

A study guide prepared by IYC Tutor Byron Eden

## **Until We Meet Again**

By Anne Schraff

As you read this book, Until We Meet Again, please make a list of all words that are used in the book that you do not know the meaning of. Bring your list to class each week, and we will resolve vocabulary words that you find.

### **CHAPTER 1**

1. The book starts with Darcy Wills and her family getting together for a family meeting. It is announced that Darcy's parents have decided to give their marriage a second chance, after her father had abandoned them several years earlier. Have you ever been abandoned, or felt abandoned? How do people change when they have experienced abandonment?
2. Darcy's boyfriend, Hakeem, tells Darcy that his family may have to move to Detroit. The thought of losing her boyfriend in this way has caused Darcy to be quite upset. (p.7) "She felt as if someone was robbing her". What feelings do you think that a victim of a robbery experiences?
3. (p.8) Darcy's best friend, Tarah, explains that "Right now Hakeem's gotta do what he can for his family. They're all goin' through this, not just him". Have you ever experienced something similar to this, where things just seemed to be out of your control?
4. (p.8) Tarah goes on to tell Darcy, "Of course you don't want to see him go!" "But you gotta put yourself in his shoes, too". Have there been times in your life when friends or family have not understood you, because they have not "walked a mile in your shoes"? We all have different life experiences. What are some of your experiences that might be different from most people?
5. (p.12) "Everything she had grown used to seemed to be changing. Some of it was good, and some was bad. But it was all different, and Darcy felt powerless to stop it". Have there been times in your life when you seemed powerless to stop the situations that faced you?

### **CHAPTER 2**

1. Darcy is hired to do some babysitting for a neighbor girl, Liselle. When Darcy goes to meet Liselle she learns that Liselle lives with her brother, Brian. Liselle tells Darcy, (p.15) "I can't wait to get a good job so I can afford my own apartment and won't have to share it with no one, especially Brian. I may love him cause he's my brother, but that don't mean I always got to like him." Do you have any relatives that you love as a relative, yet you don't always like them?
2. Darcy has some concerns about Liselle's brother, Brian. (p.15) "Darcy had heard rumors that he was kicked out of school for something but she never knew what happened." (p.17) "She could feel herself beginning to blush under his intense gaze". "On her way home Darcy wondered about Brian and why Liselle seemed so bothered by him". What thoughts are going through your head at this point in the story about what kind of person Brian is?

3. As Darcy continues to worry about her boyfriend, Hakeem, and whether or not his family is going to move to Detroit, she has a conversation with her best friend Tarah, and Tarah's boyfriend, Cooper Hodden. (p.18) Cooper tells Darcy "Things usually don't go the way we want them to. I always plan for the worst. Then if I'm wrong, at least I'm getting good news. That's what you should do". There is an old saying that "Some people see a glass as half empty, while others see the same glass as half full", depending on whether you see the best or the worst sides of situations. Are you an optimist, or a pessimist?
4. Darcy and her family move into a new house, which is much nicer than their old house. (p.24) "Looking at the bright carpet and freshly painted walls of their new house, Darcy hoped there were no more shocks in their future. But with her thoughts drifting uneasily to Hakeem and Grandma, Darcy had her doubts". As Chapter 2 comes to an end, Darcy has many things that are on her mind, and are of a concern to her. What are her concerns about:
  - a. Her boyfriend, Hakeem?
  - b. Her Grandma?
  - c. Her life in her new home?
  - d. Her new job as a babysitter for Liselle?
  - e. Liselle's brother, Brian?

Where do you think this story is going to go with regard to these concerns?

### CHAPTER 3

1. Darcy's Dad is trying to be a good family provider, especially after he had walked out on his family years earlier. (p.29) But Darcy "remembered what Mom said five years ago after Dad ran out on the family – *I ain't ever gonna depend on a man again*". Darcy's Dad is doing his best, yet these thoughts keep coming back to Darcy. Have you been in a situation where you are doing your best, yet someone keeps thinking back to a time when you had let them down?
2. (p.37) another girl at school, Brisana, warns Darcy, "Brian Mason's only nice to girls because he wants one thing. You better stay away from him or you're going to run into trouble. Believe me, I know". What do you think Brian wants? Have you ever had family or friends warn you to stay away from someone or you're going to run into trouble? Where these family or friends right?
3. (p.42) Brian Mason appeared unexpectedly as Darcy was just beginning her first day on her babysitting job. Brian offered Darcy a rose. "Had he given her the flower just to be nice or did the rose mean something more?" Do you think that Darcy was thinking about Brisana's warning about Brian, when he appeared with the rose?

### CHAPTER 4

1. (p.44) upon seeing the rose on the table that her brother Brian had given to Darcy, "Liselle's face twisted into an expression that Darcy could not read". Darcy "wondered why Liselle acted so strangely when she noticed the flower". What are your thoughts at this point in the story, in trying to figure out what is going on with Brian?

2. (p.50) Darcy “could not figure out why Liselle suddenly seemed so interested in her personal life. Darcy wanted to believe that Liselle was just being friendly. But her instinct told her that something else was going on. But what?” It is often said that in life we must learn to trust our instincts. Have you ever had a feeling or instinct that something was not quite right, and it proved to be true?
3. On page 48 Darcy calls Hakeem, only to be told that he can’t talk right now, but promising to call back tomorrow night. The next night, on page 53, Darcy finally receives a phone call. Who is calling her? How does she feel when she realizes that the call is not from Hakeem?

## **CHAPTER 5**

1. For some time now Darcy has waited to hear from her boyfriend Hakeem. When he asks to speak to her in the parking lot after school, he ends up telling her that they are breaking up. (p.66) Hakeem tells Darcy “I’m not saying we won’t stay in touch”. “I can’t handle this, you know. It’s like everyone is pulling me in different directions, and there just ain’t enough of me to go around”. Have you ever felt like this, where you were being pulled in different directions, and didn’t know which way to turn? Was Hakeem being fair to Darcy? Was Darcy being fair to Hakeem?
2. After breaking up with Hakeem, Darcy runs home, but Brian drives by and gives her a ride the rest of the way home. “Darcy knew something inside had changed making the loss of Hakeem seem less sharp and more bearable. Closing the door behind her, Darcy knew the change had to do with Brian.” At this point in the story, what do you think will become of the relationship between Darcy and Brian?

## **CHAPTER 6**

1. On the last day of school Darcy walked home, when Brian drove by. (p.75-76) “How is it that you always seem to be around whenever I’m walking home?” Darcy asks Brian. What is the difference between a coincidence, and stalking?
2. Brian and Darcy go to the beach to celebrate the start of summer vacation. (p.78) “Though she would not admit it as she closed her eyes that night, Darcy hoped she would see him again soon”. Where is Darcy’s relationship with Brian headed, and what does this say about her former relationship with Hakeem?
3. On Monday morning Hakeem and his family were about to leave for their move to Detroit. (p.81) “she knew she had to see Hakeem one more time, alone. This time she would say goodbye forever”. What are Darcy’s feelings toward Hakeem at this point in time?
4. Darcy went to Hakeem’s house early on the morning that the family was going to move to Detroit. (p.82) When Darcy saw Hakeem’s father she had a “rush of guilt”. Why? Have you ever misjudged someone, because you had not “walked a mile in their shoes”?

## **CHAPTER 7**

1. In this chapter Brian stops by unexpectedly, and asks Darcy to go to the park with him. Several times Darcy finds herself feeling uncomfortable. Have you ever

- had times when you felt uncomfortable around someone? What causes someone to just sense that something is wrong?
2. The time at the park ends with Brian taking Darcy home, but they stop by Brian's house first. Why? This is the first time that Darcy is alone with a man. What else happened while they were alone?
  3. The chapter ends with Darcy arriving home, only to find an ambulance arriving at her home. What happened? What thoughts are going through Darcy's head at this point in time?

## CHAPTER 8

1. When Darcy's grandmother is taken to the hospital by the ambulance, Darcy has many feelings of guilt. Why? (p.104)
2. After Brian asks Darcy to come over for dinner, Darcy lies to her father. How? Darcy's sister, Jamee knows that Darcy just lied to their Dad, and Jamee tells Darcy (p113) "I don't know what's going on with you two, but I've never seen you act this way before, not with Hakeem or anyone". Why do you suppose that Darcy is willing to lie to her father at this point in the story?
3. When Darcy arrives at Brian's house for dinner Darcy admits that she had lied to her father about coming over to babysit. (p.115) Brian confesses "I like you a lot, Darcy. I've liked you since the first day you came over to meet Kelena. I just kept hoping one day you'd like me too, and now here you are". The dinner with Brian begins to turn sexual. How does it progress? Does Brian stop when Darcy tells him to stop?
4. When this chapter ends, on page 119, what thoughts are going through your mind? What do you think is going to happen in the next chapter? What is going to happen to Darcy? What is Brian going to do?

## CHAPTER 9

1. This chapter begins with Darcy's Dad smashing down the front door of Brian's house. What brought Darcy's Dad there? What do you think would have happened if Darcy's Dad had not come by?
2. (p.121) Darcy's Dad tells Brian "the next time a girl tells you to back off, you listen". Do you think that Brian will behave any differently in the future, or will he just ignore this warning by Darcy's Dad?
3. As they walk home Darcy's Dad tells her (p.122) "What you did was *stupid*. I'm so angry right now I don't even want to look at you. Don't ask me to trust you again, not after this". Have you ever had a loved one speak this bluntly to you? Have you ever done something that when you looked back on your actions you would agree was stupid?
4. (p.132) Darcy's mother tells her "Darcy Wills, it will be a long time before I trust you again. I am so upset. How could you do such a thing? And with Grandma being so sick?" Have you ever lost the trust of someone? How do you go about regaining or restoring trust once it has been lost? Can broken relationships be restored? How?

## CHAPTER 10

1. Darcy was unable to sleep. (p.133) “her mother’s words haunted her like a nightmare from which she could not awaken. Never had Mom been so angry at her”. Have you done anything without realizing at the time how deeply it was going to affect someone else in your life?
2. (p.135) At one point Darcy goes to sit with her Grandma, and tells her Grandma “I let them all down. Every person I love, I let down, and I don’t know how I’m gonna make it right. Do you ever find that it helps to talk with someone, just to express yourself, and to verbalize your thoughts?
3. A few pages later, Darcy’s Grandma has died. At the funeral Darcy says (p.142) “Grandma taught me that love is greater than any mistakes we make. She showed me through her love that families can come back together, that love is sometimes hard work, but it pays off.” “Grandma used to say that God sends people into your life to teach you something, and when they go, it’s your turn to teach the lesson to others. I know I will use what Grandma taught me to help others.” Like Darcy’s Grandma, who are the people in your life that have taught you something? What will you be able to teach others?