

Bassani – chapter summaries



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Prologue Said has always wanted to write about Finzi-Continis. Goes on a drive with friends along the Aurelia. Visits Etruscan tombs

Chapter 1 Part 1 description of tomb of Finzi Continis. History of the architecture. How it looks today and the fact that it and the house is overlooked by the Touring Club Guides

Chapter 2 Part 1 Description of the house. Narrator's father's rants about their aloofness. Story of how Ermanno Finzi-Contini refused to accept fascist membership card and paid official 5000 lire to go away.

Chapter 3 Part 1 How little Guido Finzi-Contini died. Shows his epitaph. Doctor understands because he lost a little boy, Reuben. 2 teachers, Meldolesi and Signora Olga teach both at local school and privately for Micol and Alberto. Only see them when collecting exam results

Chapter 4 Part 1 Always something between narrator and Alberto and Micol. Description of services in the synagogue . Father disliked this connection between them

Chapter 5 Part 1 Narrator hasn't done very well in exams. Completely failed maths. 'Entertains vague thoughts of suicide' under linden trees. Micol invites him into garden

Chapter 6 Part 1 climbing up the wall into the garden. Used to watch men climbing the high wall and thinking he would never be able to do it. Thinks about kissing Micol. By the time he has put his bicycle in the safe-hiding place people from the house have seen Micol up the ladder and asked her to come down.

Chapter 1 Part 2 10 years later in 1938. 2 months after Racial Laws. Invite from Alberto to play tennis. Gets into discussion with father about attitude to the laws in Ferrara. Describes how Finzi-Contini family had returned to Italian synagogue. Is thrown out of the tennis club. Micol calls and they talk about their degrees

Chapter 2 Part 2 First time playing in the garden of the Finzi-Continis. 4 boys and a girl have also been invited. Adriana describes how she and Bruno had been prevented from

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winning the tournament. Chapter 3 Part 2 Goes to the garden to play tennis every day for 10-12 days after lunch. Malnate the only one who comes less regularly. Mentions the Skiwasser and the servant Perotti and his children

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