

Закр́тый клуб

Читаем вместе по-английски



'Always' by Sarah Jio

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Lesson 28

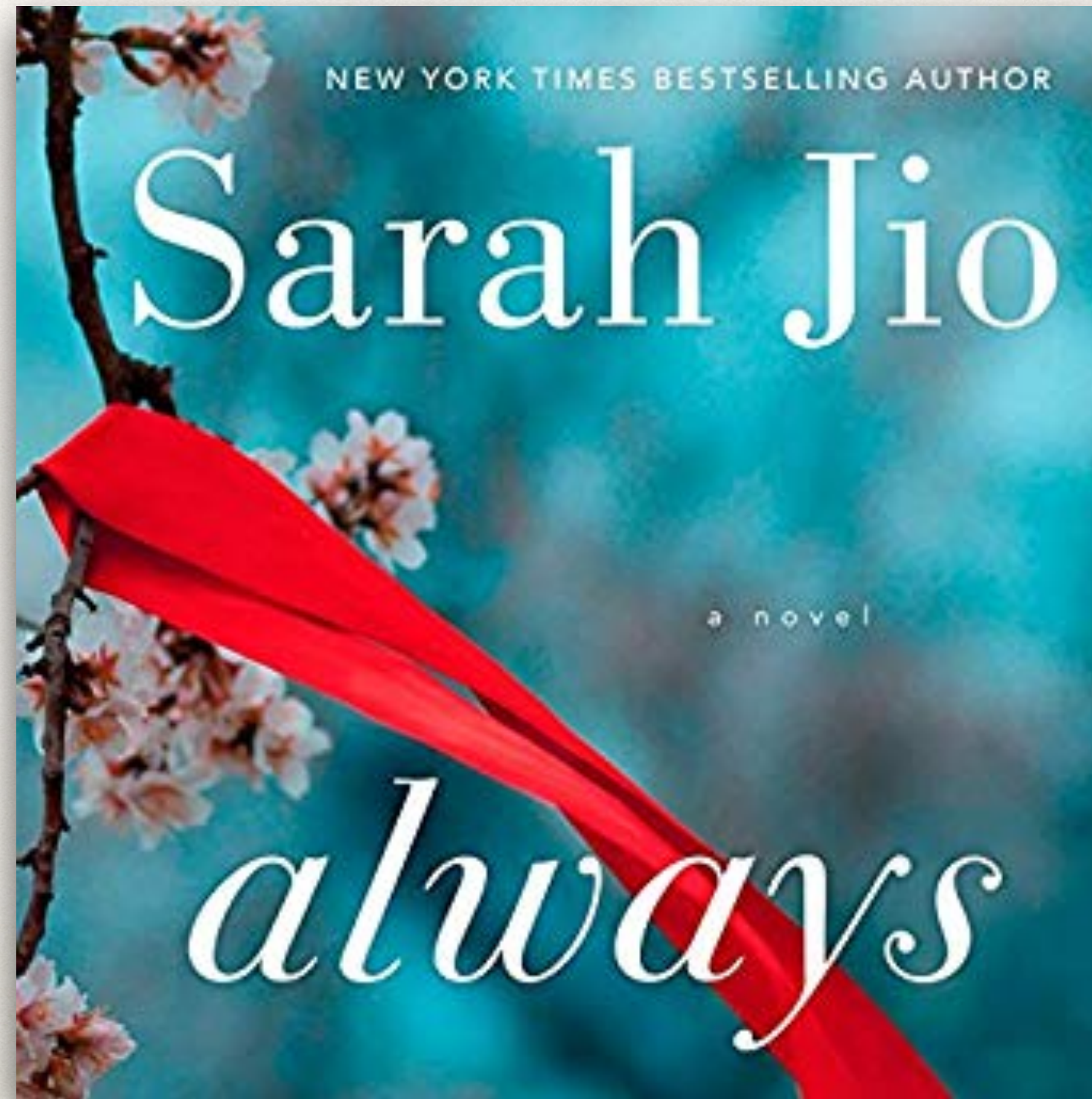
Always

Chapter 23, Part 2

Chapter 24

Chapter 25, Part 1

Chapter 23



Always

Chapter 23

- “No,” I say. “We’re just on a...vacation.”
- Ryan **leans into** the conversation. “We’re **getting married soon,**” he says. “So I guess you could call this a **practice honeymoon.**”
- Allie laughs. “**I wish Dalton had thought** of that,” she says, looking at the man beside her. “We **got married last weekend.**”

Always

Chapter 23

- I feel Ryan's **gaze on** me. "Congratulations."
- "Will you two come back here for your...**actual** honeymoon?"
- "I don't know," I say. "We **haven't really decided that yet.**"
- "Really?" Allie looks shocked. "We **booked** this place **a year and a half ago,**" she says, **gazing affectionately** at her husband.

Always

Chapter 23

- “Anyway, **it’s nice to have the wedding behind us.** I just love **referring to** Dalton as my husband. **There’s nothing like it.**” She turns to me, **eager to share** a confidence. “But I **did love planning** my wedding. I had twelve **bridesmaids.**”
- “Wow,” I say. “That sounds...big.”
- “Six hundred people, yes,” she says.

Always

Chapter 23

- I feel a little **woozy** suddenly, and I **rub my clammy palms together**. Did the bartender make my margarita a double?
- "I had roses and **freesias** in my bouquet," Allie **chirps**. "And the cake! Five **tiers** of white chocolate with **fondant**. Dalton and I saved a **section** to **have on our first anniversary**."

Always

Chapter 23

- My heart is beating fast. I feel strange, like I'm in a **confined space** with **locked windows** and doors.
- "It was all so beautiful," Allie continues. "I loved my dress. **Would you like to see** a photo?"
- No. I don't want to see a photo of her wedding dress. No, I don't want to talk about her wedding, or mine, or any **shade of happily ever after.**

Always

Chapter 23

- I stand up suddenly. "I'm sorry. I, I...I think I've had too much sun, or too many drinks, or both. I **don't feel well**. I'm going to **go lie down** in the room **for a while**."
- My head **is spinning**. **Beads of sweat dot** my brow.
- "I'll go with you," Ryan says, **concerned**, grabbing my bag.
- "**Feel better**," Allie says, her voice **tinged with equal parts confusion and concern**.

Always

Chapter 23

- In the room, two **maids are making the bed**. Ryan politely asks them to leave, and I **sink onto** the bed.
- "Here," Ryan says, sitting beside me. "Drink some water. The sun is hot. You're **dehydrated.**"
- I take the glass and **gulp it down**. If only water could **cure** what **ails** me.
- —

Always

Chapter 23

- At dinner that night, Ryan orders a bottle of wine from one of our favorite **vineyards** in Napa. "Caymus," I say, trying to **cheer up**.
- "How perfect that they have it, right?"
- I smile, remembering how he surprised me with a trip to Napa five months after we began **dating**.

Always

Chapter 23

- We both became instantly **smitten** with that little **winery**. The **windy** road **was lined with wildflowers**, and I asked Ryan to stop so I could pick a **red poppy**. I **long for** those days now.
- As the waiter pours us each a glass, I notice the couple from the pool. They're **seated at** a table on the other side of the **dining room**, leaning so close to each other that it looks as if their noses are touching.

Always

Chapter 23

- “My brother’s going to **fly in for the engagement party,**” Ryan says, **swirling** his wineglass, then taking a long sip.
- “That’s great,” I say, realizing that until this moment I’ve forgotten about our party. Ryan reserved the **event space** at Serafina, a restaurant in Seattle’s Eastlake neighborhood that we both love. But it was **a favorite of mine long before** Ryan. And **the truth is,** every **inch** of the city holds a memory for me. Memories of another time.

Always

Chapter 23

- “I saw on the **Evite RSVP** list that Gregory and Katie will be coming, too,” he continues. “I didn’t think they’d **drive up all the way from Portland.**”
- I think of all the people who will be there. Gregory and Katie. Mike and Lisa. Evie and Jonathan. Jan. Tracy. Ryan’s boss.

Always

Chapter 23

- That **cute** couple on the corner of our street who are expecting their first baby before the end of the year. All of them coming to celebrate our love. I feel the **buzz** of my phone in my purse and I pause to **dig for** it. I gave Dr. Branson my number and told her to call or text if Cade had any problems.

Always

Chapter 23

- “Kailey,” Ryan says **softly**.
- I look up from my phone. Just a text from Tracy.
- “Is it too much to ask to just **have you all to myself** tonight?” he says. “I **don’t want to share you with** anyone. Not your phone. Not your past. And definitely not that ex-boyfriend who may or may not still **be tugging at** your heart.”

Always

Chapter 23

- I force a smile and reach across the table for his hand. "Of course," I say, **blinking back tears**. "Ryan, you have me."
- "Do I?" he asks. His voice is **tender, vulnerable**.
- "Yes," I say, squeezing his hand. "Yes."
- —

Always

Chapter 23

- It's after nine when I open my eyes the next morning. I'm wrapped in Ryan's arms, and I **don't want to break from his embrace**. I love the warmth of his skin, and **the way he's holding me**. I feel safe and **sound, cocooned from the world**. But my phone is ringing across the room. Ryan **stirs** as I **extricate myself** to answer it.
- I don't recognize the number. "Hello?"

Always

Chapter 23

- “Kailey, this is Dr. Branson. **I’m sorry to bother you.** I know you’re **out of the country.** But it’s Cade.”
- “What happened?”
- Ryan **sits up in bed.**
- Dr. Branson clears her throat. “He left, and we’ve **been unable to find** him.”

Always

Chapter 23

- “What do you mean, he left?”
- “We **do have staff here at all hours,**” she explains, “but our front desk **attendant must have stepped out** to use the bathroom when he walked out. The **security camera** shows him exiting this morning **around four A.M.**”
- “This is terrible,” I say.

Always

Chapter 23

- “It is,” she continues. “But **I don’t think we should panic.** It’s possible he’ll return later. **I’ve notified hospital security to keep an eye out for him nearby.**”
- I look out the open doors that lead to the balcony. Waves **ripple onto the sugar-sand beach** below. Everything about the scene is peaceful and **placid**, but inside all I feel is terror. Cade is on the streets again. And I am thousands of miles away.

Always

Chapter 23

- **"I'll catch an early flight back,"** I say. "I can find him. I know where he goes."
- **"I hate for you to have to do that,"** she says. "But I—"
- **"He'd do it for me,"** I say.
- Ryan doesn't say anything when I **set my phone down.**
"Cade's missing," I say. "You probably heard."

Always

Chapter 23

- He nods and leans back against the pillows **propped up** behind him. I can't tell if he's **upset or annoyed** or both.
- "I'm so sorry," I say. "But I **have to go**. I can't be here knowing that he's on the streets again. He's **lost**, Ryan. He needs my help. And I know that it may be hard for you to understand, but I **have to help** him."

Always

Chapter 23

- Ryan sighs. "Of course I don't want you to go," he says. "But you have to do what you have to do. Our relationship has always been about that sort of **trust**, and freedom to do what we need to do."
- "Thanks," I say as I **frantically** pack, then **call the airline to change my flight**. If I can **get a cab** immediately, **I'll be able to catch** the eleven A.M. flight home to Seattle.

Always

Chapter 23

- I **slip on** a pair of jeans and put my hair into a ponytail. Before I **wheel** my suitcase to the door, I walk back to the bed, where Ryan is still lying **shirtless** beneath a sheet.
- "I **hate to go,**" I say. "But I have to."

Always

Chapter 23

- He looks at me for a long time, then **pulls me to him.** **"I wish you didn't have to,"** he says. "But do what you need to do, baby."
- My eyes **well up with tears** as I **kiss him goodbye.** "Thank you. You don't know how much that **means to me,** Ryan."

Chapter 24



Always

Chapter 24

- OCTOBER 10, 1998
- The pain is **excruciating**.
- **"Keep breathing,"** Tracy says as she drives her Volvo up James Street to Swedish Hospital. **"We're almost there."**
- I nod and take a deep breath, then **exhale** before **crying out in pain** again. Towels **are wadded up** beneath me on the seat. **I've never seen so much blood.**

Always

Chapter 24

- **“Hold on,”** she says. “Just a few more minutes.”
- I’m **dizzy** and weak. I know what’s **happening to** me. I’m aware the baby Cade and I **conceived may be leaving** my body, just as Cade left me. Left the planet, really. I turn to Tracy and cry out. “It hurts so much.”

Always

Chapter 24

- And I think then that physical pain is nothing **compared to** the **anguish** my heart feels. **Bearing this alone.** Can I do it?
- "I'm here," she says, **swerving** into the hospital **parking lot.**
"You're **going to be** okay, I promise."

Always

Chapter 24

- “I hate him,” I **scream through the pain ripping through** my **abdomen**. “I hate him for not being here.”
- “**Breathe**, honey,” Tracy says as she drives up to the hospital.
- Tears stream down my cheeks as she **rolls down the window** and shouts at a hospital employee in blue **scrubs** near the elevator. “We need a **wheelchair!**”

Always

Chapter 24

- Moments later I'm **rushed** in a **dizzy blur** to the fifth floor. Medical staff **hover around** me.
- "My God, she's **bleeding out!**"
- "Get the doctor!"
- "Where's the father?"
- "Hurry, **get the IV in!**"
- "**Her blood pressure is falling!**"

Always

Chapter 24

- It's **like a nightmare** where you want to scream, but you can't. I **am alone with** my pain, both physical and emotional. I **moan** and **weep**; Tracy speaks for me. She squeezes my hand and **wipes the sweat** from my **brow**. I **feel pain shooting like daggers** from my back to my stomach.

Always

Chapter 24

- I feel everything when I so **desperately want to feel nothing.**
- "Tracy?" I cry.
- "I'm right here."
- "I lost the baby, didn't I?"
- She squeezes my arm. "I'm so sorry, Kailey."

Always

Chapter 24

- I **roll to my side** and **moan** as a doctor with a soft voice and **dark-rimmed glasses** approaches holding a **syringe**. “This **will take care of the pain,**” he says.
- The needle **pricks** my skin, and moments later I’m **enveloped in a blanket of calm**. Nurses and doctors **buzz around** my **outstretched legs, carving out the remnants** of a life that will never be.
- —

Always

Chapter 24

- When it's over, I stare out the window **despondently**. The cherry trees that line James Street are starting to lose their leaves. Two years ago, Cade and I **walked hand in hand** along that street when they **were in full bloom**. He stopped to shake a branch and **let the pink blossoms flutter down**.
"Snow, **for my beloved.**"

Always

Chapter 24

- “Excuse me, Kailey,” the doctor says, approaching me **cautiously**. “I thought you might like to know”—he **swallows hard**—“that it was a girl.”
- My heart **surges**. My daughter. Cade’s daughter.

Always

Chapter 24

- We are a family now, joined together forever by this little life we created. But he's gone. They're **both gone**. And the world is dark.
- Tracy reaches for my hand. "Oh, Kailey. I'm so sorry. I'm so very sorry." She places her hand on my arm. I close my eyes and weep.

Chapter 25



Always

Chapter 25

- DECEMBER 15, 2008
- I am **restless** on the plane home to Seattle. I **shift into a million positions, lose interest in the in-flight movie**, try to sleep but can't, and am basically **miserable**. Flying **has always fascinated** me: the concept of being thirty thousand feet high, **suspended** between here and there.

Always

Chapter 25

- In no place, really. While it **used to give me comfort**, this middle place—this idea of being neither here nor there but in between—it doesn't now. The pilot can't fly this thing fast enough, and as I watch the clouds out the window I'm **plagued with** worry. Cade, I'm coming. I'm coming.

Always

Chapter 25

- I speed-walk through **baggage claim to customs**, then outside to **flag down a cab**. I call Harborview, but when they transfer me to Cade's building there's no answer, so I **instruct** the driver to take me to Cade's apartment. I ask him to wait while I rush to the reception desk. **He's still gone.**
- We drive downtown next, past Le Marche, past his old Pioneer Square apartment, up and down Fourth and Fifth six times.

Always

Chapter 25

- “Miss, **you want me to take** you somewhere else?” the driver says, turning to me **at a stoplight**.
- It’s **the most expensive cab ride of my life**, but I don’t care. I tell him to **circle downtown** once more. We do, but Cade is... nowhere.
- “I guess you can take me home now,” I say, **dejectedly** giving him my address.

Always

Chapter 25

- Ten minutes later, we're **parked on the street** in front of my house. I **pay the fare**, and the driver lifts my suitcase out of the trunk. I stand on the sidewalk as he drives away, then turn to the house. My eyes widen when I notice a figure sitting on the second step of my **porch** in the shadow of the **wisteria vine**.
- I drop my bag when I see him, hands at his sides, knees **propped up** slightly on the steps. "Cade!"

Always

Chapter 25

- His face brightens when he sees me. "Hi," he says.
- "Cade, what happened? Why are you here?"
- He rubs his forehead. "I don't know. I, I...I missed you."
- I feel a **burst** inside, **sort of like the first taste of a lemon**. It's intense and **all-consuming**. "You did?"

Always

Chapter 25

- "You **were gone for so long,**" he says.
- "Just three days," I **assure** him, reaching for his hands. "I came home **as soon as** Dr. Branson called and said you were missing."
- "I'm sorry," he says. "I just..."

Always

Chapter 25

- "I won't leave again, not for a while. Not until you get more **settled**. You're **making such good progress**. The new medication **seems to be working**."
- We walk inside the house, and when he reaches for my suitcase, **at first** I shake my head. But he **insists**, so I **let him carry** it.
- Cade nods. "**I'm remembering**. More and more."

Always

Chapter 25

- **“Like what? Tell me something.”**
- He smiles. “Like...you. And boats.”
- “Boats?”
- He nods. “We **took a ferry ride**, didn’t we? To an island.”

Always

Chapter 25

- “We did,” I say. I pull my cellphone out of my pocket and **scroll through** my photos, old and new, that I scanned and saved, to find the one Cade **took of me on the ferry** so many years ago. “Do you remember this?”

Always

Chapter 25

- He blinks hard, reaching out for my phone. He takes it and stares at the image **longingly**. "I do."
- He smiles. "It's like a **blurry dream**."
- "You saved my life that day," I continue. "Do you remember?"
- He nods.
- "Funny that when I asked you what you remember, you said boats."

Always

Chapter 25

- A **cloud falls over** his face then. I sit down on the couch and he sits beside me.
- **"What is it?"**
- "There's something else I remember," he continues.
- "What?"

Always

Chapter 25

- His face is **strained**, as if he's **recalling** a horror he'd **just as well let slip back** into the **cobwebbed corners of his mind**. And **I'd like him to**, but I have a feeling this memory is **significant** somehow.
- "Cade," I say, placing my hand on his arm. "Tell me."
- He stares straight ahead. "It was dark. There was water." His hand **trembles** in mine. "I **felt something hit** my head."

Always

Chapter 25

- "Something? What?"
- "I don't know," he says. "It was cold. **Waves crashing all around. I could taste blood** in my mouth."
- "Cade, are you sure? Dr. Branson said your memories would return, but that sometimes they'd **be jumbled.**"
- "I don't know," he says. "Maybe."

Always

Chapter 25

- "Is there anything else? Anything more specific?"
- He's quiet for a long moment, and I don't try to **fill the air with chatter**. I want to **give him space** to remember.
- "Princess," he says.
- "What?"

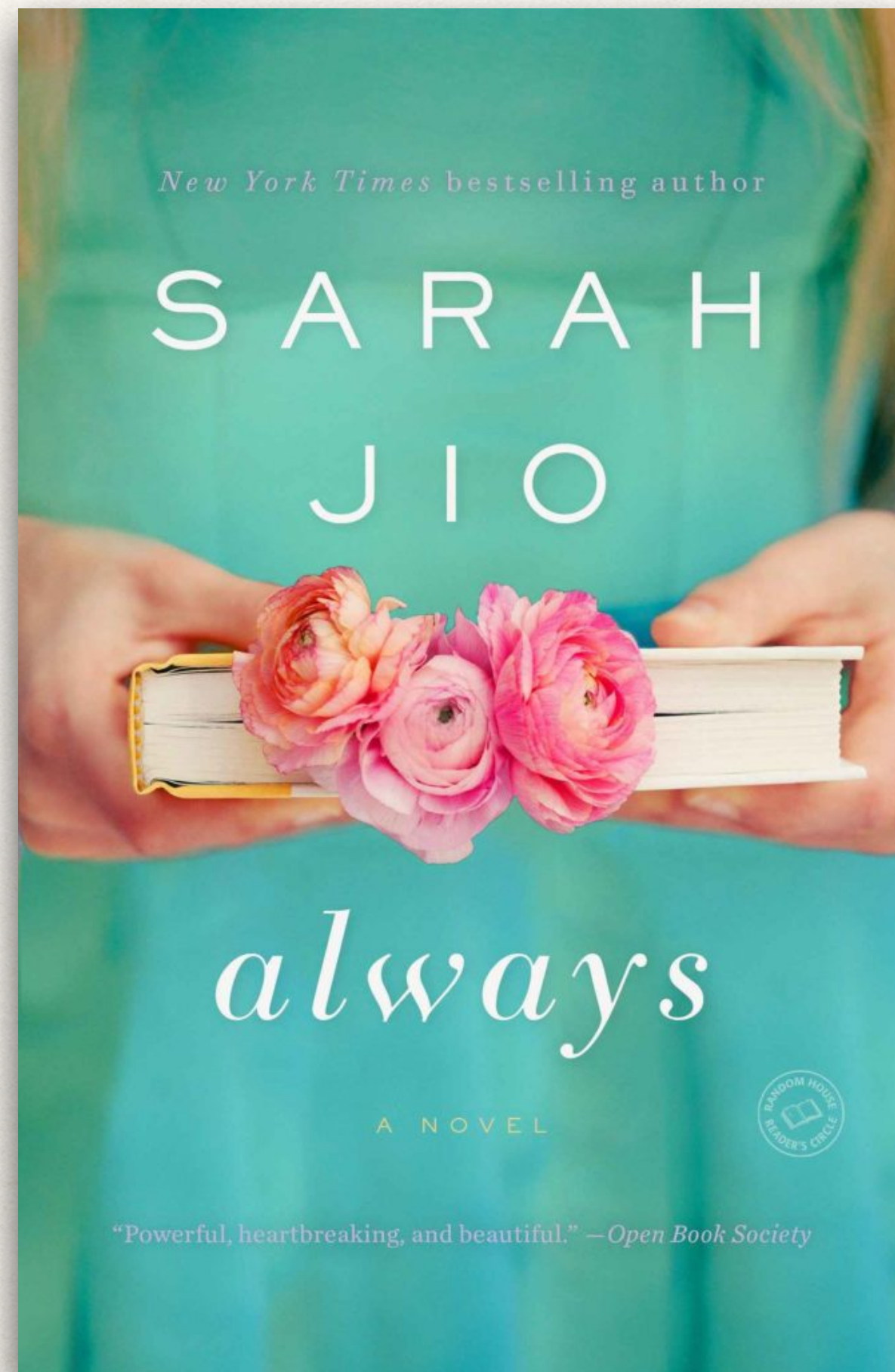
Always

Chapter 25

- “That word was on the side of the boat.”
- “Are you sure?”
- He nods. **“I think so.** It was painted in **navy-blue** letters.”
- I pull up my phone and open a browser window. “Maybe it’s a type of yacht.” I Google “princess yachts” and **sure enough,** there’s a company of the same name.

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