

Twisted Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Tyler is the narrator of *Twisted*. He considers himself an unpopular kid entering his senior year of high school who is constantly struggling with suicidal thoughts. He has always been a small guy who is teased mercilessly and hence he tries to stay under the radar. However, he decides to make a name for himself and uses graffiti to do so. However, he is caught for this behavior and put on probation. He has to do community service. This leads to him beefing up and taking on a whole new body look. This in turn, leads to Tyler gaining the attention of Bethany, the Queen Bee of the high school. Tyler is enamored with Bethany and enjoys her attention and continues to daydream about being with her. Bethany's twin brother, Chip, a jock and super popular guy, however continues to try to make Tyler's life miserable.

Tyler continues to struggle with school, his family, and gaining more attention from Bethany, when she invites him to a huge party after a football game on Halloween. He shows up late because he has to walk to get there and she is already wasted. At the party she puts the move on, but he decides not to take advantage and does not go further with it. She is furious and stomps away from him, calling him names. As the party turns into a brawl, Tyler finds her and then sees Chip slumped over in his car, so he drives them and Chip's friend, Parker, home. During the drive, Parker and Bethany start making out in the backseat. Tyler is furious and tries to stop it, but they won't and he leaves them in the driveway of Chip and Bethany's house and walks home.

The next day pictures of Bethany appear on the Internet of her posed and naked. Tyler is suspected and the police show up. Tyler's father is outraged because Bethany's father is his boss. The school shuns him and he is suspended from interacting with other students to avoid conflicts while the investigation is taking place. Tyler continues to contemplate suicide as his life tumbles out of control.

Finally, he decides to run away on his 18th birthday. However, he gets his father's gun and actually puts it in his mouth, but decides not to go through with it. He calls his friend Yoda and they go to a batting cage for Tyler to work out some energy and then Tyler throws the gun and bullets in the river. He decides to take control of his life, re-does his school schedule, sees his probation officer and heads home. The police show up and confirm his innocence which is pleasing to his mom and sister. However, the happiness doesn't last long, as his father shows up.

His father has lost his job and blames Tyler. There is a blow-up at the house, but Tyler stands his ground with his father. He then spends the evening at his friend, Yoda's house. In the morning, when he goes home, his father is sitting on the porch outside the house. They speak a bit and make some progress. They have breakfast together and hug. His father says that he will try to do better. Tyler sees progress happening in his life and wants to make wise choices moving forward.



Chapters 1 - 7

Chapters 1 - 7 Summary

A young man, Tyler, dealing with coming into his own while plagued with bad luck, a dysfunctional family, being unpopular, and a huge crush on a beauty. Twisted tells the story of a semi-suicidal teenager entering his senior year of high school. The story, narrated by Tyler gives an intense look into what it is really like to be a teenage boy today.

Chapter 1 introduces the reader to the narrator as he finishes up his community service requirement by spreading tar on the roof of the high school. He committed the "Foul Deed," which included spray painting graffiti on the high school with insults toward the principal, Mr. Hughes. The reader also is introduced to Bethany Milbury, who Tyler daydreams about when he sees her at the carwash in the parking lot. As the chapter ends, Tyler's father is there to pick him up.

Chapter 2 introduces Tyler's parents. His father is a "Corporate Tool" and is very unhappy that his son got into trouble. His mother is a sweet woman, but a bit of a drunk. Bethany comes over to say hello and speak to his mother, but Tyler is speechless, staring at the goddess that he believes her to be.

Chapter 3 takes place as the family, including Tyler and his parents, along with his sister, Hannah, are driving to the Milburys' house. Mr. Milbury is Tyler's father's boss and they are there for an end of summer get-together. Tyler's father emphasizes that Tyler should be an asset and not a liability at the party.

Chapter 4 shows the conflict starting to rise between the Tyler's parents, as they are underdressed, thought it was potluck and not actually personally invited! They hide the pasta salad in a bush as Mrs. Milbury approaches and welcomes them to the party.

Chapter 5 starts the introductions, which take place at the party, as Tyler's father, Mr. Miller, wants to speak business with Mr. Milbury, but this is not the time and place for it. Chip, Mr. Milbury's son and Bethany's twin brother, joins the group and soon an arm wrestling competition is on between Chip and Tyler. Chip has long been a bully to Tyler, but with his new physique from working outdoors all summer, Tyler is stronger. However, he lets Chip win his father.

In Chapter 6, Chip celebrates his win with his friends. Mr. Milbury forces him to shake Tyler's hand as part of being a good sport. As the time of a toast is announced, Chip pushes Tyler, although nobody sees him, and Tyler falls into Bethany and waiters with trays full of glasses.

Chapter 7 lets us know that Bethany was taken to the hospital in an ambulance, though others at the party stopped the bleeding before they arrived. Tyler's father tries to convince his boss it wasn't Tyler's fault. Tyler asks a doctor to help him commit suicide.



Chapters 1 - 7 Analysis

With just the brief look into Tyler's life, we start to see that it is a bit dysfunctional and difficult. His father is relentless in his pressures, his mother is an alcoholic, and he is not the popular kid at school by any means. Over the summer, Tyler's body has changed, grown more man-like and filled out, however, we wonder if his mind and life have also done so. There is a bit of foreshadowing, as Bethany cheers for him during the arm wrestling competition, which might lead us to wonder why, or perhaps what, she is thinking and feeling.

We are also introduced briefly to Tyler's family life and can see that while things are difficult between him and his father, there are also difficulties between his parents. They do not seem to communicate well with each other, just from this brief section that we have seen. We also know that his father is under a lot of pressure at work, but like Tyler, not the part of the popular crowd either.



Chapters 8 - 13

Chapters 8 - 13 Summary

Chapter 8 brings us into the Miller home and Tyler is in his room playing a video game, Tophet, which has the player working his way through the levels of Hell. Also, there is a peep into a day of Tyler's childhood, when his grandfather and father are upset with him for not taking a catcher out to score a run in his Little League championship game. When he keeps drowning in level 42 of Hell, he finally goes to bed.

In Chapter 9, Tyler spends his last Saturday of summer working, digging a hole as his part of a landscaping job. The reader meets Yoda, Tyler's best friend, who has a crush on his younger sister, Hannah. Tyler doesn't want to hear about it or talk about the incident with Bethany either. After lunch, he goes back to digging his hole and loses himself in the work of digging.

In Chapter 10, Tyler is at home and he sees nobody is around and eats a bowl of cereal for dinner by himself. When he notices his dad is home, but down in the basement, he doesn't speak to him. Some good memories are shared of Cub Scout Wilderness Weekend and his father and him having fun together. The reader also learns that his parents no longer share a bedroom. Tyler goes to his room and thinks about running away and death - two things which are often on his mind.

Chapter 11 begins with Tyler finally waking at around noon and noticing a nice freshly baked cake. His mom tells him it is for the Milburys and that he is going to deliver it. He thinks he can get out of it, but finds out his dad also wants him take it to them.

In Chapter 12, Tyler rehearses what he will say to Bethany when he gets to her house, as the cake starts to melt in the heat. When he arrives, he stumbles over his words, but Mrs. Milbury is gracious and asks him to come in and see Bethany. Bethany's mom heads out to get her new crutches, since Chip broke hers and Tyler is left with Bethany. He finally apologizes by groveling on the floor, but Bethany pulls him up and invites him to eat some cake with her.

In Chapter 13, Bethany eats cake and Tyler watches her as he fantasizes about her. When Bethany needs to use the restroom, Tyler carries her up the stairs because she can't walk and he is too tall for her to hang on. The perfect moment is interrupted by Chip's arrival. He's there to take Bethany to try out crutches and is not happy to see Tyler with his sister. He leaves, dazed because Bethany said she will see him tomorrow!

Chapters 8 - 13 Analysis

The video game, Trophet, which Tyler is playing, is working his way through the levels of Hell and is reminiscent of the way Tyler feels about life. He thinks that there is not much positive to keep him living and continues to daydream and think about running



away or killing himself. Death seems to be constantly on his mind and we wonder if he will go through with any of his thoughts.

When Tyler is at Bethany's we see that he gains some hope in life and enjoys her company. She seems sweet and trying to enjoy life, though obviously there are pressures from her parents and brother about living up to the status that they enjoy. She is kind to Tyler though and the confrontation with her brother foreshadows that there will continue to be struggles between Tyler, Bethany, and Chip. How will they turn out? Will Tyler fulfill his dreams of knocking out Chip? Will he fulfill his fantasies with Bethany?



Chapters 14 - 19

Chapters 14 - 19 Summary

Chapter 14 brings Tyler to the first day of school, as he wakes up late and pulls on clean clothes. His sister, Hannah has a different idea, forces him to change clothes, and then fixes his hair for him.

Tyler arrives at school at the beginning of Chapter 15. Other students are noticing him much more than they previously had and the principal, Mr. Hughes reminds him that he is watching him. His sister is actually happy to know that Tyler's reputation is starting to change a bit from just being a nerd. Then she alters her clothes and heads into school.

Chapter 16 runs quickly through Tyler's extremely tough schedule. It includes Calculus, AP English, French IV, AP Art History, and AP US Government and Politics, which were all forced on him by his parents after his misdeed. On his way home, he figures out he has at least 6 hours of homework on the first day! He decides he will have to discuss this with his dad after dinner.

In Chapter 17, Tyler tries speaking with his father about changing his schedule, but his dad is firm. While Tyler dreams of fighting him, he doesn't and loses the battle. Tyler's dad tells him he has to stop working so he can stay in the classes and do well. Tyler mentions that he will be 18 in November, but his father ignores him and goes back to his work.

In Chapter 18, Tyler's mom makes excuses for his dad and Tyler goes to his room.

In Chapter 19, Tyler relays a memory of seeing a plane crash and fantasizing about how it would have been to be in it. He does quit his job as his father demanded, but breaks a CD which his father likes as revenge before leaving for school the next day.

Chapters 14 - 19 Analysis

As school starts, we can see that this year is likely to be very different for Tyler than any before. His sister tries to help him look better and encourages him to act cooler too. Their relationship is a curious one and the reader might wonder if they could be friends or not. His sister's desire to be "cool" and part of the "in" crowd might not allow for a brother who has always been unpopular. However, his misdeed has garnered him more attention. Additionally, his new buff build is definitely helpful as well.

The relationship between Tyler and his father continues to be troublesome. Tyler is raging inside and struggling not to fight with him. However, the reader can see that Tyler is becoming surer of himself, as he speaks up and defends his mother from being yelled at. Tyler's father ignores him and his desires, which leaves the reader questioning whether he really cares about him or just wants to rule with an iron fist.



Tyler continues to think about death and dying. He is obsessed with it and seems on the verge of going through with his ideas. His destruction of his father's CD is a small outlet, but his fear is also still present, as he uses the neighbor's garbage can to dispose of the evidence. Is this act foreshadowing something more severe to come? What will happen with Tyler and his father? Will they ever speak rationally to each other? Will they ever respect each other?



Chapters 20 - 27

Chapters 20 - 27 Summary

Chapter 20 is a happier place for Tyler, as Bethany smiles at him in homeroom every day for 2 weeks. He is amazed because she is speaking with him and he manages to meet her between classes to carry her books for her. The bad news is his grades quickly becoming doomed. Also, Yoda is trying to get Hannah's attention, so he becomes the manager of the JV football team because Hannah is a "jockess."

Chapter 21 is a quick glimpse in Tyler's routine of getting a ride with Yoda to school, along with Hannah. Yoda pays more attention to Hannah than driving, but they arrive safely to school.

In Chapter 21, Tyler swears that the girls all decided together that the day would be a seminude day, as so many girls are dressed provocatively. The girls got upset that the guys were staring and making crude remarks. However, Tyler and the rest of the guys were enjoying the view.

Chapter 22 takes us through the morning, but Bethany was not at school, so Tyler is a bit sad. He also finds out he has 48 hours to re-do an essay for AP English.

Tyler is in the cafeteria for lunch with Hannah for Chapter 24. She wants advice about Calvin, aka Yoda. Then Bethany comes in and hobbles over to their table. She props her leg up on Tyler's lap. He's sure that this is as good as life gets.

Chapter 25 has Tyler hazily attending his afternoon classes. After school, he is looking for Yoda and can't find him. Then he hears Yoda screaming in the locker room.

In Chapter 26, Tyler rescues Yoda from 5 JV football players who had duct taped his butt cheeks together. Although before Tyler would have gone away scared, he takes a new position and barks out at them. He slams one of the boys, Parker, into the lockers, as Chip Milbury walks in. Chip sides with the players, but Tyler, though scared, holds his ground and challenges them. Chip makes the excuse that it isn't the right place and Tyler taunts him. When Chip herds the others out, he tries to gain an edge, but Tyler persists with the challenge.

Chapter 27 shows the readers how close Yoda and Tyler are as friends. When they get back to Yoda's house, they have a soda and snacks and watch TV. They don't talk about the tape or the many other instances when they have both been on the receiving end of bullying. However, Yoda does say he will do Tyler's English essay and Tyler gives Yoda permission to go out with Hannah.



Chapters 20 - 27 Analysis

Tyler's obsession with Bethany continues, though we start to see more that it might be mutual. She is friendly with him and is the one who initiates contact with him, especially in the beginning, as he would never have the nerve to. He is in dreamland, as he never could have imagined having the attention of Bethany. He seems to be willing to do anything for her. He goes out of his way to help her with her books and manage between classes. She is friendly and it seems that something could be growing between them.

The exchange in Chapter 26 with the JV football players and Chip shows that Tyler is starting to assert himself more. He is realizing his strength and that he doesn't have to take bullying anymore. His aggression is a bit on the verge of being out of control, though. It seems it could go either way: Tyler might explode and his aggression will hurt someone or several of the bullies he has been dealing with for long (Chip, his father, etc.) or he might turn inward and hurt himself.



Chapters 28 - 34

Chapters 28 - 34 Summary

In Chapter 28, Tyler asks his mom to buy him some new clothes, since Bethany had complimented a shirt she had bought. She agrees, but reminds him about his meeting with Mr. Benson, his probation officer the next day and the family Christmas photo session on Friday evening.

Chapter 29 is another ride to school with Tyler, Yoda and Hannah. Hannah is in her field hockey uniform and discusses the fact that the uniform violates dress code. She compares school to fascism, Yoda is intrigued and of course, Tyler thinks they're insane.

In Chapter 30, Tyler is called to the principal's office. Mr. Hughes heard about the altercation from the day before. However, nothing official was filed and the principal has to let it go. He reminds him his grades are poor and that he needs to "keep his nose clean." Bethany ate lunch with them again and sat next to Tyler, which made his day much better.

In Chapter 31, Tyler goes to see his probation officer, who sees that he is doing fine and encourages him to keep his nose clean also. Tyler does share that he originally thought of a bomb instead of spray paint, but after nightmares including others being hurt, decided to go with Plan B.

Chapter 32 brings Hannah and Tyler home late from school on Friday and late for the photo session their mom scheduled. Tyler is forced to wear a reindeer sweatshirt from the year before, which should be bad enough. Making it worse is that it is too small! They barely make it to the appointment, but Tyler's dad didn't, but never explained why. Tyler's mom is obsessed with Christmas and reschedules the session.

In Chapter 33, Tyler attends Hannah's field hockey game. Yoda has become their manager as the he starts dating Hannah. During the game Hannah is aggressive and does well in the first half. However, in the second half, she gets hit directly in the face and knocked unconscious. Surprisingly their dad shows up to take Hannah to the ER to have the doctors run tests.

In Chapter 34, Tyler informs us the concussion was minor, but she had to sit out 4 games. Their dad leaves for a business trip and Tyler helps him mom look for her own photography studio. Also, Bethany gets rid of her crutches, but still continues to talk with Tyler. Chip is not happy with this, but does nothing to stop it. Tyler spends more time playing Tophet and working his way through Hell rather than doing his homework or studying.



Chapters 28 - 34 Analysis

These chapters continue to give us insight into the inner thinking of Tyler. He is obsessed with destruction and had even planned bombing the school. However, also revealed is the side of Tyler, which is more rational and thinks through things. He does not want to hurt others, especially any innocent bystanders. The two sides seem to continue to pull Tyler in different directions. Which will be the stronger force?

Additionally, his father continues to be a disappointment. His not showing for the Christmas photo must be hurtful to Tyler's mom, but he doesn't make any apologies or even give a reason. His random act of showing up at Hannah's accident seems odd to both Hannah and Tyler. Of course, his phone rings and he has to get it because it is work related and so his mind is not there as much as his body.



Chapters 35 - 44

Chapters 35 - 44 Summary

In Chapter 35, the high school's homecoming football game has arrived. However, someone has defaced the school's field with "WARRIORS SUCK!" Tyler is worried people might think it was him because of he is known for bad spelling from his previous vandalism. However, Hannah assures him he was at home the night before.

In Chapter 36, Hannah asks Tyler to meet her at the homecoming game. After that, Tyler goes into an unconscious state.

Chapter 37 brings the crushing arrival of Tyler's father, home from work early. He demands that the family sit down to eat dinner together and will not allow Hannah or Tyler to go to the game.

In Chapter 38, Tyler's mom cooks dinner and then heads to bed hung over while Tyler and Hannah eat the meal with their father. Hannah goes to her room and leaves Tyler and her father at the table. His father is edgy, but trying to cover and act like nothing is wrong.

Chapter 39 details Tyler's evening at home, mostly playing Tophet. As he thinks about what Hell would be like for his father, he falls asleep at his desk.

Chapter 40 brings the reader to Monday morning. The family acts as if everything is perfect and normal.

In Chapter 41, Tyler apologizes to Bethany for not being at the game. She understands that parents can freak out sometimes, then offers to take him shopping, since he is too old to let his "mommy" buy his clothes.

Chapter 42 whirls through the next 2 weeks with Bethany flirting with Tyler and several other guys. Tyler sees his probation officer. He got his first hug from Bethany when she got permission to play tennis again from her doctor, along with many other people. Then she invites him to meet her at the bonfire, football game and then a party because she wants to spend time together.

In Chapter 43, Tyler rides the bus home so he can mow the lawn before his dad gives it as an excuse that he can't go out. He goes to the bonfire before the game and waits for Bethany who finally shows up right before it ends. She has an excuse about a flat tire, but Tyler doesn't mind - and he gets his first kiss!

In Chapter 44, Tyler and Bethany watch the football game together with him. However, he is too dazed to watch the game. She heads to the party with her friend's and no room in the car for Tyler, but gives him directions how to get there and another kiss.



Chapters 35 - 44 Analysis

Tyler's worry about others thinking he might have been the one to vandalize the football field foreshadows his future problems. Students are quick to judge and punish whether they have evidence that the person is guilty or not. Most people have probably experienced this kind of quick vengeance in high school.

The evening with his father is a prelude to the increasing dysfunctional family life that the Miller's have. His father ignores the fact that his mother downed enough gin to put down a horse and pretend she has a migraine. The whole family seems to try to side step the father's mood swings and very little real communication takes place. This is causing Tyler to daydream about punishing his father in different ways. What will come of these fantasies? Will he go through with them? Will his father continue to be overbearing at all the wrong times? Will his mother continue to make excuses and do nothing to change the situation?

With Bethany, Tyler's life is better, so he thinks. He is numb from her attention and isn't able to think straight most of the time when she is around. He is amazed that he is suddenly getting this attention from any girl, much less Bethany, after spending most of his life being a total outcast. He seems to want to do anything to please her. He is also conscious of the idea that the whole Bethany situation could be either a dream or setting him up to be punked. He is nervous that she is playing him for a fool, which could be possible, being that her brother hates him so much and he has always been unpopular.



Chapters 45 - 50

Chapters 45 - 50 Summary

In Chapter 45, Tyler walks 2 hours to make it to the party because he doesn't have a ride and didn't want to tell Bethany. When he arrives at the party, it is in full swing and Bethany is already plastered. They dance together and he feels he is in heaven. He isn't happy when he sees his sister at the party with Yoda though, but is too wrapped up in Bethany to worry too much. Then Bethany starts to get tired and leads him upstairs.

In Chapter 46, Bethany comes onto Tyler full swing. She is so drunk though and he has a debate between his hormones and his brain, but his brain wins out and he stops himself from going further with her while she is drunk. He thinks he is being a good guy, but she is insulted and yells at him as she walks out.

In Chapter 47, Tyler starts to follow Bethany, but loses her in the crowd and decides not to worry about her. He sees Yoda and tells him what happened, but when Hannah finds him and tells him he should talk to Bethany, he refuses. A huge fight breaks out and Yoda and Hannah leave. The guy whose house the party is at arrives - having not known it was going on. Tyler finds Bethany passed out on the floor barefoot and wonders how he is going to get her home. He sees Chip passed out in his Jeep and Tyler manages to move him to the passenger seat and put Bethany in the backseat with Chip's friend, Parker. While Tyler is driving, Parker and Bethany start to make out, he tries to stop them, but they don't. He leaves them all in the Jeep in the driveway of the Milbury house and walks home.

In Chapter 48, Tyler is super depressed by the incident at the party and afterwards. He visits his grandfather's grave and cries, but it doesn't help.

Chapter 49 brings Tyler to Monday morning and going to school to face everyone. Rumors of all kinds spread through the school throughout the day, including that Bethany blew him off. He cuts some classes and is called to the office, where he runs into Bethany. At first, he is nervous, but then he decides to taunt her. Chip shows up and defends his sister, but the principal also shows up. They all go to class, but Bethany is crying.

In Chapter 50, Tyler is playing Tophet when Hannah bursts into his room. She shows him a webpage with pictures of Bethany from the party, posed, naked.

Chapters 45 - 50 Analysis

Tyler's willingness to walk 2 hours to get to a party to see Bethany shows his weakness for her and his vulnerability. He seems willing to do anything to please her and wants her more than anything. It is actually surprising when he resists her advances and proves to be noble because she is drunk. Her anger and quick tongue in disregarding



him shows a typical mindset for a popular teenage girl. Her willingness to make out with Parker on the way home shows how careless she really is about herself and no doubt Tyler.

Tyler is lost and confused. He doesn't know if he should care or not care. He feels like he did the right thing in not taking advantage of her drunken state, but also feels horrible because of her hurtful words and actions. When he decides to taunt her in the hallway, it shows that he is finally sticking up for himself and trying not to let everyone bully him. She is an easy target though in many ways. When she leaves crying, Tyler feels guilty. He is shocked by the webpage that Hannah shows him of Bethany that evening. This scene is very important as it proves Tyler didn't know about the website before Hannah showed it to him and that Hannah is aware of this information. Hannah isn't so aware of who blew off whom though at the party between Tyler and Bethany. Bethany tells everyone that she blew Tyler off and most of the students believe her, of course, just as Hannah does. This event foreshadows what is to come with the rest of the school easily believing one side of a story and not taking consideration of any facts.



Chapters 51 - 63

Chapters 51 - 63 Summary

In Chapter 51, Bethany does not show up to school, but rumors fly about the situation. Tyler tries to protect her and finds the rumors changing to him being accused.

In Chapter 52, Tyler is called to the office the next day. Mr. Hughes, the principal discusses the seriousness of the situation, but Tyler is adamant that he didn't do it and has no idea about who did.

In Chapter 53, the rumors continue to swirl, accusing and judging Tyler for it, saying he was arrested for it. However, he wasn't but the police do show up at his home that night. They question him and take his computer as evidence. He tells them that he didn't take the pictures and about what really happened. They are investigating and he is an official suspect. After they leave his father berates him and assumes he is guilty and that he will lose his job because of it.

In Chapter 54, Tyler is trying to sleep, but his parents are in a yelling match. Hannah comes in to sleep in his room and as they drift off to sleep tells him she knows he didn't do it.

In Chapter 55, the student body starts their punishment, assuming that Tyler is guilty. They shove him, kick him, and harass him with every step in the hallways. Hannah and Yoda try to encourage him that it will get better, but have little luck. They also analyze what makes someone popular and how unpopular kids can't cross over.

In Chapter 56, Friday has arrived and Bethany has come back to school - forced by her parents. Tyler is kept in the office for homeroom by the principal. Tyler is bullied and hit by other students, but then the principal removes him from classes.

In Chapter 57, the family goes for their annual Christmas picture. They don't talk and all pretend that everything is normal.

In Chapter 58, Tyler's father wakes him up early to do chores. While Tyler is on the roof, his dad brings up pliers and they have a short heart-to-heart where his dad almost apologizes, but still blames Tyler. The police officer comes again on Sunday to interview him, but he gives the same answers.

In Chapter 59, Tyler is called to office on Monday morning. In the meeting with his parents and the principal, his mother defends him and his right to stay in classes. However, Tyler says he would rather just have classes in study hall - a sort of in-school suspension. While he is stuck in there he continues to hear the rumors, others are being investigated as well, but the students all agree that he is garbage.



In Chapter 60, Tyler has his 2nd day in "limbo" and is still harassed by other students. Yoda comes by at the end of the day and they go to the mall together. Yoda is looking for a job and then they eat. But Tyler is in another world, as Yoda tries to talk to him and get him to open up. They get in an argument and Tyler says Yoda is just trying to get in his sister's pants. Yoda says he will regret saying that and leaves him.

In Chapter 61, Yoda goes on a trip to look at colleges. Tyler's English teacher tutors him in his free period. Bethany stops by the study hall room Tyler is in, but neither of them says anything and then she leaves. The police come by to ask questions again, but his mom gets her lawyer's card and tells them the interview is over. His dad has a scotch, but his mom makes a decision not to drink.

In Chapter 62, Tyler finds most of his classes easier now that he is not in the classes, except English. His teacher, Mr. Salvatore, gives him extra tutoring after school. He misses the late bus because his locker jams when he is trying to get his jacket out. He has to walk home. On his way, he is jumped by 3 guys in Halloween masks. They covered him with a blanket and then beat him up, it was Parker, Chip and someone else. When they left, he walked home.

In Chapter 63, he arrives to an empty house. When his parents see him, they are upset and his mom takes care of him. Tyler and his dad talk and he admits he knows it was Chip and his friends, but says if they call the police he will not cooperate. His father agrees. Then his father tells him that they are thinking about sending him to a military boarding school. Tyler is outraged. He goes to his room and then his mom arrives and his parents get into another shouting match.

Chapters 51 - 63 Analysis

Tyler is assumed guilty, which is common among teenagers. He doesn't get a chance to prove his innocence. His father is sure that he is guilty and even if he isn't, then he needs to be removed from the situation to keep the situation from getting worse. His father seems more worried about his own reputation and his job than he does about Tyler and his future. The kids at school are just normal kids, assuming guilt and doling out punishment in social terms without any proof or evidence of guilt. Tyler's life seems to be spinning further out of control.

Tyler's obsession with Hell and his thoughts about life continue to be more depressing. Will he ever manage to gain control of his life or his thoughts? Will he escape the pain that seems to constantly swarm into his life. His social standing is bad enough, but then being bullied relentlessly is heart-wrenching. The fact that the principal and his father seem to assume he is guilty and just want to remove him from the situation doesn't help him. His mother's support gives him some hope though, even though he decides to be away from the students. It is understandable, as nobody wants to be constantly harassed and bullied - physically, emotionally, or socially, which is what is happening to Tyler.



His father suggestion of sending Tyler to boarding school makes him irate. It is interesting to think that Tyler has thought many times about running away or killing himself, but the idea of being sent away is not okay. He feels that his life is hell and that his whole life is wrapped up in the mess.



Chapters 64 - 69

Chapters 64 - 69 Summary

In Chapter 64, Tyler awakens and feels his life is not worth living. He thinks through the many times he has contemplated suicide and always felt life wasn't bad enough, but now he thinks it is. The question is how. He thinks about different options and then decides he knows.

In Chapter 65, he goes to the high school's roof and it is a Friday evening. He is contemplating which side to jump off, as he doesn't want the wrong person to find him. He starts thinking of other ways to kill himself. Janitor Joe shows up and they talk, he says that he thinks Tyler runs away when things get tough. He tells him that he should pick somewhere warmer, but then says to stop whining about his dad and live his own life.

Chapter 66 brings us to Tyler's 18th birthday. He is at home and knows that he can't kill himself, but that he should run away.

In Chapter 67, his sister wakes him to wish him happy birthday and leaves to go babysit. His mom calls later and wishes him happy birthday and they make plans for dinner. He thinks more about running away and decides that it is the best option.

In Chapter 68, he begins writing his good-bye letter to his family. He goes down to the basement to look for a dictionary to re-write the letter better. When he comes back, Hannah is in his room and has read the note. They argue and she is trying to talk him out of it while the mom she is babysitting for is honking and waiting for her to come out. He promises he will go see Yoda, but it is a lie.

In Chapter 69, he prepares to leave. He goes into his dad's room and finds \$500. He is ready to go, but then remembers his father's gun. He gets it out and loads it. He puts the gun in his mouth. He debates, sitting? Standing? He decides he wants to watch in the mirror, but he is too tall for his dad's mirror. He realizes he doesn't fit into his dad's life or image; he is bigger than he is. He throws up and then gets the gun, bullets and his baseball bat and leaves.

Chapters 64 - 69 Analysis

Is Tyler's life really so bad that he should commit suicide? He thinks so, but then as he contemplates different aspects we can see that he really isn't the suicide type. He has a different reason for why each way is not good. He would leave a mess for someone else to clean up. His body would be found by young girls who would be horrified by the incident. He has reasons and we see that while he thinks life is bad, he really isn't ready to kill himself.



He decides it would be easier to just run away. He thinks that this will solve his problems and that he can have a new start. This is typical for a teenager; he isn't alone in these feelings. While, things in his life are worse than for many, running away rarely solves a person's problems. Would it really be a clean start? Would he really get to have a better life? Does it matter? Tyler seems like the running kind to Janitor Joe, but is he really even strong enough to run away?

The scene in his father's bedroom with the gun is enlightening. Tyler has long tried to fulfill his father's image. He is trying to live up to his father's expectations and everyone else's. He feels that he has failed. Then he realizes that he is bigger than they are. He can be more than what they think and that he is not less. It takes him putting the gun in his mouth and debating to realize that this is not what he wants. What will be his next step? Will he fight back against his father? Against the bullies at school? This is a huge turning point in Tyler's life and he has to decide which direction he will go in life, but we realize suicide and running away are no longer his options.



Chapters 70 - 78

Chapters 70 - 78 Summary

In Chapter 70, Tyler goes to see Yoda and then go to a batting cage. Yoda coaches him on visualizing attacking someone as the ball. He finally hits a ball. He visualizes hitting Chip, telling off Bethany, hitting Mr. and Mrs. Milbury, all the other jerks and bullies, including his father.

In Chapter 71, Yoda takes Tyler to the river where he tosses the gun in one direction and the bullets in another. Yoda takes him home.

In Chapter 72, Tyler sleeps for 13 hours and then does homework. His mom and sister don't bother him. His father is still traveling for work.

In Chapter 73, Tyler heads to school. First, he goes to the office to see the principal, but he is busy. He goes to the guidance councilor and tells her he is changing her schedule. He needs his parent's signature, but he says he will get it. Then he meets the principal and tells him he will start attending classes again tomorrow. Mr. Hughes isn't happy, but can't say anything when Tyler insists he is not the problem here. Tyler returns the stolen key to Janitor Joe then goes to the cafeteria. He confronts Chip by throwing the blanket at him. He doesn't back down and is ready to fight, but Chip backs down. As he is heading out of school, Bethany tries to talk to him, but he just leaves. He visits his probation officer to determine what his consequences will be for going to the party. The day goes well and he heads to Yoda's to relax, until his mom calls.

In Chapter 74, the police are at his house. They tell him they have determined it was some other guy who took the pictures and posted them. They return his computer and then they leave. His father comes home. He has been fired and blames Tyler. His mom informs his dad that the police found the guilty boy. His dad still blames him, but Tyler sticks up for himself. His dad goes down to the basement. His mom tries to get them out of the house, but Tyler is fed up. He does down with a baseball bat.

In Chapter 75, Tyler goes down to confront his father. His father yells to leave him alone and yells at his mom. Tyler has had enough and when his dad starts yelling, he smashes his father's model train set to pieces. When he calms down, he tells them about the plan to run away and the gun and wanting to die. He tells his father that he blames him and himself for it all. But that he is going to start living his own life. Then he tells his dad to clean up the mess.

In Chapter 76, Tyler is at Yoda's house and stays the night. He goes home early the next morning.

In Chapter 77, Tyler is walking home. His dad is sitting out on the porch when he arrives. They talk. His father admits that he thought not hitting them like his father did



was better, but now he knows it wasn't. His dad apologizes. They go in for breakfast and talk more, even hug and say they will try to do better.

In Chapter 78, his dad stays upstairs instead of going downstairs. His sister and mom are glad he is home. He plays his video game Tophet and makes it all the way down to Level 1. Then he wins. He has a new choice to be the Lord or Darkness or be reincarnated. He chooses wisely.

Chapters 70 - 78 Analysis

Tyler finally decides to take control of his own life. He needs to work out some aggression first, which is positive, rather than berating himself mentally, he goes to a batting cage. He is helpful for him. The next day, he moves forward in making his own decisions and taking control of his life. He's not willing to let others determine his destiny.

His confrontation with Chip is also healing, as he knows that bullies at school are not going to rule his life anymore, nor will he let the principal bully him just because he isn't rich and popular. He doesn't stop to talk to Bethany. While she was his dream girl, it shows that he realizes there are much more important matters in life. She did him wrong and he sticks up for himself by walking away. He is not willing to be her little puppy dog anymore.

The confrontation with his father has been long in coming and is well overdue. The reader might wonder if he is going to totally lose it and bash his father with the bat, as well. However, he manages and just smashes the train model. The conversation in the basement is fair. While he blames his father, he also takes responsibility. The reader thinks back to Janitor Joe's comments about not just whining and blaming your father. Obviously, Tyler has taken this to heart.

The next day when Tyler returns, he chats with his father. They don't break down and get totally emotional, they are men. They don't solve all their problems, but the commit to working on them and trying. It is improvement, more realistic, not a sappy happy ending, but more like reality.

Tyler finishes Tophet, the game of Hell. His choice between becoming the Lord of Darkness and being reincarnated is much like life. He can choose to spiral further out of control or take chances at living life better. He chooses wisely.



Characters

Tyler Miller

Tyler is a suicidal teenage boy, entering his senior year of high school. He has always been unpopular and often the brunt of jokes and beatings from popular boys. He has muscled up over the summer thanks to hard work in the sun for community service and landscaping work. As he gains new attention from Bethany, the Queen Bee of the school, he struggles with the new idea of being accepted. His family life is not great as he deals with pressure from his father. When he is accused of posting pictures of Bethany naked, his life continues to rage out of control. He continues to contemplate suicide or running away, as he struggles with life. A typical teenage story of struggle and coming into his own, *Twisted* is narrated by this struggling teenage boy.

You get the story from his point of view as he struggles with life and the choices to make. Although he is a senior he is just coming into his own and figuring out more about who he is and what he wants. He has long thought of suicide due to the many struggles he has with life. First, his family life is not great, with his father being a bully and his mother making excuses and drinking it away while pretending things are perfect. Second, school is not great for him. While he is not popular, he is more of an outcast and also not particularly smart, so he struggles with both other students and teachers.

His mind diverges from daydreaming about how life could be to ways that he might kill himself. The inner mind and thinking of this troubled young man are presented throughout the story in a way which is open and honest and allows it to be normal, but not healthy. His coming into his own is a slow process, as in real life.

Bethany Milbury

Bethany is the Queen Bee of the high school. She is popular and pretty and the dream girl of Tyler and many other boys in the school. She is intrigued by Tyler's new built body and begins to give him attention. At her parents party the weekend before school starts, Tyler's family is there. Her twin brother, Chip, pushes Tyler and he falls into her and thus into the waiters causing broken glass and her injury. She is on crutches and healing through most of the story and uses this to her advantage to get Tyler and other boys to help her.

She parties as well, is a part of the popular crowd, and enjoys a fast-paced social life. Bethany finds herself in a difficult position because naked pictures of her show up online after a huge Halloween party. She, along with many other students, thinks that Tyler committed the act. She shuns him and is part of making his life miserable. She is quick to assume that he did it since he decided not to make-out with her at the party when she was drunk.



She softens when she finds out Tyler did not do it. She seems to feel some regret, but we don't get to know her exact feelings as this is Tyler's viewpoint and in the end he walks away to take care of other business.

Chip Milbury

Chip is the school jock, the popular guy and a bit of a bully, especially toward Tyler. He continues this attitude through their senior year and is none too happy when Bethany, his twin sister, takes a liking to Tyler. He taunts Tyler, but knows that he can't take him on alone because of Tyler's new strength. He continues to be a jerk through throughout, the story. At the beginning of the story Tyler lets him win an arm wrestling contest because Tyler's father works for Chip's father. Chip understands this because later when there is a chance to fight he backs down.

He finally takes on Tyler after the incident with his sister is exposed, but he does so with the help of 2 other boys and by a surprise attack on him, not really a fair fight at all. He thinks he has won, but when Tyler finally decides to stick up for himself Chip first tries to play the tough guy act, but knowing that he is the weaker of the two, he is all talk and taunting and doesn't fight him.

Hannah Miller

Hannah is Tyler's younger sister and starting her freshman year of high school. She desperately wants to be popular and she is a bit of a chic jock. She knows her brother is not popular, but enjoys the attention of his best friend, Calvin, aka Yoda. They start dating and she becomes closer to her brother as he struggles with accusations for things which she knows he did not commit.

Calvin aka Yoda

Yoda gets his name because he is extremely into Star Wars, even as a senior. He is Tyler's best friend, but also likes his sister, Hannah. He decides to become a manager for a sports team to gain her attention, but this backfires when he is picked on. Tyler rescues him from the jocks in the locker room. He then becomes the manager for the girl's field hockey team which Hannah plays on. They start dating, but he still tries to maintain his friendship and help Tyler as he struggles with life. Yoda is a classic nerd, but also seems comfortable with his place and is seeking a good college and moving past high school life.

Mrs. Miller

She is Tyler's mom and overall a sweet person dealing with a bad marriage. She is a pet photographer and trying to grow her business. She continually makes excuses for her husband's outrageous behavior. She drinks to soothe her problems. She supports



Tyler in some ways through the problems, but seems unsure of whether he is innocent. She is very happy when she finds out he didn't do it and is cleared by the police.

Mr. Miller

This is Tyler's father, a strict man with lots of pressure from work. He is trying to provide for his family and do well, but he often neglects them or treats them poorly in how he speaks to them. He continues to struggle as his work is investigated for accounting issues and his boss is the father of Bethany. When naked pictures of her show up online and Tyler is accused, his life becomes even more complicated. In the end, he is fired and blames Tyler, but Tyler stands up to him. When they talk he realizes that although he was not physically abusive, as his father was to him, he still was not a good father and husband.

Mr. Milbury

Chip and Bethany's father is Mr. Milbury. He is also the owner of the company which Tyler's father works for and is very rich. He is a bit cocky and puts a lot of pressure on Chip to perform well.

Mr. Hughes

Mr. Hughes is the principal of the high school. He seems to be much like the students in believing that popularity makes a person right and being unpopular makes them guilty or suspicious. He is quick to assume Tyler's guilt and even before the incident is hard on him because of the graffiti of the previous year.

Parker

A JV football player and popular sophomore at school. Bethany flirts with him. He is friends with Chip and part of the popular crowd. He does not like Tyler and helps Chip jump him.

Mr. Salvatore

Tyler's English teacher is Mr. Salvatore. He takes time to try to help Tyler understand the concepts and tutors him after school and on his free periods when Tyler is in in-school suspension. He seems to want to see Tyler succeed.

Janitor Joe

Tyler does his community service under Janitor Joe and learns that he is a pretty good guy. Joe finds Tyler on the roof the evening that Tyler is contemplating jumping off to commit suicide. He speaks with him and mentions that he thinks of Tyler as a kind of "runner" when things are tough.



Objects/Places

Tophet

This is the video game which Tyler is playing. The idea is to work your way down through the levels of Hell.

George Washington High School

This is the high school which the students of the story go to.

Baretta

This is Tyler's father's gun. Tyler contemplates killing himself with it, but ends up throwing it in the river.

The bonfire

This is a gathering before the Halloween football game for students. Where Tyler first kisses Bethany.

Homecoming

This is a football game in high school, which usually has a highly attendance and is celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm. Tyler doesn't get to go see it and sit by Bethany because his father comes home in a bad mood.

The Milbury's house

This is the home of Chip and Bethany, Tyler's arch-enemy and dream girl. This is also the home of Tyler's father's boss. The house is huge and although within walking distance from the Miller's, it is like another universe.

The Miller's house

This is the place where Tyler lives with his parents and sister, but very little "living" is done together. They seem to pretend here a lot, but rarely act like a real family.



The high school roof

Tyler sneaks up to the roof to jump off and die. Janitor Joe sees him up there and they talk and Tyler goes home instead.

Mr. Miller's bedroom

Tyler contemplates suicide in this room. He even puts the gun in his mouth. He wants to watch in the mirror, but has a revelation that he is bigger than his father.

The batting cage

This is where Tyler works out his aggression against the world after deciding not to run away or commit suicide.

The river

This is where Tyler throws the gun to get rid of it.



Themes

Becoming a man

Tyler is the narrator of the story. He considers himself an unpopular kid entering his senior year of high school who is constantly struggling with suicidal thoughts. He has always been a small guy who is teased mercilessly and hence he tries to stay under the radar. However, now it is time for him to become a man. He must make choices about life. Will he please his father? Will he become part of the popular crowd? Will he run away? Will he kill himself?

All of these thoughts are on his mind and the book takes us on a venture through his thoughts and actions. Just because he is turning 18 and finishing high school does not mean he understands what being a man is or how to be one. Life is complicated for teenage boys and this story delves deeply into the thoughts on one. He is trying to figure out how to live life and if life is even worth living.

For a large part of his life, other people have dictated to him how to live and have controlled his life. He has rarely stood up for himself. He is bullied by his father verbally and emotionally. They are not close and his father has not helped him learn how to become a man. Kids at school have also long bullied him. He has never been popular. He has had his face shoved in toilets and has run away scared many times.

Now he is a senior in high school. What direction will his life take? Will he be railroaded by his father, the principal and kids at school for a crime he didn't commit? Will he stand up and take responsibility for his life and actions. Tyler must make many decisions as he feels his life is spiraling further out of control. He must become a man.

Suicide

Twisted is a book about life's twists and turns and how things do not always go as they should. Unfortunately for Tyler, he is convicted in the eyes of his peers and his father of something he did not do. This is not the first time life has been hard for Tyler. He has long been ridiculed and bullied by his father and kids at school. He has finally decided he has had enough. He wants to kill himself.

He has thought many times of death and dying. When he sees a car crash, he imagines himself in it. When he sees a fire, he wonders what it would be like to be there. He is constantly on the verge of dying and wishing he could just end it. He has always stopped himself in the past, thinking that this isn't the worst and that it wouldn't be right to do it if it isn't the worst.

He finally decides that it is as bad as it can get. He decides he is going to commit suicide. He is ready and starts thinking about how exactly he will do it. He decides he will jump



off the roof of the high school. He knows that it will be quick and then over. What stops him? He has many excuses and then is interrupted. He doesn't go through with it.

Suicide is not a simple solution for Tyler. He thinks running away might be better, but is it?

When he puts the gun in his mouth, he wants to see Death approach. He again thinks he is ready. Why doesn't he do it? Because he realizes that suicide isn't for him. He believes that he is tougher than that. He believes that he is bigger than that. He decides it is time to confront his issues head on and not run from them. He begins to believe in himself and wins the battle.

Popularity

Life is not easy for most teenagers. Popular or no, most teenagers struggle with decisions and feel uncomfortable at times. But for those students and young people who are not popular, who are not a part of the crowd, life is even rougher. This is the case for Tyler. He struggles with who he is and why he is in the place he is.

A conversation takes place with Hannah, Yoda, and Tyler contemplating about what makes a person popular. Hannah realizes that it isn't that the popular kids are actually liked. However, they are good-looking, rich and hold the power. Nobody actually likes them. But they have the power, thus they are popular.

Twisted looks more deeply at this situation of a high school. It seems that even the principal buys into the idea of which students are popular and should get a pass versus those that are not. The students are, of course, quick to jump on the bandwagon and do whatever the popular kids direct. Thus Tyler is punished socially for something he did not do. The power lies not in the evidence, but with popularity.



Style

Point of View

Twisted is narrated by Tyler. He is a teenager starting his senior year of school. He has a dysfunctional family life and is not popular at school. He shares with us the story of what happens as well as his feelings, nightmares, dreams, and fantasies. This is the only point of view that the reader gets, so they are connected to Tyler. There might be other perspectives to consider, which would change our image of the situation, but we don't know any of them.

The reader is forced to bond with Tyler and accept his version of reality as truth. He has long struggled with suicidal thoughts and the reader thus has to navigate with him through all his emotions.

Setting

Twisted is set in pretty much everyday America. The high school that Tyler attends could be almost any high school in America. There are popular kids, jocks, nerds, and they are all a part of the student body. They are just typical teenagers, all dealing with their own problems and struggles, much like most teenagers.

They are quick to judge Tyler when he is accused, as he is not popular. They harass him and bully him in ways similar to what happens in many high schools across America.

Language and Meaning

Tyler is a teenager, so the words he chooses are often simple and fitting to that age. He is however, suicidal, so some of his words are more depressing in nature.

Structure

The Chapters are extremely short and there are almost 80 chapters within 300 pages. However, each one tells a snippet akin to what you would think of coming from a teenage boy's head. Since Tyler is the narrator, this makes sense. Each scene has its own chapter and some are more detailed than others, while some pass through weeks in just a few sentences.



Quotes

"Character building, my father said" (Chapter 1, p. 1).

"Meet my father: Corporate Tool. He'd always been a hardass, but since his latest promotion, he'd dialed it up" (Chapter 2, p. 5).

"Meet my mother: pet photographer, cake baker, nice lady who smells faintly of gin" (Chapter 2, p. 6).

"And then I made the mistake of looking at Dad. He shook his head, just a little bit, from side to side. I closed my eyes and let my enemy win" (Chapter 5, p. 17).

"I watched the replays obsessively, trying to figure what the kid's last second felt like. Did he feel anything? Did he feel everything? Which would be worse?" (Chapter 19, p. 57).

"We danced to two more songs, then my angel started dropping. When she led me up the stairs, I suspected we were headed for the Pearly Gates" (Chapter 45, p. 122).

"Yeah I did it. I rolled away from her. I counted to twenty. Then I counted to fifty. I sat up, carefully, and rebuckled my belt" (Chapter 46, p. 125).

"Hannah burst into my room, shoved me off my keyboard, and opened a browser window" (Chapter 50, p. 138).

"I'm proud of you for that, Tyler," he said. "I just wish you could have applied that thinking to the entire incident" (Chapter 58, p. 163).

"I didn't need a computer or a pathetic role-playing game. Hell could be found at 623 Copeland Drive" (Chapter 63, p. 188).

"To watch myself die, I'd have to hunch over a little. I was bigger than my father" (Chapter 69, p. 211).

"I pulled the Beretta out of the backpack. 'This won't hurt the fish,' I said. 'And if I take it apart' - I ejected the clip and removed the barrel - 'it can't hurt anybody'" (Chapter 71, p. 218).

"Mom let go of Dad and walked over to stand next to Hannah, in arm's reach of the fireplace pokers. 'The police were her,' she said. 'They arrested the boy who took those pictures. Tyler is completely innocent'" (Chapter 74, p. 232).

"That's not good enough," I said. "Not anymore" (Chapter 74, p. 235).

"My father beat me with his belt a couple of times a week for my entire childhood," he said. "That's why I swore I'd never hit you or your sister. And I never did."



"No, you didn't."

"But it wasn't enough" (Chapter 77, p. 246).

"I chose wisely" (Chapter 78, p. 250).



Topics for Discussion

Why are some people popular and others are not? Do you agree with Hannah's theory?

How does a boy learn to become a man?

When, if ever, is suicide okay for someone? Do you think Tyler would have been justified in committing suicide if he done so?

Tyler is a confused young man, bordering on making poor choices and wise ones. Which choice do you think was his wisest? What poor choices do you think he made?

How much is Tyler to blame for the situation in which he finds himself? What choices did he make which contributed to his difficulties?

Analyze the game Tophet and the role that it plays in the story.

Tyler's mother makes excuses for his father's behavior. Is this helpful? What would you have done if you were Tyler's mother in this situation?

What happens after this? Do things get better? Tyler still has a semester left of school. How does it go for him? What about his relationship with his dad?