

Reading Response 2.0

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Before I fall

Why is this happening to Samantha?

Samantha's life has gone just like she wanted it to go until now. Her life is full of parties, games and things that teenagers do, but she never thought one day she would come to a point where she regrets everything and would do anything to change that. After the party at Kent's house on February 12th, Samantha and her friends get into a car crash, she thought she was dead. She woke up the next day and it was February 12th all over again. It doesn't take her long enough to realize she is having *deja vu*, but what she doesn't know is why. This moment stood out to me because in the previous chapter Samantha had an unpleasant night at Kent's party and she kept saying the words "There's always tomorrow". Turns out, the next day was the opposite of what she kept telling herself.

In the next chapter, Samantha hopes that everyone else feels the same way as her and she hopes that her best friend Lindsay is also having *deja vu*. Her hope only lasts for a few minutes and she realizes the truth when she says, " She doesn't know. She doesn't understand. Whatever is happening, it's happening to only me" (p.108). Samantha never felt anything like this before. She felt confused, hopeless and vulnerable at the same time and she couldn't take it. I think it's because these feelings are new to Samantha especially because she never allowed herself to feel like this. Samantha is never herself, she always depends on her friends. She dreams to be seen the same as everyone else. She knows she's popular which is why anything she does is the right thing to her. I think she's wrong about everything, which is why I feel like this *deja vu* is a hint for Samantha. When she was at Kent's party, she was being a bully to a girl named Juliet. She pushed Juliet onto the floor and dumped beer on her. When the party ended, she realized she did that to Juliet for no reason, Juliet was never against Samantha. Since she gets to live the same day several times, I think it's

about time she changes her thoughts and actions. If she has just changed one thing that she did on the actual February 12th, her whole life might change. It's like she had a choice of saving her own life. Not only that, this might change how other people see her as well. If she never does that to Juliet again, people might start to think Samantha is different, but in a good way. These are some things Samantha didn't realize yet in the book. Later on in the chapter, Samantha thinks of telling everyone what's happening to her, but at the same time she's worried they might think she's crazy. I think this is a conflict between Samantha and herself because she's not seeing the good in herself and she's also not letting anyone else see it. This can also be Samantha vs society because whatever Samantha is doing, she's doing it for the society. If doesn't do that, then the society would think less of her. She's basically stuck between two choices, what people want her to be and what she wants herself to be.

Samantha had one day to live and that same day over and over again. I wonder if she lives February 12th in another way, would she still die in that car crash or would she be alive? This shows that human beings in the real world goes through what Samantha is going through. However, we don't get to live the same exact day twice. Which is why in the real world we need to change whatever we want to change right now and not wait until tomorrow. Also for people who are afraid of being themselves and only depend on the people around them are never going to accomplish anything in life. If you're not yourself, that means you're not living this life, other people are living it for you. A quote that Samantha says in this book is, " Hope keeps you alive. Even when you're dead, it's the only thing that keeps you alive" (p.137). This quote is really important because you have to hope for people to accept you. There is a difference between being accepted and being liked. Being liked is the only thing Samantha wants so far in this book.