



A Healing Spirit

Melissa A. Hanson

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A freak ski accident brings nineteen-year old Mia Kinney within minutes of death. Hurt and scared, Mia is calmed by the southern drawl and clear green eyes of her rescuer.

Twenty-one year old Dylan Blackburn is one of the first Ski Patrol members on the scene. As his patient is airlifted to the local trauma center, he can't shake her from his thoughts.

As Mia fights for her life, Dylan, is haunted by the blond hair beauty, and knows he needs to make sure she's going to be okay.

With a troubled past Dylan has vowed never to completely open himself up to another girl, but Mia continues to knock down every wall he's constructed. When his past arrives at his front door and threatens once again someone that he loves, will Dylan be able to save Mia yet again? Or will he be too late this time?

A story of love, friendship, and the determination to turn a horrible experience into something worthwhile.

"A Healing Spirit" is book 2 of the Riverview Series, however each is a standalone story.

A Healing Spirit Details

Date : Published August 16th 2015 by mah

ISBN : 9780996548526

Author : Melissa A. Hanson

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Romance, New Adult

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From Reader Review A Healing Spirit for online ebook

Tara Lee says

I don't generally like to review a novel that's not first in a series without having read books before it. But A Healing Spirit by Melissa A. Hanson, book 2 in the Riverview series, is a standalone novel so I didn't have to worry about not being caught up with the story.

The long and short of it is this: Mia is seriously injured and has to be hospitalized and undergoes a few surgeries to try and fix all of her broken bits. Dylan is a member of the Ski Patrol and, along with his friend, saves Mia's life. Mia fights to come back from her accident but she can't get Dylan out of her head. It was his voice that sort of grounded her after her accident, kept her from giving in to the pain, so to speak. And Dylan can't get her out of his head. They kind of fall for each other but Dylan has a past he doesn't want Mia to know about.

I liked the story. It was very sweet. Dylan is a pretty stand up guy and Mia isn't some frail little girl who is begging to be rescued. Her friends are fantastic, even if one of them fancies himself more than a friend. What I liked about that was that it never really became a love triangle. Like a decent person, he realized Mia didn't feel the same way about him and he let her go. What a breath of fresh air.

Dylan is a wonderful, chivalrous, knight in shining armor without being completely egotistical about it. And instead of curling up in a ball and letting what happened to Mia overcome her, she's determined to try and use her experience to make a difference in the lives and safety of other people. I don't see that combo a lot in the stories I read. It made this story different and new.

Their families (well, part of Dylan's at least) are wonderful and accepting and friendly. There are no boyfriend/girlfriend/hateful family conflicts like I see a lot. Our main characters are pretty likeable so, in turn, everyone likes them. Yes, Dylan holds back a part of his life that inevitably puts a few lives in danger (the part of his life, not that he holds it back....) but he does everything he can to make it right, and Mia doesn't hold it against him.

The story seems extremely real. Not like it's a story. More like it's a narrative of things that are really happening. Completely believable. It even switches perspective quite a bit so we get to see inside a lot of the characters, rather than just the main 2. Everyone plays a part in the story so everyone gets a chance to tell part of the story. I was worried that switching back and forth and all over would get confusing, but it didn't. And it's loosely based on a true story.

I would definitely recommend this book to just about anyone. It's romantic, but not heavy. It's sweet but intense at times. And it's a pretty quick read because you get sucked in to the story from the word go. So check it out!

Kristy Mauna says

A Healing Spirit is full of the perfect ingredients - love, friendship, family, and drama!

I was completely intrigued reading the first half of this story. It was easy to fall in love with the characters,

especially our main one Mia, she was very likable from the beginning. My favorite part was reading about Mia's recovery because I couldn't predict anything that was happening. I never knew if she was going to end up making it or not. It felt very real, and at one point I felt my eyes get blurry from unshed tears! The author did a great job at building the setting and these characters into something readers would root for.

As the story progressed though - it sort of lost me.

I think my main problem was the relationship between Mia and her rescuer Dylan. Don't get me wrong there are times where I enjoy the instant love connection between characters, and honestly at first I liked them together. It was sweet and fun to read. Then the dialogue became hard to read. Their interactions felt a bit forced and I didn't understand why they had to constantly tell each other how much they meant to one another, or about fate, etc. - I got it the first time. Plus, I just felt bad for Mia's friend who also had feelings for her. I think the story could have been told without the whole love triangle attempt, because his perspective didn't help progress the story in any way.

Melissa Hanson is a great writer though, despite the faults I found in the story. I enjoyed the characters and the realistic world building was equally as great. These factors definitely helped me to like this book. I also appreciated the different POVs - there are some cases where I don't like this, but it worked for this book. This book is based off of a true story, and I loved the epilogue from Hanson. It helped me appreciate the story more.

Overall, I liked this book. I wanted a little more, maybe less dialogue and more build up between the characters in order for the romance to feel realistic. There was a good amount of thrilling drama and romance to the story to make it enjoyable though.

I'd recommend this book to anyone looking for a light read and who enjoys contemporary stories!

Bianca says

This book ended up giving me an extremely warm and fuzzy feeling in my chest *enters a sighing emoji

"I'm lucky to have you, and I'm not letting you go. I am here for you. No matter what. "

It really brought me chills regarding how in love Dylan and Mia were. It let me to have fantasies about how it will be like to fall in love with someone that loves you so much and is willing to accept every single part of you.

But I have to admit, I have second thoughts whether this kind of love is real. There is a fine line between gratitude towards your rescuer and true love at first sight. Even though the author could clearly define between this two and lead the love between Dylan and Mia in the right direction, can this be real in today's reality? However I guess that's the joy of a book, they can bring you into the fantasies in utopia and let you

forget about the cruelty's in today's world.

Anyways, my takeaways:

I really admire the strength in Mia's character. **"Most people would be crying by now, but not you. You just shrug it off and keep moving."** Her resilience and determination awed me and I guess that's why I could accept why Dylan could be in love with her. Even though "She is a strong girl." is repeated quite a few times in the book, but the author didn't fail to prove this point to me - instead of just writing it for the sake of it.

She taught me how to hold the sh!t that the world gives to you- no matter how bad it is, and show a smile for everybody that loves you, because everybody has spent a lot of effort caring for you, and the least you can do is to fight for them as well.

She taught me how to stay positive. **"If you're always negative and angry, looking for the bad, then the only person you're really hurting is yourself."** This is so true, even though it's hard to comply with. Having an optimistic mind can bring us joy in times of darkness. It pushes us forward and to get on with life - because after all isn't life full of ups and downs? So good will always occur after the bad, we just have to have the strength to get through the dim.

And lastly, she taught me **"We have to live each day to the fullest."** Indeed, we don't know what can happen next in life. We have to treasure every current moment, for who knows, the next may be the end of the journey. We can no longer be dependent on our plans for the future, as plans can be destroyed by things unexpected. We have to cherish the present and live life, not just survive.

Alisha says

Mia is a college student who gets into a serious accident while skiing and is "saved" by many ski patrol members and doctors, but most importantly by Dylan. He is swoon-worthy character and cares for Mia simply after first sight at the accident. He spends countless trips and hours going to visit her at the hospital with barely knowing the girl, and he is protective and faithful to the women in his life that he loves (women being his mom and Mia).

It's hard to describe a lot of what I enjoyed about this novel without giving spoilers, which I hate to do, so suffice it to say, Dylan's character was by far my favorite. I appreciated his confidence, bravery, selflessness, romance and protective nature.

I was impressed by seeing Ms. Hanson's progression of the characters from the first novel (A Healing Heart) in the Riverview Series to this second novel (A Healing Spirit). While both stories can stand alone, I enjoyed seeing this second novel focusing on a different friend and progression in time (Mia during college) from the first novel (Bailey during high school). I also noticed that my review of the first novel included some simplistic moments in writing-style, but those same moments didn't seem present in this second novel. I had

an appreciation for the writer's growth, and the characters growth, as a result.

The dynamics of the friendships as they morph and change over time-particularly between Mia and Quinn-are realistic in circles of friends and had a natural turn, just as in the first novel.

This storyline touches on issues of domestic violence. Although I'm fortunate to not have any experience with those tragedies, I felt like the author did a good job of trying to replicate that type of fear and anxiety with the memories and emotions associated with those issues.

Romance: clean

****Please note: I have received this book for free from the We ♥ YA Books! group and the author in exchange for a honest review.****

Susan says

Mia has a wonderful outlook on life. She is a fighter and doesn't stop believing in what she sees as a worthy cause. She is about to find herself in the middle of a very near and dear to her heart kind of cause. One day while skiing with her friends, Mia suddenly falls off of a ski lift. One minute she is sitting in the chair with two of her best friends and the next minute, she falls thirty feet and is lying on the ground in a ball.

After she falls, two guys from ski patrol come to her rescue. Dylan and Corey just happened to be sitting in the ski patrol hut and hear a thump. It is Mia and right away they go into EMT mode and try to help her. Once they have her loaded onto a helicopter she is whisked away to the local hospital. As time goes by and Mia has a few surgeries she is touch and go. Dylan can't help but feel a strong pull to go and be with Mia. Once she is stable and out of the woods, the two become friends and spend every free minute together.

Dylan comes from an abusive childhood but he isn't ready to share the details of that with Mia. He chooses to keep it inside and buried deep in his mind. His past will come back to haunt him and put the ones he loves most, in danger. Trust me, you aren't going to be able to stop turning the pages late into the night until you find out what happens to Dylan and Mia. A HEALING SPIRIT has it all, friendship, suspense, humor, and romance. I can't wait to read more of this Riverview Series. I finished reading with tears in my eyes and a huge lump in my throat.

Bea Casallecchio says

Melissa what have you done with me?

MIGHT CONTAIN SPOILERS!!!

So this book tells Mia's story. One of Bailey's best friend. The book starts on a winter day right before

Thanksgiving, where Mia and all her friends go on a ski trip.

As I was expecting, there was an accident with Mia, and she meets green eyed Southern boy (oh god, already in love), Dylan.

They have a connection instantly. This is the second book in the Riverview series, as in A Healing Heart, there is a little love triangle going on, but it is nowhere near as hateful as Savannah (lol, im sorry)

There is also a lot of suspense towards the end of the book, when someone unwanted comes back to haunt Dylan's mom and Mia.

What i loved about this book:

- 1) How the accident is actually portrayed on the book. Different from A Healing Heart, the accident takes place on the first few chapters, rather than the prologue. So as a reader, i really enjoyed seeing and knowing how Mia felt when she had the accident, and while she was recovering.
- 2) The pace of the story. It is not completely fast, but its not slow either. I didn't get lost, and I could keep up at a reasonable pace (which is kind of hard for me since i get distracted hahaha)
- 3) Dylan. Once again, Melissa A. Hanson, has made me FALL IN ABSOLUTE love for the main character (The guy). I'd really give anything to have a Dylan in my life.
- 4) there is one special quote, that just stuck with me. "Sometimes there is no explanation, it just is" and it was just like.. Sometimes things in life happen, and there is a reason why. If Mia hadn't had the accident, she wouldn't have met Dylan. Sometimes you don't even expect to find the love of your life, but you just do. Or sometimes you just need to wait, because if its meant to happen, it will.

And i have personal note for Melissa: THE MEDICAL TERMS?!!!!HOW?!!! Just loved it omg.

If I could give it more than 5 stars, you bet I would.

Nadene (Totally Addicted to Reading) says

This is the second book in the Riverview series and it can be read as a stand-alone. I did not read book one, and I must confess, this is my first time reading Melissa Hanson's work. Based on the title I was expecting an emotional read, and it did not disappoint. A Healing Spirit is a story of unconditional love that will engage all your emotions and leave you craving for more. I enjoyed reading about all the characters. The character development was good. Their portrayal made it easy for me to understand their thoughts, feelings, and actions. The story was told from several points of views, which some readers may find confusing. However, I enjoy it when I am able to see the story unfold through the character's eyes. I liked how the main characters, Dylan, and Mia related to each other. Their dialogue was intense and amusing at times. It was evident that they had a connection from the moment they laid eyes on each other, even though the circumstances under which they met was sad and frightening. Despite their connection, Dylan's past was proving to be a deterrent. He feared that if he were to reveal things about his past, Mia would not want to be with him. However, he need not worry as she was not judgemental. Mia is sweet, understanding, loyal, outgoing and stubborn. It was these traits that aided in breaking down the barriers that Dylan had built up through the years. I liked that she wanted to use her accident to help raise awareness about the safety issues surrounding chair lifts. In doing this, she found her purpose. Dylan and Mia were perfect for each other. He is compassionate, understanding and loyal. He was the complete opposite of the thing he feared most, that of becoming like his father. The story is solid and easy to follow. I was hooked from the start, and I could not wait to see how it would unfold. There were moments when I was on the edge of my seat. The story touched on the sensitive issue of spousal abuse. I may not have first-hand experience with abuse, but based on the

stories I have heard it is my belief that the author handled this aspect of the story quite well. A Healing Spirit had several themes which readers will be able to identify with. It is a story about finding love under the saddest of circumstances. It depicts how one can use a painful experience to bring hope to others. It shows that letting go of the pain from our past will lead to healing and allow us to find happiness. If you are looking for a romance that is not only sweet and clean but will engage your emotions then look no further. A Healing Spirit will provide you with all that and more. I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

Amy Leibenguth says

This story was really sweet. I did not read book one in this series. It is definitely a standalone story. Mia is a 19 yo who is going to community college and trying to figure out what to do with herself. All her friends have gone off to college, so when they are back in town for the holiday, she wants to do something fun and hang out with them. The story opens and you just know something bad is going to happen. The accident happens early on in the book, during which time, Dylan, who works on ski patrol, is her first responder. His voice alone helps to keep Mia conscious and talking. He stays with her all the way to the site where she is airlifted. Dylan feels an instant connection with her and drives to the hospital to see her and find out how she is doing.

Dylan was a sweet character with a tough life growing up. I loved how he kept checking up on her even when she didn't know it. Her family even gets to know him early on as the person that helped their daughter first when she was injured. Dylan and Mia then continue to see each other after she heads home and he continues to be strong for her and support her during her recovery. Both his mom and her family love that the two of them are together and know that they were meant to meet, even under tragic circumstances.

Of course, no story would be complete without Dylan's horrible past catching up with him. This time Mia is able to help him. She sticks by his side and helps him to understand that in no way was any of what transpires his fault. She helps him to overcome his past and put all the bad stuff to rest so they can both move on.

The story is definitely one I would recommend to others if you like sweet romance, no steamy stuff. I did receive a copy of the book for an honest review and I thank the author for this opportunity!

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

This book was hard for me to get into. There were so many characters who had the story told from their point of view. Sometimes the points of view overlapped when it didn't seem necessary.

That being said, I did like that the story focused on some issues that may affect young people. One of Mia's best friends wants more to their relationship than friendship. She handled the situation sensitively and let him

know he was important to her.

Mia takes a fall from a ski lift chair. Her recovery is not easy. I liked that her friends and family surrounded her and helped her through a very tough time. The compassion shown through the community was admirable and left me with a feeling of hope for the future. I know it was a fictional book, but parts of it were taken from a real life tragedy that the author describes in the back of the book.

Dylan (Mia's love interest) is struggling emotionally after mental, verbal, and physical abuse from his childhood. He has issues that are real for many people. I loved the support and acceptance that Mia gave him. He is lucky to have someone like her. I believe that it showed the power of compassion and empathy in helping another deal with traumatic situations.

The only real problem that I had with the book was the writing style. The book contains swearing, kissing, and violence.

Habiba Hasabo says

COPY PROVIDED BY AUTHOR FOR AN HONEST REVIEW.

I am not lucky with this author/series, am I?
Once more I am not lucky. I didn't feel it. It was just off.

I loved Mia's book a little bit more. She was a bright character. Full of enthusiasm and always positive. She focused on the good things and wanted to be better. I loved how she stood by Dylan and didn't leave him.

"Things happen for reasons. We just don't always know why. Follow your instincts, honey. Listen to your heart."~

I felt the connection more between Dylan and Mia. They were good together and I loved how they avoided complications.
There was a little bit of exaggeration too.

I loved how Quinn let them go and just started to feel happy. This showed us that from the start the relation between Quinn and Mia wasn't meant to be. It wasn't strong from the start.

The book was good. The writing and the author's way didn't attract me much though -ugh I always hate that-.

I believe Mia didn't need healing, she had a perfect spirit. Dylan proved how Mia made him strong and helped him to overcome his past and heal his spirit.

books are love says

Received in exchange for a honest review.

Where to start. This is a very uplifting story. The two main characters Mia and Dylan are so interesting. Mia has to fight so much in this book that to see her always positive and upbeat is amazing. Dylan starts to relax and be more upbeat due to his love for Mia.

The story has many point of views. We have the two main characters Mia and Dylan, Bailey one of Mia's BFFs and one who understands what both Mia and Dylan are going through, Mia's mom who we see what a mom goes through when your child is in danger, Randy in a way who is evil to the core and Quinn who I truly truly feel bad for. Quinn is a great guy and I hope we get a story for him and that he gets a happy ending. Each POV helps us understand different ways everyone is seeing Mia's fight after falling from a ski lift and how Dylan and Mia come together.

Dylan is the ski patrol guy who helped save Mia. From the beginning he was entranced by her strength and even in her struggle to fight the pain her vitality. He was drawn to her and as he slowly got to know her he fell in love. The love story progressed over time as they got to know each other. Dylan has a painful past and tries to keep this hidden because others have hurt him when they knew. But Mia is different, she is loving, kind and loyal. She likes Dylan for him and doesn't care what is in the past only the present and future. For this Dylan slowly breaks down the barriers around her heart and lets her in. When danger comes to their door in the picture of his Dad, he does tell Mia everything and she is supportive and loving. She shows character and strength.

Mia is a strong, vibrant stubborn young woman who experiences incredible battles in this book. She is fighting for her life and learning her purpose while falling in love. We see a upbeat positive outlook girl go through incredible adversity and come out with a smile and great attitude. This is what draws Dylan to her. She also though has the calm voice of Dylan as he rescued her to help keep her from becoming afraid and upset.

Quinn poor guy. He doesn't realize his feelings for Mia until he almost loses her. This causes him to want more but Mia isn't feeling it. They almost lose a valuable friendship due to feeling but what they realize is that friendship is more important than losing each other forever. This story depicts the journey these two go on in discovering what they are for each other.

This is a sweet story about two people who meet under sad conditions. One is in danger and the other helps save her. This leads to Mia and Dylan exploring something and this is the book of that exploration. It is about Mia finding her purpose and discovering who Dylan is and falling in love with him. It is about Dylan letting go of the pain of his past and letting someone in. About how he saved Mia and got to know her. How he fell in love with her. This is their story. One that is filled with adversity and kindness. Of love and determination.

Brianna Maddox says

Ugh, absolutely loved this one too! It's fairly late for me to be up... That's how badly I had to finish reading. The last 100 pages or so keep you on your toes wanting more and I knew I wouldn't go to bed not knowing what was going to happen next. Usually I can go to sleep and continue the following day, nope.. Not with this one!! How I've managed to stay up this late is beyond me... But this story was just as amazing! I have no

doubt the next book(s) will be just as amazing! I fell hard for Dylan (who wouldn't!? He has a southern accent-- one of the things I like most). :) Mia was just awesome. Words cannot describe how amazing of a person she was. Ugh, this book. Just too good. Suspense was ON POINT. I seriously could not put this book down. It is crazy just how quickly things can turn for the worst. I've never really had the urge to go snowboarding, I'm already not coordinated on just bare land... I cannot tell you how many times I've hurt myself.. Trying to snowboard would be scary. But reading this definitely made me more nervous for sure. I'll have more thoughts on my full review.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

This is the second book in this Riverview series. I read and reviewed the first book not too long ago. As a reviewer, I don't always love the books I am reviewing. That goes without saying. But, I do believe that when I read a first book by an author, and don't really love it, I should give them another chance. Sometimes authors get better as they go, sometimes I get better as I go. :) Either way, I believe in second chances. I didn't really love the first book in this series but I had already signed on to review this one and like I said before, I thought I would give the author another chance.

Unfortunately, all the reasons I didn't really enjoy the first book were amplified in this book. This book is told in first person from multiple points of view. It drove me nuts. Especially in the beginning when it jumped from person to person. By the end of the book there was really only 3 alternating voices going on which was a relief, but I still would have appreciated it more if there weren't so many voices. The problem, especially in the beginning was that I didn't feel any connection to any of the characters. I didn't feel like I needed those alternating points of view to convey the information or emotion. It was just distracting.

My other problem was the swearing and profanity. The first book had a few mild instances, this book had a few more, some not so mild. Not a fan of that. The first book mentioned the couple not being ready for sexual relations quite yet, this book did the same but took things just a little bit farther.

I will say that by the end of the book I really did like the main characters, Mia and Dylan. Mia has a fantastic attitude toward life and it's always refreshing to have characters that sends out positive vibes. This book also tackles the very tough subject of domestic violence and I thought the author did a great job of capturing the emotions of abuse. I also liked the fact that this story was based on a real life event. I enjoyed reading about that in the back of the book.

I think now that I have a pretty good idea of how this author writes and I just don't think it's a good fit for me personally.

Katie W says

(2.5 Stars) I found it interesting that the author takes a real-life event, as explained at the end of the book, and turns it into a novel. There were moments that I was drawn into the story, but there were also moments that fell a little flat for me.

Mia is a black diamond, nineteen year old, snowboarder and in a freak accident, she falls from the lift and is injured. Almost half of the book revolves around that incident and the hospital stay afterward. My biggest

issue with the book is there are way too many voices, as the story is told from five different points of view, especially in the first half. I thought it was interesting and the medical portion was well researched, but too confusing, and could have been just as effective with one or two voices. Mia is brave, strong, and a real fighter.

Dylan, the ski patrolman who rescued Mia, plays an interesting role in her recovery and life after the accident. His story controls a good portion of the remainder of the book and while interesting, some parts felt unbelievable to me. For example, how could a girl who endured what Mia did, along with three separate surgeries, be in top physical form and ready for romance within a month? I liked Dylan's character and he has a lot of potential to be great.

This book is entertaining--there was just something missing to completely link the characters and situations together in a smooth way. It seemed at times to be promoting better ski lift equipment and then would jump to a friend who suddenly feels stronger, reciprocated feelings for Mia, then jumping to an unexpectedly jealous boyfriend. I struggled to feel an emotional connection to any of the characters, but enjoyed the story on the surface.

Content: moderate violence (abuse, injuries, etc); mild-moderate swearing; moderate romantic elements (kissing, some innuendo, touching breasts twice--once under clothes, once over).

I received a copy from ebooksforreview.com in exchange for an honest review, that is 100% my own

Kathryn Cooper says

Reviewed on Kathryn Cooper Writes

Just look at the cover picture! You know you'll love this book! I read Melissa A. Hanson's first book a few years ago. This is the 2nd in the series, but it's from a different character. So you don't have to read book 1, but you should because it was always a great read! Characters from the first book are in this book too.

I loved reading Mia's story. She was a tough chicka. I think many of us become super tough when put in terrible situations. I don't want to give things away, but she had a major injury and a hero. Dylan was the hero that worked where she was injured. I love how the story goes beyond her injury and hospital days. You really get a chance to watch their new relationship. IT WAS SO CUTE!!! squeal I loved so many of their scenes together!

It's not just a romance story. It has injuries and scary action moments. The story goes into family abuse, not Mia's family. It's so sad but very real.

A Healing Spirit by Melissa A. Hanson is a must read for any of you YA or NA contemporary romance fiction lovers!

Content Ratings: content details found at kathryncooperwrites.com

Sexual: moderate

Language: mild

Violence: mild

I received this book from the author Melissa A. Hanson. I am not paid for my reviews. My reviews are solely my opinion.
