



# A Missing Peace

*Beth Fred*

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*A turbulent, emotionally charged YA novel that breaks down barriers and challenges the status quo...*

Angry, seventeen-year-old Iraqi war refugee Mirriam Yohanna hates her new life in Killeen, Texas, where the main attraction is a military base, populated with spoiled army brats like Caleb Miller.

Caleb has much to be angry about too, including Mirriam who turns him down flat in front of everyone. Eager for retribution, Caleb agrees to a dare that will see him take Mirriam to the prom and regain his pride.

But their relationship soon moves beyond high school antics. Mirriam and Caleb are bound together by more than location, and as they are forced to work closely together on a school assignment, they start to uncover an explosive story that has the potential to ruin lives — and both of their futures. One single truth changes everything and strengthens their bond.

When Mirriam's family discovers their relationship, they decide it's time to arrange her marriage to a proper Iraqi man. Caleb must convince Mirriam that he is in it for forever — or risk losing her for good.

## A Missing Peace Details

Date : Published September 1st 2013 by Escape Publishing

ISBN : 9780857990716

Author : Beth Fred

Format : ebook 140 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Romance

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# From Reader Review *A Missing Peace* for online ebook

## Kimber Wheaton says

\*I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review\*

The blurb isn't kidding...*A Missing Peace* really is an emotionally charged story. Bringing together an Iraqi refugee and an army brat in a military town is quite the feat. After reading the synopsis, I was dying to see how Beth Fred managed such a daunting task. But this book isn't just about romance. It's about a cover up, a clash of cultures, and the desire for justice.

*A Missing Peace* alternates points of view between Caleb, the son of a soldier slain in Iraq, and Mirriam, a girl forced to flee from her home in Iraq. When they partner together for a school project, they both learn there's so much more to the other's culture than they ever considered.

Mirriam is such a strong female protagonist. She's opinionated, cares deeply about her family, yet can't seem to curb that bit of rebelliousness coursing through her veins. At the beginning of the story, Caleb is a rather shallow jock, conceited and arrogant. An accident changes that along with his friendship with Mirriam. It's amazing to watch as Caleb blossoms into a caring, determined young man.

I love how the plot unfolds; the way Beth Fred entwines Mirriam and Caleb together in an amazing twist of fate. Without this explosive secret drawing them closer, the depth of their relationship would not have been as believable. The ending is great; it always makes me happy when people stand up for themselves and their happiness. Also the epilogue was a nice touch.

I recommend *A Missing Peace* to everyone high school and up that enjoys a good contemporary romance. Beth Fred was not afraid to tackle a tough issue and we, the readers, reap the rewards. You won't regret adding this one to your to-read list. Once last note; I love this cover!!

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## Taryn Bashford says

A quick and accessible read and I really enjoyed the romantic interplay and the dilemma that the author set up. I got sucked into it very quickly. Nice job!

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## Shelley says

I recommend *A MISSING PEACE* for anyone who likes a nice, sweet romance. The two lead characters, Mirriam and Caleb, are different as can be, and I love a good opposites attract story.

Mirriam was a great character. Very easy to relate to, and someone I would be friends with in real life, if she existed. I enjoyed learning about her Iraqi heritage. It's clear that Beth Fred did a lot of research about Iraq, and I thought the war-related storyline was well-executed.

I like when romance takes its time and gives the reader the chance to see the couple's love evolve, and A MISSING PEACE did just this. (I'm also personally a fan of romance that is more on the sweet side than the hot side.) Recommended to YA and romance readers!

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## **Catherine says**

**This review first appeared on my blog: [thisisjustabookblog.tumblr.com](http://thisisjustabookblog.tumblr.com)**

**I received a copy from Netgalley in return for an honest review.**

This book opened fairly promisingly; the blurb made it sound interesting, and different, to a lot of YA romances, and the first couple of chapters, especially those in Mirriam's p.o.v proved that. However, overall, I felt the book was too rushed, and the execution didn't quite live up to the idea.

The writing was occasionally sloppy and clumsy, but the main problem I had with this book was the characters. Because it seemed so short - only 172 pages - I felt like we never really got to know them well enough. And by the end, if I'm honest, I was starting to dislike Caleb a lot. He was arrogant and sexist and, in the beginning, he was racist, too. His relationship with Mirriam was unbelievable - not because of race, but because it just seemed to happen so quickly, with little build up. They went from hating each other to declaring their love melodramatically in a really short space of time.

I liked the story to do with Mirriam's past, and how that interweaved with Caleb's. That was by far my favourite aspect of the novel. Everything fell very flat. I felt that there were too many small things clogging up the narrative. Kailee, for example, was just another example of YA rivalries, but in the end, her story actually made me dislike Caleb more, and I didn't understand it's purpose. The stuff to do with the bet and the arranged marriage should have been discarded, and the mystery behind Mirriam's past and Caleb's dad should have been expanded on.

An arranged marriage could've been a really good thing to address in YA Lit, but I don't feel like it was done well here. It was relegated to the last three chapters, after everything else had happened. There's no point putting it in if you aren't going to treat the issue seriously, in a way that could make readers of the novel really relate to it.

As I've mentioned, a lot of the writing in this book was so melodramatic. Caleb was constantly 'howling' because of his knee. Mirriam had a shock and fell off the sofa and lay on the floor for 10 minutes. It was so ridiculous it made me laugh. Also, as another point (and this is probably a personal thing to me), I really hated when he called her 'my girl'. The phrase makes me shudder.

This book didn't turn out how I had hoped, and I was disappointed with it, in the end.

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## **Sabrina Olteanu says**

I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest review.

When I started reading the book, I couldn't imagine how two different people, from two different worlds

could fall in love. One is Iraqi and one is American, and they both know what suffering means, especially Mirriam who saw her father gunned down by an American soldier...heartbreaking. This is an unique story, I never imagined I would have the chance to read such an incredible story.

The story is told in alternating first-person POV and that will make you jump right into the story. Beth Fred changes things up the entire story, a lot of twists that I could't see. I anticipated something is coming well before Caleb and Mirriam do, but it was much more than I expected. I think Beth Fred did a good job with this book.

Mirriam is a girl from Iraq in military town Texas. She hates american soldiers because of what they did to her father. But, here we have Caleb, who also hates Iraqis, he wants revenge for his father's death. Even, if he realizes that not all of them are evil and bad or terrorists.

Mirriam and Caleb are characters that I enjoyed from the beginning. Caleb is attracted to Mirriam but she doesn't give him a chance. She is embarrassing him in front of their classmates. Then Caleb gets caught up in a dare that involves him taking Mirriam to the prom. They have so much working against them. Will they make it? Will they leave all that hatred behind? You will have to read the book to understand better.

This is definitely a book that held my attention every single page. There are so many things I loved about this book. The multicultural aspects, the romance, the strong characters, all of these are the reasons I loved the book so much. I highly recommend this book!

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## **Cindy says**

I won this book in "A Missing Peace Cover Reveal Giveaway".

Thank you Beth Fred, especially since it took us so long to get me hooked up with the book! I'm so happy I got it.

This story is a very special one involving some wrongful deaths in Iraq and how two teens are united by them.

I loved Caleb and Marriam, two very sweet teens. Their relationship grew in a natural way that made them more than friends.

It had just enough twists to keep me interested through the whole story with a very nice Epilogue.

Thanks again, Beth, for a great read!!!!

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## **Autumn says**

Caleb is your all american heart throb. Mirriam is your stereotypical Iraqi refugee. Just kidding im not sure there is a stereotype. I mean I suppose its possible im just unaware of it. But seriously Mirriam is a spitfire and I admire that about her.

They meet after Mirriam and her family move to Killeen, Tx from many places but mainly Iraq, after the

death of her father. Mirriam and her family stick out like a sore thumb in this military town. Caleb lost his father in Iraq too. Hes also the big guy on campus, football star and i've already mentioned his looks. Girls pretty much throw themselves at him so when Mirriam shoots him down in front of everyone he doesn't really appreciate it. He makes a bet. Yes a serious cringe moment for me. Ive been involved in bets not like this one but that shit stung regardless.

Caleb didn't count on actually developing feelings for Mirriam. Mirriam was unaware of the bet and resisted Caleb only because he was an American. I mean she hates America but better here than dead. Don't worry she WAS NOT your stereotypical Muslim who hates America. Shes not even Muslim, there you go making assumptions just because she comes from Iraq doesn't mean shes Muslim, don't feel bad some other characters made the assumption as well.

They overcome A LOT. I felt a good part of their issues were due to miscommunication in the beginning.. Then there were other things. Yeah im leaving it at that. Trust me youll thank me later.

The story is told through alternating POV between Caleb and Mirriam. This was my first book of Beth Freds that I read. I now have a strong desire to go out and purchase some more. Unfortunately Ive already purchased them all! Fred is such an amazing storyteller! I loved the saw she handled such controversial and heavy topics. If flowed wonderfully and I could tell pretty much off the bat that this book would be one of my favorites.. and dammit I love when im right :)

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## **Beth Woodward says**

Note: This review was originally posted on cc2konline.com (<http://www.cc2konline.com/component/c...>) on 19 August 2013.

A Missing Peace by Beth Fred is a YA romance that starts out on a very She's All That trajectory: popular guy Caleb makes a bet that he can get the new girl, Iraqi war refugee Mirriam to go to the prom with him. But the story really excels when it focuses on the cultural dynamics of Mirriam and Caleb's relationship and of Mirriam's life in Killeen, as well as the revelation of a shared history that connect Mirriam and Caleb.

The book description, courtesy of the Escape Publishing website:

Angry, seventeen-year-old Iraqi war refugee Mirriam Yohanna hates her new life in Killeen, Texas, where the main attraction is a military base, populated with spoiled army brats like Caleb Miller.

Caleb has much to be angry about too, including Mirriam who turns him down flat in front of everyone. Eager for retribution, Caleb agrees to a dare that will see him take Mirriam to the prom and regain his pride.

But their relationship soon moves beyond high school antics. Mirriam and Caleb are bound together by more than location, and as they are forced to work closely together on a school assignment, they start to uncover an explosive story that has the potential to ruin lives — and both of their futures. One single truth changes everything and strengthens their bond.

When Mirriam's family discovers their relationship, they decide it's time to arrange her marriage to a proper Iraqi man. Caleb must convince Mirriam that he is in it for forever — or risk losing her for good.

The story is told in alternating first-person POV. In the beginning, Caleb seems like a pretty stereotypical popular guy character. But as his relationship with Mirriam develops, he grows and matures considerably. Mirriam seems, initially, to be the more mature and stable of the two, and I thought the book would continue with the romance unfolding along those lines.

But then Fred changes things up, throwing a shared history into the mix that threatens their nascent bond in unexpected ways. As a reader, you'll probably anticipate something is coming well before Caleb and Mirriam do. But how it actually plays out is much more unexpected. I also really liked the focus on the cultural conflicts Mirriam has while living in a Texas Army town. The book is at its strongest when it uses Caleb and Mirriam's romance to focus on the more serious issues of racism, cultural differences, and the injustices of war.

I think Beth Fred has really found a niche in YA romance. She does a good job combining well-known tropes of the genre with more interesting conflicts and questions.

A Missing Peace will be available September 1 from Escape Publishing.

Note: Beth Fred is a former CC2K contributor. She provided me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review. You can also check out my interview with her.

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## **Nina says**

I was so intrigued by this one the moment I read the blurb. Wars, soldiers and survivors have a soft spot in my heart. Not that I'm a victim or anything. Maybe because an uncle of mine is a soldier? So I heard lots of stories. But then I just admire how these people were able to cope with it. Despite all the struggles.

It wasn't hard to see how Mirriam was so different from the others. So it wasn't much of a surprise that most of the people in her school find her quite amusing especially Caleb. Really amusing to the point that she became an object of a dare. A dare that should just be a dare but you know how dares can be really tricky sometimes! I'd be honest that it's too much of a cliché. As in. Really. Cliché. How many times have I watched a movie or read a book wherein the guy was dared to woo a girl then he unwillingly fell for her? Lots already. But what set this apart was the history of Mirriam which was (obviously for me) connected with Caleb! It wasn't really hard to put two and two together. But their history was really something that set this apart from the others.

I have to warn you that this was short. So maybe that was the reason why I didn't get to feel Mirriam that much. I was sort of expecting she'd be really hard. Yes, she was hard but not that much. I wished she was more scrutinized as a hard character. I get her anger and all. But I just don't feel it.

Another different thing in here was the moment Mirriam knew about the dare. Most of the female characters would be so angry and stuff. But Mirriam was so different. She knew how to value that love. Maybe she learned in the hard way. She forgives easily. That was one thing I love and hate about her. It was too easy for her to forgive the people she loves. But I wish she was more careful about it.

I'm just sort of bothered by what Mirriam and Caleb did together at the end. It was so impulsive in a way. But maybe they were that much seriously in love! Though it really bothered me because they just knew each

other in less than a year.

It was just a little sketchy for me as to what happened to her brother. Or even to her family. I wish it was included in the epilogue. And yeah, the epilogue was a killer. It was totally dreamy but whatever. At least, I was confident that they were happy. I just really hope it was longer. Maybe then I would have connected with the characters more.

A Missing Piece is a nice story about war, love and acceptance. You'd probably guess the thing that connects Caleb and Mirriam in no time but you'll enjoy it because it is enjoyable! It's light, a little edgy and absolutely fun to read about. Despite the little things that bothered me, I liked this novel as a whole.

*Originally posted at The Bookish Confections*

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## **Chu says**

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

### **Rating: 4.5**

Some things happen for a reason.

Mirriam Yohanna was forced to flee to the US when the war in Iraq started. Now a refugee in Killeen, Texas where a military base is situated and being surrounded by military brats – her life was anything but nice. She missed her home, her father whom she lost before they left the country and her old life.

Here's Caleb – he's the ultimate American heartthrob. No girls can say no to him – except Mirriam that it. Out of revenge, Caleb agrees to a dare with his friends that he could have Mirriam as a date for the prom. But talking to her proves to be a difficult task, what more to ask her out? It would be herculean!

Caleb didn't have to worry long though, because a school project allowed them to work together closely. However, a simple high school project turned out to be something more when secrets are unearthed – secrets that not just change their lives but the lives around them as well. As they start to learn the truth and find justice, they grow closer and closer to each other. And Mirriam did what she thought she couldn't – she fell in love with a white American, an army brat at that.

But when Mirriam's brother and mother discovered their relationship, they had her marriage arranged right after she will receive her diploma. With this, Caleb must convince Mirriam that she is 'it' for him and what they have is worth the risk or he may just lose her forever.

Caleb is an amazing character, he's brave and determined. He knew it was close to impossible, but he did it anyway. He went against something big, something stronger, and something with power – but with great persistent and courage, he found a way to beat it.

I enjoyed reading this novel. I can't believe I finished it in one sitting- but I did. A Missing Peace is more than just your ordinary love story. It delves into a controversy that is often happening but rarely recognized by a lot of individuals, especially those departments that are concerned. I love the plot, the characters, especially how it ended. The epilogue was just perfect. Indeed, some things, even the bad and painful ones



happen for a reason. Love can move mountains, can cross barriers and make anything possible.

\*ARC Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

\*I received a free ARC of A Missing Peace from Harlequin via Netgalley in exchange of an honest review\*

Brilliant YA story!

Full review to come soon.

This and all my other reviews are originally posted on my blog **(un)Conventional Bookviews**

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## **Tressa (Wishful Endings) says**

3.5 stars

I haven't read that many books that have characters with different ethnic backgrounds. I was excited to read this for that reason alone. At the same time, I wasn't sure what exactly to expect and how much I would be able to relate to the characters. Caleb is a military kid who also happens to be one of the high school's football stars. Not really someone I would normally relate to per se. Then Mirriam is from Iraq and has only been living in the US for a couple of years, so I wasn't sure about her either. I found out that I shouldn't have been worried. Mirriam was awesome! I loved her spunk, sarcasm, and the way she stood up for herself. Here is an example of her personality from a conversation between her and Caleb:

What could I say? All-American Boy was right. "Fine."

"That's your favorite word."

I narrowed my eyes. "Only in English."

Caleb also turns out to be a great character. At the beginning he is a little arrogant and selfish, but then things change and he realizes that maybe he has been wrong about a few things. I thought that the two of them worked rather well together and I loved a lot of the dialogue between their two characters.

The plot is rather interesting too. Both Mirriam and Caleb have lost their fathers in Iraq, but they have vastly different views on the situation there. That influences the history project that they are working on together and their banter back and forth. For being such a political topic, I thought the author did a great job in not over doing it. She lets her characters give their opinions, but she also allows them to change.

It is really a heartbreaking situation that caused both of their fathers' deaths. I did get a little frustrated with Caleb at a few spots where I felt he should have gone a different route initially. I am all about rights and going to authorities with information. There is also plenty of drama for both characters. Caleb got really angry in a few spots (justifiably so) and wasn't really thinking straight. Then at one point I wanted Mirriam to open her eyes to what she knew about Caleb instead of losing faith in him so easily.

I wasn't completely sure about the ending. I liked it, but I wished things could have worked out a little

differently. Maybe that's just the optimist and mother in me. It still worked, regardless, and I really liked the epilogue, which tied things off nicely.

Overall this was an enjoyable read and one I definitely feel is worth picking up. I ended up really liking the characters and where the story took them. I hope that more stories like this are published in the future.

Content: Some language, but otherwise clean.

Source: Author/NetGalley, which did not affect my review in any way.

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## **Tara Chevestt says**

This is truly a unique premise. Two teenagers, one Iraqi, one American...he believes his dad was killed by an Iraqi terrorist during the war. She saw her father gunned down by an American soldier...

Now imagine those two falling for each other despite their prejudices for each other's people...yea.

I applaud Beth Fred for a unique idea well done. Throughout the story, we're reminded in subtle ways how quick and how wrong we are to judge others based on where they come from, what they wear, how they look.

I also appreciated the theme about how just because we see it on TV, we are not experts on another group of people/culture.

Mirriam hates American soldiers. At first, Caleb hates Iraqis. He wants to enlist, head over there, and take revenge for his father's death, but he has to realize not all Iraqis are bad or terrorists.

Mirriam sort of comes across as a female dog. She's rude and abrasive, but at the same time I shook my head at her, my lips would also turn up at the corners. Caleb, I had a harder time coming to like. He's the typical jock in the beginning--a playboy who expects women to fall at his feet and a douche who agrees to play with girls' hearts for the sake of a bet...but then fate changes his life real fast and it was interesting watching him change his perspective and attitude as the carpet got pulled out from under him.

One of my quibbles is the car scene. It was weak. I'm purposely trying to be vague here as I'm not sure if this scene would be considered a spoiler or not. It comes perhaps halfway into the book. But the lack of details about the medical affliction....is something broken? Did they do any surgery? Did he just lay there in a bed for 35 minutes? What exactly is wrong here? The author obviously did her research about the military, so I wonder why so little was done for the medical aspect/hospital stuff. Throughout the novel, I kept wondering what exactly was wrong with the guy. I'm a stickler for details such as that.

My other quibble is...I was disappointed that in the end, it didn't feel like Mirriam had come to respect any American soldiers. She was still very anti-American and as a military wife, this bothered me. I respect that there is indeed some truth in this:

"...at the end of the day, they're both kids our age with weaponry supplied by some old rich fat man with a belief that what they're doing is right."

But Mirriam's total lack of sympathy for the American soldier...made her no better than the kids calling her a raghead. Not all Iraqis are bad and while there will be some bad apples in the military, not all soldiers are bad either. While Caleb's character evolved to show this, Mirriam's didn't.

I'm not done. Full review here: <http://www.bookbabe.blogspot.com/2013/...>

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## **Kim says**

Read this review and others at YA Asylum

**Please Note: I received this book for free from ARC from author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.**

This book is something that is right up my alley. I majored in Political Science and International Studies, and both elements can be found in this book. I think that this plot's a bit daring, addressing the Iraq war and the consequences of it on both sides. I can't think of another YA book that addresses this topic as thoroughly as *A Missing Piece* does.

Miriam, a girl from Iraq in military town Texas, is a really interesting character. I've read a fair amount about Iraq, for obvious reasons, but I've never read a book that has had an Iraqi character in it -- at least not any YA, that's for sure. I was really interested in learning more about Miriam and her life -- which was clearly intriguing.

At first, I thought it was going to be a lot like *10 Things I Hate About You*. I loved that movie. I probably watched it a million times, and this book had a twist on it. This was quickly proven wrong, and the main plot problem has nothing to do with Caleb taking Miriam to the prom. But, if you like *10 Things I Hate About You*, you'll really enjoy this book.

I'm not going to lie, Caleb wasn't my favorite at first. I'd go as far as to say I really didn't like him at first. He's your typical Texas, popular, football star character -- now, to some, that might sound appealing, but to me none of that's a good thing in a character. And I don't think we're supposed to like him at first.

But Caleb grows and changes. His character arc is well done and by the end of the book, I did like Caleb. Miriam changed some too, opening up to others and changing her views on Americans, but her character arc wasn't so dramatic -- not that it was needed. She's mature, clever, and loyal -- from start to finish. Miriam is probably one of my favorite female leads in YA of the year.

I could not stop reading this book. Every time something seemed to wrap up, something else came undone.

I don't feel like my review has done this book justice. I could go fangirl and rave about how much I enjoyed this book, but that wouldn't be helpful. So, I leave you with this: read this book.

Lesson Learned? If *10 Things I Hate About You* and this book has taught me, it's clearly you should date the guy who makes a macho bet to take you to prom.

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## Confessions of a Book Whore says

This was one of the best books I've read all summer. In fact, I think it may be one of the best books I've read this year. This book is considered Young Adult but I feel it caters to anyone who is politically minded, interested in current events or someone who generally enjoys a forbidden romance. I highly recommend this book to all readers. ??

**The truest statement I've ever read in a synopsis...**

*"A turbulent, emotionally charged YA novel that breaks down barriers and challenges the status quo..."*

**That description absolutely nails this book!**

Let's start with my own summary

Mirriam Yohanna an Iraqi refugee comes to Killeen, TX – a military town. Mirriam harbors more baggage than the average American teenager. She intends to keep to herself until graduation when she can leave this town behind and all the small-minded people who live in it. That is her plan, until she meets Caleb Miller. Caleb is an All-American teenage dream. He's a football player and everyone loves him. He's also an army brat...in Mirriam's opinion. They have a few run-ins that first day of school, but it isn't until Caleb's buddies set a bet, one that Caleb willingly agrees to take on. His goal is to get her to go to prom with him but only to recover from her blowing him off in front of his friends.

Lucky for him Mirriam walks into his Government class. He volunteers to partner up with Mirriam in order to get closer to her. The class begins and Mirriam silently listens on as her teacher speaks of Iraq in a manner that Mirriam disagrees with. She can't stand the propaganda and speaks up causing an all out debate to ensue, leaving both Mirriam and Caleb arguing over who is right and who is wrong concerning the war. Caleb admits he lost his dad in Iraq and Mirriam tells the story of her father dying at the hands of an American soldier. Each carry the weight of losing a beloved parent neither knowing just how much they have in common.

Why did I love this book? The short, easy answer is: it's a great book. It was well written with an excellent storyline and two lovable protagonists! The political aspect intrigued me and it basically challenged the way many people think about politics, government and war. I loved that! I am a junkie when it comes to politics and government so that aspect of the story stuck with me the most. The book is romantic but it covers a wide range of serious topics, the story just fell together beautifully for me.

Beth Fred really creates a powerful tale of two young people who are on a quest for truth and justice! Ha! That sounds like I'm discussing a comic book hero but in all seriousness this book evoked a strong sense of the human spirit overall. The ability for us to look past our differences, to coexist, even love. I felt that I personally could relate to this story so I think that also played a huge part of why I loved it so much.

I wouldn't mind a sequel...K, thanks Beth haha ;-)

## Favorite Quotes

I tried to choose a few of my favorite quotes that wouldn't give too much of the storyline away. I feel this is a book everyone needs to read and interpret in their own way and I felt it was important to keep certain

aspects of this review spoiler free.

"We're there to keep terrorists from doing things like that."

A single tear rolled down my face. In spite of this, I let out a laugh. "Except, he was shot by an American soldier." Caleb's mouth gaped. He rocked back in his chair and didn't say anything else."

"Sure, friends," I said, "but it's probably a good idea to do something that doesn't require us to talk much."

"Why would you say that?"

"Caleb, I call what the U.S. did to us an 'invasion'. You call it 'aid', and I don't think either one of us are changing our minds anytime soon."

He nodded, both defiant and sympathetic in a single motion."

"Won't happen."

"Try me."

Instead of looking for a reply, I took a huge chance. The kind of risk you could easily regret. I leaned down and pressed my lips to hers. It didn't take long to force her lips open. She clasped one hand around each of my arms and squeezed tightly. She was kissing back. It was perfect."

"She stepped out the door then turned back, grabbed my face and kissed me with an urgency she hadn't before.

I held onto her and pressed her body to mine until I realized she had no plans of breaking this. When her body started to curl around mine, I pulled away. "It's going to be okay. I promise, M. I meant what I said. I won't let anyone take you from me."

**I could go on and on but I seriously want you all to go out and get this book. It's worth the read!**

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