



Survival

A.M. Hargrove

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"Maybe I was caught between the two worlds. I was having serious trouble distinguishing fantasy from reality."

While on a backpacking trip in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, nineteen-year-old Maddie Pearce finds her world has been thrown into a vortex and is madly spinning toward the impossible. Abducted by a mad psychopath, Maddie narrowly escapes with her life. But that is only the beginning. Her mysterious rescuer introduces her to a world that Maddie has difficulty accepting as reality. Will this strikingly gorgeous stranger be the key to her future or will she return to her mundane world, scarred from her experience? Follow Maddie as she is forced to make difficult decisions that carry her to mysterious places.

Survival Details

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From Reader Review Survival for online ebook

Sannie Hald says

It kills me to give a 1-star review, I am sorry but I really disliked this book. Reckon I never read anything else I disliked as much as this one.

The characters are so annoying. They are so full of themselves. And Maddie? EVERYONE thinks she is so beautiful! Her conversations with Rayn? It is repetition of everything they have already told each other.

"You are beautiful, hot, I wanna kiss you. We cannot have sex. The first time I saw you I..." ETC ETC! The language when Maddie speaks is almost unbearable. I understand that they use slang such as OMG, FYI and such but in my opinion it is not at all formal, and basically always annoy the crap out of me.

And one thing that almost made me quit reading (I only did not as I received this book to review) was the changes of point of view where it kept going back in time and then TELLING (not showing! Always show, do not tell!!!) everything again just from another person's POW.

And the Psychopath, nice character if not the author had told everything about him. The author show had showed it through the malignant actions.. We were told everything before he even started!

I am sorry, but I really disliked this one.. However, it makes me happy that others like this book because then obviously it was not a complete waste of time writing it.

Sheri says

This book was so full of emotion. I laughed, I cried (yep, really did), and then laughed some more!

The characters were well thought out, each with their own personality and each easily identified, which was important in the last chapters where we get different points of view all thrown in together. Surprisingly, the author did a terrific job with that, and it was not confusing at all. You always knew who was speaking all the time; that's sometimes hard to do.

The main character, Maddie, was fun and seemingly carefree, but she had some hurts to get past, namely losing her mom and dad, and really kept her emotions and feelings bottled up. She was so easy to like and so easy to relate to. I felt there were inconsistencies with Maddie's character, though, in that at times she seemed so strong and fiery, able to stand up for herself, and other times it was like she was the one from another planet and too immature for the character that had been built.

Rayn was sweet and caring, definitely a guy you could fall in love with. I loved reading from his point of view the best. He loves Maddie so much but is so conflicted over his feelings for her. In the end, you know that he would do anything for her.

I love having different points of view in a story, and Survival did not disappoint. The author did a great job of transitioning from one point of view to the next without being confusing. The only thing I really did not like was when we switched from Maddie's to Rayn's point of view for the first time we went back and had to re-read everything that had already happened all over again, this time from a different perspective. While that is not always a bad thing, I think that in this book it did not really change anything about the story or

give us any new information, other than maybe show us Rayn's feelings for Maddie, which could have been done without going back so far.

One thing that was absolutely amazing in this book was the imagery. The descriptions of the scenery, the mountains, etc., was so beautiful, I wished I was there. The author did a great job creating this world, and even though I'm not a hiker, I could picture the mountains and trails in my head as I was reading.

I really enjoyed the author's writing style. It was simple and easy, which went well with the flow of the story. My only real complaint about this book would be...the end! I cannot believe we were left hanging! Good thing the next book in the series is now out!!

Interview with author A.M. Hargrove:
<http://makingconnectionsblog.blogspot.com/>

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Oh how did I like this book, let me count the ways. Well, first off it had a sci-fi element which is always a plus in my book. But Rayn and his brothers, *swoon-worthy*. Then of course, Maddie had me in tears with her antics towards the end of the book. I kept dying laughing.

I loved this writer's style and it's hard to write three different POVs. But I was enthusiastically reading this book. I wanted to pick it up when I had to put it down to do other things.

The only thing that bothered me was that I felt in the beginning of the book, I was on fast forward. I was led down the story timeline until before it finally hit its stride. But boy when it did, I was there.

And I did have one question.
(view spoiler)

This book was certainly different than anything I've read recently, which made it a joy. The romance was touch and go. The author sure did straddle the edge of believability there, but in the end, it all worked. I can't wait to read the next one. The cliffhanger left me wanting more.

For those who liked the Host, you should enjoy this one. But I would recommend to all readers. Nothing really needed to be censored in this book. In fact the message sent was a good one. Enjoy.

My book boyfriend is RAYN. Keep your hands off girls, he's mine.

Wei Cho says

One question: How did Maddie survived??? This question baffles me. I don't mean to be rude to the character, or insensitive and cold-heart, but it escapes me the logical reason of how she survived.

First of all, I will like to say that this review will be loaded with spoilers and honest, definitely honest, remarks and opinions.

I would like to start saying that this was a ____ (I'll let you fill in the blank) ____ ride all over again. - fingernails on chalkboard- you get the idea. I cringed at all the spots where I could tell this was possibly a rip-off, but with a set of very different characters.

Basic story line: Clumsy, accident-prone, pretty but thinks no one believes so, girl goes hiking in the mountains. She is attacked by a stranger who randomly decided to capture her and torture her, rescued by someone who irradiates "incandescent beauty" (quoting from the book. reminds you of someone else?), is brought home by this handsome stranger with "dark looks" to be look after by him and his nice, beautiful family. When the family finds out she is human everything goes kaboom! and they say it's impossible for them to be together, but nobody listens (obviously). Stuff happens and next thing you know, they want to get marry but do not want to have sex before they're married (sounds familiar??). Family of the guy is super rich and have these expensive, sporty cars. Everyone loves to run. The clumsy girl is given all the riches anyone would want. Ending: horrible cliffhanger, which translates into: the story cannot stand on itself. It is crippled and needs crutches, direly.

Now, enough ranting about the plot. Let me get into the technical side. This story was messy, especially with all the switches of perspectives. First Maddie, then Rayn, and then a third person perspective. Somewhere in Maddie's perspective, the third-person perspective of the killer is thrown into, which tipped me off and confused me for a minute. I felt much of what happened during Rayn's perspective was just repetition of what happened during Maddie's. Nothing new, except that Rayn explains about his world and his duties and professes love for Maddie. A "love" which we already know because the author made a great job at telling us how much love they had for each other.

More about the technical part: I was annoyed by all the flashbacks Maddie has about her family and their deaths. Yes, they're tragic, but do we really need to be reminded of them all the time? These flashbacks were really confusing because I lost track of time. Also, Hargrove provided us with a book that was a "tell" almost on all its entirety. Where is the "show rather than tell" that all good authors should abide to? Was this book even edited?

It was really hard to connect with the characters. The love relationship between the two was so distant and unbelievable. Maddie was selfish, at best, because even though Rayn gave everything to her (for no apparent reason to do it, just because he is plain stupid) she is still thinking of herself. Let's get into the realistic factor, shall we?

Back to the first question, how the heck Maddie survived after being slashed across the face, heavily bruised, with several cuttings in her body, shot with arrows (?!?!?!), and then falling almost from a 30 ft free fall. It is impossible. She didn't even once cried for pain, it would have been humane for Hargrove to at least describe some of the pain because that was pure torture and slaughter. Maddie seemed "cool" with it. Oh, first of all, who goes camping on the mountains alone?

Rayn rescues her, and he immediately has feelings for her, declaring to his family that he wants to make Maddie his mate. Man, that was fast. Obviously the family opposes because they're from two separate worlds but Rayn doesn't care because he loves her so much.

Much thing happen in the middle. Which also annoyed me was the fact that Maddie wasn't into Rayn at first, but then suddenly she loves him. There was no gradual change or growth. It was just spontaneous. Rayn's

family loves Maddie (except one). Rayn takes Maddie to a ride in one of his luxurious cars. Maddie is a rude girl, at least for me, she is not grateful, I don't even think she said "thank you" to Rayn and his family for all the attention they've given her.

The humor in this book was trite and plain silly. Is taking advantage of an alien for not knowing how to correctly say English phrases and slangs humorous? Maddie was teaching Rayn's sister how to correctly say things, like "blur, blur blur", "Spat it out", etc. etc. This was not funny. I don't like Maddie. She is not patient, nice, or kind.

Maddie starts to miraculously walk again after the prognostic that her spine was deeply severed. What happened to her face? Did it healed completely without leaving a scar? I suppose so because Rayn said she was beautiful. I don't know. She also camps out in the mountains again, even after her attack. There was no nervousness from her part, which led me to believe she had already forgotten because Hargrove never mentioned any uncomfortably from Maddie's part.

In the final part of the book, they go camping in the mountains again, and Maddie's attacker attacks her again. Why did he even bother to attack and torture her in the first place? Again, he does horrible things to her and she seems "cool" with it. Like it doesn't hurt that you're being cut in the flesh and shot arrows at. I would have died of pain if I were Maddie.

And we're left with a cliff-hanger, which is something very unnecessary if you ask me because this book cannot stand on its own. I don't even know the solid plot for this book, other than the characters developing feelings (that weren't even there) for each other, making it into a love story that fails. But anyway, the cliff-hanger is there, and the answer seems pretty obvious.

Which one would you decide, go with the dead parents or back to the living world with a man "you love"? I mean, it is plain obvious what she is going to choose. If she were to choose her parents, the dead over the living, there isn't much of a second installment, right?

Throughout this book, I suffered a severe case of constant eye-roll.

Disclaimer: I mean no offense to the author or anyone who liked this book. I'm sure your reasons for liking it are grounded and acceptable. I'm just sorry I cannot see it your way.

Tess says

Phewww! Let me tell you! I have been reading this book ALL day today! I literally woke up started it and didn't finish until now!

I really enjoyed this read! I did think it was a little rocky close to the beginning. The conversations between Maddie and her best friend Cat were a little un-natural at times, but everything else I loved! The Prologue had me hooked from the start, so it was easy to ignore any bumpiness in the writing.

Maddie really has gone through it ALL! I mean just after reading the summary you can see that Maddie is going to have to through Hell and back again, but then in my opinion, I think it was worth it for the Hotty she got out of it!

SWOON! Her Rescuer! Gahhh He is protective, sweet, and pretty masochistic. He also has the most beautiful green eyes and wavy black hair! ahhh! *fanning myself

I absolutely LOVE Maddie! She is a heroine for sure who can pretty much endure anything. She is strong willed and independent. She also drips in sarcasm at times and I love that. She always keeps her wits about her, but at the same time follows her heart.

Most of the book is very well written. I never felt lost except sometimes I lost myself in the story! I also really loved how Hargrove was able to write the same scenes in both Maggie and her Rescuers point of view and kept it interesting.

This book is definitely worth the read and right now it is FREE so go grab it!

Lissa Smith Reads'~Bookaholics Bookshelf Reviews says

It was another one of those I saw the cover and didn't bother reading the blurb. It was eye catching, considering I hold a family annual passes to the Planetarium. And what you know, I was right! I absolutely loved it. Hargrove did an excellent job at choosing her cover pic. I was especially elated to learn that the cover indeed has meaning that can be discovered while reading.

Survival— from the series Guardians of Vesturon a perfect title for this book as that is just what Maddi seems to keep doing through the entire book. It seems as she just can't catch a break. Hargrove does an excellent job weaving such a masterful mystery while giving us a little taste of romance with just enough laughs out loud and heart wrenching moments to keep the pages turning.

The magic of character development? Check. Yes, I know Maddi is the strong, fierce willed woman who has to drudge through one bad thing after another. I would have cracked myself. But we can't dismiss Mr. Yummy himself Ryan. (Mover over John Smith you have been replaced!) The one who is used to getting his ways and never being question... has met his match in Maddi. And the siblings I smell sibling rivalry and if so the CW's newest hit... (You will be out to Salvador brothers). Now I can't over look the other brother's and the sole sis can I. They bring warmth to the pages when dealing with Maddi, got to love them for that! However, the Rayn's dads... not my cup tea in his short visit.

I enjoyed the way Hargrove gives you clues as to what the Guardian is and lets you draw your own conclusion. Then reveals it to the reader's but is hesitant to reveal himself to Maddi. Writing is hard and when a story is weaved with multiple storylines it even harder. When it's a sequel it's imperative that the reader is satisfied. And I was!

It was terrific read and I honestly can't wait to get my hands on Resurrection, with Maddi fighting death again, Rayn feeling her pain unable to get to her and the sibling not able to find her and let's not forget her dead parents are with her. And what is the mark she has on her back? Is it possible something lingers with in her bloodline?

Disclosure: I participated in Read it Reap in the Shut Up & Read Group and a copy was provided to me by the author. No payment was received by me in exchange for this review. There was not any obligation to write a positive review. All opinions expressed here are entirely mine and may not necessarily agree with those of the author, the book's publisher and publicist, or the readers of this review. This disclosure is in

accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255, Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.

Wanda says

The first thing I have to say is that I REALLY ENJOYED THIS BOOK!!! I couldn't put it down. Now that I have that somewhat out of my system, it's time to move on.

Maddie has had some serious drama in her life. Just when she thinks that things are finally settling with college and life on her own, tragedy strikes...or is it fate? After a horrific experience, she meets Rayn and her life changes. There is something special about Maddie and the relationship that develops between her and Rayn.

Survival grabbed my attention from the first pages and never lost it! The story being written from several points of view was great for getting inside each of the characters. Although each of the characters was complex, their points of view were written in a way that was descriptive and concise. The plot was never lost in the details, which was very refreshing.

This book had it all, drama, suspense, romance, action, mystery and comedy! Everything was written in a way that kept my emotions on quite the ride.

I can't wait to get my hands on Resurrection!! I need answers to my list of questions, I need to know how things will end up for Maddie, Rayn, and all the others!

As stated before, Ms. Hargrove has definitely gained a fan in me! I sincerely look forward to reading more about The Guardians of Vesturon!!

Cassandra says

I am giving this book 4 stars.

I'm so torn on how I feel about this book. Part of me loves it, part of me doesn't.

At the start of this book we meet Maddie, who has had a very troubled past. She is starting college and we follow her college life briefly before she goes hiking and gets mixed up in a world she never knew existed.

I absolutely adore Maddie. This girl can hold her own (for the most part). She has attitude and spunk and you can't help but enjoy reading about her. Despite the fact that I'm not a huge fan of aliens, I found myself lost in this story.

Even at the end, I am not sure what the main focus of the story was supposed to be. I am hoping that Resurrection clears a lot of the confusion up.

Overall, I would recommend reading this book. I laughed out loud at parts and was scared for Maddie at times. If you want to fall in love with a quirky character, she's your girl!

Meghan says

I will start off by saying I LOVED this book! I was sucked into it's pages from beginning to end. Never a dull moment, always on the edge of my seat, couldn't wait to see what happened next. It was very fast paced, in a good way, and was never ever boring. Now that I'm done, I can't wait for the next installment in the series. I absolutely need to read it.

Now for more about the book itself. The book was divided into four different books (segments), each one more exciting than the one before it. In the first book we get to know all about the character Madeline Pearce, or Maddie as is more commonly called. Maddie lost her mother unexpectedly at a very young age, and not to many years later she lost her father suddenly as well. She has no other family, and you can not help but pity her. But, at the same time you admire the strength and optimism she has to carry on with her life. She picks up the pieces and tries to embrace her new life of solidarity and she does a really great job. I loved reading the first segment, I grew to like Maddie a lot. She has a great, down-to-Earth, bright, happy personality that is very endearing. She also happens to be very clumsy and accident prone, in an adorable way that had me laughing out loud on a couple different occasions. I also felt like reading her describe what her life has been like up till now was like reading a diary entry, it seemed so natural and easy flowing, like she was telling all this to her closest friend and you were that friend. She also makes a lot of references to things that are popular in our present time, and that really helps you relate with her. I especially enjoyed the Harry Potter references :).

Moving up to present time in the story line, Maddie is all alone. She has one thing that she loves and holds on to from her life with her father, and that's hiking and camping and just plain being outdoors. So this one Christmas she decides to spend the night and day camping in her favorite spot on Smokey Mountain and the very unexpected happens. Maddie comes face to face with a serial killer that targets women. This part of the book had me feeling real fear, my heart was pounding in my chest as I read through her horrifying ordeal with this mad man. I won't give to many details but it comes to a point where the killer assumes her dead, and he moves on. She then is saved by a group of people called the Nunne'hi, they are a group of people yet unknown to the rest of the world. When reading about the Nunne'hi I got a very elvish vibe from them. They are not in elves, but if I had to describe them that is what I would say. But Tolkien elves! The Nunne'hi happen to have an alliance with aliens from a planet called Vesturon, with whom they protect the earth and the people on it. The aliens who are sent to work with the Nunne'hi are called Guardians. They look just like humans, with a slightly larger frame, some super human abilities, and are much more technologically advanced than us. The Guardian who is charged with helping Maddie's healing process is named Rayn. Upon their meeting there is instant, intense, crazy attraction.

Here comes the love dilemma that tugs on our heartstrings. Maddie is a mere human, Rayn is an alien from another planet! Not only that, his father just happens to be the leader of said planet and Rayn, being his first born son, is to be his successor. So here they are, they have this attraction that, you the reader, can feel coming at you off the pages. Their relationship is electric, it's on fire! It's intensely deep, very real, and best of all (for us readers) it's strictly forbidden. Humans are never allowed to be on Rayn's planet, as well, Rayn is what we would consider royalty, he could not be paired with a human! Forbidden love has a way of reeling us in, we just have to read on to see what happens and if it's a love strong enough to beat the odds.

So, that's the big question! Will Maddie be OK with being in love with an alien, once she discovers that is what he, in fact, is? Is she ready to be close to someone again after tragically losing the ones she was closest to? Will Rayn risk losing his family, disinheriting himself from the role as leader of Vesturon, or risk being imprisoned for bringing a human to his planet? These are not the only obstacles that get thrown in their path!

But that is as far as I will take you! As I love to say, you're going to have to read it yourself to find out. And on that note, I absolutely recommend that you do so! If you're a fan of YA, Paranormal, Romance, or all of the above, get your hands on a copy and read it :) I have faith you will love it as much as I did. Great work Hargrove! Lucky for me, and all of us, the next installment: Resurrection, is to be very soon released! I personally can not wait to get my hands on it! :)

November Is Nyarlathotep says

5 Stars

Just from Page 1 I fell in love with this awesome book, whose poetic imaging is priceless. I have lived near the area which is the initial setting, so I was poised to discern if the descriptions were accurate; my judgment is-more than accurate, perfect, poetic, lyrical, and oh! How I wish I were there inside the scene! It's not every author who can make the reader experience a story with her senses as well as mentally and emotionally, but A. M. Hargrove does! This author deserves a very wide audience.

At first glance, the reader would think this novel is about a very likable young lady who suffers two tragedies in her life (the loss of her parents at eleven and at seventeen), but manages to stay strong, even though completely alone; to make good friends, and to succeed in college. But this is just the anteroom to the novel, as it were. Author Hargrove leads Maddie into some serious (potentially fatal) danger-and then into the experience of a lifetime-well, of anyone's lifetime! I won't spoil the progress of this novel for future readers; but I do want to add that surprisingly, the author even elicited empathy for the characters whose actions are negative and dangerous. That's not an easy accomplishment.

This book is a "100 percenter" and deserves my highest recommendation!

Over decades of reading I have discovered that accomplished writing does not come from the number of novels or short stories penned, and certainly not from the quantity of bestsellers! It occurs when a writer works at her craft, and then-even in a "debut" novel, it's apparent. Such is true of A. M. Hargrove. I don't know how many years she has been writing, but boy, can she write! In fact, I am now a convinced fan and plan to read everything she publishes, including the sequel, "Resurrection"!

Take Me Away To A Great Read says

I LOVED, LOVED, LOVED this book!!! Amazing writing, hot aliens, did I say hot aliens, great chemistry, edge of your seat, fast passed, action packed book!!!

Maddie is such a tough red head, with everything she has been through in her past and she still remains strong. Maddie will endure many more many more trials as she goes to college and then goes on a hiking trip alone. While on the hike a man who has been looking for prey begins to hunt her. He tortures her and she knows if she doesn't do something drastic then she will die. She is near death when she meets Rayn an emerald eyed, dark hooded Guardian there with others to save her. She is soothed by his presence.

At first when she wakes she is scared and has so many questions. Her injuries are so severe. She wonders what kind of life she is going to live after this and why life has been so unkind to her. She has so many questions and Rayn loves to not answer them for her. Her stubbornness and curiosity and his seriousness and mystery make for definite fireworks!!!

Maddie is so attracted to Rayn and it infuriates her that he can read that. Rayn soon realizing he is developing feelings for Maddie, and he feels that what is best is for him to stay away from her so that his feelings will go away. He then has her memories erased and her put back into her everyday life.

Maddie soon starts dreaming about a tall dark handsome, green eye man every night. The dreams are getting stronger and she one night has that man show up and offer her a proposition, and memories that she never thought would ever enter her life. But will she except!?!

This was one of the best Alien books I have read and I cannot wait to continue Maddie & Rayn's story with Resurrection! The writing in this book kept me on the edge of my seat and was so well written! I love all of Rayn's family and Rayn has taken my breathe away and I cannot wait for more of him!!!

Tana says

Survival, a YA Paranormal Romance (The Guardians of Vesturon Series, Book #1)

By A.M. Hargrove

Survival like the title says is a YA paranormal romance novel, A.M.Hargrove has excellent writing skills this book is well written, the descriptions were good and not overly done, the character development was well thought out and it helped us know a bit about each person we encounter in the story. I was quite surprised on how much I was enjoying this book; it held my interest so much that I couldn't stop reading and I ending up reading the whole book in one sitting. I really liked the fact that this book was a bit different from the other paranormal books I've read lately, instead of vampires or werewolf's we were reading about beings from another world. Even though these beings are from another planet and more advance then us humans they are still very human like so it wasn't as far fetch as you would think. There are some sad parts where I had to find my Kleenex and wipe my tears and then there were parts that I laughed out loud, I like when an author can make you feel actual emotions.

A brief overview of this story without giving too much away, I would say this is a story of a young woman who has had to deal with an enormous amount of loss in her life. She is a strong, independent and a heroic character, I love reading about strong independent women. She works through some of her losses and survives and heads to college. She ends up making a few good friends and her life seems to be going well. On a hiking trip during the holidays she ends up getting captured by a very evil man who likes to hunt and kill the women he has taken. Being the survivor she is she plans her escape. Barely surviving this horrific experience she is rescued by a tall handsome mysterious man who helps her recover from her injuries and

they both end up feeling a strong connection to each other. Knowing that this cannot happen as they are both from different worlds he walks away. Soon he realizes his mistake and he goes back to find her, she is in the same situation as him she hasn't been able to forget him either. But is it possible for the two of them to be together, can she leave the only man she has ever felt safe with? Will the mad man find her again? Will she survive this time? These are all questions you have to go find out by reading this book.

I would recommend this book to any of my friends who enjoy the paranormal romance books; I also have to say that I cannot wait for book 2 to be released. In saying that I will admit when I finished the book I emailed the author right away hoping to find out how much longer I had to wait before I could read book 2. She did mention that it won't be too long. Right now this book is on sale at Amazon for .99 cents and worth every cent and more. Please go pick up your copy.

Lacey says

First Thoughts:

My review is going to be based off the second edition of this book; the author provided me with a newer edition and therefore my review will reflect the changes made to the beginning of the story itself.

At first glance of the cover you wouldn't know what journeys lie await but from the first chapter the author introduces you with "Real" conflict. The use of flashbacks in the beginning chapters really helped seduce the reader into the story and help them realize the back story of this strong yet a little fragile character. The plot was very well thought out, I felt that this book had a new take on the paranormal, I really liked the fact that it was different; there wasn't the usual mundane conflict, there was new ideas and scenery depicted in this book. The action was evenly distributed; it wasn't fast the entire book but instead gave the reader a sense of time and allowed us to gradually learn more about the characters and the story itself. The writing itself was new, I liked how she took use of the dialogue, I really could tell that she knew her characters. Just by the dialogue alone you could tell who was who; it's so cool to be able to tell the characters apart just by dialogue alone. The characters themselves each had a distinct personality, each one was easily identified and full of life. There wasn't one character I felt lacked something; each of them had their own values and flaws. Something else I found interesting and fun was the style of clothes the character wore, the author did such an amazing job describing new ideas on clothing that certain characters wore. She really had a sense of another world; a new line of items and ideas that had to be created to make the story more real; more plausible. The description itself was really good, it was just the right amount and I felt she did a great job describing the beautiful scenery and characters themselves. Each scene was created with precision and nothing went untouched. The structure of the writing itself like a said earlier is unique and I really enjoyed the use of different point of views, the author did a good job on allowing the reader to know who's point of view we were in. I think without the different points of views, this story would have really liked a good angle and would leave the reader both confused and lacking a certain connection to the book. The element of romance was great, it wasn't overpowering in the least, I didn't feel that this book was just about the romance; it was about something much greater; a more deep and intelligent conflict. I also felt that the author was knowledgeable about where the story took place, all those trails she named and mountains really helped make the fabric of the characters world more real; more believable. It was definitely a fun and fast read for me.

Goodreads Summary:

Survival (Book 1 of the Guardians of Vesturon), a YA paranormal romance

"Maybe I was caught between the two worlds. I was having serious trouble distinguishing fantasy from reality."

While on a backpacking trip in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, nineteen-year-old Maddie Pearce finds her world has been thrown into a vortex and is madly spinning toward the impossible. Abducted by a mad psychopath, Maddie narrowly escapes with her life. But that is only the beginning. Her mysterious rescuer introduces her to a world that Maddie has difficulty accepting as reality. Will this strikingly gorgeous stranger be the key to her future or will she return to her mundane world, scarred from her experience? Follow Maddie as she is forced to make difficult decisions that carry her to mysterious places only to find that perhaps it was all for nothing.

Last Thoughts:

I would recommend this book to any fantasy or paranormal addicts; it certainly screams the elements of them. I would also recommend this to readers who enjoy a good romance; this one is both comical and strong; I loved it. I wouldn't however recommend this if you don't enjoy a more native feel; this definitely had some connections between the two. Also I wouldn't recommend this if you don't enjoy romance though like I mentioned earlier it isn't overpowering and isn't the overall main focal point it is there and there is a big conflict going on. This book is one to take into consideration and the ending leaves you yearning for more; the cliffhanger definitely leaves you wanting the next book NOW. So if you're going to read this book, I'd recommend reading it closer to the second books release which should be coming out later this month or early February. Overall I enjoyed the author's style and ideas and can't wait to explore more of these characters world. I rate this book 4.5 stars.

Lily at Bookluvr's Haven says

I finished this book for two main reasons:

1. This book was kindly shared by the author on Goodreads for the purposes of review.
2. There were 4 star and 5 star ratings that made me a) feel like I was missing something and needed to stick it out & b) I really wanted to give it a chance and see for myself what prompted the high ratings.

I approach every new book with an interesting synopsis with the same level of anticipation and excitement, and avoid reviews so I remain unbiased. But 20% in, I had to take a peek, and found some very good reviews and had hope. But unfortunately, this book was simply not for me. I struggled to get through this book. Overall, I can only give this book a 2 star rating. Though I initially was going to give it a 1 star, I will acknowledge that the story itself was interesting, but the way it was presented made me lose my mind.

Why was I losing my mind?

1. **The "show" ratio was at an all-time low** – Please show, not tell! I understand that some information needs to be delivered in a 'telling' fashion, but not 90% of the book! Telling me the story doesn't help me to empathize, connect, whatever you want to call it, with any character of this story.
2. **Over dramatic interactions** – ok... maybe I am being too technical, but I found myself rolling my eyes at

all the exclamation marks and all the emphasizing of words. Most of the time they were not necessary. On the non-technical side, who actually meets people for the first time in a dorm and recounts all their painful feelings and memories about their parent's death, and repeats endlessly how agonizing and heartbreaking it all was? Maybe it's just me here, but I just couldn't relate. I don't know many people that would be so willing to share so much, and so intensely to strangers right off the bat. And I don't know if I want to get into the interactions between Maddie and her love interest, Rayn. I will leave it as "over the top".

3. The Ever Changing POVs – I've read some books with lots of POV changes. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. In this case, for me, it didn't work at all. If the changes in POV had been more parallel to the time of the story, than maybe I would have overlooked this, but it drove me crazy. I was pretty sure that I was a couple of weeks' time into the story with Maddie, after her rescue, then BAM I am back to pre-injured Maddie being chased in the woods, through psycho's eyes. Man, was I confused. Then 3 pages in I realized, I was re-reading a scene that had already happened! How confusing! Would have worked better if they were, as I mentioned prior, more parallel to each other, so that the story flowed more fluently.

I will say this. I give anyone that writes a novel from start to finish a fist pump. And I will also acknowledge that some people saw something in this book that they really enjoyed. The way the story was told didn't do it for me, but it was a good story. It was imaginative, and interesting. I was excited and eager to read it, and I made it through to the end even though I felt that it didn't deliver for me. I wish the author, as I do all authors that put their works out there to be read, scrutinized, and enjoyed much success.

Sarah says

You know that book where the lonely accident prone girl who thinks she's plain jane, but everyone else thinks is gorgeous falls in love with the guy who's not human, but looks like he is except during certain parts of the day? And he has this family full of equally gorgeous super nice people who all like to drive real fast. So they have this garage full of super expensive cars which they can afford, along with their mansion sized house, due to some fuzzy details about money. And did I mention this hot guy is an amazing piano player, great cook, has superhuman speed and strength and (wait for it) can read minds. He completely falls in love with this girl (despite all the obvious reasons not to) and is determined to be with her even though it could be the downfall of his entire family.

Yeah, it was Twilight. But, it's also the exact same story line as Survival.

This story was about twice as long as it needed. The author uses multiple POV to show us the same scene from both the MCs, but we don't get any new information from the second telling. Unfortunately, the story also switches occasionally from first person POV to third which made this story hard to read.

We also get a little too much back story on the MC and her college roommates (who don't really impact the story). Paranormal elements don't enter the story until chapter 12. Much too late.

I stuck it out to finish the book only to learn the end is a cliffhanger. This was really disappointing. For me, I didn't care enough about the characters to feel the pull of needing to know what happens next. Kudos to the author for finishing a book and putting it out there, but this was not my cup of tea.

