



Fractured

Erin Hayes

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Blinded by a mysterious seizure when she was three years old, Bash Martin has managed to carve out a normal life for herself as an adult. Yet she still yearns for a deeper connection with her twin sister Lily, who has always been jealous of the attention their parents bestowed upon Bash due to her disability.

A dream vacation seems like the perfect chance to heal their relationship, but Bash soon realizes there is something terribly wrong with Lily and that her sister is hiding a dark secret. And when a supernatural fire engulfs their hotel and corpses come back to life, the sisters are plunged into a nightmarish world that threatens not only their lives, but their very souls.

Fractured Details

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Author : Erin Hayes

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From Reader Review Fractured for online ebook

Felicia Semmler says

Holy crap! I was surprised how much I enjoyed this one - horror isn't usually my thing but I loved it. The story is so complex and detailed it all feels so well. Very well written and terrifying for those faint of heart.

Jadzia says

*I received this book through a Goodreads Giveaway

This is the first horror I have ever actually read, but I love horror movies, so I knew I would get a kick out of reading one, I just wasn't sure how well it would come across. It was a bit like a murder thriller I read a while back—I could picture everything just like it was a movie in front of me, which was great, because it made it feel familiar and it had the same feel as every horror movie I had ever seen, but it was odd reading it instead of seeing it, and that threw me off for a bit and also had some of the dialogue/character interactions feeling a bit cheesy to me.

Once I had gotten past that weird feeling of comparing this horror/paranormal book to all the horror/paranormal movies I'd ever seen, I began to sink into it—slowly, like the beginning of the book. The book does start off slowly. We're introduced to a whole cast of characters, so that it is a bit confusing at first, and introduced to an event that occurred early in the twins' lives and really began to set things off.

From the get go, everything was visually clear to me, and I love that Ms. Hayes was able to get that across so well. I could see it all and Ms. Hayes' writing really brought all of the scenes to life even Bash's scenes—and her character is blind, so it's great that the author was able to do that so smoothly. Now and again, Bash would pick up on things that a blind person obviously could in no way ever pick up on. Things are described or a character's actions are described in a way that makes no sense for Bash's impairment, and that bothered me a bit.

The characters were good, they felt real—not necessarily likeable, but...—and once I started to really distinguish the secondary ones, I began to connect with them on different levels and enjoy the book even more. Honestly, though, the MCs were not my favorites. Bash was incredibly annoying and bossy, even toward her fiancé, and totally naïve where Lily was concerned. It's like nothing in regards to why Lily acted the way she did or that Lily could possibly be...not normal (especially after everything crazy starts going down)...got through her head. Lily was an absolute jerk and really unreasonable, but she had an excuse, with the whole demon thing involved (it wasn't her fault at all), so I ended up liking her a lot better in the end. Bash's boyfriend, Seth, was okay and seemed like a really great guy, but then his character kind of fades a bit as Bash takes the lead role in a lot of things as the action picks up, so he did not stand out like I wanted him to.

As I mentioned before, the pace is slow at the beginning and the excitement picks up a bit later, but when it picks up, it really picks up, and then it's pretty crazy and fun from then on out.

The writing was pretty good, and I was impressed, though it definitely wasn't the best I've ever read. Also, the author thanks her editor in the acknowledgments, but there were a ton of typos, and a lot of just...missing words at the beginning and in the middle of sentences. They were easy to overlook, because of the excitement going on, but they were still very present.

When the action starts, it's very full-on and gory and gross. Not that any of it grossed me out, just...it was pretty visual and awesome. I loved that. Most of the details that built up the scenes and formed descriptions were great. I mean, take this for example:

“It was a blackened...thing...that had its four limbs on the wall, actually on the wall, like a spider waiting for something to fly into its web. Ash fell off of it, showing char-grilled skin and red, oozing flesh underneath.” One of the biggest things that bothered me, however, was that the author seemed to recognize what words/lines/phrases really worked, and used them a lot. For example, some form or other of “skin and ash sloughed off of it” is used repeatedly. The same description of the creature above is used to describe other creatures without much creativity or differentiation between them.

There is also A TON of bad language in this book, so if you’re sensitive to that, then beware. I think every foul word that has ever been said or thought was shouted at the top of Seth’s lungs at least five times. There is also, in terms of sexual content, a lot. There are two sex scenes described and plenty of sexual innuendo and mentions of such content, that isn’t shown.

I liked this book a lot in terms of the paranormal/horror aspects, but the characters could have been more likeable/relatable, and it’s definitely on the mature side—content-wise.

Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says

You can also read my review here

Lily and Bash are sister. Twins, to be exact and one thing is for sure, they're no Anna and Elsa. Ever since they're kinds, Lily has always been a little jealous of the attention that Batsheba is getting (i just love that name so much) And one simple afternoon, when little Lily and Bash are playing, an incident happens that leads to Bash being blind.

From the prologue, I was deeply engaged already. I was like, 'no. i'm not getting any sleep unless i finish this' but I ended up sleeping anyway because apparently reading this at night when you're alone is not a good decision! Fractured's premise sounds very intriguing and with a cover like that it's really hard not to grab your attention. And I'm glad that it's that way because Fractured is perfect for readers who are looking for a break in YA contemporaries. Like I mentioned above, the prologue will make you be engaged on to the story. And what I loved about this is that from the start, it didn't have a dull moment until you finish it. It's like the first few chapters are just making you ready for a crazier than crazy ending.

Yes, I just said that! - ____ -

The case between Lily and Bash is fascinating. I must say that I haven't encountered it before. The author keeps dropping bomb after bomb of terrifying information till the end and I. Just. Love. It. And it is creepy you guys, I'm not even kidding. There's a lot of this:

The ending might not be the ending I was hoping for but it was satisfying nonetheless and this is on third person narrative which doesn't really work on me most of the time but surprisingly, it pushed me to read the story more. Overall, Fractured is a chilling and frightening read for me. The expectation that I had from the intriguing blurb and captivating cover was met and it has a well-thought plot.

Lindsay says

So, the first 40% or so of this book is deceptive. It was definitely creepy, but it was a little slow, filled with character building and a whack load of foreshadowing. I kept waiting for the other shoe to drop. I wasn't even going to put a content warning on the book at that point, because the language was mild, and it wasn't even violent.

Well... CONTENT WARNING ADDED! It's amazing how much more we swear when a demon starts to toy with us! And the gore just keeps on coming! Body count? MASSIVE! Once the story reached that pivotal scene, shit got real serious, real fast!

I loved the pivoting character views. The scenes went back and forth between a handful of characters, so it gave me a solid hold on what was going on in various story threads. They each had a unique voice and it was great to know what was going through everyone's heads. Bathsheba (Bash) is the main character, or at least the one I felt most connected to. She went blind when she was three, so now we have the added terror of removing and augmenting senses. Bash can't see the horror, but she can hear things scraping in the walls. *shivers* I'm not sure which I would prefer! On the plus side, you wouldn't have to see the blood and pus, but you also couldn't see what's coming for you!

All of the characters kept breaking all the key rules on how to survive a horror story! No wonder they kept dying! ;) I kept screaming at the book "STOP SPLITTING UP! DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR! Stupid characters deserve everything that's coming to them... but don't kill THAT character! HEY! I liked her!"

Honestly, I wasn't sure how Erin could possibly wrap everything up and not leave me completely pissed off that she killed all the wrong people. And yet? She actually managed it. I'm okay with it. It feels right. *deep cleansing breath*

A copy of this book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

E.M. MacCallum says

I love horror when it's more than just gore, bloodshed and ultimate revenge stories. I found "Fractured" was an intriguing mystery, psychological scream-fest with, of course, horrific action that kept me on my toes. It's more intense when you care about the characters and Erin Hayes did just that.

From what I've read of this author, this is her first 'horror'. I certainly hope it's not her last. She did explain

how it was a difficult thing to write but the effort she put into this novel unveils itself in a beautiful, bloody and entertaining way.

Bash and Lily are twins. Bash, the "good" one was blinded at the age of three. She's a sweet girl whose concern for her sister, Lily is often perceived as a nuisance. Lily, the "bad" one has had a bitter go at life and we watch as she struggles to correct herself only to slip in a vat of temptation wherever she goes. You can tell they're close in spirit despite not being very much alike in personality. Theirs is a complex relationship that I had a great time watching unfold.

Their trip to the hotel starts off innocently enough though there's an air of mystery. Something is about to go terribly wrong and while you're trying to figure out the pieces, more crazy things are going on in the background. The author reveals just enough to engage the reader but doesn't spill the beans until the riveting end.

I was really impressed with the writing. It was brutally awesome and an amazing first horror book! I think fans of psychological and action-packed horror will love this!

FULL REVIEW at The Reader's Hollow: <http://thereadershollow.com>

Sheila says

This is my third book by this author, and this one was completely, totally unlike either of the other two I have read. My favorite so far by Erin Hayes is *Death is but a Dream*, which was a mythological story. I was for some reason expecting this one to be similar, and the beginning third of this book sucked me in, had me wondering where the story was heading, had me engrossed, but then...

total hell breaks loose! And I mean total hell! Horror, gore, blood, death, freakishness, chaos, demons, grossness, you name it! I felt like I had been thrown into every horror movie that every scared the bejeezus out of me when I was younger! Yikes!!! Since horror is not one of my usual genres, this all caught me off guard a bit.

I will admit I do love how the book ended. It was not what I was expecting, and I often like it when a book does not end how I am expecting it too. But the total horror in the middle was just a bit too gory for me, personally. Others who love horror though may totally love this book. Me, I hope the author's next book goes back to the mythological story line. Those stories don't give me nightmares!

Chyna says

what a load of crap.

Review to be posted...

My thoughts...(Warning there might be spoilers...well, more like big spoilers. This is a negative review, just

saying.)

Horror hasn't always been my first pick but when I noticed the eerie cover of *Fractured*, I had to request a copy. What a load of crap! I can't believe I even gave this book a chance, I'm sorry for bashing, but I hate being disappointed. I know I just have to get used to it, but that miracle hasn't yet happened. I can't blame the book for everything since Horror hasn't always been my cup of tea, but everything in this story seems like crap. None of it made actual sense to me. To all those who love horror you might enjoy it but to those who have the same taste as I do, you will freaking hate this.

Bash and Lily are twins, but Bash had always been the favorite so that made Lily envious of her older sister. Lily had always even unusually dark, everyone can see that she's different. There's something wrong. Something horrific. Bash has suddenly been blinded by a mysterious seizure so that made people even sympathize with her even more, Lily hated that everyone only paid attention to Bash. Lily finally met the man of her dreams, but not soon, Seth fell in love with Bash. Cue thunder!

After Bash and Seth had announced their engagement, a fire broke. Suddenly the dead were walking, another voice was heard and lies have been unraveled.

I don't understand what Lily was so jealous of, it's been more than 20 years and yet she still envies her sister. I found it immature..and as for Bash, can she be any less stupid? She practically begs her sister to love her, I think she's just not used to having one person hate her. But that's not at all what I despised so much in the book. My annoyance boiled when, finally, the conflict was resolved! Lily sacrificed herself to save her dear sister. WHAT THE FRICK? Do you see what I'm getting at? The sibling love wasn't present at all, so why sacrifice yourself? The story ended way too conveniently, I hated the way this book was written. It wasn't well thought of and when the author announced that it took her more than 7 rewrites to finish *Fractured*, I don't believe it. She needs to rethink her whole plot.

This should make me feel pallid, weak and frightened, but I'm just so angry at how this book turned out. Don't read this book. This needs to be rewritten. Calm down, Chyna. Breathes in and out.

Ashley Ehlers says

When I first started this back in December of last year it wasn't hard for me to get into it. The deeper I got the more I began to really like it (which is four stars on Goodreads). I could just picture everything so vividly in my mind, I could just imagine a blue tent over the scenes like we've seen in many horror movies of late. The atmosphere and world building sucked me in and I'm like "why doesn't Erin write MORE horror stories!"

However, even though I was enjoying it, I found that it was easy to put down. Sometimes I set it down because I just needed a breather, some scenes were just intense because it was one thing after another. It kept me on the edge of my seat! But sadly I set it down and didn't pick it back up. This was when I hit 75% in the book, I only had 25% more to read- I was so close to the end but I set it down anyways and I didn't pick it back up until now.

It took two months later for me to finish the last bit of the book and honestly at first I don't know why because I was enjoying it. If I was enjoying it how come it was so easy for me to walk away and read other books I've been dying to get my hands on?

I think a part of it was because it felt like it was dragging for me. Not that nothing was happening type of slow drag. No, far from it. It was intense creepy action throughout the story that had me gasping and sitting on the edge of my seat. The drag I was feeling was from how long the chapters felt, I wasn't breezing through them and after a while it started to feel like work when I was reading it which is why I had to step away.

But even though I walked away it was still in the back of my mind and I wanted to get back to it eventually because I just had to know if Bash (would name a few other characters but don't want to spoil anything) would make it out of this hellhole alive.

So overall I liked it (bringing it down to three stars on Goodreads). Exactly my cup of tea and wish Erin would write more in this genre because she has it in her to do so! It was original, not a ghost story like I thought it might be when I first started this book. It had me sitting on the edge of my seat while bringing chills to my spine! The only other thing I have to say and I try not to say this a lot because even traditionally published books miss small errors- but I felt there could be another round of edits (nothing big though). The only reason why I'm mentioning this is because this was originally published under the title Fractured so I'm not sure if she changed anything when she revamped it.

Was given a copy from the author in exchange for my honest review

Heather Faville says

4.5 stars but worth of rounding up

Picking up my copy of Fractured by Erin Hayes, I was almost immediately pulled into the story. This, from what I have surmised, is Ms Hayes' first attempt into the world of horror and I have to say she has done a wonderful job. Her settings are descriptive and become quite macabre as the story progresses. Visions are placed in the readers head that could cause nightmares if allowed to be dwelt on for too long at time.

Adding to the creep factor is the differences between the twins Lily and Bathsheba, Bath for short. Lily, seen as the "bad sister", has a definite oddity about her and as we progress throughout the story we, obviously, learn that there is more to her than what we initially envisioned. Bath, the "good sister" is a sweet and kindly young woman, who loves her sisters very much even if she is a bit naive regarding her sisters feelings toward her. The relationship between the two is very strained even though Bash attempts to always be there for her sister and keep on her good side.

Essentially, Fractured takes us on a nightmare weekend getaway with Lily, Bash and her fiancée, Seth along with his friend Darius and a few others. Bash hopes this weekend will prove to be a way for the sisters to bury whatever issues they have between them and to announce her engagement to Seth, whom she met through Lily. Things quickly progress from awkward to worse and the "old lady" who has followed Lily around since birth begins to up her game of evil.

What does this old woman want? Will the group get out alive? Will Bash and Lily survive to reconcile their sisterhood and maybe even become friends?

There is only one way to find out and that is to pick up a copy of Fractured for yourself.

Felicia A says

YAYYYYYYY! Another editing project is now a published book!

Rhea Dsouza says

I pulled an overnighter to finish reading Fractured. This was me during the scary parts:

Note to self: Never, ever, EVER pull an all nighter to finish a book that has been clearly marked as “Horror.” It’s a stupid decision and that nights’ sleep that you lost? You deserved it.

Honestly, though. This book is creepy as FUCK, and if you’re a wimp (like yours’ truly) then make sure you read this book in broad daylight. It’s beyond just gore and screams but there are both of the aforementioned atrocities so beware.

The prologue gave me the jeeppers. Lily and Bash are twins playing in the background. Of course, Bash is the one doing any playing and three year old Lily—who is a bit too serious for a three year old—is sulking off in a corner, trying to understand why exactly her sister won’t play with her.

Fair enough.

All of a sudden, Bash falls to the ground and upon further investigation, it is revealed that Bash has been blinded by an epileptic seizure.

Fast forward twenty years and Bash is engaged to Seth, the man she loves and Lily is doing the walk of shame, unable to determine why she sleeps around so much.

Bash/Bathsheba/Sheba is the older sister of them two. She’s more loved by their mother, garners more attention from their father and she’s blind, so that just pulls more attention to her anyway. In the good way.

She struck as kind of pushy character. She pushes Seth to keep their engagement a secret, she looks for blind perks all the time, and she’s selfless and brave. A dangerous combination, really. But my favourite is how she’s with Lily.

Lily, for some reason, harbors resentment against Bash. In my humblest opinion, it’s a bit unfair of her. There are two reasons as to why I say this:

1) It’s really not Bash’s fault that she got blind/more attention from their parents. Bash has been nothing but

kind to her sister and Lily just behaves like a brat.

2) I can't give this away because it is a MAJOR spoiler but for those who've read the book already, it's got to do with army boy. Again, Bash is not to blame.

As for the whole supernatural angle with Lily, it was good. Really good. Well researched, great execution and made me SHIT IN MY GODDAMNED PANTS.

Ahem.

My favorite character in the entire series, honestly, was Seth. He was practical, straight-forward, had his own demons, but he was loyal. And balls. The guy had balls.

There was a wide array of supporting characters that you could choose to support and ship. They all did their work well and in the end...well, yeah. No spoilers.

Now to talk about the end of the book itself. Le sigh. I'm confused myself. It felt like the easy way out but god dammit I liked that ending. I really did. But it felt like the most obvious way to finish the book off. I can't fucking decide!

Overall, the book was good. Worth reading if you like gore and the horror genre is your thing. As for me, though? Never again. EVER. I'm too much of a pussy.

Find this review and more at Rhea's Neon Journal

Toni L. says

I didn't realize this was a horror. I have had it so long. But it was a good book.

Seraphia says

Bound by Blood by Erin Hayes is a dark and twisted horror story of where twin girls lead very different lives almost from the beginning. In Bound by Blood we are introduced to twin sisters – Bathsheba and Lily. Bathsheba is the favored child. She's well liked, she's doted on and she is the one who has friends. Lily is the quiet and withdrawn one, but there is something more to her, something dark. Bathsheba can sense that something is wrong with Lily, but yet it seems she keeps her distance. Lily is plagued by a voice that is always trying to provoke her. One day she unleashes some of that resentment and her sister has a terrible accident that strangely leaves her blind. As the years go by the girls' lives take very different paths. Bathsheba, despite her disability makes something of her life and flourishes. Lily, on the other hand, seems to be and stay on a downward spiral. A trip has been planned by Bathsheba and her boyfriend to get together

with their friends one last time before he ships out. Lily has been invited and while on this trip the true horror strikes. The evil has made itself known, and it demands to be satisfied. Many will suffer, but can Bathsheba and those she cares about make it out alive?

Bound by Blood is a twisted horror story that keeps you crawling deeper into the twisted darkness of this story. In a way Bound by Blood is a twist on the classic – “good child” who is perfect, well beloved by her family and successful, while there is the “problem child” who struggles just to make it and get by. I couldn’t help but feel sympathy and empathy for Lily. You constantly feel that she is the one who is left out and ignored. Plus, when you read that the father favors the older twin it prickles at you. The first half of the story focuses on Lily and Bathsheba and how they are so different in their lives. Bathsheba is happy with her boyfriend, living a good life with surprises in the plans. Lily is having one night stands, doing drugs and not being able to hold down a steady job. You get the sense of a lot of resentment from Lily towards her sister. Some of it doesn’t make sense but the author does a great job answering the questions that crop up behind this.

There really isn’t anything that I didn’t like about this book. I am an avid lover of horror novels and this book checks a lot of boxes for me. There is suspense, drama, some gore, some violence and intense scenes. There is even some heart break in this story in more ways than one. The author writes in quite a few surprises that you don’t see coming. I enjoy how the author ties it all together and blends together an intense story that is perfect for those who love a good thrilling horror story. I like a good story that has an ending that I don’t really expect to happen and this book gives me that.

I am rating this book 5 out of 5 stars. This story flows so well and captivates the reader from start to finish. Putting this book down is not an easy task as the question of what happens next plagues you. The need to know how it ends is too strong. Bound by Blood is definitely a book for fans of Erin Hayes and those who love a deliciously good horror story.

Penny Noble says

Bash has been blind since she was three years old, and she lives a fulfilling life. But her relationship with her twin sister Lily has been more strained than usual. Bash hopes an upcoming vacation with Bash, Lily, Bash’s fiancé and friends will help pull the twins closer, and Bash is going to announce she’s engaged. However, when they arrive, things start immediately going bad with one member of their party having a ski accident. Unbeknownst to everyone, Lily is hiding a secret, a secret that is about to be revealed. Her secret is deadly and everyone at the lodge will pay the price. I have read this a book by this author before, but it was coauthored with someone else. The book I had read before was urban fantasy/paranormal romance, but I was prepared beforehand about this book being more of a horror story. And, what a story! I just loved the creepy vibe of this book. From the beginning, I was drawn into the book with great writing, characters, and set-up. I kept turning the pages because I couldn’t wait to see what was going to happen next. Bed time came and went for me because I had to finish to see exactly why things were the way they were (no, I can’t say much or I’ll spoil the book). If you love a good horror story, look no further! Highly recommend! Thanks to the author for the e-book which I reviewed voluntarily.

Teri says

Thank God that's over! And I don't say that because it was bad, trust me it was that good. OK you all know I am a big baby so reading a horror book is not one of my favorite things, and yes I was warned. I didn't listen

but I was warned. And this book was one that tested me on all levels. The creep factor is huge on this book. I haven't seen a horror book from her before so I thought what the heck it can't be that bad for her first try. . . WRONG. Why did I doubt her ability to scare the bejesus out of me. I live alone and thinking of this huge hotel I immediately thought of all the rooms I couldn't see into from my office or my room. . . I got up and closed the doors.

They didn't stop when they were dead. They didn't know how to get free. She wasn't supposed to be but she was. In flashes Sheba learns the truth but will it be soon enough to save them all. They were warned they wouldn't survive. . . how do they get out. . . how do they break free. . . now they are living the nightmare. . . will they survive. . .

Great writing here. I am not one that puts a book down but yeah I did this time. The characters are on point, the twist added to the shivers, the goosebumps from the stuff, and the shivers from the dark. This author may not write horror for a living and it's probably a good thing cos I will not be reading her next, I'm going back to genres I can handle with my big girl panties neatly in place.
