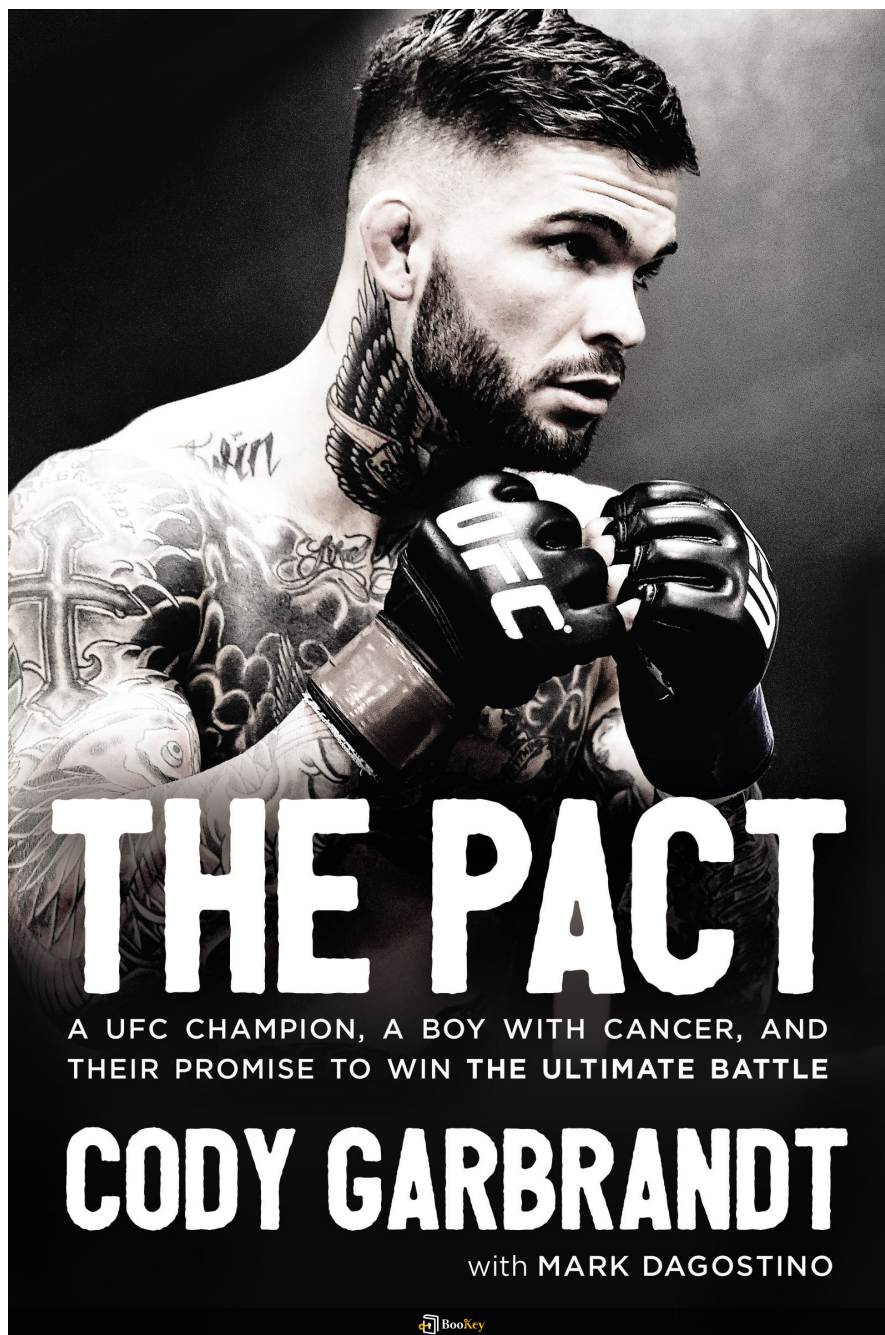


# The Pact PDF (Limited Copy)

Cody Garbrandt



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# **The Pact Summary**

A Journey of Redemption and Brotherhood in MMA.

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## About the book

In "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt shares a raw and deeply personal account of his journey through the tumultuous world of professional fighting, revealing not just the physical battles inside the octagon, but the emotional and mental struggles that came with fame and fortune. This gripping memoir explores themes of resilience, friendship, and the unbreakable bonds formed through shared adversity, as Garbrandt faces his demons while striving to reclaim his identity and purpose beyond the sport. With candid reflections and poignant storytelling, Garbrandt invites readers to witness his pact with himself to rise above the challenges, ultimately offering an inspiring narrative of redemption that resonates well beyond the fighting ring.

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## About the author

Cody Garbrandt is an accomplished mixed martial artist and former UFC Bantamweight Champion known for his tenacity and striking prowess inside the octagon. Born on July 7, 1991, in Uhrichsville, Ohio, Garbrandt's journey in combat sports began at an early age, where he quickly distinguished himself as a formidable competitor. Beyond his athletic achievements, he has become a voice for mental health awareness, drawing from his own experiences with anxiety and depression. In "The Pact," Garbrandt shares his personal story of resilience, illustrating not only the challenges he has faced in his career but also the importance of friendship and support in overcoming life's adversities.

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# Summary Content List

Chapter 1: One

Chapter 2: Two

Chapter 3: Three

Chapter 4: Four

Chapter 5: Five

Chapter 6: Six

Chapter 7: Seven

Chapter 8: Eight

Chapter 9: Nine

Chapter 10: Ten

Chapter 11: Eleven

Chapter 12: Twelve

Chapter 13: Thirteen

Chapter 14: Fourteen

Chapter 15: Fifteen

Chapter 16: Sixteen

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Chapter 17: Seventeen

Chapter 18: Eighteen

Chapter 19: Nineteen

Chapter 20: Twenty

Chapter 21: Twenty-One

Chapter 22: Twenty-Two

Chapter 23: Twenty-Three

Chapter 24: Twenty-Four

Chapter 25: Twenty-Five

Chapter 26: Twenty-Six

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## Chapter 1 Summary: One

In the opening chapter of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on his tumultuous childhood, where fighting was a fundamental aspect of life in Uhrichsville, Ohio. He recalls vivid memories of early brawls with peers, including a notable fifth-grade encounter with a boy named Jimmy, who surprisingly had a probation officer. This event exemplifies the deeply ingrained culture of violence in his town, captured by the saying, "If you're looking for help, call 911. If you're looking for trouble, call 922." The narrative reflects Cody's upbringing in a community marked by economic hardship and a history of fighting, serving as both a release and a rite of passage.

From a young age, fighting shaped the dynamics of his family life, especially with his older brother, Zach. Their mother, burdened by the absence of their father—who was incarcerated for most of their lives—sought to channel their combative energy into wrestling, the community's sport of choice. Cody and Zach quickly became immersed in the sport, propelled by their mother's relentless dedication and the desire to surpass their father's troubled legacy. Cody's competitive nature shines through as he reflects on the thrill of wrestling matches and the joy of pushing himself to improve.

The chapter vividly portrays the contrasting influences in Cody's life: the

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negative legacy of his father—who was trapped in cycles of violence and imprisonment—and the positive mentorship of a figure who taught him that fighting could be purposeful and transformative. This mentor instilled in Cody the belief that fighting is not merely about aggression but about striving for something greater in life. Through these experiences, Garbrandt grapples with the duality of his heritage, navigating a path to potentially break free from the violence that defined his upbringing.

The chapter sets the stage for a story about resilience, the complexities of family ties, and the struggle to find one's identity against a backdrop of a tough environment. With a blend of nostalgia and introspection, Cody's reflections evoke a sharp sense of place and personal history while hinting at the challenges he faces in trying to reshape his future.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Finding purpose through struggle

**Critical Interpretation:** In the opening chapter of 'The Pact', Cody Garbrandt illustrates how the challenges he faced growing up in a violent environment ultimately inspired him to seek purpose in his life. As you reflect on your own struggles, consider how they can become the catalyst for growth and transformation. Instead of viewing hardships as mere obstacles, you can leverage them as opportunities to redefine your path, strive for improvement, and create a legacy that uplifts rather than chains you to the past. This perspective not only encourages resilience but empowers you to fight for your own aspirations and goals, transforming the adversities into stepping stones toward a brighter future.

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## Chapter 2 Summary: Two

In Chapter 2 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on the pivotal role his Uncle Bob played in transforming his and his brother Zach's lives. Uncle Bob, who had a troubled past himself—having served time in prison—emerged from that experience as a changed man. He found faith and turned his life around, realizing he wanted to break the cycle of dysfunction in their family. Upon his release, he committed to stepping into a father figure role for Cody and Zach, just as they were entering a turbulent phase of childhood marked by fights and mischief.

Uncle Bob introduced them to boxing, a sport he had once aspired to pursue at the Olympic level. Despite their mother's reservations about boxing, he found ways to train the boys secretly, all while exposing them to the values of discipline and hard work. His own dedication to the sport and belief that boxing could be their ticket to success resonated deeply with Cody and Zach. The gym became their sanctuary, where they learned not only the techniques of fighting but also life lessons about perseverance, hard work, and respect.

Their experiences were not limited to boxing; Uncle Bob also took them to church, where he shared his faith and the importance of spirituality. This introduced Cody and Zach to a deeply personal journey of understanding their beliefs, setting a contrast to their earlier, uncomfortable church

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experiences. They grew to appreciate the messages shared at their new church, which coincided with their personal struggles and aspirations, providing them with motivation and direction.

Cody recalls how this intense focus on sports, particularly wrestling and boxing, fueled their dreams. Inspired by the movie "Vision Quest," he began embodying the mentality of a champion, training relentlessly and visualizing success. The family's commitment to the boys' athletic careers included long drives to practices and tournaments, showcasing the dedication their parents and Uncle Bob had to their futures.

Despite the struggles and the distractions along the way—including typical childhood scrapes and injuries—Cody and Zach flourished. They honed their skills, competing fiercely and gaining recognition, culminating in victories at national tournaments. Through it all, Uncle Bob was their unwavering supporter, driving home the importance of education, discipline, and staying clear of the pitfalls that had trapped their family in past generations.

The chapter climaxes with Cody and Zach winning national titles, a dream they had visualized and worked tirelessly to achieve. Their mother made good on a promise, allowing them to get tattoos—symbols of their faith and their journey of self-discovery. Cody chose a cross, representing his belief in God's protection and guidance amidst life's chaos.

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Throughout this chapter, key themes of redemption, resilience, and the power of mentorship shine through. Uncle Bob’s influence establishes a strong familial bond, empowering Cody and Zach to rise above their circumstances and chase their dreams, embodying the transformative power of love, discipline, and faith.

Key Aspect	Details
Uncle Bob's Role	Transformed lives of Cody and Zach, stepped in as a father figure.
Uncle Bob's Background	Had a troubled past, served time in prison, turned life around through faith.
Introduction to Boxing	Uncle Bob introduced them to boxing, training them secretly despite their mother's reservations.
Lessons Learned	Discipline, hard work, perseverance, and respect through boxing.
Faith and Spirituality	Uncle Bob exposed them to church, contrasted with their earlier experiences, deepening their faith.
Impact of Sports	Intensity in sports, particularly wrestling and boxing, fueled dreams; inspired by "Vision Quest. "
Family Commitment	Long drives to practices and tournaments, showcasing family support for athletic careers.
Achievements	Cody and Zach won national titles, fulfilling their dreams through hard work and dedication.
Tattoo Symbolism	Cody got a cross tattoo as a symbol of faith and guidance.



Key Aspect	Details
Themes	Redemption, resilience, mentorship, family bonds, and the power of love and faith.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The transformative power of mentorship

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine stepping into a role where your mere presence can alter someone else's life trajectory. This is the essence of Uncle Bob's influence on Cody and Zach. His journey from a troubled past to becoming a guiding light teaches us that mentorship is not just about providing guidance; it's about embodying hope and possibilities. As you reflect on your own life, consider how you can be that figure for someone else—offering support, imparting knowledge, and fostering belief in their potential. Just as Uncle Bob opened doors to discipline and purpose, you too can inspire change, pushing others to realize their dreams and navigate through adversity with resilience.

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## Chapter 3: Three

In Chapter 3 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, the author reflects on his journey as a freshman in high school, driven by the singular goal of winning the state wrestling championship. He seeks to be the first freshman at Claymont High School to achieve this feat, inspired by the encouragement of his beloved coach, Eric Toukonen. Coach Toukonen is portrayed as a larger-than-life figure, instilling confidence in Cody and becoming a significant mentor, almost a father figure to him. This relationship fosters a sense of cockiness in Cody, which motivates both him and his teammates as they train hard in the gym.

Cody's commitment to wrestling is unwavering, even as he struggles with academics. He dominates the wrestling season, but as the state championships approach, he finds himself labeled as an underdog in a crowded and competitive weight class. Despite a difficult sophomore year marked by illness and a decline in performance, Cody perseveres and ultimately succeeds in winning the championship. This victory cemented his status as a local hero and set high expectations for future seasons, with buzz

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## Chapter 4 Summary: Four

In Chapter 4 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on pivotal moments that shaped his passion for fighting, beginning with a vivid memory from when he was twelve. Watching a mixed martial arts (MMA) fight for the first time on television electrified him. The raw intensity of the sport, which showcased a combination of wrestling, boxing, and striking, captivated Cody, igniting a desire to become an MMA fighter, despite his uncle Bob's insistence that boxing was the only path to success.

Prompted by the thrill of the fight, Cody enlisted his friends in a makeshift wrestling match in their hotel room, where he discovered his natural talent for MMA. As he grew up, the sport gained traction, introducing names like Chuck Liddell and Urijah Faber to the forefront. Faber, a fellow wrestler-turned-fighter, inspired Cody, who began to consume MMA content online, absorbing techniques and strategies from Faber's successes.

While Uncle Bob focused on boxing, teaching Cody a complex system of aggressive moves called "the Numbers," Cody's heart was split between his love for boxing and a relentless yearning for MMA. As he excelled in boxing, winning matches with the help of Uncle Bob's coaching, Cody noted an underlying pull toward the cage and a need to learn martial arts skills.

In the midst of achieving football success during high school—scoring five

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touchdowns in a game—Cody still grappled with the darker influences around him. Despite facing negativity from those around him regarding his fighting dreams and occasionally engaging in risky activities to make money, Cody held onto his aspirations, like a lifeline resurfacing amidst turbulent waters. His dreams became a sanctuary, grounding him even in moments of chaos.

As he ventured into MMA training in earnest, he found a small but gritty gym run by Brian Cadle, who welcomed him and his uncle with open arms. With newfound focus, Cody dedicated his days to training, eager to enter the cage and prove himself. Finally, on the cusp of his eighteenth birthday, he was set to make his MMA debut.

However, the night of his first fight in Geneva did not unfold as expected. From losing his fight shorts to the chaos of rain-soaked conditions inside the octagon, obstacles mounted. Despite an early advantage in the fight, he quickly fell victim to a choke hold and had to tap out just two minutes into the match, facing the harsh reality of his ambition. This moment marked not only a stumbling block but a profound lesson in humility and resilience, reminding Cody that the path to success is often riddled with unexpected challenges.

Throughout this chapter, key themes of resilience, the pursuit of dreams, and the duality of ambition versus distraction resonate. Cody's journey reflects

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the importance of passion in overcoming obstacles and the constant struggle between his aspirations and the external pressures that seek to guide him down a conventional path.

Key Points	Description
Pivotal Moments	Cody reflects on his childhood memory of watching MMA which sparked his passion for fighting.
Initial Interest	He was captivated by the raw intensity of MMA, a blend of wrestling, boxing, and striking.
Uncle Bob's Influence	Despite Uncle Bob's push for boxing success, Cody's heart leaned towards MMA.
Early Training	Cody discovered his talent through a friendly wrestling match with friends.
MMA Role Models	He was inspired by MMA fighters like Chuck Liddell and Urijah Faber.
The Numbers System	Uncle Bob taught Cody a boxing system, but his passion for MMA grew stronger.
High School Influences	Cody faced negative influences but remained focused on his fighting dreams.
Initial MMA Training	Found a supportive gym with Brian Cadle, enhancing his focus on MMA.
First MMA Fight	Encountered unexpected challenges and lost his debut match due to a choke hold.
Thematic Elements	Highlights resilience, pursuit of dreams, and the struggle between ambition and distractions.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Pursue your passion relentlessly despite obstacles

**Critical Interpretation:** Just like Cody Garbrandt, you may face challenges and distractions that try to steer you away from your true passion. His journey exemplifies that holding onto your dreams, no matter how chaotic or uncertain life becomes, can be your guiding light. Embrace the passion that drives you, for it is in this pursuit that you find your purpose and the strength to overcome any hurdle.

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## Chapter 5 Summary: Five

In Chapter 5 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on the aftermath of his first MMA loss, a painful experience that deeply affects him. Riding home from Geneva, his friend Brian tries to reassure him that one day he will laugh about it, but the sting of defeat makes that hard to believe. Losing is particularly tough for Cody; he finds it harder than the thrill of winning itself. As he processes the disappointment, he draws inspiration from fighters and heroes in films who always rise back after being knocked down, yet feels lost and as if he's on the ground, struggling to regroup.

Back home, Cody is determined to bounce back, diving into training the very next day despite being in school. He reluctantly joins the high school football team and finds himself channeling his fighting spirit through street fights, often disregarding the repercussions. Despite the staunch reminders from his coaches about wasted talent, Cody gets into trouble, leading to him being kicked out of school after an incident involving a teammate's mother. Coincidentally, his brother Zach faces a similar fate, both brothers feeling the weight of their family legacy and wondering if they are doomed to follow in their father's troubled footsteps.

While the expulsion from Claymont High seems like a setback, it turns out to be a blessing in disguise for Cody. Transferring to New Philadelphia introduces him to a structured football program and a coach who emphasizes

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discipline, respect, and teamwork. This experience not only improves his game but also shapes Cody's character; he learns that success comes from collective effort rather than individual glory.

Eager to try wrestling again, Cody attempts to return to Claymont, but discovers he's ineligible due to the transfer. With newfound free time, he grapples with a mixture of partying and refocusing on MMA. When Zach returns home after serving time, the brothers reconnect, leading to a heated altercation that begins over a chicken sandwich. Their fight escalates into a fierce, raw brawl, reminiscent of their childhood skirmishes.

In the intense battle under the headlights, Cody finds himself unexpectedly gaining the upper hand, a rare moment in their sibling rivalry. However, as the fight becomes more brutal, both brothers instinctively sense a threshold they don't want to cross. This pivotal moment marks a shift in their dynamic. They ultimately cool down, realizing they share a bond that transcends their competitive nature. After cleaning up, they sit together at the kitchen table, symbolizing a newfound understanding.

The chapter culminates with Cody reflecting on that fight, not just as a mark of physical toughness but as a turning point in his life. The foreboding presence of his cauliflower ear—a lasting reminder from Zach—reinforces what it means to be competitive, but also inner strength and determination. Zach's intentions to settle for a steady job contrast sharply with Cody's

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ambitions, which no longer revolve around proving himself against his brother; instead, he sets his sights firmly on achieving greatness in the cage.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embrace setbacks as opportunities for growth

**Critical Interpretation:** When you face defeat, it can feel overwhelming and disheartening, much like how Cody felt after his first MMA loss. However, it's crucial to remember that these setbacks can be powerful catalysts for growth. Just as Cody found a new path through the challenges of expulsion and subsequent transfer, you too can embrace your obstacles as opportunities to reevaluate your goals and redirect your energies. Stripping away the immediate desire for success can lead to more profound realizations about your character and aspirations, teaching you that true resilience comes not from avoiding failure but from learning to rise, adapt, and strive even stronger towards your dreams.

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## Chapter 6: Six

In April 2010, Cody Garbrandt stepped into the cage for his second amateur MMA fight in East Liverpool, Ohio, facing off against a skilled wrestler named Ryan Rooney. The match showcased Cody's fierce striking ability, culminating in a TKO victory in the second round. Riding high on this success, he quickly took on another fight in Zanesville, where he faced an older opponent who, despite arriving overweight and being accompanied by his children, couldn't withstand Cody's relentless attacks, resulting in a TKO just a minute into the first round.

Eager to share his triumphs, Cody uploaded videos of both fights to YouTube, alongside footage of his rigorous training sessions. Amidst this wave of confidence, he reached out to his idol, Urijah Faber, on Twitter, expressing his hope to train with Team Alpha Male. To his astonishment, Urijah responded, offering encouragement and expressing anticipation for Cody's future in the sport. This exchange ignited a spark of possibility, giving Cody a glimpse of what his dreams could become.

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## Chapter 7 Summary: Seven

In Chapter 7 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt finds himself back in his mom's house after a turbulent phase, quickly slipping back into his old party lifestyle. Surrounded by familiar friends, he starts drinking heavily and getting into street fights again, feeling lost without the structure of team sports that had once given his life direction. His friend A.J. makes a drastic change, choosing faith over the chaos, which inspires Cody to seek a different path. He views the cage as his church, resolving to immerse himself in MMA while also considering a second chance at college.

Cody moves to Cleveland, where he joins a gym with hopes of training for fights and applies for a wrestling scholarship at a local college. However, after just a week at school, he realizes he lacks genuine passion for the academic path and withdraws. Financial struggles lead him to take an undesirable route, selling drugs to support his training and living expenses, an alarming cycle that weighs heavily on him as he gets closer to twenty.

Winter brings bouts of partying and fights, but amidst the chaos, Cody leans on the encouragement of his brother Zach, who challenges him not to give up on his dreams. Zach's words resonate deeply, pushing Cody to reconsider abandoning his fight aspirations in favor of a stable job in coal mining like Zach's. This heartfelt conversation becomes a turning point for Cody, igniting a renewed determination within him.

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Despite his mother's concern and hopes for a more settled life, Cody boldly declares his intention to pursue fighting for the next five years unconditionally. He prepares for a crucial fight that could catapult him toward professional status, showing resilience and tenacity as he ultimately wins the match by unanimous decision. Leaving the ring victorious, Cody feels a newfound sense of purpose, reaffirmed in his commitment to his dreams, but he remains aware that challenges are still on the horizon. The chapter closes on a hopeful note, hinting at the ongoing battle between his aspirations and the pull of his old life.

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## Chapter 8 Summary: Eight

In Chapter 8 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, the story unfolds on a Saturday evening in June 2011, when Cody finds himself in a mood that would soon take a drastic turn. After a friend reaches out for a ride from Tammie's Tavern, a notorious local dive bar, Cody heads there. Despite being underage, he slips inside without a hitch, drawn into the raucous atmosphere and the allure of catching up with friends and local girls. However, the tension quickly escalates into chaos as a fight erupts, resembling a scene from an old bar brawl movie.

As fights break out and the rain starts pouring, Cody attempts to leave, but he is suddenly attacked from behind by an older man. Feeling cornered, he defends himself and knocks the guy out cold. But the trouble doesn't end there; another adversary confronts him, an old acquaintance who seems intent on proving a point with bravado about his past in jail. Just when Cody thinks he can defuse the situation, the guy brandishes a knife, striking Cody in the chest with the blade's blunt edge, before he can react.

In a moment of instinctive skill, Cody delivers a swift kick that puts his attacker down but not before he realizes that his friend has been injured and that he himself is now bleeding profusely from a severe cut on his calf. They bolt to escape the chaotic scene just in time, Cody's adrenaline pumping as they speed away, leaving the bar fight and its aftermath behind them.



At home, the reality of the injury hits Cody hard, as he comes face to face with just how dangerously close he came to losing his life. In the hospital, as doctors tend to his wound, he reflects on his reckless life choices and the peril of the bar fight, questioning whether this moment is a sign of things to come. Overcome with pain and fatigue, he finds himself at a crossroads, wrestling with feelings of despair and wondering if he should give up on everything. His desperate plea to God for direction underscores the turmoil and uncertainty in his life, leaving readers captivated by his emotional struggle. This chapter poignantly captures themes of violence, the search for identity, and a profound yearning for change in the wake of chaos.

Chapter Overview	Key Events	Themes
Chapter 8 Summary	<p>Cody goes to Tammie's Tavern on a Saturday evening, June 2011.</p> <p>Underage, he enters the bar and immerses himself in the chaotic atmosphere.</p> <p>A fight erupts; Cody defends himself from an older attacker.</p> <p>Cody is confronted by a former acquaintance with a knife.</p> <p>Injured during the fight, Cody escapes the scene with his friend.</p> <p>Back home, reality sets in about the severity of his injuries.</p> <p>Cody reflects on his reckless lifestyle while recovering in the hospital.</p> <p>He grapples with feelings of despair and questions his future.</p>	<p>Violence and its consequences.</p> <p>The search for identity amidst chaos.</p> <p>A yearning for change and self-reflection.</p> <p>The role of faith and guidance during moments of crisis.</p>



<b>Chapter Overview</b>	<b>Key Events</b>	<b>Themes</b>

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## Chapter 9: Nine

In Chapter 9 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on a pivotal conversation with his friend Zach, who checks in on him after his hospitalization. Cody is struggling with pain and a sense of hopelessness, hesitant to embrace any positivity despite Zach's encouragement. During their talk, Zach brings up a five-year-old boy in need, Maddux Maple, who is battling cancer. Deeply moved by Maddux's situation, Cody feels an intense parental instinct, particularly thinking about his own little sister, Hayley.

Motivated to help, Cody reaches out to Maddux's father, Mic, through Facebook, expressing his desire to support the family. Although the initial response is that Maddux is too sick for visitors, this interaction sparks a connection between them. As their communication grows, Cody learns more about the Maple family, who, unlike his own upbringing steeped in toughness, have led a life characterized by love and care, running group homes for the mentally ill.

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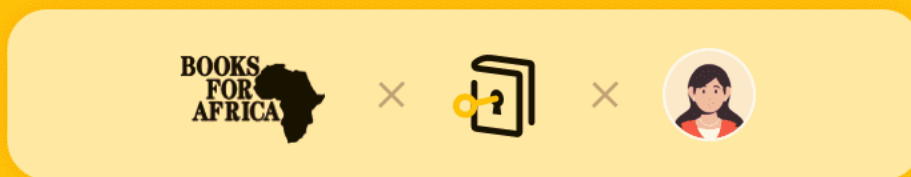
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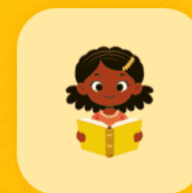
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## Chapter 10 Summary: Ten

In Chapter 10 of "The Pact," Mic and Stephani face the unimaginable when their young son, Maddux, is diagnosed with leukemia. What begins as a routine visit to the pediatrician quickly spirals into a nightmare as they learn that Maddux needs to be moved to the cancer floor of Akron Children's Hospital. Surrounded by family, Mic and Stephani cling to each other as they absorb the gravity of the situation, relying on Dr. Jeffrey Hord's compassionate guidance and encouragement that they can navigate this difficult journey.

Their resolve is tested the next day during Maddux's bone-marrow biopsy, an excruciating procedure that leaves both parents devastated as they witness their son in pain. For a moment, Stephani flees, overcome with emotion, needing comfort from her mother, who urges her to stay strong. Despite their fears, Maddux shows resilience, and the biopsy results later reveal that he has acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most treatable form of pediatric leukemia. Dr. Hord reassures them, explaining that treatment can begin immediately to fight the "bad guys" in Maddux's blood.

As Maddux begins chemotherapy, the family stands together, navigating the emotional and physical toll this journey imposes. They watch in anguish as their spirited child transforms under the effects of treatment—losing weight, experiencing mood swings, and struggling with fatigue. During one

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particularly challenging moment, when Maddux lashes out unexpectedly over his dinner order, Stephani breaks down in tears, overwhelmed by how the illness has changed him.

The family's daily life becomes a series of adjustments as they prepare for the new challenges of treatment, including the addition of puke buckets in their home and cars to manage Maddux's sudden bouts of nausea. Yet amidst the chaos, sweet moments emerge, like when Maddux cheerfully declares that he is "done" after being sick, showing glimpses of his resilient spirit.

The chapter interweaves themes of love, support, and the powerful connection formed between the Maple family and Cody Garbrandt, a local fighter, through social media. Their exchange of messages and support further bolsters Maddux's spirits as he finds inspiration from Cody's own journey as a fighter. In a parallel narrative, Cody reflects on his struggles and the effect Maddux's spirit has on him, reigniting his own drive and determination.

As Mic and Stephani grapple with the uncertainty of their son's illness and the impact on their family dynamic, this chapter encapsulates the stark contrast between the joyful beginnings of their journey and the hardships that follow, highlighting themes of resilience, parental love, and the hope that springs from community and connection in the face of adversity.

Key Events	Description
Diagnosis	Maddux is diagnosed with leukemia after a routine pediatric visit, requiring transfer to the cancer floor at Akron Children's Hospital.
Emotional Turmoil	Mic and Stephani face devastation during Maddux's bone-marrow biopsy; Stephani briefly seeks comfort from her mother.
Diagnosis Confirmation	Results reveal Maddux has acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most treatable form, and treatment starts immediately.
Chemotherapy Challenges	Maddux undergoes chemotherapy, facing weight loss, mood swings, and fatigue, deeply affecting the family.
Moments of Resilience	Despite challenges, Maddux shows resilience; heartwarming moments occur, such as his declaration of being "done" after illness.
Community Support	The Maple family connects with Cody Garbrandt through social media, enhancing Maddux's spirits and providing mutual inspiration.
Themes	The chapter explores love, support, resilience, and the impact of community in facing adversity alongside the family's struggles and joys.

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## Chapter 11 Summary: Eleven

In Chapter 11 of "The Pact," things take a turn for the worse for young Maddux Maple, who is battling health issues due to intense cancer treatment. Mic, his father, shares the news that Maddux's condition has deteriorated; he struggles with weakened legs, which leads to a painful fall, and subsequently, a hospital visit reveals he needs a wheelchair. Mic feels like a failed parent, grappling with guilt, but his friend Cody reminds him that accidents happen and commends the loving bond he shares with his family.

As Maddux continues to fight, he faces numerous setbacks, including a severe sinus infection that ultimately requires surgery. However, during a presurgical examination, doctors discover painful mouth sores caused by chemotherapy, which prevents the operation and leads to further complications. Throughout this harrowing ordeal, Maddux remains remarkably resilient, never complaining, much to the admiration of his parents.

Mic and Stephani, Maddux's parents, display extraordinary love and strength, with Stephani even fasting alongside her son to show solidarity. Despite the bleak situation, Maddux stays positive, inspiring those around him. The chapter highlights how caring for others can provide purpose and motivation, pushing Cody to want to better himself. As Maddux's condition



worsens, Cody feels increasingly helpless but resolves to help in any way he can.

On Mic's birthday, devastating news arrives: Maddux has developed double-lung pneumonia, leaving the doctors unsure of how to proceed. The weight of this news deeply impacts Cody, who has never personally met Maddux but feels a strong connection to him. Inspired, Cody decides to donate the proceeds from his next fight to help Maddux's family, igniting a sense of hope and purpose in him and giving Mic and Stephani something to look forward to amidst their struggles.

As Thanksgiving approaches, a glimmer of hope emerges when Maddux is temporarily discharged from the hospital, allowing the family to celebrate together. His brief return home offers a momentary respite, yet soon after, he is readmitted due to illness, throwing the family back into turmoil. The emotional rollercoaster continues, testing their limits.

Finally, in mid-December, Cody receives good news: Maddux's condition has improved dramatically, surprising the doctors and showcasing his incredible fortitude. He continues to bond with his parents over board games while preparing for another round of treatment. By Christmas, Maddux is finally released from the hospital, filling his family with hope as they look forward to the New Year.

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Through this chapter, themes of resilience, hope, and the power of community shine brightly. The connections formed through shared struggles remind Cody of the importance of family and the drive to do better as he channels his dedication into supporting Maddux. In the end, there's a powerful sense of hope that binds their lives together, blossoming even in the toughest of times.

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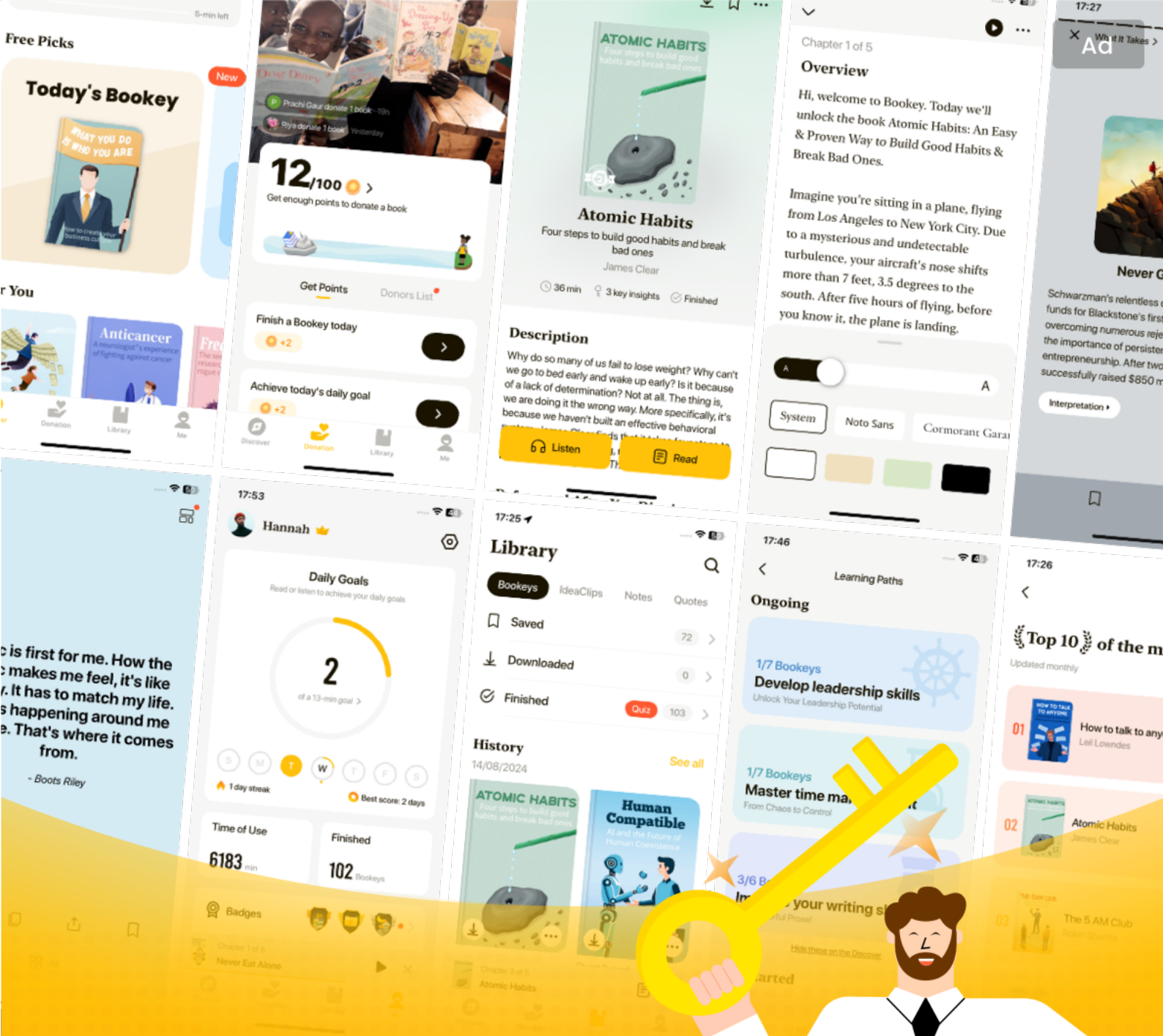
## Chapter 12: Twelve

In January 2012, after months of connecting via social media, Cody Garbrandt finally received the long-awaited news that Maddux Maple, a young boy battling cancer, was well enough for visitors. Excited and nervous, Cody prepared a pair of white boxing gloves for Maddux, which he felt symbolized the boy's fighting spirit. Arriving at the Maple family's home, Cody was struck by the warm and inviting atmosphere, reflective of their strong family values, highlighted by a picturesque yard perfect for children.

The moment Cody stepped inside and saw Maddux for the first time, he felt an instant connection despite the boy's physical changes due to treatment, including his hair loss. As Maddux tried on the gloves, Cody recognized the profound battle this young warrior was engaged in—not just against cancer, but against the challenges of feeling different from his peers. Their connection grew stronger as they shared silent understanding through their eyes, even as Maddux remained quiet during their conversation.

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## Chapter 13 Summary: Thirteen

In Chapter 13 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, the atmosphere is electric as the story sets the stage for a critical fight. As Cody makes his entrance, he's struck by the sight of the crowd wearing "Madd for Maddux" orange shirts, standing in solidarity for Maddux, a young boy fighting cancer. This connection to Maddux fuels Cody's resolve, despite the absence of Maddux himself, who is too weak to attend. He walks into the arena feeling supported, a mix of nervousness and determination coursing through him.

Cody's journey to this fight hasn't been smooth. Struggling with a grueling weight cut, he feels unprepared both physically and mentally without his Uncle Bob, his usual source of last-minute guidance, by his side due to illness. However, the encouragement from friends and an overwhelming crowd almost compensates for his lack of support. During the fight, Cody starts strong, showing skill and confidence. But as the rounds progress, he fights against an unexpectedly resilient opponent, Jerrell Hodge, who eventually lands a surprise knockout blow.

The aftermath of the fight is a whirlwind of emotions. Initially, Cody is overwhelmed with embarrassment and despair; he feels he has disappointed everyone who supported him, particularly Maddux and his family. But in a pivotal moment, Brian Cadle, his coach, shakes him awake with wise words, reminding him that while losing a fight hurts, not fighting for others like



Maddux could be worse. This conversation acts as a catalyst for Cody, helping him to refocus on what truly matters.

As he meets with the Maples post-fight, he finds unexpected comfort in their encouragement and support. This connection deepens over the following months, reinforcing the idea that Cody is not just a mentor to Maddux but also learning valuable lessons about resilience and community spirit. He reflects on his own life and the choices that shape it, acknowledging that despite growing up amid violence and struggles, there is a path filled with love and support.

Recognizing the need for change, Cody decides to return to his roots, training with Uncle Bob and seeking new opportunities to pursue his dream of becoming a professional fighter. He gradually realizes that this pursuit is more than just his ambition; it's a promise to Maddux and a reminder to live fully and fight bravely. The chapter culminates in a powerful affirmation of hope and determination, illustrating that both he and Maddux are in this fight for their lives together. With a renewed focus on their pact, Cody resolves not to let setbacks define him, committing to a future filled with possibility—"Live to fight. Fight to live." The chapter not only highlights themes of perseverance and accountability but also illustrates a deep, transformative connection between Cody and Maddux, emphasizing the impact of friendship and love in overcoming life's challenges.

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## Chapter 14 Summary: Fourteen

In Chapter 14 of "The Pact," we follow the exhilarating yet challenging journey of Maddux, a young boy battling leukemia, and Cody Garbrandt, who is on his own path to becoming a fighter. The chapter begins with Maddux receiving a dream-like trip to Disney World from the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Joy turns to concern when, after a day of excitement, he reveals that he has been hiding the pain of a broken foot sustained during the trip. This moment highlights both his resilience and the intricate dynamics of his relationship with his mother, Steph, who feels guilt for not noticing his injury sooner.

As summer rolls on, despite the pain and challenges that come with his illness, Maddux shows remarkable strength, refusing to complain even while using crutches. His determination serves as inspiration for Cody, who is gearing up for an important fight in September after a significant life alteration following a previous knockout loss. He decides to fight in a higher weight class, stepping into the cage with confidence bolstered by training with his loved ones and friends.

Cody's dedication to Maddux is palpable, especially as he prepares for his match. Unfortunately, Maddux cannot walk him out due to health concerns, but their bond remains a source of strength for Cody. On fight night, he not only wins but dedicates his championship belt to Maddux, solidifying their

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connection and showcasing the strength of community as spectators rally in support of the young boy's battle against cancer.

After the fight, Cody insists on sharing the belt with Maddux, believing it represents their shared journey and fight. This gesture leads to an overwhelming outpouring of support from their local community, illustrating how a personal struggle can unite people in compassion and empathy.

Cody's life shifts positively when he receives an offer to train at a prestigious gym and teach boxing to kids, deepening his connection to the sport he loves. He continues to visit Maddux, creating special moments that underscore their friendship—like treating him to fast food outings during his hospital stay. These interactions reinforce the theme of resilience and the importance of support systems in facing life's toughest challenges. Cody remains consistent in reminding Maddux of their pact and instilling hope that they both will endure their respective battles: one in the ring, and the other in the fight against illness.

The chapter closes on a note of mutual admiration and growth, highlighting how both boys are fighting their own battles but drawing strength from each other in profound and meaningful ways. This bond ultimately illustrates the power of friendship, perseverance, and the sense of community in overcoming adversity.

## Chapter Summary

The chapter follows Maddux, a boy with leukemia, who receives a trip to Disney World from Make-a-Wish. He hides a broken foot, showing resilience, while Cody prepares for a fight. Their bond inspires Cody, who dedicates his victory to Maddux, strengthening community ties. Cody also receives an offer to train kids in boxing, and their friendship emphasizes the importance of support and perseverance in difficult times. The chapter highlights their mutual growth and strength derived from each other in facing life's challenges.

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## Chapter 15: Fifteen

In Chapter 15 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, Cody shares the thrilling news with Maddux, a boy he has been supporting throughout his cancer battle, that he is set for his first professional fight. He is determined to fight experienced opponents right from the start; rather than padding his record against easy competitors, Cody aims to challenge himself and prepare for the UFC. The enthusiasm in the living room is palpable as Maddux, who has also been improving, is excited to walk Cody to the octagon.

However, the excitement is abruptly overshadowed when Maddux falls seriously ill and is readmitted to the hospital. The doctors fear a return of his cancer, introducing a shadow of uncertainty over the fight. A heart-wrenching call from Maddux's father, Mic, reveals how close Maddux came to death, but fortunately, his condition stabilizes. This prompts Cody to plan an exhibition fight to raise funds for Maddux's care and cancer research, showcasing not only his commitment to his friend but also his resilience.

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## Chapter 16 Summary: Sixteen

In Chapter 16 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt faces significant challenges after injuring his hand during a fight against Kessinger, resulting in a severe compound fracture that requires surgery and months of recovery. The gravity of the injury not only brings physical pain but also engulfs him in mental turmoil, as he grapples with doubts about his future as a fighter. The doctors' warnings about being cautious haunt him, creating a void filled with frustration.

Despite this setback, Cody finds solace and encouragement in the support of his close allies, including Uncle Bob and Maddux, who remind him that it's a marathon, not a sprint. Their positive attitudes help him recognize that this downtime could offer new opportunities, and he resolves to maintain his focus on recovery. Cody channels his energy into teaching kids at the gym, especially a young Russian fighter who inspires him with his determination.

However, the struggle for patience is overwhelming. While trying to get back on track, Cody faces temptations and distractions from his past life in the 922. A bar altercation leads to an unexpected connection with the bar owner, Todd Meldrum, who offers to sponsor him as a fighter, reminding Cody that his talent and drive are recognized beyond his old neighborhood.

As time passes, Cody suffers from vertigo, likely a result of past

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concussions, adding another layer to his battle for health. Rest becomes essential, but as he waits for his body to heal, his mind is plagued with doubts about whether he will return to the octagon. Through conversations with his brother Zach, Cody gains a deeper understanding of his motivations, realizing that his ultimate goal isn't just to fight but to achieve peace and a fulfilling life.

This realization prompts him to reflect on his journey. He acknowledges that aspiring for greatness in the UFC is part of a larger quest for a stable and happy life, which connects him to his dreams rooted in childhood innocence. Realizing that his current training situation in Pittsburgh isn't aligning with his ambitions, he decides it's time to make a bold move.

With a renewed sense of purpose and clarity, Cody resolves to leave Pittsburgh for Sacramento and join Team Alpha Male, the elite team led by his idol Urijah Faber. This decision marks a pivotal moment in his journey—a commitment to pursuing his true passions unapologetically and with determination, setting the stage for his next chapter in the fight for his dreams.

<b>Key Events</b>	<b>Description</b>
Cody's Injury	Cody sustains a severe compound fracture of his hand during a fight against Kessinger, requiring surgery and months of recovery.

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<b>Key Events</b>	<b>Description</b>
Mental Turmoil	The injury leads to mental challenges, including doubts about his future as a fighter and frustration with the healing process.
Support from Allies	Cody receives encouragement from Uncle Bob and Maddux, who help him focus on recovery and recognize new opportunities.
Teaching Kids	Cody channels energy into coaching kids at the gym, particularly inspiring a young Russian fighter.
Struggles with Patience	Cody faces distractions and temptations from his past life, including a bar altercation that leads to a sponsorship offer from bar owner Todd Meldrum.
Health Challenges	Cody experiences vertigo from past concussions, complicating his recovery and causing doubts about his return to the octagon.
Reflection on Goals	Through discussions with his brother Zach, Cody understands that his aspirations in fighting relate to a search for peace and a fulfilling life.
Weighing his future	Cody realizes his current training situation isn't aligned with his goals, prompting him to consider a major change.
Joining Team Alpha Male	Cody decides to leave Pittsburgh for Sacramento to join Urijah Faber's Team Alpha Male, marking a significant step towards his dreams.

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## Chapter 17 Summary: Seventeen

In Chapter 17 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, we dive into a significant turning point in Cody's journey as he arrives at Ultimate Fitness in Sacramento, California, for the first time. The gym isn't glamorous—housed in a modest strip mall—but for Cody, it represents the realization of a long-held dream: to be part of Team Alpha Male, a coveted MMA team led by his idol, Urijah Faber. After a lengthy eleven-month hiatus from fighting due to a hand injury and dizziness, Cody is eager to reclaim his pathway in the sport.

Despite being out of shape and weighing thirty pounds more than his fighting weight, Cody's enthusiasm shines through as he recalls moments from his past, especially the encouragement he received from his family and Uncle Bob. The energy and vibe of the gym captivate him, reinforcing his resolve to train hard and embrace the opportunity.

Upon entering, he meets Kenneth, a retired fighter who hands him a training schedule. Disheartened to learn that Faber is not present, Cody refuses to let that deter him. Instead, he commits to the community kickboxing class, eager to start training right away. After dropping almost four hundred dollars for a week of training, he and his friend Mick explore Sacramento, making the most out of the trip despite Mick's reservations about Cody's choice to train at another gym.



As Monday rolls around, Cody joins the pro training with Team Alpha Male. He quickly adapts and even impresses the other fighters with his determination and skills. Urijah Faber eventually appears during a surprise Friday morning session, running the practice and pushing Cody to his limits. This is a pivotal moment for him—he knows it's his chance to show what he's capable of. He channels all his focus into this trial, treating every spar as if it were a championship fight.

Their interaction thereafter solidifies Cody's place in the gym. With a handshake, Urijah offers him a path to the UFC, instructing him to win five fights before he can join the promotion. Encouraged by this, Cody feels elated and immediately reaches out to loved ones to share the news. The support from his family, particularly his young cousin Maddux who is battling cancer, drives home the importance of his journey and the significance of this opportunity.

Flying back to Sacramento, Cody is invigorated by the environment and the training regimen at Ultimate Fitness. He becomes a sponge, soaking up knowledge and striving to outwork his competitors, reminiscent of his early days in wrestling. His motivation is infectious, fueled by a new vision for his life—not just as a fighter, but also as a person who yearns for a sense of belonging and stability.

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As he integrates into Team Alpha Male, the camaraderie and lifestyle push him to reflect on personal relationships. He dreams of finding a stable partner in life, moving beyond fleeting interests as he focuses on his training and the potential pitfalls of the party lifestyle around him.

By the end of this chapter, Cody's hard work begins to show tangible results, and Urijah's belief in his potential reaches new heights. Faber recognizes Cody's relentless dedication and assures him of his future within the sport, hinting at greatness. This chapter captures themes of determination, the importance of mentorship, and the struggle to maintain focus amid distractions—setting the stage for Cody's anticipated ascendance in mixed martial arts.

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## Chapter 18: Eighteen

In Chapter 18 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt finds himself back in Pittsburgh, facing the pressures of preparing for his next fight after spending time with the Team Alpha Male crew in Sacramento. With financial struggles and an urgent need to win his next match, he feels the weight of expectations, especially with his young friend Maddux unable to walk him into the ring due to illness. Their FaceTime call serves as a source of motivation, as Cody reassures Maddux that they're both on a journey to success together.

As fight night approaches and anticipation builds, Cody faces Shane Manley in a match that would prove pivotal. Drawing strength from Maddux's spirit and the support of his mentor Urijah Faber, Cody enters the arena with fierce determination. The fight quickly turns in his favor as he knocks out Manley in the first round, a victory that fuels his ambitions for future challenges.

With plans to face the undefeated Dominic Mazzotta in an upcoming fight, Cody ramps up his training. He reflects on the grind of being a fighter,

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## Chapter 19 Summary: Nineteen

In Chapter 19 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, the roller coaster of life takes a sharp turn as Cody shares the struggles of his young friend Maddux, who faces bullying at school due to his medical condition. Maddux, who has a port in his chest from undergoing chemotherapy, reveals his torment by a bully who punches him, igniting Cody's protective instincts. With the help of Maddux's parents and the school principal, Mr. Page, the bully is swiftly expelled, highlighting themes of support and advocacy against bullying.

As Maddux battles with the hardships of his illness, a more serious crisis arises when he refuses to take his medication, expressing feelings of despair. Cody receives a call from Maddux's dad, Mic, who is worried about his son's mental state. This moment showcases the deep bond between Cody and Maddux, as Cody feels compelled to step in and offer support. He decides to FaceTime Maddux to provide encouragement, emphasizing the importance of communication and honesty regarding one's feelings, especially in the face of adversity.

During their conversation, Maddux tears up, expressing how sick the medication makes him feel. Cody reassures him that he's strong and reminds him of the commitment he made to fight cancer. They make a pact: Maddux promises to take his medicine in exchange for Cody guaranteeing that he'll achieve his dreams and let Maddux be part of his journey to the UFC. This

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promise strengthens their bond and gives Maddux renewed motivation to push through his treatment.

Cody's training intensifies as he prepares for fights that could define his career, while the support from Maddux and his family inspires him. After a successful fight in Pittsburgh where he wins against a seasoned opponent, Cody celebrates with both families, expressing heartfelt gratitude. This interaction reinforces the theme of community and the importance of shared experiences between Cody, Maddux, and their families.

However, Cody faces challenges during the wait for his next fight, battling anxiety about his performance and the looming expectations. He experiences setbacks with injuries but finds solace in the support from his second family, especially Maddux's uplifting messages. The shared resilience between them emphasizes mutual dependence and growth.

As Cody embraces his training with enthusiasm, under the mentorship of Urijah Faber, he learns about the art of MMA and the power of visualization. This development deepens his passion and helps him forge a clear path forward. Through hard work, positivity, and a supportive network, Cody realizes his potential and the role that friendship plays in overcoming life's challenges, underscoring the themes of hope, perseverance, and the transformative power of connection.

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## Chapter 20 Summary: Twenty

In Chapter 20 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, a pivotal moment unfolds when Cody receives life-changing news from his young friend Maddux, who has recently completed his chemotherapy treatment and is officially in remission from leukemia. Their pact, solidified through a FaceTime call months earlier, has inspired Cody deeply. Maddux's victory fuels Cody's determination to pursue his own dream of fighting in the UFC, prompting him to recommit to his training with renewed vigor.

Cody reflects on how Maddux's fight against cancer serves as his own motivation. Despite facing chronic back pain, he searches for alternative treatments and finds solace in reconnecting with his faith, which helps ground him and strengthen his focus. As he pushes through his physical limitations, he adopts a strict training regimen and relies on the support of his team, including his mentor Urijah Faber and his Uncle Bob, who provide guidance and encouragement.

As the chapter progresses, Cody prepares for an important fight in his hometown of Canton, Ohio, which he regards as the final step before earning a spot in the UFC. He faces off against a formidable opponent, Charles "Trinity" Stanford, known for his aggressive style and substantial winning record. The support from his community and especially Maddux fills Cody with confidence.

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On fight night, the atmosphere is electric; the crowd rallies behind Cody, contrasting with previous fights where he felt less supported. As the fight begins, Cody showcases his hard-earned skills, landing significant blows and employing strategic maneuvers that keep him one step ahead of Stanford.

The climax arrives when Cody, remembering Maddux's suggestion to use his left hand for the knockout, delivers a powerful body shot that takes Stanford down. Within just over a minute and a half, Cody secures a decisive victory, celebrating not only his win but also the journey he has undertaken alongside Maddux.

In the aftermath, Cody expresses gratitude for his faith, his team, and the support he has received, signaling his ascent toward his UFC dreams while sharing this triumphant moment with Maddux, who beams with pride. This chapter beautifully encapsulates themes of resilience, friendship, and the drive to overcome obstacles, illustrating how two individuals' interconnected battles motivate them both to achieve their dreams.

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## Chapter 21: Twenty-One

In Chapter 21 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt celebrates a significant milestone in his fighting career: achieving a 5–0 record, fulfilling the promise he made to Urijah Faber. With excitement, he finds himself in Austin, Texas, supporting his teammate Joseph Benevidez at a UFC event. A chance meeting with UFC matchmaker Sean Shelby leads to Cody being offered a fight against seasoned fighter Marcus Brimage at UFC 182 in Las Vegas—a dream come true for Cody, who eagerly accepts.

As the fight approaches, Cody grapples with logistics, including the restriction on his entourage during the walkout. He's disappointed that his close friend Maddux Maple, who has been a constant source of support during his journey, won't be allowed to join him. Despite the disappointment, Maddux shows maturity and only asks to be there for Cody's title fight, making it clear he believes in Cody's success.

Training intensifies, but financial constraints weigh on Cody. He struggles with the realities of being a newcomer in the UFC, especially as he still lacks

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## Chapter 22 Summary: Twenty-Two

In Chapter 22 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on his journey toward becoming a UFC fighter and the challenges he faces. Inspired by his mentor Urijah, Cody decides to invest in himself by buying a designer suit after his first UFC fight, embracing the idea that success is on the horizon. With the support of Team Alpha Male, Cody envisions a future where his friend Maddux, who is battling cancer, walks him out to the octagon for his next fight.

Training intensively for UFC 189, Cody feels confident he can defeat his opponent, Henry Briones. During this period, he also travels back to his hometown to inspire young kids, recalling his own struggles for role models. He emphasizes the importance of positivity and mentorship, hoping to encourage them to pursue their dreams.

However, as fight day approaches, Cody's optimism is tested when he suffers a debilitating back injury, complicating his preparation. His concerns are compounded when he learns that Maddux has fallen ill. Despite these fears and being overwhelmed by worries about his performance, Cody is determined not to let Maddux down. He finds motivation in his friend's spirit and decides to move forward, vowing that Maddux will have his moment in the spotlight.



Fight Week in Vegas brings both excitement and anxiety. Under pressure, Cody reminds himself that focus should be on the fight itself, not his injuries or doubts. Encouraged by Urijah's advice, he embraces the fight mentality of not letting external factors cloud his skills.

On July 11, Maddux joyfully walks Cody into the arena, which emotionally charges the moment. Cody faces Briones in the octagon, but the fight proves challenging as his back pain flares up. However, he pushes through, relying on his training and instincts, ultimately winning by unanimous decision despite not being able to fight to his full potential.

After the victory, Cody reflects on the journey and the promises made to Maddux, realizing that he feels a greater responsibility to fulfill his word not just to his friend but to anyone who dreams of achieving something great. This chapter encapsulates themes of perseverance, the power of support and mentorship, and the relentless pursuit of one's dreams against adversity. Cody's resolve to prove himself and fulfill his pact with Maddux becomes a beacon of hope and inspiration, setting the stage for what lies ahead in his career.

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## Chapter 23 Summary: Twenty-Three

In Chapter 23 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt shares a pivotal moment in his life as he chats regularly with Maddux, making visits and connecting through social media. Despite his upcoming fight in February 2016, Cody takes time to rest and heal, finding a valuable ally in Dr. Yong Kim, a chiropractor whose expertise aids his recovery. As he navigates life's ups and downs, Cody discovers a newfound sense of peace, which feels foreign after years of tumultuous experiences.

Enter Danny, who Cody meets through Snapchat, igniting a significant connection without having met face-to-face. Their long-distance relationship flourishes as they spend countless hours communicating, sharing laughs, and opening up about their past struggles. Danny, a survivor of hardships, brings positivity into Cody's life, making him realize how important her presence is, even if it's only through a screen for now. Their conversations become a refreshing contrast to his tumultuous life, and Cody feels motivated to focus on his training while dreaming of the day they can finally meet.

As he prepares for his next fight in Pittsburgh against the undefeated Augusto Mendes, the excitement amplifies. The hometown crowd provides a boost, and Cody feels the thrill of not just competing, but of showcasing how far he's come. Maddux is there to cheer him on, and with a clear mission to win and make his dreams a reality, Cody steps into the octagon

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exuding confidence.

The fight is intense, with Cody relying on his instincts and strategies. Seizing an opportunity, he achieves a knockout victory that marks a significant milestone in his career. The success rejuvenates him, making him realize how much growth he has experienced over the past four years and how proud he is of Maddux, who represents the resilience to overcome life's challenges.

As his success continues, the UFC announces his next fight against Thomas Almeida, further elevating the stakes. Despite the pressure of being an underdog, Cody feels invigorated by the support of those around him, especially Danny. When he finally gets to fly to Las Vegas and meet her for dinner, their chemistry is undeniable. The initial nerves fade as they connect deeply, affirming that their relationship is genuine.

Cody returns to Sacramento, driven by the intention to excel in his training for the upcoming fight, buoyed by Danny's unwavering support and belief in him. As their bond strengthens, he recognizes her as the missing piece in his life, motivating him to channel his energy into his career and personal growth. Despite the challenges of distance, their affection and commitment only intensify, propelling him forward on his journey toward success.

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## Chapter 24: Twenty-Four

In Chapter 24 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, the story unfolds during fight week for his headline battle against Thomas Almeida, where Garbrandt is down to his last fifty-six dollars. Despite his financial struggles, he experiences overwhelming support from the UFC, which covers his expenses in Las Vegas, and he's surrounded by his friends and family, including his partner Danny and young cancer survivor Maddux, whose spirit motivates him.

As fight preparations kick off, Danny manages to handle the chaos of Garbrandt's life, meeting his extensive circle of family and teammates, all while witnessing the intense atmosphere surrounding the fight. While Danny is anxious about his safety in the ring, Maddux provides reassurance, confidently proclaiming Garbrandt's prowess as a fighter and champion.

On fight day, Garbrandt walks into the arena infused with optimism and purpose. He feels a deep connection to the sacrifices of American soldiers, drawing strength from that pride as he steps into the cage. Facing Almeida,

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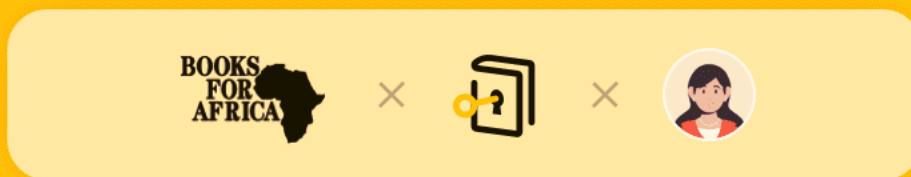
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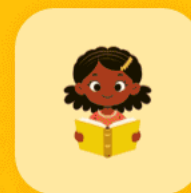
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## Chapter 25 Summary: Twenty-Five

In Chapter 25 of "The Pact" by Cody Garbrandt, we witness a pivotal moment in Cody's journey both as a fighter and a person. It's a significant time as he reflects on Maddux, the brave young boy who had triumphed over cancer, marking his second year of remission. This milestone deeply inspires Cody, who sees Maddux as a champion in his own right and is determined to win the UFC Bantamweight Championship for him.

With the fight scheduled against Dominick Cruz on December 30, 2016, Cody's anticipation builds. Cruz is not just a champion; he represents a longstanding rivalry with Cody's mentor, Urijah Faber, who had been trying to reclaim his title. The nostalgia of Faber's past battles with Cruz adds emotional weight to Cody's fight. As fight week progresses, the excitement in Las Vegas grows, and interactions at media events fuel the rivalry. Cody remains focused, using the tension to analyze Cruz's movements, seeking every advantage he can find.

Support from family and friends such as Uncle Bob, who struggles with emotion, and his girlfriend Danny, who loves and grounds him, emphasizes the importance of his relationships. Before the fight, a touching moment occurs between Cody and Maddux, who encourages him, expressing his confidence in Cody's victory. This bond fuels Cody's motivation, reminding him of the struggle they both have faced.

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On fight night, the atmosphere is electric. As Cody enters the octagon, he feels prepared and eager. He instantly switches into a mode of intense focus, sensing weaknesses in Cruz while maintaining his own confidence. The fight itself unfolds with a mix of strategizing and showmanship; Cody taunts Cruz, enjoying the moment while also staying aware of the opponent's counters. Despite experiencing physical challenges, including a cut and fatigue, he remains resilient.

As the fight nears its conclusion, flashbacks of Cody's journey flood his mind, lending him strength. When the final horn sounds, he knows victory is within reach. The announcement of his win is a climax filled with joy and relief. Cody has not only fought for himself but for Maddux and a deeper purpose, culminating in a triumph that signifies the end of their shared battle. Together, they celebrate a hard-fought victory, symbolizing hope, resilience, and unwavering support.

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## Chapter 26 Summary: Twenty-Six

In Chapter 26 of "The Pact," Cody Garbrandt reflects on a pivotal moment in his life, where his hard-fought championship win in the UFC takes on a deeper significance than mere victory. While the excitement of defeating the champion and winning the gold belt brings joy, it's the subsequent moment of sharing that win with young Maddux, a boy who has battled cancer, that truly defines the night. Cody pulls Maddux into the spotlight, giving him the championship belt as a heartfelt symbol of their pact—Cody's journey to become a champion and Maddux's courageous fight against illness are intertwined in a narrative of hope and resilience.

Cody passionately addresses the crowd, emphasizing that their shared victory is about more than sport; it's a testament to never giving up and living life to the fullest, thus resonating with the audience and the media alike. The story of their bond garners widespread attention, surpassing coverage of the fight itself, as their emotional connection touches the hearts of many, even those who typically do not follow mixed martial arts.

After the excitement of the fight, Cody finds joy in sharing his success with those who have supported him throughout his journey. He expresses gratitude to Uncle Bob, presenting him with a check for his mentorship and love, showcasing his appreciation for the life skills imparted along with fighting techniques. Cody also celebrates his friend Zach, the person who

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introduced him to Maddux, by gifting him a Harley Davidson motorcycle—fulfilling a dream he knows meant a lot to Zach.

Recognizing his mother's sacrifices, Cody surprises her with a closet full of new shoes, symbolizing his desire for her to enjoy the comforts she had long denied herself to support her children. It's a gesture filled with gratitude and love, underscoring the themes of family and sacrifice woven throughout his narrative.

As the community celebrates Cody and Maddux with a parade, Cody's bond with Maddux shines brightly. Afterward, he returns the championship belt to Maddux, reaffirming that it was always meant for him. The visit to Maddux's home reveals a room filled with memories of their journey together, and they discover the staggering coincidence that the date marks five years to the day since their first meeting. This realization catalyzes a moment of reflection for Cody, as he feels a profound peace surrounded by the love and support of his friends and family, reminding him of the strength and purpose that guided him through this remarkable journey.

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