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*Elizabeth Scott*

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**Perfect You** Elizabeth Scott

**Kate Brown's life has gone downhill fast.**

Her father has quit his job to sell vitamins at the mall, and Kate is forced to work with him. Her best friend has become popular, and now she acts like Kate's invisible.

And then there's Will. Gorgeous, unattainable Will, whom Kate acts like she can't stand even though she can't stop thinking about him. When Will starts acting interested, Kate hates herself for wanting him when she's sure she's just his latest conquest.

Kate figures that the only way things will ever stop hurting so much is if she keeps to herself and stops caring about anyone or anything. What she doesn't realize is that while life may not always be perfect, good things can happen -- but only if she lets them...

## Perfect You Details

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Author : Elizabeth Scott

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## From Reader Review Perfect You for online ebook

### Kristi says

Kate Brown's life has gone downhill fast. Her father has quit his job to sell vitamins at the mall, and Kate is forced to work with him. Her best friend has become popular, and now she acts like Kate's invisible.

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(summary from back of book)

What a great read! This was my first time reading Elizabeth Scott and she will definitely be an author I will continue to read! Perfect You was an insightful look into a teenage girls life, Kate's confusion over her lost friendship is beyond believable. You see that happen all the time in high school. I guess I was lucky I moved in the fifth grade and didn't have to experience losing my childhood friends, although at the time I didn't see it that way. The supporting characters and the back ground story, was something that I think I actually enjoyed the most. I love when a story goes beyond focusing on the main character, sometimes the background characters are what make a story seem real. I was happy to see that in the end Kate learned to give people a chance and not always assume the worst.

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### Arlene says

Overall, I have to say that I really enjoyed *Perfect You* by Elizabeth Scott. There were parts I truly enjoyed, and there were aspects of the story that frustrated me and made me mad. However, I think it was intentional on the part of Scott because in hindsight, I realized my feelings paralleled Kate's whirlwind of emotions she experienced throughout the book.

About the book: Kate's life cannot get any more craptastic. Her father quit his job to chase his pipe dream of selling Perfect You vitamins at a kiosk in the mall, where she is forced to work... with no pay, the business is not doing well, and the money situation is deteriorating by the minute. As a result, her family is losing their house and falling deeper and deeper into debt. To top it all off, her best friend had a major transformation over the summer, landing her a spot in the popular crowd and leaving Kate in the dust. Kate handles the situation the best way she knows how, which is to lash out at those who are trying to befriend her, and that includes Will, the cute guy in her class that has a reputation of hooking up with girls. Because of all that's happening in her life, Kate is having a hard time focusing on the positive and trusting people's true intentions. As the story progresses, she learns some important lessons, one of which is despite how negative everything seems around you, stop and try to focus on the positive and you'll be sure to find someone or something that can make your day a little better.

Overall I felt compassion for Kate, but I have to admit, I was put off by the way she treated Will for the

majority of the story and how she kept chasing after Anna's friendship. However in the end, I'm glad it all worked out and she was able to pull herself out of her downward spiral. Great book, with some valuable lessons and bittersweet ending. I definitely feel comfortable recommending this book to my fellow avid readers.

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## **Zarina says**

The entire time while reading this book I just wanted to slap some sense into the characters, they were utterly frustrating!

Main character Kate was whiny, moody, unnecessarily mean to Will and blind to Anna's actions.

The dad was the most irresponsible and selfish character imaginable and I cannot believe that everyone kept sticking up for him opposed to the grandmother who was the only likeable and sensible one in the house (until Todd grew up). For all the mentions in the book of how much the father loved his family above everything else there wasn't a single thing he did that proved this to actually be the case.

The mother was an idiot for standing by her husband despite everything he'd done and was basically making the same mistake her mother had made when it came to men.

Anna was a bitch, enough said.

Will was too one-dimensional and it made absolutely no sense that he liked Kate what with all her whining and thinking the worst of him.

And as soon as Kate dared to pick up the phone herself to call Will the novel states "the end". WTF? There's one chapter after this that basically says that everything in Kate's life is still horrible but who cares, she has a boyfriend. Because obviously that's more important than friends, a family, or even a house...

I'm giving this 2.5 stars because despite its many (MANY) flaws, for some absurd reason I still wanted to finish the book.

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## **Nic says**

**Favourite Quote:** *You tell yourself you aren't something or that you can't be something and you know what? It will become true. You have to decide who you are and what you can do and then go after what you want. Because believe me, no one is going to give it to you."*

Okay, first up I have to admit I am on a bit of Elizabeth Scott binge at the moment. I just love the way her books make you feel - happy yet at the same time makes your heart ache a little. And Perfect You is a perfect example of that.

Like I have said before Scott writing is stunning. Her voice is so true to life. She deals with some compelling issues with honesty and heart. Her characters always draw you into their world and are always unforgettable.

Kate, is a character that I just get. Someone so easy for me to connect with. She is someone who doesn't realise her own self worth. She pushes away Will because she doesn't think he is really into her. She believes that her Anna can be bestfriend again even though Anna treats her like dirt. Her family is falling apart and she feels like she has no-one to turn too.

And Will, I adore. Completely irresistible (and yes book boyfriend material). I love, love, love the playful banter between him and Kate. They really had great chemistry.

*"Kate, don't be like that. You know I only did so well because I yearn-see, SAT word- to follow you to college and steal your heart."*

*"Uh-huh. Too bad for you I don't plan on attending clown college."*

*He grinned. "Only you would ignore the incredibly sweet thing I just said."*

*"Only you would describe one of your asinine comments as incredibly sweet."*

*"I know you secretly have been dying to check me out"*

*"All right, you caught me. I'm secretly obsessed with you and spend all my free time writing about you in my journal. 'Dear Diary, today Will was an ass for the 467th day in a row. He's so dreamy'."*

Want to know my favourite part of this book? The yummy kissing scenes. Before reading Perfect You Alexa from Not Enough Bookshelves and Nomes from Inkcrush did mention some delicious kissing scenes (and this may have been the main reason I desperately ran out and bought a copy) and they were right. I just love the build up and the tenderness of moments between Kate and Will. They are one of my all time favourite couples.

Overall, Perfect You is a charming and clever read that I couldn't get enough of. If you love a good coming of age story with a nice touch of romance then you shouldn't miss this.

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## **Merna says**

I'm not going to gather up the energy to do an actual review because I read this – truly, I can't remember when I picked this up. Anyway, this book is one of the explanations on why I'm not a big fan of contemporary YA romance books.

### **The basic story is:**

The book revolves around Kate who works with her father selling Vitamins in the mall. Her best friend has become popular and ever since that occurred, she acts as if Kate is invisible. And...other cliché teen drama crap, which I will not bother to list.

Okay, the novel does deal with significant challenges of being a teenager such as divorce and selfish parents.

But what irritated me to the point of insanity was the ending.

Nothing gets fixed. Nothing.

**But one thing.**

That one thing is her relationship with Will. The guy who, in my view, was a complete player. Kate wasn't any nicer to him either...I guess that makes it even.

*“What she doesn't realize is that while life may not always be perfect, good things can happen -- but only if she lets them...”*

Wait, **WAIT!**

But good things didn't ensue! I felt like I personally knew the message that the author was attempting to deliver in this book.

**Everyone gather around for the compelling message.**

It doesn't matter if your parents are getting divorced or your best friend basically ditched you, but as long as you have an amazing douchebag boyfriend then your life is complete.

END OF THE STORY. I mean message.

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### **Wendy Darling says**

This book is equal parts adorable and frustrating. The romance had a lot of promise, and the family and friend dramas were engaging. But it takes way too long for Kate to wake up to what's really going on with her best friend, way too long for her to figure out whether Will is actually sincere, and the thing with the dad played out for way too long as well. And after she does wake up, we don't get much time to enjoy it before it all ends.

All in all, this could have been a great book, but as it is, it didn't quite make the mark for me.

(view spoiler)

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### **Rachel E. Carter says**

I almost DNF'd this book in the first 30 pages because it was depressing and the protagonist was so passive and unwilling to stand up to her family (a big pet peeve of mine). I don't do sad contemporaries and the only thing that kept me reading was the writing style (first-person sarcastic and hilarious) and then drool-worthy Will....

And then I just kept reading and it got really good. And damn it, that sad world sucked me in and made me feel things. Honestly parts of this book felt so real they hurt (family issues). And there were parts I wanted to punch Kate in the face because she was so in denial/naive/meek around Will and her idiot dad and her lazya\$\$ brother. But you know what? I don't care. Because it was such a good book and I couldn't stop. So many contemporaries are funny-but-not-real or real-but-not-funny and this book was both. Elizabeth somehow managed to channel my angsty highschool self perfectly and I just effing loved every second of this. It had love-hate banter and insults and fuzzy feelings and realness and funny and finding yourself all in the same book.

Definitely my favorite so far by this author.

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### ~Tina~ says

Kate's life just isn't going very well lately. Her father quit his job and decided to seek his dream and sell vitamins at the mall and Kate has to work with him. Embarrassment is an understatement. Then she loses her best friend to popularity making Kate invisible and the school-player starts to take an interest in her. Even though she can't stop herself from being attracted to Will, she doesn't want to be another notch on his belt.

Kate's afraid to get hurt but then she realizes that maybe if she let the wall down long enough to actually let someone in, she could actually be happy.

This was a cute book, but wow, was Kate ever frustrating. She was basically on constant defense-mode the entire book, not that I can blame her, but still. She was a very conflicting character for me to like, but I could also sympathize with how she misses her friend and thought she was the better person when she came back around.

Will, I just loved! Adorable with that cool-sexy vibe that just lingers while reading those scenes. It was really cute the way he would get under Kate's skin. *Lots* of yummy kisses in this book guys, *lotts!* Very swoon-worthy stuff.

Overall, **Perfect You** was a good read. Light, fluffy, annoying and adorable. Perfect if your looking for a smile.

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### Kristy says

March TBR Challenge #2

Well, this was not what I was expecting. Will I ever learn not to judge books by their cover?!?!? Probably not. I'm not really liking this cover, but the insides made up for it!

This was my first E. Scott book and I do not believe it will be my last. I liked it. I'm not jumping up and down ecstatic over it, but it was still a good read.

Kate was a different sort of "girly book" character. She was self-conscious, not popular, sad, tough, opinionated, moody-yet still likable. She was too hard on herself. But that is part of what made her and Will's back and forth relationship so cute and enjoyable. There were times I just wanted to hug her and there were times when I wanted to scream at her.

Anna was absolutely horrid. I really don't know why Kate put up with her at all. She is nicer than I am, I guess. I was really hoping for that moment when Kate was just going to blow up on her and tell what a horrible friend/human being she was. I got so tired of hearing her excuses and whining. If this was a horror movie, I would be hoping she was the first to be axed!

1,2, Freddy's coming for you

I like how things weren't just magically fixed in the end. It wasn't really a "happy" ending, but it was more

real that way.

Not my usual cup-of-tea, but enjoyable nonetheless. Fans of Deb Calletti, Sarah Dessen, etc., should definitely pick this one up!

3.5 stars

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### **Kody Keplinger says**

Like all of Elizabeth Scott's books, this one was fabulous. It's a sweet and quirky romance with a load of family tension - which Scott has proven to be GREAT with.

And, for you romance fans, I assure you that the love interest is HOT. I love Will. He's the boy Kate wants so badly to hate. The boy who teases her and who has a rep for hooking up with everyone. But he's attractive, and somehow, she can't completely hate him.

Especially when they start making out. OF course, that's also when things get super complicated.

Just read it. SOOO adorable. So good.

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### **Catherine ? says**

This was...awful. And it definitely did not satisfy my rom com craving.

The main character was whiny the entire time. She pined over a TERRIBLE ex-best friend and a boy who I honestly don't get the hype around. She complained about every single thing her family did and argued with Will just to be dramatic. And the "relationship" between her and Will was just pages after pages of kissing. Ick.

Nothing was resolved at the end; the family was full of drama from beginning to end and I had no idea what the "lesson" or character development was supposed to be, until the epilogue, where it was pretty much stated explicitly.

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### **Isamlq says**

Good Golly! I think this is one of those books where you want to shake the main character to get her to open her eyes. Kate is m.i.s.e.r.a.b.l.e. It isn't that she's unpopular... that's the least of her worries. One, her father has quit his job to sell vitamins at the mall. Two, she has to work as his assistant. Three, her "nightmare" of a grandmother has moved in to help out. Last, her best friend has turned into a beauty and totally forgotten her. The only bright side is her love/hate relationship with Will- her school's hook up king. \*more on him later\*

I really did not like how self-involved they **all** were. And I do mean all of them! Her father was too wrapped up in his dream to notice their home life was crap. Her mother was too wrapped up in supporting her



husband. Todd, was too wrapped up in being a man about town. Her grandmother was too wrapped up in appearances. Her best friend was too wrapped in being popular. And she was too wrapped up in being miserable.

Wait, am I making them out as hateful? Well they are! Or they were. Her blinders came off slowly, but with each realization, I would go, "Oh, thank gosh.. She's thinking!" Once her blinders were off... once her mother's blinders were off, I liked the changes that happened. Once they recognized the gem that her grandmother was (convenient, I know,) I felt relief.

"If they're all so hateful, why bother?" one might ask. I could not help myself. The story is just that good. Even if the individuals were crappy, and even if the relationships were all screwed up, I liked how honest the story was. *Honest*. How? Well, there's no denying that they were flawed, (except for Kate, the MC, it seemed. She just kept on denying till the very last moment when she couldn't anymore) BUT there's also no denying that they've got a good side too. Her father with his passion (blind as it was,) her mother with her loyalty, her brother with his humor, her grandmother with her willingness to assist (wanted or not.) And Kate with her (slow) discovery and acceptance of those flaws and merits.

But let me get down to the happy-happy side: Will. I really enjoyed him as a character, and then later, them as a couple. They start out a bit juvenile (think boy hair pulling to get the girl to pay attention,) all very love/hate. Deep down she liked him, but just couldn't face another rejection so she'd reject him at every opportunity. Until a very sudden twist of events, then she just couldn't get enough of him and vice versa. Except, it didn't stay that way, because like her grandmother said, Kate's used to being miserable. I love how their relationship developed and that the more she learned of him, the more she liked him. I didn't like the yo-yo that was her emotion though.

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## Becky says

Perfect You cemented, for me, the fact that Elizabeth Scott is without a doubt the next Sarah Dessen. In other words, a writer whose books CANNOT be missed because they are so utterly perfectly right. My first introduction to Elizabeth Scott came last May when I read and reviewed Bloom. If you haven't read it yet, you don't know what you're missing. Okay, that's not doing Scott much service. If you're a girl who loves realistic teen romance novels that make you grin from ear to ear then you should definitely seek out Elizabeth Scott's books. There, that's more specific.

I also had the pleasure of interviewing her last fall.

On to Perfect You.

Vitamins had ruined my life. Not that there was much left to ruin, but still.

How many novels have you read like that? Not many I'm betting. It continues, "I know blaming vitamins for my horrible life sounds strange. After all, vitamins are supposed to keep people healthy. Also, they're inanimate objects. But thanks to them I was stuck in the Jackson Center Mall watching my father run around in a bee costume."

Even if I wasn't previously familiar with Scott's work (or her blog), I think I'd be intrigued by the bee costume. It's a fact that teens are embarrassed by their parents. Often. A bee costume I think everyone can agree on is just cause for embarrassment. Our heroine, Kate, is a sophomore whose life has gone from middling to worse. She's never been popular. She's never been one of those girls who with a toss of her hair and a flash of a smile gets the guy. But her life has always been somewhat normal.

Not anymore.

When Kate's father has a light-bulb moment involving a bottle of Perfect You vitamins, Kate's world begins to collapse. He quits his job, rents a booth in the mall, and proceeds to tormenting his family by living out his dream. The family goes from functional to dysfunctional very very quickly. But even with her home life in chaos, it would all be okay if her best friend in the entire world was speaking to her.

Anna. Anna was her best friend. Her best friend. They told each other everything. They were always there side by side through it all. Neither girl being popular. Neither girl getting the guy. Neither girl the life of the party. But it was all okay. They had each other, right?

When the novel opens, Anna and Kate are long through. Anna having lost considerable weight over the summer is now an IT girl. She's popular as can be, and is dating one of the hottest most popular guys at school. Kate is so very beneath her now.

Dumped by her best friend and forced into working at the geeky vitamin booth at the mall while her dad practices new ways to humiliate her, she thinks life couldn't get any more complicated.

Enter Will.

Enter Grandma.

Oh, this novel is so good. So very, very good. Elizabeth Scott is a master at characters. Both Bloom and Perfect You have weight and substance. Yes, romance is involved in both. But life is always more complicated, more complex than just that. Her writing is for the heart, the mind, and the soul. Life. Love. Friendship. Family. School. Life isn't always beautiful. It isn't always fair. Its full of beginnings and endings. Some times you have to go with the flow.

I loved Kate. I loved her story. I highly recommend it.

I think this one would pair well with Sweethearts by Sara Zarr. It also vaguely reminded me of Sloppy Firsts by Megan McCafferty. (Except, and here's the thing, Sloppy Firsts and the subsequent sequels always annoyed me in parts. Perfect You was a better match for me.) Notes On a Near-Life Experience by Olivia Birdsall is another one that comes to mind. And of course Sarah Dessen fans should definitely try Elizabeth Scott.

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## **Bonnie says**

This is my first introduction to Elizabeth Scott, and to a young adult novel not considered a classic. (I went through the list of the first 200 most widely read YA novels, and discovered I have read at least 30.) So, the competition is pretty tough for a contemporary writer of YA novels.

I have to say that I did not find Kate, the main character, all that likeable. To me, she came across as a pretty shallow person. The irony in her refusal to accept the loss of her best friend, Anna, is that it was because of Anna's own superficial personality that the friendship ended. And the number of times Kate interrupted Will when he tried to talk to her made me wonder why Will would even bother continuing to pursue her.

With family, friendship, and love the main themes, this is probably a typical story geared for teens: mainly girls, but my guess is that boys might enjoy it, as well. As an adult, I did actually find myself laughing out loud, because parts of the story really are quite funny. So I think I am going to give Bloom, Scott's debut novel, a try as well.

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## **Rachel Piper says**

This book initially struck me as rather flat imitation of a Sarah Dessen novel. It picked up toward the middle, but in the end I reverted back to my original "meh" feeling.

The characters were pretty much all flat stock characters, including the protagonist, who has the unfortunately unmemorable name "Kate." Kate is snarky, has a too-quick wit (she's way, way wittier and funny than any 15-year-old on earth) and apparently book-smart (she spends most of her time doing homework and her SAT scores are mentioned as being high) but is such an idiot when it comes to interpersonal relationships. Her idiocy is explained by several characters saying, "Boy Kate, you always think the worst of people!" but that doesn't go far enough to explain how dense she is, especially regarding the "hero," Will, who makes it clear about 20 times how much he likes her, only to be shut down again and again by Kate thinking that he's using her, or gossiping about her, or feeling sorry for her, blah blah. At one point she throws a shoe at him, and that's where I pretty much lost all feeling of solidarity with Kate.

I did read this book all in one sitting, but I didn't have other books along and it was a quick, fluffy read. The deteriorating relationship between Kate's parents and the character of Will salvaged the novel for me, as did the smart, funny half of Kate's personality (which I'll call Normal Kate). The other half of Kate's character (I'll call this Lame Kate; the same half that creates 20 too-dramatic moments from harmless interactions with Will) is what takes this book down into two-star territory. Lame Kate also has a pathetic plotline involving her ex-best-friend Anna. Where Kate always thinks the worst of Will and everyone else, she blindly thinks the best of Anna, who has become popular and sexy after leaving for the summer and somehow losing 90 POUNDS during that period of time. Really. 90 pounds. I kept waiting for the "I haven't eaten anything since May and I'm starting to lose my hair but I don't have a problem" storyline to pop up, but it never did. Anna just magically lost 30 pounds a month, dyed her hair blond and became popular (that's all it takes in a book like this). And, even though the book establishes over and over again that Anna is a shallow liar, Kate keeps pathetically hoping that they'll be best friends again.

By the time the book finished, I wasn't surprised that Anna ignored Kate and laughed at her. I was surprised, though, that the people in her life hadn't driven Lame Kate out to the country and abandoned her there. As well as being all dramatic with Will, Lame Kate also lashes out at her family members, yelling cliched things like "I have the worst life ever!" at her mother just moments after Normal Kate felt shocked and serious after seeing her usually together mother break down and cry. There are several sobering moments like this one that dissolve into "You've got to be kidding me" moments when Lame Kate puts her two cents in.

If Kate had continued to be smart and funny instead of lapsing into unexplainable periods of shouting,

whining and all-around lameness, this would've been a pretty good, diverting read. No such luck. Despite the trying-to-be-Sarah-Dessen cover, Perfect You is nowhere close.

I probably won't be trying any of Elizabeth Scott's others, either, because the chapter preview for "Something, Maybe" revealed a character who talks and thinks EXACTLY like Normal Kate and deludes herself just like Lame Kate--except this time, her problem isn't her deteriorating family and missing best friend--it's the fact that she's the daughter of a Playboy Playmate and Hugh Hefner and thus has big boobs and a self-absorbed sex-kitten mom. Really. And somehow, being raised in a totally different environments and being--oh yeah--totally different characters, Kate and the "Something, Maybe" Chick are written exactly the same. No thanks, Elizabeth Scott. I am not putting myself through THAT ever again. Let me know if you write a spin-off about Will and Kate's parents.

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