

Swift PDF (Limited Copy)

R.J. Anderson



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Swift Summary

A Journey of Transformation and Self-Discovery.

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About the book

In a world where the boundaries of nature and humanity blur, **Swift** by R.J. Anderson invites readers on an extraordinary journey filled with adventure, self-discovery, and the haunting question of what it means to truly belong. Follow the story of a courageous teenage girl, a genetically engineered fae, as she grapples with her identity in a society that sees her as an outsider. Armed with her unique abilities and an indomitable spirit, she embarks on a thrilling quest that challenges her understanding of loyalty, family, and the very essence of her being. With vivid imagery and rich emotional depth, **Swift** captures the heart and ignites the imagination, compelling readers to explore the magic of transformation and the power of embracing one's true self.

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About the author

R.J. Anderson is a celebrated author known for her captivating contributions to young adult and speculative fiction, blending elements of fantasy with poignant explorations of identity and belonging. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Anderson has a flair for crafting imaginative worlds that resonate with readers of all ages, drawing them into the lives of richly developed characters. Her debut novel, "Rebel Wing," introduced readers to her unique style, which intertwines heartfelt storytelling with thrilling adventures. With her ability to evoke emotion and create vivid imagery, Anderson has established herself as a notable voice in contemporary literature, with "Swift" showcasing her talent for weaving intricate narratives filled with wonder and depth.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Prologue

In the first chapter of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, we are introduced to Ivy, a young piskey girl who embarks on a coming-of-age journey filled with both enchantment and peril. The chapter opens with Ivy and her friend Jenny exploring a treasure cavern, discussing the upcoming celebration called the Lighting, where piskeys gather to celebrate and show off their wings. Unlike Jenny, who is confident and beautiful with her stunning wings, Ivy feels inadequate and envious because, unlike her friend, she was born wingless, marked by a sense of longing and the desire to belong.

As Ivy prepares for the Lighting, we see her close relationship with her mother, Marigold, who is anxious about the spriggans, dangerous creatures that pose a threat to their kind. This worry reflects the underlying tension of the piskeys' existence, navigating a world where danger lurks beyond their underground home. Although Ivy reassures her mother, the fear of spriggans hangs heavy over the festivities.

Once they arrive at the Lighting, the atmosphere is filled with joy and magic as the piskeys gather. Betony, Ivy's powerful aunt and leader known as the Joan, ignites the wakefire dramatically, emphasizing the strength of their community. However, the revelry is tinged with Ivy's grief from the loss of her mother, who was taken by spriggans years ago, leading to a complicated relationship with her father, Flint, who has become withdrawn and sorrowful

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since her mother's disappearance.

Throughout the festivities, Ivy grapples with feelings of inadequacy and an overwhelming desire to protect her younger sister, Cicely, who looks up to their older brother Mica with admiration. The chapter captures Ivy's transition from childhood innocence into a more complex awareness of her family's struggles, all while hinting at the dangers of the outside world, especially with the mention of spriggans.

As the chapter closes, Ivy's fears resurface when she senses an unseen presence lurking nearby. The reader is left with a chilling sense that her past traumas and the threat of the spriggans are not just phantoms of memory but tangible threats that could return to haunt her and her family. This sets the stage for Ivy's journey as she must confront her fears and the realities of her world, both magical and perilous.

Element	Description
Protagonist	Ivy, a wingless piskey girl
Theme	Coming-of-age journey filled with enchantment and peril
Setting	A treasure cavern and the Lighting celebration
Conflict	Ivy's feelings of inadequacy compared to her friend Jenny, who has beautiful wings
Family	Close relationship with mother Marigold; complicated feelings towards

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Element	Description
Dynamics	father Flint due to past trauma
External Threat	Spriggans, dangerous creatures that threaten the piskey community
Character Relationships	Ivy feels protective of her younger sister Cicely and has a complicated relationship with her brother Mica
Closure	Ivy senses a lurking presence, tying her past traumas to current threats, setting the stage for her journey

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace Your Uniqueness

Critical Interpretation: Ivy's story teaches us that everyone has their own unique strengths and challenges, and rather than comparing ourselves to others, we should embrace our individual differences.

This journey of self-acceptance inspires us to recognize that our value lies not in how well we measure up to others, but in our courage to face our fears and remain true to who we are, despite the insecurities that may linger.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In this chapter of "Swift," six years have passed since Ivy's childhood, and she has grown into a resilient young piskey. The story opens with Ivy preparing for an important event known as the Lighting, but her brother Mica's carelessness leaves her scrambling to deal with a black adder that he hastily brought home instead of properly dispatching it. In her determination to get to the festivities on time with her excited little sister, Cicely, Ivy demonstrates both her strength and her sense of responsibility by confronting the snake herself. Her quick actions showcase her bravery, but they also highlight the hasty choices of her older brother, which invariably affect the younger siblings.

As they climb the Great Shaft, the sisters find themselves racing against time, urged on by the sounds of the Lighting above them. Ivy's frustrations with Mica's thoughtlessness grow, especially as it impacts Cicely's first experience of the Lighting—a celebration full of joy and community for the piskeys. Despite these frustrations, she remains protective of her sister and determined to make the experience enjoyable for her.

Once they reach the Lighting, Ivy is struck by feelings of inadequacy, especially in front of Mica and the other piskeys who are dressed elegantly. As they partake in the festivities, Ivy is quick to curse the faeries and spriggans—creatures tied to her family's painful history, including the

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absence of her mother, Marigold. Much of Ivy's bitterness stems from her belief that these creatures have unfairly caused her family suffering, and this is compounded by her father's grief.

The atmosphere shifts dramatically when Ivy has a close encounter with a spriggan, reaffirming her fears. Fortunately, her friend Mattock arrives just in time to help her, but the encounter leaves Ivy shaken. Even as she insists to Mattock that they must warn the others, his placating attitude and the dismissive responses from Mica and the Joan make her feel even more isolated in her fears.

The following day takes an ominous turn with the disappearance of Kieve, a boy from their group, sparking panic and concern among the piskeys. Ivy's initial encounter with the spriggan now looms larger in light of Kieve's disappearance, leading her to question everything she thought she knew about the dangers they face. As search parties are formed, tensions rise; it's evident that fear is permeating their community.

Ivy resolves to stand her ground and uncover the truth. She goes to the Joan, seeking validation of her experience as the spriggan's presence continues to haunt her thoughts. The Joan's skeptical response further isolates Ivy, making her feel dismissed and powerless against the growing threat she perceives.

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In the climax of the chapter, after several days of worrying and searching, Mica brings news that they have caught the spriggan, flipping the narrative on its head and leaving readers anticipating how this revelation will change the story's trajectory. The chapter starkly contrasts themes of childhood innocence, responsibility, fear of the unknown, and the bonds of family, while setting the stage for an escalating conflict between the piskeys and the old fears that haunt them.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courage in the face of adversity

Critical Interpretation: As Ivy bravely confronts the threat of the black adder despite her brother's blunders, you are reminded of the importance of taking charge in difficult situations. When faced with your own challenges, whether personal or professional, it inspires you to channel your courage, just as Ivy does. This chapter reflects how sometimes, rising to the occasion can not only help you overcome immediate obstacles but also empower those around you, reinforcing the notion that your bravery can be a guiding light in moments of darkness.

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Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, the tension escalates as Ivy encounters a spriggan—a creature she has long feared—while searching for her brother Keeve. The chapter opens with Ivy feeling vulnerable and trapped when she comes face to face with the spriggan, whose sinister demeanor heightens her anxiety. Just as she feels threatened, Mattock arrives and scares the spriggan away, leaving Ivy shaken but relieved.

Returning to the Engine House, Ivy tries to explain her encounter, but Mica dismisses her concerns and blames her for getting lost. Frustrated by her brother's arrogance and unwillingness to heed her warning, Ivy seeks solace with her younger sister, Cicely, who is captivated by the stories of the droll-teller. Despite surrounding herself with cheer, Ivy grapples with fear about the spriggan's presence, reflecting on the legends of her ancestors and her missing mother.

The chapter explores themes of fear, family dynamics, and the intertwining of myths and reality. Ivy's insistence that there are dangers beyond their

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "Swift," the tension mounts as Ivy grapples with her family's past, the uncertainty surrounding her mother, and the haunting presence of a spriggan, a creature suspected of wrongdoing. The chapter opens with women in the Delve talking about the spriggan, whom they regard with disdain, concluding that he won't be of any help in finding Keeve, who has vanished. Teasel, Keeve's mother, insists that if the spriggan won't return her son, they must exact revenge, recalling a tale of bravery from years past about a spriggan being slain.

Ivy reflects uneasily on the gravity of this situation. She feels uneasy about the spriggan's silence and wonders if it's out of fear or if he truly has no intention to speak. The inner conflict intensifies during a conversation with her brother Mica, who challenges Ivy's long-held beliefs about their mother's abandonment. Mica recounts a heated argument he overheard between their parents, suggesting that their mother expressed a desire to leave with her children, sparking a confrontation with their father. This revelation shakes Ivy, who had internalized the idea of their mother's abduction rather than her choice to leave.

This emotional turmoil drives Ivy to seek answers, compelling her to venture into the depths of the mine to find their father, Flint. However, her journey leads her to the Great Shaft, where she unexpectedly hears the spriggan's

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voice, filled with poetic anguish. Driven by a strange mix of dread and curiosity, Ivy descends further and finds the spriggan, who reveals his name is Richard and that he has a connection to her mother. The spriggan claims that Marigold sent him and that she is alive, urging Ivy to trust him.

Ivy's decisions become critical as she contemplates forming a bargain with the spriggan. She must weigh the risk of trusting a creature long seen as an enemy against the hope of discovering her mother's whereabouts. As they negotiate, Ivy insists on gaining the ability to transform into a bird herself, asserting her autonomy in a world that often underestimates her. This moment underscores a theme of self-discovery and empowerment, as Ivy seeks to reclaim her agency amidst the chaos of her circumstances.

The chapter culminates in Ivy's determination to take risks to find her mother, marking a defining moment in her journey. She resolves to confront her fears and break free from her limitations, setting the stage for future encounters filled with magic and the potential for reconciliation with her family's past. As Ivy embarks on her quest, the boundaries between past and present blur, leaving readers invested in her fate and the unfolding mystery of her family's secrets.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace self-discovery and empowerment

Critical Interpretation: In a world that often seeks to define you by your past, Ivy's journey in Chapter 4 teaches you the importance of reclaiming your own narrative. By choosing to confront her fears and take risks, she demonstrates that true empowerment comes from within. Just as Ivy says yes to the possibility of transformation, you too can step outside the confines of others' expectations, embracing your unique path and seeking out your own answers. This chapter inspires you to trust in your instincts and take bold steps towards your own self-discovery, proving that every challenge is an opportunity for growth.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

In Chapter 5 of "Swift," Ivy finds herself in a tense encounter with a spriggan, who reveals that he carries a message from her mother, Marigold. Despite Ivy's skepticism and anger toward the creature, his knowledge of her mother shatters her disbelief. He claims that Marigold is alive and wants to see Ivy, but Ivy struggles with trusting him, as spriggans are typically viewed as deceitful. The spriggan, however, insists he is a faery and explains that he is in pain, having been injured by Ivy's brother, Mica.

As they converse, Ivy's feelings begin to shift toward empathy; she even helps to dislocate the faery's arm back into place, resulting in a reluctant alliance. The faery proposes a bargain: if Ivy helps him escape, he will take her to Truro to see her mother. Intrigued yet cautious, Ivy hesitates to fully trust him, fearing potential betrayal in their agreement.

Back in her home, Ivy grapples with guilt and the weight of her family's expectations. Her siblings, Mica and Cicely, notice her changing behavior and comments about her physical appearance, mistaking her sun-kissed skin for an attempt to attract attention. Ivy keeps the truth hidden, aware of the sensitive nature of her quest regarding her mother and her dealings with the spriggan.

Determined, Ivy decides she must learn to fly to achieve her goal. She

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sneaks out of the Delve to observe birds in daylight, despite being terrified of the potential dangers above ground. This act symbolizes her courage and desire for independence. She finally spots a swift, a bird that resonates with her deeply, embodying the freedom and connection to her mother that she longs for.

Upon returning to Richard, the faery, she describes the swift and prepares to learn as much as she can about it. Richard, now naming himself, insists that to succeed, Ivy must know every detail about swifts, as they are communal creatures. He emphasizes the importance of fitting in to avoid predation, reinforcing Ivy's need for knowledge and preparation.

This chapter explores themes of trust, identity, and the quest for freedom, as Ivy takes bold steps toward understanding her family's past while daring to forge her path. The tension between her responsibilities and desires illustrates her growth as she navigates the complexities of her world, revealing a fundamental desire for connection and transformation.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of trust and empathy in forging alliances

Critical Interpretation: Reflecting on Ivy's journey in Chapter 5, you come to realize how vital it is to cultivate trust and empathy in your own life. Just as Ivy hesitated initially but ultimately reached out to the spriggan in pain, you too can transform your relationships by showing understanding toward others, even those who might seem untrustworthy at first glance. Embracing this lesson emphasizes that sometimes, powerful connections arise from unexpected places, and taking a leap of faith can lead to invaluable partnerships that enrich your journey toward personal freedom and self-discovery.

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Chapter 6:

In Chapter 6 of "Swift," Ivy embarks on a daring adventure that pushes her limits and deepens her character. The chapter opens with Ivy sneaking out through the labyrinthine tunnels of the Earthenbore, where she navigates through dark corridors, contemplating the challenges of her mission. It's the middle of the afternoon when the Delve's residents are busy with their daily tasks, giving her the perfect opportunity to explore above ground undetected.

As Ivy emerges into the blinding sunlight, she is overwhelmed by the vivid sights and sounds of the outside world—a stark contrast to the calm underground. Determined to learn how to fly, her goal is to find the right bird to shape into. She spends hours observing various species, but none resonate with her until a swift—a small bird with remarkable speed and agility—catches her attention. A special bond seems to form between her and the swift, and she feels a powerful connection, sparking her hope of transforming into one.

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In this chapter of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, Ivy rises early, concerned about her father Flint's state and the mysterious presence spotted near the Engine House by Mica and others. Mica hints at danger without elaborating, and as the day progresses, Ivy remains haunted by the thought of Keeve's murderer still lurking nearby. She contemplates the shadowy figure possibly being connected to Richard, keeping her anxieties close to her heart.

After a brief interaction with her sister Cicely, who seems unwell, Ivy feels compelled to go outside and attempt to fly, a skill Richard had recently taught her. Despite her determination, Ivy initially struggles with transforming. However, as night descends, she successfully becomes a swift, soaring high above the landscape in a moment of joy and liberation. Here, Ivy revels in her newfound freedom, but her exhilaration is interrupted by a poor memory of a cry that unsettles her, prompting concern for potential dangers.

Later, she sneaks back into the caverns to rescue Richard, who has been imprisoned and shackled. Despite risking her own safety, Ivy manages to break the iron manacle on his ankle with her father's thunder-axe, although Richard explains that he won't be able to use his magic right away. The conversation turns tense as Richard reveals he believes he may be executed and that he had come alone to seek Ivy. Feeling both the weight of their



situation and the obligation she has taken on, Ivy reluctantly promises to help Richard escape.

As they navigate the caverns, they encounter potential trouble when overhearing two hunters discussing spriggans and safety in the Delve. Ivy's anxiety builds, but she remains focused on getting Richard to the surface. Once out in the open, Ivy and Richard exchange promises, but Ivy knows she can't stay with him and must return to her family. The chapter culminates with a sense of urgency and foreshadowing, as Ivy feels the weight of her decisions and risks, especially as she wakes up the next day to a troubling discovery: Cicely is missing, mirroring the fate of Keeve, adding a new layer of suspense and urgency to Ivy's journey and decisions ahead.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace your fears to find freedom.

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, Ivy fights her anxiety and hesitation about flying, a metaphor for facing her fears. As you navigate the uncertainties in your own life, remember that embracing what frightens you can lead to liberation and a sense of joy. Just as Ivy transforms and soars despite the shadows of danger, your willingness to confront your fears could unlock unprecedented freedom and personal growth, inspiring you to rise above the challenges you face.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In this gripping chapter of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, Ivy faces immense challenges as she grapples with the consequences of her actions. After a grueling climb to escape the treacherous Delve while carrying her father's thunder-axe, Ivy finally reaches safety, only to be confronted by Richard, a faery she has rescued. While Richard showcases surprising strength and resilience despite his weakened state, Ivy struggles with the burden of trust—he reveals that he cannot touch iron due to the pain it causes faeries, further complicating their escape.

As Ivy endeavors to keep Richard from discovering the treasures of the Delve, their journey is fraught with tension. She is exhausted and protective of the axe, afraid to share the responsibility of carrying it. A momentary slip-up nearly results in disaster when Ivy loses her balance, but Richard saves her, deepening the unspoken bond between them. They arrive at her home cavern, where Ivy's nerves frazzle with the fear of being discovered by her family.

Their attempts to move forward are interrupted by the urgent presence of two hunters, Feldspar and Gem, who are on alert for any threats, particularly the spriggan that has recently escaped captivity—a spriggan that Ivy fears may be connected to her own troubles. The tension is palpable as Ivy and Richard hide, and Ivy's heart races as she absorbs their conversation about



the danger posed by the spriggan.

Once they reach the surface, Ivy's relief is short-lived, as Richard's newfound freedom prompts a difficult conversation. She demands an oath from him not to reveal her secrets from the Delve, highlighting a growing sense of mistrust and the complexity of their relationship. Ivy has promised Richard she would help him find his mother, but she is torn when she discovers her own sister, Cicely, is missing. This revelation adds a layer of urgency to her circumstances.

The heart-wrenching journey of searching for Cicely soon turns troubling, as Ivy rushes back to the Delve. There she learns that Cicely may have followed her into danger, leading to a frantic search for her sister that parallels her own inner turmoil about protective instincts and responsibility. Ivy grapples with feeling responsible and guilty; the sense of impending loss weighs heavily on her.

The tension escalates as Mica, Ivy's brother, expresses fierce determination to hunt down the spriggan to retrieve Cicely. However, he is met with resistance from the Joan and Jack, who insist on caution. Mica's frustration forms a backdrop against Ivy's inner struggle, as she wants to be a part of the effort yet remains shackled by the limitations placed upon her by her family's dynamics and societal expectations.

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The chapter closes with Ivy contemplating the risks of shapeshifting to find Cicely, which presents an unprecedented dilemma. Her fears of being discovered by her brother, along with her desire to protect Richard from Mica's suspicions, frame her actions. As Ivy meets with Richard one last time, promising to keep her sister safe, the stakes are high, and the emotional weight is palpable—a reflection of her growth and the loyalty she feels toward her family.

Themes of trust, sacrifice, and the weight of responsibility echo throughout this chapter, as Ivy navigates a treacherous path filled with complex relationships and dangerous encounters. The emotional depth and tension create a vivid landscape, highlighting Ivy's resilience and determination in the face of overwhelming odds.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The complexity of trust and responsibility

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate your own life, remember that trust is inherently complex, often intertwining with your sense of responsibility towards others. Just like Ivy, you may find yourself faced with the weight of your commitments and the fear of burdening those you care about. Embrace the idea that it's okay to share your struggles and rely on others, for true strength often lies in allowing vulnerability. This chapter inspires you to recognize that forming bonds built on mutual support can lead to resilience in challenging times, urging you to foster connections that empower both you and those around you.

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Chapter 9:

In Chapter 9 of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, Ivy is consumed by guilt and anxiety over the disappearance of her younger sister, Cicely, whom she believes has been taken by a spriggan. The tension in the air is palpable as Ivy sits in the stateroom of the Joan, desperately reflecting on how her own actions led Cicely to follow her, putting her in danger. Mica, her brother, is furious and determined to hunt down the spriggan, despite the Joan's insistence that no one should undertake such a quest alone.

The chapter unveils deep family dynamics—their father, Flint, is emotionally detached and focuses on work rather than his children's distress, which adds to Ivy's frustrations. Mica's insistence that he can handle the situation contrasts sharply with Ivy's own feelings of helplessness due to her physical limitations. Underlying this is Ivy's secret: she has learned to change into a swift, which she fears will be met with horror from her brother if discovered.

The atmosphere thickens as Ivy grapples with the harsh realization that if

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Chapter 10 Summary:

In this gripping chapter of "Swift," Ivy is desperately searching for her sister, Cicely, flying over the Cornish coast and various landscapes filled with wildlife, but to no avail. As dawn breaks, she realizes she must return to the Delve before her brother Mica arrives; otherwise, she'll face punishment. However, upon returning, she is ambushed by a flock of birds led by Mica, specifically swifts, which causes panic as she struggles against their aggression. In a split moment of vulnerability, Ivy is incapacitated when Mica strikes her, leading to a dramatic freefall that ends with her transforming into a piskey as she loses consciousness.

Richard, her faery companion, risks everything to save her, using his magic to shield and heal her wounds after a tense, chaotic struggle. Their bond is tested as they confront feelings of gratitude and unresolved tension. Ivy wakes up hidden, uncertain of her surroundings but relieved to find Richard nearby, who is evidently weakened from using his powers to aid her. As they hide out in a barn, they encounter Molly, a human girl who has a history with Richard. Their interaction sheds light on Richard's past, revealing his kindness and the depth of their friendship.

Ivy learns that Molly has brought Richard back to safety after a perilous journey, and now they are temporarily holed up in her barn. While bonding with Molly, Ivy grapples with a growing sense of homesickness and the

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realization that she cannot face her family until she finds Cicely. The narrative expertly weaves themes of loyalty, friendship, and the search for identity against a backdrop of magical realism.

As Ivy and Richard navigate their tumultuous relationship, tension rises when it's revealed that Ivy's mother, Marigold, is a prominent figure in a nearby dance school. This revelation creates internal conflict for Ivy, as she feels betrayed but also compelled to seek her mother's help to locate Cicely. Despite their disagreements, Richard stands by Ivy, emphasizing their intertwined fates and the importance of resilience during this tumultuous time. The chapter closes on a note of uncertainty, with Ivy determined to push forward despite her physical pain and emotional turmoil, setting the stage for further adventures and challenges ahead.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 11 of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, Ivy finds herself in a surreal situation. After escaping danger with Richard, a faery, they arrive at a barn where a human girl named Molly recognizes Richard as her faery godfather and excitedly greets him. Their reunion reveals that Richard once fell from the sky and Molly cared for him when he was weak, establishing a bond between them. Ivy, growing curious, steps out and learns the extent of their connection. Molly, now a budding actress, shares how Richard encouraged her dreams, adding layers to their friendship.

However, tensions rise when Richard, who is protective of Ivy and her well-being, considers their stay only temporary while Ivy's focus is on finding her long-lost mother, Marigold. Richard tries to reassure Ivy about their safety in the barn, which is protected by magic that makes it harder for faery folk to find them.

Yet, Ivy harbors a growing anxiety about Richard's mysterious past and their current situation. When Molly's mother appears briefly, Ivy is reminded of her own fragmented family ties. Meanwhile, Ivy's growing emotions and frustrations boil over as she confronts Richard about their mission, leading to a heated argument during which Richard asserts his need to protect her, citing her health following their dangerous journey.

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Just as Ivy seems on the brink of making a rash decision to search for her mother alone, the chapter takes a crucial turn. Molly offers herself as an ally, expressing a strong desire to accompany Ivy to Truro, where they hope to find Marigold. The girls rush to catch a bus, marking a pivotal moment where Ivy is not only reliant on herself but also embraces the budding friendship with Molly, establishing a supportive team in their search for identity and belonging.

The themes of friendship, loyalty, and the struggle for understanding one's identity thread through this chapter, with Ivy caught between the faery world and her human desires, revealing the complexities of relationships and the sacrifices made for love. As they set off for Truro, Ivy's anticipation and apprehension about reuniting with her mother blend together, setting the stage for all that follows.

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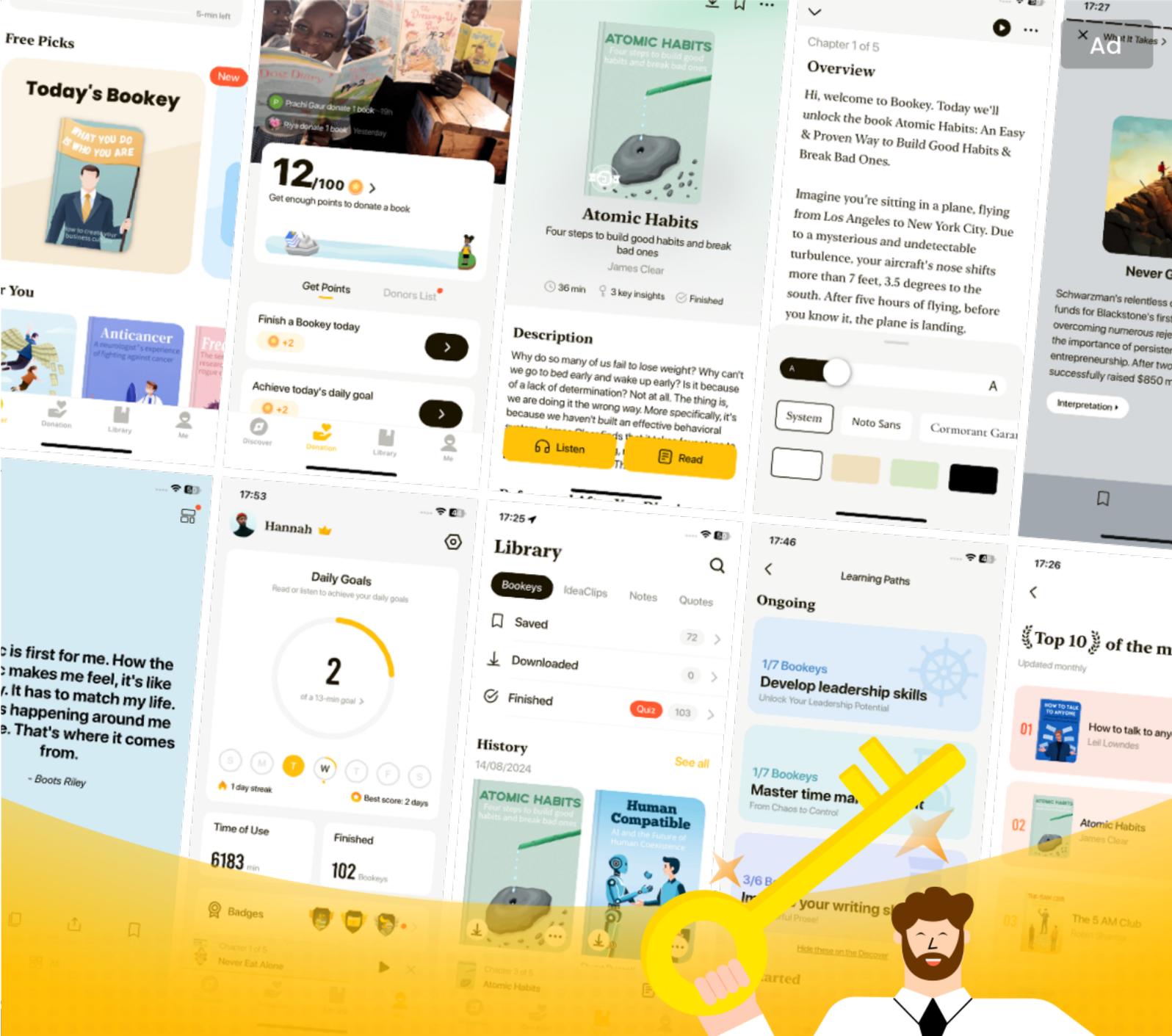
Chapter 12:

In this chapter of "Swift," the tension runs high as Ivy anxiously paces in a barn, consumed by worry for Richard, who has gone missing. Molly, the kind human girl she has met, tries to reassure her, suggesting that Richard may have decided to leave. From Ivy's perspective, Richard had promised her mother he would help her find her, making his absence even more troubling. Despite her conflicted feelings—of feeling abandoned yet grateful for Richard's past assistance—Ivy eventually accepts Molly's offer to come inside and clean up.

As she steps into the human world, Ivy is struck by its stark contrast to the Delve, filled with straight lines and sharp angles rather than the gentle curves of nature she knows. Molly guides her through unfamiliar rituals, introducing her to modern conveniences, which adds layers to Ivy's sense of being adrift. Their conversation reveals that Ivy is in search of her mother, Marigold, who disappeared years earlier under mysterious circumstances. A sudden noise alerts them to the return of Molly's mother, prompting Ivy to hide in Molly's room, where she discovers decorations featuring faeries, a

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In this emotionally charged chapter of "Swift," Ivy confronts layers of grief, betrayal, and an overpowering urge to reclaim her lost family. The narrative opens with a tense exchange between Ivy and her mother, Marigold, where Ivy grapples with the painful reality of her mother's absence for much of her life. Marigold reveals her own past of enslavement under a cruel Empress, complicating Ivy's understanding of loyalty and love.

As arguments unfold, Ivy discovers that her mother's faery heritage and struggles offer insight into why she left the Delve—yet Ivy cannot overlook the years of pain caused by that absence. The emotional weight of regret surfaces as Marigold reveals her accidental involvement with an evil plot that led to her capture. Ivy's feelings of abandonment deepen, exacerbated by the harsh truths about the faery world and her responsibilities within it.

When Ivy reveals that her sister, Cicely, has gone missing, Marigold's maternal instincts surface, but there's a complex undercurrent. Ivy expresses mixed emotions, torn between the need for family and suspicion that her mother may have chosen a new life away from the Delve. Though they plan to search for Cicely together, Ivy senses Marigold's reluctance to return to her past.

Throughout the chapter, Ivy is propelled by a sense of urgency and

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desperation to find her sister. Even as she becomes more acquainted with Truro and the new life Marigold has carved out, doubts about her mother's intentions gnaw at her.

A significant turning point occurs when Ivy discovers a peculiar piskey statue that seems to call to her, leading to the revelation that Richard—a pivotal figure from her past—may be trapped within it. This discovery ignites Ivy's determination to rescue him, confronting the unresolved tensions in her life, especially concerning her mother.

The climax builds with Ivy's realization that Marigold may not be the person she had hoped for but rather a potential threat to her past and the very essence of her identity as a piskey. As Ivy resolves to uncover the truth behind the piskeys trapped in clay statues, the chapter takes on a darker tone, blending themes of identity, conflict, and the ties that bind family together even amid betrayal.

Amidst this turmoil, Ivy navigates the support of new friendships like Molly, adding layers to her journey of self-discovery and accountability. The complexities of human and faery interactions illustrate that the past cannot be easily escaped, and choices made out of fear or ambition can have haunting repercussions. As the chapter concludes, Ivy's determination solidifies, setting the stage for a confrontation that could reshape her understanding of loyalty, familial love, and her place in both worlds.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, Ivy continues to navigate her new life in Truro, grappling with feelings of restlessness and dissatisfaction. Though her mother, Marigold, has introduced her to new friends, including the ailing Serita and Trix, the drama teacher, she still longs for her past life. Ivy stumbles upon a bookshop where she feels an inexplicable pull towards a particular piskey statue, which she soon discovers contains the spirit of Richard, a figure from her past. Although Marigold expresses doubts about the statue's significance, Ivy is determined to help Richard, feeling indebted to him for saving her life.

As Ivy becomes further entrenched in her quest to rescue Richard, her mother becomes a greater source of concern. Marigold seems increasingly absorbed in her own world, neglecting Ivy's pleas for help. This tension culminates in a critical moment during Molly's audition at the Rising Star Academy, where Marigold's careful demeanor falters upon encountering Gillian, Molly's mother. Their shared history hints at deeper connections, leaving Ivy increasingly bewildered by her mother's true intentions regarding the piskeys.

The chapter moves with urgency as Ivy wrestles with her evolving understanding of her mother and her own identity. Gillian, it turns out, has unknown ties to Ivy's mother and her machinations, instigating a rift



between the girls as they face the reality of their parents' pasts. Distrust grows as Ivy suspects her mother is behind a sinister plot to capture piskeys, revealing horrors from the Delve and throwing into question Marigold's motivations.

Ultimately, as Ivy seeks to confront her mother's dark actions, she also seeks the truth about Gillian, who turns out to be more than just a supportive figure for Molly; she is a faery herself. The chapter concludes on a cliffhanger, with Ivy's realization that she can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to the dangers posed by her mother's choices as she prepares to take decisive action.

Key themes throughout this chapter include the struggle for identity, the weight of familial expectations, and the battle between past grievances and present loyalties. As Ivy grapples with her mother's dark trajectory, she also begins to understand the complexities of love and the importance of standing against wrongdoing, setting the stage for her journey toward empowerment and resolution.

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Chapter 15:

In this intense chapter of "Swift," tension escalates as Ivy and her friend Molly are caught in a complicated web of family secrets and hidden agendas. The chapter starts with a surprising reunion between their mothers, Marigold and Gillian, sparking confusion and tension in the room. Molly, oblivious to the magical world around her, is puzzled by her mother's and Ivy's mother's past connection. As curiosity grows, Ivy is troubled by her mother's abrupt behavior and the ensuing private conversation between Gillian and Marigold, which she is prevented from overhearing.

As the two girls venture outside to discuss their mothers, Molly's spontaneous ideas about their mothers' pasts spark suspicion that Gillian might indeed know more about faeries than she lets on. Ivy feels torn about the revelations concerning her mother's true nature as a faery and her involvement with the human world. Molly's theories push Ivy to consider that Gillian may have tried to protect her daughter from a wayward friendship with a faery, much like Ivy's mother had left her old life behind. Unfortunately, this leads Molly to urge Ivy to return, convinced they should

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Chapter 16 Summary:

In this thrilling chapter of "Swift," Ivy finds herself in a precarious position after being lured by Gillian, who reveals her malicious intentions. Gillian holds Ivy's mother, Marigold, and sister, Cicely, captive while threatening Ivy with the same fate of being turned into clay. As the tension escalates, Ivy wrestles with betrayal and self-blame, struggling to understand Gillian's motivations rooted in a long-standing grudge against her piskey ancestors.

Ivy's emotions swirl as deep suspicions arise about Gillian's connection to Molly, the faery girl she thought was innocent. Gillian's disdain for the piskeys reveals the complex history of conflict between their races, and Ivy is forced to confront the dark legacy of her people. Gillian, hell-bent on revenge, pressures Ivy to join her cause, spinning a vision of liberation for the faery women at the expense of the piskey men.

Just when the darkness seems final, Ivy is unexpectedly rescued by Molly, who proves to be half faery and uses her blood to break the Claybane's curse. Together, they grapple with the discovery of their intertwined fates and the dire implications of Gillian's plots. They learn that Ivy's family is in grave danger — a race against time ensues to save her loved ones from being transformed into statues.

With the focus on Ivy's urgent mission, the chapter captures her

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determination to confront her family's legacy while challenging Gillian's twisted narrative of justice. As Ivy rushes back to the Delve to warn others, she faces her brothers, Mica and Mattock, who remain unaware of the impending threat. The chapter masterfully intertwines themes of familial loyalty, identity, and the painful weight of history, as Ivy's quest grows increasingly perilous amid the tension of betrayal and fear.

In a climactic turn, Ivy finds herself trapped in Claybane again, witnessing the weight of her choices as she screams for help. The return of Molly serves as a beacon of hope and unexpected strength, propelling the narrative toward an intense climax while raising questions about trust and sacrifice.

Ultimately, it leaves readers eagerly anticipating the unraveling of Gillian's schemes and Ivy's fate as she contemplates the bleakness of her situation and the bonds that keep her fighting.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

In Chapter 17 of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, Ivy finds herself in grave danger as she is encased in Claybane, a magical clay that limits her movement and threatens to trap her forever. She calls out desperately for help, and to her surprise, Molly, a half-fae girl, appears with a flashlight. Molly uses her own blood and Ivy's mother's blood to break Ivy free from the Claybane. The relief of escape is palpable for Ivy, but urgency overwhelms her as she realizes her mother is still trapped, and her sister Cicely is in the hands of the malevolent Gillian.

As Ivy narrates her recent experiences to Molly, they discover that Richard, a former foe, is also trapped in a clay statue. Moved by compassion, Molly attempts to save him using her blood again, but their efforts initially fail. Determined, Molly and Ivy resolve to rescue Richard and stop Gillian's sinister plans, which include capturing all the males of the Delve.

Ivy transforms into her swift form, racing towards the Delve to thwart Gillian. Her flight highlights the landscape's beauty, though her mind is clouded with thoughts of imminent danger. Ivy reaches the Delve and encounters Mattock, her ally, who has heard of the threat. He quickly takes action to warn others, while Ivy urges him to stay away from the surface.

Upon reaching the Joan (the leader of the undercover piskeys), Ivy finds that



Gillian is already executing her plan. Betony, Ivy's aunt, intends to confront Gillian directly, but Ivy fears for her sister's safety and insists on joining the effort. Betony refuses Ivy's help, believing her reckless, and insists she stay behind. This conflict illustrates the theme of courage versus authority, as Ivy feels compelled to act despite being dismissed by the powerful faery.

With urgency in her heart, Ivy sneaks away using the fastest routes, determined to find Cicely. She struggles against her worries and physical fatigue as she weaves through the tunnels, evading traps and silent statues of trapped piskeys.

As the chapter unfolds, tension escalates with the revelation that Gillian has been gathering Claybane and strategically trapping the Delve's inhabitants. Ivy ultimately stumbles upon Gillian as she prepares to use a spell that could seal the fate of the piskeys. The confrontation brings to light Gillian's bitterness and motives for revenge against the piskeys, which Ivy challenges.

In a climactic struggle, Ivy's determination shines through as she defies Gillian, even when physically weakened by previous encounters. The chapter concludes on a note of suspense as Ivy manages to grab Gillian in a desperate bid to stop her. However, as rocks fall and chaos ensues, the resolution remains unresolved, leaving readers on the edge of their seats.

This chapter emphasizes themes of bravery, sacrifice, and the complexities

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of familial loyalty as Ivy fights not just for her own freedom but for that of her family and community.

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Chapter 18:

In Chapter 18 of "Swift," tension escalates dramatically as Ivy confronts the treacherous faery, Gillian Menadue, who has ensnared her sister, Cicely, with Claybane dust. Ivy, trying to outsmart Gillian, learns that she is temporarily immune to the Claybane's effects, yet finds herself in a precarious situation. As Gillian reveals her sinister plans for the piskey Delve and how she has manipulated Cicely, Ivy's determination to protect her family grows stronger.

Ivy's attempts to talk Gillian down and stall for time intensify the confrontational atmosphere, where themes of loyalty, family, and sacrifice intertwine. As chaos unfolds within the Delve, Ivy manages to gather enough courage to confront her internal struggles and the reality of her family's legacy. The chapter is marked by significant character development, particularly Ivy's growing sense of agency in a perilous situation and Gillian's complex motivations rooted in revenge and familial ties.

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Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19 of "Swift," the story begins in the aftermath of a tragic event at the Delve, where the piskeys make camp in a concealed valley. Ivy has just emerged from the tunnels, announcing that the air is now breathable, and realizes how much the piskeys long for sunlight after their time underground. Nettle, a talented piskey, leads attempts to investigate the Claybane curse that has trapped many of their friends, but the sight of Gillian's body and Flint's death weighs heavily on everyone.

As the chapter progresses, Ivy interacts closely with Nettle, who mourns Gillian, revealing a familial connection that Ivy never realized existed. This deepens Ivy's understanding of the bonds within their community, but the sorrow is palpable as Ivy also grapples with her father's sacrifice and the lingering danger posed by the Claybane. Yarrow, the healer, prepares to use Gillian's blood to free the trapped piskeys, but their efforts prove futile, leading Ivy to realize that only living blood can break the spell.

Ivy embarks on a desperate journey to seek help from Molly, whom she hopes can contribute to their cause. After a challenging exploration of Gillian's abandoned workshop, Ivy finds solace in the realization that Molly's mother, Marigold, has awakened from a long slumber. The emotional reunion is bittersweet; Ivy must tell Molly that her mother, Gillian, has died, leading to a heartbreaking moment of grief and guilt.



However, Molly quickly offers her support, willing to help free the piskeys, highlighting themes of sacrifice and friendship.

Marigold, though delighted to see Ivy, is portrayed as conflicted about returning to the Delve and hints at unspoken burdens that weigh on her. Ivy wrestles with her identification as a piskey or faery and recognizes the challenges she faces in her quest to bring about change within her community, particularly in confronting Aunt Betony, the Joan. Their confrontation reveals how Betony's decisions have stifled the Delve's prosperity and put its inhabitants at risk, igniting Ivy's resolve to challenge the status quo to save her people.

In a dramatic turn, Ivy stands trial for her perceived disobedience in freeing Richard, a spriggan. Betony's harsh judgment incites anger, jealousy, and a struggle for power that underscores the tensions between authority and individual agency. Ultimately, Ivy is banished, a consequence that carries both sorrow and a new beginning, as Cicely chooses to follow Ivy, driven by her desire to escape from the toxic environment that Betony has created.

As Ivy leaves the Delve, she reflects on her identity, the harsh realities of her dual heritage, and the need to find her place in a world that feels increasingly alien. The chapter closes with her determination to travel with Richard—a powerful figure now revealed to have connections to both spriggans and faeries—opening a path toward self-discovery and potential rebuild

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relationships with her past.

This chapter encapsulates key themes of identity, sacrifice, familial ties, and the struggle for autonomy and acceptance. Ivy's relationship with her family, the burden of lineage, and the powerful influences of loyalty and community are elegantly woven, setting the stage for future adventures and challenges that lie ahead.

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Chapter 20 Summary: Epilogue

In Chapter 20 of "Swift" by R.J. Anderson, the warm sunlight and clear skies set a serene backdrop as Ivy, the faery, revels in the freedom of gliding through the air. However, she's grappling with inner turmoil—her identity as a shape-changer, the pressure of living in her mother Marigold's cramped flat with her sister Cicely, and the looming question of where she truly belongs. Despite the thrill of flight, Ivy yearns for independence but feels stuck and unsure about her future, especially as Marigold struggles to support them.

During her flight, Ivy encounters Richard, a faery she thought was forever trapped. Their joyful reunion quickly turns serious as they discuss the heavy burdens of their pasts—Richard reveals that he's been running from the consequences of killing the Empress and her successor, a significant responsibility that has made him a fugitive. This revelation stuns Ivy, who had never contemplated the darker side of Richard's past, but she feels no fear toward him. Instead, they share their stories, with Ivy confiding in Richard about her rescue of the piskeys and her dilemma of not wanting to return to the Delve while Aunt Betony is in charge.

Richard suggests that Ivy explore her faery ancestry while being useful to a faery wyld, but Ivy hesitates at the idea of joining a group unfamiliar to her. Instead, she expresses a desire to help her people and embark on a journey to

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learn more, even if it means following Richard, who now goes by Martin—hinting at his part-spriggan heritage.

Their exchange deepens their bond, and Ivy makes a bold decision to join him on his travels, eager to discover not only her own identity but also the stories and challenges that await them. The chapter concludes on a hopeful note as Ivy embraces her adventure alongside Martin, setting the stage for further exploration of both their personal backgrounds and the world they inhabit. This chapter beautifully intertwines themes of identity, belonging, and the complexities of friendship amidst the backdrop of fantastical elements, inviting readers into Ivy’s ongoing journey of self-discovery.

Key Element	Description
Setting	Warm sunlight and clear skies creating a serene backdrop
Main Character	Ivy, a faery who is a shape-changer
Conflict	Ivy struggles with her identity, living situation, and sense of belonging
Family	Ivy lives with her mother Marigold and sister Cicely in cramped conditions
Encounter	Ivy meets Richard, a faery she believed was trapped
Richard's Burden	He reveals his past as a fugitive after killing the Empress and her successor
Themes	Identity, belonging, friendship, self-discovery

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Key Element	Description
Proposed Journey	Richard suggests Ivy explore her faery ancestry and contribute to a faery wyld
Ivy's Decision	Ivy decides to join Richard (now Martin) on his travels
Conclusion	The chapter ends on a hopeful note as Ivy embraces her adventure.

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