

ANNA

and the

FRENCH



KISS

AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

STEPHANIE PERKINS

# Summary

*Anna and the French Kiss*, a young adult novel by Stephanie Perkins, is narrated in first-person-present by seventeen-year-old Anna Oliphant. Anna's father, a pompous popular author, has decided to send her to boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school. Anna is happy with her life in Atlanta. She works in a movie theater and writes a blog about film theory and criticism. Her best friend goes to high school with her. The boy she has liked forever has finally kissed her. She does not want to go to Paris, but she has no choice. Her father and mother fly with her to Paris and drop her off at her dorm. When they leave her alone, she cries into her pillow until her next-door-neighbor, Meredith, hears her sobs and invites her over for hot chocolate.

The next day, Meredith makes a point to invite Anna to sit with her at lunch and meet her friends: Josh, Rashmi, and the extremely attractive and charming Étienne St. Clair. Anna is immediately attracted to him, but she quickly learns he is dating Meredith's best friend, Ellie, who moved across town to go to college after graduating last year. Anna spends her first week in Paris shut in her dorm room alone,

talking to her best friend, Bridge, on the phone and through email. She intends to do the same thing all weekend, but then St. Clair comes to her room and invites her to come see the city with him. They go to the center of the city, and Anna makes a wish on the magical star. Because she does not know whether or not she wants to be in Paris, she wishes for whatever is best for her. On the way back, she realizes that Paris is full of theaters, and she warms up to the city a little more.

Anna continues to spend time with St. Clair as a friend, but he spends most of his free time with Ellie. To distract herself from her jealousy, Anna dedicates herself to exploring all the theaters in the city, but she is continually distracted by her growing feelings for St. Clair. On Halloween, they all go to a cemetery, but St. Clair gets a phone call from his mother, who tells him she has cancer. He leaves and goes out drinking with Josh. He then comes back to Anna's dorm wasted. He tells her he likes her and asks her if she likes him. He throws up all over her room. When he asks her about their conversation, she lies and tells him that he did not say anything because she does not want to cause additional stress while his mother is sick.

Over Thanksgiving break, Annie and St. Clair are the only two students who stay on campus. Anna brings St. Clair out of his depressed state and gets him to get out of bed, shower, and clean his room. They go out all day and explore the city. At night, he asks if he can stay with her because he does not want to be alone, and she agrees. For the whole weekend, they do not do anything without each other. When everyone comes back, though, things revert to normal between them, and Anna feels hurt. They fight until Christmas break, when they share a plane back home to the United States. Anna is excited to see Bridge and Toph. However, when she returns to Atlanta, she learns that the two of them have started dating. She calls St. Clair, and he comforts her. Then, they spend the whole holiday talking on the phone and emailing with one another.

When Anna gets back to Paris, she realizes that she is in love with her best friend. She hopes that he will break up with Ellie, because he seems to share her feelings, but nothing changes. On her birthday, Anna gets drunk and dances with St. Clair for hours. Ellie's roommate sees them and calls her. St. Clair gets upset, and Anna demands that he tell her why he will not break up with Ellie. He says that he does not want to be alone, and she tells him never to speak with her again. The next day, they apologize to one

another and St. Clair begs her to give him more time to figure everything out. Anna begins dating a boy named Dave, but things quickly fizzle out.

As Spring blooms, Anna and St. Clair go to Meredith's football game and watch her play. They sneak out halfway and go to a park. They finally kiss, but Meredith, Rashmi, and Josh interrupt them. Meredith runs away crying because she has a crush on St. Clair, and Anna feels rejected by him again. When he goes to Ellie's afterwards, Anna assumes the worst and tells him she is finished with him.

Anna makes up with Meredith and Bridge. She learns that after she and St. Clair kissed, he was only with Ellie for the purpose of breaking up with her. Anna makes plans to go to San Francisco for college, and St. Clair decides to follow her to Berkley. Before leaving Paris, Anna goes to Notre Dame alone, and St. Clair follows her up to the top even though he is afraid of heights. He tells her he loves her, and she returns the sentiment before they end on a happily-ever-after note.

## Chapters 1 - 9 Summary

In Chapter 1, the narrator, Anna Oliphant, says that she only knows a few basics about the country France, but her father has decided to ship her off to a French boarding school for her senior year anyway. Her father is an author who has recently made a big-break in his career. Anna tries to argue her way out of moving, because she does not want to leave her best friend or her almost-boyfriend, but her father insists. He and Anna's mother fly with Anna to drop her off in Paris at the end of the summer. Her father had divorced her mother after one of his novels had gotten famous. Anna does not have a good relationship with him, but she is still sad when he and her mother leave her alone in her dorm.

In Chapter 2, Anna cries in her room, trying...

## Chapters 10 - 18 Summary

In Chapter 10, St. Clair continues to spend time hanging out with Anna as friends. However, he also continues to spend most evenings with Ellie at her dorm across the city. Anna tries to distract herself from her jealousy by going to the cinema as much as possible. She is frightened of going

alone, so she enlists her new friends to go with her. Her teacher assigns a scavenger hunt and splits the class into teams. Anna gets chosen last, and she feels sad.

In Chapter 11, Anna goes to the movies with Josh and Rashmi. St. Clair shows up unexpectedly. Rashmi accuses him of always ditching them for Ellie, who thinks she is too good for the rest of them now that she is at college. They get in a fight, and St. Clair apologizes. St. Clair sits next to Anna during the movie...

## Chapters 19 - 28 Summary

In Chapter 19, Anna and St. Clair go to the Pantheon together. St. Clair is afraid of heights and has a hard time walking up the steep stairs of the crypt. Anna helps him through it. They leave and find a restaurant serving a turkey dinner, and Anna asks him about his mother, and he talks to her for hours about it. They go out to see a double-feature and laugh all night. When they return to the dorm, he says goodnight to her, but then asks if he can stay in her room. She says yes.



In Chapter 20, St. Clair and Anna go into her room. He asks her about Toph, and she lies and says she is really excited to go see him over Christmas break. They get into bed awkwardly and sleep together without doing anything romantic.

In Chapter 21, St. Clair...

ChaptIn Chapter 29, Anna ignores all of Bridge's calls and stays at home hanging out with Seany and talking to St. Clair. St. Clair calls her on New Year's Eve, and they celebrate the Atlanta New Year and then the California New Year. They fall asleep on the phone and Anna feels more at home with him than anywhere else.

In Chapter 30, Anna is ecstatic to fly back to Paris. She is no longer frightened of being on her own. When she sees St. Clair, she realizes she is in love with him and always has been.

In Chapter 31, Anna decides to call St. Clair by his first name, Étienne. He is delighted by her new intimacy with



him. He gives her a small banana bead as a late Christmas gift, because he knows her childhood nickname is Banana. They go drink...

## Chapters 39 - 47 Summary

In Chapter 39, Meredith runs off crying, and Étienne chases after her. Anna is shocked and feels rejected. Rashmi and Josh help take her to her dorm. She hears music coming from Meredith's room and knocks on the door. Meredith tells her that Étienne ran off to Ellie's as always. Anna goes to the bathroom to vomit but is not able to do so. She comes out, and Amanda insults her and calls Meredith a "dyke." Anna attacks her physically and gets sent to the headmaster's office.

In Chapter 40, Anna refuses to repeat the word that Amanda says, so she gets assigned more detention time. Étienne comes to Anna's room to ask her what happened, and she yells at him for going back to Ellie's without giving him a chance to speak.

In Chapter 41, Anna goes to class but...

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