

The Course of Life and Hardship

The Fault in Our Stars

By John Green

Penguin Group

Fiction

313 pages

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by Liz S

For as long as I can remember, my friends have raved about John Green. I thought “what’s all the hype about this John Green guy?” The book *The Fault in Our Stars* was said to be amazing and that I should read it. Not being a reader, I was hesitant because I said I would read it but I never attempted. I decided to read the book just to give my own opinion. The book turned out to be the most amazing book I have read in a long time and made me want to know more about John Green and other books he has written that I could read.

Hazel Grace has a disoriented life. Dealing with Thyroid cancer, boys, and her mother’s impression that she is depressed, it’s no wonder she’s so lost. Support Group is a place meant to help the sad, but for Hazel, it’s a place of torture. Throughout the course of the novel, the excitement and pain gone through makes a life unbearable. She is faced with not only the fear of her own death, but also the death of loved ones around her. As Hazel progresses, she finds the author of her favorite book, *An Imperial Affliction*, but the author was not what she thought he was all up to be, which adds another bump in the road. As the time which comes to an end, she finally loses the person she loved and made her feel alive, and is faced with a piece of writing that answered all the questions she was chasing for.

Though Hazel’s friendship with Isaac, another kid from her support group who lost his eyesight to cancer, helped her cope with support group, she knew that the horror of him having eye surgery and a definite of him going blind, was too much for her to handle. Their relationship comes to an end when Isaac drags Augustus, the new hot boy who battles osteosarcoma which is very rare form of bone cancer, to join the infamous and dreary place known as support group.

Cancer tries to take a human down with as much force as it can. With determination, you can take on the fight and win the battle. Though Augustus didn't win the battle with cancer, there is still the effort that went in to fight. Hazel and Augustus have enthusiasm for living and for each other, cancer or not, which is rare. As Hazel says, "There are days, many of them, when I resent

the size of my unbounded set. I want more numbers than I'm likely to get, and God, I want more numbers for Augustus Waters than he got. But, Gus, my love, I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little infinity I wouldn't trade it for the world. You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I'm grateful." Even though they are both facing death, they still have a flourishing relationship that is so sweet that you can't believe two people that are dying can be so happy. I guess, when you know that you're dying, you don't want to be miserable thinking about it all the time, you want to find something that will make you happy until your final days.

John Green, aside from the amazing *The Fault in Our Stars*, has written many other acclaimed books such as *Looking For Alaska*, *An Abundance of Katherine's*, *Paper Towns*, and *Let it Snow*. *The Fault in Our Stars* became the top of Amazons list of best selling books, just by the support of his fans. He has a Youtube blog with an army of fans that he calls "nerdfighters", a group dedicated "to fight to increase awesome and decrease suck."

The title of the book comes from a line in Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar* where Casius says, "the fault, dear Brutus is not in our stars, / but in ourselves, that we are underlings." This meaning that it's not always our fault; sometimes fate is more powerful.

Any student at Blind Brook High School would enjoy this book. It consists of a love triangle between two cancer patients, the journey for answers, and dealing with the loss of the one person who made you truly happy and alive. Don't be hesitant to read this book because it will surprise you and you will be so happy in the end. You will want to read more and more of John Green's books. This book deserves five stars all the way because it is a compelling story that illustrates death and heartbreak beautifully with humor and witty lines throughout this book that puts an optimistic view on what would otherwise be a bleak and depressing novel.