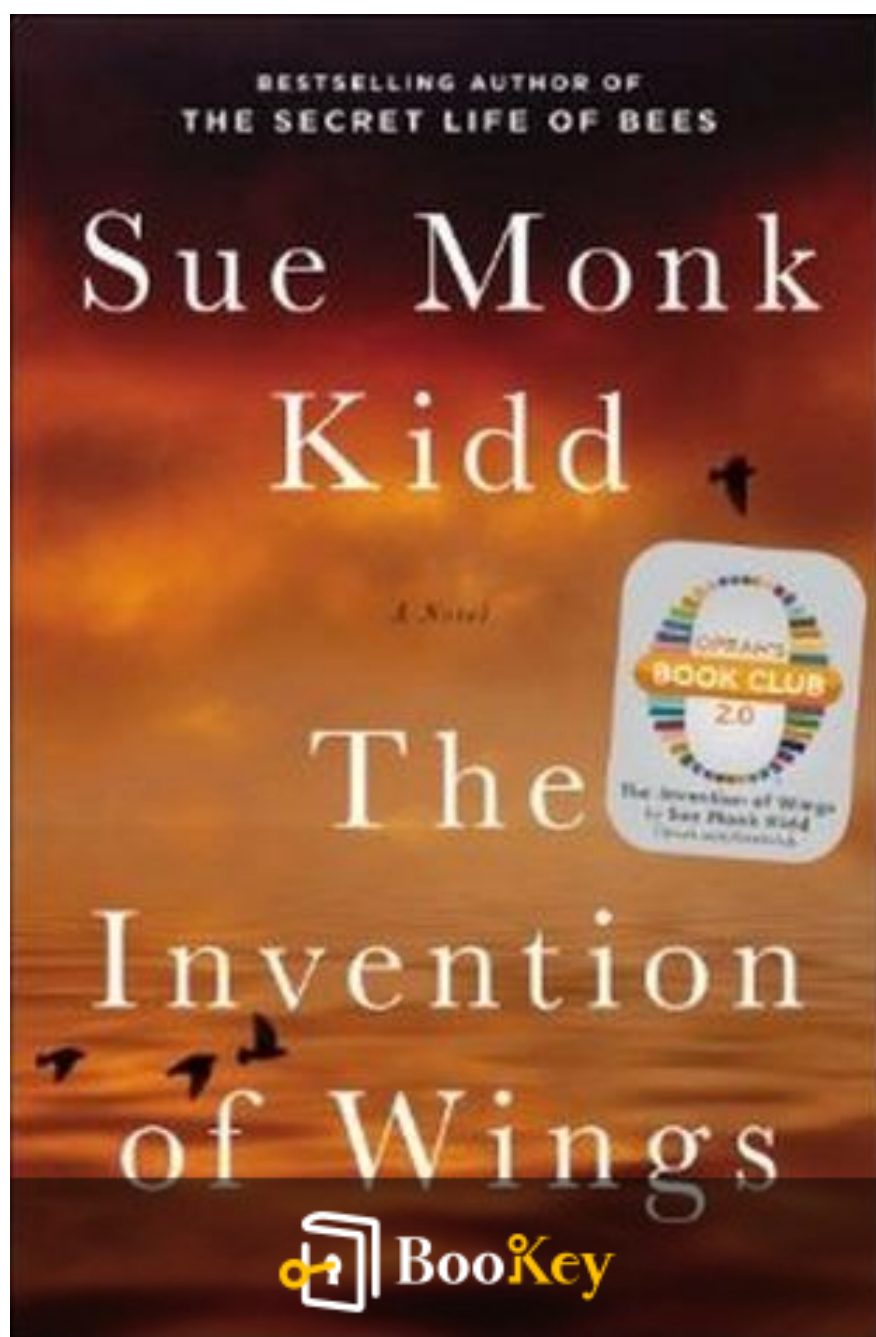


The Invention Of Wings PDF (Limited Copy)

Sue Monk Kidd



More Free Book



Scan to Download

The Invention Of Wings Summary

Freedom and sisterhood in the struggle for liberation.

Written by Books OneHub

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

In her powerful and evocative novel, "The Invention of Wings," Sue Monk Kidd delves into the intertwined lives of two remarkable women in early 19th century America, exploring themes of slavery, freedom, and the complexities of friendship. The story follows Sarah Grimké, a young white abolitionist destined to inherit her family's plantation, and Handful, an enslaved girl whose dreams of liberation ignite an unwavering bond between them. Through their perspectives, Kidd unravels the societal constraints and personal struggles that define their existence, inviting readers to reflect on the resilience of the human spirit and the fight for justice. With lyrical prose and deep emotional resonance, this compelling narrative not only illuminates the historical fight against oppression but also inspires a profound consideration of the paths to self-discovery and empowerment.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

Sue Monk Kidd is an acclaimed American author known for her evocative storytelling and deeply resonant themes, often exploring the complexities of female identity and spirituality. Born in 1948 in Sylvan Grove, Kansas, Kidd's early career began as a writer for magazines and subsequently transitioned into novel writing, earning her a reputation with her best-selling debut, "The Secret Life of Bees." Throughout her literary career, Kidd has garnered numerous accolades, including the Orange Prize for Fiction and the Henry L. Ferguson Award, solidifying her status as a significant voice in contemporary literature. In "The Invention of Wings," she draws inspiration from the historical figures of the Grimké sisters, intertwining their fight for abolition and women's rights into a rich narrative, showcasing her commitment to illuminating crucial social issues.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Ad



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

Unlock 1000+ Titles, 80+ Topics

New titles added every week

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

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

Summary Content List

Chapter 1: November 1803–February 1805

Chapter 2: February 1811–December 1812

Chapter 3: October 1818–November 1820

Chapter 4: September 1821–July 1822

Chapter 5: November 1826–November 1829

Chapter 6: July 1835–June 1838

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary: November 1803–February 1805

In the first chapter of "The Invention of Wings," we are introduced to two central characters: Hetty "Handful" Grimké, an enslaved girl, and Sarah Grimké, the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner in early 19th century Charleston, South Carolina. The narrative alternates between the perspectives of Handful and Sarah, illuminating their contrasting lives shaped by the oppressive realities of slavery and societal expectations.

Handful's story begins with her recounting a folktale shared by her mother, Mauma, about how their ancestors could once fly in Africa. This story reflects the theme of lost freedom and the consequences of slavery, which has stripped away their agency. Handful feels confined to a life of servitude, and her daily tasks, which include laboring in the heat and enduring punishments from her mistress, accumulate into a profound sense of sorrow and frustration. Mauma, a talented seamstress, epitomizes resilience and hope; she teaches Handful the art of quilting, which becomes a means of preserving their history and identity.

At the same time, Sarah is depicted as a bright, spirited girl yearning for intellectual freedom. She struggles under her mother's expectations and the genteel society of Charleston. Despite her privileged upbringing, Sarah grapples with silent rebellions against the status quo, including her disdain for slavery. She fosters a bond with Handful through secret literary lessons,

More Free Book



Scan to Download

yet their friendship is complicated by the realities of their respective social standings.

The chapter highlights Sarah's internal conflicts and her desire to break free from societal constraints, showcasing her awakening awareness of injustice. When her birthday is met with the unwelcome gift of Handful as a "waiting maid," both characters navigate their intertwined fates amid a backdrop of societal norms that dictate ownership and compliance.

As scenes unfold, the reader feels the weight of oppression, not just for Handful but also for Sarah, who faces disapproval from her family for her radical ideas. The chapter closes hinting at escalating tension within the Grimké household, reflecting on themes of ambition, agency, and the yearning for personal freedom against the stifling grip of societal expectations.

Overall, the first chapter sets a compelling stage for the unfolding stories of Handful and Sarah, their friendship, and their struggles against the harsh realities of their world. It intertwines themes of family, identity, resistance, and the desire for freedom, creating a rich foundation for the narrative that follows.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 2 Summary: February 1811–December 1812

In Chapter 2 of "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd, the narrative pivots between the lives of Sarah Grimké, a young woman struggling with societal expectations, and her enslaved companion, Handful. It is a time marked by personal aspirations, societal constraints, and family dynamics.

Sarah is now eighteen, caught in Charleston's rigid societal web, where her mother pushes her towards marriage as a means of security. While preparing for a waltzing party, she reflects on her perceived failures and her relationship with her sister, Nina, who embodies hope and resilience. Sarah's affection for Nina is palpable; she sees her sister as a second chance at life unscathed by the burdens she carries. Sarah's ambition to become a jurist has faded, leading her to pour her unfulfilled dreams into Nina, teaching her about the evils of slavery.

The theme of friendship emerges prominently through Sarah's connection with Handful, her enslaved seamstress. Their relationship is intertwined as Sarah navigates the societal pressures of the elite classes, while Handful grapples with her oppression and yearning for freedom. Despite the bond they share, a growing distance forms between them as their lives begin to diverge due to their increasing responsibilities and societal roles.

The chapter captures a winter evening filled with anticipation and anxiety as

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Sarah prepares for the waltzing party, dressed in a gown made by Handful. As Sarah reflects on her appearance and societal success, she becomes more aware of the constraints placed upon her by both her family and society, noting how her worth is tied to her beauty and marriage prospects. Meanwhile, Handful expresses a growing awareness of her subjugation, challenging Sarah's naïve understanding of their shared experiences of oppression.

After a fateful encounter with a charming young man named Burke Williams, whom Sarah momentarily finds herself drawn to, the social dynamics of Charleston are starkly revealed. The party atmosphere transforms when Sarah collides with a young man while being served by enslaved individuals, exposing the inherent objectification and marginalization of those like Handful.

As Handful embarks on sewing her own story quilt, she reflects on her aspirations and the generational histories of her family, aiming to make sense of their struggles and dreams through her craft. The juxtaposition of Sarah's social entrapment and Handful's desire for autonomy deepens the narrative, allowing for rich character development as both women grapple with their identities within a society defined by severe racial and gender inequalities.

Eventually, calamity strikes when Charlotte, Handful's mother, is taken

More Free Book



Scan to Download

away by the City Guard after a confrontation with a white woman. This event casts a shadow over both women, underscoring the fragility of their existence and the harsh realities of their respective lives in a deeply divided society. The chapter concludes with a profound sense of loss and a foreshadowing of the struggles that lie ahead for both Sarah and Handful as they confront their fates within a world rife with injustice and inequality.

Aspect	Description
Title	The Invention of Wings
Chapter	Chapter 2
Main Characters	Sarah Grimké, Handful (Hetty)
Setting	Charleston, during a waltzing party
Themes	Societal Expectations, Friendship, Oppression, Identity
Sarah's Struggle	Pressure to marry and fulfill societal roles, disappointment in unachieved dreams of becoming a jurist.
Relationship Dynamics	Sarah views her sister Nina as a beacon of hope, while her bond with Handful is tested by societal constraints and diverging paths.
Societal Critique	The party reveals social dynamics, objectification of enslaved individuals, and the harsh realities of their lives.
Handful's Aspirations	Creating a story quilt to reflect on her family's struggles and her own desires for freedom.
Key Event	Charlotte, Handful's mother, is taken by the City Guard, highlighting the fragility of their existence.



Aspect	Description
Conclusion	Sense of loss and foreshadowing of struggles ahead for both women in a society marked by injustice.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The struggle for autonomy

Critical Interpretation: This chapter beautifully illustrates the struggle for autonomy that both Sarah and Handful face within a constraining society. As you navigate your own life, let their experiences inspire you to recognize the importance of claiming your own identity and making choices that align with your true self. Just as Handful seeks freedom through her craft, embrace your passions and assert your own path against societal expectations. Remember, the journey to self-discovery and empowerment often comes with challenges, but it is through these struggles that you can ultimately find your wings and soar.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 3: October 1818–November 1820

In Chapter 3 of "The Invention of Wings," we dive into the intertwined lives of Handful (Hetty) and Sarah Grimké during a tumultuous period in their lives. Set between October 1818 and November 1820, the chapter touches on themes of loss, identity, freedom, and resistance against societal restrictions.

Handful grapples with the memory of her mother, Mauma, who has been missing for six years. Each year, on the anniversary of her disappearance, the slaves come together to reminisce about Mauma's mischievous and strong-willed nature. Handful seeks to keep her mother's legacy alive, not just through tales of bravery, but by acknowledging her pain and longing for freedom. Despite the camaraderie and shared stories, Handful feels isolated in her grief, insisting that her mother didn't run away, a belief that puts her at odds with the others who romanticize Mauma's escape.

Handful's longing for her mother's return is juxtaposed with her growing awareness of her own fate under her master, Miss Sarah Grimké, who has returned to South Carolina after her father's death. Sarah's own struggles

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

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



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

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

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 4 Summary: September 1821–July 1822

In “The Invention of Wings,” Chapter 4 illustrates the complex emotional landscapes and societal realities faced by the characters Sarah and Handful as they navigate their lives in early 19th-century America. This chapter is set between September 1821 and July 1822, marking significant developments in both women's stories.

Sarah arrives at Green Hill, a stone house in Pennsylvania, to live with Israel Morris, a widowed Quaker. Initially feeling like an exile, she finds solace in the house's coolness and the children's laughter. The tension between Sarah and her mother escalates as Sarah defies social norms by living under the roof of a Quaker man. Mother's religious hysteria manifests in physical symptoms as she struggles to accept Sarah's independence and ambition.

In Green Hill, Sarah embraces her role as a teacher for Israel's children, particularly Becky, who yearns for her late mother's attention. A poignant moment occurs when Becky gives Sarah her mother's locket, symbolizing their growing bond. However, Sarah's teaching methods challenge the conventional limits placed on women's education. Contentious interactions between Sarah, Israel, and Catherine, Israel's protective sister, complicate her life as Catherine becomes increasingly suspicious of Sarah's influence over the family and her affection for Israel.



Amidst Sarah's internal conflicts, Handful's storyline unfolds in Charleston, where she remains trapped by the oppressive weight of slavery. Handful seeks out Denmark Vesey, a man determined to lead a revolt against their captors. The narrative highlights her cunning and resilience as she sneaks away to meet him, expressing the desire for freedom and justice. Denmark's plans for rebellion loom over the chapter, adding tension and urgency to Handful's life.

As the chapter progresses, it becomes evident that both women are grappling with the expectations imposed upon them by their respective societies. For Sarah, the Quaker faith represents both solace and constraint as she navigates her desire for purpose against the rules of propriety. Meanwhile, Handful embodies the fight for freedom, amidst the backdrop of escalating fears of violence and retribution among the white population.

The chapter culminates in an emotional climax as Denmark's insurrection plot becomes unearthed, causing the system of slavery to tighten its grip even further. This foreshadows significant consequences, including violence and repression against enslaved people, while amplifying the themes of sacrifice, complicity, and the struggle for autonomy present throughout the book.

Ultimately, Chapter 4 weaves together the lives of Sarah and Handful, showcasing their resilience and the weight of their societal roles while

More Free Book



Scan to Download

hinting at the broader themes of resistance and freedom that will drive the narrative forward. Their stories reflect a yearning for agency in a world defined by rigid social structures and deep-rooted injustices.

Character	Location	Significant Events	Themes
Sarah	Green Hill, Pennsylvania	Moves in with Israel Morris, becomes a teacher, receives a locket from Becky.	Independence, societal expectations, education, Quaker faith.
Handful	Charleston	Seeks out Denmark Vesey for a revolt against slavery, displays cunning and resilience.	Struggle for freedom, resilience against oppression, rebellion against societal constraints.
Israel Morris	Green Hill, Pennsylvania	Becomes a protective father figure; faces suspicion from his sister Catherine regarding his relationship with Sarah.	Social norms, male influence in a woman's life.
Catherine	Green Hill, Pennsylvania	Becomes suspicious of Sarah's influence, representing societal constraints on women.	Protection, jealousy, societal roles.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The struggle for personal freedom amid societal constraints

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at the crossroads of your own life, feeling the weight of societal expectations pressing down on you, just as Sarah and Handful do. Chapter 4 of 'The Invention of Wings' inspires you to recognize that your desire for freedom and purpose can thrive even in the most constraining environments. It calls you to forge your own path, embrace your ambitions, and challenge norms that bind you. As you navigate your reality, like Sarah defying the expectations of her mother and the society around her, you too can seek out your own 'Green Hill'—a space where your dreams can flourish and where you can influence the lives of others, just as she did with the children she taught. Handful's quest for autonomy highlights the importance of courage and resilience; let it remind you that though the journey may be fraught with challenges, your voice and actions can inspire change, not just for yourself, but for those who yearn for freedom alongside you.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 5 Summary: November 1826–November 1829

In Chapter 5 of "The Invention of Wings," the narrative unfolds during November 1826 to November 1829 through the perspective of Handful, who navigates the complexities of life on a plantation and her reunion with her mother, Charlotte. Handful, filled with quiet dread, attends to the ailing Goodis while tensions flare between Missus and Nina in the house. The atmosphere is charged with frustration and unspoken words, as they argue over the treatment of enslaved individuals and societal expectations.

Amidst this chaos, Handful experiences a moment of sudden joy and disbelief when her mother, Charlotte, who vanished fourteen years earlier, unexpectedly returns. Handful's heartfelt reaction is immediate and instinctual; she rushes to embrace her mother, overwhelmed with emotion. The introduction of Charlotte's daughter, Sky, adds another layer to the already rich narrative. This sisterly bond is raw and filled with the pain of their shared history. Charlotte appears frail and marked by her experiences, her physical decline a stark reminder of the brutal past she endured, while Sky, an embodiment of resilience and youth, shares her tale of survival and her longing for freedom.

As Charlotte recuperates, the chapter delves into themes of identity, family, and the scars of slavery. Handful's deep connection with her roots and the realization of her sister's intelligence and strength hint at the empowerment

More Free Book



Scan to Download

that their bond can foster. It is through storytelling, whether through words or the fabric of quilts, that they heal and find solace.

Meanwhile, Sarah Grimké, reflecting on her life in Philadelphia where she resides under the esteemed Lucretia Mott, grapples with her own yearnings and aspirations. The margins of her life are filled with the weight of her feelings for Israel, a Quaker who represents both hope and the constraints of societal expectations. The chapter reveals Sarah's ongoing struggle between personal ambition and societal roles, especially highlighted by Israel's proposal and her subsequent rejection. In the midst of her emotional turmoil, she finds camaraderie in her sister Nina, who, in her own commitment to abolition, is ready to join Sarah in Philadelphia, thus underscoring themes of sisterhood and shared resolve against the injustices of their time.

Both Handful and Sarah forge their identities against the backdrop of despair, conflict, and hope, with the chapter emphasizing the power of resilience, the enduring quest for freedom, and the strength found in family ties. Their stories intertwine, illustrating the complexities of womanhood in a society that continually seeks to define and limit them. The profound yearning for personal fulfillment and liberation resonates throughout, suggesting that the path toward emancipation—whether personal or societal—is fraught yet vital.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 6: July 1835–June 1838

In Chapter 6 of "The Invention of Wings," the story unfolds over a three-year timeline, focusing on the lives of Handful and Sarah Grimké amidst their evolving relationships with slavery and freedom. Handful, reflecting on her mother Mauma's declining health, expresses her deep connection to a story quilt Mauma crafted, which narrates her harrowing life as a slave. This quilt becomes a symbol of resilience and heritage, emphasizing themes of memory and the struggle for identity.

As Mauma gradually succumbs to her ailments, Handful's worry intensifies. Mauma shares poignant stories from the quilt, encapsulating her past traumas, which are vivid reminders of slavery's brutality. The love and bond between them is evident, yet Handful is acutely aware of her precarious position and the longing for freedom.

On the other hand, Sarah experiences her own struggles within the abolitionist movement, especially as she and her sister Nina contemplate challenging norms by sitting on the "Negro pew" in their Quaker

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
22k 5 star review

Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

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

Fantastic!!!



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

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

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

Love it!



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

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



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

Awesome app!



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

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



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

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey