



Melancholia

Elle Casey

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Malcolm's had a problem for as long as he can remember. No matter where he goes or what he does, he leaves misery in his wake. Sadness and negativity are his constant companions, influencing others around him until they cannot bear to live.

But then Rae shows up in his life, and everything changes. Darkness cleaves to light. Anger yields to joy. The question is whether she'll be his salvation or his destruction.

Content Warning: Sexual situations, foul language, and general smartassery.

Euphoria (Duality Series, Book 2) is the next book in the series.

Melancholia Details

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From Reader Review Melancholia for online ebook

Lisa Ann says

I have learned to expect the unexpected when it comes to *Elle Casey*'s work, and that is exactly what I get, each and every time. I have no idea how she does it, how she creates this magic that breathes through the pages of everything she publishes, but she does it with such an expert hand that I am only glad she does so with such consistency. **Melancholia: Duality #1** is a new series by *Casey* that once again dives into intriguing territory.

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to ooze with positivity and happiness, why they seem to attract people in droves and spread those good feelings about them like a viral epidemic. You know these people, you like to be around them, they make you feel good. Similarly, most of us know people that are total 'downers'. They seem to spread negative energy wherever they go, and their negative attitudes are equally contagious. But what if there is something more to the story than just a glass 'half-full' or 'half-empty' attitude?

That is the question that seems to have inspired this most wonderful new series by *Elle Casey*. First we meet 'Malcolm', an almost 18 year-old who is just counting the days until he can run away from a life he has deemed nothing but misery. He doesn't understand why he attracts the notice of others, or why he has the effect on them that he does, he just knows that he needs to get away from people. His life has been a series of tragedies, and he is waiting for his 18th birthday so that he can run far away. In the mean-time, he hides himself in school washrooms to escape his groupie 'like' hangers-on.

When a new girl arrives at Malcolm's school, he notices a peculiar shift in mood in the students around him. Suddenly things are lightening up, and this new girl 'Rae' seems immune to Malcolm's curse. Malcolm, for the first time in his life, wonders if he can actually be happy. At the same time, Rae is battling a similar affliction, and her switching schools is not mere coincidence. Rae is running away from people that are trying to get too close.

When Rae meets Jasmine [Jazzy Butts], and for the first time believes she can have a real friendship with another person, she is drawn into a friendship with her neighbor 'Kootch' and by extension, his friend Malcolm. Rae and Malcolm find an almost instant chemistry, and Kootch and Jasmine are absolutely hilarious. It is a surprise to no-one that *Elle Casey* has crafted another group of absolutely lovable characters from the jump, you can't help but feel you know these characters, they are so well fleshed out and so perfectly flawed and flawless.

Just as we are settling in, laughing, and getting to know this group, we are also aware that there is someone trying to get at Rae, and that her safety is in jeopardy. And that's where the story begins to spin out of control and fast, and in classic *Elle Casey* form, that's where the cliff hanger comes. Simultaneously thrilling and frustrating, you will be dying for more before you even reach the last page of this first volume.

Bottom Line: I highly recommend this fabulous new Young Adult series by *Elle Casey*. **Melancholia: Duality #1** is a most promising start to yet another promised and delivered upon series by *Casey*, perhaps the most brilliant Young Adult, Sci-Fi and Fantasy writer of our time.

**This review is based on an Advanced Review copy received from the author. The honest opinions and comments expressed are my own and are in no way influenced by Goodreads, The Publisher, or the

Author.**

Editing Services by Cynthia Shepp says

Duality switches back and forth between the point of view of Malcolm and Rae. The two are as different as night and day but both want the same thing—a normal life. Malcolm is known as a ghost in his school, the boy that never talks to anyone or participates in anything. Something about him brings misery to people in a way that causes harm. And then Rae comes into his school as a new girl and everything changes. Rae is different too, but not like him. She has had just a hard of life as he has though. Coming into the new school, she is shocked to make a few friends in Kootch and Jasmine and to be so drawn to Malcolm. Full of Miserables, Rainbows, and Neutrals (Got you wondering now, huh?), Duality is a book that will have you turning the pages as quickly as you can, alternating between laughter and tears and back again.

Elle shocked even me, a die-hard Elle fan girl, with this book. It was so unlike her others, but kept with her same style. I loved Malcolm, Rae, Kootch, and Jasmine. Malcolm instantly hit the book crush equation and Kootch had me rolling on the floor laughing. He was so funny. Rae was unlike any of Elle's other heroine's and yet she was exactly what the book needed. Jasmine reminded me of someone and I definitely liked her vibe. The high school antics and even the unbelievable situations seemed believable. I believe that Elle hit a home run with this book and that this is one that nobody wants to miss. It was so original, refreshing, and funny—while at the same time tugging at your heartstrings and having you aching inside for them all. Don't miss this one! I give Duality 5 STARS and would give it so much more if I could.

Ter Wilson says

So When I finish my last book. Every day after that I happened to open a book read a chapter and sigh with disappointment. Not cause they were horrible books, cause NONE were holding my attention. I couldn't find anything that made me forget I was sitting in a tub full of cold water. Then last night that happened. I was once again bored watching all the males in my house play their video games. So I went upstairs to draw a bath. Look through my to read list on my Kindle. This Supernatural Six Boxed Set, just stood out to me. So fingers crossed, I started the very first book in the set.

Before I knew it Malcolm, Rae, Jazzy Butts, and Kootch had my attention. I was hooked and didn't want to let go. Sadly I did have to get out of the tub before my lips turned blue. As soon as I was out making sure people were fed, since I was in the tub longer than I planned on... oops! I toss everyone in bed and dove into mine with Duality Vol 1 in my hand.

Then I came to a point where a non-word was uttered., and discussed. That I was laughing so hard. I had tears running down my face, No sound was coming out of my mouth. Unless you count the odd clicking sound coming from the back of my throat. (Think Mimic) Took a bit for me to breath again. My Poor children woke up thinking I had finally lost it.

Stephanie Clifton says

I really enjoyed reading this book and can't wait for the next instalment in this new series. Since finishing the book I have had the plot and characters living in my head and I can't wait to find out what will happen next.

Duality has been written from a dual (!!) point of view, with both Malcolm and Rae taking turns to narrate. Sometimes there is an overlap giving the reader two versions of the events, in some books I've found this particular literary device annoying, however it works very well in this book as both lead characters are equally important.

One of Elle Casey's particular strengths as a writer is her characterisation and this is demonstrated in this book. All the characters in the book are interesting and have tantalising back stories (which I hope we will hear more about in the next books of the series). Of especial note is Jasmine, she had many funny lines in the book. The baddies of the story were also very well drawn and, although I guessed who the student villain was almost immediately, this did not affect my enjoyment. I loved the way Elle Casey describes them as acting out of character (dum dum duuummm). I looking forward to hearing more about the main villainous person and who / what they are.

I would thoroughly recommend this book, it stays in your mind when you finish it and leaves you wanting to read the next in the series. What more could you ask for. If you have read anything else by Elle Casey, you will not be disappointed, this is one of her best. If you haven't tried Elle Casey before, what are you waiting for, buy this book!

Patricia says

Holy cow, what a great book! Elle Casey became one of my favorite authors after I read the War of the Fae series. I was reluctant to read this one simply because I just didn't understand overview. However, since I've read over 400 books in the past 3 years I know better than to make my decision based on the description. This book was interesting and had such great character development that I was really drawn in. There are 4 characters that are present throughout the book and they were really written beautifully and complimented each other so well that I felt like I was right there with them. And don't get me started on the LOL dialogue between Jasmine and Kooch. Friggin' hilarious. But this book also had a serious side and a fair amount of "edge of your seat" action. I kept telling myself that I'd read 2 more chapters and then go to bed....at 3 am I finished the book and almost dropped my Kindle in haste to download the second book. This was a very different sort of paranormal fiction scenario for me, but I found that I really loved it. It was put together beautifully and flowed easily from one scene to the next. Do not pass this book by!

Jamie says

I really don't know how Elle Casey does it time and time again. Usually during an authors career they'll write at least one book or story that just isn't as good or as fun as their other works but not Elle, this is the 16th book of hers that I've read and each and every single book she has put out is freaking amazing. A lot of her books have one big thing in common: every single page is fun to read. There's never a dull moment and the pace is always perfect.

Duality: Vol 1, Melancholia is probably one of the most original stories I've read. There's always certain themes in a lot of books that you see over and over again but I can honestly say I've never read anything quite like this. Malcolm and Rae are also unique individuals. Malcolm was born? with the unfortunate ability of negatively influencing those around him. People who are depressed and who like to live in the dark seek him out, almost stalking him and too much of Malcolm can send them over the edge of despair while Rae has the opposite problem. She makes everyone around her happy, too happy and those around her especially the "Rainbows" quickly become addicted to her and will do anything to get closer to her whether she likes it or not. Neither one of them can get too close to anyone, have friends or be normal. At least they never have been able to before but they're about to run into one another changing everything they always thought may or may not be possible.

You can't help but feel for both characters. It's sad that they can't be normal or allow anyone close to them which is something that everyone can relate to. Who hasn't felt alone and different at one time or another? But it's not all frowns, there's plenty of the good stuff too. Conspiracy theories, action, attempted kidnappings, a little romance all wrapped up in a refreshing unique story. What's not to love? Malcolm's new friend Kootch is a blast and will have you laughing with every scene he's in and Jasmine is just plain awesome, she's rebellious yet a good person and her interactions with Kootch are pretty insane. There's just something about Elle Casey's writing that is not only addictive but refreshing and fun. Kudos to her for coming up with such an original and unique story.

Sally herbert says

very very slow

K.M. Galvin says

So much awesome. I swear each book is more addictive than the last. I might have a problem. Elle Casey I AM A RAINBOW!!!! WAAHH!!! (book inside joke-go read so you can get it!) Anyhoo, it was amazing of course and I am already dying for the next one and I finished it not five minutes ago.

Between the Bind says

Holy. Flipping. Moly. Elle Casey has yet again astounded me with her amazing writing, characterization, and unique view on the paranormal. I completed the 360 pages of *Duality* in about 5 hours - never putting it down, completely entranced.

Duality is told from both Malcolm and Rae's points-of-view, taking turns chapter by chapter which, typically, I'm not a fan of, but Elle completed it seamlessly, allowing readers to follow easily and me unable to imagine *Duality* told any other way.

Malcolm and Rae are both equally lovable, battling their opposite curses while trying to simply make it through their senior year of high school. I easily felt sympathy for these two unique and lonely souls, drawn to each other but used to hiding between classes in bathrooms to avoid run-ins with Rainbows and Miserables. Yet together, things seem to be changing...

Malcolm doesn't know what it is about Rae that draws him in, but he does know that when she's around, he just feels...better. And strangely protective. Rae is more than excited to meet someone who isn't completely drawn to her - if only he didn't react with such intense disdain...and wasn't so understatedly badboy sexy.

Finding her first friend in the hilariously outspoken (and Neutral) Jasmine, Rae is finally able to do things she's never done before, like text someone who isn't her overprotective and obsessed parents, while Malcolm sees a lightness in acquaintance Kootch that allows him to finally let his guard down, if only slightly. Circumstances, and a mutual friendship with Kootch and Jasmine, drive these two together time and time again, but will they be able to discover what they can mean to each other before it's too late?

Battling highly strung emotions, kidnappers, and horrific pasts, while maintaining a hilariously uplifting and laugh-out-loud quality that only Elle Casey can combine, *Duality* is a series that I cannot WAIT to finish. Yet again, Elle has me feigning for more and counting down the month of May until the next release in the *Melancholia* series. 5+ stars, well deserved.

Kara Baker-finch says

I didn't want to pick this book up to read it, because like all of Elle Casey's books, I knew that I would not want to put it down. So, it took me about 2 weeks to finally decide to read it after I received it. And as always, I read it in 2 days.

The beginning of the story had some hints of a familiar story. A new girl in school, feeling like a certain boy hated her for no reason, when in fact he had other reasons for wanting/need to stay away from her. Will they find out each other's true desires or won't they? So, as I was reading it, I initially felt like Elle's writing schedule was getting best of her and that the story would be a re-run of a very popular teen trilogy. But, after just a couple of chapters, I was sucked into a very different story. And I had to force myself to slow down and enjoy it, when I really just wanted to sneak a peek at the next paragraph to see what was going to happen.

It's a really great read and while there is a cliffhanger at the end, it is not the kind that makes you mad that the author left you hanging. So, I can't wait to read book two. I highly recommend this book for its entertaining value and humor that I always expect/and appreciate from Elle.

Terri Baldwin says

This book was so different than any books of Elle's I've read before, but it's still Elle! I loved it! The characters were amazing (as usual) and their banter had me laughing SO hard through most of this book! Jazzy was by far my favorite character... who knew a "neutral" could be so awesome? Rae and Malcom were remarkably wonderful, considering their "gifts" (curses?). I just wanted to hug them both! I think I'd be a miserable rainbow, but hey... maybe they'd feel better! I'm not sure I'd be nearly as well adjusted as they were! They still had their fair share of teen angst and were written as such so accurately. I often wonder if Elle hides out in high schools listening to the interaction, because she is always so spot on! Kootch was hysterical, his and Jazzy's conversations had me belly laughing and at the same time, I wanted to knock both of their heads together for not seeing the chemistry that was between them!

Speaking of chemistry... the chemistry teacher Holder and his lackey Derek were ultra creepy. Not only was their behavior creepy, Holder had a comb over. Gross AND creepy! I'm very interested to see exactly why they are after Rae, and what their game is! All in all, I loved this book. It's unique, witty, scary at all the right places, romantic without being sappy, and had a cliffhanger ending! You all know how much I love those...seriously, I do!

Rosemary says

I have been looking forward to the release of this book, and as usual, Elle Casey did not disappoint.

Malcolm is a ward of the state and has moved from foster home to foster home many times during his life because of what he is. He is darkness, and darkness follows him, and anyone who comes into contact with him is affected by it. Until he meets Rae.

Rae is Malcolm's polar opposite. Anyone she comes into contact with is drawn to her, which becomes addictive to the person affected, which in turn becomes a serious problem for Rae when they begin to fixate on her.

As we have come to expect from Elle Casey, Malcolm and Rae have a great supporting cast - no one can create vivid and interesting characters the way Elle can and you will love the wonderfully wacky characters she introduces us to.

This is a great book and I look forward to book 2 in the series, it is going to be interesting to see where they go from here.

Wendy Bartlett says

I am a huge Elle Casey fan and I will read anything she writes the minute it is available and this book is no exception. It's a bit slow to start and not her normal speed but it's necessary so that you understand what happens later in the book. I have to admit I still don't understand everything (which I think is intentional!) but I can't wait to read more.

Malcom is a ghost in school and avoids people as much as possible. Whenever he spends too much time around any one person they go to a dark place. Some go into a deep depression and try to get away. Others feed on the darkness. It makes a miserable life for Malcom. Until Rae walks in. She's the literal opposite of Malcom, light where he is dark.

This isn't Elle's normal work. It's very dark at times, more so than her other books. Don't get me wrong, there is still the sparkling humor at times that we have all come to love, but overall it's a painful read at times. If you have ever felt unwanted for who you really are then you will identify with these characters.

I don't want to give away too much of the plot because it really is worth reading. This is probably one of the most original story lines I've ever read and I can't wait to see where Elle takes it.

Meg says

Melancholia

OR

Teh Sads and Teh Glads

I don't actually know how I feel about this book. Part of me thinks the book and its entire premise is dumb. Yet, I read the whole thing and I can't even say that I was having a terrible time reading it. There were a few places, especially when chapters repeated action only from a different view point, where things bogged down for me and I put the story away several times before finishing. I came back to it, however, and don't hate myself for having finished it.

The thing that really makes the book work is the secondaries and the fact that they're written as fantastically teenage. Their dialogue feels very real and very natural. They act like teenagers, but the whole plot doesn't lean on being young and inexperienced as the primary character flaws that drive action forward. I hate when YA books give their character the flaw of being young and dumb. I mean, yes, teenagers do dumb things and it is realistic to write that. But when a dramatic plot is structured around a dumb teenage issue or the whole thing could be resolved *if they just called the police*, it drives me up the wall. This isn't the case here. The characters both feel like teenagers but don't rely on that for plot.

I doubt I'll pick up the second book because I still find the very premise of this book rather dumb and hate 'fated couples' stories with a passion. Still, the author worked very well within the bounds of the premise setup without breaking their world and characters and I have to respect that.

Hockey Mama says

Exciting! 4.5

As always, you think you have an Elle Casey Novel figured out, but then she takes you on a wild ride with much more going on than you realize. Then you finish the book. And in true Elle Casey fashion, she leaves you hanging...wanting more!! Don't you just love it??!! LOL.

Elle Casey novels pull me in, and I can't put them down until I finish. OK, I take some breaks. But with Duality, I read pretty much straight though. I stayed up late reading, as I do with her novels. I love her writing style, she keeps me turning pages!

This is not just a teen high school story. There is more to the draw Rae and Malcolm feel for each other. A little paranormal action? Yes!

Jasmine, Rae's friend, is great! I think she is my favorite character in this story.

I don't want to give away too much...I want you to check it out, I think you'll enjoy it. Just remember, there is more going on than you think.
