

Delirium

Lauren Oliver

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Delirium involves a 17-year-old girl named Lena Haloway who has always been afraid of the effects of love. In the U.S., the government declared love as an illegal feeling that only causes chaos and destruction. In order to get rid of love, the government invented “the cure”, a surgical operation that takes place in one’s brain, that removes the piece of brain that associates with love. With the cure came the resistance is known as the sympathizers, who were opposed by this idea and were forced to migrate to the Wilds outside the barrier of the U.S. Though the cure successfully worked for most people, in some cases scientists weren't able to get rid of love in some, including Lena’s mother. Lena’s mother fell in love with her father and repeatedly tried to get the procedure which repeatedly failed. In the end, Lena’s mother committed suicide before she could get the cure for the fourth time. After this traumatic experience, Lena has been afraid of love and couldn’t wait until she was 18, which was the legal age that the cure was administered. This all changes when she sees Alex for the first time at her visit to the lab.

Lena’s character is so relatable, that I found myself constantly pitying and sympathizing with her. Her emotions and feelings towards her mom are so vulnerable and showcase the true pain of living in a world without love. Oliver did an amazing job portraying this version of the U.S. that lives their lives in constant fear. I can feel the absolute terror that Lena has throughout the book. Alex is by far my favorite character. His bravery and passion are so admirable and the main reason that Lena is drawn to him in the first place. Alex is honest and continues to impress me by how far he is willing to go to fight for those he loves and for his beliefs. Lena’s mother also seems like an admirable character, one I wish that I was able to meet during the book. The way Lena describes her makes it seem like she’s this wonderful person that believed that love truly conquers all other emotions. My feelings on Hana were conflicted throughout the book. Even though Lena trusted her, I had a harder time making that same decision myself.

This book is geared for people thirteen and older due to its more mature topics like suicide and mild violence. Overall, the book was written exceptionally well and I would recommend it as either a present or even as a personal read. The story has a way of captivating the audience, making them get lost in this fictional world. Oliver did a great job describing a real-world without love, making the story that much more believable and easier to imagine happening in real life!

Recommended Titles:

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Flawed by Cecelia Ahern

Divergent by Veronica Roth