



## After Eden

*Helen Douglas*

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Eden Anfield loves puzzles, so when mysterious new boy Ryan Westland shows up at her school she's hooked. On the face of it, he's a typical American teenager. So why doesn't he recognise pizza? And how come he hasn't heard of Hitler? What puzzles Eden the most, however, is the interest he's taking in her.

As Eden starts to fall in love with Ryan, she begins to unravel his secret. Her breakthrough comes one rainy afternoon when she stumbles across a book in Ryan's bedroom - a biography of her best friend - written over fifty years in the future. Confronting Ryan, she discovers that he is there with one unbelievably important purpose ... and she might just have destroyed his only chance of success.

## After Eden Details

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Author : Helen Douglas

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## From Reader Review After Eden for online ebook

### Zemira (Kylo Ren fangirl) Warner says

Eh, what a mess this book turned out to be. I'm really disappointed. There were so many things I didn't like. I can't think of any redeeming quality. Nothing. I often get trapped by the cover when requesting books on NG. I must seek help if I play to move from this state.

Eden's life changes when a new guy shows up at their school. Ryan's a bit weird. He doesn't remember basic historical facts and acts weird, in a way. Eden's best friend Connor hates Ryan because he's been in love with Eden since forever. I was in a similar situation so it's not hard for me to connect with him but here's the thing. Connor was annoying as hell. He was mean to Ryan and even to Eden. I couldn't picture Connor and Eden ever being BFFs, not even in the beginning, before Ryan showed up. Not even my genetically installed always-root-for-the-underdog mind couldn't help me out to feel for Connor.

Romance was... \*sigh\* Now I have to explain this too? Oh, why? Well, there's nothing much to say but that the levels of instalove were getting to out of hand. Nothing could save it from disaster. Both Eden and Ryan were bland.

This is the perfect example of adult writing a book about how to correct a teenager whenever s/he is acting like a brat and that was pretty much the whole time. It's as if Douglas set out to write as many annoying and childish things she could come up with so she could put a line in there of someone telling them it's wrong to talk to people in that way. I'm not sure how many times I came across with lines like- *Connor!* or *Eden!*

Last month I read another time travel novel, *All Our Yesterdays* and I can't even begin compare them. AOY was more engaging than *After Eden*.

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### Debby says

#### 2 stars

Oh dear. *After Eden*, what can I say? Perhaps I can start with that I should have known better. I was tempted by the time traveling, the starry cover, which all hint to the kind of sci-fi I easily fall for. But I should have paid more attention to the obvious instalove inherent in the synopsis. I should have listened to my gut. While to a certain extent I really liked the sci-fi part of this, it was wrapped up in this sadly irritating instalove coating with a stupid main character.

I guess I might as well start with **the main character, Eden**, who fills me with feelings of meh. She doesn't have much of a personality to start off with, but quickly forms an obsession with the new boy in school, which really makes me roll my eyes. She's the jealous type, so when one of the other girls starts flirting with him she becomes a whiny, insecure little girl. Time after time, Ryan (the new boy) tries to convince her that her best friend, Connor is in love with her. Even when the evidence is pushed in her face (he hates any time Ryan is around, because he knows they like each other, and gets super snarky then; and the sheer fact that he

names the planet he discovers after her - seriously, that's not strong enough evidence), she's just totally naive about it. So most of her narrations result in eye rolls and sighs.

And let's talk about **Connor** for a second too, because I have so much hate for him. He's supposedly Eden's best friend, but not once in this entire book does he act like it. Instead he's a whiny sore loser the whole time because of Ryan showing up. At a certain point, Eden says about him, "He's hard not to like." Really? I had no fucking problem at all not liking him. It came quite naturally in fact. And later she actually says, "Every time Connor spoke to me, I worried that it would turn into an argument." That's how their dynamic was throughout the entire book. So why in the world were they best friends at all? I mean, if you're going to label them best friends, you have to make it believable. At least at the beginning, show how strong their friendship was before Ryan showed up or something. Or throughout, show that although Connor is jealous he still cares for Eden. But no, he had to be a whiny little asshole to her all throughout the book. UGH.

As far as **Ryan and the romance** go... I don't have much to say. It was instalove. Ryan is just the smoldering, hot type. Mysterious because of the lack of knowledge of standard 21st century things. But that's about it. Can't say I picked up on more personality than that. He was a man on a mission, and that's about as interesting as he got. If the romance would have held off on the more obvious insta-attraction, can't ever stop thinking about him/her, stuff, I may have liked it. In fact, I kind of liked it at the end, though it's still a little too co-dependent than I would have wanted. (The ending... GRRRR MASSIVE GRRR.)

But seriously, dump this instalove, love triangle romance crap, and the sci-fi is so cool. So **mild spoilers ahead, if you care about that kind of thing**: but Connor is destined to discover an Earth-like planet in the future. In fact, it's the only planet that could be habitable for humans. But, it is inhabited by a parasite. During the first journeys to that planet, the passengers carry that parasite back with them to Earth, and it slowly starts killing the planet until the population in 2122 is less than one billion. So Ryan is sent back in time to stop Connor from discovering it. I mean. I mean. This is the kind of thing that has me jumping for joy. Love it, love the concept. Whyyyy must it be wrapped in this coating of annoying?

### ***Summing Up:***

Disappointment is the word, although my hopes weren't that high in the first place. I need a connection with a main character, and Eden just made me shake my head at her all the time. If anything, I've learned now which warning bells to listen to when it comes to reading synopses. A pity though about the instalove, because the sci-fi part of this was actually really cool. Oh, and Connor, GDIAF.

### ***GIF it to me straight!***

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### ***Recommended To:***

Sci-fi-lite fans who aren't turned off by instalove.

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## **Jody McGrath says**

Eden and Connor have been best friends forever. Nothing has ever come between them, that is until new boy, Ryan, enters their school. Ryan is different from the get-go, not just hotter, but just straight out different. He had never seen pizza before. He had never heard of Hitler. He drove a brand new car, yet he was too young to have his license. Eden and Ryan hit it off right away, but she just couldn't put these things out of her head. And why was Conner jealous, while Ryan kept asking about Conner. There is something weird about the new guy and Eden is going to find out what it is!

This book was a super fast read. The characters were all likable and even the jealousy bit wasn't very agsty or annoying. It was fast paced enough to keep you interested, but the characters were a bit two dimensional. I think the reason everyone was likable was because no one was really fleshed out.

This took place in England, which was cool, but it sounded just like the states. It actually surprised me that the author lives in England and it wasn't an American writing a book set in England.

Overall, I enjoyed the book though. A nice light read, without having too many feels!

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## **Cora Tea Party Princess says**

### **5 Words: Flat, scientific, artsy, teens, true-love.**

So, I'm not a fan of time travel. And I really didn't understand it in this one (they majorly changed the past, surely that'd change the fact that timetravel was even discovered?!?) and it annoyed me.

But this story was sweet in a way, and a quick read.

I was disappointed by the two dimensional characters, they were very flat. Eden was perhaps the worst of the lot, and she was the main character. I meant that I couldn't get invested in the story.

I found the plot extremely predictable, especially the "twist".

I did like the setting. I LOVE to read teen stories set in the UK - the market is completely saturated by US teens (even written by British authors! I'm looking at you Beth Reekles) and even after reading it for so long I still don't understand the US education system. I also loved the beach setting although tomb-stoning? Seriously? Disgusting that it was wrote about as being such fun and totally irresponsible.

I just wish that the ending hadn't been so happily-ever-after. An unhappy ending would have suited this story so well and would have made it much more enjoyable and refreshing to read.

And oh god, I just realised there's another one. I will read it, because it was pleasant enough and good for a rainy day (which today was) but it won't be top of my TBR on its release.

So, any suggestions for a story with an unhappy ending?

*I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.*

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## **Stuti (Turmeric isn't your friend. It will fly your ship says**

Know of those slide arts? Or whatever they are?

The paintings that are collections of differently ambient layers of drawing that, individually, are distinct but bring them together they either create a breathtaking piece of art or just a randomly put together piece of crap.

After Eden's made up of many levels of layers and falls in between, leaning towards the side of crap.

**Level 1:** The lowest, the one that only provides a slight background to the whole scene since so many have been stacked on top of it, is the characterization.

It's so faded out and commonplace to be almost not there.

The MC, whats-her-face-oops-its-Eden, is blank as an unused slate, impressionable as a cheap slate, as well as being unique and dumb as one, too. Because slates *are* dumb, considering they are inanimate and all. And their rarity validates no argument. But she did keep me entertained with her crackpot comments.

Nothing pretentious or phony about his book collection.

That's 'cause all the books were well thumbed. Hmmmm.... I'm so pretentious and I bet most of you readers out there are as well.

Einstein was supposed to be pretty smart.

Such an astute observation.

I didn't think there were any planets outside of our solar system.

This girl supposedly saves the future of earth. Luck be a lady tonight.

"It's been said that I'm hard to impress." She says.

"Along with beautiful, smart and completely unshockable." He says.

Shame on you if you haven't been impressed by her hilariousness already!

The love interest is the future boy, Ryan, whose name I only remember b/c his real one is the name of the only constellation of stars I can spot in the night sky. He and his condescension. Boyeeeeee...

It wasn't like he specifically came out and said something offensive. And it's the way with 'em all. Wolf boys, vamp boys, spy boys, grrr... And their families, as well. Continually complementing the protagonist on her levelheadedness in such out-of-the-norm situations.

Dude, we live in the era of art, where people eat each other on TV, set up vampirical societies and dammit, we survive Lady Gaga one day at a time.

*I don't think your sparkly and porcupiny skin and nails that emit snot impress anyone in this century anymore. WE HAVE SEEN IT ALL!*

Besides, their romance has no chemistry. One second they are playing three questions- blink three weeks pass- and they're exchanging love declarations. I actually wish the author had made it into an insta-love. This seemingly months-long and developed romance is just boring and unrealistic. And yes I do now how that sounds.

**Level 2:** Le writing. It's simplistic. Not the kind that makes you adore and love it because it's just so complex and exotic in its minimalism and mundaneness, a la Sara Zarr. It's plain and unexciting, 'nuff said.

There are words and phrases of chapters. It's like the author wrote one chapter on a particular day/week and prior to that decided on a phrase or a word that is reiterated throughout the chapter.

Then, the repeated conversations. I think the words explain it all.

**Level 3:** The most bothersome aspect of this novel, the sci-fi part.

Remember those classic sci-fi shows and movies? The ones with crappy visual and special effects that we love all the same?

That's what this book employs.

The imagery inter-dimensional spaceship literally reads like that. Like, an oval, glowing something-or-the-other.

But...

the original plot. Is it just me or there are more and more books coming out, following in the footsteps of Steins Gate? There's this another one, All Our Yesterdays.

Discounting that, I liked it. It was fine and it will definitely be your cup of tea if you're new to the SF genre.

**Level 4:** The cover. \*runs away screaming\* It would have been pretty enough but the humans ruined it. They always do.

Besides all that, the ending had me weeping. Honestly. Not in the good sense. It was a breezy read, nothing especial, and didn't offend me in any way. There's that.

A copy was provided by the publishers for reviewing purposes.  
Crossposted on Books behind Dam{n}s

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## Jon says

Check out Scott Reads It!

Sometimes book blurbs reveal way too little to the reader and the reader really has no idea what to expect from the book. Then there are books like After Eden, where you read the description and you have the entire plot mapped out clearly for the reader. I really feel as if the blurb for After Eden revealed way too much and that it should have been more ambiguous and enigmatic. There's really no fun in reading a book where the reader knows almost every plot element and there is little to be revealed.

After Eden is a quick, light read that I was immediately drawn into because of it's easy, accessible plot. Though it's about time travel, After Eden isn't overly scientific, complicated, and difficult to comprehend. After Eden is fun and fluffy, but I really don't think it's for science fiction aficionados because everything is extremely simplistic and pretty basic. There's truly nothing new in After Eden and it basically follows the basic plot outlines of most YA books.

We have the mysterious bad boy who comes to town and of course rumors circulate in this small town. Everyone wants to know who he is, why is he here, and if he'll go out with them. Obviously, this guy is drop dead handsome and insanely attractive because what YA male character isn't. Since this is a YA book, there are clearly more popular and attractive characters than our protagonist who are all vying for the attention of Ryan.

I really don't understand the significance of the love triangle in After Eden at all, it clearly doesn't work and it feels forced. The only legitimate reason that the love triangle was there was to challenge Eden because the girl who breaks Connor's heart will help usher in the destruction of Earth. Having a love triangle could have been ingenious if it had actually created some tension between Ryan and Eden. It seems like Eden has zero remorse that she could destroy Earth by having a crush on Ryan because the lives of 7 billion people isn't more important than some ridiculous infatuation! I would have expected that Eden to be slightly conflicted that she could cause an apocalypse.

After Eden lacks a bit of believability and I found it hard to put credence in Eden and Ryan's story. One of the clues that leads Eden to come to the conclusion that Ryan is not from modern times is that he has never heard of pizza and Adolf Hitler. What. I found it hard to believe that someone around a 100 or so years in the future will have never heard of Hitler, especially when the aforementioned person is supposed to be some genius. Adolf Hitler killed over 6 million people and yet, in the future, our protagonist knows nothing of the most evil man in history. Consider that in school, I have studied ancient history that's 1000s of years old, I find it hard to believe that Ryan has never heard of Hitler. There were plenty of other clues that made it evident that Ryan wasn't from modern times and so including the whole name dropping of Hitler felt extraneous.

After Eden has one of the most predictable story lines I've read recently and I figured out the plot without even reading the spoilery blurb. I hoped that the ending would be mindblowing or something worth while to interest me in the sequel, but the ending is just as bland as the rest of the book. Despite my ambivalent feelings toward this book, it was refreshing to read something that was light and extremely easy to read.

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## Sam says

### 4.5 Stars

*After Eden* is an interesting sci-fi novel that I loved endlessly and could not put down until I was finished.

*After Eden* is set in the modern day following a girl named Eden who is just... ordinary. Until Ryan Westland rolls into school and sits next to her in art class; everything changes. He might look like a normal schoolboy on the outside, but why does he lack the general knowledge that a teenager, living in this century, should know? For instance, how could someone not recognise pizza, or heard of one of the most famous historical figures? But Ryan has taken an interest in her and she's not about to complain since she just might slowly be falling for him. Everything is perfect. Then Eden finds a book in Ryan's house; a biography written by her best friend, Connor. And she discovers that Ryan is from the future and he has a mission to complete. A mission that Eden just might be able to help him with...

I haven't read many sci-fi books and the bar was set pretty high by Jennifer L. Armentrout's *Obsidian*, but *After Eden* manages to hold up with its own unique and engaging plot. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the gripping story. You might think, ah, the cliche: boring girl with a boring life until a mysterious boy turns up at school and then they fall in love because of some weird reason. But it's not! I promise. There is so much more to it than that.

Ryan is no typical boy. He is a boy from fifty years in the future with a mission to complete. A tough one that may affect everything that happens in the future. When Ryan shares his task with Eden, she is prepared to help him, no matter what. Not only that, but the two grow closer in an unimaginable way and a question is raised: When - and if - Ryan completes his task, will he be strong enough to leave Eden and go back to his usual life?

I adored Ryan! He was entertaining and really kept the story fresh and exciting. He was likable and absolutely adorable when we first meet him. Come on, who doesn't know what pizza is? And Eden! She was determined and prepared for anything. I loved her character, but most of all, I loved the romance! Their relationship was super cute and they tried to spend the time they had together as well as possible. Ryan was just...

*After Eden* is a very enjoyable sci-fi book that is perfect for those in need of a YA sci-fi with plenty of mystery and romance. There is a sequel being released next year titled Chasing Stars, and I am nothing but excited for it!

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## Katherine says

**1,4 / 5\***

O ?em to je?  
O tom, jak dalekohled zachránil sv?t.

Naivní. Hloupé. Trapné. Prost? jen WUT!

Nezapomenutelný ?tecí zážitek.  
Nemám vlasy, nemám prsty.

**Stydím se, že jsem tohletoho etla.**

Jen abyste v?d?li..

*Hlavní hrdinka, co má za rodiče asi raj?ata, protože jinak si nedokážu vysv?tlit její stálé rudnutí..?*

*Hlavní hrdina, co své šestnáctileté sp?ízn?né duši dá auto?*

*Sázení stromku lásky?*

*Souboj s ?asem, aby nebyla objevena planeta, která zni?í lidstvo?*

Ráda bych ?ekla, že vám se to ur?it? bude líbit.

Ale..

Ale..

Ne. :D

Nebudu klamat okolí.

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### **Helen Douglas says**

Can I rate my own book? Apparently yes. It's my first, so I'm going to give it 5 stars.

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### **Sophie says**

Rating: 4.5 Stars

Can we just take a moment to stare at that gorgeous cover? It's so vibrant.

I enjoyed this. No, I really enjoyed this. After Eden is a beautifully crafted, enthralling and exciting read. I fell in love with all of the characters, and couldn't get enough of the unique premise and plot. This was so good.

From the moment I opened this book, I fell in love with the setting - Perran. The descriptions were detailed, and I could picture all of the settings so vividly in my mind. I was able to slip into this world, and quite frankly, didn't want to leave. The writing is also beautiful, I completely adored it. I couldn't seem to get enough, and unlike most Science Fiction books, I learnt a lot from it. The constellations were really focused on, and the plot was perfectly paced.

The part of the novel that is about time-travel is so well understood, although it leaves you asking questions

and wanting to know more. After Eden is completely unique. It packs Science Fiction, Romance and even a bit of Contemporary into one. Of course, there is the small subject of the romance between Ryan and Eden. Their romance builds up throughout the chapters, and you find yourself endlessly waiting for them to kiss. I found it so much fun, exciting and very much cute. I mean, it was also hilarious, as they are really a pair of average teenagers. Every page that went by you discovered more about him, and really, the plot became more daring.

Sixteen year-old Eden quickly became one of my personal favourite female protagonists. She was an unsuspecting heroine, and so relatable. One minute she is a normal teenager, studying for exams in a small countryside town - and the next she's thrown into world where Earth's existence in the future is something she is risking.

Not only is Eden smart, and holds her wit, she's funny, entertaining and realistic. There was also a very determined side to her, where you will find yourself rooting her on. Other times, she will have you laughing at some sarcastic comment. The way she accepted things I was in awe off. Ryan Westland is gorgeous, outgoing and mysterious. You get to know him a bit more and he is still just that.

This book is effortlessly gripping. I mean, this was just so good. As for shocks, and unexpected twists, it certainly had a few of those. On one occasion towards the end of the book I was on the edge of my seat. I can't really express why I liked it so much, but for some reason I couldn't put it down! The build up to the ending was shocking, and I can't wait to read the sequel.

The word I am really looking for is refreshing. It's completely new, exciting, unique. It has an interesting set of characters including a deadly villain and what about that cover? My only downside is the romance is a bit too sickly sweet - although cute.

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### ♥ Sarah says

I'll make this short and sweet.

So get this: Ryan's a 17 y/o alien (kind of) and a time traveler from the future. He was sent from the future to save the world! (The world, as in, our world: Earth.) But then things go awry when he unexpectedly "falls in love" with Eden... Then things get further complicated when Eden discovers the truth, which not only compromises the entire mission, but could possibly cause serious consequences, and ultimate bodily harm: death.

Sound fun?

It wasn't.

Interesting concept, but I just couldn't get behind the bland, flat characters, the *instalove*, the whiny, juvenile nature of the execution of it all, the ZERO chemistry b/w ALL the characters, the unbelievable "perfect date" Eden mentioned. Ew. Just ew. So cheesy and LAME. Blah and blah. It didn't help that I felt like this the whole time either:

So yeah...

I could have went with a more in depth review of the *whys* and *hows* of why you *shouldn't* give this book the time of day, but decided that I didn't want to waste any more time on this book. Good riddance! Blegh.

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### **Aa'Ishah says**

When new boy Ryan Westland starts at her school, Eden knows there's something different about him, and it's not that he's American. He seems like a normal teenager, except for the fact that he doesn't seem to be able to recognise basic things, like pizza. And he's never heard of Hitler. Who hasn't heard of Hitler? Little things like that create the one big mystery that is Ryan. But these are things that can be explained away, however unlikely. Eden and Ryan gradually spend more and more time together, soon becoming fast friends and then something more. But at Ryan's house, Eden discovers an autobiography of her best friend...and it's from the future. Piecing things together, she discovers who Ryan really is and why he is there. The truth is more shocking than she could have realised, and she herself plays an integral part.

*After Eden* made for a quick, entertaining read. It had a simple writing style which flowed easily, although I noticed that it mainly comprised of dialogue. It was not a particularly deep read, and the time travel side of it was not difficult to understand. I appreciated the astrological references to help boost the sci-fi theme, and it generally made for interesting reading. One thing this book really was good at was pointing out how one small thing can affect everything else. When I read the prologue, I didn't understand the significance of it; I didn't understand what it was supposed to tell me or do for me as a reader. Later, however, when I had more information, I understood what that scene meant, and it really makes you think about how much impact one simple choice, or one simple moment, can have. I wouldn't say this is a particularly plot-driven novel, however. The pace was, for the most part, easy-going, only really building up towards the end.

The characters were decent enough, but forgettable. I really did think the romance between Ryan and Eden sweet, and I enjoyed seeing their relationship develop. Having said that, there was nothing to make them stand out. With Eden's character, my feelings for her actually bordered on dislike at times. I didn't care for the way she was behaving simply because she was around a good-looking guy, and she was in denial over a fact that was painfully obvious; I wish she'd just step up and acknowledge the truth. This brings me to her relationship with her best friend, Connor - really, it was a trio of close friends: Eden, Connor and Megan. The bonds between them here were inconsistent, made little sense and seemed to change for no apparent reason. Aside from the fact that Eden and Connor had known each other since they were young children, I didn't understand why they were friends. And then, finally, there was the cleaner - someone related to Ryan's time travel mission, whose job it is to make sure things are as they should be and there is no trouble in any shape or form. I worked out who it was before anyone else - although no-one seemed to actually try and work it out - and again here was a change in character - one I really didn't see as necessary. It was like the author was trying to create an obvious villain and make us root for Eden, yet it just came across as messy. I can't really be clearer than that without giving anything away.

Douglas has made a decent effort here with her novel, and it was easy enough to read it in one sitting. The romance was sweet, the plot undemanding. If what you're looking for is something quick or simple, then this is one to consider. But there is no substance, nothing that will really make you connect with anyone, no real reason for you to remember this after reading it. I would recommend this only as a filler book, something to pass the time; somehow it makes for quite a readable book, but it certainly isn't one of the better sci-fi novels out there.

*This review is also posted on my blog.*

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### **Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says**

This review appears on Happy Indulgence. Check it out for more reviews!

When I heard that this book had time travel and sci fi elements in it, I was immediately intrigued, but overall it was a disappointing. Not because it was badly written by any stretch, but because it felt like it was written for a middle grade audience.

Eden is instantly attracted to the new, mysterious boy Ryan who shows up at her school and is intrigued when he seems interested in her. Ryan seems confused as he doesn't know what pizza and who Hitler is, but he knows everything about astronomy and the environment. She confronts him and discovers the mystery behind Ryan, who is from another time and place.

The time travel was done quite simply; used as an explanation about why Ryan was there from the future and simply that the Law of Temporal Integrity prevents him from telling anyone about time travel and what happens in the future. Of course that doesn't stop him, because he's so in love with Eden he tells her absolutely everything, risking her life from the cleaners who are responsible in covering the time traveler's tracks.

This book contains all your stereotypical YA romance conventions that I can't seem to avoid, insta-love, a seemingly perfect main character and a love triangle. From the moment they lay eyes on each other, Eden and Ryan are instantly attracted and want to get to know each other. Eden's best friend Connor seems to get the short end of the stick, as she just "thinks of him as a brother" but it's so incredibly obvious that he has feelings for her. I disliked how Eden just thought of him as an "underachieving beach bum" which is a mean thing to say about your best friend. This is exasperated by Ryan below:

*He's so ordinary. He's just Connor. He's good academically, but he's not exceptional. I know at least a dozen people in Year Eleven who are cleverer than him. - Eden*

*...He just bummed around for a few years being spectacularly unexceptional. - Ryan*

Aside from that, Eden is actually a decent heroine, she makes sensible and mature decisions within the book and her actions actually made sense. I can't say the same for Ryan, who decides to spill his life story to Eden and is obsessed by "beautiful women".

After Eden never really seemed to take off for me. Everything was incredibly predictable, the characters were bland and the ending was tied up nicely with a bow. It would be a good introductory paranormal to get into for the middle grade audience but I need something that packs a bit more punch.

Thank you to Bloomsbury for sending me an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Melanie says**

See more reviews at YA Midnight Reads

## 1.5 stars

After Eden is your typical YA sci-fi novel. Basically, there's a really hot and gorgeous guy (Ryan) who appears out of nowhere. All the girls at school are fawning over him. All the guys are jealous of him. And when Eden meets him, she feels an attraction to him immediately. He's not just a pretty face (Ryan insists himself he's a gorgeous face, not just pretty), he's also awfully smart and has a fantastic grasp on astronomy. However, he seems to know nothing else: he doesn't know what pizza is, he doesn't know who Hitler was. No one suspects a thing--apart from Eden.

What I liked about this book:

- How about nothing. Yeah.

What I disliked about this book:

- Eden. So I'll give her credit for discovering that Ryan wasn't a person from Earth but from the future--all by herself. But apart from that, she's pretty dead stupid. My main example? When she discovers Ryan's secret, Eden starts asking bucket loads of questions. Ryan tells her that he can't tell because he'd be in a lot of trouble if he did; however Eden persists and claims that he doesn't trust her and crap like that when he still refuses. Like c'mon girl. It's none of your bloody business, he said it's dangerous to let anyone know about the future but you think you're an exception? Not to ruin your ego but...YOU AREN'T SOME SPECIAL RAINBOW UNICORN THAT CAN SPEAK ELEPHANT SO NOOOO.

- Connor. I love girl/boy friendships. They're like romance, but contain much less drama and cheesiness. I was waiting for those awesome scenes with Connor and Eden however they acted like they weren't best friends at all. Eden or Connor might say something about how long they've known each other to someone, but I never *saw* their friendship, if that makes any sense. Additionally, I hated Connor in general. He got jealous in an instant about Ryan and acts like a douchebag half the time. Ugh.

- Ryan. Well hellloo there Gary Stu. I don't understand how he's smart. If he didn't want to be discovered (that he was a dude from outer space), then why ask people what pizza is? It only turns heads and makes people wonder what's up with your brain (or lack of one.) Because of that one clue, and other small ones that followed (due to his stupidity), Eden found out his secret.

- The conveniences. This paragraph contains mild spoilers. At the end of the novel, Eden nearly dies. But she doesn't because Ryan saved her. Can someone please explain how the hell does Ryan just suddenly appear out of nowhere (once again). Honestly, that scene felt so fake and I was banging my head of the wall. **NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS IN REAL LIFE.**

- Insta-love. Must I go into that any further? Because I don't think I need to.

Moral of the story: learn from your mistakes. It makes life much better (and less painful) (and means you can read good books instead of shockingly horrible ones).

*~Thank you Bloomsbury Australia for sending me this copy!~*

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## Hallie says

2.5 stars.

I liked the sf part of the story fine, and could have enjoyed this one (though it was never going to be *When You Reach Me* level good), except for Eden herself, who struck me as vapid with a hefty helping of irritating.

Major irritation highlighted in the scene in which Eden, going to study\* with her "best friend" Connor, but knowing she'll see Ryan after, puts on her "shortest skirt" and sprays herself head to toe with perfume. 1) She'll suffocate poor Connor when they're trying to study in his room; 2) Ryan has repeatedly warned her that Connor fancies Eden (who feels nothing but best-friendly affection towards him) and she's starting to believe him. Yet the way she dresses here is all about trying to attract Ryan and she doesn't seem to give a damn that Connor gets a pretty clear message, if not one intended for *him*; and finally, 3) When she does go to the pub after leaving Connor and the wildly impressive study-session, she's super bitchy about the girl who is trying to attract Ryan by -- oh, wait, she's wearing a short skirt and leaning over the snooker table - what a sluuuut. It's an unpleasant combination, to my mind.

I never really bought Eden herself, nor felt much of anything in the way of emotional depth from her (she's orphaned, and living with her aunt, who gave up -- something - law school maybe? to take care of her), so the whole ending, which should have been moving and tense, fell very flat. (view spoiler)

\*And btw, they're studying for A-level exams, which are like our Leaving Cert, state exams at the end of school which determine to a great degree whether you'll get into the university programme you want (or into any). These kids want to go to uni and yet the amount of study they did in the last few study weeks before the exams start was ridiculously small.

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