**Week 2: Pages 1-23**

A Conversation About Rain

* Nora Seed is a girl who is worried about her future
* Mrs. Elm, the librarian, is playing chess with Nora and advises her that she doesn’t need to worry because she has her entire life ahead of her
* Nora states her mother treats her like she is a mistake that needs to be corrected
* Nora sees a blonde boy run by the window, reminding her that the outside world is “unguarded”
* We learn Nora’s brother left, and the library is her safe space
* Mrs. Elm leaves for a moment to take a call, and seems concerned at the news she receives.

The Man At The Door

* Nineteen years later, she is 35, still living in her hometown of Bedford.
* Nora is at home and someone rings the doorbell.
* It is Ash, a boy who she knows that asked her for coffee a while back
* He tells her that there is cat outside that is dead; It is Nora’s cat
* Nora does not feel grief, but rather envy.

String Theory

* Nora arrives at work late. She works at String Theory, a music shop
* Her boss Neil asks Nora why she is still working there. He reminds her it is never too late to pursue a dream.
* We learn Nora’s mother has died, and she even almost got married to a man named Dan but back out two bays before.
* Neil reminisces on all the things Nora has achieved; university, pro-swimmer, in a band, and doesn’t understand why she stays.
* He tells her has to let her go, despite her saying she is content with the job.

To Live Is To Suffer

* Dan, her ex fiance, is still in love with Nora. He texts her asking if they can talk.
* Nora still has feelings for him, but does not want to hurt him.

Doors

* Nora goes into a newsagent’s, where she sees her brothers friend, Ravi
* He tells her that he just saw her brother Joe, which saddens Nora because she didn't even know he was coming
* Ravi says Joe isn’t himself, and seems depressed
* The two have a small argument over some past events, specifically Nora leaving the band that she and Ravi used to be in.
* When leaving, a woman stops Nora. It is Kerry Anne, a swimmer from her school.
* Kerry Anne asks if she still swims, what she does, etc, leaving Nora further questioning her life choices and current state.

How To Be A Black Hole

* Nora texts her former best friend Izzy, but she doesn’t respond
* Nora grows more hopeless, questioning her existence.

Antimatter

* Doreen, the mother of Leo, one of Nora’s piano students, texts her saying he is going to give up piano. Nora tries to convince her how good at piano he is, but she says he is too busy.
* She walks by an older man named Mr. Banerjee; he informs her she no longer needs to pick up his pills for him because a different person can do it. This makes Nora feel even more unneeded.
* Nora is home alone and feels like everyone is better without her.
* Nora ultimately decides she no longer wishes to be alive, so writes a letter saying she blew all her chances at life, and that she can no longer stay in the world.