

***The Bell Jar* – Chapter 4**

Jay Cee has Esther work in the office instead of going to a fur show.

Jay Cee contrasts strongly with her mother: “I wished I had a mother like Jay Cee. Then I’d know what to do.” (36) Esther’s mother considers practical skills such as shorthand just as important as a college degree.

The reader learns that Esther has “the scholarship of Philomena Guinea, a wealthy novelist.” (37)

At a cinema they watch a film that seems to make another point about men’s and women’s role in society: “Finally I could see the nice girl was going to end up with the nice football hero and the sexy girl was going to end up with nobody, because the man named Gil had only wanted a mistress and not a wife all along.” (39)

The girls leave the cinema because they feel sick. They have been poisoned by the crabmeat at the *Ladies’ Day*.

Esther feels relieved being taken care of by a nurse. She smiles herself to sleep. (44) After her recovery she feels like newly born: “I felt purged and holy and ready for a new life.” (44) She feels strong again and hungry: “I’m starving.” (46)