



Love You Hate You Miss You

Elizabeth Scott

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Get this, I'm supposed to be starting a journal about "my journey." Please. I can see it now: *Dear Diary, As I'm set adrift on this crazy sea called "life"* . . . I don't think so.

It's been seventy-five days. Amy's sick of her parents suddenly taking an interest in her.

And she's really sick of people asking her about Julia. Julia's gone now, and she doesn't want to talk about it. They wouldn't get it, anyway. They wouldn't understand what it feels like to have your best friend ripped away from you.

They wouldn't understand what it feels like to know it's your fault.

Amy's shrink thinks it would help to start a diary. Instead, Amy starts writing letters to Julia.

But as she writes letter after letter, she begins to realize that the past wasn't as perfect as she thought it was—and the present deserves a chance too.

Love You Hate You Miss You Details

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From Reader Review Love You Hate You Miss You for online ebook

Rose says

Quick review for a quick read. I think every Elizabeth Scott book I've read thus far has such a potent attention to the respective character emotions she showcases. This book does the grief and healing process after the loss of a friend very well. Amy has survivor's guilt over the death of Julia- her former best friend. The two girls were in an vehicular accident - with Amy drunk and Julia shaken by grief in the events of that respective night. "Love You Hate You Miss You" shows Amy grappling with people's perception of the event, her changed relationships, a potential romance (which I honestly felt was weak and underdeveloped compared to the overarching story), and trying to make sense of her own emotions and guilt in the aftermath. I really felt like I was in her head and grieving along with her, though I'll admit there were times when I found it hard to follow the poor choices she made. I felt the book did a great job of making the experiences intimate to Amy's character on an overarching note.

I only wish that the coming to terms didn't abruptly end as much as it did, and that the romance in this didn't really fall as flat as it did. Granted, I could definitely see Amy's emotions and connections, but it worked so much better with her grief and showing her relationship with her parents. I didn't like that the romance Amy was in mainly came in her grief process rather than as a naturally built chemistry. Overall though, this was an emotional and very strong read.

Overall score: 4/5 stars.

Becky says

Meet Amy. Trust me, you wouldn't want to be her. Amy is the star of Elizabeth Scott's latest, Love You Hate You Miss You. And it's a tough read--though not as touch as Living Dead Girl. She's an alcoholic. And a grieving one at that. Her best friend, Julia, died in a car accident. And Amy blames herself. But no amount of I'm sorry's and why's and if only's will bring her friend back. Life goes on...despite it all. And Amy's return to "normal" life, to school, is anything but easy. Facing the entire high school, knowing that many of Julia's friends despise her, blame her, feeling so alone. But there are a few in her classes who do anything but ignore her. Enter Mel and Patrick. And let's not forget her former friend, Caro, "Corn Syrup." Is there a place for Amy after all? Can she live again? love again? Find a way to smile again?

What did I love about this one? I'll be honest, it's partly all-about-Patrick. Elizabeth Scott has a way of writing irresistible guys. Amy's a troubled narrator--someone who aches down to her soul. The guilt. The shame. The feelings of self-hatred. Feeling like she should never have been born. The feeling that no one wants her, needs her, loves her. Whether Amy likes it or not she's vulnerable. And it is this vulnerability that makes me like her, love her. She's in need of so much. You want her to get it.

Debra says

For a more detailed review, please check out my review below:

Debra's Book Cafe

Debs :-)

Natasha says

I get this feeling when I read the last page of a book. It's when I read the last sentence, and I close the back cover over it.

The first thought in my mind could be "Why did it end that way?" or "Okay. I see how the author is trying to close his/her book."

With LYHYMY, I read the last sentence and thought "Why did it have end at all?!" and then I closed the back cover and sat there. It was like a choked up feeling inside, just filled with emotion, and I realized Elizabeth Scott could not have chose a better ending.

Love You Hate You Miss You is a story about Amy, a teenaged girl just out of rehab for the recent ...
Situations she's been through. (trying not to spoil, here.)

At the start of the novel, the reader realizes that Amy had lost her best friend, Julia, seventysome days ago. (S)He also finds out that Amy has had problems with substance abuse to alcohol.

Throughout the book, Amy writes letters to Julia, each addressed with the number of days since Julia has died.

What an amazing book. One of my favorite quotes is -
"The truth is, I feel beyond sad. I feel empty. Numb.
When I drank, this was always how I wanted to feel." (p.142)

Amy is courageous, strong, but she's just trying to find her place without Julia.
A must read.

Elyse says

Elizabeth Scott is a wonderful author, so I had high expectations for this teen novel--it did not disappoint. A compelling story of a teenage girl writing a journal to her best friend as part of her therapy after entering a rehab center for her alcohol abuse. The best friend died in a tragic accident. The story and characters unfold steadily, and our narrator is not your typical child from a broken home - quite the opposite, in fact - which was a refreshing change for teen novels. There was nothing stereotypical about this book. The recovery, the anxiety attacks, all that it takes to accept love in your life - were beautifully rendered.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by coollibrarianchick for TeensReadToo.com

I've said this before and I am going to say it again: Elizabeth Scott's writing is chameleon-like. Some of her books are fluffy and light, the perfect poolside read, while some of her other books take on darker undertones. Where does her new book fall on this continuum? It's dark, not disturbingly dark but still dark, because the main character's emotional pain is very apparent.

I believe wholeheartedly that accidents happen and that blame is a waste of time and doesn't fix the problem. I also believe that you can't change the past, only move on with the future. While I may believe that, it doesn't mean that everybody else believes that.

This is especially true for Amy, the main character in **LOVE YOU HATE YOU MISS YOU**. She is hurting and thinks nobody in the whole world understands how it feels to lose a best friend. Even worse, she blames herself for her friend's death.

Over and over again, Amy is told it was an accident. You could say it to her a million times but it wouldn't matter - she still blames herself. She should never have done what she did. Truth be known, there were a lot of things she shouldn't have done, but who am I to preach to the choir?

Following a stint in rehab, Amy must go on with her life. Dealing was a bit easier in rehab because it was a controlled environment, but out in the real world, among her family and peers, dealing with Julia's death is an emotional roller coaster. Her shrink thinks writing a diary would help her greatly. At first, Amy is against the idea, but then she starts writing letters to Julia, which actually helps her cope.

Some of what Amy writes is funny, some letters are incredibly sad, while other letters are filled with anger. Many things come out in the letters. Through these letters we learn a lot about Amy and Julia's relationship, Amy's insecurities, as well as her home situation. Truths that were buried come to light and Amy learns that the past wasn't as perfect as she thought. And maybe it is the present that she should be focusing on.

I applaud Scott for not writing the pat happily-ever-after types of books. Once again, Elizabeth Scott has written a book that will stay with you long after it is done. How long do I have to wait until her next book comes out?

Tatiana says

I suppose I shouldn't have read this book so close to another book with similar theme - Nancy Werlin's "The Killer's Cousin." Both books are about death, guilt and responsibility, but I think Scott's novel is a little weaker than Werlin's.

On the positive side, "Love You Hate You Miss You" is a very engaging story, written as a mix of letters to

a dead person and a 1st person narrative. It took me just about 2 hours to get through this 300-page book. Amy's emotional state after the death of her best friend Julia, her road to recovery, her strained relationship with her neglectful parents are written well, with understanding and care.

On the other hand, the plot itself is a little disappointing. This is a story about friendship and the plot summary leads you to believe that through time, after being in rehab and talking to her shrink, Amy will finally see her relationship with Julia for what it is - as a destructive one. But Amy never quite gets there to my chagrin. She keeps treasuring this friendship in which they encourage each other to lead a life of promiscuity and addiction, and continues putting Julia on a pedestal. This just doesn't sit well with me.

Another aspect of the story that leaves you cold is the romantic line with Patrick. His emotional state is not quite clear to me and the ending decision of Amy's to move on with her life and attempt a healthy relationship with Patrick after having great sex with him (first great for Amy) is just a little overdone, considering that these are 16-year old kids. I would rather prefer a relationship based on an emotional connection rather than this.

Mixed feelings about this book, but I am willing to give Elizabeth Scott another try.

Reynje says

Alright, I'm officially an Elizabeth Scott fangirl. Can I have my badge now, please?

My rating of Love You Hate You Miss You is probably more indicative of my reading experience, given of the stage of life I'm in right now, as opposed to a rating of the book per se. Had this book been around when I was 17, I'd be slapping stars around with more abandon. Having some distance from that particular age, I read it with more appreciation for the quietly expressive writing, and rather less of the deeply visceral reaction it might have evoked some time ago.

The story takes the form of the first-person narration and letters written by sixteen-year-old Amy, to her dead best friend Julia. Amy is just out of a treatment centre, raw and angry and grieving, and her story unravels as she considers the evolution of her friendship with Julia, the events surrounding and preceding Julia's death, and Amy's relationship with her parents.

Distance and perspective make it a simple task to see the toxicity of Julia and Amy's mutually enabling and some-what destructive friendship, and to be frustrated that Amy continues to put Julia on a pedestal to some extent. I'm still not sure whether I agree with Amy's final assessment of Julia. But that's me personally, and I do think that Amy's viewpoint and opinions are very much reflective of her age and experiences. Scott depicts a friendship that is more complex than just categorically good or bad. For all the damage wreaked by Amy and Julia's relationship, Scott also gives us glimpses into why these two connected and felt they needed each other. Agree or disagree, it's almost an almost pitch perfect portrayal of a friendship that both fosters and soothes the insecurities and dependencies of two teenage girls.

However, the most interesting and touching relationship for me in this story was that of Amy and her parents. Amy's feelings of isolation and exclusion from her parent's obvious love and apparent pre-occupation with each other is a deviation from the usual YA tropes of dysfunctional or just plain absentee adults. The healing of the rift between parents and child is slow and hesitant, a tenuous thread of hope that

Amy fears to grasp in the depths of her self-hatred.

I will confess that I was expecting a very dramatic climax to the story, so I was actually pleased with the more subdued and subtle way that it played out. Rather than overwrought scenes in which the main character hits rock bottom with a lot of tearful brouhaha, Scott writes Amy's growing acceptance of herself and others with restraint and a sort of quiet tenderness. This, in my opinion, makes the close of the story much more affecting.

Scott's writing and in particular her capture of Amy's voice is clear and believable. There is a slight sparseness to the story, a stripping back to the bare bones of Amy's emotional state, which avoids the heavy-handedness often found in so-called "issues" books. This reads more like a glimpse into the unfiltered thoughts of a troubled and grieving teenage girl, as opposed to a laboured pastiche of angst, drama and thinly-veiled moralising. Scott's writing leaves the story open to the reader, and doesn't answer every question posed in the text.

This is not an always an easy book to read, and there are definitely aspects of Amy and her choices that did not always sit well with me. But it's moving and well-written, and I'm entirely won over by Elizabeth Scott's beautiful handling of the story.

Melody says

No blatant spoilers, but enough that you might not want to read this review if you plan to read the book.

Well-written but a little claustrophobic for me. We spend all of our time locked inside Amy's head, and it's not a particularly reasonable environment. Amy's lost her best friend, and her world is very unhappy and inhospitable. This book is about her journey through grief and pain. It's not that it's unbelievable, it is completely believable. The disconnect for me is that there's no clear message about how utterly wrong most of Amy's perceptions are. I wanted some tidying up at the end, I think. I didn't find the parents (any of them) particularly believable- but again, they may have been true to a skewed perception such as Amy's. I could certainly identify with the all-consuming friendship that is suddenly, irrevocably gone. A lot of what I didn't like about this book is how familiar it felt to be half a person in a school full of what look like whole people.

Disturbing and sad but worth reading, I think.

Sesana says

75 days ago, Amy's best friend, Julia died. We don't get the details right away, but we do know that Amy blames herself. Most of the book is in the form of her journal, written as letters to Julia. The rest is still in Amy's POV, but is more moment-by-moment, and is slightly more honest than the thoughts that Amy is intentionally "sharing" with Julia.

I've never read Elizabeth Scott before. Obviously, I should have. She writes Amy so believably, so emotionally that I was glued to every word. This, despite the fact that I didn't like Amy much. For most

books, by most authors, that could have been a deal-breaker for me. But the fact was that Scott wrote her so well that I was attached for her, and wanted better for her, even though I didn't like her.

The ending is realistic. It's a turning point, not the final destination for Amy. When I put the book down, I was convinced that, from this point, Amy could become a better person, could learn to accept the role that she had in Julia's death, and the role that she didn't have. It was the best ending I could have asked for.

Uci says

If you think being a teenager is hard, try to read this book!

Bener deh, saya sampai ikutan depresi membaca kisah hidupnya Amy. Walaupun juga jadi penasaran pingin cepat-cepat tahu endingnya. Saya jadi bersyukur nggak pernah mengalami masa remaja yang mumet kayak begini.

Coba deh, Amy si anak tunggal merasa tersisih di rumahnya sendiri karena ayah dan ibunya begitu saling mencintai sampai-sampai dia merasa kehadirannya di antara mereka hanya mengganggu kemesraan mereka.

Amy yang super tinggi dan berambut merah selalu merasa buruk rupa dan jadi orang aneh di antara teman-temannya yang 'normal' di SMA.

Amy yang akhirnya punya sahabat sejati, namun harus kehilangan sahabatnya dalam kecelakaan mobil sementara dia sendiri selamat.

Amy yang kecanduan minum sampai harus masuk rehabilitasi.

Untungnya tulisan Elizabeth Scott enak dibaca dan nggak bikin bosan walaupun peristiwa-peristiwa yang dikisahkan di sini bisa dibilang berputar-putar dalam lingkaran setan. Dan saya suka endingnya yang sangat positif, supaya remaja-remaja 'bermasalah' nggak terus-terusan depresi.

Sementara pesan buat orangtua, kenalilah baik-baik putra-putri remaja Anda sebelum semuanya terlambat... :)

Btw, ceritanya ini mirip dengan Vicky Angel karangan Jacqueline Wilson, cuma di buku Wilson tokohnya lebih muda.

Janelle says

The first Elizabeth Scott book I read was Grace - & that was an incredible baptism of fire. LYHMY was mildly intense in comparison, and a thoroughly amazing read.

One word - Patrick ;) Here are a few swoon worthy quotes about him.

I'd always picked skinny guys before, guys who were all bones and angles. Guys who were small in my arms, guys I could see around. Patrick was solid, and instead of ribs and shoulder blades, I felt muscle

rippling under his skin. It should have felt strange, but it didn't.

& this one...

"I lied to Julia, I didn't know what else to do because you - you make me feel..." I had to stop. Not because I didn't have words. I did. But I was afraid to say them.

He looked at me, and I knew then I could love him. That if I let myself I would.

"You make me feel too," he said, and held out one hand.

Elizabeth says

Love You Hate You Miss You follows Amy, who is essentially the same as the protagonist from *Perfect You*, except she's troubled and more cynical (if that's possible). Her best friend Julia dies in a tragic car accident that Amy feels responsible for, and she spends the entirety of the novel coping (or rather, really not coping) by writing letters to Julia and attending therapy sessions.

This is yet another infuriating story about people who refuse to talk to each other about how they're feeling and a girl who won't take charge of a life that has taken an unfavorable left turn. And I know I'm an adult. I'm 24 years old so it's easy for me to think, "well, better pull your socks up and get a grip Amy, it's only going to get worse!" I never took charge of my situation when I was sixteen so I get it, *I know*. But even if the writing is accurate, it's not the type of character I want to read about.

I'll admit that I may be being minorly unfair, and that if I had come across this book seven or eight years ago I may have really liked it. I'll also say the ending saved most of the book. It was sweet and hopeful, and I felt like Amy had learned something, or at least was beginning to learn things. Still, it's not the best YA fiction I've read, and I don't think I would recommend it.

Katie says

Amy is full of guilt. She can barely look at herself after what she did. It has been 75 days since she walked away from the car accident that took the life of her best friend, Julia. She never should have gone to that party, never should have said what she said, never should have drank what she drank.

After grueling weeks of therapy at Pinewood, a rehabilitation center, Amy is starting school again with a whole new look. She is now the outsider, the girl with no friends because she killed her only one. The only way Amy knows to vent is through drinking and ever since the night of the accident she can't even look at a bottle without getting sick.

The new Amy, the one that doesn't drink or drive or party, finds that the only way she can get her feelings out are through writing in a journal to Julia, a journal filled with things that she could never get the nerve to actually tell Julia when she was still alive.

Elizabeth Scott takes you into the mind of a teenager who can barely live with herself after what she did but who finally manages to face reality and realize that the only way to move on is by letting go of the past. *Love You Hate You Miss You* is a story of healing and of learning to cope with the things you can't change.

Through journal entries, Amy's memories of past times, and weekly therapy sessions, the reader can really see what Amy is going through.

Having read more than one Elizabeth Scott novel in the past, I had high expectations for this book and once again, Elizabeth Scott did not disappoint. The concepts of guilt, friendship, and love are beautifully put together in this story about the importance of friendship and family.

Nomes says

t's no secret that I am huge Elizabeth Scott fan. She is so diverse in what she writes. If you were to read Something, Maybe, you'd think she was a quirky, light-hearted rom-com kinda author. My librarian recently read Living Dead Girl and was astounded when I said her other work is often funny and sweet. Living Dead Girl so haunted my fave librarian that she is scared to let young teenagers read it :) Love You Hate You Miss You is edgier than some of her other work (nothing like Living Dead Girl though) and it's one of my favourite reads this year.

On first appearances, LYHYMY may seem like a cliche story-line: girl's vibrant best friend dies, girl is somehow responsible, girl seeing a psych and trying to move on with life. The thing Elizabeth Scott does best is take a ordinary situation and not only make it startlingly original, but also infuse it with real, living breathing characters.

LYHYMY is extremely readable. I was effortlessly turning the pages. It got me from page one where I instantly fell in love with Amy's voice. She's honest and refreshing and she worked her way into my heart.

Amy's parents are portrayed awesomely. Unlike many novels, her parents are together and happily in love. So in love in fact, that this in itself is a source of conflict for Amy - who makes three a crowd. I love how this impacts on Amy's decision in seeking out that belongingness with Julia.

And, although Julia was her bff, not all is as it seems - as the title suggests*. Friendships in teen years are complicated and the more you get into the book, the more you see the shades of grey in their relationship. As the book opens, Julia is already dead - yet Scott weaves in back story so brilliantly that you never feel like you are being taken out of the moment. For a dead character - Julia is contagiously vibrant and alive :)

Of course, Scott always has the most crush-worthy of love interests, and she out-did herself with Patrick. He is the quiet, mysterious type. A lot of love interests win over fans hearts by witty lines, looking hot, being romantic, etc, etc. Patrick is more of a typical teenage guy. He stares out the window. A lot. Sometimes he doesn't even talk. When he does, he's not trying to dazzle anyone. Despite Amy's first person POV, Scott really lets us peak into Patrick's soul and he is a fully fleshed out character, with his own set of problems, that you can't help but love. And, just like Scott doesn't write cliché characters, she also knows how to masterfully write those URST** moments. There's a few lines in there you can re-read to try and absorb how she does it.

So, you know, just a heads up that there's a bit of hotness in there :)

Here's a typical Patrick moment:

"It was Patrick. He was leaning against the wall, only not so much leaning as looking like he wanted to press

through and get outside, get away. For some reason, I thought about asking him if he was okay, and even took an almost-step towards him, but before I could he looked at me and the expression in his eyes sent me walking away as fast as I could." p.151

Elizabeth Scott is also the master of showing, and her understated style of writing only serves to heighten the moments. Sometimes less is more:

"When he (Patrick) did, his hand touched mine, and I felt something, a strange, sudden jolt inside of me.

I used to act annoyed whenever Julia talked about Kevin and how she felt a spark every time he touched her, but the truth was, I knew exactly what she meant after that night.

He must've felt that jolt too because he said, "Oh," quietly, almost startled." p36.

It's a novel about friendship and grief and guilt and identity and love. It's an honest story about a girl - you see her bad choices and why she made them. And, it's by Elizabeth Scott, so, obviously, it's a must-read.

For more mature teens - touches on alcohol, drugs, sex and some occasional language.

*It's the coolest title, yeah?

*URST Unresolved Sexual Tension