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# The Fault In Our Stars



## **Synopsis**

Audie Award Nominee, Best Teens Category, 2013 Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* is award-winning-author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreakingly beautiful work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 14 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 10, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B006VPAXQY

Best Sellers Rank: #10 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying #10 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance #43 in Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

## **Customer Reviews**

I am not quite finished with the book, but so far, I think it is very well written. It covers a topic that is difficult to talk about and is often avoided. It has been challenging for me to get through; however, I feel like I should add my perspective. I was diagnosed with cancer at 10. I am now 15 years old and a teen-age cancer survivor. I am a volunteer and advocate for pediatric cancer awareness. This book has gotten negative reviews based on several points: 1) This is from another reviewer: "The characters are not believable. They do not speak like teenagers. They do not even handle situations like teenagers do. So many interactions between Gus and Hazel are interactions which, plain and simple, just would not happen between real, emotional, scared, awkward, virgin teenagers, let alone ones with cancer who have been socially cut off for much of their lives." \*My point-of-view: Have you spent time with any of us? They are believable as teen-age cancer patients/survivors. We may look

like teen-agers, but in our heads, we are not. We have had to face our own mortality and make choices we should never have to make. It makes us grow up...quickly. Most of us do not act or speak like teen-agers because that is no longer how we think. After treatment, many of us find the things most teens (and sometimes adults) are worried about are trivial. Society cuts us off, but we are not cut off from each other. These types of interactions do happen. And, it is emotional and scary, but we learn to tell it like it is, without the normal fluff and awkwardness. We find 'normal' where we can and try to live every single day we have because we know that time is an illusion.<sup>2)</sup> The parents are not real, not deep characters, and they do not have their own identities.\* My point-of-view: I have seen my own parents (and siblings) and the parents of other friends struggle with this. Many times, they do not have their own identities anymore. Every single minute is spent trying to make it to the next! They try to keep the family together and functioning, in spite of the effects of treatment, fevers and midnight trips to the emergency room, 3 weeks of the month spent in isolation, jobs in jeopardy, birthdays and holidays interrupted, not to mention talks that parents never want to have with their child. I've talked to my mom about this. This becomes their identity. My mom said their jobs become about doing whatever it takes, travelling all over the country (which is very common), researching new studies, and new medicines, all to help us survive and thrive with grace and dignity. It is also their job to prepare, if treatments don't work, to help us die with just as much grace and dignity. I hope everyone can read this with an open mind and an open heart. Then, reach out to the patients and survivors in your communities. They are wise beyond their years, funny, brave and inspiring.

I'm not usually one for young adult fiction, but this book absolutely fantastic. It reaches deep inside of me. It's a story of a quiet tragedy, love, and an undeniable reality. Hazel and Augustus face mortality and so many of the meaningless details of life. It forces them to face who they really truly are. How would they carry on... Terminal disease gives you fear, for yourself, for your loved ones. It causes pain that you are the reason to make your family feel worried and cry at night. Green wrote this sad, tragic, yet beautiful story, it brings tears to my eyes.

This beautifully written story about two teens dealing with death and pain instantly pulled me in. What raises this book above the rest of the YA monotony is that these two characters are unique and interesting teenagers. They share a philosophy of life that is insightful for kids their age. Teenagers dealing with death would take stabs at trying to understand their pain and early demise and therefore, these two are not obsessing on some of the petty things that other teenagers find

important. Some of the story felt a little too contrived (the part about the recluse writer), but I enjoyed the development of Gus and Hazel's relationship and enjoyed spending time with them and feeling their joy and pain.

First off. It was a quick read. I finished it within a 24 hour period of time. Granted, I'm an adult reading YA fiction. It's not Dostoevsky ( I spent a few summers trying to get through long winded Russian on my down time ) but it still kept my attention enough that I wanted to see it to the end. My predictions were right. Hazel & Gus had their own fatal flaws and demise with all the typical character traits these sort of books have. The heroine doesn't know her own beauty...etc. You discussed it all above and I agree. ( yada yada yada ) There was a third character though. Cancer. And I think, this was the one, that I wanted to shy away from. It's a dirty word in everyone's language throughout the world. It signifies pain and suffering no matter the language spoken. And for some of us it hits close to home. I myself have spent much time laying in a hospital bed ( for my Crohn's ) as well as sat by my mother's bedside as she lost her battle to cancer. It is not pretty. It is raw and ugly but this book did show that there can be beautiful moments in that suffering. There is some romanticization of cancer within this book but I am happy the author treaded lightly on it. One thing that did stay with me after I read the book, was how the characters each always made it a point to say thank you to the nurses. For me, that rang so true. The way the author captured that moment. The vulnerability felt when you must rely on the kindness of strangers to help you when pain is enveloping is like realizing how vast the ocean really is.

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