

Chapter 1: A Threatening Note

1. Why does July want to know who sent the note?
2. What happened to July last Friday night?
3. What stops July from leaving the school?
4. How would you describe July?
5. How does July feel about herself?

Chapter 2: The Keys

1. Why does July end up in the school's sickroom?
2. What is July scared of?
3. Would it scare you?
4. What is dagga?

Chapter 3: At Mark's Party

1. Why did July buy a knife?
2. What does July want from Kevin?
3. Why do you think the people of Waterkloof always lock their gates?
4. Why does July help Andie?
5. Why do you think David McNeil helps July?

Chapter 4: Black Feathers

1. What does July expect of the police?
2. How do the police respond to July?
3. According to July, why do men rape women?
4. What do Andie Elliot and July Abraham have in common?
5. Do you think it is July's task to stop the rapist?

Chapter 5: Hippopotamus

1. What does Mrs. Gresham do that unsettles July?
2. What is Ms. Abraham's favourite picture of July?
3. What does July's mother give July?
4. How does July feel about this note?
5. When does July realise her mother's life force has left the room?
6. Now that her mother is dead, why does July finally tell her the truth?

Chapter 6: After Death

1. How does July want to move forward after her mother's death?
2. Why must July keep her mother's death a secret?
3. How did July's mother use to comfort her?
4. What are your thoughts about rape? Does your own gender affect your answer?

Chapter 7: Monday

1. Why does David McNeil chase July?
2. Does July trust David?
3. How does David's news make July feel?
4. Why does July need to silence David?

Chapter 8: Rumours

1. Why is July in the east quad of the school?
2. Which of the McNeil's brother's is the best looking?
3. Why is David McNeil called to the principal's office?
4. Who are Khetiwe and Lily?
5. In the media centre, when July hears Khetiwe's news, how does July react?

Chapter 9: Contact

1. Who is Leyton Donaldson?
2. What motivates July to use her knife?
3. How do you feel about a girl fighting back against an attacker?
4. July says she ‘kicked the hornet’s nest’, what does she mean by this?

Chapter 10: Revelation

1. Why does July say David and ‘his kind’ are responsible for rape?
2. Do you think David could be guilty?
3. Why do you think July heard her mother’s voice?

Chapter 11: Behind the Bike Shed

1. Why does July go to the school’s Industrial Arts Centre?
2. Why are Travis Richter and Andre Vermarck at the I.A. Centre?
3. Why is David at the I. A. Centre?
4. How does July feel about David?
5. Listen to Mango Groove’s ‘Special Star’. How does the music make you feel?

Chapter 12: Tuesday Invitation

1. How does July feel about Mr. Julius Stedman? Explain your answer.
2. What do Khetiwe and Lily want from July?
3. Why does July dislike Khetiwe?
4. What made July feel like she is floating ‘high above her body’?

Chapter 13: Accounting

1. Why is the whole class watching David?
2. How does Mrs. Rayton show she thinks July doesn’t belong at Blue Ridge College?
3. How does July help David?

Chapter 14: The Deal

1. How does Khetiwe feel about July?
2. Where does July take Khetiwe and Lily for the meeting?
3. If she could, what would July want as payment for helping the girls?
4. Why can July not trust Lily?
5. Why is David watching the girls?

Chapter 15: Phone Call

1. Why does July feel she is ripping into many parts?
2. What do Khetiwe and Lily give July? Why?
3. Why does July feel guilty watching the girls with their weapons?

Chapter 16: Thursday Afternoon

1. What type of footwear does July usually wear?
2. What is your own answer to July's question: 'What do living people know about reality on the dead side?'
3. Why is Mrs. Gresham shocked when she sees July's body?
4. Describe Mirror Girl.

Chapter 17: The Funeral

1. Why does July not want to get to the front of the church?
2. Again July hears her mother's voice. How is this time similar/different to the last time?
3. What does July's mother tell her?
4. Why is July upset by the crowded church?
5. What does July miss most about her mother?

Chapter 18: Final Letter

1. Why does July think the school will find out about her mother's death?
2. How does Ms. Abraham describe July?
3. What does July's mother think relieves stress?
4. How does Mrs. Gresham want July to spend Friday?
5. What does July intend to do on Friday?

Chapter 19: Friday School

1. Why does Lily know that July's mother is dead?
2. What is Lily's plan for the afternoon and evening?
3. How is July feeling?

Chapter 20: Noticed

1. What frightens July in the sickroom?
2. Who comes in?
3. When does she realise he has an agenda?
4. How does July end up in his lap?
5. What is Kevin's message this time?

Chapter 21: Lily's House

1. What mistake has July made?
2. Why is there such tight security at the Wesley's house?
3. What do you need to move around Lily's home?
4. Listen to Rodriguez's 'Sugar Man?' What is the song about?

Chapter 22: Trust

1. Why don't Khetiwe and Lily trust July?
2. What stops July from showing her wounds?
3. What is troubling Khetiwe?

Chapter 23: Party Planning

1. Why does July want the girls able to defend themselves?
2. What weapons are in July's pockets?
3. How do you know July has planned her evening?
4. What would you do if someone unexpectedly punched you?
5. Describe a rapist.
6. Why do you think rape is still a common, often unpunished, crime in the world?

Chapter 24: Ties That Bind

1. Using only three words per girl, describe July, Khetiwe, and Lily.
2. What happens to Lily when July asks her about Darren's friend, Lucas?
3. Why did July explain Lily's behaviour the way she did?
4. What is July's motivation for going to the Mnandi party?

Chapter 25: A House on a Hill

1. Why is Darren not the rapist?
2. The Mnandi home is unusual. Explain how its design originated.
3. Identify the Richter gang's vehicle.
4. Why does July refuse to climb the stairs to the Great Room?

Chapter 26: Intelligence

1. What does David say is his mission at this party?
2. Why do the girls say his mission's focus is wrong?
3. How does Chris feel about July?
4. What do you do when someone ignores your right to say 'no'?

Chapter 27: First Blood

1. Where is July?
2. Why did Andre Vermarck find her?
3. Where is Andre Vermarck taking her?
4. How does July escape him?
5. Why does Richter want to silence July?
6. July defends herself. How does she feel both physically and emotionally afterwards?
7. Listen to some Johnny Clegg music. Do you think it's the music of rebellion?

Chapter 28: Clean-up

1. Why do Khetiwe and Lily want to take July to a hospital?
2. Why won't Darren listen to Lily?
3. What does Khetiwe want when she leaves school?
4. What does July want to be?
5. Why do the girls leave July in the bedroom?

Chapter 29: Loyalty

1. What does July think of sisters and brothers?
2. Why does David help July?
3. What 'small things' help July keep going?
4. Where does July think the girls are?
5. Why does July tell David not to trust her?

Chapter 30: Tracking

1. Where has Peter McNeil moved the party?
2. What does Peter think of July?
3. What happened to Andre Vermarck?
4. How does July know Khetiwe was in that room?
5. Why does July call herself and David 'the broken and the brain-dead'?

Chapter 31: The Police

1. What has happened to Khetiwe?
2. Why do you think Darren doesn't comment on July's wounded face?
3. How does July find the room tucked into the hill?
4. Why does July cut Richter's face? What do you think of her action?

Chapter 32: The Meeting

1. Who do you think tied up Lucas du Toit? Explain your answer.
2. What makes July certain that this is the rapist?
3. Why is July telling the rapist about AIDS?
4. Explain how July says being raped changed her thoughts and dreams?
5. What was the first gift July's mother gave her?
6. What is in the second syringe?
7. Why do you think Andre du Toit rolled on to the syringe?
8. How does July feel now that the rapist is dead?
9. How is July like the barking police dog?
10. July's mother described her as strong, courageous, and determined. Do you agree? Explain your answer.

General Discussion Ideas

1. Our current society lays the blame on the victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Why do men get away with attacking, abducting, and murdering women? Why are men not held accountable for their actions? Why do governments not impose heavy penalties on men who harm women?
2. Do countries that have an equal number of women and men in their government have less sexual violence and domestic abuse in their countries?
3. Every mother talks to her daughter about the possibility of a sexual attack. Do you think mothers talk to their sons about not attacking girls? Do fathers talk to their daughters about the risk of men

attacking them? Do they talk to their sons? If every parents knows about this risk, why are there no politicians forcing the government to actually stop sexual abuse and domestic violence?

4. As a survivor, I never received any help from anyone until I was an adult. If you are a survivor how has your journey been? Are there groups in your town who could be there for you?

Unfortunately, we are not the minority; we are the majority of women. Women need to band together and use their group power to help each other and make changes to their societies.