

Lauren Sobczak

### **Synopsis**

Charlie, a 19-year-old college student, has come home to visit her young and single mother, Kris. They are very close to each other but after Kris becomes too clingy and wants Charlie to stay home with her instead of hanging out with friends, they fight. After a small (and slight insincere) apology, Charlie goes to meet her friends.

The next day, Charlie wakes up and begins to notice strange things happening, including a girl named Sara who seems to know everything about her. Eventually, it is revealed that, through a flashback, a car hit Charlie on her way to her friend's house. Sara is trying to help her cross over and become free but Charlie is tortured by the fact that the last moment she spent with her mom ended in a fight.

### **Character Breakdown**

**Charlie:** Charlotte grew up without a father after he abandoned her mother and she. She is very close with her mother. She is also very free spirited and doesn't like to be told what to do. She attends college on a track scholarship and is home visiting her mother at the beginning of the story.

**Kris:** Kristen had Charlie when she was 19. Her parents kicked her out of the house and she was forced to move in with Charlie's father. But when Charlie turned 1, he abandoned her and Charlie. Luckily, the boy's parents agreed to help Kris out with Charlie until she was able to support herself and her new baby. When Charlie was 7, Kris was able to buy a well-structured and comfortable two-bedroom house after living in a cramped studio apartment. Kristen is very close to her daughter and loves her very much. She knows that there is nothing Charlie can't do. However, Kris sometimes feels that her daughter is pulling away from her and, because of what happened with her ex-boyfriend, she's afraid that Charlie is going to leave her too.

**Sara:** Sara is a very flighty person and marches to the beat of her own drum. She does what she wants and when she wants. From the time she is first introduced, Sara is dead (a sort-of "grim reaper") and tries to help Charlie leave the physical world that she is stuck in and move into the afterlife. Sara was killed in a car accident, similar to the accident that Charlie was in, so that's why she is the one taking care of Charlie and ushering her to the other side.