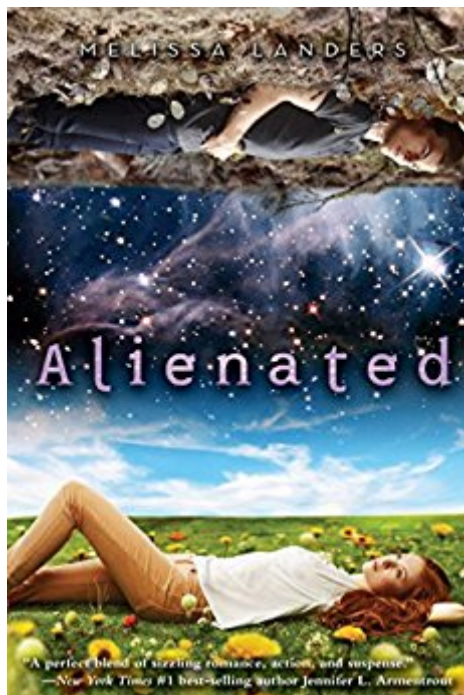


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Alienated



Synopsis

Two years ago, the aliens made contact. Now Cara Sweeney is going to be sharing a bathroom with one of them. Handpicked to host the first-ever L'eihl exchange student, Cara thinks her future is set. Not only does she get a free ride to her dream college, she'll have inside information about the mysterious L'eihls that every journalist would kill for. Cara's blog following is about to skyrocket. Still, Cara isn't sure what to think when she meets Aelyx. Humans and L'eihls have nearly identical DNA, but cold, infuriatingly brilliant Aelyx couldn't seem more alien. She's certain about one thing though: no human boy is this good-looking. But when Cara's classmates get swept up by anti-L'eihl paranoia, Midtown High School suddenly isn't safe anymore. Threatening notes appear in Cara's locker, and a police officer has to escort her and Aelyx to class. Cara finds support in the last person she expected. She realizes that Aelyx isn't just her only friend; she's fallen hard for him. But Aelyx has been hiding the truth about the purpose of his exchange, and its potentially deadly consequences. Soon Cara will be in for the fight of her life--not just for herself and the boy she loves, but for the future of her planet.

Book Information

File Size: 1879 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: Disney Hyperion; 1st edition (February 4, 2014)

Publication Date: February 4, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00GSZHYIW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #136,422 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #67

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Customer Reviews

This book had SO much potential. Aliens open up a huge variety of cool things, and cool differences between species. I feel like I would have liked this book better if Aelyx and Cara's relationship was platonic, but Aelyx looked like ET and was actually unique. Aelyx is the stereotypical "edgy" and "deep" heart throb that teen girls lust after in YA books, but he isn't much deeper than say, Edward Cullen. There are a lot of cool and interesting things that could have been done with the whole "alien" concept, and it is disappointing that the aliens are pretty much exactly like humans, but more sophisticated and condescending (yay for feeling bad about being human!) This book could have easily been about two teenagers from different countries. When reading this book, I had many questions. Why would earth do an exchange with planet L'eihhr if earth had only a vague understanding of them? Why did they exchange high school students and not older, more mature and accomplished people? Why do we NEVER hear about the humans from earth who go to the L'eihhr planet... isn't it a little worrisome that there was a student EXCHANGE but the other students are never mentioned? The whole book is filled with these types of questions. The book concludes with cliché questions that may be profound for the teenage readers of the book, but for us people who are in our 20's, are relatively immature. Are humans good or bad? What is love, and how is love so powerful? Cry me a river, don't hurt me no more. The book is okay, but I am sure that it would be much more interesting for a 13 year old than for me.

At first, I found it difficult to warm to Cara, our heroine. She's a self-opinionated, over-achiever who will stop at nothing to win. However, as the story wears on I began to like her more. She's not afraid to use her feistiness to stand up for Aelyx and the other exchange students even if it means she's just set the world record for Fastest Freefalling Social Status. Aelyx starts off pretty unlikeable too, although he is an alien so I cut him some slack. I liked how their relationship grew realistically throughout the book and there were some pretty steamy kissing scenes but that's as far as it went. I expected a fluffy high school romance with a flavour of alien. I didn't expect some keen observations on racism and the darker side of human nature. The population of Earth are soon whipped into a frenzy of hatred and mistrust for the L'eihhr. In the wake of the Brexit vote and the recent Trump election campaign, this book depicts some all-too-real examples of how hatred and racism can escalate. Landers shows this really well and this sets *Alienated* apart from the usual forbidden alien/human romance. Cara turned out to be a strong heroine with some cool lines and the cast of supporting characters are generally believable (excepting Mum and Dad).

I loved the book as much as I loved the cover. Smart and witty protagonist Cara decides to make the very unpopular decision to participate in an intergalactic exchange program to pay for college. Despite the resistance in her community about the alliance with the L'eihrs, her mother's cancer was cured due to their advances, and Cara is taking a more open-minded approach. Enter evolved alien exchange student, Aelyx, who has as many reservations about humans as they have about him. Cara and her family face alienation by their friends and community as they harbor Aelyx. The relationship between Cara and Aelyx delightfully unfolds until you are left breathless. But not everything is as it appears with Aelyx...nice suspense as we are drawn into this part of the story. Fast, enjoyable read with interesting characters. Looking forward to the next in the series.

I loved this book so much. Loved the way Cara slowly grew on Aelyx and how tenacious she was in trying to make him feel at home. Loved that first romantic encounter. I was getting very antsy for it to happen and finally at 52% into the book it did. I read this in two days and finally finished it seating in the parking lot waiting for my son to get out class. I thought that even though this is fiction with aliens no less, the story was believable enough that I did not have to work hard to turn my brain off. I really got into this book and as soon as I finished it, I started the 1.5 book in between, Until Midnight. If you love YA stories with aliens, this is a must read. If you don't, this book just might convert you.

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Alienated

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