

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF *THE FAMILY GAME* BY CATHERINE STEADMAN

The novel is written in first-person point of view by the main character named Harriet “Harry” Reed. She is a writer and is in a romantic relationship with Edward Holbeck, a member of one of the wealthiest and most influential families in the world. The novel starts when Edward proposes to Harry and finally asks her to meet his family for the first time. Understanding the powerful status of the Holbeck family, Harry begins to doubt if Edward’s family will accept her or not. The Holbeck family consists of Robert Holbeck and Eleanor Holbeck. Edward, Harry’s fiancée, is the first child, and he has three other siblings. Matilda Holbeck is the second child, followed by Oliver Holbeck and Stuart Holbeck. Oliver Holbeck is married to Fiona, and they have three sons: Sam, Tristan, and Billy. Matilda is single, while Stuart has a girlfriend called Lila who has a son called Milo.

Her journey to be accepted as part of the family begins with several tests from each member, with the test from the patriarch, Robert Holbeck, as the most important test that she needs to ace. The family finally gathers at Christmas to play a game that has been passed down through generations. In this game, Harry finally understands who the real enemy was and decides to put an end to it. This novel offers an intriguing and cunning play about how someone overcomes the pressure to fit into a powerful family and society, and to find the courage to protect themselves and their love ones from normalized harmful cycle. Essentially, the novel urges deeper attention to the signs, causes, and effects of power relations, showing how easily control can hide behind tradition, loyalty, and family expectations

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR – CATHERINE STEADMAN

Catherine Steadman is a British actress, author, and screenwriter. She was born on February 8, 1983, in England, United Kingdom. She trained at the Oxford School of Drama before making her screen debut. Steadman grew up in the New Forest, Hampshire, and now lives in North London with her husband and two daughters. She is known for several roles in TV series like *Downton Abbey*, *The Tudors*, *Breathless*, *Tutankhamun*, and many more.

Catherine Steadman, also known as the New York Times bestselling author, writes novels with psychological themes as her trademark. Her debut novel with a psychological thriller theme, entitled *Something in the Water*, instantly became a bestseller for several months after its release. Since then, she has published numerous novels that insert psychology as their main theme, such as *Mr. Nobody*, *The Disappearing Act*, *Look in the Mirror*, *Nine Lives*, and *The Family Game*. *The Family Game* is her fourth novel.

Steadman's novel is often admired for the engaging plots and psychological depth, often drawing on her experiences as an actress to create vivid characters and scenarios. Because of this, she is now widely recognized not only as a talented actress but also as a successful writer whose books are enjoyed by readers around the world. Steadman is also recognized for her contributions to theater.

APPENDIX III

DATA LIST

SIGNS OF POWER RELATION

Pg. Number	Data Evidence	People that involved	Types of Signs
22	God knows how I found him. God knows how it got this far, this serious. ‘When am I going to meet them?’ I ask. A smirk forms. ‘Apparently, my sister has been chosen to ease the transition. The powers that be have deemed her the most accessible family member to make an introduction,’ he says jokingly. ‘After me, obviously.’	Edward & Matilda	Authority
43	‘Ha, ha. Yes, very good. But technically, and legally, lineage is still very much relevant. Certainly in my family. Primogeniture is part of the family trust. It’s like entailment but it doesn’t matter what gender the firstborn is – whoever they are, they get the lion’s share.... ‘Who I marry has repercussions. I’ll control it all one day and they’ll be part of that. It affects shareholder confidence, market valuation, future projections our reliability, sustainability,’ he says with unvarnished simplicity.	Edward & Harry	Authority
103	‘It officially reopens on Friday night; social posts are embargoed till then, but we can get content anytime. VIP passes.’ She slips one over my head and for the second time today I remember she’s a celebrity. It’s odd to think how one can forget that so quickly in the context of the Holbecks. Even fame like Lila’s seems to fade in significance beside the reach of that family.	Lila & Harry	Authority
122	Lt Hughley was keen to help, having recently retired, and was an invaluable resource on my first book, always sparking creative ideas and handling my layman knowledge with diplomatic kid gloves. During the final edit, I spoke with him regularly, running legal and	Lt. Hughley & Harry	Authority

	sometimes infuriatingly granular procedural questions by him.		
31	I'm suddenly reminded of Matilda's <i>helpful</i> phone call to my publisher yesterday and how easy it is for a Holbeck to make things happen or stop them dead... From her unwavering expression, I cannot help but wonder, for the first time, if Edward might have outright lied to me when he said his family couldn't wait to meet me	Matilda & Harry	Controlling
28	While I of course knew that my publisher was in some way connected to the business interests of my future in-laws, the idea that they might ever use this fact as some kind of leverage had not even crossed my mind until now... I stand in silence in the hallway for a moment to let what just happened sink in. And the realization hits me that however weird this situation is, this is only the start of my dealings with the Holbecks	Holbeck family & Harry	Controlling
33	Oh gosh, no. Of course, we all knew about you. It's impossible to keep things quiet in this family. We just weren't allowed to ask him about it. We were told in no uncertain terms to back off. That you might be the one.' 'By Edward?' She nods, and I can't help the ush of happiness that comes from the thought of Edward saying those words.	Edward & Holbeck family	Controlling
33	'We knew he had a new girlfriend. You,' she continues. 'And that you met in London. That you're an author, which by the way is beyond fascinating to me but we'll put a pin in that and circle back; I have a million questions. But regarding Edward, we gave him space because we've made mistakes in the past. Forced issues that perhaps we shouldn't have.	Edward & Holbeck family	Controlling
36	<i>No. Oh my God, no.</i> I did not know that. I feel my face throb with heat, my nausea resurfacing, until colours speckle my vision of the city through the cab window. She tricked me. Matilda straight-up tricked me into a Thanksgiving Dinner. I may be British, but I know Thanksgiving is a big deal, and definitely not something to be wandered into lightly, the day before it happens, having never met another soul at the table	Matilda & Harry	Controlling

78	‘I know,’ he says, almost to himself, trying to wrap his head around the fact that he will have to explain a lot more than he would like to. ‘That’s deliberate. Not my choice. It was kept out of the papers, the press. For the family, insurance, or investors, I don’t know. I was seventeen when it happened; I did what I was told. We all did. The investigation went through all the proper channels, then it disappeared. Press embargo. Favours called in; deals made. Things were easier to control back then, pre-internet, before everyone filmed everything, before everyone had a platform; it was easier to make things fade away.’	Robert & Holbeck family	Controlling
115	After the funeral she would not come back to the house. I started to suspect she knew. I am not a bad man. But my family is sacred to me. What you did that day, the mess you made, what you forced me to do to protect those you left behind did not end then. That was the beginning of something. A loosening of something. The boundaries loosened.	Robert & Mysterious woman	Controlling
133	‘No, just you and Lila and the kids. If you’re happy to? Billy asked for you especially.’ I gulp back the rest of my water and try to ignore the emotional blackmail, resigning myself to the fact that I have to play a weird game with a bunch of kids while the rest of the adults, including Robert Holbeck, stay in another room. Which actually works out perfectly.	Fiona & Harry	Controlling
161	She looks irritated by the question. ‘No. Everyone who works for the Holbecks signs an NDA the day they start. It’s not unusual in wealthy families. It gives them a sense of security. Families discuss their private lives, their businesses, their family relationships, we hear it all,’ she breaks off, with a look to me. ‘I wish I could help; you seem like a nice girl, but I’m afraid I can’t speak to specifics.	Holbeck family & Samantha	Controlling
254	I gave up my right to an easy life when I did what I did twenty years ago. My secret must be kept, because there is no excusing it. You can say I didn’t know what I was doing back then, but I did. I wanted him to hurt like I did; I wanted him to pay. And this is the price I now have to pay. This game might be my shot at	Harry & Holbeck’s family	Controlling

	wiping the slate clean. Robert hinted that my prize might just be that: my secret safe.		
258	‘This is not a game – we both know that. I want you to have an abortion and to not have any children with him, at all. That is the deal. They have something on you, and believe me I’ll and out what it is. You’ve done something bad, I can tell. It must be fucking awful because there’s no way you’d have agreed to play tonight if it wasn’t. You had to play, didn’t you? You might be able to fool Edward, but I see you.’	Fiona & Harry	Controlling
34	I know how the world views us: cut-throat, dog-eat-dog, sociopaths or whatever. But we’re only reacting to what we face every day. It is brutal out here. And you should know, coming into all this: everything we have, everything we are – other people want it. We developed tough skins because, by God, we’ve needed them just to survive.	Fiona & Harry	Interest
47 - 48	He squeezes my hand as the lift slows. ‘You doing okay?’ I nod and attempt a smile then watch as he straightens his collar in infinite reflections in the elevator mirrors. He’s nervous too, I can tell, though he’s hiding it well...– an almost imperceptible tell that I’ve picked up on over time an oddly comforting glimpse at his human vulnerability beneath. This matters to him, a lot.	Harry / Edward	Interest
178	We would both do anything for our families. For what it is worth, Harriet, I like you. I forgive you. We must remember, you were just a child; your parents killed and the man responsible there in front of you. It’s at moments like those that our true nature is revealed. You did a terrible thing, but you did it for your family. And I have done the same for mine.	Robert & Harry	Interest
34	‘Yeah, honey. Will you help the family out? We want him back; we want to keep him where we can see him. We think this engagement is just wonderful.’ A strange warmth permeates me as I begin to understand what is going on here. They have to have me; they have to like me; they have no choice.	Harry & Matilda	Gain
72	He knows the shifts and ebbs of my life, the everyday missteps and the mistakes of youth. Things that do not touch the sides of what it is	Harry & Robert	Gain

	possible to truly regret. ‘You’re everything I hoped you would be, Harriet,’ he says, then gestures between us. ‘This is not about Edward. This is about us. If I lose a son in all this, I hope at least that I might gain a daughter.’		
35	Edward’s already chosen me over them, so they need me on their side if they want him back. I’m the missing piece that can bring the family back together. I’m no business tycoon, but I do know that you can’t sell anything without first creating a need. However uneven our power differential might be, I have something that the Holbeck’s want: their son.	Harry & Holbeck family	Gain
121	I can’t help but wonder if it’s ever crossed Edward’s mind how much his fiancée looks like this willowy figure from his childhood; I imagine it has crossed Robert’s. Samantha Belson. I have a name. Now I just need to and out if she’s still alive. My next move depends very much on the type of game we’re playing here, and I’ve got exactly three days in which to and that out.	Harry & Samantha	Gain
69	The fact that he has read my book puts me firmly on the back foot. Which I imagine was the idea. I’m learning very quickly that Robert likes to play linguistic games. He’s testing my boundaries, mapping my character... ‘You’re good at it. Telling stories. Untangling them,’ he dips his head at me in congratulations. ‘It’s hard to surprise me, but, you did,’ he adds lightly.	Robert & Harry	Strategy
86	He isn’t looking at the girl; he’s looking directly at me. As soon as I catch his eyes, he stands and calmly slips deeper into the busy train car, as if caught. As if I knew him or he knew me. I repress a sudden urge to jump up and follow him; to confront him. Oddly, I can’t help but feel this has something to do with the Holbecks. The knowledge of Robert’s tape and what might be on it is burning in my mind.	Robert & Harry	Strategy
104	The Empire State, Top of the Rock, and the Chrysler Building. Model skyscrapers made by men like Robert Holbeck – the building we’re standing in now just the same. ‘This is a good test,’ Lila says with a chuckle. ‘Of what?’ ‘All sorts of things. But it’s good to know,’ she answers simply. ‘You don’t scare easily.’	Fiona & Harry	Strategy

116	There I left her. In the shadow of a green mountain past the calm of a lake. To the wolves. To the wolves because that is where she would have thrown us. And I will never let that happen to us. To my family. Let it not ever be said I let others do my dirty work. I dealt with the mess. That is what we must do. That was the first. This is not a threat, <i>Harriet Reed</i> . Take this as you and it: a work of fiction, a parable? But take from it that my meaning holds. My family will protect itself. Know that.	Robert & Harry	Strategy
144	‘Where’s Mumma?’ I consider. ‘I really don’t know. But I’m sure she’s ne. You definitely don’t need to worry about her.’ I look at Billy’s little face, his soft blond curls, and I wonder what the hell Fiona was thinking letting him play this game. Then I conjure the image of a three-year-old Edward pissing himself, thirty-five years ago, on some unknown nanny’s hip. What was it Edward said? <i>Character building</i> .	Holbeck family & Holbecks’children	Strategy
152	‘Because that’s part of the game,’ she tells me, her tone low. ‘You’re not supposed to tell new family members how to play; they have to and it out, like everyone else. It’s a test. Of character. Of working together, as a team, one generation with the next. Teamwork.’ She smiles. ‘And you won. You should be happy.’ Her tone is tight now, slightly irritated, as if she’d laid on the whole evening for me and this was all the thanks she’d got.	Holbeck’s family & Holbeck’s family future partner	Strategy
166	Since the night of the proposal, I realize, I’ve unwittingly been chipping away at the bedrock of trust between us. Do I really want to rifle through Edward’s things, his dead brother’s life? Because I wouldn’t want him to do the same thing to me, and I know exactly what he’d and if he did. But if I can just and out who this ex-girlfriend is and if she’s okay, then I’ll know Robert’s tape is a trick and I can go to him and end this.	Harry & Robert Holbeck	Strategy
189	This Christmas invitation feels like a kind of Balmoral test. A test to weed out those who t in with the family and those who do not. If I manage to match some unspoken codes, hell, if I manage to survive, then perhaps they will accept me as one of them. Christmas seems to have become the nal stage of a Holbeck test	Holbeck’s family & Harry	Strategy

	trptych that I didn't know I was signing up for: Thanksgiving, Krampusnacht, Christmas. Each one, I'm guessing, progressively harder than the last.		
126	'Your cell is dead,' he says, his tone panicked. I pull it from my pocket. He's right; the screen is blank, the battery long dead. 'I couldn't get hold of you most of the day,' he continues. 'I thought maybe something might have happened. How are you feeling?' 'How am I feeling?' I ask, confused by the question. 'The baby, Harry? You're pregnant, remember? I couldn't get you; I've been trying all morning. I've been worried. But you're okay, right?'	Edward & Harry	Communication
160	'No. But you were the only one who responded in the right way. You seemed concerned about being contacted in relation to the family at all, concerned about the questions being asked. The questions wouldn't really have bothered anyone but you.' She tenses as she realizes the truth of my words. Her own caution gave her away.	Harry & Samantha	Communication

CAUSES OF POWER RELATION

Pg. Number	Data Evidence	People that involved	Types of Signs
68	That little tell behind his eyes, that world-weary calm, the feeling that at any moment he could switch on me, the tone could change, and a man like him would have the power, the ability, to do almost anything and get away with it. I don't see how that couldn't be both terrifying and intoxicating. Edward has it too, that deep undertow of power, that sense that I may not be good enough, smart enough, quick enough to live in his world.	Holbeck's family & Matilda	Status differences
96	I find myself once again lost for words. Edward thinks we need a housekeeper? 'Er, well, we actually don't really need a housekeeper, I don't think.' Yet even as I say it, I'm wondering if I'm wrong. Apparently, Edward needs to make excuses for the fact we don't have one. Suddenly I wonder if he finds it weird that we don't have a cleaner, that I Hoover and tidy myself, that he sometimes has to cook? 'Harriet, darling, you're not cooking and cleaning yourself, are you? Not on top of everything?' she asks, as diplomatically as is possible to, given the inference.	Edward & Harry	Status Differences

130	‘Hello, strangers,’ Oliver bellows, clearly making an extra effort. It seems to settle Edward. In all of my own, very particular terror about tonight, I had forgotten that Edward is the prodigal son. Oliver pulls him into a hug before bending to plant a quick peck on my cheek. ‘Shoes off both of you,’ he orders us merrily. ‘You definitely know the rules by now, Ed. No excuses.’	Edward & Oliver	Status Differences
259	I shove my burning cold hands into my pockets and continue on, replaying Fiona’s words. My baby, the creature growing inside me, will inherit everything. Everything here, everything in New York and London and France and Italy and LA and Switzerland. All of it. Everywhere. Everything. The whole Holbeck empire. The idea is beyond real understanding. The weight of all that shouldn’t rest on one person.	Edward + Harry’s baby & Holbeck’s family	Status Differences
24	‘Every family is crazy though, right? In their own way. Money just highlights what’s already there.’ I chuckle. ‘Plus, I’ve only agreed to be his fiancée. It’s hardly a legally binding contract.’ ‘Oh, okay. So you’ll cut and run if they’re all mad as hatters, then, will you?’ she challenges. I take a moment to genuinely consider how bad the Holbecks would have to be in order to put me off Edward.	Holbeck’s family & Harry	Institution
72	Now, Harriet, don’t misunderstand me. I’ve made peace with that part of the story. My concern now is for my family. I want him back here. Eleanor wants him back with the family. Matilda spoke with you, I understand. We all want him back and we think this engagement is a good thing. You’re good for him. I see that.	Holbeck’s family & Harry	Institutions
80	‘Your father didn’t mention Bobby,’ I say, a question implicit in the statement. I can’t help wondering if the family don’t talk about Bobby because they feel culpable – for applying too much pressure, for not noticing until it was too late. ‘We really don’t talk about it, I promise you. It isn’t just you...	Holbeck’s family & Bobby	Institution
111	The day Bobby died, all of the expectations and responsibilities heaped on him fell to Edward. No wonder things have been hard between Edward and his family; this was never his birthright. All of this duty should never have been his to bear; I can’t blame him for running scared from a family that ostensibly killed the last guy who had the job before him.	Holbeck’s family & Edward	Institution
156	‘I didn’t know you’d carry him. And, not to undermine your, whatever, but Fiona’s played it pregnant. I’m pretty sure Mom did too. I didn’t know it would be an issue. ...‘Oh my God, Edward. How could I have possibly known that? Jesus fucking Christ! You didn’t	Holbeck’s family & Harry and Edward	Institution

	tell me anything. Anything at—’ ‘That’s the point, Harry! To see how you do under pressure. Teamwork. And it turns out you do incredibly well. And you’re fine.’ ‘Do I look fine, Edward? Do I? Having been chased around and felt up by a motion capture guy? Do I look like I’m avoiding stress like Dr Leyman said?’		
258	‘Edward is the first born. If he has a child with anyone – married, not married, whatever – then that child inherits everything. It doesn’t matter about you, if you’re married to him; you mean nothing. Only blood counts. Only our children count. Even their gender is irrelevant. Blood counts. Children count. We are nothing.’ ‘We’re nothing?’ I repeat, turning the idea of that over in my mind.	Holbeck’s family & Edward’s future children	Institution

EFFECTS OF POWER RELATION

Pg. Number	Data Evidence	People that involved	Types of Signs
72	He wanted to make a go of things on his own. His own way in the world.’ He leans back now, with a nod. ‘A noble idea, of course, to build a life from scratch. But a family business is a group endeavour. We take from the past and give to the future. We add more and pass it on. Edward is my eldest; the company should be his. But he chose another way.’ He gives me a wry look.	Robert & Edward	Resistance
98	Of course, I have concerns about the content, the idea that Robert might read my story, that any of them might – but this is what I do. I can only go where my mind will let me go, especially now that my focus is so split. And now I finally seem to have my flow back, I can’t let embarrassment or fear of what other people might think stop me from moving forward. Besides, I would assume that the Holbecks would appreciate the difference between fact and fiction, and I can only hope be a little flattered at the fleeting similarities. But perhaps that’s too much of a stretch.	Harry & Holbeck’s family	Resistance
106	‘Um?’ I answer hesitantly, suddenly wary of being tricked into another unwitting Thanksgiving situation. It occurs to me that this invitation might be a slow preamble towards Eleanor’s Christmas. But perhaps that’s not so bad. ‘Sorry to ask, Fiona, but the sixteenth isn’t some big American holiday I don’t know about, is it? Nothing like that?’	Harry & Fiona	Resistance
127	This one is only three words long, but it’s enough. Who is this?	Samantha & Harry	Resistance

	The concern implied in those three words is telling. I emailed her through an anonymous account, a brand-new Gmail address; I could be anyone. I gave a plausible reason for reaching out and signed off with my initials, but whoever wrote this reply needs more than that, which is interesting.		
155	‘You’re supposed to go in blind, that’s part of it. I thought you’d get a kick out of it. How could I know you’d take it that seriously? I warned you it was weird – they were weird – and you told me it was ne. That you wanted this,’ he’d argued, his pillow and bedding stacked in his arms, as ba ed and upset by the extremity of my reaction to the evening as I seemed to be by his. ‘I didn’t know you’d freak out, did I? How could I know that? You should have just stopped.’	Harry & Holbeck’s family	Resistance
158	‘I’m serious when I say this,’ Edward tells me later, as he lugs his bags into the building’s elevator. ‘If you don’t want to be so closely involved with them, if it’s too much – which I think anyone might agree it could be – then we can step back from them. <i>You’re</i> my family now. Both of you,’ he says, placing a warm hand on my slowly doming belly.	Edward & Holbeck’s family	Resistance
164	Without warning, Samantha rises to her feet and hastily buttons her coat. She’s realizing now how serious this could be, how close she is to being dragged into the past and the consequences of it. Our interview is over. ‘You know who it is, don’t you? Please, Samantha, could something have happened to her?’ Samantha grabs her bag and slips it onto her shoulder. ‘I think that’s enough,’ she says with finality. ‘I can’t be involved in <i>this</i> .	Samantha & Harry	Resistance
207	It will be the same story I have told Deonte and the story I am living through now. A story where an author finds herself trapped when her father-in-law gives her a tape, the contents of which force her into a terrifying and complicated position. I fire off my email and delete my Sent folder. The trail Deonte told me to lay is laid. Robert will not find it easy to make me disappear.	Harry & Holbeck’s family	Resistance
72	A slow blossoming of dread at the possibility of what a man like Robert Davison Holbeck could dig up on me. Ghosted boyfriends, broken promises, weakness. But I know he can’t know the worst – no one can —because I was alone the day my parents died. Only I know the things that happened that day. He knows the shifts and ebbs of my life, the everyday missteps and the mistakes of youth. Things that do not touch the sides of what it is possible to truly regret.	Holbeck’s family & Harry	Knowledge
79	‘How did he die?’ I ask as delicately as I can, still reeling from the knowledge that Edward could keep such a formative part of his life from me for so long. I push from my mind the thought that I am guilty of doing just the same	Harry& Edward	Knowledge

	because that is, of course, different. ‘Did he get sick?’ ‘He was healthy, thriving, playing Varsity, grades impeccable; they always were,’...		
85	I get a jolt of excitement at the thought of hearing a younger Robert’s voice, his words coming to me directly from the past. I wonder what the tape will tell me about his life, his family, his children. Every writer knows, even if a story is pure fiction, there are truths hidden in there, about the writer, about the time it was written, which are inconvertible.	Harry & Robert	Knowledge
117	The recording is so personal. His thoughts about Bobby, his guilt, his culpability. And to tell me about the girl, that he killed a girl. What is he hoping I do with this information? I think of the man on the subway yesterday and suddenly my behaviour doesn’t seem quite so paranoid. I wonder if I should call someone. I should call the police, or Edward.	Harry & Robert	Knowledge
136	It suddenly occurs to me, in earnest, that the Holbecks might genuinely be concerned about what I write about in my next book. I suppose if I become part of the family, I will ultimately fall under the same scrutiny that they are prey to or I could be kidding myself about my own importance. That said, my last book was read by over a million people, and that’s a sizeable reach.	Harry & Robert	Knowledge
204	I pull up short, my eyes immediately focusing on the park around me again. Robert wants me to kill for him. My mind hadn’t gone there, but now Deonte has articulated it, that seems entirely probable. I suppose my only USP, in his eyes, could be the fact that I’ve killed a person. I recall Robert saying he wanted to pass on the family baton. Is that what he meant?	Harry & Robert	Knowledge

This study uses 56 pieces of data from the novel, consisting of 32 data showing the signs of power relations (authority: 4, controlling: 11, interest: 3, gain: 4, strategy: 8, and communication: 2), 10 data showing the causes of power relations (status difference: 4 and institution: 6), and 14 data showing the effects of power relations (resistance: 8 and knowledge: 6).