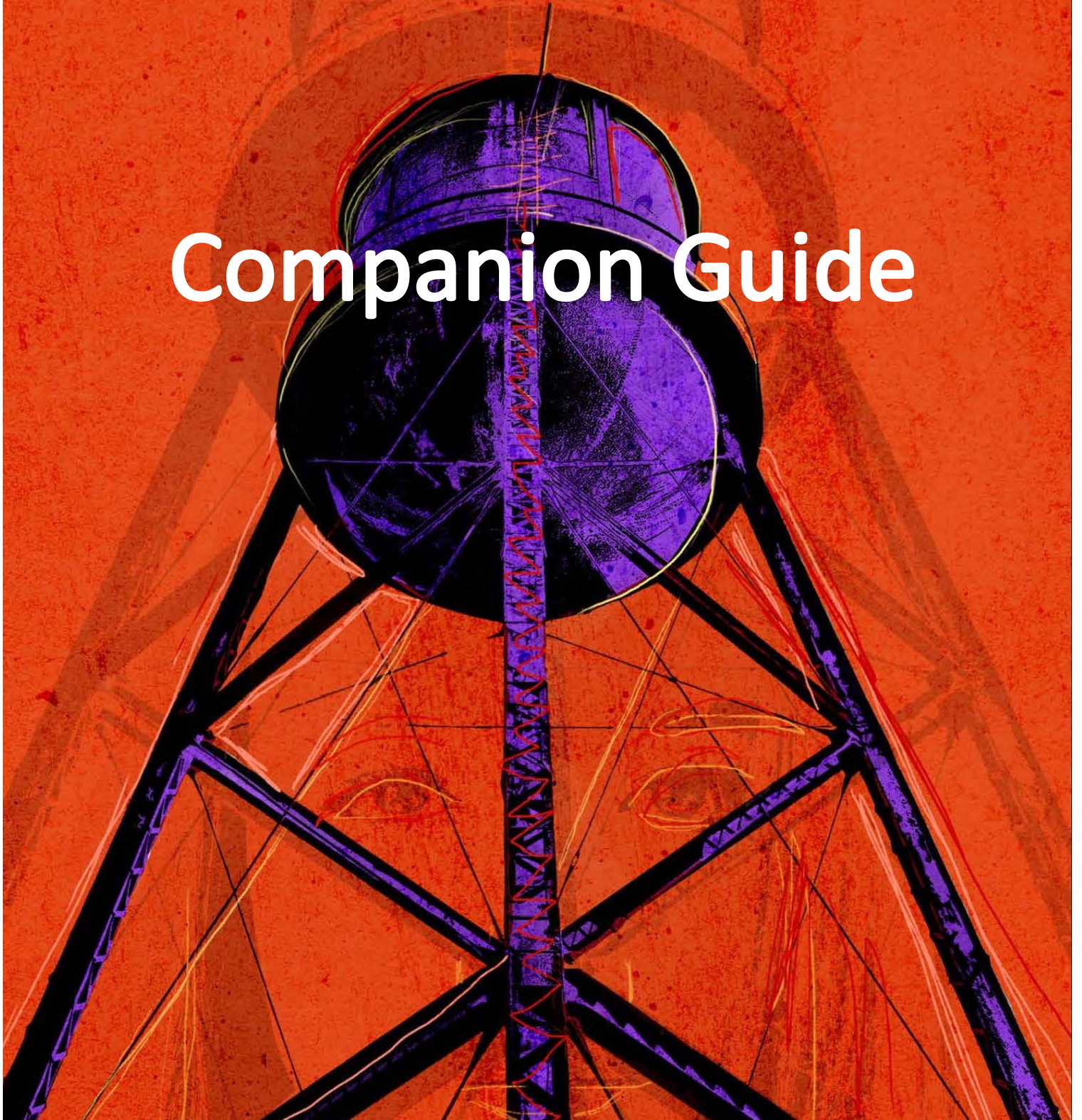


THE TOWER

LYNN YVONNE MOON

Companion Guide



The Tower Companion Workbook

by Lynn Yvonne Moon

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This is a work of fiction All the characters in this book are fictitious, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. The names, incidents, dialogue, and opinions expressed are products of the author's imagination and are not to be construed as real.

Message to Educators

The Tower Companion Workbook is free to educators, fascinators, or others to help guide in the discussion with children ages nine thru fourteen. The questions can be tailored or altered, in order to fit the appropriate age group.

Although the novel was written to bring attention to how bullying affects a victim, the questions contained herein do not dwell on that particular subject alone. Instead, the questions delve into the psychological barriers crossed by both the victim and the perpetrator, which allows the reader to conclude for themselves the severity of the misconduct.

When dealing with bullying issues, please visit anti-bullying website for more information and guidance. The Tower Companion Workbook is simply a tool created for Educators to facilitate and stimulate class conversations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Yvonne Moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lynn" being the most prominent part.

Lynn Yvonne Moon
Author

Table of Contents

Chapter One – Who I Am	1
Chapter Two – Searching for Daddy.	2
Chapter Three – Heavy Boxes	3
Chapter Four – Daddy Dearest.	4
Chapter Five – Tragedy	5
Chapter Six – Uncle Cutler.	6
Chapter Seven – The Trip	7
Chapter Eight – Daddy, I’m Home	8
Chapter Nine – My New Life.	9
Chapter Ten – A New School	10
Chapter Eleven – Discovery	11
Chapter Twelve – Typical School Day.	12
Chapter Thirteen – The Saddle.	13
Chapter Fourteen – Sleeplessness.	14
Chapter Fifteen – A Simple Thing.	15
Chapter Sixteen– Uncle Ted	16
Chapter Seventeen – Vacate.	17
Chapter Eighteen – The Return	18
Chapter Nineteen – Words Do Hurt.	19
Chapter Twenty – Social Services.	20
Chapter Twenty-one – Something Good.	21
Chapter Twenty-two – A New Friend.	22
Chapter Twenty-three – Doggy Doggy Poo Poo	23
Chapter Twenty-four – The Pain.	24
Chapter Twenty-five – The Towers.	25

Chapter One: *Who I Am*

We meet young Petunia Freya Crocker. But, make sure you call her Pete. She lives in a small town with her mother and stepfather. Since turning eleven, Pete worries about how she fits inside her small family. Why? Because she knows nothing about her biological father. Not even his name. When Pete asks about him, her mother tries to change the subject. Pete feels like a curse to her family, and she wants to know if her father has anything to do with it.

1. What could be some of the reasons Pete knows nothing about her biological father?
2. At eleven, why would Pete's mother take away her dolls, but at the same time not allow her to wear makeup?
3. What did Pete mean when she said, "I didn't fit into my own life anymore?"
4. When Pete nicknames her biological father, *Him Crocker*, what is she really trying to tell us?
5. Why would Pete introduce us to her neighbor, Mr. Cutler?
6. Why do you think Pete calls her biological father a curse?



Chapter Two: *Searching for Daddy*

We meet Kendra and Wendy, Pete's best friends. Kendra asks her mother to search for Pete's father on the Internet, however, nothing comes up. At the same time, Pete's feeling guilty and embarrassed. That evening, Pete has a dream about a circus with dancing clowns. Within the swirls of color and confusion, Pete comes face-to-face with her own eyes. Eyes that are staring at her.

1. Pete said that the darkness felt like an evil omen. Why would Pete feel this way?
2. Wendy shows Pete her Birth Card. What is a birth card? Do you have a birth card?
3. Wendy's dad calls the girls his Oreo Cookie Girls. What did her father mean, and was that a nice thing to say?
4. Why couldn't Kendra's mother find anything about Pete's father on the Internet?
5. What did Pete remember about her first day of Kindergarten, and why is that so important?
6. In her dream, Pete sees her eyes staring back at her. Whose eyes do you think Pete was really seeing?



Chapter Three: *Heavy Boxes*

Pete still knows nothing about her biological father. Now feeling desperate, she searches her home for answers. With the help of her closest friends, Pete finds several old boxes of family keepsakes in her attic. While digging through the old photos, Pete again sees her eyes in the darkness.

1. Pete is consumed about what her biological father looks like. Why would she be so concerned over how he looks?
2. Why does Pete feel so guilty about snooping into the old family photos? Is it right to snoop?
3. Do you think it was a good idea for the girls to go into the attic without an adult in the house?
4. What would have happened if one of the boxes had ripped?
5. What did you think the girls would find inside the old boxes?
6. Did Pete lie to her mother when she asked her what they did while alone?



Chapter Four: *Daddy Dearest*

Pete finally has a picture of her biological father. However, the man standing next to her mother doesn't have a face. There are names on the back of the photo, so she knows she had a father. Pete wonders if there is something wrong with her. She questions why her father was cut out of her life. Pete asks her mother again for her father's name. Again, no name given, only another family argument.

1. The girls dig through the old photos, they are surprised by what they find. Why do photos of people from a long time ago look so different from people of today?
2. Wendy uses the term 'bread and butter', which is an idiom, or expression. Why do people use idioms?
3. Why did Pete peep through the hole of her missing father's face?
4. Pete remembers watching TV and holding a baby bottle. How far back can you remember something about your past?
5. Pete's father's name is Peter. Do you think they have the same name?
6. Pete's mother refuses to talk about her father. Do you think that is fair to Pete?



Chapter Five: *Tragedy*

Although still angry with her mother, Pete must accept the accident and move on with her life. Discovering that her neighbor is really her uncle, Pete begins the hard work of piecing everything together. What a frightening and mysterious past.

1. Pete drew eyes on her math test instead of the answers. Why would she do this?
2. Pete keeps looking at the man with the missing face. How does the missing face make her feel?
3. What would you think if you were called to the Principal's office and everyone was crying?
4. Mr. Cutler leans over his legs and stares at the floor. What does his actions tell you about his true feelings?
5. Pete kept thinking about the boxes she's hiding under her bed. Why?
6. After she realized that something happened to her mother, Pete wanted to go home. Why? Where would you want to go?



Chapter Six: *Uncle Cutler*

Pete wakes up in Mr. Cutler's guest room. Knowing that her mother and stepfather are gone, she's consoled by Mr. Cutler. He explains how she would soon be living with her biological father. In her grief, Pete laments over her mother and stepfather. Accepting that she never called her stepfather dad, Pete wonders how she would ever live without her mother.

1. Pete learns that the neighbor is really her uncle. Does this make her happy or sad?
2. Why do you think Pete never called Hank dad?
3. Pete told Mr. Cutler she was angry that she didn't know anything about herself. What makes her feel this way?
4. While at her uncle's house, Pete seems more concerned about her biological father than her deceased mother. Why?
5. Pete examines her uncle's hands. What does his hands represent to her?
6. When we lose someone we love, we grieve in different ways. Have you ever lost a loved one? How did you feel?



Chapter Seven: *The Trip*

Pete is finally on her way to her father's in Georgia. A man she's never met. Pete must endure the long plane ride alone. Arriving in Atlanta, Pete is met by a rather rude woman. A woman who refuses to help her with her luggage. A woman who also plants the idea that maybe her father doesn't really want her there.

1. Pete keeps talking about not liking strangers. How do strangers make Pete feel? How do strangers make you feel?
2. While talking with the man from Canada, Alain asks if there is anything he could do for her. Why did Pete say, "No, there's nothing anybody can do."
3. When Trish told Pete that she looked nothing like her father, what did her statement mean to you?
4. Pete compares Trish to cookies in a cellophane wrapper. What did Pete mean by this? Have you ever met a person who didn't seem real?



5. Pete climbed into the back seat instead of sitting next to Trish. Why did she do this?
6. How did Pete feel when Trish explained her father's reaction to her mother's death?

Chapter Eight: *Daddy, I'm Home*

Pete arrives at her father's house, or is it a castle? She meets the mysterious helper, Charles. A tall, skinny man with long, gray hair. When he escorts her to the third floor, Pete wonders how clueless her new custodians are to children her age. Pete's grandmother seems standoffish and distant. Almost to the point of Pete not feeling welcomed.

1. What did Pete mean when she said that Charles had caterpillars fighting for dinner on his face?
2. When Pete enters her bedroom, why does the color make her sick?
3. When Pete discovers that her father is black, does the news upset her? Would it upset you?
4. What did her grandmother do to make Pete feel so unwelcomed?
5. What did the carved doll mean to Pete? Would it have meant anything to you?
6. When Pete's grandmother said she wasn't a white-girl. How did Pete react?



Chapter Nine: *My New Life*

Pete must accept the facts that her grandmother just might be crazy. Although pampered with material gifts, Pete craves to be loved and wanted. One afternoon, Pete stumbles upon the stables. She owns her own horse. When Pete finally meets her biological father, they just stare at each other. Pete cries into her pillow only to be told to “get it together.”

1. Pete’s grandmother is showering her with gifts instead of hugs and kisses. Which would you prefer?
2. Pete’s new home is a little overwhelming for her. How would you feel about moving to such a huge house?
3. Pete talks about having private thoughts. What did she mean by this? Do you have private thoughts that you share?
4. Why do you think Pete’s father asked her about having some tea when they first meet? Why didn’t he hug or kiss her?



5. Pete screams about everything she hates in life. Do you think her feelings are justified? Are there things about your life that you hate?
6. Do you think Pete’s grandmother was being too hard on her? Why would she say, no pity parties? What was her grandmother trying to do?

Chapter Ten: A New School

Pete's father seems to be avoiding her. He leaves the house before she gets up in the morning, and returns long after she's gone to bed. So, Pete submerges herself with riding her horse. Therefore, Joe is becoming the only steady adult in her life. One evening, Pete's father surprises her in the stables. He asks why she isn't more curious as to where he's been her whole life. He explains that her mother's parents didn't want them together. Pete asks if it's because he's black. Later that night, Pete examines herself in a mirror wondering if her skin would turn darker as she aged.

1. Pete said that living with her mom fell somewhere between a bucket of love and a home of security, and living with her father was more like existing between a puddle of repulsion and a residence of chaos. What did this statement mean to you?
2. While talking with her father in the stables, Pete learns that her grandparents might be the reason she never met her father, and the reason could be racially motivated. How involved are your grandparents in your life? Were Pete's grandparents too involved in her life?
3. How did Pete feel having to sit in the back of her father's blazer?
4. Pete refers to her father as a *him* again. Why does she keep thinking of her father as a *him*?
5. Pete meets Christina for the first time. What did you think of way Christina treated Pete? Would you ever treat someone that way?
6. After school, Pete jumps into Charles' car. Have you ever wanted to escape from a place that bothered you? What did you do to get away?



Chapter Eleven: *Discovery*

Pete sees the towers for the first time. After climbing to the top, Pete experiences a strong sense of freedom. The towers are a place she now calls her sanctuary.

1. How can a wooden floor remind someone of their life?
2. Pete's mother told her that she couldn't really know a person until she walked in their shoes. What does that mean?
3. When Joe said that the kids at DA were rotten and spoiled, how did that make Pete feel? Should he have said such a thing to her?
4. Pete climbed all the way to the top of the towers. Should she have done such a thing? How dangerous is it to climb to the top of a water tower?



5. When we are up high and looking out at the landscape, why does everything seem so different?
6. On top of the tall tower, how come Pete felt as if her problems had floated away? Can the wind really take your problems away?

Chapter Twelve: *Typical School Day*

Pete shares with us a typical day at her school. In particular, she talks about her world science class. Pete is introduced to a nasty slang word that she doesn't understand.

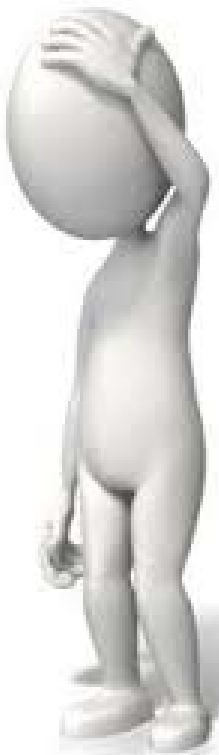
1. Pete said that in New York, the black kids were different somehow. What did she mean by this?
2. Do you think that Antwan and Pete would have been friends if they were back in New York?
3. In Pete's school, the kids acted one way while at school, but a different way when their parents came to pick them up. Have you met kids your age that acted differently around their parents? What would cause such a change in behavior?
4. Pete said that here in America, we didn't speak proper English. What is proper English?
5. Why did Charles get so angry when Pete told him what Kera and Jessie called her?
6. Pete said there were no friends left at DA for her. What did she mean by this? Do you ever feel as if you'll never have a friend at school?



Chapter Thirteen: *The Saddle*

We get to experience Pete's new saddles with her. The western saddle for home is her favorite. But she also liked her plain black English saddle, too. Excited to use her new saddle at school, Pete carries it outside, sitting it on the fence. But to horror, someone had written nasty words on it using fingernail polish.

1. Why does Pete love her western saddle so much? Would you like to have such a saddle?
2. Pete said that the costs bothered her. Why would it bother her for her grandmother to spend so much money?
3. As Pete left the tackle room to saddle her horse, the other students laughed at her. How do you think that made her feel?



4. When Pete saw the horrible words on her saddle, why did the world spin around her? Can being that upset actually make a person sick?
5. Why would someone want to ruin Pete's saddle? How did the nasty words make you feel?
6. When Joe called the office, he said "we have a problem." Why didn't he just tell them what happened? Why be so secretive?

Chapter Fourteen: *Sleeplessness*

Upset over her ruined saddle and not able to sleep, Pete decides to visit her towers. As she enjoyed the skyline, Christine surprises Pete with a quick visit. Christine is nice to Pete but tells her she has to hate her. But if things were different, they'd probably be friends.

1. Why would Pete be so irresponsible and run through her grandmother's rose garden at night?
2. Pete said the towers seemed to be glowing. What would make her feel this way?
3. Pete watched the planes from the top of her towers. She wondered if a young girl sat alone on one of them, scared in the knowledge that her life would change forever. Who was Pete really talking about?
4. Why did Christina call Pete, Powder Puff? How did that nickname make you feel?
5. Did Christine really hate Pete? Or was Christine bowing to peer-pressure?
6. Why would Christine suggest to Pete to jump off the tower? Pete had just shared a soda and some chips with her. Would you ever suggest such a thing to anyone?

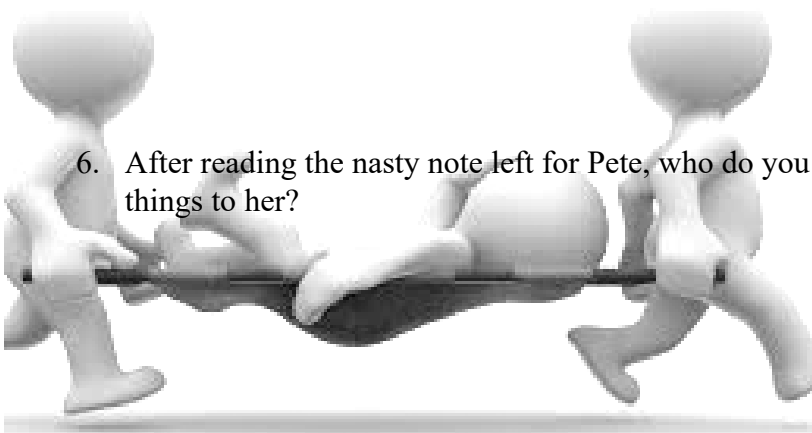


Chapter Fifteen: A Simple Thing

Summer was coming and Pete was excited for school to end. With only a few weeks left, Pete's class started their swimming lessons. After sitting on a bench, Pete jumped up to help her instructor. But to her terror, someone had painted fast acting glue to the bench. Pete is terribly injured.

1. Everyday, Pete feared what the other children would do to her. Why didn't she discuss this with her father?
2. Pete kept trying to ignore the other girls. Do you think this was the right way to handle her problem? What else could Pete have done?
3. Pete jumped from the bench only to have the skin ripped off her legs. Pete seemed very confused. Why? How do you think you would have reacted.
4. Why would the other girls laugh at Pete's pain?
5. Pete's father is acting as if this was her fault. Do you think any of what happened was Pete's fault?

6. After reading the nasty note left for Pete, who do you think is doing all of these terrible things to her?



Chapter Sixteen: *Uncle Ted*

At school, Pete now sits in the office in stead of going to gym class. The Administrator apologizes to Pete about the bullying. Returning home, Pete is excited to see that her Uncle has returned from New York.

1. Pete had thought that sitting in the office had been a punishment. Why would she believe this? Do you think sitting in the office is a punishment?
2. When Dr. Wiltshire told Pete that she did not approve of bullying no matter what the form, why did that surprise Pete?
3. Pete believes the students at DA want her to suffer. Do you think people can wish such a thing to someone? Why would someone want another person to suffer?
4. Pete's relationship with her Grandmother seems to be deteriorating. Do you think that their relationship is falling apart?
5. Pete didn't think that the note was a threat. Do you think that the note was a threat? Would you have shared the note with your parents?
6. Pete believed her uncle could protect her. Can a family member really protect someone from being bullied at school?



Chapter Seventeen: *Vacate*

Summer vacation finally arrives and Pete reunites with her two closest friends, Wendy and Kendra. Together they play and enjoy their brief time together.

1. Pete calls the incident at the pool an *intention* instead of an *accident*. Why?
2. What is an *everything's-so-wrong* smile?
3. Being home with her best friends, Pete said everything felt real again. What did she mean by that statement?
4. When Wendy and Pete laughed at Kendra's mother about her putt-putt abilities, were they being bullies? Or were they just enjoying the moment?



5. Why didn't Pete want her friends to see her scars?
6. Joe said that school would be different in the new year. Does a summer break ever change things at a school? What could actually change things in a school?

Chapter Eighteen: *The Return*

The new school year has begun and Pete's father escorts her to the office. He seems angry and protective over her. But after he leaves and Pete is sitting next to Christina, the problems start up all over again. The school's policies have changed. Homework must be uploaded to the school's website. Now the students seem to have a new avenue in which to torture Pete, the Internet.

1. Why does it bother Pete that her father wants to walk her inside, instead of just dropping her off?
2. Pete tries to tease Christine about her nickname, Powder Puff. But it backfires. Should Pete have made fun of her nickname?
3. Christine is expelled for using profanity. Do you think this helps Pete or makes matters worse?
4. Pete and her father seem to be coming to a new understanding about their relationship. What do you think is bringing them closer together?
5. Why did Kera and Jessie trip Pete with a wire? Should Pete have told on them?
6. Who do you think is posting the nasty things about Pete to the school's website?



Chapter Nineteen: *Words Do Hurt*

Returning to school after her knees heal, Joe and Pete are shocked to see terrible pictures of them posted to the school's website. Pete is sent home and feels as if she is being punished for something she didn't do. Running to her towers for a little peace of mind, Pete is shocked to find her personal cell phone number with nasty words carved into the side of the tower.

1. As Joe and Pete enter the office, children yell out terrible things to them. Why would the other children do such a thing? Do you believe this is the right way to act ?
2. What would you do if you witnessed such behavior? Would you join in? Would you walk away? Would you try to stop it?
3. Do you think the school did the right thing by sending Pete home?
4. How did Pete feel when she saw her cell phone number carved into the tower?
5. Why wouldn't Pete tell her Uncle about her suspicions that Christina carved her name?
6. Why does Pete love the towers so much?



Chapter Twenty: *Social Services*

A tutor arrives to help Pete with her studies. At the same time, Pete's friends in New York tell her they can no longer be friends because of her social media accounts. As a third strike, a nasty social worker arrives and suggests that Pete and Joe are having an affair unsuitable for a child of only eleven. Then to top off the day, the nasty photos from the internet are taped to the tower.

1. Why would Kendra and Wendy's parents stop their friendship with Pete?
2. Why wouldn't the social media website close out the fake accounts?
3. The social worker, Mr. Briar, intimidated Pete to where she couldn't talk. Why do you think this happened?
4. Who do you think taped the nasty photos on the tower?
5. While burning the photos, Pete and her uncle never talked. Why not?
6. Why did Pete's father say everything was his fault?



— Chapter Twenty-One: *Something Good* —

Pete has a birthday. She's turning twelve. Pete is told that Joe was fired from the school and that he wasn't going to be her riding instructor any more. Mike introduces himself to her. Finally, a friend for Pete?

1. When Joe sent Pete a gift, how did that make you feel?
2. When Mike stares at Pete from the front of the class, she becomes concerned. Why?
3. Who do you think is texting Pete, over and over again, telling her to kill herself? Is this bullying?

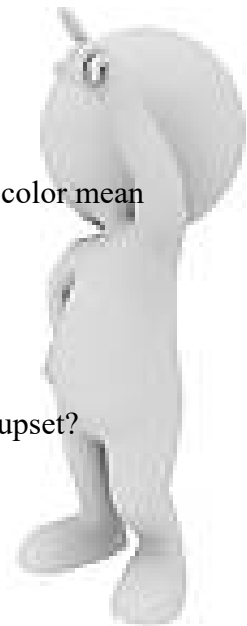


4. Should Pete tell her father about the texts? Would you tell your parents?
5. Pete started at a new school. Do you think that changing schools will fix Pete's problems?
6. Have you noticed a change in Pete's behavior? What does this tell you is happening inside of Pete?

Chapter Twenty-Two: A New Friend

Pete finally has a new friend, Mike. When she takes him to her towers, it concerns him that she climbs the ladders alone. Together they talk about their families and other things. Everyday they eat lunch together and he walks her to her classes.

1. Why did Pete run away from Mike when he tried to introduce himself to her?
2. After accepting Mike as a friend, why did everything in Pete's life seem new and exciting?
3. Pete said that it was as if the devil himself had stolen her soul. What did Pete mean by this?
4. Why did the towers make Mike so nervous?
5. Why did Mike and Pete compare their skin color? Does different skin color mean anything?
6. When Mike said he had to miss school the next day, why did Pete get upset?



— Chapter Twenty-Three: *Doggy Doggy Poo Poo* —

During lunch, someone throws a napkin full of something bad onto Pete's tray. While walking to the girls' bathroom, two girls accost her. Pete is seriously hurt.

1. How did you feel when someone threw the nasty napkin onto Pete's lunch tray?
2. Why did the girl attack Pete in the hallway? What did Pete do to make the girl so angry?
3. Pete said that the more the girl insulted her, the more the girl's anger felt justified. How could Pete justify such actions from another person?
4. As Pete put the pieces of the puzzle together from inside her mind, do you think that her conclusions are accurate?



5. What ran down Pete's face that was warm and wet? How did that make you feel?
6. Before Pete passed out, she thought of her mother. Why? Who would you think of?

Chapter Twenty-Four: *The Pain*

Pete wakes up in the hospital again, this time with a head injury. After returning home, Pete is falling into a deep depression. She stopped completing her homework and studies. She's stopped eating. She even quit pulling the nasty sticky notes from her locker.

1. Pete said that her father's voice sounded defeated, as if he had surrendered. Who would Pete's father have surrendered to?
2. Pete said she wanted to be a tree. Why a tree? Would a flower work?
3. Mike wanted Pete to fight back. Why didn't Pete have the willpower to fight back?
4. Pete said that her uncle no longer felt familiar to her. What would make that happen?
5. Pete said she wanted to punish herself. Why? Should anyone ever punish themselves?
6. How do you think her friend, Mike, is feeling right now?



Chapter Twenty-Five: *The Towers*

The bad texts just keep coming and Pete falls deeper into a comfortable darkness. After school, a truck rams into Charles' car sending him to the hospital. That evening her father asks her uncle to pick her up from school, sending Pete into panic mode. Not able to sleep, Pete visits her towers for the last time.

1. Do you think that Charles' accident was Pete's fault?
2. As she walks toward the towers, what do you think is going through Pete's mind?
3. Why did Pete want to become part of the tower?
4. While standing on the tower, why did Pete believe she was seeing her mother in front of her? Was her mother really there?
5. If her skin was darker, would Pete's mother still be alive?
6. How do you think Pete felt just before she stepped off the railing?



Take Action

No one likes a bully. But sometimes just being ourselves isn't easy. Be brave, be strong, and here are some ideas on how you can help to stop the bullying at your school.

1. Join a bully prevention support group such as, Stand for the Silent. Share your stories and support those who ask for help online. Take a screen shot of your membership and make a post.
2. Be aware, and stand up for those who are bullied. Get help. Tell a parent. Get involved. Be Kind. Write about the good thing you did.
3. Write a letter to your school principal, mayor, state representative, and congressman about your story and your opinion on bullying.
4. Write a letter to the girl who jumped off the tower. What would you say to her? Try to convince her not to jump.

Where to get Help

Bullies use extreme force and threats to abuse and intimidate others. The act of bullying is habitual and never happens only once. The result of bullying is a serious imbalance of social norms which alludes that the bully is in control. However, in reality, no one is in control.

Types of bullying include verbal and written harassment or threats, and physical assault . These acts are usually repeated toward a particular target. Although some rationalize such behavior, there really is no excuse.

For more information on how to stop bullying or where to go for help, please visit these great websites:

<http://www.a4kclub.org/> <http://www.absencesaddup.org>

<http://www.adcouncil.org/> <http://www.americanspcc.org/bullying>

<http://www.barethebully.org> <http://www.bullying.co.uk/>

<http://www.compassionit.com/> <http://www.dare.org/bullying>

<http://www.guardchild.com/cyber-bullying-statistics/>

<http://www.meganmeierfoundation.org> <https://www.nobullying.com>

<http://www.nveee.org> <http://www.rebeccasstandagainstbullying.com>

<http://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org/> <http://www.standforthesilent.org>

<http://www.pacer.org/> <http://www.stompoutbullying.org/>

<http://www.stopbullyingnowfoundation.org> <http://www.thebullyproject.com>

<http://www.tylerclementi.org>

<http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/bullying.page>

<http://www.workplacebullying.org> <https://www.worldofchildren.org>