



# Embrace

*Cherie Colyer*

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**Embrace** Cherie Colyer

*How far would you go to save the people you love?*

Madison is familiar enough with change, and she hates everything about it. Change took her long-term boyfriend away from her. It caused one of her friends to suddenly hate her. It's responsible for the death of a local along with a host of other mysterious happenings. But when Madison meets a hot new guy, she thinks her luck is about to improve.

Madison is instantly drawn to the handsome and intriguing Isaac Addington. She quickly realizes he's a guy harboring a secret, but she's willing to risk the unknown to be with him.

Her world really spins out of control, however, when her best friend becomes delusional, seeing things that aren't there and desperately trying to escape their evil. When the doctors can't find the answers, Madison seeks her own.

Nothing can prepare her for what she is about to discover.

Dangerous, intoxicating, and darkly romantic, Embrace is a thriller that will leave you spellbound.

## Embrace Details

Date : Published December 20th 2011 by Omnific Publishing (first published December 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Cherie Colyer

Format : ebook 190 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Paranormal, Witches, Magic

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## **From Reader Review Embrace for online ebook**

### **Valerie says**

My Summary:

Madison doesn't like change. It hasn't been good for her in the past. Change took her boyfriend of two years away and change took away a good friend. Change is haunting her again with a weird death and lots of strange events. Maybe the new hotty in town can bring some good change for Madison. But even as she is inexplicably drawn to Isaac, her life is falling apart. Her best friend becomes delusional on the way from one period to the next. Can that happen? Madison becomes frustrated as the doctors can't find a reason or offer any relief. While searching for what's really wrong with her friend, Madison stumbles on a dark secret that could tear her world apart. A secret that Isaac knows a lot about. Will the secret destroy Madison or save the ones she loves?

My Thoughts:

4 stars - a great read

This book started with a zap and tugged me in quickly. I was immediately drawn to Isaac, just like Madison. Mystery hangs around him like a fog that clings to him. I loved that. Isaac is the perfect compliment to Madison. I enjoyed their relationship a lot. Their feeling for each other had a tangible aspect to them that was unique and exciting.

The plot had me immediately trying to unravel the clues that were so expertly left among the pages. Where is Madison's mother? Why are animals being killed in strange ways? How can a perfectly healthy teenager leave one class and end up delusional in the next? All the clues were pointing to one person and I grabbed on to that. But alas, I was wrong. Love it when the author fools me. Even as I realized it couldn't be, I searched for another. I didn't figure it out until it was revealed. Looking back, I can see the clues were skillfully left but so were distractions that make it hard to focus on the real clues.

The other thing that I really enjoyed about this book was that it is or can be stand alone. It seems that every book I read these days is a series. While I love them, it's nice to have a conclusion that doesn't leave me wanting to throw the book or crying for the next one. I could see a second book but there doesn't have to be. Very refreshing.

If you love the paranormal reads, like I do, then for sure pick this one up because it's a great read.

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### **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

HOLY BATMAN is what comes to mind when I think about this book. I was reading my usual blogs when I saw on YA Bound they were hosting a blog tour for Embrace. I loved the cover the minute I saw it and the

minute I read the blurb I was hooked! I have to say a huge THANK YOU to YA Bound for allowing me to be a part of this tour.

Cherie Colyer has crafted this world where good and evil live side by side fighting for their cause. The question is which side will you chose?

Madison is down in the dumps because her boyfriend of two years is moving away. She hates change so she avoids it at all costs. So when her best friend Kaylee tells her change is coming she is not happy. That is until she meets the change in her life..... Isaac. Isaac is the new boy in town and he is tall, dark, and handsome. Madison is intrigued by him and wants to get to know him better. But Isaac is mysterious in all ways and she knows he is holding secrets. What are they? She knows she has to get to the bottom of the secrets but then things start to get weird and her best friend is no longer who she thought she was.

See Madison has a special gift and when using it she will see things that she never saw. That is how she knows there is something about Isaac but the pull he has on her is much stronger than she can admit to herself. What is a girl to do? Will she find out Isaac's secret? Will she chose between good or evil? What will happen in the end to her and Kaylee?

Embrace really did Embrace me in so many ways. This is a MUST read because it is fast paced and left me sitting on the bed begging Cherie for a sequel!

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## **Ruty B says**

I felt really intrigued by the cover and the description of this book! And really it didn't dissappoint me. This is an amazing book!

A story full with mystery, romance, a rollercoaster of felings and a series of discoveries. It's a great recipe for an excellent book.

Lets start with some generalities:

\*The characters are really well described, and every one of them is written wonderfully.

\*The argument: OMG! is fantastic! I love when a book has a strong background and you can really feel that everything that happens in it is true, and you don't feel like is all a bunch of stuff put together! Every thing that the author add gives a sense of whole to the story.

My personal opinion: OMG!! I loved this book! I really loved it!

I could have read it in only a few hours, but I took my time to enjoyed it (two days).

The main characters (Madison and Isacc) made my heart speed up every time they were together and their relationship took my breath away more than once.

If you are a careful reader like myself, you will notice that from the very start are some signals on how the story is going to develop, but it doesn't take away any of the "magic".

I have to admit I was really surprised on how much I like it, however is good to find a book that leaves you with such a good feeling after you read it.

\*\*\* I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review. \*\*\*

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## **Gina - Behind the Pages says**

Be at Behind A Million And One Pages on 21 April for a exclusive review of Embrace! Join the blog tour!

Brilliant. It comes up this book perfectly. It was short yet sweet and to the point.

Although we move fast through the book, we fell pulled to the end and through the pages. We also don't expect what happens in the novel. Mainly on how it becomes paranormal from what we start to think is a general YA novel. I love the way that was done! It suits both audiences, either YA readers or Paranormal readers. The one part of this that makes it possible is through the blurb! Not many novels do this, and leave you in the dark AS WELL as making you intrigued in the novel itself, without giving away too much information. We get caught up in the story, as well as how fast Maddison and Issac's relationship is moving. At the start it bothers us, how they can move that quickly (especially Maddison), but as we continue, we realise where her feelings come from as well as why they developed so quickly. We don't understand it as much when we find out, but we are still captivated by it all.

We get propelled into the story so much that we don't stop to think and predict what is going to happen, and we start to go with Maddison. We feel like Kaylee at times, because we feel like Maddison's best friend. We understand her pain and we get to know about everything that she is going through on a different perspective as to what others would. We start to go along with Maddison's judgement and don't stop to think if it could be anyone else causing it all and just go with what she thinks. That is how much we get pulled into the story. That is how much we develop a relationship with the main character. That is it's own kind of Witchcraft.

We don't understand the title as much as we do when we finish the novel (or when we get around 3/4 of the way through). We can't help but smile at the realisation of the title and how much it suits the book's hidden tale. There's not much that I think the book missed, it included everything that it needed as well as leaving the novel on a good note. (view spoiler)

We get shocked when we find out the truth about everything and everyone. We don't expect it, as well as the others behind the situation. In this moment, the underlying questions are answered and everything all comes together. The only thing in this chapter was that it only took a chapter. It was very dramatic and it could have extended longer, and still hold our interest and continue to pull us through as the rest of the novel had. This would have brought the book up a little further, but that factor doesn't bring the book down or anything, it just gives us the feeling that we want a little more. Other than that there's not that much else about the novel that isn't already said. Like the book, this review is short and sweet!

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## **ALEXA says**

Reviewed on [Alexa Loves Books](#).

### The Story

I was completely taken by surprise when I read this novel, because I hadn't known what to expect from reading the blurb. I refuse to spoil the novel for you, but I will say this - major discoveries are made,

friendships are formed and some really cool things that I wish I could make happen do happen in this book. It's the unexpected twists and turns that made this novel so fun to read - and trust me, there are quite a few of them.

The budding romance between Madison and Isaac initially moved a little too fast for me at the beginning of the novel. There was quite a bit of eye-rolling on my part as I watched them go from acquaintances to a relationship at 100mph. But once the strangely strong attraction was explained a little more, I was able to let go of my reservations and enjoy their relationship.

## The Characters

The book primarily revolves around Madison, a girl who is doing her best to deal with the changes that come with growing up, falling in love and high school life. It's definitely a period in your life where a lot of confusion reigns, but it is also a period where you're more likely to be open to the possibilities presented to you - and, in that sense, Madison fits the profile of your typical teen. One of the best parts about Madison is that she's simply a regular girl - she's intelligent, interesting and genuinely nice. She's got an inquisitive mind, demanding answers to things she can't explain. I think my favorite aspect of her life, however, is how she juggles the healthy relationships she has with her family and friends - she was extremely loyal and demonstrated her care and concern many times over.

Isaac, on the other hand, is a primary example of my type of boy in YA fiction - handsome and mysterious. Like Madison felt, I was extremely interested in learning more about who he was and what part he was to play in her life from the start. He seemed quite mature for his age, demonstrating wisdom and intelligence and I especially loved how he eventually came to be protective over Madison. He's a natural leader, and his take-charge personality was definitely attractive. The only fault I could find with him was his temper - and how that could rage out of control. But I think the fact that he is genuinely interested in Madison and would do anything for her gives him plus points.

Personally, I say you should...

... read this novel if you're a fan of young adult novels with a paranormal twist. It's a refreshing take on a familiar aspect of the paranormal, as well as just generally a light read.

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## Andrea says

Let me start by saying, *Embrace* was exactly what I was looking for in a book. And this book opens with one heck of a promise:

"Your life's about to change, and there's nothing you can do about it."

Promising, yes? And with that sentence, I was hooked. I had to know what life-altering change was about to take place. Who or What was going to change main character Madison's life? If you're guessing a boy, you may be on the right track. But that's not all that's headed Madison's way.

The paranormal aspect of the book surprised me. I truly had no idea what sort of slant the story would have, and I am certainly not going to give it away in this review. Looking back at the synopsis, I see a small clue. But, honestly, I was happy to go into this one blind because *Embrace* is built around one of my very

favorites in the paranormal field. Are you curious now? Good!

Now, onto the characters. Madison was instantly engaging and easy to cheer for. Life hasn't always been the easiest for sweet Madison. She lost her mother at a young age, her boyfriend moved away, one of her former friends has turned into a hateful twit. But Madison keeps going, never self-pitying or annoying, largely in part with the help of her best friend, Kaylee. Kaylee is a superb best friend, the type we all wish to have. She is always looking out for her girl, never hesitating to step up when Madison needs backup. Kaylee is always quick with a funny line or a wink just when Madison needs it. Kaylee's boyfriend, Josh, is exactly the kind of guy we all wish for our best friend (if not for ourselves!). He is charming, handsome, supportive and a great friend to Madison, as well. And that leaves the mysterious new guy, Isaac. Isaac...\*swoons\*, yeah, you could say I liked him. Isaac has that certain "new guy" mystique we all know. He is mysterious, it's clear right away there is something different about him, but he is also sweet, charming, and playful. What a treat! I was so happy that Isaac wasn't a guy that ran hot or cold.

And yeah, Isaac and Madison have a fairly instantaneous connection, something that seems to draw them together. But, for me, this wasn't a case of insta-love. They do begin hanging out together right away, and they clearly like each other, they don't try to hide that. But they weren't declaring their love and forsaking all their friends for one another, especially Madison. What a strong-willed girl! She is determined to be absolutely positive that their attraction is more than the paranormal connection that is between them. I really admire this quality, the self-awareness and identity, that the author gave her.

I have a major weakness in books, a sure-fire way for the author to bring me on board: a core group of friends who work together to solve a mystery. I don't know why that is always a huge positive for me, maybe because one of my favorite series as a kid was the Trixie Belden mysteries, which featured another "gang" of problem-solving teens. I admire when the main character is willing to work with others instead of holding all of her issues, problems, and fears inside, letting them fester until they can't be contained and it's almost too late. But I digress. Madison, Isaac, Kaylee, and Josh make quite the team, determined to bring down the evil that is plaguing their town.

The only, very small, area that was less than perfect (and it's hard for me to explain without spoiling the story) was the way the storyline was wrapped up. One of the people who looked guilty wasn't guilty and I didn't quite buy the fact that he/she was innocent. And, a few areas that dealt with wrapping up the ending felt a little rushed. But, all in all, I was extremely happy with the Embrace!

Embrace is a thrilling, whirlwind of an adventure. With an intriguing, unique plot line, engaging characters, abounding danger, and a lovely, well-written romance, it is a story that had me reading on the edge of my seat.

Favorite Quote (one of many):

"He leaned in closer to me. His eyes were a shimmering, deep brown, but there was a speck of ocean blue at the edge of his right iris. I couldn't remember what I was about to say. My heart did a pirouette in my chest, and my breath caught in my throat. I closed the distance between us. His lips were firm and warm, and I wanted to kiss him forever."

\*I received a copy of Embrace from Omnific Publishing, in exchange for an honest review.\*

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## **Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says**

I know that I am really enjoying a book when at midnight I am reading and not tired, not wanting to put it down and wanting to continue reading.

This is a great YA novel. It deals with teenagers who are having issues with relationships, friends, and jealousy. To compound everything, Madison's witchcraft is starting to bloom.

She wouldn't have known about her powers if some bad witches hadn't messed with her friends. I don't want to say too much, because you would enjoy reading it for yourself.

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## **Becca says**

So first off technically i didn't finish this. Well i sort of did. I got officially about 75% ish through it, but i just couldn't go on. And maybe this a lot about me. Probably but I don't know. I did skim the last part of this book so i sort of know what happens. The very ending, no i don't know because i didn't even skim that part. I just wanted to be right about something and i was so YAY me!

Alright so song choice i would pick either. "Teenagers" by My Chemical Romance, or "I Don't Care" by Fall Out Boy, both songs that i love by the way, but it kinda works well with this.

Plot: Well i was pretty interested at first to be honest. I haven't done a whole lot of just witches stories so i was pretty interested in this. Only the other aspects of the plot started to weigh heavily on the story. Um there was legit part when even the characters mentioned that it was starting to be very middle school like, and it was because it was like: Oh John..Josh...dammit i am horrible with names, he is the boyfriend to Madison's (who is the MC) best friend. He also friends with Madison lives next door to Isaac who just moved in and is the new love interest...obviously. anyways Madison pretty much plays the check yes or no if you like me game. If it was done in a funny, sarcastic, satire way i might have enjoyed that but i am pretty sure it was dead serious for them. NOT cool. Then it just kinda remained that way, everything got a little too "High School" for me, and i get that might have been a purposeful writing style but i really do not like it. You can have it set in high school without having to do normal high school stereotypes. I don't know maybe that is just me. Anyways the plot, aside from the romance and that the action-y part was like meh. I thought it was going to go one way when i first started it, and i was like this is going to be super intense and amazing, and oh i am so excited but....spoiler actually soo sorry about that if you don't want to know i hides it! (view spoiler)

Characters:

Madison: At first i thought i was going to like her. A lot. She is sad about her break up and i was sooo happy for once it was like, a couple months is going to make me get over a guy i with for 2 years, even if it was high school relationship, it was her first love, that takes time. And i appreciated that. until she locked eyes with Isaac. Literally all it took was locking eyes. and they spent a day together and she was falling in love. Um...sigh. no. no thank you. and i thought she would be a little more grown up considering that her mom died in child birth with Madison's younger brother, so her dad and her are raising her brother. That doesn't seem to change anything. Um there are parts where she acts extra childish and kinda of annoying. i don't



know what to do with her honestly. And there are just things that she says that i was just face palming it like crazy! like crazy.

Isaac: At first i thought he was going to be pretty cool too. Maybe a little mysterious, but also sweet and fun. No. He turns out to be a bit of an ass. He is really almost smug it seems to be. And he is a little high and mighty for my likings, not in that fun, haha actually you aren't you are just being cute kind of way, i think you might know what i mean, but in that i am actually an ass and think i am better than you kind of way. he is just blah. i didn't like him as a love interest.

In the end this wasn't for me. Not saying it isn't for you, but there are the reasons i couldn't finish and i couldn't love this. Maybe this is the type of read you like, maybe its just because right now in my life i am a little peeved off at a lot of things. i don't know but either way i am sorry that i didn't love this but it wasn't for me. But maybe its worth a shot for you.

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## **Rayne says**

Review originally posted at <http://www.mycutebookshelf.com/2012/0...>

Embrace is a fast-paced, well-researched novel that chronicles Madison's initiation into the world of magic. Teenagers are nicely portrayed and given believable voices and the mystery is carried out incredibly through the most part of the book. I can assure you, this is one of those books that keep you guessing and wondering almost to the end.

Madison is a likable, imperfect and believable protagonist that deals with real problems: school, friendships, relationships and family. Madison didn't stuck to being just the good, loyal girl we are all used to; this girl is funny, mean and feisty when she needs to, and even a bit dramatic sometimes. She sounded like a real teenager, which is something not many authors achieve. I found myself invested in her problems and I was deeply moved by her fierce loyalty to Kaylee. The bonds of friendship between the two of them were portrayed nicely in the book and ended up being one of my favorite things in the story. Most of the cast also has nicely developed personalities, but Isaac, the love interest, remains mostly wrapped in shadows throughout the whole book. While I adored the fact that Isaac was not the glorified stalker that has become the favorite love interest in YA, Isaac did come off a bit arrogant on occasion, but towards the end of the book I believed his affection for Madison. The romance was sweet and there was an easy chemistry between Madison and Isaac, but, much to my disappointment, the spark moved to love way too soon.

The mystery in this novel was well-written and carried out very nicely. My favorite chapters were Kaylee's break from reality, the desperate search for an explanation to what happened to her. I couldn't tear my eyes away when reading them and the mystery had me scratching my head, wondering what was going on – in a very good way. Things rush rapidly after that, building up to an exciting and surprising, even if slightly unsatisfying climax and conclusion, that puts Madison in the right spot to stand up for herself and change her entire role in the story. Her ready acceptance of magic and Isaac's secret quickened the pace of the novel, but left me feeling a little disappointed. Still, this book is not predictable, and that makes it enjoyable and engaging.

A realistic heroine, a sweet romance, great descriptions of magical procedures that show careful research and strong bonds among friends are what set Embrace apart from other YA novels about magic. This book is

fast-paced, funny and, well, magical.

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### **Giselle says**

Was I ever surprised by this! The blurb is very obscure. You don't really get a feel of what exactly we're getting into. But once I found out what this was actually about I was thrilled because it's one of my favorite types of paranormal books. I'm not much help am I? Well, I don't want to spoil it for you so you'll just have to give it a try! However I can say that 1) it's a paranormal YA novel, and 2) it's wonderful!

To start with what I didn't like; the romance is very instant. I didn't have time to get a feel for the characters and they were already falling in love. It seemed a little obsessive at first, but we do get an explanation for it later on that alleviates a bit of the annoyance towards it. By the end, however, I did find they had developed a connection that was sweet and romantic. I really enjoyed the cast of characters in the story. Our main character, Madison, has a great, down to earth personality. She's not concerned with popularity or looks, she's simply happy to live her life. She is intelligent, mature, a great friend, and gets along with her family which all make her easily likeable. Isaac is our male lead. He's mysterious. It's obvious from the start that he has something to hide, but that only makes him more intriguing. I couldn't help wanting to know more about him.

Like the synopsis, the book is full of mysteries. The storyline leads you one way, then another, so you're always wondering where it's going to go next. I loved dishing out theories on what was going on, but the fast pace makes it so the twists keep coming at you blind. It's not that it's impossible to come to the conclusion, but there's always so much happening that you get too absorbed in the story to speculate.

While I can't tell you the plot's bigger picture, I can say that if you enjoy mystery, thriller and paranormal novels, Cherie Colyer's *Embrace* is for you!

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For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

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### **Christy LoveOfBooks says**

*Embrace* is another book that I went into without fully knowing what it was about, and I liked it that way. After reading the description, I was expecting something else. I actually love when that happens, as long as the story is good. Thankfully, *Embrace* was good enough to make me like the unexpected turn of it. It was a very quick and enjoyable read.

When Madison's best friend, Kaylee, gets her to go to a beach party, big changes are set in motion. Madison meets, Isaac, the new guy in tow, and likes him immediately. But not long after Isaac arrives, strange things start happening, like: mutilated animals, an unexplained death, slashed tires, and a major mental breakdown. The big question is, what or who is behind this all?

I thought the relationship that developed between Madison and Isaac was cute, and not overbearing. I appreciate that Isaac lacked that strong stalker mentality that seems to plague a lot of books lately; he's mysterious, but not creepy. I also liked how Madison's best friends, Kaylee and Josh, were such a big factor

in the story. The two of them weren't just side characters; they were actually prevalent to what was going on.

When Kaylee suddenly suffers from psychosis, and the doctors can't find the cause, it's up to the other three to figure it out. This is where the story really took that unexpected turn I mentioned. There were pretty big hints leading up to that point, but I was still under the impression that it was going in a different direction, so it was a little surprising to me. Once that mystery was solved, it became a different ride; going from *what*, to *who* and *how*.

Admittedly, the book did have a couple of small flaws, but I understand why they were incorporated into the story. I think the book was good though, so it's a little easier for me to overlook those things.

Overall, Embrace was a fun book. It was a super quick read that packed a punch. The ending was complete, but I definitely wouldn't mind following the group on another adventure.

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### **Penumbra says**

[  
I just finished this book and I have kind of mixed feelings about it. First, the editing was great. I think I only found a couple grammatical errors.

The book was a bit slow starting, and didn't have much going on until the chapter "Grill," I think it was called. The action built very slowly throughout t

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### **Nereyda (Nick & Nereyda's Infinite Booklist) says**

\*\*\*Copy provided for review as part of blog tour\*\*\*

Even though the book description is fairly vague, I was intrigued enough by it and the pretty cover to ask to be a part of the blog tour. Once I started reading and I found out what this book was really about, I was blown away by it because this is one of my favorite genres!

We meet Madison who has been through enough changes in her life. One of the biggest changes being the death of her mother. When her best friend, Kaylee, drags her to the beach, Madison meets the mysterious new guy, Isaac. Sparks immediately fly between them even though they are both cautious and hesitant. But things take an ugly turn when Kaylee starts hallucinating, seeing things and talking about demons. The doctors can't seem to find anything wrong with her and with no other option she is taken to a mental institute. Kaylee only seems to be getting worse which forces doctors to keep her mostly sedated and restrained to her bed. Madison feels helpless and she knows her best friend isn't crazy, all she knows is that there is definitely something or someone dark and powerful that is after Kaylee. With the help of Isaac and Kaylee's boyfriend, Josh, they are determined to help Kaylee and save her from whatever is after her.

One big issue I had about this was that I felt like Madison and Isaac's relationship was a bit rushed. Even though Madison barely knew him, she was already falling for him. We learn later why they have such a strong connection and after that it makes more sense. Even though they clearly like each other, they are still afraid to completely open up to each other and let the other know how they feel. To make matters worse, Madison's ex best friend makes a pass at Isaac every chance she gets and one of Madison's friends starts

hitting on her too.

Madison was a very strong and likeable character. But I was surprised at how much I ended up liking her best friend Kaylee. I love the strong friendship between her and Madison and her relationship between her and her boyfriend Josh. Even though it starts off fast then slows down a bit, once they open up and really get to know each other I really liked the relationship between Madison and Isaac.

I know this is a really vague review but I was pleasantly surprised and I wouldn't want to ruin that for any of you. This is a great and fast paced story. Mystery, friendship, romance, betrayals a lot of surprises and twist will keep you turning the pages to find out what happens next! I really want to know what happens next and I hope that this book is the start of another great series.

4 out of 5 sparkly stars!

Some of my favorite non-spoiler quotes or scenes from *Embrace*:

-“Your life is about to change, and there’s nothing you can do about it.”

-“Always remember, people fear what they don’t understand.”

-The maze was a lot like my life: a series of paths that led to choices, turns that often led me astray, and dead ends that forced me to rethink where I'd just been. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't find the exit to my own happiness. I'd get close, but then there'd be one more choice to make, one more obstacle to get past, one more wall of cornstalks blocking the way.

-I wish I could say, in that moment standing between the people I loved, that I saw hope—a bright light that assured me things would be okay. Sometimes, you just know that isn't true. Sometimes, you end up hurting the ones you love. You can't save them or yourself.

-He wasn't playing fair. He never had, and I secretly loved that he didn't.

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## **Giselle says**

An Electronic Advanced Reader Copy was provided by the publisher for review. Quotes have been pulled from an ARC and may be subject to change.

As soon as I started reading *Embrace*, I knew I was going to get sucked into the story. That doesn't happen very often to me, so I was surprised by how much I wanted to keep reading. The hook for me was the chemistry between Madison and Isaac because I'm a complete sucker for that.

What I disliked was the pacing where it would be all dialogue, and no action. There were a couple of scenes that surprised me, especially when Madison's best friend Kaylee starts seeing things that aren't there, but before that I found it rather boring. Suffice to say, I kept on reading because I wanted to know who was behind it all. And I was intrigued by the mystery and the paranormal romance that was developing. Thank God it wasn't instant love!

I also rather enjoyed the characters. Madison is rather protective of her friends, and I love how loyal and supportive she is. Then there's Isaac who is that mysterious guy that every girl wants to unlock. Their

relationship is cute, and not overly the top annoying or nauseating.

#### Characters

Likeable and definitely not annoying.

#### Pacing

More like stop and go. I'd rather have fast paced.

#### Cover/Design

Pretty, but the cover girl looks way too Photoshopped, and it's obvious.

#### Plot

Liked it enough, but wanted more action.

Great romance, and very likable characters. The plot could use some work though.

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### **Jennifer Lane says**

#### Magical Tale of Young Love

Cherie Colyer's debut Young Adult novel was quite a pleasure to read. It's a page-turner that's sweet and mysterious at the same time. The reader doesn't know who to trust, and the identity of the villain surprised me.

Madison is a high school student living in Gloucester, Massachusetts. I've been to Boston a few times but don't know much about the area and I thought the setting was interesting and eerie. Madison meets a handsome newcomer: Isaac. She is longing for her ex-boyfriend Kevin, and Isaac seems like the perfect antidote. But is Isaac safe boyfriend material?

I liked how strange events keep happening at the beginning of the story, like near-death car accidents and Madison's best friend Kaylee suffering from a psychotic break. Is this simply bad luck, or is something more sinister going on? The mystery clears itself up bit by bit, keeping the reader in suspense.

Cherie uses some interesting similes:

*There is only more darkness. It's like swimming in a pool of oil.*

The characters' emotions come alive in this story, aided by Madison's sensory gifts. She can smell and taste emotion.

*The air reeked of power---strong and pungent. Kevin's bitter jealousy and Isaac's rage mixed with Paige's sudden remorse and Emma's sweet joy. It tasted oddly delectable as it eased the burning in my lungs and the pain in my throat.*

I hear Cherie is working on a sequel to *Embrace* and I look forward to it! I want to see what happens between Madison and her ex-friend Paige, and of course what's in store for Madison and Isaac. Great job, Cherie!

