



## Elizabeth Scott

**Love You Hate You Miss You**  
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*What was your inspiration for writing Love You Hate You Miss You?*

I sat down to write with only the vaguest of ideas of what it was going to be about, actually. But what I wrote first is still the start of the book—Amy's first letter to Julia—and it was then, after that letter, that Amy's story started unfolding in my head and I took a lot of notes and then dove right back into her world. And I'm glad I did, even if Love You Hate You Miss You ended up being one of only two stories I've ever written that made me cry while I was writing a scene!

*As Amy struggles to deal with Julia's death, she learns so much about life. Why was that important in the book?*

Amy's so caught up in her life before—her life with Julia—and there's reasons for that. And so, in the beginning, she doesn't want to deal with her life now. She doesn't care about it. But she can't avoid it, and so she has to deal with her life, and that, in turn, starts to make her think about before. And how things were versus how she saw them/wanted them to be.

*Amy's parents are still married and very much in love but absent from her life. How does this play into her destructive behavior and even the way she approaches her own relationships?*

When I started writing the book, I realized I'd read loads of young adult books where the parents were divorced or getting divorced or the family was falling apart, etc., etc. But I'd never read a book where the parents were still in love and I started thinking—what would it be like if you grew up in a house where your parents were so in love with each other that there wasn't much room in their hearts for you?

That's what happens to Amy. Her parents are crazy in love—the kind of love we're supposed to want, an all-consuming thing—and it's left Amy out in the cold. And as a result, she really scorns love. She . . . well, I think she spends a lot of the book hating the idea of "being in love" and even the idea of letting herself get truly emotionally close to someone.

*Amy uses alcohol as a way to escape and learns the terrible consequences. What do you do to escape? What do you think readers should take away from Amy's struggle?*

My escapes: I read, I watch TV, I go to the movies, I hang out with my friends and my husband and my dog. Oh, and I love reading celebrity gossip!

As for what Amy goes through—you know, I'm so uncomfortable with the notion that when you read a book you have to "get" X or Y when you're done. I think that readers come away with different things when they read, and that's one of the things that makes reading so amazing. There are many things you can see in a story, you know?

*Even though Amy is sad and lonely, she still has humor. Do you think that humor helps heal wounds?*

I think that sometimes it can.

*Patrick and Amy only shared a few intimate moments together but share similar struggles. Tell us about their relationship.*

Patrick and Amy understand each other—they've both suffered, and both have dealt with having to live after something awful, something life changing, has happened. Add in the fact that Amy is attracted to him, and she's—well, she's "really" attracted to him. And that terrifies her. Because here's someone who gets her, and it's someone she wants. And she doesn't know how to deal with it at all.

*You have lived in small towns similar to Amy's. Were your teenage years anything like Amy's?*

Nooooooo! Amy's life is incredibly intense and difficult. I never went through anything like she does.

*You have been really busy over the past few years. Tell us about your writing and how you fit everything in.*

Well, I'm lucky in that I have a husband who is really supportive, so I'm able to write full-time. That helps a lot. And so does the fact that I don't mind a little (all right, a lot) of dust around the house!

*Your books tackle so many diverse subjects and styles! Tell us what kinds of projects you gravitate toward, and where you find inspiration for your novels.*

I like writing all kinds of things, but I think something that shows up in all my writing is a look at what it means to be yourself—to be who you truly are and not who others want/expect you to be.

As far as inspiration—it comes from so many places. I've gotten ideas while driving, in dreams—and even while cleaning the bathroom!

*In the past, you have had some really interesting jobs. Other than being a writer, what has your favorite job been?*

I liked working at the hardware store. I met so many people—just about everyone needs to go to the hardware store at one time or another, you know?

*Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?*

Well, since I suspect most aspiring writers already have the writing thing down, I'd say that it's really important to educate yourself about the industry. And read—read all kinds of books, and read as much as you can.

*What's something your readers might be surprised to learn about you?*

I never thought about being a writer when I was growing up. In fact, I never wrote a word of fiction (except for assignments I had to do in English classes) until I was 27. (!)