**Part 1 Reading Schedule & Log**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | A-level standard | C-level standard | What I read |
| Oct. 29 | Begin book |  |  |  |
| Oct. 31 | Finish Chapter 3 |  |  |  |
| Nov. 4 | Finish Chapter 5 |  |  |  |
| Nov. 6 | Finish Chapter 8 |  | You may skip p. 35-41.  Read the summary. |  |
| Nov. 10 | Finish Chapter 11 | You may skip p. 69 and read the summary. | You may skip p. 52-55. Read the summary. |  |
| Nov. 12 | Finish Chapter 15 | You may skip from the bottom of p. 73 to the top of p. 76. Read the summary. | You may skip p. 78-82. Read the summary. |  |

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**A-Level Summaries**

[summaries if you choose to skip parts of the book with more “adult” content]

**Summary of page 69**

After buying Miriam a scarf at the market, Rasheed enters Miriam’s bedroom and forces himself on her against her will. It is unpleasant and frightening for Miriam, being only 15. Go ahead and read the last two paragraphs of the chapter on p.70. Rasheed rationalizes what he did by saying that they are married. Notice the use of metaphor in the last sentence. How does that metaphor help you understand how Miriam relates to what just happened?

**Summary from bottom of page 73-top of page 76**

There is actually only one page here that is a problem—p. 75. Basically in these pages, which start at the bottom of p.73, Miriam is going through Eid--the holiday after Ramadan--and a bunch of men come over to celebrate with Rasheed. Miriam goes to her room because women aren’t allowed to socialize with men. She feels honored that Rasheed protects her like this. Three mornings later he goes to visits friends in but she stays home because her stomach is feeling queasy. While he is gone, she impulsively opens the door to Rasheed’s room and goes in. She sits on his bed, looks at his closet, looks at the things on the dresser, takes a cigarette and pretends to smoke it while looking in the mirror. She feels silly and puts it down. She opens his top drawer and sees a black gun. She picks it up and looks at it. That’s when she notices the magazines. They turn out to be Playboy-type girly magazines and she is shocked at seeing such pictures and feels sick to her stomach. She can’t understand why he would have those in his drawer and why he would be so adamant about her wearing a burqua and keeping herself covered because “a woman’s face is her husband’s business only” yet here he is with these. It takes her a few minutes but she finally rationalizes his behavior by aying he’s just a man with needs and he’d been alone all those years. [You should read p, 76-77 about Rasheed’s son that died.]

**C-Level Summaries**

[summaries if you choose to skip parts of the book because of time or commitment level]

**Summary of pages 35–41**

After Nana's funeral, Jalil tries to comfort Mariam, but Mariam resists her father and asks for Mullah Faizullah. When he arrives, she cries for the first time. Jalil brings Mariam to his home, where she stays in a guest room. Mariam refuses to dine with the family, spending most of her time in her room, contemplating her guilt and grief. Mullah Faizullah tries to convince Mariam that it is not her fault that her mother committed suicide, explaining that Nana was an unhappy person long before Mariam's birth. But Mariam is still not able to rid herself of guilt. Mariam is visted by Afsoon, one of Jalil's wives, who insists that Mariam clean herself up and join Jalil and his wives for a conversation.

**Summary of pages 52–55**

Rasheed and Mariam arrive at his house in Kabul late the next day. While his two-story home is much larger than where Mariam grew up, it's in poor condition. Mariam breaks into tears and Rasheed lets her know he hates to hear a woman cry. Rasheed tells Mariam that he prefers to sleep alone and gives her the guest room. Mariam is relieved, but still overwhelmed.

**Summary of pages 78–82**

Mariam and Rasheed ride the bus home from the doctor, both elated with the news they're going to be parents. Rasheed insists the baby will be a boy, but Mariam's just happy to be pregnant. The next day, Mariam discovers Rasheed in the tool shed building a crib for the baby. While touched, Mariam is also worried about Rasheed's conviction that they'll be having a little boy. Mariam prays to Allah, thanking him for this gift. She's overjoyed at the prospect of being a mother and starting a family like the one she dreamt of sharing with Jalil and her half-siblings. Rasheed suggests he and Mariam go to the *haman*, or bathhouse, where Mariam suffers a miscarriage. Rasheed and Mariam return to the doctor, who cannot find a reason for the miscarriage, which leaves the grieving couple without answers.