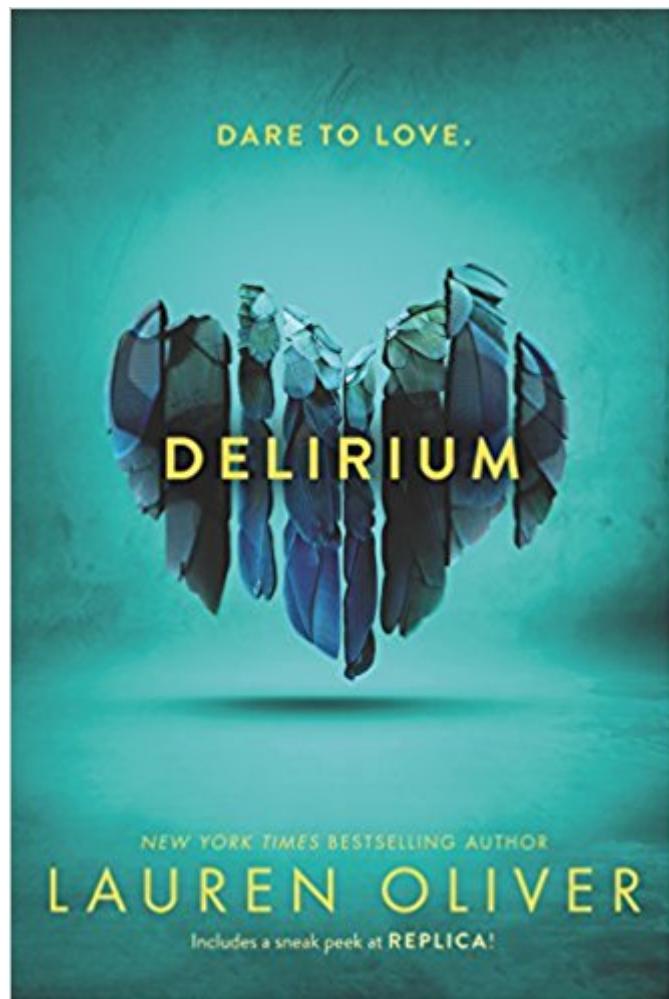


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# Delirium (Delirium Trilogy)



## Synopsis

The first book in Lauren Oliver's New York Times bestselling trilogy about forbidden love, revolution, and the power to choose. Now with a brand-new cover and an exclusive-to-this-book sneak peek at her next novel for teens: the ambitious, wholly original masterwork *Replica*. In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure. Living with her aunt, uncle, and cousins in Portland, Maine, Lena Haloway is very much looking forward to being cured and living a safe, predictable life. She watched love destroy her mother and isn't about to make the same mistake. But with ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena meets enigmatic Alex, a boy from the Wilds who lives under the government's radar. What will happen if they do the unthinkable and fall in love?

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #10,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings #98 in Books > Teens > Romance > Science Fiction & Dystopian #110 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian

## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, February 2011: Lena Haloway is content in her safe, government-managed society. She feels (mostly) relaxed about the future in which her husband and career will be decided, and looks forward to turning 18, when she'll be cured of deliria, a.k.a. love. She tries not to think about her mother's suicide (her last words to Lena were a forbidden "I love you") or the supposed "Invalid" community made up of the uncured just beyond her Portland, Maine, border. There's no real point—she

believes her government knows how to best protect its people, and should do so at any cost. But 95 days before her cure, Lena meets Alex, a confident and mysterious young man who makes her heart flutter and her skin turn red-hot. As their romance blossoms, Lena begins to doubt the intentions of those in power, and fears that her world will turn gray should she submit to the procedure. In this powerful and beautifully written novel, Lauren Oliver, the bestselling author of *Before I Fall*, throws readers into a tightly controlled society where options don't exist, and shows not only the lengths one will go for a chance at freedom, but also the true meaning of sacrifice. --Jessica Schein Lauren Oliver's Delirium Playlist In *Delirium*, the government requires that all teenagers be cured of love, a.k.a. deliria, to keep society safe. But 95 days before her treatment, Lena Haloway falls for a boy--and must face the truth about her own feelings and the world in which she lives. In this exclusive playlist, Lauren Oliver shares the songs that capture this haunting novel about the power of love and what one will risk in order to keep it.

Gayle Forman and Lauren Oliver: Author One-on-One Gayle Forman is a self-described "perpetual teenager" and an award-winning author and journalist whose articles have appeared in numerous publications. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and children. She is the author of *Where She Went* and *If I Stay*. Recently she sat down with Lauren Oliver to discuss their work. Read the resulting interview below, or turn the tables to see what happened when Lauren interviewed Gayle. From Gayle Forman: Lauren Oliver is kind of mind-blowing. She wrote her intensely moving debut, *Before I Fall* when she was 26, which seems impossible given the book's depth and wisdom. She followed up with the deliciously provocative love story *Delirium*, the first of a trilogy, and her first middle-grade book, *Liesl & Po* comes out in the fall of 2011. On top of that, she's constantly cooking up book ideas for her literary development company. Somehow, she managed to slow down long enough for us to talk shop over lunch in our mutual hometown, Brooklyn. Gayle: You have like 100 balls in the air. Are you one of those people who thrives on an insane amount of activity? Lauren: I've been busy and overextended my whole life. I wrote half of *Before I Fall* while I had a full-time job, was a full-time grad student, and worked part-time in a nightclub. I wrote the first half of the book on my phone on the subway. I'd email the chapters to myself. Gayle: You wrote the book on your phone? Lauren: It's very rare that I write on my computer. A lot of times I'm writing on subways or in the back of cabs or on airplanes. I know the exact quantity of lines on my BlackBerry and how it relates to word count. Gayle: Well, that brings me right to my question about process. How does an idea become a book for you? How did *Delirium* arrive? Lauren: I'd read an essay by Gabriel Garcia Marquez that said that all great books are either about death or love and I'd

already written about death. And I started thinking that I'd never written a love story. It was out of my comfort zone. The next day I was at the gym, and the TV was on and the news report was all about the swine flu epidemic. It was the latest in the flu scares. And I thought it was so weird how easily people become panicked. You can convince people that anything is an epidemic. So much is propaganda. And the two ideas just combined in my head. And the character of Lena started narrating immediately. Gayle: Moral of the story, budding writers: Go to the gym. Lauren: Most of my breakthrough ideas come at the gym or while showering. Gayle: Me too! And I'll run out and start writing and be dripping in a towel. Lauren: I've actually ruined computers that way. I think what happens is punctuated equilibrium: a period when changes are accumulating but not visibly, the simmering is happening. Then, when your mind is very relaxed, what was unconscious becomes conscious. Gayle: On the surface, there's a very big leap between your first two books. Before I Fall follows Sam, a prototypical mean girl who has to relive the last day of her life while Delirium follows Lena who lives in a creepy world in which love has been outlawed. But really, both of these girls start out conformists and challenge the constraints on their lives.

Lauren: Transformation is very important to me. I definitely am very interested in how people become who they are. In change. In characters who are damaged who and who feel initially unlovable—and in their redemption through feelings of love. Gayle: Who are you more like, Lena or Sam? Lauren: Sam is more similar to how I was in high school. I was rebellious. I went out and partied and did all the bad things that she did. Lena is just—she's so obedient and so scared of doing anything wrong. I was so fond of her. I kind of loved her in this way, I felt so protective of her. She's so fragile and also brave. Gayle: That was exactly how I felt about Mia in If I Stay. I loved the strength of both Sam and Lena, in relation to their love interests. Even in Delirium, where Alex is the one who sparks Lena's rebellion, she's no damsel in distress. Lauren: I don't believe in damsels. That's not a model of femininity or heroism I subscribe to. Everyone has to learn to save themselves. It can be through the mechanisms of loving other people but you have to learn to save yourself. Gayle: Dystopian fiction is very hot right now. Did you have any idea you'd be on the cutting edge of this trend? Lauren: I never heard that word when I wrote Delirium. I mean, I knew what it meant but not as a category. Delirium is supposed to be a meditation on love, what it does, good and bad. Because there have been times when if I could have reached inside to take out my own heart out, I would've. Books can't come from categories; they come from a desire to say something about the world. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oliver appropriately dedicates this slender collection to the many fans of the Delirium series—“the ones who will fully appreciate the connective tissue offered up by these three tales from the perspectives of supporting characters.” “Hana” runs alongside the timeline of *Delirium* (2011) and shows that Lena’s best friend was more like her than readers suspected. The middle story, “Annabel,” is the strongest, and details Lena’s mother’s 11 years in “the Crypts,” where she is constructing an escape rope with the help of a sympathetic security guard. “Raven” follows the fiery revolutionary as she spends 8 years in the Wilds, heading toward a daring rescue of Lena while falling in love with the inscrutable Tank. All three stories intercut between past and present, allowing plenty of opportunity for Oliver to employ her patented yearning prose. The downside to this is that the three voices sound rather similar. The upside, however, is that character development, not romance, takes center stage, making this a worthy, quick read for series devotees. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Love, a four letter word that invokes fear and disgust in the minds of every civilized American. It is the deadliest of all diseases and brings with it only pain, loss and heartache. Having witnessed first-hand the disastrous symptoms of the deliria, Lena Haloway eagerly counts the days until her eighteenth birthday, when she will be cured. Then she meets Alex, an invalid from the wilds, and everything she thought she knew about the disease, the government, society and even her past is called into question. Wow! I can’t remember when last I read a book this emotionally charged. The entire novel is like a showcase for the beauty of life. The stark contrast between the cured and uncured civilians is spectacular. The sheer splendor of Ms. Oliver’s words and descriptions makes every mundane act of living a piece of art and poetry. Very few pictures resonate with me for any length of time after reading a novel, but I cannot get the vision of the Portland bay at sunset out of my mind! The relationship between Lena and her best friend Hana is definitely one of the highlights of this novel. It is so wonderfully natural and Hana’s vibrant character leaps off the pages, into your face. Lena’s character growth is beautifully developed, her habits are endearing, and her relationship with Alex is exciting and lovely at once. There are so many underlying morals and themes in this novel, but for me, the greatest is the warning against apathy. What an eye opener it is to imagine this world without love. The ending is so tragic and yet real. I take my hat off to an author who is willing to remain true to her story this way. I

can't wait to read the sequel! This series goes into my favorite shelf!

This was an enjoyable read. The characters were pretty well developed. There was action, romance and drama throughout the entire book. I found myself turning the pages easily and the writing style was enjoyable and fun. I like Lauren's cadence in her writing and at times, I just had to stop and take a deep breath and savor. Some of the descriptions got too lengthy for my taste. Some of them. Some of the dialog and scenes were a little unbelievable and a little hard to follow but the characters always kept you right there, on the page, clipping along and so the dialog and scenes were forgiven quickly. Does that make any sense? I just found myself rolling my eyes sometimes and at other times, I absolutely could not bring the scene into full view because the description left me lost. But perhaps the biggest turn off for me was that I could not resonate with the plot. The most enjoyable books to me are the ones where I can see a piece of myself in the story, whether it's with the characters or the story line. I was nowhere to be found in this story. The term, "Dystopia" is used by the author to describe the theme of this story and it nauseated me. There were many times, I had to sit, gather myself before reading any further. I wanted to read further however, I just had to get myself together before moving on. The story nauseated me and I felt overwhelmed sometimes. Perhaps that is the sign of a good author and quite frankly, Lauren's writing is really well done. There are two more books after this one and I will not be picking them up. For me, one book was enough even though I was left hanging at the end of the story. I did not enjoy it enough to dive into the next one and that is not because I did not enjoy this read, it was because the genre was not to my liking. And so I will go looking for myself in another book. Not sure where, but I'm sure it will find me. They always do.

I am completely and utterly amazed by this book, I really loved it! It was such a unique concept. I actually did like Lena, even though she was so weak at first its like such a great character development, from being this weak girl so brainwashed by this horrible society to finally resisting and doing what she wants. I also loved Alex, he was what Lena needed, that little push to as she says "wake up". Now I know I'm a little late to this but after reading this, I saw the pilot for the show and I recommend to anyone who has not read the book, please do not watch the pilot. It pretty much shows the major parts of the book, so it will be a big spoiler if you do watch it before you read. I am really upset they aren't going to continue with the show because I have just became a BIG fan

of the Delirium series and I cannot wait to read the rest of the books! That ending though... I could've done without. I'm just here, hoping for the possibility that it just isn't how its left off. Please pick this book up, its AMAZING.

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