

Alice, I Think Study Guide

Alice, I Think by Susan Juby

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Plot Summary

Alice, I think is a novel written by Susan Juby. The story is recounted through the journal entries of Alice, the main character. Alice was raised by parents who are hippies and all about expressing their feelings. When Alice reads the book *The Hobbit*, she decides that she is a hobbit. Her parents support her. Alice goes to school dressed like a hobbit and that is the day that she realizes that she is not like everyone else. Alice finds out that there are consequences to being weird.

Alice quickly became the victim of bullying and her parents immediately took her out of school. Being home-schooled only adds to Alice's weirdness. Her parents make her go to therapy in an attempt to help her social skills. Alice's therapist ends up having a mental breakdown and is taken away. Alice blames herself for her therapist losing it and when she gets a new therapist she does everything in her power to make sure that she doesn't push him over the edge.

Bob, the new therapist, challenges Alice to set some goals that she feels will help instill some positive changes in her life and help her be happier. Alice makes a list of goals which she thinks will help her and she gets started on trying to accomplish these goals as soon as possible. Some of the goals Alice set for herself include: Getting a new look, making friends outside of her family, deciding on what she wants to do for a career, meet people of the opposite sex, and learn to drive. Alice wants to make sure that her therapist is pleased with her out of fear of making him go crazy so she tells him that she is planning to go to school. Bob is so excited that he enrolls her right away. Alice takes the opportunity to create a new look for herself.

Alice goes to get her hair cut as the first step to her makeover and it goes horribly wrong. As she is in the parking lot of the mall with her hideous hair, her childhood bully, Linda, finds her and picks up where she left off with the bullying. Only this time when Alice's mom comes to the rescue, Linda beats her up. Suddenly Alice's life has become more complicated and it's only going to get worse with school.

Alice meets a guy and though she finds him annoying, she tries to make it work with him because it is one of her goals to date. When it doesn't work out, she moves on to some of her other goals. After stressing out about her goals Alice finally meets a boy named Daniel that helps her realize that happiness is not achieved through setting unrealistic goals. Alice is finally happy with her life and open to whatever comes next.



Chapter 1 When I was small and ordinary but also special...

Chapter 1 When I was small and ordinary but also special... Summary

Alice describes her childhood. She states that all her problems started when she read "The Hobbit." As a child, Alice loves getting attention and showing off. This is what Alice describes as the cause of all her problems as a teen. Alice goes on a journey to become "normal" and to find what will make her feel accepted and happy. As a child, Alice reads the book The hobbit and as her parents discuss it with her. Alice is so fascinated by this book that she believes that she is actually a hobbit. Alice's parents support her by buying her a hobbit outfit and letting her act like a hobbit. Alice doesn't go to kindergarten so when she starts first grade she is out of the loop and the fact that she thinks she is a hobbit results in her being bullied. The first person to bully her is a girl named Linda. Linda is the ring leader in her bullying and because everyone is scared of her they stay away from Alice. Alice is scared to go to recess because of threats Linda has made. A meeting is called for Alice, her mother, Linda, and her father. Alice's mother is outraged that her daughter is being treated poorly for simply expressing herself. The following week, Alice's bullies throw a rock at her head which cuts her. Alice's parents decide to home school Alice. Alice says being home schooled is why she is always in crisis counseling.

Chapter 1 When I was small and ordinary but also special... Analysis

In this chapter, the main character is introduced and the reader is informed about her family life and background. This chapter serves to inform the reader on previous events which may have led to her situation in the present. Alice's mother is described as a free-spirited woman who embraces all form of expression. Alice seems to believe that the fact that she was raised with such free-spirited parents failed to prepare her for the real world.



Chapter 2 summary Educating Death Lord

Chapter 2 summary Educating Death Lord Summary

Alice has been going to therapy in a center called the Teens in Transition Club. Alice describes her first counselor at the TNTC. Her name was Mrs. Freison and she was unstable and had told her that she was immature, hid from her life in books, and had strange obsessions. Mrs. Freison told her all of this right before she left the center; she was actually taken away from the center by paramedics.

Alice is in the waiting room waiting to speak with the new therapist Robert, or Bob as she calls him. He is a plain looking man with an incredibly deep whisper. He seems to think that by letting her know about his problems that Alice will trust him more. Bob is results driven and wants Alice to set some "therapeutic goals" to help with her therapy. At home Alice makes some goals: Decide what career she wants to pursue, get a job to prepare for her career, start making friends outside of her family that are different than her; learn how to drive; start meeting those of the opposite sex; write and publish a paper that compares teens and "chicken peer groups;" and to read all the books in the Lord of the Rings series.

Alice is reading National Geographic and decides she has found what she wants to do for a career. She wants to be an Easter egg painter. After further thought however, she decides that careers are things that occur rather than chosen.

Chapter 2 summary Educating Death Lord Analysis

Alice does not like or trust her new therapist but she has decided to give his advice a try. Alice gets started on making a list of goals. From the list it seems that Alice knows what she needs to do to better herself and overcome the challenges she faces by being home schooled. Alice seems to also have some free spirited attitudes that she may not realize she has. This is seen when she decides that careers just happen.



Chapter 3 As for me and my life goals

Chapter 3 As for me and my life goals Summary

Alice gets started on the life goal of changing her look since she was mistaken for an employee at a Workwear store. She has always admired the way her cousin Frank dresses. Frank seems to be fashion forward and wear whatever she wants. Frank comes to stay with Alice's family while she is waiting to go to rehab. Alice ends up running away after Alice's parents called the hospital to ask about Alice's behavior.

Alice has decided that she is going to pursue a career as a cultural critic because she seems to be so negative and critical already. Alice describes her little brother Macgregor who is 10 but seems to be mature for his age. Macgregor enjoys nature but is not a hippie.

Alice's mother is visited by her friend Geraldine. Alice doesn't seem to like Geraldine and her father dislikes her even more. He describes Geraldine as a lazy person disguising her laziness as being a hippie. Geraldine has a daughter named Jane who is strange and does not like to socialize. Jane stays in the car smoking the whole time Geraldine is visiting.

Alice has already started to work on her goal of reading *The Lord of the Rings* and is enjoying the book already.

Chapter 3 As for me and my life goals Analysis

Though Alice is described as being naïve by her previous therapist, her actions show that she is working on making positive changes in her life and make it possible to live a normal life despite how she has been raised. When Alice's parents try to make their kids call them by their first names, Alice refuses to do so because being normal is something she actually wants to be.



Chapter 4 summary Home-based learners: Defect!

Chapter 4 summary Home-based learners: Defect! Summary

In attempt to report her progress to Bob, Alice tells him that she is thinking about going to normal school again. Bob is ecstatic about her decision and quickly starts the paperwork to get Alice enrolled. Alice thinks her parents are going to be upset but they surprise her by being supportive. Macgregor tells Alice that he thinks that she will do fine in regular school but Alice is still nervous. Due to her circumstances, Alice is being enrolled in an alternative school which Bob describes as being a school for athletes and people who are special.

Chapter 4 summary Home-based learners: Defect! Analysis

As Alice prepares to go to a regular school the reader can see that she is going to be in for a big surprise when she goes to an alternative school. Bob describes the alternative school as one that is for special people. His description of this school is deceiving because as the reader knows, alternative schools have a reputation for housing kids who don't necessarily represent the general population. Alice has mixed emotions about making this huge change but part of her knows that it is going to have to happen if she wants a shot at becoming more "normal."



Chapter 5 Helmet Head

Chapter 5 Helmet Head Summary

Alice goes shopping at the thrift store to find some clothing for her new look. Alice finds some articles of clothing that are slightly similar to what Frank was wearing and buys them in an attempt to make a fashion statement. Alice goes to the local hairdresser Irma to get a new modern haircut but ends up leaving with a helmet-looking disaster. Alice's mother is so upset with what a horrible job Irma did that she confronts her and the situation is so uncomfortable that Alice leaves and waits in the car. While waiting in the car, Alice's first grade bully Linda and her friends come to the car and begin to taunt her and poke at her hair through the open window. Alice's mother walks out and sees what these teens are doing to her daughter so she begins to yell at them to stop. Linda begins to yell back and swear at Alice's mother and eventually slaps her which results in Alice's mother and Linda getting in an altercation. The police show up and arrest Linda then take a statement from Alice's mother. When Alice is questioned about what happened, she acts like what happened wasn't a big deal and fails to support her mother. Alice's parents are so angry at Alice; her mother isn't even speaking to her.

In therapy, Bob notices how ugly Alice's hair is. He tells her a story about his friend growing an afro and getting made fun of for how ridiculous it looked in an attempt to help her see that she may get made fun of for her hair. Bob finds out that Linda has been indefinitely kicked out of school and lets her know that she does not have to worry about her being a student at her new school.

Alice realizes how strange her Frank-inspired outfit looks and wants to see Frank again so that she can pick up some pointers on how to dress like she does. Realizing that she has not completely succeeded with her goal to get a new fashionable look, Alice decides to modify her goal about developing a new look to include that it must be "semipresentable not just sad".

Chapter 5 Helmet Head Analysis

Alice wants to make a change and she is willing to do what it takes to make herself look presentable. Unfortunately, Alice is far from being able to do that and it doesn't seem like Alice has any fashion sense at all. When Alice sees Linda at the mall after all those years she is reminded of how horrible normal school can be especially now that Linda is older.

In this chapter Alice makes the decision to turn her back on her mother in order to protect herself from any further harm from Linda. This gives some insight as to how desperate Alice is to make it in school. Alice's mother is so angry and disappointed in Alice.



Chapter 6 Prince George, population 70,000 or so; malls: several; number of violent teen offenders: unknown

Chapter 6 Prince George, population 70,000 or so; malls: several; number of violent teen offenders: unknown Summary

MacGregor's Angel Fish laid eggs and the whole family is excited. MacGregor takes the eggs and puts them in a separate tank to prevent the Angel Fish parents from eating them like they have done in the past. Alice's mother is finally talking to her again. Alice's mother invites Alice and MacGregor to go to Prince George for a weekend getaway to go shopping and get Alice's hair fixed. Alice is being pessimistic about the trip but decides to go anyway. Alice's mother ends up spending the first day shopping for herself and MacGregor but promises to actually shop for Alice the following day. The next day they all go to the salon to get Alice's hair fixed by a hairstylist named MacGee. They were referred to MacGee by one of their dad's gay friends. When they meet the hairstylist he is a large Scottish man in a ruffled shirt that looks and smells like he has just walked out of a bar. MacGee convinces MacGregor and Alice's mother to get cuts too. MacGee does an amazing job with all their cuts, especially Alice's. After the salon they all go to a thrift shop called Thrunge. Alice finds the clothing she was looking for and believes that her new confidence helped her find them. As she is shopping Alice meets a boy named Aubrey who asks her out. Alice accepts the invitation and they go and grab a coffee. Aubrey and Alice have a lot in common and though she has some nervous and pessimistic thoughts at first, she ends up enjoying the date and they make plans for him to go visit her in her town. Alice couldn't be happier, she is finally feeling more confident and loves her hair, clothing, and Aubrey.

Chapter 6 Prince George, population 70,000 or so; malls: several; number of violent teen offenders: unknown Analysis

This chapter is a turning point for Alice. Her mother and she are on talking terms, she has completed her makeover, she has met a boy, and she is finally ready to go to school. At times in this chapter, especially on her date with Aubrey, it is hard to tell if she likes what is happening or not. Alice points out that she tends to be a critic and a pessimist so the reason for her negative thoughts is given.

Alice is on a quest to accomplish the goals she has set for herself. She is working on her look, meeting boys, and reading *The Lord of the Rings*.



Chapter 7 Minimum Wage at Mountain Lighthouse

Chapter 7 Minimum Wage at Mountain Lighthouse Summary

Alice is feeling depressed in contrast to how happy she was on her trip to Prince George. While they were gone some of the Angel Fish babies died because they hatched and Alice's father fed them brine fish which contaminated the water. Alice talks to Aubrey on the phone for about an hour which she has never done with anyone. Alice is excited but nervous for Aubrey to visit.

Alice's mother as an assistant manager at a bookstore called Mountain Lighthouse Brambleberry Books. One of the employees has quit and there is an immediate opening which she offers Alice. Alice gets the job starts training with the manager Corinne. Corinne isn't able to work much because she is allergic to everything and everyone. Margaret, one of the other employees ends up training her. Margaret is a Native and she is such a good person that Alice immediately likes her despite the fact that she usually does not like anyone her mother likes. Alice likes Margaret so much that she decides to "help her" out by making sure no one steals from the store. Alice watches closely and even confronts people when she thinks they are possibly stealing.

Jack and Kevin, the two boys that were with Linda when she attacked Alice's mother, walk into the store. They immediately start taunting Alice and tell her that Linda is planning on killing her and her mother. Fortunately, Margaret unknowingly intervenes by asking them if they need help and they leave.

Alice has decided that she is going to be a music critic. She describes her taste in music as alternative though she isn't entirely sure what defines alternative music. Alice describes a time that she babysat for a couple and she came across their mainstream music collection. She liked the music so much that she started making taped copies so that she could listen to them in her headphones so that no one would know that it was mainstream music she was listening to. The couple found her making copies and got upset that she was stealing their blank cassettes. Alice was embarrassed because she got caught listening to mainstream music.

Chapter 7 Minimum Wage at Mountain Lighthouse Analysis

It does not seem that Alice is used to feeling as happy and confident as she was after her trip to Prince George. This is illustrated by her opening paragraph in which she describes how depressed she is.



In this chapter it becomes clear how much Alice is concerned about what image she is portraying. She decides what image she wants to portray then she acts accordingly. She has decided that she wants to like alternative music so she makes it a point to tell herself that she doesn't like mainstream music and she listens to alternative bands.

When Jack and Kevin come into the store they remind Alice of the potential dangers of going to school. Instead of telling Margaret about Jack and Kevin, Alice insists on keeping her mouth shut, probably in hopes that she doesn't start any trouble that may affect her in school.



Chapter 8 Summary The Problem with Aubrey

Chapter 8 Summary The Problem with Aubrey Summary

Alice is at work and watching a man whom she believes to be trying steal. As Alice is crouched over watching him, a woman doesn't see her and trips over her.

Alice talks to Bob and when he notices that she is so nervous. She doesn't want to trouble him by telling him what is really going on and how Aubrey is coming to visit. When he assumes she is nervous about school and tells her that it is going to be fine, she tells him that she feels better so that he feels better.

Alice is so stressed about the Aubrey situation that when she gets annoyed by Corinne that she fills up the deposit room with incense smoke knowing that Corinne is going to be entering the room. Corinne walks into the smoke and has a reaction which sends her outside coughing.

Alice is so nervous about Aubrey coming to visit that she is half hoping that her parents won't allow him to stay with them. When Alice tells them they are surprisingly supportive. Alice's father doesn't say much but puts together a minute by minute schedule for them to follow while he is staying with them.

The first day Aubrey and Alice go on a walk and hold hands. Alice is pretty happy about how things are going. The second day Alice notices how much Aubrey talks and how he has something to say about everything. By the end of the night, Alice's father is so sick of Aubrey that he is sarcastically telling Aubrey that he should share his opinion and let them know how he feels about the subject they were discussing.

They go to the taxidermist and Aubrey starts lecturing the taxidermist about taking an animal's dignity by stuffing it. The taxidermist gets so fed up with Aubrey that he walks away from him. Aubrey's behavior continues on the trip until no one in the family can stand him because his constant talking is so annoying. Finally, Aubrey leaves because Alice's father tells him that maybe he should leave. Alice has locked herself in her room pretending to be sick.

Alice realizes that she and Aubrey are definitely over and her attempt to meet people of the opposite sex has failed. However she is hoping that someone from her school saw them together so that it seems like she has a boyfriend.



Chapter 8 Summary The Problem with Aubrey Analysis

Alice's obsession with trying to catch people stealing is making people complain about her. Whenever a customer talks about her Margaret sends her to the back room to keep her distracted.

Alice realizes that she is not ready for a relationship but she is trying to make the best of the situation. Alice notices how much Aubrey talks and how unattractive she finds it. She tries to figure out why he talks so much and what mental disorder he has.

Aubrey is on everyone's nerves; Alice can't stand how annoying Aubrey is. Although Aubrey and Alice are similar in personality and being critics, Aubrey's vocalized opinions have made Alice polarize and she just wants to disagree with him.

Alice knows things aren't going to work between her and Aubrey. She tried to make it work because of her life goals list but has to accept that he just talks so much that neither her nor her family can put up with it much longer.



Chapter 9 The downward spiral

Chapter 9 The downward spiral Summary

Alice is feeling depressed about no longer having a significant other. She is not upset because she misses Aubrey; she simply misses having someone to be excited about. Alice's mother notices Alice sulking in her room and gives her a feminist book to help her feel better. Alice is the best example Alice has of what a feminist is. Alice remembers all the times that her mother has helped her friend that would come seeking help after being beaten up by her husband. She decides she is going to add "To become an active Feminist" on her list of goals.

When Alice goes to work Corinne calls her mother and has her fire Alice because of the incense incident the last time Corrine had been at the store. Alice isn't very upset about being fired and goes home without protest. On her way home, Linda, Jack and Kevin see her walking home. They follow her and beat her up. Alice was in shock and didn't even defend herself, the hot dog vendor intervened and held Linda back so that Alice could go home.

At home Alice sees how swollen she is and to be dramatic she waits for her family to be home to shock them with her face. Her plan backfires when her brother and mother start crying. Alice refuses to tell them what happened and goes to her room for the rest of the night.

Chapter 9 The downward spiral Analysis

Alice has hit a low in her life. All the confidence that she had built up has been wiped away by her break up with Aubrey, her getting fired, and finally getting beaten up by Linda. It seems that no matter how close she gets to forgetting the trauma of what Linda did to her as a child, she keeps coming back and causing more trauma.

Alice sees her face in the mirror and in an attempt to get attention (even if it is bad attention) she plans a grand entrance in which she is going to shock her family with her face. This shows that Alice still loves to get attention and being dramatic just like she used to when she was a little girl.



Chapter 10 summary Just fine, thanks

Chapter 10 summary Just fine, thanks Summary

Alice decides to keep her therapy appointment and takes the long way to the center so that the people in the coffee shop can see her face as she walks by and have something to talk about. At the center she loves the attention she is getting from people who wouldn't have talked to her otherwise. When she sees The Death Lord Bob's reaction to her face she downplays the events that happened because she is scared that he is going to lose it and she doesn't want to be responsible for another therapist quitting. When she gets home Officer Ross is at her house and wants to talk to her about possibly pressing charges. Alice refuses to press charges or even give her the details of what happened even though he already knows. When Alice also refuses to let the officer talk to Linda's parents he tells Alice that Linda's situation is pretty bad. Alice's parents try and talk her out of going back to school but Alice insists on going, especially since she has made the commitment to Bob.

Chapter 10 summary Just fine, thanks Analysis

Alice is thriving off the attention she is getting. She is putting on a show for everyone and enjoying every minute of it. Alice is scared that Bob isn't very stable and she continues to protect by omitting parts of her stories and feelings she feels may send him over the edge.

When Alice refuses to press charges and the officer tells her that Linda has problems, the reader is able to see that things may not be how they seem with Linda and there is more to her just being a bully.



Chapter 11 Summary Putting on a brave face

Chapter 11 Summary Putting on a brave face Summary

Alice gets a letter from Aubrey in which apologizes and he tells her that he has met someone. Alice is relieved she is no longer dating him and feels bad for the poor girl that has to listen to his rambling.

As Alice's bruises start to fade she puts makeup on them to make them look as bad as they were in the beginning. Alice loves the attention too much to let them fade. Everyone is genuinely worried about Alice, especially Bob. Bob tells Alice that he is so worried about her going back to school that he can't sleep or eat. That night, Alice is watching a movie with her family which puts her in tears and causes her makeup to run. When Alice's father notices and asks her if she has been wearing makeup on her bruises she makes up an excuse about wanting to start wearing makeup for school the next day so that she would look better and people will like her more. MacGregor offers to walk with her to school but Alice turns down his offer out of fear that he will become a target for Linda also.

Chapter 11 Summary Putting on a brave face Analysis

Alice knows that her attention-seeking behavior is not normal and is scared of getting caught but she continues to do it. Bob is so scared of her going to school that he is showing symptoms of anxiety. Knowing that she is affecting the people around her makes Alice feel a little bit guilty but she keeps up her act anyway.



Chapter 12 Turn Left at Middle earth

Chapter 12 Turn Left at Middle earth Summary

On her first day of school, Alice puts on her mother's makeup and ends up with a colorful face and strange eyeliner. At school, Alice gets shown around the regular school by the principal. In gym class, the jock girls make fun of how she is dressed. On her way to English Alice observes the different groups of students. She gets made fun of by some of the head bangers but ignores it and continues to class. In English she notices that her teacher seems to be a feminist and is happy that there is someone like her in this school. After English Alice gets called into the office with a note, she reads the note and it is from her father telling her that he is in the parking lot waiting for her if she needs him. She goes out to the parking lot and tells him that she is okay. As they are leaving the regular high school, Bob runs in announcing that he is there and joins them as they go to the alternative school. At the alternative school Alice meets Mr. Richards who seems like he doesn't belong. Bob and Mr. Richards are obviously friends and are excited to see each other. The next person Alice meets is Ms. Swinke who is wearing a Zodiac shirt. As Alice is sitting in Mr. Richards's class Kevin and Jack walk in and sit at her table. The class is in the middle of a discussion when Kevin raises his hand and asks the teacher what he should do if he knows that someone in his class is going to be badly hurt or killed. Mr. Richards seems oblivious to this indirect threat but as Kevin continues by whispering taunts to Alice, Violet overhears and starts screaming "Artist abuse" and her fellow classmates join in Alice's defense. Kevin is so angry that he leaves the class. Mr. Richards is still oblivious that anything happened. At home Alice realizes that she has an allergic reaction to her makeup and she also has a plugged tear duct because of all the eyeliner. Alice's mother sets up an appointment with a beautician to give Alice a makeover and teach her how to wear makeup. At school, Alice gets called to a meeting with Mr. Richards and Ms. Swinke in which they tell her that if she feels she is in danger or threats are being made against her that she needs to report it and tell them. Alice refuses to say anything but they insist that they are there to help and she should report anything.

That night Alice goes to get her makeover with her mother. The beautician's name is Zoe and she is very eccentrically dressed. Zoe completes the makeover and though it is nice and Alice feels like a princess, like actually looks like she is in her thirties with all the makeup she is wearing.

Alice goes to see Bob and tells him about her career goal of being a cultural critic. Bob is very supportive and brings a movie for her to watch. This movie is about being yourself no matter what. Bob even lets some of the other girls at the center come in and watch too. Alice is starting to really like Bob.



Chapter 12 Turn Left at Middle earth Analysis

Despite all of Alice's effort to look good, she is still getting made fun of. The only difference is that now she doesn't take the teasing very seriously and it doesn't bother her much.

Alice finds herself being threatened by Kevin and Jack. She is scared but forces herself to remain calm. Alice knows some of her classmates from the center and they protect her from Kevin. Alice knows that things could have gone way worse but she knows it is only a matter of time before she has another run-in with Linda. Mr. Richards is trying to get Alice to confide in him and tell him what is going on so that they can stop her bullies. Alice continues to keep her silence and refuses to tell him anything.



Chapter 13 New Frontiers

Chapter 13 New Frontiers Summary

Bob gives Alice a tape to listen to but it is too depressing for her. Alice's father and his friends are over at their house for poker night. Alice describes her father's poker friends. Finn is being gay, highly unfashionable, and Alice tells the story of a time when he was dating a terminal man and had to break up with him because the man was too positive and happy. Next is Marcus, he is a taxi driver in his forties who always dates young girls in their twenties. Kelly is a quiet sensitive man who often cries when he gets drunk. After a night of heavy drinking Kelly talks the guys into going to pay their respects to Princess Diana at her memorial service. Because they are so drunk and Alice's mother is gone, they ask Alice to drive them there. Alice doesn't know how to drive so Finn tries to talk her through it. They all wear full Hockey gear for protection incase they get in an accident. Alice is happy that she can now cross driving off her list and almost dancing. They get to the Driftwood Hall and there are religious people watching the memorial on the big screen. Shortly after, several groups of loud people come to the hall and it becomes a battle between the volume of the big screen and their music in their trucks. Soon everyone is annoying each other and they begin to fight. Kelly is infuriated with this behavior and suddenly yells as loud as he can for everyone to "shut up". The room goes quiet and they all watch Elton John perform a song in the memorial service. The feeling in the room changes and all negative feelings are gone. In the mist of all the happiness and even some dancing, Alice feels someone tap her on the shoulder and it is Jack. He apologizes for everything. Alice is still in disbelief as a drunken Kevin approaches and Jack leaves with him.

Alice's parents have acquired a computer from their friend. This is the first time they have owned a computer and are using the internet. It becomes a family activity to go online and look at interesting things such as the website that shows X-rays of what people have inserted in their butts. Alice begins to browse the internet in search for information to help her career as a critic but ends up on porn sites and chat rooms filled with rude people. MacGregor has been able to use the internet to find fish breeders and he gets invited to attend a fish show.

Chapter 13 New Frontiers Analysis

When Alice begins to lose all hope she is pleasantly surprised by being able to not only cross two things off her list of goals, but Jack apologizes to her. This is significant to the story because it hints at the fact that there are more Alice's bullies than she knows. Now the reader is curious to know what the true story with Linda, Jack, and Kevin is.

Alice stumbles across the porn sites in hopes that they are websites that will help her research on her career. Alice does not have any interest in the sites but when her parents confront her about visiting these sites she doesn't bother to correct them and

explain what really happened. This says a lot about Alice's standards, only she seems to be worried about what those at school think about her.



Chapter 14 My Vancouver cousin

Chapter 14 My Vancouver cousin Summary

Frank has decided that she wants to go to a normal school. Until her father can get her into the best school in Vancouver he is sending her to go to school with Alice. Alice is so excited to have Frank stay with them and hopes to have a new friend. On her first day of school Frank wears a hideous outfit and doesn't talk to anyone. In class she only speaks to be excused to go to the bathroom. Frank goes to the bathroom and never returns. That night she gets dropped off at Alice's house around midnight. Frank is drunk and has been hanging out with older men. The next day she doesn't come home at all. Alice's parents decide that Frank is to start seeing Bob. They finally find Frank when the police call Alice's mother to pick her up. Frank has been caught shoplifting and somehow Alice's mother convinced them not to press charges. They go straight from the store Frank got caught stealing from to Bob.

Alice's parents have decided that Frank is going are going to join them for the yearly Saddle Sores Club horse ride. They will be joined by Alice's father's poker friends and bob. The head of the club is named Tex. Alice's father and his poker friends all worship Tex and his manly ways. Tex has two guides, Bone and Eugene. Today Bone and Eugene's sister Georgette is there. As they start to mount their assigned horses, Frank is already walking away. Finally everyone is on their horses and they are making their way up the trail. Alice looks for Frank and spots her in the middle of all the men laughing and flirting with them. While riding, Eugene hits on Alice and Georgette comes to her rescue. This is the first time Alice has really spoken to Georgette and they seem to hit it off as friends.

They get back from their ride and everyone is relaxing and telling stories. It begins to get dark and they notice that Frank is missing again. Alice's mother gets everyone to start searching for Frank. They see Bob pacing outside of one of the cabins and after asking him they find that Frank is in the cabin. Alice's father goes in the cabin and comes out with Frank who is followed by and embarrassed Bone. Alice's mother is furious that Bob didn't do anything and let Frank go into the cabin with a man to do inappropriate things. As all the commotion is going on Alice and Georgette ignore it and continue to talk.

The next day after school Alice walks in to find Linda in her house. Alice's first reaction is fear but Linda tells her that she is there for Frank. As Alice walks past Frank's room she sees her packing her things and taking a hand full of pills. Alice asks her where she is going but Frank ignores her and leaves with Linda in the neighbor's car. That night Officer Ross is at their house asking about the neighbor's car that was stolen.

The next morning Alice isn't feeling well so she stays in bed. Alice's mother thinks she is depressed so she asks Bob to come and talk to her. Bob has been disciplined since the incident with Frank and Bone and he looks like he has been pulling out his hair. Bob



feels so horrible and guilty about what happened and he seems to be suffering. Alice decides she is going to get out of bed so that Bob doesn't have to come visit her at the house again.

Now that Frank is gone the only thing Alice is looking forward to doing is going to the fish show. Alice's mother invited Geraldine and her friend "Pit" with the hairy armpits. Alice is not excited about riding in the car with her mother's friends.

After much thought, Alice is starting to think that she might change her goal of meeting those of the opposite sex to include sex. She knows that it might need to come to this if she wants to succeed at accomplishing her goals.

Later that day Georgette calls her and they chat on the phone for almost a whole hour. This is the first time that Alice has been on the phone for that long with a friend. Alice's parents notice and they are ecstatic that Alice has made a new friend.

Chapter 14 My Vancouver cousin Analysis

Alice was excited about Frank coming horseback riding because she was hoping that more than a cousin; she was going to have a friend and an ally. Alice comes to the sad realization that Frank isn't interested in being her friend. Frank is more interested in guys and drugs than Alice.

When Frank gets caught with Bone, this triggers a thought in Alice's mind. Alice wonders if she is going to have to include sex into her goal of meeting men of the opposite sex. It seems that Alice is determined to accomplish her goals at all costs. Alice looks back at her goals and notices that the goals she has accomplished are boring; she is ready to get some more goals accomplished.

Alice has made a new friend named Georgette, they hit it off when they went riding horses and they are now talking on the phone. Alice knows what a big step this is and is afraid that she is going to do something to mess it up.



Chapter 15 Gooseboy and the good hair day

Chapter 15 Gooseboy and the good hair day Summary

They drive to the Fish show with Alice's mom and her friends in the front seat and Alice and MacGregor in the back seat. Alice is wearing large headphones so that she doesn't have to listen to her mother and her strange friends talking the whole way. Geraldine and Pit are going to a drumming workshop right next to the fish show so they are sitting with their drums. In the back MacGregor has his fish in bags and is hoping they will be okay on the trip. Alice recalls the conversation she had with Georgette before coming on this trip. Georgette tells her about her aunt who is an animal activist and tells her how embarrassing it is when she rides in her car because she has a model of an animal trap on the roof of her old car with the words "Death Trap" painted on it in red dripping letters. Alice feels better about having to ride with her mother's friends. Alice's mother doesn't like driving in front of trucks so when they are behind her she slows down until she finds a place to pull over and let them pass. A truck pulled up behind her as she was driving so she slowed down but couldn't find anywhere to pull over since it was only a one lane road. Finally when Alice's mother finds a rest stop and they pull over, it takes ten minutes for all the cars that had been stuck behind her to pass. Pit decides that she is going to drive the rest of the way and she is an erratic driver. She is speeding and has everyone holding on for their lives. When they pull into the parking lot at the Fish show pit is going 80 miles per hour and she crashes into a trailer. The man, Pete, comes out and is furiously yelling at Pit. When the man mentions that he had Killies in his trailer MacGregor strikes up a conversation with him about fish and the man calms down. Pete and MacGregor go into the Fish show and Alice and her mother follow. Geraldine and Pit go to the drumming class down the hall. The fish show is set up in a gymnasium with tables set up on a stage. The fish tanks are on the table and the owners are sitting behind the table. MacGregor sets up his table and is approached by a young man named Colin. Colin is MacGregor's mentor who invited him to the show. Alice's mother gets lunch out and asks Alice to take sandwiches over to Geraldine and Pit. Alice reluctantly heads off to find the drumming class. The drumming class is filled with hippies. Alice gets cornered by the instructor who invites her to join him in drumming. Alice hesitantly joins him and before she knows it she is really enjoying the drumming and getting into the rhythm by swaying. When the music stops Alice feels ashamed of herself for liking things she isn't supposed to like. She goes back to the gym and the judges are walking around looking at all the fish. They come over and look at MacGregor's fish and after several "hmmm's" they walk away.

Alice goes outside by the track and is reading her book when she sees a good looking boy her age running awkwardly in yellow leather boots and baggy pants. She is intrigued by him and he smiles at her as he passes. After running another lap he comes over to talk to her. They start talking and it turns out that he is Colin's brother. Alice calls him "Gooseboy" in her head because of how he runs. Gooseboy and she have some



similarities. They both like thrift shops, they like to dress strangely, and they are both on a quest to find out what to do in their lives. They walk back to the gym as the winners are being announced. When MacGregor gets first place Alice grabs Goose's hand and points MacGregor out to him. Goose then points his brother out to Alice and Alice's mother spots them holding hands. Alice realizes that this is her chance to have sex with a guy so she talks him into sneaking off into an empty room-the daycare room. As they are awkwardly kissing the couch Alice's mother, Pete and his wife walk in. Alice's mother is furious and demands to know who this guy is. Goose introduces himself as Daniel, Colin's brother. Before Alice leaves, Daniel asks for her number and if he can call her sometime.

On her way home Alice is giddy with happiness and starts to wonder all the possibilities she has with her life. Alice decides to destroy her journal before someone finds it. She continues to wonder about her future; she could be a rancher, a cow milker, or even set up a sweatshop. Alice can't wait to tell Bob because she knows he is going to be proud of her.

Chapter 15 Gooseboy and the good hair day Analysis

In this point of the story Alice is feeling empty. Frank has left, Alice doesn't have any romantic interests, and her book reading is taking way longer than she expected. The whole trip is unbearable and just when things couldn't get any stranger; she is talked into participating in the drumming. Alice is mad at herself for enjoying the drumming so much. She is constantly getting mad at herself for liking things she isn't "supposed" to like for someone who is trying to be "alternative" and a future critic.

When Alice meets Daniel she finds that he is very similar to her. He is in a stage in life where he doesn't know what he wants but is willing to find it by trial and error. This is the major turning point for Alice. She finally realizes that finding who she wants to be is a journey and that she is allowed to change her mind and try different things out.

Alice decides to destroy her book. This act symbolizes the destruction of her list and unrealistic expectations she has of herself. She is so proud of herself that she is actually looking forward to telling Bob about her progress as she feels that she has finally achieved something.



Characters

Alice

Alice is the main character in this novel. Her story is recounted through the journal in which she writes everything that happens along with her inner thoughts and desires. She has been raised by Hippie parents and always taught to express herself. When she goes to school for the first time in first grade she instantly realizes that she is different and becomes the victim of Linda, the first grade bully. After Linda hits her with a rock, Alice's mother takes her out of school. Since this day Alice knows that she is not like the other kids and she has a desire to be accepted and to be "normal". Alice sees a therapist and together they embark on her journey to achieving what she believes is going to lead her to happiness. Linda tends to be a pessimist and is often negative. She does everything she can to separate her identity from the identity of her parents whom she has labeled to be weird hippies. Alice tries to change based on what she gathers to be "normal" but she has been home schooled for so long that she really has no idea what "normal" is. In the end of the novel Alice is able to find that though it is okay not to know what you want as long as you keep an open mind about all the possibilities.

John

John is Alice's father. He is a hippie much like Alice's mother but he is more of a skeptic. He likes to play poker with his friend and has an eclectic group of friends. When John gets drunk his friends influence him to do things that he wouldn't normally do. One example of this is when his friend Kelly convinces John that they should go to the Princess Diana funeral and since they don't have a sober driver among them they decide to ask Alice to drive them. Unlike most hippies, John has a job. John has many hippie qualities about him but he really dislikes laziness and when he sees something that he doesn't like he makes sure he voices his opinion. When his wife's friends are over, especially Geraldine, John makes it a point to stay away. John doesn't like Geraldine because she is lazy and likes hand outs. John and his wife seem to have a normal relationship for the most part. It only seems that John and his wife argue when they don't agree on how they are raising their daughter. This is also seen when Frank is visiting them and they can't agree what course of action needs to be taken to correct Frank's behavior. John is a great father and isn't afraid to let his daughter Alice know that she has his support.

Diane

Diane is Alice's mother. She is a free spirited hippie who wants Alice to know that it is okay to be who she is. She wants Alice to feel comfortable in whatever she decides. Diane is also open to letting her daughter and son MacGregor make their own decisions. Diane tries to be even tempered and at peace most of the time. However,



when the safety of her children is in question she is quick to do whatever she can to help them. In the scene where Linda is bothering Alice, she gets in a fist fight with Linda in order to protect Alice. Diane has many hippie friends and she is very open minded with them and their lifestyles. Alice describes her mother as being a feminist because of her values and the advice she once heard her mother giving her friend who was in an abusive relationship. Diane is proud of her children no matter what they do, she wants to make sure that they are happy and are following their dreams. Although Diane sometimes seems like she would let her kids do anything, she demonstrates that she still has expectations of them and wants them to make good decisions. When Diane walks in on Alice and Daniel making out she is extremely mad.

MacGregor

MacGregor is Alice's little brother. Though he is younger than her, MacGregor is an example to Alice and her whole family. MacGregor has always gone to traditional school. He is very intelligent and enjoys nature. MacGregor is very kind and is very respectful of his family whether or not they are doing something he likes or not. There are many times in the novel that MacGregor's sensitivity shines through. Some examples of this are when he offers to walk Alice to school, and when he bursts into tears after seeing that someone has beaten up his sister. MacGregor enjoys nature and likes to raise fish and breed them. Though the rest of the family doesn't exactly love the same things he does, they always support him and he supports them. MacGregor's fish and hobby of breeding is what brings Diane and Alice to make the road trip to the Fish Show.

Dr. Robert

Alice calls Dr. Robert the Bob the death lord. Bob is an attractive new therapist that is doing his first run as a therapist in the center for transitioning that Alice goes to. Though Alice isn't attracted to him, all of the other girls at the center find Bob attractive. He has a very low voice that sounds even lower when he whispers. Alice describes him as a deeply dysfunctional codependent person. Bob seems to have many problems of his own. He feels that if he is open about all of his problems and is open to expressing all of his inner feelings, the person he is giving therapy to may feel comfortable enough to also open up with their feelings. Alice knows how mentally unstable Bob is so in an attempt to protect him and his sanity, she tries to make her life seem better than it is because she is scared that she is going to push him over the edge like she did with her other therapist. She really likes Bob and wants him to stay around, and she also says that she can't be responsible for another one of her therapists losing it. Bob takes a personal interest in Alice's struggles so much that when she is getting ready to go back to school, he isn't able to eat or even sleep the days before because he is so nervous.



Mrs. F

Alice talks about her previous therapist Mrs. F. She told Alice that she was the reason why she was losing it and that Alice drove her crazy. She was later taken away.

Frank

Frank is Alice's cousin. Her father is a rich lawyer and Frank has been struggling with addiction for years. Frank doesn't talk much and when she does she is simply talking to men trying to get their attention. Frank stays with Alice's family while trying to become sober. Frank really has no desire to clean up or make any changes in her life. Alice looks up to Frank because of her confidence and the way she wears her clothing. Frank wears whatever she wants and sometimes looks completely ridiculous doing it. Frank eventually runs away with Linda in a stolen car and that is the last of her that anyone in Alice's family hears from her.

Linda

Linda is the girl that first labeled Alice as a bully. She was the ringleader of all the bullies and when she sees Alice again as a teen she is quick to pick up where she left off. When Linda sees Alice at the mall, her and her friend start tormenting Alice. When Alice's mother comes to her defense, Linda beats her up. Later in the book, Linda spots Alice walking home and without warning attacks her and beats her up. Though Linda's background isn't fully discussed, it is insinuated that her life is pretty horrible. This is supported by the fact that she runs away with Frank who seems to be the most unstable drug-addict Alice has ever met.

Jack

Jack is one of Linda's followers. It doesn't seem like he agrees with Linda's behavior and beating Alice up. This is confirmed when he apologizes to Linda at the Princess Diana memorial.

Kevin

Kevin is the other one of Linda's followers. Kevin goes out of his way to try and scare Alice. He is constantly warning her that Linda is going to kill her and her family. Kevin even goes as far as telling calling Linda's mother a bitch. Kevin is pretty scary to Alice until she sees him at the Princess Diana memorial and he is drunk. At this point Alice almost feels bad for him.



Margaret

Margaret is a nice lady that works in the bookstore with Alice. She is a native American and Alice's father says that she is a rolemodel minority. He is referring to how she is so nice and such a good person that she is trying to break all the stereotypes that are associated with Native Americans. Margaret is like a magnet to those around her, everyone loves her and wants to be like her.

Mr. Richards

Mr. Richards is one of the teachers in the alternative school that Alice goes to. He is handsome and doesn't seem like he belongs there. He is extremely nice but seems to be oblivious to all the bullying against Alice. Mr. Richards and Bob are old friends so when Mr. Richards calls Alice in and is asking her if she has ever been bullied or if there is anything that she needs to tell him, Alice becomes suspicious that Bob has told Mr. Richards about her bullies.

Geraldine

Geraldine is one of Alice's mother's friends. She is lazy and unemployed according to John. Alice does not like Geraldine because she has poor hygiene, smells like BO and she is always overstaying her welcome at her house because she is hoping for a free meal. Alice hates to listen to Geraldine talk because all she ever does is complain.

Pit

This is another one of Diane's friends. Alice gives her this name because she doesn't ever shave her armpits and as a dental assistant, her patients complained about her hairy underarms.

Georgette

This Alice's first friend outside of her family. She meets Alice when they go horse back riding. Georgette and Alice talk on the phone and she makes Alice feel like a normal person.

Finn

This is one of John's best friends and he is homosexual. He is not the stereotypical homosexual, he dresses horribly and isn't very clean



Kelly

This is another one of John's friends. Kelly is a sensitive man who often cries when he has had too much to drink.

Marcus

Another one of John's friends. John is a taxi driver and Diane really dislikes him because he is in his forties and always dating younger women in their twenties.

Violet

This is one of the girls that goes to the center where Alice gets her therapy. Violet is always telling her her horrible stories of things that have happened to her. She believes that these things have happened because she is an artist.

Aubrey

Alice meets Aubrey on her trip to Prince George. Aubrey is "alternative" and asks Alice to go on a date with him. After their date Aubrey goes to visit Alice and her family in their home town. Aubrey loves to talk and give his opinion to the point that no one can stand him. Alice ends up hiding from him and John tells him that he better go home.

Daniel

Daniel "Gooseboy," is the guy that Alice meets at the Fish show. Daniel's brother is the one that put it together. Daniel is funny and not afraid to try things out. He tells Alice that he isn't good at anything but that he is trying out some things such as track to see if he is any good at them so he can decide what he wants to be. Daniel is well mannered and was really excited when Alice proposed that they find a place to make out.

Colin

Colin is the guy that put together the Fish Show. Colin meets MacGregor online and asks him to come to the show and bring his fish. Colin is also Daniel's brother.

Corrine

Corinne is the bookstore manager at the Mountain Lighthouse bookstore. Corinne is allergic to everything and everyone so she only comes in twice a day, to open and to make the deposit. Corinne makes Diane fire Alice after Alice purposely fills the backroom with incense knowing it will give Corinne an allergic reaction.



Objects/Places

Smithers

That is the town Alice and her family live in. It is a small town but not completely rural.

The Lord of the Rings

Alice decides that reading this book is one of her life goals. As much as Alice wants to read the book, she is taking a long time to do it and even by the end of the story, she hasn't made it more than 40 pages into the book.

The Alternative school

This is the school that Alice is going to go to instead of the highschool because she has been home schooled for too long to be able to transition directly into the high school.

Saddle sores club

This is the place that Alice and her family go to every year to ride horses on the trail. It is the only community event that they take part in.

Prince George

This is a town where many people in Canada come to shop before school starts. This is where Alice gets her hair fixed and where she meets Aubrey.

The Teens in Transition Club

This is the center where Alice goes to get her therapy from Bob. This is also a center for teen moms and other troubled teens.

The Fish Show

This is a show organized by Colin for people who breed fish and collect fish. MacGregor is invited to the show and to bring his fish.



Mountain Lighthouse Brambleberry

Mountain Lighthouse Bramble berry is the local bookstore where Diane works. Alice works at the store for a little while until she gets fired.

The MacLeod house

This is where Alice and her family live. It is a place where everyone is made to feel accepted and comfortable.

Driftwood Hall

This is a place where community events happen in Smithers. Alice and her father's friends go to the Driftwood Hall to see Princess Diana's memorial service. This is where Alice is when Jack apologizes to her.

The Thrunge

The thriftstore in Prince George where Alice finds the "alternative" clothing that she has been looking for and where she meets Aubrey.



Themes

Alternative lifestyle

Alice is determined to have an alternative life. She isn't sure exactly what an alternative lifestyle is but she knows that she wants one. Alice bases most of what she does on the loose concept she has of an alternative life. She makes sure that she doesn't listen to mainstream music, dresses in a way that most would not, and even cuts her hair in a way that she would picture an alternative person to wear their hair. The problem that Alice has with the alternative lifestyle she has chosen, is that she doesn't truly like most of the things that are encompassed by this lifestyle. Alice loves mainstream music. When she gets caught making copies of mainstream music while she is babysitting, she is not embarrassed by the fact that she was stealing tapes. She was embarrassed by the fact that she got caught listening to that music. In the drumming class, Alice actually enjoys herself when she is drumming with everyone. However, when the song ends she is mad at herself for liking it and even feels ashamed. It seems like the only reason that Alice has chosen to live the alternative lifestyle is because she believes that others will like it and not because she truly likes it.

Hippies

Alice has been raised by two open-minded and free-spirited parents that some may call hippies. Throughout the novel, Alice is constantly talking about her parent's hippie ways and their hippie friends. Most of the time that Alice refers to hippies, she is doing it in a negative way. The last thing that Alice wants to be labeled as is a hippie even though it seems that she enjoys many hippie things, including the drumming class. It appears that Alice has a problem with her parents and their friends because she blames them for the person she is. She mentions in the beginning of the novel that her parents are the reason she is the way she is today. It was because her parents were so supportive in her loving to be the center of attention and letting her express herself that she went into the world thinking that the way she behaved was normal. Alice thinks that if she had been normal on that first day of school she may not have been picked on by Linda and her life would be completely different.

Feminism

The day that Alice is feeling depressed and is refusing to leave her room, her mother gives her a book to read. The book is about women and the oppression they used to suffer. Alice's mother was hoping that it would help her feel better about the situation she is currently in because it would remind her that women now are lucky to have what they have. This book also discusses the way women feel nowadays with the media. Women are constantly comparing themselves with the women on television who are thin and completely fake, thus making women feel that that the only thing they have to



offer is sex for men. Although Diane always gives Alice feminist books to read, Alice says that the best example of a feminist is actually her mother and that everything she has learned has come from watching her mother. Alice gives the example of a woman that was her mother's friend and would always come to the house after her husband had beaten her up. Instead of telling her to leave her husband, Diane would listen to her and ask her what she wanted. Diane delicately helped her make her own decision to leave her husband. Alice recalls this as being what taught her the true meaning of feminism.



Style

Point of View

This novel is recounted from the point of view of Alice. Alice is writing in her journal so everything is given from her perspective. The only thoughts that the audience knows are her thoughts. The points of view are all given from Alice's perspective however, Alice will often mention other characters and what they say or their body language that may give the reader another perspective as to what is going on in their heads. Alice is on a journey for herself, she loves to be the center of attention and much of what she does is for her own purposes. One example of this would be when Alice gets beaten up. Alice is pretty bruised but from what she writes in her journal, she is loving all the attention that she is getting. Alice even goes out of her way to make sure that as many people as possible see her in her bruised state. This point of view of her being beaten up is only known by the reader because the reader is able to look into Alice's thoughts through her journal. At times Alice's point of view on a subject changes. One example of this would be when she decides that she is going to change her list and add feminism. Alice obviously added this on her list because she decided that feminism is something that is important to her.

Setting

The setting is in present day Smithers, British Columbia. British Columbia is very similar to the United States, but according to Alice, it is also very different. She often refers to things that are unique to Canada. Alice refers to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police several times in the novel knowing that they are police unique to Canada. Alice spends most of her day with people that are not "normal". The reason for this is that she is at the bookstore where she works. This bookstore often attracts people that are not considered normal. Alice also goes to the Teens in Transition Center which is specifically for teens that have problems and need help getting back into the real world with everyone else. Alice is attending the alternative school, which once again is another location made for teens that don't fit in. The different settings are all the same in the fact that they are all places filled with diversity and others that are also not considered to be "normal".

Language and Meaning

The language that is used is normal mainstream English. The author does occasionally use slang in the dialogue of the different characters. Alice's parents and all of their friends use words that hippies would use, and Alice uses words that most teenagers would be expected to use. The one unique word that is used in this book is "eh?" this is obviously a very Canadian expression used by almost every character in the novel.



The author does not use many symbols or similes. Everything is straight forward and it is as the protagonist describes it. The narrative mostly comes from the main character, Alice. The Author is able to describe the way others speak when Alice comments on how they sound. One example of this is when Alice is describing Bob for the first time. He describes the way he slowly speaks in his low whisper.

Structure

This novel has a very unique structure. The chapters are not numbered. Instead the chapters are organized and separated by titles. The titles in the story have to do with what happened in the chapter or how she is feeling about those entries. It can be confusing at times when going back because it becomes extremely hard for the reader to find the passage he or she is looking for. The story is comprised of several journal entries in which the protagonist makes several entries a day explaining what happened and what her perspective on it is. Each chapter varies in length. Some chapters are about 40 pages long and others are made up of just a few pages that don't necessarily include much information or anything that adds to the story. Much of the novel is comprised of Alice's thoughts, therefore, it can sometimes be chaotic and one-sided. Included in the journal entrances are sections of dialogue between the characters. Alice ends the story by writing down what she is thinking and what she is planning to do in her life. This is one example of how the reader is left to come up with their own interpretation of what is going to happen.



Quotes

"Insight is cheap, Alice. Especially warped insight. that's the only kind you have" (Chapter 1, p. 8).

"Maybe careers aren't something you can really plan for. They just sort of happen, like brown eyes or flat feet" (Chapter 2, p. 18).

"I know I don't want to be a fashion designer or model or anything, but I also know I don't want to look like a poster child for the working classes" (Chapter 3, p. 21).

"So you see, it's great to explore your personal style, but not everyone is going to appreciate, you know, the creativity behind it" (Chapter 4, p. 51).

"So much for my peer group-friend ambitions" (Chapter 14, p. 237).

"So much for blood is thicker than water" (Chapter 14, p. 236).

"I wasn't actually going to mentioned that she phoned. I mean, it's not that big a deal. It only means the end of aloneness and the accomplishment of Life Goal No. 2" (Chapter 14, p. 241).

"Hearing George's story made me feel better somehow. I was also impressed t hat she has sch interesting, if demented, relatives" (Chapter 15, p. 245).

"I guess it was just another example of my lack of character, my lack of personal integrity and strength, my overwhelming weakness" (Chapter 15, p. 260).

"Wanting to be proud of ones offspring is a sickness" (Chapter 15, p. 263).

"My God, who was this Gooseboy? he was everything I wanted, and everything I'm not" (Chapter 15, p. 265).

"...I have decided that this journal must be destroyed before I lose it or something. It would be just like me to forget it somewhere and make my life even worse than it already is. Well, actually, my life isn't really that bad at the moment" (Chapter 15 p. 288).

"Us career girls have so many hard decisions to make. Bob is going to be so proud" (Chapter 15, p. 290).

"I loved the attention. They Loved the entertainment. I had no idea that it would spell my destruction" (Chapter 1, p. 1).

Topics for Discussion

Discuss Feminism. How does Alice's mother play a role in what Alice perceives feminism to be? Why is this?

Discuss bullying? Do you think the adults in the book approached the problem of bullying correctly? Was there anything you think they could have done differently?

Discuss John and Diane's parenting techniques? List some examples of their parenting that are unique to their family. Are John and Diane good parents? Why or why not?

There are many negative qualities about Geraldine. Why do you believe she is the way she is? Why do you believe she pretends that she is injured after the car accident? Explain.

What do you think The Lord of The Rings represents in the story? Why is it taking Alice so long to read it? Support your answer.

Mrs. F blames Alice for her mental breakdown. Do you believe that this is true? Do you agree or disagree with the things that Mrs. F said to Alice before she was taken away?

Alice is constantly enjoying things that she isn't "supposed" to be enjoying. Why do you think Alice says this? Why does Alice tell herself that she shouldn't be enjoying these things? Do you think she is doing this for herself or for others? Why?

Alice's parents are very open and supportive of her. Do you believe this has helped or hurt their relationship? Is it always good to have an open relationship when it comes to parenting?