

Love You Hate You Miss You Study Guide

Love You Hate You Miss You by Elizabeth Scott

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Plot Summary

"Love You Hate You Miss You" by Elizabeth Scott is a young adult novel which focuses on the efforts of sixteen year-old Amy to get over the death of her best friend, Julia.

When the novel begins, Amy is released from Pinewood Rehabilitation Center, having undergone therapy there for a few months following the car accident that claimed the life of Julia, to handle her drinking and Julia's death. Amy is angry, resentful, and sad, because she believes she has killed Julia, and because she believes her parents, Colin and Grace, are only being nice to her because of everything that has happened. Colin and Grace are deeply in love with one another, and never anticipated having children in marriage. Amy is an unexpected surprise, but her parents tell her that they do love her, and that she isn't a burden to them. At the same time, Amy continues meeting with Laurie, her therapist from Pinewood, who encourages her to rethink her relationship with Julia.

Back at school, Amy falls into a group of friends, including Patrick and Caro. As time passes, Amy and Caro begin a tense friendship, but it is one which Amy comes to enjoy. Amy also grows closer to her parents, coming slowly to accept that they really do indeed love her, and that they really do want to be a part of her life. Amy also realizes that she can have a drink without being drunk, but that she has feelings for Patrick as well. She chooses Patrick over drinking, and realizes as well that sex isn't just a casual thing, but that it is an emotional one as well. At the end of the novel, Amy consents to being a stronger person, and says good bye to Julia at last.



Chapters 1 - 8

Chapters 1 - 8 Summary

Chapter 1 - Amy is given a journal by Dr. Mark at the Pinewood Rehabilitation Center to document her journey moving on from recovery. Amy thinks it is a joke, writing her journal entries to her dead best friend, Julia, as if they were letters. It has been seventy-four days since Amy has had something to drink, and she is sorry for everything she has ever done to Julia. She also misses Julia.

At Pinewood, Amy's therapist, Laurie, counsels her, and will continue counseling her once a week. Amy then goes to see her parents, Colin and Grace, who have come to pick her up. They are deeply in love, and inseparable, and it makes Amy unhappy that they seem to have more feelings for each other than for her. Amy's parents hug her, and on the drive home, inform her that her attic bedroom will now be on the second floor of the house, with their own room, and that there will no longer be a lock on her door, and that she will not be allowed to get her driver's license.

Chapter 2 - Amy throws out the journal Dr. Marks gives her, in favor of an old chemistry notebook where she and Julia used to write notes to one another. When Amy tries calling Julia's house, Julia's mother hangs up on her. For a belated birthday present, Amy's mother brings her to the mall. Amy is surprised, because normally her parents do everything together. At the mall, Amy recalls the time that she and Julia shoplifted skirts. Amy has always wanted to go shopping with her mother, but never due to the reasons they were shopping together now. On the way home, Amy's mother asks her about birth control, which causes Amy to remember the time Julia had to take a pregnancy test, fearing she was pregnant, which turned out not to be the case.

Chapter 3 - Amy and her father go school supply shopping. Amy's grades from the previous year are strong enough to allow her to be a junior after all. While shopping, Amy recalls when Kevin and Julia met, and how Kevin later cheated on Julia with a freshman. Amy also thinks about all the things that have been said about her, from that she is "in recovery", to that she is a "murderer", which is what Julia's mother screamed at her the night Julia died. Amy wants a drink badly, but sees Laurie instead. Many of the things that Amy used to do with Julia, including smoking cigarettes, she has given up. Amy was smoking the night Julia died.

Chapter 4 - Amy goes to see Mrs. Griggles, the school guidance counselor, with her mother. It reminds Amy of all of the times they were called in to see Mrs. Griggles. Amy also reflects sadly on Julia's locker, which has been turned into a shrine to her memory, with fake stars and fake words from fake friends. Amy wants to tear it all down. In history class, two girls and a guy keep looking at her, and they seem familiar, but Amy can't quite place them. The guy, Mel, sits down near Amy in English class, and Amy realizes she has never even touched the kid. One of the girls from history, Caro, is also present in English, and the three of them, together with a quiet boy named Patrick, are



put in a group for a project. Amy does remember hooking up with Patrick. When class ends, Amy fakes having cramps and goes to the nurse, but Laurie tells her father to tell Amy she needs to stick it out. Later, Amy sees Mel, Patrick, and Caro in honors physics.

Amy relates her theory about sex. Sleeping with one or two guys doesn't matter, but by four, people think you put out for anyone. By five, you're a slut, but then people leave you alone, and you're free to have sex with whoever you want, because people aren't concerned about anything more, like a relationship. Amy has been with five and-a-half guys. Patrick had been the half-a-guy at a party she and Julia had both attended. While Julia indulges in drugs like acid, Amy doesn't like them, which prompts Julia to tell Amy she is a control freak. It is at the same party, after Julia goes off, that Amy runs into Patrick. They end up kissing, but the kiss with Patrick is different, it feels right. She has an orgasm with Patrick, which scares her, and causes her to rush out. While Amy views sex as casual, Julia always hopes it will lead to more.

That night, Amy calls Julia's mother to apologize, but Julia's mother asks her what it feels like to have taken someone's life, and hangs up on her.

Chapter 5 - Amy begins recording the awkward attempts her parents are making at connecting with her, such as her mom wanting to make them both a bologna sandwich, only to learn that Amy is still a committed vegetarian. Amy decides to go upstairs, feeling unnoticed, but then notices the way her mother looks so sad as she leaves. Amy writes to Julia in her journal, blaming herself for Julia's death. Amy also writes to Julia, telling her about the social scene at school. Beth Emory still rules her group of friends with an iron fist, and Caro is a part of that group of friends. Mel, in English class, keeps talking to Amy. Amy sits by herself at lunch, not having Julia to sit with.

At lunch, Amy takes her normal spot, at the far end of the freshman reject table, and Caro comes to sit beside Amy. Before Julia had moved to town, Amy was in the same group of friends as Beth and Caro. Amy remembers how Beth is, and realizes Caro has done something offend Beth, which in turn means that Caro's punishment is sitting with Amy, the murderer -but Caro tells Amy that no one thinks Julia's death is her fault. Amy and Caro begin talking, and end up talking about physics. Before either one of them knows it, lunch period ends.

Chapter 6 - The same day Caro sits with Amy at lunch, Amy goes to see Laurie. Laurie gets Amy to talk about when Julia moves to town when Amy is eleven, and drinking. Julia didn't like how much Amy drank, Amy reveals, though drinking makes Amy feel better about everything. Yet, Amy also realizes that her drinking has led to Julia's death.

Chapter 7 - On Friday night, Amy's parents invite her to watch a special with them on the History Channel. While they watch, Amy does her homework lying on the floor. Amy recounts almost committing suicide after Julia's funeral. Amy continues apologizing to Julia in her journal, for everything. At school, Kevin says hello to Amy, and shows Amy his wrist, which has Julia's name tattooed on it. Kevin says he forgives Amy, which enrages Amy. It causes her to think about the night Julia discovers Kevin cheating on



her, only to have Amy guide her away to the car, and to death. As Amy goes to leave, she accidentally walks into Patrick, but then keeps going.

Chapter 8 - It is Wednesday, 104 days after Julia dies. Because her Dad's company is in teleconference with a company in the United Kingdom, Amy's mother drives her to school, and her father drives her home. Amy's parents have also disposed of her computer, so that Amy can focus on her studies. After studying, Amy's parents have her help prepare dinner, including her in the process. Amy enjoys the fact that her parents have to face the fact that she is there.

In English, Amy is grouped with Mel, Patrick, and Caro once more. Mel asks Amy out to the movies, and Amy realizes that at sixteen, she is being asked out on a date for the first time in her life. It will be on the coming Friday.

Chapters 1 - 8 Analysis

When Elizabeth Scott's novel "Love You Hate You Miss You" opens, Amy is released from Pinewood Rehabilitation Center, having been there for a few months, attempting to cope with the death of her best friend, Julia, and Amy's own alcoholic tendencies. Though Amy is released, she has not yet gotten over the death of Julia, and feels incredibly lonely beside her two parents, who are utterly in love with one another. It surprises and annoys Amy simultaneously that both of her parents attempt to bond with her following her release from Pinewood, because they have never attempted to do so before.

Returning to school, Amy is plunged back into a very social place, only to feel even more alone. She realizes just how alone she is without Julia, because now Amy has no one to sit with. She also realizes just how inseparable she and Julia were, and how much Julia's appearance changed her life, seemingly for the better. Amy is no longer forced to endure the so-called friendship commensurate with being a part of Beth's clique. At lunch, Amy's old friend, Caro -a part of Beth's group- comes to sit with Amy, and the two girls get along as they talk about physics.

Meanwhile, Amy's parents continue to attempt to bond with Amy. While she appreciates it, she steels herself against it, because she cannot determine if her parents are being genuine or not, and especially because her parents were never up for quality time before the accident with Julia. Amy is also asked out on a date -surprised that it will be her first date at the age of sixteen- which contrasts heavily with her eprceptions of sex as something purely physical and casual, with no deeper meanings whatsoever.



Chapters 9 - 16

Chapters 9 - 16 Summary

Chapter 9 - Laurie and Amy talk about Julia. Amy recounts how they met in sixth grade, when Julia and her mother move to Lawrenceville. Amy's parents had spent the summer in Germany, with her mother working on a book and her father following business leads. Amy was sent to a camp. Amy is sad because her parents don't say that they missed her. Amy recounts not being very happy with her group of friends, spearheaded by Beth. At recess, Julia introduces herself to Amy, after Amy has been banished by Beth. They decide to go trick-or-treating together, and then become fast friends, and ultimately, best friends. Amy spends most of her time at Julia's house. Julia's mother used to like Amy, hoping Amy would be a good influence on Julia. But the opposite occurs. At a sleepover before Thanksgiving, Amy and Julia begin drinking. Drinking occurs frequently, especially on weekends. It was fun for them, but in eighth grade, drinking changes for Amy when Julia is asked to a party by a ninth grader. Julia makes sure to bring Amy along. At the party, alcohol induces Amy to new bravery, to feeling older. And Julia never once dumps Amy to spend her time with another guy, not even with Kevin.

At a party six weeks before Julia dies, Amy ends up in the hospital after drinking too much punch laced with vodka. She has to have her stomach pumped, and it is Julia who makes sure Amy gets to the hospital. Julia also remains by Amy's side through her stay at the hospital. But Laurie wants to know why Amy ends up in the hospital for doing what she did regularly. Amy explains that she and Julie were hanging out with Kevin and some guy Kevin knew, who put grain alcohol in her vodka when she was in the bathroom. Amy passes out from the mixture, and when she wakes up and can't stop throwing up, Julia takes her to the hospital. Laurie believes Julia may have known about the grain alcohol, and done nothing to prevent it. This upsets Amy, and she wants to switch therapists, but her mother refuses.

Chapter 10 - Amy's first date is a disaster, she believes. It turns out that Mel's date is actually a group thing. Amy is surprised her parents let her leave at all, when Mel shows up with Patrick, and because Amy hasn't told them about the date. But before she leaves, Amy's father tells her that if she needs anything, such a ride, not to hesitate to call them. Outside, Mel has a box in the front seat, a box for a charity, so Amy will have to sit beside Patrick. But Amy decides instead to sit beside the box in the back seat. Amy realizes soon that it isn't a date at all, and she is upset about thinking that it could have been a date. Mel and Caro sit next to each other, and begin arguing about the armrest. Amy realizes their arguing is flirting, in a strange way. Amy begins wondering why Mel has brought her to the movies. During the movie, one of the characters has a heart attack, which causes Amy to feel lost, and she goes outside. Patrick is also outside. Amy calls home, and her Dad agrees to come pick her up immediately.

While Amy is waiting for her father, she and Patrick begin talking. Patrick reveals that the heart attack part of the movie got to him. At a carnival two years before, Patrick's



father experiences a heart attack after getting worked up over the prices. He almost dies, and Patrick feels powerless to help him. Patrick asks Amy if she misses the person she was before Julia died, and Amy confesses that she doesn't. Patrick asks her if she could, would she go back and change things, and Amy doesn't want to think about it. Her father shows up a moment later.

Chapter 11 - Amy realizes that Julia knew about the grain alcohol in her vodka, and didn't say anything about it. At school, Amy runs in to Mel and Patrick, and wants a drink. Amy goes into the bathroom, and Caro is sent in by Mel to see if Amy is okay. Caro says that Mel is just being nice, because everyone knows who Amy is, and what she did. Amy knows Caro is just acting out, and tells her that Mel likes her. As Amy goes to leave school, Caro catches up to her, crying, and they both go to Caro's house.

Amy discovers Caro is also a vegetarian, and they make grilled cheese sandwiches and watch television. Caro confesses that she wishes she was taller, like Amy. Caro also explains that Patrick has been quiet since his father's heart attack, and that he missed a lot of school to help out at home, having made it all up in the meantime. Caro is also jealous of Amy having Julia, to be able to ditch Beth and not have to deal with her anymore. Caro has become the punching bag for Beth, the way Amy once was. Caro hasn't had a real friend since she was eleven, since Amy. Caro shows Amy photographs that her older sister, Jane, took, and Amy tells Caro about Pinewood. Amy and Caro have ice cream, and Amy realizes she is having fun, and never thought anyone besides Julia could be fun.

Chapter 12 - When Amy gets home, her parents are understandably worried about where she has been. They are worried and scared, and Amy enjoys seeing them that way, actually seeing them look at her as if she is truly there. Amy reveals that her parents never intended on having children, and that Amy was unexpected. Amy believes they don't know how to be parents, and most kids would consider her lucky because she's never been yelled at, spanked, or grounded, insulted, or called names. But Amy wants that normalcy. She wants her parents to yell at her and punish her and ask her how she is, like everyone else's parents.

That night, Amy's parents come into her bedroom, sit on her bed with her, and tell her they want to talk about Julia. Amy is angry, and tells her parents that she killed Julia, but her parents don't move. Amy reveals the events of that night, that she and Julia went to a party that Kevin was attending with another girl. Amy knew Julia loved Kevin, knew he cheated on her, and was angry she kept giving him chances. Amy finds out where Kevin is at the party, and has Julia come and see Kevin cheating on her for herself. Julia, already drunk, begins crying. Amy wants Julia to stop crying, so Amy goads Julia into leaving. They get into the car, Julia driving, and they speed down the road and crash. When Amy wakes up, she feels strange, and is horrified when she sees what has happened to Julia. Amy's mother begins crying, as well as her father. Amy's mother reaches to hold her, but Amy pushes her away, telling her that she never paid attention to her. Amy's mother says it is okay to be sad, and then her parents leave her room.



Chapter 13 - Amy and her parents attend a meeting with Mrs. Griggles about Amy skipping school. Mrs. Griggles speaks about Amy possibly attending an alternative school, though her grades aren't an issue. This causes Amy's father to question Mrs. Griggles' thoughts of an alternative school, based on a single absence. Amy's mother further contends that she spoke with Mrs. Harris, the school's principal, and that twenty-five other kids skipped school the day before, but Amy's parents were the only parents called in for a meeting. Furthermore, Amy has missed twelve days of school the previous year, but no calls were ever made to the parents. Amy's parents end the meeting, and Amy is stunned to see Mrs. Griggles put in her place. Amy is even more stunned by the fact that, despite her parents knowing she'd killed Julia, they still stuck up for them. Amy wants to thank them, but doesn't.

In the library, Amy runs into Patrick, who looks sad. Amy also discovers that Mel and Beth are now dating each other, and Caro is acting as if everything is fine. Caro asks for Amy's help to dress for the party that Tammy is throwing. Amy realizes that Caro doesn't actually want to be friends, but only wants someone to vent to. Amy feels humiliated and stupid for believing otherwise.

Chapter 14 - Amy tries calling Julia's house again, but Julia's mother disguises her voice, telling her the number has been changed. Amy realizes that Julia should never have been her friend. Beth becomes a part of Amy's English group, and Amy can't think of anything good or redeeming about Beth at all. Caro withdraws inside herself, and Amy can see Caro is hurting, because she barely adds to the discussion in the group. At lunch, Amy pays attention to how shrunken Caro seems. Amy then dumps her lunch tray, and goes to Julia's locker. She proceeds to tear down the shrine and the decorations in order to make it Julia's locker again. Patrick appears, and offers to help, but Amy says no. Amy opens the locker, and finds a pot of lip gloss that Julia mistakenly buys, believing it to have been deep red in the store, but it is actually brownish orange. But thinking about the memory causes Amy to grip the pot too tightly, causing it to crack.

Amy then begins thinking about Julia, about how she lied to Laurie about Julia not caring about Amy's drinking. Julia never tried to stop her, never said anything to her when she got so drunk she couldn't walk or stand. She remains there after the bell rings, is found by Mrs. Griggles, has the pot of lip gloss confiscated, and is required to write a 2,500-word essay about respecting others.

Chapter 15 - At therapy, Laurie talks about chances, wonders whether Amy has been to Julia's grave or not, and then tells her she should go sometime.

Chapter 16 - Amy writes in a letter to Julia that she couldn't even bear to look at Julia at the funeral, so she wonders how she is supposed to handle Julia's grave. Since fixing Julia's locker, Amy's parents question her constantly about how she is doing, how she is feeling. Amy wonders why her parents aren't talking about the other night, about her confession of murder. Amy asks if her mother will bring her to the cemetery, because Laurie thinks she should visit Julia's grave, and Amy's mother reluctantly agrees. Amy's mother says she will wait, because she doesn't want Amy to have to walk home alone. She tells Amy she won't leave her.



Amy goes to Julia's grave, but is unable to say anything. Amy runs into Julia's mother then, who is carrying a bouquet of yellow flowers. Amy blurts out that Julia hates yellow, which causes Julia's mother to say Julia probably hates being dead more. Julia's mother is jealous of the relationship she and Amy had, and when Amy tries to apologize, Julia's mother tells her she doesn't want to hear it, tells her she has lost everything because of her, and then Amy manages to apologize. It incenses Julia's mother, who hits her with the flowers, smacking her in the face. Amy runs back to her car, and goes home.

Chapters 9 - 16 Analysis

In therapy, Laurie forces Amy to reconsider her relationship with Julia. All of Laurie's questions eat away at Amy, forcing her to think about things she doesn't want to think about, such as how Amy got into drinking in the first place -while at a sleepover at Julia's. Amy also recalls that Julia would never choose a guy over her. But Laurie is quick to challenge this rosy history that Amy remembers, believing that Julia knew about the grain alcohol that was put into her vodka. It is a disastrous night, just as Amy's first date is a disaster -the date turning out not to be a date at all. Amy is humiliated by the fact that it is a group outing, and she ends up leaving the movie early -but not before she learns more about Patrick's own personal history, about his father's heart attack.

As time goes on, and Amy begins objectively reconsidering her past and her friendship with Julia, Amy realizes that yes, Julia probably did know about the grain alcohol, but said nothing to her about it. Amy doesn't want to confront this, so she attempts to get her mother to switch her therapists, but her mother refuses the request. Amy continues something of a friendship with Caro, learning more about her, and finding that they have things in common that have nothing to do with sex, drugs, drinking, or parties -such as both of them being vegetarians.

Amy ultimately comes to realize that Julia knew about the grain alcohol in her vodka, and her staying at the hospital was a method of atonement for her sin. In a sign of the growing closeness between Amy and her parents, or in the attempt to seek the truth about their attempts to bond with her, Amy reveals what happened the night of the party, expecting her parents to recoil, to curse her -but they don't. This is followed by an especially poignant scene at the cemetery, where Amy understands that the relationship between Julia and her mother is nothing like she thought it was. Indeed, Amy discovers that Julia's mother is angry she didn't know her daughter as well as Amy did. Whereas Julia no longer has time with her mother, Amy still has time with her parents ahead of her.



Chapters 17-24

Chapters 17-24 Summary

Chapter 17 - Amy's mother knows something happened at the cemetery. She checks on Amy every few minutes until Amy comes downstairs. Amy stays up late, remembering how they scammed into Splash World, made caramel in her kitchen, or how Julia always knew the words to love songs. Amy also knows in her heart that Julia was aware of the grain alcohol incident, and her sticking by Amy in the hospital through recovery was Julia's way of saying she was sorry. Amy also realizes that her decision to drink was always her own decision to make.

When Amy wants to see Laurie, Laurie isn't around, because her father is sick and she is out of town. Amy and her mother then decide to go to the mall. Amy's mother gives her a credit card to buy new clothes and tells her to meet her in the food court in an hour. When Amy returns half an hour later, Amy's mother is on the phone with her father, and wants to know how her own daughter can be such a stranger to her. Amy walks away without her mother seeing her, and decides to ride around on the bus. At one of the stops, Caro gets on, and ends up sitting beside Amy. Caro suggests their English group meet at the university library to complete their project on "Huckleberry Finn" on Saturday. Amy reluctantly agrees to attend.

Amy gets off at the next stop, and her parents come to get her. They are not amused. Amy confronts them with their conversation that she overheard, and storms inside.

Chapter 18 - Amy goes to the group meeting at the university library on Saturday morning, but not before she gets breakfast with Caro. Caro recounts how, when Amy is younger, her own mother thinks that Amy always looks so lonely. Amy knows Caro still likes Mel, and tells that if she wants, Mel could be hers by the end of the day, but Caro just shrugs it off. Mel and Patrick are at the library. Patrick reveals to Amy that Beth has told Mel that Caro hates him. Patrick also apologizes for not staying with Amy at the locker the other day.

Chapter 19 - Laurie returns and Amy feels bad for her because she looks tired from helping out with her father. She tells Laurie that she hopes her father is okay, and Laurie replies that he is doing much better. Amy and Laurie then talk about the idea of choices. Amy makes choices, and so did Julia. Laurie asks Amy if Julia ever made any choices that she didn't agree with. This causes Amy to think about a party that Amy didn't want to go to, on a night she slept over at Julia's. Instead, they stay home and make fudge. But when they go to sleep, Julia sneaks out, and comes home in the morning, and Julia's mother is enraged.

The day after the meeting at the university, Caro calls Amy several times about the project. Each time, Amy's mother hopes Amy's social life is improving, but that is not the case. When Amy has to go over to Caro's house, Amy's father agrees to drive her,



though he doubts that it is because Caro doesn't want anyone to see Amy going over her house. When Amy gets back, she explains that she and Caro picked up a bowling trophy for her father, got cheese fries, and then Amy gets home. She admits she had fun, and her parents are happy she has gone out with a friend.

Chapter 20 - The day of the "Huckleberry Finn" presentations roll around. After class, Mel tells Amy that he spoke with Julia at parties a couple of times. Mel tells Amy that he doesn't think Julia would want her to be sad. Patrick tells Amy the anger will fade soon, but it only starts a disagreement between them, and Amy storms off with Patrick telling her she's angry at Julia. After school, Julia goes over to Patrick's house. Patrick's room is in the basement, and his bed consists of a mattress in the middle of the floor. His room is a mess. They look at each other a moment, and then they kiss, and make out, and have sex.

Chapter 21 - Sex with Patrick has forced Amy to think about the idea of connections, of relationships. Patrick has made Amy realize, as well, that she hates Julia as much as she hates herself. Amy hates her for dying just as much as she misses her. Amy and Patrick haven't spoken in four days. At school, Mel reveals to Amy that Patrick likes her, that he's liked her for a long time. She then begins rethinking how she always told Julia that sex was just sex, and nothing more.

Amy goes to Caro's house, and she and Caro see her sister's photos of the bridesmaid dresses for her coming wedding. Amy helps dye Caro's hair purple. Amy and Caro talk about Mel, about how he must also really like Beth, though there is a spark between Caro and Mel.

Chapter 22 - In a letter to Julia, Amy explains that she and Caro are still talking, and that talking to Julia has become more and more difficult. It has been 158 days since Julia dies, and Amy goes to see Laurie. Amy confesses she is mad at Julia. Amy explains she made Julia leave, made Julia drive, made Julia listen to her. Laurie asks Amy if Julia always did what people told her to do. Laurie explains that it was Julia who made the choice to get into the car and drive, not Amy. Amy also confesses to having sex with Patrick. Amy admits to liking it, to it being different this time. Laurie then asks Amy if she wants to be happy. Amy says she's not sure she knows how. Laurie tells her she can learn.

Chapter 23 - After dinner, Amy and her parents plan to watch a movie together. It causes Amy to snap and to tell them they don't have to pretend to love her or pretend to be a family anymore. Amy says she has been a shackle to their romance, to their marriage, but her parents deny this. Amy wants to know why they would want to be better parents to a murderer, and her father tells her kindly, but adamantly, that she did not kill Julia, that it was a horrible accident. Amy and her mother hug, and Amy is happy to be held. They want to spend more time with her, and they want to be there for her. They ask her to try to understand that they love her, and want to be there for her. She agrees, and they watch a movie, and Amy hopes her parents really do mean it.



Chapter 24 - Amy goes to a party at Mel's house. It begins with Caro asking Amy if she'll come over after school, in front of Beth and her clique of friends. Amy encourages Caro to go to Mel's party. Caro invites Amy along, and she goes. Mel and Caro step off to the side to talk. Though she has avoided parties because of Julia's death, Amy realizes the party before her isn't terrible or evil. It is just a party. Amy even has a drink, realizing she can have a drink, and not get drunk. She runs into Patrick. It has been fifteen days since they have had sex and spoken. Patrick recounts talking to Julia, to tell her to tell Amy that he liked her, but Julia was surprised Amy had not mentioned Patrick, and refused to talk to him. Amy realizes she must have hurt Julia by not telling her about the incident with Patrick. Amy and Patrick then realize they have feelings for each other, that each makes the other feel.

In her final letter to Julia, Amy explains that she put down her alcohol in favor of taking Patrick's hand. Julia's mother moves away, but not before calling to ask Amy what Julia said to her before she died. Amy explains that Julia asked for her mother, and wanted her mother to know she loved her. Amy and Caro continue hanging out, and at the party, Mel offers to dump Beth for Caro, but Caro says no. Though Mel likes Caro, Caro wants a boy who will pick her first. Though Amy isn't a better person, she says, she is a stronger one. She says goodbye to Julia, once and for all.

Chapters 17-24 Analysis

Amy comes to realize, as time continues, that her relationship with Julia was far less than even a good one. The concept of choices makes an appearance, courtesy of Laurie, who makes Amy realize that, just as she made choices, so too did Julia. Indeed, it was Julia who got into the car and decided to drive the night she died, not Amy. Julia never let anyone tell her what to do, so therefore, if Julia was driving them away from the party, it was because she wanted to leave the party, not because Amy wanted her to leave the party.

Amy also comes to an understanding with her parents, at long last. They tell her that their interest in her is genuine and that they truly do love her. They truly do want her and want to be a part of her life. They ask her to attempt to understand this and that they want to be better parents.

As the novel closes, a number of important things happen for Amy, beyond the fact that her parents are seeking a closer, better relationship. The first is that Amy understands she can have a drink and not get drunk. She also chooses Patrick over a drink. She also realizes that she and Patrick have feelings for one another and that sex isn't an emotionless thing, but has deeper meaning than she had previously considered. Amy also begins a real friendship with Caro, when she thought she could never be friends with anyone else other than Julia. Ultimately, Amy comes to accept that Julia is gone and that the past isn't as wonderful as she remembers it. She also can survive and thrive without Julia.



Characters

Amy

Amy is the sixteen year-old main character, protagonist, and narrator in Elizabeth Scott's young adult novel, "Love You Hate You Miss You". Amy is tall, thin, bemoans the fact she doesn't have a large chest, and doesn't like her red hair. Amy is deeply sensitive, uncertain, and unsure when the novel begins, being released from rehabilitation following the death of her best friend, Julia, and her departure from indulgence in alcohol. She is lonely, and feels alone, and doesn't feel as if her parents want her. She is also struggling with the idea that she is responsible for Julia's death -which Julia's mother blames her for.

As the novel progresses, Amy becomes more confident through her meetings with her therapist, Laurie. She is forced to confront the past, to realize that her relationship with Julia wasn't all that she remembered it to be, that Julia made her own choices and could be as selfish as she could be friendly and generous. Amy also grows closer to her parents, coming to accept the fact that they want to try to be better parents, and be a closer family. Amy also comes to the discovery that sex, which had previously been an unemotional, casual thing for her, has become a deeply emotional, deeply personal thing -through her tentative romance with Patrick. Amy also befriends Caro, a girl she used to be friends with before Julia, and she and Caro form a friendship based on things other than parties and drinking. At the end of the novel, Amy consents that she is a stronger person, even though she does not consider herself to be better.

Julia

Julia is the dead best friend of Amy, presumably sixteen years old. She has strawberry blonde hair, is popular, well-liked, and beautiful. She drinks, does drugs, and parties frequently with Amy. Julia's boyfriend, Kevin, continually cheats on her, but she always gives him another chance because she is in love with him. When Julia at last sees Kevin in the act with a freshman girl, courtesy of information from Amy, she and Amy get into a car and fly down the road, ultimately crashing. Julia is killed.

Colin

Colin is the father of Amy, and the husband of Grace. He is a businessman who is very successful, and very much in love with his wife. Though he and Grace do not expect to have children, they have Amy, and do indeed love her. After the death of Julia, and Amy's release from rehabilitation, they strive to be better parents, to get closer to their daughter, making sure Amy knows that Julia's death is not her fault.



Grace

Grace is the wife of Colin, and the mother of Amy. A college professor, Grace is very much in love with her husband. While she and Colin had never planned on children, they still love Amy, and want to be there for her, and to be better parents for her following the death of Julia. She and her husband make sure to tell Amy that Julia's death is truly not her fault.

Mel

Mel is a boy at school who asks Amy out on a date because Patrick likes her. Mel is very flirtatious with Caro, though he ends up asking Beth out instead. When Mel offers to break up with Beth to date Caro, Caro turns him down.

Patrick

Patrick is a quiet and reserved, muscular kid at Lawrenceville High. He is an honors student, and has several classes with Amy, whom he has had a crush on for a long time. He and Amy have sex together, and begin something of a romance at the end of the book. Patrick is haunted by memories of his father's heart attack, and he is shy and withdrawn as he battles with the experience.

Caro

Caro is a girl who befriends Amy, who was once friends with Amy before Julia moved to town. Caro is envious of the relationship Amy had with Julia, because her own friendship with Beth is tenuous at best. Caro is a vegetarian, and wishes she was taller, like Amy. At the end of the book, Caro refuses to date Mel, wanting a boy who will pick her first instead of someone else over her.

Julia's Mother

Julia's mother is a distant, and sad woman following the death of her daughter, Julia. She holds Amy responsible for Julia's death, and envies the closeness that Amy and Julia shared. Julia's mother ultimately moves away from Lawrenceville.

Laurie

Laurie is Amy's therapist who works at Pinewood Rehabilitation Center. She is kind, caring, and compassionate, and forces Amy to rethink her relationship with Julia. Laurie underscores the point Amy's parents make, in that Amy is not responsible for Julia's death.

Dr. Marks

Dr. Marks works at the Pinewood Rehabilitation Center. He is the one who gives Amy her journal to record her experiences moving beyond the center.



Objects/Places

Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville is the town in which Amy, her parents, Caro, Patrick, Julia, and Julia's mother live. Not much is said about Lawrenceville, presumably because it isn't too exciting, as kids prefer to go to hang out and party in nearby Millertown. Lawrenceville is also the location of Lawrenceville High School, and the cemetery.

Lawrenceville High

Lawrenceville High School is the school which Amy, Julia, Patrick, Caro, and their friends attend. It is located in Lawrenceville.

Millertown

Millertown is a larger, more attractive town situated near Lawrenceville. Kids from Lawrenceville go to Millertown to hang out and party. Millertown is the location of the party from which Amy and Julia drive away, which results in the accident that kills Julia.

Pinewood Rehabilitation Center

Pinewood Rehabilitation Center is a treatment center for teens, and is where Laurie and Dr. Marks work. Pinewood Rehabilitation Center is the treatment center from which Amy is released, and where she returns for therapy sessions with Laurie.

Lawrenceville Cemetery

Lawrenceville Cemetery is where Julia is buried, and where Laurie encourages Amy to go. When Amy visits Julia's grave, she runs into Julia's mother, who hits her with a bouquet of yellow flowers.

Alcohol

Alcohol is heavily consumed by Amy, and regularly by Julia. Amy goes most of the book without drinking, ultimately having a few sips from a glass, but then choosing Patrick over the alcohol.



Pinewood Journal

A Pinewood Journal is given to Amy from Dr. Marks to record her recovery. At home, Amy throws out the journal in favor of an old chemistry notebook.

Old Chemistry Notebook

Amy's old chemistry notebook takes the place of her Pinewood journal in order to record her experiences out of Pinewood. The journal entries take the form of letters to Julia.

Pot of Lip Gloss

A pot of brownish orange lip gloss is discovered by Amy in Julia's old locker. It brings back memories for Amy, and is the one thing in Julia's locker that was never cleared out.

Locker Decorations

Locker decorations are put up on Julia's locker as a shrine to her memory, but Amy believes Julia would hate them. She therefore tears all of them down.



Themes

Friendship

Friendship is a major, dominant theme in Elizabeth Scott's novel, "Love You Hate You Miss You". Friendship occurs in false and genuine ways, and occurs primarily between three sets of characters- Amy and Julia, Amy and Caro, and Beth and Caro.

Genuine friendship occurs between Amy and Julia in the sense that Amy and Julia -though they have their disagreements and make their own choices- still get along well together, doing things such as shopping, hanging out, making fudge and caramel, and going to parties together. Amy and Julia do look out for each other, though it appears that Julia may have even taken advantage of Amy, and the grain alcohol incident demonstrates that Julia may not be as true a friend as Amy had previously believed. Nevertheless, Julia recants for her mistakes, and continues to be a dutiful and loyal friend to Amy.

Genuine friendship also occurs between Amy and Caro. When they were little, they used to be friends. After Julia moves to Lawrenceville, Amy and Caro stop being friends, only to reconnect again following Julia's death. Amy and Caro strike up their friendship based on their mutual dislike of Beth, and the similarities between the two of them- such as their being vegetarian and enjoying grilled cheese sandwiches. Indeed, their friendship grows quickly, much to the surprise of Amy, who believes she can never have fun with anyone other than Julia.

False friendship occurs between Beth and Caro. Beth is a scheming, manipulative person, who maintains her friends through force of will rather than genuine kindness and friendship. Beth is spiteful, forcing Caro to go and eat lunch with Amy for a perceived slight. In the end, Caro rejects Beth's friendship in favor of Amy's friendship.

Family

Family is a major and dominant theme in Elizabeth Scott's novel, "Love You Hate You Miss You". The theme of family -which includes closeness, togetherness, loyalty, devotion, compassion, and love between people who may or may not be related- occurs principally between Amy and her parents, Colin and Grace.

Amy is an unexpected gift to Colin and Grace, who never plan on having children. As such, they aren't exactly sure how to be parents, never yelling at, hitting, or grounding Amy -but Amy desperately wants these normal family things, and desperately wants to be noticed. Despite their seeming aloofness, Colin and Grace truly do love their daughter.

Following Amy's release from Pinewood Rehabilitation Center, Colin and Grace redouble their efforts, telling her that they want to be better parents. They include their



daughter in everything they do, from shopping to making dinner to watching specials on television. They speak to her constantly, checking up on her, and defend her against Mrs. Griggles, the school guidance counselor. They make sure to tell Amy they love her, and do everything they can to make sure Amy knows that Julia's death is not her fault. At the end of the novel, Amy and her parents have become closer, and are seeking an even closer relationship.

Redemption

Redemption is a major, dominant theme in Elizabeth Scott's novel, "Love You Hate You Miss You". Redemption concerns the quest or journey of a character to atone and make up for wrongs done, mistakes made, or sins committed. Redemption means coming to terms with one's past, and being at peace with oneself through whatever actions the individual undertakes to make up for the past. The entire novel may itself be considered Amy's story of redemption, both for Julia's death, and for her own past mistakes as a person.

Amy begins the novel believing that it is her fault that she has killed Julia. She believes that her decision, to get Julia to leave the party they were at where Julia found Kevin cheating (orchestrated by Amy), is what gets Julia killed. Beyond her stint at Pinewood, Amy drifts around, always blaming herself, believing she has no right to feel happy, believing that she has ended Julia's life. She spends the novel trying to apologize to Julia's mother, and trying to get someone to see her, to not be alone. Ultimately, Amy is able to break with her past with Julia, by becoming friends with Caro, by getting into a relationship with Patrick, and by getting closer to her parents. Indeed, Amy also gets the chance to apologize to Julia's mother, though it is demonstrated in the end that Julia's death had nothing to do with Amy.

Amy's own past mistakes -primarily those of drinking and sex- are righted through her burgeoning relationship with Patrick. When the novel begins, Amy believes sex is an emotionless thing, and she breaks hearts by having sex and not wanting relationships. She also drinks copiously, believing that alcohol is the only thing that can make her feel anything at all. Patrick changes this, by proving to her that sex is a deeply emotional, deeply personal thing. Patrick also makes her feel things, and in the end, she chooses Patrick over alcohol.



Style

Point of View

Elizabeth Scott tells her novel, "Love You Hate You Miss You", in the first person omniscient perspective. The narrator is sixteen year-old main character and principal protagonist, Amy. Because the journey undertaken in the novel is by Amy, and because the events of the novel are indeed so dramatic and grave, the novel is best told in the first-person, allowing the reader to personally experience the things Amy does, and to personally connect with her. This also makes the novel that more compelling, making very personal and dramatic events strike the reader on a very personal and intimate level not common with third-person narration.

Setting

The setting of Elizabeth Scott's novel, "Love You Hate You Miss You" is that of the average town of Lawrenceville, a town so average that people go to the next town over, Millertown, to hang out and to party. The setting is perfect for the novel because it provides a stark contrast between the events of Amy's life, and the events of the world around her. While the rest of the world around Amy continues on as normal (average town, average people, average situations), Amy's life has been turned upside down. She doesn't seem to fit in anywhere, and neither do the extraordinary events of her life. Thus, they stand out that much more against the backdrop of a regular town. It is this return to this normalcy that Amy so desperately craves.

Language and Meaning

Elizabeth Scott tells her novel "Love You Hate You Miss You" in language that is simple, straightforward, and deftly poetic. The simple and straightforward language is evocative of any average high school student or teenager, making Amy's character very believable. Amy, who, despite her outer appearances is deeply emotional, personal, and traumatized, sees the world and the things around her in tragic ways, and the poetic touches to the prose evinces Amy's emotion and personal nature, making the overall plot, as well as Amy's character, that much more believable.

Structure

Elizabeth Scott divides her novel "Love You Hate You Miss You" into twenty-four consecutive chapters, arranged chronologically, and in sequential order. Also included among the chapters are journal entries in the form of letters to Julia, from Amy. Doing this, Scott allows the reader to follow the events of Amy's recovery and existence without Julia. The letters and journal entries allow the reader to see the way that Amy personally speaks to, and connects with Julia -and gives Amy's character greater depth

and complexity. The reader is able to trace Amy's evolution from an unsure, uncertain, and insecure person to one who is stronger, and more capable of handling Julia's death.



Quotes

I wanted to believe that Mom and Dad were waiting and actually wanted to see me. I'd thought that part of me, the part that wanted mom and Dad to be a family and not how we actually are, which is the two of them and then me, was gone.

-Chapter 1, p. 5

I wanted to tear it all down. You could have. You would have. You always knew what to do, what to say. You knew how to make anyone smile or shut the hell up.

-Chapter 4, p. 25

I had sex when I was drunk because it was a way to be close to someone without really being close at all.

-Chapter 4, p. 40

"People forget stuff like that... Stuff that... something happens that changes your whole life, and people tell you how sorry they are and all that, but then, after a while, it's like you're the only one who remembers. It'll happen to you too. People will forget what happened to Julia. They'll forget her."

-Chapter 10, p. 107

I don't know why I'm here either, except that it's what I deserve and that -I know it's right, but I'm so lost without Julia. So lonely.

-Chapter 11, p. 117

Why did I do it? Why? I don't know, J. I don't. All I know is this: You never should have been my friend.

-Chapter 13, p. 158

I was too scared to move. I stood there, too tall, too quiet, tugging at the ends of my too-red hair, and missed J so much that it felt like I couldn't breathe. If Julia had been there, I could have gotten through today okay. Safely.

-Chapter 20, pp. 220-221

All growing up means is that you realize no one will come along to fix things. No one will come along to save you

-Chapter 20, p. 228

What do I know about comfort, about making things better? I only know how to make them worse.

-Chapter 22, p. 244

You're really gone, no last words, and no matter how many letters I write to you, you're never going to reply. You're never going to say good-bye. So I will. Good-bye, Julia.

-Chapter 24, p. 276



Topics for Discussion

Throughout the novel, Amy wishes she had a closer relationship with her parents, and wishes her parents would be more like Julia's mother. Compare and contrast the relationship between Julia and her mother, and Amy and her parents. Which relationship is the better of the two? Why? Is Amy right to wish her relationship with her parents was different? Why or why not?

Discuss the theme of family in the novel "Love You Hate You Miss You" by Elizabeth Scott. What is family? How does family appear in the novel? For Amy, is family a beneficial thing, a negative thing, or a combination of both? Why? What are the results of Amy's family coming closer together?

Discuss the theme of friendship in the novel "Love You Hate You Miss You" by Elizabeth Scott. What sorts of friendships appear in the novel? Compare and contrast the friendships between Amy and Julia, Amy and Caro, and Caro and Beth. Which friendships are genuine, and which are not? Of the three, which is the most genuine? Why? Provide evidence to support your claim.

Julia's mother blames Julia's death on Amy, calling her a murderer. Is this an accurate accusation? Why does Julia's mother blame Amy for Julia's death? What is her rationale? Is she right? Is the accusation just? Do you think that jealousy of Amy and Julia's friendship could be a motivating factor for Julia's mother's accusation? Who do you feel should be held accountable for Julia's death? Why?

Discuss the theme of redemption in the novel "Love You Hate You Miss You" by Elizabeth Scott. What is redemption? What does Amy's quest for redemption involve? Does Amy ever find redemption? Why or why not?