



Rarity

D.A. Roach

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Brogen Mathers can't deal with teen drama... As an empath, she is constantly bombarded with other people's energies. Despite coping techniques taught by her psychologist mother, it's often too much to bear, forcing her to avoid most activities a typical high school junior would enjoy. Jay Wilken won't let his past define him... A dead mother and an alcoholic father brought Jay to Stanton, but he doesn't want pity. His good looks, charisma, and friendly nature quickly win over the whole student body, but he has his eye on one girl...Brogen. Brogen can't believe anyone could be so genuinely nice. It has to be an act, right? But when Jay literally saves her from deadly jaws, she has to admit he's exactly what he appears, and he's worth risking the potential emotional upheaval. "Drama" might as well be Becca Grant's middle name... Another newcomer to Stanton, Becca's blonde beauty and abundant attitude shoots her straight to the top of the popularity charts—and she believes Jay belongs right there beside her. Accustomed to getting exactly what she wants, she launches a relentless mean-girl campaign to shake up Brogen and claim Jay for her own. Everything changes with a devastating diagnosis... When Jay learns he has a rare and potentially fatal disorder, he keeps it secret and begins to push Brogen away to spare her future pain—which is exactly the sort of opening Becca is waiting for. As Jay's well-meaning deception unravels, Brogen realizes there is much more than her heart at stake... But how far is she willing to go to fight for someone she loves?

Rarity Details

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From Reader Review Rarity for online ebook

Anne says

When this book begins, it appears to be about typical high school friendships eventually developing into a relationship between two seemingly normal teenagers, Jay and Brogen. But as the story progresses, we learn that Brogen is an Empath and she can sense when something bad is going to happen to someone she cares about. We also see Jay learn that he has a genetic disorder, Vascular Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, which affects all of the collagen in his body. Throughout the book, we see how Jay responds to Brogen and others around him as he learns how to process this diagnosis and the profound effect it has on his future and his life. We see instances of how fragile his skin, blood vessels and organs are due to this disorder. Because of this, we also get a taste for how serious this condition is and the extra precautions needed if surgery is indicated, as it is such a life-threatening condition.

Being a person who lives with Vascular Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (vEDS) myself, I was eager to read this book and see how it was portrayed. Although this is a fictional book, I was very happy with the realistic portrayal of the lives surrounding someone diagnosed with vEDS. It shared the emotions of the person with the diagnosis as well as the emotions of the close friends and family members who support the person living with this diagnosis. It fairly represented the disbelief, anger, sadness and fear that a person goes through when receiving this diagnosis. Although this book was not a biography for any one specific person, it certainly could be many people's story who live with vEDS in their lives somehow. There were situations in the story that brought tears to my eyes, and situations that made me very happy. I appreciate the author taking the time to write a story that can create more awareness to the community about what it is like to live with vEDS or to be a friend or family member of the person living with vEDS.

I highly recommend taking the time to read this book!

Agnieska a.k.a. Gut says

I'm so thankful that author provided me with the copy of the book.

I was impressed by D.A.Roach idea to make Brogen an empath. It was really new thing for me to find in a fictional book. It was one of the main things why "Rarity" got my attention in the first place. It's just such a different point of view when main character not only try to understand other people, but she can also feel them. It just... I would like to be able to do the same thing, even if often it's overwhelming. But that's the point. How Brogen deal with that - makes you admire her. And yet, even I liked her (despite some stupid choices she made) and I really liked Jay (mean Jay I liked much more that cute and puffy) - I wasn't such a big fan of the story line rush.

Want to read full review? You can do this here: <https://gutreadingtime.wordpress.com/...>

Christine says

The topic was very serious , but the heroine was very immature. She was too judgmental. She sees two new

kids in her class and she immediately thinks about what social ladder and rank they will be in. I loved the premise, but some things did not work for me. First the heroine's mother is the hero's doctor. I don't think doctors are even allowed to tell people who is or isn't their patient. Then the heroine tells her BFF, Meg, everything. EVERYTHING. I was surprised she did not call her to tell her how many times she used the bathroom.

The relationship and verbiage felt awkward and immature. The heroine has this "gift" empathy. I honestly thought that this book was going to be a paranormal the way the heroine went on and on about how she can feel things.

A new boy comes to school. The heroine and he develop friendship or relationship, I don't know for sure. It all felt off and forced. She thinks he flirts with the other new girl, but he doesn't, then he does when he thinks that the heroine has blown him off. The heroine has a lot of trust issues since her father abandoned her. The father cheated on her mother and started dating an attractive blonde woman. The heroine stresses that she does not want a man who will do that to her. There is a lot of miscommunication. Later, the hero finds out some awful news and the story takes a different turn.

The heroine and the verbiage did not work for me.

Declarations of a Fangirl says

You can find this review and more like it on my blog, [Declarations of a Fangirl](#).

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

There may be spoilers. Read at your own risk.

I had high expectations for this book. The synopsis boasts a teenage girl with empathy, a sweet new guy, and a mean girl. I envisioned some kind of spin on Mean Girls, and I guess I'm partly to blame for that, but this book just did not work for me at all.

It seemed like there was this underlying bitter current about the "pretty girl" always getting the guy. The word 'blonde' was overused to the point of annoyance. We get it. Becca was blonde and pretty. But blonde does not equal popularity, no matter how many times the author tried to stress that point. Brogen's dad cheated on her mom with a "pretty blonde" and now she refuses to go near Jay because Becca, who is a "pretty blonde," has her sights set on him. It was so damn superficial.

(Brogen is reflecting on the fact that her dad is dating the "Blonde-squad's" newest leader's (aka Becca) mom)

Linda was the adult version of Becca. She was so unlike my mom, exact opposites. I was like my mom. Why did the attractive blondes always get the guys? Even if I dyed my hair blonde, I still wouldn't land the guys. I didn't have that goddess look-long and thick wavy hair, big bosom, curvy hips, and long legs. I was trim from

all my running and had muscular calves and thighs, but I got short changed in the boob department. My hair was dark brown, long enough for a pony tail, but nothing remarkable.

Becca was supposed to be the mean girl, but aside from being blonde, having big boobs, having friends, being interested in the same guy as Brogen...she didn't really do anything that mean. Brogen walks past Becca & her group of friends a couple of times and she overhears the word 'loser' but given that Brogen is a self-proclaimed drama avoider and doesn't care about what other people think about her, I would think that that wouldn't bother her that much. The word 'slut' was painted on her locker with nail polish. THAT is the only true 'mean' thing that was credited to Becca and Brogen brushes it off like it's no big deal. I just don't see where the 'mean girl' hype is.

The most realistic part of the book was Jay. I felt like his reactions to his diagnosis were spot on and understandable. The guy has just found out that the life expectancy for his disease is 38 years old. Of course he's going to be conflicted and emotional.

And I'm once again reminded why I avoid the YA contemporary genre.

Cathy says

Sometimes the most vulnerable, courageous warriors teach us the most priceless life-lessons. This is what you'll discover in this book. I absolutely loved this book and the name, "Rarity" = "Priceless". It is a beautiful, true to life story where the author teaches many invaluable life lessons. Whether it is about true friendship, or figuring out what truly matters and is important in this world. The characters are compelling and relatable. This book takes you on a teenager's journey through overcoming fears, heartaches, hardships, emotional struggles and dealing with life's adversities. It's these life experiences, the people we meet along the way who help to shape us and make us stronger and into the people that we are meant to be in this world. The author was so right, there are no coincidences! Life events can mold us and change our lives in ways that we could never imagine. They also teach us a lot about ourselves. If we're blessed to meet that one special person whom we emotionally connect with, they are the ones that help us to look deep inside of ourselves and that's when we will be profoundly changed in positive ways. Our eyes begin to open to a whole new world where time, moments and memories are so very precious..."priceless" in fact.

This would be a great read for those teenagers who are struggling with a diagnosis and for their family members. Those who have been personally touched in one way or another by Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (vEDS) or any rare disorder. It's a raw look at the true ups and downs of life and what you have to do to overcome and continue on to live life to the fullest...no matter what circumstances are put in our path. I believe whoever reads it will be able to gain strength and learn one of the most important lessons in life...love, live and laugh.

I have been personally affected by his rare disorder so it was a very emotional read on so many different levels for me. I laughed, felt many different raw emotions and I even cried. I think the author nailed all the

pertinent issues, the feelings, emotions, advice and symptoms of vEDS, perfectly. And...

"The gift of knowledge"... I think we all wish we could be given this gift. I know I did!

Thank you for writing this beautiful, enlightening book. And bringing awareness and education to Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (vEDS)

Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

I received this book from Enticing Journey Book Promotions in return for a fair and honest review.

I honestly can't put into words how this book simply blew me away. Reading the synopsis gave me an idea but I still wasn't sure what I'd be getting when I started to read this. I assumed it would be a typical teen drama with hot guy, shy girl and Queen B making waves. Well, I was almost right but this is also so much more.

Brogan is an empath and being around others can be emotionally and mentally draining for her. Jay is charming and good-looking and also the new boy in school. He has his own past though and history that he has to deal with, but he is determined that he will make the best of it that he can. Becca is also a new girl and usually gets whatever it is she wants, in this case, Jay. She can't understand why Jay is interested in Brogan rather than her so her attitude towards Brogan changes and the Queen B makes an appearance.

More than any of this though is the developing relationship between Brogan and Jay. How they spend time with each first to see if they actually like each other. How a friendship develops between them before any other confusing feelings get in the way. When we find out about Jay and see his, and Brogan's, reactions - it gives this story a whole new level. Be prepared for some tissues as there are parts of this that are packed full of emotion but so worth reading.

I won't say anything else because I don't want to give out any spoilers, but I do want to thank D.A. Roach for writing such a unique and informative book in a way that you don't even realise it until afterwards. This is a complete page-turner that will grip you from the first page to the very last. Absolutely fantastic and the epilogue at the end was a perfect way to finish. I know that Brogan and Jay are only characters, but I still wish them well and would love to hear more from them!

Merissa
Archaeolibrarian - I Dig Good Books!

The Pink Bookshelf says

Rarity
D.A. Roach
#Ya

I was really intrigued with the synopsis of this book. A teen empath? Pretty cool! The writing drew me in

almost immediately. Characters were likeable and so realistic. Their interactions weren't forced at all. I really liked how the author wrote about a real condition and didn't sugar coat. It was very informative. Jumping into this story I never thought that i was going to learn so much. Not only about the condition, but it's a great reminder that you should never take anything for granted. I look forward to reading more from this author.

<http://www.amazon.com/Rarity-D-Roach-...>

Barbi says

Rarity by D.A. Roach

Brogen Matthews is a junior at Stanton High School. Unlike her fellow students, Brogen doesn't participate in most activities because she is an empath. She is heavily affected by the energies and emotions of others and it causes physical, mental and emotional drainage.

Meg is Brogen's best friend. They have known each other a long time, but their junior year they were lucky enough to have classes together. Meg and Brogen tried to stay under the radar of high school drama, but that is all about to change when two new students arrive to shake things up.

Jay Wilken moves to Stanton under some unfortunate circumstances. His mother died and caused his father to end up in rehab due to his alcoholism, so he moved in with his aunt, uncle, and cousin, Soren. Jay is easily likable and adjusts well into school with his friendly demeanor, good looks and overall charm. He catches Brogen's attention with his genuine friendliness and she suddenly feel butterflies when he is around.

One evening while running, Brogen is stopped in her tracks by a growling, snarling dog that was ready to attack her. Out of nowhere, Jay appears to distract the dog and save Brogen, while ending up being bitten. A drunk driver hits and kills the dog, nearly missing Brogen and Jay. This was the beginning of the friendship to relationship blooming between them.

Becca Grant is every high school girl's worst nightmare. She is beautiful, blonde, and quickly jumps in to rule the most popular group in school. Becca has her eye on Jay and is not ready to let anything get in her way, including Brogen. Becca starts to be really mean to Brogen and try to get closer to Jay, planning to push Brogen out of the picture.

Amidst all of this, Jay learned that he has a rare genetic disorder that could be fatal. He has to walk away from most activities that he participates in. Feeling broken, he starts to push Brogen away in an attempt to protect her. Brogen doesn't want to give up on her and Jay, but feeling hurt she doesn't know how much she can take.

Is Brogen strong enough to fight for her relationship with Jay? Read it and find out!

This is the first book that I have read by D.A. Roach and I really enjoyed it. She gave enough background information about the characters to make them realistic and kept the storyline running. I hope to read more from her!

I gave Rarity 4 out of 5 stars.

Reviewed by Barbi S. for the Art of Romance

Lydia H says

RARITY by D.A. Roach was like a breath of fresh air. I've been quickly becoming a huge fan of YA Romances, and DA Roach solidified it. Her writing style was so easy to follow and connect with, that I could

not help but love it. If you're a fan of Young Adult novels, you really need to pick this one up!

While reading, I couldn't contain my need to hug Brogen and Jay. You see, Brogen was an empath, so having your emotions get all screwed up because of other people's feelings, is NOT a walk in the park. I felt for her. And she was in high school, mind you, which is the place where hormones and emotions run on full speed!! Let's not even discuss the drama factor. Sheesh. But thankfully, her mom would guide her and help her deal with everything so that she wouldn't suffer panic attacks. To top things off, she had to deal with her dad, whom I was NOT a fan of.

"You, Brogen, have the gift to make Jay's life a little brighter during this hard time."

Jay. Oh, gosh. Jay. What a guy!!! He and his story definitely pulled on my heart. Once he and Brogen met, they became friends. How could they not? It's like they were made for each other. They didn't have things easy though. From rabid dogs to catty girls...to Jay's condition. Yeah. But Brogen stood by his side. While reading, certain scenes made my heart ache, beat faster, and even STOP. So the fact that DA Roach evoked such emotions from me was yet another plus!

"Life is so complicated. Some days it takes everything just to get out of bed."

I'm a sucker for angst and there was tons of it in this book! Have I mentioned how much I enjoyed RARITY? Because I sure did!! And oh!! Meg – LOVED HER. She was the funny and awesome best friend that always called it like she saw it. Ha. Her character really made me giggle more times than I can count.

"He put his hands on each side of my face, and then gently but possessively, he took my mouth against his."
(...)

"I've been wanting to that for a long time."

"Well, what took you so long?"

"Life, but I won't let it happen again."

THAT ENDING. OMG. I COULD NOT LOVE IT MORE. I'm truly a hopeless romantic, so endings like THAT, endings that provide closure in the most beautiful way, are my TOP favorites!! All in all, RARITY was a great book I highly recommend you one-click! Look forward to reading more from DA Roach! FIVE STARS!

Domoni says

Brogen is an empath; she is affected by the moods of those around her. She is also in high school. Trying to walk through the halls with all of the drama is not what she enjoys most in life. Her psychiatrist mom is empathic too so she helps Brogen learn how to tune out other people's emotions and center herself. Brogen's one true friend Meg, really seems to get her. Meg doesn't buy into the teen drama game either so the girls are a great match and really help each other. When junior year starts and two new kids start really making waves in Brogen's life, things get interesting.

Jay is the hot new guy who just moved in with his cousin. Being new and attractive makes him the new shiny object to all the girls in school, especially Becca the pretty blonde is also new in town. She has her eye set on Jay and everyone else should beware. When a crazed dog is about to attack Brogen on her evening run she is

saved by Jay, and everything changes dragging Brogen into the world of high school drama she tried so hard to ignore. Jay definitely makes things difficult for her. As they get closer, Jay opens up about his life. Now Brogen knows how affected he is over the loss of his mother at such a young age and his father's turning to alcohol over his son to deal with his grief. She feels as though they have a deep connection. When Jay is diagnosed with the condition that killed his mother, his emotional tail spin sends him out of control and he pushes Brogen away. With Becca circling Jay and lashing out at her, is it worth it to Brogen to walk through all the pain and difficulties it will bring to be a part of his world?

I loved this story. The characters are so vivid, it is easy to get into their emotional space. Brogen is a caring sweet girl who doesn't want to make waves. She is happy with her life. A close relationship with her mom and her BFF Meg is enough to keep her fulfilled, but when Jay saves her a bond is formed that she just can't ignore. It is easy to feel her frustration and fears. Jay is complex and charismatic. His reaction to life is mostly positive when everything around him can be negative. He of course struggles with reconciling his emotions over the young death of his mother and his father's alcoholism. When he gets devastating news it makes sense that he would spiral.

How Jay and Brogen connect and interact is very fluid. It isn't a pretty little love story that follows the path of boy meets girl and life moves along merrily. They are real characters with realistic emotions. As a reader I was drawn deep into them, feeling anger, joy and fear as the story progressed. The author painted a realistic picture of living through a life changing diagnosis. Instead of characters that wallowed in it, he wrote a beautiful touching story about learning to live in spite of it.

This book touched me and I appreciated the end section that breaks down information on Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. It is important that he wrote a story about a person with this condition, but the story is not about the condition.

For this and other reviews, please visit <https://fangirlsreaditfirst.wordpress...>

Michelle Schwartz says

If I were to fill this entire review with WOW ... would you like it?

Rarity pulled on my heart strings like you can not even imagine. I laughed, I cried, I awwwed and I cried some more. There are so many emotions in this book that are truly hard to evoke from a reader, knowing that it is a story. However, Rarity is much more than a story. It is reality. There are way too many sufferers of the rare disease, named vEDS.

Brogen ... a sweet and simple girl who doesn't know where she quite fits in. She knows that she does NOT like drama. It causes her too much turmoil. It's a good thing that she has her best friend Meg by her side. Meg is a cute and funny best friend that Brogen simply can't live without. She is the yin to Brogen's yang. Where you find one, you will find the other.

On the first day of school, they are introduced to two newbie's .. Jay and Becca. Jay is the cousin of a popular guy named Soren, who is actually a pretty big character as well. Jay is tall, lean, big eyed and gorgeous. Brogen catches his eye and is immediately attracted to him, but she would never tell you that! Becca fit right in with the blonde, popular crowd and had her sights set on Jay from the word jump.

Jogging one night, Brogen ran into a vicious dog and was saved by her knight in shining armor and felt an actual spark from that night on whenever she would come across Jay. The two started getting closer, until Becca decided to come between them. Becca was determined to make Jay hers if it killed her. Because Brogen doesn't do drama, she backed off. Jay convinces her to not give up, for Brogen to only be brushed off by him. Something was happening with Jay, but he won't open up. She can't even begin to imagine what Jay was facing.

Will Jay open up and let her in on his secret? Has he lost interest because Becca sank her ugly nails into him? Does love conquer all??

PLEASE .. whatever you do ... drop what you are doing and purchase this book. The story is amazing. The characters are loveable and D.A.'s writing is impeccable. Rarity is a story that will stick with me for a very long time. Hands down ... the BEST YA book of 2015!!!

Vera Neves (Sinfonia dos Livros) says

When I received this book to read and write an honest review, I had no idea how much I was going to like this story. I was really surprised to see how a book doesn't need to be huge in pages to make us more than satisfied.

The synopsis makes us expect that this would be another book full of teenagers dramas and therefore I was a little discouraged to read another book with this central theme.

We have, in this book, one hundred and eighty pages that tells us the story of Brogen, a teenager with the rare gift of capturing the energies of people who surround her, whether it is good or bad energy. She has to deal with it every day and at a certain point, she does, with her mother's help, who is a psychologist and puts her on a meditation program and daily exercise to try to work around that accumulated energy. It would be expected that a young man appeared on the road, because it would not be a story of teenagers if it were otherwise. He is Jay.

Complete Review

<http://sinfoniadoslivros.blogspot.pt/...>

Tiffany Readz says

D.A. Roach gives us a sweet, yet sad YA love story. While I'm not usually a YA reader, this book interested me from the blurb and kept my interest peaked until the very end.

Brogen is an empath (the first thing I learned from this book) and she feels for others deeply. For a young girl, that is a lot to handle along with normal teenage stuff. Luckily for Brogen, her mom has the same issue and helps her get through the tough times. Starting her junior year, Brogen hangs with her bestie Meg and belongs to no crowd really. Her and Meg pretty much connect with everybody, choosing to steer clear of the snotty girls by choice.

Jay is new to the neighborhood and school this year. After he saves Brogen from a freak incident, he realizes he wants to get to know her better. Unfortunately for Jay, the new snobby girl at school also has eyes for him and once she catches wind of Brogen liking him, she makes Brogen's life hell. Jay is pretty good at standing

up for Brogen until the point where he is diagnosed with a rare disease (the second thing I learned).

Once diagnosed, Jay turns into something Brogen doesn't like and she knows it isn't the real him. Once all the cards are on the table, Jay and Brogen figure out they can do this together and a sweet relationship blossoms. I am reviewing a bit vague as to not spoil any of the storylines.

The book is told from Brogen's point of view with Jay getting a say towards the end. I absolutely loved the epilogue D.A. Roach gives us, leaving me wanting more from this cute couple, however understand if this is it.

Reveiwed for Renee Entress's Blog

Irma says

“Would it be all right if I visited Meg after school each day for a few hours?” “Actually, that would be great, but only if you are up for it.” I reached my hand to Meg’s foot and wiggled her socked big toe.”

The topic of this story was something fresh, new. I knew nothing of this condition prior to reading this book. But being a YA romance addict, I'm kinda picky. Hence the three stars.

Nancy (The Avid Reader) says

I received a free copy of the book from the author for my honest opinion.

Brogen is a teenage girl who is an empath and still in high school. Brogen has had a hard time of dealing with being an empath as her abilities are very strong. But she is a lucky girl having a mom that is an empath too and has been a big help to her by trying to teach her how to deal with what she feels from others. She also has this best friend for most of her life who accepts her she the way she is. Meg is a very good person and has stood by Brogen for many years. Actually Meg is one of the few people that Brogen has let into her life.

Brogen is just starting a new year at school and only has two years left before graduating and she can't wait. With the new year starting up they get two new students in their class. One is a guy, Jay who is very good looking and all of the girls want him for their selves especially the other new student who just happens to be a girl, Becca thinks she is the QUEEN of the whole school or the whole town for that matter. And guess what yeah you guessed it she wants Jay all for herself and is determined to get him no matter what it takes. But Jay only has eyes for one girl and that is Brogen.

Brogen can't believe that he likes at all much less has chosen her over the QUEEN Becca. But to Jay Brogen is the QUEEN and not Becca. But with Becca doing everything she can to get him Brogen may end up with a broken heart. She is not use to fight for want she wants. She usually just sits back and lets everyone have want they want without interfering. Brogen hates drama and being the center of attention unlike Becca who

loves it and would just rather let everyone have whatever it is they want. But this time just may be a different story after she meets Jay one night when she is out for a run and is attacked by a rabid dog and Jay comes to her rescue. Jay and Brogen have a connection after that night.

Jay is new in town and is living with his cousin because his father is having problems with a bottle and is getting help for it. Jay lost his mother not long ago and this has been his father's way of dealing with it. But Jay is trying to deal with everything and get on with his life the best way he knows how. Now he has met a new girl who he cares about a lot and who cares about him too. But when Jay finds out some devastating news about himself he starts to push Brogen away and she doesn't understand what is going on. Why is he all of a sudden pushing her away? Jay doesn't have a selfish bone in his body. It breaks his heart to push Brogen away but he doesn't want to get so involved with her that he breaks her heart as well. But just maybe that should be Brogen choice and not his.

Rarity touched me way more than I ever thought it would when I read the summary. I knew when I read it that I just had to read it. While reading Rarity I cried a lot and it was ugly as they say. I cried just about the whole time I was reading it. I felt so much for both Jay and Brogen but I can really and truly relate to Brogen on more than one level. But the main one is that I know what it is like to love someone who has problems like Jay but they are different.

I love D.A. Roach's writing style. I love how she can make you see the world that she has written through the eyes of the characters. You get so lost in the story that you feel like it is more than watching a movie. She makes you feel like you are a character in Rarity like you are standing on the side lines watching what is going on and feel what the characters are feeling. At times I cried and laughed all at the same time. I cried because I felt happy, I cried because I felt sadness and hurt. I don't guess I have to tell you I really and truly loved Rarity and can't wait to check out more of D.A.'s work.
