Fracture by Megan Miranda

Eleven minutes passed before Delaney Maxwell was pulled from the icy waters of a Maine lake by her best friend Decker Phillips. By then her heart had stopped beating. Her brain had stopped working. She was dead. And yet she somehow defied medical precedent to come back seemingly fine -despite the scans that showed significant brain damage. Everyone wants Delaney to be all right, but she knows shes far from normal. Pulled by strange sensations she cant control or explain, Delaney finds herself drawn to the dying. Is her altered brain now predicting death, or causing it?

Then Delaney meets Troy Varga, who recently emerged from a coma with similar abilities. At first shes reassured to find someone who understands the strangeness of her new existence, but Delaney soon discovers that Troys motives arent quite what she thought. Is their gift a miracle, a freak of nature-or something much more frightening?

For fans of best-sellers like Before I Fall and If I Stay, this is a fascinating and heart-rending story about love and friendship and the fine line between life and death.

First Impressions: I was lucky enough to receive Fracture to review and was very happy that I did because I had my eye on it for quite a while. I liked the premise of the story and how the author decided to create a story wrapped around a scientific mystery. It also reminded me a little of Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver, which I really loved. Another nice thing about this
book? It is a stand-alone, and I haven't been reading very many of them lately.

First 50 Pages: The book begins with a ton of action that actually really surprised me. I didn't expect that the story would start with Delaney breaking through the ice and spending eleven minutes submerged, and consequently, dying. I knew it was coming from reading the synopsis, but I didn't think it would happen so quickly. There is a lot that goes on just in the first 50 pages of this book, so I was seriously hooked from the start.

Characters & Plot: After Delaney dies and is saved by Decker, her best friend/neighbor, she is taken to the hospital where no one expects her to survive, and if she does, she would be a vegetable. After six days in a coma and despite having serious physical brain injuries, Delaney wakes up and seems perfectly fine.

Now I have to stop and say that this is where my (hopefully would have been) five star review just went downhill with every page. I stopped liking the book about a quarter of the way through, and I literally had to push my way through the rest. I seriously wanted to enjoy this book and I hate, I HATE giving bad reviews. I really do! Especially when I read a book that I have seen nothing but great reviews for. So I want to say, please don't take my word for it. Many other people have loved this book.

I didn't like Delaney. It is hard to love a book when the main character annoys you to the point where you just want to pull all of your hair out. She was a smart girl, which I liked, and she wasn't ashamed of her intelligence. However, she treated her friends horribly, she couldn't make up her mind about which of the three (yes, three) boys she wanted to be with, and she consistently did things in opposition to her previous remarks or actions. For example: At one point in the book, Delaney runs away from Troy in sheer terror of him, yet she is smooching him later on. It drove me bonkers.

Delaney's parents were even worse. They were controlling. They treated Delaney like she was five years old. What 17 year old isn't allowed to use the oven? For real. They had Delaney very sheltered, which showed in her personality and I just couldn't enjoy these characters, not even a little bit.

Now, there are three boys pining for Delaney's attention: Troy, Decker, and Carson. Carson is the boy who gives Delaney her first real kiss and he is a bit of a player. Decker is the boy next door who so obviously loves Delaney and she just doesn't see it. Troy is the stand-out of the bunch. He is just like Delaney. He had major brain damage from a terrible car accident where his entire family was killed except for him. He also has the same mysterious gift/curse that Delaney has. He can tell when someone is about to die.

I didn't really like any of these characters either. Carson was probably the best of the bunch and I do feel really bad for what happens to this
character. Decker isn't a bad guy, but he couldn't really make up his mind about what he wanted either. Did he want Delaney or did he want to be with dim-wit Tara? One minute he professes his love to Delaney, but he goes back out with Tara.

As for Troy, he has a lot of potential to be a great character but he never made it that far. I just thought his character was underdeveloped and I wished I had known more about who he was and why he did the things he did.

Final Thoughts: The book ended abruptly and I had a lot of unanswered questions still floating around in my own brain. The ending felt very rushed and it wasn't well done in my opinion. I never found out why Delaney and Troy were the way they were, which was disappointing. Would I give a recommendation to read this book? Honestly, I'm not too sure I would. Based off of my own reading experience alone, I would say no, but SO many people have loved this book, so maybe this one just wasn't for me. If you are interested in reading Fracture, I would suggest looking around at some other reviews before you make the decision to buy it. I do think the author has a lot of potential and I can see her doing very well in the future!

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