

Spoilers

Full plot outline

- The story takes place over a single overnight coach journey from San Francisco to Albuquerque, carrying eleven passengers and a driver. Each chapter reveals a different passenger's secret and how they're connected.



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The passengers' secrets

- As the journey progresses, the following truths emerge:
 - The grieving mother on board is travelling to confront the man she believes killed her son in a hit-and-run — unaware he is on the same bus.
 - A young couple are actually siblings pretending to be lovers to escape an abusive family situation and stay together.
 - The quiet businessman is transporting stolen cash from an embezzlement scheme after destroying his career and marriage.
 - An elderly woman is terminally ill and secretly planning to end her life at her destination before her family sees her decline.
 - A cheerful tourist is fleeing after committing manslaughter during a drunken accident.
 - The driver has a criminal past and is working under a false identity after serving time.



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The central connection

- Midway through the journey, connections between the passengers begin to surface:
 - The hit-and-run driver is revealed to be the “quiet businessman.”
 - The grieving mother realises his identity after recognising details he lets slip.
 - The tourist who committed manslaughter turns out to have killed the elderly woman’s estranged son years earlier.
 - The driver knows several passengers from his past criminal network.
 - The bus becomes a closed system of intersecting guilt and fate.



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The confrontation

- Near the New Mexico border, tensions explode:
 - The grieving mother confronts the businessman.
 - Other passengers learn of multiple crimes aboard.
 - The driver loses control of the situation as secrets cascade.
- In a struggle while the bus is pulled over at night, the businessman attempts to flee. The grieving mother attacks him; during the chaos he is fatally injured (struck by another vehicle while running onto the highway).



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Resolution of the others

- After the incident:
 - The mother is not charged — ruled accidental death amid confusion.
 - The elderly woman abandons her suicide plan after learning her son's killer has lived with guilt.
 - The siblings separate voluntarily, choosing healthier independence.
 - The tourist turns himself in.
 - The driver disappears again under a new identity.

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Ending

- The surviving passengers continue to Albuquerque changed:
 - They realise that everyone carries hidden guilt, pain, or deception, and that chance proximity forced their truths into the open.
 - The novel ends with the idea that people move on with their secrets — but now more honestly — echoing the title: everyone has a little something to hide, but revelation can also free them.

If you'd like, I can also explain the themes or symbolism (the bus journey is very deliberate).