



Fracture

Megan Miranda

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By the time Delaney Maxwell was pulled from a Maine lake's icy waters by her best friend, her heart had stopped beating.

But somehow Delaney survived - despite the brain scans that show irreparable damage. Everyone wants Delaney to be fine, but she knows she's far from normal. Pulled by strange sensations she can't control or explain, Delaney now finds herself drawn to the dying, and when she meets Troy Varga, a boy who recently emerged from a coma with the same abilities, she is relieved to share this strange new existence. Unsure if her altered brain is predicting death or causing it, Delaney must figure out if their gift is a miracle, a freak of nature - or something else much more frightening...

Fracture Details

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Author : Megan Miranda

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From Reader Review Fracture for online ebook

♥Rachel♥ says

2.5 Stars

I really wanted to like this book. The premise sounded so cool to me, eerie and suspenseful with a bit of romance thrown in. Unfortunately, after finishing this, I ended up being completely frustrated. I'm not saying there wasn't any good to this story, because there was, but to me the frustration overshadowed.

Delaney Maxwell plunges under the ice of a frozen lake and isn't pulled out for eleven minutes. She is pulled out and resuscitated by her best friend, Decker. She ends up in a coma for six days with the doctors expecting her to be in a permanent vegetative state. Miraculously, Delaney wakes up. Decker has been by her side for most of the time she's been out, inconsolable. This is when things get interesting. One night, while still recovering, Delaney feels an irresistible pull down the hall. She gets up and follows this pull to a room of someone dying. The doctors call a code blue and get Delaney back to her room. She finds out later that this patient dies. When Delaney gets out of the hospital she feels the pull again and again. Enter mysterious Troy. He starts talking to Delaney at a library while she is studying with a friend. He claims to know her through an article in the paper about her accident. Come to find out there is no article, creepy. Delaney finds this out pretty much right after meeting him. Delaney ends up spotting Troy every time she has one of her "pulls." She does some research on him and finds out that they have a lot in common, more creepy.

So this is the basic outline of the story. Add to this the romance plot which is not a triangle, which can be quite frustrating on its own, but a quadrangle. Scratch that, what's the word for five people entangled? Whatever it is.... that's the word, aka: kill me now!! Delaney has Decker, Carson, and Troy in the mix and Decker has Tara (barf). The actions involved in this very messy relationship drama was enough to have me looking to see how many pages I had left before this torture would end, and this was not a very long book (262 pages). Plus I felt that if Decker and Delaney were *really* that close and truly best friends a lot of these actions would not have taken place.

I feel really, *really* bad writing a review like this, especially when this is the debut for this author. Truly, this might just be me, and I would be willing to try this author's future work. As I said before, this story showed a lot of promise.

Arlene says

Rating Clarification: 2.5 stars but closer to 3

Lots of spoilers....

The average person can live 3 minutes without oxygen.... but Delaney Maxwell was stuck in a frozen lake for 11 minutes before her best friend Decker pulled her out and saved her life. She should not be alive, but she is however not without consequence. Her brain is significantly damaged, but she's functioning at a normal rate except for the strange ability to tell when someone is about to die. Miracle or paranormal? Your

guess is as good as mine.

Overall, there was just too much happening in **Fractured** with no clear direction on where to focus. For example:

You have the protag Delaney that's not only battling survivor's guilt, but she's also dealing with her feelings for 3 boys and kissing them all as she tries to figure it out. Also, after her miraculous recovery, and about half way through the book, she starts to suddenly use her ability to ask people, "If you knew you had one day to live, what would you do?"

Next you have her best friend and hero Decker, who has a few guilt issues of his own. It took him 11 minutes to pull her out of the lake, but she never would have fallen in if he hadn't led her to the middle of a fragile lake. Him not going after her was not his fault though, he was being held back until their friends got a rope, but that doesn't stop him from beating himself up about it. Then when she's in a coma, he's making all these deals with God that begs the question, "How much are you willing to sacrifice to keep the one you love?"

Then you have Delaney's parents that are battling with almost losing their only daughter. While the dad is worried about the hospital bills, you have the mom who is struggling with holding on too tight or not enough because she can't lose Delaney again.

Everyone is battling with guilt including Delaney, her parents and Decker, which makes for a busy book. I'd suggest a focus on one character and flesh that out to make it feel more real.

Later in the story, Delaney meets Troy who is just like her. However, Troy uses his fractured brain to identify people who are dying and suffering and puts them out of their misery. First, I have a huge issue with God Complexes. You can never justify ending someone's life prematurely, especially if you have a nineteen year old with little medical education making that decision. Second, if that's his MO, why did he try to kill Delaney in the hospital when she was not "suffering" but rather "healing" and fighting to survive? What he did was conflicting IMO.

In terms of character development, I'll keep this one simple... make Delaney more likeable. She seems cold and not just because she was stuck in a frozen lake for 11 minutes. The way she treats her friends when they come to visit her and Decker needs to remind her to "Be Nice"; the way she feels about old people; the way she treats Decker who saved her life... all pretty harsh IMO. The reader has to like her in order for us to want her to survive.

Lastly, I have a few open issues I feel should have been resolved, including the incident between Janna and Delaney at the funeral. It was both awkward and completely unresolved. The author rushed the ending and sacrificed any additional insight or resolution to this matter. Then, what happened at the lake with Troy and Delaney was a bit odd and sudden. He never seemed suicidal before. It seemed he found a way to deal with his condition and to try and bring Delaney down with him, was that depression or jealous rage? That needed more explanation. The ending was too abrupt and out of place, and with Decker and Delaney leaving the scene of the accident to go make out was a bit weird to say the least.

Overall, the plot needs to be fleshed out, the character development needs some attention, the grammar errors need some fixing and the conclusion shouldn't feel rushed. In short, I feel this book really has potential so I hope there's still an opportunity to tighten this story up before its release.

Giselle says

Delaney died, for 11 minutes she was under freezing water. Miraculously, she survived but now she can sense when someone is going to die. This concept is definitely intriguing. It was even moreso for me, who hadn't read the blurb in months and had no idea what I was getting into. Going in blind made Delaney's ability as much a mystery to me as it was to her. It was a lot of fun simply going with the flow - not knowing more than the characters for once.

Delaney is a tough character to swallow. She can be a bit dramatic, sometimes cold. She reacts so suddenly to situations that a few times I thought I had missed something. I didn't particularly understand her enough to say I liked her or disliked her. She's just floating in between. I particularly didn't like how she leads Decker on, but then gets mad at him for finding someone else. Or how she was deathly scared of Troy one minute (which, to me, seemed strange and sudden), but the next she was off to find him. What about this Troy? Him, I liked. He's sexy, charming, confusing, fearsome : he's one deep character. I loved the part that he played in the story. Even though his actions can be predictable, he has a strong, fierce personality that is perfect for the tone of the book. To put it bluntly - he's a crazy mofo!

One thing that I have to applaud is the writing. I loved how the complexity of the human mind was depicted. It's easy for the reader to see that Troy is mentally unhealthy. Whether it's because of his ability or his coma, his mental state of mind is unsettling. His character is very intense: You can feel how unstable he is and fear him for it. Though not just Troy, the whole plot has a very "touch it and it may shatter" feel to it, mostly due to the deep, even sophisticated prose. The genre itself, however, is very obscure. Subplots encompass many genres without focusing on one in particular: Thriller, romance, paranormal, mystery. I felt disoriented by this, not being sure where the story was going to go next. I feel like the book had a lot more potential- if it was simply more focused. In the end, however, I can say that I truly did enjoy the book overall. I love mysteries, and this one was a fun, deep and disturbing story. I wish things ended more resolved, but all in all I was satisfied with it.

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Jen (The Starry-Eyed Revue) says

Please stop by The Starry-Eyed Revue for an interview with Fracture author Megan Miranda and a GIVEAWAY -- an ARC of Fracture and a bookplate signed by Megan! Giveaway ends 2/29!

This story was so unexpected and surprising. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that I almost didn't even give it a try. I passed it up several times on Netgalley because I was afraid it would be too contemporary for my taste. I'm glad I did eventually read it, though, because it's now going on my favorites shelf. Seriously...it's not very often that I'm left completely satisfied at the end of a novel. And it appears that this is a stand-alone...bonus points for that.

The entire time I was reading this story, I kept thinking to myself, she could be writing about me. The mistakes, the heartbreak, even the academic aspect felt all-too familiar to me. At least, the teenage version of me. And yet, the story was unpredictable. It doesn't skip a beat getting right to the action, and though it's not explosive action, there's never a lull in the storyline. When I wasn't reading the book, I was thinking about

it, and I stayed up way past my bedtime trying to find a good place to stop for the night. (There's not one...I suggest you read it straight through if you can.)

Fracture is reminiscent of Kimberly Derting's The Body Finder series, except instead of being lured by the imprints of dead bodies as Violet is, Delaney seems to be drawn to those who are on the brink of death. Even the best friend/potential boyfriend angle is similar, but it's handled so differently in Fracture that that's where the similarity ends.

The characters were very realistic, as were the character interactions. I never once thought, *A real teenager wouldn't say that*. Delaney was impulsive and stubborn and afraid of being hurt, just like any other girl. Her relationship with her best friend Decker was strained after the accident because everything had changed, and he was harboring some serious guilt. Her parents treated her like she was someone else, someone they didn't know. And yet Delaney persevered, threw herself into her studies to try to get back to normal. Enter Troy. Like matters weren't complicated enough.

If the story itself wasn't perfectly orchestrated, that ending sure was. Wow. I'm not one to be easily surprised either. I've been reading for a long time, and I've come to expect certain things from the writing in this genre, and most of the time, those expectations are met, be that good or bad. But with this novel, I can honestly say I did not see that ending coming. Actually, I didn't see a lot of what was coming in this story. I know many are raving about this book, and I have to agree...this is definitely one book not to miss!

After reading Fracture, check it out on Facebook to read a short story told from Decker's POV from the eleven minutes Delaney was under the ice to when she wakes up, six days later. Your only payment is a tweet or a Facebook share. Enjoy!

This review also appears at The Starry-Eyed Revue.

A copy of this book was provided by Netgalley for review.

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

I found the plot confusing and rather boring at times. I got through 2/3 of the book and just skipped to the end, and found no enlightenment in the conclusion. Also, way too many supporting characters. I will not be reading the sequel.

Christen (GoldiloxReads and Whimsify) says

Gasp. I loved this book. Get it, read it, do it now!

Er...okay, let me back it up. *Fracture* is the story of what a teenage girl faces after surviving a near-death experience that really should have killed her. And, oh yeah, there's some paranormal stuff too.

Delaney Maxwell fell through the ice at a local pond in the middle of winter and it was eleven minutes before she was rescued by her best guy friend Decker. The story begins with Delaney waking up in the hospital and realizing what she has been through. As the story continues, the reader experiences everything

Delaney goes through as she transitions back into her regular life and discovers something unusual about herself...she is now 'pulled' toward people who are dying. Delaney struggles to understand this, and to decipher whether she feels drawn to these people because they are dying or if they are dying because she is drawn to them. She also feels pulled by a different sort of attraction...to Decker. There have been underlying feelings between the two for a while, and after Delaney's almost death, both teens struggle to come to terms with these awkward feelings. Along the way, Delaney tries to learn how her 'new brain' works, finds out who her real friends are, and meets another who suffers from the same unnerving condition. But is he trying to help her, or hurt her?

This story was amazing. I typically stick to all things paranormal, and the paranormal element here was light. This story was more about Delaney, Decker, and the other people, and not as much Delaney's new 'gift'. However, I was thoroughly entranced and impressed by new author Megan Miranda. Her writing style is smooth and *real* and I loved being inside Delaney's head. No part of the story was overdone. Despite the supernatural ability Delaney gains, Miranda still manages to keep the story fully realistic. I loved seeing how Delaney and Decker's relationship developed as the story went on and appreciated how believable the awkwardness was. It was exactly as one might expect real teenagers to act. I also loved how Miranda made me feel such a range of emotions when it came to another character, Troy. I felt pity, dislike, longing...and that was all in one chapter. Overall, is a must read this winter for paranormal and contemporary young adult fans (and perhaps even those who don't usually read young adult).

An advance copy of this book was provided was Book Divas.

Read more of my reviews at goldiloxandthethreeweres.blogspot.com

Jennifer Rinehart says

Eleven minutes of fun then deadly jazz hands.

Think about your favorite fictional characters, the ones you truly love, now consider for a moment what you like best about them. If you are like me, your fave characters are the ones that most seem like friends or that if they were real you'd be friends with them. You know stuff about them, the things they don't share with the world plus all the other stuff that makes them who they are; the style of shoe they'd buy at a sale, whether they'd choose chocolate or vanilla, their hobbies, their crushes, their regrets and pet peeves. You come to accept their weaknesses and you root for them to overcome every challenge.

Frankly, I just never warmed up to Delaney. After an exciting opening where Delaney falls through the ice on a partially frozen lake and is saved by her friend and neighbor, Decker, her motivations are never explored enough for me to understand why she acts alternately placid and reactionary throughout the rest of the book. Adding to my confusion are the strange behaviors of practically every other supporting character.

I think part of the problem with the story is the fact that this is literary fiction with a thin veneer of the paranormal. But what really got my goat is the 'paranormal' aspect of Delaney's return.

Delaney dies and comes back with the ability to sense impending death, the description of this new skill is brief, mainly, her hands shake when she gets close to the dying. Shortly after her return she meets Troy, a boy described as handsome in a dangerous way, he also has the deadly jazz hands ability. Troy asks her out. What follows are several random encounters between Delaney and Troy.

Delaney + Troy meet up outside the house of a dying old man.

Delaney + Troy eat pizza on his lunch break. He agrees to tell her everything, his 'everything' is mainly a lecture about helping people to pass painlessly and quickly. Which DOES NOT makes sense at all, Delaney and Troy don't have any calming or painless powers, just the hand jitters. Their gift is about as useful as being able to smell aliens, in other words, not so much.

Delaney + Troy make out at his apartment. This was just about the least erotic or romantic make out session I've ever read.

Delaney + Troy make like characters in an abused woman-of-the-week tv movie as Troy suddenly turns possessive and Delaney runs away from a safe public place to a dark, deserted alley. Then she hides in a Funeral Home that leaves its back door unlocked.

The interactions between Delaney and Decker make even less sense. In spite of being 'best friends' they spend most of their time together being needlessly tense, taciturn and avoiding each other's eyes. Decker keeps making out with a tarty girl named Tara and Delaney keeps acting jealous and kissing other guys, but when Decker inexplicably professes his love for her she turns on him, telling him it's too late and makes a disturbingly suicidal response 'what's the point of anything?' Whoa there missy! I know it was a total shocker, she went from maudlin and irritated Delaney to crazy pants lane in the time it takes me scarf down a powdered donut

Also of interest is Delaney's mom. She cleans, forcibly medicates Delaney, shouts at her for being ill and sits on swings in the freezing cold staring at clouds. Yep, mentally, she's fragile as hell, but it wasn't realistic that her Girl Interrupted behavior is a recent phase. No one can go this far over the rainbow in such a short time with little to no explanation why she isn't medicated or under the care of a doctor with the letters PhD. after his/her name.

All in all, I didn't like the writing style, the story, the resolution of the story, the characters or the worldbuilding. In short, I cannot recommend this. I know people loved this book and so, obviously, opinions vary widely. For a little bit of comparison shopping, here are a few recent books I've liked; Starters by Lissa Price, The Gathering Storm by Robin Bridges, Touch of Frost by Jennifer Estep and Angelfall by Susan Ee. Comment

Heidi says

Three stars: A near death experience, leaves Delaney with a startling new supernatural ability.

Delaney bounds down the stairs, after wriggling into thermal wear, that has mysteriously shrunk since last year. Her best friend and next door neighbor, Decker is waiting for her. It is December in Maine, and the pair is headed to the ice crusted lake to spend an afternoon engaging in a game of "manhunt" in the snowy woods. Delaney slips into her bright red coat, she is going to stick out like a sore thumb against the wintry white background. They are running late, so Decker decides to take the short cut and head across the frozen lake. Cautiously, Delaney trails behind Decker on the slick ice, trying to keep her footing. As she reaches the half way point, she looks up to see Decker and the gang waving at her to hurry up. Delaney picks up the pace. Her foot slides and she falls onto the ice-covered lake. The thin ice shudders and groans beneath her weight. Spidery cracks form around her body and then the ice breaks. The bitter cold water slams against

her skin, sucking her breath away. Her heavy winter gear drags her down into the dark, icy depths. She is sinking and dying..blackness washes over her she fades into oblivion. A bright light flashes against the backs of her eyelids. Consciousness slowly pricks at her numb mind. She overhears a voice, not an angelic voice, but a doctor. He is telling her parents she may never wake, she might remain in a vegetative state for an indefinite period. It has already been six days, the prognosis isn't looking good. Wait...she thinks..six days? Delaney's eyes slowly flutter open, she is alive! Miraculously, she seems almost untouched, after her arctic plunge, much to everyone's surprise and relief. She spent eleven minutes trapped below the sheet of ice on the lake. She should have died. Decker nearly fell in after her, as he tried to rescue her. Turns out her red coat saved her life. Delaney hopes to slip back into her normal life, but something isn't quite right. She feels an uncontrollable itching sensation and a strange pull in her brain, guiding her to those souls, near death. Then she meets a mysterious boy named, Troy, who seems to know a great deal about her accident. Why does she feel this strange tugging? What is Troy hiding?

What I Liked:

*The opening of this book grabs you and drags you right into the freezing depths of the lake. The author does a terrific job in conveying the terror of falling through the ice and then the daze and confusion that follows waking up in the hospital.

*Ms. Miranda, is an excellent story teller. Her story flows smoothly as she takes you through Delaney's accident and recovery. I enjoyed Delaney's voice. She is funny, without being sarcastic. She has some curves but takes it in stride. She does obsess a bit over her studies but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Delaney is a likable female protagonist.

*I enjoyed the strong friendship between Delaney and Decker. They have been inseparable best friends since childhood. The comfortable warm bond between them was one of my favorite aspects.

*I liked the real depiction of a girl who returns from the clutches of death. The emotional upheaval that Delaney experiences as she plugs back into her real life, was eye opening. The struggle to understand what happened and a bit of guilt blended with her strange new sense provide an interesting story line. I appreciated gaining an understanding of the strain her near death experience is for everyone around her. This book brings to light the range of emotions that survivors and their loved ones encounter.

*I liked that the story resolves neatly and most of my lingering questions are answered but the door is left open for a continuation.

And The Not So Much:

*While I loved the idea of Delaney returning from near death with a supernatural ability, it lacked a bit of originality. Having just recently read, The Body Finder by Kimberly Derting and Soul Screamers by Rachel Vincent, I found Delaney's new sense had shades of both of these books. While the best friends portion was reminiscent of Violet and Jay. I found myself drawing comparisons to the other two series. If I hadn't read these books before reading Fracture, I would have enjoyed the book more. Unfortunately, I found that Fracture suffered from a lack of originality. Thus, the reason I gave it a lower rating. It would have been a four star read otherwise.

*One of my favorite aspects of the book was the easy companionship between Decker and Delaney, I hated to see the relationship struggle a bit after the accident.

*Troy, this character left me conflicted. Even after his story was revealed, I couldn't feel warmly or sympathetic toward him. I wanted to like him but I couldn't.

*It seems that Delaney's mother suffers more from survivor's guilt than Delaney. Interesting glimpses are offered on her mother's history that help explain some of her strange behavior. At the end of the book I was left with a few remaining questions and left wondering if her mother was going to fully recover.

If you are looking for a new read with a slight touch of the supernatural, then I would recommend you pick up a copy of Fracture. Especially, if you enjoyed Body Finder and Soul Screamers. This book is reminiscent of both of those books, but still an enjoyable and entertaining read. Megan Miranda's is another debut author I will be watching, her book shows she is a promising new talent.

A copy of this book was provided by Walker and Company courtesy of NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Favorite Quotations:

"A man in white who was decidedly not God stuck a penlight into each eye, once, twice, and pulled a tube the size of a garden hose from my throat."

"There was a hole of time, and nobody would fill it."

"The house transformed into a living entity. It smelled of life, fluttered with activity, absorbed sounds, and produced warmth."

"I wasn't athletic and had no desire to work out, so I watched what I ate. Correction: I ate what I wanted and felt guilty."

"I loved the smell of books. I kept breathing in until I felt too light, like I was inhaling all the knowledge from the books and there was no place for the information to go."

"Maybe hell was just an absence of something. A void wanting to be filled."

"Decker was always able to believe in the impossible--that I could live when I was dead, that it could snow in August, that loving me was enough."

"Funny how everything can change in an instant. From death to life. From empty to full. From darkness to light."

Originally posted on my blog: <http://rainydayramblings.typepad.com/>

Emily May says

3.5

For the first 160 pages (approx) this book was just okay. I liked it, the ideas weren't particularly original but the writing was decent, the characters were not quite as annoying as some I've read recently... things were going well but I wasn't blown away either. It was a spooky, easy to read novel with a relationship that made me smile instead of the usual insta-love, overbearing melodrama I've come to expect.

But I had problems too with these first 160 pages. One character - Tara - is introduced for the sole purpose of being the school slut, she is described by the clothes she wears ("tight" and "revealing") and/or by her sexual

behaviour. Even if I could stand to read about slut-shaming (which I can't), what is the point of introducing such a useless, throwaway character. She is not a person, she has no personality, she is merely an example of the kind of girl our protagonist is not, and supposedly undesirable because of it.

Then there's the matter of no less than three contenders for Delaney's heart. One in particular was obviously never a real possibility - so why was it in there in the first place? As it happens, Delaney's relationship with one of the possible love interests really pleased me. I won't spoil the story but I thought it was well-told and believable. Oh yeah, and about that story... Delaney should have stayed dead when she fell through the icy lake and spent eleven minutes under water, but by some miracle she starts breathing again and appears to be completely healed. It isn't until Delaney starts being drawn towards the dying that she realises something really isn't right... and then there's Troy, the strange boy who's also always there when people are about to die... is he just like her? Or is Troy up to something more sinister?

And those last 100 pages I didn't mention before?

I thought these were a huge improvement, the novel went from one I enjoyed but would soon forget to a very touching and interesting novel that explored various ideas about death, life, euthanasia and guilt:

"I hoped he'd take his dog and drive down to the ocean. I hoped there was still time. I pictured him sitting on the grey rocks with the waves crashing and spraying white foam. Maybe he'd hear something in the roar of the ocean, feel some limitless power, believe that there's something greater. Something more. Maybe his heaven was at the coast, with a dog's head in his lap, with nothing but water and depth from there to the horizon."

I especially loved the discussions about euthanasia, particularly the involuntary kind. How can you know if an unconscious person would rather have the chance to fight? The chance to wait for a miracle like Delaney experienced? Is it wrong to prolong suffering? Or is it more wrong to give up on human life? A really thought-provoking read.

Kat Kennedy says

Did you ever watch Christian Slater in Heathers?

Other girls my age were watching My Little Pony while I was obsessively borrowing Heathers from the video store (remember those?) I was like six years old and I thought Christian Slater was the shiz. Now it occurs to me, what the fuck were my parents thinking? I feel like this personal tidbit alone explains a lot about me. Where's my therapist's number? I think it's time for another session.

Well, we'll get into why I mentioned Christian Slater, but for now, it's simply because I'm being nostalgic.

Delaney Maxwell falls in ice water and dies. Yet she lives. Marvel at the paradox! But coming back to life has given her some super creepy powers and she has to deal with that whilst resolving long-standing issues with her bestfriend, Decker. All of this is complicated by Troy, who I imagine as looking a lot like Christian

Slater did in Heathers.

And it's not because Troy is sexy, charismatic, mysterious and a little bit of a dramatic, emo psychopath.

Okay, maybe a little.

For a debut novel by Miranda, this was pretty good. The writing was decent, most of the characters were complex and well written.

The themes seem to surround how one deals with an impossible situation. Delaney spends a vast majority of the novel trying to cope with her survival and the lingering repercussions as well as her relationship with her mother and Decker.

The novel was mostly gripping, if not confused about what in wanted to achieve. Troy was sufficiently unsettling and yet sympathetic.

Once again, absolutely no reason why I'm bringing him up. But read the novel for yourself and see if you don't get Heather's flashbacks!

Delaney was a bit of fresh air in that she had goals and purpose in her life that exceeds the usual YA standards of wanting to procreate with the love interest. She also had a complex and rich relationship with her parents. Who were, you know, actual parents and did actual parent-like things. Another big breath of fresh air. That's a pretty sad commentary on the state of YA.

I think the novel fails by trying to do too much of many things and not enough of other things.

At first I thought it was too few abs (Christian Slater), but then I realized that maybe it was too much whining (Winona Ryder)

Overall, it was pretty good but not without its flaws. There's potential here, and not just for more pictures of 80's Christian Slater, further proving my truly tragic taste in men as a child, but for real depth of story telling and emotion. I'm just not sure how fully it was achieved here.

Maybe the problem is that it took itself so seriously. Heathers was great because it was full of camp, but I am digressing... or regressing. Maybe both. But the novel had no humour about itself and when your love interest is a hot teenage badboy psychopath - it pays to have some self awareness.

Or Christian Slater.

[image error]

Or not... gosh he's old!

*Also, now other women my age watch a whole bunch of cool movies - my favourite show atm? My Little Pony! That's right, bitches! I'm a bronny!

i. says

In spite of having read books with similar plots, that is people who *come back* with special powers, this novel didn't disappoint me . Although there are some parts which are a bit spooky for my taste , I must admit I am easily scared. The love triangle is more interesting than in other YA novels and darker as well. If you don't mind reading a novel in which the characters deal with death on a daily basis, you will certainly enjoy it.

www.theleisurediaries.blogspot.com

Nafiza says

I know for certain that there will be lots of mixed reviews about Megan Miranda's debut novel but for me, it was a strong five star novel and I don't hand out five stars lightly. The book isn't perfect but its strengths are such that they overshadow the lesser elements and make the reader, well, me, forget the imperfections exist.

The premise of the novel is intriguing and I felt that the execution stayed true to it. One of the strengths of the novels is its characterizations, the way in which the characters are developed and grow throughout the book. Delaney is one of the strongest protagonists out there. She manages to absorb you into her world, into the events occurring in her life without seeming like a caricature of a person, or acting as though the emotions she is evincing are artificial. The emotions she expresses, her despair, her confusion, these are all so realistically rendered that I found myself feeling her emotions – and this doesn't happen to me often. (Aside: I have become proficient at holding myself apart while reading a novel, firmly in the place of a reader as this is very helpful when doing a close "reading" of any novel so any book that can grab me so completely automatically confirms its awesomeness.)

The romance in this is complex. While other people will say there is a love triangle, I hesitate to label it as such because it manifests in a way that is not at all similar to other love triangles. There is a complexity in the relationships – actually, no, I don't think it's a love triangle at all. There are emotions yes, but as I said, they are complex and I appreciate how Miranda gave the age old trope a very different twist. I also like the way she played out another often used trope: the best friend dilemma. Decker may be the "other" guy, you know, the Jacob person, who usually loses out on the girl due to the appearance of sparkly creatures, and it would have been ridiculously easy to go that route but Miranda doesn't and I am very thankful for that. Decker and Delaney's relationship is layered, there are years, hours and lifetimes, of history between them. Neither of them are perfect and Delaney's reaction (and hostility) towards him are warranted. Delaney doesn't behave like a pendulum swinging back and forth between two boys and I am very thankful for that.

But you know, the main reason I gave this book five stars was because of the writing. I am not going to lie. It is the writing that gets me every single time. And the writing in Fracture is beautiful. I'll leave you with an excerpt that will hopefully convince you to give this book (and Megan Miranda) a chance:

"I leaned against my door, struggling to catch my breath, and though that maybe hell wasn't a

place at all, but a thing. A contagious thing. A thing that could creep up the steps, seep through the crack under my door, grow horns and sprout fire – smelling faintly like sulfur. A thing that could sink its tendrils inside and take root, colouring everything gray and distorting a smile into a sneer. And while I got dressed for the play, I swatted at my back and kept running my hands over my stomach because I could feel it, I swear, I could feel it reaching for me, trying to grab hold.”

Ceilidh says

Once your publisher starts promoting your book and mentioning it in the same vein as two of the most well received books in YA in recent years, immediately you have a lot to live up to. While I didn't adore "If I Stay", I thought it achieved its objective – to present a young woman's life and her existential struggles – with a deft hand, one that is difficult to pull off for even the most talented writer. For Megan Miranda's debut (which is also a standalone, a refreshing occurrence in a field that churns out more multi-book series than it knows what to do with), the personal elements are much more successful than other parts.

The relatively short "Fracture" has many ideas running through it and, perhaps inevitably, not all of them work. The main issue arises from a lack of a central focus, which leaves the narrative prone to wandering off and slowing down to almost a complete halt. Sometimes the book can't decide what it wants to be – does it want to be a romance? A mystery? An exploration of human nature and death? Each segment succeeds to varying degrees, although none is given enough time to develop into something truly gripping, although the potential is clearly there, especially in the mystery elements, where Miranda creates some surprisingly tense moments and even surprised me when I thought things were becoming too predictable. Some scenes feel rushed and/or have no real resolution. A strong editor could work wonders for this book and turn it from good to great.

I've read some reviews which levelled complaints with the heroine Delaney and her coldness, but I actually found this rather refreshing. She provided a welcome change from the usual selection of blank faces I've become all too accustomed to in YA. I can definitely see many readers having a problem with this though. Her multiple boy troubles, however, grated on me. No less than 3 young men are presented as possible love interests for Delaney and none are given any page time to develop into a viable option for her (although, to give huge credit to Miranda, she turns the tables when things seem to be following an all too familiar YA romance route.) The story needed to either develop the romantic element further, concentrating on no more than two boys (you know how much I just love my love triangles!) or getting rid of the sub-plot altogether.

There's one element of this book that I have to discuss. Once again, here's another YA novel with a female antagonist who serves no purpose to the plot other than to be promiscuous and act as a straw-figure to compare the heroine to. She genuinely does nothing of any important besides act as the most minor of road-blocks in the possible relationship between Delaney and best friend Decker, and is almost always described in terms of her tight clothing or promiscuous nature, constantly talking about sex or getting naked. At one point she is described as "pathetic in her too-tight clothes, desperate for attention." We shouldn't have to keep going over this, YA. Stop demonising girls who have sex as sluts! Stop using it as a cheap shortcut to avoid characterisation of the already clichéd and damaging teen female antagonist role! The character was of no consequence and really didn't need to be in the book, so her inclusion felt all the more bitter and forced me to knock half a star from the review.

The potential within “Fracture” is evident and there are moments where Miranda really shines, especially within the mystery elements and Delaney's inner turmoil, but it's a work that needs to be seriously fleshed out. If certain plot lines, characters and situations could be tightened up and built upon, the book could be a very interesting and gripping piece of work. As it is, it's a perfectly readable story that fails to satisfy in the way it has the potential to do so.

2.5/5.

“Fracture” will be released in USA on January 12th 2012. I received my ARC from NetGalley.com.

Donna {Book Passion for Life} says

“If you had one day to live, what would you do?”

As soon as I heard about *Fracture* I knew it was a book I wanted to read. I'll be honest though, I was a little unsure of it because it says it's for fans of *Gayle Forman's If I Stay*. Now, I didn't like *If I Stay* so you can see why I was unsure to start with but let me tell you; *Fracture* is a heart-stopping, dangerous and thrilling ride and a fantastic debut novel by author Megan Miranda.

The blurb above pretty much tells you everything you need to know about the plot but what it doesn't say is expect to be thrown into a captivating story from page one. From the get go I was completely fascinated with the story; it was everything I was hoping it would be and so much more. It was intense, heart-breaking, spine-tingly and what surprised me the most was the romance which was completely heart-warming and a fantastic edition.

The characters were lovely to read about. I loved Delaney, she was a normal girl who was very down to earth and had a normal life. When she dies, things change for her. She realises she is just going through the moments and that her family life isn't as perfect as she once thought. Her best friend Decker, who is also the love interest starts acting weird around her and when he starts dating a girl named Tara, Delaney and Decker can't help fighting with each other. They love each other but find it hard to talk about their feelings but their scenes together are very intense and you can't help root for them from the start. And yes, I fell for Decker! How can you not? He is amazing!

There were also so many aspects of this story that I just adored, even though some of them weren't the happiest of times but I just loved the world that the author created. The idea of someone coming back to life and then having the ability to feel other people dying but not only that, also creating someone else with the same ability was just brilliant. It was kind of like Good vs. Evil; Delaney being good and Troy being bad. You can't have one without the other, like yin and yang and I adored the combination of it in this story.

Overall, *Fracture* was a fantastic read. Megan Miranda did an awesome job and I can't wait to see what comes next from her. I'd highly recommend this to any reader but especially to people that weren't fans of *If I Stay*, like me because it may just surprise them.

Thank you to Bloomsbury for giving me the opportunity to review this book.

kari says

So, I was going to give this one a weak two stars, but then I came to GR and saw that it is the first of a series and that deserves demotion in my book because no way am I ever reading any more about this miserable self-centered mess. No thank you.

I didn't like Delaney and she never gave me any reason to change my mind. This girl isn't merely a drama queen. That would be giving her too much reason for her behavior. She is actually more of a drama empress. Example: p. 103 "First day of preschool, some girl dipped my pigtail in blue paint. Traumatic. I became decidedly unfriendly to my classmates."

So she is two or three years old and one small incident makes her hateful forever. And preschool paint isn't toxic and always washes out. Where are her parents to help her deal with this "trauma" and she has loving, concerned, involved parents. If she was so traumatized by this one small incident, they should have gotten her some serious therapy long before she fell through the ice.

This is simply irksome. "My permanent record was perfect and I intended to keep it that way. All As, advanced classes, no blemishes."

I am so tired of characters being AP straight A students who are actually incredibly stupid as well as incredibly full of themselves. She decides she will not take the medications prescribed for her, so she secretly spits them out. When her mother finds out and makes her take them, she "had never felt so violated." I don't know but maybe doctors know a bit more about what she might need than she does. If she is hallucinating, she wouldn't be aware of it, so maybe, just maybe she needs the meds. But, no, she is just so much smarter than everyone around her.

Neither of the romantic relationships felt real, not Troy and not Decker. I know I'm supposed to feel something for them, but I don't. Could be because Delaney is so down-right cold and nasty that I didn't think Decker should waste any more of his time on her. When he tells her how he feels about her. p.215 Her response: "But it's too late"..."What's the point, Decker? Really, what the point of anything anymore?" She simply over-reacts to everything.

Someome barfs in the car she's driving which she then refers to as "the ruined car" and come on, someone was sick, the car isn't ruined. Way over the top reactions.

And she never tells anyone ever what is going on with her. There is no real reason given for her not telling, other than I guess she just doesn't want to. She doesn't think it through and wonder if anyone will believe her, she doesn't look up near death experiences or drownings where people have survived to see if she can find out what's happening to her. No, she is just surly and angry to those trying to help her.

The supernatural stuff is really just somewhat silly. Her hands get twitchy when someone nearby is about to die. This doesn't do anything, she can't change anything or improve anything. And she makes bad decisions, ultimately resulting in someone's death, more than once. When confronted by a killer, does she immediately use her cell phone while she is standing in the well-lit lobby of a movie theatre or does she instead run outside into the dark, deserted-with-no-way-out alley? I'll just let you guess the answer to that one.

Again, if she is this super-smart girl you have to *show* me that she's super-smart by what she does. Telling me that she's super-smart and then having her behave in ways that are not smart at all simply doesn't work. If you know without any doubt that someone you cared about, someone who is in the car with you, sitting right there, was about to die, you would drive them directly to the hospital and sit in the parking lot until either something happens for which they need medical attention in which case, snap, you're already there, or you'd wait until the twitchy fingers was long gone and you could safely be on our way. Yes, the friend might think you had gone slightly round the bend, but that friend would also be alive to think whatever they want. Delaney isn't smart enough to think to do that. Okay, then.

One more thing, she is told that the story of her near-death or death and recovery was not reported in the paper because she is a minor. That is absolute rubbish. News is news and they don't ask permission to write about news. A young girl surviving drowning is news. I get that the author wanted to show that Troy was

being untruthful, but there needed to be a way to get there without this. News is reported. The ending is abrupt and something of a non-ending, but then as I've just discovered, it's a series, so I suppose that's to be expected. So, I don't recommend this one.
