***Like Water for Chocolate***

Chapter Abstracts

Directions: Chapter abstracts are short descriptions of events that occur in each chapter. They highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of characters and objects. As you read, please list all the relevant points for each chapter (see the example for Chapter 1)

(EXAMPLE) Chapter 1, January, Christmas Rolls Abstract

* Tita's life is one that is filled with the delight of food.
* Pedro comes over one day when the women are in the kitchen.
* Mama says her youngest daughter can never marry as she is to take care of Mama when she is old.
* Mama says Pedro can have Rosaura instead.
* Pedro decides to marry Tita's sister so at least he will be close to her.

Chapter 2, February, Chabela Wedding Cake Abstract

* Tita is having a hard time making wedding cake for Rosaura and Pedro’s wedding
* Tita cries into the cake
* Pedro tells Tita that he loves her
* Everyone at the wedding gets sick and depressed
* Tita finds Nacha dead with a picture of her fiancé

Chapter 3, March, Quail in Rose Petal Sauce Abstract

* Pedro gives Tita roses but Mama Elena doesn’t let her keep them; Tita decides to make quail in rose petal sauce
* Rosaura is pregnant and jealous of Tita
* Tita is the new official ranch cook
* Gerturdis has an unusually sensual reaction to the food and runs off with a soldier after trying to take a shower after the meal
* Mama Elena finds out that Gertrudis is working in a brothel now and erases all traces of her

Chapter 4, April, Turkey Mole with Almonds and Sesame Seeds Abstract

* Tita is cooking turkey mole for the baptism of Rosaura and Pedro’s first son, Roberto
* Tita and Pedro have a moment in the kitchen and meet eyes
* Mama Elena tells Pedro to stop complimenting Tita’s food; Tita doesn’t know
* Tita sends a suitcase with clothes to Gertrudis
* Dr. Brown has feelings for Tita; he thinks she has grown up to be beautiful
* The wet nurse dies; Tita feeds Roberto; she secretly breastfeeds him
* Mama Elena decides to send Rosaura, Pedro, and Roberto away to San Antonio

Chapter 5, May, Northern-Style Chorizo Abstract

* Tita feeds pigeons and is depressed after Pedro and family leave
* Mama Elena takes care of rebels that came to the ranch while Tita hides
* Tita painstakingly bathes Mama Elena
* Tita finds out that Roberto died; she yells at Mama Elena and breaks down
* Mama Elena calls over Dr. Brown to take Tita to an insane asylum, but Dr. Brown takes her to his house

Chapter 6, June, A Recipe for Making Matches Abstract

* Tita is getting better after staying with John
* Tita sees the spirit of John’s grandmother (the Kikapu/Morning Light) who gives her tea
* Morning Light healed John’s great grandfather; his wife Mary couldn’t stop his bleeding with her modern methods
* John wants to prove her herbal methods scientifically, and has been practicing medicine
* Tita and John play a game (write on wall) to tell John why she doesn’t talk
* Tita wonders if John is the one she should be with

Chapter 7, July, Ox-Tail Soup Abstract

* Chencha comes to visit and brings Tita Ox-Tail soup; Tita cries and talks for the first time in a long time
* Chencha tells her she was disowned for her disobedience; she gives Tita a letter form Gertrudis
* Chencha comes up with a lie to tell Mama Elena but is raped after she gets home; Mama Elena is paralyzed
* Tita agrees to marry John
* She comes to the ranch to help Mama Elena; Mama Elena wouldn’t eat her food, thinking it was poison
* All the other cooks quit after a short while; Mama Elena killed herself unintentionally
* Tita finds out about Mama Elena’s relationship with a mulatto – Jose Trevino (Gertrudis’s father) who died
* Pedro returns and sees the relationship between John and Tita

Chapter 8, August, Champandongo Abstract

* Tita takes care of Esperanza – she does not breastfeed her and did not let her be named Josefita
* Tita makes mole because John is going to ask to marry; she spills it and has to start over
* Pedro talks to her when she is on the stairs trying to convince her to not marry; she is not convinced
* Alex wants to marry Esperanza
* Pedro is upset with Tita’s decision
* Chencha returns and is now married to Jesus Martinez
* John is engaged to Tita; they have an engagement party
* John leaves to get his aunt from America
* Pedro and Tita have sex in the dark room

Chapter 9, September, Chocolate and Three Kings' Day Bread Abstract

* Tita believes she is pregnant
* She reminisces about the past and being with Nacha
* Rosaura talks to Tita about her insecurity with herself and her relationship with Pedro
* Mama Elena appears and curses Tita and her “baby”
* The Loboses come to visit
* Gertrudis returns as general in the military and is married to Juan; comes to cut the Three King’s Day Bread
* When Gerturdis and Juan have a baby, Tita has to explain about Gertrudis’s mulatto father

Chapter 10, October, Cream Fritters Abstract

* Gertrudis talks about how life has been
* Tita says she can’t marry John; she talks to Gertrudis about Pedro, and Gerturdis sets her up to talk to Pedro
* Pedro is shocked that she is pregnant; Trevino and Gertrudis figure out how to make syrup
* As Pedro is drunk and serenading her from outside, Mama Elena appears in Tita’s room and scolds her
* Tita yells at the ghost of mother and tells her she has always hated her; Mama Elena turns into a light
* Tita has her menstrual flow and her pain and swelling is released; she realizes she is not pregnant
* The firecracker of Mama Elena’s light makes Pedro catch on fire; Pedro is burned
* Rosaura was upset because Tita held Pedro’s hand to comfort him
* Gertrudis leaves with her troops, husband, and child
* John comes back home

Chapter 11, November, Beans with Chile Tezcucana-Style Abstract

* John came home with his Aunt Mary
* Pedro is recovering from his burns
* Tita tells Pedro she is not pregnant
* Rosaura lost weight and talks to Tita; they argue
* Fighting chickens turn into a tornado and destroy part of outside
* During dinner, Tita tells John that she doesn’t want to marry anymore
* John tells her that he would let her decide

Chapter 12, December, Chiles in Walnut Sauce Abstract

* Tita prepares for the wedding between Alex and Esperanza; she has to crack nuts
* Pedro has been jealous about Tita and John
* Rosaura died a year ago
* Rosaura, Tita, and Pedro had a pact about caring for Esperanza; when Pedro and Tita supported Esperanza and Alex marrying, Rosaura was upset
* The wedding was a success
* Pedro and Tita go into the dark room and have sex
* Pedro moves on to the other world; Tita eats candles to follow him there