

# **Tricks Study Guide**

## **Tricks by Ellen Hopkins**

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## Plot Summary

Ellen Hopkin's novel *Tricks* is a social commentary on dangerous teen behavior and child prostitution. The novel revolves around five teenagers who are drawn into the world of prostitution for one reason or another, and what happens once they get there.

Eden is the daughter of fundamentalist parents who send her away to rehabilitation camp after she refuses to stop seeing her boyfriend Andrew. There, Eden uses sex to manipulate events around her, gets to Vegas, contemplates prostitution, and then is saved by Father Gregory when she goes to church.

Seth is the son of a conservative farmer who kicks him out for being gay. Seth ends up being the boy toy to a much older man, who lavishes him with gifts, shelter, and food in exchange for sex. When the older man breaks up with Seth, Seth must go into prostitution and finds another man with whom to continue a relationship.

Whitney is the daughter of uncaring and disinterested parents, who engages in drug use and sex without their knowledge. She ultimately becomes a prostitute for a pimp she believed she loved, overdoses on drugs, and wakes up in the hospital. There, her mother vows that they will get through it.

Ginger is the daughter of a drug-addicted, alcoholic mother who hates being a mother. Ginger runs away from home with her girlfriend Alex after Ginger's mother hires Ginger out for sex. Ginger and Alex become strippers and are nabbed in a police sting, where they are put into rehab. From there, Ginger learns her mother is dying of HIV.

When Cody's stepfather dies, Cody turns to gambling and male prostitution to help his mother pay bills without her knowledge. In the process, he is beaten up by the boyfriend of a female prostitute with whom he works to the point of being forced into a coma.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

Eden speaks about love, and how some people find the right kind of love with the wrong person. Eden believes she has found the right kind of love with the right person. He is a boy named Andrew who does ranch work. Eden's father is a fundamentalist Assembly of God minister, and her mother is strict and devout. Eden has a younger sister named Eve. They live in Idaho. Their parents do not want them to date until they are ready to marry, but Eve is already dating Andrew without their knowledge. Andrew says he believes in God but is not active in religion. Eden is the same way, attending church functions and revivals to keep her parents happy.

Andrew is nineteen and a freshman at Boise State; Eden is sixteen. She is aware their ages present a problem because the age of consent in Idaho is eighteen. She knows her parents would not hesitate to have Andrew arrested if they ever found out about him.

## Eden Analysis

Eden's first chapters provide a background about her life, and about how she fell in love. She is the product of a fundamentalist household with strong faith in God, but with questions about the authoritarian nature of her parents. The stage is already set for Eden's fall, when she explains that she is dating a boy who is over the age of consent, and she is well under the age of consent for Idaho. Her name is also symbolic of her place before her fall: she is relatively happy, and has just about everything she needs.



# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth is raised in a Catholic household in Indiana, the descendant of farmers and factory workers. He wants to study the liberal arts; his father wants him to go into factory work. Seth's mother is gone from cancer, and so is his hope of pursuing that dream. His mother, while supportive, was an ardent Catholic and lived her life according to the Church. His father is very conservative, and has no idea his son is a liberal. Seth is also gay, and was taken advantage of by a Catholic priest.

He discovers he is gay when he dates a girl named Janet, whom he does not find sexually attractive. He finds other boys attractive instead. He breaks up with Janet, using his mother's cancer as an excuse. He meets a boy named Loren, who is well-versed in the arts.

## Seth Analysis

Seth's own downfall is preordained: he is a gay liberal whose father is a straight conservative. Seth talks about his lifestyle and his beliefs, and about how he meets Loren. It is a relationship that not only occurs secretly, but one that is shrouded in lies in order to hide it from Seth's father. Not only will Seth's homosexuality prove to be an issue, but so will the lies that Seth has told.



# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney has a difficult time living up to the standards set by her sister, Kyra. Kyra is more beautiful, intelligent, and talented than Whitney. Kyra wants to study International Relations; Whitney wants to be an interior decorator. They live at the beach in California, with their father, an investment broker. He usually stays in San Francisco four nights a week where he works, but comes home whenever he can. He is much more caring toward Whitney than his wife is.

Whitney is fifteen, and in love with a boy named Lucas. While they haven't had sex yet, they've come close. She meets him in choir the year before the book begins. She also smokes weed with him, and goes for long drives in his car.

## Whitney Analysis

Whitney says she is a poster child for childhood failure and sexual promiscuity. The absence of her parents in her life leaves her without any real sort of guidance. Whitney is in love with Lucas, who encourages her to go beyond trying weed to smoking it regularly with him. The stage is set for Whitney to use harder drugs, and for Whitney to become heavily sexually involved.





# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger's mother is not concerned about behaving like a mother, but about whatever boyfriend she happens to have at the time. She has her six children call her Iris rather than mom, and it hurts Ginger to see the way her mother lives. They live with Iris's mother, and Ginger has a close relationship with her grandmother, who does her best to take care of Iris and her children.

## Ginger Analysis

The sort of lifestyle all five main characters are headed toward is exemplified explicitly in the person of Iris, Ginger's mother. Iris is a drug addict, a drunk, is disinterested in her children, and is sexually promiscuous. Ginger cannot stand her mother, especially because she sees what her mother's lifestyle is like. This will prove important in Ginger's story later on.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Cody has moved to Las Vegas from Wichita. He gets along well with his stepfather, Jack, and his mother. His mother is very forgiving of Cody because his father is not around, and does her best to be a responsible parent. Cody is nevertheless a stoner who withholds much information about what he does from his mother.

He works at GameStop. There, Veronica "Ronnie" Carino, the best friend of his former girlfriend Alyssa, comes in. She asks him out to an underage club, Frozen75. At home before leaving, Jack reports that he has been having stomach pains. Cody's mother is clearly worried.

Cody then heads out to pick up Ronnie, bringing along weed to smoke. Ronnie tells Cody she's been in love with him for a long time.

## Cody Analysis

Cody's parents seem caring, but they are not heavily involved in the lives of their children. They do not seek to serve as moral guides. This is especially telling not only in Cody's sexual relations, but in his use of drugs. The lack of interest in Cody and his brother's life by their parents serves as a facilitator to Cody's lifestyle and eventual downfall.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

While her parents oversee a wedding, Eden goes to see Andrew at the park. They drive away and park, and cuddle up together in a sleeping bag in the bed of Andrew's pickup truck. They confess they love each other. Andrew wants to be with Eden for the rest of his life, and make her happy. Eden wants it too, but wonders how she will make her parents understand.

She looks up losing virginity on the internet, but shuts down the computer when her parents return home.

## Eden Analysis

After Eden and Andrew confess their love to one another, and Andrew says he wants to spend the rest of his life with her, Eden is sure she wants to give her virginity to him. A course has been set that cannot be undone in this chapter.



# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth lies to his father Saturday night, telling his father he is going to hear a band at Bristow Tavern when he is going to meet Loren instead. When Seth gets to Loren's, he knows something is wrong.

Loren is studying marriage and family therapy, and has to go to New York for three months for field study.

## Seth Analysis

Seth continues lying to his father in the effort to hide his homosexuality and his relationship with Loren, making his fate that much more certain. Loren announces that he is going to be leaving for field study, and this horrifies Seth.



# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney and her friend Paige go shopping at Capitola Mall. Paige wants to know all about Whitney and Lucas. Outside of The Gap, there is a boy about ten years older who checks out Paige and Whitney as they go in. Whitney imagines having sexual relations with him. Inside, Whitney sees the same boy again. She decides to go talk to him, introduces herself, and learns his name is Bryn.

Paige is hungry, so she and Whitney head off to eat something. Bryn gives Whitney his card, and says to call him sometime.

## Whitney Analysis

The seed of Whitney's future is sown when she accepts a business card from Bryn, a much older man at the mall. Not only that, but she willingly seeks him out to talk to him. The absence of parental figures during the course of these episodes is quite telling.



# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger hates school, and doesn't do very well. She doesn't have big dreams. She wants to have a few friends, work as a waitress, and settle into a nice, small town. Ginger is friends with a Goth girl named Alex, whose father is a bartender and a drug-addict. Alex's mom is in jail for robbery.

Ginger hears sirens and runs home to discover her little brother Sandy is lying in the street, the victim of a hit-and-run. He is breathing, but in serious condition, and is taken to the hospital. Ginger has to track down her mother to approve treatment, but her mother does not respond. She instead calls her grandmother, who is at a hair appointment. Her grandmother immediately sets out for the hospital.

## Ginger Analysis

The uncaring and disinterested nature of Iris shines through Sandy's accident. Ginger is more the mother than Iris is, and there is a certain gravity of responsibility that seems to weigh in above all of Ginger's emotions, putting those emotions in check. She is now primarily concerned with Sandy's life.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Cody's relationship with Ronnie quickly becomes sexual. Her brother, Vince, is a star athlete at college who encourages the relationship between his sister and Cody. Vince is heavy into drinking and drugs. Cody also reveals his stepfather Jack uses crack. Ronnie also uses drugs.

Cody's thirteen year-old brother, Cory, comes home drunk. Cory is so drunk he falls onto the living room floor, and Cody puts him to bed. He then goes to Vince's to play poker, and then goes to see Ronnie for the night.

## Cody Analysis

Cody and Cory both drink, and Cody begins using harder drugs. He also begins a very sexual relationship with Ronnie. Between his stepfather, girlfriend, brother, and girlfriend's brother, Cody is surrounded by negative examples. The one possible positive example he might have -his mother- is conspicuously absent from the house.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

It is spring break for Eden. Her parents have noticed Andrew attending revivals. Eden's mother cautions her against deceptive good looks. Eden meets Andrew's older sister Mariah, and their mother, who thanks Eden for making Andrew so happy.

She wonders how Andrew's family can be so accepting of her, but her family cannot be accepting of Andrew. She tells her parents she is going out to the library to study, but in reality, goes to Andrew's family's ranch. There they have sex for the first time.

## Eden Analysis

Eden begins lying to her parents in order to continue seeing Andrew. Eden is very happy that Andrew's family is so warm toward her, and she wishes that her own family would respond in the same fashion. She wonders why her parents are so different from Andrew's, and this - coupled with her parents' authoritarian manner, rather than explaining the things they believe - further pushes her into defiance of their will.





# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth is in emotional turmoil as the school year winds down and the time approaches for Loren to head out to minister. Their relationship becomes almost wholly physical over time.

They go out to eat Italian food, and Loren manages to get Seth into a gay bar. There, Seth learns about "sugar daddies," older men who provide younger men with gifts, food, and a place to stay in exchange for sex.

## Seth Analysis

Loren introduces Seth to the concept of "sugar daddies," which serves as a dangerous harbinger of things to come. At the time, Seth is unimpressed by the concept, thinking he transcends the idea.



# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney realizes that her mother and sister Kyra are more concerned about their own reputations rather than Whitney's welfare. Kyra and their mother go shopping, and Whitney calls Lucas who comes over.

He comes over with cocaine, chops it up, and inhales. He chides Whitney into trying it, which she does. They then have sex for the first time, and Whitney tells Lucas she loves him. Lucas responds by getting up and saying he'd better get moving and cleaned up before he gets caught.

## Whitney Analysis

The distance of Whitney's family becomes even more apparent, which pushes Whitney further toward Lucas because she is seeking emotional connection somewhere. It is this deep emotional connection Whitney has to Lucas which helps Lucas chide her into using cocaine for the first time. The two of them end up having sex, after which Lucas leaves. It is unnerving for Whitney, who has now gone all the way with Lucas - giving herself up to him emotionally in surrendering her will to use cocaine with him - and in giving him her virginity.



# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Sandy is in the hospital. Ginger and her grandmother visit and pray constantly, while Iris has only visited two or three times. Iris has a new boyfriend named Harry, who reminds Ginger of one of her mother's ex-boyfriends, who raped Ginger. Ginger subsequently never tells anyone. Yet she is afraid under Harry's gaze, and she lashes out at Iris and Harry, calling Iris a whore.

Ginger then escapes her house and runs to Alex's, where she confesses everything. Alex holds Ginger as she cries. She and Alex kiss, and Alex gives Ginger a Coke spiked with rum.

When Ginger returns home, Iris announces Sandy will be released soon.

## Ginger Analysis

Iris's lack of concern is startlingly apparent, as she rarely visits Sandy in the hospital. Ginger reflects on being raped in the past by one of Iris's boyfriends, and the trauma of the memory causes her to lash out at Iris. Ginger finds solace in the arms of another girl named Alex. It is Alex who introduces Ginger to alcohol.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Jack's stomach pains turn out to be cancer, and Cody's mother begins attending Church once more. Cory and Cody drink and do every kind of drug they can get their hands on to avoid thinking about death.

After gambling, Cody heads to Ronnie's but runs into Cory on the way, who leaps into the car. The police are after Cory for breaking and entering. Both of them are beyond upset, end up crying, and hugging each other.

## Cody Analysis

Jack's cancer serves as an excuse for Cody and Ronnie to consume themselves with the use of drugs. Their behavior is very dangerous. Cody's addiction to gambling continues on, and Cory's deviance continues escalating. Cody and Cory's mother is clearly absent from everything going on, and while it can be argued that she is having to contend with Jack's cancer, it can also be argued that she should have had her sons under control before Jack's diagnosis.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

Eden has been dating Andrew for six months. Their sexual activity has also increased. Eden has to leave birth control up to Andrew, because if Eden is seen buying any, word will get back to her parents.

Eden goes to see her friend Shania, who asks about Andrew. Eden reveals some, but not everything about him to Shania. Eden then goes to meet with Andrew, and Shania's sister Caitlyn sees them leave.

When Eden gets home, her parents know. They demand to know why she has lied to them. Eden confesses she is in love, and her mother proceeds to beat her. When Eden goes to see Andrew again on Mother's Day, Eden's mother says that she believes Eden is possessed by demons.

## Eden Analysis

Eden has managed to keep her relationship with Andrew a secret for six months, but the truth eventually comes out. Eden's parents are immediately enraged, and Eden's mother beats her in punishment. When Eden refuses to stop seeing Andrew, this leads Edens' mother to believe Eden is somehow possessed by demons. Eden's downfall has begun.



# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth does not like Mother's Day. When he goes to Loren's apartment, he finds Loren already gone. Loren leaves a note, saying that he is gone forever. Seth is heartbroken and decides to go to the Fringe club, where Loren took him as a sponsor to get him in. Seth knows he needs a sponsor, so he goes looking for an older man.

Seth then meets a man named Carl, who agrees to be his sponsor. At the bar, Seth confesses to Carl what has happened, and Carl takes Seth out to dinner. Drunk, Seth cannot go home, so Carl invites him to stay the night. Seth calls his dad and tells him he has met a girl, and will be spending the night. Seth then has sex with Carl.

## Seth Analysis

Loren leaves, and this has severe ramifications for Seth, who seeks out a sponsor for the bar. Seth, who thought himself above the idea of "sugar daddies," ends up delving into the lifestyle anyways. Seth has gone down yet another dark path from which reverse is nearly impossible.



# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney goes to a party thrown by Lucas that she didn't know was happening. Paige drive her and also attends. Whitney knows in her heart she has been dumped, and decides she needs a drink. In the kitchen she finds Lucas all over a girl named Skylar.

Whitney talks to Lucas who admits that he only wanted to sleep with her because she was a virgin. Whitney curses him out and goes out to sit on the curb. She remembers Bryn's business card in her purse, and calls him up against her better judgment. She asks him for a ride, and he agrees.

## Whitney Analysis

Not only does Whitney find herself dumped by Lucas without realizing it, but she discovers that Lucas is already involved with another girl. The betrayal by Lucas, the lack of comfort in her home, and her distraught condition combine to get her to call up Bryn, who agrees to come and pick her up. She knows nothing about him, yet is in such need of some sort of compassion that she calls him.



# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger continues to do poorly in school. When she gets home, Iris is out with Harry and the kids, and there is another man waiting who immediately advances on Ginger. The man says he has paid to have Ginger, and Ginger realizes her mother has prostituted her.

Afterward, Ginger reflects on the first time she was raped, and believes her mother sold her that time as well. Ginger scrubs herself clean with Pine-Sol and goes to see Alex. They decide to run away to Vegas and stay with Alex's father's old girlfriend, Lydia.

Ginger runs home, tells her grandmother she is staying the night with a friend named Alicia, takes all of the money Iris keeps in her dresser, and heads out. She meets up with Alex, the two of them buy bus tickets, and kiss as the bus leaves.

## Ginger Analysis

Ginger has been prostituted out by her mother for the second time, and this, she decides, is enough. Ginger and Alex both flee to Las Vegas, where they intend to start over and ultimately live on their own. Ginger's desire to strike out on her own in the face of such adversity and horror cannot be questioned; her ultimate path remains in question and will be up for debate.





# Cody

## Cody Summary

Jack dies of stomach cancer, and Cody's mom is a mess. Ronnie comes to see Cody. They have sex without doing drugs, and they confess love to one another.

Meanwhile, bills mount for the family. Cody decides to do online gambling to see if he can help pay the bills. Cody is also fired from GameStop.

## Cody Analysis

With Jack's death, the situation for Cody and his family becomes dire. In the midst of that sadness, Cody and Ronnie confess their love for one another. But Cody knows he is going to have to do something to help out his mother. Like Ginger, Cody's path is open to possibilities, and those possibilities will be up for debate.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

Eden's mother puts Lunesta into her water, which knocks her out for hours, and when Eden wakes up, she is being taken to Tears of Zion, a youth rehabilitation camp run by a friend of her father's, Samuel Ruenhaven. Eden knows her home will never again be the same. Yet all she can do at the camp is to think about Andrew.

There is a worker at the camp named Jerome who finds Eden attractive, and offers her strawberries. He also offers her better food and shampoo if she's willing to have some fun with him. Eden realizes that this might be her way back to Andrew, through Jerome.

## Eden Analysis

Eden's mother - in an action clearly premeditated - brings her to Tears of Zion. Meant to cure her of her disobedience and sexual nature, Tears of Zion ironically proves to be the source of Eden's moral undoing. She realizes she can use sex to her advantage to get back to see Andrew.

# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth continues seeing Carl and drinking heavily. Seth's father finds a letter from Loren, and thinking it is about college, opens it and discovers the truth. Seth confesses he is gay. His father is horrified, tells his son his behavior is sinful, and orders him to leave the house.

Seth goes to Carl and explains what has happened, and Carl says he can stay for a while, but not for long: Carl's company has a contract in Vegas. Seth wants to go, too.

## Seth Analysis

Seth's father discovers he is gay and kicks him out. Seth falls into drinking and continuing his relationship with Carl. Seth realizes he can use sex to his advantage to get Carl to bring him to Vegas. Everything that Seth once thought he was better than, he has become.

# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney is still irate with Lucas. Bryn comes to pick up Whitney, and asks where she wants to go. They drive to the beach and Whitney tells Bryn about her life and her breakup with Lucas. Bryn talks about his family, and he has a similar relationship with his father and brother. Bryn is a photographer who has moved to Santa Cruz after his mother has died a few weeks before.

She begins a relationship with Bryn, and the two of them fall in love. They do not sleep together right away, because Bryn doesn't want to unless Whitney is sure. She decides to be a model for him.

They go to the beach, and Bryn says he hasn't gotten high in years. He offers a Valium to Whitney, who takes it. Later they have sex. Bryn has to go to Vegas to do a photography shoot, and invites Whitney along, who accepts.

## Whitney Analysis

Whitney begins a relationship with Bryn, who coaxes her into using Valium and doing modeling work for his photography business. Bryn invites Whitney to go along with him to Vegas for a photography shoot, and she agrees. Las Vegas also clearly emerges at this point as the destination of each of the main characters in the book.

# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger and Alex arrive in Las Vegas. They stay with Lydia, who eventually asks them for rent, and coaxes them into becoming strippers for her. They begin to make a decent amount of money, slowly bridging the gap between stripping and sexual work.

Ginger also falls in love with Alex.

## Ginger Analysis

Ginger's choice of occupation is not healthy for her, or for Alex. They had the ability to make a clean start, but quick cash and easy work have proved far too appealing. The stripping business straddles a fine line between nonsexual and sexual activity. It is a divide that will be hard for Ginger and Alex not to cross.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Cody's mother begins looking for work, and Cody begins losing money making bad bets. Bills continue to mount, Cody is broke, and his mother's bank account is getting smaller and smaller.

Cody begins pawning some of his things to make money, including taking out a loan against a gold necklace Jack gave him. Cody continues gambling online.

A call from the police comes in. Cory is arrested for robbery and assault.

## Cody Analysis

Cody's own bills begin mounting, as do the family's. In order to keep gambling, Cody begins pawning his belongings in order to have cash on hand. At the same time, Cory's life further falls apart when he is arrested for robbery and assault. At any time, either brother could choose a clean path, but both of them deliberately refuse to do so.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

Eden begins sleeping with Jerome in order to be in his good graces. He says he is in love with her, but she is not in love with him. Eden decides to play on his emotions in order to find a way to escape. She convinces him to run away with her, and Jerome wants to go to Salt Lake City where his brother lives.

## Eden Analysis

Eden uses her body in order to seduce and manipulate Jared. In so doing, she engages in a form of prostitution. She is able to get what she wants: a chance at escape. It is a risk far worse than the risk that Eden took by sleeping with and seeing Andrew behind the backs of her parents.

# Seth

## Seth Summary

Carl brings Seth to Vegas, and Seth discovers that Carl is very wealthy. Vegas is a culture shock to Seth, who sees how sexually uninhibited the city is. He also discovers how tenuous his position with Carl might actually be. If Carl dies, or dumps Seth, he will truly have nowhere to go.

## Seth Analysis

Seth begins to reflect on his position in life. He realizes how tenuous it is. He begins to wonder what will happen to him if Carl breaks up with him or dies. It is a scary thought to Seth that he will be out on his own.





# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney continues her relationship with Bryn, traveling with him to Vegas. They are currently staying in a motel while Bryn works. Whitney has also begun posing nude for Bryn. Bryn brings home heroin, and coaxes Whitney into trying it. He then films both of them having sex. This occurs several more times, and Bryn continues supplying Whitney with marijuana.

One night, Bryn brings home a man named Oscar, who proceeds to have sex with Whitney.

## Whitney Analysis

Bryn introduces Whitney to various kinds of drugs, and Whitney takes them because she loves Bryn and Bryn wants her to take drugs. Eventually, Bryn even begins prostituting out Whitney - who is still fifteen. It is an absolutely horrible situation. In exchange for her sexual obedience, Bryn continues supplying Whitney with drugs, who has unarguably become addicted.



# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger and Alex move into their own place because they don't like Lydia pushing them towards sexual work. Ginger is not currently working because she has some sort of stomach pains. Alex, the only one working, begins to prostitute herself for better pay. Alex tells Ginger it is alright, and that it will only be for a while.

## Ginger Analysis

Ginger and Alex move into their own place, and Alex begins full-fledged work as a prostitute. Ginger refuses to cross that boundary, reflecting on her own mother and her own life as reason not to. Her willpower, for the moment, keeps her in check.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Cody continues gambling, and ends up in debt to Lydia, whom he met through one of Vinnie's friends. He becomes a male prostitute for Lydia, having sex with other men. He thinks about his mother and the bills piling up to help deal with the situation.

## Cody Analysis

Cody ultimately becomes a prostitute in order to make more money. He begins associating with the same circles of people as Alex and Ginger do. The money that he earns from prostitution Cody uses to pay bills and continue gambling. Cody's decline can be seen readily in the move from gambling and drugs to pawning items to gamble and to buy drugs to selling himself for money for drugs and to pay bills.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

Eden and Jerome leave Tears of Zion, and at a truck stop, Eden tries calling Andrew. She cannot get in touch with him. She manages to find an unlocked truck and climbs in, only to be discovered by the owner and his dog. She lies and says she has had a horrible fight with her boyfriend. The trucker agrees to take her toward Vegas, as far as Ely. Eden uses the trucker's phone to try calling Andrew again, but still cannot get in touch with him.

The trucker's name is Wes. He brings her to another truck stop, and when she offers him something in return, he tells her to choose her next man more carefully. He also gives her twenty dollars for food, and drives off.

Eden manages to get a ride to Vegas with another trucker in exchange for oral sex.

## Eden Analysis

Eden uses Jerome to escape Tears of Zion, and then meets a trucker whom she calls a Good Samaritan. The trucker, Wes, is a genuinely good person who takes care of Eden until they get to a town called Ely. Once Wes leaves, Eden must rely on her own sexual prowess once more in order to get to Vegas.

# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth begins working out at the gym to keep Carl happy. At the gym, Seth meets Jared who invites Seth to the hot tub that night at nine. At home, Seth is forced into sex with Carl and another man named Brett.

## Seth Analysis

Seth, who also thought his relationship with Carl was exclusive, finds out that this isn't the case when Carl forces Seth to have sex with himself and a man named Brett. Seth does everything he can to keep Carl happy, and is losing himself in the process.



# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney falls into a life of drugs and sex, and hates and loves Bryn at the same time. She knows he has lied to her, and continues to lie to her. Bryn has become her pimp, giving her drugs in exchange for sex with other men.

Whitney is about to turn sixteen, and thinks of her life before she left with Bryn. She collapses on the sidewalk in front of a club where a man finds her and convinces her to let him walk her home. Inside her room, the man forces himself on Whitney. She screams, and another person interrupts the assault and chases the man away. It is Ginger.

## Whitney Analysis

Whitney's addiction and love for Bryn completely obscure her reason. She does anything she can for Bryn in order to make him love her, and in order to make him continue to bring her drugs. Whitney also goes out prostituting for herself, and ends up bringing home the wrong person, who proceeds to get violent with her until Ginger manages to chase him away.



# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger and Whitney are staying in the same motel. Ginger helps care for Whitney as Whitney disappears in a drug-induced stupor. Ginger reflects on how she has been drinking less lately, and about how she wants to stop drinking altogether.

Alex comes home in tears. She has been raped and robbed. Ginger heads out to do a strip show by herself, and as she strips, she is determined to get out.

## Ginger Analysis

Ginger realizes, through Whitney's drug-induced stupor, and Alex's rape, that it is time she gets herself out of the stripping business. Between everything she has grown up with, and has seen in her time as a stripper, Ginger has all of the proof she needs that this is now how she wants to live her life. She resolves that she will not become like Whitney, Iris, or Alex.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Cody reflects on his life and how he has ended up where he has. Cody's work means he spends less time with Ronnie, who he misses terribly.

Cody also lies about the internet gaming credit charges he has incurred, blaming them on Cory.

Cody goes to play poker with Vinnie, and one of Vinnie's friends, Chris, is dating Misty. Misty works for Lydia, and sometimes teams up with Cody during work. When Cody heads to his job, Chris barges into the motel room and beats up Cody. When Cody comes to, he is being put into an ambulance and asks to have his mother and Ronnie called.

## Cody Analysis

Cody at last reaches rock bottom when he is so savagely beaten, he ends up having to go to the hospital. He is barely hanging onto consciousness. He now has to deal with the consequences of his life choices.





# Eden

## Eden Summary

Eden has been in Vegas three weeks. She stays in different places different nights, and her body is bruised and hurt. She meets Alex, who gives her fifty dollars to clean up, eat, and call home.

Eden then feels drawn into a Catholic church. It is Friday and there are no worshippers inside. She decides to pray. A priest sits down beside her and asks what she needs.

## Eden Analysis

Eden flirts with the idea of becoming a prostitute to get back home, but then ultimately decides against it when she meets Alex, who tells her not to become a stripper. Eden's entry to church is in many ways a return to God - a banishment from the Garden and a return to God through Jesus. She wants to turn her life around.

# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth meets Jared at the club, where they have sex. Carl finds out, and is enraged. Seth has twenty-four hours to get out. Seth uses part of that time to look up male escort services online.

## Seth Analysis

Seth's relationship with Carl ends after Seth cheats on him. Seth realizes he is now on his own again, and he has a chance for a fresh start. Yet instead of rising above his situation, he plunges deeper in by looking up male escort numbers online.

# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney continues prostituting herself out as well as becoming friends with Ginger. Whitney agrees to have sex with a man named Lorenzo in exchange for harder, heavier drugs. Lorenzo gives her black tar Mexican, which she takes after they have sex. As she loses consciousness, she realizes she has taken too much.

## Whitney Analysis

Whitney, like Seth and Cody, also hits rock bottom after she lapses into a coma from a drug overdose. She has completely given up on the idea of cash for sex, preferring instead drugs for sex because she is so totally consumed by her addiction.

# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger reflects on an ambulance coming to take Whitney away. Ginger goes out looking for Alex, finds her, and both of them are caught in a police sting.

## Ginger Analysis

Ginger, who has decided she has had enough of stripping and the lifestyle she is flirting with, goes out to find Alex. She and Alex then both hit rock bottom when they are arrested in a police sting operation.



# Cody

## Cody Summary

Cody is in a coma in the hospital, and knows he is still alive. He can hear his mother's voice, and feel her hands on his head and hair. She tells him that everything will be alright.

## Cody Analysis

Cody lapses into a coma, so severe and savage are his injuries. His final chapter in the book is his existence in a subconscious state, hearing his mother's voice assuring him that everything will be alright.



# Eden

## Eden Summary

Father Gregory, the priest at the Catholic church, has helped Eden get into a recovery place called Walk Straight. There, Eden's caseworker Sarah attempts to get to the bottom of things. Eden e-mails Andrew's mother, who is a professor at Boise State. Andrew has been looking for her for months, was arrested, and had to have his number changed to avoid harassing calls from members of Eden's father's church. She e-mails Andrew, telling him she loves him, and that she will be back as soon as she can.

## Eden Analysis

Father Gregory makes sure that Eden is able to enter a youth rehabilitation program. Eden also uses the time to reestablish contact with Andrew, telling him that she loves him and that she will be back as soon as she can. Eden is determined now to straighten out her life and return to as normal an existence as possible.



# Seth

## Seth Summary

Seth calls his father, but they cannot come to terms. Seth finds Loren on Facebook, and Loren reports that he is in another relationship with someone who reminds him of Seth.

Seth is now dating a choreographer named David, who is wealthy and well-known. But Seth still prostitutes himself out on the side.

## Seth Analysis

Seth becomes a boy toy for yet another older man, continuing the same lifestyle as before. Seth, who had had a chance to break free and reestablish himself as his own person, decides against it. But this time, he believes he will be better prepared because he is prostituting himself out on the side.



# Whitney

## Whitney Summary

Whitney almost dies, and undergoes intense detox. Her mother, father, and Kyra are there. Kyra is worried about her reputation. Whitney's father is angry. Whitney's mother is surprisingly caring and comforting, wanting to get through everything.

## Whitney Analysis

Whitney's near-death experience and detox force her out of the lifestyle she engaged in. It brings her family closer together in the process, which is bittersweet because the family should have been more involved from the start.





# Ginger

## Ginger Summary

Ginger finally works up the courage to call her grandmother. Her grandmother begs her to come home. Iris is dying from HIV. Alex, who is in rehab with a baby, decides to stay in Vegas and learn how to be a good mother. Ginger heads home.

## Ginger Analysis

Ginger decides to head home at the request of her grandmother. Iris is dying of HIV, which is the final straw for Ginger, convincing her that that type of lifestyle is simply not worth the risk and the cost.



# Characters

## Eden Streit

Eden Streit is one of the five protagonists of Ellen Hopkin's novel *Tricks*. From Idaho, Eden is the sixteen year-old daughter of a fundamentalist Assembly of God pastor, and a very fundamentalist mother. They are strict and devoutly religious. Eden is in love with a Roman Catholic college student named Andrew. Andrew and his sister attend revival meetings, where Andrew and Eden first meet.

They begin a secret relationship because Andrew is nineteen and Eden is sixteen, and the age of consent in Idaho is eighteen. They begin having sex, and eventually, Eden's mother finds out about the relationship. Eden's mother demands she stop seeing Andrew, but Eden refuses to listen. This leads her mother to believe Eden is possessed by demons, and sends her to a youth rehabilitation camp called Tears of Zion.

Eden is determined to get back to Andrew at any cost, and seduces Jerome, one of the workers at the camp, to help smuggle her out. She then travels to Vegas, believing that she will work as a stripper to earn enough money to get back to see Andrew. In Vegas, she is warned out of prostitution by Alex. Eden then wanders into a Catholic church, where she meets Father Gregory, who arranges for her to enter the Walk Straight program to get her life back together.

While there, Eden contacts Andrew, telling him she loves him and will be home as soon as she can.

## Seth Parnell

Seth Parnell is one of the five protagonists in the novel *Tricks*. Seth is the son of an Indiana farmer who is very conservative and very traditional. Seth is seventeen, very liberal, and hides the fact from his father that he is gay. Seth has been seeing and sleeping with Loren, who is training to become a seminarian. When Loren leaves to go do field work, he breaks up with Seth.

When Seth receives a letter from Loren, Seth's father reads it, and discovers his son is gay. He promptly kicks his son out, who becomes a boy toy for older, wealthier men, in exchange for food, gifts, and places to live. He stays for a while with a man named Carl, and then cheats on Carl with another man named Jared. Carl then breaks up with Seth.

Seth later becomes involved with David, a famous choreographer, and prostitutes himself out on the side in order to save up money just in case David ever breaks up with him. Seth is ultimately the only character without some sort of major revelation or saving grace, for he willfully continues prostitution despite all of the dangers associated with it.



## Whitney Lang

Whitney is one of the five protagonists in the novel *Tricks*. Her father is a successful investment banker in San Francisco, and her mother favors her older sister, Kyra. Whitney's father stays in San Francisco for most of the week, because the commute to San Francisco from Santa Cruz is too much for him to do everyday. Whitney and her mother frequently fight.

Whitney meets Lucas, an older boy who gets her into drugs. She believes she loves him, and gives her virginity to him. He then breaks up with her, and Whitney confides in Bryn, a boy who is ten years older than her and whom she met at the mall. Bryn and Whitney begin a relationship, and Bryn gets Whitney into harder drugs and ends up becoming her pimp by prostituting her out when she runs away with him to Vegas.

Whitney begins using heavier and heavier drugs until at last, she overdoses. She nearly dies, and wakes up in the hospital with her mother, father, and sister by her side. Her sister is annoyed, her father is angry, and her mother is surprisingly worried about her.

## Ginger Cordell

Ginger Cordell is one of the five protagonists in the novel *Tricks*. She is the daughter of Iris, a single mother who prefers her children call her by name instead of by her title as mother. Ginger, her siblings, and Iris all live with Iris's mother, who does her best to care for the family. Ginger hates the fact that her mother is a drug-addict, an alcoholic, and is never a mother. Iris is always with a different man, and doesn't care much for her children. Iris sells Ginger for sex without Ginger's knowing, and Ginger has finally had enough after the second time she is raped in this fashion.

She and her best friend Alex run away to Vegas, and the two of them begin a relationship. Both girls end up stripping and are able to afford a place of their own to live in. It is across the hall from Whitney. Meeting Whitney helps push Ginger away from stripping and from drinking. Alex, meanwhile, becomes a full-fledged prostitute to help earn money. On an evening when Alex is out, Ginger goes to find her, only to be arrested in a prostitution sting.

At last, Ginger decides to call her grandmother to tell her where she is, and that she wants to come home. Her grandmother reveals to Ginger that Iris is dying of advanced HIV.

## Cody Bennett

Cody is one of the protagonists in the novel *Tricks*. He is the son of a caring mother, and an agreeable stepfather. Cody has a younger brother named Cory, who is thirteen and is already a drunk. Cody begins dating a girl named Veronica ("Ronnie" for short). The two of them get high frequently, and have sex whenever they do.



Cody's stepfather dies from stomach cancer soon after, leaving his mother to find work and support the family. Cody begins gambling, and has some luck, which convinces him to get more heavily involved in gambling. He goes to play poker with Ronnie's brother, Vinnie, frequently. Vinnie's friends introduce Cody to the world of prostitution, and Cody begins taking on male clients to make money to help pay bills at home.

Sometimes Cody works with a girl named Misty, who is the boyfriend of Chris, one of Vinnie's friends. When Chris discovers his girlfriend is still in the prostitution business, he beats Cody up so badly that Cody slips into a coma.

## **Andrew**

Andrew is the nineteen year-old Roman Catholic boyfriend of Eden Streit. Andrew is a freshman in college, and sees Eden unbeknown to Eden's parents. Andrew's family loves Eden, and Eden prays that her family will be the same way. But when Eden refuses to stop seeing Andrew, she is sent away to a youth rehabilitation camp, and Andrew is arrested and released. Eden's parents have members of their congregation call Andrew and harass him, forcing him to switch numbers.

Andrew begins an extensive search for Eden, who eventually contacts him. She tells him she will be home as soon as she can, and that she loves him.

## **Carl**

Carl is the first man who takes on Seth, exchanging food, shelter, and gifts for sex. Carl forces Seth into compromising sexual situations, and then kicks Seth out when Seth cheats on him.

## **Iris Cordell**

Iris Cordell is the mother of Ginger Cordell, and the daughter of Grams Cordell. Iris is uncaring and disinterested in her children. She is constantly with different men, is an alcoholic, and is a drug-addict. She even sells her daughter out for sex to make extra cash. By the end of the novel, Iris is dying of advanced HIV.

## **Grams Cordell**

Grams Cordell is the grandmother of Ginger Cordell, and the mother of Iris. Grams does her best to care for her dysfunctional family, making sure to praise and love her grandchildren - especially Ginger - as best she can. She proves to be Ginger's sole source of comfort and love until Ginger meets Alex.



## Alex

Alex is the girlfriend of Ginger Cordell, to whom Ginger talks about problems at home and runs away with to Vegas. Alex and Ginger begin work as strippers, and Alex crosses the line into prostitution to earn more money. Alex and Ginger are both busted in a sting, and Alex ultimately gives birth to a baby. Alex decides she will go through a rehabilitation program in order to learn to be a better person and a good mother.

## Father Gregory

Father Gregory is the kindly and compassionate priest at Guardian Angel Cathedral Catholic Church. He is the one who arranges for Eden to enter the Walk Straight program to put her life back together.



# Objects/Places

## Idaho

Idaho is where Eden Streit and her family live. It is where Eden attends church and meets Andrew. It is the place to which she is determined to return in order to get back together with Andrew.

## Santa Cruz, California

Santa Cruz, California, is the coastal home of the Lang family. It is where Whitney meets Lucas, and later Bryn. Whitney ultimately runs away from Santa Cruz with Bryn to Las Vegas.

## San Francisco, California

San Francisco, California is where Whitney's father stays for most of the week in order to avoid a long commute to work from Santa Cruz.

## Indiana

Indiana is where Seth Parnell and his father live and work on the family farm. It is in Indiana that Seth's father kicks him out of the house for Seth's homosexuality.

## Las Vegas

Las Vegas is the one city where all five protagonists end up meeting or reaching. It is where Whitney becomes a drug-addled prostitute, where Seth becomes a boy toy to Carl. It is where Alex and Ginger end up stripping and are arrested, and it is where Eden is saved by Alex and then Father Gregory at church.

## Weed

Weed serves as a gateway drug for most of the characters in the novel *Tricks*. It is used by almost every character in the novel.

## Cash

Cash is a valuable commodity in the novel *Tricks*. Cody is in desperate need of cash to help pay his family's bills, while Eden is without cash to make her way back home to see Andrew. Ginger and Alex strip for cash in order to live by themselves, and Whitney



never sees cash for the sexual work she does. Ginger furthermore steals money from her mother in order to get to Vegas, and Cody begins selling himself for cash.

## **Cocaine**

Cocaine is used by several characters, most notably, by Whitney who indulges in cocaine and every kind of drug she can get her hands on.

## **Black Tar Mexican**

Black Tar Mexican is the hardest, heaviest drug that Whitney uses and ultimately overdoses on.

## **Guardian Angel Cathedral Catholic Church**

Guardian Angel Cathedral Catholic Church is where Eden goes to pray to ask God for help, and where she meets Father Gregory. Father Gregory arranges for Eden to enter the Walk Straight program to put her life back together.



# Themes

## Degenerative Culture

The overarching and dominant theme that permeates every chapter of Ellen Hopkins' novel *Tricks* is that of degenerative culture. The novel takes place in the United States, and examines the darker side of American culture which glorifies deviant behavior, such as underage activities, sexual indiscretion and substance abuse.

Degenerative culture can be seen immediately in the underage activity that teenagers engage in, from smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol, to engaging in sexual relations. Whitney, for example, is fifteen years old when she becomes sexually active, below the age of consent for most states in the country. Eden is sixteen when she begins sexual activity, though in Idaho, she is two years under the age of consent. Ginger, Seth, and Alex both engage in drinking alcohol when they are years under the age of alcohol use.

Degenerative culture is also seen in the sexual indiscretion of most characters in the novel. Iris, Ginger's mother, is always with a different man. She has no qualms about selling her daughter for cash. Whitney is willing to sleep with any male that tells her he loves her, and Eden uses sexual intercourse to manipulate Jerome at Tears of Zion. Seth becomes the boy toy of a much older man, who showers him with gifts and shelter. Codie and Ronnie frequently get high and have sex in the process. Cody also becomes a male prostitute in order to earn cash. All of the characters engage in sexual behavior without much thought as to the consequences, focused instead on cash and immediate pleasure. Whitney and Eden ignore age of consent laws in order to sleep with older men.

The other blaring way in which degenerative culture appears in *Tricks* is through substance abuse and the disturbing availability of such substances - from alcohol to hard drugs. Whitney begins using weed regularly, and is then turned onto harder drugs like cocaine and black tar Mexican, on which she ultimately overdoses. Cody uses every kind of drug he can get his hands on. Iris, Ginger's mother, is a drug-addict who is rarely ever sober.

## Failure of Parents

The failure of parents to be good parents is also a blaring theme consistent throughout *Tricks*. For varying reasons, each of the parents in the novel fails their children in some way.

For Whitney, her parents are simply distant and uninterested in her life. Whitney's mother favors Whitney's sister, Kyla, and spares no expense to show it. Whitney and her mother frequently clash, insulting one another and calling one another names.





Whitney's father is away for most of the week, staying in San Francisco for work. He is not only emotionally but physically removed from Whitney's life because of this.

Seth's father is very traditional and not good at showing emotion. Rather than attempting to work through or work around Seth's homosexual activity, his father kicks him out of the house rather than try to set an example.

Cody's mother is caring, but she is not involved enough in the lives of her children. Cory, Cody's brother, frequently comes home drunk, is arrested for assault and robbery, and Cody has become a drug-user, gambler, and male prostitute. When Cody's mother discovers charges on her credit cards for online gambling, she doesn't think to follow up Cody's blaming it on Cory with any more questions.

Eden's parents are inflexible, preferring to rule by authoritative diction rather than helping their daughter to understand why they feel the way they do about things. They have failed in their roles as teachers and guides to Eden.

Ginger's mother is the biggest failure as a parent. Her drug-addiction, her alcoholism, and her sexual proclivities, as well as her antagonism toward Ginger, her unwillingness to be seen as a mother, and her selling Ginger for sex for cash combine to create an example of exactly how not to live one's life. Ginger's grandmother also fails as a parent, for failing to kick Iris out and obtain custody of her grandchildren.

## Child Prostitution

Child prostitution (and its dangers) is the underlying theme of the entire novel *Tricks*. Each of the characters in the novel are at some point underage, and prostitute themselves out in order to make a living.

Whitney is at the tender age of fifteen when she becomes not only a prostitute, but a drug-addict as well. She goes out of her way to find clients in order to get drugs, and finds herself sold by Bryn on a daily basis. In the process, she loses herself and almost dies of a drug overdose.

Ginger is sixteen when she becomes a stripper with Alex, the latter of whom turns to full-fledged prostitution to get by. Ginger and Alex are both busted by the police, and it convinces Ginger to get her life back on track.

Seth is a seventeen year-old kid who becomes a boy toy for wealthy, older men. Seth prostitutes himself out on the side in order to have a nest egg for future emergencies.

Eden is sixteen when she first has sex, and then subsequently uses her body in order to manipulate events to her advantage. She sleeps with Jerome to escape Tears of Zion, and has oral sex with a truck driver in order to get a ride to Vegas. She is saved by Father Gregory of Guardian Angel Cathedral Catholic Church, who gets her into the Walk Straight program.



Cody turns to male prostitution and online gambling in order to raise enough money for his own purposes, and to help take care of his family. He is beaten up by the boyfriend of one of the prostitutes, and ends the novel in a coma.



# Style

## Point of View

Ellen Hopkins tells *Tricks* in the first-person narrative, from five different points of view. Each of the five points of view is told from the perspective of one of the protagonists (Eden, Seth, Whitney, Ginger, and Cody). This is done in order to see the events of the novel as the characters themselves see them and experience them. This allows an incredible amount of emotional probing into the consciousness of each of the characters, and allows the reader to develop an emotional connection with the characters despite the nearly-consistent poor choices the characters make.

## Setting

The main setting of Ellen Hopkins' novel *Tricks* is, fittingly, Las Vegas, also known as Sin City. It is in Vegas where each of the characters delve one way or another into the arena of prostitution, and meet the fate of such activity. Cody and Whitney end up in Vegas hospitals for overdosing and physical brutality, respectively. Eden, Ginger, and Alex end up in rehab programs in Vegas. Seth is the only character without some sort of major revelation or saving grace, for he willfully continues prostitution despite all of the dangers associated with it.

## Language and Meaning

Ellen Hopkins tells her novel *Tricks* in language that is both poetic and straightforward. It is the hopeless language of teenage dreams, of naivete, and works well for the characters in the novel. It makes the characters more believable. Between the characters, Hopkins switches up little in terms of grammatical structure or attitude; rather, the language is relatively consistent throughout the book across all characters with exceptions pertaining to the beliefs of certain characters (for example, Eden's language has more religious reference than does Cody's). This is done to ensure smooth transition between characters, making the jump between five diverse people easier from chapter to chapter.

## Structure

Ellen Hopkin structures her novel *Tricks* into chapters, each chapter being told by a specific character. Each character's chapter is preceded by a brief poem written by the same character, which sums up the feelings and emotions that will be explored in the chapter.



## Quotes

"I've been holding out, wanting to be certain that he loves me for more than my bod. But how can you really know that?"

-Whitney, p. 41

"When I am, God forgive me, I want to know what it means to give myself to him so completely. Want to know what it's like when it's absolutely right."

-Eden, p. 89

"I can barely make it through each week, pretending to be the same old Seth at home, when a short drive will allow the new, improved Seth to come out and play."

-Seth, p. 112

"Two hundred dollars richer. I'm walking on water, oh yeah, and the rush is effing amazing."

-Cody, p. 163

"Once again, her eyes travel over me, trying to look under my clothes to the sin she intuits beneath them."

-Eden, p. 255

"One by one everyone leaves. Mom stands at the door, looking worn. Torn. Emptied. She has managed the day so far without breaking down. But now she dissolves."

-Cody, p. 318

"Foreclosure. The word has been in the news a lot lately, especially here in Vegas. But I had no idea it would ever threaten us directly."

-Cody, p. 398

"A hard shove lets me know that in no uncertain terms that my sarcasm is not appreciated. Except by what little is left of Eden."

-Eden, p. 418

"When you sell your body, you also sell what's inside. Piece by piece, you sell your soul."

-Ginger, p. 538

"Easier than coming to terms with who I was when I almost died. I don't even know that girl."

-Whitney, p. 617



## Topics for Discussion

Discuss the theme of degenerative culture in Ellen Hopkin's novel *Tricks*. In what ways is degenerative culture apparent? In what ways do the five main characters succumb to this kind of culture? Why?

Discuss the presence of God and religion in Ellen Hopkins's novel *Tricks*. In what ways is religion used poorly? In what ways is religion used rightly? What are the relationships of each of the five main characters with God? Do these relationships change over time? If so, how?

Discuss the failure of parents in the novel *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins. Talk about each of the parents who appear in the novel, and how they fail each of their children. What effects do these failures have? Is responsibility ultimately something that resides with the parents, or the children? Why?

Child prostitution is a major theme in Ellen Hopkin's novel *Tricks*. Each of the characters in the novel falls into the trap of prostitution in one way or another. Why does this happen? How does it happen? How do each of the characters succeed or fail in pulling themselves out of prostitution?

Of all of the characters in the novel, Ginger, Eden, and Whitney appear to have the biggest turns around in their lives. Why is this the case? Why is it not the case for Cody and Seth?