

Chapter Summaries of 'The Dare' by John Boyne

Chapter 1

- July, the start of the summer holidays
- Danny comes home to an empty house, goes to his brother Pete's room
- Pete is away in university and Danny misses him
- His Dad comes home – they both wonder why his mam isn't home yet
- They are both a bit worried
- After Danny goes to bed his mother arrives home with two police officers

Chapter 2

- Danny is worried that his brother Pete is injured or in trouble
- Danny tries on a policeman's helmet – gets caught – embarrassed
- His dad tells him that his mam has knocked down a little boy
- They don't know if he will live or die – coma

Chapter 3

- His mam is supposed to stay in bed- cries when she sees Danny – his dad gets angry at Danny
- Danny goes out on his bike, when he gets home the house is empty again
- Mrs. Kennedy, his friend Luke's mother, invites him to their house for dinner
- Luke doesn't seem pleased to see him – embarrassed by his mum's new boyfriend Mr. Benson
- Danny gets upset at the dinner table

Chapter 4

- His dad rings and tells him to stay with Mrs. Kennedy
- Danny feels lost and confused
- Luke tells him that he'd heard that Danny's mam was drunk and killed the boy
- Danny defends his mam but doesn't know the truth

Chapter 5

- His dad says that she wasn't drunk – says the boy ran out – it wasn't her fault
- Danny meets a strange girl waiting outside his house – they don't speak

- Later he walks down the road where the accident happened and sees the little boy's (Andy) parents (Michael and Samantha) – finds out that Andy is still in a coma
- He goes home and meets the girl again outside his house – he realises that she is Sarah, Andy's sister

Chapter 6

- A few days later Danny and Sarah arrange to meet in the park
- They talk about their families – Andy is still in a coma
- Sarah says that it is her fault, not Danny's mum, but doesn't say why
- Luke, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Benson meet them – Luke doesn't seem too pleased – the adults tease Danny that they are boyfriend and girlfriend
- Sarah says that they don't know each other and goes away
- When Danny goes home his mother is back in bed – he gets annoyed that he hasn't seen her all day
- His dad says that Danny's grandparents will be visiting for his birthday party – Danny wonders if it's wise to have a party

Chapter 7

- Danny's birthday party – his mum isn't there and his parents haven't bought him a gift
- He gets a card from Pete and misses him
- It's a weird mix of people – Danny's granddad and Mr. Benson don't get on and Luke doesn't get on with Mr. Benson
- His mother's chair is empty and his dad is annoyed that she's late
- His mother arrives home late and her dad gets angry – they have the argument that has been building up
- Later Danny puts out the bins and meets Sarah – she wants him to visit Andy in hospital

Chapter 8

- Danny and Sarah visit Andy
- She tells Danny about 'The Dare' – that they were playing knickknocks and that it's her fault
- Her parents arrive and she makes Danny hide under the bed
- Her parents tell her that Danny's mother won't be charged
- Her mother is angry and blames Danny's mother

- Danny gets out from under the bed and defends his mother – then runs away

Chapter 9

- Later his dad gets annoyed that he has gone to visit Andy
- He is angry that Danny and Sarah have become friends and says that Danny should be looking after his mother
- Danny gets frustrated that his mother won't talk to him and says he wished that Andy would just die – his father slaps him – they are both shocked
- Sarah arrives and wants to talk to Danny – his father tells her to go home
- Danny sees her talking to Luke at the gate
- He decides to run away

Chapter 10

- Danny runs away – hides behind sports hall at school
- Uses birthday money to buy burgers and chips – goes to the cinema – sleeps in a car park – doesn't really sleep either night
- Decides to run away to London and get a job
- Sees himself on the news on a TV in a shop
- Decides to steal a hat as a disguise
- Runs out of money and food – collapses in a park and wakes to find his brother Pete has found him

Chapter 11

- 'And then one morning out of the blue Andy woke up'
- Parents relieved that Andy has survived
- Danny just out of hospital himself
- Whole family are back together again
- Pete tells him not to run away again – says he should have looked after his mother – Danny tells him that he wasn't there – that he had left him alone
- Danny and his parents go on holiday – Luke comes too
- Danny, Luke and Sarah have become friends but that's another story
- Luke seems in better form – Danny finds out that Luke's dad kept arranging to see him and then cancelling
- Luke seems to have accepted Mr. Benson a bit
Danny's mum apologises to him for letting him down – 'I wasn't you mam for the last few weeks'
- Tells him not to run away again