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LoveSick Erica Character Analysis

From ThePlaz.com

⚠ Only a DRAFT!

May change/be updated - still in progress - may still contain inaccuracies

Erica is one of the main characters in *LoveSick* by Jake Coburn. She is a freshman in college; the daughter of a very wealthy father who is overprotective of her. She is also bulimic. This worries her father, who, in *LoveSick*, hires Ted, a former basketball player whose hopes and scholarship for college basketball, vanished in a drunk driving accident. Ted is suppose to spy on Erica in her freshman year, in return for a free ride through college. The two find themselves at a snooty private college where, the only real friends they make are each other.

Contents

- 1 Father: Overprotective
- 2 Bulimia
- 3 Ted
- 4 End of the Book
- 5 Sources

Father: Overprotective

Erica does not fare well the first time "alone" from her overprotective father, whose protection she despises. Erica's father is a rich man. He shows great concern for Erica, but is not around her much. Although, it's not clearly mentioned, Erica was probably well cared for in her childhood. However, not by her father, but by people he hired. Thus, Erica was always well looked after, probably even too well, but she didn't have access to the love of her father. Erica's father thinks he can solve the problem by throwing money at it; for example Erica says, "my father controls people/things/life with money because that's all he knows" (Coburn 212). This could have possibly lead Erica to turn towards an addiction in order to try and straighten out her life. She may have even gone out of her way, so that she should defy her father, whom she calls "The Ferret" (Coburn 159). The addiction could have started out as doing something which he can't *not* control, in order to rub it in what a poor father he was to her. Because he restricts her so much, Erica feels a great need to defy her father. By not playing a closer role in Erica's childhood, Erica's father created Erica's role in *LoveSick*. This is an ironic situation. *a situation he tried to avoid*

Bulimia

Possibly because of her father, Erica suffers from Bulimia. Bulimia, is an eating disorder where Erica eats too much food and then throws it up. It is dangerous to her life because she must hide it, not wanting others to know about it. This makes her withdraw from being around people. Bulimia is also dangerous to the body. It can cause gastrointestinal problems and damage to the teeth because of the acidic nature of the regurgitated food (Encarta).

Ted

Ted is the boy Erica's father hired to spy on Erica. Erica is able to bond with Ted because he too is fighting an addiction while trying to hide it. Because he too is fighting an addiction while trying to hide it, he is able to connect with Erica, but also withdraws from social life. He is at odds with his regularly drunk roommate, James. Both do not fit in well with the other people at the collage. Living only a few doors away from each other brings them together. Ted also tries to get Erica help by bringing her to his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. This plants the seed in Erica's mind to consider checking into a rehab center.

End of the Book

As the book progresses, the friendship between Erica and Ted grows stronger. Towards the end of the book, Erica and Ted fall in love and kiss. However, Ted realizes that he does not wish to continue spying on his girlfriend. He quits his spying job and also drinks a lot of alcohol, which he knows he shouldn't because that is what got him into this situation in the first place. While he is drunk, he also tells Erica that he was hired to spy on her by her father. This makes Erica very angry, because her only friend turned out to be working for her father and the world she hates so much. She borrows a car from a friend and leaves collage in a huff to go to New York City. In New York, she checks into rehab, where she pays cash to not alert her father of her whereabouts.

Ted and Erica then reconcile their feelings for each other. Eventually they understand how their lives are shaped by trying to overcome addictions. They kiss and make up, as well as decide to travel the world, instead of returning to collage. Erica's father realizes that strict supervision is not what his daughter needs.

Sources

- "Bulimia." Encarta. Microsoft. 19 Aug 2007 <http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761574868/Bulimia.html>.
- Coburn, Jack. LoveSick. New York: Dutton, 2005.

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2nd

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Erica is one of the main characters in *LoveSick* by Jake Coburn. She is a freshman in college; the daughter of a very wealthy father who is overprotective of her. She is also bulimic. This worries her father, who, in *LoveSick*, hires Ted, a former basketball player whose hopes and scholarship for college basketball vanished in a drunk driving accident. Ted is supposed to spy on Erica in her freshman year, in return for a free ride through college. The two find themselves at a snooty private college where, the only real friends they make are each other. Ted becomes nervous spying on his friends (girlfriends?), but he is reassured by Erica's father's agent Michael, who threatens harm to Ted if he refuses to complete his end of the deal. (?drop sentence?)

Contents

- 1 Father: Overprotective
- 2 Bulimia
- 3 Ted
- 4 End of the Book

Father: Overprotective

well
 Erica does not fare much better the first time "alone" from her overprotective father, whose protection she despises. Erica's father is a rich man. He shows great concern for Erica, but is not around her much. Although, it's not clearly mentioned, Erica was probably well cared for in her childhood. However, not by her father, but by people he hired. Thus, Erica was always well looked after, probably even too well, but she didn't have access to the love of her father. Erica's father thinks he can solve the problem by throwing money at it; for example Erica says, "my father controls people/things/life with money because that's all he knows" (Coburn 212). This could have possibly lead Erica to turn towards an addiction in order to try and straighten out her life. She may have even gone out of her way, so that she should defy her father, whom she calls "The Ferret" (Coburn 159). The addiction could have started out as doing something which he can't control, in order to rub it in what a poor father he was to her. Because he restricts her so much, Erica felt a great need to defy her father. By not playing a closer role in Erica's childhood, Erica's father's role in *LoveSick* (*irony*) feels like a created

Bulimia

possibly
So, because of her father, Erica suffers from Bulimia. Bulimia, is an eating disorder where Erica eats too much food and then throws it up. It is dangerous to her life because she must hide it, not wanting others to know about it. This makes her withdraw from being around people. Bulimia is also dangerous to the body. It can cause gastrointestinal problems and damage to the teeth because of the acid nature of the regurgitated food (Encarta).

10

Ted

Ted is the boy Erica's father hired to spy on Erica. Erica is able to bond with Ted because he too is fighting an addiction. Ted lost his basketball scholarship in a drunk-driving accident. He now attends Alcoholics Anonymous, which at first he was ordered to go by the court, and then he continues because he likes it. However, Ted too tries to hide the fact that he has an addiction. Because he too is fighting an addiction while trying to hide it, he is able to connect with Erica, but also withdraws from social life. He is at odds with his regularly drunk roommate, James.

End of the Book

As the book progresses, the friendship between Erica and Ted grows stronger. Towards the end of the book, Erica and Ted fall in love and kiss. However, Ted realizes that he does not wish to continue spying on his girlfriend. He quits his spying job and also drinks a lot of alcohol, which he knows he shouldn't because that is what got him into this situation in the first place. While he is drunk, he also tells Erica that he was hired to spy on her by her father. This makes Erica very angry, because her only friend turned out to be working for her father and the world she hates so much. She borrows a car from a friend and leaves collage in a huff to go to New York City. In New York, she checks into rehab, where she pays cash to not alert her father of her whereabouts.

Ted and Erica then reconcile their feelings for each other. Eventually they understand how their lives are shaped by trying to overcome addictions. They kiss and make up, as well as decide to travel the world, instead of returning to collage. Erica's father realizes that strict supervision is not what his daughter needs.

- focus on quotes, phrases, and paragraphs!
- source: http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761574868/Bulimia.html
- the book itself

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brings them together. Ted also tries to get Erica help by bringing her to his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. This plants the seed in Erica's mind to consider rehab checking into a rehab center.

(1st)

8/25/07

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Erica is one of the main characters in *LoveSick* by Jake Coburn. She is a freshman in college; the daughter of a very wealthy father who is over protective of her. She is also bulimic.

Contents

- 1 Story
- 2 Bulimia
- 3 Ted
- 4 Father: Overprotective
- 5 End of the Book

Story

In *LoveSick*, Erica's father hires Ted, a former basketball player whose hopes and scholarship for college basketball vanished in a drunk driving accident. Ted is suppose to spy on Erica in her freshman year, in return for a free ride through college. The two ~~soon~~ find themselves at a snooty private college where the only real friends they make are each other. Ted is nervous conducting his spying, but he is reassured by Erica's father's agent Michael who threatens harm if Ted refuses to complete his end of the deal.

Erica does not fare much better the first time "alone" from her over protective father, whose protection she despises. In addition to Ted, her father pays for private sessions from a psychiatrist, which Erica, first unwillingly conducts, but soon becomes more comfortable pouring out her feelings to someone she knows will not share them with her father.

Erica soon becomes friends with Ted, and thinks that he is her only "real" friend in college, and also in her life.

Erica also takes Prozac at the request of her psychiatrist. However, she finds out that alcohol and Prozac do not mix well after she forgot everything that happened the last night when she wakes up..

Bulimia

So, because of her father Erica suffers from Bulimia. Erica's life is also complicated because she suffers from Bulimia. Bulimia is an eating disorder where Erica eats too much food and then throws it up. It is dangerous to her life because she must hide it, because she does not want others

to know about it. This makes her withdraw from being around people.

Also her body does not get enough nutrients. Danger to mouth? - check encarta

Ted is the boy Erica's father hired to spy on Erica.
Erica is able to bond with Ted because he too is fighting an addiction. Ted lost his basketball scholarship in a drunk-driving accident. He now attends Alcoholics Anonymous, at first he was ordered to go by the court, and then he continues because he likes it. However, Ted too tries to hide the fact that he has an addiction. Because he too is fighting an addiction while trying to hide it, he is able to connect with Erica.

Father: Overprotective

sentence

Erica's father is a rich man. He shows great concern for Erica, but is not around her much. Although, it's not clearly mentioned, Erica was probably well cared for in her childhood. However, not by her father, but by people he hired. Thus, Erica was always ~~well~~ looked after, probably even too well, but she didn't have access to the love of her father. Erica's father thinks he can solve the problem by throwing money at it. This lead Erica to turn towards an addiction in order to try and straighten out her life. She may have even gone out of her way, so that she should defy her father, whom she calls "The Ferret" (Coburn 159). The addiction could have started out as doing something which he can't control, in order to rub it in what a poor father he was to her. Because he restrict her so much, Erica felt a great need to defy her father. By not playing a closer role in Erica's childhood, Erica's father set up this to happen.

Erica's role
call home in LoveSick
possibly irony
just wants to get away from her father (rehab paid w/ cash) (mad at Ted) calls dad ferret

"my father controls people/things/life with money because that's all he knows" p212

End of the Book

As the book progresses the friendship between Erica + Ted grows stronger
Towards the end of the book, Erica and Ted fall in love and kiss. However, something ~~snaps~~ in Ted, and he suddenly becomes ~~unwilling to spy on Erica anymore~~. He quits and also drinks a lot of alcohol, which he knows he shouldn't because that is what got him into this situation in the first place. While he is drunk, he also tells Erica that he was hired to spy on her by her father. This makes Erica very angry, because her only friend turned out to be working for her father and the world she hates so much. She borrows a car from a friend and leaves collage in a huff to go to New York City. In New York, she takes the advice of her psychologist and checks into rehab, where she pays cash to not alert her father

for his son job
Michael, Erica's father's agent, wants to be paid, however, after Ted tells Erica, Erica's father doesn't want to pay.

Michael finds Ted and wants his help to steal a painting from Erica's father to cover what Erica's father won't pay.

However, Ted has other plans and crashes the car they're riding in into a tree. Ted and Michael both make it out alive.

Ted and Erica then reconcile their feelings for each other. Eventually they understand how their lives are shaped by trying to overcome addictions. They kiss and make up, as well as decide to travel the world, instead of returning to collage.

Erica's father realizes that strict supervision is not what his daughter needs

focus on quotes, phrases, and paragraphs! source: http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761574868/Bulimia.html

- the book its self

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to world cont

Love Sick

7/30

TOPIC

Character - main, girl, father, Michael
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 flat
Unsure upset
 easily
 X

1st Q

normal girl
i too protected by her father
i why bulimic
why so upset w/ Ted sprays
wush4 she friends w/ him before

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

To analyze a character, you must find out what makes him/her “tick.” Look at the character as you would anyone you meet for the first time. You may notice or learn the following:

- physical traits - what the character looks like, how he/she dresses, how he moves
- psychological/personality traits
- motivation
- behavior /actions
- relationships - with other characters in the story, how others see/react to him/her
- weaknesses/faults
- strengths/virtues
- moral constitution - often a character will agonize over right and wrong
- protagonist/antagonist - does the story revolve around this character’s actions?
- complex/simple personality
- history and background
- change - has the character changed during the course of the story? What was his/her motivation? Why?
- similarities and differences of the characters
- Does the character have a function in the story?

NOTE: You also will need to examine how the author presents the character. The following passage will help you understand this. It is from A Handbook to Literature, Sixth edition, by C. Hugh Holman & William Harmon, Macmillan Publishing, New York, 1992.

Characterization is “the creation of imaginary persons so they seem lifelike. There are three fundamental methods of characterization: (1) the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct exposition, either in an introductory block or more often piecemeal throughout the work, illustrated by action; (2) the presentation of the character in action, with little or no explicit comment by the author, in the expectation that the reader can deduce the attributes of the actor from the actions; and (3) the representation from within the character, without comment by the author, of the impact of actions and emotion on the character’s inner self. . . . The author may concentrate on a dominant trait to the exclusion of other aspects of personality, or the author may attempt to present a fully rounded creation. If the presentation of a single dominant trait is carried to an extreme, not a believable character but a caricature will result. If this method is handled with skill, it can produce striking and interesting two-dimensional characters that lack depth. . . . Sometimes these characters are given descriptive names. . . . On the other hand, the author may present so convincing a [collection] of personality traits that a complex. . . character emerges; such a character is three-dimensional. . . . A character may be static or dynamic. A static character is one who changes little if at all. . . . Sometimes a static character is revealed bit by bit [but] does not change, although our view of him steadily changes. . . . A dynamic character. . . is one who is modified by actions and experiences, and one objective of the work. . . is to reveal the consequences of these actions” (80-81).

Character is also defined as “a complicated term that includes the idea of the moral constitution of the human personality. . . the presence of moral uprightness, and the simpler notion of the presence of creatures in art that seem to be human beings of one sort or another. . . . [Sometimes] the person is described not as an individualized personality but as an example of some vice or virtue. . . .” (79).