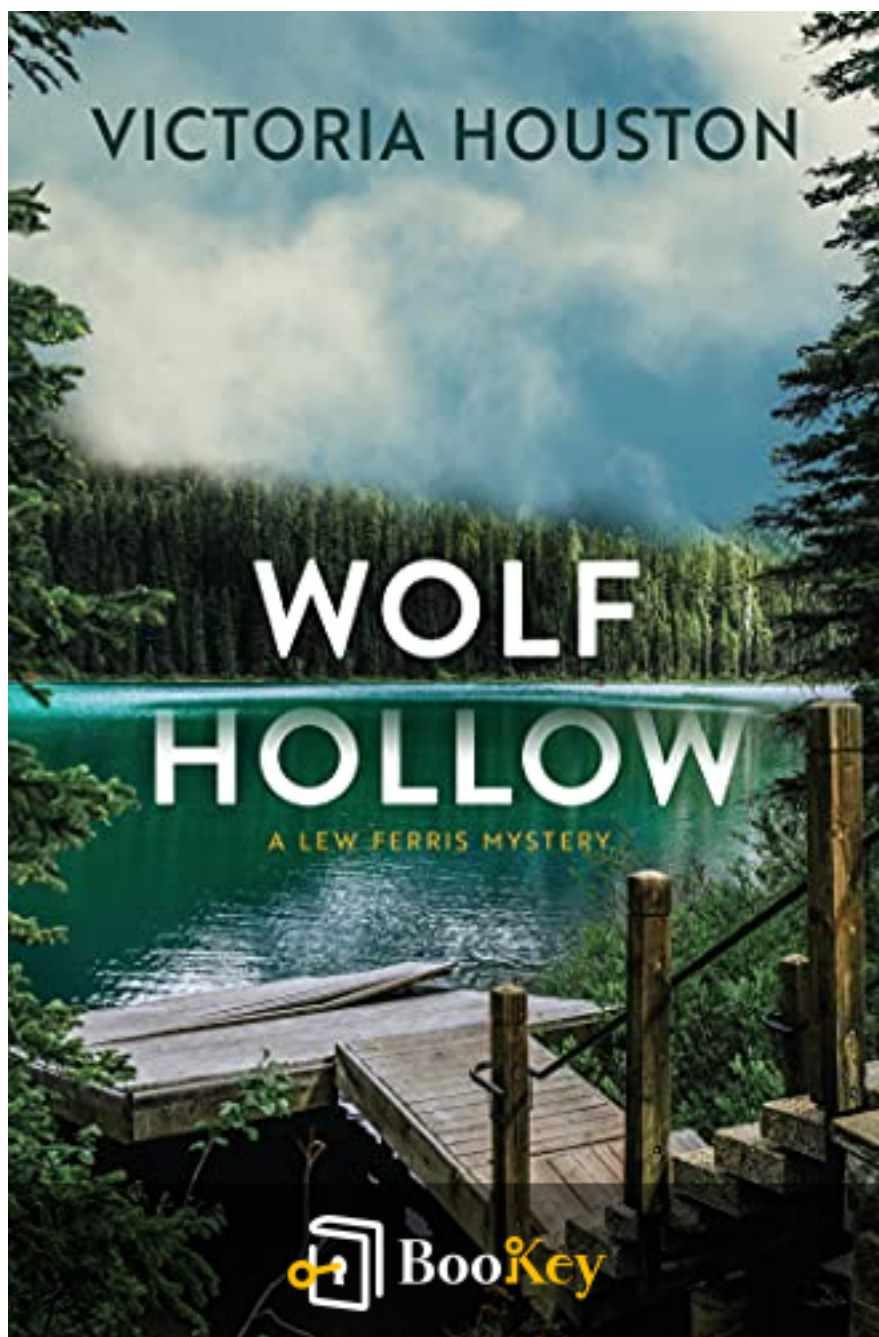


# Wolf Hollow PDF (Limited Copy)

Victoria Houston



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## **Wolf Hollow Summary**

Finding strength in the face of darkness.

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## About the book

In the hauntingly beautiful backdrop of rural Wisconsin, Victoria Houston's "Wolf Hollow" weaves a captivating tale of resilience, redemption, and the harsh realities of human nature. Through the eyes of a determined young woman, the novel delves into the complexities of guilt, trauma, and the fight for survival amidst a tight-knit community fraught with secrets and shadows. As she navigates the treacherous waters of personal loss and societal judgment, readers are drawn into a gripping narrative that explores the lengths one will go to shield loved ones from pain. With its rich character development and evocative prose, "Wolf Hollow" invites you to question the morality of right and wrong, and to ponder the indelible mark of our choices on our lives and the lives of others.

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## About the author

Victoria Houston is an accomplished American author known for her engaging narratives that often blend elements of mystery and outdoor adventure. With a background in journalism, Houston brings a keen observational skill and a vivid descriptive style to her writing, capturing the essence of the landscapes and complexities of human relationships. She has garnered acclaim for her series of mystery novels set in the picturesque Northwoods of Wisconsin, where her love for the natural world and rich storytelling converge. Houston's work not only entertains but also invites readers to explore themes of morality, perseverance, and the delicate interplay between humanity and nature.

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## Chapter 34:

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## Chapter 1 Summary:

On a sunny afternoon in May, the small town of Loon Lake, Wisconsin, buzzes with the energy of middle-school students flocking to Sweo's Gas & Groceries for snacks after school. In one corner of the store, three boys and a girl linger in the DVD aisle, eagerly waiting for their target. The tallest boy, Larry, counts down the moments until a man in his twenties enters. The man, dressed neatly, instantly catches the girl's eye, prompting an excited exchange as she recognizes him from an Instagram photo. However, the situation quickly escalates when Larry declares a "citizens' arrest," sending the man fleeing in surprise. As he drives away, one of the boys snaps a photo of his license plate, hinting at their determination to uncover the man's identity.

Meanwhile, at the Loon Lake police station, Chief Lewellyn Ferris is lost in thought about her potential candidacy for sheriff, represented by a vibrant bumper sticker on her desk. As she contemplates the changes this decision could bring in her life, Dispatch interrupts her with news of the commotion at Sweo's. Bud Tillman, the store manager, reports that the kids are convinced they've confronted a sexual predator. Recognizing one of the kids as Erin Amundson's daughter, Lew decides to handle the situation personally rather than sending an officer. With a mix of concern and duty, she invites Erin to accompany her, hinting at the possibility that her daughter could be caught in a serious incident.



This chapter introduces the themes of childhood curiosity and vigilance, emphasizing the gray areas of right and wrong that young people navigate. It sets a dramatic tone, showing how quickly innocence can turn to misunderstanding, all while hinting at the intertwined lives of the characters in this close-knit community.

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## Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter Two of "Wolf Hollow," we find four preteens—Larry, Denny, John, and Mason—huddled nervously in the store manager's office, awaiting a serious conversation with Lewellyn "Lew" Ferris, the local police chief. The scene is tense as Lew assesses the children, noting their anxious expressions and the dynamics between them, particularly how Mason's protective and somewhat overbearing friends rally around her. Mason, who is of mixed heritage, stands out among her peers for her striking looks, which contrast with her mother Erin's porcelain complexion. Erin is present as a concerned parent while managing her campaign for county sheriff.

As Lew navigates the conversation, she learns that the children were attempting to make a "citizens' arrest" of a man named Noah McDonough, whom they believe to be a sexual predator after he attempted to contact Mason through text, having found her online after she was featured in a news segment. John's uncomfortable assertion that he is the mastermind behind their plan reveals his anxious desire to protect his friend, while Larry's eagerness to contribute highlights the camaraderie among the kids. Mason, for her part, admits she had engaged with McDonough, showing both her vulnerability and the naivety of youth.

Lew, trying to remain calm amidst the escalating panic, realizes the gravity of the situation. She reassures the kids, stressing that they must rely on



trained professionals for such situations and that they've acted out of concern, albeit misguidedly. The children's bravery is commendable but also underscores the themes of safeguarding innocence and the dangers lurking in their seemingly safe community.

After dismissing the kids, Lew turns her attention to Erin, who expresses her fears for her daughter and the challenges of parenting in today's world. There's a poignant moment of camaraderie as they discuss the need for an expert to educate the local children about safety, pointing to the broader theme of community responsibility to protect its young.

The chapter closes with Lew's light-hearted conversation with Bud, the store manager, bringing a moment of levity after a tense situation. They discuss a local dispute surrounding the renaming of Toad Lake, showcasing the small-town dynamics and the disagreements that can arise. Overall, this chapter vividly portrays the protective instincts of both children and adults in light of emerging threats, the complexities of growing up, and the nuanced interactions in their close-knit community.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The importance of community responsibility in safeguarding youth.

**Critical Interpretation:** As you navigate through life, reflect on how the events in Wolf Hollow serve as a powerful reminder of the necessity for a community to come together in the face of challenges to protect its younger generations. Just like Lew and Erin, who recognize the need for proactive measures to educate children about safety, you too can inspire change by engaging your community in meaningful discussions and actions that prioritize the well-being of the youth. By fostering a supportive environment, you empower not only the children but also yourself, reminding everyone that safety and vigilance are shared responsibilities that strengthen bonds and build trust in your local circles.



## Chapter 3:

In Chapter Three of "Wolf Hollow," Chief Lewellyn Ferris visits the McDonough property after gathering information about a troubling incident involving Noah McDonough. The chapter opens with Lew examining the county plat book, which reveals that the McDonough Trust owns prime land near Toad Lake, hinting at family wealth linked to timber barons of the past. As she approaches the McDonough residence, marked by old stone pillars, she comes across an abandoned white house, a stark contrast to the surrounding natural beauty.

Upon arriving at the modern McDonough home, she encounters Grace McDonough, Noah's mother, who displays a defensive demeanor when Lew identifies herself. Lew is there to arrest Noah for a serious charge—violating the Wisconsin Age of Consent Law and attempting to kidnap an underage girl. Grace's reaction is alarmingly dismissive; rather than expressing concern for the allegations, she immediately accuses Lew of overstepping her bounds, revealing an underlying arrogance anchored in their family's legacy.

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## Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter Four of "Wolf Hollow," tensions rise as Lew Ferris, the chief of police, deals with Grace McDonough, who arrives at the station demanding the release of her son, Noah. Grace's confrontational demeanor showcases her strong will, as she insists on taking Noah home immediately. Lew, unfazed, calmly explains that Noah is being held due to serious allegations involving inappropriate communication with a twelve-year-old girl, Mason Amundson. Despite Grace's aggressive bluster and attempts to downplay the situation, Lew's professionalism prevails as she waits for Noah to be brought in.

When Noah arrives, he appears more like a troubled teenager than a twenty-four-year-old. His interaction with Grace reveals a strained mother-son relationship; he clearly wants to distance himself from her. As they navigate the legal procedures, the tension underscores the emotional stakes of the situation.

Meanwhile, a meeting is convened with parents and children impacted by Noah's actions, where fear and outrage prompt heated discussions. Nancy Fortran, a passionate community member, expresses her concerns about the potential danger posed by Noah, demanding more rigorous investigation and involvement from the FBI. On the other hand, Stanley Mayer defends Grace, arguing that her wealth and status should lend her son some credibility, a



notion that Lew swiftly challenges.

The meeting shifts as Erin Amundson introduces important initiatives aimed at educating students on online safety and empathy towards those who display predatory behavior. She emphasizes that understanding mental health can cultivate compassion among the youth, a message met with mixed reactions—some resistance from Nancy and Stanley, but support from others.

Lew's segment of the meeting conveys the gravity of the situation to the children, highlighting the real danger they faced. By the end, there's a sense of hope as the kids promise to attend safety classes, but Lew is left with lingering doubts about their vulnerability and the potential for repeat offenses.

Overall, this chapter delves into themes of maternal influence, societal privilege, and the complexity of adolescence in a world where online interactions can have dire consequences. The stakes are high for both the parents and children involved, painting a vivid picture of a community grappling with safety and accountability.



## Chapter 5 Summary:

In Chapter Five of "Wolf Hollow," the tension between community safety and young ambition is carefully explored through a cozy dinner between Lew and Doc Osborne. As they sit at the kitchen table, Lew recounts her granddaughter Mason's audacious attempt at a citizen's arrest with her friends, prompting a mix of pride and concern from Doc. He reminisces about his own past, revealing a man who has weathered loss and loneliness, intertwined with humor about his late wife and her objections to his passion for fishing.

The chapter delves into local history with a discussion about Grace McDonough, a woman with a troubled past, hinting at the complexities of familial relationships shaped by secrets and societal expectations. Doc shares colorful stories of Grace and her eccentric son, Noah, capturing the essence of their small-town life and the gossip that surrounds it. Amid their light banter, deeper themes of identity and legacy emerge as they ponder the implications of paternity, social stature, and reputation.

After dinner, Lew and Doc enjoy their ritual of watching the local news, a time that has grown to be cherished in their relationship. The announcement of Noah McDonough's arrest brings a moment of reflection on the recklessness of youth and the responsibility that comes with it. This news stirs contrasting feelings in Lew; while she grapples with the challenges of



her own upcoming election for sheriff, she recognizes the importance of active community engagement and education in reshaping perceptions of safety.

The chapter concludes with Lew's resolve to counter the masculine image presented by her opponent, Bert Flynn, emphasizing her capabilities and achievements as the first woman police chief. With Doc's support and some lighthearted banter about crafting a campaign strategy, a blend of personal ambition and community interaction is showcased. The connection between the characters deepens as they navigate their separate but intertwined futures, revealing mutual respect and affection. Overall, this chapter captures themes of community, the weight of history, and the evolving roles of women in positions of power, all wrapped in the warm comfort of friendship and shared meals.

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## Chapter 6:

In Chapter Six of "Wolf Hollow," a man wakes up before dawn, driven by a deep concern for a family of loons he has been watching over for years. He has set up trail cameras around their nest to protect them from predators like bald eagles, whose previous attacks have struck him hard, likening their loss to that of his own children. As he navigates the rough terrain towards the loons' nest, he feels the weight of his anxiety and his need for cataract surgery, which adds to his unease.

Upon arriving at the lake, he is relieved to see that both chicks are safe while one parent is absent, likely hunting for food. However, his moment of peace is shattered when he is unexpectedly attacked from behind, knocking him into the muddy waters near the nest. This violent turn leaves him unconscious and facedown in the shallow lake, dangerously close to drowning.

Meanwhile, two fishermen in a rowboat spot the man's body and quickly realize the urgency of the situation. One of them jumps into the water and

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## Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter Seven of "Wolf Hollow," we find Chief of Police Lewellyn Ferris starting her day with a comforting ritual—sharing coffee and conversation with Doc, a friendly presence in her life. Their morning routine, set against the serene backdrop of Loon Lake, underscores the importance of community ties and personal connections in the midst of her demanding job, which handles the town's routine police matters.

As Lew arrives at the precinct, she quickly learns of active cases, including a troubling situation involving a potential sex offender. This suggests an underlying tension in the community regarding safety and vigilance, which will be pivotal as the story unfolds. However, everything shifts dramatically when Lew receives a frantic call from her sister-in-law, Linda, informing her that her brother, Pete, has died suddenly. The news hits Lew hard, as Pete was a beloved figure in her life, a dedicated environmentalist and teacher, marked by the warmth of their close sibling bond.

At the hospital, Lew must navigate the complicated emotions surrounding her brother's death, especially interactions with Linda, whom she finds difficult to deal with. Tensions rise as they disagree over whether an autopsy should be performed—Lew's insistence on one hints at her deep-seated need for answers, unwilling to accept what seems like a straightforward heart attack given the unusual circumstances of Pete's passing.



Through a series of tense exchanges, Lew's protective instincts come to the forefront; she is determined to honor her brother's memory and uncover the truth despite the pushback from Linda. The dynamics between the sisters-in-law reveal themes of familial conflict and the complexity of grief, contrasting Lew's straightforward approach to justice with Linda's dismissive attitude towards the need for understanding.

Further complicating matters, Lew learns from her niece, Bridget, that Pete was planning to divorce Linda, who had been unfaithful. This revelation adds another layer to the story, raising questions about the real circumstances surrounding Pete's death and illuminating themes of betrayal and the fragility of relationships. Bridget's struggle with the news is palpable, reflecting the emotional turmoil that often accompanies such losses.

Chapter Seven serves as a turning point in the narrative, highlighting Lew's dedication both to her work and family, while also setting the stage for deeper investigations into her brother's death. The chapter masterfully explores themes of grief, the quest for truth, and the intricate web of family dynamics, leaving readers eager to see how these elements will unfold in the subsequent chapters.



## Chapter 8 Summary:

In Chapter 8 of "Wolf Hollow," we see Chief Lew Ferris grappling with the sudden and tragic death of her brother, Pete. After a brief conversation with Bridget, she contacts Bruce, a trusted crime scene investigator, to arrange an autopsy with their new forensic pathologist, Lisa Carter. Bruce's supportive nature shines through as he expresses concern for Lew and offers to accompany her to investigate. Lew's urgency is palpable as she suspects foul play due to unexplained bruising on her brother's body, a detail that the local coroner, "old over-served Ed," dismisses without consideration.

After obtaining the names and contact details of the two fishermen who found Pete, Lew races to meet them at the lake. Her interactions with Curt Stevens and Tom Gilley reveal their quick actions saved her brother's life, and they show deep remorse for his passing. Lew's investigative instincts kick in as she checks the area around where her brother was found, determined to uncover the truth behind his death. She feels a mix of gratitude for the fishermen's efforts and increasing anxiety about the circumstances of Pete's fall.

In the boat, as Lew speaks with the fishermen, she makes a frantic call to her friend Ray Pradt, an amateur podcaster and fellow fisherman. Her emotional distress is evident, but Ray's attentive nature grounds her. He reassures her that he can help investigate the area, exhibiting a fierce dedication to their



friendship and a shared love of the outdoors. They quickly shift their focus to searching for evidence, highlighting both Lew's determination and Ray's unique tracking skills cultivated from a childhood spent in nature.

As Ray arrives, the tension in the chapter builds. Lew's thoughts reveal a backstory about Ray, whose unusual upbringing and connection to the natural world make him invaluable. Despite his struggles in formal education, Ray's understanding of nature and its signs proves essential. His willingness to assist Lew showcases the themes of community and resilience in the face of tragedy, laying the groundwork for their investigation into Pete's mysterious death.

Overall, this chapter captures the emotional turmoil and urgency as Lew navigates personal grief while seeking justice for her brother, revealing the complexities of relationships and the power of trusted companions in times of crisis.



## Chapter 9:

In Chapter Nine of "Wolf Hollow," we see Chief Lew Ferris navigating the aftermath of her brother's mysterious death. After alerting Dr. Gardner about a forensic pathologist, Dr. Lisa Carter, arriving from Wausau, Lew is struck by the young pathologist's energy and athleticism. Despite her youthful appearance, Lisa exudes confidence, and Lew feels a sense of relief about having her on board for the investigation.

Once they gather in the hospital, Lisa reveals that the autopsy findings include bruises and lacerations on Lew's brother that suggest he may have fallen while fleeing something threatening—perhaps a wild animal, considering the area's wildlife. This revelation unsettles Lew, especially the mention of the possibility that he could have been protecting a loon nest, which underscores a deeper connection to nature and danger.

After a light exchange about fly-fishing, Lew and Bruce Peters, her colleague, head out toward the location where her brother was found. They're joined by Ray Pradt, a local expert tracker. Ray discovers a pry bar

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## Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter Ten of "Wolf Hollow," the tension escalates as Lewellyn Ferris, a police officer, investigates the mysterious death of her brother, Pete. Upon arriving at Pete's home, she faces a cold reception from Linda, Pete's wife, who resents Lew's unannounced visit. Undeterred, Lew, along with her colleagues Ray and Bruce from the Wausau Crime Lab, checks Pete's trail camera monitors for clues. The atmosphere is thick with unresolved emotions, especially as they learn of Pete's commitment to environmental advocacy through the Committee to Save the Pelican River.

As they scan the footage, which initially reveals nothing but the normal nocturnal movements of loons, they are interrupted by Ann Mondale, a member of the committee. She expresses her grief over Pete's passing and her confusion over the cause of death, suggesting it might relate to his dedication to protecting the loons. Ann is an essential link in the investigation, and her mention of an earlier anonymous warning Pete received adds a layer of intrigue and suspicion to the narrative.

The chapter reveals more about Lew's strained relationship with Linda, who dismisses Pete's conservation work as a waste of time, highlighting the theme of familial conflict amid tragedy. Lew's investigation leads her to reconsider the ecological implications of Pete's death and the involvement of a mining company that seeks to exploit the land around the Pelican River.



This new development connects to Pete's environmental work, raising questions about potential motives for his untimely demise.

Later, as Lew teams up with Officer Adamczak to retrieve Pete's car and investigate further, her thoughts are burdened with grief and concern for the river's health. The conversation with Osborne about the mining activities and their environmental risks deepens the narrative, blending personal loss with broader ecological themes.

The chapter concludes with Lew feeling isolated in her sorrow despite the support from her colleagues and Osborne. As they seek to uncover the truth behind Pete's death, the tension mounts, setting the stage for an intricate web of personal and environmental stakes intertwined with the unfolding mystery.

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## Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter Eleven of "Wolf Hollow," the story focuses on Lew as she anxiously tries to reach Diane Fennema, hoping to gather information about her brother Pete's mysterious death. Early in the morning, Lew's frustration grows as multiple calls to Diane go unanswered, leading Osborne, her colleague, to suggest a road trip to Isle Royale, although they both know it's complicated due to the weather. Upon arriving at her office, Lew receives an update from Dani about Noah McDonough, a suspect with a troubling history involving young girls. Their conversation touches on themes of privilege and justice, highlighting how some individuals evade accountability due to wealth.

As Lew continues her day, she learns that Diane may have crucial footage from trail cameras about the circumstances surrounding Pete's death. When Diane finally contacts her, they discuss the possibility of wolves threatening local wildlife and the importance of the footage for unraveling the events of that night. Lew feels a sense of hope despite her grief, sensing that the footage might provide vital clues.

Once the video feed reaches Dani's computer, they comb through images of the area where Pete had been. They spot Pete walking and soon see a second figure—ominously different—who enters the frame shortly after Pete goes off-screen. This revelation adds a layer of tension and mystery, leaving Lew



with questions about who the figure is and their connection to Pete.

Later in the afternoon, after a frustrating morning filled with waiting for the rescheduled bond hearing for Grace and Noah McDonough, Lew decides to leave her office early. She speaks with Kristine on Dispatch, helping her handle an emergency call involving a possible accident near an old bridge. Lew races to the scene, apprehensive about the deteriorating conditions of the bridge and potential dangers.

When they arrive, an elderly man explains that there's been damage to the bridge's railing, and Lew spots what seems to be a submerged vehicle in the river below. After contacting a towing service, the tension mounts as they await the vehicle's recovery. Finally, as the black Range Rover surfaces, Lew realizes this could be the vehicle tied to Grace, suggesting a dramatic twist in her case and hinting at the interconnectedness of the events surrounding her brother's death and the bond hearing. The chapter masterfully blends suspense with emotional depth, showcasing Lew's determination in the face of personal tragedy, while unraveling the web of crime and privilege in her community.

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## Chapter 12:

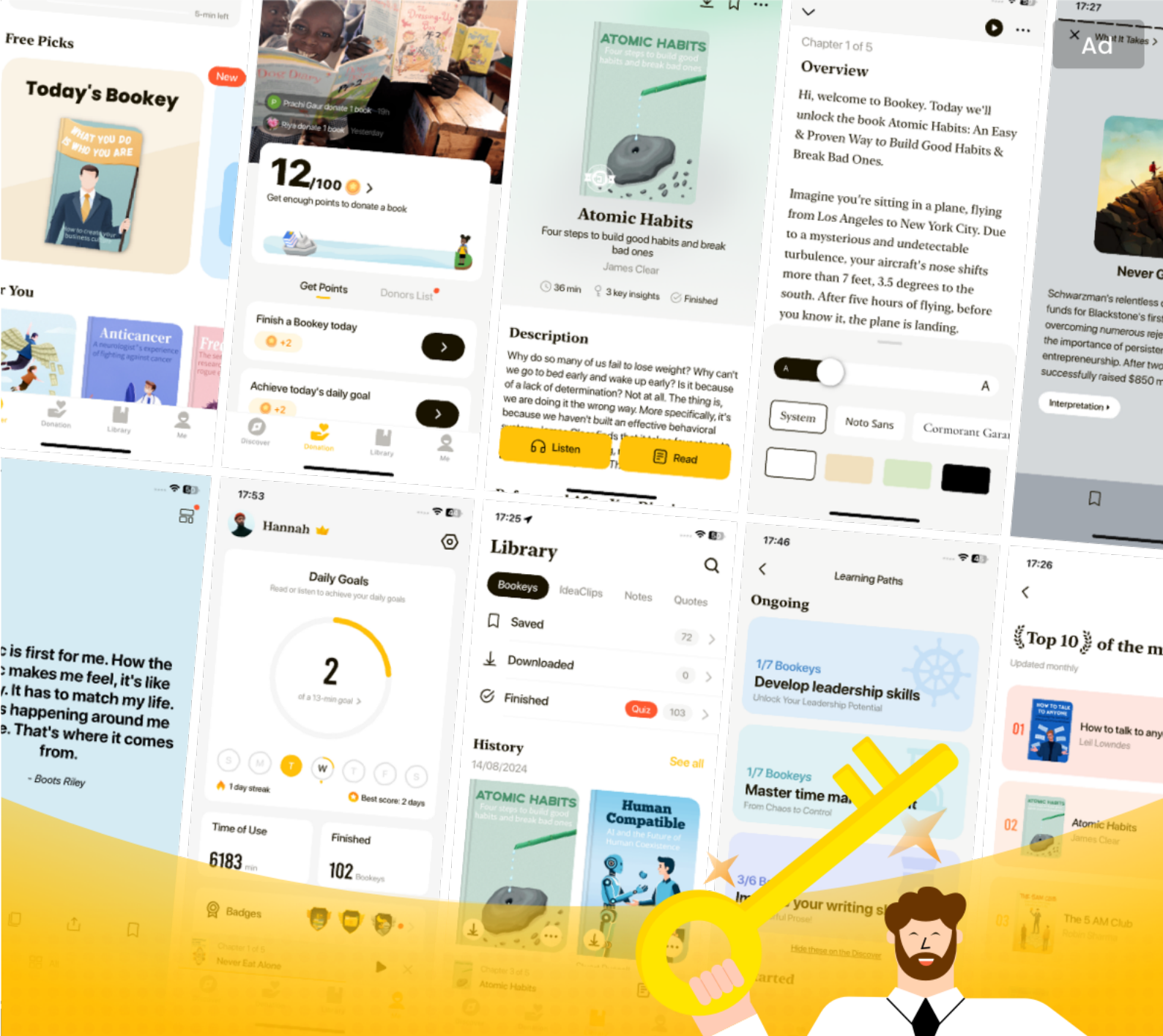
In Chapter Twelve of "Wolf Hollow," Lew Ferris is thrust into a tense situation as she investigates the death of Grace McDonough. After reaching out to her colleague Bruce, who is out fishing, she quickly realizes the significance of the incident at the bridge where Grace's body has been discovered. She calls in the acting coroner, Doc Osborne, to confirm the unfortunate reality of Grace's death, which triggers a series of urgent decisions regarding the investigation.

As the trio discusses the circumstances surrounding Grace's death, suspicions arise about the potential causes—mentioning alcohol and alluding to deeper issues within Grace's life. The chapter delves into this aspect, hinting that Grace might have struggled with drinking, especially after learning about her late-night escapades with Stan Mayer at a local bar, suggesting an unhappy romance that could have contributed to her demise.

Meanwhile, an officer named Todd is sent to inform Grace's son, Noah, about the tragedy but finds the house empty, leading to concerns about

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## Chapter 13 Summary:

In Chapter Thirteen of "Wolf Hollow," the early morning unfolds with Chief Lew Ferris and her colleague Osborne sharing a quiet breakfast of scrambled eggs and coffee when a sudden revelation shatters the calm. They learn that Pete has been murdered, apparently with a pry bar, and that the autopsy confirmed blunt-force trauma. Ray, eager to contribute despite his podcast ambitions, is dispatched back to Lynn Lake to investigate further, equipped with new trail camera footage that could provide clues about who was at the scene shortly after Pete.

As Ray reviews the footage, he focuses on details like the mysterious figure's mannerisms and jacket, hinting at a deeper investigation.

Meanwhile, Lew remains on high alert regarding Noah, Pete's son, who is now missing and might be tied to his mother's death. With several unanswered questions swirling in her mind, she contacts the sheriff's office and subsequently receives alarming news about family dynamics, a relationship with a new girlfriend that is troubling to the children involved, and contributes to the already intense atmosphere.

The chapter also includes Lew's conversation with Dr. Lisa Carter, who is still conducting tests on Grace McDonough's death, raising the stakes as it becomes clear that Noah is emerging as a person of interest. Their dialogue shifts to fishing, with Lew discovering a mutual interest that hints at the



beginnings of a budding connection between Ray and the newly single doctor.

Throughout this chapter, themes of family relationships, the intricacies of community, and the seriousness of crime create a gripping narrative. Lew’s instincts as a leader are tested as she navigates personal stakes and professional priorities, making for a compelling blend of suspense and character development. The tension builds, leaving readers eager to discover the repercussions of these events as they unfold.

Element	Description
Chapter Number	Thirteen
Setting	Early morning breakfast with Chief Lew Ferris and Osborne
Key Event	News of Pete's murder with blunt-force trauma confirmed by autopsy
Character Involvement	Ray is sent to investigate with new evidence
Investigation Details	Ray reviews trail camera footage for clues
Ongoing Concern	Noah, Pete's missing son, is becoming a person of interest
Family Dynamics	Complicated relationships affect children, increasing tension
Conversation	Lew speaks with Dr. Lisa Carter regarding Grace McDonough’s death

Element	Description
Themes	Family relationships, community intricacies, seriousness of crime
Character Development	Lew's leadership instincts are tested, sparks a connection between Ray and Dr. Carter
Tension Level	High, with suspenseful buildup of events

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## Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "Wolf Hollow," Lew is eager to escape the stresses of her week and heads out to the Prairie River for a fishing outing with friends. Before leaving, she carefully calls Bruce, who is thrilled to join her and suggests that Dr. Carter come along too. Lew's enthusiasm is palpable; the day promises to be filled with camaraderie and nature, providing a refreshing break from her recent troubles.

As she drives home, Lew takes in the beauty of spring returning to her surroundings, a reminder that life continues despite recent events. Upon arriving at her farmhouse, she packs her fishing gear and grabs her daughter's waders for Dr. Carter, showing her nurturing side. When she meets Bruce and Lisa Carter at the river, their light banter hints at budding friendships and shared experiences.

Once in the water, Lew takes on the role of teacher, coaching Lisa on the basics of fly fishing. The scene is both humorous and heartfelt as Lisa humorously admits her lack of experience, creating a warm dynamic between the characters. Lew's knowledge shines through as she emphasizes the importance of technique, particularly the critical grip on the rod, and she lovingly encourages Lisa to embrace learning without the burden of past mistakes.



As they practice casting, Lew and Lisa share moments of levity—one involving Lisa slipping into the water and the gentle teasing that follows adds a lighthearted atmosphere. The camaraderie deepens during a picnic break, where they share stories over cheese and cookies. Lew's playful commentary on Bruce's fishing habits emphasizes not only their long-standing friendship but also her enthusiastic approach to teaching.

The chapter closes with Lisa expressing her eagerness for more lessons, showcasing her enthusiasm and determination to learn. Overall, this chapter explores themes of connections forged through shared activities, the healing power of nature, and the joys of teaching and friendship, setting a delightful and hopeful tone as Lew hums happily on her drive home.



## Chapter 15:

In Chapter Fifteen of "Wolf Hollow," two boys, Alvin and Robbie, revel in the joy of a Saturday afternoon, exploring the woods and dreaming of adventure. Their carefree day leads them to a dilapidated shack near the Pelican River, where they initially hope to create their own fort. The discovery takes a dark turn when they realize there is something disturbing inside the shack—a lifeless body, which sends them running in fear.

As the boys try to make sense of what they've found, they navigate their way back to Robbie's house. When they share their chilling encounter with Robbie's older brother, Butch, he dismisses their panic with laughter, underestimating the gravity of the situation. Eventually, the boys manage to report their discovery, and Officer Adamczak responds to the call, visibly unsettled at the thought of dealing with a dead body.

Meanwhile, Chief Ferris and Doc enjoy a quiet evening when they receive news of the boys' grim find. They swiftly head to the scene, where Ferris uses a new mapping app to pinpoint the shack's location. As they venture

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## Chapter 16 Summary:

Chapter 16 of "Wolf Hollow" unfolds a tense and emotionally charged day for Lew as she grapples with the shocking deaths of Grace McDonough and her son Noah. Faced with a barrage of media inquiries, Lew, supported by Bruce Peters, holds a press conference to share limited information about the ongoing investigation. They reveal that both victims are deceased, but the cause of death remains unknown, and speculation about Noah's possible suicide arises. As reporters press for more details, Lew firmly wraps up the conference, feeling overwhelmed by the swirling uncertainties.

Seeking refuge from the chaos, Lew opts for a quiet Sunday at home. She calls her friend Erin to back out of their campaign efforts for the day, revealing a blend of personal concern and the weight of public scrutiny. Meanwhile, Bridget arrives unexpectedly, bringing news of a memorial for her father, which Lew hadn't yet processed. This revelation adds layers to Lew's emotional state as family dynamics come into play.

Bridget visits her childhood home to retrieve her father's address book amidst the disarray of his office, revealing that someone had recently been searching through his belongings. As she navigates the chaos, Bridget stumbles upon a safe containing her late mother's belongings and a surprising envelope of legal documents. Just as she prepares to leave, she encounters Stan, a man linked to her father's troubled marriage, and Linda,



her father's second wife. A confrontation erupts, exposing tensions and unresolved feelings, which forces Bridget to stand her ground over her father's legacy.

Her emotional stakes rise as she realizes the depth of family betrayal, leading to a poignant moment of vulnerability when she breaks down in her car after the encounter. The chapter is rich with themes of grief, family conflict, and the quest for truth, all set against the backdrop of a small community grappling with tragedy and the intricacies of human relationships. Through Lew and Bridget's experiences, the narrative explores the challenges of closure and the weight of familial responsibilities in light of new and unsettling revelations.

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## Chapter 17 Summary:

In Chapter Seventeen of "Wolf Hollow," Bridget experiences an emotional upheaval after returning to her father Pete's house, still grappling with his death. She finds solace in a bracelet and earrings that she remembers her mother calling the "color of dragon's blood." Her aunt Lew comforts her and helps her process her feelings, encouraging Bridget to talk about what she has discovered at home.

As Bridget recounts her visit, she reveals that while searching for her father's address book, she found his den in disarray, as though someone had been looking for something. It's a poignant moment for her, reflecting the chaos in her life from the loss of her father. After tidying up, she also locates a safe, which she opens using the combination her father had given her. Inside, she retrieves her jewelry box and some papers that turn out to be about a lawsuit involving sulfide mining, which her father was involved with.

Bridget also describes an unsettling encounter with a strange man named Stan, who had been at the house with her father's second wife, Linda. This man's presence raises alarm bells for both Bridget and Lew, hinting at a potential affair and secrecy surrounding her father's death. This chapter delves into themes of loss, family loyalty, and the struggle for closure amidst chaos.



As the two women delve deeper into Bridget's findings, they realize they have important documents related to a lawsuit against mining operations that could have ramifications for their community. Lew's insights about the implications of these documents and the potential threat posed by Stan hint at the unfolding mystery surrounding Pete's death. They decide to reach out to friends and family, planning a memorial service that honors Pete while also uncovering the truth behind his tragic end.

The chapter ends with Lew reflecting on Stan's questionable connections and the history of his marriage to Charlotte, which underscores themes of community, betrayal, and resilience. This moment sets the stage for the investigative journey ahead, as both women navigate their grief while aiming to seek justice for Pete. Together, they blend personal loss with a growing resolve to confront the circumstances surrounding her father's passing.



## Chapter 18:

In Chapter 18 of "Wolf Hollow" by Victoria Houston, the tension in the story amplifies through a series of conversations centered around the mysterious deaths of Grace and Noah McDonough. The chapter opens at McDonald's where Osborne and his friends are enjoying coffee when newcomer Steve Keron shares explosive news: Stan Mayer, a known schemer, is set to become wealthy because Grace made him her partner in selling a significant portion of her land to Normandy Mining before her untimely death. The group recognizes the potential financial windfall for Stan if her son concedes to the deal, especially since he's promised her exorbitant sums based on the mine's expected success. However, the atmosphere shifts drastically when they learn that Noah's body was found the day before, casting doubt on Stan's good fortune and raising questions about the safety of the McDonough estate.

Meanwhile, Lew, the local police chief, is piecing together the investigation. Ray, her officer, brings evidence from his search near the crime scene, including cigarette butts that may provide DNA clues. The chapter dives

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## Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19 of "Wolf Hollow," the atmosphere is tense as Lew Ferris arrives at the funeral home for her brother Pete's memorial service. She unexpectedly bumps into Dave, the funeral director, who is overwhelmed by the influx of mourners—far more than the four people Linda, Pete's wife, had anticipated. Lew wonders about Linda's rush to hold the service so soon after Pete's death, speculating whether it reflects her selfishness or perhaps a defensive response to the impending divorce she was unaware of.

As guests begin to arrive, Lew recalls moments shared with Pete, reflecting on his marriage to Linda, which had never made sense to her. She remembers the conversations with Pete about his dissatisfaction in the marriage and his need for a more meaningful connection that he felt with Lew, which was unparalleled with Linda. This tension sets the tone as Lew grapples with the emotional weight of the day.

The ceremony unfolds with Linda making a grand entrance, despite looking worn and forgoing mention of her husband's pending divorce. Instead, she manages to play the role of the grieving widow, which does not go unnoticed by those in attendance, including Lew, who breaks down the moment Linda mentions Pete's supposed stroke—an emotional manipulation that Lew struggles to endure.



As the service proceeds, several of Pete's friends and colleagues, including Rich, his lawyer, speak about his dedication to environmental activism, specifically his fight against a controversial mining project threatening the Pelican River. When Lew speaks, she reveals the shocking truth that Pete was murdered, shaking the room into silence. This declaration signals her determination to seek justice for her brother.

Rich Hartman takes the opportunity to detail Pete's work and the dangerous situation surrounding the proposed mine, establishing a motive for Pete's death—the resistance of powerful interests who might benefit from silencing him. The gathering concludes on a somber yet determined note as Lew and Bridget stand united, ready to carry on Pete's legacy while knowing they must find his killer.

As the chapter closes, Lew leaves the funeral home feeling a mix of grief and resolve, reminiscent of the comfort Pete provided her during their childhood tragedies. Surrounded by the blooming lilacs as spring arrives, she senses her brother's presence and resolves to uncover the truth behind his death, signaling a transformative moment in her journey.



## Chapter 20 Summary:

In Chapter Twenty of "Wolf Hollow," Ray embarks on a journey to the abandoned shack where Noah McDonough's body was discovered. Despite his truck's bumpy ride on the rugged dirt road, Ray feels a strong attachment to his weathered pickup, a symbol of his past. Upon arrival, he reflects on the shack's dilapidated state, speculating how anyone could have stumbled upon such a remote and private location.

As he inspects the area, Ray considers the crime scene details relayed by Chief Ferris and Bruce Peters. He notices signs of wildlife, particularly a trail that indicates a substantial animal presence. Ray humorously addresses a chipmunk as he tracks signs that suggest someone else may have been in the vicinity—a realization intensified when he uncovers broken branches and, eventually, a golf club wedged in brush near a bog. The club has a noticeable red stain and seems important, prompting Ray to photograph the evidence meticulously.

Later, Ray visits the McDonough home where he confirms that a matching set of golf clubs is stored in the garage, linking the found club to the family. He intends to leave the investigation of this lead to the authorities, recognizing it's best handled by professionals.

On his drive home, Ray touches base with Dispatch to relay his findings but



learns that Chief Ferris is away at a funeral. In the meantime, ideas for a new podcast swirl in his mind, focusing on women in fishing, inspired by Dr. Lisa Carter. Feeling a sense of satisfaction and uplifted spirits, Ray heads home, whistling cheerfully as he approaches his uniquely decorated trailer.

This chapter not only advances the mystery surrounding Noah's death but also deepens Ray's character, showcasing his inquisitive nature and his blend of humor with a genuine concern for uncovering the truth. Themes of connection to the past, the persistence of nature, and the intertwining of personal interests with broader mysteries make this segment engaging and layered.

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## Chapter 21:

In Chapter 21 of "Wolf Hollow," Lisa Carter visits Chief Lew Ferris at her office, dressed in a smart business suit but bearing a worried expression. Their conversation quickly pivots to the ongoing investigation into the deaths of Grace and Noah McDonough. Lisa shares disturbing details from her autopsies, revealing that both victims were smothered postmortem—curiously, both were also found without their underwear. This sparks a troubling theory about a possible killer who collects trophies from their victims.

Lew reflects on the implications of this theory, noting the strangeness of the scene in their small community of Loon Lake, which, despite its size, sees a substantial influx of tourists every summer. She mentions her brother's suspicious death, which may be connected to environmental activism, revealing another layer of potential danger within the community.

As the chapter unfolds, their discussion touches on the victims' backgrounds, particularly Grace's heavy drinking habits, hinting at her risky lifestyle and

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## Chapter 22 Summary:

In Chapter 22 of "Wolf Hollow" by Victoria Houston, we delve into a tense morning filled with shocking revelations and personal struggles. Bruce, a determined investigator, confronts Lew with unsettling news about DNA evidence linking the murder weapons in two seemingly unrelated cases: the golf club used to kill Noah McDonough and a pry bar associated with Lew's late brother, Pete. While there are still no solid leads on a suspect, Bruce and his team are using innovative DNA technology to search broader databases, raising hopes of identification.

As Lew processes this distressing information, her thoughts drift to her run for sheriff and how it would change her dynamics with the close-knit team she has come to rely on—friends she holds dear amidst the chaos of the investigations. The chapter takes a personal turn when Charlotte Mayer visits, sharing her suspicions about her ex-husband Stan's infidelity with Linda, Pete's widow. This complicates matters further since Charlotte is battling for custody of their son, Johnny, who is deeply affected by his father's neglect and absence.

Charlotte's heartfelt confession reveals her concern over Johnny's well-being and the precarious situation he faces while living under Stan's erratic care, exacerbated by his father's rumored relationship with Linda. Their conversation underscores themes of trust, familial loyalty, and the scars left



by betrayal.

The chapter captures a pivotal moment of intertwining personal and professional dilemmas, with Lew caught in the web of her brother's unresolved issues while grappling with the motivations and actions of those around her. The suspense builds not only around the murder investigations but also within their domestic lives, emphasizing how past traumas echo into the present.

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## Chapter 23 Summary:

In Chapter 23 of "Wolf Hollow," the atmosphere begins in a local McDonald's, where Osborne contemplates whether to order another coffee while mingling with his friends, Herm and Ray. Their typical Wednesday routine takes an exciting turn when Steve Keron, a bank officer, interrupts them with sensational news that piques everyone's curiosity.

Steve reveals that Stan Mayer, an appraiser known to them, has claimed he is the rightful heir to the McDonough trust, which consists of significant land and wealth. This shocking news sends a ripple of disbelief through the group as they grapple with the implications of such a revelation. Stan's assertion is backed by genetic proof from a clinic that shows he shares DNA with Grace McDonough, linking him to the long-ago deceased member of the McDonough family. This genetic evidence suggests that Stan can claim his inheritance despite not being mentioned in the old man's will.

Osborne remains skeptical about the legitimacy of Stan's claims, raising questions about the necessity of proof to validate family ties. However, Steve confirms that Stan is officially recognized and is looking to finalize a lucrative sale of Grace's land for a remarkable thirty-five million dollars, underscoring the potential for dramatic change in Stan's life.

The conversation among the men is lively, with humor injected about Stan's



unfortunate car that desperately needs an upgrade. It's a moment that highlights camaraderie and the simple joys of gossip. After the conversation, Osborne decides to pursue this plot twist further, asking Steve for the name of the geneticist involved. This leads him to the Holder Clinic, where he hopes to uncover more about the situation.

As the chapter progresses, Osborne contacts Lew, a character familiar to the reader, to share the intriguing developments and propose further investigation into the geneticist, Kathryn Taylor, who runs a side business in genealogy. The urgency of the situation builds as they prepare to uncover the truth behind Stan's claims, setting the stage for a deep dive into family connections and hidden histories.

This chapter enriches the narrative with themes of identity, legacy, and the unfolding drama of family ties, while also shining a light on the human desire for connection and the complexities of legal and ethical questions surrounding inheritance. The characters' interactions are filled with humor, skepticism, and a sense of suspense that drives the story forward.



## Chapter 24:

In Chapter 24 of "Wolf Hollow," Lew and Doc visit the Holder Clinic to meet with Kathryn Taylor, the genetic counselor. The chapter opens with a warm reception as Kathryn expresses her excitement about the unique case they are discussing—Stanley Mayer's potential inheritance stemming from a DNA find. Right off the bat, Lew notices that Kathryn assumes they represent the bank and decides it's best not to correct her. This sets the stage for the exploration of the mysteries surrounding Stanley Mayer's DNA and newfound familial connections.

Kathryn explains how Stanley initially sought her help regarding Lynch Syndrome, a genetic marker that indicates a higher risk of colon cancer. This serious concern led him to undergo genetic testing, which ultimately revealed that he could disproportionately benefit from an unexpected inheritance left by a woman who claimed to be his biological sibling. As Kathryn narrates, Stanley had been in contact with this woman, only to receive the shocking news that she had passed away shortly before they were to meet. The revelation of her sudden death from a brain aneurysm adds a

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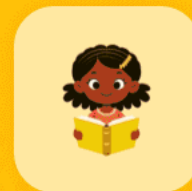
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## Chapter 25 Summary:

In Chapter Twenty-Five of "Wolf Hollow," we find Margie Caldwell grappling with her nerves as she contemplates reaching out to Stan Mayer, a former classmate from high school, in anticipation of their upcoming twenty-year reunion. Sitting at her kitchen table, she reminisces about her high school crush on Stan, recalling that he had chosen another girl, Mary Oberman, for the Junior Prom—something that still stings after all these years. Margie had compared herself to her classmates by looking at their reunion photos, feeling confident that she has aged well, especially since Mary isn't attending the reunion.

Summoning her courage, Margie finally picks up the phone and calls Stan, who answers immediately. Their conversation starts off awkwardly as he mentions forgetting about the reunion festivities. However, once they reminisce about their shared experiences, the mood lightens. Stan expresses interest in picking her up for the reunion get-together, and Margie happily agrees. The conversation shifts to plans for dinner afterward, revealing a mutual excitement about reconnecting.

As Margie hangs up the phone, a rush of joy overtakes her, prompting her to dance around in her kitchen. This moment captures a sense of hope and possibility for Margie as she looks forward to rekindling an old connection, signifying not just a reunion with classmates but an opportunity for a new



chapter in her life. The chapter ends with Margie feeling a mix of nostalgia and anticipation, eager to find the perfect outfit for the occasion. Overall, this segment highlights themes of nostalgia, hope, and the intricacies of past relationships, all wrapped in an engaging, relatable narrative.

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## Chapter 26 Summary:

In Chapter 26 of "Wolf Hollow," the tension escalates as Lew receives a crucial call from Dani urging her to rush to the station. Intrigued and concerned, Lew, along with her colleague Osborne, quickly arrives to discover that Dani has identified a significant lead from the footage captured by trail cameras. Charlotte has come in, visibly shaken, and reveals she's seen Stan, her ex-husband, on the footage walking toward the loons, which fuels her fear that he poses a threat.

Charlotte is insistent that Stan should be arrested immediately, especially since he is supposed to pick up their son soon. Lew attempts to calm Charlotte while simultaneously processing the implications of what they've seen. She deduces that Stan's motives may be tied to property value concerns linked to a legal case being handled by Rich Hartman, who is also now considered a safety risk. With a sense of urgency, Lew contacts Rich, warning him of potential danger to his family due to the complications surrounding the McDonough case.

As the rain pours, Lew races against time, determined to confront Stan. She instructs Charlotte to keep their son occupied while she gathers evidence, including a DNA sample from Stan under the guise of routine investigative procedures related to Grace McDonough's unusual death. The chapter is rife with anxiety as Lew strategizes, ensuring the safety of others while



navigating the murky motivations behind Stan's actions.

The atmosphere is thick with suspense and urgency as Lew balances her duties as Chief of Police with her personal connections and the looming threat represented by Stan. Themes of maternal protection, the quest for justice, and underlying malevolence weave throughout the narrative, setting the stage for a confrontation where grave stakes are involved, not just for Lew but for families in her community.

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## Chapter 27:

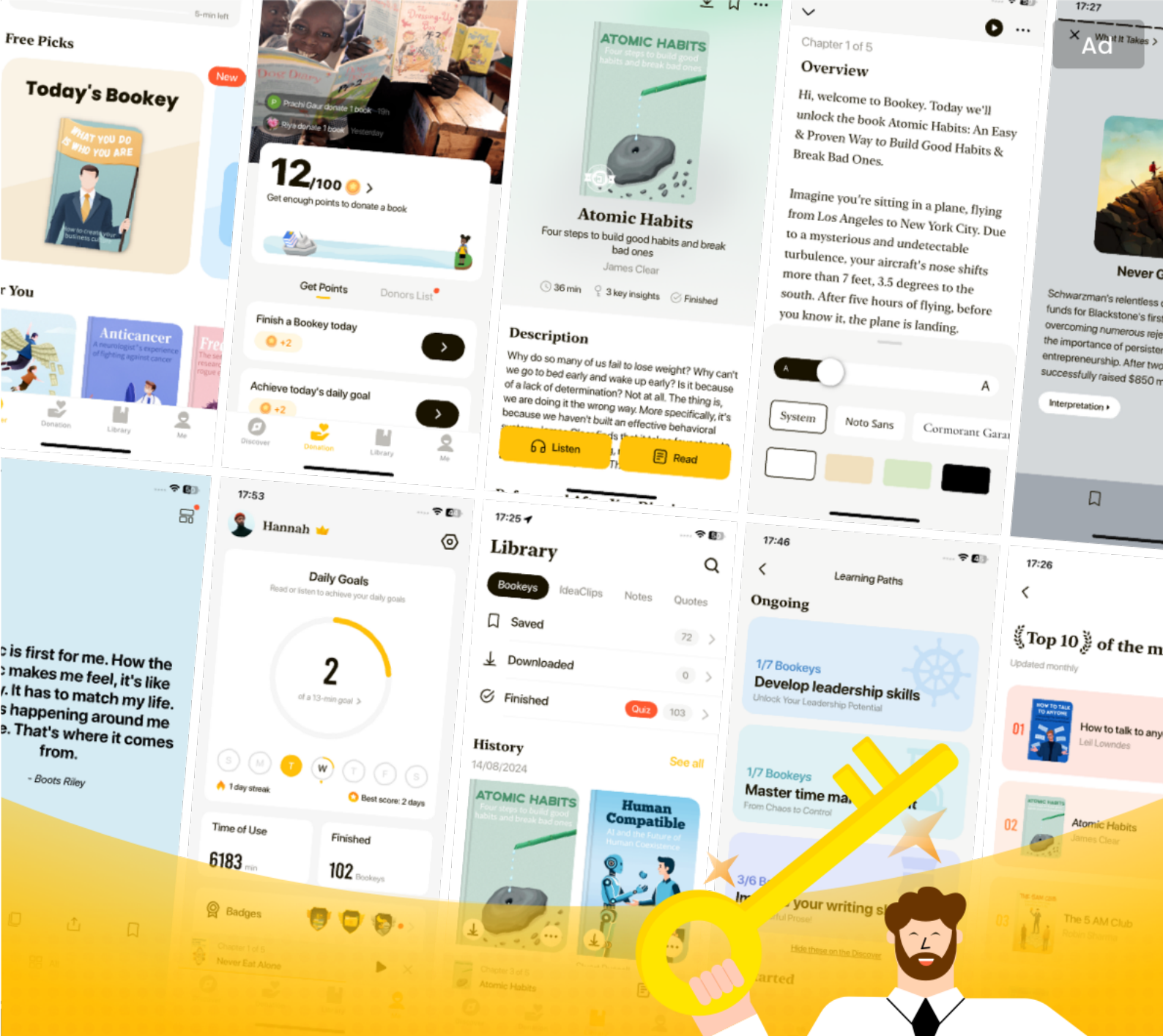
In Chapter 27 of "Wolf Hollow," Lew is restless and anxious as she awaits important news about the DNA match in her case against Stan. After a frustrating early morning call from Bruce, who informs her that a meth bust has derailed their progress, she feels both worried and impatient. The chapter takes an engaging turn when Bridget unexpectedly visits Lew's farm, leading to a heartfelt exchange where they bond over packing Bridget's childhood belongings.

As they sneak into Bridget's house through the back, they overhear a heated argument between Linda and Stan, revealing the tension in their relationship and hinting at Stan's past involvement with an old girlfriend. This moment adds depth to the narrative, showcasing the dysfunctionality of their family life and placing Bridget in a vulnerable position as she tries to reclaim her space.

After helping Bridget, Lew heads to her office, feeling unsettled by the prospect of flooding due to continuous rain and the escalating situation

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## Chapter 28 Summary:

In Chapter Twenty-Eight of "Wolf Hollow," we delve into Margie's pre-reunion jitters as she prepares for an important evening. Standing before her full-length mirror, she evaluates her appearance in various outfits, ultimately settling on a flattering combination of narrow-legged black pants and a sleek black top, which she believes will enhance her figure and outshine her fellow attendees. Margie's self-esteem shines through as she reassures herself, asserting that she is not fat and reveling in the thought of impressing others.

As she brushes her teeth and checks her hair, Margie's excitement builds, but soon anxiety creeps in as she realizes that Stan is late. She recalls their conversation about him picking her up at 4:45 and starts to second-guess herself, worrying that he might have forgotten her. Her anticipation grows as she decides to wait by the window, hoping to unlock her door easily in case the rain becomes too heavy later.

While Margie fantasizes about the evening, allowing herself to dream of possible romantic moments with Stan, she finds herself increasingly restless with each passing minute. The rain outside intensifies, paralleling her rising tension. Just as disappointment threatens to overshadow her excitement, a text message from Stan finally arrives. Although it doesn't provide a clear timeline, his message assures her that he is running late and will be there



soon, bringing her a wave of relief.

This chapter captures Margie's mix of hope and anxiety, highlighting themes of self-image and the desire for connection. It also illustrates the relatable moments of waiting and uncertainty that come with opening up to someone new, making it a vivid exploration of anticipation and self-acceptance.

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## Chapter 29 Summary:

In Chapter 29 of "Wolf Hollow," the relentless pursuit of justice takes a dramatic turn as Lew, the chief of police, investigates Stan Mayer, a man wanted on suspicion of murder. The chapter begins with Lew and her colleague Osborne visiting Stan's rundown rental home, discovering it in disrepair and realizing he is not present. Despite their lack of a search warrant, they are eager to track him down, especially after learning from dispatch that Stan's car has been located.

As the hailstorm rages, Lew speaks with Deputy Gordy, who reveals that Stan has been found dead, having died in a car accident. The shock of the news leaves Lew and Osborne momentarily stunned. They realize the gravity of Stan's death and its implications, especially for his son, John, and ex-wife, Charlotte. Lew orders the investigation to continue, particularly concerning Stan's cell phone, which was thrown from the vehicle during the crash. It turns out that Stan was in the middle of texting someone named Margie when the accident occurred.

Back at the police station, Lew reflects on the chaotic day as she places Stan's cell phone in an evidence bag on her desk. Dani, her assistant, had been waiting to assist with the investigation and proposes checking Stan's office for more evidence. They discuss the possibility of accessing his phone, and knowing that they might need a password, Lew reaches out to



Charlotte for help. After a brief conversation, Charlotte provides a password that hints at her son Johnny's birthday, emphasizing the complicated familial dynamics involved.

As the chapter closes, Lew, exhausted but determined, urges Dani to be careful while examining the phone and dismisses other officers for the night, signaling a moment of reflection amidst the ongoing investigation. Themes of familial ties, the complexities of relationships, and the weight of unresolved issues resonate deeply as characters grapple with the fallout from Stan's life and untimely death. The chapter builds tension and sets the stage for revelations that could have far-reaching consequences for everyone involved.

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## Chapter 30:

In Chapter 30 of "Wolf Hollow," Lewellyn Ferris grapples with the aftermath of her brother Pete's death. After a late dinner with Doc, she wakes up feeling surprisingly refreshed, sensing a new hope as spring weather hints at better days ahead. She is eager to get to her office early, where she finds Dani waiting with crucial information about a call linked to Pete's murder. They discover that the call came from Linda Jarvis, Pete's widow, stirring Lew's determination to dig deeper into the investigation.

With Doc by her side for support, Lew confronts Linda at her home, unearthing a layer of betrayal as she arrests her for being an accomplice in Pete's murder. Linda, initially defensive, finds herself cornered by the evidence mounting against her, particularly her knowledge of Stan Mayer's plans involving the McDonough property and her entangled role in his machinations.

Lew methodically interrogates Linda, piecing together how Stan, driven by greed and a convoluted sense of family connection to the McDonoughs,

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## Chapter 31 Summary:

In Chapter 31 of "Wolf Hollow," tension and anticipation fill the air as Lew prepares for a crucial press conference about the recent murder case. She calls Rich Hartman to discuss the uncertainty surrounding the McDonough family's land and the possibility of saving the Pelican River from sulfide mining, thanks to valuable documents Pete left behind. The press conference draws significant media attention, with reporters arriving from various outlets. Lew begins the session by expressing gratitude for the contributions of Dr. Lisa Carter, a forensic pathologist, emphasizing teamwork in solving the case.

As the conference unfolds, reporters probe Lew about her ongoing campaign for sheriff, catching her off guard. After the press leaves, Lew confides in her colleague Erin, revealing her decision to withdraw from the race. This news shocks Erin and their friends Dani and Bruce, who want to understand Lew's reasoning. Lew explains her desire to remain involved in hands-on work rather than getting bogged down by administrative duties and political maneuvering.

Lew's passion for her role shines through as she prioritizes her connections with her colleagues over the title of sheriff. Bruce offers reassurance, citing that collaboration would continue even if Lew held the position. Dani proposes taking on a significant administrative role that could support both



Lew and the sheriff's office, which surprises Lew and opens a new avenue for collaboration.

The chapter weaves themes of friendship, professional fulfillment, and the complexities of leadership as Lew navigates her feelings about career ambitions and loyalty to her team. The emotional stakes rise as the characters solidify their commitments to one another, setting the stage for future developments in their community and personal lives.

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## Chapter 32 Summary:

In Chapter 32 of "Wolf Hollow," Lew starts her day at the Prairie River, excited but initially disappointed by the bright sunshine, as she prefers gloomy weather for fishing. However, her spirits lift when she spots a dragonfly nearby, signifying a fantastic hatch coming up. Soon, her friends Bruce and Lisa arrive, and they share a lighthearted banter about fishing lingo and techniques, with Lew emphasizing the importance of dry flies for the day's conditions.

As they prepare to fish, Osborne joins them, and the mood becomes electrifying when they witness trout leaping out of the water in response to the hatching mayflies. This brief spectacle connects Lew to happier memories, reminding her of the joy of fishing and serving as a momentary reprieve from her grief over her brother's death.

Their fishing trip takes a comical turn when Ray, a local fishing guide known for his goofy jokes and antics, arrives. His entrance brings laughter, especially with his silly fish-themed jokes, lightening the atmosphere further. Ray proudly announces his podcast's success, claiming it received a record number of listeners and hinting at a potential Netflix documentary. While some characters express skepticism about his lofty ambitions, others, particularly Lisa, are intrigued by the idea.



The chapter beautifully intertwines themes of friendship, healing, and the joy of shared experiences in nature. Lew's passion for fly fishing serves as a metaphor for resilience and the healing power of the outdoors, showcasing how moments of joy can emerge even amidst personal loss. As the group prepares to fish, ready to seize the day, the playful interactions and vivid scenery create an uplifting and refreshing atmosphere, making it a delightful read.

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## Chapter 33:

In Chapter 33 of "Wolf Hollow," we witness a poignant moment as Lew, Bridget, and Rich gather for a memorial service honoring Pete, Lew's brother, who has passed away. Despite the somber occasion, Lew reflects on how Pete's life impacted many, from former colleagues to students and friends. Rich, acknowledging the importance of recognizing Pete's contributions, particularly his environmental work, sets the stage for a meaningful ceremony.

As attendees arrive at St. Mary's Cemetery, the atmosphere shifts from sorrow to celebration of Pete's legacy, underscored by the announcement of a scholarship created in his honor. This scholarship will support college seniors pursuing environmental studies, a fitting tribute to Pete's dedication to protecting the environment.

The emotional climax arrives when Charlotte Mayer and her son John step up to speak. They share a touching announcement about John inheriting land along the Pelican River, which they will donate to the Nature Conservancy

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## Chapter 34 Summary:

In Chapter 34 of "Wolf Hollow," Lew wakes up feeling overwhelmed by her campaign for office. She's not enjoying the process of running—shaking hands and sharing her life story doesn't sit well with her. Resolving never to run for president again, she looks for an escape back to her office, where a pile of investigations awaits her. However, she remembers a pressing task: choosing a headstone for her family's plot.

As she drives to the cemetery, expecting to see plain flat gravestones, Lew is taken aback by a stunning new oblong gray-granite headstone that has appeared where she intended to place her own. Her family's name, Ferris, is emblazoned on it, along with her parents' names and those of her deceased son, Chris, and her sister, Melanie. But it's the beautiful ceramic plaque of a majestic loon, capturing the essence of summer, that stops her in her tracks.

Feeling a mix of confusion and curiosity, Lew heads to the cemetery office to find out who funded the headstone. The custodian, Duane, informs her that there are no records of the buyer—just a note stating "gravedigger." At that moment, Lew realizes that it must be Ray, her friend and gravedigger, who has somehow managed to arrange this beautiful tribute despite his tight finances.

After figuring it out, Lew drives to Ray's trailer, eager to thank him. When



they meet, she offers him a heartfelt hug, feeling an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Later, as she lies beside Doc in the cool evening air, the haunting call of a loon serenades them, giving Lew a sense of peace, knowing that her son, Pete, has found solace. This chapter beautifully explores themes of family, memory, and the quiet gestures of love and remembrance that can transcend beyond the hardest times.

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