

The Health Haven (A)

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Setting

The book *The Haven* takes place in a dystopian society, more specifically, Haven Hospital and Halls in the year 2020. This is where all Terminals stay, and are taken care of. Most of the time, the main characters are in their rooms, the cafeteria, the classroom, the isolation, or the operating room right near the infirmary. Also, outside of the giant stone wall is where the Whole live. There are secret places that only Dr. King and some of the people that work at the hospital know about.

My Review

In my opinion, this was an excellent novel with lots of twists and surprises. I enjoyed the sense of adventure and romance that helped set the feel for the hospital. I loved all of the characters and their personalities, and I believe that anyone who reads this book will want to know more about them on every page. Williams wrote this book in a disturbing, but meaningful way that sometimes made the reader hesitant to go on. The reader could not stop reading, though, so the book was very well written. One thing that I wished was included was more of an ending. Though there was a definitive ending to *The Haven*, I feel like there could be, but otherwise, the ending was shocking and left the reader feeling happy. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys romance/adventure books that are full of surprises.

This format was chosen because it represents a place in the book that played a big role in how the Terminals behaved. Isolation, isolation is a big white room with nothing in it, not even a chair. There was no food or water, just Tonic. The children were sent here when they acted in a different way than they were supposed to, for example, if they remembered something they were told to forget, they would go to isolation and were given more Tonic. They were here until the staff thought it was okay for them to come out.

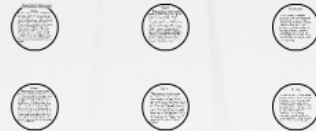
Plot

At Haven Hospital and Halls, the children called Terminals think that their lives are perfect and that they are being taken care of. Little do they know, the people taking care of them have a secret. Dr. King, the hospital's main doctor, lets the children believe that they are being cured, but are they really? This bright red liquid that they will stay healthy, at least this is what they are told. This bright red liquid actually makes them forget things from the past and mess up the order of events in the minds of the Terminals. Four kids find out the secret being kept and they try to help their fellow Terminals. Sarah, Gideon, Abigail, and Daniel all stop taking their Tonic and do as much research as possible in order to help what they call "the cause." What is this secret? and can they do what is needed in order to save themselves and all of the other children? You will have to read *The Haven* by Carol Lynch Williams to find out.

Theme

The theme of *The Haven* by Carol Lynch Williams is the idea of finding your identity. In this novel, the Terminals are not able to live the lives that they were supposed to live. When Gideon, Daniel, Abigail, and Shiloh figure this out, they try to find out who they actually are. Because the Tonic messes with how the Terminals act, the four who stop taking it begin to act different, more like their real selves. The point that Williams was trying to make in writing *The Haven* was that finding yourself, and who you are can really change your life. Shiloh was "Be a Terminal. Look like a Terminal. Now look like the Whole. Maybe I would never fit in this world out here. If they would have us" (Williams 207). She says this to show that she has always been told who to be, but she can finally be who she wants. Because she found out who she was, she could face the world as she wanted to.

Characters



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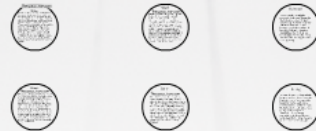
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Shiloh

The *Haven* is written in first person with Shiloh as the narrator. She is the main character of the novel who is very careful and hard on herself. She lost one of her lungs because of "The Disease". Her best friend and roommate is Abigail, who helps Shiloh get through a lot, especially getting off of the Tonic. "The pain starts right away, if you're a few hours late taking the Tonic. Abigail said in a hushed tone, turning the faucet on full blast" (Williams 108). Shiloh falls in love with Gideon once she learns what love is. She is one of the only people in the hospital that can remember things, even with the Tonic, but does not know this until Gideon tells her. Both her, and Gideon have relationships with Dr. King that they don't know about until they are off of the Tonic.

Abigail

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Abigail is very optimistic and caring. Her best friend is Shiloh and she falls in love with Daniel. Abigail is the one who convinces Shiloh to get off of the Tonic and helps her through the pain that comes with it. She is one of the first to think about leaving. In Shiloh, "Abigail insisted, 'I shouldn't think of anything outside of Haven Hospital and Halls, but sometimes I do. Like, what I would do if you were gone!' Her voice dropped to a whisper. 'I wish we didn't live here'" (Williams 101). Abigail believes in Shiloh, so she makes sure that Shiloh knows everything she needs to know about the *Whites* and what they do.

Ms. Iverson

A teacher at the hospital who pretends that she doesn't know what the children are up to and hides it from Dr. King. Ms. Iverson is the one adult that Shiloh trusts, and Ms. Iverson knows it. She is caring and has a lot of faith in the *Terminals*. Towards the end of the book, Ms. Iverson surprises the reader, leaving *The Haven* with an unforgettable and shocking ending.

Gideon

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Gideon is one of the first few *Terminals* who refuses the Tonic. He is a very special kid at the hospital because he has never had any kind of surgery, unlike every *Terminal*. Being a math prodigy, Gideon is very brave and willing to do everything to save his friends. Gideon's best friend is Daniel, and he falls in love with Shiloh even before she knows what love is. He plays a major role in helping her go through the shocking change in not taking the Tonic. He is very sweet and open to Shiloh, helping speak their common language to the doctor. When they are together, he opens Shiloh up to some new experiences, especially relationships. Shiloh says, "But this was not getting your life sucked from you. My legs in and I could still have had time standing. I needed to lean into Gideon. His lip touched mine again" (Williams 131).

Daniel

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Daniel is Gideon's best friend and has a strong relationship with Abigail. At first, he does not think that Shiloh is capable of going through with their plan and does not believe in her. Later, though, with Abigail's help, he slowly begins to trust in her abilities. Daniel is missing his legs and is in a wheelchair, but it doesn't stop him from doing what his friends do. He is the one who did the research and found things online while hiding it from various people, therefore, he is very intelligent.

Dr. King

The main doctor in the hospital who keeps secrets from his *Terminals*. Dr. King is in charge of everyone in the hospital, including teachers, the cafeteria workers, and the *Terminals*. He makes all of the announcements during meals, scaring some *Terminals*. He has a strange connection to Shiloh and Gideon, which shows that Dr. King is keeping more secrets than they thought.

Shiloh

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Gideon

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Gideon is one of the first few Terminals who refuses the Tonic. He is a very special teen at the hospital because he has never had any kind of surgery, unlike every Terminal. Being a natural leader, Gideon is very brave and willing to risk everything to save his friends.

Gideon's best friend is Daniel, and he falls in love with Shiloh, even before she knows what love is. He plays a major role in helping her go through the shocking change in not taking the Tonic. He is very sweet and sincere to Shiloh, helping spark their romance later in the book. When they are together, he opens Shiloh up to some new experiences, specifically, relationships.

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