Breakdown and summary test by Bradford Hillam

for the novel

A Warriner to Protect Her by Virginia Heath (2017, Harlequin® Historical)

Purpose:

To demonstrate my ability to cleany summarize an unknown novel for review and narrative planning. This summary will include the first ten chapters (of 24 total) and describe characters and events of those chapters included.

General summary from the book jacket:

When heiress Violet Dunston escapes from an abduction, she finds an unlikely protector in Jack Warriner, a member of one of England's most infamous families. Ensconced with mysterious Jack behind his manor's walls, soon escape is the last thing on Letty's mind!

Jack may be an earl, but his father's exploits have left him with nothing to offer except a tarnished name. He's turned his back on the social scene, but with Letty tempting him day and night, he finds himself contemplating the unthinkable -- a society marriage!

Chapter breakdown:

| Chapters | Characters: new/returning | Summary |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ch. 1 | -Letty/ Violet Dunston,f. 20 y.o. Heiress to a tea importing fortune. Main character. P. 8  -Jack Warriner, m. ~27 y.o. Orphan, Eldest brother of four and head of of the Markham Manor. Main Character P. 9  -Earl of Bainbridge, m. age - old? Primary antagonist. P. 8 | 1st Dec 1813, One month, 3 days, and ~18 hours till Letty’s 21st birthday.  We are introduced to Letty and Earl of Bainbridge as Letty is struck by the Earl while bound and gagged in a moving carriage (unknown driver). She feigns unconsciousness and then jumps out of the carriage and escapes into the dark woods of the Nottingham area.  Jack Warriner is riding home from an evening in town to Markham Manor (deep in the forest of NOttinghamshire, Near the towns of Retford and Lincoln), drunk.  Letty runs across his path still bound and gagged and also injured and bleeding from the carriage escape. Jack jumps from his horse and kindly offers help. She accepts his help after seeing how gentle he is and she passes out why they gallop to the manor.  Jack sees the large iron gates of the manor and notes that they “haven’t been closed in 200 years” |
| Ch. 2 | -Jamie Warriner, m. Second Oldest. Severe leg injury from the Napoleonic wars  -Joe Warriner, m. 2nd youngest , ~23 \*4 years Jacks junior) Prospective doctor  -Jacob Warriner, m. Youngest  --  Jake  Letty | Jack brings Letty into the manor. All the Warriner brothers are there and begin to help him. Joe gets his medical kit while Jamie and Jacob close the iron gates and prepare the Great Hall/drawing room.    Joe cleans up the unconscious Letty and tells Jake to use his body heat to warm her. Which he does.  Jacob sorts through her wet clothing and finds a handkerchief with ‘Letty’ sewn into it.  Jake comforts her and in her semi conscious state she hears him and is comforted that it isn’t the Earl of Bainbridge or her Uncle. |
| Ch. 3 | Duke of Wentworth - m. Unseen. A unappealing suiter  --  Letty  Jack  Joe | One month and one day remain until Letty’s birthday  Letty is revived after two days and Joe and Jack are there to question her. Joe gives her Laudanum to calm her down while Jack protests. She recognizes it as the same thing her uncle had given her before the abduction.  She awakes in the night and studies the silent, unadorned bedroom she’s been placed in. Her weak hands knock over a wooden up of water and Jack wakes up from sleeping on the floor at the foot of her bed.  Jack gives her a drink and formally introduces himself and explains where they are. She is unsure if he works for her uncle and tries to hide who she really is and why she ended up in the woods. She also studies his rugged good looks and charm.  She feigns sleepiness to avoid further questions and they both return to sleep.  SHe recalls her history with men and how this is the first time shes slept in the same room as a man . She remembers that the only other romance was with the Duke of Wentworth, whom she found generally unappealing |
| Ch. 4 | Layton/Mr John Smith (pseudonym) m. - Carriage man looking for Letty  Waitress/Bar Owner f. Mad at the warriners  --  Jack  Jamie | One month left.  Jack and Jaime ride into Retford on market day to see if there is any news about Letty going around. AFter a few minutes at the bar Jamie says a group of pushy men are in from London. Two full carriages came by in the night, one stayed and the other went ahead.  A waitress comes by to hassle the Warriners due to their family history of being in debt.  One of the carriage men with a long jagged scar on his jaw, Mr. John Smith, approaches Jack and Jamie and tells them that there’s a 100 pound reward for information on a kidnapped girl who disappeared into the woods. His description matches Letty. The Warriners play dumb and wish him luck on his quest. |
| Ch. 5 | Letty  Jacob | Same day  Letty eats breakfast and Jacob replaces her bandages with fresh ones and explains that he’s not a doctor yet because the family can’t afford medical school. He says that Jack has been attending to her non stop during her convalescence.  Jacob explains the history of Markham Manor and environs. Also that Jamie is the only one who left and was only due to the war that permanently injured his leg.  Letty thinks about how her money could easily solve their problems and if she would need to bribe them, and how she doesn’t have any real friends in her life.  She is worried about the servants in the manor and wonders why she hasn’t seen any of them.  Later. Letty is getting changed when Jack walks in on her. She is only wearing one of his shirts. Lots of sexual tension!  He reveals that he knows her real name is Violet and that he hasn’t told anyone that she’s here.  SHe tells him who the men are and that her parents died in a carriage accident a few year ago leaving her an orphan and in the care of her uncle who is only after her fortune. And is trying to force her into marriage with the Earl of Bainbridge to get it.  Her uncle had drugged her with a glass of laudanum laced wine and was on the way to take her to the town of Gretna Green when she escaped.  Jack leaves to discuss the matter with his brothers |
| Ch. 6 | Jack  Jamie  Joe  Jacob  Letty | Same Day  The brothers discuss the discovery of Letty's true identity. Jacob, who reads the news, tells them all about her history on the society scene. The brothers argue about the proper course of action. Jamie insists that he should accompany Jack and Letty on their return to London, since he is the only one with experience “living off the land”  Letty pokes her head around the corner and offers to pay for any of the expenses that occurred due to her stay. Jack insists that they don’t need any of her money.  Jack insists that she stay with them for the full month until her birthday has passed and she’s out of danger, Letty insists that she’ll only be a few days and then go to the local police for help. Which Jack does not think is a good idea.  They continue to argue over money and finally Letty says that she will pay for Joe’s medical school when he goes. As a way to pay for her treatment. |
| Ch. 7 | Letty  Jacob  Jake | 28 days remain  Letty is going through an old box of dresses, looking to repair or modify one to fit herself during her stay.  She asks Jacob for a maid to help with the sewing, Jacob laughs. She also asks for the cook to change up the menu and to have someone bring up some tea and cake while she works. She tries to use her feminine charms to get better service in the manor but is only helped my the Warriners, much to her disagreement.  Jack returns from town and informs Letty with news that the reward has been increased to 500 pounds. He worries that they’ll be found out soon. Jack broods over how spoiled and sexy she is.  He shows her a secret hiding place (a priest's hole) that was built into the walls of the manor if she ever needs to hide during her stay. |
| Ch. 8 | Letty  Jack  Jamie  Joe  Jacob | 25 days remaining  Letty decides that she will have breakfast with everyone instead of her bedroom. On her way down she notices that there aren’t any lit candles and that the house is in a generally dingy state. She blames the lazy servants.  In the great hall she finds a roaring fire and a sear where each of the four brothers would normally sit with their books or newspapers. Jack has a copy of one of her favorite plays.  She overhears the brothers in the kitchen laughing about Jacob and one of the nearby farmers' daughters.  She asks if the cook can make something new and how terrible the chef must be for not supplying jams and cakes and how the maids have let the place go and must be reprimanded.. Jack flys into a rage about how she should be happy with what she has. Jacob confesses that he in the only cook at the manor and Letty puts everything together.  Jack tells her that cleaning is her responsibility now and slams the door and he exits |
| Ch. 9 | Jack  Letty | Same day, later  Jack works off his rage in the field. It is revealed that the last servent left before his father died and the family budget had been put aside in favor of his brandy. WHen Jack inherited the manor at 20 it was only unkept weeds and a large debt. He thinks about how he rebuilt the farm and has tenets again. He thinks about Letty and how she wasn’t trying to be cruel with her money talk. ANd how she is the responsibility of the warriners now.  Letty is exhausted after spending all morning cleaning the manor. SHe reflects on how shopping or any of her other activities were never actually tiring. SHe spruces up the great hall as best she can.SHe leaves the house and finds Jack working in the barn  Letty apologizes.They flirt. They begin talking about horses. Jack reveals that he’s an excellent rider but that his horse, Satan, is extremely brazen. They talk about how she was orphaned at 17. Jacks mentioned that his mother drowned herself in the river when he was 14. More flirting. He talks about how dangerous the river is, and that the animals always need his help. Then he hears the cry from a sheep out in the fields. They take a lamp and head out to find it. |
| Ch. 10 | Letty  Jamie  Jack | Same day, later  After finding a sheep stuck in the mud Jack takes off his jacket and shirt and pulls the sheep free. Letty oggles his naked torso in the lamplight. She fantasizes about him.  When they return to the house Jamie sees that she's blushing and she rushes upstairs to compose herself.  Jamie and Jack look over her excellent cleaning job and Jamie's notes how Letty and Jack are basically a couple now. Jack is shocked and defensive, then sulks thinking about how she will soon want to return to her old life of parties and dukes. |

etc.