



The Edge of Darkness

Melissa Andrea

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I loved to dance, but I don't anymore.

I was in an accident I don't remember... or maybe I don't want to remember.

Either way, every day since, has been... an adjustment and I'm left with a constant reminder that nothing is forever.

Now, my life is a tangled web of darkness filled with deceit, hate, betrayal and lies. I don't dwell on the past, I don't regret and I don't remember... I survive. But then I met Ryland Dare and he changed everything. He reminded me that life's worth living and that remembering isn't always a bad thing.

You don't know true darkness until you've felt light...

On the outside looking in, some would say my siblings and I have had a pretty easy life. But beyond the fancy cars, the huge house and endless social events, is where the truth really lies. Power hungry father, defeated mother and fake friends? Yeah I have one of each. Then Araya Noelle comes along and shows me what I've been missing. She thinks I changed her life, but really, she saved mine.

At the edge of darkness, you must DARE to HOPE. DARE to LOVE. DARE to LIVE

The Edge of Darkness Details

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Author : Melissa Andrea

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From Reader Review The Edge of Darkness for online ebook

Anna says

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE. SO FORGIVE OFTEN, LIVE FREELY & LOVE DEEPLY

5 beautiful stars !!! ♥ I LOVED THIS BOOK !!!

It reminded me of an incredible song "Deep inside of you" by Third Eye Blind

When we met light was shed

*Thoughts free flow you said you've got something
Deep inside of you*

*A wind chime voice sound, sway of your hips round rings true
Echo's deep inside of you*

ARAYA

"I lost the only person who loved me and went blind all in a matter of minutes. I'd lost everything in that car accident. The day the accident happened I stopped living, making a point only to survive life."

She lost her mom and her dream of dancing at Julliard...in the blink of an eye....IT WAS ALL GONE

RYLAND

"If you could see what I see...then you'd understand why-. Why I wouldn't change a thing about you and you shouldn't want to either. you're original and that's my favorite thing about you."

Ryland is the down-to-earth all-American middle son, heir to a family fortune but he hates the trappings of his home life, wishing he could escape....

**Friends say I've changed
I don't listen cause I live to be
Deep inside of you**

Slide of her dress, shouts in darkness

**I'm so alive I'm
Deep inside of you**

"I wish I could see you though...." she admitted softly

I realized then how dangerously easy it would be to fall for this girl if I let myself get to close. It would never be about looks or money for Araya. When she fell in love, any guy would know where her heart really lay. He would know with everything he had that she was in love with him

♥

You said boy make girl feel good

**But still...deep inside...STILL!
I've never felt alone**

**Till I met you
I'm alright on my own**

Till I met you

Imagine if all you could see was just shadows.....

Araya's story was so heartbreakin ! But despite all of the hardships life threw her way she never became the bitter, hateful girl....she was so sweet and kind. Let me say this for the record **when I rise to power people like her aunt and uncle will have to answer to ME!!**

This story of this perfect boy who seemed to have it all, falling in love with this mouse of a blind girl who had **absolutely nothing....** It melted my heart. I was committed to finding this happily-ever-after for these unique characters and I held my hand to my heart, tears falling and fell in LOVE **with them FALLING IN LOVE.**

♥♥♥♥ "She is falling in love for the first time and she's going to fall hard. Do her a favor and don't make love her enemy" ♥♥♥♥

This story is by no means over. Of course creepy evil has to take place to jack up my happily-ever after..... I do agree with how the story had to unravel. I was actually crying my eyeballs out but still so glad of the choices both of them made.....in order to preserve this once in a lifetime type of love. This just means that.....the next book is going to be **bigger than life** because they were both on the **EDGE** of solitary greatness....they just had to find themselves....**separately**.....so that they can be whole **TOGETHER**

I need book 2 NOW. Please and Thank You.

I mean it.....I needed this like yesterday....♥♥♥♥♥

Well hello beautiful new book cover :

And again another new book cover I love it !!

Newest book cover

Sabrina says

Once again I am in complete awe of Melissa's ability to paint a picture with her words and shatter my soul into a million pieces from the emotion she brings fourth from her characters.

Araya loses everything in the blink of an eye. After being in a tragic accident there is no light in her dark world. She is moved in with her aunt who despises her and treats her like garbage. Araya is not living she is only getting by that is until a chance encounter with Ryland. Ryland is the all American boy he has lives in a fancy house, has money, nice cars, etc. But once you look through the doors you see his world is anything but perfect. His parents don't love him or his siblings and the only person who does care for them is the house keeper Annie. When two people are living in darkness start to fall in love and see the light will it be enough when secrets come out and lives are shattered all over again.

I know I can't due this book justice but I am going to try. I loved everything about this book and the emotional turmoil that I was put through thanks to Melissa and they way she writes. She just has a way with pulling you in from page one that has you on the edge of your seat the whole time you're reading her books. Araya has become my favorite female character of the year and yes I know it's only June. But once you meet

her you will understand why I am making this statement. She is so much stronger than she knows and she made me laugh, cry, and fall in love right along with her. Ryland is just amazingly awesome. He is everything I love in a hero even when he doesn't think he's the hero. He is strong, smart, protective, sweet, and loves so fiercely that he had me holding my breath just waiting for the moment he would finally tell Araya that he loved her. When they both moved out of the darkness into the light with each other it just grabbed my heart and soul. I can honestly say that this is my favorite read of 2013. The story and characters will stay with me long after today as they have touched me down into very soul. All I can say is I desperately need book two now! Please Melissa write faster so I can see what happens because that ending literally shattered my soul something no author has ever done. If I could I would give this more than 5/5 Bloody Fangs wait this is my blog so I can and I will. 10/10 Bloody Fangs

Zakirrah BookBlogger says

5 Mind-blowing, Brilliant, Beautiful Stars!!

One night that's all it takes..One night can change your life..

One night can destroy you..One night can leave you with scars you carry around all your life..

Please tell me that this book did not end like that? I'm missing a couple of chapters right?!? Ahhhh why did it have to end like that?

Bring me the next book..**NOW!!!**

What an amazing book filled with so much pain, love, sacrifices and much much more..

Araya Noelle is a beautiful, strong, shy, selfless girl. She is a survivor. As a little girl she dreamed to be a dancer but that one night destroyed it all. A tragic accident occurred causing Araya to never be able to dance again, she lost so much that night..Her mum who was her only family left who cared about her and her sight.. All in one night her life is turned upside down.

"I lost the only person who loved me and went blind all in a matter of minutes. I'd lost everything in that car accident. The day the accident happened I stopped living, making a point only to survive life."

She is made to live with her bitch of an auntie and uncle, both of them I wanted to kill, strangle, punch..did I mention kill? A slow torturous death they deserve pfttt!

They made Araya feel like she was worthless and useless due to her being blind. They made her stay inside their house and feel like a freak she was made to believe she wasn't normal. She feels suffocated and longs to be let out and then she gets her chance..

That's when her life collides with Ryland Dare's..

"If you could see what I see...then you'd understand why-. Why I wouldn't change a thing about you and you shouldn't want to either. you're original and that's my favorite thing about you."

Ryland Dare is an incredible guy, down to earth, rich and heir to a family fortune which he doesn't want. Some people say if you are rich you have it all..they are so wrong. Ryland has the materialistic stuff but he doesn't have parents who care and love him. He hates how everyone is more interested in money and getting richer rather than their family. When he meets Araya there is an instant connection they simply click.

When Araya's aunt and uncle (the two twats) Nina and Carl decide that Araya needs to get tutored as she never finished school due to the incident well somethings not right..

They made her live in the dark and do all their housework and hardly ever let her out but now they want her to be tutored?!

And guess who the tutor is none other than Cara Dare (Careless), Ryland's sister.

Ryland and Araya become closer and start spending more time with each other. He teaches her to live life and not be scared. He slowly pulls her out of the darkness she has been engulfed in and shows her the light.

I traced my thumb over her bottom lip, and she sucked in a sharp breath.

"Why do you wear these glasses?" I traced her cheek below the rim of the lens.

"Who are you hiding from?"

I loved how much he believed in her, how he helped her and made her see that her blindness doesn't limit her to achieve her dreams. That she deserves to be loved and cared for.

They both needed each other, they both need the love and affection they never received.

What a brilliant, captivating, unexpected book which left me reeling!

Oh how I hate cliffhangers but okay I get it it took a while but I am over it..I just need the next book real fast!!

Secrets are revealed, heart-break is inevitable, families are destroyed but this isn't the ending..it's a beginning of something new..

ARC provided by the lovely author for an honest review

Check out my blog for more reviews!

<http://zakirrahsbookblog.blogspot.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Zakir...>

Jacqueline's Reads says

5 Stars

The Edge of Darkness is a gripping tale of overcoming fears and finding love

I've never read anything like The Edge of Darkness and I simply LOVED IT! Gah, I can't convey my feelings and emotions on this BEAUTIFUL, Heart-Warming tale.

Araya lives in the dark. Her car accident killing her mother haunts her every day. Araya lives in a tiny

apartment with her aunt and uncle. She hasn't lived her life since that tragic day and she has nothing to look forward, until one day she meets Ryland. Ryland is rich, handsome and his family doesn't mesh with people like Araya, but Ryland is captivated by Araya's beauty and innocence. Ryland may be the light in Araya's dark world.

I had no idea what this book was about and the summary that I read was really vague. I was told I would love this book and darn it, that person was right. You need to read this, you need to jump in head first and get consumed the way I did.

I COULD NOT PUT THIS BOOK DOWN

Araya is a fragile nineteen year old who hasn't lived since she was fifteen. She has to stay with her mean aunt and drunken uncle. She doesn't do anything, but stays in her room and thinks about the past. Her situation is **VERY SAD!** I am not giving everything away, there's a **HUGE** factor that comes into play with this book and once you find out what it is...

I WAS STUNNED, SHOCKED and I WANTED TO READ MORE

Ryland is your rich boy with a chip on his shoulder. He lives in a dysfunctional household with a mentally abusive father. Ryland's father wants Ryland to work for the company, but Ryland doesn't want anything to do with his father. When Ryland sees a pretty red hair girl one day at a park, everything changes.

Ryland and Araya's relationship forms beautifully. I loved the conversations they had and the underlying innocence of it all. In a way it remind me how much I love reading YA books (not that this is a YA book). Ryland and Araya are adorable. Araya is cagy, shy and kind of on the defence. Ryland is strong, persistence and sweet. The thing I enjoyed most about this book was just seeing two hurt souls using each other to heal.

Both have dark deep rooted issues, but both deal with it differently.

IT'S REALLY A GREAT BOOK

The father comes into play many times in the book and true to form; he's a villain you love to hate. It's evil, he's mean and he will stop at nothing to push Araya out of Ryland's life. I love these plots, because it's always about the couple verse the world.

As for the ending, I have to say it, there's a **HUGE OPEN CLIFFY**. I nearly died when I got to the last sentence because it will gut you, shock you and make you cry tears, but no worries, book 2 is already out.

READ THIS

AMAZON

More reviews - > <http://jacquelinereds.blogspot.com>

Haley ~ YA-Aholic says

GIVE ME!

Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says

Araya's life is that of darkness. There is no light to shine upon her as she is forced to live a life that was never supposed to be her future. Araya has recognize that this is as good as it will get for her: picking up after her aunt and uncle...2 people who couldn't care less about her. But one day while at the park she meets Ryland Dare. For the first time in 4 years, something goes right. Something gives her hope. Something brings light to her dimly lit, disheveled life.

I just loved this story. If it wasn't for trying to get our house ready to sell, I would have had this book finished within a day...day and a half max. It was just that good. I loved the characters and the whole scheme. But I am not going to tell you what it is exactly...oh no...that is a surprise. That is something the author wants everyone to experience firsthand without a third party telling you all about it. Trust me though, you will love not knowing what is going on until it happens. It makes the story that much sweeter.

Ok, moving on. Lets talk about Ryland Dare. I love that he is honest about who and what he is: a Class A User of women. But he is upfront about that fact and it doesn't seem to have hurt him in the past. But his sister wants him to not be that way with Araya. While his sister is tutoring Araya, she wants him to stay far, far away. She knows that he will crush her in the end and knows that Araya doesn't need that in her life right now. But Ryland is bound and determined to get to know her more and find out her secrets. Secrets that could send him running if she allows him close enough.

This is where I introduce you to Araya. She is one of the most sweetest, most kindest characters you will ever come across. For all that she has been through and going through, you'd expect her to be mean and nasty and resentful. But you will not find any of that lurking within her. She is as good as they come. I just adored her. And bless her heart for all the things that she has never, what so ever, experienced in her life. That girl has seriously missed out on some fun. You will see what I am talking about once you read the book.

THE EDGE OF DARKNESS was one of my favorites to read this year. I love that there will be another book...because after that ending...us readers have to know what will happen to these guys. I am dying to know if they will find their happily ever after. I am itching to see where life takes them. Trust me when I say you will want to read this one. Yes, it is a definite must read.

Amber says

The Edge of Darkness had me on the edge of my seat through the whole book. I loved every bit of it. Melissa Andrea is amazing with words, and I can't wait to read book 2 of this series. Melissa took two people from two different worlds both dealing with their own issues that have made them broken and different from the rest of the world.

Arayda has lost everything but still comes out strong and fierce, however, there are some circumstances that

makes her rely on others beyond her capability but don't let that confuse you with her independence. Then Ryland shows up and forces her to reach outside her boundaries and shows her the love and care she has been missing for so long. Only Ryland doesn't realize Arayda is saving him as much as he is saving her, that is until their families get involved and forbid them to be together and are sure to keep them apart no matter the cost.

Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says

Overall this was an enjoyable read....I did have a few issues but I can't really go into them without giving away part of the story so I will put my questions in a spoiler.

Araya is living with her aunt after her mother passed away. Her aunt is the equivalent of

she along with the uncle treats Avaya like a burden as well as a slave.

Araya meets handsome rich hottie Ryland at the park one day.

And then meets him again after going to be tutored by his sister, Careless. They develop a relationship even after his sister warns him not to get involved...Of course Ryland's parent's are awful, controlling, have big egos and do not want him with a lowlife like Araya....

Cue a little bit of nonsense drama and Araya needing to grow some balls....and finally she does and we get our cliffhanger...

Good thing I can go straight to book 2....

Questions I had about book(view spoiler)

Sara Nelson says

More, more and more please!!!! I received this copy for my honest review. So thank you!!!

I did not want this story to come to an end!! How can we just stop with an ending like that? This book took me to an all new life. The way I view things and people. I love how Araya thinks about the situation she was forced into. My heart breaks for her, and happy for her all at the same time. How do you see light in the darkness?

Ryland, oh Ryland!! He didn't have a chance. Yeah maybe he thought he would never fall in love, But he was SO wrong. I loved every part of this book. The ending took me by surprise, but what a good way to end book 1 and to start book 2. Knowing how cruel and hateful people can be is hard, but actually reading it in you head, and your heart. It takes you to a whole new level. Seeing Araya in the beginning and how she changed all the way threw made me happy! I cried and laughed and cried some more. lol My heart hurt when the Dare's treated her like an animal! Even her own family. How can somebody be so cruel? Ryland became her light. He changed so much threw out the book as well. Going from a player who can not love, to a man who found what he wanted and what he was willing to fight for.

This is a must read!!!!!!! And looking forward to reading book 2 in this series.

Ji says

5 WOW STARS!!!

Ryland

Araya

Right from the start... I was instantly pulled into Araya and Ryland's world. It was really hard to put this book down. Araya and Ryland are instantly attracted to each other. They meet at a park accidentally...but fate really had other plans for them.

Araya lives in a world full of darkness, yet she has the warmest heart. She is pure, sweet and timid. She accepts what has happened to her and doesn't really complain about it. She's sort of the modern Cinderella. She lives with her crazy bitchass aunt and uncle (Nina and Carl). She is a burden to them, and they do not mind constantly telling her. They treat her like complete crap!! And it really amazed me how much Araya put up with Nina! Araya was accepting the fact that she was hopeless, until Ryland came into her life!

Ryland live in a world full of power, greed and money. He lives to survive each day, and to protect his beloved baby sister Careless (Cara). His father J.D. expects Ryland to take over the family business. Ryland's brother Sebastian is a drunk! Ryland's mother is an attention whore, who will never be loved by her own husband. He lives in a cold household. He feels the need to escape. Ryland does not commit...until he meets Araya.

It was insta-love for Araya. Ryland was her first in everything. I really loved how Ryland actually pushed Araya to be independent. He pushed Araya to learn. He pushed Araya to live her life! Ryland was protective and supportive at the same time. Ryland really was the missing spark in Araya's life.
I really loved how pure and honest Araya was with Ryland. She did not deny her feelings. There was no angst or drama between them.

But of course nothing is ever that perfect....

*The last 20% of the book pissed me off!!!
I was shocked!!!! I really wanted to punch everyone!
This is for NINA, J.D... and (view spoiler)*

*I was glad that Araya really stood up for herself towards the end of the book...but I just wish she didn't have to make a heartbreakng decision...
I'm going to read the second book now!
It's a must after that epilogue!!!!*

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

4.5--DARING--Stars!

I'm gutted....literally! Heart-broken! Devastated! How could it have ended like that?!?! *sobs* *sobs*

No really?!?! WTF?!?! Why?!?!

I knew going in to the book that this was a series, but honest to gawd I thought the story was just going to continue. I thought it would end in a happy place! I haven't felt like this since Rebecca Donovan's Breathing series.

So perhaps I'm being a bit dramatic. But this was a very heart-breaking yet heart-warming tale. In the prologue we are introduced to Araya through two scenes that are intertwined....Araya's final dance performance and the wreck that will change her life forever. Araya was accepted to Juilliard at the age of 15. But a devastating car wreck leaves Araya completely in the dark. Not only does she lose her mother but her dreams of dancing.

After the wreck, Araya is forced to live with her aunt and uncle, Nina and Carl. Here is how I felt about Nina and Carl....

Nina and Carl were just awful to Araya....forcing her to live a life in the dark. Rarely allowing her to leave the house, forcing her to believe that she can't do anything on her own, that she's not worthy of love or affection.

On a rare outing to the park, Araya meets Ryland Dare. He's sees something different in Araya but he can't figure out what it is. This makes her even more intriguing. He asks her out and she accepts, knowing that she will never actually show up for the date.

Evil 1 and Evil 2 (Nina and Carl) are up to no good and decide Araya needs to be tutored. As a result of the accident, Araya never finished school. Her tutor is none other than Cara Dare (Careless), Ryland's younger sister. Coincidence?

Ryland and Araya start to spend more and more time together. Every day Ryland brings Araya closer and closer to the light and out of the darkness. He believes in Araya. He forces Araya to see past the darkness and to not give up on the dreams she had before the accident. And in the process Araya shows Ryland how to live every day like it's your last. How to love, when he thought he wasn't capable.

Gawd...I LOVED Ryland. He was willing to give up everything for Araya. To love and protect her, keep her safe. It was so heart-warming. But Araya wanted to be Ryland's equal. She didn't want him to give up his life to take care of her. Ryland changed her life in so many ways....

"You dared me to hope when I thought I had none left. You dared me to love when I thought I couldn't, and you dared me to live again." ~~Araya

This is where things take a turn for the heart-breaking. Secrets are revealed that are devastating to both Ryland and Araya. I couldn't believe that the people that were supposed to love and care and protect them could be capable of such horrible things. It forces Ryland and Araya to make decisions about their relationship.

If I am being completely honest with myself, a very teeny-tiny part of me understands that the story needed to end the way it did. For Araya to fully give herself to Ryland she needed to learn to **live** on her own, not just **survive**. My heart broke for Ryland and Araya. I pray that we haven't seen the last of Ryland and Araya and that they can find their way back to each other.

I'll repeat....this is a series....and it did have a cliffhanger ending....FML!

Listen Melissa Andrea....regarding Brightest Kind of Darkness

Bianca says

I was provided with a free copy of this book for the blog tour. Thank you, Melissa!

Reading 'The Edge of Darkness' felt like riding a roller coaster of emotions. This book made me sad, happy, angry or even in love. The best thing about this book is that it makes you feel. It makes you feel like you are one of the characters. It makes you feel alive in the book.

I have to recognize that I've always wanted to read one of Melissa's books and when I signed up for this blog tour I was fangirling inside. And when I received my copy of 'The Edge of Darkness' I was so happy that I jumped in my bed.

Oh my, let me cry a little. I am sad and happy at the same time. Happy because I read such an outstanding book and sad because I finished too early. I read it in 2 days and I wasn't reading to say Goodbye to the characters. I really need a sequel right now! *Ryland, I'm Gonna Miss You*

I feel in love with Melissa's writing style from the start. It has something so beautiful and poetic that it made me jealous. I've always wanted to write like this. To be able to bring my characters alive, to make my readers fall in love with my writing. Melissa did it. She made me fall in love with her book from the start. It's easy to read her books- her writing style is fluent and has an outstanding musicality.

Her characters? Bring it on! Oh, I loved their personalities, how alive they felt to me. I love how different they are from each other and how easy it's to love them. My favorite character? I can't decide between Araya and Ryland. They are just... flawless and so good for each other!!

Let me say that as a violinist, Juilliard is one of my dreams. So one I saw it mentioned there, in 'The Edge of Darkness' I felt joy. I'd love to study there, but I think this will remain a dream.

The story is so sad in the beginning! I felt so sorry for Araya and for her situation that, even though I wasn't very linked with her I wanted to cry! I can't even imagine how horrible it must be to lose your dream.

In the scenes when both Araya and Ryland were present my heart melted and I even laughed. I loved how funny Ryland is, how caring and lovely his personality is.

Let me go back to my corner and cry over this book. I.WANT.MORE.!

This is a book that definitely teaches you something: Never give up!

Everything about 'The Edge of Darkness' it's outstanding: the cover, the characters, the story, the talent of the author... this is a book that should be published by the biggest publishers around AND turned into a movie!

Definitely one of the best reads 2013 brings to us. 6 stars out of 5!

Kathryn says

I could not put this book down....

From start to finish I was so captivated, so engrossed in this story that Araya and Ryland are forever pieces of my heart...

This book is beyond amazing and 5 stars don't do it justice...

Full Review:

Ok, I hope I have gathered myself enough to provide a review that encompasses just how much I loved this book....

After opening up to the first page and reading the prologue, I was completely immersed and knew that this tale was going to be one that kept me hanging on by tooth and nail as well as keeping my insides in complete knots. I mean, immediately, you are crippled with the event you are witnessing. Your heart is reaching out and wanting to pull this young girl in and hold her for all its worth.

But, that is the beginning and as we jump in and find out the how's and why's, we get to meet the most special and compassionate person ever, Araya. Living in a world of darkness with an aunt and uncle that is just plain horrid, you find Araya's outlook on life refreshing. Although when we are introduced to her world, we find that she is only surviving and not really living; until we meet Ryland.

I wanna say that Ryland has the life we all dream of, big fancy house, money, family...but that is how it all seems on the outside. Once you walk through the doors of the Dare house, you find not a trace of love from the biological side but from the housekeeper who throughout this story imparts the love and wisdom that the Dare children need.

Now, there are some major events and details that I am not going to reveal. Which also hinders in me giving you all of how I felt...

But, I can say this...

Melissa Andrea wrote a beautiful piece of art. It is one of those that becomes a part of you. She captured me with creating two people who had so much wrong in their lives yet together were the rays of sunshine to each other. I fell head over heels for Ryland. The romance that Araya and Ryland shared was electric in the beginning and slowly built to be one of epic proportions.

My heart was carried through so many emotions while reading The Edge of Darkness. From the steamy moments....causing your heart to race, to the twisted evil events...that cause your blood to boil with rage.

You FEEEEEEL and experience all of this right along with Araya and Ryland; solidifying your connection to these two. *sighs heavily*

A true masterpiece, a love story that will transcend all time...From start to finsh...your heart is held captive by the pure beauty found within these pages. ANNNND....the ending...OMG Melissa Andrea...I can't even comment...All I need to know...When is book 2 coming????

GO...Get this book...it releases May 31...I highly recommend you pick this book up...

Cameo says

I finished this book yesterday, and...WOW!!! It wasn't what I expected. This story slowly unravels itself to reveal its beauty. It's a story of love, pure and true, but also very complicated. (You'll see why.) It will tug at your heart strings, keep you turning pages, and then leave you wanting more. All I can say is...add this book to your list. It is a definite must read. I will be anxiously awaiting book 2. HURRY, MELISSA!!! ;) ;)

Malissa says

5 beautiful stars!!!

I don't review often - mainly because I'm lazy and too anxious to dive into the next book, but I felt this one deserved it.

I can't begin to explain how refreshing this book was. Despite all the heaviness it was seriously a breath of fresh air! And it only make me happier to know there will be two more books to come.

First, I refuse to give away any spoilers. The synopsis is vague for a reason, I went into this book not really knowing anything and I feel like that is the effect the author is trying for (and accomplished). However, I will say that I absolutely loved the prologue - as heartbreaking as it was. And the beginning is... Disorienting? But once the proverbial veil is lifted you literally gasp with realization!

Although Araya and Ryland come from completely different worlds, they're each facing their own struggles and dealing with life's circumstances.. And your heart will ache for them both.

I absolutely adored Araya. After everything that was thrown at her, she never allowed herself to wallow in self-pity. Araya remained strong, while retaining her innocence and not giving in to bitterness or becoming jaded. And you can't help but admire her heart and determination.

I fell head over heels for Ryland. Honestly, it was so flawless I don't even know when happened, so I have to believe he had me at 'hello'. He's charming, witty, compassionate, and protector to a fault. Despite his upbringing, Ryland not only remained grounded, but grew to be extraordinary person.

Ryland's and Araya's love for each other? I'm envious. They have this easy love that grew seamlessly. It's refreshing to see two characters develop a natural bond that comes before and goes beyond physical love. These two people, while beautiful on their own, brought me to tears.

Their story reminds me of one of my favorite quotes by Edgar Allan Poe..

"Beauty of whatever kind, in its supreme development, invariably excites the sensitive soul to tears"

So yes, if you're a sensitive reader, you will go through a whirl of emotions and you will definitely cry happy tears and gut-wrenching-from-your-soul tears.

I have my eyes wide open for The Grace of Darkness!!!
