

sparknotes cry the beloved country

sparknotes cry the beloved country is an essential guide to understanding Alan Paton's classic novel, offering deep insights into its themes, characters, and historical context. This comprehensive article covers everything readers need to know about *Cry, the Beloved Country*—from a detailed plot summary and character analysis to exploration of motifs, themes, and the setting of apartheid-era South Africa. Whether you are a student preparing for exams or an enthusiast seeking to appreciate the novel's literary significance, this article provides a thorough and SEO-optimized breakdown. Discover how SparkNotes can help you better grasp the novel's complex narrative, analyze its social and political relevance, and understand the symbolism woven throughout. We also discuss study strategies, common questions, and key takeaways to maximize your understanding of *Cry, the Beloved Country*. Continue reading for a structured guide and expert analysis designed to enrich your reading experience.

- Overview of *Cry, the Beloved Country*
- Detailed Plot Summary
- Character Analysis
- Themes and Motifs
- Setting and Historical Context
- Symbolism in *Cry, the Beloved Country*
- Study Strategies Using SparkNotes
- Frequently Asked Questions

Overview of *Cry, the Beloved Country*

Cry, the Beloved Country is a poignant novel by Alan Paton, first published in 1948. It is celebrated for its powerful portrayal of racial injustice and moral redemption in South Africa. The story centers on Stephen Kumalo, a humble Zulu priest, as he searches for his missing son in Johannesburg. The novel's exploration of family, community, and social upheaval makes it a staple in literature curricula. SparkNotes *cry the beloved country* provides an accessible resource for understanding the novel's complex narrative and enduring relevance. The guide covers major events, character developments, and the broader impact of apartheid, cementing the novel's status as a literary classic.

Detailed Plot Summary

Book One: Stephen Kumalo's Journey

The novel opens in the rural village of Ndotsheni, where Stephen Kumalo receives a letter summoning him to Johannesburg. His sister Gertrude is ill, and his son Absalom has disappeared. Kumalo's journey into the city exposes him to its harsh realities—poverty, crime, and the breakdown of traditional social structures. As he searches for his family, Kumalo encounters compassion and despair, deepening his understanding of the challenges facing black South Africans.

Book Two: James Jarvis's Transformation

The narrative shifts to James Jarvis, a wealthy white landowner whose son Arthur is murdered by Absalom. Jarvis's grief leads him to reflect on his son's ideals and writings about social justice. Through his interactions with Kumalo and the villagers, Jarvis undergoes a transformation, choosing to help the community that his son cared about. This section highlights themes of reconciliation and personal growth.

Book Three: Resolution and Hope

In the final part, Kumalo returns to Ndotsheni with Absalom's pregnant wife and Gertrude's son. Despite personal losses, Kumalo and Jarvis work together to revitalize the village, focusing on education, agriculture, and unity. The story ends with a sense of hope, emphasizing the possibility of renewal and healing in a divided nation.

- Kumalo's search for Absalom and Gertrude
- Confrontation with social injustices in Johannesburg
- Arthur Jarvis's murder and its impact
- Collaboration and reconciliation between Kumalo and Jarvis

Character Analysis

Stephen Kumalo

Stephen Kumalo is the protagonist, a rural priest whose journey forms the emotional core of the novel. He is depicted as compassionate, introspective, and morally upright. Kumalo's experiences in Johannesburg expose him to the harsh effects of apartheid, but his resilience inspires hope for his community.

James Jarvis

James Jarvis is a wealthy farmer whose transformation is central to the story's theme of reconciliation. Initially detached from the struggles of black South Africans, Jarvis becomes empathetic after his son's death, supporting Kumalo and the people of Ndotsheni.

Absalom Kumalo

Absalom, Stephen's son, represents the lost youth of South Africa. His involvement in crime and subsequent imprisonment are symbolic of the societal breakdown caused by urbanization and racial oppression.

Supporting Characters

Other key figures include Gertrude Kumalo, who struggles with city life; Arthur Jarvis, whose writings influence the narrative; and Msimangu, Kumalo's guide in Johannesburg. Each character contributes to the novel's exploration of family, justice, and redemption.

- Stephen Kumalo: Moral center, father, priest
- James Jarvis: Landowner, grieving father, philanthropist
- Absalom Kumalo: Troubled youth, symbol of lost innocence
- Gertrude Kumalo: Sister, struggles with city life
- Msimangu: Supportive priest, Kumalo's confidant

Themes and Motifs

Racial Injustice and Apartheid

Cry, the Beloved Country is set during the rise of apartheid, highlighting systemic racial discrimination. The novel illustrates how institutionalized racism destroys families and communities, urging readers to reflect on social inequality.

Family and Community

The importance of family and the strength of community are recurring motifs. Kumalo's search for his son and his efforts to rebuild Ndotsheni demonstrate the power of collective action in overcoming adversity.

Forgiveness and Redemption

Themes of forgiveness and redemption are pivotal. Kumalo and Jarvis's ability to reconcile after tragedy offers a message of hope, emphasizing the potential for personal and societal healing.

Loss and Hope

The narrative is marked by loss—of loved ones, tradition, and innocence. Yet, Paton's novel ends with hope, suggesting that renewal is possible through understanding and cooperation.

Setting and Historical Context

South Africa Under Apartheid

Cry, the Beloved Country is set in 1940s South Africa, a period marked by the implementation of apartheid laws. The novel's depiction of divided cities and rural poverty reflects real historical tensions. SparkNotes *cry the beloved country* offers valuable context for readers unfamiliar with South African history.

Johannesburg and Ndotsheni

The contrast between Johannesburg's urban chaos and Ndotsheni's rural simplicity underscores the novel's central conflicts. The migration from villages to cities is shown as both a cause and effect of social fragmentation.

- Urbanization and its consequences
- Impact of apartheid policies
- Rural life vs. city life
- Historical accuracy and realism

Symbolism in *Cry, the Beloved Country*

The Land

The land is a powerful symbol of South Africa's identity. Its degradation mirrors the

nation's moral decay, while restoration efforts represent hope for the future. The relationship between land and people is central to the novel's message.

The Journey

Kumalo's physical and spiritual journey symbolizes the search for justice and understanding. His travels through Johannesburg reflect the arduous path toward reconciliation and healing.

Letters and Communication

Letters in the novel represent connection and disconnection—how family ties are maintained or broken. They serve as catalysts for action and change throughout the story.

Study Strategies Using SparkNotes

How to Effectively Use SparkNotes

SparkNotes cry the beloved country is an invaluable study tool. It provides chapter summaries, character breakdowns, and analysis of key themes. To maximize its benefit, read the novel alongside the guide to clarify complex passages and deepen your understanding.

Exam Preparation Tips

- Review major plot points and character relationships
- Understand historical context and themes
- Use SparkNotes for quick reference on symbolism and motifs
- Practice writing essays using SparkNotes outlines

Common Study Mistakes

Avoid relying solely on summaries—engage with the text directly for richer insights. Use SparkNotes as a supplement, not a substitute, for reading the novel.

Frequently Asked Questions

Readers often have questions about *Cry, the Beloved Country*'s plot, themes, and historical context. Below are answers to some of the most common queries, helping you navigate the novel with confidence and clarity.

Q: What is the main theme of *Cry, the Beloved Country*?

A: The primary theme is racial injustice and reconciliation in apartheid-era South Africa, combined with the importance of family, community, and forgiveness.

Q: Who are the central characters in *Cry, the Beloved Country*?

A: Stephen Kumalo, James Jarvis, and Absalom Kumalo are the central characters, each representing different facets of South African society and the novel's themes.

Q: How does SparkNotes help with understanding *Cry, the Beloved Country*?

A: SparkNotes provides detailed summaries, character analyses, and thematic breakdowns, making complex ideas more accessible for students and readers.

Q: Why is the setting important in *Cry, the Beloved Country*?

A: The setting of apartheid-era South Africa is crucial for illustrating the novel's social and political tensions, as well as its impact on the characters' lives.

Q: What role does symbolism play in the novel?

A: Symbolism, such as the land and letters, is used to represent broader themes of loss, hope, and connection within the story.

Q: What study tips are recommended for *Cry, the Beloved Country*?

A: Read the novel alongside SparkNotes, focus on understanding key themes and historical context, and practice analyzing characters and motifs for exams.

Q: How does the novel end?

A: The novel ends with Kumalo and Jarvis collaborating to restore Ndotsheni, symbolizing hope and the possibility of healing in South Africa.

Q: What historical issues does Cry, the Beloved Country address?

A: The novel addresses issues such as apartheid, urbanization, social fragmentation, and the struggle for justice and equality.

Q: Why is Cry, the Beloved Country considered a classic?

A: Its exploration of universal themes, compelling characters, and insightful portrayal of historical realities make it a timeless and influential work.

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SparkNotes Cry, the Beloved Country: A Comprehensive Guide

Are you grappling with Alan Paton's powerful novel, Cry, the Beloved Country? Feeling overwhelmed by the dense prose, the complex characters, and the weighty themes? Don't despair! This comprehensive guide offers a thorough SparkNotes-style breakdown of Cry, the Beloved Country, providing you with a clear understanding of the plot, characters, themes, and literary significance. We'll delve into the key moments, unravel the symbolism, and equip you to appreciate this South African masterpiece. Whether you're a student needing help with your essay or a reader simply wanting to deepen your understanding, this guide is your perfect companion.

Key Plot Points: A Journey Through South Africa's Soul

Cry, the Beloved Country follows the journey of Reverend Stephen Kumalo, a Zulu priest, as he

travels from his rural village to the bustling city of Johannesburg searching for his son, Absalom. This seemingly simple quest unfolds into a profound exploration of racial injustice, poverty, and the disintegration of traditional values in apartheid-era South Africa.

The Search for Absalom: A Father's Desperate Plea

The novel's central narrative arc revolves around Kumalo's desperate search for his son. Absalom's journey into the urban landscape leads him down a path of crime and despair, culminating in a tragic climax that deeply impacts Kumalo and the entire community. This search reveals the devastating consequences of social and economic inequality, forcing Kumalo to confront the harsh realities of urban life and the challenges facing black South Africans under apartheid.

The Parallel Journey of John Arthur: A White Perspective

While Kumalo's journey forms the core narrative, the story also incorporates the experiences of John Arthur, a white liberal, whose own struggles and moral dilemmas offer a contrasting perspective on the social issues at play. Arthur's perspective underscores the complexities of the racial conflict, illustrating the impact on both black and white communities.

The Tragedy and its Aftermath: Confronting the Consequences

The tragic climax of the novel leaves a lasting impact on both Kumalo and Arthur. The aftermath involves grappling with loss, guilt, and the challenging process of reconciliation and healing within a deeply fractured society. Paton masterfully explores the complexities of forgiveness and the possibility of rebuilding a broken society.

Character Analysis: Delving into the Depths of Humanity

The novel's characters are vividly portrayed, representing a wide spectrum of South African society. Understanding these characters is crucial to understanding the novel's themes.

Reverend Stephen Kumalo: The Embodiment of Faith and Resilience

Kumalo serves as the moral center of the novel. His journey is one of faith, resilience, and ultimately, a profound understanding of human suffering. His unwavering belief in God guides him through his trials, representing a beacon of hope amidst despair.

Absalom Kumalo: A Victim of Circumstance

Absalom's character highlights the devastating impact of poverty, alienation, and lack of opportunity. His descent into criminality is not a product of inherent evil but a consequence of the social and economic conditions he faces.

John Arthur: A Symbol of White Liberalism

John Arthur represents a segment of the white population who understand and sympathize with the plight of black South Africans. However, his character also illustrates the limitations of white liberalism in the face of systemic racism.

Themes and Symbolism: Unpacking the Deeper Meanings

Cry, the Beloved Country is rich with symbolism and powerful themes that resonate deeply with readers.

Land and Belonging: The Heart of the Matter

The land of South Africa serves as a powerful symbol, representing both the beauty and the harsh realities of the country. The novel explores themes of displacement, dispossession, and the profound connection between people and their land.

Racial Injustice and Apartheid: A System of Oppression

The novel serves as a stark portrayal of the effects of apartheid, highlighting the systemic racism and inequality that permeated South African society. It's a call for justice and equality.

Faith, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation: A Path to Healing

The novel explores the power of faith, forgiveness, and reconciliation in the face of profound tragedy and loss. It highlights the potential for healing and rebuilding even in the most deeply fractured societies.

Literary Significance and Lasting Impact

Cry, the Beloved Country remains a powerful and influential work of literature, continuing to resonate with readers across the globe. Its exploration of racial injustice, social inequality, and the search for hope continues to be relevant in our own time.

Conclusion

Cry, the Beloved Country is not just a novel; it is a powerful testament to the human spirit's ability to endure suffering and hope for a better future. This SparkNotes-style guide has aimed to provide a comprehensive overview, helping you to navigate the complex plot, characters, and themes. By understanding these elements, you can truly appreciate the profound impact of this literary masterpiece.

FAQs

1. What is the main conflict in *Cry, the Beloved Country*? The main conflict is the search for Absalom and the broader conflict between racial injustice and the struggle for equality in apartheid-era South Africa.
2. What is the significance of the title, "*Cry, the Beloved Country*"? The title reflects the pain and suffering of the nation, but also hints at the hope for a better future and the inherent beauty of the land.
3. How does the novel portray the role of religion? Religion plays a significant role, offering comfort and guidance to Kumalo, but also illustrating the limitations of faith in the face of systemic injustice.
4. What are the key differences between Kumalo and Arthur? Kumalo represents the suffering black community, while Arthur represents a more privileged white perspective; however, both grapple

with guilt and responsibility.

5. What is the overall message of *Cry, the Beloved Country*? The novel conveys a message of hope and reconciliation, emphasizing the need for social justice and the importance of human connection in overcoming societal divisions.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Cry, the Beloved Country* Alan Paton, 1953

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The House on Mango Street* Sandra Cisneros, 2013-04-30 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A coming-of-age classic about a young girl growing up in Chicago • Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught in schools and universities alike, and translated around the world—from the winner of the 2019 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. “Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage...and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one.” —The New York Times Book Review *The House on Mango Street* is one of the most cherished novels of the last fifty years. Readers from all walks of life have fallen for the voice of Esperanza Cordero, growing up in Chicago and inventing for herself who and what she will become. “In English my name means hope,” she says. “In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous—Cisneros’s masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery and one of the greatest neighborhood novels of all time. Like Sinclair Lewis’s *Main Street* or Toni Morrison’s *Sula*, it makes a world through people and their voices, and it does so in language that is poetic and direct. This gorgeous coming-of-age novel is a celebration of the power of telling one’s story and of being proud of where you’re from.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* Grady Hendrix, 2020-04-07 “This funny and fresh take on a classic tale manages to comment on gender roles, racial disparities, and white privilege all while creeping me all the way out. So good.”—Zakiya Dalila Harris, author of *The Other Black Girl* *Steel Magnolias* meets *Dracula* in this New York Times best-selling horror novel about a women's book club that must do battle with a mysterious newcomer to their small Southern town. Bonus features: • Reading group guide for book clubs • Hand-drawn map of Mt. Pleasant • Annotated true-crime reading list by Grady Hendrix • And more! Patricia Campbell’s life has never felt smaller. Her husband is a workaholic, her teenage kids have their own lives, her senile mother-in-law needs constant care, and she’s always a step behind on her endless to-do list. The only thing keeping her sane is her book club, a close-knit group of Charleston women united by their love of true crime. At these meetings they’re as likely to talk about the Manson family as they are about their own families. One evening after book club, Patricia is viciously attacked by an elderly neighbor, bringing the neighbor's handsome nephew, James Harris, into her life. James is well traveled and well read, and he makes Patricia feel things she hasn’t felt in years. But when children on the other side of town go missing, their deaths written off by local police, Patricia has reason to believe James Harris is more of a Bundy than a Brad Pitt. The real problem? James is a monster of a different kind—and Patricia has already invited him in. Little by little, James will insinuate himself into Patricia’s life and try to take everything she took for granted—including the book club—but she won’t surrender without a fight in this blood-soaked tale of neighborly kindness gone wrong.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Krik? Krak!* Edwidge Danticat, 2004-01-01 Arriving one year after the Haitian-American's first novel (*Breath, Eyes, Memory*) alerted critics to her compelling voice, these 10 stories, some of which have appeared in small literary journals, confirm Danticat's reputation as a remarkably gifted writer. Examining the lives of ordinary Haitians, particularly those struggling to survive under the brutal Duvalier regime, Danticat illuminates the distance between people's desires and the stifling reality of their lives. A profound mix of Catholicism and voodoo spirituality informs the tales, bestowing a mythic importance on people described in the opening

story, *Children of the Sea*, as those in this world whose names don't matter to anyone but themselves. The ceaseless grip of dictatorship often leads men to emotionally abandon their families, like the husband in *A Wall of Fire Rising*, who dreams of escaping in a neighbor's hot-air balloon. The women exhibit more resilience, largely because of their insistence on finding meaning and solidarity through storytelling; but Danticat portrays these bonds with an honesty that shows that sisterhood, too, has its power plays. In the book's final piece, *Epilogue: Women Like Us*, she writes: Are there women who both cook and write? Kitchen poets, they call them. They slip phrases into their stew and wrap meaning around their pork before frying it. They make narrative dumplings and stuff their daughter's mouths so they say nothing more. The stories inform and enrich one another, as the female characters reveal a common ancestry and ties to the fictional Ville Rose. In addition to the power of Danticat's themes, the book is enhanced by an element of suspense (we're never certain, for example, if a rickety boat packed with refugees introduced in the first tale will reach the Florida coast). Spare, elegant and moving, these stories cohere into a superb collection.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Home of the Brave* Katherine Applegate, 2014-12-23
Bestselling author Katherine Applegate presents *Home of the Brave*, a beautifully wrought middle grade novel about an immigrant's journey from hardship to hope. Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter – cold and unkind. In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means family in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country. *Home of the Brave* is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *In the Time of the Butterflies* Julia Alvarez, 2010-01-12
Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, internationally bestselling author and literary icon Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies* is beautiful, heartbreaking and alive ... a lyrical work of historical fiction based on the story of the Mirabal sisters, revolutionary heroes who had opposed and fought against Trujillo. (Concepción de León, *New York Times*) Alvarez's new novel, *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, is coming April 2, 2024. Pre-order now! It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leónidas Trujillo's dictatorship. It doesn't have to. Everybody knows of *Las Mariposas*—the Butterflies. In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters—Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé—speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from secret crushes to gunrunning, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo's rule. Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez's imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human costs of political oppression. Alvarez helped blaze the trail for Latina authors to break into the literary mainstream, with novels like *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* winning praise from critics and gracing best-seller lists across the Americas.—Francisco Cantú, *The New York Times Book Review* This Julia Alvarez classic is a must-read for anyone of Latinx descent. —Popsugar.com A gorgeous and sensitive novel . . . A compelling story of courage, patriotism and familial devotion. —People Shimmering . . . Valuable and necessary. —Los Angeles Times A magnificent treasure for all cultures and all time." —St. Petersburg Times Alvarez does a remarkable job illustrating the ruinous effect the 30-year dictatorship had on the Dominican Republic and the very real human cost it entailed.—Cosmopolitan.com

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *All But My Life* Gerda Weissmann Klein, 1995-03-31
All But My Life is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous

survival and her liberation by American troops--including the man who was to become her husband--in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of all but her life. By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Beloved* Toni Morrison, 2006-10-17 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a spellbinding and dazzlingly innovative portrait of a woman haunted by the past. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: *Beloved*. Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling herself *Beloved*, Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present. Combining the visionary power of legend with the unassailable truth of history, Morrison's unforgettable novel is one of the great and enduring works of American literature.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Blockchain Chicken Farm* Xiaowei Wang, 2020-10-13 A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice A brilliant and empathetic guide to the far corners of global capitalism. --Jenny Odell, author of *How to Do Nothing* From FSGO x Logic: stories about rural China, food, and tech that reveal new truths about the globalized world In *Blockchain Chicken Farm*, the technologist and writer Xiaowei Wang explores the political and social entanglements of technology in rural China. Their discoveries force them to challenge the standard idea that rural culture and people are backward, conservative, and intolerant. Instead, they find that rural China has not only adapted to rapid globalization but has actually innovated the technology we all use today. From pork farmers using AI to produce the perfect pig, to disruptive luxury counterfeits and the political intersections of e-commerce villages, Wang unravels the ties between globalization, technology, agriculture, and commerce in unprecedented fashion. Accompanied by humorous "Sinofuturist" recipes that frame meals as they transform under new technology, *Blockchain Chicken Farm* is an original and probing look into innovation, connectivity, and collaboration in the digitized rural world. FSG Originals x Logic dissects the way technology functions in everyday lives. The titans of Silicon Valley, for all their utopian imaginings, never really had our best interests at heart: recent threats to democracy, truth, privacy, and safety, as a result of tech's reckless pursuit of progress, have shown as much. We present an alternate story, one that delights in capturing technology in all its contradictions and innovation, across borders and socioeconomic divisions, from history through the future, beyond platitudes and PR hype, and past doom and gloom. Our collaboration features four brief but provocative forays into the tech industry's many worlds, and aspires to incite fresh conversations about technology focused on nuanced and accessible explorations of the emerging tools that reorganize and redefine life today.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Waiting for the Barbarians* J. M. Coetzee, 2017-01-03 A modern classic by Nobel Laureate J.M. Coetzee. His latest novel, *The Schooldays of Jesus*, is now available from Viking. Late Essays: 2006-2016 will be available January 2018. For decades the

Magistrate has been a loyal servant of the Empire, running the affairs of a tiny frontier settlement and ignoring the impending war with the barbarians. When interrogation experts arrive, however, he witnesses the Empire's cruel and unjust treatment of prisoners of war. Jolted into sympathy for their victims, he commits a quixotic act of rebellion that brands him an enemy of the state. J. M. Coetzee's prize-winning novel is a startling allegory of the war between oppressor and oppressed. The Magistrate is not simply a man living through a crisis of conscience in an obscure place in remote times; his situation is that of all men living in unbearable complicity with regimes that ignore justice and decency. Mark Rylance (Wolf Hall, Bridge of Spies), Ciro Guerra and producer Michael Fitzgerald are teaming up to bring J.M. Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians* to the big screen.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Too Late The Phalarope* Alan Paton,

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Trust Exercise* Susan Choi, 2019-04-09 WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION NATIONAL BESTSELLER “Electrifying” (People) • “Masterly” (The Guardian) • “Dramatic and memorable” (The New Yorker) • “Magic” (TIME) • “Ingenious” (The Financial Times) • A gonzo literary performance” (Entertainment Weekly) • “Rare and splendid” (The Boston Globe) • “Remarkable” (USA Today) • “Delicious” (The New York Times) • “Book groups, meet your next selection (NPR) In an American suburb in the early 1980s, students at a highly competitive performing arts high school struggle and thrive in a rarified bubble, ambitiously pursuing music, movement, Shakespeare, and, particularly, their acting classes. When within this striving “Brotherhood of the Arts,” two freshmen, David and Sarah, fall headlong into love, their passion does not go unnoticed—or untold—by anyone, especially not by their charismatic acting teacher, Mr. Kingsley. The outside world of family life and economic status, of academic pressure and of their future adult lives, fails to penetrate this school’s walls—until it does, in a shocking spiral of events that catapults the action forward in time and flips the premise upside-down. What the reader believes to have happened to David and Sarah and their friends is not entirely true—though it’s not false, either. It takes until the book’s stunning coda for the final piece of the puzzle to fall into place—revealing truths that will resonate long after the final sentence. As captivating and tender as it is surprising, Susan Choi's *Trust Exercise* will incite heated conversations about fiction and truth, and about friendships and loyalties, and will leave readers with wiser understandings of the true capacities of adolescents and of the powers and responsibilities of adults.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *White Fur* Jardine Libaire, 2017-05-30 A stunning star-crossed love story set against the glitz and grit of 1980s New York City When Elise Perez meets Jamey Hyde on a desolate winter afternoon, fate implodes, and neither of their lives will ever be the same. Although they are next-door neighbors in New Haven, they come from different worlds. Elise grew up in a housing project without a father and didn’t graduate from high school; Jamey is a junior at Yale, heir to a private investment bank fortune and beholden to high family expectations. Nevertheless, the attraction is instant, and what starts out as sexual obsession turns into something greater, stranger, and impossible to ignore. The couple moves to Manhattan in search of a new life, and *White Fur* follows them as they wander through Newport mansions and East Village dives, WASP-establishment yacht clubs and the grimy streets below Canal Street, fighting the forces determined to keep them apart. *White Fur* combines the electricity of *Less Than Zero* with the timeless intensity of *Romeo and Juliet* in this searing, gorgeously written novel that perfectly captures the ferocity of young love.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Wild Thorns* Salar Khalifeh, 2023-08-01 In this tense modern literary classic, acclaimed Palestinian author Sahar Khalifeh depicts the humiliation, bitter resignation and determined resistance of Palestinians under Israeli military occupation. First published in 1976, *Wild Thorns* was the first Arab novel to offer a glimpse of everyday life under Israeli occupation. With uncompromising honesty, Khalifeh pleads elegantly for survival in the face of oppression.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Utopia* Thomas More, 2019-04-08 *Utopia* is a work of fiction and socio-political satire by Thomas More published in 1516 in Latin. The book is a frame

narrative primarily depicting a fictional island society and its religious, social and political customs. Many aspects of More's description of Utopia are reminiscent of life in monasteries.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: Love & Other Great Expectations Becky Dean, 2022-06-14 An American girl embarks on a competitive scavenger hunt in England—and along the way, meets up with a bookish British boy who can't help her with the clues . . . but might make the trip take some unexpected turns. Britt Hanson has always preferred scoring goals on the soccer field to analyzing dusty old books. But when an injury ends her dream to play in college, she jumps at the chance to compete in a scavenger hunt in England that takes her to the locations of classic novels—the prize money would change her life! Once in the UK she meets bookish and very British Luke Jackson. He can't actually help her with any of the clues (against the rules), but something about Luke compels her to invite him to join her. She wouldn't mind getting to know him—and listening to his accent. To win, Britt must outsmart three competitors who aren't afraid to play dirty while solving clues and traveling around the English countryside. Along the way, Britt learns that sometimes you have to follow the map and other times, you need to throw caution to the wind and see where the cobblestoned road leads you.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: Behold the Dreamers Imbolo Mbue, 2016-08-23 A compulsively readable debut novel about marriage, immigration, class, race, and the trapdoors in the American Dream—the unforgettable story of a young Cameroonian couple making a new life in New York just as the Great Recession upends the economy New York Times Bestseller • Winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award • Longlisted for the PEN/Open Book Award • An ALA Notable Book NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • The New York Times Book Review • San Francisco Chronicle • The Guardian • St. Louis Post-Dispatch • Chicago Public Library • BookPage • Refinery29 • Kirkus Reviews Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Clark demands punctuality, discretion, and loyalty—and Jende is eager to please. Clark's wife, Cindy, even offers Neni temporary work at the Edwardses' summer home in the Hamptons. With these opportunities, Jende and Neni can at last gain a foothold in America and imagine a brighter future. However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and Neni notice cracks in their employers' façades. When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende's job—even as their marriage threatens to fall apart. As all four lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice. Praise for Behold the Dreamers “A debut novel by a young woman from Cameroon that illuminates the immigrant experience in America with the tenderhearted wisdom so lacking in our political discourse . . . Mbue is a bright and captivating storyteller.”—The Washington Post “A capacious, big-hearted novel.”—The New York Times Book Review “Behold the Dreamers' heart . . . belongs to the struggles and small triumphs of the Jongas, which Mbue traces in clean, quick-moving paragraphs.”—Entertainment Weekly “Mbue's writing is warm and captivating.”—People (book of the week) “[Mbue's] book isn't the first work of fiction to grapple with the global financial crisis of 2007-2008, but it's surely one of the best. . . . It's a novel that depicts a country both blessed and doomed, on top of the world, but always at risk of losing its balance. It is, in other words, quintessentially American.”—NPR “This story is one that needs to be told.”—Bust “Behold the Dreamers challenges us all to consider what it takes to make us genuinely content, and how long is too long to live with our dreams deferred.”—O: The Oprah Magazine “[A] beautiful, empathetic novel.”—The Boston Globe “A witty, compassionate, swiftly paced novel that takes on race, immigration, family and the dangers of capitalist excess.”—St. Louis Post-Dispatch “Mbue [is] a deft, often lyrical observer. . . . [Her] meticulous storytelling announces a writer in command of her gifts.”—Minneapolis Star Tribune

sparknotes cry the beloved country: The Patient Jasper DeWitt, 2020 The Silent Patient by way of Stephen King: Parker, a young, overconfident psychiatrist new to his job at a mental asylum,

miscalculates catastrophically when he undertakes curing a mysterious and profoundly dangerous patient. In a series of online posts, Parker H., a young psychiatrist, chronicles the harrowing account of his time working at a dreary mental hospital in New England. Through this internet message board, Parker hopes to communicate with the world his effort to cure one bewildering patient. We learn, as Parker did on his first day at the hospital, of the facility's most difficult, profoundly dangerous case—a forty-year-old man who was originally admitted to the hospital at age six. This patient has no known diagnosis. His symptoms seem to evolve over time. Every person who has attempted to treat him has been driven to madness or suicide. Desperate and fearful, the hospital's directors keep him strictly confined and allow minimal contact with staff for their own safety, convinced that releasing him would unleash catastrophe on the outside world. Parker, brilliant and overconfident, takes it upon himself to discover what ails this mystery patient and finally cure him. But from his first encounter with the mystery patient, things spiral out of control, and, facing a possibility beyond his wildest imaginings, Parker is forced to question everything he thought he knew. Fans of Sarah Pinborough's *Behind Her Eyes* and Paul Tremblay's *The Cabin at the End of the World* will be riveted by Jasper DeWitt's astonishing debut.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Earth Abides* George R. Stewart, 1933-12

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *In Cold Blood* Truman Capote, 2013-02-19 Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time From the Modern Library's new set of beautifully repackaged hardcover classics by Truman Capote—also available are *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (in one volume), *Portraits and Observations*, and *The Complete Stories* Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, created a sensation when it was first published, serially, in *The New Yorker* in 1965. The intensively researched, atmospheric narrative of the lives of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and of the two men, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, who brutally killed them on the night of November 15, 1959, is the seminal work of the "new journalism." Perry Smith is one of the great dark characters of American literature, full of contradictory emotions. "I thought he was a very nice gentleman," he says of Herb Clutter. "Soft-spoken. I thought so right up to the moment I cut his throat." Told in chapters that alternate between the Clutter household and the approach of Smith and Hickock in their black Chevrolet, then between the investigation of the case and the killers' flight, Capote's account is so detailed that the reader comes to feel almost like a participant in the events.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Snow-bound* John Greenleaf Whittier, 1893

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Before We Were Free* Julia Alvarez, 2007-12-18 Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government's secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition of el Trujillo's dictatorship. Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind. From renowned author Julia Alvarez comes an unforgettable story about adolescence, perseverance, and one girl's struggle to be free.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Shadow Lines* Amitav Ghosh, Amitav, 2010-01-26 Opening in Calcutta in the 1960s, Amitav Ghosh's radiant second novel follows two families -- one English, one Bengali -- as their lives intertwine in tragic and comic ways. The narrator, Indian born and English educated, traces events back and forth in time, from the outbreak of World War II to the late twentieth century, through years of Bengali partition and violence, observing the ways in which political events invade private lives.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *All the Pretty Horses* Cormac McCarthy, 1993-06-29 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • The first volume in the Border Trilogy, from the bestselling author of *The Passenger* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Road* *All the Pretty Horses* is the tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself. With two companions, he sets off for Mexico on a sometimes idyllic, sometimes comic journey to a place where

dreams are paid for in blood. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest novels, *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Night and Its Moon* Piper CJ, 2022-09-20 An addictive fantasy romance from TikTok sensation Piper CJ, now newly revised and edited. Two orphans grow into powerful young women as they face countless threats to find their way back to each other. Farleigh is just an orphanage. At least, that's what the church would have the people believe, but beautiful orphans Nox and fae-touched Amaris know better. They are commodities for sale, available for purchase by the highest bidder. So when the madame of a notorious brothel in a far-off city offers a king's ransom to purchase Amaris, Nox ends up taking her place — while Amaris is drawn away to the mountains, home of mysterious assassins. Even as they take up new lives and identities, Nox and Amaris never forget one thing: they will stop at nothing to reunite. But the threat of war looms overhead, and the two are inevitably swept into a conflict between human and fae, magic and mundane. With strange new alliances, untested powers, and a bond that neither time nor distance could possibly break, the fate of the realms lies in the hands of two orphans — and the love they hold for each other.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Glass Castle* Jeannette Walls, 2007-01-02 A triumphant tale of a young woman and her difficult childhood, *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience, redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and wonderfully vibrant. Jeannette Walls was the second of four children raised by anti-institutional parents in a household of extremes.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Lottery Rose* Irene Hunt, 2021-03-23 A young victim of child abuse gradually overcomes his fears and suspicions when placed in a home with other boys.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *On the Clock* Emily Guendelsberger, 2019-07-16 Nickel and Dimed for the Amazon age, (Salon) the biting funny, eye-opening story of finding work in the automated and time-starved world of hourly low-wage labor After the local newspaper where she worked as a reporter closed, Emily Guendelsberger took a pre-Christmas job at an Amazon fulfillment center outside Louisville, Kentucky. There, the vending machines were stocked with painkillers, and the staff turnover was dizzying. In the new year, she travelled to North Carolina to work at a call center, a place where even bathroom breaks were timed to the second. And finally, Guendelsberger was hired at a San Francisco McDonald's, narrowly escaping revenge-seeking customers who pelted her with condiments. Across three jobs, and in three different parts of the country, Guendelsberger directly took part in the revolution changing the U.S. workplace. Offering an up-close portrait of America's actual essential workers, *On the Clock* examines the broken social safety net as well as an economy that has purposely had all the slack drained out and converted to profit. Until robots pack boxes, resolve billing issues, and make fast food, human beings supervised by AI will continue to get the job done. Guendelsberger shows us how workers went from being the most expensive element of production to the cheapest - and how low wage jobs have been remade to serve the ideals of efficiency, at the cost of humanity. *On the Clock* explores the lengths that half of Americans will go to in order to make a living, offering not only a better understanding of the modern workplace, but also surprising solutions to make work more humane for millions of Americans.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Among the Hidden* Margaret Peterson Haddix, 2002-06-12 In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the *Shadow Children* series from Margaret Peterson Haddix. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live.

Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows—does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Prince of los Cocuyos* Richard Blanco, 2015-06-23 A poignant, hilarious, and inspiring memoir from the first Latino and openly gay inaugural poet, which explores his coming-of-age as the child of Cuban immigrants and his attempts to understand his place in America while grappling with his burgeoning artistic and sexual identities. Richard Blanco's childhood and adolescence were experienced between two imaginary worlds: his parents' nostalgic world of 1950s Cuba and his imagined America, the country he saw on reruns of *The Brady Bunch* and *Leave it to Beaver*—an “exotic” life he yearned for as much as he yearned to see “la patria.” Navigating these worlds eventually led Blanco to question his cultural identity through words; in turn, his vision as a writer—as an artist—prompted the courage to accept himself as a gay man. In this moving, contemplative memoir, the 2013 inaugural poet traces his poignant, often hilarious, and quintessentially American coming-of-age and the people who influenced him. A prismatic and lyrical narrative rich with the colors, sounds, smells, and textures of Miami, Richard Blanco's personal narrative is a resonant account of how he discovered his authentic self and ultimately, a deeper understanding of what it means to be American. His is a singular yet universal story that beautifully illuminates the experience of “becoming;” how we are shaped by experiences, memories, and our complex stories: the humor, love, yearning, and tenderness that define a life.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Rules of Civility* Amor Towles, 2012-06-26 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Lincoln Highway* and *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a “sharply stylish” (Boston Globe) book about a young woman in post-Depression era New York who suddenly finds herself thrust into high society—now with over one million readers worldwide On the last night of 1937, twenty-five-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society—where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve. With its sparkling depiction of New York's social strata, its intricate imagery and themes, and its immensely appealing characters, *Rules of Civility* won the hearts of readers and critics alike.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Elephant in the Room* Holly Goldberg Sloan, 2021-03-02 From the New York Times bestselling author of *Counting by 7s* comes a heartfelt story about the importance of compassion and bravery when facing life's challenges” (Kirkus) for fans of *The One and Only Ivan* and *Front Desk*. It's been almost a year since Sila's mother traveled halfway around the world to Turkey, hoping to secure the immigration paperwork that would allow her to return to her family in the United States. The long separation is almost impossible for Sila to withstand. But things change when Sila accompanies her father (who is a mechanic) outside their Oregon town to fix a truck. There, behind an enormous stone wall, she meets a grandfatherly man who only months before won the state lottery. Their new alliance leads to the rescue of a circus elephant named Veda, and then to a friendship with an unusual boy named Mateo, proving that comfort and hope come in the most unlikely of places. A moving story of family separation and the importance of the connection between animals and humans, this novel has the enormous heart and uplifting humor that readers have come to expect from the beloved author of *Counting by 7s*. “I couldn't stop reading—I had to find out what would happen. An unusual and lovely real-life fairy tale.” —Linda Sue Park, New York Times Bestselling author of *A Long Walk to Water* “A gorgeous and emotional novel. I loved every page.” —Cynthia Kadohata, Newbery Medal-winning author of *Kira-Kira*

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Saving June* Hannah Harrington, 2023-07-12 Includes and excerpt from *Speechless* by Hannah Harrington.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Stoner* John Williams, 2015 Born the child of a poor farmer in Missouri, William Stoner is urged by his parents to study new agriculture techniques at the state university. Digging instead into the texts of Milton and Shakespeare, Stoner falls under the

spell of the unexpected pleasures of English literature, and decides to make it his life. Stoner is the story of that life--

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *Anything Is Possible* Elizabeth Strout, 2017-04-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • An unforgettable cast of small-town characters copes with love and loss in this “compulsively readable” (San Francisco Chronicle) novel from #1 bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout “This book, this writer, are magnificent.”—Ann Patchett Winner of The Story Prize • A Washington Post and New York Times Notable Book • One of USA Today’s top 10 books of the year Recalling Olive Kitteridge in its richness, structure, and complexity, *Anything Is Possible* explores the whole range of human emotion through the intimate dramas of people struggling to understand themselves and others. Here are two sisters: One trades self-respect for a wealthy husband while the other finds in the pages of a book a kindred spirit who changes her life. The janitor at the local school has his faith tested in an encounter with an isolated man he has come to help; a grown daughter longs for mother love even as she comes to accept her mother’s happiness in a foreign country; and the adult Lucy Barton (the heroine of *My Name Is Lucy Barton*, the author’s celebrated New York Times bestseller) returns to visit her siblings after seventeen years of absence. Reverberating with the deep bonds of family, and the hope that comes with reconciliation, *Anything Is Possible* again underscores Elizabeth Strout’s place as one of America’s most respected and cherished authors.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Circuit* Francisco Jiménez, 1997 A collection of stories about the life of a migrant family.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Rhythm of Violence* Lewis Nkosi, 2002

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Taste of Sugar* Marisel Vera, 2021-07-06 It is 1898, and groups of starving Puerto Ricans, los hambrientos, roam the parched countryside and dusty towns begging for food. Under the yoke of Spanish oppression, the Caribbean island is forced to prepare to wage war with the United States. Up in the mountainous coffee region of Utuado, Vicente Vega and Valentina Sanchez labor to keep their small farm from the creditors. When the Spanish-American War and the great San Ciriaco Hurricane of 1899 bring devastating upheaval, the young couple is lured, along with thousands of other puertorriquenos, to the sugar plantations of Hawaii—another US territory—where they are confronted by the hollowness of America’s promises of prosperity. Writing in the tradition of great Latin American storytelling, Marisel Vera’s *The Taste of Sugar* is an unforgettable novel of love and endurance, and a timeless portrait of the reasons we leave home.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: *The Wild Truth* Carine McCandless, 2014-11-11 A New York Times Bestseller *The Wild Truth* is an important book on two fronts: It sets the record straight about a story that has touched thousands of readers, and it opens up a conversation about hideous domestic violence hidden behind a mask of prosperity and propriety.—NPR.org The spellbinding story of Chris McCandless, who gave away his savings, hitchhiked to Alaska, walked into the wilderness alone, and starved to death in 1992, fascinated not just New York Times bestselling author Jon Krakauer, but also the rest of the nation. Krakauer's book, *Into the Wild*, became an international bestseller, translated into thirty-one languages, and Sean Penn's inspirational film by the same name further skyrocketed Chris McCandless to global fame. But the real story of Chris’s life and his journey has not yet been told - until now. The missing pieces are finally revealed in *The Wild Truth*, written by Carine McCandless, Chris's beloved and trusted sister. Featured in both the book and film, Carine has wrestled for more than twenty years with the legacy of her brother's journey to self-discovery, and now tells her own story while filling in the blanks of his. Carine was Chris's best friend, the person with whom he had the closest bond, and who witnessed firsthand the dysfunctional and violent family dynamic that made Chris willing to embrace the harsh wilderness of Alaska. Growing up in the same troubled household, Carine speaks candidly about the deeper reality of life in the McCandless family. In the many years since the tragedy of Chris's death, Carine has searched for some kind of redemption. In this touching and deeply personal memoir, she reveals how she has learned that real redemption can only come from speaking the truth.

sparknotes cry the beloved country: It's Not Like It's a Secret Misa Sugiura, 2017-05-09
Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature * 2018 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults * 2018 Rainbow Book List * A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2017 Well-paced, brimming with drama, and utterly vital.—Kirkus (starred review) This charming and bittersweet coming-of-age story featuring two girls of color falling in love is part *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* and part *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. Sixteen-year-old Sana Kiyohara has too many secrets. Some are small, like how it bothers her when her friends don't invite her to parties. Some are big, like the fact that her father may be having an affair. And then there's the one that she can barely even admit to herself—the one about how she might have a crush on her best friend. When Sana and her family move to California, she begins to wonder if it's finally time for some honesty, especially after she meets Jamie Ramirez. Jamie is beautiful and smart and unlike anyone Sana's ever known. There are just a few problems: Sana's new friends don't trust Jamie's crowd; Jamie's friends clearly don't want her around anyway; and a sweet guy named Caleb seems to have more-than-friendly feelings for her. Meanwhile, her dad's affair is becoming too obvious to ignore. Sana always figured that the hardest thing would be to tell people that she wants to date a girl, but as she quickly learns, telling the truth is easy...what comes after it, though, is a whole lot more complicated.

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