 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, tensions flare between Ferdinand and Genevieve, who returns seeking the attention of her brother, King George. Ferdinand is frustrated by her sudden reappearance and her attempts to usurp his influence at court, especially during a critical moment right after a council meeting. He tries to maintain a facade of politeness, but his dislike for her is palpable. Genevieve demands time with the king under the pretense of discussing family matters, forcing Ferdinand to step aside against his wishes.

Once alone with the king, Genevieve plants the seeds for a grand masquerade ball, hoping to create an atmosphere in which Prince Charles can discover true love, separate from societal expectations regarding beauty. King George, seemingly revitalized by Genevieve's presence, eagerly agrees to her plan, frustrating Ferdinand even more. He wishes to steer the prince toward a marriage that would benefit the kingdom politically, namely an alliance with the Princess of Lourdes, but the king dismisses his counsel, insistent on Genevieve's emotional approach.

As Ferdinand grapples with the king's stubbornness and Genevieve's growing influence, he recognizes the urgency of maintaining his own power and status. He contemplates the ramifications of Charles's potential choices, worried that an ill-advised love affair could jeopardize his own position



when Charles ascends to the throne. In a moment of scheming resolve, Ferdinand decides he must gather intelligence to mold the situation to his advantage, starting with Cinderella, a servant girl who seems linked to the young prince's affections.

Throughout the chapter, themes of power struggle, familial loyalty, and the collision of personal emotions with political duty come into play.

Ferdinand's manipulation and ambition surface as he calculates his next move in the royal game, setting the stage for increasing conflicts and drama within the court. His inner frustrations with both the king and Genevieve highlight his desperation to reclaim control, showcasing the intricate balance between love, duty, and ambition in this enchanting tale.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of navigating personal ambition while balancing relationships

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, you witness Ferdinand's struggle to preserve both his influence and the integrity of family dynamics, a conflict all too familiar in life. The key point here inspires you to think critically about your own ambitions and how they may affect your relationships. It encourages you to assess situations where you might be clinging too tightly to control or power, reminding you that sometimes, letting go and allowing others to shine—like Genevieve's emotional approach—can lead to unexpected outcomes and strengthen connections. Embracing collaboration over competition might just lead you to a deeper understanding of love, loyalty, and your place within the intricate web of human interactions.



Chapter 17 Summary:

In Chapter 17 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Cinderella finds herself facing the formidable Grand Duke Ferdinand, who is less than pleased with her nonchalance toward his authority. Despite her prior fears of him, she stands her ground, revealing her past experiences with true tyrants—her stepmother, Lady Tremaine. The Grand Duke calls her in with a serious agenda, demanding she act as a spy on Duchess Genevieve, insinuating that Genevieve's husband was a traitor who poses a threat to the kingdom.

As Cinderella navigates this tense conversation, she is filled with disbelief at the Duke's accusations, questioning why the Duchess, who has been kind to her, would be a traitor. The Duke's persuasive rhetoric paints a dark picture of Genevieve's past and her husband's dubious connections, which he insists put the kingdom at risk. Cinderella is torn between her loyalty to the Duchess and the terrible implications of the Duke's threats, including the well-being of her friend Louisa's family, who could be harmed if she doesn't comply.

When confronted with the Duke's chilling ultimatum—cooperate or face dire consequences for herself and those she cares about—Cinderella reluctantly agrees to his demands. The chapter captures her internal struggle, showcasing her resilience and her desire to protect those she loves, while



also revealing the complexity of the court's political intrigues.

As she walks back to the Duchess's chambers, Cinderella is consumed by anxious thoughts about how to navigate her newfound role under the Duke's coercive influence. Just as she grapples with her next steps, her friend Louisa interrupts her thoughts with exciting news of a potential royal ball, reigniting Cinderella's conflicting feelings about the prince. However, her focus remains steadfast on the loyalty she feels toward Genevieve and the challenge of alleviating Louisa's jeopardized position. Ultimately, Cinderella is determined to untangle herself from the manipulative grasp of the Grand Duke, reflecting the overarching themes of loyalty, courage, and the quest for self-empowerment in the face of oppression.

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Chapter 18:

In Chapter 18 of "So This Is Love," the Grand Duke Ferdinand seeks out Genevieve d'Orlanne for information amidst a swirling court intrigue. Their meeting is charged with tension, revealing a history of bitterness between them. Genevieve is brusque and cold, clearly resentful of Ferdinand, who once held her in high regard. She accuses him of being a manipulative scoundrel responsible for her husband's disgrace and the banishment of her children, highlighting her deep-seated anger and loss.

Ferdinand, in his smooth and cunning manner, presses Genevieve on her motives for returning to court, suggesting she's an unwelcome influence on her nephew, Prince Charles. Genevieve defends her care for Aurelais, insisting her return is about supporting her nephew in finding a bride, not about political scheming. Yet, Ferdinand doubts her sincerity, sensing a deeper agenda linked to Charles's future kingship and potential alliances.

The conversation continues to escalate, touching on themes of power, loyalty, and the changing tides of their kingdom. Ferdinand warns

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Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Cinderella finds herself in a bustling servants' quarters, surrounded by excited chatter about a new ball that has been ordered by the king, set for the following night. The allure of the ball brings mixed feelings for her; while the prospect of the prince looking for a new bride stirs rumors and dreams among the other girls, Cinderella feels detached and unsure, recognizing her life as a servant and her lack of personal claim to the prince.

Madame Irmina, the head of the servants, announces the upcoming ball will be even more lavish than the last, but with that comes increased duties for the servants, leaving them little chance to attend the festivities. Cinderella is singled out by Irmina for a private conversation and learns she has earned the trust to remain as an attendant to the Duchess Genevieve for the duration of her visit. This is a small but significant victory for Cinderella as she hopes to save money for her future.

However, her encounter with the duchess reveals that Genevieve is preoccupied and in a less-than-cheerful mood, possibly due to tension with the royal family. As Cinderella tries to assist the duchess in preparing for the ball, she learns that the entire event is not as whimsical as she initially believed; instead, it's a ploy to find a suitable wife for the prince, pressured by his father. This revelation deeply unsettles Cinderella, as she yearns for



genuine connection but worries she is merely a pawn in royal schemes.

Cinderella reflects on her previous encounter with the prince, questioning whether their connection was real or just fleeting. Her doubts intensify when she overhears the duchess dismiss the mysterious girl in the light blue gown who captured the prince's heart, referring to her as “spineless” for running away. Cinderella struggles with feelings of insecurity and the reality of her past as she considers whether attending the ball would even be worthwhile.

In a poignant moment, she longs to escape the palace confines and enjoy the beauty of the gardens, reminiscent of the nurturing environment her mother once created. However, the harsh reality of the palace rules keeps her from freely accessing it, amplifying her sense of confinement.

After a tiring day filled with contemplation, Cinderella returns to her room, grappling with loneliness and the shadows of her unhappy upbringing under her stepmother's cruelty. Yet, before she can draw any conclusions, her fairy godmother, Lenore, unexpectedly appears, bringing comfort and support. Their conversation reveals Lenore’s regret over the loss of magic in Aurelais and the pain caused by her absence from Cinderella’s life during difficult times.

Lenore shares the history of the fairy community being persecuted due to the actions of a few miscreants, explaining how fear had driven her away.

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Rather than wallow in sadness, Lenore urges Cinderella to seek her own happiness and enjoy the moment, suggesting she attend the masquerade ball. This advice prompts Cinderella to reflect on her yearning for freedom and her desire to help others who feel trapped. Ultimately, Lenore’s encouraging words make Cinderella reconsider her stance on the ball, igniting a flicker of hope within her as she contemplates embracing life and potential joy, however fleeting.

The chapter closes with Lenore disappearing as she reminds Cinderella that finding happiness requires time and acknowledging both small joys and larger aspirations. Cinderella is left with the weight of her thoughts but also with a new resolve to pursue her dreams, hinting that the path to fulfillment might just intertwine with the upcoming festivities.

Section	Summary
Setting	Cinderella is in the bustling servants' quarters as excitement builds for a ball ordered by the king.
Cinderella's Feelings	She feels detached and uncertain about the ball, recognizing her role as a servant and the implications of the prince seeking a new bride.
Madame Irmina's Announcement	The head of the servants reveals that the upcoming ball will be lavish but comes with increased duties, limiting the servants' chance to attend.
Cinderella's Role	Cinderella is appointed as an attendant to Duchess Genevieve, seen as a small victory that allows her to save money for her future.
Duchess	The duchess is preoccupied, and Cinderella learns the ball is a

Section	Summary
Genevieve	strategy to find a wife for the prince, which unsettles her.
Cinderella's Reflection	After an interaction with the duchess, Cinderella questions the authenticity of her previous encounter with the prince.
Feelings of Insecurity	Cinderella feels insecure, especially after overhearing disparaging comments about the girl in the blue gown and questions attending the ball.
Longing for Freedom	She reminisces about her mother and longs to escape the palace, but is constrained by palace rules.
Loneliness	After a reflective day, Cinderella grapples with loneliness and her troubled past before her fairy godmother, Lenore, appears.
Fairy Godmother's Advice	Lenore discusses the difficulties faced by the fairy community and encourages Cinderella to seek happiness, suggesting she attend the masquerade ball.
Cinderella's Resolve	Inspired by Lenore's words, Cinderella starts to reconsider her feelings about the ball, illustrating a flicker of hope for freedom and joy.
Chapter Conclusion	The chapter ends with Lenore reminding Cinderella that finding happiness takes time and urging her to acknowledge both small joys and larger aspirations.



Chapter 20 Summary:

The next morning, Cinderella is absorbed by her recent talk with Lenore, but she quickly snaps back to her duties at the royal palace, where the buzz of preparations for a grand masquerade fills the air. With the seamstress Louisa overwhelmed by the work, Cinderella steps in to help, showcasing her natural kindness and teamwork spirit. The workspace is chaotic, with gowns and fabrics scattered as Louisa, the junior seamstress, juggles several tasks, preparing for the ball.

As they chat, Louisa reveals the excitement surrounding the "mysterious princess effect," where many ladies are trying to replicate Cinderella's magical look from the previous ball in hopes of winning the prince's attention. With a playful tone, Louisa expresses skepticism about love at first sight, but Cinderella believes that it's possible. Their conversation highlights a theme of romantic idealism versus the harsh realities of life, as Louisa whimsically mocks the notion of fairy tale love.

Cinderella discovers hidden pockets in a pair of trousers she's mending, uncovering useless items like handkerchiefs and a mysterious vial, sparking curiosity about the noble class's secret lives. Louisa's discontent with her Aunt Irmina, the strict head seamstress, adds more depth to Cinderella's own narrative, showcasing her resilience in the face of authority.



When Madame Irmina walks in, tensions rise, but Louisa's quick wit defuses the situation, revealing the lighthearted, yet exhausting dynamic in the workroom. Louisa's playful banter with Cinderella provides a contrast to the heavier topics of Cinderella's past and her fears, especially about her stepmother, who has subjected her to years of mistreatment.

Cinderella finally reveals the truth of her difficult life: her stepmother's cruelty and the weight of their family's dark past, including an attempt to sell her off. Louisa's empathetic response offers Cinderella solace, emphasizing the theme of friendship as a counter to fear and isolation. Louisa encourages Cinderella to join her at the ball, assuring her that even if their supervisor catches them, the joy of attending will make it worth it.

In a pivotal moment of empowerment, Cinderella decides to experience the ball for herself. This decision signifies her desire to reclaim her identity and freedom, showcasing a hopeful future as she looks forward to the masquerade with her new friend. The chapter culminates in the anticipation of excitement and camaraderie, highlighting themes of love, friendship, and the courage to break free from the past.



Chapter 21:

As the evening descends on the ballroom, Cinderella buzzes with anticipation and anxiety while dressing the duchess, Genevieve. Despite her duties, she sneaks glances out the window, revealing her longing to attend the ball herself. Genevieve, noticing Cinderella's distraction, teasingly chides her about her excitement for the returning court. Despite her warning against attending the exclusive masquerade, Genevieve surprises Cinderella by gifting her two beautiful masks. This gesture opens up a possibility for Cinderella to break the rules with style.

Soon after, Cinderella's friend Louisa shows up in a stunning olive-green gown, which she shares Cinderella can borrow for the night. Cinderella is overwhelmed by their plan to attend the ball undetected and gets dressed in a lovely pink gown adorned with crystals and her mother's beads. With the masks on, both friends feel excited yet nervous, hoping they remain unrecognizable amidst the crowd.

Upon arrival at the magnificent ballroom, Cinderella marvels at its beauty

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Chapter 22 Summary:

In this pivotal chapter of "So This Is Love," Cinderella finds herself in the midst of an enchanting ball, destabilized by the presence of her stepmother and stepsisters. Seeking refuge, she hides behind a floral arrangement, eagerly searching for her friend Louisa amidst the crowd. In a moment of serendipity, Cinderella accidentally catches the attention of Prince Charles, who is disguised in simpler attire, attempting to enjoy the festivities incognito.

As they share an awkward yet charming encounter—marked by an accidental drop of his mask—there's an undeniable connection that sparks between them. Charles recognizes Cinderella, momentarily astonished by the serendipity of their reunion. Their conversation flows with nervous excitement, marking a sweet contrast to the expectations surrounding their respective station—he, the prince, and she, a servant.

The prince's genuine affection is evident as he invites Cinderella to dance, causing her to wrestle with her insecurities about their societal differences. The warmth of his words softens her fears, inviting her into a space where they explore shared memories of loss, particularly regarding their late mothers. In an emotionally charged moment, Charles reveals that he feels a deep connection to Cinderella, expressing sentiments that resonate profoundly with her.



As they drift away from the noise of the ballroom into the tranquility of the garden, their bond deepens. They share stories from their pasts, illuminating the loneliness that both have experienced despite their contrasting lives. A sense of camaraderie builds as they stumble upon a beautiful fountain with a rich history, symbolizing peace and connection.

However, the moment is fractured by the arrival of Cinderella's stepfamily, who are eager to hunt her down. An instinctive fear of being discovered prompts her to pull away from Charles, leaving him confused and hurt. In a frantic escape, she drops her mask into the pond, symbolizing her fleeting grasp on this enchanting encounter.

This chapter captures themes of love, identity, and the tensions of social class, showcasing how Cinderella must navigate her feelings and circumstances while hinting at the transformative power of love, even amidst societal constraints. The magic of their connection is poignant yet fraught with the uncertainty of what the future holds, setting the stage for Cinderella's internal struggle between her desires and her reality.



Chapter 23 Summary:

Cinderella's heart raced as she sprinted through the royal gardens, desperately making her way to the servants' quarters, still grappling with the events of the ball and the prince. Following Louisa's directions, she finally reached Blooms and Looms, where a guard teased her about being late. Relieved to learn that Louisa had escaped their stepmother's wrath, Cinderella slipped into her room, but her thoughts swirled with anxiety about her identity. She had run from the prince without revealing who she truly was—just a maid in the palace.

Struggling with her feelings, Cinderella recalled her stepmother's harsh words about her status as an orphan and a servant, and her self-doubt crept in. Sleep eluded her as she wrestled with thoughts of what the next day might bring. When morning arrived, Madame Irmina, the strict supervisor, ordered Cinderella to serve breakfast to the royal family due to an ill colleague. Panic set in as she remembered the prince from the previous night; serving him while hiding her identity felt daunting.

As they prepared for breakfast service, Cinderella couldn't shake the urge to look for the prince, her heart flipped when she saw him at the table. She overheard a discussion between him and the Grand Duke about a girl who had slipped away after the ball, indicating that he still sought her. But before she could process it, her mother's beads fell into the king's tea during her



service, and chaos ensued. Embarrassed and panicked, she returned to the kitchen, wishing to disappear.

However, Prince Charles found her, having retrieved the necklace. His warmth was undeniable as they spoke, challenging Cinderella to trust him. His declaration that she was the girl he had been waiting for brought a mix of hope and fear. She hesitated, knowing that marrying a prince would thrust her into a world of royal scrutiny and expectations. Despite her excitement and the warmth blossoming within, Cinderella communicated her need for time to come to terms with this whirlwind of feelings.

Charles was understanding, and their connection deepened as he captured a moment of intimacy by gracing her cheek with a kiss. Just as they shared this moment of joy, they unwittingly revived the attention of the Grand Duke, who witnessed their secret exchange, raising a looming threat over the future they'd begun to imagine. In this chapter, the themes of love, identity, and the struggle against societal expectations are vividly portrayed, capturing Cinderella's internal turmoil and the thrill of newfound affection amidst the shadows of her past.



Chapter 24:

In Chapter 24 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Ferdinand, the Grand Duke, grapples with the shocking realization that Cinderella, the girl he had unknowingly sent to spy on Prince Charles, is actually the maiden behind the glass slipper. This revelation stirs a mix of disbelief and disdain in Ferdinand, particularly because he fears the implications of a servant becoming the royal bride. As he reflects on the growing unrest among the kingdom's youth and their demand for change, his anxiety about the stability of the monarchy deepens.

Hiding behind a wall, Ferdinand eavesdrops on a tender conversation between Charles and Cinderella. She confesses that her enchanting appearance at the ball was due to her fairy godmother's magic, alerting Ferdinand to a danger he hadn't anticipated. The revelation that magic—a force he thought long banished—was re-entering Aurelais sends him into turmoil. Cinderella explains her haste to leave Charles, fearing that her magical transformation would jeopardize her true self and the growing bond she felt for him. To his disgust, Ferdinand observes Charles's soft acceptance

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Chapter 25 Summary:

In Chapter 25 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, the story takes a pivotal turn as Cinderella finds hope and courage in the blossoming relationship with Prince Charles. After dutifully attending to Duchess Genevieve's needs, Cinderella sneaks away, feeling a mix of excitement and anxiety about her upcoming meeting with Charles. She is determined to not only share her feelings for him but also to influence the return of magic to their kingdom, hoping to discuss the ban on magic with Charles.

As she rushes through the palace, Cinderella's heart races, filled with the hope of a fresh start. She feels a connection to her missing fairy godmother, Lenore, hoping she could lend her guidance. Cinderella soon discovers that magic was banned due to a heartbreaking betrayal rooted in the past. Lenore reveals how the Grand Duke's father manipulated the kingdom's grief over the queen's death to foster distrust against fairies, leading to their exile. This knowledge weighs heavily on Cinderella, who vows to help her godmother and change the unjust laws.

Meeting Charles in the glass conservatory, their playful banter reveals their growing comfort with each other. Charles surprises Cinderella with news that he has opened the royal gardens to everyone, displaying his kindness and willingness to reform the royal image. They discuss their childhoods, revealing both their pasts marked by loneliness and obstacles. Cinderella



opens up about her life of servitude after her father's death, while Charles shares his feelings about growing up isolated from true friendship.

As they step into the gardens, the beauty of the moment encapsulates them, fostering a sense of freedom. Charles suggests they leave the palace unnoticed, and in a charming turn, they escape in a simple carriage, emphasizing their desire to break away from royal constraints. The evening unfolds with them attending a rehearsal of a ballet, where Cinderella delights in the shared experience and recounts stories from her childhood.

While watching the ballet, Cinderella dares to speak of magic and her desires to aid its return, prompting Charles's commitment to help her advocate for fairies in his father's council. The chapter reveals the depth of their connection as both grapple with the legacy of their families while forging their own paths forward.

The climax of the chapter is tender yet powerful, as Cinderella realizes her feelings for Charles are deepening. She contemplates what it means to be a princess and considers accepting his proposal. Wrestling with her past and her uncertainties, she ultimately decides to embrace love and happiness, leading to a heartfelt affirmation of readiness to embark on this new chapter with Charles. Their shared moment solidifies the theme of love's transformative power as Cinderella learns that this love is not just a fantasy but a chance at a real life filled with joy and meaning.



Chapter 26 Summary:

In Chapter 26 of "So This Is Love," the Grand Duke Ferdinand is incredibly frustrated over being excluded from a dinner with the king, whom he eagerly wants to inform about the return of magic to Aurelais. When he finally gains access to King George's chambers, he rushes in to deliver the news that his son, Prince Charles, has discovered the identity of a girl he intends to marry—a common servant. To Ferdinand's dismay, King George is unconcerned about class distinctions and appears to support Charles's choice, which threatens Ferdinand's ambitions.

Ferdinand sees the potential marriage as a threat to his desire for power, especially since he has long believed he should be the one to succeed King George. This desire drives him to concoct a story suggesting that the servant girl is practicing dark magic, hoping to convince the king to reconsider the union. To further manipulate the situation, Ferdinand secretly adds a potent substance to the king's sleeping draught, aiming to incapacitate him while he plans a clandestine coup to solidify his control over the kingdom.

As Ferdinand plots, King George expresses some unorthodox ideas about lifting the ban on magic, a move that Ferdinand fears could lead to chaos. Despite pretending to heed the king's wishes, he wrestles with guilt over the duplicity of his actions. He reflects on his long-held influence over the king and worries about losing control to a power-hungry prince who has returned



from university with radical ideas.

The chapter weaves tension and intrigue, showcasing Ferdinand's manipulative nature as he attempts to eliminate any threats to his ambitions. The dynamic between Ferdinand and King George highlights themes of power, ambition, and the potential dangers of magic, setting the stage for escalating conflict as Ferdinand determines to eliminate any obstacles, particularly the servant girl at the heart of the prince's affections. Ferdinand's chilling resolve to remove Cinderella promises to intensify as events unfold, hinting at impending turmoil within the kingdom.

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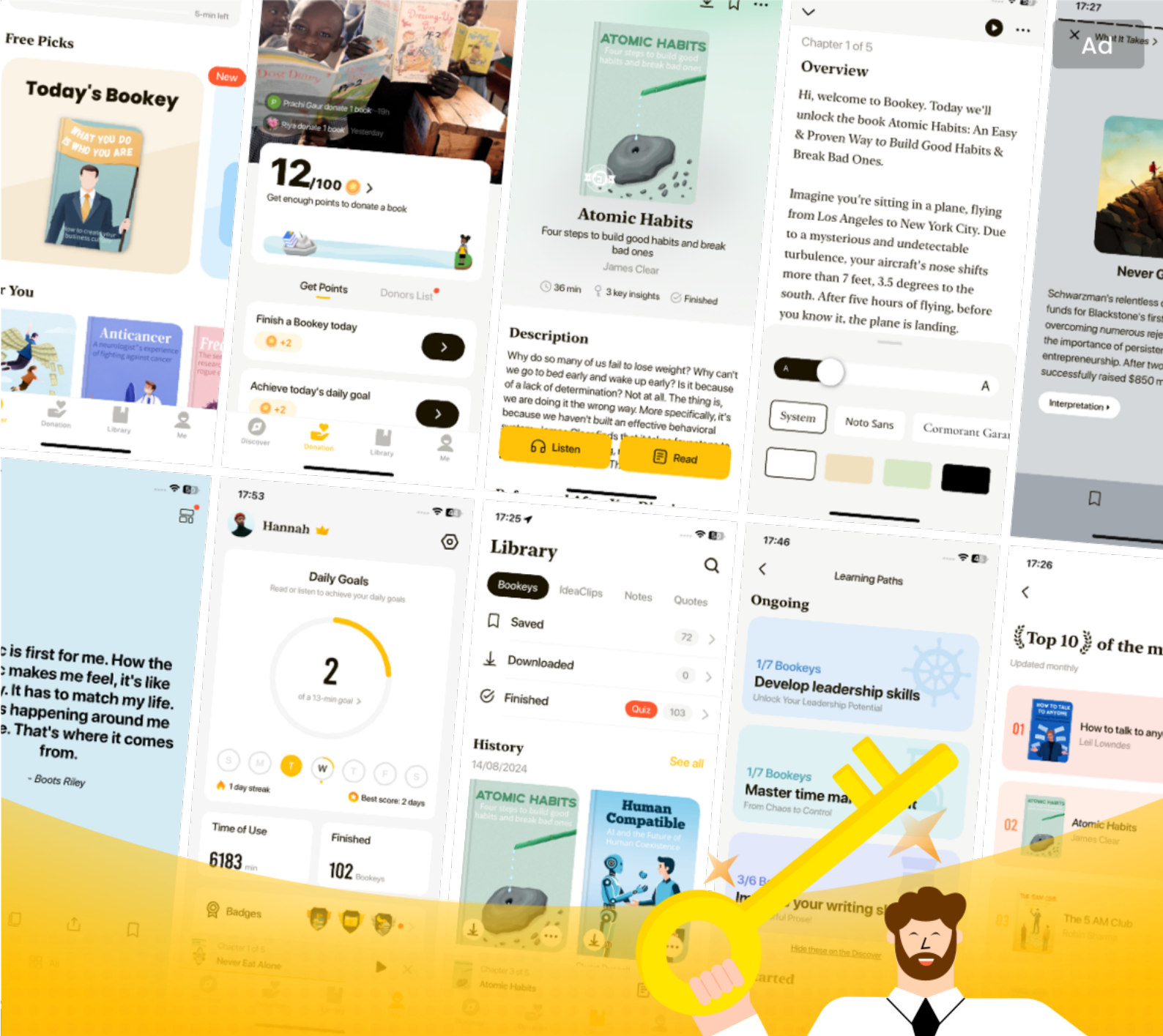
Chapter 27:

In Chapter 27 of "So This Is Love," Cinderella is jolted awake before dawn by her supervisor, Madame Irmina, who brusquely tells her to prepare for another ball that evening. Thrilled at the thought that Prince Charles will finally declare his intention to marry her in front of everyone, Cinderella hurriedly dresses, her heart racing with excitement and a touch of nervousness. She exchanges a quick greeting with her friend Louisa, who excitedly shares that the prince is expected to propose to the mysterious girl from the masquerade.

As Cinderella hurries to her duties, she gets summoned by the duchess, Genevieve, who surprises her by revealing knowledge of her true identity as the masked girl. Initially worried about how the duchess will react, Cinderella is relieved when Genevieve expresses happiness about the match, believing Cinderella will make a fine princess and that her love for Charles signifies character. Genevieve does, however, warn Cinderella about the challenges she'll face; her commoner background may not sit well with the royal court, particularly with the Grand Duke opposing her.

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Chapter 28 Summary:

In Chapter 28 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, the tension builds as Cinderella prepares for a life-changing event—the announcement of her engagement to Prince Charles. Wearing a stunning azure blue gown decorated with pearls and lace, she is both excited and anxious, hoping to avoid pretending or resorting to violence. When Charles arrives, he gives her a meaningful family heirloom, a ring that belonged to his mother, which deepens their bond and sets the stage for the evening's events.

As they enter the ballroom hand in hand, all eyes are on them, sparking curiosity and whispers about Cinderella's identity. However, her nerves quickly turn to confusion and fear when Lady Tremaine, her stepmother, loudly opposes the prince's choice, claiming Cinderella is a thief. This accusation leads to a fierce confrontation where Cinderella finds her voice, disavowing her stepmother's claims and standing up for herself after years of oppression.

The prince supports her, demanding that Lady Tremaine apologize and leave the court. Cinderella, feeling a mix of compassion and pity, asks for leniency for her stepfamily, demonstrating her growth and willingness to move beyond resentment. This pivotal moment highlights themes of self-empowerment and forgiveness.



However, the chapter takes a sinister turn when Cinderella is suddenly seized by guards under orders from the Grand Duke. He accuses her of using dark magic to enchant Charles, thus framing her as a criminal and threatening her future with the prince. The Duke offers her a bribe to abandon her love for Charles, showing his manipulation and power. Cinderella resolutely refuses, asserting that no wealth can replace her love, even as the Duke prepares to enforce his ominous "alternative plan."

As tensions reach a climax, the Duke's authoritative demeanor and the guards' vigorous restraint foreshadow tragedy. The chapter ends on a chilling note as Cinderella is shrouded in darkness, taken from the joy of the ball into fear and uncertainty, leaving readers anxious about her fate. This blend of romance, suspense, and the struggle against oppressive authority underscores Cinderella's journey toward self-assertion while exploring the ugliness of betrayal that lurks beneath the surface of royal life.



Chapter 29 Summary:

In Chapter 29 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Prince Charles grapples with heartbreak and confusion after receiving a letter from Cinderella, declaring she cannot marry him. The letter reveals that she only feigned love to escape her unhappy life with Lady Tremaine, leaving him feeling abandoned. Even as he rereads her words, he struggles to accept their meaning, especially since they clash with the sweet, genuine Cinderella he knows.

Charles is driven by a mix of instinct and desperation to find her, remembering how she vanished before—once at midnight and once at a ball. In his frantic search, he interacts with various attendants, including Louisa, Cinderella's friend, who suggests looking for Cinderella's dog, Bruno, believing he might lead them to her.

However, Charles's search is interrupted by his uncle, the Grand Duke Ferdinand, who is clearly plotting something nefarious regarding the kingdom's succession. Ferdinand informs Charles that since Cinderella has left—humiliating him in front of the court—it's imperative for him to consider an alliance with a suitable princess from another kingdom. This notion causes tension, as Charles is unwilling to give up on Cinderella, despite the Duke's manipulative arguments.



When he finally reaches his father, King George, who is gravely ill, he finds himself in a distressing situation. The king expresses regret over Cinderella's departure and pressures Charles to consider marrying for political stability instead of love. The emotional weight of the exchange is palpable, with Charles torn between his love for Cinderella and his duty to the kingdom. Despite his father's declining health and request for him to be ready to take the throne, Charles is adamant about the importance of love.

As the chapter unfolds, Charles leaves his father's bedside feeling more isolated than ever. The title of "Your Majesty" resonates uncomfortably as he assumes responsibilities he never wished for, all while dealing with the heartache of losing the one person he cared for deeply. The themes of love versus duty, the weight of responsibility, and the painful complexities of relationships echo throughout this poignant chapter, culminating in Charles's inner turmoil as he faces an uncertain future.



Chapter 30:

In Chapter 30 of "So This Is Love," Cinderella finds herself in a prison cell, reflecting on the drastic turn her life has taken since her enchanting night at the ball. The dawn breaks with hues reminiscent of the ballet slippers she admired with Charles, intensifying her sense of loss and despair. As the clock strikes six, anxiety grips her; she fears for her freedom and worries that Charles has fallen for the Grand Duke's lies, believing her to be a sorceress. Despite her desperate attempts to reach out for help, she feels utterly powerless.

Her solitude is briefly lifted by three mice, reminding her of the friends she left behind. Just as she seeks solace, the Duke arrives, bringing news that sends her into a spiral of dread. The king is gravely ill, and Charles has been coerced into agreeing to marry a princess instead of her. The Duke's chilling demeanor reveals not just a calculation of power, but a dark truth—he has poisoned the king to manipulate the monarchy for his own benefit.

Cinderella is horrified as the Duke unfurls his nefarious plans, explaining his

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Chapter 31 Summary:

In Chapter 31 of "So This Is Love" by Elizabeth Lim, Cinderella finds herself trapped in a cell, desperate to escape her grim surroundings. With a determined spirit, she rummages through her silk skirt, hoping to find anything useful for an escape, yet all she uncovers is frustration. Faced with the guards outside, she clings to her mother's necklace, contemplating how to retain something precious, even as she thinks about bribing her captors.

An unexpected idea hits her as she decides to use the mice now gathered around her. After feeding them part of the loaf of bread she had received, Cinderella skillfully throws breadcrumbs at the guard when he enters, distracting him while she makes her escape. She dashes up a formidable hill leading to the palace, feeling the strain of the predetermined steps while being pursued.

Just as she fears being caught, she is saved by the Duchess of Orlanne and a loyal friend, Louisa, who help her navigate through the secret passageways of the palace designed for emergencies. They also bring along Bruno, her trusty bloodhound, who has played a crucial role in his search for her. When given the choice of paths, Cinderella confidently chooses to return to Prince Charles rather than take the route back to Valors, asserting her autonomy and desire for love.



As they journey together through the dark tunnel, the camaraderie between Cinderella and Louisa deepens, marking a turning point in both their friendship and Cinderella's growth. Louisa learns from Cinderella's bravery and determination, as Cinderella expresses her need to stop the treacherous Grand Duke Ferdinand, who has been poisoning the king to manipulate his power. She gears up in more practical clothes provided by Louisa to avoid suspicion, demonstrating her resourcefulness.

Once inside the Grand Duke's office, Cinderella frantically searches for evidence of his treachery. With her heart racing, she discovers the continuation of a letter that implicates Ferdinand in the king's poisoning scheme. As she pieces the clues together, her discoveries come to a head when she's caught by the Duke's attendant. Just as she maneuvers to escape once more, she crashes right into the Grand Duke, leaving her fate hanging in the balance.

This chapter highlights Cinderella's resilience and cleverness as she fights for herself and those she loves, underscoring themes of friendship, bravery, and the quest for truth against deception. It marks a pivotal moment in her journey, establishing her not just as a victim of circumstance, but as an active agent in her own story.



Chapter 32 Summary:

In Chapter 32 of "So This Is Love," the tension escalates at the palace as Cinderella confronts the treacherous Ferdinand, the Grand Duke. With hard-won evidence of his betrayal, she asserts that Ferdinand is the true danger to the kingdom, prompting a heated exchange between them. Just when guards seem to close in on her, Duchess Genevieve appears, confronting Ferdinand and revealing that he's been operating without proper authority. She exposes his deception, leading to Cinderella announcing Ferdinand's banishment and stripping him of his titles, much to his dismay.

Throughout the chaos, Prince Charles joins the fray, supporting Cinderella and standing firmly against Ferdinand's manipulations. The love between Charles and Cinderella is palpable as they reaffirm their commitment to each other, rejecting Ferdinand's attempts to sow doubt. In an unexpected twist, King George arrives, discovering Ferdinand's plot to poison him. After some confusion, Ferdinand's deception unravels completely, and King George commands his arrest.

The chapter sees Cinderella stepping forward to advocate for the return of magic to Aurelais, an idea that appears daunting yet necessary for their future. In a heartfelt moment, the fairy godmother, Lenore, arrives, bridging the gap between magic and reality. She blesses the kingdom and unites Charles and Cinderella, symbolizing not just their love but the acceptance of



magic in their lives.

The narrative builds to a joyous celebration of their love, culminating in a picturesque wedding where Cinderella dons a beautiful gown and glass slippers, symbolizing her journey. Holding tight to the belief that love outweighs all, the couple steps into their future, ready to rule together and cultivate an environment where magic—serving as a metaphor for hope and miracles—can flourish alongside love and unity.

In the end, as the couple travels the world sharing their love story, they emphasize a vital truth: happy endings are sculpted through love, rather than just the magic of fairy tales. Their romance blossoms into a legacy, marked by compassion and community, echoing the sentiment that true fulfillment lies in love, which remains steadfast even as spells and dreams can fade. The tale concludes with the glass slippers displayed for all to see, a reminder that while magic is enchanting, love is what truly enriches life.

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