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Fault Line



Synopsis

In a single night, Ani's life was torn to shreds and Ben struggles with the weight of trying to fix the unfixable in this heartbreaking and edgy debut novel. Ben could date anyone he wants, but he only has eyes for the new girl—sarcastic, free-spirited Ani. Luckily for Ben, Ani wants him, too. She's everything Ben could ever imagine. Everything he could ever want. But that all changes after the party. The one Ben misses. The one Ani goes to alone. Now Ani isn't the girl she used to be, and Ben can't sort out the truth from the lies. What really happened, and who is to blame? Ben wants to help Ani, but the more she pushes him away, the more he wonders if there's anything he can do to save the girl he loves in this powerful, gut-wrenching debut novel.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Simon Pulse; Reprint edition (September 30, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442460733

ISBN-13: 978-1442460737

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #563,297 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #682 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings #1092 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—High school senior Ben is busy working on getting a swimming scholarship, dealing with life at home as his father transitions to a new job, and looking out for his younger brother. The teen's life takes a quick and dizzying turn when he falls for Annika, the hot new girl at school. Ani's sexy quips and artsy, adventuresome spirit dazzles Ben, and the connection and chemistry between them grows the more time they spend together. Ben misses a fateful party, while she goes alone with her friend Kate. The next day, he's at the hospital, waiting as Ani gets prepped for a rape kit. Ben and Ani's lives descend rapidly into a nightmare as she reacts to the firestorm of ugly rumors and Ben becomes obsessed with finding out what happened that night. The novel is a grim take on

the horrible ramifications of date rape, which impacts not only the victim but all those around her. Similar to Steven Levenkron's *The Best Little Girl in the World* (Contemporary Bks., 1978), author and rape-victim activist Desir is clearly knowledgeable about this important subject. However, the choice to tell Ani's story from the perspective of an outsider does not help readers understand her or other survivors. Instead, teens' experiences will mirror Ben's own helplessness and frustration as he tries, and fails, to help his girlfriend. A grueling, if unfortunately timely, read. —Evelyn Khoo Schwartz, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"The issues in this story are important for teens today, and should not be taken lightly. *Fault Line* is a story that will stay with the reader long after finishing the last chapter." (VOYA) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ben falls hard for Ani. She's beautiful, interesting, and honest. Things are going great in their relationship, but then one night Ben doesn't join Ani at a party. Ani is sexually assaulted by several men and can't remember much of anything because of date rape drugs. Afterwards, Ani is on a path of self-destruction. Ben does his best to support her and save her. With anger, blame, and regret whirling around them, Ani may not want to be saved. I read this in one sitting. The author tackled a difficult subject with intense, realistic writing.

I found myself turning page after page and looked up only to find the train had left the station and I was along for the ride. Only, this isn't the kind of train ride you'd want to willingly take. But the truth is, it's a reality all too common in today's world, for teens, and for those who've gone through the kind of trauma at the center of Ben and Ani's relationship. Sure, they could have been happy. At first, they had it all: perfect couple, bright futures, supportive families, friends who had their backs. Their story is what drew me onto the train in the first place. Then, it happened. The thing that unraveled it all, and left every painful nerve ending open and raw and exposed to the harsh reality of this thing, and what it can do to the survivor and those she or he cares about. Sure, they tried to move on, they tried to make it through, and they both were willing to sacrifice all the broken pieces of themselves to try to glue together what remained. At just over 200 pages, this reads very fast. Each chapter is rampant with cloying emotion, gut-twisting tension, and charged words. Ben and Ani will have you falling in love, cheering for them as a couple, and wondering once the fault occurs, whether they'll ever be the same again. It also had me asking the question (found on the front cover), who do you blame? Christa Desir has written an amazingly powerful, and brief story that

unflinchingly and honestly faces a tough issue, grips it by the throat, and shines light for the reader to see it in all its horrible reality. As each character tries their best to reach out and help, it becomes increasingly complicated and further and further from the place it had been not so long ago. Part of this is due to the need for secrecy, for Ben and Ani to stubbornly try to fix this problem themselves. As time goes on, and attempts fail to resolve the problem, it becomes clear that this is far bigger than either Ben or Ani had bargained for. Neither of them have it within themselves to fix. It's not that easy. This isn't a fairy tale or a Disney movie. Happily ever after doesn't even come close. As the spiraling shitstorm reaches its zenith, the reader wonders if anyone will escape the wrath of the storm. This raises a question: Is there a right way and a wrong way to deal with trauma and its aftereffects? Once the lighter's flicked on, can anyone avoid the burn? Read it and find out. Highly recommended. Bravely written, with poignant and thoughtful prose as beautiful as poetry.

So, I've been thinking about this book ever since I finished it (almost a week ago, now) because it's the kind of book that stays with you. And I want to write a beautiful and eloquent review of this story because it truly deserves it. However, I doubt my ability to do it justice because whenever I attempt to write a proper review, I get a tad emotional--the kind of emotion which causes water to leak from my eyes-- and I have to go hide in a cave until I can once again deny that I have emotions other than angry and angrier. (I do like to pretend I'm a badass. Pretend being the key word.) This novel is dark and raw and emotional and doesn't pull any punches. And though I love it for that--really love it for that--it broke my heart. It still breaks my heart. It presents a difficult subject, a sensitive subject, and I suspect there will be readers who won't be able to finish the book because of these things. But I want people to read it and talk about it. I want teenagers to read it and talk about it. I've long been a supporter of dark YA because I feel the world is a messy place and avoiding that which is uncomfortable does no one any good, and maybe--just maybe--these dark books with their taboo subjects can lead to understanding. *Fault Line* is a brave novel, and I think author Christa Desir is both amazing and brave for writing it.

I came across this book I think last year and read the first page and fell in love. So I finally got around to reading it and I'm glad I did. This was such a profound look on the perspective of rape victims. The only thing I wish was better was the end. And I also wish every chapter wasn't about him trying to talk to her and her not responding.

I am still stunned after finishing this book in two sittings. Everyone will say that teenage girls should

read "Fault Line," but I posit even more importantly, young men should as well. I can't think of another YA novel about sexual violence told from the boyfriend's perspective. "Fault Line" doesn't pull and punches, but it's difficulty is what makes it worthwhile. Quite the debut!

This book is about Ani, girl who doesn't remember her night at a party. But, it is so much more. There was never going to be a happy ending if Ani kept sleeping with other guys besides Ben... Ben is struggling to help Ani while she is trying to forget the night... but, ends up hurting himself more by staying with her. I cried, I laughed, and became speechless as the story ended. Even though I love a happy ending, I was satisfied enough. Good quick read.

Completely heartbreaking story, I bought it thinking it would be a sweet love story, but BOY WAS I WRONG. This book threw me through so many emotions. It was difficult to keep going because of the depressing parts! On the bright side though, the book itself was in excellent condition.

okay- disappointed in the ending. I felt like it just stopped. I needed more

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