

Doctors are at a loss to explain the miraculous recovery in *Fracture*

BOOK REVIEW

By Stephanie Lodromanean
The Southwest Portland Post

Fracture is a young adult novel written by Megan Miranda and published by Walker & Company (hardcover, 272 pages, \$17.99, January 2012). This novel is her first. Before venturing into writing Miranda (who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina) was a scientist and a high school teacher.

The novel follows the life of Delaney Maxwell after she falls into a partially frozen lake and wakes up miraculously from a coma. There is a great cast of characters, and Delaney mends and discovers the intricacies of their friendships over the course of the story.

It is kind of a coming of age story, but forced into action by the interesting side effect of Delaney having been in a coma for over a week. Although Miranda has a bachelor's degree in biology from MIT she does not appear to bring any of this knowledge or scientific reasoning to the foundation of the novel.

Delaney finds herself in a medical miracle after waking up, with her

doctors saying such things as "Obviously, this is surprising since you woke up fully aware, memory complete, speech intact, everything firing as we like to say." He stuck his hands into his white lab coat and continued, "I have no idea how this is possible."

While this story device might be intended to create a sense of faith, it really comes across as far-fetched and leaves the reader curious as to why medical science cannot form coherent thoughts on Delaney's situation, instead throwing miracles around every place it can.

There are strong points to *Fracture*, such as the friendships that evolve and change throughout the novel. As a 17-year-old Delaney is at the cusp of still being a kid and realizing that she is inevitably growing up.

Delaney's partner in crime growing up, Decker, stays by her side through the grueling week of her coma and was even the one to save her from the frozen pond.

As a reader you have to wait patiently to see if all the things left unsaid (and read between the lines of their friendship) will resolve or fall apart and whether other friends and enemies will make their romantic tension build up as the novel progresses.

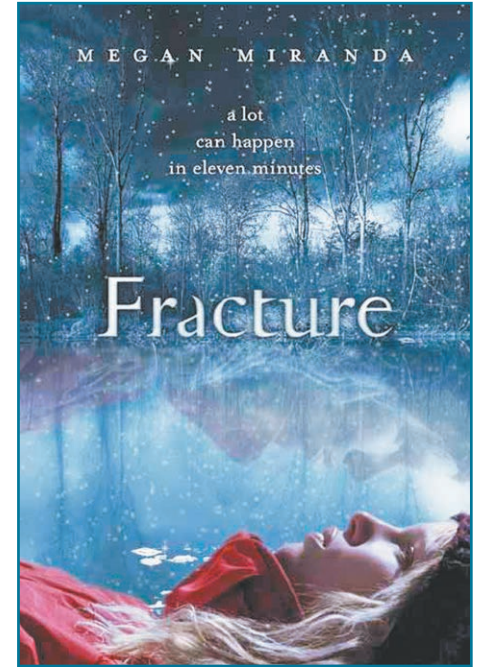
Delaney's relationship with her parents, mainly her mother, is also a great focal point of the novel. After the traumatic event of nearly losing her daughter



First-time novelist Megan Miranda is the author of "Fracture."

to such an early death, Delaney's mother becomes tightly wound and overbearing.

Delaney struggles to understand her mother but, after realizing her mother's past and how she came to become the way she is, there is a transformation in their relationship; they start to understand and respect one another, and that



gives way to a new level of love.

Fracture is a fast-paced, easy and at times superficial read. The novel lacks detail in terms of some of the science behind what is happening to Delaney and how her world has been turned upside down by the coma. It is still fun and keeps the reader entertained, at least enough to want to know how Delaney's life plays out.

Design Commission approves new OHSU Life Sciences building

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland Design Commission gave unanimous approval in January to the design of Oregon Health and Sciences University's new Collaborative Life Sciences building in the South Waterfront—three months after the project's official groundbreaking.

The building at Southwest Moody Avenue and Porter Street, the first structure to be built on OHSU's new 19-acre Schnitzer waterfront campus, will comprise 650,000 square feet of space, including a 470-space underground garage.

A tower on the north side will be 12 stories high. It is a collaborative project by OHSU, Oregon State University and Portland State University. It will house lecture halls, research facilities and a replacement for the OHSU Dental School.

The project underwent two informal Design Advisory sessions with the Commission prior to a formal submission of plans, and three hearings after a formal application had been made.

The second of these, on January 5, might have led to a vote of approval, but the development team had submitted their revised plans too late for planner Kara Fioravanti to write a staff report reflecting the changes.

At the final hearing on January
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