

Quiet Miracles

The Chair Trilogy · Book One

BY ROBERT LIPUMA



Paperback · Hardcover · Ebook · Audiobook

IN ONE SENTENCE

In a small-town barbershop where the coffee is free and Sinatra is always playing, a barber named Jayson keeps an old leather chair waiting by the window, and the people who finally sit in it begin to remember who they are.

AT A GLANCE

THE BOOK

A short novel in 20 chapters, with an introduction, an epilogue, and a brief poem between chapters.

LENGTH

151 pages in paperback · about 3 hours as an audiobook

PACE

One meeting, or four weeks of about five chapters each

THEMES

Being seen · Love that waits · Small kindnesses, and a town that shows up

CONTENT

Gentle, but grief runs through it. Illness and death are part of the story. Details on page 7.

THE AUTHOR

Robert LiPuma is a retired educator and counselor who writes books of faith, hope, and healing.

COPIES

Paperback, hardcover, and Kindle ebook from Amazon. Book-club leaders: a free leader copy and this guide through Club Glimpse.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- 1 Why I wrote it
- 2 Before you begin
- 3 A reading plan
- 4 Sixteen questions in four parts
- 5 For the leader: passages, who's who, a meeting plan
- 6 An activity, a note on care, and a question to take home

Why I wrote it

“

In November 2024, my heart stopped for almost thirty minutes. My wife Laurie brought me back — CPR, faith, and a refusal to give up. In the weeks that followed, I started seeing the divine in the smallest things. I noticed something special in my barber.

His name is Jayson. He never knew he was inspiring a story. He just kept showing up with a warm towel, a quiet spirit, and the rare gift of really listening. His chair held more than tired shoulders. It held stories. Healing. Grace.

These three stories grew out of that chair. *Quiet Miracles*, where love lingers even when the world forgets. *The Chair Remembers*, about a father’s hands that built more than furniture. And *The Last Quiet Miracle*, where healing begins again.

I wrote them because miracles don’t always come with thunder. Sometimes they arrive in the quiet, ordinary things of every day — a barbershop, a chair, a kindness nobody saw.

ROBERT LIPUMA

From “Why I wrote The Chair Trilogy,” glimpsepublishing.com

HOW THE BOOK WORKS

Before you begin

THE CHAIR

Jayson’s barbershop sits on the corner of Main and Willow, and its old leather chair waits by the window. People come in for a haircut. What they leave with is harder to name.

THE INTERLUDES

A short poem sits between chapters. The book calls them “quiet companions to the journey.” They are good to read aloud.

WATCH FOR

Mirrors. Flowers: a white rose, daisies, a jar by the window. And the drawer where Jayson keeps what people leave behind.

THE NOTEBOOK

Most chapters end with a line or two Jayson writes in the back of his black notebook. Read them slowly. They say what the chapter meant.

THE MUSIC

Sinatra plays through the whole book: “The Way You Look Tonight,” “Fly Me to the Moon.” If you can, put a little on before you meet. Jayson would.

BOOK ONE OF THREE

The Chair Remembers goes back to how the Chair was made. *The Last Quiet Miracle* finishes the story.

A reading plan

ONE MEETING

Read the whole book. It reads in an evening or two. Choose one or two questions from each part.

FOUR WEEKS

WEEK	READ	PAGES	WE'LL TALK ABOUT
1	Introduction – Chapter 5	6–48	Jayson, the Chair, and the first people through the door
2	Chapters 6–10	49–77	Jake almost sits down; Lucia stays; grief comes through the door
3	Chapters 11–15	78–111	The day Jake sits down, and what changes after
4	Chapter 16 – Epilogue	112–147	The town fights for the Chair, and a year of grace

Page numbers match the current paperback (151 pages). Reading another edition or the ebook, or listening to the audiobook? Follow the chapters. In the four-week plan, talk only up to that week's chapters.

FOR THE CONVERSATION

Sixteen questions

Four parts that follow the book

SEND AHEAD

three to share before you meet

Each part ends with one question closer to home

1

The Chair by the Window

INTRODUCTION – CHAPTER 5 · PAGES 6–48

- 1 The Introduction says the chair “doesn’t ask much of you. It doesn’t hurry you along. It just waits.” In Chapter 1, Jayson writes the same line every day for three years: “Another day. Chair’s still open.” What does waiting look like when it is done well? Why doesn’t Jayson ever call Jake in? SEND AHEAD
- 2 As a boy, Jayson sat in a barber’s chair and was told “Boys don’t cry.” That day, “he promised himself that if he ever stood behind a chair, he’d do it differently.” How does an old hurt become the way someone treats others? Where else do you see that in the shop?
- 3 Lucia looks in the mirror and says, “I look like someone who could still be loved.” Jayson answers, “You are.” Two days later, a single white rose appears at the base of the barber pole. Why a rose, and not a thank-you?

Jayson keeps a drawer of cards and notes people leave behind, because “Every now and then, someone else needs one.” Gary, whose only daughter is leaving for college, is handed this one: “Just because she’s ready to fly doesn’t mean you weren’t the perfect place to land.” Have you ever been given exactly the right words by someone who didn’t write them?

The Ones Who Come In

CHAPTERS 6–10 · PAGES 49–77

- 5 Jake “didn’t mind being alone. But he minded being invisible.” What is the difference? How does a good man disappear without anyone noticing, himself included?
- 6 Lucia keeps working because “My hands don’t know what to do if they’re still.” After she tells Jayson about her illness, he gives her a blank green notebook: “Pages,” he said. “For your hands. They still have more to give.” What does it mean to keep giving when your strength is leaving you?
- 7 Chapters 8 and 10 bring grief through the door: a widow who wants her husband to have one last haircut, a girl carrying a photo of the father who used to cut her hair, and a father who says, “We lost her last spring.” Jayson never tries to fix any of it. What does he do instead? Which of these moments stayed with you?

Hannah has “loved him since the fourth grade. Not loudly. Not desperately. Just... always.” She never chases Jake. Is her waiting a kind of faithfulness, or a kind of fear? Have you ever waited for someone to come back to themselves?

The Day Jake Sat Down

CHAPTERS 11–15 · PAGES 78–111

- 9 Before the clippers start, Jayson asks the hardest question in the book: “Do you think you’d love someone like you?” Afterward, when Hannah asks whether he did that, Jayson tells her, “He did. I just held the mirror.” Who did the work: Jake, Jayson, or the Chair? [SEND AHEAD](#)
- 10 A man with no name leaves a note that says “Tell her I tried,” and weeks later a woman in a red scarf comes looking for him. Then the book opens Jayson’s drawer of letters never sent. Why does he keep them? What does it mean that “some words aren’t meant to be mailed. Just written. And released.”?
- 11 In a book full of loss, Chapter 13 is a laugh: five fake appointments, and Jayson laughing too loud. It ends, “Sometimes, the Chair doesn’t hold grief. Sometimes, it holds joy.” Why does the story need this chapter, and why here?

12 CLOSER TO HOME

Jake comes back with no reason and admits what he had forgotten: “That I’m someone who could be loved.” Lucia said nearly the same words in Chapter 4. Why might the author give two different people almost the same line? Who in your life might need to hear it?

4

Save the Chair

CHAPTER 16 – EPILOGUE · PAGES 112–147

- 13 When the lease notice comes, Jayson is ready to let go: “I’ve learned not to cling to things I’m meant to release.” Jake isn’t: “Then maybe it’s time someone fought for the place that fought for the rest of us.” Who is right? When should we fight for a place, and when should we let it go?
- 14 Daniel Reade comes from Meridian Holdings with an offer. As he turns to go, Jayson offers him the chair, and Reade asks, “Besides... what would I say if something changed?” Jayson answers, “You’d say you finally saw yourself.” Why is it so hard to let ourselves be changed?
- 15 At the fair, Jake finally brings Hannah flowers and tells her why it took so long: “Because I didn’t think I was enough.” Hannah says she always did: “I was just waiting for you to believe it too.” Can someone else’s belief in you be enough, or do you have to come to it yourself?

16 CLOSER TO HOME

In the Epilogue, Jayson sits in the Chair himself and writes one final line in the back of his notebook: “It was never about the haircut.” If it was never about the haircut, what was it about? What is the “haircut” in your own life: the task people see, and what it is really for? [SEND AHEAD](#)

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEAD

For the leader

Three passages to read aloud

TO OPEN

Introduction · page 7

From “See, I’ve come to believe we all carry things the world never pauses to notice” to “We’ve got time.”

THE HEART OF IT

Chapter 11 · pages 80–81

From “Jayson reached for the clippers” to “You didn’t forget. You just stopped looking.”

TO CLOSE

Epilogue · pages 144–145

From “Jayson sat in the Chair. Not behind it—but in it” to “It was never about the haircut.”

Who's who

Jayson	The barber. Free coffee, Sinatra, an old leather chair by the window, and a black notebook.	Eli	A violinist who plays for the bakery line.
Jake	Runs the trucking business his father left him. Walks past the shop every day.	Gary	A mail carrier whose only daughter is leaving for college.
Hannah	Runs Ever & Bloom, the flower shop across the street. Has known Jake since school.	Reggie	A construction worker between jobs, who walks in on a strange morning.
Lucia	Comes in for a haircut and leaves a white rose.	Daniel Reade	From Meridian Holdings, the company that owns the building.
Marco	Jayson's handyman, who says he can fix anything.	Neighbors	Mr. Donnelly and Mrs. Ortega, on Main Street.

A 75-minute meeting

TIME	PART	WHAT HAPPENS
0:00	Welcome	Sinatra, low, as people arrive. Say which chapters you're discussing.
0:05	Warm-up	Once around, no debate: "Name a place where you feel seen."
0:15	The story	Questions from the parts you read. Try to hear every voice once.
0:35	Read aloud	One of the three passages, then the questions it opens.
1:00	Closer to home	The "closer to home" questions. Invited, never required.
1:10	Close	Each person names one line or moment to carry away. End with the question to take home.

LEADER TIPS

- Send the three "send ahead" questions a few days early. People who arrive with one thought speak sooner.
- "Pass" is always an answer.
- Several chapters carry grief. Let silence sit; this book trusts it.
- For 60 minutes, shorten the story questions. For 90, give "closer to home" more time.
- Meeting online? Post the warm-up question the day before.

AN ACTIVITY • OPTIONAL • ABOUT 10 MINUTES

Jayson's notebook

Hand out index cards. Each person writes one entry the way Jayson does: the day, a name or a moment from this week, and one short line about what it meant. His look like this: "Thursday. Lucia. Chair still open." Read them aloud if people are willing, or drop them in a bowl, like Jayson's drawer, and let each person take one home.

What's in the book

Quiet Miracles is gentle, but grief runs through it:

- Jake lost both parents when he was barely eighteen, and Gary's wife died years ago (both told in passing).
- A woman tells Jayson she has a serious illness (Chapter 7).
- At a widow's request, Jayson gives her late husband one last haircut, and his body is brought to the shop (Chapter 8).
- A girl whose father is gone, and a father who lost his young daughter (Chapter 10).
- A letter mentions a past black eye (Chapter 12).

There is no violence and nothing explicit, and one mild curse word. In the room, sharing is always invited and never required.

A QUESTION TO TAKE HOME

As his last year in the shop begins, Jayson writes: "There's always one more soul walking past the window. Not ready. But getting closer." Who is walking past your window? What would it look like to keep a chair open for them?

CONTINUE THE TRILOGY

The Chair Remembers (Book Two) goes back to how the Chair was made. *The Last Quiet Miracle* (Book Three) finishes the story.

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