

## Notes on Infinite Jest, 2010

Chapter summaries for Infinite Jest, David Foster Wallace, Back Bay Books, 1996

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Interview in the Dean's office at the Enfield Tennis Academy Review of application (things amiss...)

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**Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Enfield, the locker room, "flubbaflubba"; and then toggling to Marathe and Steeply on the hillside outside Tuscon.

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**3 November Y.D.A.U.**

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Mario meets USS Millicent Kent in the brushes at Enfield

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**30 April – Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

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**30 April – Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Marathe and Steeply; Guru at Enfield; Thievery and drugs in Chinatown, the Boston Orange line and slang

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**3 November Y.D.A.U.**

Han and Orin, Ennet House rehabilitation, video telephony article (videophony tableaux), urine samples

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**Winter B.S. 1960 – Tuscon AZ**

J. O. Incandenza's father (Hal's grandfather) and the sad sad story of the tennis match and his knee injury when he was a child.

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**4 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Michael Pemulis and drugs

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**Tennis and the Feral Prodigy...**

A short film narrated by Hal ([beautiful chapter](#))

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**Selected transcripts...Ennet House drug and alcohol**

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**Late October Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

The lisping character, Madame Psychosis' midnight show U.H.I.D., Union of the Hideously and Improbably Deformed  
The Ennet House facility next to E.T.A.

Page 198

**6 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

The weight room at E.T.A., Lyle, "Gwwwwwwwwww... Things one can learn at the substance abuse treatment center, paragraphs beginning with the word "That..."; Tattoos; Michael Pemulis and his drug selling

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**7 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Joelle van Dyne and her contemplations of suicide at Molly Notkin's party; "Year of..." – a chronology?;  
Helen P.Steeply; Allusions to Jim Incandenza's filmmaking

Page 240

Enfield, MA

Page 242

**5 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Hal and Orin discuss the suicide of their father Jim, when he placed his head in a microwave and turned it on...  
Hal's grief counselor.

Page 258

**6 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

E.T.A. at Port Washington for the tennis match. Beautiful passages describing tennis, P. 268-69; Ennet House and the people who live there (Don Gately, etc.); Winning at Port Washington; Orin's decision to leave tennis at 17 and take up punting for B.U.; his love for Joelle, the P.G.O.A.T.

Page 299

**14 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Poor Tony Krause and his seizure on the T. He is a drug addled man in the throes of a horrible, seemingly protracted withdrawal. He seems to be partially dressed in women's clothing. Does he die? It is not clear.

Page 4

Page 306

**7 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

The pro-rectors at E.T.A. and the classes they offer, eccentric and funny (M.E. Thode, early days of O.N.A.N., etc.); The birth of Mario Incandenza, his deformities and his early years.

Page 317

**30 April / 1 Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Marathe and Steeply on the desert escarpment in the night. They talk about issues dividing Quebec and the USA, and their personality differences become further revealed.

Page 321

**8 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment Interdependence Day GAUDEAMUS IGITUR**

The annual E.T.A. tradition on this day. The game of **Eschaton in detail**. This match becomes a disaster with sheer chaos ensuing Evan Ingersoll's radical assault.

Page 343

**8 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment Interdependence Day GAUDEAMUS IGITUR**

Inside Boston AA. Quite beautiful. The "White Flag" group of Enfield. The trajectory of alcohol and drug abuse, meetings, and speakers at the podium.

Page 375

**30 April / 1 Year of the May Depend Adult Undergarment**

Marathe and Steeply on the escarpment, a moment at E.T.A., and then return for a brief moment to the Boston AA narrative.

Page 380

**8 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment Interdependence Day GAUDEAMUS IGITUR**

Mario Incandenza's early film puppet show depicting the rise of president Johnny Gentle, famous crooner. The film is shown every Interdependence Day. There is much dialogue from the film, very informative about the birth of O.N.A.N. Also moments with Lyle, the mystic in the E.T.A. locker room. The development of InterLace as network television evolves from cable and the loss of advertising revenue.

Page 418

**30 April / 1 May Year of the May Depend Adult Undergarment**

Marathe and Steeply on the bluff overlooking Tuscon. They are engaged in a long conversation covering philosophy and American sensibilities. Also, there are several allusions to the 'Entertainment', the cartridge that overpowers one and renders one helpless. It is some kind of weapon.

Page 430

**Same chapter, different section**

The continuing saga of Eric Clipperton and his suicide in the office of J. O. Incandenza, with Mario present.

Page 434

**Same chapter, different section**

Gately's second job, when not working at Ennet House. He is a janitor at a men's homeless shelter in Jamaica Plain. The work is gruesome, mired in cleaning human filth.

Page 5

Page 436

**Same chapter, different section**

Clipperton's demise as indicative of some of the absurd pressures to which young tennis stars are subject. This section recounts another suicide. Also in this section, students at Enfield engaging in their Interdependence Day ritual of watching one of Mario Incandenza's movies focused on telling a story of Johnny Gentle.

Page 442

**Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Gately at the White Flag, learning the processes of A.A. and struggling with the concept of the 'higher power'. As he recovers sobriety and becomes stronger he begins to remember painful moments from his past.

Page 449

**Very late October Y.D.A.U.**

Hal's dream of his crumbling teeth. Mario listening, perhaps in vain for Madame Psychosis midnight program.

Page 450

**9 November, Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

The arduous – VERY arduous drills at the Enfield Tennis Academy. Dr. Charles Tavis, the school administrator and Schtitt, in charge of the drills themselves. It is a cold morning for the drills and the students are working to the limit of their endurance. Schtitt will have none of it and pushes harder. 'Occur' on the court, do not 'adjust'.

Page 461

**Same chapter, different section**

Ennet House. Gately's food runs, driving with extreme pride pleasure Pat Montesian's 1964 black Ford Aventura. Gately's life before sobering up, his life of crime and his time in prison. Pat Montesian's story. Her stroke and her slow partial recovery. 'Ferocious' Francis, the crocodile, and his help to Don.

Page 470

**Pre-dawn, 1 May – Y.D.A.U Outcropping Northwest of. Tuscon AZ U.S.A., still**

Steepley and Marathe on the bluff with Steepley discussing the early experiments of the Briggs electrodes, where brain implants stimulated the brain to the point of death. Steepley is drawing a comparison between this old surgical procedure and the power of the 'Entertainment'.

Page 475

**Same chapter, different section**

Back to Ennet. Gately driving mad and enthralled in the black Aventura, ripping through Boston's east suburbs and Cambridge. A wild tour with all kinds of landmarks and reminiscences. Gately driving madly past Antotoi's Entertainment and then a shift to all of this O.N.A.N. spying and intrigue in Quebec. And then the horrific murder of the shop's owners, Lucien and Bertrand by the wheelchair assassins, the A.F. R. This is a grueling assassination. The assassins are searching for The Entertainment in this shop.

Page 489

**Pre-dawn, 1 May – Y.D.A.U. Outcropping Northwest of. Tuscon AZ U.S.A., still**

Steepley and Marathe on the bluff and Steepley discussing The Entertainment - the lethal entertainment. Would Marathe take the chance to watch it, and risk it all, Steepley asks him. Marathe studies Steepley's feminine guise with intent.

Page 6

Page 491

**Winter, B.S. 1963, Sepulveda, CA**

A flash-back of sorts to an earlier time. Even the style of the prose and its cadence seems a bit old. This is a reflection, I think by J.O. Incandenza's about the time he and his father had to move this bedding to discover the source of a squeak emanating from the bed. There is great detail here and great comedy in the recounting of the detail.

Page 503

**Same chapter, different section**

A visit to Boston NA, as opposed to Boston AA. There are definite differences in tone and style in terms of how the Sessions are run. There is a comical moment when Ken Erdedy rejects an offered hug from a large black man. The man is rejected by Erdedy and his resulting diatribe is insightful and funny.

Page 507

**Same chapter, different section**

Steepley and Marathe. Steepley is recalling several incidences regarding the power of the Entertainment and its ability to rob spectators of their minds. No one has escaped its power, and many are enticed.

Page 508

**10 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Waiting in the outer offices of E.T.A. administration. Those students who were responsible for the Eschaton mayhem of a few days before are waiting, it seems, for a lecture or to have some punishment meted out. As the students wait, they overhear the conversation inside, which focuses on potential abuse of young students by teachers (sexual and otherwise). The cross relationships between the Incandenzas and the staff of E.T.A. are explored. There is some clumsiness in how the admonitions are handled by Charles Tavis. When the students are finally admitted there is real drama. What will Tavis do?

Page 528

**Pre-dawn and Dawn, 1 May – Y.D.A.U Outcropping Northwest of Tuscon AZ U.S.A., still**

Reflecting a bit on the professional relationship of Marathe and Steepley – spy, counterspy, etc. Reflecting also on the powers of exotic people to mesmerize and even destroy others (like the Entertainment!)

Page 531

**0450H., 11 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment Front Office, Ennet House D.A.R.H., Enfield MA.**

Begins with an anecdote about a bar shooting because of a humiliation of some kind. The bulk of this chapter consists of a fascinating conversation between Don Gately and Joelle Van Dynne and her belonging to the U.H.I.D., the Union of the Hideously and Improbably Deformed. This group is like A.A. and yet, what makes it fascinating is the concept of belonging and not being 'hideous' in the obvious way. It is the idea of wanting to hide or conceal. Or, also, how one can be 'deformed with beauty'.

Page 538

**New (unnamed) chapter**

Randy Lenz and his post-meeting wanderings through the alleys of the neighborhoods adjacent to the meeting - wherever it is held. Randy does some heinous things to people's pets, eventually killing them. There is some kind of cathartic release for him. He always tries to get back to Ennet House before curfew.

Page 548

**Early November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

A perspective on the Entertainment from Rodney Tines, U.S.O.U.S. and this may explain why Marathe and Steepley are in the southwest, and why the A.F.R. is in Boston.

Page 7

Page 550

**Late P.M. Monday 9 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Pemulis wandering the offices of the Comm-Ad bldg. He overhears a quai-psychiatric session with Ortho Stice and Dr. Delores Rusk; then discovers Avril Incandenza and John Wayne involved in a theatrical sexual adventure.

Page 553

**Wednesday 11 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Randy Lenz and Bruce Green. Green accompanying Lenz on his post-meeting wandering. Lenz is high on cocaine. (A little break to Hal lying in bed, being interrupted by Troeltsch, Wayne, and Pemulis.) Back with Lenz and Green and their peripatetic conversation.

Page 563

**Selected Snippets from... ...AA mtng, up to about 2329H, Wednesday 11 November Y.D.A.U.**

Gately talking with Joelle and Yolanda... Orin Incandenza engaged in a sexual enticement with a Swiss hand-model... At E.T.A., Idris Arslanian wandering the corridors blind-folded to develop his aural sensitivity to improve his tennis game. Many funny exchanges with other E.T.A. students as he wanders.... Orin and the Swiss model, and he is seeing a lot of handicapped people in wheelchairs... Lenz and Randy. Randy is recounting a grotesque story about his mother.... Stories from Bruce Green's youth, his parents. Green reconnects with Lenz at the "Hawaiian shirt house". Green secretly observes Lenz kill the dog owned by the tenant of the house. Lenz runs from the 'Nuck' owners. Green observes... Mario wandering late at night outside Ennet House, which is very near E.T.A. Nocturnal anecdotes from Ennet... Nightly chores at Ennet performed by Gately... Orin at love. He can give pleasure but not receive. Corridor survey with a wheelchair bound gentleman...

Midnight curfew at Ennet and bizarre parking regulations. The Nucks follow Lenz to Ennet intent on revenge. There is pandemonium and much fighting. Gately is defensive of his charges and fights the Nucks, not knowing of their motive to harm Lenz. Gately kills, and Gately is shot in this mayhem. This is all truly awful. Joelle van Dynne of U.H.I.D. nurses Gately's very serious wounds. Very serious.

Page 620

**New (unnamed) chapter**

InterLace, telEntertainment, and just HOW information and work occurs in the time of this novel. So many people work at home, so many people are entertained through their teleputers. Now we are at the Boston Gardens on a slope. On a wintry-like day an engineer with acne suns himself. Across from the Commons in a building a meeting is ongoing of the U.S.O.U.S. References to Madame Psychosis, and the wheelchairs are gathering.

Page 627

**11 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

The dining hall at E.T.A. Many stories and anecdotes are shared by many of the students. Is the milk fresh or made from powder? This is a topic discussed by many with some forcefulness. With all of the shared stories there is particular emphasis on the life of Ortho Stice.

Page 638

**1 May Y.D.A.U. Outcropping northwest of Tucson AZ U.S.A.**

Steepley is recounting to Marathe his father's obsession with the television show M\*A\*S\*H\* and how his continual Viewing evolved into an all-consuming insanity. Steepley is drawing an oblique analogy to the unique powers of the Entertainment.

Page 8

Page 648

**13 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Kate Gompert and Geoffrey Day talking during the early morning hours at Ennet House. Day is recounting a strange anecdote about an internal sensation that evokes intense feelings of dread. The force arrives, billows, and then dissipates.

Page 651

**11 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

The tennis match between Ortho Stice and Hal Incandenza. The match is a part of regular pairings at E.T.A. however this match has an allure and attracts a crowd. Helen Steeply sits next to Aubrey De Lint and Herr M. Schtitt. Steeply writes sports for *Moment magazine* however it seems to be a ruse.

Page 663

**A series of letters from Helen Steply to M.K. Bain**

Seeking information on the Incandenza family

Page 666

**New (unnamed) chapter**

The tunnels under the Enfield Tennis Academy and how the younger students (especially the males) love to be down there. Now they are on clean up duty, especially as regards an old discarded refrigerator. While the tennis game between Stice and Hal continues, Helen Steeply (the reporter for *Moment*) is joined by a faculty member, Thierry Poutrincourt, who hails from Quebec. Poutrincourt, Steeply, de Lint and Schtitt are continually conversing while the game goes on. All the time, Portrincourt is observing Steeply.

Page 682

**14 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Matty Pemulis in a diner. Matty recalling the routine sodomy performed on him by his father until his father died of cirrhosis. A horrible death that Matty toasts, ceremonially.

Page 686

**11 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Hal gets debriefed by deLint after barely winning the match. Hal is in a funk and loses himself watching one of his father's movies, *Wave bye-bye to the bureaucrat*. Hal is punishing himself by watching several of his father's movies.

Page 689

**14 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Tony Krause, drugs and the dealing of drugs and a business relation with Bertrand Antitois, the owner of the curio shop whose gruesome murder is described in an earlier chapter, (P. 470 +/-).

Page 692

**Pause, no chapter**

Kate Gompert and very interesting musings on depression, despair, 'anhedonia'. The real psychic (and physical) pain of depression is also discussed – very vividly. This is what Kate Gompert experiences, and the loneliness. Suicide becomes understandable with such pain. 'Anehdonia' – psychic numbing.

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Page 698

**14 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Kate Gompert, somber and very depressed, walking with Ruth van Cleve on the streets of Cambridge. Ruth van Cleve is the opposite in personality, talkative and garish and sexually ostentatious. NA, and how it differs in some respects from AA. Tony Krause is lurking...

Vignettes of life at E.T.A: Jim Troeltsch practicing sportscasting, Pemulis looking for drugs in the ceiling, Lyle hovering in the Weightroom, Schtitt and Mario driving wildly, Avril Incandenza in her office, Hal watching his father's cartridges, Blood Sister: One Tough Nun. An audience of fellow students joins Hal. Boston AA: "An attitude of Platitude" (But, IT works!). CA and Joelle Van Dyne, and Cocaine. Shattuck Center and coming through. Joelle and the wounded Don Gately – some germ of romance.

Tony Krause mugs Kate Gompert and Ruth van Cleve, seriously hurting Kate as she is pushed against a lamppost. An angered Ruth gives relentless chase to catch Tony through alleys.

Page 716

**14 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Cocaine addled Randi Lenz stalking two Chinese women carrying heavy twine wrapped bags. Stalking and stalking, getting ready to pounce...

Page 7119

**14 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Tony chased by Ruth through alleys and trash and filth. He is leading to Antitois Entertainment (scene of the horrific murder). Inside Antitois it seems that possibly the A.F.R. has found the real Entertainment cartridge produced by J.O.Incandenza. Or, have they found it? Spying between A.F.R. and O.N.A.N. in search of the Entertainment.

Page 723

**14 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Joelle Van Dyne is very concerned about her teeth because of her use of 'base cocaine. She has a kind of wonderful erotic dream of the wounded Don Gately as a dentist, ministering to her wounded teeth.

**(pause)**

A.F.R. personnel in Antitois Entertainment searching and viewing all cartridges, looking for the lethal entertainment and FINDING it! Alas, read only. It is lethal. A.F.R. personnel fanning out, looking for the master copy and narrowing their search to rehab facilities in the Boston area..

**(pause)**

Lenz in the dismal alley with his full bags that he stole from the Chinese women he was stalking/chasing.

**(pause)**

Marathe trying successfully to insert himself in Ennet House, pretending to an addict and wearing a veil. Marathe getting to know and converse with some of the more bizarre people who live at Ennet House. Marathe is waiting for the interview with the director of Ennet. He is greeted by her.

**(pause)**

Joelle van Dyne musing about her compulsive need to clean. Afterwards musing about her relationship with Orin Incandenza and learning of his thoughts about his family, and Joelle learning about James Incandenza and the Work... Orin and his reflections on his parents. Fascinating. This is Joelle's perspective on the Incandenza family as she slowly becomes involved with J.O. and his Work (it is amateurish, yet brilliant, she thinks) Joelle having Thanksgiving dinner with the Incandenzas. The family is intriguing and very, very trying...

**(pause)**

Returning to Ennet... Marathe is being interviewed by Pat Montesian, the **director** of Ennet (to the surprise of Marathe). Pat is really interviewing Marathe, interested in his "resume" of recovery fabricated by the A.F.R. Marathe is eyeing the file cabinet full of cartridges behind Pat.

**(pause)**

Joelle needs to clean. Needs to clean....

**(pause)**

Is Marathe a double-agent, working for the A.F.R. and the O.N.A.N. (Office of unspecified services)? Marathe and Montesian are really having an interview. Marathe reflects upon his very ill wife Gertraude, without a skull and a damaged heart. If he "defected" he could provide medical care for her.

### **11 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

A "cinema-verite" tour of the Enfield tennis Academy courtesy of Mario who is walking the grounds with a Bolex strapped to forehead. Mario interviews La Mont Chu who wants to know about the fallout from the Eschaton debacle from a few days prior, November 8, Y.D.A.U. La Mont wants to know if Hal will suffer punishment. Mario moves on to interview Avril, the 'moms'. They talk about Hal. Mario is worried about Hal. This is a beautiful chapter; Mario's view of people through his camera.

**(pause)**

Hal and Mario are talking late at night while lying in bed. Hal is reminiscing about family events from his childhood. Hal is looking for something. He is trying to understand something about himself and he is questioning Mario. Hal is talking about the post-eschaton interviews with officials. Mario is talking about his love for Hal. Hal is worried and searching, and he has stopped his use of marijuana (Bob Hope) for 30 days – cleaning his system.

**(pause)**

Possibly Marathe and Katherine (Gompert?) are sitting in a bar in Cambridge talking about love. Marathe is describing the fantastic story of meeting his seriously disabled wife Gertraude, living without a skull. Katherine is drinking more and more and it is not clear if Marathe is a skillful liar and faking his becoming drunk. Katherine thinks Marathe is a hero in love but she soon changes her mind as the story of Marathe's love becomes clearer. He is escaping depression, not moving toward love, Katherine thinks. Katherine knows depression – the billowing black sail.

**(pause)**

Hal and Mario are talking. Hal seems to be wanting to 'unload', to confess to Mario his unhappiness about his marijuana resin habit. He is scared to stop using the drug, afraid he will fail at tennis and let the whole world down – let Avril down.

**17 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Johnette Foltz is doing night duty at Ennet, substituting for Gately who is hospitalized. A young man, somewhat dissembling, comes to ask for information. It is Hal. Johnette gave Hal a list of substance abuse meetings. Hal is very coy. Johnette sees a clever young man in very deep denial.

**(pause)**

The circle is getting tighter... Molly Notkin, a friend of Madame Psychosis (Joelle Van Dyne?) is being interviewed (being given the third degree) by Rodney Tine of U.S.O.U.S. M.P.'s mother may have killed herself with the sink garbage disposal, possibly. Molly Notkin is recounting the professional and then the romantic association between Madame Psychosis and J.O. Incandenza, the maker of The Entertainment. The story of Joelle's accidental disfigurement is also recounted. The beautiful Joelle has a bizarre, perhaps incestuous relationship with her father. At Thanksgiving dinner at home, with lover Orin as guest, her mother in a psychic meltdown 'accidentally' throws a vial of acid that hits Joelle in the face. Subsequently her mother grinds her own arms in the garbage disposal. All of this second-hand recounting by Molly Notkin occurs during the interview with Rodney Tine.

**(pause)**

Hal attends his first recovery meeting, based on information he gathered on his recent visit to Ennet. The meeting is something out of 'Stuart Smalley' however there is the undertone of pathos. The group consists of only men, looking for their inner infant. It is not clear if this is an N/A meeting at all.

**Page 809**

**(pause)**

Don Gately recovering in hospital from the wounds he sustained defending Randy Lenz. He is in a post-operative haze, in deep pain, while receiving visitors who appear and then disappear. Tiny Ewell is one such visitor, recounting his scrappy and mischievous youth in blue collar Watertown. Gately is suffering from a grave infection and he cannot speak. Pat Montesian comes to visit to assure Gately that the house is running smoothly. Gately is lying in bed and has all manner of visitors. After Pat Montesian it is Calvin Thrust who provides additional information on the aftermath of the brawl and Gately's injuries. Thrust conveys a lot of Ennet House gossip to Gately, who seems to suffer through the telling – wanting to know if he killed anyone and if the police are outside his door. Thrust mentions that the depositions are in his favor but that the .44 is missing.

**Page 827**

**(pause)**

Slipping in and out of consciousness, Calvin Thrust is replaced by Geoffrey Day. Gately is in pain and has exotic dreams while Day is recounting stories. From these feverish dreams emerges the Wraith, a ghostlike figure that hovers about Gately's room. The Wraith is charming and very conversant. Gately is unsure who the Wraith is. Is the Wraith an embodiment of death, of the "disease" (addiction)? Gately is in great pain and is consciously resisting offerings of narcotics from the medical staff. The Wraith introduces the term '*figurant*' - a non-speaking type of extra in a drama. Gately is remembering his mother and her husband, the very cruel M.P. The Wraith conjures images of the young Incandenza family and Orin's travail over his father. [While reading this portion I have this sense that the author is connecting disparate themes and plot-lines of the book]. The M.P. was brutal to Gately's mother, who was often drinking and seemed to be connected to the violence in some integral way. Gately receives visits from White flaggers and has apparitions that Ferocious Francis G. (Gehaney) has also visited and spoke with him.

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Page 845

**19 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

Marathe and other members of the A.F.R. are in Boston, searching for the cartridge and the *auteur* of the entertainment. They are planning to install “spies” within the training tennis players at Enfield by hijacking a bus of young Quebecois tennis players en route to the academy.

**(pause)**

Gately is dreaming of intimacy with Joelle van Dyne. Joelle lifts her veil revealing a face like Winston Churchill’s. A nightmare, and Gately wakes up. Now he is remembering his neighbor Mrs. Waite. It is a sad, sad story. The woman you love will kill you, and she is always your next life’s mother – Death says. In the dream Joelle is Death. Gately wants to die to be with her, for death to be his mother. Joelle says ‘no – wait’.

Page 851

**20 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment *Gaudeamus Igitur***

Hal Incandenza dreaming he is at the zoo. Hal awakes on a snowy morning to Mario snoring. The academy is preparing for a benefit tennis match against an incoming team from Quebec, except for the snow... Hal is suffering withdrawal from his Bob Hope habit.

Page 854

**(pause)**

A visit to Gately’s bedside by Joelle Van Dyne, whom it seems clearly that Gately loves. There is an erotic tenderness between them. Gately realizes that he has been intubated while in the trauma wing, which is why he could not speak. Joelle is recounting anecdotes from her recovery sessions. There is such meaning in recovery, in the effort to live life in the moment, in the heartbeat. Gately can’t resist fantasizing about Joelle.

Page 864

**(pause)**

Hal wandering the halls of Enfield in the dark early morning with a big windy snow blowing. [The writing is in the first person, as if Hal is speaking] Hal encounters Ortho Stice with his forehead attached to a frozen pane of glass in the hallway. Hal and Ortho converse in this surreal predicament. Hal tries to pull Ortho away however he remains stuck. Hal enlists the assistance of two janitors, Kenkle and Brandt, who are kind of like Shakespearean fools.

Page 876

**Partial Transcript... Rodney Tines 20 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment**

A transcript of a conversation between Rodney Tines, OUS; Maureen Hooley of Interlace; Carl (Buster) Yee of Glad Corp.; R. Tine Jr.; Tom Veals of Veals Advertising. They are discussing spot visuals produced to dissuade children from watching potential dangerous (fatal) entertainments they may find from the mail or from strangers.

Page 883

**(pause)**

Gately in the afterglow of Joelle Van Dyne’s visit. She has successfully communicated to the nurse that Gately wants a pen and paper to write. Ferocious Francis has come to visit. Ah...Gately has had a vivid dream of a Pakistani doctor offering pain reducing neo-narcotics and Ferocious Francis there to bear witness to Gately’s effort to resist. Gately is feeling tremendous physical pain from his wounds and dreaming/hallucinating – and making all efforts to ‘abide’ the pain. He is struggling with demoralization. He gets an enema from a big black nurse.

Page 13

Page 896

**(pause)**

Hal, again in the first person. Feeling a manageable panic, wondering about Ortho Stice and his frozen forehead, he seeks out the quiet of a viewing room. He is ruminating on the etymology of the word 'addiction'. [Various aspects of the novel are being linked through Hal's and Gately's disparate musings.]

Page 902

**(pause)**

Gately's growing up story, his talents (and lack thereof) at school and his introduction to drugs. The drugs won out over his passion for football, mostly because his poor grades jeopardized an academic scholarship. This is a sad vignette.

Page 906

**(pause)**

Hal is lying on the floor in viewing room #5. He has a visit from Mike Pemulis and there is something important Mike wants to discuss with Hal. There is definite tension between Hal and Pemulis – a subdued anger from Hal and an anxious vulnerability from Pemulis. It is disclosed that Stice was pulled from the window, leaving a part of his face behind. Hal is watching cartridges.

Page 911

**(pause)**

Gately taking up with the Boston gangster Whitey Sorkin. He provides benign muscle (won't kill) to collect debts. He is introduced to the addiction of gambling and does not participate. This is a nefarious world, filled with violence and betrayal.

Page 916

**(pause)**

Pemulis looking behind ceiling tiles, presumably for hidden drugs. It seems the "heat is on".

**(pause)**

Gene Facklemann and his dangerous rouse stealing money from his gangster employer, Whitey Sorkin. It was a complicated scam. Very dangerous... Gately is so ill, in hospital, reminiscing in a haze about his sadistic step-father (the M.D.). Snow is falling outside. He is mortified to be given an enema by a voluptuous nurse. Within his continual fever-dream his mind wanders back to Sorkin and Pamela Hoffman-Jeep and Bobby C., Sorkin's sadistic muscle to be utilized as a last resort. With his pain Gately struggles to 'abide', to avoid narcotic painkillers. Facklemann executes the swindle and anxiously buys a great deal of Dilaudid and begins a massive binge that includes Gately. Facklemann has made a grievous error and he knows that Sorkin will learn of his role, and that he will be killed. He begins the binge because that is all he knows. Gately's fever is increasing in intensity. The wraith has returned. Gately has a dream where he is digging up a head of a person he does not know and a boy cries out 'too late'.

Page 934

**(pause)**

Joelle Van Dyne meets a strange woman (Steepley?) near the hospital who warns her that she is in danger.

**(pause)**

Gately and Facklemann are deeply into their binge and squalor.

Page 14

Page 938

**(pause)**

An interview between Joelle Van Dyne and the A.F.R (?). Joelle is recounting her acting in the cartridges, one which may be the lethal ‘entertainment’ that is being sought desperately.

Page 941

**(pause)**

Narrated by Hal: He, Mario and others are watching some of Himself’s older cartridges. One of special interest is called “Accomplish!” with the actor Cosgrove Watt. The movie features a homosexual liaison between a male prostitute and an older man who has an AIDS-like virus. The movie is ghastly. Hal ruminates on the arc of Himself’s career and how it was perceived by the critics... The snow continues to fall... As Hal watches the cartridges, as the snow falls, he reminisces about his youth and his parents. There are sweet memories that he cannot reconcile with the maker of “Accomplish!”. The snow falls and the next day is the proposed tennis benefit between E.T.A. and the squad from Quebec – the squad that has been hijacked by the A.F.R...

Page 958

**(pause)**

Joelle Van Dyne has been interviewed by the A.F.R. and has been released. She returns to Ennet house expecting the wheelchairs to follow.

**(pause)**

At an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting where someone named Mikey is testifying to the assembled group. Mikey is so aware of the tenuousness of his sobriety.

Page 960

**(pause)**

Pat Montesian meeting with an Assistant District Attorney who is having an ethical crisis. The A.D.A. has been following the criminal career of Gately and has been observing him in the hospital (as Gately suspected!). Yet he needs to make an ‘amend’, to let go of his resentment for Gately as a part of his own healing process. He is struggling...

Page 964

**20 November Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment Immediately Pre-Fundraiser-Exhibition-Fete  
*Gaudeamus Igitur***

Preparing for the fundraiser, playing against “Quebecois” youth team. The E.T.A. players in the locker room getting taped. And shaved by the trainer Barry Loach. We learn of the circuitous route that Barry Loach took to secure the job of head Trainer.

Page 971

**(pause)**

Orin seems to be held in some kind of surreal glass prison by the A.F.R., to be questioned and tortured.

Page 972

**(pause)**

Don Gately is burning up. Perhaps he will be de-intubated. He suspects he might die. At the moment of de-intubation – at that very moment – we return to the Dilaudid binge where Whitey Sorkin, through the tortuous and sadistic procedures of Bobby C. will exact his horrifying revenge on Fackelmann and maybe even Don Gately. These are gruesome procedures, matching in sadistic intensity those employed by the A.F.R. It is just horrible what happens to Fackelmann (and Pamela F-J). Gately is drugged by Bobby C. and is falling slowly into a slumber. He “comes to” on a beach in the freezing sand in a light rain, with the tide way out.

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Some thoughts on this novel

Infinite Jest became a world for me. The novel has many parallel plots that the author visits periodically. These weave around one another and then toward the end begin to come together. The book is complex and at times I was concerned that I was missing something. Mostly I did not worry about this and instead just enjoyed the read. Wallace has great naturalistic and intellectual powers. He can create very vivid scenes. At times I felt that his powers to create got the better of him and he would digress to create characters that were incidental to the primary storylines. Here though is where I began to feel self-conscious; that perhaps these digressions were not digressions at all and either informed the primary character to which they are dependent, or formed an additional parallel storyline that somehow informed the entire book.

If I were to ask, 'What does the book mean?', or 'What does the title of the book signify?' I would not have an answer. I do not know. And so here too I feel I am missing something. I enjoyed some of the characters immensely. I think of the 'crocodiles', of Ferocious Francis in his clean white T, and the character is so vivid and so true. The world of Boston AA is also made real. I think of 'flubbaflubba' Ortho Stice and the E.T.A. camaraderie. And I think of his powerful characterizations of depression that have provided me with real insight into the nature of that affliction.

Perhaps my relationship with this novel is emblematic of my relationship with our world, where I engage with fragments and find riches there however there is often the feeling that there is a larger whole that I cannot know. And so, to paraphrase Tolstoy; I just live. Of course I will dwell upon the novel. I have read it well. I am contemplating reading another of Wallace's novels, perhaps "Broom...". He has a great mind and I am curious to know what he is thinking. His passing is a shame.