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History 8th

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*Chains* Analysis

*Chains* written by Laurie Halse Anderson is a book where the main plot of the whole book is about a story of a little girl who is a slave named Isabel. She is sold off at an auction to a loyalist family and fights for independence to get away from slavery with her sister. This book creates a paradox of sadness for Isabel but what are these questions that cause the paradox. The first question that needs to be stated is what participates in such sadness in Isabel and how does the hive grow bigger before Isabel learns how to destroy it? These two questions are the reason Isabel is sad and they are the key to her happiness if you have the answers. There needs to be answers, luckily they will. This is Isabel's unfinished symphony.

The first question needed to be answered is what precipitates such sadness in Isabel? To answer that question you have to go back to the beginning when they had a contract signed by Miss Mary Finch to free them, but Mr. Robert stopped that from happening. Isabel and Ruth were sold to an abusive loyalist family and had no control of the situation. Isabel lost her parents when she was a child. She was beaten and forced to intensive labor and lost Ruth when Miss Lockton put her out with a sleep potion to smuggle her away. On top of that she lost hope in the American side and was branded when she tried to run away. All of those events were nothing compared to herself and Ruth’s freedom.

The first part is not done yet there's more explaining to do on her suffrage. As the days went by Isabel or Sal, her new name was getting more depressed because she feared she would never escape. Madam Lockton couldn't even talk to her now and told Becky to be her minion and tell her what to do. The Americans had failed her, Curzon had failed her or did he. Sal still had a debt to pay so she visited Curzon at prison and was very mellow about it but needed him alive. Isabel has had immense work to do and it just drives her deeper into depression knowing she will never be free.

The final question needed to be answered is; how does the hive grow bigger before Isabel learns to destroy it? Well there is one quote to answer it by a man that Isabel called Grandfather. On page 167 Grandfather says "Everything that stands between you and freedom is the river Jordan." For some context Jordan is a river that symbolizes everything that stands between you and your own freedom. When Grandfather says those words a spark lights in Isabel's mind to make her think beyond the Americans and British. And with that idea set into motion she continues to use it to escape and defeat the hive which in this context is a dark deep crippling depression which she has found the antidote for getting out of this situation.

With the two questions answered, Chains is completed. The answer to the first question was torture, pain, losing Ruth and much more. The second question was the river of Jordan to spark hope in dark times. Chains is a book where Isabel struggles to find a way to freedom with her little sister Ruth and she has found the final piece of the puzzle. There are many questions in this book but these two center around her sadness and broken heart. But finally they have been fixed with the answers to the questions: how does the hive grow bigger before Isabel learns to destroy it and what precipitates such sadness in Isabel?