



# Gifted Touch

*Melinda Metz*

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Sometimes, when I touch things, words fill my head. Words that feel like thoughts--thoughts that are inside of me...but not mine.

I used to think I was crazy. Used to.

I'm starting to wonder if there's a reason for all the voices that tangle together in my mind. And if I'm right, then it's not my sanity I'm worried about--it's my life.

## Gifted Touch Details

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Author : Melinda Metz

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## From Reader Review Gifted Touch for online ebook

**Desiree M ~\*~\*~ LiveReadCollect says**

3.5 stars.

First off, I've been looking for these books (whether at my library or to buy) since a couple years after they came out and only just found a complete set. It's crazy how difficult these were to find.

Anyway haven't read this one for nearly a decade. This one is an enjoyable start to the series.

I really liked the idea of Rae getting people's thoughts from a fingerprint they left behind. And how those thoughts were in different fonts.

When I read this again, I had the same problem I had when I read it years ago, and that is I didn't love or hate any of the characters. They didn't do anything to make me feel many strong emotions toward them.

Granted I wasn't happy with Rae's friends after she came back but also didn't despise them. Then with Anthony and Rae and the others none of them did anything to make me want to go on this journey with them.

However I am interested in who (view spoiler)

Will be reading the next one soon.

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**Emine says**

Ok, with this one I couldn't decide whether it was worth 3 or 4 stars.

The book starts with the heroine Rae (Rachel) hearing thoughts in her mind that are not hers. She is at school when this first happens and because it freaks her out she has some kind of mental break down, thinking that her friends are speaking those thoughts out loud.

During that break down and on other occasions we see Rae being afraid of ending up like her mother, who was institutionalized some time ago before she died.

The story resumes after some month, when Rae is released from the hospital to start school. Her university's-teacher dad treats her differently now and she fears that her friends and boyfriend, whom she has yet to meet, will do the same.

Before her first day at school she has to go to a therapy group to keep tabs on her "healing process". She hasn't told anyone that she still hears thoughts because she is afraid of becoming real insane and going back to the hospital.

At therapy, she meets Anthony, a slow learner (probably dyslexia) and a guy who wears a Backstreet Boys t-shirt to make his little sister happy.

There's also this little boy Jesse who seems to be like a groupie of Anthony's. So cute :)

Back at school, Rae's boyfriend has found another girl and all of her friends treat her differently, like she was

contagious or needed extra care. The only one who's indifferent is the new guy (forgot his name, i think it's Jeff). Rae starts hanging out with him during lunch. She also starts meeting Yana, a girl with awesome style whom she met during her stay at the hospital (Yana was sent there for work by the court).

The interesting part starts when Rae is sent to the bathroom before group therapy by another "patient" only to see Anthony coming out of the girl's bathroom. The moment she checks her make-up in the mirror a bomb explodes in the bathroom, but luckily Rae isn't that injured.

Being interrogated by authorities, Rae is torn between telling them that she saw Anthony right before the bomb went off and keeping that information to herself because of some thoughts she picked up that indicate that Anthony was being framed. In the end she does tell them about Anthony.

When she finally realizes her mistake she teams up with Jesse to prove Anthony's innocence. With Anthony's help, she finally figures out that she is not going insane but that her thoughts are triggered by contact with others fingerprints whether directly (which gives her more than just the last thought that person had when they touch an object) or by touching an object that has fingerprints on it.

In the end they are able to collect evidence and Anthony is released but the story goes on, as Rae has picked up on a thought that the bomb was supposed to kill her, but David (who framed Anthony) is not the one who had that thought. He was paid by someone else...

Now to the characters and everything else:

Rae is a girl who has many fears, but rightfully so if you ask me. She is afraid of ending up like her mother who had also some mental issues but her mother went a step too far and did something very terrible (which is yet to be revealed). Now, Rae lives with her dad who is always afraid that Rae might not be fully back to her "old self" and thus he never knows how to act around her.

Rae is also a girl who is done with boys because not only did her boyfriend leave her but she was also used by another guy after that.

Nevertheless, she is quite relieved when she finds out that she is not going insane but rather has an ability. So she fights with her new friends to reveal the truth...

Anthony used to be a junkie but it's great to see that he is (slowly) changing. He has a big family and crap parents so he sometimes has to take that role and care for his many siblings.

When it comes to Rae he is ashamed to admit that he has big trouble reading, even if it's just simple words like *the*. Despite having had a not so friendly start with Rae, he gets around and even starts liking her.

What I really liked about the book is that you get to have some paragraphs about the thoughts of the one who tries to kill Rae. I'm not into mystery/crime stories and such but this one I liked because there are so many characters that could be the "bad guy" but despite reading the villain's thoughts you have no idea who it might be. And that's a big part of the reason that keeps you on your toes.

That, and the fact, that Anthony and Rae didn't fall in love right away is just awesome.

I mean, c'mon, it feels like in every book I'm picking up the main male and female character end up together. But that's not (yet) happening for a long time, even though I would like me some romance :)

Anyways, this book is really recommendable to those that love stories with little, but effective twists in the

plot every now and then.

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### **Anna (Curiosity comes before Kay) Partrick says**

Really solid for an Alloy-type teen novel. Gripping plot, I actually really liked Rae, and the other main characters were really fleshed out. Can't wait to read the next one & find out who's trying to kill Rae!!!

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### **Ariel says**

I randomly picked this up when I wasn't finding anything , I didn't think I'd actually like it , but I really did ! I read the first two and just realized there were like 7 in the series so now I want the rest !

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

We are introduced to seventh graders at a private school. Rae (Rachel) and Lea, her best friend, are the first two. Rae has a talent for psychometry; she can touch things and, in her case, receives thoughts and feelings from them. She's worried because her mother ended up in a mental institution, probably from the same type of thing.

Things get horribly worse at lunch at school, and it appears that Rae has really gone insane.

Rae spends the summer at an institution and then has to return to school. She is still having impressions from things she touches, though, but she tries to hide this. (I keep thinking of Babylon 5 and the Psi-Corps, where the people had the same type of ability and they wore gloves to cut the sensations down.)

Rae has to attend a group therapy meeting. When she gets ready for the first day of school she scrubs her back so hard it bleeds. There's a volunteer person from the hospital she had met while she was there that is visiting and helps Rae fix her back up.

Another character is introduced, a boy named Anthony who is in special-ed classes and has a problem with anger management. He also seems to have some interest in Rae. He's in the same therapy group that Rae is in, and in the first session they didn't get along too well.

There's also someone who seems to be after her, and not for a good purpose. R

A very good first book in the series.

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### **Sarah says**

(Source: I own a copy of this book.)

15-year-old Rae thinks she's going mad when she starts hearing voices, but instead she eventually realises she's not crazy – she has a gift.

What is Rae's gift? And why is someone trying to kill her?

This was an interesting paranormal mystery story, but Rae did seem to take a long time to work out what was going on!

Rae was an okay character, but I did think she was a little slow! I guessed pretty early on what was going on, but it took Rae over 80% of the book to work it out, and even then it took someone else working it out for her!

The storyline in this was pretty good. The pace did seem a little slow, but we got there eventually. I was eager to work out who did 'it', and I didn't guess who the culprit was.

The ending was okay, although we were left with a cliff-hanger, in that not everything was revealed, we still have a bad guy on the loose!

Overall; an okay paranormal YA mystery story.

7 out of 10.

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### **Irene says**

Es un libro súper corto y más que nada introductorio. Pero, como quieres conocer que es lo que pasa con Rae te mantiene leyendo y por eso que es corto, empiezas y terminas el libro velozmente. No hay muchas situaciones exceptuando el posible juicio de Anthony y Rae dándose cuenta del poder que tiene.

Además Anthony fue de los primeros book boyfriends que tuve, a pesar de todos sus problemas me parece un chico súper lindo♥. Él fue la principal razón por la que continúe leyendo la saga y sí, lo adoro muchísimo. Me encantan sus escenas con Rae.

En fin, Gifted Touch es un comienzo de saga introductorio que no habla mucho realmente de lo que esconden los poderes de Rae, pero la historia es lo suficientemente llamativa para hacer que quieras continuar leyendo la saga (que la conforman siete libros, todos cortitos).

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### **Brandi ;) says**

The only thing i didn't like about the book was that the main character, Rae, went on and on and on about being nuts/insane for 150+ pages. But I liked her as a character and I am def going to read the next book, cause it looks like a good storyline. Especially now that all the beginning 'get to know the characters & their dilemmas' has been put on the table.

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### **Elisa says**

Gifted Touch is the first book in the Fingerprints series. In Gifted Touch we meet Rae who is able to read peoples thoughts by touching their fingerprints. Rae first thinks she's crazy and doesn't understand what's happening to her but later on she realizes her powers with the help of Anthony, a boy from the group therapy

who later becomes her friend. When coming in terms with her power, Rae is also being watched and is wanted dead for unknown reasons because of her dead crazy mother. Anthony and Rae must team together when Rae is almost killed in a bomb attack and Anthony as the framed number one suspect. Though we are left with many unanswered questions, Gifted Touch is a nice beginning to the Finger Prints series and its an good-ish okay read. Most of the time Rae's just talking to herself about her crazy mom, wondering why her dad would still love her.

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## **Elizabeth says**

I know I'm late to the party on this one, Fingerprints came out ten years ago, but I don't care, I'm just pleased to have stumbled on this little gem of a series. From the writer of the Roswell High series comes an intriguing, sharp book about Rae, a prep school beauty who has it all and loses it suddenly when gripped by the same mental illness as that which claimed her mothers' life. Well, at least that's what she thinks. What at first seems a quickly spiraling plunge into mental illness becomes a gift (or curse, depending) that changes her perspective on herself and those around her.

*\*Spoilers\**

Here's what I loved about this novel:

It's written in third-person limited, which not only lets the reader get a peek into Rae's head but also that of Anthony, Rae's reluctant new friend at group therapy. The narrative is so character-specific that you can feel when Melinda Metz switches gears and without her telling the reader who she's writing, you can simply just tell. The voices are that distinct and the transitions are flawless. Also wonderful are the creepy narratives of the mystery stalker who is apparently hell bent on Rae's destruction, leading to a pipe bomb explosion which leaves Rae mildly wounded. Another great device is the use of the "messages" Rae receives "telepathically" when she touches fingerprints. At first it felt a little choppy, as it interrupts the narrative, but after the connection is made it simply becomes part of the storytelling tapestry.

Anthony and Rae are interesting characters, with very real quirks and problems. There's nothing pat about these two. Rae is used to having what she feels is a "normal" life and when that is ripped away it leaves her feeling lost and uncertain but not in a woe-is-me kind of way. Anthony suffers from anger management issues, due to some issues at home, and is attempting to change his life though uncertain how best to accomplish that goal. These two unlikely friends find each other when they need each other most, each offering the other a new way of looking at things and an honesty that was lacking in their former lives. The relationship which develops is natural and considerate, filled with bumps in the road and the appropriate level of tension.

Here's what didn't work so well:

Really there isn't much that didn't work so well but there was one issue I had some difficulty with. The bomb. I watch enough TruTV to know that when a bomb goes off a building is evacuated and the bomb squad descends immediately. But when the bomb explodes at Oakvale, where Rae attends therapy with Anthony, she's brought to the nurse and the group reconvenes for its group therapy. Rae isn't taken to the hospital, the building isn't evacuated and, by the time the scene ends, the cops still haven't showed up. Not very realistic. But it's such a minor complaint that I can't rate the novel lower than the five I've given it. It's simply that good.

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## Marsha says

After recently reading Crave by Melinda Metz, I wondered what else she has written. I was shocked to find that she and another author wrote the Roswell T.V. series. So, after reading the description for the fingerprints series, I just had to give them a try. Gifted Touch is a great beginning to the series. Rae Voight's mother died in a mental institution. She is being raised by her father who only relays the fondest of memories regarding her mother. At school one day, Rae began receiving outside thoughts from others. She freaked out and was sent to a hospital to recover. As the new school year begins, Rae is released and prepares to return to school fully knowing she will be the talk of the school. As she grows accustomed to the outside thoughts she learns to pretend she is okay. However, a condition of her release is that she must attend outside counseling sessions, 3 days a week. At her initial session she meets a boy Anthony who she cannot determine whether she likes him or not. On her second session, she is attacked in the girl's bathroom and small bomb goes off. Anthony is accused and the materials to make the bomb are found in his backpack. He insists he is not guilty and Rae and Anthony's friend Jesse set out to prove he was set up. Rae learns more about her unique abilities and discovers that not all of the people she thought are her friend truly are. The plot was fast paced and you quickly began to feel the vulnerability of the characters. It was really a good read. My only criticism is that it is only 173 pages. But, do not for one second think that the brevity of the book took away from the setting the background of a truly wonderful reading experience.

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## Matilda L. says

Scroll down for the German Review:

One day Rae starts to hear things. Words and thoughts, but not her thoughts or her words. Whenever she touches something she hears the thought of someone else.

It gets too much and Rae breaks down in the cafeteria of her school. In front of all her friends and classmates.

While Rae's world crumbles down, she fears to end up like her mother. Insane, locked up. But with the help of true friends she discovers, that she is not cursed, but gifted and that she has not only to face the same problems like her mother, but also the same enemies...

A wonderful and really interesting book with a completely new twist.

The author Melinda Metz is able to explain and picture the feelings of a young girl, the normal fears and the paranormal fears, in a way that keeps the reader empathized with the Protagonist through the whole book.

There was not one single part I could criticize.

Wonderful characters in a good story and more twists and turns than you can wish for in a book that looks on the first gaze as foreseeable as this one.

Deutsch:

Eines Tages beginnt Rae Dinge zu hören. Wörter und Gedanken, aber nicht ihre Wörter und auch nicht ihre Gedanken. Wann immer sie etwas berührt hört sie die Gedanken von jemand anderem. Alles wird zuviel und Rae erleidet einen Zusammenbruch, vor der ganzen Schule mitten in der Cafeteria. Vor all ihren Freunden.

Während ihre Welt zusammenfällt fürchtet Rae, genauso zu werden wie ihre Mutter. Wahnsinnig, weggesperrt...

Aber mit der Hilfe von wahren Freunden findet sie heraus, dass sie nicht verflucht sondern beschenkt ist und dass sie nicht nur denselben Problemen sondern auch denselben Feinden wie ihre Mutter gegenüber steht...

Ein wundervolles und wirklich interessantes Buch mit einer neuen Idee. Die Autorin Melinda Metz ist in der Lage die Gefühle und Probleme eines jungen Mädchens sehr gut und bildhaft darzustellen, die normalen genau wie die übernatürlichen Ängste, so dass der Leser mit der Protagonistin das ganze Buch hindurch mitfühlt.

Es gab keine kleine Stelle, die ich kritisieren könnte.

Wundervolle Charaktere und mehr Wendungen als man sich wünschen kann, bei einem Buch das auf den ersten Blick so voraussehbar wirkt wie dieses.

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### **Dawn says**

This first book in the Fingerprints series was well-written and a good lead-in to further adventures of Rae (who can read people's thoughts when she touches their fingerprints) and friend Anthony (who considers himself dumb for being in a slow-learner's class at school yet is the one who discovers, three-fourths of the way through the book, that Rae isn't crazy after all, she has a gift). There are a lot of unanswered questions in this book: Rae's mom is described as "crazy, who did something horrible" and died in an asylum - but the reader is never told what Rae's mother actually did or why she was "crazy." We also never find out why Rae can read people's fingerprints. Although someone wants to kill Rae, someone who apparently also knew her mom, we never find out who it is or why this person wants to kill Rae. Despite the unanswered questions, the author did a good job of making Rae and Anthony breathe on the page; the two were enjoyable enough characters to get to know and it was fun to see them grow into an uneasy alliance that helped them both.

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### **Mbali Nkosi says**

The book was great, although Rae annoyed me in the beginning.

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### **Abbie says**

#### **Actual rating - 2.5**

I was looking forward to this, but it turned out to be pretty dull.

The mystery didn't really start until halfway.

For a short book like this, halfway shouldn't have felt that long... but with Gifted Touch, it did.

Rae was an okay character, but she could be quite dumb sometimes.

I have to say that this book reminded me of my primary school years.

I had a friend called Rae, and we both loved the backstreet boys. I was devastated when my backstreet boys

lunchbox was stolen!

Overall, it was a slow read.

I really hope it picks up in the next book!

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