**Part 2 Reading Schedule & Log**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | A-level standard | C-level standard | What I read |
| Nov. 14 | Finish Chapter 17 |  |  |  |
| Nov. 18 | Finish Chapter 20 |  | You may skip p. 123–126. Read the summary. |  |
| Nov. 20 | Finish Chapter 23 |  | You may skip p. 137.You may skip from the bottom of p. 140–p. 142. You may skip p. 150–p. 153.Read the summaries. |  |
| Nov. 24 | Finish Chapter 26 | You may skip p. 164 (the middle paragraph) through the top of p. 169. Read the summary.  | You may skip p. 156–p. 161.Read the summary. |  |

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| Nov. 14 | Finish Chapter 17 |  |  |  |
| Nov. 18 | Finish Chapter 20 |  | You may skip p. 123–126. Read the summary. |  |
| Nov. 20 | Finish Chapter 23 |  | You may skip p. 137.You may skip from the bottom of p. 140–p. 142. You may skip p. 150–p. 153.Read the summaries. |  |
| Nov. 24 | Finish Chapter 26 | You may skip p. 164 (the middle paragraph) through the top of p. 169. Read the summary.  | You may skip p. 156–p. 161.Read the summary. |  |

**A-Level Summaries**

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

**Summary of pages 164– top of page 169**

Knowing that this is the last time they will ever see each other, Tariq and Laila get lost in their passion of saying goodbye and end up sexually consummating the relationship. They both feel guilty. Tariq asks Laila to marry him and go with him and his family. She can’t because of her obligation to her father—she is all he has and can’t leave him. She eventually has to send Tariq away despite his protestations and her breaking heart. A few weeks later, Laila is laying on the couch. Her parents are arguing in another room. Meanwhile, Laila is dealing with her guilt and shame at what she and Tariq did but also missing him. She tries to remember something he asked her and then remembers it was him making sure she was all right. She tries to imagine him in her mind and concentrates so she can: “Only two weeks since he had left and it was already happening. Time, blunting the edges of those sharp memories.” The author goes on to say, “With the passing of time, she would slowly tire of this exercise. She would find it increasingly exhausting to conjure up, to dust off, to resuscitate once again what was long dead. There would come a day, in fact, years later, when Laila would no longer bewail his loss. Or not as relentlessly; not nearly. There would come a day when the details of his face would begin to slip from memory’s grip, when overhearing a mother on the street call after her child by Tariq’s name would no longer cut her adrift. She would not miss him as she did now, when the ache of his absence was her unremitting companion—like the phantom pain of an amputee.” There would be times in the future when she would experience something that would remind her of Tariq and for a brief moment she would remember it all, but then it would pass. Just then, Babi called her out of her reverie to come upstairs. Mammy had agreed to leave.

**C-Level Summaries**

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

**Summary of pages 123–126**

As Laila and her father sit down to dinner, they hear a knock at the door. A stranger asks to speak to Laila's parents and her father tells her to go upstairs. Laila spies on their conversation with the stranger; it quickly becomes clear that he brings news that Laila's brothers, Noor and Ahmed, have died. Funeral preparations begin the next day. Women flood their home, comforting Mammy while Laila and her father wander aimlessly, both of them feeling useless. That afternoon, the men gather at a hall and the women, including Mariam, gather at home. They listen to a recorded reading of the Koran and Laila realizes she doesn't feel anything. She hardly knew her brothers. Tariq has always been the only brother in her life.

**Summary of pages 137**

Laila enjoys the peaceful setting and reflects on Babi’s dream. She realizes that she is glad it will not come true because she does not want to leave Afghanistan, mostly because she could not bear being separated from Tariq.

**Summary of pages 140–142**

Laila and Tariq go to the movies. During a wedding scene, Tariq says he'll never get married and Laila tries to hide her disappointment, as she's developed deeper feelings for Tariq. They watch a kissing scene and both feel awkward and tense after it ends.

**Summary of pages 150–153**

Tariq stops by the kitchen to nibble on some food and the women shoo him out playfully. Laila does her best to avoid eye contact with Tariq because she's come to realize she's secretly in love with him. After everyone eats, Tariq motions for Laila to follow him down the street. They meet and joke around with each other about how others suspect them of having an affair.

**Summary of pages 156–161**

War that started near the Afghani borders has erupted in Kabul. Laila hates the bombs whistling overhead, the sound of pending destruction. The streets are patrolled by militia and Laila rarely leaves home. When she does, she's always with the protective company of Tariq. One afternoon, Tariq shows Laila the gun he's bought. It scare Laila, but he tells her he's willing to use it to defend her. They share their first kiss. As the battles escalate during the spring and the start of summer, Babi decides to take Laila out of school to keep her safe. In the evenings after work, Babi goes over lessons with Laila. Although she admires her father's teaching skills, Laila is constantly distracted by her emerging feelings for Tariq. One summer day, a rocket kills Laila's good friend, Giti, when she is walking through town. At the funeral, Laila breaks down in tears.