

**Mirage**

**Tracy Clark**

**Reviewed by: Sireen Mohammed, 14**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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*Mirage* is a novel that prompts you to think about life a lot. The main character, Ryan Sharpes, is a fearless 17-year-old that ends up facing an internal struggle in the book. The book begins with some background; Ryan is the single daughter of her mother Ayida and her retired veteran father Nolan. Ryan knows that her father had always wanted a son and so she spends most of her life seeking validation and affection from him. Ryan's parents own the family skydiving business and it's the perfect outlet for her to be the thrill-seeking person she is, while showing her father she has what it takes to be someone great.

In her attempts to prove who she is to her father, she flirts with death consistently until one jump from the planes scares everyone close to her completely, including herself. After this incident, she takes up her boyfriend Dom's offer to try LSD in an old abandoned motor home but something about the place feels off. All Ryan knows is that ever since she visited the motor home, she's never been the same. The bold and courageous Ryan everyone knew and loved is gone and she's been replaced with a Ryan that can't sort reality from her nightmares. Everything seems to scare her now and her own reflection haunts her.

It's Ryan's life and she must figure out what's wrong with her before her life is ruined and she destroys all her relationships. This book was slightly depressing in the middle, but it was very interesting to see a different perspective on life. The author did a great job of making Ryan's condition as realistic as possible and making her struggles almost palpable. I enjoyed reading this book and I recommend it for children ages 14 and up.

**Recommended Titles:**

All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

Scintillate, Tracy Clark