

‘YOU ARE BUT DUST’ RECAP

PART ONE

Samarra “Sam” is struggling with the death of her younger sister **Evie**, believed to have died in a car accident six months earlier. At the funeral, Sam is attacked by **Ali**, a dealer of the party drug **Dust**, who demands repayment for Evie’s debts. She is saved by **Zain**, Evie’s best friend recently released from Medlock’s **Detention**. Despite his troubled reputation and Sam’s mother’s distrust of him, Zain is the only one who helps rush Sam to hospital.

Feverish and injured, Sam hallucinates a figure she calls **Death**, who comforts her and reveals the truth: Evie didn’t die in a crash, she overdosed on Dust. Consumed by rage, Sam lashes out at Ali for selling the drug, pushed by Death’s growing influence. Sam is arrested before she can seriously hurt him, but cannot wait to try again.

PART TWO

Sam leaves the station with help from **Ria**, an apprentice officer and Evie’s former girlfriend. She also learns Ali is Zain’s brother, deepening her distrust. A corrupt officer in a blonde wig that conceals their blue hair then tries to take Sam to **Mariana**, the leader of Ali’s gang. With Death urging her on, Sam fights back and escapes home, where arguments with her mum make her grief unbearable. She finally reveals her own secret: she’s been using Dust for months to cope with Evie’s death.

At Ria’s party, Sam searches for Dust, while Zain performs with the band Evie once played drums for. He warns her about the hallucinations Dust causes, making Sam realise Death isn’t real but a hallucination. Instead of stopping, she takes more Dust, craving the illusion. When Ali returns for revenge, Death pushes her into violence. She kills Ali, crossing a line she fears she can never return from.

PART THREE

The corrupt officer drags Sam to Mariana’s den beneath a nightclub, where her grip on reality collapses. Sam fights the gang, killing their members. She then turns on Zain, believing he caused Evie’s death. Zain finally tells her what happened the night Evie died: Evie stole Dust, overdosed during their band’s performance, and Zain took the blame when Mariana’s gang arrived, leading to his arrest. He tried to save her, but couldn’t.

Sam understands, but Death urges her to kill Zain and follow Evie into oblivion. In a final vision, Evie reveals that **Sam hasn’t killed anyone**. Every death was a Dust hallucination. She’s lost herself inside the drug, and now must fight the withdrawals to find her way back.

She wakes in hospital and fights Death. She also realises she’s not the only one struggling with Dust. Zain is addicted too. Determined to save him as well as herself, Sam races to Evie’s memorial, where Zain is performing with his band and planning to overdose. She finally confronts her grief, rejects Death and chooses life. She reaches Zain in time and stays with him until the ambulance arrives.

While Sam has begun to break free from Dust and confront her grief, Zain’s battle is only just beginning.

CHARACTERS

Sam. Sam is Evie's older sister, recovering from a Dust addiction and the hallucinations that made her believe she committed violent acts that never happened. After confronting her grief and saving Zain from an overdose, she left her med school course and let go of being the 'perfect' daughter. She's learning to embrace fear and overwhelming emotion without numbing herself with Dust as she chooses to live.

Evie. Evie died at nineteen years old from a Dust overdose. She had a melodic laugh, wore bright colourful clothing (including a yellow leather jacket that Sam now wears), and seemed full of life while hiding her struggles. She played drums in the band with Zain, dated Ria, and was seen as an impulsive 'Hellraiser' always looking for adventure. Her death set every event in motion, leaving everyone to navigate a grief they never expected to face.

Zain. Zain is Evie's best friend and the singer in their band. He took the blame for Evie stealing the Dust she overdosed on, which led to his time in Medlock's Detention. After being released, he helped Sam navigate her grief, while hiding his own difficulties and addiction to Dust. He almost overdosed, but survived with Sam's support. He must now learn how to live even as he continues to carry guilt, trauma, and unresolved grief.

Ria. Ria is Evie's former girlfriend and an apprentice officer. As Sam's old friend, she helps her escape the dangers surrounding Dust. She's determined to understand Dust's strange effects and is committed to keeping it out of Medlock so no one else gets hurt.

Ali. Ali is Zain's older brother and the dealer who supplied Evie with Dust. Sam believed she killed him, but his death was only a Dust hallucination. He's a fierce gang member who claims he doesn't want to hurt anyone and does everything to protect Zain.

Sam/Evie's mother. She is overwhelmed by grief after losing Evie and becomes emotionally withdrawn. Her distance deepens Sam's isolation. She distrusts Zain and frequently clashes with him.

The corrupt "blue-haired" officer. They work for Mariana's gang and hide their blue hair under a blonde wig. Sam believed she killed them while under the influence of Dust, but this was another hallucination that never happened. They remain active in Medlock, allowing Dust to spread and find more victims.