

as i lay dying sparknotes

as i lay dying sparknotes offers a comprehensive guide to William Faulkner's acclaimed novel, providing readers with essential insights into its plot, major themes, literary techniques, and character analysis. This article explores the multi-perspective narrative style, the complex motifs woven throughout the story, and the social and historical context that shaped the novel. Readers will discover detailed summaries of each section, examine the Bundren family's journey, and understand the importance of Faulkner's experimental writing techniques. Whether you're a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this SEO-optimized resource delivers everything you need to grasp the intricacies of "As I Lay Dying." Dive in for a thorough exploration, clear explanations, and useful guidance to enhance your understanding of this classic work.

- Overview of "As I Lay Dying"
- Plot Summary and Structure
- Major Themes in "As I Lay Dying"
- Character Analysis
- Literary Techniques and Style
- Historical and Social Context
- Key Motifs and Symbols
- Conclusion

Overview of "As I Lay Dying"

William Faulkner's "As I Lay Dying" is a cornerstone of American literature, renowned for its experimental narrative and deep exploration of family dynamics. Published in 1930, the novel follows the Bundren family as they embark on a challenging journey to honor the wishes of their dying matriarch, Addie Bundren. Faulkner's innovative structure employs multiple narrators, each providing a distinct perspective on the events that unfold. "As I Lay Dying" sparknotes are vital for readers seeking clarity on the novel's complex plot, unique style, and profound themes. The story's layered narrative, Southern Gothic elements, and psychological depth make it essential reading for anyone interested in modernist literature.

Plot Summary and Structure

Multi-Perspective Narrative

One of the defining features of "As I Lay Dying" is its use of 15 different narrators, each contributing their voice to the story. The novel is divided

into 59 chapters, with each chapter representing a distinct character's viewpoint. This fragmented structure allows readers to witness events from varied angles, offering a mosaic of emotions, motivations, and insights. The multi-perspective narration challenges traditional storytelling, encouraging readers to piece together the plot and understand the characters' inner worlds.

The Bundren Family's Journey

The central plot revolves around the Bundren family's mission to fulfill Addie Bundren's dying wish: to be buried in her hometown of Jefferson, Mississippi. As they travel across rural Mississippi, the family encounters numerous obstacles, including natural disasters, personal conflicts, and societal judgment. The journey exposes underlying tensions among the family members, highlighting their individual struggles, desires, and secrets. Each narrator's account reveals new facets of the journey, painting a complex picture of grief, loyalty, and resilience.

Major Themes in "As I Lay Dying"

Death and Mortality

Death is the driving force behind the novel's events, shaping the characters' actions and relationships. Faulkner explores the impact of mortality on individuals and families, examining how grief manifests in different ways. Addie's death serves as both a literal and symbolic catalyst, prompting the Bundrens to confront their own vulnerabilities and beliefs about life's purpose.

Family and Loyalty

The theme of family is central to "As I Lay Dying." The Bundrens' journey is a testament to their commitment to fulfilling Addie's last wish, but it also exposes the fractures within their relationships. The tension between loyalty and self-interest is evident as each family member grapples with personal ambitions and guilt. Faulkner's portrayal of familial bonds is complex, highlighting both unity and discord.

Isolation and Alienation

Many characters in the novel experience profound feelings of isolation. Faulkner uses internal monologues to reveal the psychological barriers that separate the Bundrens from one another and their community. This sense of alienation is intensified by the physical and emotional challenges they face on their journey.

- Death as a transformative force
- Complex family relationships

- Individual struggles with isolation
- Moral ambiguity and choices

Character Analysis

Addie Bundren

Addie, the matriarch, is a complex figure whose presence looms over the entire narrative despite her early death. Her views on existence, language, and family are revealed through her own chapter and the reflections of others. Addie's perspective challenges traditional notions of motherhood and morality, making her a pivotal character in Faulkner's exploration of existential themes.

Anse Bundren

Anse, Addie's husband, is often depicted as stubborn and self-serving. His decisions drive much of the plot's conflict, and his motivations are frequently questioned by both the family and readers. Anse's character embodies the tension between duty and personal desire, complicating the family's quest.

Darl Bundren

Darl is the most psychologically complex member of the Bundren family. His introspective nature and perceptive insights make him a central narrator. Darl's actions and thoughts gradually reveal his struggle with sanity and his alienation from the family, culminating in a dramatic turning point in the novel.

Other Significant Characters

- Dewey Dell Bundren - Addie's daughter, whose secret pregnancy adds emotional depth to the narrative.
- Jewel Bundren - Addie's favorite son, known for his fierce independence and loyalty.
- Cash Bundren - The eldest son, practical and methodical, responsible for building Addie's coffin.
- Vardaman Bundren - The youngest, whose confusion about death provides poignant commentary.

Literary Techniques and Style

Stream of Consciousness

Faulkner employs stream of consciousness throughout "As I Lay Dying," allowing readers to access the characters' innermost thoughts and emotions. This technique creates a sense of immediacy and intimacy, blurring the lines between narration and experience. The shifting voices and fragmented syntax reflect the chaos and uncertainty faced by the Bundren family.

Symbolism and Imagery

The novel is rich in symbolism, with objects like Addie's coffin and the journey itself representing deeper existential concepts. Faulkner's use of vivid imagery brings the rural Southern setting and the characters' psychological states to life. Natural elements, such as rivers and storms, serve as both literal obstacles and metaphors for internal struggle.

Southern Gothic Elements

"As I Lay Dying" exemplifies Southern Gothic literature, characterized by dark themes, decaying settings, and eccentric characters. Faulkner's portrayal of rural Mississippi and the Bundrens' hardships highlights the grotesque and tragic aspects of Southern life, adding layers of meaning to the narrative.

Historical and Social Context

Setting in Rural Mississippi

The novel takes place in the early 20th century in rural Mississippi, a region marked by poverty and tradition. Faulkner's depiction of the landscape and local customs provides crucial context for understanding the characters' behaviors and challenges. The setting shapes the Bundrens' worldview and influences their journey.

Impact of the Great Depression

Although not explicitly mentioned, the economic hardships of the Great Depression are reflected in the Bundrens' struggles. Financial instability and limited resources add urgency to their quest, while societal norms and expectations shape their interactions with neighbors and outsiders.

Key Motifs and Symbols

Addie's Coffin

The coffin is a central symbol in "As I Lay Dying," representing both the burden of death and the physical manifestation of the family's commitment to Addie. Its construction and transportation become focal points for conflict and meaning throughout the journey.

Water and Rivers

Rivers and flooding represent the unpredictability of life and the obstacles faced by the Bundrens. Water serves as a metaphor for both cleansing and destruction, echoing the characters' emotional turmoil and the transformative nature of their quest.

Animals and Nature

- Fish - Vardaman's association of Addie with a fish symbolizes his struggle to comprehend mortality.
- Mules - The loss and replacement of the Bundrens' mules reflect themes of sacrifice and persistence.
- Fire - Darl's use of fire to destroy the barn signifies both desperation and an attempt to control fate.

Conclusion

"As I Lay Dying" remains an enduring masterpiece for its innovative narrative, psychological depth, and exploration of universal themes. Sparknotes provide invaluable support for readers navigating the novel's complexity, offering summaries, analyses, and contextual information. Understanding Faulkner's techniques, motifs, and character dynamics enhances appreciation for this influential work of modernist literature. Whether preparing for exams, essays, or personal study, these insights into "As I Lay Dying" ensure a richer and more informed reading experience.

Q: What is the main plot of "As I Lay Dying"?

A: The novel follows the Bundren family as they travel across rural Mississippi to bury their mother, Addie Bundren, in her hometown, facing numerous physical and emotional challenges along the way.

Q: How does William Faulkner use multiple narrators in "As I Lay Dying"?

A: Faulkner employs 15 different narrators, each providing their unique perspective in separate chapters, which creates a multifaceted and fragmented narrative structure.

Q: What are the major themes in “As I Lay Dying”?

A: The novel explores themes of death and mortality, family and loyalty, isolation, and moral ambiguity, all set against the backdrop of rural Southern life.

Q: Why is Addie Bundren’s character important in the novel?

A: Addie Bundren’s death initiates the family’s journey and her complex views on existence and relationships are revealed through her own chapter and others’ reflections, making her central to the novel’s themes.

Q: What literary techniques does Faulkner use in “As I Lay Dying”?

A: Faulkner incorporates stream of consciousness, symbolism, vivid imagery, and Southern Gothic elements to deepen the narrative and highlight the psychological states of the characters.

Q: How does the setting influence the story in “As I Lay Dying”?

A: The rural Mississippi setting, marked by poverty and tradition, shapes the Bundren family’s experiences, motivations, and interactions, contributing to the novel’s realism and thematic depth.

Q: What is the significance of Addie’s coffin in the novel?

A: Addie’s coffin symbolizes the burden of death, the family’s commitment, and serves as a focal point for conflict and meaning throughout their journey.

Q: How does Darl Bundren’s character evolve in the story?

A: Darl’s introspective nature and increasing alienation from the family culminate in a dramatic turning point, highlighting his psychological complexity and the novel’s exploration of sanity.

Q: What role do motifs like water and animals play in “As I Lay Dying”?

A: Motifs such as water, animals, and fire enrich the narrative by symbolizing emotional turmoil, obstacles, and existential themes within the Bundren family’s journey.

Q: How does “As I Lay Dying” reflect the Southern Gothic genre?

A: The novel's dark themes, decaying settings, and eccentric characters exemplify Southern Gothic literature, adding depth and atmosphere to Faulkner's portrayal of Southern life.

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As I Lay Dying SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide to Faulkner's Masterpiece

Are you grappling with William Faulkner's challenging yet rewarding novel, *As I Lay Dying*? Feeling overwhelmed by the fragmented narrative, multiple perspectives, and dense prose? This comprehensive guide acts as your ultimate *As I Lay Dying* SparkNotes, offering a detailed yet accessible summary, character analysis, and thematic exploration to help you conquer this literary giant. Forget struggling to decipher Faulkner's complex style – this post provides the key insights you need to truly appreciate the novel's power and beauty. We'll dissect the plot, explore the symbolism, and delve into the core themes that make *As I Lay Dying* a timeless classic.

A Quick Summary: The Bundren Family's Odyssey

As I Lay Dying follows the Bundren family's arduous journey to bury their matriarch, Addie, in Jefferson. This seemingly simple premise unfolds into a complex tapestry of individual narratives, revealing the family's fractured relationships, internal conflicts, and motivations. The journey itself becomes a metaphor for life's struggles and the inescapable reality of death. Each character's perspective provides a fragmented, subjective account of the events, creating a unique and challenging reading experience. Faulkner masterfully employs stream-of-consciousness narration, giving us direct access to the characters' raw thoughts and feelings.

Key Characters and Their Motivations:

Addie Bundren: The deceased matriarch, whose death triggers the entire narrative. Although

deceased, her voice is pivotal, providing crucial insights into the family dynamics and their complicated relationship with her.

Anse Bundren: The patriarch, driven by self-interest and a desire to acquire a new set of teeth. His actions often contradict his professed love for Addie.

Darl Bundren: The most insightful and eloquent character, offering profound observations about the family and their journey. His narrative provides crucial context and foreshadowing.

Jewel Bundren: Addie's secret son, fiercely protective of his mother and deeply misunderstood by the rest of the family. His silent strength and intense loyalty are pivotal to understanding the novel's core themes.

Cash Bundren: The practical and resourceful son, focused on the task of building the coffin and ensuring a successful burial. His quiet strength contrasts sharply with the family's emotional turmoil.

Dewey Dell Bundren: The teenage daughter, pregnant and grappling with the complexities of her situation. Her anxieties and fears add another layer to the novel's emotional depth.

Vardaman Bundren: The youngest child, whose childlike perspective offers a unique and often unsettling viewpoint. His innocence contrasts sharply with the harsh realities of the journey.

Themes Explored in *As I Lay Dying*

The Nature of Death and Grief: Faulkner explores the multifaceted nature of grief, revealing how death affects individuals differently. The novel challenges traditional notions of mourning and explores the complexities of human emotion.

Family Dynamics and Dysfunction: The Bundren family embodies profound dysfunction, marked by secrets, resentment, and broken relationships. Their journey highlights the inherent contradictions and challenges within family structures.

The Power of Memory and Perspective: The fragmented narrative forces the reader to assemble the story piece by piece, highlighting the subjectivity of memory and perspective. Each character's version of events contributes to a complex and often contradictory portrait of the family's journey.

The Illusion of Progress and Purpose: The seemingly simple goal of burying Addie becomes a journey fraught with setbacks, highlighting the often illusory nature of progress and the unpredictable nature of life.

The Relationship Between Humanity and Nature: The harsh realities of the Mississippi landscape mirror the harsh realities of the Bundren family's internal struggles. The natural world becomes a symbol of both beauty and relentless cruelty.

Symbolism and Imagery in As I Lay Dying

Faulkner masterfully employs symbolism to enhance the novel's thematic depth. The decaying body of Addie, the arduous journey, and the relentless Mississippi landscape all serve as potent symbols, reflecting the decay, struggle, and harsh realities of life.

Conclusion:

As I Lay Dying remains a powerful and challenging novel, demanding close attention and careful analysis. This guide serves as a starting point, providing the essential tools and insights to navigate Faulkner's complex narrative. By understanding the characters, exploring the themes, and recognizing the significance of the symbolism, you can gain a deeper appreciation for this literary masterpiece. Remember, the journey of understanding As I Lay Dying is as complex and rewarding as the journey itself.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the main conflict in As I Lay Dying? The central conflict is the Bundren family's struggle to bury Addie, intertwined with their internal conflicts and personal struggles.
2. What is the significance of Darl's character? Darl's perspective offers the most insightful and comprehensive understanding of the family and their journey. His narrative acts as a crucial lens through which to interpret the events.
3. How does Faulkner use stream-of-consciousness narration? Faulkner utilizes stream-of-consciousness to provide direct access to the characters' innermost thoughts and feelings, creating a fragmented and intimate narrative.
4. What are the major symbols in the novel? Significant symbols include Addie's decaying body, the arduous journey, and the Mississippi landscape, all representing decay, struggle, and the harsh realities of life.
5. Is As I Lay Dying a difficult read? Yes, the novel's fragmented narrative, dense prose, and multiple perspectives can make it challenging. However, the rewards of understanding its complexity are significant.

as i lay dying sparknotes: As I Lay Dying William Faulkner, 2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as

ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

as i lay dying sparknotes: AS I LAY DYING WILLIAM FAULKNER., 2023-06-21 As I Lay Dying is Faulkner's harrowing account of the Bundre family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Told in turns by each of the family members—including Addie herself—the novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos.

as i lay dying sparknotes: A Court of Wings and Ruin Sarah J. Maas, 2017-05-02 The epic third novel in the #1 New York Times bestselling Court of Thorns and Roses series by Sarah J. Maas. Feyre has returned to the Spring Court, determined to gather information on Tamlin's actions and learn what she can about the invading king threatening to bring her land to its knees. But to do so she must play a deadly game of deceit. One slip could bring doom not only for Feyre, but for everything-and everyone-she holds dear. As war bears down upon them all, Feyre endeavors to take her place amongst the High Fae of the land, balancing her struggle to master her powers-both magical and political-and her love for her court and family. Amidst these struggles, Feyre and Rhysand must decide whom to trust amongst the cunning and lethal High Lords, and hunt for allies in unexpected places. In this thrilling third book in the #1 New York Times bestselling series from Sarah J. Maas, the fate of Feyre's world is at stake as armies grapple for power over the one thing that could destroy it.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Surviving Henry Green, 2012-05-31 Edited by the author's grandson, the novelist Matthew Yorke, and with an Introduction by John Updike, this book is an excellent selection of Henry Green's uncollected writings. It includes a number of outstanding stories never previously published, written during the '20s and '30s (Bees, Saturday, Excursion, and the remarkable Mood among them). It contains a highly entertaining account of Green's service in the London Fire Brigade during the War; a short play written in the 1950s; and a selection of his journalism, including revelatory articles about the craft of writing, a marvellous evocation of Venice, a description of falling in love, reviews which illuminate his literary enthusiasm and the entertaining interview with Terry Southern for the Paris Review. It is rounded off with a biographical memoir by Green's son, Sebastian Yorke. Fascinating and invaluable as an introduction to Green, *Surviving* casts new light on his work and illustrates the many facets of this exceptional writer, one of the two most important English novelists of his time.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Light in August William Faulkner, 2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of *Light in August* by William Faulkner. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Red Leaves William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 When Chief Issetibbeha dies, custom requires that the Chickasaw leader's worldly possessions be buried with him. This includes his servant, who makes a desperate bid for his life in this early William Faulkner short story. Although primarily known for his novels, Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, *These 13* (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves* and *That Evening Sun*. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Bunny Mona Awad, 2019-06-11 "The Secret History meets Jennifer's Body. This brilliant, sharp, weird book skewers the heightened rhetoric of obsessive female friendship in a way I don't think I've ever seen before. I loved it and I couldn't put it down." - Kristen

Roupenian, author of *You Know You Want This: Cat Person and Other Stories* The Vegetarian meets Heathers in this darkly funny, seductively strange novel about a lonely graduate student drawn into a clique of rich girls who seem to move and speak as one. We were just these innocent girls in the night trying to make something beautiful. We nearly died. We very nearly did, didn't we? Samantha Heather Mackey couldn't be more different from the other members of her master's program at New England's elite Warren University. A self-conscious scholarship student who prefers the company of her imagination to that of most people, she is utterly repelled by the rest of her fiction writing cohort--a clique of unbearably twee rich girls who call each other Bunny, and are often found entangled in a group hug so tight it seems their bodies might become permanently fused. But everything changes when Samantha receives an invitation to the Bunnies' exclusive monthly Smut Salon, and finds herself drawn as if by magic to their front door--ditching her only friend, Ava, an audacious art school dropout, in the process. As Samantha plunges deeper and deeper into Bunny world, and starts to take part in the off-campus Workshop where they devise their monstrous creations, the edges of reality begin to blur, and her friendships with Ava and the Bunnies are brought into deadly collision. A spellbinding, down-the-rabbit-hole tale about loneliness and belonging, creativity and agency, and female friendship and desire, Bunny is the dazzlingly original second book from an author with tremendous insight into the often-baffling complexities of being a woman (The Atlantic).

as i lay dying sparknotes: *The Bear* William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 Isaac McCaslin is obsessed with hunting down Old Ben, a mythical bear that wreaks havoc on the forest. After this feat is accomplished, Isaac struggles with his relationship to nature and to the land, which is complicated when he inherits a large plantation in Yoknapatawapha County. "The Bear" is included in William Faulkner's novel, *Go Down, Moses*. Although primarily known for his novels, Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, *These 13* (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves* and *That Evening Sun*. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *A Lesson Before Dying* Ernest J. Gaines, Sparknotes, 2002 I was not there, yet I was there. No, I did not go to the trial, I did not hear the verdict, because I knew all the time what it would be ... So begins Grant Wiggins, the narrator of Ernest J. Gaines's powerful exploration of race, injustice, and resistance, *A Lesson Before Dying*.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Before We Were Strangers* Renée Carlino, 2015-08-18 From the USA TODAY bestselling author of *Sweet Thing* and *Nowhere But Here* comes a love story about a Craigslist "missed connection" post that gives two people a second chance at love fifteen years after they were separated in New York City. *To the Green-eyed Lovebird*: We met fifteen years ago, almost to the day, when I moved my stuff into the NYU dorm room next to yours at Senior House. You called us fast friends. I like to think it was more. We lived on nothing but the excitement of finding ourselves through music (you were obsessed with Jeff Buckley), photography (I couldn't stop taking pictures of you), hanging out in Washington Square Park, and all the weird things we did to make money. I learned more about myself that year than any other. Yet, somehow, it all fell apart. We lost touch the summer after graduation when I went to South America to work for National Geographic. When I came back, you were gone. A part of me still wonders if I pushed you too hard after the wedding... I didn't see you again until a month ago. It was a Wednesday. You were rocking back on your heels, balancing on that thick yellow line that runs along the subway platform, waiting for the F train. I didn't know it was you until it was too late, and then you were gone. Again. You said my name; I saw it on your lips. I tried to will the train to stop, just so I could say hello. After seeing you, all of the youthful feelings and memories came flooding back to me, and now I've spent the better

part of a month wondering what your life is like. I might be totally out of my mind, but would you like to get a drink with me and catch up on the last decade and a half? M

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Salvage the Bones* Jesmyn Ward, 2012-04-12 A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. He's a hard drinker, largely absent, and it isn't often he worries about the family. Esch and her three brothers are stocking up on food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; at fifteen, she has just realized that she's pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pit bull's new litter, dying one by one. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child's play and short on parenting. As the twelve days that make up the novel's framework yield to a dramatic conclusion, this unforgettable family - motherless children sacrificing for one another as they can, protecting and nurturing where love is scarce - pulls itself up to face another day.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *My Mother is a Fish* William Faulkner, Janet C. Nosek, 2000 This book is a powerful discussion of the novels, short stories, and poems of William Faulkner. Intended for both the general reader as well as those already fully acquainted with his work, *My Mother is a Fish* illustrates the wisdom and genius of this great modernist of classical twentieth century American Literature. Janet C. Nosek provides a personal commentary on quotations and short passages that show the wide range of style, language, themes, and connections found in Faulkner's fiction. Both instructive and entertaining, this book will be of great interest to literary scholars and a helpful ancillary text as well.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *A Lesson Before Dying* Ernest J. Gaines, 2004-01-20 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • A deep and compassionate novel about a young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to visit a Black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. An instant classic. —Chicago Tribune A “majestic, moving novel...an instant classic, a book that will be read, discussed and taught beyond the rest of our lives (Chicago Tribune), from the critically acclaimed author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. *A Lesson Before Dying* reconfirms Ernest J. Gaines's position as an important American writer. —Boston Globe Enormously moving.... Gaines unerringly evokes the place and time about which he writes. —Los Angeles Times “A quietly moving novel [that] takes us back to a place we've been before to impart a lesson for living.” —San Francisco Chronicle

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Moon of the Crusted Snow* Waubgeshig Rice, 2018-10-02 2023 Canada Reads Longlist Selection National Bestseller Winner of the 2019 OLA Forest of Reading Evergreen Award Shortlisted for the 2019 John W. Campbell Memorial Award Shortlisted for the 2019/20 First Nation Communities READ Indigenous Literature Award 2020 Burlington Library Selection; 2020 Hamilton Reads One Book One Community Selection; 2020 Region of Waterloo One Book One Community Selection; 2019 Ontario Library Association Ontario Together We Read Program Selection; 2019 Women's National Book Association's Great Group Reads; 2019 Amnesty International Book Club Pick January 2020 Reddit r/bookclub pick of the month “This slow-burning thriller is also a powerful story of survival and will leave readers breathless.” — Publishers Weekly “Rice seamlessly injects Anishinaabe language into the dialogue and creates a beautiful rendering of the natural world ... This title will appeal to fans of literary science-fiction akin to Cormac McCarthy as well as to readers looking for a fresh voice in indigenous fiction.” — Booklist A daring post-apocalyptic novel from a powerful rising literary voice With winter looming, a small northern Anishinaabe community goes dark. Cut off, people become passive and confused. Panic builds as the food supply dwindles. While the band council and a pocket of community members struggle to maintain order, an unexpected visitor arrives, escaping the crumbling society to the south. Soon after, others follow. The community leadership loses its grip on power as the visitors manipulate the tired and hungry to take control of the reserve. Tensions rise and, as the months pass, so does the death toll due to sickness and despair. Frustrated by the building chaos, a group of young friends and their families turn to the land and Anishinaabe tradition in hopes of helping their community

thrive again. Guided through the chaos by an unlikely leader named Evan Whitesky, they endeavor to restore order while grappling with a grave decision. Blending action and allegory, *Moon of the Crusted Snow* upends our expectations. Out of catastrophe comes resilience. And as one society collapses, another is reborn.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Clap When You Land* Elizabeth Acevedo, 2020-05-05 In a novel-in-verse that brims with grief and love, National Book Award-winning and New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives. Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. Great for summer reading or anytime! *Clap When You Land* is a Today show pick for "25 children's books your kids and teens won't be able to put down this summer! Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's *The Poet X* and *With the Fire on High*!"

as i lay dying sparknotes: *The Circle* Dave Eggers, 2013-10-08 LONGLISTED 2015 - International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award *The Circle* is the exhilarating new novel from Dave Eggers, bestselling author of *A Hologram for the King*, a finalist for the National Book Award. When Mae Holland is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The Circle, run out of a sprawling California campus, links users' personal emails, social media, banking, and purchasing with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of civility and transparency. As Mae tours the open-plan office spaces, the towering glass dining facilities, the cozy dorms for those who spend nights at work, she is thrilled with the company's modernity and activity. There are parties that last through the night, there are famous musicians playing on the lawn, there are athletic activities and clubs and brunches, and even an aquarium of rare fish retrieved from the Marianas Trench by the CEO. Mae can't believe her luck, her great fortune to work for the most influential company in the world—even as life beyond the campus grows distant, even as a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, even as her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. What begins as the captivating story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Born to Run* Christopher McDougall, 2010-12-09 A New York Times bestseller 'A sensation ... a rollicking tale well told' - The Times At the heart of *Born to Run* lies a mysterious tribe of Mexican Indians, the Tarahumara, who live quietly in canyons and are reputed to be the best distance runners in the world; in 1993, one of them, aged 57, came first in a prestigious 100-mile race wearing a toga and sandals. A small group of the world's top ultra-runners (and the awe-inspiring author) make the treacherous journey into the canyons to try to learn the tribe's secrets and then take them on over a course 50 miles long. With incredible energy and smart observation, McDougall tells this story while asking what the secrets are to being an incredible runner. Travelling to labs at Harvard, Nike, and elsewhere, he comes across an incredible cast of characters, including the woman who recently broke the world record for 100 miles and for her encore ran a 2:50 marathon in a bikini, pausing to down a beer at the 20 mile mark.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *The Chrysalids* John Wyndham, 2021-08-31 In a post-apocalyptic Labrador, the survivors live by strict religious beliefs and practice eugenics to maintain normality. Mutations are considered blasphemies and punished. David, a telepathic boy, befriends Sophie, who has a secret mutation. As they face persecution, they escape to the lawless Fringes. With the help of telepaths and society in Sealand, they evade hunters, find rescue and plan to return for Rachel, another telepath left behind in Waknuk.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Ghost Boys Jewell Parker Rhodes, 2018-04-17 A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a police officer, drawing connections through history, from award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes. Only the living can make the world better. Live and make it better. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

as i lay dying sparknotes: The Honest Truth Dan Gemeinhart, 2015-03-05 Mark has been in and out of hospital his whole life - and he's fed up. So when his cancer returns, he decides he's had enough. Running away with his dog Beau, he sets out to climb a mountain - and it's only when he's left everything behind that Mark realises he has everything to live for.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Ohio Stephen Markley, 2019-06-04 "Extraordinary...beautifully precise...[an] earnestly ambitious debut." —The New York Times Book Review "A wild, angry, and devastating masterpiece of a book." —NPR "[A] descendent of the Dickensian 'social novel' by way of Jonathan Franzen: epic fiction that lays bare contemporary culture clashes, showing us who we are and how we got here." —O, The Oprah Magazine "A book that has stayed with me ever since I put it down." —Seth Meyers, host of Late Night with Seth Meyers One sweltering night in 2013, four former high school classmates converge on their hometown in northeastern Ohio. There's Bill Ashcraft, a passionate, drug-abusing young activist whose flailing ambitions have taken him from Cambodia to Zuccotti Park to post-BP New Orleans, and now back home with a mysterious package strapped to the undercarriage of his truck; Stacey Moore, a doctoral candidate reluctantly confronting her family and the mother of her best friend and first love, whose disappearance spurs the mystery at the heart of the novel; Dan Eaton, a shy veteran of three tours in Iraq, home for a dinner date with the high school sweetheart he's tried desperately to forget; and the beautiful, fragile Tina Ross, whose rendezvous with the washed-up captain of the football team triggers the novel's shocking climax. Set over the course of a single evening, Ohio toggles between the perspectives of these unforgettable characters as they unearth dark secrets, revisit old regrets and uncover—and compound—bitter betrayals. Before the evening is through, these narratives converge masterfully to reveal a mystery so dark and shocking it will take your breath away.

as i lay dying sparknotes: The Way of Kings Brandon Sanderson, 2010-08-31 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, *The Way of Kings*, Book One of the Stormlight Archive, begins an incredible new saga of epic proportion. Roshar is a world of stone and storms. Uncanny tempests of incredible power sweep across the rocky terrain so frequently that they have shaped ecology and civilization alike. Animals hide in shells, trees pull in branches, and grass retracts into the soilless ground. Cities are built only where the topography offers shelter. It has been centuries since the fall of the ten consecrated orders known as the Knights Radiant, but their Shardblades and Shardplate remain: mystical swords and suits of armor that transform ordinary men into near-invincible warriors. Men trade kingdoms for Shardblades. Wars were fought for them, and won by them. One such war rages on a ruined landscape called the Shattered Plains. There, Kaladin, who traded his medical apprenticeship for a spear to protect his little brother, has been reduced to slavery. In a war that makes no sense, where ten armies fight separately against a single foe, he struggles to save his men and to fathom the leaders who consider them expendable. Brightlord Dalinar Kholin commands one of those other armies. Like his brother, the late king, he is fascinated by an ancient text called *The Way of Kings*. Troubled by over-powering visions of ancient times and the Knights Radiant, he has begun to doubt his own sanity. Across the ocean, an untried

young woman named Shallan seeks to train under an eminent scholar and notorious heretic, Dalinar's niece, Jasnah. Though she genuinely loves learning, Shallan's motives are less than pure. As she plans a daring theft, her research for Jasnah hints at secrets of the Knights Radiant and the true cause of the war. The result of over ten years of planning, writing, and world-building, *The Way of Kings* is but the opening movement of the Stormlight Archive, a bold masterpiece in the making. Speak again the ancient oaths: Life before death. Strength before weakness. Journey before Destination. and return to men the Shards they once bore. The Knights Radiant must stand again.

Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson
The Cosmere
The Stormlight Archive ● *The Way of Kings* ● *Words of Radiance* ● *Edgedancer* (novella) ● *Oathbringer* ● *Dawnshard* (novella) ● *Rhythm of War*
The Mistborn Saga
The Original Trilogy ● *Mistborn* ● *The Well of Ascension* ● *The Hero of Ages*
Wax and Wayne ● *The Alloy of Law* ● *Shadows of Self* ● *The Bands of Mourning* ● *The Lost Metal*
Other Cosmere novels ● *Elantris* ● *Warbreaker* ● *Tress of the Emerald Sea* ● *Yumi and the Nightmare Painter* ● *The Sunlit Man Collection* ● *Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection*
The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● *Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians* ● *The Scrivener's Bones* ● *The Knights of Crystallia* ● *The Shattered Lens* ● *The Dark Talent* ● *Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians* (with Janci Patterson)
Other novels ● *The Rithmatist* ● *Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds* ● *The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England*
Other books by Brandon Sanderson
The Reckoners ● *Steelheart* ● *Firefight* ● *Calamity Skyward* ● *Skyward* ● *Starsight* ● *Cytonic* ● *Skyward Flight* (with Janci Patterson) ● *Defiant*
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as i lay dying sparknotes: *Fever Dream* Samanta Schweblin, 2017-01-10 "A wonderful nightmare of a book: tender and frightening, disturbing but compassionate. *Fever Dream* is a triumph of Schweblin's outlandish imagination." -Juan Gabriel Vasquez, author of *The Sound of Things Falling* and *Reputations*
A young woman named Amanda lies dying in a rural hospital clinic. A boy named David sits beside her. She's not his mother. He's not her child. Together, they tell a haunting story of broken souls, toxins, and the power and desperation of family. *Fever Dream* is a nightmare come to life, a ghost story for the real world, a love story and a cautionary tale. One of the freshest new voices to come out of the Spanish language and translated into English for the first time, Samanta Schweblin creates an aura of strange psychological menace and otherworldly reality in this absorbing, unsettling, taut novel.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1852

as i lay dying sparknotes: *A Short Stay in Hell* Steven L. Peck, 2012 A damned man struggles to find meaning in a library, the dimensions of which are measured in light years.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *The Marrow Thieves* Cherie Dimaline, 2017-05-10 Just when you think you have nothing left to lose, they come for your dreams. Humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream. In this dark world, Frenchie and his companions struggle to survive as they make their way up north to the old lands. For now, survival means staying hidden — but what they don't know is that one of them holds the secret to defeating the marrow thieves.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *The Art Of Seduction* Robert Greene, 2010-09-03 Which sort of seducer could you be? Siren? Rake? Cold Coquette? Star? Comedian? Charismatic? Or Saint? This book will show you which. Charm, persuasion, the ability to create illusions: these are some of the many dazzling gifts of the Seducer, the compelling figure who is able to manipulate, mislead and give pleasure all at once. When raised to the level of art, seduction, an indirect and subtle form of power, has toppled empires, won elections and enslaved great minds. In this beautiful, sensually designed book, Greene unearths the two sides of seduction: the characters and the process. Discover who you, or your pursuer, most resembles. Learn, too, the pitfalls of the anti-Seducer. Immerse yourself in the twenty-four manoeuvres and strategies of the seductive process, the ritual by which a seducer gains mastery over their target. Understand how to 'Choose the Right Victim', 'Appear to Be

an Object of Desire' and 'Confuse Desire and Reality'. In addition, Greene provides instruction on how to identify victims by type. Each fascinating character and each cunning tactic demonstrates a fundamental truth about who we are, and the targets we've become - or hope to win over. The Art of Seduction is an indispensable primer on the essence of one of history's greatest weapons and the ultimate power trip. From the internationally bestselling author of The 48 Laws of Power, Mastery, and The 33 Strategies Of War.

as i lay dying sparknotes: A Thousand Boy Kisses Tillie Cole, 2022-07-14 DISCOVER THE UNFORGETTABLE TIKTOK SENSATION THAT HAS CAPTURED MILLIONS OF HEARTS 'This book is breathtakingly, heartbreakingly beautiful. You will cry ugly tears' 5***** READER REVIEW 'So moving that it left me sobbing but at the same time filled my heart. Beautiful, tragic, heartbreakingly wonderful' 5***** READER REVIEW 'It is without a doubt the biggest ugly cry I have ever had from a book' 5***** READER REVIEW _____ Two hearts. One love story. An ending you will never forget . . . Rune Kristiansen and Poppy Litchfield met as children and swore to be friends forever. As teenagers, their friendship grew into a love that promised to last a lifetime. But their worlds were shattered when Rune was sent home to his native Norway. Two years later, Rune is back, and Poppy is ready for their happy ever after to begin. But the boy who returns is not the Rune she remembers. What happened to turn her sweet, thoughtful Rune into this brooding stranger? And will the secret Poppy is carrying bring them closer together or separate them forever? Discover the story that will break your heart and make you believe true love really does last for eternity . . . _____ 'I have read books that have had me ugly crying in the past but I honestly don't think I've read a book before this one where tears flowed in every single chapter' 5***** READER REVIEW 'The most heartbreaking, soul-shattering yet beautiful book I have ever read . . . I sobbed. I mean ugly crying' 5***** READER REVIEW 'One of the most beautiful and most heartbreaking books I have ever read' 5***** READER REVIEW 'Rune couldn't have been more perfect, nor Poppy more perfect for him' 5***** READER REVIEW

as i lay dying sparknotes: Indian Horse Richard Wagamese, 2012-01-27 An unforgettable work of art.—The National Post Saul Indian Horse is dying. Tucked away in a hospice high above the clash and clang of a big city, he embarks on a marvellous journey of imagination back through the life he led as a northern Ojibway, with all its sorrows and joys. With compassion and insight, author Richard Wagamese traces through his fictional characters the decline of a culture and a cultural way. For Saul, taken forcibly from the land and his family when he's sent to residential school, salvation comes for a while through his incredible gifts as a hockey player. But in the harsh realities of 1960s Canada, he battles obdurate racism and the spirit-destroying effects of cultural alienation and displacement. Indian Horse unfolds against the bleak loveliness of northern Ontario, all rock, marsh, bog and cedar. Wagamese writes with a spare beauty, penetrating the heart of a remarkable Ojibway man. Drawing on his great-grandfather's mystical gift of vision, Saul Indian Horse comes to recognize the influence of everyday magic on his own life. In this wise and moving novel, Richard Wagamese shares that gift of magic with readers as well.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Peter Pan in Scarlet Geraldine McCaughrean, 2010-05-11 The first-ever authorized sequel to J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan! In August 2004 the Special Trustees of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, who hold the copyright in Peter Pan, launched a worldwide search for a writer to create a sequel to J. M. Barrie's timeless masterpiece. Renowned and multi award-winning English author Geraldine McCaughrean won the honor to write this official sequel, Peter Pan in Scarlet. Illustrated by Scott M. Fischer and set in the 1930s, Peter Pan in Scarlet takes readers flying back to Neverland in an adventure filled with tension, danger, and swashbuckling derring-do!

as i lay dying sparknotes: Tinkers Paul Harding, 2019-01-01 Special edition of Paul Harding's Pulitzer Prize-winning debut novel—featuring a new foreword by Marilynne Robinson and book club extras inside In this deluxe tenth anniversary edition, Marilynne Robinson introduces the beautiful novel Tinkers, which begins with an old man who lies dying. As time collapses into memory, he travels deep into his past, where he is reunited with his father and relives the wonder and pain of his

impoverished New England youth. At once heartbreaking and life affirming, *Tinkers* is an elegiac meditation on love, loss, and the fierce beauty of nature. The story behind this New York Times bestselling debut novel—the first independently published Pulitzer Prize winner since *A Confederacy of Dunces* received the award nearly thirty years before—is as extraordinary as the elegant prose within it. Inspired by his family's history, Paul Harding began writing *Tinkers* when his rock band broke up. Following numerous rejections from large publishers, Harding was about to shelve the manuscript when Bellevue Literary Press offered a contract. After being accepted by BLP, but before it was even published, the novel developed a following among independent booksellers from coast to coast. Readers and critics soon fell in love, and it went on to receive the Pulitzer Prize, prompting the New York Times to declare the novel's remarkable success "the most dramatic literary Cinderella story of recent memory." That story is still being written as readers across the country continue to discover this modern classic, which has now sold over half a million copies, proving once again that great literature has a thriving and passionate audience. Paul Harding is the author of two novels about multiple generations of a New England family: *Enon* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tinkers*. He teaches at Stony Brook Southampton.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Project Hail Mary* Andy Weir, 2021-05-04 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the author of *The Martian*, a lone astronaut must save the earth from disaster in this "propulsive" (Entertainment Weekly), cinematic thriller full of suspense, humor, and fascinating science—in development as a major motion picture starring Ryan Gosling. HUGO AWARD FINALIST • ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST BOOKS: Bill Gates, GatesNotes, New York Public Library, Parade, Newsweek, Polygon, Shelf Awareness, She Reads, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal • "An epic story of redemption, discovery and cool speculative sci-fi."—USA Today "If you loved *The Martian*, you'll go crazy for Weir's latest."—The Washington Post Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone. Or does he? An irresistible interstellar adventure as only Andy Weir could deliver, *Project Hail Mary* is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival to rival *The Martian*—while taking us to places it never dreamed of going.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Noggin* John Corey Whaley, 2014-04-08 2014 National Book Award Finalist A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) Travis Coates has a good head...on someone else's shoulders. A touching, hilarious "tour de force of imagination and empathy" (Booklist, starred review) from John Corey Whaley, author of the Printz and Morris Award-winning *Where Things Come Back*. Listen—Travis Coates was alive once and then he wasn't. Now he's alive again. Simple as that. The in between part is still a little fuzzy, but Travis can tell you that, at some point or another, his head got chopped off and shoved into a freezer in Denver, Colorado. Five years later, it was reattached to some other guy's body, and well, here he is. Despite all logic, he's still sixteen, but everything and everyone around him has changed. That includes his bedroom, his parents, his best friend, and his girlfriend. Or maybe she's not his girlfriend anymore? That's a bit fuzzy too. Looks like if the new Travis and the old Travis are ever going to find a way to exist together, there are going to be a few more scars. Oh well, you only live twice.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Book Lovers* Emily Henry, 2022-05-03 "One of my favorite authors."—Colleen Hoover An insightful, delightful, instant #1 New York Times bestseller from the author of *Beach Read* and *People We Meet on Vacation*. Named a Most Anticipated Book of 2022 by Oprah Daily • Today • Parade • Marie Claire • Bustle • PopSugar • Katie Couric Media • Book Bub • SheReads • Medium • The Washington Post • and more! One summer. Two rivals. A plot twist they

didn't see coming... Nora Stephens' life is books—she's read them all—and she is not that type of heroine. Not the plucky one, not the laidback dream girl, and especially not the sweetheart. In fact, the only people Nora is a heroine for are her clients, for whom she lands enormous deals as a cutthroat literary agent, and her beloved little sister Libby. Which is why she agrees to go to Sunshine Falls, North Carolina for the month of August when Libby begs her for a sisters' trip away—with visions of a small town transformation for Nora, who she's convinced needs to become the heroine in her own story. But instead of picnics in meadows, or run-ins with a handsome country doctor or bulging-forearmed bartender, Nora keeps bumping into Charlie Lastra, a bookish brooding editor from back in the city. It would be a meet-cute if not for the fact that they've met many times and it's never been cute. If Nora knows she's not an ideal heroine, Charlie knows he's nobody's hero, but as they are thrown together again and again—in a series of coincidences no editor worth their salt would allow—what they discover might just unravel the carefully crafted stories they've written about themselves.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *The Dew Breaker* Edwidge Danticat, 2007-12-18 We meet him late in life: a quiet man, a good father and husband, a fixture in his Brooklyn neighborhood, a landlord and barber with a terrifying scar across his face. As the book unfolds, moving seamlessly between Haiti in the 1960s and New York City today, we enter the lives of those around him, and learn that he has also kept a vital, dangerous secret. Edwidge Danticat's brilliant exploration of the "dew breaker"—or torturer--s an unforgettable story of love, remorse, and hope; of personal and political rebellions; and of the compromises we make to move beyond the most intimate brushes with history. It firmly establishes her as one of America's most essential writers. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Edwidge Danticat's *Claire of the Sea Light*.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Death in Her Hands* Ottessa Moshfegh, 2020-07-30
SHORTLISTED FOR THE STAUNCH BOOK PRIZE 2020 A triumphant blend of horror, suspense and pitch-black comedy, from the Booker-shortlisted author of *Eileen* and *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* While on her daily walk with her dog in the nearby woods, our protagonist comes across a note, handwritten and carefully pinned to the ground with stones. Her name was Magda. Nobody will ever know who killed her. It wasn't me. Here is her dead body. Shaky even on her best days, she is also alone, and new to this area, having moved here from her long-time home after the death of her husband, and now deeply alarmed. Her brooding about the note grows quickly into a full-blown obsession, as she explores multiple theories about who Magda was and how she met her fate. Her suppositions begin to find echoes in the real world, and the fog of mystery starts to form into a concrete and menacing shape. But is there either a more innocent explanation for all this, or a much more sinister one - one that strikes closer to home? In this razor-sharp, chilling, and darkly hilarious novel, we must decide whether the stories we tell ourselves guide us closer to the truth or keep us further from it. **AN EVENING STANDARD BEST BOOK TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2020**

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Last Orders* Graham Swift, 2010 Four men once close to Jack Dodds, a London butcher, meet to carry out his peculiar last wish: to have his ashes scattered into the sea. For reasons best known to herself, Jack's widow, Amy, declines to join them. On the surface the tale of a simple if increasingly bizarre day's outing, *Last Orders* is Graham Swift's most poignant exploration of the complexity and courage of ordinary lives. Celebrating 40 years of outstanding international writing, this is one of the essential Picador novels reissued in a beautiful new series style.

as i lay dying sparknotes: *Touching Spirit Bear* Ben Mikaelson, 2010-04-20 In his Nautilus Award-winning classic *Touching Spirit Bear*, author Ben Mikaelson delivers a powerful coming-of-age story of a boy who must overcome the effects that violence has had on his life. After severely injuring Peter Driscoll in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given another option: attend Circle Justice, an alternative program that sends juvenile offenders to a remote Alaskan Island to focus on changing their ways. Desperate to avoid prison, Cole fakes humility and agrees to go. While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his own

anger cause him to examine his actions and seek redemption—from the spirit bear that attacked him, from his victims, and, most importantly, from himself. Ben Mikaelson paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. *Touching Spirit Bear* is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy, or lead to healing. A strong choice for independent reading, sharing in the classroom, homeschooling, and book groups.

as i lay dying sparknotes: The Wars Timothy Findley, 1996 Robert Ross, a sensitive nineteen-year-old Canadian officer, went to war--The War to End All Wars. He found himself in the nightmare world of trench warfare, of mud and smoke, of chlorine gas and rotting corpses. In this world gone mad, Robert Ross performed a last desperate act to declare his commitment to life in the midst of death.

as i lay dying sparknotes: Edge of Collapse Kyla Stone, 2020-10-31 In the dead of winter, a super EMP destroys the nation's power grid. No electricity. No cars or phones. Worst of all: No heat. The country is plunged into instant chaos. But for twenty-six-year-old Hannah Sheridan, it's the best day of her life. For the last five years, she's been held captive by a sadistic psychopath--until the EMP releases the lock of her prison. Hannah emerges from her underground cell into a hostile winter landscape with no way to call for help, no vehicle that will drive, armed with nothing but the clothes on her back and her own determination to survive. Liam Coleman, cynical loner and former soldier, is headed nowhere fast. He believed he was prepared for any disaster--until the EMP took everything he'd ever cared about in a matter of seconds. When he runs across a desperate woman who will die without his help, he's forced to make a choice. Two hundred frozen, perilous miles stand between them and their destination in rural Michigan. But the lack of power, desperate people, and the treacherous elements aren't the only threats. Hannah's captor isn't about to let her go. He will hunt her to the ends of the earth and beyond, destroying anything and anyone who gets in his way. For she has something he wants--she's nine months pregnant with his child. *Edge of Collapse* is a gripping post-apocalyptic EMP thriller perfect for fans of Ryan Schow, Grace Hamilton, Harley Tate, Jack Hunt, and Boyd Craven.

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