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Hysteria



Synopsis

Mallory killed her boyfriend, Brian. She can't remember the details of that night but everyone knows it was self-defense, so she isn't charged. But Mallory still feels Brian's presence in her life. Is it all in her head? Or is it something more? In desperate need of a fresh start, Mallory is sent to Monroe, a fancy prep school where no one knows her . . . or anything about her past. But the feeling follows her, as do her secrets. Then, one of her new classmates turns up dead. As suspicion falls on Mallory, she must find a way to remember the details of both deadly nights so she can prove her innocence-to herself and others. In another riveting tale of life and death, Megan Miranda's masterful storytelling brings readers along for a ride to the edge of sanity and back again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Everyone knows that Mallory killed her boyfriend, Brian, and that it was done in self-defense. No one, including Mallory is sure what really happened though. With her parents' fear and the curiosity and contempt of the community beating at her incessantly, they have become the constant companions to her own anxiety. Mallory's parents ship her off to Monroe, which is a fancy prep school with the hope of giving her a fresh start. It is also the place where the

currency fueling the social interactions are secrets. It doesn't take long before Mallory's secret is uncovered. It is then used against her. Someone wants Mallory dead and they also know exactly what happened between Mallory and Brian. Mallory needs to remember the details of that night because until she does, Mallory and everyone around her, is in grave danger. This is book that keeps the reader guessing until the very end as to what really happened between Mallory and Brian. Just as the reader thinks they have it figured out another clue is revealed that makes the reader start guessing all over again. The action is fast and moves the story along at a very fast pace. This book will also have readers wanting to check out this author's other books as this one is written very well. If you love suspense this is definitely the book to check out.

Should be titled _Smiles and Running_. I swear if I read one more line about her smiling, or someone else smiling or her running, I'm going to scream. I haven't finished the book yet; I have about 20 or so pages to go but it's pretty much done in my opinion. Like others, I liked _All the Missing Girls_ but this one was a miss for me. Probably because it was more aimed at teens. I'm tired of the old plot of teens doing crazy things and getting away with it because they're just teens being teens. These teens are just not believable to me. And actually, neither are the adults in the book. I guess I will finish it since I'm so close. I don't really expect a big finish.

This was a solid though not amazing YA novel about a girl who, having killed her boyfriend in self-defense, is shipped off to boarding school only to find herself accused of murder in a completely separate case. [What I didn't like about the book was the physical manifestation of the titular hysteria in a world with no type of magic, repressed memories aren't enough to give one bruises and blisters. What I absolutely loved was the friendship between the main character Mallory and her best friend Colleen. At first I was worried that Colleen was somehow behind Mallory's troubles, because she was mentioned so often for an offscreen character, but instead we get a story of true rather than toxic friendship. I love seeing that kind of bond take center-stage, as it does towards the end of *Hysteria*. (hide spoiler)] Other than that, I also enjoyed the complexity of Mallory's choice to kill in self-defense as many factors lead to that fatal moment, and the consequences are multilayered. Review also here: [...]

My Thoughts: When I first saw the cover I was a little freaked out. Then I read the synopsis and the

cover sort of grew on me. It's weird... but there's something thoroughly awesomely creepy about the whole thing. Just like reading the book. It is a mess of confusion, there's no doubt, but it is worth it. I felt compassion for Mallory from the start. Her family is so distant, and it makes my heart break, especially knowing the struggle Mallory is facing INSIDE her head alone. They force her to go to the prep school, and she's basically alone there, even though she does have people she can talk to. I really liked the way Mallory interacted with her best friend Colleen and with Reid, the boy she knew before she transferred to the school. She keeps getting these strange feelings that overcome her, weird sensations that take over her mind and body. She doesn't know who to trust, or if she can even trust herself. As you're reading, you sometimes think you know what happened but then you doubt yourself. Especially when you're nearing the end. With all the tricks of the mind that Mallory has had, along with the realities coming to light, you just don't know what to think. The actual end, where we find out the truth, had moments of insanity but I was surprisingly pleased with it. Reading Hysteria was a ride and a half. Everything that Mallory goes through, real and imagined, is so completely thrilling and scary at the same time. There is so much going on, and not going on, that it keeps you on the edge of your seat. All in all, Megan Miranda can really create a story that is both chilling and pulls you in until you can't get enough. My Rating: Very Good

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