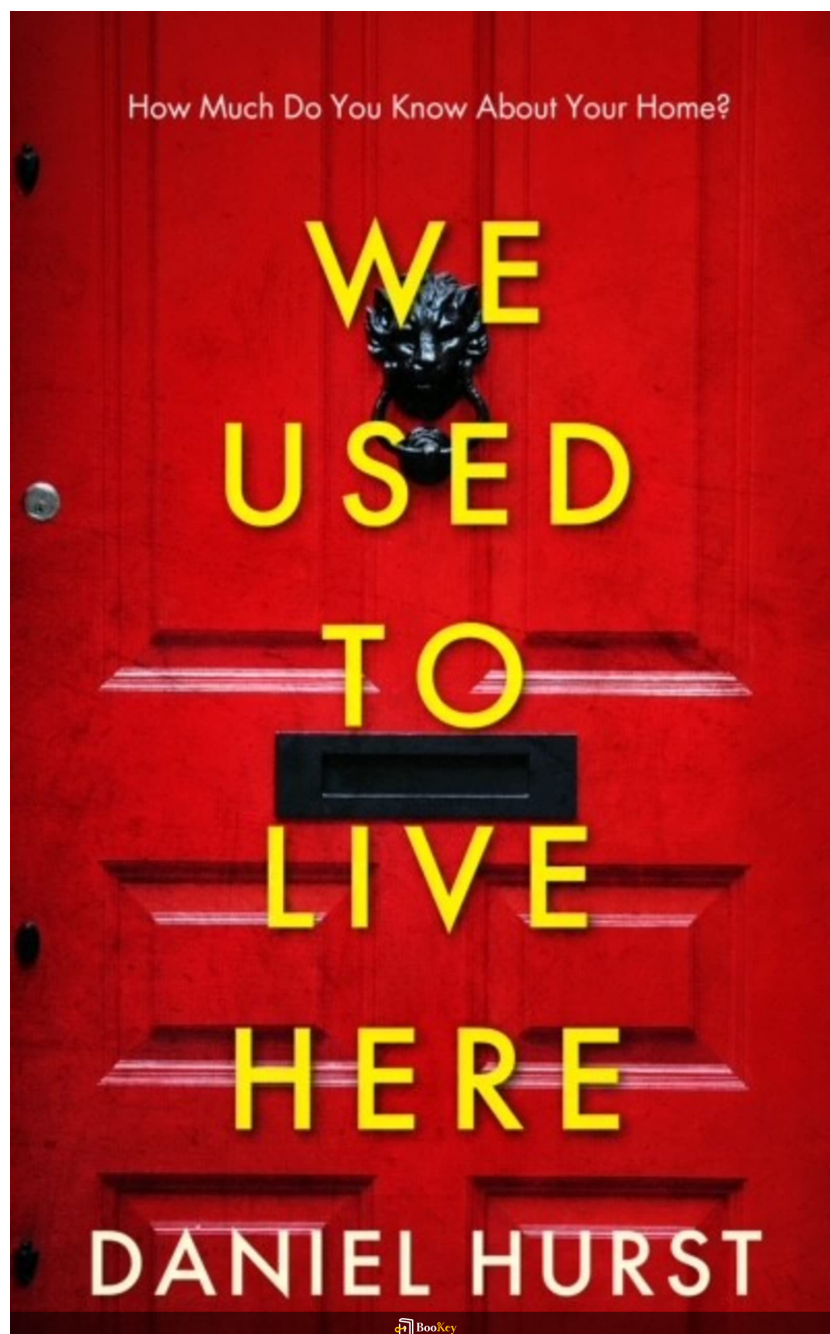


We Used To Live Here PDF (Limited Copy)

Daniel Hurst



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We Used To Live Here Summary

Exploring echoes of memory and lost connections.

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About the book

In "We Used To Live Here," Daniel Hurst intricately weaves a haunting narrative that explores the fragile boundaries of memory, identity, and the haunting echoes of a past left behind. Through the eyes of a protagonist grappling with the ghostly remnants of a once-familiar home, readers are invited into a poignant examination of loss and the bittersweet nostalgia that accompanies it. As the protagonist navigates a labyrinth of recollections, each corner turned reveals layers of hidden truths about love, betrayal, and the enduring scars of human connection. Hurst's lyrical prose and evocative storytelling beckon us to reflect on our own roots and the places that shape us, making this an unforgettable journey that resonates with anyone who has ever searched for their belonging in a world that feels forever altered.

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About the author

Daniel Hurst is an accomplished author known for his gripping narratives and compelling character development, often exploring themes of loss, identity, and the complexities of human relationships. With a background in literature and extensive experience in creative writing, Hurst has garnered a dedicated readership through his ability to intertwine deeply personal stories with broader societal issues. His works are characterized by a keen observational quality and a knack for capturing the nuances of everyday life, creating a poignant connection with readers. Hurst's talent shines in his latest novel, "We Used To Live Here," where he deftly navigates the intricate realities of nostalgia and memory, making him a significant voice in contemporary fiction.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In Chapter 1 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, we meet Steph and her husband Grant as they arrive to view a potential new home, a significant step for their growing family. The couple, married for six years, is looking for something bigger than their current, cozy house, which has become cramped since the arrival of their children, Charlie and baby Amelia. With their little ones at their grandparents' for the day, they hope to focus on assessing the property without distractions.

As they approach the house at number 31, Steph notes that all seems well before they step inside. They are greeted by Rose, the bubbly estate agent, whose youthful enthusiasm contrasts with Steph's more seasoned demeanor. Despite her slight insecurity about their age difference, Steph appreciates the warm welcome and the home's inviting features.

The couple tours the house, with Rose enthusiastically pointing out its highlights. As they walk through the spacious hallway, stylish living room, and the kitchen—Steph's favorite—they imagine a life filled with family gatherings and cozy evenings. Playful banter arises between Steph and Grant, revealing their dynamic and highlighting Grant's less-than-stellar cooking skills, which Rose finds amusing.

Steph feels a hint of jealousy as Rose lightly flirts with Grant, causing brief

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discomfort. But Steph quickly shifts her focus, eager to explore the back garden. Stepping outside, she envisions their children playing on the sunny lawn, suggesting a future filled with cherished family moments. Rose expresses her own yearning for a garden, revealing her living situation in a fifth-floor flat, adding depth to her character and making her relatable.

As the tour wraps up, Steph and Grant share a knowing moment, silently communicating their mutual affection for the house. They both see potential in making it their "forever home," indicating shared dreams and aspirations. After saying goodbye to Rose, they leave with thoughts of putting in an offer, a decision that could alter the course of their family's life. This chapter effectively introduces themes of aspiration, family, and the desire for stability, setting the tone for their journey ahead.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of envisioning a future filled with family and growth

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate through life, remember to take a moment to envision your dreams and aspirations—much like Steph and Grant as they imagine their future in a new home. This act of envisioning not only helps you to clarify your goals but also motivates you to take steps towards achieving them. Whether it's a new job, a relationship, or a physical space, allowing yourself to dream about what could be fosters hope and drives your actions. Embrace the potential of your everyday moments, just as Steph envisioning her children playing in the garden reminds you that the seeds of your future happiness are often planted in your present choices.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

In Chapter 2 of "We Used to Live Here," we dive into Grant's chaotic first day of moving into their new home at 31 Birchfield Drive. Surrounded by a mountain of unpacked boxes, he reflects on his journey from carefree youth to a responsible family man. Despite a rocky start with poor exam results and a penchant for indulgence, Grant has grown significantly—he's now settled into a career, married to Steph, and they have two children, Amelia and Charlie. As he navigates the madness of moving, he feels a sense of pride in how far he and Steph have come together.

Steph, showcasing her skill in multitasking, carries Amelia while managing the countless tasks at hand. Their son, Charlie, whom Grant affectionately nicknames the "whirlwind," is busy helping his grandfather unpack outside. Amidst the boxes and the day's hard work, Grant takes a moment to appreciate their new home, yet he also grapples with the looming tasks of painting and renovations that he plans to tackle himself. They have upsized to accommodate their growing family, but the financial strain is evident, leading Grant to put his DIY skills to the test.

A pleasant surprise arrives when Rose, the estate agent, visits with a gift of champagne, adding a sprinkle of joy to the moving day chaos. Grant notices her charm and flirtatious vibe but quickly reminds himself of his commitment to Steph. Their exchange leaves him flustered yet intrigued,

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especially when Rose compliments his wife. He brushes off any lingering thoughts of her, focused instead on the mountain of boxes.

Just as he thinks he can take a breather, chaos strikes again when Charlie runs in with an injury, having cut his hand with a box cutter. This moment tests Grant's parenting skills and highlights the unpredictable nature of family life. Steph's dad, Bill, feels guilty for the accident but Grant reassures him it's nothing serious, even as he struggles to find the first aid kit amongst the disarray.

Through the day's ups and downs, Grant's excitement grows for their new life and the idea of opening that champagne bottle with Steph once the kids are in bed. He's convinced that this house is their forever home, a sentiment echoed by Steph's assurance that they won't be moving again. As the chapter closes, Grant's pride in his family and their shared accomplishments shines through, even amidst the disarray of their new beginnings.

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Chapter 3: 3

In this chapter, we dive into the life of Steph and her husband, Grant, as they settle into their new home after two weeks of moving in. The couple is engaged in the laborious task of stripping away the old, undesirable yellow floral wallpaper from their main bedroom, hoping to transform it into a space they can truly call their own. As they labor late into the night, sharing banter and reminiscing about the past, they reflect on their family's journey and the memories tied to their previous home, the one where they welcomed their children, Charlie and Amelia.

The routine of home improvement becomes a bonding experience for Steph and Grant, spurred more by necessity than joy. They share light-hearted moments, highlighting their dynamic and occasionally playful relationship. Music plays softly in the background, reminding them of their younger years, and a nostalgic recollection brings a warm smile to Steph's face as she recalls attending a concert with her father.

Amidst their efforts, Steph discovers a hidden message on the wall—a love

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Chapter 4 Summary: 4

In Chapter 4 of "We Used To Live Here," we find Grant immersed in the tedious task of painting a room in his new home. With his wife, Steph, occupied watching their kids, he reflects on the challenges of redecorating, feeling the monotony of the job weigh on him despite his efforts to transform their space. The couple is making changes to the house following their recent move, but it's clear that the novelty of decorating is wearing off for both of them. Just as he grapples with his boredom, his phone buzzes with a message that disrupts his thoughts.

The text is from Rose, the estate agent who facilitated their home purchase, and it's clear that she has been reaching out more than necessary. Initially, their conversation seems light and friendly, focusing on her previous gift of champagne and their new home. However, the exchanges become increasingly flirtatious, with Rose suggesting that Grant could help her with a DIY task at her flat. This unexpected attention from a younger woman makes Grant feel both flattered and uneasy as it complicates his thoughts about fidelity and marital commitment.

As Grant contemplates how to respond, he is caught off guard when Steph enters the room. She misinterprets his distraction as him being engrossed in his phone rather than the daunting task at hand. Their conversation brings a moment of levity, but it also intensifies Grant's internal conflict, leaving him

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feeling guilty over his interactions with Rose. He's torn between the excitement of flirtation and the pull of his responsibilities as a husband and father. By the chapter's end, Grant remains uncertain about how to handle the situation with Rose, showing how the allure of temptation can disrupt the stability of his family life. Themes of temptation, fidelity, and the struggle of domestic life resonate throughout this engaging chapter.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In Chapter 5 of "We Used To Live Here," Steph reflects on the whirlwind that has been her life since moving into their new home a month ago. With a busy schedule filled with family responsibilities, she realizes her social life has suffered. Determined to change that, she calls her friend Shirley for a catch-up, eager to schedule a lunch with their families for the upcoming weekend. Their conversation is lively and familiar, filled with laughter about mutual acquaintances and their lives.

After the call, Steph feels a sense of anticipation as she updates her calendar with plans, but her contentment is disrupted by an unsettling noise from the back garden. Initially hesitant and cautious, she opts not to investigate on her own, recalling the horror movies of her youth. When Grant returns home after a night out, Steph tells him about the noise, urging him to check it out. Grant is dismissive at first, though he eventually goes outside and returns with a reasonable explanation: the side gate had swung open in the wind.

With the source of her anxiety resolved, the couple settles into their evening. However, it soon becomes clear that their intimacy has faded significantly, marked by their lack of a romantic connection post-move. As they lie in bed, Steph tries to reignite their spark but quickly realizes that Grant is too tired to engage. The chapter concludes with a poignant sense of longing as Steph reflects on their intimacy — or lack thereof — hinting at deeper challenges



in their relationship, even amid the chaos of family life and new beginnings. This chapter highlights themes of domesticity, the passage of time, and the struggles of maintaining relationships in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of nurturing social connections amid busy lives

Critical Interpretation: This chapter reveals how easy it is to let friendships fade when life becomes overwhelming. Just as Steph reaches out to Shirley to rekindle their bond, you too can take a moment to prioritize the relationships that matter most to you. In the hustle of daily responsibilities, remember that a simple phone call, a lunch date, or an invitation can reignite joy and connection in your life. This act of reaching out not only strengthens your support network but also enriches your own emotional landscape, reinforcing the idea that connection is vital for a fulfilling existence.

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Chapter 6: 6

In Chapter 6 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, we dive into Grant's mundane experience of shopping for a lock at a DIY store, a task he typically avoids. He reflects on his reluctance towards shopping and how his wife, Steph, has become increasingly anxious about their unsecured gate swinging open, prompting this errand. As he navigates the overwhelming aisles filled with home improvement goods, he ultimately seeks assistance from a disinterested store employee, who leads him to the locks, allowing him to select a mid-range option—symbolizing Grant's desire for stability amidst his life's chaos.

During this outing, Grant receives an unexpected phone call from Rose, the alluring estate agent with whom he's been having an affair. The conversation highlights Grant's inner turmoil; while Rose's flirty demeanor and interest ignite feelings of excitement in him, he grapples with guilt about his betrayal to Steph. He oscillates between the thrill of their connection and the weight of his conscience, recognizing the recklessness of his actions and the potential fallout if Steph discovers the truth.

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In Chapter 7 of "We Used To Live Here," Steph navigates the chaotic task of preparing her family for a lunch outing with friends. Juggling her husband's laid-back approach to getting ready, her son Charlie's reluctance to cooperate, and her daughter Amelia's quiet presence, Steph feels the weight of the morning hustle. Just as they're about to leave, two elderly visitors, Ken and Julie, surprise the family by appearing at their doorstep, explaining that they used to live in their house decades ago.

Ken and Julie share their initial intentions with a mix of nostalgia and urgency, revealing their desire to revisit their first home before illness steals that chance away. As they speak, Steph observes the excitement in Julie's eyes, a fondness that shows the deep connection they have to the place. While Grant is quick to want to send them away due to their unexpected appearance, Steph feels a surge of empathy for the couple. Recognizing the significance of home and memory, she decides to invite them in.

The moment illustrates a pivotal character development for Steph; her compassion shines through, contrasting with Grant's more pragmatic attitude. This interaction sparks a moment of introspection for her, as she understands the importance of letting Ken and Julie relive their cherished memories. The chapter encapsulates themes of family, nostalgia, and the emotional weight of one's first home, setting the stage for deeper reflections



on life, love, and the passage of time.

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Chapter 8 Summary: 8

In this chapter of "We Used To Live Here," narrated from Grant's perspective, tension brews as he grapples with the unexpected visit from Ken and Julie, a couple who once lived in his home. Grant's discomfort is palpable; he feels violated by their presence and worries about the strangers' familiarity with his family space. While his wife, Steph, openly welcomes them and is captivated by their nostalgia, Grant remains skeptical and distant, striving to maintain control over his environment.

As the couple reminisces, they share sweet memories of their time in the house, including little anecdotes about the decor and layout. Julie's fondness for the home's history contrasts starkly with Grant's apprehension. When the couple reveals they lost a son years ago, a somber moment arises, and the mood shifts. Steph's genuine compassion attempts to bridge the emotional gap, showcasing the theme of connection amidst discomfort.

The couple's visits feel like a ghostly presence; their past intertwined with the walls of the house creates a tension that Grant struggles to navigate. As they explore, the memory of the home's past life clashes with the modern changes Grant and Steph have made, highlighting themes of memory, loss, and the passage of time.

Throughout the interaction, Grant's reluctance to embrace this nostalgic visit

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reflects a deeper fear of the past intruding upon their present. Nevertheless, Steph's enthusiasm suggests a yearning for connection with the history of their home. By the end, as the couple departs, Grant attempts to lighten the moment with dark humor, revealing his inner conflict and the complex emotions surrounding aging and memory.

Ultimately, the chapter skillfully paints a portrait of a family home as a vessel of history, gathering layers of stories and emotions, while exploring the tension between past and present, and the inevitable passage of time that unites us all in our shared human experiences.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing the past can lead to deeper connections

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing in the very space you call home, feeling the echoes of laughter and love that once filled it, yet grappling with the fear that these memories might overshadow your present. In this chapter, Grant's struggle highlights a profound truth: allowing the past to coexist with our present can foster richer relationships and understanding. By welcoming the stories of those who came before us, we open ourselves to compassion and connection, enhancing the tapestry of our own lives. Embracing memories doesn't mean being held hostage by them; instead, it's about weaving them into our narrative, creating a life enriched by all experiences—past and present alike.

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Chapter 9: 9

In Chapter 9 of "We Used to Live Here," we find Grant and Steph attending a lunch with friends Shirley, Eric, and their twin daughters. As they settle down at a trendy café, Steph animatedly shares the unexpected visit they had from Ken and Julie, former residents of their home. While Steph finds it sweet, Grant is more skeptical about how odd it is for people to revisit old places they once lived. The scene is laced with humor as Grant struggles to find something he actually wants to eat on the menu filled with modern twists.

As they enjoy their meal, conversation flows and shifts between topics like celebrity gossip and home redecorating. Shirley shares her own experience of leaving a mark in her home by writing her family's names on the wall, something that resonates with the group. The discussion takes a poignant turn when they touch on the heavy topic of Ken and Julie's son, who passed away, prompting somber reflections about life and the memories held within walls.

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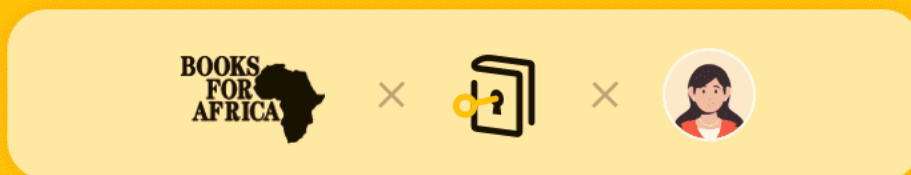
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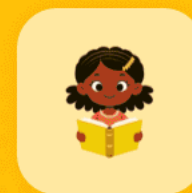
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Chapter 10 Summary: 10

In Chapter 10 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, we find Steph in the midst of a home renovation project, reflecting on the transformative power of two months of hard work in her new house. While Grant is at the office, Charlie at school, and the baby, Amelia, asleep, she seizes the quiet afternoon to continue stripping wallpaper, hoping to make progress before Grant comes home and dreads another night of DIY.

As she engages in this labor, she embraces the role of a modern woman, wearing overalls and listening to rap music on an old radio while reveling in her newfound independence. However, the task takes an unexpected turn when she discovers a message scrawled on the wall: "I hate it here." This stark and unsettling phrase is a stark contrast to the romantic declaration she previously found, sparking her curiosity about who wrote it and their story.

Intrigued and slightly spooked, Steph shares the discovery with her friend Shirley over text. They engage in a lighthearted exchange, with Shirley humorously speculating about the message's origin, suggesting it could belong to a prisoner, which Steph takes in stride. Despite their light banter, the message lingers in Steph's mind, leading her to ponder the hidden histories of their home and what the walls might reveal if they could speak.

As she tries to shake off the unsettling vibe, she moves through the house,



but the eerie feeling clings to her. After checking on Amelia and not wanting to disturb her nap, Steph attempts to rest but is soon struck by an urge to uncover more potential messages lurking beneath the wallpaper. Fueled by curiosity rather than boredom, she abandons the idea of a nap and returns to the task, determined to see what other secrets the walls might hold.

Through this chapter, themes of exploration, curiosity, and the duality of home—both a place of comfort and a site of hidden stories—emerge. Steph's journey reflects her search for connection, not just with her husband but with the history of the place they've chosen to call home. As she chips away at the wallpaper, there's a sense of personal and collective history waiting to be uncovered, threading the past into her present and future. The chapter ends with a tantalizing question: what else might she discover, both about the house and herself?

Key Points	Description
Character Development	Steph is portrayed as an independent modern woman engaged in a home renovation project.
Setting	Steph works on her house alone while her family is occupied, creating an atmosphere of solitude.
Discovery	Steph finds a disturbing message on the wall: "I hate it here," contrasting with a previous romantic message.
Friendship	Steph texts her friend Shirley about the discovery, leading to humorous speculation about its origin.



Key Points	Description
Themes	Exploration, curiosity, duality of home, hidden stories, and connection.
Personal Reflection	Steph reflects on the history of their home and its impact on her identity and family connection.
Ending Question	The chapter concludes with curiosity about what other secrets the house may hold.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11

In Chapter 11 of "We Used to Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, Grant arrives home with a warm intention to connect with his wife, Steph, and enjoy a lovely family dinner. However, his plans quickly shift when Steph reveals a discovery of unsettling handwriting on the wall that reads "I hate it here." While trying to share a tender moment, Grant finds himself distracted by Steph's preoccupation with uncovering more hidden messages in their home. This moment serves to highlight the tension in their relationship—Steph's curiosity and concern contrast with Grant's reluctance to delve deeply into the past.

As the evening progresses, Grant battles a growing guilt stemming from a secret affair with Rose, a woman he has promised himself he would stop seeing. He reflects on their illicit rendezvous during his lunch hour and feels the weight of his choices as he stands in the shower, wishing he could wash away both the physical dirt and the emotional turmoil. Here, Grant grapples with his infidelity, feeling the sting of his betrayal as he recalls how Steph has dedicated her day to caring for their children and improving their home—a stark contrast to his selfish escapades.

In an emotional moment of self-loathing, he punches the wall, demonstrating his internal struggle and desire to confront the pain he's causing to his family. Determined to make a change, Grant resolves to cut ties with Rose

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for good, acknowledging that he doesn't want to lose his family. After composing a firm message to end the affair, he feels a sense of relief and renewed focus on what truly matters—his wife and children.

Throughout this chapter, we see the juxtaposition between the warmth of family life and the chilling reality of infidelity. Grant's character is painted as flawed yet deeply conflicted, battling between his romantic temptations and his responsibilities as a husband and father. The themes of love, guilt, and the quest for redemption resonate strongly, drawing readers into the complexities of Grant's duality as he resolves to cherish his family while confronting the consequences of his actions. By the end, readers are left contemplating the fragility of relationships and the importance of commitment, as Grant acknowledges he doesn't deserve Steph but intends to hold onto her tightly.

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Chapter 12: 12

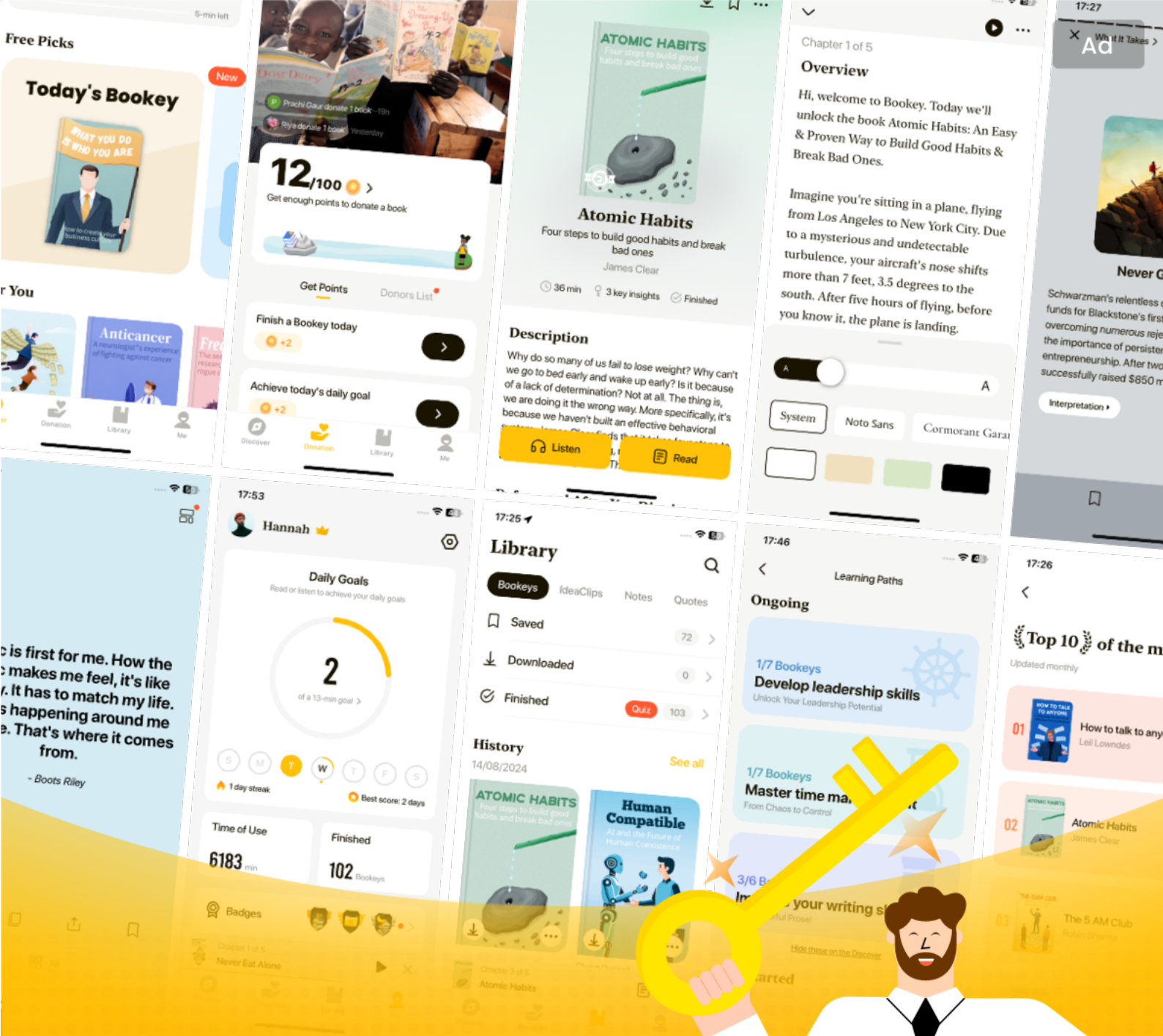
In Chapter 12 of "We Used To Live Here," we delve into Steph's busy life as she navigates her new home and the challenges that come with it. It's Day 90 since they moved in, and today marks the start of renovations as Jeff, a chatty and enthusiastic builder, arrives to demolish a wall between two small bedrooms. As he shares amusing stories from his trade, like a cheeky client who tried to dodge payment, Steph finds herself overwhelmed by his chatter while managing her responsibilities as a mother to her daughter, Amelia.

Despite the initial distraction, Steph gently guides the conversation, emphasizing her need to attend to Amelia. Jeff obliges, retreating upstairs to begin his work, but not before accepting a cup of tea, clearly a routine he relishes. With the noise of construction starting, Steph decides to take Amelia outside to enjoy the sunny weather. They spend a delightful time in the garden, and as she reflects on the renovations, Steph fantasizes about future family holidays—relaxing moments that she cherishes.

Throughout the chapter, the strain of managing family life, renovations, and

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13

In Chapter 13 of "We Used To Live Here," Grant finds himself stuck at home trying to work while a noisy builder, Jeff, tears down a wall upstairs. The irony of his situation highlights the challenges of remote work; he had sought the quiet of the office to escape the pandemonium but ended up right in the middle of it. Despite the irritating noise, Grant tries to focus on the positives in his life. He reflects on the blessings of his job and family, grateful that his affair with Rose is behind him, leaving him free to devote more time to his children, Charlie and Amelia.

Grant treasures these moments, like taking Charlie to his first football match, where the highlight for Charlie was less about the game and more about the cheeseburger he enjoyed afterward. He also cherishes playful times with Amelia and experiences rekindling the romance with his wife, Steph, during a recent date night. This intimate evening brings back memories of their early relationship, allowing them to reconnect and enjoy a passionate night together.

However, this bliss is disrupted when Jeff calls him upstairs, having discovered something unexpected behind the wall he's been demolishing. Intrigued but puzzled, Grant follows Jeff's invitation to look through a hole in the wall. What he sees troubles him, raising questions about the house's history and why there's a hidden wall. Realizing the significance of this find,

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Grant decides it's essential for Steph to see it too, setting the stage for more revelations to come. This chapter deftly explores themes of family, temptation, and the surprises that life—and home renovations—can hold.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14

In Chapter 14 of "We Used To Live Here," Steph faces an unsettling surprise during a home renovation. Her builder, Grant, informs her that they've discovered an unexpected extra wall hidden behind the one they planned to demolish. This revelation leads her to question why such a wall was erected and what might be behind it. When they uncover the wall, it reveals a chilling assortment of scratched messages expressing fear, desperation, and anger—messages like "HELP ME!" and "I'M DYING!" This disturbing find unsettles Steph as she grapples with the implications of what was once hidden in her home.

Amid her horror, Steph tries to address the seriousness of the situation, wondering if they should inform the police about the disturbing writings potentially linked to a person named William. However, her husband Grant and the builder, Jeff, dismiss her concerns, suggesting that the past events could be mere remnants of childish pranks. Their focus shifts back to the renovation costs rather than the emotional weight of the discovered messages. Steph feels isolated in her concern, desperately wanting recognition for the trauma that might have existed within the walls of their home.

As Grant leaves for a conference call, Steph's resolve strengthens. She instructs Jeff to continue knocking down the first wall, but she requests to be



present before they tackle the second wall so she can document this haunting discovery. The chapter concludes with her feeling troubled yet determined to uncover the story behind the words of the mysterious William, leaving readers to ponder the distressing history that might be buried in the house. Themes of domestic unease, the search for truth, and the shadows of the past loom large, providing a gripping exploration into the meaning of home and the hidden histories that come with it.

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Chapter 15: 15

In Chapter 15 of "We Used to Live Here," Grant finds himself distancing from both his wife, Steph, and a builder as he grapples with the weight of uncertainty at work and the strange revelations in their new home. After an unsettling conference call reveals potential job cuts, he's consumed by worry but chooses to keep this from Steph, knowing her propensity to fret and exacerbate anxieties.

Despite his attempts to bury himself in work and avoid conversations about the mysterious messages he knows Steph will want to discuss, he can't hide from his responsibilities at home. A knock on his study door brings Steph in; her concern about his late work hour is met with a defensive reply. When she asks him to help with their daughter Amelia, Grant reluctantly agrees. Bathing Amelia brings Grant some solace as he immerses himself in her innocent chatter, a welcome distraction from the pressures of adulthood and looming financial stress.

After tucking the kids into bed, Grant tries to unwind with wine, but he can't

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Chapter 16 Summary: 16

In this gripping chapter, Steph grapples with the unsettling messages she found on the wall of her home, which have left her increasingly obsessed with uncovering their origin. After a confrontation with her partner Grant, she decides to pursue her investigation in secrecy, feeling he would prefer to avoid delving into the ominous mystery.

Over the last couple of days, significant changes have occurred; the wall with the strange writing has been demolished by a handyman named Jeff, but the photos Steph took persist on her phone, serving as constant reminders of her quest. Using a land registry website, she dives deeper into the history of her home, uncovering the names of previous occupants: Ken and Julie Gray, Martin and Mary Whitehall, Joe and Lynn Jones, and Craig and Alice Cartwright. Notably, Ken and Julie Gray moved into the house in 1963 and departed in 1996, a timeline that aligns with events surrounding the ominous writings and the son's disappearance.

Determined to get closer to the truth, Steph seeks a boy named William, connected to the Grays. After initially facing disappointment in her search through birth records, she resorts to a more unconventional approach by simply Googling "William Gray," which leads her to a heart-wrenching article about a missing boy. William Gray, aged seven, was reported missing in 1970 after playing in his backyard. As Steph reads the heartbreaking

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details, she realizes that the Grays are haunted by the disappearance of their son, and the correspondences she read on the wall become increasingly chilling in context. Phrases such as "HELP ME!" and "I HATE MUM AND DAD!" take on a morbid new meaning, leading her to question the past and her former perceptions of the Gray family.

Haunted by the implication of what may have happened, she grapples with dark thoughts about Ken and Julie potentially harming their child. While trying to rationalize her fears, she recalls that the Gray couple visited her home around the anniversary of William's disappearance, stirring up even more apprehension. As her mind races with possibilities, Steph understands that she needs to share these shocking discoveries with Grant, despite knowing it might provoke his frustration. This chapter weaves a tense narrative that captures Steph's determination and the growing sense of dread surrounding her home's history, leaving readers eager to discover how the investigation will unfold.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17

In Chapter 17 of "We Used To Live Here," the tension escalates between Grant and his wife, Steph, as Grant tries to navigate a work call while being interrupted by her urgent demands. His colleague Jean expresses anxiety about job security, but Grant attempts to reassure her, even as he grapples with his own frustrations at home. The domestic chaos begins when Steph intrudes on his call, insisting she must show him something immediately. Despite his protests, she disengages the internet connection to gain his attention, forcing him to abandon work.

When Grant finally follows her into the kitchen, he is met with a surprising revelation. Steph has discovered a newspaper article about William, a boy who went missing in 1970, and she believes this ties directly to a mysterious message written on their wall. She connects the dots between the missing boy and the couple who visited their house, proposing dark theories about possible guilt and wrongdoing. Grant feels overwhelmed and dismissive of her conclusions, caught between his irritation at the disruption of his work and the shock of Steph's theories.

As their disagreement intensifies, Steph insists they should take the information to the police, believing they might have stumbled upon a significant clue in an unsolved case. Grant, however, is skeptical and frustrated, worried more about the state of their relationship and the



lingering effects of his past affair than the mystery that is consuming Steph. Their escalating argument reflects deeper issues in their marriage, suggesting that the stress of their new home and unresolved feelings are taking a toll. The chapter closes with Grant feeling a mix of dread and exasperation, hinting at anticipated conflicts that await the couple as they navigate both their domestic troubles and the unsettling history of their home.

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Chapter 18: 18

In Chapter 18 of "We Used to Live Here," Steph finds herself in a chilly marital bed, feeling a growing distance from her husband, Grant. They've recently argued after she urged him to take seriously the strange findings from their home's past, particularly the case of a missing child, William Gray. Despite her emotional pleas and the compelling evidence she presents—such as markings on a wall and the child's mysterious disappearance—Grant remains indifferent, insisting she let the matter rest. His lack of empathy deeply disappoints Steph, leaving her feeling trapped and lonely.

Unable to sleep, Steph decides to get up and check on her children, Charlie and Amelia. As she tiptoes through the dark house, she reflects on how her son Charlie, who is usually a silent sleeper, contrasts with his louder sister. After ensuring they're both alright, she goes downstairs for a glass of water, trying to shake off her anxiety about the dark outside.

Suddenly, Steph hears a noise from Grant's study, which turns out to be

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Chapter 19 Summary: 19

In Chapter 19 of "We Used To Live Here," we find Grant in the middle of a tense night as his wife, Steph, wakes up screaming from a nightmare. The scene opens with Grant frantically trying to soothe her while also worried about waking their children, Amelia and Charlie. Despite his efforts, Amelia begins to cry, prompting Grant to leave Steph briefly to comfort their daughter. He finds Charlie anxiously standing by Amelia's crib, protective of her, which highlights the bond between the siblings.

As Grant tends to Amelia, he feels a weight on him—he's facing another long day at work and is desperate to restore calm in their home. After settling Amelia, he returns to find Charlie snuggled up next to Steph in their bed, seeking reassurance from his mother. Once Grant manages to tuck Charlie back in, he goes to check on Steph, who reveals that her nightmare involved their deceased son, William, appearing in a disturbing situation. This revelation stirs feelings of dread and suspicion in Steph regarding their new home and its previous owners, Ken and Julie.

Their exchange escalates into an argument, with Grant dismissing her fears as paranoia stemming from online conspiracy theories. Frustrated, he retreats to the sofa, where he struggles to sleep, plagued by thoughts about Steph's obsessive worries. As he reflects on their situation, he contemplates whether it was wise for Steph to be a stay-at-home mom and considers how getting



her back into work might ease her burdens and help alleviate her fixation on the past.

Throughout the chapter, tensions rise not only between Grant and Steph but also within Grant himself as he grapples with his wife's fears and his own frustrations. Themes of parental responsibility, the psychological impact of the past, and the strains of modern family life are woven into the narrative. As Grant wrestles with his inability to solve their problems, the chapter closes with him feeling lost and uncertain, emphasizing the challenges they face in their new home, both emotionally and relationally.

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Chapter 20 Summary: 20

In Chapter 20 of "We Used To Live Here," we follow Steph as she navigates the aftermath of unsettling dreams and a yearning for clarity regarding her new home and its past. After a restless night spurred by her worries about the previous owners, Ken and Julie Gray—particularly concerning their son William's fate—Steph decides to take action. She resolves to visit Rose, the local estate agent who facilitated the sale of their house at 31 Birchfield Drive, hoping to uncover details about the Grays.

Steph cleverly concocts a reason for her visit, claiming her son, Charlie, needs information for a school project. As she interacts with Rose at the estate agency, her nerves manifest in her blustering, yet she remains focused on her goal: to discover where the Grays moved after selling their house. She browses listings in the window, contemplating the peculiarities of the local real estate market, and reflects on her family's adventures in their new home.

Upon meeting Rose, Steph's affability attempts to put the agent at ease, despite Rose's initial apprehension. The conversation shifts from pleasantries to Steph's request, which Rose finds peculiar but indulges. As Steph pushes for information, she employs a lighthearted tone and reinforces her fabricated narrative about helping Charlie, aiming to break down any reluctance Rose may have to assist her.

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Rose's reluctance becomes evident when she seems hesitant to tap into her records, hinting at the sensitivity of privacy policies. However, Steph's charm and an offer of homemade cakes eventually convince Rose to help. The tension ebbs as Rose leans in, suggesting that while she can't share the information outright, she can bring it to Steph's home the following evening. The arrangement sets up a hopeful twist in Steph's quest for answers about the Grays.

As Steph leaves the office, she feels a mixture of relief and optimism. The chapter illustrates key themes of motherhood, community, and the burdens of the past, portraying how a simple inquiry intertwines the fates of the present with the shadows of former residents. Steph's determination to learn about her home reflects a deeper search for understanding and connection in her new life, setting up anticipation for what revelations may come next.

Chapter Title	Summary
Chapter 20	Steph deals with unsettling dreams about her home's past, particularly the previous owners, the Grays. She visits Rose, the local estate agent, under the pretext of helping her son Charlie with a school project, to learn more about the Grays. Despite initial reluctance, Rose agrees to provide information upon visiting Steph's home the next evening. The chapter explores themes of motherhood, community, and the desire for understanding as Steph connects her current life with the past residents.



Chapter 21: 21

In Chapter 21 of "We Used To Live Here," Grant starts his day feeling relieved to spend time away from home, where tensions simmer between him and his wife, Steph. Following an argument over a disturbing nightmare Steph had, Grant uses his "work from office" day to escape the uncomfortable atmosphere. At work, conversations revolve around uncertainty in their job security, as looming business problems weigh heavy on everyone's minds. Grant reflects on his spending habits, recognizing the risk of living beyond his means and worrying about how he would cope without a job.

Returning home, Grant tries to shake off his anxiety, envisioning a peaceful evening with his family. However, as he enters his house, he is confronted with a startling scene: Steph sitting calmly with Rose, his ex-mistress, at the kitchen table. Confused and anxious, he wonders what the encounter means, especially since Steph seems unfazed and even friendly. She claims Rose is helping with Charlie's school project, but unease gnaws at Grant as he realizes Charlie has no idea about any project.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22

On a beautiful summer day, Steph is pushing her daughter Amelia in a pram through town, but her mission is far from a simple outing. She's headed to the home of Ken and Julie Gray, the parents of a boy who disappeared years ago, and she hopes to uncover the truth behind their involvement in that tragic event. With a recent tip from Rose, an estate agent, Steph has tracked down their new address after they moved from their previous home in 1996. As she navigates the neighborhood, the warmth of the day contrasts sharply with the tension in her heart; she knows her husband, Grant, would be furious if he knew she was pursuing this dangerous lead.

Grant's skepticism about her obsession with their son William's disappearance weighs heavily on their relationship, and Steph feels caught between her need for answers and keeping the peace at home. The quaint bungalows lining the street provide a facade of normalcy, making her feel as though a casual stroll with her daughter is a perfect cover for her real intentions. As she reaches the Gray's property, she tenses up with anticipation, scanning for any sign of the couple.

To her relief, she spots Ken and Julie, confirming they live there still. But her hope plunges when a middle-aged man leaves the home instead. Who is he? Her heart sinks at the thought that perhaps the Grays have moved on. However, as she watches, Ken and Julie wave him off, solidifying their



presence in the home. The sight reconnects her with the reality that these seemingly ordinary people are tied to a heartbreak she can't ignore. They appear to lead an idyllic life, but Steph's instincts tell her there's a darker undercurrent beneath their calm exterior.

The weight of her discovery settles in; while they seem like a happy couple, Steph knows about their tragic past and questions their involvement in something far more sinister. With the knowledge that she has managed to find them unnoticed, she feels a surge of determination. Now, she has the opportunity to confront or investigate them further, but she knows she must tread cautiously. The Grays may appear normal, but Steph realizes that their calm demeanor could disguise dangerous secrets just waiting to be uncovered. With this new information, she senses she might finally be on the brink of revealing a truth that could change everything.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 23

In Chapter 23 of "We Used To Live Here," Grant finds a moment of relief from his recent job anxieties as his boss reassures him of his job security. However, his contentment swiftly fades when he discovers that his mistress, Rose, has returned—waiting outside his house. Grant's initial joy turns into panic as he confronts Rose about her motivations for showing up unannounced, especially after the awkward encounter he previously had with her and his wife, Steph.

Rose expresses her feelings for Grant, revealing that her interest has deepened beyond a mere affair. She claims to miss him and still longs for their connection, complicating Grant's attempts to shut her out of his life. Grant, overwhelmed and desperate to maintain boundaries, insists that their relationship is over and pleads with Rose to stay away from him and his family. As their confrontation escalates, Steph unexpectedly emerges from the house, catching them in a tense moment. However, Rose quickly fabricates an excuse about delivering materials for their son's school project, showcasing her adeptness at deception. This ruse successfully defuses the situation with Steph, who seems oblivious to the underlying tension.

Once inside the house, Grant worries about the potential repercussions of this close call, especially after learning that their son, Charlie, overheard the tail end of their conversation. However, Charlie reassures him that he didn't



catch the specifics, alleviating some of Grant's stress—at least for now. Despite this temporary relief, the chapter leaves Grant pondering how long his luck can hold out as he reflects on the fragility of his situation. The chapter encapsulates the themes of deception, the complexities of relationships, and the precarious balance Grant must maintain to protect his family from the truth. His inner turmoil reveals a profound sense of guilt and fear as he recognizes that the choices he's made could ultimately jeopardize the family he cherishes.

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Chapter 24: 24

In Chapter 24 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, we find Steph grappling with guilt after lying to a kind estate agent named Rose, who had come to help her son Charlie with a fabricated school project. Despite her intentions, Steph feels uneasy, knowing her lie might have consequences, especially once she embarks on unraveling the mystery surrounding the house and its previous owners, Ken and Julie, who have a troubling history involving their son William's disappearance.

As dinner unfolds, Steph tries to engage her husband, Grant, in conversation about her encounter with Ken and Julie. Grant, however, is withdrawn and reacts negatively when she brings them up, leading to a heated argument. His frustration boils over, expressing his disdain for Steph's obsession with the past, revealing a deeper tension in their relationship. Grant's outburst frightens their son, Charlie, who appears concerned about the shouting, and Steph finds herself torn between defending her curiosity and maintaining peace in the household.

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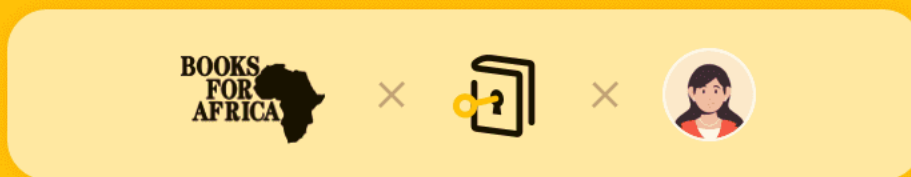
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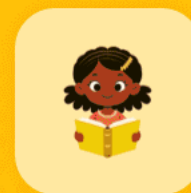
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Chapter 25 Summary: 25

In Chapter 25 of "We Used To Live Here," we meet Grant, a man seeking solace in a dimly lit pub called The Horse and Crown after an argument with his wife. His mood is heavy, and he navigates the streets with a hunched posture, hiding his frustrations. Choosing this unfamiliar pub allows him to escape the prying eyes of acquaintances and the tension at home, especially concerning his infidelity with Rose and his wife's fixation on the unsettling history of their home.

Upon entering, Grant is greeted by the nostalgic scent of ale and a space that feels stuck in time, with worn furnishings and lingering traces of smoke from a bygone era. He orders a drink, relishing the refreshing taste, and soon finds himself deep in thought about the complexities of his life. While he acknowledges his own mistakes, he also feels the weight of external pressures like work stress and his wife's past obsession with their new house.

As the drinks flow, Grant discovers a new friend in Reg, an elderly regular at the bar who has spent decades in the pub. Reg's stories about the place captivate Grant, providing a temporary distraction from his troubles. Their conversation takes a darker turn when Reg reveals a haunting piece of local history about the previous occupants of Grant's home—the Grays. Their son, William, mysteriously vanished in 1970, and Reg harbors unsettling theories about the family's involvement in his disappearance.

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Reg's chilling assertion that the Grays could have harmed their son leaves Grant unsettled, prompting a need to escape before the weight of their shared history overwhelms him. The chapter captures themes of regret, the haunting nature of the past, and the search for distraction in the face of personal turmoil, all set against the backdrop of a pub that acts as both refuge and reminder of deeper issues Grant wishes to avoid.

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Chapter 26 Summary: 26

In Chapter 26 of "We Used To Live Here," we find Steph grappling with the aftermath of a heated argument with her husband, Grant, which disrupted their son, Charlie's, sleep. Despite Steph's efforts to reassure Charlie that everything is fine between his parents, the little boy remains restless and shares a troubling fear — he's scared of a man and woman he has seen outside their home, whom he refers to as "the people who came here." This revelation surprises Steph, as she didn't know that the couple, Ken and Julie, had been coming back around to watch them.

As she comforts Charlie, Steph reflects on the irrational fears of childhood, recalling similar anxieties from her own past. She emphasizes that there's nothing to fear, laying down guidelines for Charlie to alert her if he sees the couple again. After getting Charlie to settle down, she checks on their daughter, Amelia, who's sleeping soundly through the chaos.

Once in the living room, Steph waits for Grant's return, somewhat relieved that he's not home yet. She knows he's likely drinking at a pub, but the distance allows her to unwind a little from the tension of their earlier fight. She flips through channels but soon finds herself diverted by curiosity about William Gray, the boy who disappeared years earlier from their home.

Steph's search turns into an obsession as she looks for current information

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on William's case but finds that it has gone cold. Frustrated, she contemplates how to get the attention of the police or journalists regarding her discoveries about William's disappearance. Ultimately, she chooses to contact a local newspaper, hoping that the revelations she has might spark interest in the case. As she types out her message, there's a sense of uncertainty, suggesting that her pursuit may either lead to a significant breakthrough or be dismissed as folly.

Through Steph's interaction with Charlie, her reflections on her marriage, and her relentless quest for answers about William, this chapter captures themes of parental concern, marital strife, the innocence of childhood fears, and the tenacity of seeking the truth in a world that often overlooks it.

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Chapter 27: 27

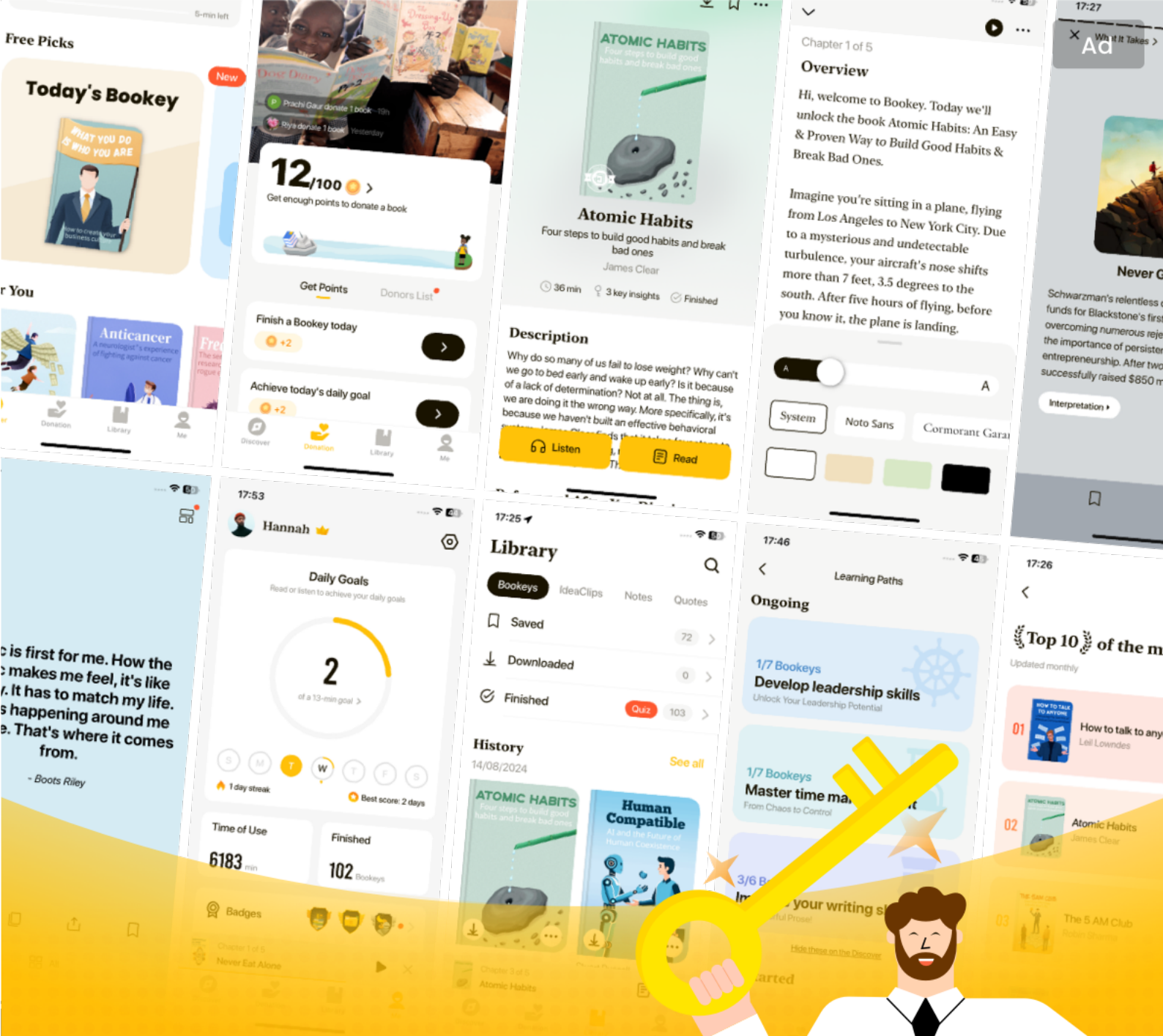
In Chapter 27 of "We Used To Live Here," we find Grant in a run-down pub, grappling with the consequences of his drinking while engaging in a disturbing conversation with a stranger named Reg. As Grant nurses yet another drink, Reg unfolds a chilling narrative about the previous occupants of Grant's home, Ken and Julie, and their son, William, who mysteriously disappeared. Reg suggests that William's learning difficulties led to serious familial struggles, hinting at a darker story—alleging that the parents may have killed him and buried his body somewhere in their garden.

Grant's unease grows as Reg details not only the troubled dynamics within the family but also his theory about the perfect crime: with no body and no evidence, the parents could simply claim William ran away. This theory shakes Grant, who, despite the alcohol muddling his thoughts, can't shake the unnerving image of a potential hidden skeleton beneath his own yard.

As the conversation dwindles and Grant prepares to leave, he reflects on his own life—specifically, his interaction with his wife, Steph, about the same

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Chapter 28 Summary: 28

In Chapter 28 of "We Used To Live Here," we find Steph lying in bed, reflecting on her husband Grant's late return home after a night of drinking. His unsteady gait and bloodshot eyes reveal his inebriated state. While Steph typically copes with stress through tea and sleep, Grant turns to the pub, leading to a clash in their approaches to handling life's pressures.

When Grant finally stumbles into their bedroom, he awkwardly hugs Steph, his affection muddled by alcohol. Despite her irritation, she feels relief that he's home safe, and they lie together, staring at the ceiling. Surprisingly, Grant admits to meeting an older man named Reg at the bar, who shared unsettling theories about their neighbors Ken and Julie, suggesting they were involved in the disappearance of a local boy named William. This revelation piques Steph's curiosity, as she has long believed there's something suspicious about the couple.

As the conversation unfolds, Grant acknowledges Reg's claims and expresses concern over the potential implications of a deeper investigation into the past, worried about their family home becoming a crime scene. Steph passionately argues for justice for William, but Grant counters her enthusiasm with practical concerns about their family's stability and future, hinting at his fears about their marriage's fragility.



Steph picks up on Grant's emotional state, feeling a knot of anxiety about his comments on their relationship. His drunken honesty leads him to express feelings of inadequacy and nostalgia for their earlier, happier days. Despite Steph's reassurances, a sense of distance forms as he drifts off to sleep, leaving her anxious and sleepless, unsure of the underlying issues in their relationship. The chapter intricately weaves themes of trust, frustration, and the struggles of modern marriage, underscoring the couple's hidden tensions against the backdrop of unresolved mysteries in their community.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 29

In Chapter 29 of "We Used To Live Here," we delve into Grant's turbulent emotions following a night of heavy drinking. Waking up with a severe hangover, he's consumed with guilt, fearing he might have inadvertently confessed his affair with Rose to his wife, Steph. The tension builds as he recalls his drunken vows of unsuitability and worries about his marriage's stability, especially when he discovers their bed empty beside him.

After a panicked search, he finds Steph downstairs, calmly caring for their children. When he cautiously questions her about their conversation from the previous night, Grant is relieved to learn that while he did express some discontent with their relationship, his secret about the affair is safe for now. The relief washes over him, but it also sparks a determination to improve himself, vowing to quit drinking and be a better husband as he starts tending to their neglected garden.

As he engages in physical labor, he reflects on the domestic tranquility of the moment—observing Steph and their kids enjoying the sunny day together. However, his pleasant gardening effort takes a sinister turn when he uncovers what he initially thinks is a bone in the soil. Panic sets in as he grapples with the implications of his discovery, contemplating whether to alert Steph or handle it discreetly. Fortunately, upon closer inspection, he realizes it's just an oddly shaped stone, and relief floods back.



Just when it seems the chapter might settle into a normal day, tension spikes again as police officers enter the garden. The sudden appearance of the officers casts an ominous shadow over the scene, juxtaposed with Charlie's innocent excitement. Grant and Steph exchange worried glances, their reprieve shattered as one of the officers asks Grant to put down the spade, suggesting that the day's events are spiraling into deeper trouble. The chapter leaves readers on edge, hinting at escalating conflicts and the repercussions of secrets yet to be revealed.

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Chapter 30: 30

Chapter 30 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst plunges us into a tense conversation between Steph, her husband Grant, and two police officers, PC Bridge and PC Hill, who have come to their home to discuss a newspaper report about a hidden wall discovered during renovation work in their house. Steph recalls her decision to speak to a journalist after finding unsettling writings attributed to a missing boy named William on that wall. She feels the weight of her actions as she knows Grant is clueless about her involvement, and the tension in the room is palpable.

As the officers question them, they reveal that the article focuses on William's disappearance, hinting at hidden truths connected to his family. Grant's disbelief unfolds as he learns that Steph has shared sensitive information, and the atmosphere shifts from casual to serious. The officers' insights into the case suggest that while they had initially investigated William's parents, they firmly believe that they were not involved in the disappearance, having built a case based on years of careful analysis, theories, and the psychological profiles of those involved.

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Chapter 31 Summary: 31

In Chapter 31 of "We Used To Live Here," we follow Grant as he reflects on what has undoubtedly been a tumultuous day. The chapter opens with him considering the shocking discovery he made in the garden—what he thought could be a bone belonging to a missing boy. This unsettling event triggers a chain reaction, leading to a heated argument with his wife, Steph, who he feels betrayed by for contacting the local newspaper about their find. Grant struggles with his feelings of anger and betrayal, made worse by their differing reactions to the discovery and the ensuing police visit.

As he sinks into the comfort of the sofa with a glass of wine—breaking his vow to abstain from drinking—Grant contemplates the impact Steph's decisions might have on their family. He's frustrated that instead of focusing on their own children, she's captivated by the unresolved mysteries of the past, particularly about a child who lived long ago. While grappling with these thoughts, he wrestles with whether they should move to escape the ghosts of their current home, but ultimately decides against it. The upheaval and hassle would only lead to more stress, and he reflects on the reality of his family's place in a house laden with its history.

Grant's internal conflict reveals a deeper concern for their children, particularly Charlie, who is starting to notice the strain in his parents' relationship. He longs for simpler days, free from adult worries. Through

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Grant's perspective, we see a man caught between his past, the weight of family secrets, and a desire to keep his children shielded from their tumultuous reality.

This chapter paints a vivid picture of a family in distress, emphasizing themes of communication breakdown, the weight of the past, and the struggle to protect loved ones from adult complexities. Grant's reflections evoke a sense of longing for peace, underscoring the difficulty of navigating family dynamics in the face of unresolved mysteries.

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Chapter 32 Summary: 32

In Chapter 32 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, Steph finds herself at the doorstep of Ken and Julie, a couple tied to a tragic past involving their missing son, William. Despite telling her partner Grant that she was visiting a friend, she heads to their bungalow, driven by her curiosity and concern over a discovery in her own home. When Ken opens the door, there's an awkward moment as he pretends not to recognize her, but quickly shifts when reminded of their previous encounter.

Once inside, the warm atmosphere of their home contrasts with the heavy topic at hand. Steph acknowledges her nerves as she observes the absence of William's photographs, hinting at the pain they likely carry. She delicately brings up her visit from the police regarding a chilling discovery she made—mysterious writings by William found behind a wall in her house. Ken and Julie's immediate recognition of her comments confirms what she suspects: they have secrets about their son's past.

They reflect on the pain of being confronted by the public and police about William's disappearance, emphasizing their past struggles with rumors and the toll it has taken on them. While they express understanding of her concerns, there's an evident change in their demeanor as Steph presses them for details about what happened on the day William vanished. Julie recounts the sunny day filled with innocence before tragedy struck when she briefly

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lost sight of him while preparing a drink. The story unfolds with haunting simplicity, revealing how quickly everything changed when she discovered William was missing.

Emotionally charged, the couple share their fears and heartbreak over their son's fate. Julie's poignant remark that she believes William could have been lured away by someone pretending to be his friend paints a chilling picture of vulnerability. Ken's revelation that they frequently return to the house demonstrates their unresolved grief and yearning for closure.

As the conversation draws to a close, Steph feels a mix of sympathy and discomfort. Ken urges her to cherish her own children—a stark reminder of their loss and the preciousness of family. Departing their home, Steph grapples with the weight of what she has learned. She is left with a sense of respect for the couple's pain and a determination to focus on her family, signaling a significant character development as she confronts uncomfortable truths while also holding on to her own loved ones. This chapter resonates with themes of loss, parental love, and the haunting specter of the past, setting the tone for the deeper mysteries that may linger beyond this encounter.

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Chapter 33: 33

In Chapter 33 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, Grant is enjoying a rare, relaxed day working from home that feels more like a holiday. The sunny weather and a quiet house give him the chance to unwind on his patio with a cold beer, reflecting on his garden's transformation and the recent reconciliation with his wife, Steph. After a rocky period filled with arguments and tension, they have mended their relationship, and Grant appreciates the peace in their home, even as they juggle the usual chaos of raising their kids, Charlie and Amelia.

Just as Grant starts to check back on his work emails, a sudden doorbell interrupts his tranquil afternoon. When he opens the door, it's Rose, a figure from his past with whom he had an affair. Her unexpected arrival stirs a mix of surprise and anxiety in him, as he worries about Steph's potential return. Rose, wearing a strikingly revealing dress and exuding bold confidence, offers him a provocative ultimatum: he can either turn her away, risking her to wait for Steph and disclose their past, or let her inside for one final encounter.

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Chapter 34 Summary: 34

In Chapter 34 of "We Used to Live Here," we follow Steph as she navigates a challenging day with her young daughter, Amelia. After a less-than-stellar shopping trip where Amelia's crankiness escalated in the heat, Steph finds herself behind the wheel, contemplating the mundane aspects of life—the old familiar streets and the disappointment of not having booked a summer vacation. Instead, she focuses on reshaping their garden, dreaming of modernizing their outdoor space to better suit their family's needs, especially to accommodate her son, Charlie, who has been asking for football goals.

While driving, she seizes the moment to reach out to a recommended landscaper, Jason, hoping for a quick garden makeover. Her excitement mounts when he expresses availability sooner than expected, leading to a plan for Jason to visit later that day for a quote. However, underneath this façade of garden renovation lies a deeper, more troubling motivation for Steph. She's been haunted by a series of bad dreams about her deceased son, William, particularly the most recent one where she envisions him lying lifeless in the garden.

This chapter reveals significant character development, showcasing Steph's internal struggles and the lengths she's willing to go to seek closure about her son's fate. Though she initially tells herself to let go of her obsession

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over William's disappearance, the nightmares continue to plague her thoughts, suggesting that she feels an urgent need to uncover the truth. As she prepares to face whatever Jason might uncover in the garden, her thoughts are clouded with anxiety about the implications of his findings.

With a blend of mundane life reflections and haunting memories, this chapter poignantly captures themes of motherhood, loss, and the desperate search for closure. It signals Steph's escalating internal conflict and her unwillingness to let go of the past, hinting at potential revelations that could change everything. As she steps into her home with Amelia, there's a sense of foreboding, signaling that a surprising twist awaits in the next chapter.

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Chapter 35 Summary: 35

In Chapter 35 of "We Used To Live Here," we find Grant in a precarious situation after taking an afternoon shower to hide his guilt about a recent encounter with Rose, someone from his past. He stands at the top of the stairs wrapped in a towel, startled when his wife, Steph, returns home earlier than expected. Grant's nervousness amplifies as he tries to maintain his facade of innocence, fearing that Steph may sense something is amiss.

As he quickly dresses and heads downstairs to help with her shopping bags, he grapples with the inner turmoil of having let Rose into their home, a risky decision that he made under the pressure of secrecy. Steph, blissfully unaware, playfully teases Grant about his apparent lack of productivity that day, revealing her observant nature as she mentions seeing beer bottles in the bin, hinting she suspects he was indulging without her.

The atmosphere shifts when Steph shares that their daughter, Amelia, had a tantrum during their shopping trip. Grant's affection for Amelia shines through as he picks her up and comforts her, if only briefly easing the tension building within him. But the weight of his secret lingers as he reflects on the encounter with Rose and her words about "old times." This nostalgia clashes with his commitment to his family, realizing how precious his life with Steph and Amelia truly is.



The conversation takes a turn when Steph announces that a landscaper will visit to discuss ideas for the garden. Grant reacts defensively, insisting their garden is fine just as it is, revealing his deeper anxieties about change and a potential connection to William, a figure from their shared past that Grant seems to resent. This disagreement escalates into a heated moment, exposing strain in their marriage as Grant storms off to his study, seeking refuge from the chaos and discomfort of the situation.

In this chapter, the tension between growth and stagnation in both Grant's internal struggles and his relationship with Steph is palpable. His desire to keep his family safe and intact clashes with the secrets he holds, laying bare the fragile state of their lives. The themes of loyalty, nostalgia, and the impact of the past resonate throughout, compelling readers to reflect on the sacrifices one makes to preserve what matters most.

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Chapter 36: 36

In this gripping chapter, we dive into Steph's whirlwind of emotions and determined actions as she seeks to uncover a long-buried secret from the past. Disillusioned with her initial charm and cleverness, she realizes that her attempt to charm her neighbors, Ken and Julie Gray, into allowing a renovation of their garden was seen right through by her husband, Grant. Her true motivation is not merely to beautify the space but to finally solve the mystery surrounding the disappearance of little William Gray, their son.

Driven by a mix of desperation and resolve, Steph visits the local police station, hoping that her fabricated evidence might lure the police into digging up the garden where she suspects William's remains might be hidden. As she waits anxiously for PC Bridge, her mind races with thoughts of her children left with Grant, who's now tasked with solo parent duties. When PC Bridge finally meets her, Steph plays her cards with boldness, spinning a tale about her conversation with the Grays. She recounts how they became defensive when she mentioned her plans for the garden renovation, hinting at a chilling connection to William's memory.

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Chapter 37 Summary: 37

In Chapter 37 of "We Used To Live Here" by Daniel Hurst, the weather shifts dramatically, reflecting the tumultuous state of Grant's life. As he drives home under darkening clouds, he grapples with his past choices, including a difficult marriage and a misguided affair. Rain begins to pour, mirroring his growing turbulence as he approaches his home.

When Grant arrives, his relief at finding shelter quickly turns to dread at the sight of police cars, vans, and an ambulance outside his house. Concerned and angry, he rushes inside, only to discover that Steph, his wife, is outside with the authorities, who are searching their back garden for William, a potentially missing person. His frustration boils over as he demands to know what is happening, wanting nothing more than to distance himself from her and her fixation with William.

Steph explains that new evidence has brought the police back, and their children are safe with her parents, providing little comfort for Grant. As tensions rise, he becomes acutely aware of the chaotic scene unfolding around him - officers, sniffer dogs, and forensic teams are all focused on the possible discovery of a hidden truth beneath their backyard.

When an officer shouts about finding something, Steph's hope ignites a flurry of emotions in Grant. As they begin to dig, thunder rumbles above,

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creating a heavy atmosphere full of impending dread. Steph stands on the verge of tears, believing she might finally have proof regarding her suspicions. In a twist of fate, it becomes evident that there is indeed a body buried in their garden—but it's not the person she suspected.

This chapter vividly blends themes of tension, the burdens of the past, and the unraveling of Grant's precarious home life. As the rain falls, signaling missed connections and foreboding, a storm brews not only in the sky but within their lives, leaving readers captivated by the weight of revelation and the future uncertainty that looms ahead.

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Chapter 38 Summary: 38

In Chapter 38 of "We Used To Live Here," we see Steph grappling with the aftermath of her husband Grant's shocking crime. As she watches a man from the estate agency set up a For Sale sign in her front garden, Steph reflects on the deep scars left behind by Grant's actions. He's currently in police custody, charged with the murder of Rose, the woman who had previously shown them the house and with whom he had an affair. Steph's feelings are a tumultuous mix of betrayal and heartache as she contemplates the permanence of her shattered reality.

The chapter unfolds with Steph recalling the harrowing moments when the police arrived at her home, leading Grant away in handcuffs while rain fell heavily, mirroring the weight of her grief. She learns that Grant confessed to the murder after realizing that Rose was planning to disclose their affair. The chilling details of the crime, including how he attacked her with a rolling pin and buried her in their backyard, haunt her. Steph grapples with feelings of sickness and disbelief that the man she loved could commit such a heinous act.

As she moves to the kitchen, where her mother is caring for her children, Amelia and Charlie, the contrast between her own turmoil and the innocence of her children becomes stark. Now alone in raising them, with Grant taken away to face the consequences of his actions, Steph feels an overwhelming

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sense of loss. She reflects on her misguided suspicions toward their neighbors, Ken and Julie, and recognizes that she misidentified the true threat.

Steph's sadness extends to Rose, who she acknowledges now as a victim of Grant's deceit and violence. As she navigates her feelings of regret and sorrow, she resolves to write an apology to Ken and Julie, understanding that they were not the danger she once believed them to be. The chapter concludes with a powerful acknowledgment of the weight of the history held within the walls of their home—31 Birchfield Drive, now forever marked by tragedy and secrets.

Through this unfolding story, themes of trust, betrayal, and the haunting legacy of violence resonate, leaving the reader with a profound sense of unease about the nature of appearance versus reality. Steph's journey toward acceptance and her desire to escape the memories of her past illustrate an intense struggle for healing in the face of irreparable damage.

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