



Chapter Summary

- Tom's Midnight Garden -

Key:

Purple text – key character

Underlined – key word in the glossary

Chapter 1 – Exile

Tom was sent away to stay with his Aunt Gwen and Uncle Alan because his brother was ill with measles. It was the only way to prevent him getting infected by Peter. It was the beginning of the summer holidays and Tom was angry about being sent away, even though his mother apologised. He would miss playing in his garden; he'd had plans to build a tree-house. His aunt and uncle lived in a flat and he didn't want to be cooped up all summer. He wasn't allowed to be with his brother in case he caught measles and he wasn't allowed to mix with other people in case he was already a carrier of the illness. The Kitson's had both had measles so they were immune.

The hallway was bare and unwelcoming. The only interesting thing was a grandfather clock. Aunt Gwen told him it belonged to a neighbour, Mrs Bartholomew, so he mustn't touch it. Tom was already thinking that he would like to investigate the inside of the clock in private, if he got the chance. He was standing with his back to the clock and tried to open the pendulum door but it was locked. Uncle Alan told him that the grandfather clock kept perfect time, but it seldom chose to strike the right hour. It was now five o'clock and the clock chimed only once.

When Tom was shown to his room, he was dismayed to see bars on the bottom of the window, which nursery rooms often had, and he exclaimed that he wasn't a baby. His aunt told him that the bars were there when they moved in. Mrs Bartholomew was their landlady, and she lived on the top floor in the attic. After tea, Tom wrote a letter home to let his family know that he'd arrived safely. He signed it with his private device; an elongated cat, supposed to be a tom, to signify his name: Tom Long. Just as he finished the letter, he heard the clock striking and noted that it was wrong again.

Chapter 2 – The Clock Strikes Thirteen

Tom couldn't sleep so he laid awake for hours at night. He tried reading books, but his

aunt and uncle saw the light under his door and told him that he can only read for ten minutes after going to bed; even though he tried telling them that he couldn't sleep. One night, he sneaked out to the parlour, out of curiosity to see what food was in the larder. He wasn't even hungry and didn't take anything, but on his way back, he was caught out by his uncle who was coming his way. His aunt and uncle gave him a lecture about how he mustn't get out of bed at night as he needed ten hours sleep. The dark nights passed very slowly and he found himself counting the chimes of the clock. He was getting annoyed because the number of chimes never correctly matched the hour it was. One night, as he was counting them, he was surprised when he heard it chime thirteen times! He had two voices that talked to one another in his head. The house's voice said, 'Come on Tom, the clock struck thirteen – what are you going to do about it?' The other voice, Tom's, said, 'Nothing. Don't be silly!'

Then Tom started reasoning that if there was a thirteenth hour, then he would be in bed for eleven hours total; therefore, he could have one hour of freedom. Tom said that a thirteenth hour couldn't exist, then the house voice told him not to miss this opportunity. He decided to go and check the clock and see what time it said it was!

Chapter 3 – By Moonlight

Tom went downstairs and felt reasonably confident because all the tenants and the landlady were asleep. He couldn't find the light switch and it was too dark to see the face of the clock. He noticed the stream of moonlight coming from the back of the house and knew that if he opened the door, which led to the back yard, it should let in enough light. When he opened the door, he was amazed to see a lovely garden, with a lawn and flowerbeds, a fir tree and yew trees. On the right side he could see a large greenhouse. There were paths at each corner of the lawn, leading to more gardens and trees. His aunt and uncle had told him that there was nothing of interest outside this door; only a small back yard where the bins were kept and a car under a tarpaulin. He wanted to run around on the grass and climb the trees. However, he could do that the next day, in daylight. The hour was ticking by and he should check the time on the grandfather clock. He stepped back inside the hallway. Immediately, he saw a maid coming out of the ground-floor front flat, into the hallway, walking towards him. She was wearing a long dress, with cuffs, an apron and a cap. She was carrying paper, kindling wood and a box of matches. Tom got ready to talk to her first and give a story about why he was there. However, the maid simply did not hear him, nor see him! She looked straight through him, as though he wasn't there. She went to the door of the ground-floor back flat and entered, without knocking or unlocking the door. When he looked around, the hall had completely changed to the way it looked before. There were rugs on the floor, pictures, a barometer and an umbrella stand. There was even a dinner-gong! Gone were the milk bottles, laundry and travel posters that were there when he arrived. The only thing he recognised was the grandfather clock. He had to touch it to make sure it was real. Before he reached the clock, he saw the maid come back and walk towards the door from which she had come. Just as she put her hand on the door-knob, she quickly faded away and vanished. At the same time, the hallway emptied and transformed to how it used to be. A cold draft reminded him that the door was open so he closed it and went back to bed. He was trying to make sense of what happened. Had he dreamt it? Had he seen a ghost? He would check out the garden the

following day. Tiredness overcame him, and he fell asleep.

Chapter 4 – By Daylight

Tom woke up with a feeling of happiness, and realised it was because he had seen the garden during the night. He wondered why he wasn't allowed in the garden and why his aunt and uncle had lied about it. He tried questioning about whether, in some circumstances, a lie was justified, but they refuted it. He tried asking if there was a garden where Aunt Gwen had picked the flowers from, but she said she had bought them because they didn't have a garden. Tom was feeling very frustrated and went down to open the door to go into the garden. However, the bolt that he had drawn across, the night before, was rusty and stuck. There was a modern Yale lock higher up which he hadn't noticed. He opened the door and was totally shocked to see the small backyard, exactly the same as his aunt and uncle had described it. He saw one yew tree in the neighbour's garden. A man rolled out from underneath the car he was working on and said hello to Tom. He lived in the ground-floor back flat and looked confused when Tom asked if he had a maid to light his fire. Mrs Bartholomew entered the hall and Tom watched as she wound up the grandfather clock. Tom calmed down. He knew there was a garden when he'd looked outside during the night. He planned what he would do the next night. He had to go back and climb the wall so he could investigate the yew tree because it would surely give him a clue. He wrote a letter to Peter, telling him everything that happened. At the top, he wrote the initials: B.A R. which was to tell Peter to burn after reading. Tom laid awake that night, waiting until the clock struck midnight when everyone else was in bed. He went to the door and saw the familiar bolt that wasn't looking rusty now. With the clock still striking, he opened the door and stepped out into the garden that he knew was there!

Chapter 5 – The Footprints in the Dew

Tom enjoyed exploring the garden. It had walls on three sides and a hedge on the fourth. It would be easier to go through a hedge than to climb a high wall, so he tunnelled through to see what was on the other side. He looked out onto a meadow and saw cows; some sleeping and some grazing. Then he went back into the garden to make himself familiar with all the paths, alleys, archways, the bushes and trees. He noted some of the landmarks, including a sundial and a tall fir tree. He glanced at the plants in the greenhouse and walked by the kitchen garden. He found a folded note, which was addressed, in childish handwriting, 'To Oberon, King of Fairies.' Tom moved away quickly because he didn't want to get mixed up with talk of fairies. When he got to the verge of the lawn, he saw two clearly defined footprints in the grey-green of the dewy grass. Feet had walked on the lawn, stopped and turned, and then walked back again. He wondered how long they had been there. He didn't think they were there when he walked past earlier. He saw a gardener appear and thought that it must be nearly morning as he saw the sun rising. He had been exploring for a long time and wondered what the time was. When he went back inside, the hall reverted to the present day, and he checked the clock in the kitchen of the flat. He was amazed to find out that it was only a few minutes past midnight! He tiptoed back to bed.

Chapter 6 – Through A Door

Tom sneaked out into the garden every night. He saw it at different times of the day and different times of the year. He climbed the yew trees. From there, he was level with the windows on the top floor of the house. One time he saw a movement, a window opened and the maid shook out her duster. He could hear faint voices and he could see that there was someone else in the room. Later, Tom saw more people, this time in the garden; the maid, the gardener and a severe-looking woman, walking around the garden in a long dress of purple silk. He became confident when he knew that he was invisible to them. He wanted to explore other parts of the garden that he couldn't get access to because the doors were locked. So, he decided that he could follow the gardener and see what he wanted. It wasn't as easy as he thought though because the gardener was very quick, even when he pushed his wheelbarrow through the door. Tom tried to undo the lock and focused hard on it. His fingers went through the latch as if it wasn't there at all. How strange! He wondered if he could do the same with his body and get through the door. Maybe it was no more solid than the latch. He pushed the side of his body against the door, feeling very determined and focused. At first there was resistance, but then he felt a strange sensation and realised he was going through to the other side. The whole of his body was through, except for his head. For a moment, he thought he might get stuck like that, but he concentrated more and pushed his head through. He was face to face with the gardener, but he looked straight through Tom. He was standing in an orchard, beyond which, there were meadows and trees, and he could even see the rooves of what must be a village in the distance. On other nights, Tom explored different areas. He sometimes felt troubled by the constantly good weather, the rapid coming and going of the seasons and the feeling of being watched.

One night, he felt particularly uneasy. For the first time, it was night in the garden. Then he was witness to a big storm. The trees were swaying fiercely, and just as he was thinking that the trees were strong and couldn't be blown down, a strike of lightning hit the tallest fir tree and it came crashing down. As it fell, there seemed to be a silence all around and then Tom heard a human cry – 'Oh!' It came from the window of one of the upper rooms. Tom was shaken by what he saw and went back inside. The following night, he was shocked when he looked out and saw the fir tree standing firmly in its place.

Chapter 7 - Report to Peter

Tom wrote another letter to Peter, telling him all the updates about what had happened. He asked his aunt and uncle a few questions, such as whether a tree can fall down one day and be back in its place the following day. Uncle Alan was trying to answer his question, but Aunty Gwen kept saying he must have been dreaming. Tom doodled on the top of the letter and without realising he drew an angel shaped creature with wings. He couldn't think where he had got the idea; until he remembered that the same picture was on the face of the grandfather clock.

He had to stop asking questions before his aunt and uncle wanted some proof and

asked to be taken in the garden with him. It was his secret. Auntie Gwen thought she saw him shivering and took his temperature to check he didn't have a fever, in case he had measles. She told Tom that he would have to stay longer if he was ill but as his temperature was normal, he should soon be able to go home. Tom didn't think he would be leaving so soon, what's more, he didn't want to leave! He loved visiting the garden and had made new friends. He played with **Hubert**, **James** and **Edgar**, and there was a little girl, who he thought was called **Hatty**.

Chapter 8 – The cousins

The three brothers entered the garden one day when Tom was already there. The eldest was Hubert and he was much older; a young man. Hatty was the youngest of them all and seemed to always be following them, which they didn't like too much. They played 'Catch' and the boys were always running away from Hatty, hiding up, and waiting for her to find them. Tom wanted to join in and he especially wanted to play with James. However, he was disappointed when he realised that he was invisible to them as well. They ran into the house and Tom followed them. Instead of shutting the door behind as usual, he thought that if he left it open, maybe he would be able to explore the house as it used to be. He knew that once he shut the door the house changed back to the present day. Unfortunately, as he ran down the hall, the rugs and pictures, dissolved in front of his eyes, just as they always did. The only thing remaining was the grandfather clock. Tom walked back to the door and he could still see the garden. He stepped over the threshold and looked back into the hall. Surprisingly, it was filling up with everything again! He wasn't going to let the disappointment of being invisible to the boys ruin his time in the garden. He hadn't seen Hatty, their cousin, anymore. She had stopped chasing after them.

Chapter 9 – Hatty

Tom rarely saw the boys, but sometimes they came out with an air-gun and other times they came to get some apples. They had been told not to pick the apples, but they shook the tree instead and ate what fell off. Tom watched them. They brought the terrier with them, who could sense Tom was there because he looked towards him and started growling. The boys didn't know what was wrong with him as they stared right through Tom. This made him frustrated so he stuck his tongue out. To his amazement, Hatty stuck her tongue out back at him! When her cousins asked why she stuck her tongue out, she simply said that it was hit and needed some air. As they all walked back towards the house, Hatty took herself off in the gardens and the boys wondered where she had gone. Tom decided to look for her but he soon heard her call out, 'Coo-eee!' He told her that he knew she was watching him just then. She replied that she had watched him every time he had been in the garden. She saw him use her secret tunnel into the meadow. She saw him wave to Susan inside the house when he was at the top of the yew tree. She had watched him when he never knew it! It made sense of the footprints in the grass, the person he saw in the room with the maid and the feeling he had of being constantly watched. He introduced himself as Tom Long and said that he knew her name was Hatty. She told him that her name was Princess Hatty.

Chapter 10 - Games and Tales

Tom was half-inclined to believe that Hatty was a princess because she looked regal. He told Hatty that her parents must be King and Queen and asked where their kingdom was. She replied that she wasn't allowed to say, but then she told him that she was a Princess in disguise because she was being kept prisoner there. A woman at the house called herself her aunt, but Hatty said that she wasn't and that she was wicked. She also said that the boys weren't her cousins, even though she called them cousins. Tom wasn't really sure what to believe.

Hatty showed him around the gardens and pointed out the best hiding places. There were lots of places he wouldn't have found by himself. They went inside the potting shed and into the greenhouse. They tried to catch goldfish in the tank. When Hatty put her arm into the water, Tom laid his right next to it, with an open hand behind hers, their fingers touching. When Hatty nearly caught a fish, Tom's hand was at one with hers and it felt like he was catching it too. He couldn't have done this without Hatty.

She told him the names of some of the yew trees and showed him a bush, telling him that it was called The Burning Bush. Apparently if you came out at midnight on Midsummer Eve, then set a flame to it, then the whole plant would blaze up. She also told him a story about the gardener, Abel, saying that he fought with his brother, who nearly killed him. When Tom asked if his brother's name was Cain, she said she didn't know. Tom didn't believe her stories.

Chapter 11 – The River to the Sea

Tom meant to ask Hatty lots more questions but when he was playing in the garden, he was enjoying himself so much that he forgot. Hatty told him that her cousins used to play with bows and arrows, but they wouldn't let her join in. So Tom instructed her on how to make a bow. She got Abel to string it for her. She already knew how to make arrows. Tom wished that he could shoot the arrows but as he couldn't, he gave advice to Hatty. He wanted her to shoot at the birds but she refused, preferring to just shoot them into the sky. Many arrows landed in the treetops. One of them landed on top of the greenhouse and broke a window. She was worried about getting in trouble with her aunt but Abel fixed it for her. He reminded her that she shouldn't get into trouble.

To avoid it happening again, Hatty shot the arrows over the hedge into the meadow. When she went to retrieve them, she was drawn to the river. Tom said it wasn't a very big river, but she told him that it got wider further down; she had seen her cousins swim in it. Tom said that she could go and explore herself to see where the river went. She looked startled and said that she wasn't even allowed in the meadow because it was close to the river. Her aunt said she might get her clothes muddy, or worse, she could drown. She turned to go back to the house; the geese saw them go through the opening in the hedge. Later, they went that way themselves so they could go to the kitchen garden.

Chapter 12 – The Geese

It was midnight and time for Tom to go into the garden. When he opened the door, it was early morning and there were geese rambling all over the lawn. First, Abel saw them, then a sash window opened upstairs and Hatty's aunt asked what the geese were doing there, who was to blame for them being there and what was he going to do about it. Tom was worried about Hatty being blamed. Everyone came out of the house and while the aunt stayed on the doorstep watching, the rest of them herded the geese back into the meadow. Abel then looked to see how the geese had got into the garden and he discovered the tunnel through the hedge. The boys said that Hatty had made the tunnel but Tom wasn't sure if they were just guessing or doing it to put the blame on Hatty. The flower beds and the lawn were a mess. Hatty had gone into hiding. Her aunt called for 'Harriet' to come immediately and then she appeared. Her aunt was very harsh, shouting that she was to blame. She went on to say that she was a charity-child brought into her home out of duty to look after her late husband's niece. She should be grateful, but instead she was a liar, a criminal and a monster. They went inside the house. Tom wondered why her parents hadn't taken her away from her horrible aunt. He walked to the end of the garden, through the trees and sat down at the bottom of one, where he fell asleep.

When he woke up, he felt a difference in his surroundings but wasn't sure what it was. He climbed back over the wall, into the garden, looking for Hatty, Abel or the boys. At the end of the path, he saw a small figure, a child half the size of Hatty, who was completely dressed in black. Her hands were over her face and she was sobbing. Tom asked why she was crying and he was surprised that she heard him. She thought he was one of her cousins though, as she didn't look up at him. She said she was crying for home, for her mother and father. Tom realised that the girl was a very young, forlorn Hatty, a penniless orphan who had been grudgingly taken into her aunt's home. Tom couldn't comfort her, so he tiptoed away. He never saw the young Hatty again, only the older one, as he had always seen before. When she told stories about her parents, he didn't tease her anymore.

Chapter 13 – The Late Mr Bartholomew

Time kept ticking by normally in the flat and the day to go home had passed. He still didn't want to leave so he told his aunt and uncle that he would like to stay longer. They were delighted and sent a telegram home to his mother to let her know. Aunt Gwen said that now he wasn't in quarantine, she could take him out on expeditions. She took him to the cinema, the shops and the museum, which was all good, except that Tom really wanted to sleep in the day so he had energy to go into the garden during the night. Even when summer ended, they wrapped up to protect themselves from the rain. Tom caught a cold and needed to stay in bed for several days. He was quite happy about it because when he went into the garden at night, his fever left him and he felt well. When he laid in bed, it gave him time to think about everything that happened in the garden and to write to Peter. Tom decided that when he was better, he would go to see Mrs Bartholomew and ask her about the history of the house and people who had lived there. Even though she was an unsociable woman, who didn't like children and

people were afraid of her; he couldn't let it stand in his way. Before he got better, he was thinking about Mr Bartholomew and started talking about when he was in the house. His aunt and uncle told him that Mr Bartholomew had never lived there because Mrs Bartholomew was a widow when she moved in. Tom didn't think he would be able to get any historical information from Mrs Bartholomew, after all.

Chapter 14 – The Pursuit of knowledge

Tom thought about the clothes that the people in the garden wore. He wanted to try and put a date to when Hatty would have lived, if she was a ghost. From information that Hatty had told him and by looking at encyclopaedia books that belonged to Uncle Alan, he thought that she must have lived during the reign of Queen Victoria. That period was over one hundred years ago, so if Hatty were a girl then, she must be a ghost now.

Chapter 15 – View from the Wall

Tom hadn't seen Hatty for a long time and wondered if he would ever see her again. Then one time when he was in the garden, he met up with her just after she had been helping Abel with the bonfire. Abel had burnt the bows and arrows because they were dangerous and could only bring trouble. He gave Hatty a very small penknife instead. When Tom saw it, he thought it was only any good for cutting butter. Hatty had used it to carve her initials on many of the trees: H.M. for Hatty Melbourne. They played in the gardens and started building another treehouse. Hatty told Tom that James had once walked along the top of the very tall sundial wall, as Edgar had dared him to. Tom knew it was dangerous – but then again, he couldn't hurt himself so there was nothing stopping him from climbing on the top! Tom could see beyond the house and garden. There was a horse and cart going down a lane. In the distance he could see the river. Suddenly he caught sight of Abel, running towards Hatty. He pushed her down onto her knees. When he had gone, she told Tom that he made her promise never to walk on top of the wall. He made her swear on the Bible. He seemed very frightened. They didn't know how he had seen Hatty or why he thought she would climb onto the wall. It was all very strange.

Chapter 16 – The Tree-House

Back at home, after reading Tom's letters, Peter really wanted to go and stay there with him. His parents didn't understand why he wanted to be in a poky flat with no garden and nothing much to do. Neither did they understand why Tom had asked to stay longer. Peter carried on building the tree-house that Tom had started to build with him.

In the garden, Tom and Hatty were building a great tree-house. It was their secret place and they could hide there. It was finished, except that Hatty wanted to make

proper little windows. When they were in the tree-house, Hatty climbed on to a branch, which broke off and she fell straight down, screaming on the way. Tom jumped straight down after her. Then Abel came running over, scooped her up in his arms and starting walking towards the house. Tom followed but was shocked when Abel looked at him and told him to go back to Hell, where he came from. He said that he had always been able to see and hear Tom! He thought that he had tried to kill Hatty enough times, with bows and arrows, knives and high places. He said a prayer about keeping the Devil away. When he went into the house, he slammed the door shut and put the bolt across. Tom banged on the door trying to open it, but he couldn't get in and nobody was going to let him in.

Chapter 17 – In Search of Hatty

When Tom couldn't get inside the house, he could do nothing but wait in the garden. When Abel came out, he went up to him and asked if Hatty was alright. At first, Abel took no notice of him but on seeing a boy with a muddy face and tears streaming down, he told him that Hatty was alive. Then he walked right through the side of Tom and went to his potting shed. He had left the door open, so this was Tom's chance to go back. He didn't know if he would be able to see Hatty or if he would return to his own bed. He entered the hall and to his surprise the furniture remained in place. He continued to the staircase; he was in the Melbourne's house now and didn't know what he would find. He tried to find the room Hatty was in by peeping his head round a couple of doors, then looking through keyholes. Just as he was looking into a room, he heard footsteps behind him, and when he turned around, he saw a man, who opened the door and called for 'Mother.' It was James, who was now much older than when Tom last saw him. Tom managed to go into the room behind James. They both talked about Harriet. James thought she should go out and socialise more. It wasn't normal for her to spend so much time on her own in the garden. Maybe she would meet somebody and get married. James wanted to let Hatty know that when she was better, she would be doing more and meeting people. He left and went to Hatty's room. Tom followed. He stayed outside the room, listening to James talking to her. He spoke at great length and Tom thought that her injury couldn't have been too serious if she was able to listen to him.

Chapter 18 – The Bedroom with Two Barred Windows

When James left the room, Tom entered, by pushing himself through the door. Hatty was so happy to see him! He noticed now, that Hatty had grown up quite a lot since he last saw her. He probably hadn't paid much attention when he saw her every day. Tom looked around the room; it was nice and spacious. Tom saw bars across the bottom of the windows and Hatty told him that it used to be her cousin's nursery, then her nursery. She was the last child and the bars had never been removed. It seemed familiar to him, like he'd been told this before. He asked where the bathroom was and Hatty wasn't sure what he meant. When he asked where she took a bath, she told him that a tin bath was put in front of the fire in this room and Susan filled it with hot water. Tom could see the garden, meadow and river out of the window and he said that he

liked that view better. It was better than if there were houses opposite. Hatty laughed and said that would mean they lived in a town, not on the edge of the village. Tom asked what the picture on the grandfather clock meant. Hatty said it was something to do with the bible but couldn't remember exactly what. She would check later by looking at the writing on the clock dial. You could only see it by opening up the door because it was covered by the frame. Tom was shocked when Hatty said that the key to the grandfather clock was kept in the lock. He thought anybody could unlock it, but Hatty said only her aunt wound the clock and she forbade anyone else to touch it. Hatty didn't understand his concerns and changed the subject by telling him tales of the nursery. Then she got out of bed and removed a section of floorboards from inside a cupboard. Since she was a child, it was her secret hiding place, where she kept her penknife, a box of paints and an old photograph. The photo was of her mother and father. They heard footsteps, so she got back into bed quickly. Susan brought her some bread and milk, and she lit an oil lamp in the room. It was time for Tom to get back to the flat. He said goodbye to Hatty and said that he would see her soon. She replied that she often didn't see him for several months, yet Tom had come to the garden every night. Tom left the house, went into the garden, and then came back inside, thinking that he would find himself back in the hallway of the flats and be able to go to his bedroom. However, when he went back inside, it was still the Melbourne's house! He repeated his actions and the same thing happened again. He went into the bedroom, thinking that it may all change back on his way there, but no! So, he decided to lay on the floor next to Hatty's bed. She was asleep but he would ask her what to do when she woke up. Tom fell asleep and when he woke up, he wondered where he was. He looked around and saw that he was back in his room in the flat. What a relief!

Chapter 19 – Next Saturday

The post came early; there was a letter for Tom and a letter for Aunt Gwen. Peter wrote, saying that mother wanted him back home. Peter was missing Tom but he wished he could stay at the flat with him because the garden, and everything that had happened was very interesting. When Aunt Gwen told Tom that he would take the train home on Saturday, it was just a few days away and it felt too soon. He knew that there was nothing he could do to postpone it anymore.

Chapter 20 – The Angel Speaks

When Tom went into the garden, he was surprised to see that it was winter. He looked for Hatty and when he found her, she said it had been months since she had seen him! He wanted her to show him the writing on the grandfather clock and she had forgotten all about it. They went to the clock when they knew that Hatty's aunt was upstairs. Tom read the three words, 'Time No Longer.' He didn't know what it meant. Hatty showed him some more writing, lower down, which said, 'Rev. x. 1-6.' It referred to the bible: Revelation ten, verses one to six. They went to the heating house where Abel kept his bible so they could look it up. Abel saw them and Hatty thought he would be angry but he said it was fine. He said there was truth and salvation in the bible. Neither Tom nor

Hatty understood the verses. Hatty said that she didn't think anyone knew for certain what it meant. The Book of Revelation was full of angels, beasts and strange sayings. At the end of the verse, it said, 'Time no longer.' This was also written on the pendulum of the clock and Tom needed to know the meaning of it.

Chapter 21 – Time and Time Again

Tom asked Uncle Alan a question about time and he spent a while talking about different theories. It didn't help much; however, Tom tried to make sense of time past and present. If Hatty had stepped forward in time, it would seem like the future to her, but it was Tom's present time. If Tom stepped backwards in time, it was the present time for Hatty, so neither of them were ghosts.

The next time Tom went into the garden, it was still winter, but he wondered if it was the same winter as when he was last there, if it was longer in the past or not so long ago. He could be in a completely different year. He saw a gate that led from the hedge into the meadow, it looked old and shabby so he knew that it had been put in since he was last there. There was an expanse of ice where people were skating and he thought he could see Hatty. Then, she came over to the gate to see Tom and told him that she had missed him. She loved skating and wanted Tom to skate with her; but he didn't have any skates. Then he had an idea! He got Hatty to promise to put her skates in the secret place under the floorboards when she wasn't using them. It seemed a silly thing to do but at Tom's insistence, she agreed. Tom rushed back into the house and went to the secret hiding place in his room. He felt two large objects wrapped in paper and was excited, but then he heard his aunt coming towards his room. He must have made more noise than he realised. He jumped back into bed quickly and pretended he was asleep, having a bad dream, tossing and turning in bed. His aunt checked on him and then left, leaving his door ajar and her own door open. Tom daredn't get up again until his aunt fell back to sleep, but while waiting, he fell asleep himself.

Chapter 22 – The Forgotten Promise

When Tom woke up on Thursday morning, he thought he may have been dreaming during the night. He immediately checked the secret hiding place and saw the paper packages under the floorboards. He unwrapped them to reveal a pair of skates with the boots attached to them. There was also a note, which read, 'To whomever may find this. These skates are the property of Harriet Melbourne but she leaves them in this place in fulfilment of a promise she once made to a little boy.' It was signed and dated but he could only read June 20; the year had been smudged by a dead insect, but he could see the first two figures: a one and an eight. He prepared the skates and tried them on. They were a bit big but would fit if he put on two pairs of socks.

He was in the kitchen when he remembered what happened many nights ago. The clock in the kitchen had gazed at him intently and Tom returned the gaze. He found that when he spent a long time in the garden and came back to check the clock, it hadn't

registered any of the time that he'd been away. It got him thinking that when the grandfather clock struck thirteen, maybe the hours after the twelfth hour did not exist in ordinary time. They were not bound by the laws of ordinary time, meaning that they were not over in sixty ordinary minutes, but that they were endless. So, Tom could stay in the garden as long as he liked and time would stand still for his family as long as he didn't return to the house. Therefore, time would stand still at Thursday and wait for him. He was going to try it that night and spend as long as he liked in the garden; maybe months or even a year! When he got into bed that night, he felt awful because he had forgotten to write to Peter. He knew he would be very disappointed because he needed those letters to feed his imagination. He had asked Tom to write more about his adventures in the garden. Back at home, Peter was upset and lying awake because he hadn't received a letter from Tom that day. He had broken his promise.

It was time to go into the garden, so Tom went downstairs, carrying his skates. When he got in the hallway, he was met by Hatty, who also had her skates. She wanted Tom to go with her to Castleford so they could skate on the river all the way to Ely. The river was frozen solid. James took her (and Tom) to Castleford with the pony and trap; Abel was the driver. James was going to the market and leaving Hatty to do what she wanted. She couldn't tell him she was going skating because it wasn't ladylike and shouldn't really be doing it at all.

Chapter 23 – Skating

Tom and Hatty enjoyed skating on the river. Mostly, the skaters were men, and some called over to Hatty to ask if she wanted a companion. It was unusual for a lady to be on her own. She called back that she already had a companion that nobody could see! They thought it was a funny joke. When they got to Ely, they took their skates off and went to the cathedral. Hatty had never seen anything so beautiful! Hatty arranged to go up the tower and while they waited, they walked around. Tom was intrigued by a memorial tablet to a Mr Robinson, Gentleman of the City, which read that he had exchanged time for eternity. This was what Tom was doing now – exchanging ordinary time, which would be moving on towards Saturday, for an endless time – an eternity in the garden. When Hatty read out the inscription, Tom impulsively turned to confide in her about everything. However, she moved towards other people at the font, and the moment was missed. He would tell her later.

Chapter 24 – Brothers Meet

Peter started counting to try and get to sleep. He looked at the postcard of Ely that Tom had sent him, yearning to be with him. He tried to dream of the garden but instead he saw a vision of a tall tower. He realised that he was counting steps.

At the same time, Tom and Hatty were climbing up the tower with other visitors to see the sights of Ely. Once at the top, Tom felt that someone had come out of the door and was standing beside him. Before he turned to look, he instinctively knew that it was Peter. Hatty had moved on with the crowd and turned to see where Tom was. Not only

did she see Tom, but she saw another boy standing next to him. He looked very much like Tom and was wearing identical pyjamas. Hatty stared at them in wonderment. Peter wanted to know why he wasn't in the garden. Tom pointed in the direction of Castleford, showing Peter that the garden was some distance away, then he pointed to Hatty. Peter didn't think it could be Hatty because it was a grown up lady, not a child. Hatty started walking towards them; at the same time, Peter vanished. The tower-keeper told everyone that it was time to go down. Tom wondered how Peter came to be with him and if he would come again.

Peter woke up from his dream. He only remembered parts of it. He had been at great height, he had seen Tom, and he pointed to Hatty. Peter cried out that it couldn't be Hatty because this was a gown-up woman. He remembered a look of amazement on Tom's face.

It was getting late so Hatty had to get back home. Some men told her that the ice could be melting soon and she needed to take care. They skated together for a while, then a friend of Hatty called her name. It was Barty and he offered to take her home. On the way back, Tom got bored of listening to Hatty and Barty talk. They seemed to get on well together and Hatty was not taking any notice of Tom at all. When they arrived back at the house, Mrs Melbourne came to the door and saw Hatty and Barty. Obviously, she didn't see Tom. The surprising thing though, was that Hatty only saw one other person with her – Barty!

Chapter 25 – Last Chance

Aunt Gwen was taking a cup of tea to Tom on Friday morning, when she was shocked to see the door wedged open with Tom's slippers. She picked them up and closed the door, taking the slippers with her. As she entered the room, Tom was gradually waking up. When he opened his eyes and saw that he was in his bed, he closed them again, then opened them, hoping to find that he was with Hatty. But he wasn't, and started shouting, 'No! Not this time! Not now!' Aunt Gwen thought he was having a nightmare, and she thought it was good that he would be going home the next day to be with his family again.

When his aunt left the room, Tom noticed his slippers on the floor, and simply thought it was a part of the mystery of him being there. He was so sure he could exchange his time for Hatty's, yet he was back at his aunt's house after just a few hours. Oh well, he decided he could go back in the garden that night, he still had a chance to stay there for as long as he wanted. The day was spent packing his things to go home, but he had no enthusiasm for it at all. When night fell and everyone else was asleep, Tom went downstairs, passing the ticking grandfather clock before he opened the door. He wondered if it would still be the winter season and he wondered if he might go further back in time to when Hatty was a child, so that they could play together. He went out and sniffed the air but couldn't recognise the smell of the garden. It was pitch dark but Tom could just feel his way through the garden because he knew it so well. But when he stepped outside, his feet met with a cold stone floor. He ran towards the yew trees but before he reached them, he crashed into a fence. He knew that he wasn't in the garden at all. Instead, he was in the back yard. He ran back inside the house, calling for Hatty.

It woke up all the tenants, including his aunt and uncle. Even Mrs Bartholomew woke up and was somewhat distressed. Tom was taken back to bed and calmed down after his sleep-walking incident. Uncle Alan showed Aunt Gwen an old-fashioned pair of skates that Tom was carrying. They had no idea how he would be in possession of them. Aunt Gwen thought she heard Tom calling someone's name but Uncle Alan just thought he was screaming.

Chapter 26 – The Apology

Tom woke up on Saturday morning, upset that he had missed his last opportunity to go in the garden and see Hatty. His aunt and uncle had decided to drive him home as they didn't think he was well enough to go by himself on the train. They would go in the afternoon when Uncle Alan finished work. As he left that morning, he said that Mrs Bartholomew wanted an apology from Tom for the disturbance during the night. Aunt Gwen didn't think he should apologise but Tom said he would go and see her.

He knocked on her door and confirmed his name was Tom Long when she asked. She had heard him call out a name during the night, to which Tom said he was sorry, but she went on to say that he didn't understand. He had been calling for her – she was Hatty! She brought him into her flat, where he recognised the barometer on the wall. He also saw a large portrait of a young man, and Tom knew it was Barty. He realised that young Barty and the late Mr Bartholomew were the same person.

Tom didn't believe that she was Hatty at first because she had been a little girl when Queen Victoria had reigned. However, Hatty explained that she was born toward the end of her reign, not the beginning. Tom said he didn't understand. He wanted to know what happened after he last saw Hatty, which was the day they skated together. Hatty told him that it wasn't the last day they had seen each other and he must have forgotten. He didn't know the whole story and she must tell him.

Chapter 27 – A Tale for Tom Long

Hatty Bartholomew told him that it was the year 1895 when they skated to Ely in the year of the famous great frost. When Barty took them home it was the first time she had really spoken to him because she was very shy. During that journey they got to know each other, and later, he told her that he'd already decided that he wanted to marry her. She accepted his proposal, and Aunt Melbourne was glad to be rid of her. They were married on Midsummer's Day a year or so after. On Midsummer's Eve she was packing things when she remembered her promise to leave her skates in the secret hiding place. She had kept them there all this time; a long time since she had seen Tom. She wrote a note to put with them. Tom told her that he had the note.

That night, there was a big storm, the tall fir tree was struck by lightning and fell down. She had seen Tom in the garden but he never saw her watching out of the window. Tom

remembered seeing the tree fall. On the day of her wedding, Abel complained about the damage that had been done by the tree. Hatty forgot all about it and about Tom because she was concentrating on her wedding. She went to live with Barty on a farm in the Fens, and they were very happy.

Things went very well for them, in fact much better than for her cousins back at the house. All three of them were in the family business, but Hubert and Edgar went off, leaving James on his own. He married and had children, but his wife died, and the business went from bad to worse. He decided to emigrate and before doing so, he sold off everything, including the house and the land. Hatty and Barty came to the auction and bought a few things, including the barometer and the grandfather clock. By then, James had already sold off two meadows, the orchard and the garden because he was short of money. Houses were being built at the end of the garden. Hatty said that Tom looked thinner every time she saw him, and by the end of that drive home, he had vanished!

Tom wanted to know about last night. Hatty said that she dreamt about her wedding day and about going away to the Fens. Tom told Hatty that he had opened the door, to find the garden had gone, and he screamed out Hatty's name. Hatty said that he woke her and she knew it was Tom calling for help. She couldn't believe he was real until she saw him that morning.

Tom said that they were both real. Then and Now. Like the angel said, 'Time No Longer.' The grandfather clock struck two and Hatty understood that it was eleven in the morning. Tom stayed with her for a cup of mid-morning tea and they talked about their memories of the garden. Tom asked after Abel and she told him that he got married to Susan, and they had a large family. It was time for Tom to have lunch with his aunt and uncle before being driven home. Hatty hoped that she would see him again, and she wanted his brother, Peter, to come and visit. She remembered seeing him in Ely. Tom was looking forward to going back home to update Peter about everything and tell him that he had an invite from Hatty. He gave her a hug before returning to Aunt Gwen. His aunt was watching and was surprised to see them hugging as if they had known each other for years. When she told Uncle Alan, she said that he put his arms around her and hugged her goodbye as if she were a little girl.