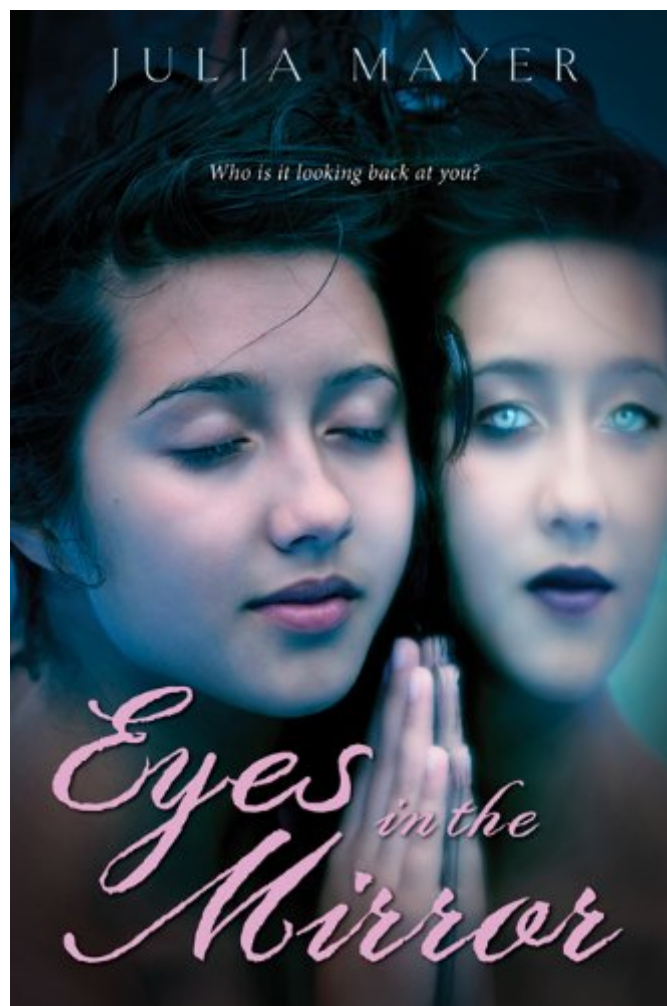


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Eyes In The Mirror



Synopsis

Dee I always thought it would be cool to escape into another world. I never believed I'd find one in my reflection. But there I was, falling through the mirror into a parallel life-Samara's life. And she needed me. The cutting, the dead mom, no friends...She was hurting, and I knew it was up to me to fix it. She needed me to fix her. She'll thank me... Samara I never had a friend until I met Dee, at least not a real friend. But then she's my reflection, so maybe I'm just crazy. When she suggested we switch places, it seemed like the perfect answer. So I let her live in my world, and I lived in hers. With her mom, her boyfriend, her friends-her perfect life...I don't belong here. But how can I go back after what she's done? Two girls, one reflection, and a startling discovery about what really lies beyond the bathroom mirror...

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Customer Reviews

Great read. The girls really trade places and mess with each other's lives but have big hearts in the end.

Samara and Dee are reflections of each other, but rather than being identical, they exist largely as "what-could-have-beens." If things had gone differently in the lives of one or the other, they may have turned out very much the same. Dee is pretty happy with her life: she's very close with her mother and has a best friend. Samara, on the other hand, grows more and more distant from her father and has isolated herself from her former friends after her mother's death. She not only cuts but engages in other self-destructive behavior. The girls switch places for a day and when Dee discovers the cutting she does what she thinks is best for Samara. Samara, on the other hand, is enraged and gets back at Dee the best way she can think of. This book was not quite what I expected it to be. I suppose I expected it to be more of a psychological thriller. Or for one of the personalities (namely Dee, from the description) to be sort of... well, evil. But on the contrary, Dee is pretty much a good girl and Samara is simply very, very troubled. I grew to appreciate the characters and the trials that they found themselves in. But the mirror universe (travel and otherwise) was very confusing and not always believable. There were several questions that the story brought up for me that it seemed like we would get to explore as they were recurring images and stories, but my questions were left unanswered. Ultimately, *Eyes in the Mirror* was an engaging and surprisingly quick read, though I wish the author had gone a bit further in her world-building and taken care not to leave her readers wondering.

I'm not sure what I was expecting from this book, but it was definitely not what I got. It's an interesting book dealing with real world issues with a touch of paranormal. While I did enjoy it overall, I felt it was really light-hearted for the subjects broached. I liked Dee but didn't really care for Samara. For the longest time, I actually wondered if they were really the same person and that the other was created as a way to deal with their problems. Dee seemed like a genuine person although I never really understood her obsession with the idea of another dimension. Samara seemed entirely selfish. It seemed like her problems stemmed from her own desire to be aloof and standoffish. As they mingle their lives across the two dimensions, the story takes an interesting turn. And this is where the story lost me a little bit. It just doesn't feel like it's as serious as it should be. Especially considering the topics and what happens. It also feels like the story just drops you a little. So little time passes in the beginning. And then large chunks of time pass with no idea what has happened in the lapsed time. It felt disconnected. Overall, the book was ok for me. It didn't really leave a lasting impression.

I cried reading *Eyes in the Mirror* partially because I cry easily and partially because it was such a sad story. Dee and Samara look exactly alike, but all they have in common is their face. Samara's family has money, but her mom committed suicide, her Dad is never around, and she is incredibly lonely. Dee's family struggles to make ends meet, but she loves school, has lots of friends, and a mother devoted to taking care of her. When the two switch places and Dee decides she can't let Samara's cutting problem go unaddressed, the book really starts to pick up. There was one plot twist that really surprised me (I love being surprised), and we got to see both of their characters grow and become more independent. What really makes this book special is not romance, action, or adventure, it is the struggle to deal with unanticipated life events and find the strength to grow and assert your independence. I'm certainly looking forward to more books from Julia Mayer.

Eyes in the Mirror ended up being nothing like I expected. At all. I was expecting more of a psychological storyline, but apparently I should have taken the description a bit more literally than I did. Which ends up with the book being an extremely unique, creative vaguely contemporary fantasy story. I was so pleased to see Julia Mayer tackling such difficult issues head on; and she captured the emotions and struggles with self-mutilation perfectly. Self-mutilation (and cutting in particular) can be treated as such a taboo and touchy subject, that few properly deal with it and it's particularly difficult to convey but Mayer accomplishes this beautifully. The background and descriptions of this are poignant and quite moving. As well, Mayer writes the story from two points of view, which are the complete opposite of one another and yet she does this quite well. Samara and Dee come across as two very different people, and Mayer writes them with different voices. However, there were times at first when it was difficult to understand the chronology while trying to follow the two POV because of where they would overlap. As confusing as this could be, it also lent a better well-rounded understanding of the events taking place and it became easy to see how two girls could view the same action very differently. I found some of the dialogue to be somewhat awkward and forced, but that was only occasionally throughout the book. It didn't take away from the overall theme or ambience of reading the book as a whole. What I found challenging was trying to figure out what there was to take away from the book at the end of it, besides the contrast of the differing perspectives. The beginning was strong, but the ending felt like it was lacking in a satisfying culmination of events. To be honest, I simply failed to see what all the drama was worth in the end since many of the issues remained unsolved. I just wasn't convinced that everything was okay, but perhaps that's my need for a neat little ending where I feel like everything's been tied up nicely. Parts of it were just so unbelievable, in particular the very premise

that the novel was based on, yet none of the characteres questioned the events going on. They simply accepted it and tried to move on, ignoring the bizarre events occuring. And while I enjoy reading about strange, fanciful stories I like to hear more explanation of what's going on and why that's happening. I received a copy of this book from Sourcebooks in exchange for my honest review. No other compensation was received.

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