

You Know You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel Study Guide

You Know You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel by Cecily Von Ziegesar

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Contents

[You Know You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel Study Guide.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Plot Summary.....3](#)

[hey people - to catch a thief.....4](#)

[stood up in brooklyn - hey people! FAMILY MATTERS.....9](#)

[rendezvous at grand central station - and the winner is.....14](#)

[j just tastes better-hey people!.....19](#)

[Characters.....22](#)

[Objects/Places.....25](#)

[Themes.....27](#)

[Style.....29](#)

[Quotes.....30](#)

[Topics for Discussion.....31](#)



Plot Summary

"You Know You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel" by Cecily Von Ziegesar tells the story of a group of young people from the upper east side of New York City. Born to a world of privilege, the young men and women still have to deal with stressful situations in life including romantic relationships, friendships, and getting into college. The highs and lows of their lives are recorded and published to all by an unknown entity who calls herself Gossip Girl.

It's almost winter and the seniors are starting to talk about college. Blair Waldorf is turning 17 and is determined to finally lose her virginity to Nate, but the time never seems right. Things aren't going the way she plans. Her mother decides to marry the bald, fat Cyrus on her birthday. This leaves her with a step-brother to contend with. She also has to get into Yale, which is her only college of choice. Blair has her future all mapped out, with Nate going to the same college. She doesn't know that he's more interested in Brown University or maybe even taking a year off of school to sail around the world with his father.

Dan Humphrey is also a senior. He is madly in love with the beautiful Serena, who used to be close friends with Blair. However, Blair cut off the friendship and made Serena a social outcast after she discovered that Serena and Nate had sex before Serena had gone off to boarding school. Now, Serena is happy to have Dan in her life. She needs a good friend. The two make plans to tour the Brown campus together. This makes Jenny, Dan's sister, very happy since she is in awe of Serena.

Nate and his friends join Serena and Dan, to Dan's great disappointment. During the trip, Serena and Nate reconnect as friends. Blair and her soon-to-be stepbrother, Aaron, drive off to Yale for her interview. During their trip, she smokes some of his all-natural cigarettes. She almost misses her interview when she oversleeps and she bombs it by not thinking clearly. She inadvertently tells the interviewer too many personal details, including the fact that she stole some pajamas for her boyfriend. To compensate, she asks her father to make a donation to Yale.

After the college weekend, Serena discovers that the film she made with Vanessa won first place in the Film Festival. She gives the tickets to Cannes that she won to Vanessa and Jenny.

The wedding plans continue and Blair and Serena get thrown together. Blair continues to ignore the other girl, but Serena doesn't retaliate. The wedding goes off without a hitch, in spite of gossip and rumors surrounding the marriage. At the reception, Blair is determined to connect with Nate, but he has invited Jennifer to meet him at the hotel. Dan talks with Serena and realized that she truly doesn't love him. Vanessa cheers him up and Blair sees Jenny and Nate together. She goes into the ladies' room to cry. Serena finds her and comforts her. They become friends again.



hey people - to catch a thief

hey people - to catch a thief Summary

"You Know You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel" by Cecily Von Ziegesar tells the story of a group of young people from the upper east side of New York City. Born to a world of privilege, the young men and women still have to deal with stressful situations in life including romantic relationships, friendships and getting into college. The highs and lows of their lives are recorded and published to all by an unknown entity who calls herself Gossip Girl.

It is almost winter time for those living in the Upper East side of New York City. This is where the wealthy live in fabulous apartments and attend exclusive private schools. While the boys are playing in Central Park and the girls go shopping, it's also time to fill out college applications for the Ivy Leagues. It's the senior year of high school and the wealthy can't give in to the pressure.

Blair is shopping with her gay dad. She is been thinking about going all the way with N. Gossip Girl points out that nobody wants to go to college as a virgin.

Mr. Harold Waldorf, Esq. offers a champagne toast to his daughter, Blair at Le Giraffe. Nate is there as well. Blair thanks her dad for coming to visit her, and she's glad he left his boyfriend back at their chateau in France. They order steak, and Blair thinks about the past year during which her father came out, and her parents got divorced.

Blair's father asks her if she's still thinking about going to Yale, his alma mater. She says she isn't considered anywhere else. Mr. Waldorf asks Nate where he is applying. The college talk makes Blair nervous so she goes to the bathroom to throw up. While she's gone, Nate says that he doesn't think he will get into Yale since his grades aren't very good. He has an interview at Brown the next week. Nate thinks it might be a good idea to take a year off to go sailing with his father.

Blair comes back to the table, and she talks about the plans she has for her future with Nate at school. After the main course, the waitstaff comes out of the kitchen with a giant birthday cake. Blair is embarrassed, especially since her birthday isn't for three weeks. Her father gives her a pair of shoes she adores.

Serena Van Der Woodson and Daniel Humphrey walk into Serendipity 3 east 60th St., which is a hamburger and ice cream parlor. Dan wishes that it could be more romantic, but he's happy just to be with Serena. She wants to get the biggest sundaes on the menu. As they wait for their order, they talk about the book Dan is reading. It's a heavy book about misfits in purgatory. It isn't the type of book Serena reads since she has trouble reading. She admits that she has a hard time paying attention since her mind wanders.



Dan gives her some advice on reading and remembering. He tells her to savor the words. They talk about college, and Dan says he wants to go somewhere with a good writing program. Serena tells him that she is planning to visit Brown since her brother goes there. She asks Dan if he wants to come along. He is really excited about it, but acts casual and says he'll get back to her.

As they walk down the street, Serena talks about how much she loves Barneys, the department store. They head uptown, and as they pass the Waldorf building on 72nd St., Serena thinks about what went wrong in her relationship with her friendship. Blair, Nate, and Serena always did things together. Serena slept with Nate, and Blair had recently found out. She cut off the friendship and turned Serena's old friends against Serena.

Serena and Dan sit on the steps of the Met for a while then she decides she has to go home. She is very thankful for her new friend. Dan sits there for a while longer thinking about Serena.

Blair finds out that Nate is going to Brown on the same weekend that she is going to Yale. This upsets her because she had been planning to spend the weekend at a bed-and-breakfast with him. The last time they were going to have sex together, Nate spilled the beans about having sex with Serena the summer before she went to boarding school.

They are together in her room. Blair comes out of the bathroom, ready to have sex with Nate. They have some awkward moments as they begin to make out, then they hear her mother in the apartment. Her mother says that she and Cyrus have something important to tell her.

Blair tells Nate to get dressed then goes out to talk with her mother. Eleanor Waldorf flashes her new engagement ring. Blair can't believe that Cyrus is going to be her new stepfather. She congratulates them and finds out that they are going to get married on her birthday. Her mother is very excited.

Blair goes back to her room, and Nate tries to comfort Blair. They try to pick up where they left off, but Blair feels as if her life is a disaster and can't get into the mood. Nate decides to go home.

S is determined to stay lucky

On Saturday morning, Serena's mother comes in to talk with her. She tells her that Eleanor Waldorf is getting married and wants Serena to be a bridesmaid. Serena realizes how hard this must be for Blair, especially since she knows the wedding is on Blair's birthday. She calls her brother to tell him about the wedding, but he is too hung over to talk about it. As she brushes her teeth, Serena compares herself to Erik. She decides that she is going to show everyone that she is worth something. Her first step is going to Brown, and she hopes she is going to get lucky and get in.

one lucky westsider, one lonely one



Jenny Humphrey looks in the mirror and doesn't like what she sees. Her boobs are too big. She goes to the kitchen, and her older brother Dan joins her. She asks what happened when he went out with Serena the night before. As they are talking, Serena calls and invites Dan to the wedding. He agrees. He also tells her that he would like to go to go to Brown with her, and they make arrangements to meet at Grand Central.

Jenny asks him what the call was about, and she can't believe that he is invited to the wedding. She asks him if Serena said anything about this film festival the next day, but Dan doesn't respond. Jenny realizes that up to this point she has relied on her brother for company. Now, she needs to find some new friends. She is on her own.

hey people!

Gossip Girl writes about the upcoming wedding and wonders how B and S are going to handle it. People write in by e-mail asking questions for Gossip Girl to answer. They ask about Blair's new stepbrother and whether or not Blair's father donated \$1 million to Yale so she can get in.

B is determined to make N want her

Eleanor Waldorf tries to get Blair out of her room. She tries to avoid them, but she realizes she can't. Her little brother Tyler is at the table, and they all talk about the wedding. Cyrus suggests booking a few suites at the hotel so the girls can change their gowns and do their hair. He also thinks some of the guests might want to use the rooms if they get tipsy and want to crash until morning. This gives Blair the idea that she and Nate could get a suite. She asks her mom to book a suite for herself and for her friends.

Mrs. Waldorf tells Blair she can't wait for her to meet Aaron, Cyrus' son. Even though he's only 16, he's a graduating senior ready for college. Blair pictures the greasy-haired, zit-faced geek with horrible clothes. Her mom asks if she will be home to help with wedding plans, but Blair lies and says she already has plans.

Nate tells Blair he's meeting guys at the park to play ball. She tells him about the wedding, but Nate doesn't really talk about it with her. He's in a hurry to get to his friends. She asks if he loves her, but he is already hanging up. She has a romantic image of herself stopping by his house with a gift. He finds it and is so intoxicated by the smell of her perfume on the gift that he longs for her. Blair decides to go shopping at Barneys.

to catch a thief

Serena tells Erik that she's going to be at Brown next weekend. She says she is bringing her friend Dan, and he tells her he is having a party. After she hangs up she decides to go shopping at Barneys. While Serena is enticed by items at the makeup counter, she notices Blair and decides to follow her.

Blair isn't quite sure what she was looking for. She didn't know what Nate will like. When she sees a rack of cashmere pajama bottoms, she decides it's the perfect gift. She goes



to pay for it and finds out that the card is denied. Not knowing that Serena is watching, Blair stuffs the pajama bottoms into her purse. Blair sees Serena after she leaves the store and wonders if Serena saw her steal.

hey people - to catch a thief Analysis

The first chapter introduces the reader to the setting and main characters in a mysterious, intriguing manner. It is written in first person, without saying anything about the person talking aside from a signature—Gossip Girl. The main characters themselves are only addressed by the first letter of their first name.

This chapter offers depth and insight into Blair. The reader learns that she is a bulimic with attitude that takes her looks to the next level. She accepts and loves her father, but has a hard time with the reality that he is openly gay. Blair is a controlling being who expects life to go the way she wants it. Nate is there as well. They are good friends, and she wants him to be her lover. She has his life planned out as well. Blair is wealthy and used to getting things she wants. At the end of the chapter, she is embarrassed by the birthday display, but she is willing to overlook all the embarrassment for the perfect pair of shoes.

This section highlights Serena van der Woodsen. She is a stunningly beautiful girl with a zest for life. Although privileged, she doesn't flaunt her wealth. She is naive and doesn't realize Dan's attraction to her. Since she has been shunned by Blair and her former friends, she is grateful for a friend. Serena loves to shop at Barneys. It's her haven.

Blair sets the scene to have sex with Nate. Once again they are interrupted as she learns that her mother is going to get married. While her mother seems to want Blair to be excited with her, she seems oblivious to the fact that her daughter is upset about the wedding. She also doesn't seem to realize that her wedding date is her daughter's birthday.

When Serena is asked to be a bridesmaid, she shows her caring side in her concern over Blair's reaction to the wedding. Even though her former friend has cut her off, Serena cares about Blair's feelings. For outward appearances, Serena has everything, but she perceives herself as a failure.

One lucky westsider, one lonely one

This chapter introduces Jenny, Dan's sister. She, an westsider, is in awe of the wealthy upper eastsiders. She can't understand how getting invited to a ritzy event doesn't mean anything to her brother.

hey people!

Gossip Girl is talking to her readers. They discuss the wedding and what it means for Blair and Serena. This hints of trouble ahead.



B is determined to make N want her

Even though Blair does her best to avoid her mother, she has a family meal. She isn't connecting with them emotionally so she leaves and reaches out to Nate, but he cuts her off. He doesn't seem to realize her distress. Instead of getting mad at him, Blair decides to go shopping so she can find something to please him.

to catch a thief

Serena sees Blair at the store and observes the other girl steal some pajamas. Even though this is her perfect opportunity to get back at Blair, she holds back. Blair sees Serena and realizes that Serena might have seen her. This adds to the tension in the plot line as the girls are thrown together for the wedding.



stood up in brooklyn - hey people!

FAMILY MATTERS

stood up in brooklyn - hey people! FAMILY MATTERS

Summary

Dan joins Vanessa Abrams and Jenny for the film viewing. Serena is supposed to join them, and he wants to see her film. Serena is late. Vanessa knows that Dan is really there to see Serena, and it bothers her because she has a huge crush on him.

Vanessa knows her film isn't good. It is borrowed from a scene from War and Peace by Tolstoy. The dialogue and the acting in the film are terrible, and she hopes judges will concentrate on the cinematography rather than the acting. Serena's film turned out extremely well. This frustrates Vanessa because she knows that Serena really had no idea how to make a film. Somehow it ended out riveting anyway. Vanessa did most of the filming for it.

When Serena still doesn't show up Dan calls her. She isn't home. Serena is in an elevator when she realizes that she forgot to go view the films. Part of her knows that she didn't go because she didn't want to see the film again. It was done in documentary style, and she loves it, but she is unsure that other people will understand it. Vanessa seems so enthusiastic about it that Serena enters it in the senior film Festival. The first place prize is a trip to Cannes Film Festival. This doesn't mean much to Serena since she has already been to Cannes many times. Still, it would be nice to win.

Serena calls to apologize for not showing up at the film festival. She talks with Dan's father, and he asks her if she is the one with the golden arms and raspberry lips. She discovers that Dan has been writing poetry about her. Even though Serena doesn't show up, Dan still wants to see her film. He plans to watch it, even if no one else to watch it with him.

Jenny thinks that Dan is really lame for the way he pines after Serena. Still, she loves how his friendship with Serena allows her to walk up to the senior and talk with her. As Jenny walks to the park, she sees a group of boys playing soccer. One boy stands out in particular. The ball bounces at her feet, and she works hard to kick it back properly.

The boy catches it and comes over and introduces himself as Nate. He invites her to join them as they play ball, but first, they offer her some pot. Even though she has never tried it before, she decides to join them. She and Nate enjoy talking with each other, and Nate invites her over to his house to grab something to eat. She agrees, already in love.

Dan is watching Serena's film. In the film she is shopping at a store. All Dan can think about is Serena and how much he wants to kiss her. He calls her and tells her that he watched the film. When she asks what he thinks of it, he tells her that he loves it. She



asks him what Jenny thinks of the final project, and he admits that he is watching the film alone. Serena feels a bit weird about it all, especially since she now knows that Dan is writing poetry about her. He starts talking about the next weekend, and she cuts him off by stating the final arrangements then hanging up. Dan watches the film again.

Nate lives in a huge house with famous paintings on the walls. Jenny has never been in a house like this, but Nate shrugs her awe off. He sees a package on the table from Blair and stashes it on the floor of the coat closet. He really doesn't care what's inside. They go up to his room and talk about sailing. Jenny tells Nate that she's only 14. He says it's okay.

Gossip Girl talks about stealing and says that B was so good at it, she doesn't even get caught. Gossip Girl gives a list of sightings and answers e-mails from readers about girls dating older guys and shoplifting. She signs off by talking about the film competition.

Everyone at school is talking about Blair's mother's wedding. The girls ask her who the bridesmaids are going to be, and she lists them, including Serena. As Blair heads into the cafeteria, girls gossip about her and her relationship with Nate. Serena is sitting alone, but Blair turns away and sits down by the windows. When they were younger, the two girls did basically everything together. Blair can't get over the fact that Serena and Nate had sex together. She pays Serena back by ignoring her and demanding that all of their other friends ignore her as well.

Blair thinks about her day when she shopped at Barney's. When she returns home, her mother explains why the credit card didn't work. It is because she opened a new joint account with Cyrus, and Blair will get a new card in a few days. Blair thinks about the gift for Nate and wonders why he hasn't called. Some girls come over and tell Blair to talk to her mother about the decision of having Serena as a bridesmaid. Blair shrugs and says that she's not really bothered by it.

Jenny joins Serena in the cafeteria. Serena is reading a book that Dan recommended. She thinks it's terribly boring. The girls talk about their uniforms, and Serena apologizes for not showing up that previous day for the film viewing. Vanessa joins them.

Blair sends an instant message to Nate but gets no response. Nate sends an instant message to Jen, who he calls Jennifer. They decide to get together after school to go to the park. Jenny is excited, even though she has to blow off her friend. Dan is across town at Riverside Prep. He e-mails one of his poems to Serena. He also invites her to hang out after school.

Nate and Jenny meet on the steps of the Met then go through Sheep Meadow to the park. They talk a bit about college, and he talks about his dreams of going sailing with his dad. Jenny says that sounds amazing. He is just about to kiss her when they are interrupted. The other guys come to join them. They roll a joint and play some ball.

Dan sits a bench waiting for his friend Zeke and for Serena to show up. He sees a bunch of guys playing ball with his sister. Jennifer leaves. Nate's friends ask him what



Blair things about his new girlfriend. He tells them it's no big deal, and they should leave it alone.

Dan's friend shows up, and he tells Dan that he is getting really lame. Dan tells Zeke that he and Serena are going to visit colleges together that weekend. Meanwhile, Serena is at the dentist. She has received Dan's poem, and she doesn't know what to do about it. It's weirds her out.

Blair is practicing for her Yale interview, and it seems as if everything is going perfectly. When she gets home to the penthouse, something is different. There are suitcases all around. A dog greets her, and Cyrus comes in to introduce her to Aaron, his son. Blair says she has to do her homework then slams the door in Aaron's face as she goes into her bedroom. She cuddles with her cat and watches "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Aaron knocks at her door and asks if she wants a beer or anything else. He understands that this situation is difficult for her, and he invites her to join the others for dinner.

Blair calls Nate, on the verge of crying. She asks him if he changed his mind about going to Yale with her, and he says that he hasn't. She begins to cry, and he asks her if she is crying. He seems very far away to her, and she realizes that he hasn't even thanked her for the present. She tells him to call her the next day then goes back to cuddling with her cat.

Gossip Girl mentions how it must be nice to have the sweetest boy in the world move into your house. She answers e-mails and gives an update on sightings. She also writes a list of must-haves for college visits.

Blair is with her mother, shopping for the wedding. Blair really isn't interested in helping so she just gives her mother the answers she knows her mother wants to hear. As they talk about the weekend, Mrs. Waldorf mentions that Aaron wants to look at Yale as well. He has a car so he is going to take Blair.

By the time Blair gets back to the house, she's having a difficult time. Aaron meets her there and suggests that they leave for Yale early. Blair decides to be spontaneous because she really needs to get out of there.

stood up in brooklyn - hey people! FAMILY MATTERS Analysis

The plot gains more depth in this section as Vanessa enters the picture. Dan is hopelessly obsessed with Serena, and Vanessa is secretly crushing on Dan. Jenny is a silent observer. Vanessa has talent in cinematography, but she let her emotions rule when it came to casting. Dan is in her film, and the acting is horrible.

Serena doesn't show up when the others are expecting her. She genuinely forgets to come. Vanessa thinks that Serena doesn't really care about the film since the other girl has everything, but the film actually means a lot to Serena. Up until this point in the



book, Serena has been oblivious to Dan's obsession with her. Now, after talking with his father, she is starting to get a clue. She doesn't know how to deal with the situation.

Jenny doesn't understand or appreciate her brother's obsession with Serena until she meets Nate in the park. She falls for him hard and fast, even smoking pot to be with him. When he invites her to his house, she is eager to go.

Even though Serena comes across as flighty, there is a serious side of her. This shows in her film. It's artsy, and Vanessa does the camera work well. Dan feels connected to Serena and calls her, but she is uncertain about how to deal with him so she doesn't give him much of an opportunity to speak. They are going away together, but both have very different ideas regarding the weekend at Brown, and only the reader knows this.

Nate and Jenny have a friend connection. They feel very comfortable together. Nate shows that he isn't very interested in Blair as he tosses her gift into a closet while he is in the house with a new girl. Jenny is honest about her age, and Nate doesn't shie away from her. He doesn't take advantage of her, either.

Gossip Girl sums everyone up on sighting and the film competition. She is the hub of information and juicy tidbits, whether they are true or not. She plants ideas into the minds of her readers by offering just little bits of information.

Everybody seems to be excited about Blair's mother's wedding except for Blair herself. She remembers happier times when she and Serena got along well, but now she feels betrayed by her former friend. Instead of working things out, she shuns her former friend and lashes back. It ends out hurting herself as well as Serena.

Serena doesn't have many friends, but Jenny and Vanessa join her. She feels really badly for not showing up at the film showing.

This is a chapter centered on communication and on communications that are ignored. It clearly shows who is interested in who. Nate does not respond to Blair, but messages Jenny, who agrees to meet with him. Dan sends poetry to Serena and asks her to hang out, but he gets no response.

When Jenny and Nate are together, they enjoy each other for who they really are. There is no pretense or awkwardness. This is in contrast to Dan and his situation with Serena, which is awkward. He has no idea what she is thinking or doing. She doesn't know either. She wants to be friends with Dan, but she doesn't know how to deal with his intensity.

Blair has already pictured her new brother as a nerd. She is practicing for her interview, which is very important to her, when her life is derailed by his showing up at her home. Instead of being a nerd, he is a very kind hippie. She is weak emotionally and literally shuts herself off, even when he reaches out to her with kindness. Blair goes to Nate for comfort, but he blows her off. She finds solace in her cat and old movies.

Gossip Girl keeps everyone informed. Nothing is private.

Blair is is such a tizzy about everything going on in her life that she finds sanctuary by leaving town early with her new brother.



rendezvous at grand central station - and the winner is...

rendezvous at grand central station - and the winner is... Summary

Serena meets Dan in Grand Central Station. She has a picnic that the cook packed, and he looks forward to their time together. They go to the bar to wait for the train. Serena tells him that she read his poem. Before she says anything more about it, he sees some familiar looking boys come in and look at Serena.

Serena sees them as well, and she approaches them. It's Nate and his friends. They mention that they are heading to Brown, and she says that's where they are going as well. She invites them to ride with them. Dan is disappointed.

As Aaron and Blair drive along, she tells him that she isn't going to apply anywhere else but Yale. Aaron says he's trying to figure out whether or not she is a big partier. He has an idea that when she lets her hair down she can get pretty crazy. This is true, but Blair denies it. He offers her an herbal cigarette, but she doesn't take it.

Dan is depressed. During the entire train ride, the friends talked about things he didn't know about. He wished that Serena wanted to be alone with him. She brings out some beer as they drive down the highway. Dan reminds himself that the trip isn't all for nothing. The next day he plans to ace his interview at Brown.

Aaron stops at Motel 6 for the night. Blair has never stayed in a motel before. There is only one room left so they have to share it. Meanwhile Serena and the guys are still headed for Brown. Nate is the driver, and he decides that he needs a beer. He tells the others that he is going to pull over at the Best Western motel. They plan to get a suite.

In Motel 6, Aaron and Blair prepare to watch television together. Blair decides to have a beer and one of the cigarettes. Aaron warns her that they might make her feel really mellow. She thinks she deserves a little bit of relaxation after the past few stressful days.

Back at the Best Western, Serena is happy to have the company of all the guys. Dan's poem is too heavy for her. Dan looks across the room and sees Serena sleeping on the bed next to Nate. They are holding hands in their sleep. He locks himself in the bathroom and writes poetry about his tormented heart on the toilet paper.

Blair knows that she is sleeping funny, and that she really ought to make herself throw up since she has been eating junk. However, it's nice sleeping surrounded by the smell of chocolate chip cookies and the natural cigarettes. She forgets to ask the reception desk for wake-up call.



The city seems empty with the kids going on the college trips. Gossip girl writes about sightings of those left in the city.

Blair wakes up, realizing that she overslept. Aaron tells her not to worry as they hurry to leave the motel. As Blair gets herself ready, she goes over interview questions. Her eyes are puffy, and she has a zit above her eyebrow. When she gets to the car, she sees the hood up. The battery is dead. The hotel manager comes out to give the car a jump. Aaron hands her a card that says "to my sister on her special day."

Jenny is talking with her father. He suggests that she go running then offers to take her to a movie. She decides to just stay inside and watch TV. Vanessa calls her and asks if Dan is around. She tells Vanessa that Dan went to Brown with Serena for the weekend. Jenny asks Vanessa if she wants to hang out that day. Vanessa invites her to a screening of her film at noon.

Blair is extremely nervous by the time she gets to her interview. A man named Jason asks her to take a seat. When he asks her to tell him something about herself, all her prefabricated answers slip out of her brain, and all she can think about is the fact that she has to go to the bathroom. She blurts out intimate details about her life and has a hard time making eye contact with Jason.

She answers his questions and behaves in a manner that she knows is inappropriate. She even admits that she stole a pair of pajamas for her boyfriend who didn't even thank her. At the very end of the interview, she kisses Jason on the cheek.

Serena is surprised that she doesn't feel more nervous. She woke up that morning holding Nate's hand, and when he smiles at her, she knows that everything is going to be all right between them. They are friends again. As Serena and Nate discuss how they aren't as nervous as they thought they would be, Dan has a different take on the day. He is really nervous and bothered by the way they are so comfortable together.

Serena's interviewer is tough, asking her why she got kicked out of boarding school. She answers honestly. When he asks if she's going to behave herself, she tells him that she is trying to. Nate has a very perky interviewer named Brigid. When she asks about his interests, he tells her that his biggest interest is sailing. He tells her that he is concerned that his grades aren't good enough for Brown, and she reassures him. She also tells him that there is a sailing team at the school.

Dan's interviewer is named Marian. She asks him about books that he has read, and Dan gives her an analysis. As he discusses one book, he realizes that he is obsessed with Serena, but she doesn't love him back. He realizes he needs to get a life.

Serena's interviewer asks her if she has read any good books recently. She mentions a book that Dan recommended for her even though she hadn't finished reading it. The interviewer asks her if she has done anything else, and she tells him about the film that she made. She feels that the interview is going poorly, but she re-collects herself and restores her cool.



Brigid asks Nate to tell her about something he has read recently such as a book or article. He tells her about an article he read in the New York Times about a pot pill that's pure THC. No matter how he feels as or how much he thinks he isn't qualified for the college, Brigid seems determined to get him into Brown. Nate knows that Blair is going to be upset that he didn't even try to go to Yale, but he realizes he doesn't really care what she thinks.

Marian realizes that Dan is also a writer and asked him about his writing. He tells her that he writes poetry. The realization that Serena doesn't love him is so hard for him to handle that he leaves the interview early.

Jenny is happy that she went to go see Vanessa's screening at the Five and Dime because there is only one other person there. She notices that Vanessa has shaved her head again, and wonders if she should comment on it. Jenny watches her brother acting in the film and decide that he makes a pretty convincing junkie. When the film is over, she tells Vanessa that she thinks the cinematography is great, especially the shots at the end., Vanessa asks her if she ever saw the final cut of Serena's film, and Jenny says that she has. Jenny points out that Vanessa did the camera work for that.

Jenny and Vanessa decide to go grab some food. They talk about guys, and Jenny tells Vanessa about Nate. She says that Nate just likes her, and they haven't even kissed yet. He's not slimy like the other guys. Jenny knows that Vanessa has a crush on Dan. She tells the girl that Serena and Dan don't have much in common. She tells Vanessa that if she has feelings for Dan, she should do something about it.

Aaron asks how the interview went. Blair tells him that she thinks it went okay. The interview seems like a blur. She sees a book on the back seat, and suddenly the interviewer's questions come back to her. She realizes that she messed up the entire interview. Aaron can't believe that she did that and asks her if she is suicidal. She says she isn't but should be after this. She blames him for making her late.

Blair is concerned about what she is going to tell her father and Nate. Aaron tries to cheer her up. Blair tries to think of reasons to live, but things seem dismal. She reminds herself that she isn't a loser. Turning to Aaron, she announces that when they get back home, she's going to call her dad and ask him to donate something to Yale.

In the "who's with who" section, Gossip Girl wonders if Dan has gotten over Serena and if Nate is really serious about Jenny. In the "you knew this was coming" section there is an piece stating that Yale University announced the addition of the Yale Waldorf Vineyard. The e-mails from the readers address the Film Festival. In closing, Gossip Girl talks about Thanksgiving.

The contestants for the Film Festival are sitting in the front row. Serena looks beautiful, but she is very nervous. If she wins the competition, it will show colleges that there is something more to her than being the girl who was kicked out of boarding school. Vanessa is nervous as well, but she doesn't show it. She's counting on winning the competition so that she can cinch her early acceptance to New York University.



Blair is feeling sick to her stomach for numerous reasons. Nate isn't responding to her calls and messages. Her mother is dragging her to wedding related activities, and her father has left a message on her machine asking how the interview went. She e-mails him, telling him that the interviewer has an interest in wine. She mentions that a donation was secure her "already pretty sure" place at Yale. She hopes that the film competition will be her chance to change her luck.

Mr. Coate thanks everyone for coming then gives a history of women in film. He introduces Serena's film. As she watches it, Serena begins to feel proud of it. The other girls tear it apart. The film teacher whistles when the film is over. Two more films are introduced before Vanessa's film shows. The winner is announced. It's Serena. Vanessa stands up and wolf whistles. She is proud to be part of the film. Serena goes up to receive her award, which is two tickets to Cannes and three nights in a five-star hotel during the film festival in the spring. She calls Vanessa and Jennifer up and hands them the tickets. Blair can't believe what's going on in her life.

Serena tells Dan that they liked her film. She reminds him about the wedding.

rendezvous at grand central station - and the winner is... Analysis

In this section, Dan's plans to spend time with Serena is once again thwarted. It's interesting to note that he is heavily into literature, romance and writing poetry yet doesn't seem to know how to communicate with Serena.

Even though Blair seems disgusted with her new brother, they begin to bond on the trip. This chapter compares and contrasts two journeys—the one to Brown and the one to Yale. Neither group is accustomed to motels, but they accept their situation. The relationships among the characters shift during this chapter: Blair and Aaron have a fun and pleasant evening together, Serena and Nate reconnect, and Dan begins to realize that Serena isn't drawn to him as he is to her.

The morning shows a big difference between the friends. Blair is late, harried and stressed. Serena is calmer than she thought she would have been. When Aaron gives Blair the card, he shows more kindness to her than anyone else has in the book to this point.

Back in the city, with distractions gone, Jenny bonds with Vanessa.

Blair is still under the influence of the herbal cigarette and completely bombs her interview. All her inner turmoil comes out in spite of all the time she spent practicing to nail the interview.

This chapter shows how unfair interviews really can be. The youth have one chance to impress an interviewer. Serena feels like a failure, but keeps her cool. Nate tries to avoid going to college, but ironically has an interviewer who seems determined to



persuade him that Brown would be a good choice for him in spite of his low grades and lack of desire to attend. Dan really wants to get into Brown, but his realization that Serena doesn't love him hits him during the interview. He is so distracted, he walks out on the interviewer.

Vanessa seems like a tough character, but Jenny sees a gentler side of her. When she sees Vanessa knocked down, she defends the girl and boosts her up. Instead of behaving like the shy ninth grade Jenny, she begins to show some assertiveness as she bluntly tells Vanessa to express her feelings for Dan.

Blair responds to Aaron's caring questioning about the interview by telling him things went fine. She has a flashback to what actually occurred and is horrified. Her reaction to the situation, and her method of problem solving is to ask her daddy to fix it for her by donating money to the college.

Gossip Girl show that Blair's dad followed through on the donation idea.

The Film Festival is a big deal to the participants for many reasons. Even though Vanessa thinks Serena is shallow and simply lucky, winning means a lot to her. Serena shows her ability to reach out to others and not take credit where it isn't due when she brings Vanessa and Jenny up to the podium and gives them the prize tickets. Blair, the one who tries to make life miserable for Serena out of revenge, is left with her own life falling apart.

Serena wants to share her joy with Dan as a friend. He is so discombobulated by how he feels for her that he doesn't respond well.



j just tastes better-hey people!

j just tastes better-hey people! Summary

Jenny and Nate talking to gather in Central Park. He tells her that he is starting to look forward to college. They kiss, and it's really nice for both of them. Nate realizes that he's going to have to tell Jenny about Blair, but he doesn't know what to say.

Eleanor Waldorf and her bridesmaids go for a beauty treatment in the spa. Blair is not having a good time. Her mother starts talking about a pair of pajamas she bought at Barney's, and Blair realizes that she could say something about Blair's stealing of the pajamas. She decides not to.

Blair feels even more miserable, and things get worse when her mother asks about the Yale interview. Blair tells her it went really great. Serena mentions that she had an interview at Brown over the weekend, and it went terribly. Blair realizes then that Serena was Brown the same time Nate was there. She storms out of the spa.

Gossip Girl summarizes the rest of the spa day and answers questions from readers before offering sightings.

Some of the bridesmaids are complaining about the dresses they have to wear. Blair looks really good in the dress. Serena does, too. Even though they are all getting dressed together, Blair still ignores Serena. The wedding ceremony goes well even though people are gossiping about how quickly the couple is getting married and they also talk about how long the marriage would last.

Blair looks at Nate. He had sent her an email apologizing for not seen her in a while. She responded immediately but hadn't heard back. Everything would be resolved when they saw each other again. She looked closely to see if Nate was looking longingly at Serena. When he doesn't, she feels optimistic. Nate concentrates on the ceremony, trying to avoid eye contact with Blair. He is worried about how he's going to tell her about Jennifer.

Serena looks beautiful on the outside, but inside she is worried about Dan. She is also worried about Blair. Dan is in a pew looking at the wedding. He doesn't understand what people are gossiping about around him because everything looks great to him. Still, he feels out of place. After the wedding, he and Serena are in a car alone together, then Nate joins them.

Blair is feeling angry because Serena and Nate are at a table together, but she is stuck sitting with her family. She is almost back-to-back with Nate, and she whispers to him that she would like to talk with him after the speeches. He knows that Jennifer is going to be there soon and realizes that it's possible to avoid talking to Blair. After they eat, while Cyrus is making his speech, Blair decides to talk with Nate. He tells her to relax.



Eleanor Waldorf and Cyrus met in a department store. She gave him her number and the relationship continued.

Jenny and Vanessa go to St. Clair's Hotel to meet up with Nate. He joins them, and he tells Jenny that he has a feeling he is going to get in trouble for this, but he doesn't tell her that his girlfriend is in the next room.

Blair's mother asks her if she would consider changing her last name. Blair refuses then runs off to the bathroom, feeling sick. Dan talks with Serena about his poem. She says it was too intense.. She invites him to dance, but he says he has to go smoke a cigarette. Serena dances with her brother instead.

Jenny asks Nate if he's having a good time. He said he's having a better time now that she is there. Dan goes to the bar and orders a drink. He's overwhelmed by the fact that Serena doesn't love him. He notices his sister there with Nate. Blair comes out of the bathroom and sees Nate with Jenny. She goes back to the bathroom. Dan confronts Nate, but Jenny defends him. Vanessa intervenes. She tells Dan that she is going to buy him a drink.

Serena leaves so that she can go and talk with Dan, but she finds him talking with Vanessa. She goes to the ladies room and sees Blair. Blair is crying, and Serena asks if she is okay. Blair confesses that her life is a mess. Serena comforts her.

Nate invites Jenny back to the party with him. Dan and Vanessa hook up, and Blair and Serena reunite as friends. They watch an Audrey Hepburn film together.

Gossip Girl sums up everything that has happened recently. She also points out that Serena and Blair were seen in Barney's men's department returning pajama bottoms. She ends the book with a series of questions.

j just tastes better-hey people! Analysis

Nate and Jenny finally kiss. The connection between the two of them is serious enough for him to realize he needs to tell Blair about Jenny and tell Jenny about Blair. He is just confused as to how he is going to do this.

Spa day with the bridesmaids is supposed to be a relaxing, enjoyable time. Instead, Blair is confronted with every part of her life she is dissatisfied with. She has to face the reality of her mother's wedding, spend a day with Serena and talk about the Yale interview. The proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back is when she realizes Nate and Serena were together at Brown. This causes her to crack, and she abruptly leaves. Her mother seems oblivious to the turmoil in her daughter's life.

The wedding ceremony itself goes off without a hitch, but there are undercurrents showing that things aren't perfect.



Blair is consumed by jealousy at the reception when Serena and Nate are put together at a table. She wants to talk with Nate, but he continues to avoid her.

Now that Vanessa and Jenny are at the hotel, all the main characters of this novel are under one roof. This foreshadows disaster.

The truth of Nate and Jenny is exposed in this chapter. Vanessa is there to help heal Dan's wounded heart, and Blair is left alone.

The ever-forgiving and understanding Serena is there to help Blair, and Blair lets her. When everything else falls apart, she allows her former friend back into her life.

Nate is ready to go public with his relationship with Jenny, and Blair and Serena bond over old movies.

Gossip Girl winds things up as the book concludes. She ends with a series of questions that lets the readers know that while there is some resolution, the story is far from over.



Characters

Blair

Blair is the 17-year-old daughter in a wealthy family. She is used to luxuries in her life such as fancy shoes, elite schooling, and luxurious surroundings. Her father is a gay man who now lives in France. He comes to visit her three weeks before her birthday. She is embarrassed by the cake and attention at the restaurant until she sees the shoes that he gives her as a present. They are enough to make her forget her embarrassment.

Blair likes to control things and has bulimic tendencies. She plans to attend Yale the following year and wants to lose her virginity to her friend Nate. Blair loves old, romantic movies, especially "Breakfast at Tiffany's." She hides her vulnerabilities and focuses on revenge when she is upset. This is shown by the way she turned Serena into a social outcast when she was upset at her.

Serena

Serena is a wealthy girl who seems to have everything she could possibly want. To others, she appears confident and as if things come easily to her. She sees herself as a failure and really wants to prove that she can be taken seriously. This is why the Film festival is important to her. If she wins, she will show others that she has talent and can do something on her own.

Serena is kind to others even when they are cruel to her. This is shown in the way she shows concern for Blair even when Blair shuns her. She isn't self-serving. When she wins the prize for the film festival, she makes certain that everyone knows she didn't do it on her own, and she gives away her prize. Serena is mild but resilient. She knows she didn't do well in her college interview, but she regroups and finishes the interview with class.

Harold

This is Blair's father. He is a gay man who lives in France. He gives Blair fabulous shoes for her birthday.

Nate

This is a very handsome young man that Blair wants to have sex with. He loves to smoke pot.



Daniel

This is a character who is deeply in love with Serena. He writes poetry and loves to read heavy literature.

Jenny

This is a large-busted girl in ninth grade who finds herself close to Nate. She is Dan's sister.

Eleanor

This is Blair's mother. She is about to get married and is extremely excited about it.

Cyrus

This is a balding, fat man who has no sense of style. He is marrying Blaire's mother.

Aaron

This is Cyrus' son. He is 16 but headed for college. The boy had dreadlocks and is known for his kindness.

Erik

This is Serena's older brother. She goes to visit him at Brown.

Gossip Girl

This is the character that keeps track of the happenings on the upper east side.

Tyler

This is Blair's 11-year-old brother. He wants to be a rock-and-roll journalist.

Vanessa

This character lives in Brooklyn. She shaves her head and has a huge crush on Dan. She works with film and wants to be a director.

Zeke

This is Dan's friend who meets him in the park. He tells Dan to get a life.



Objects/Places

Upper East Side

This is the section of New York City where the wealthy live, shop, and attend exclusive schools.

Yale

This is where Blair wants to attend college. It is her father's alma mater.

Brown

This is where Erik goes to school. Serena and Dan spend a weekend there.

Central Park

This is where the guys go to play. Nate and Jenny get to know each other better there.

Barney's

This is Serena's favorite store. It's also where Blair steals something.

Cashmere Pajamas

This is what Blair steals. She wants to give it as a gift for Nate.

Serendipity 3

This is where Serena and Dan go to get ice cream. Dan wishes the place was a bit more romantic.

The Met

Serena likes to sit on the steps of this place. She brings Dan there after they get ice cream.



Grand Central

This is where Dan is supposed to meet Serena before they go away for the weekend. They run into other friends there.

Constance Billard

This is the school Serena attends. The film festival is at this school.

Riverside Prep

This is the school Dan attends. It's across town from Serena's school.

Motel 6

This is where Aaron and Blair spend the night before Blair's interview at Yale.

Best Western

This is where Blair, Dan, Nate and their friends spend the night before they go to Brown for interviews.



Themes

Preparing for College

Nate, Blair, Dan, Serena, and Aaron are all getting ready for college. They have different ideas about it and different approaches to getting into college, but they all share a common goal that adds stress to their high school experience.

Serena wants to go to Brown. That's where her brother attends college, and she wants to prove that she is capable of doing something on her own. Her interview doesn't go well, but she recollects herself and hopes for the best. Winning the Film Festival gives her a sense of accomplishment that might help her get into college.

Blair is determined to go to Yale, just as her father did. She envisions herself going there with Nate by her side. When her interview turns into a disaster, she appeals to her father to donate to the college to help her get in.

Nate isn't thinking the way Blair does. He is more interested in sailing with his father. However, after his interviewer encourages him during the interview, he discovers that he is more serious about college than he had previously thought. He doesn't want to go to Yale, though. He has his interview at Brown.

Dan has an interview at Brown as well. He feels that it is very important. During the interview, his thoughts are derailed and he walks out. Before he leaves, he shows that he has a solid grasp of literature and writing.

Dealing With Romantic Relationships

Romance is a huge issue with teenagers and this book taps right into it. Blair is determined to lose her virginity during her senior year. She wants to have sex with Nate. She is constantly trying to get his attention and plan a special time with him, but he doesn't feel the same connection. Blair had discovered that he and Serena had sex previously, and this ruined her friendship with Serena. It also kept her jealous and suspicious throughout this book.

Nate and Jenny have a strong connection. Even though guys are always interested in her thanks to her large breasts, he doesn't even try to kiss her until they have really gotten to know each other.

Jenny's brother, Dan doesn't find the same compatibility with his love interest. He is completely obsessed with Serena, writing poems about her and constantly trying to be with her. She doesn't know how to deal with his intensity and does her best to keep it at a friendship level. When he finally realizes that she doesn't love him like he loves her, he is devastated.



Meanwhile, Vanessa, a girl with a tough exterior, has a huge crush on Dan. Jenny knows this and tells her to be honest about her feelings with Dan. When he has his heart broken by Serena, she steps in to help him mend.

The Good and Bad of Friendships

A theme in this novel is the delicate balance of friendship. Serena and Blair have been close friends for most of their lives. They were both friends with Nate, but this all changed when Serena and Nate slept together before Serena went off to boarding school. Blair learned about it and was determined to lose her own virginity to Nate. She also turned her back on her life-long friend, encouraging others to shun Serena as well.

On the trip to Brown, Nate and Serena reconnected. They weren't drawn to each others as lovers. They just kept their friendship. Serena had several opportunities to retaliate against Blair. She knew Blair stole the pajamas and could have exposed her, but she had compassion and understanding of her former friend. When Blair learns that Nate is with Jenny and everything is against her, Serena is there to help her. This time, Blair accepts the friendship.

Jenny and Vanessa become friends as well. Jenny sees the softer side of the other girl and knows how Vanessa feels about Dan. She encourages her to talk with Dan and let him know how she feels. Nate and Jenny are friends before they take the relationship any further. From the first time they met each other, they feel extremely comfortable with each other.

Style

Point of View

You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel by Cecily Von Ziegesar constantly shifts its point of view. Although Blair is the main character, there are many sub-main characters such as Serena, Jenny, Dan, Nate and Vanessa. The point-of-view is third person subjective, offering insight into the speaker's thought processes. However, it jumps from one character to another, frequently on the same page. This unique glimpse into each character helps the reader understand and relate to each main character. It also shows motive behind actions from all sides.

The sections relating Gossip Girl's blog posts are in second person. Gossip Girl talks directly to her readers and they respond. These sections feel like news stories. They add more insight to the story but are separated from actual events.

Setting

This novel highlights the elite from the upper east side of New York City. This is important because it's a world hub of activity, and the wealthy are used to being catered to. There is a separation of classes, which adds to the story as Dan and Jenny become major parts of the story even though they are from the West Side. The teens go college visiting and stay in motels. This is symbolic of the new places and situations they might face in life.

Language and Meaning

You Love Me: A Gossip Girl Novel by Cecily Von Ziegesar revolves mostly around college seniors, and its language reflects this. Each character has a unique voice and manner of speaking, but all sound like average educated teens. vocabulary is simple, and words a reader might not be familiar with revolve around clothing brand names.

Structure

The contents of this book are divided into 34 sections. These sections are labeled by headers that are written in small letters with no caps. The sections average around 10 pages long. The parts that highlight Gossip Girl's blurbs always begin with the words "hey people." The banner art on these pages depict a web page from the Internet. Gossip Girl refers to each main character by the letter of their first name.



Quotes

"I'm your Venus, I'm your fire. At your desire" (p. 1).

"The love scenes were always romantic and tasteful, with lots of long, heartfelt kisses, great outfits" (p. 24-25).

"Never touch a girl's stomach unless she asks you to. It makes her feel fat" (p. 26).

"They're all the same" (p. 70).

"She couldn't believe how quickly life could change. How could she have known when she'd woken up that morning that today was the day she'd fall in love" ((p. 74).

"Love is a many-splendored thing" (p. 83).

"Your rope snug around my neck, I jumped. Your lips kissed me as I fell, and falling still" (p. 94).

"Amo ergo sum, Dan thought. I love therefore I am" (p. 95).

"Amor omnia vincit! Love conquers all" (p. 95).

"'Broken Feet.' Splintered wood, flat tires, broken glass. Fate wields its unfair axe. Collapse" (p. 101-102).

"Well, when you're really passionate about something, you don't notice the effort" (p. 151).

"Serena didn't have the heart to say anything. Or rather, she had too much heart. Blair was already screwed up enough to have taken the pajama bottoms in the first place - Serena didn't need to screw her up even more" (p. 187).

"You know you love me, gossip girl" (p. 227).



Topics for Discussion

What did Blair have planned for her future at college with Nate?

What did Nate want to do with his life?

Why did Blair go to the ladies room so often?

What happened to the friendship between Serena and Blair?

Compare and contrast the different college interview experiences of these characters: Blair, Serena, Nate, Dan.

How was Aaron different from what Blair expected?

Why did winning at the film festival mean so much to Serena?