

**Transcript****Arts, Literature and Music****A Good Read*****Fallen, by Lauren Kate***

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I am the Youth and Children's Outreach Officer for the City of Salisbury Libraries. So I constantly find myself reading picture books, to read to under 5's at the story time sessions! I was one of many who feel in love with Stephenie Meyer's phenomenon 'Twilight' and once the saga finished I was on the hunt for something that would satisfy after reading books I completely enjoyed.

Seeing a new author happens quite often when you work in a library and *Fallen* by Lauren Kate grabbed my attention immediately. The front cover is pretty, very dark and mysterious. Automatically I was drawn to pick up the book, to read the back cover as many people do when they are trying to search for a book to read.

Fallen is a fantasy love story for young Adults, which fit my pre-requisite after reading the twilight series. But instead of vampires and werewolves, this novel is about something different.

'Some angels are destined to fall'... This is how the first line reads on the back cover and from that sentence I was intrigued! I began to read and was introduced to modern world, similar to the one we live in. The main character is a 17 year old girl named Lucinda, or Luce as she prefers to be called. She has struggled for 17 years never feeling quite like herself. Luce goes to great efforts trying to convince her parents that she is fine, sane even! Nevertheless her parents, and truthfully so does Luce, feel that something might not be quite right with Lucinda.

Luce is diagnosed as having minor episodes of paranoid schizophrenia, suffering from visions, shadows that haunt her, surround her and when the shadows are around Luce knows that something dangerous is close away. After a tragic accident her parents, upon advice of psychiatric professionals, enrol Luce into reform school.

Luce finds her new home, a reform school, called *Sword and Cross* to be a place that is home to many different people, most of them dealing with psychological issues as well as criminal record. At *Sword & Cross* Luce finds herself feeling out of place again, but for the first time in her life it's for possibly being the sanest person.

Luce, missing her parents and best friend Callie, struggles with the strict rules imposed on the residents of *Sword and Cross*. Mobile phones are forbidden, security cameras, known as 'the reds' hang from the ceiling monitoring those who live there every move. Luce can be assured that the time she spends at *Sword & Cross* will not be pleasant!

The story shifts into the love triangle very early in the novel. Daniel Grigori is a handsome boy, so amazingly good looking that his angelic beauty have everyone staring at him. The first moment Luce notices Daniel, she is in awe of his mind-blowingly good looks, but also has the strangest feeling of Déjà

vu with Luce, does she know him from somewhere? She tries to shrug it off certain there is no way of her knowing Daniel but the feeling stays, and every time she sees him it grows stronger.

From the first moment she lays eyes on Daniel something quite strong is pulling her towards him, a romantic feeling, Love at first sight! Unfortunately the feelings are not mutual and Daniels actions to Luce's stares and attempts at conversations are immediately shut down and makes her feel foolish for even considering that fate may have brought her to Sword & Cross to meet this boy. Anyway that is what we are first lead to believe!

Cam Briel, is portrayed to be Mr Popular. He's the tough guy who rules the roost and plays up a bad boy attitude. Though Luce is completely infatuated by Daniel, Cam's affections are not un-noticed. Cam intrigues Luce because she is not used to being centre of attention. They form a relationship that in the real world you would encourage but I found myself still rooting for Daniel, I knew that something magical would eventuate and felt that the character Cam was too good to be true without ruining the ending, I will tell you that by the end of the novel I learnt exactly why Cam was so interested in Luce and all my dislike for him was there for a good reason!!

My favourite character outside of Luce and Daniel is Pennyweather Van Syckle-Lockwood. Though you learn to love her as simply Penn. She is warm and easily liked. She is a friend I hope everyone knows, someone who is loyal and trustworthy. Penn befriends Luce very early on in the novel. She is the only student who doesn't need to be at Sword & Cross, her story is unique and quite sad but illustrates that she is completely sane and just enduring a tough education! Penn is very smart and helps Luce with her obsession with Daniel. Together they set out to find as much information about the handsome boy who without reason has captured Luce's heart. The information they uncover begins to become more and more mysterious and with each turn of the page the plot thickens!

Luce learns that Daniel is not a 17 year old boy but something much more mystical. He is a fallen angel, who is hundreds of years older than Luce. The reason of Luce's feelings of déjà vu are revealed and the secrets of many other characters are also brought to light.

Fallen is a dark and addictive story that explores a forbidden love. It made me consider my belief on life and death. I found myself with reasons to consider reincarnation. Fallen makes for a lovely and at the same time scary notion that perhaps true love never dies.

In true saga or series style, by the end of the novel some questions I had are answered. However many more are raised and I guess I'll have to go and get book two called Torment to figure out exactly what is in-store for Luce and her life with a Fallen Angel.