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Turn off the nav to join today and will never see them again. By entering your email address you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and make sure you are over 13 years. Important Quotes ExplainedQueen, for its part, is a unifying force in the community; when he is removed from the hive, staff very quickly sense his absence. In a few hours, or even less, they show unmistakable signs of queening. Pg 1, Chapter 1, The Secret Life of BeesMetaphonor is designed to compare the loss of a bee bee to the loss of Lily's mother. The protagonist lost his mother when he was only four years old. Lily's family was related to her mother. When she died, Lily and her father grew apart. People who think dying is the worst thing they know about life. Pg 2, Chapter 1, The Secret Life of BeesWhen you discuss how her mother died, Lily says that dying is not the worst part of life. Soon after, the protagonist explains how his mother died because he accidentally shot her. This quote shows that Lily thinks that the guilt of feeling she lives together is worse than her mother's death. But when we got there, they were gone back into the wall, as if they knew he was coming, like they didn't want to waste their flight tricks on him. Pg 4, Chapter One, The Secret Life of BeesA few minutes ago, thousands of bees swarmed his bedroom. When Lily brought her father into the room, all the bees were gone. Simile, as they didn't want to waste his flying tricks on him, puts out the idea that T. Ray is not a comifying man. When I saw the gun in his hand, I ran towards him, clumsy and falling, wanting to save him, wanting to save us all. Pg 7, Chapter One, BeesLily's secret life recalls her mother's death. Lily's mother abused her father. To escape the damage, the mother pulled the gun. Lily says she was trying to save us all. We all refer not only to Lily's mother, but to her and her father. After his mother's death, both he and his father grew up. Lily believes she and her father would have been happier if her mother were alive. That's what I know about myself. He was everything I wanted. And I took him. Pg 8, Chapter 1, The Secret Life of BeesSee quote shows Lily's voice. She and she are the pronouns for Lily's mother. Saying that her mother was all she wanted, she shows her desire for female love. She says she took her mother away to illustrate the guilt she feels about accidentally pulling the trigger. I was so worried about how I looked and whether I was doing things right, I felt half as much as I was impersonating a girl, rather than actually being one. Pg 9, Chapter One, The Secret Life of BeesEarlier, Lily explained how she never looked as nice as the other girls because she never had a mother to help groom her. This quote shows how Lily didn't feel pretty because she was worried about what others thought of her. But suddenly, the look on Rosaleen's face cut through all of it. what he's done to you. Pg 25, Chapter One, Secret Life beesA at night, Lily left a big tree outside. There, he learned the things his mother left behind and then fell asleep. This morning, T. Ray found him. Thinking she was with a man, she forced her to kneel. The next morning, Rosaleen sees her on her knees. Rosaleen says: Look what she's done to you to illustrate how wrong it was about T. Ray to make lily see her abusive behavior as acceptable. There was Rosaleen, grabbing and banging from side to side, swinging men like pocketbooks on her hands, and men yelling at her to apologize and clean her shoes. Pg 32, Chapter One, The Secret Life of The BeesThis quote shows racism in Sylvan, South Carolina during the mid-1900s. Rosaleen went to a colored church to register how to vote. When the Caucasian men began taunting him, Rosaleen spat on his shoes. He was beaten to the flesh because he refused to treat less than white people. What can they do with you with a cop here? That's when the dealer raised the flashlight over his head, then down, smashing it on Rosaleen's forehead. Pg 35, Chapter 2, Bees' secret life after the Rosaleen fight, the police were called. In front of the officer, Rosaleen was hit with a flashlight for no reason. Instead of punishing the white man who did this, Officer Rosaleen was handcuffed. It further illustrates the injustices that were made to African-Americans in the 1900s. I understand he dumped her. But you're breaking up with me? It's going to sink me forever. Pg 40, The Second Chapter, The Secret Life of BeesTime fight with her father, Lily has said that her mother abandoned her. The pain of those words makes him understand why his mother wanted to leave T. Ray. She doesn't understand why her mother would want to leave her, just the emotional scarring it caused. But I had this moment just then, standing in my usual room. I hear a voice that says, Lily Melissa Owens, your jar is open. Pg 41, Chapter Two, The Secret Life of Bees, Lily tried to catch a can of bees to prove to her father that there are bees in her room. He opened the jar because he thought bees wanted freedom. In this quote, Lily compares herself to trapped bees. He thinks his father gave him the freedom to leave and become a better person. I realized this for the first time in my life: there is nothing in the world but a mystery about how it hides behind the fabric of our poor, eyebrows, bright days, shining brightly, and we don't even know it. Pg 63, Chapter 3, The Secret Life of BeesAfter leaving T. Ray, Lily has a chance to see how other people live. This quote shows his understanding that everyone has pain, but not everyone can see it. His right hand was lifted up as if he were pointing at the road, except that his fingers were fist-locked. Pg 70, Chapter Three, The Secret Life of Bees Finally, Lily has met a Black Mary that stars in her mother's image. He describes August as a leader who is On the way. The fist is meant to represent how August protects Lily. It predicts the big impact in August will be to help Lily come-of-age. Takes bad things out, leaves good. I've always wondered how nice it would be to have these spinners for people. Just toss them in and let the spinner do his job. Pg 77, Chapter Three, The Secret Life of BeesAugust showed Lily steps into making a me. While there, August says he'd suck bad out of people. Lily thinks August's going to direct it to her because she killed her mother. It shows how Lily sees herself as a bad person who needs to be made good. Staying in a colorful house painted by women, eating out of their dishes, lying on their leaves-it wasn't something I was against, but I was brand new, and my skin never felt so white to me. Pg 78, Chapter Three, The Secret Life of BeesThere was a lot of racism in the 1900s. It was common to separate white and black people. By saying she wasn't against being around the black, Lily proves she's not a racist. Saying she feels so white Lily says she looks like she stands out. Lying in a cot in a house, though, all I could think was August is so intelligent, so cultured, and I was surprised by it. It let me know I had prejudice buried inside me. Pg 78, Chapter Three, The Secret Life of BeesThere was a lot of racism in the 1900s. For the first time, Lily is taking orders from an African-American. He understands that African Americans are smart and cultural, just like white people. He sees that thinking that African-Americans weren't smart or cultural, that he too is a bit racist. There was no difference between my and June. That's what I thought when I looked at the dark circle on the ground. Piss was piss. Pg 88, chapter four, BeesIrritated in June because she has a problem with her skin, Lily rushes into the woods. That's where he urinates. Looking down into the dark, he understands that races are equal. Above all, to get the love of bees. Every little thing wants to be loved. Pg 92, Chapter Four, The Secret Life of BeesWhen explaining Lily how to tend bees, August says that everyone needs love, or else they sting. August indirectly refers to everyone as a apile. Like a apile, everyone needs love. When a person spends a long time being unloved, they become difficult and start to sting. I wanted him to love me, that he would hold me forever. If I could make her love me, maybe she'd forget nun Beatrix's home and let me stay. Pg 94, chapter four, BeesAugust's secret life tells Lily a story. In the story, the nun leaves home, realizes she misses something, and then goes back. When he gets home, he'll know Mary replaced him. Lily thought the nun in Beatrix's story was her. He also assumed that August would send him home. In August, however, Lily's mother. Lily's mother left home to t. Ray wouldn't abuse her. After a few months of last living in August and his sisters, he realizes that he misses his daughter. When her mother gets home, she'll see lily take the t. Ray's a private one in his place. I turned my pillow over and over again for the coolness of thinking about may and his wall and what the world had come to, that man needed something like this. Pg 98, Chapter Four, The Secret Life of BeesAugust explained to Lily that May can feel the pain of other people. Walking along the May wailing wall Lily realizes how much pain can go through. Thinking about the wall, Lily takes it to a bigger level and thinks about injustice in the world. They called her our lady in chains because she broke them. Pg 110, Chapter 6, The Secret Life of BeesAugust states that Mary was named Our Lady in Chains not because she was tied to chains, but because she broke through them. Later, he told Lily that everyone had a piece of Mary inside them. That means everyone has a piece that doesn't want to get trapped, so it breaks free. Mess. You have to imagine what never was. Pg 121, 6. Before, he was accustomed to stereotypical roles in different social classes. Now he has been introduced to African Americans who dared to dream beyond what their stereotypical role is. Lily is surprised by the notion that people can go over their social class norm. That's what I said to myself five hundred times: impossibility. I can tell you so much: the word is great in the same way thrown into the fires of love. Pg 133, Chapter 6, The Secret Life of Bees Driving a zach honey truck, Lily sees that she loves him. It was wrong to see black and white people together in South Carolina, much less they're in love. It makes Lily believe her love for Zach is wrong. Lily also feels that her love for Zach is impossible because of her past experiences of love. Lily loves her father T. Ray, but doesn't feel like she loves him back because of her abusive ways. She craves her mother's love, but doesn't feel like she loved her. Most people don't know the whole complicated life is going on inside the hive. Bees have a secret life we don't know about. Pg 148 Chapter Eight, The Secret Life of Bees In the last few months, August has taught Lily about life inside the hive. He explains how the hive runs the queen bee, and how without it, the hive dies. August illustrates the great work that goes into making the whole product: honey. In a way, Lily's life is similar to bees. Like bees, his life is shown as a sweet-looking generic product: his appearance and home. What people haven't seen is the breakdown of the colony after his mother (the queen bee) died. Quote shows how you shouldn't judge people their physical appearance or property because you do not know what is going on internally. For example, every messil has a role to play. Pg 148, Chapter eight, The Secret Life of BeesWhen explaining the secret life of bees, August says that every beehive plays a role in the hive. Lily's always involved with bees. Seeing himself as a bee, he believes he has a role to play in the world. When the bee flies, the soul rises. Pg 206 Chapter Ten, The Secret Life of Bees Novel began with Lily waking up to a room full of swarming bees. After May died, August told the story of Aristaeus. In the story, bees symbolized a new life. By finding the boatwriter's sisters and their bees, Lily was born into a better, happier person again. No one in this room said, Sugar-Girl, really, talking about white people like that, and we have a white person in the room. They didn't think I was any different. Pg 209 Chapter Ten, The Secret Life of BeesBesBefore, Daughters of Mary saw Lily as a strange Caucasian girl at an all-African American event. That's why Lily became self-conscious about her ethnicity. Neither Lily nor the African-Americans stand out because they accepted each other. Every person on the ground makes mistakes, Lily. Every last one. We're all so human. Your mother made a terrible mistake, but she tried to fix it. Pg 256, Chapter Twelve, The Secret Life of Bees At the beginning of the novel, Lily saw her mother as a bad person abandoning her. During his discussion with his mother in August, August says that his mother made a mistake. That mistake was leaving Lily behind. August also acknowledges Lily's mother came back to Lily. It makes Lily realize that her mother is human. The queenless colony is a pitiful and melancholy community; there may be a grieving stake or lament from the inside ... Without intervention, the colony dies. But introduce the new Queen and make the most extravagant changes. Pg 277, Chapter Fourteen, The Secret Life of Bees At the beginning of the novel, the Queen bee is emblematic of Lily's mother. After her mother's death, Lily grew into an unsy-confident and beloved adolescent. It was his mournful cry for help. When he found August, there were changes. Lily became a stronger, more beloved person. From August, the new queen became the new queen who saved Lily's colony. I looked him in the eye. They were full of strange haze. Daddy, I said. Pg 295, Chapter Fourteen, Secret Life BeesT. Ray found out where Lily was staying. There, he insisted on his daughter coming home. Then he started screaming that Lily was his mother, Deborah. In an attempt to calm him down, Lily calls him Daddy for the first time. It shows lily forgives her father for his abusive behavior towards him and his mother. It also shows the deep-rooted pain of T. Ray about his wife's death. Death.

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