


Flutter

Gina Linko

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All Emery Land wants is to be like any other 17-year-old—to go to school, hang out with her friends, and just be normal. But for as long as she can remember, she's suffered from seizures. And in recent years they've consumed her life. To Emery they're much more than seizures, she calls them loops—moments when she travels through wormholes back and forth in time and to a mysterious town. The loops are taking their toll on her physically. So she practically lives in the hospital where her scientist father and an ever-growing team of doctors monitor her every move. They're extremely interested in the data they collect when Emery seizes. It appears that she's tapping into parts of the brain typically left untouched by normal human beings.

Escaping from the hospital, Emery travels to Esperanza, the town from her loops on the upper peninsula of Michigan, where she meets Asher Clarke. Ash's life is governed by his single-minded pursuit of performing good Samaritan acts to atone for the death of a loved one. His journey is very much entwined with Emery's loops.

Drawn together they must unravel their complicated connection before it's too late.

Flutter Details

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From Reader Review Flutter for online ebook

Keertana says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

You have to bear with me because this review is like the Night Bus in *Harry Potter* or the journey the hobbits took to Isengard in *Lord of the Rings* - a bumpy ride. *Flutter* forced me to stay awake well past midnight just to finish it, but in the end, I unfortunately can't say I was satisfied. Up until the last four chapters, though, I was ready to give 5 Stars to Linko's debut, despite its minor errors. Unlike most authors, Linko sucked me into her tale; she made me care about her characters. Yet, when the ending arrived, I felt cheated. *Flutter* is a perfect example of a novel where my heart and mind are not my own. Instead, I fully delved into this story, body and soul, only to emerge from it deeply, profoundly, and utterly disappointed. As such, I really am not sure where my final thoughts lie when it comes to this piece. I loved it? I hated it? You decide.

From the very beginning itself, *Flutter* is written beautifully, introducing us to its protagonist, Emery, and her unique situation. Every couple of chapters, we are given short glimpses into experiences that Emery feels on a parallel dimension. You see, Emery has frequent seizures that she is unable to control, knocked out cold and transported to another world. Although she believes she is time traveling, the team of scientists that experiment on her as per her father's wishes rarely believe her. Although her illness physically weakens her greatly, Emery wants more of a life than a mere lab rat, thus running away to the small town of Esperanza, a quaint area that the little boy of her seizures tells her to travel to. It is there that she rents a remote cabin in the woods and meets Ash, a boy just as tortured - if not more - than she is. Emery may have ran away to find answers to her questions, but instead, all she's finding are more mysteries, the greatest of which is Ash himself.

Emery, despite her physical restrictions, is a strong and capable heroine, fiercely stubborn and unrelentless in her quest both for answers and freedom. Not only is her narration original, but the romance she experiences is utterly refreshing as well. Both Ash and Emery are characters with dark pasts, their circumstances leading them to be deeply mistrustful of others. Although their attraction to one another is instantaneous, however, their romance most certainly is not. It develops over time, a steady push-and-pull relationship with neither of them willing to open up completely, yet wanting to at the same time. Unlike most romances, however, it fails to resort to unnecessary drama, focusing instead on these two characters and their difficult path towards one another. From the surface, it seems as if the romance in *Flutter* is one I normally would not fall for, but I was utterly invested in this love story.

You see, it really is my fault for being so disappointed in the end. I threw my heart into the romance between Ash and Emery, their difficult situations, their constant fear so that by the time I neared the end of this novel, I began to expect a stunning conclusion. After all, Linko had delivered on practically every front - well-developed characters, a stunning romance, secondary characters with depth, and even a plethora of plot twists that really did surprise me with their subtlety and integration into the plot. Yet, the ending was gutting - in the British way. In the sense that I felt like re-writing in something completely different. On one hand, I truly cannot see another ending for these two, and on that front, it was perfect. Yet, the manner in which it was executed, filled with drama, an influx of new characters, and villains who resorted back to being black-and-white from their former depth left me feeling as if it was all wrapped with a bow labeled convenient.

Frankly, I myself do not know how this story could have ended. I acknowledge that it was the *right* ending

and the glimmer of hope we receive at the end is stunningly executed, but the manner in which the characters reach that area in their lives is, honestly, a little lame. It left me feeling as if this was simply a good love story and not a deep, provocative novel about life, living, and moving on. Ultimately, the issues that Emery and Ash had were never resolved. Granted, they grew as characters and accepted certain circumstances, but there was still so much more to be done with these characters. *Flutter* lacked closure.

While most readers may complain by being left with a plethora of questions, for some reason, I was able to overlook this entire fact. As a student deeply seated in science, in answers, it is rare for me to let go of my constant curiosity, but Gina Linko did it; she made me so invested in her tale that I forgot to wince at the slight discrepancies in plot or the lags in writing. In the end, though, she left me with a gaping hole in my heart, just not in a good way. Thus, I am unable to recommend this to anyone. While it remains true that I fell in love with *Flutter* and immensely enjoyed it, so much so that I was willing to give it 5 Stars at one point, the end does not justify the means of reading this. For another reader, perhaps, this book will prove to be a treasure to cherish beyond all others, but for now, I will simply resort to falling in love with whatever Linko writes up next.

You can read this review and more on my blog, Ivy Book Bindings.

Cara says

This book was not I was expecting. How am I going to explain it? But it was so good. So good.

Book Twirps says

This book was another case of me expecting one thing and getting something else entirely.

Emery Land has spent several years living in a hospital because of the “loops”. To everyone else it appears that Emery is having a seizure, but Emery actually travels to other dimensions when she loops. Sometimes she travels to the past, other times to a fantasy world, and other times to a farm where the same little boy always appears. Sick of living in a hospital where her doctor father constantly runs tests on her, Emery escapes with the help of a friend and hides out in a place called Esperanza. It’s there that she meets the mysterious boy named Ash — a boy that seems strangely familiar. A boy that may be able to help her piece together the mysterious clues she’s picked up from the loops.

As I mentioned before, this book wasn’t what I was expecting. I thought it would be more about traditional time-travel and a little more sci-fi. What I got was more reminiscent of *The Time Traveler’s Wife* (which just so happens to be one of my most favorite books ever.)

Ms. Linko does a great job of turning the old time-travel theme on its side and making it her own. Every time Emery “looped” I was fascinated, and found myself searching for clues that may help her during her journey. I really felt for Emery. I didn’t blame her at all when she escaped the hospital, and I thought her relationship with Ash was sweet. Emery is very sick, and Ash has no problem taking care of her. I found Ash to be likable, but there wasn’t much that really made him stand out amongst other male leads in other novels. Still, he’s not a bad character.

Ms. Linko writes well, and the story flows fairly well, though I felt like there were times the pacing could have been faster. Once the pieces begin to fall into place, the book really picked up for me, and though I guessed what was really happening with Emery about midway through the book, I still enjoyed the ride. The ending was definitely bittersweet. It didn't floor me as was the obvious intent, but it was effective.

All in all Flutter is an enjoyable read, and more of a romance than an action packed time travel novel. Still, it's worth checking out.

Kate says

I read this ARC via Netgalley.

Her whole life, Emery's been "looping" - she appears to be having a seizure, but she's really visiting other places... other times. Sometimes these places are memories, other times visions of the future, and other times, she ends up on a farm with a little boy. Her father has made a life of studying Emery's "loops," trying to figure out what they are. But now Emery knows she is dying, that the loops are killing her, and armed with clues taken from her mysterious visions, she gets on a bus and heads to a town called Esperanza. There, she tries to piece together what her visions are telling her, and tries to figure out the strange man named Ash.

This book was a bit difficult to get into, with the disjointed nature of Emery's loops. Once Emery ran away, the story seemed to flounder a bit as she tried to figure everything out. I was not expecting the true nature of her loops, but eventually it all made sense. The ending was uplifting, although I suppose it is somewhat sad if you think about it. I wished there had been more explanation about Emery's father and what research his team of scientists were really doing. I also wish the title had been different: "flutter" is the feeling Emery got just before she looped. I think "Loop" or "Looper" would have been a better title, but I suppose they couldn't really use that with a movie called "Loopers" coming out soon.

Parental advisory: there is some language and a very vague sex scene.

Noor Bieber says

Emery land has suffered from seizures for most of her life but she calls them loops, she says that she travels to a place when she has her loops. Emery is getting sick of living at the hospital so she runs away to a place called Esperanza which was mentioned in her loops, she believes that Esperanza has the key to why these seizures (loops) happen to her. In Esperanza she meets a boy named Ash, they slowly fall into love and as time goes by she realizes that Ash has many dark secrets. Emerys father is after her so her and Ash have to run away but before they do they stop at Ashs barn where he grew up and Emery realizes that she saw this place in her loops. Just as they're about to leave Ash father comes in drunk and shoots Ash, and he dies, Emery gets a seizure and she sees Ash in her loop and then she slowly registers the fact that the place she goes to in her loop is heaven.

The reason(s) I picked up this book was: I thought it was interesting and unique because honestly I've never read a book about a girl having seizures and running away to a place she sees during her seizures. Nithusa recommended it to me so thats another reason I read it and I heard great reviews about it.

The reason(S) I finished the book: The story was so good that I couldn't stop reading it and the end shocked me. Overall t was a great book.

I would recommend this book to Sashini because she knows alot of the human body and shes probably find this book interesting because of the seizures. Theres also a bit of love in it so shed probably like that too!

Gina says

I humbly give my own book 5 stars.

Paula Phillips says

Do you love time-travelling novels ? Books like Tempest by Julie Cross , The Time Traveller's Wife and The Guardian Angel's Journal by Carolyn Jess-Cooke ?

If you enjoy those books, then you will enjoy Gina Linko's novel "Flutter". Set in the modern time we meet Emery, ever since she was little she has been having what she calls "the loops". From the outside world, it looks like she is having seizures but to her , she is time-travelling to a parallel world - whether it be in the past or future times. Sick of being locked up and treated like a lab rat, Emery after her recent loops become more vivid and contain the same boy and area , with her friend Gia's help, Emery breaks out of the hospital and heads to the town Esperanza . It is here, that she meets fellow drifter Ash - there is something about Ash that seems really familiar and Emery thinks it is connected to her loops. When things start getting a bit eerie and Emery discovers evil is out to get her , Can Ash and Emery escape and start a new life or are Emery's time travelling skills something else , something more sinister and valuable?

An amazing story that keeps the reader reading more in anticipation to find out the connection between Ash and Emery. I look forward to reading future works by Gina Linko.

Katy says

4.5 stars - This book was absolutely beautiful.

I had misjudged this book. From the summary, I thought it was going to be filled with science fiction action and some paranormal connection that will lead Emery to her soulmate. But this book was NOT what I had expected at all.

Just a warning, the pace is set very slow - sometimes painstakingly slow, but not necessarily in a bad way. Linko manages to fool readers into THINKING they know what's going to happen but ends up catching them off guard with what really happens. But the surprise makes total sense in hindsight - not like how some authors just pull the unexpected from out of nowhere.

I didn't know what was REALLY going on until near the end. But Linko didn't have us fumbling around in confusing, frustrated because we didn't understand what was happening.

And the end? Two words. Tragically beautiful.

My half-star hesitation was the title, even though I know the flutter is part of Emery's experience, but it's not a very good label for the book, as well as the pace, which I mentioned earlier wasn't necessarily a bad thing but it did take a while for me to actually get into the book. I just hope enough readers will stick with it enough to appreciate the whole thing.

Rose says

Initial thoughts: I think this is one of the times where, in the consideration of a book "great premise, lacking execution" fully applies. This book didn't work for me for quite many constructive reasons, which I'll expound upon in the full review when I've had a chance to meditate over some of its themes. It has a heart in right places, but cedes to things and lacks the execution needed to have due impact in what it brings to the table.

Full review:

One of the things that tend to make or break a book for me for impact occurs when the thematic tackles a difficult subject relating to a protagonist. There has to be a degree of due weight in relation to the difficult subject(s) presented. "Flutter" has an excellent, fascinating theme behind it, and easily, by premise alone, it's the kind of book that I should've loved from beginning to end even with its intended age group in mind. I've read, and have even been inspired by, many books where the primary character (young or elder) has a particular health issue and experiences hardship with respect to how it impedes their ability to live - whether in a realistic or supernatural fashion. In many cases, the story progresses with the steps they take to either try to overcome it or mitigate its influence so that life can be lived or a specific goal that the character wants can be achieved. That's a very valid theme.

17-year old Emery Land is a young woman who, since the age of 12, has been suffering from a major seizure disorder, one that threatens her very life with how intense and long she's under. Her father, a scientist, gathers data about how each of Emery's seizures affect her body and scientists suspect that there's more to her seizures than meets the eye, keeping her within the hospital not just under protection, but also to observe her. The measure where Emery feels like a lab rat trapped in the hospital environment when all she wants is to live a normal life did strike me, but not through the writing itself. I'll explain why in a little bit.

There's a catch to her respective condition, something far more complex beneath the surface. Emery doesn't simply suffer from seizures as per her diagnosis, but rather her condition is a gateway to time jumping. She terms them "loops" to where she experiences certain events and encounters not only what seems to be a future involving an older version of her father imparting wisdom, but also a mysterious boy (whom she calls "my boy") whom she's curious about. Frustrated, Emery makes an escape and follows specific visions in her loops to lead her away from her father's influence. Question is - what's causing her visions to grow more intense, where are they leading her to, who is the boy in her visions, and who is this "other" boy she comes across in a group she takes refuge with from her father?

If that sounds like it might have the potential for becoming a supernatural romance, you're absolutely right. And I'd say that's what the book mostly comprises of. While that element in itself may not necessarily seem like a bad thing (depending on how its done), for this novel, it doesn't treat its particular dimensions and subjects well for what the premise would lend.

Let me start by tackling the major problem that "Flutter" seems to have. Its presentation is, ironically, quite

entwined with its name. Instead of being a book that takes on its respective tough issues and delves as much as it can into the emotional contrast that Emery feels with being manipulated, confined and subjected to these time loops and within the hospital environment, the narrative just barely skirts the surface of the emotions themselves, and has a bit of a jagged presentation that disrupts the flow of the narrative. I didn't feel the conflict as readily as it could've been, I think Linko could've gone a bit deeper by not using exposition to tell what Emery feels, but rather show it and show the contrast with more intimacy. It's not that I don't think Linko has the ability to show details, because in the dream states and in describing the setting - she does a decent job, but it's not translated to the character's narrative and emotional focus. I felt very at arms length with Emery's experiences, and there were tangents in terms of the pseudo-science/medical speak that harmed more than helped the narrative. I'll give credit to Linko that she gets the symptomatic states of seizure disorders correct in some terms, but it's very loose. Also, I'll admit the transition to and from these states don't pack as much of a punch because of the awkward exposition.

Emery's body/state of health is at a point near death. For a reader to be constantly told "I'm going to die" or "think I'm going to die" in so many variations by Emery herself - it gets a bit grating especially seeing how naïve Emery's voice tends to be. There are so many ways to show the stakes and panic/pain of near death and what the intimate experience of a seizure entails. Linko doesn't bring that potency/contrast to the table as urgently as I think she could've. This problem doesn't just occur with Emery, but also with some of the other characters which I'll describe shortly. I did understand that Emery was fed up with her situation, with not knowing who to trust and suspecting that her father was a part of some greater conspiracy (albeit a very loosely drawn conspiracy). When introduced to Emery's friend Gia, noted as the only one who "believed" her, I figured the story would take a transition point where Emery'd have enough and flee when she could. It was after that point where things became a bit rocky with respect to the story structure.

The characters, apart from Emery's narrative, aren't nearly as fleshed out as they could've been. I get a sense of Emery's conflict in the beginning of the book, and I thought that was probably the part of the novel that was better done than what the story transitioned to. Second part of the book, during which the main character escapes her unverified danger to a town called Esperanza, Emery meets Ash, a boy with his own secrets. It's pretty much a fair helping of an "instalove" connection. Ash, I felt had some good qualities about him - helpful around the cabin areas albeit a little difficult to get to know otherwise at first. I found it difficult to connect to him and there are many times when he suffers from the same expositional distance as Emery.

A major revelation about Ash's life, for example, falters because of this expositional measure - we're told his details, rather than being able to fully feel the depth of his experiences. There are a bunch of terms about spies, FBI, and "Law and Order" ties drawn to try to describe the process of which Emery's being pursued on the outside of where she's hiding (via narratives from Gia), but this really isn't drawn that well and there's very little to no sense of imminent danger/conflict because of the telling. I think the only time I felt the dangerous aspects of the story kick in was when that revelation about Ash hit and the story transitions to address that part of the narrative.

Then there's the big reveal about Emery's ability and the ending. In a more developed narrative, with more vetted characters and streamlined emotions and events, I would've said that the way Linko ended this would've been brilliant. However, there are so many story elements that are left unanswered and untied, and the characters don't hold the weight of either the conflict nor that particular scene for it to work for what it entailed. I think some would see it as a rushed ending with an obvious leaning towards a direction much beyond where the story started, I see it as an underdeveloped ending that doesn't match up with the premise that well and doesn't carry the emotional intensity that it attempts. Much of that is because the characterization, development, and treatment of the respective conflict doesn't add up to what it could've been.

Overall, Linko's narrative in "Shutter" disappointed me because the style and progression of the story did not match the potential of what the premise would lend, shortchanging its potential by not only skirting the emotional resonance of the story, but also skirting its more interesting elements to a supernatural romance between characters that lack due dimension. As I mentioned in one of my end reflections upon the novel, if you're taking a story in a tough direction, you can't just bring elements out of nowhere and not treat the tough subjects with as much dimension as they're worth - you have to seize them and take the plunge to develop them and treat them with due weight. I would likely try another book of Linko's to see more of her style, but this didn't have intrigue for me, considering it's a YA supernatural time-traveling story that lends more to a formulaic romance when it's all said and done.

Overall score: 1/5

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher Random House BYFR.

Alison Tseng says

An absolutely fascinating and unexpectedly poignant read. Linko's love story encompasses so much and is beautifully executed...tragic and heartwrenching. A great addition to the science fiction cannon because it finds a ways to question how the afterlife and heaven fit into this genre. Well done, Linko.

One issue I had with the book was the dialogue. Sometimes a little corny and unrealistic. Also, sometimes the interaction between Ash and Emery seems to be a little too fortuitous. But, teens would appreciate the intensity between these two.

There is, however, a lot of sexual tension and a fade to black sex scene. But it is VERY mild and you could wonder if in fact they have sex...

This would be a great recommendation for older Christian Fiction, or any faith, fans as well. (grades 8 and up)

Anna (Curiosity comes before Kay) Partrick says

Emery Land is sick of being treated like a walking, talking, laboratory experiment by her Dad and the government. Ever since she was little Em has been 'looping' back and forth through time, while having seizures that have nearly destroyed her body's functions. Practically living in the hospital, all Em wants is to be a normal high school girl. When her visions of the mysterious little boy and his town become more vivid, Emery enlists the help of her best friend Gia to run away to Esperanza, Michigan to find him. While there she makes a connection with another wandering teen named Asher Clarke. His life is consumed by acts of kindness, to make up for the death of a family member he blames himself for. He is familiar to Em and she's determined to figure out their connection. But can they solve the mystery before Em is caught by her Dad, and the NSA/FBI/CIA agents he's working with? Also, will they be able to reconcile their feelings for each other with their messed up situation? This book just about broke my heart. It really did deserve the comparison to *The Time Traveler's Wife*, with it's extremely complicated and winding narrative. Even

though it was far more linear than the aforesaid novel by Audrey Niffenger, it was still very similar. However, a plot twist near the very end sets it apart on a plane of existence all its own. Emery is a compelling main character. Her seizures are becoming more frequent and effectively killing her, bit by bit. She is a constant hospital patient and it makes so much sense to me that she would fixate so heavily on something in one of her loops, because what else does she really have other than a really crappy, probably short-lived existence? I loved that the book was set in Michigan - how often does that happen in YA books that are published by major publishing houses? The representation of the home state was seriously awesome! :) Other readers complain about the slow build of the plot, but in this case it really worked for me. I liked having the focus set on Em trying to figure out the mystery behind the little boy and the town in her loops. I also loved seeing her build a slice of real life in Esperanza while she searched. Ash was an interesting character and I enjoyed that fact that he didn't follow the current trend of YA love interests by being a self-righteous prick. He was kind, caring and had his own shit to deal with. But he still had time to make Emery feel special and become someone important in her life. I could have used more resolution at the end with the Dad/government subplot and the choice that Emery and Ash ultimately made was beautiful on a tragic level but also majorly disappointing. They could have done so many other things, so why choose that road? Overall, not for the faint of heart and not for hardcore sci-fi fans, because it was really more of a romance/fantasy novel. I myself would have liked a larger dose of sci-fi.

VERDICT: 4/5 Stars

I received an Advanced Reading E-book Copy from the publisher, via NetGalley. No money or favors were exchanged for this review. This book's expected publication date is October 23rd, 2012.

Nafiza says

Raise your hand if you have ever finished a book and been flummoxed by the ending. Befuddled by it. Bewildered, maybe. These are all adjectives that accurately describe my state of mind upon finishing Flutter.

I had been enjoying it until the end. The paranormal aspects of it are original, the idea of a loop is, to me, new and I liked the fragile fierceness of the main character. It was a pleasure to accompany her on her escape from a madman for a father and go out into the world to answer the summons of a boy she only saw during the loops she experienced. I liked that though the interest in the guy was instantaneous, the love was not. It appeared gradually as they got to know each other and explored the facets of each other's personalities. I liked that though these two seemed fated, the dreadful term did not appear. I liked how Linko increased the tension in increments, built the anticipation and got the reader ready for a roaring finish.

Which then fell flat as things went south of Nowheresville with a detour in WhattheHellJustHappened-ville. I am going to be completely honest with you, guys. To me, and this is a personal theory, it felt that the author got stuck in a corner scrambling for a conclusion and this is what she came up with. Because it came out of nowhere. There was no buildup, no hinting or foreshadowing and, as I will discuss under a spoiler tag, there were several unanswered questions with the direction the novel ended up going. It felt like the author got us prepped for an explosion, Mission Impossible style, and we ended up with a balloon pop instead. It felt like a

massive copout and I sat at the end of the novel frantically clicking the next page, hoping my Kindle was fooling me and that what I had just read hadn't happened.

I had been riveted by the novel. My heart had been racing! And then boom.

So, here's where I head to a spoiler (highlight to read) and you should skip to the end of the review for my closing statements.

(view spoiler)

The conclusion? Read this book, guys. Even though the ending is totally unexpected, it is still well written and engaging. Also, I want to see your reactions to the conclusion. Then we can discuss the heck out of it. Have fun.

Autumn says

Flutter - 5 stars - Holy Smokes!

First off i adore this book.. I really loved how the author was able to induce a loop.. I had to be completely careful where i read this story.. i was completely transfixed.. Emery is just a 17 year old girl wanting to be normal too bad for her shes not.. Haunted yeah ill go with haunted by seizures she believes are loops (time travel) since she was a young girl.. Things are getting worse her loops convince her its time to kick rocks and so she does to a call town she only recently heard of.. where she meets a nice piece of eye candy with a good heart and he goes by the name of Ash -insert swoon here- a mysterious cowboy oh my he is so totally connected to the loops.. how?? im not telling I will say i had it all figured out which gave me great satisfaction.. I dont do well with the unknown and reading in E book form makes it impossible to skip to the end.. Okay i wont blame the Ebook Ill blame my OCD yeah thats it!! the OCD...

Now what i didnt like about the book and i see it alot of YA books.. Emery is undoubtedly damaged.. Strong but damaged and if my math is correct and trust me i might not be.. Emery and Ash fell madly in love in less than 2 weeks.. Perhaps im just cynical about love.. Anyways none of this really effected my love of the story being told..

Upon finishing this book right before bed i was unable to relax.. i had the after book glow and excitement.. My suggestion is pick up the book and enjoy..

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

I know I'm supposed to write a review with a head and a tail, start from the beginning and work my way toward the end (at least that's the way I usually do things) but I'll make an exception just this once and start with the ending, from which I honestly doubt I'll ever recover. The ending of Flutter broke my heart,

destroyed me completely, and then left me with a small sliver of hope to cure my wounded heart. It was both unexpected and unexpectedly gorgeous, one of those conclusions that take you completely by surprise, but when you stop to think about them, you realize there was really no other way to make things work. Those are the best endings, aren't they? Even when they're exceedingly painful and cruel, they leave an impression, something that stays with you forever.

And now, back to the beginning, I guess...

When Emery was just a little girl, she started having seizures that completely changed her life, only they aren't seizures at all, they're jumps through time, loops, as Emery calls them. Her father, the neurologist, refuses to believe her. Instead, he put together a team of scientists to work on her episodes and he treats her as no more than a lab rat. After giving the team, but especially her dad, more chances than they deserve, Emery decides to run. Lead by a little boy from her loops, she goes to Esperanza where she meets Ash, a kind, but strange young man who comes with his own mystery and problems.

Emery is the perfect heroine, truly she is. Her curly red hair and fair complexion make her beautiful, but she is too thin, almost transparent, completely exhausted by her condition. The lack of sleep and jumping through time always take their toll, and she is constantly dizzy and weak. On the inside, however, the girl is made of pure steel. She is decisive, strong and never afraid to stand up for herself. Since she has no one to care for her or care about her, really, these are the qualities she needs the most. A few insecurities occasionally did shine through, but considering her background, they're more than understandable, and they felt genuine to me, not just sad, attention seeking behavior, but real doubts of someone no one ever saw for what they truly are.

The romantic element is very strong in Flutter, but never strong enough to overtake the plot. Emery and Ash shared a connection, yes, but they both kept their secrets for the longest time, and I truly appreciated that Emery never allowed herself to become obsessed with the mystery that was Ash and forget about the world of trouble she was in. Theirs was a romance I could definitely get behind, believable, but with a dreamlike quality that matched everything else Emery was going through. While I didn't connect with Ash nearly as strongly as I connected with Emery, I sympathized with him immensely. His every act of penance was utterly heartbreaking and it made me feel oddly protective toward him.

It broke my heart to know that he couldn't forgive himself, I couldn't do that for him. I couldn't take that on for him. If I could, I would. If I had learned anything from the odd little life that I had lived, especially in the last few years, it was that you had to be kind to yourself. Sometimes no one else was.

It's obvious to me that Linko teaches college English; her writing is very clean, precise and grammatically correct. She isn't fond of contractions (though she does use them occasionally, especially in dialogues) which makes her prose a bit stiff at times, but I enjoyed her style overall.

Unfortunately, the cover isn't doing this book any favors. It does reflect the story fairly well, but it's not nearly eye-catching enough. We all know that covers sell books – bad books, let alone the good ones. It always saddens me when, due to an unnoticeable cover, an excellent book doesn't get the attention it deserves, while horrible books sell like cookies because of some girl in a pretty dress. Random House, I'm staring daggers at you! You better make sure that Linko's next book, Indigo, gets the cover it deserves. I promise I'll read it. (Oh, who am I kidding, I'd read it even if it came wrapped in greasy parchment paper. And you should too. Linko is that good.)

Ari says

It is really hard to talk about this book as I am not really sure of my feelings for it.

The premise was great (something between time-travel and *something* else, a little boy giving clues that could save Emery's life (and maybe not even hers), tons of mystery, a bit of action and some *young* romance..)

but.. I am not really sure what the "but" is except for the fact that I felt the need to skip some pages. Not a good sign, right?

I guess I was not invested enough in the mystery (that soon got old), and the romance was a bit strange (I mean, it lacked romance - which is not the best way to describe "romance".. see?). Also there were some things that didn't add up in the ending, (view spoiler).

There were too many nice people that made things easy for Emery and the resolution also got to disappoint me a bit.. Maybe I was preparing myself for something bigger, (view spoiler), anyways it didn't work for me.

I am not sure how different the final version is, but the ARC ended quite abruptly and it made me feel unsettled. It gave me this feeling that something was missing, that it could've been better, that I could have liked it a lot more. I can see people loving this story, but unfortunately I was not one of them.

Also I am not a big fan of the cover.

I am not one to criticise the covers, as I've seen my share of wonderful and way *not-so-wonderful* covers; this one goes somewhere in the middle, but they could've done a bit better. It could have been related with her loops, with the boy from them or simply another picture more attractive would've done the trick.

On the good side, I liked Emery.

You could easily relate to her, understand her crazy world, support her in her decision of trying to live for once, away from her father, the hospital and everything she couldn't have.

What I didn't get was her attempt at sarcasm. Joking with Gia felt like someone else was talking instead of Emery.. let's say that her inner voice was not really the sarcastic type, so it was funny to see her try being ironic for a change.

The book is a standalone, as far as I know, which is great because the book market is over-flooded with series at this point. It's refreshing to be able to read a book and have a resolution at the ending.

This being said, you can pick it up if you wish. I would gladly hear your thoughts about it and I hope that you will like it better.

Enjoy your reading!

** This review can also be found at ReadingAfterMidnight.com*

