**Summary**

We see a white feather floating through the air down towards a bus stop in Savannah, Georgia. Sitting at the bus stop is the titular character, [Forrest Gump](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump), a dim-witted but kind man wearing dirty sneakers. He picks up the feather and puts it into a book in his suitcase. On his lap is a box of chocolates, and as the bus arrives, a woman comes and sits beside him. He introduces himself as [Forrest Gump](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump/study-guide/character-list#forrest-gump), and offers her a chocolate, but she ignores him.

"My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get," he says, as she reads a magazine. He comments on her shoes and how comfortable they must be, and tells her that his mama always said that one could tell a lot about a person by their shoes. "I've worn lots of shoes," he says, before launching into a story about his first pair of shoes.

We see a young Forrest looking down at his legs in a doctor's office. He wears leg braces that are meant to help correct a curved spine, and he wanders around the doctor's office awkwardly. His mother walks him out of the doctor's office, and we hear Forrest tell us in voiceover that his mother named him after the Civil War hero, General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was the creator of the Ku Klux Klan.

We see young Forrest getting his brace stuck in a grate in the curb. "Don't let anybody tell you they're better than you, Forrest," [Mrs. Gump](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump/study-guide/character-list#mrs-gump) says, "If God intended everybody to be the same, he'd have given us all braces on our legs." In voiceover, Forrest tells us, "Mama always had a way of explaining things so I could understand them."

He narrates that he grew up a half a mile from Greenbow, Alabama in a house that they inherited from his mother's family. It's a big house, and Forrest tells us that Mrs. Gump let out the rooms to people passing through, in order to earn money. They get to the house, and Mrs. Gump tells Forrest, "You're the same as everybody else. You are no different."

Suddenly, the scene shifts to a school principal telling Mrs. Gump that Forrest is "different," that his IQ is 75. He insists that the minimum IQ to attend public school is 80 and tells her that Forrest has to go to a special school. Mrs. Gump does not accept this, and insists that Forrest be allowed to attend public school. The principal asks Mrs. Gump if she is married, and she tells him that her husband is on vacation.

That night, we see Forrest sitting outside the house, while his mother evidently has sex with the principal to gain him admission to the public school. The principal comes out and says to Forrest, "Your mama sure does care about your schooling, son." He tries to get Forrest to talk to him, but Forrest just begins making panting and gasping noises.

As Mrs. Gump reads a book to Forrest, he asks her what "vacation" means, referring to his father, and she tells him, "Vacation is when you go somewhere, and you don't ever come back."

The scene shifts and we see Mrs. Gump gathering the tenants in her house for a dinner. She goes upstairs to find Forrest, who is in a tenant's room. The tenant happens to be a young Elvis Presley, who is playing "Hound Dog" on his guitar for Forrest. Forrest dances for Elvis in his leg braces, and Elvis takes inspiration in Forrest's dance moves. We see Forrest and his mother at a later date, walking past a television store and seeing Elvis singing "Hound Dog" on a television show.

We see Forrest getting on the bus for the first day of school. The bus driver is a young woman with a cigarette hanging out of her mouth, who introduces herself to Forrest as "Dorothy Harris." Forrest climbs on and can't find a seat. "You can sit here if you want," says a young girl, finally. In voiceover, Forrest says, "I had never seen anyone so beautiful in my whole life. She was like an angel." Forrest begins talking to the girl, whose name is Jenny.

We see Jenny and Forrest running through a field, then climbing a tree. She teaches him how to read and he teaches her how to swing from the branches of the tree. On another day, we see a group of bullies throw something at Forrest's head and call him names. Jenny tells him to run away, and he hobbles down the road. As the boys get on their bikes and Jenny yells, "Run, Forrest, run!" Forrest begins to pick up speed and the braces burst off of his legs. "From that day forward, if I was going somewhere, I was running," present-day Forrest tells his bench companion. The young Forrest runs away from the bullies, all across town, and to Jenny's house.

In voiceover, Forrest tells us that Jenny's mother died when she was 5, and her father was "some kind of farmer." "He was a very loving man. He was always kissing and touching her and her sisters," Forrest says, which we infer means he molested Jenny. As Forrest arrives at Jenny's house, he asks her why she wasn't in school, and she grabs his hand and brings him into the nearby cornfield, as her father comes out of the house holding a liquor bottle and calling for her.

In the corn, Jenny tells Forrest to pray with her, and she prays to God to make her a bird so that she can fly far away. "Mama always said that God is mysterious," Forrest narrates, "He didn't turn Jenny into a bird that day. Instead, he had the police say Jenny didn't have to stay in that house no more." We see Jenny going to live with her grandmother in a trailer.

On a thundery night, Jenny sneaks over to Forrest's house and climbs into bed with him. "Jenny and me was best friends all the way up through high school," Forrest narrates, and we see them all grown up. Suddenly, a boy throws a rock at Forrest's head, just like in the beginning, and a car pulls up to chase him. Jenny tells him to run yet again, and he does, sprinting down the dirt road. Somehow, he manages to outrun the car, jumping a fence. Suddenly, he sprints across the football field in the middle of a game, and the coaches look up, impressed at his speed.

The scene shifts and we see that Forrest gets to go to college based on his football skills. He is a football player at the University of Alabama, and we see him making a touchdown, then running straight off the field with the ball. "He may be the stupidest son of the bitch I've ever seen, but he sure is fast," the coach says, grinning at their victory.

We see Forrest at college as it is being integrated. Two black students are admitted to the university, "but only after Governor George Wallace had carried out his symbolic threat to stand in the schoolhouse door," a newscaster tells us. Forrest arrives at a protest about the admittance, and asks his friend Earl what's going on. When Earl tells him, Forrest walks over to where George Wallace, a staunch segregationist is giving a speech and appears in the background of the news footage. Then, when one of the black students drops their notebook walking into the school, Forrest runs and grabs it, handing it to her. We then see news footage of George Wallace getting shot at as he attends a rally for his presidential candidacy.

The scene shifts back to the present, and Forrest's bench companion has to get on her bus. A woman and her toddler son take the place of the woman who gets on the bus, and Forrest continues his story. The woman tells Forrest that she remembers the shooting of Wallace, and he tells the woman that Jenny went to a girls' college.

The scene shifts back to the past, and we see Forrest waiting for Jenny outside her dormitory in the rain. A car pulls up and Jenny and her boyfriend begin kissing, but when she accidentally hits her head, Forrest goes running over to the car to save her. Forrest opens the car and punches the boyfriend, but Jenny yells at him to stop, insisting that the boyfriend wasn't hurting her. The boyfriend gets in the car and drives away, leaving Jenny and Forrest in the rain. Forrest hands her some chocolate, and she invites him into her dorm room.

As she hands him dry clothes, Jenny asks Forrest if he ever dreams about who he's going to be. "Aren't I going to be me?" Forrest asks, innocently. She tells him she wants to be a famous singer like Joan Baez. She takes off her shirt and explains to Forrest that she wants to have a stage all to herself, before asking him if he's ever been with a girl before. "I sit next to them in my Home Economics class all the time," he says.

Jenny takes off her bra and brings Forrest's hand to her chest, but he gets too nervous and has an unexpected orgasm, immediately. She reassures him and kisses him on the cheek, as the camera pans over to reveal that Jenny's roommate is awake in a nearby bed, horrified. "i think I ruined your roommate's bathrobe," Forrest says, as Jenny whispers, "I don't like her anyway."

At a football game, Forrest scores a touchdown. We then see [Forrest Gump](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump) meeting President Kennedy with the All-American team. He drinks 15 Dr. Peppers. As he meets President Kennedy, he tells the president that he has to go to the bathroom. Kennedy laughs.

Forrest narrates that John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy were both assassinated, and we see footage of the two politicians. We then see Forrest graduating from college and posing for a photo with his mother, who is beaming with pride. A military recruiter walks over and hands Forrest a pamphlet about joining the army.

The scene shifts to Forrest introducing himself to a military bus driver, who yells at him, "Nobody gives a hunk of shit who you are, fuzzball!" Forrest tries to find a seat, but no one lets him sit down, until a black man in a tan suit invites Forrest to sit down. "You ever been on a real shrimp boat?" the man asks him, and tells him that he started working on his uncle's shrimp boat when he was 9 in Bayou Le Batre, Alabama. He introduces himself as Benjamin Buford, but says that everyone calls him "Bubba." "I know everything there is to know about the shrimping business," Bubba says.

The scene shifts to Gump and the other soldiers lining up and getting yelled at by a very loud drill sergeant. Forrest narrates that he fit in quite easily in the army, because he was very able to follow its rigid structure. As they put together guns later, Bubba tells Forrest about how to shrimp, when Forrest finishes constructing his gun before anyone else has. The drill sergeant runs over and tells Forrest that he's beat the record. "You are gonna be a general someday, Gump!" the drill sergeant yells.

We see Bubba and Forrest doing various chores in boot camp, as Bubba lists all the things one can do with shrimp. The scene shifts to Forrest in his bunk, as he narrates that nighttime was lonely. Suddenly, another soldier tosses Forrest a Playboy magazine. When he opens it, he sees Jenny in a spread titled, "Girls of the South." She is nude in her college sweater, and Forrest narrates that the spread got Jenny kicked out of school.

Forrest takes a bus to Memphis to see Jenny sing in a show that was offered to her after she posed for Playboy. The announcer introduces her as "the beatnik beauty," Bobbi Dylan, and the curtain opens to reveal Jenny, naked, holding her guitar. She sings "Blowin' in the Wind," and Forrest smiles at her performance. In voiceover, he narrates, "Her dream had come true. She was a folk singer." The men in the audience talk through her whole set, and one of them interrupts her by trying to touch her, and she yells at him.

Forrest runs up to the front of the stage and pushes the men away, before picking Jenny up. She doesn't want to be rescued, however, and she pushes him and storms off the stage.

Outside, Jenny tells Forrest, "You can't keep trying to rescue me all the time," but he insists that the men kept trying to grab her. He tells her he loves her, but she insists, "You don't know what love is." As she looks out over the water, she asks Forrest if he remembers when they prayed to God to turn her into a bird. "You think I could fly off this bridge?" she says, climbing up onto the railing. As a car drives up, she waves it down and gets in, telling Forrest to stay away from her. Before she gets in the car, Forrest tells Jenny that he's going to Vietnam and she tells him that if he's ever in trouble, he shouldn't try and be brave, but should just run away. "I'll write you all the time," he says, and she gets in the car and drives away.

We see Forrest at his mother's house. "You come back safe to me, do you hear?" she says, as Forrest leans his head on her shoulder.

Forrest travels to Vietnam with the army. He and Bubba walk towards a tent where their lieutenant, Dan Taylor, is standing. He welcomes them to his platoon and notes Bubba's big gums. "If you stick with me, and learn from the guys who've been in the country awhile, you'll be alright," Dan says, before telling them that it is very important to have socks and to keep their feet dry. "The Mekong will eat a grunt's feet right off his legs," Dan says.

Forrest narrates that [Lieutenant Dan](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump/study-guide/character-list#lieutenant-dan) came from a military family, that someone in his family had fought and died in every single American war. "I guess you could say he had a lot to live up to," Forrest narrates.

We see Forrest and the other soldiers walking around the fields of Vietnam. Off Lieutenant Dan's orders, the soldiers all get down and stay quiet. He decides that it was a false alarm and they continue on. We then see a montage of the soldiers enduring four months of rain.

One night, Bubba leans his back against Forrest so they can sleep through the rain. He tells Forrest that they are a good team because they look out for one another. "How would you like to go into the shrimping business with me?" Bubba asks Forrest, and Forrest agrees. We see Forrest writing letters to Jenny, which he tells us he did almost every day. Interspersed, we see Jenny, with long hippie hair, getting into a van with some other hippies.

Eventually, the rain stops in Vietnam, but with the sun comes a huge attack on American forces. In the chaos, Lieutenant Dan and Bubba both tell Forrest to run, which he does. Forrest runs so far that he eventually ends up alone, but he suddenly realizes he left Bubba behind, and goes back to look for him. In the middle of looking for Bubba, he finds another soldier, Tex, lying on the ground, and slings him over his shoulder. He carries him away from danger, laying him on the ground next to a small pond. When he goes back, he finds a number of his other fellow soldiers in need of help, and carries them to safety.

Forrest goes back into the jungle to find Bubba, and trips over [Lieutenant Dan](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump/study-guide/character-list#lieutenant-dan), who is on a radio talking about the deaths in his platoon. Forrest picks up Lieutenant Dan, as Dan resists. He brings Dan to safety and Dan scolds him for not leaving him in the jungle. On his way, Forrest gets hit by something.

Against Dan's orders, Forrest goes back to find Bubba, who is dying on the ground, holding a leaf over a horrible wound. Forrest carries Bubba to safety. He lays Bubba down on the ground and says, "Hey Bubba." Bubba tells Forrest, "I want to go home," and dies.

The scene shifts to the present, with Forrest sitting on the bench at the bus stop and telling the story of Bubba's death. A new companion is listening, a man, who asks Forrest if the thing that hit Forrest was a bullet. "Yes sir, bit me directly in the buttocks," Forrest says, adding that, at the infirmary, he got to eat a lot of ice cream. We see Forrest in a hospital bed next to Lieutenant Dan.

Forrest tries to give Dan some ice cream, but Dan throws it away. As the camera zooms out, we see that Dan has lost both his legs. A mail carrier brings Forrest a large stack of mail, but it is a pile of all the letters Forrest sent to Jenny while he was away.

Later, in the recreation room, another wounded soldier teaches Forrest how to play ping pong. He tells Forrest to never take his eye off the ball, and Forrest takes to the game immediately, playing impressively for the other soldiers. One night, Lieutenant Dan confronts Forrest about saving him. He tells Forrest that he did not want to be saved, that he wanted to die in Vietnam, and now he has to live as a cripple. "I had a destiny," he snarls at Forrest, "I was supposed to die in the field, with honor!" He begins to cry, before laying his head on Forrest's chest.

The next day, while he is playing ping pong, someone presents Forrest with a medal of honor. He rushes off to tell Lieutenant Dan, but he is no longer in his hospital bed. A nurse tells Forrest that Lieutenant Dan went home.

We see President Johnson presenting Forrest with a medal of honor. After he receives the medal, Forrest pulls down his pants and shows Johnson the bullet wound in his buttock. Everyone gasps.

After the ceremony, Forrest goes out to see Washington D.C., where he is pulled onto a bus filled with activists looking for veterans who are against the war in Vietnam. Not realizing what is going on, Forrest gets pulled into line with the other veterans, who march around protesting the war. They arrive at a rally, and Forrest is pulled up onstage in front of the protestors. A hippie tells him to talk about the war and everyone cheers. Forrest begins to talk about his experience in Vietnam, but a cop nearby pulls the plugs out of the speakers as he begins to talk and no one can hear his speech. When he is finished, everyone assumes that he spoke out against the war and they cheer for him.

Suddenly, Forrest hears someone calling his name, and sees that Jenny is in the crowd and wading through the reflecting pool in front of the Washington Monument to get to him. They run towards each other and embrace, as the crowd cheers for them. That night, Forrest stays with Jenny and the radicals with whom she is associating, including some Black Panthers. There, Jenny introduces Forrest to her boyfriend, Wesley, who calls Forrest a "babykiller" because of his army uniform. Jenny tells Forrest that she and Wesley lived together in Berkeley and that he is the president of the Berkeley chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society.

Wesley takes Jenny aside and slaps her suddenly, which causes Forrest to kick into protector mode. He charges towards Wesley and beats him up. "He should not be hitting you, Jenny," Forrest says, and he apologizes to the Black Panthers for interrupting their "Black Panther party."

Outside, Jenny insists that Wesley does not mean it when he is abusive. "I would never hurt you, Jenny," Forrest says, and tells her that he wanted to be her boyfriend. We see a montage of all of Jenny's experiences: hitchhiking, drugs, busking in Hollywood next to Jean Harlow's Hollywood star, and then hitchhiking to San Francisco.

The next day, Jenny gets back on the bus with Wesley, who tells her that he has been stressed out about the war, but he would never hurt her. Forrest tells Jenny that he thinks she should go back to Alabama, but she tells him that they have very different lives. He gives her his medal of honor and tells her, "I got it just by doing what you told me to do." She hugs him and gets back on the bus with Wesley.

The scene shifts to a crowd at an army hospital gathered around to watch Forrest play ping pong. He tells us in voiceover that he joined the special services and went around to cheer up wounded soldiers. "I was so good that some years later, the army decided I should be on the All-American ping pong team," he tells his bench companion, and we see him playing in China and winning.

We see [Forrest Gump](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump) appearing on The Dick Cavett Show, sitting between Dick Cavett and John Lennon. As he comes out of the studio, Lieutenant Dan, who is wearing a trench coat and has grown his hair long, is sitting outside. "They gave you, an imbecile, a moron who goes on television and makes a fool out of himself, in front of the whole damn country, the Congressional Medal of Honor," Dan snarls at Forrest from his wheelchair.

He wheels away, but loses control of his wheelchair on the ramp, falling into the snow. We see Forrest pushing Dan through midtown Manhattan, as he visits various pornographic movie theaters. They go to Dan's apartment for Christmas, and sit watching television.

[Lieutenant Dan](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump/study-guide/character-list#lieutenant-dan) asks Forrest if he has found Jesus yet, and says that all the other physically disabled people at the VA are always talking about Jesus. He gets angry about the empty promises of Christianity, but Forrest insists, "I'm going to Heaven, Lieutenant Dan."

Dan and Forrest go to a bar on New Year's, where Forrest tells him that he has to buy a shrimping boat because he promised Bubba he would. "Now that he's dead, that means I gotta be the captain," Forrest says. Dan laughs dismissively at Forrest's plan and tells him that if he ever becomes a shrimp boat captain, he will be his first mate. Two prostitutes approach them and introduce themselves, Carla and Lenore. One of them points at the television broadcasting Times Square, and talks about how she loves New Year's, because it marks the chance to start over and have a second chance.

The scene shifts to Jenny at her house in California, examining her black eye in the mirror and moving out of a boyfriend's house in the middle of the night.

After the clock strikes midnight, Forrest and Dan go home with the two prostitutes. When Forrest pushes his date away, she gets annoyed and asks if he's stupid. Lieutenant Dan comes to Forrest's defense, angered by the intimation that Forrest is stupid, and kicks the two prostitutes out of his apartment. In the process, Dan falls out of his wheelchair, before climbing back up, breathing heavily.

Forrest visits the White House with the ping pong team, and this time, Nixon is in office. Nixon asks Forrest where he is staying, and then insists that Forrest go and stay at the Watergate hotel. That night, Forrest notices that someone is looking around with flashlights in a hotel room across the way, and calls the front desk to alert them.

When Forrest gets discharged from the Army, he goes home to Alabama. There, his mother welcomes him and tells him that someone offered $25,000 if he made a statement saying he liked using their ping pong paddle.

Forrest leaves soon enough to go keep his promise to Bubba, traveling to Bubba's family and telling them his plan. "Are you crazy or just plain stupid?" Bubba's mom asks, and Forrest goes to Bubba's grave. He speaks to Bubba and tells him that he is using the $25,000 to buy the shrimp boat.

The scene shifts to Forrest on his shrimping boat in the bayou, but shrimping is harder than he thought. When a man tells Forrest that it's bad luck to have a boat without a name, Forrest decides to call his shrimping boat "Jenny."

The scene shifts and we see Jenny at a disco club snorting cocaine off the table. We then see her injecting heroin and walking out onto the balcony of a hotel and climbing on top of the ledge to stare at the traffic beneath. She almost slips off, but catches herself and climbs down, collapsing into a chair in tears.

One day, while driving his boat through the harbor, Forrest sees Lieutenant Dan on a dock nearby, and waves gleefully at him. He jumps off the boat and swims to shore to him, leaving the boat completely un-captained. When he climbs up onto the dock, Lieutenant Dan pulls out a letter Forrest sent him about the shrimp boat and says he had to see for himself. Dan reminds Forrest that he said he would be his first mate, and they shake on it, just as the un-captained boat plows into a dock behind Forrest.

Forrest and Dan become shrimpers together, but don't have very much luck for a while. When Lieutenant Dan tells Forrest he ought to pray for shrimp, Forrest starts going to a black gospel church every Sunday to pray.

Later, in the middle of a hurricane, Dan rides on top of the mast and yells at the waves, while Forrest runs for safety on deck. The shrimping boat becomes the only boat to survive the hurricane, and because of the lack of competition, they become the most successful shrimping business in town.

The scene shifts to Forrest on the bus stop bench, telling two strangers that they became so successful that they bought 12 new boats, all called "Jenny," a big warehouse, and started the Bubba-Gump Shrimp company. The man on the bench laughs, believing that Forrest is lying, and walks away. The woman who is still there slides next to Forrest and he pulls a Fortune magazine out of his briefcase that features himself and Lieutenant Dan on the cover.

The scene shifts back to the past, and we see Lieutenant Dan and Forrest on the shrimp boat. Dan thanks Forrest for saving his life, then goes for a swim. Later, on a television on the deck of the boat, they watch a news story about the attempted assassination of President Ford. In the middle of the newscast, Forrest gets a call from shore that his mother is sick.

He rushes home to see his mother, who is in bed, getting visited by a doctor. She tells Forrest she's dying of cancer and that "death is just a part of life." She then tells him, "I was destined to be your mama." Forrest asks her what his destiny is, but she tells him that he has to figure it out for himself.

Forrest gets a job mowing the football field at the high school, and leaves Dan to take care of the business. Dan invests their money in the Apple Computer stock, which does very well, and sends Forrest checks in the mail. Forrest takes his money and gives some of it to the black gospel church he attends, some to the Bayou La Batre fishing hospital, and a share of the company to Bubba's mother.

Forrest continues living in her mother's house. One day, Jenny suddenly arrives at the house, in the middle of Forrest mowing his lawn. He runs towards her and they hug. Jenny goes directly to sleep "like she hadn't slept in years." She stays with Forrest for a while, and he tells her about everything he's done. "I did all the talking," Forrest narrates.

We see the duo on a walk in town. Suddenly, Jenny spots the house she grew up in and looks stricken. She wanders towards it and throws rocks at it, angrily. When she collapses on the ground in tears, Forrest wanders over to her and sits beside her. In narration, Forrest says, "Sometimes I guess there just aren't enough rocks."

We see a montage of Jenny and Forrest living together in Greenbow. Forrest puts fresh flowers in her room every morning and she buys him running shoes. We see them in the living room, Jenny teaching Forrest how to dance. One night they watch fireworks next to a pond.

One night, Forrest asks Jenny to marry him, but she tells him that he doesn't want to marry her. "Why don't you love me, Jenny? I'm not a smart man, but I know what love is," Forrest says, before walking out onto the porch. That night, in the rain, Jenny comes to Forrest's room and climbs into bed with him. She tells him she loves him, kisses him, and they have sex.

The next morning, Jenny sneaks off in a cab without saying goodbye while Forrest sleeps. When he awakes to find her gone, he is heartbroken, but decides to go after her, running across America in search of her. He runs to Santa Monica, and then back all the way to Maine. He continues to run all over the country, growing a beard as the seasons and landscapes change around him. After he runs for long enough, the news stations begin to report on Forrest's journey, and Jenny sees him on television at her waitressing job.

"Why are you doing this?" a newscaster asks Forrest, and he replies, "I just felt like running." After a while, people begin to join in his running, following behind him, inspired by his gesture. Eventually, in the middle of the desert, Forrest stops, turns to his followers, and says, "I'm pretty tired. Think I'll go home now."

Back in Greenbow, Forrest gets a letter from Jenny asking him to come to Savannah to see her. The scene shifts back to the present, and Forrest tells his bench companion that he's in Savannah now to see Jenny. His companion points him in the direction of Jenny's house and he runs off to find her.

When he arrives, she opens the door for him and hugs him. She takes out a scrapbook of the clippings from his running exploits and apologizes to him for ever hurting him. "I was messed up for a long time," she says, when suddenly there's a knock on the door. A woman is standing there, and a small boy runs to Jenny. Jenny turns and introduces the little boy to Forrest, telling him that he is the father, and that the boy is named after him.

Forrest is shocked and silent, and gets very worried that his son is stupid like him. "He's very smart. He's one of the smartest in his class," Jenny says, as Forrest weeps. Forrest goes into the next room and talks to his son, who is watching Bert and Ernie.

Later, at the playground, Jenny tells Forrest that she's sick. "I have some kind of virus, and the doctors don't know what it is, and there isn't anything they can do about it," she says. Forrest offers for her to come live with him, and she asks him to marry her.

The scene shifts to Forrest and Jenny getting married in his backyard. As they prepare to go to the ceremony, [Lieutenant Dan](https://www.gradesaver.com/forrest-gump/study-guide/character-list#lieutenant-dan) arrives, now with prosthetic legs, and introduces Forrest to his fiancée, Susan. Forrest and Jenny get married in a small ceremony.

Later that fall, Forrest takes care of Jenny in her sickness, bringing her breakfast in bed. One morning she asks him if he was scared in Vietnam, and he suggests that sometimes he was scared, but when the rain stopped and the stars came out, he'd feel better. He details the comforting aspects of nature, in Vietnam and in his running travels. "I wish I could've been there," Jenny says, and he replies, "You were."

Jenny dies, and Forrest buries her under a tree in the backyard. He addresses her grave and tells her that he had her father's house bulldozed, and that Forrest Jr. is starting school soon. Forrest takes out a letter that Forrest Jr. wrote for Jenny and leaves it next to the grave. "I don't know if we each have a destiny, or if we're all just floating around accidental-like on a breeze. But I think maybe it's both. Maybe both is happening at the same time, but I miss you, Jenny," Forrest says, weeping. As he walks away from the tree, a large group of birds begin chirping at once.

Forrest drops Forrest Jr. off at the bus for the first day of school. He gives Forrest Jr. Curious George, his favorite book, to bring into school. As little Forrest gets on the bus, Forrest calls to him and tells him that he loves him. The bus driver is the same one as when Forrest Sr. was a child. The camera pans down to a feather on the ground beneath Forrest, which flies into the air on the wind.