



Five

Christie Rich

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Rayla Tate dreams of escaping her ordinary world for a bright future in the art world. Throw in an overbearing aunt who is keeping major secrets, a disgruntled best friend tagging along to college, and a bunch of fae warriors waiting in the wings to claim her the minute she leaves her sleepy little town, and Rayla's dreams are about to shatter.

She soon discovers she is a coveted Elemental with power she never knew she possessed--a power that could change the world. Everywhere she turns another man tries to woo her. The weird part is she's drawn to each one of them. Who are these strange men, and what dark power do they hold over her? Rayla must quickly learn to fend off these beautiful and seductive pursuers using any means necessary or find herself lost to the fae world forever.

Five Details

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Author : Christie Rich

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Young Adult, Fairies, Fae, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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Sheri says

Rayla is pursuing her dreams by going away to college rather than staying close to home. Despite her aunt's protests, she sneaks off with her best friend, and that's when the fun begins. The whole story line of Five was different, and I appreciated that very much. The history of the Elementals and the Fae Lords was an interesting one. I really enjoyed the whole fantasy world that was created for this story. The book was action packed and fun to read. I mean really, who wouldn't want five hot Lords fighting over you?

Rayla was a great character. She was funny and sassy. The story follows Rayla as she learns of her heritage and what that means for her. I like that she didn't fall into a heap and cry after learning about the Elementals, but really, with all those yummy guys following her around, what's to cry about?

I loved the twists and turns the story took and am looking forward to where the author is going to take it next. I already have book two queued up on my Kindle and am anxious to get started!

Interview with Christie Rich:

<http://makingconnectionsblog.blogspot.com>

Interview with 'Rayla':

<http://shutupandreadgroup.blogspot.com>

Anjana says

Okay, let me start at the beginning.

Christie Rich has a wonderful way with words. She's descriptive about everything in a way that made reading the book thoroughly enjoyable.

While the story started out unclear, the book kept me curious and got better with every chapter! The plot was really good!

Five's got a fresh take on Fae that got me sucked into Faeresia by the end of it. I TOTALLY loved the parts with Styx! (Funny, Funny, Funny!)

My only problem with this book was that the characters could've been developed better. Not much was said about Rayla's personality (I have to admit, she annoyed me at first but got tolerable as the book progressed). For someone who had a totally normal life, I found the fact that she believed her aunt about the Fae (after one phone call) a little unrealistic.

Also, Cassie and Rayla were supposed to be best friends but from the beginning of the book, they kept fighting and their relationship was a little too hot and cold for them to be best friends.

While the reasons were explained later, I still wasn't convinced that their friendship was genuine. There were just way too many secrets between them and the affection didn't seem real.

I just didn't get Zach & Rayla. I mean, she just met him, she didn't trust him, but he was all over her and she was okay with it. I totally loved Luke! At least, they had some real conversation. He was kind and sensitive (not to mention totally hot!)

I liked that his ego was bruised because he couldn't bond with her..I hope she ends up with him! I really can't stand Zach.

I liked this book. It had a fast-paced and extremely interesting storyline. I would rate it 4 stars if it was edited better and more time was spent in developing the characters and their relationships. Maybe it's just me but I need more interaction to get attached to them. Everything just happened too fast and too much time was wasted on Cassie and Rayla. That being said, Christie Rich is extremely talented writer and has created a unique story with a new take on Fae.. I will definitely pick up the next part when it's out..!

Leanne says

*Received e-book through Read It and Reap program from the Shut Up and Read! Goodreads group from author;

**More like 3.5 stars; also posted on Amazon.com under Leanne

Five is told by the point-of-view of Rayla, a young woman running away from her overbearing aunt to college, who suddenly discovers she is an Elemental – one who can bond with a fae lord in order to combine their powers to rule. Because the lords can sense Elementals, she becomes the object of pursuit of five fae very quickly. These fae each have a specialty in an element of which there are five: water, earth, fire, air, and ether (spirit), and they bond for five of a human's lifetimes (hence, the three-fold meaning to the book's title). Rayla must figure out firstly, if she wants to bond and secondly, which one to bond to. This is despite the strong compulsion she feels for each one and that, at any time, they can kidnap her to Faeresia to bond against her will.

Rich opens up with this intriguing premise, but I started getting a little frustrated with the character development. I noticed Rayla was too accepting of the existence of Elementals and fae (ascertained on a phone call from her aunt), and not suspicious enough of the new men in her life, especially Zach. She was unrealistically too trusting of him and did not question his reluctance to tell his entire knowledge of and personal connection to the fae, which are at odds with her vulnerable position. In addition, I felt her relationship to her best friend, Cassie, was disingenuous, and seemed more antagonistic than anything. Lastly, the sudden romances that emerges with certain characters appeared forced and manufactured, almost like convenient filler material.

On the other hand, I did like certain components of Five and it did improve with further chapters. I liked the characters of Adam, Jessica, and Natalie, who were more authentic and compelling, and I hoped for more storyline with them. Likewise, the last few scenes with Luke, a fae lord, seemed quite sincere and captivating – I found myself supporting him to be bonded with Rayla and through these scenes, Rich was able to bring in more background information on fae history and realm. In addition, I especially appreciated Rich's introduction of a secret human alliance with the fae for the procurement of Elementals and conversely, a secret Elemental group to protect and hide themselves from the fae. I thought this gave the plot a much needed depth to the world-building, and tension to the plot, helping to set up the sequel.

Overall, Five was a fast read and an ambitious attempt by Rich at a first novel in a new series. I think it did have an interesting world concept and enough unanswered questions and plot developments to warrant reading the next book in the series. I would recommend this to young adult readers, who are fans of

paranormal/fae romances, but not necessarily older adults.

Tanecia says

Five:An Elemental Enmity by Christie Rich, was a fast paced, action packed read!

I honestly didn't know what i was expecting from this book coming in, because i usually pick the hardcore vampire love story over the pixie fairy tale. But this book was everything but cute and cuddly!

This book is a "Breath of fresh air" compared to my own stereo-typical views of fairies: having wings, pointy features,fairy dust,and being plain cute and boring... But Rich's take on the fairy world is filled with scary mystical creatures and "fae" hotties that will make your mouth water...

Five is about a not-so ordinary girl or so she calls her self a "grown woman" named Rayla, who is afraid of the dark and lives on a pig farm with her Aunt Grace, who has made it a point to shelter Rayla, her entire life. Rayla and her best friend Cassie escape their home town of imprisonment and embark on an adventure to St. Mary's College to enjoy the freedom of college life, so they think...

Through out the course of this book Rayla is sure she is being stalked by something other-worldly, and begins to realize she is not going to have the normal life and freedom she set out for.... Rayla then finds out piece by piece what she is and about the power that's inside her that may not be hers to claim.

This book was an overall great read! all the characters in this story were well thought out and the story line was tide together great! I was captured from the very first page of the book. This book is filled with magic,Mystical creatures, Hot Hot Fairy men,and action from start to finish. But the best thing about this book is that it may be about magic and things that don't really exist in the real world but Rich did make the characters relate-able in the sense of how teens fresh out of high school think they know everything that's out there in the world when we have no idea... We still have more learning to do than we think.... Rayla's character was whinny, sometimes self-centered, teenager know it all in a good way.. i could really relate to her because i was that way and probably still am lol! but i recommended everyone read this book its great for all ages, and i would DEFINITELY re-read and buy this book when it is available! P.S. and Who knows there might be a sequel?!

Tt@NeverEndingStoriesBookBlog

Tamara says

Also posted on my blog <http://bookruckus.blogspot.com>

This book left me speechless for a couple of days... now that I've had some time to unwind and process, here's my review!

Well, where to start? At the beginning I guess... So, I must admit that this book did not wow me at the very beginning. It started with a girl (Rayla), frustrated with her home situation, wanting to go away to a college that her aunt doesn't approve of. I figured, OK.... pretty run of the mill first chapter. BUT then on the way to college things get interesting. There's a panic attack, a motorbike... or is it a black Pegasus? LOL, and a best friend who denies seeing anything! And it only gets better :) Soon she finds herself; being stalked by gorgeous fae lords who want to bond with her (totally not what you're thinking, hahaha), she's dating a total hottie named Zach, and she's ended up in the cross hairs of a super creepy rich guy. But all is not what it seems...

I read this in a day, it was that good! I loved Rayla... she is independant and not afraid to speak her mind when it counts. She seems smart, but can be a bit too trusting. Her friend Cassie; I didn't really like for most of the story.... pretty much up until the end. Her refusal to acknowledge that anything was amiss, and her cold-shoulder routine ticked me off. I love Zach, he's mysterious and a total sweetie... he has a huge secret though. I actually had him pegged early on :) The fae lords each have distinctive personalities, which made it very easy for me to decide who I liked and who I didn't. The storyline is well written, and has good flow, nothing seemed rushed or forced... it all came together nicely. The ending is perfectly written to make you want to read the next book!

I definitely recommend this book for lovers of the fae, paranormal romance and/or urban fantasy.... YA or adult. The second book, Dark Matter, is now available as well.... so no long waiting period for that! YAY! It's next on my TBR list... so keep an eye out for that review too :)

Christie Rich says

I wrote this book so I love it.

Karla(Book Addict) says

deleting reviews if you want to take a look at them you can do so on my blog, link on my profile

Alexia says

What an epic book!! I was hooked from page one. I loved the characters, every single one of them. The story line was excellent, like nothing I've read before. Five had just the right amount of romance, action and humour - I cannot express how much I enjoyed this book! The descriptions of everything, land, human, immortal even troll was amazing. Christie this is an awesome book and I can't wait to read more of your work!

Nicole says

Loved Five! FAB-U-LOUS!

I mean wow what a cast of hunky men! I really enjoy books based on the fae and this one did not disappoint. Rayla was a likable heroine and I loved the twists and turns her love life takes. I do enjoy a good love triangle or square but sometimes they can be over done and annoying. But I really enjoyed this one and it kind of sneaks up on you. I am really looking forward to the next one.

Ms Rich's debut novel is a winner and I am a fan!

Now the pics!

Ok let's get Rayla out of the way...

Now let's go for Mr. Tall dark and extremely sexy Zach, I am a total sucker for the black hair blue eyes...

The extremely dark Jett...I couldn't decide between these two so you get both because one can never have to many pictures of half naked guys ;-)

Taylor the hot latin lover...

Finn... the fabulous Celtic dream, let's face it there is NEVER anything wrong with a man in a kilt!

And lastly but certainly not least is Luke the blond god! Now I know what you are thinking "That's Nic's favorite cause there are so many" but it's simply not true. For me the jury is still out on Luke BUT I just always get carried away pulling pics of Alex Pettyfer.... how can you not?

Now let see how well I can stalk Christie Rich...

Blog, Goodreads, Twitter, Google + & Facebook (like it now!!!!).

Recommended for: Teens and Adults

Rating: 4.5 Stars - Really enjoyed it!

Follow me and my silly weirdness and enter my giveaway!

shareAread

Kelli Spear says

Generally speaking, when reading any type of fantasy/paranormal story, my least favorite genre is faeries. I don't know whether I find them boring or if the authors haven't done a good job of convincing me that this life would be great, but I typically tend to avoid them. So signing up to read this was a big deal for me. And I'd like to thank Christie Rich for changing my views of the Fae.

In the beginning of the story, Rayla seemed like a brat. She was slightly selfish and mildly whiny and annoying. Not that I was a huge fan of Aunt Grace. She seemed like a sister of one of the witches from Oz. Thankfully, the book picked up once Rayla and Cassie left Moab. There was always something strange about Cassie and her family, I just didn't know what at the time. Once at school, things got truly interesting. Once finding out she was an Elemental, Rayla began being courted by a group of attractive men who were really faeries. I, of course, was drawn to the one not in the group.... Zach. The perfect combination of tall, dark, handsome, sexy, and protective; he was REAL. He seemed to want her as well as protect her from being bonded to one of the fae lords. Things seemed to good to be true.

As much as I enjoyed the book, I felt there were holes in the story. Some things weren't explained or made clear. How did Rayla's mom die? And really, what guy that you just meet believes you're being stalked by mythical creatures? Also, the issues with her contacting her aunt. I understand they were blocking the information she held, but what makes Utah so special? Something else that bothered me was the love triangle. Obviously there had to be issues that don't allow Rayla to bond with Zach to keep things interesting but WHO is Jett really? Is Alithea her mother? And what changed her feelings toward Luke? I didn't see his appeal at all. Even when he opened up during their journey. Team Zach!!

Overall, I really liked "Five". I'm slightly frustrated with the cliffhanger ending. Rayla is bound to get in trouble by doing something stupid (i.e. leaving Finn and Cassie in search of home). I guess I want to know if she will be bonded or not, and if so, with whom. I have a feeling there is a war brewing and only once this ends will we see the true decision Rayla has to make. I also am curious if her mother's motives were to

protect her or if it is something else entirely. This is a great start to a series. Definitely looking forward to the next!

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

UPATED REVIEW after re-read

Quick review

Cover: Visually Interesting

Rating R – for mild sexual situations.

Thumbs Up 3.5

Overall: Interesting.

Characters: Okay.

Plot: It was a new kind of story for me.

Page Turner: In ways

Series Cont.? Yes

Recommend Yes

Book Boyfriend: Zach

SUMMARY (50 word or less)

The second time around reading was better. This story has a lot of potential and held a lot of good more so than bad. The story really took off towards the end. There is a hand full of hot guys and I can't hide my excitement for all the drama.

For my full review and a picture of Zach, see my blog post.

<http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2...>

(view spoiler)

Diana Stormblessed says

Rayla is trying to escape her small town life by going to a good school half a country away, against her aunt's wishes. But as soon as she leaves the safety of her home, things start happening. Before she knows it she's thrown into the world of the fae, with fae lords after her, because she's supposedly an elemental, something she knows nothing about.

I loved the first 60% of the book. In the last 40%, the plot started to come together, but not in the way I would have liked. I'm going to start with the bad so I can end with the good. I thought the big reveals were a little quick. The book started to speed by just where I wanted more meat. I could have done with a little more development, since I felt that was the most important part of the book. Another part I wasn't too keen on was that everyone seemed very quick to trust. For example, one of the characters wasn't who she appeared, and she just came out and told Rayla everything. Why? They barely knew each other. I couldn't buy into it. And of course this book had a love triangle. And yes, I have come across the occasional love triangle that didn't bother me as much, but this one felt forced. Rayla knew these men for all of a heartbeat and she was ready to bind herself to one of them forever? A strong heroine, I feel, would have fought to get away, not fought to choose. What happened to "I am woman, hear me roar"? A true, strong heroine doesn't need a man to define her. She doesn't just accept that she's going to be bound to one of them. She fights to stay herself.

The best part of the book was the men. Fae are always portrayed as the hottest men that you just can't stop staring at. Even though I wasn't keen on the love triangle, I loved the description of the men, and I enjoyed watching them try to win Rayla over.

I don't want to give descriptions or bios for our leading men since I don't want to give anything away, so just enjoy the eye candy.

Finn - the sweet Irish lord

Taylor - the Latin Lover

Jett- Dangerous dark chocolate

Luke - Golden boy

Zach - Love the dark hair, light eyes look

I recommend this book for fae lovers who are fans of love triangles.

Kristine Breines says

I got this book though Read it & reap it. I have wondered at many occasion to join in, I'm not much of a reviewer, really. But alas, I could not resist this book, and I was not mistaken to join. I read it in a day, and the next day I had to get book number two, so I've already red that too :3

The first page of the book throws us right into the action of Rayla's argument with her aunt about going away for collage. So even though none of the "real" action of the story starts until a while into the second chapter, the interest of the story is kept quite well until then. The real "action" starts with Rayla's unexplained panic attack about the dark, as she and her best friend Cassie are driving for collage. And then a dark motorcyclist peruses them, the motorcycle momentarily turns into a Pegasus, and even though it's apparent that she noticed; Cassie refuses say that she saw.

All though the story is fantastic, and the writing alike, there are some things I found hard to believe. For example; the way Zack flirted with Rayla the very first time they met struck me as waaay over the top, and I find it weird that none of the people around them reacted, and that she at least didn't get suspicious... I would have been... But it wasn't something I got hung up on :)

The characters are well put together, and distinguishable. It could have been difficult to tell the Fae lords apart, but Christie made a good job of building up their likable or not so likable traits. I didn't like Cassie at first, as she refused to spill... but I'm guessing that was intended ;)

All together I really liked the book, it was very well put together, and it had a very good flow. Some books I get the urge to put down once in a while and get a rest from, but this one was all the opposite, it was impossible to out it down, and I had no other choice than to keep reading. I really look forward to the third book (whenever that comes out)! :D

Wei Cho says

I was thrilled with the theme of this book: the elements, and was kind of surprised when in the synopsis the Fae world was going to be included. But never mind that, I was expecting too much for this book, I raised the bar too high and this book just disappointed me. I thought it was going to be a great, action-packed, fast-paced book where the protagonist discovers she can wield the elements and have to fight bad guys and creatures. But nothing like that, this was NOT fast-paced, it took me so long to pass through the first couple of chapters. NOT at all action-packed because this book was so gullible and full of eye-rolling romance and friendship. In short, I expected more of this book.

I will like to start with Rayla, the main protagonist. I didn't connect with her. Her friendship with Cassie was so queer, were they really best friends? They didn't seem like it, they were so cold and distant. Their conversations were stagnant and hard to relate to. It seems like they were mostly talking about inside jokes rather than something expressive of their friendship. Rayla seems too skeptic at first, then a true believer, and then back to skeptic again. Everything happened and changed so fast, I wasn't expecting any of this and there was no growth in the story at all. That is one of the main reasons I didn't trust Rayla to be a good

protagonist. She also gave in to Zach very easily, I was expecting her to be stronger than what she seemed. But she was vulnerable, that makes me sick with hatred.

Her conversation with her aunt was paused, at best. I didn't get anything out of it because Rayla seems to make of everything a joke, a really bad taste of humor in my opinion. The aunt didn't sound concern or worry, or angry, she was just plain and simple. She didn't seem to have any human emotion at all! There was poor character development, which is sad. Usually, if the plot of a book is bad, sometimes the character development saves it a bit. For this case, the plot was okay, development was terrible.

Cute guys, Fae lords, in other words. All wanting to bond with Rayla. I must be honest that sometimes the time Rayla spent together with Zach and Luke were moments of sexual innuendos. I didn't like how Zach came too strong on her, proclaiming he loved her, and she reciprocated after just knowing him for a week! Believable? I don't think so. Zach called her "love" since their first meeting. Rayla felt uncomfortable, and you know it, but next thing you know, she is in Zach's arms, and kissing. Totally unexpected and betrayal of her true feelings. Then there is Luke, sweet, whom we know nothing about yet Rayla falls for him when they were alone in the room. Next thing you know, they are kissing. Utterly disgusting, not because of the kissing, but because of the inconsistencies of the characters, especially Rayla. She is naive, but I say she is plain stupid.

There was very few mention of this magical world, I didn't see any magic or elements. Then again, not action-packed. The bonding ritual seem to go on forever, who should she choose to bond? We didn't find out because Rich thought it would be a good cliff-hanger to let the readers guessing. I don't need to guess. It is obvious who she is choosing, at least for me. Zach, the charming guy who won her heart, or Luke, the guy who said it didn't matter whom she chooses because as long as she is happy with a man, or Fae lord she loves, he is happy as well. Your pick.

The other guys were just -fingernails on chalkboard- unbearable. It just made me sick that so many were trying to bond with Rayla, all after her. I cannot imagine how much she must've suffer. I don't know enough about mythological creatures to judge too much of the accuracy and portrayals of the different creatures, but I felt there weren't any information about these creatures. I wished there were more, at least the reader can get a better world-building. I feel Rich didn't do justice to these mythological creatures, and she scarred the faeries. And she didn't give justice to the use of "elemental power" in her book. They were not portrayed like this in "Lords of the Rings", which for me, is the closest to the truth about fantastical creatures (Fantasy).

There were some typos and missing punctuation.

In conclusion, what I disliked the most was that the story did not feel believable and the character development was just not there. I was expecting too much.

I do not consider this book as a Fantasy Fiction. That is all I have to say.

Sunny says

Reading **Five** reminds me of my feelings about eating movie theater popcorn. When I get to the theater, the popcorn smells so tantalizing it makes my mouth water. However, once I'm into the popcorn, it soon becomes too much - I am saturated by the taste of artificial butter and the salt makes me thirsty. I was so enticed by the summary of this story. It has all the right elements of a rich fantasy - an ingenue who discovers that escaping from her sheltered life brings risks because Kayla is an Elemental. As an Elemental,

her powers will enhance any Fae Lord's strengths and make him the most powerful Fae Lord. She is soon pursued by a gaggle of Fae Lords who each try to compel her to his side. In the midst of this chaos, Kayla is also struggling to find her own sense of self and independence.

Author Christie Rich brings a story that is imaginative and creative. It is full of dramatic plot points. I embraced the story from the start and was constantly kept on edge. Perhaps this is also the book's weakness. With so many twists and turns, I was left wanting more - more descriptions, more explanations, more details, more development. One small example: one of the Fae Lords, Luke, makes a comment about how there is something discordant with Kayla's name, suggesting that perhaps that is not her real name, but then the issues goes no where. It is not mentioned again. Hrmph!

My biggest disconnect in the book is the love triangle that develops between Kayla, Zach, and Luke. It is a leap of faith for me to first accept that Kayla falls in love with Zach so quickly, especially given that fact that she knows that he is hiding information from her. Sure, he is a heroic figure saving her in several points in the story, but this relationship lacks trust. I did not feel that they spent enough time or real interaction for her to give him so much benefit of the doubt. However, the speed in which Luke becomes a contender in this love triangle gave me a little whiplash. We spend most of the book with Kayla and Zach. In a span of a few hour carriage ride, Kayla develops deep feeling for Luke. (view spoiler) This lacks authenticity to me. Kayla's a strong character, learning to make up her own mind and coming into her independence. Her "insta love" for Luke felt like a disconnect.

There are so many interesting elements in **Five**, it is worth the read. Like movie theater popcorn, despite the aftermath, I always go back for more....(I'll be looking for more answers in)
