



Jaz & Miguel (Dying Love)

R.D. Raven

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A girl from Seattle.

A trip to South Africa.

A boy she'll never forget...

Four Friends.

One reporter.

What could possibly go wrong?

Jaz & Miguel (Dying Love) Details

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Author : R.D. Raven

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From Reader Review Jaz & Miguel (Dying Love) for online ebook

Books says

When American born Jaz Curtis goes to South Africa to attend a six-month-long course at the University of the Witwatersrand, she is a sheltered girl out on her first real adventure; young, naive and as innocent as a modern eighteen-year-old girl can be. This changes drastically when she befriends Miguel Pinto and his best friend Sandile Mabuyo. Soon Jaz is caught up in Sandile's illicit affair with Elise, an Afrikaans girl. The four friends have a good time until Jonathan P. Abbey appears on the scene and Sandile's drug-using past catches up with him.

Set in a very realistically portrayed South Africa, Jaz & Miguel will appeal to anybody who wants to learn about the country and especially the smaller details that you won't find in a travel brochure. From an encounter with a sangoma, a Xhosa funeral ritual to a riot, the author doesn't paint a particularly dark or rosy picture; he just tells it as it is. The first part of the book is dedicated to descriptions of how Jaz experiences South Africa, the bonding of the friends and more specifically, the developing relationship between Jaz and Miguel. The question however is: can such a relationship ever lead to more seeing as Jaz will be leaving the country at the end of her course?

In the last third of the book tragedy strikes and the story picks up speed to become a nail-biting, edge-of-your-seat reading experience.

The main character, Jaz, shows growth and change throughout the story. I can honestly say that this book contains some of the most realistic characters I have ever encountered in a book. Although the story is serious and deals with severe personal loss, hatred, revenge and difficult choices, it contains some wit and humor to lighten the mood. Ultimately it deals with making the right choices and that, even when a person is on a dark and destructive road, he/she can turn around and start over.

The ruthless reporter, Jonathan P. Abbey, is a prime example of how ambition and greed can destroy not only one's own life but also the lives of others.

For a reading experience with depth, lots of information and some tender and often uplifting romance in it, I highly recommend this book. Five stars to a great book and an author who clearly took the time to do some excellent research. (Ellen Fritz)

Erin Chavez says

I received a copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway. I found the book to be a little draggy at times, especially in the beginning. Sometimes the prose seemed a little awkward, but since the characters were young, it worked. The characters were well drawn and likable and I found myself rooting for them. I wasn't sure if I was going to like the book until about half way through. Once I hit the half way mark, I got through the book quickly because I wanted to find out what happened. I also enjoyed learning about South Africa. I think this would have been a good YA novel if it wasn't for the excessive amounts of swearing.

Wendy Hines says

Jaz is drawn to Africa and spends much of her free time reading about it, even though she doesn't have a lot of free time since she's working to save money to go there. She's going to a course at the University of Witwatersrand, and expects to be there for at least six months. She even creates a blog so she can keep in contact with her parents and her best friend.

Miguel Pinto is also about to go to the university, even though it's very close to home. He lives in South Africa and since his mom died, it's just been him and his dad. He can't seem to move past her horrific death and he spends much of his free time with this best friend, Sandile Mabuyo.

When Jaz meets Miguel and Sandile, they become quick friends. Sandile also begins a relationship with Elise, and the four of them hang out often. Miguel doesn't feel that a relationship is for him but he's drawn to Jaz and she him. She's leaving for home again in a few months so why start something that will just end tragically anyway?

But then a journalist, Jonathan Abbey, is determined to make his mark upon the world. He's just been waiting for the right story to come along. But with Sandile's drug using past, his illicit affair with Elise, he just needs to take the right pictures.

Raven paints a very vivid and detailed South Africa, complete with proper African terms I had to look up. It didn't deter from the story though, but added to it. I found the characters realistic and modern, with just the proper amount of humor speckled about to alleviate some of the intensity of certain situations. A riveting read that I'd highly recommend.
