



Cracked

Eliza Crewe

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Meet Meda. She eats people.

Well, technically, she eats their soul. But she totally promises to only go for people who deserve it. She's special. It's not her fault she enjoys it. She can't help being a bad guy. Besides, what else can she do? Her mother was killed and it's not like there are any other "soul-eaters" around to show her how to be different. That is, until the three men in suits show up.

They can do what she can do. They're like her. Meda might finally have a chance to figure out what she is. The problem? They kind of want to kill her. Before they get the chance Meda is rescued by crusaders, members of an elite group dedicated to wiping out Meda's kind. This is her chance! Play along with the "good guys" and she'll finally figure out what, exactly, her 'kind' is.

Be careful what you wish for. Playing capture the flag with her mortal enemies, babysitting a teenage boy with a hero complex, and trying to keep one step ahead of a too-clever girl are bad enough. But the Hunger is gaining on her.

The more she learns, the worse it gets. And when Meda uncovers a shocking secret about her mother, her past, and her destiny... she may finally give into it.

Cracked Details

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From Reader Review Cracked for online ebook

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says

Unpopular Opinion Time.

This was a Buddy Read with Buddies Books and Baubles Group.

This book got a lot of hype and a LOT of my friends love it. I understand. This book is written well and does not have all the typical annoying YA tropes. **Meda** is awesome. I love the humor. I just think I am getting too old for YA. Most of the book involved going to a "school" where the up-and-coming "Crusaders" (demon hunters/killers) trained. So most of the book was about Meda trying to be in this school and not get noticed while she tried to spy and find out more about herself (she's a half-demon - and more, but you can find out about that yourself, I don't want to say too much).

It reminded me a LOT of City of Bones and even Harry Potter a little. Meda was original. She is not your typical special snowflake Mary Sue. I loved that. But it wasn't enough to keep me engaged in the story. As supporting characters go, Jo was cool, but I felt absolutely nothing for Chi.

And what's up with all the digs on crippled and handicapped people? It seemed excessive, even if it was just due to us being in Meda's head and her being socially inept.

There's a lot of potential here, and I would still recommend this. For YA, this is great. I think I am just not the target age group for this and I could tell. But, it's probably just me. So read it. It's worth the price of the book. If you liked this, you should check out City of Bones (if you haven't already) and also These Broken Stars and Blood Crown. They aren't the same, but for some reason remind me of each other a bit.

Oh well.

L A i N E Y says

My morality is almost a contortionist

It wasn't so much the plot as it was E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G.

It was the characters (oh my god Meda! [and Jo]), the writing, the humor, the adventures, the innocents and the evils. It was basically every single thing that made up one hell of an awesomely pure entertainment of a book.

» if you want to write a story about the 'chosen one', this is the way you do it. Otherwise I don't think you should bother.

» **The writing was extremely refreshing**, it's extremely well-clipped and precised. You won't find long-winded, unnecessary sentences here. *The author had such solid authority*: she never got side-tracked and her characters, especially **the downright fabulous Meda, had extraordinary presence** throughout the book. What I loved loved loved was that this never weavered. It held through to the last page.

They creep forward in smooth, slithery steps. That's fine, I like my food delivered - especially when I don't have to tip the driver

» **How I loved Meda!** She had this kind of snarky humor that was just so effing clever. I absolutely adored it.

» I was so content with the dynamic of their little group - Meda, Jo, Chi and little Uri. **They were teens who were real teens**, they were 'excellent' students but they were not capable of all things - not like in your typical YA novels where teens can just about run the world by themselves and be way more efficient than adults. So because of that fact, **the suspense was real** and I was so scared for their well-beings the entire time.

» **Meda and Jo's friendship.** (Is there not a 'combine word' for that? Do we only have 'bromance'? Well ok then)

Joe turned towards me. She doesn't want to die, but she will, for what she believes in.

I need new friends

Eliza Crewe managed to ease the dynamic of these two from open animosity to *best friends* status with such realistic situations, you can't do anything except root for **this amazing female friendship**. Which I did, I definitely do.

I'm so ready for book 2 to see what kind of havoc Meda and the gang will wreck next!

PS. I swear I hadn't teared up at all.... until that last paragraph..

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

[Oh, Uri!!! *cries* (hide spoiler)]

Robin (Bridge Four) says

I was just going to follow along the discussion thread at Buddies Books and Baubles but then I re-read the first chapter and screw it I'm all in again.

Buddy Read with V!cky, , Catherine, Jessica (maybe?), Kerry, Sandra, Liz, Tanya, Tandie, Sh3lly and a few stalkers to be named later when I figure out who they are *sneaky stalkers and their capes*

Was it as good as the first time I read it?

Well not quite - I noticed some of the silly high school stuff that a few others have mentioned.

Did I care?

Not at all because.....MEDA!!!!

MEDA ROCKS AND GETS ALL THE STARS!!!

Original review May 2014

You've read how many different stories about the same nice girl who learns she is special and goes off on a journey to grow into her abilities **This is not that story** Meda is a monster, she is not a good girl, her sense of morality is borrowed from her mother and at times is very flexible.

... there are some people you shouldn't anger that you don't know about, because no one ever survived to warn you.

I'm the third kind.

I eat souls.

Meda led a very sheltered life up until the time her mother died. Her mother did the best that she could with the monster Meda was and tried to teach her all the values a human should have, but not everything stuck. Meda's sense of humor is dark and self-deprecating but hilarious non-the-less. I loved reading her inner dialogue in all situations as she tries to play nice with the humans.

Mom only wanted me to kill people who deserved it, and my morality's flexible enough to toss in self-defense (and everyone know the best defense is a good offense...my morality is almost a contortionist).

She doesn't know a lot about herself or where she came from but through a few twists of fate she ends up with the people who are trying to kill her kind. When she is discovered by a few members of the Knights Templar she decides to play along and see if she can't find out any information from the enemy. But as she is playing a dangerous game, if they find out who she is they will probably just kill her.

Chi, is the heroic boy who found Meda and is determined to save her, he is also her best source of information. Meda is not above using a few feminine wiles to separate him from Jo, a girl that definitely likes him and hates her, in order to get that information.

Chi likes all the attention, but I can't help notice his eyes sliding over to Jo when I do something particularly outrageous – like stroke his abs.

Yes I did, and they are amazing.

I loved this book. It was so nice to have a different kind of main character and see her transformation throughout the book as she discovers more about her past. Meda was so funny, she was never pouty or fell apart and some of the best times are when she is disgusted with herself for playing the part of a weaker girl in need of saving, because she is definitely not that.

The story was super-fast paced. It starts out fast and just keeps on going. Fights with Demons, discoveries about who Meda truly is and why she is here and the building of friendships and bonds. There were so many great moments that I loved and the humor really carried throughout. **I can't remember the last time I read a book this fun.**

In all fairness there are some heavy moments, but I totally loved the wrap up to the story and I can't wait to see what happens next. If like me you are tired of most of the YA books out there I recommend you give this one a try. It is so refreshing to read something in YA without a love triangle or relationship angst that is just a great plot and a lot of action.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

4.5 Stars

"I eat souls. The packaging can be tricky, but fortunately I am blessed with special skills to pry my meals from their pesky shells. My teeth rip skin; my jaws snap bones. I am fast, lightning-fast, snuff - oh-was-that-your-life? - fast."

Holy f&*^! What did I just read?!?!?!?!?!?

Permission denied. Keep your s*&t together, Mitchell!

This soooooooo should not have been a success for Kelly and the Book Boar. YA fantasy is NOT our bag. You're talking about a genre filled with a bunch of mamby pambies and terrible world building and overuse/abuse of the same tired out themes over and over and over again. What just happened?!?!?!?!?

To put it in a nutshell, **Meda** happened. Meda isn't your ordinary YA heroine. She has a little something different hiding under her surface . . .

She's just a *teensie* bit demonic. And it was AWESOME. While other girls spend their time chasing after vampires and werewolves and falling into instalove with anyone who has a peen, Meda goes around sucking the souls out of bad guys (well, mostly bad guys). You see, in addition to Meda being a soul eater, she has another little secret . . .

and spends her free time nom-nomming the bad guys on behalf of the ghosts who seek her help.

"I suspect they never really feel guilt, but I make sure they drown in regret. Red, sticky regret."

Not only did Meda **totally** kick ass, but she did it with the absolute BEST voice of a YA female MC I've ever read and a most delicious dry wit. And after all the butt kicking and being badly good were over, *Cracked* went where no other paranormal book has been able to go . . .

Dear Meda, please ignore the gaggle of screaming fangirls. I'm fairly certain we'll both be happiest if you choose me . . . the middle-aged chubbo with a collection of dead critters . . . to be your bestie. Anyone who can make this grumpy cat fart rainbows is the one I should split a BFF necklace with . . .

~~Blame~~ Credit for this review goes to Liz. Although I now see about a jillion of my GR friends have read this/have it on their TBR, it was her review that made me finally break down.

Navessa says

Yes. Fuck yes. This was fucking awesome. How awesome, you ask? Well, the last YA book that gave me these kinds of feels was *Angelfall*.

THAT WAS OVER THREE YEARS AGO.

If you look at Crewe's author page, you'll learn that she's an avid reader. It shows. Only a true devourer of literature would know how to avoid so many tropes and themes.

There were *none* in this book. At least none of the ones that piss me off. And if you know me even in the least, you know how rare that is.

This MC is an unapologetic sociopath. The cast of miscreants (who are supposed to be the good guys, BTW) that surround her are equally imperfect and yet equally lovable. The plot contains one twist after another. The world is richly imagined and flawlessly fleshed out. And the grand finale, my very favorite part of this book. Drum roll, please!

THIS IS NOT SOME CHEESY ROMANCE MASQUERADING AS ACTION/ADVENTURE. THIS IS THE REAL FUCKING DEAL, PEOPLE.

cue applause

In short, why the hell haven't more of you read this?!

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Anne says

Fuck yeah! Can I give the book 5 stars and give Meda 10?! Is that possible?

Love her. Just...

Meda..ALL THE STARS! Just take them, you snarky little bitch!

She is, hands down, the best female protagonist I have ever had the privilege to read about.

It's not that she's really *evil*, per say. I mean, she does sort of eat people occasionally, but most of them deserved it. *cough*

But what really impressed me was her inner dialogue. Crewe has created a young female character who thinks exactly the way I wish every young female character would think! When I rolled my eyes at something the inspirational boy-hero said, so did Meda! When I thought, "*She should probably just eat that nice idiot and make a run for it.*", wouldn't you know she was thinking the same thing?!

I mean, sure, he seemed nice and all, but a girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do!

And yes, I realize I'm overusing exclamation points! I just can't help myself right now!

It's taken me *forever* to write this review, and I *still* can't process the right words to say how much I loved this book. I have nothing. NOTHING!

{insert mindless squealing here}

Ok.

Meda...is so AWESOME!

Wait! Stop! Come back! I swear I'll think of something...

deep breath

What I'm trying to say, I guess, is that it's not the journey you take with the plot, so much as it is the journey inside Meda's mind that makes this one so much fun to read.

Also, there's no romance for our main character. But there is **a** romance. The one between the other two characters. In fact, those guys are the traditional hero & heroine we're used to seeing in young adult novels. The guy is handsome, strong, talented, and good. The ladies want him, and the men want to be him.

He is...**The Golden Boy.**

Or as Meda calls him...The Idiot.

The girl is tough, self-sacrificing, and smarter than everyone else in the room. She has an injury that makes everyone else feel the need to protect her, but she just wants to prove that she can fight alongside the other hunters.

She is...**The Wounded Warrior.**

Or as Meda calls her...The Gimp.

And these geeks are who Meda gets stuck with while she's trying to figure out ~~who~~ **what** she is, and why she does the things she does.

How does she get stuck with them, you ask?

Well, she ate the wrong bad guy, got jumped by some demons, rescued by Golden Boy, interrogated by Wounded Warrior, and sort of passes herself off as a victim to gain access to this group of demon hunters with all their knowledge about soul-suckers like herself.

'Cause she's sorta in the dark about who she is, and why she does the things she does. Her mom was the only one who knew about her *appetite*, and (quite rightly) kept her away from the other people. But her mom died

without explaining much of anything to her, and she's been on her own for a while now. And the only thing keeping her from going full-on chompy is the conscience she *borrowed* from her mother.

M'kay. There were SECRETS regarding her mother that I figured out fairly early on. I think they were supposed to be revelations. Alas, no...

Did that lessen my enjoyment of the story, you ask?

Were you skimming this review?! I mean, did you not read the first bits where I was all screaming, and fainting, and flailing around?!

Sheesh!

Come on, people! Keep up!

Again, it's the trip within Meda's mind that's the real draw to **Cracked**. The plot is almost a parody of all the other young adult books out there. I mean, it's not that it's uninteresting, it's just wouldn't be anything special without Meda pointing out all the inconsistencies and plot holes in her head.

In other words, **Meda is AWESOME!**

Ok, ok! I'm done!

Also reviewed for:

Liz* Fashionably Late says

Don't be distracted by Tommy Hanks. I'm the one in the yellow dress.

BR with my BBB's buddies.

Yep, it's true: **Cracked lives up to its hype**. Even though it's not perfect, Cracked kicks every YA book's ass out there that says "*We're YA, we'll use the same formula, we're cool enough*". Well, shame on you because Eliza Crewe knows how to write an amazing book that will help you getting out of a damn reading slump if that's what it takes.

One star is for Meda: the Ultimate Anti-heroine

Meda is a Soul Eater, that means she kills bad guys to live and she's been doing it for almost eighteen years. Far from perfect, Meda will cheat, lie, fight and try to abandon you in the middle of the battle if it's what it takes to be alive. Until she meets Chi, the most enthusiastic and naive boy in YA literature, Uri<3 and Jo, the Macarena.

"Death is my art form--when I fight, I'm a ballerina. Graceful. Chi lacks my grace, but makes up for it in energy and enthusiasm. His fighting style is like breakdancing--strong and frenetic with some really sweet moves. Jo's is . . .the Macarena. Ugly but gets the job done."

But this is no fairytale. Our MC can be mean, selfish and it's been a while since I've read a snarkier or wittier girl in the genre. However, I really liked watching Meda fighting her inner demons with the help of her

mother's voice as a conscience, arguing with her every time she wanted to eat her friends. I made that up, she doesn't want to eat them. Just kill them painlessly. See? She's already changing!

One star is for Jo/Meda: because if one badass female character wasn't enough...

It's no secret I'm a shipper. And at first (view spoiler). But what a pleasant surprise to see this book was ready to throw away the script and create this amazing friendship between two completely different girls yet perfect for each other. (view spoiler)

I don't need to say anything though, because really, a shirt like that speaks for itself. I make an imaginary camera with my fingers and snap a picture to treasure always. She sticks her tongue out at me. I snap a picture of that too and, to my surprise, I think I see her smother a smile as she rolls her eyes.

One star is for Uri: because "Give 'em hell"

eats imaginary Popcorn

(view spoiler)

One star is for TFG (the French Guy) whose name is not important right now.

(view spoiler)

AMARITE?

We'll blame the missing start on the high school drama and cheesy ending but overall this is an entertaining, hilarious and badass YA story you need to read as soon as possible.

Inge says

4.5 stars

I've heard so many good things about *Cracked*, I don't know what kept me from reading it for so long. Maybe I was afraid of being the only one not to like it again, but I should've known that wasn't an issue. This was every bit as amazing as everyone said it would be.

Meda eats people. No, really. She eats souls, so I guess gingers are safe from her. But she only eats the bad guys – the ones the ghosts tell her to kill. She's half-demon. Her mother told her she was special; a special snowflake, but it turns out there are more like her out there. Full demons, too. And they're out to get her. Luckily, there are the Templars – people who are trained to kill demons. Meda pretends to be a helpless girl and finds herself in the Crusaders' school. But should they ever find out what she truly is, they'd be out to get her, too. So basically, she's fucked.

Let's start with one of the best main characters of all time. Move over, whiny protagonists. Give me Meda

any day. I feel kind of bad for saying I could relate to her because she's supposed to be evil, but man, **I relate to her**. Her snark and sarcasm made me laugh out loud on several occasions. She was awesome, quick, and witty, and I loved seeing things from her twisted point of view. It's also different because she starts out as the bad guy, which makes for an interesting perspective on things.

I could always just leave her behind. What is that old adage about outrunning a bear? You don't have to run faster than the bear, just faster than the other people you're running with.

She also knows what's important:

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles lied to me. The sewer is emphatically not somewhere you want to live, let alone eat pizza in.

Uri and I are stashed in a cheap motel with the important task of sleeping. It's the kind of division of labor I can really get behind.

This girl knows her priorities. If she wasn't a soul-eating monster, I would totally be down to have her as my best friend.

I also really liked the side characters – the Templars protecting Meda from the demons. I especially liked Jo. For some reason, I immediately pictured her as Leslie Winkle from *The Big Bang Theory*. She has a fake leg, but don't let that fool you into thinking she can't handle her own. Jo is *badass* and will take none of your shit.

Then there's the sense of humour in this book. I will *always* appreciate a good, healthy dose of humour in books. Seeing things from Meda's perspective, laced with an endless stream of sarcastic comments, is one of the best things ever. It immediately reminded me of the humour in *Croak*, which I also loved to bits. I think it's time that we shove these angsty protagonists aside and make room for more awesome people, like Meda and Lex.

I recommend this book to any lover of Young Adult and Fantasy who wants something original and different. *Cracked* is a delicious mix of fantasy and humour, and I can't wait to devour (haha, get it) *Crushed*.

??Erica?? says

What a fantastic book.

The story is crisp, clear, and direct. It is about a half-demon girl who discovers the secrets of her past while also managing to be fierce and hilarious. And the main character, Meda's, narration is absolutely spectacular. She combines snarkiness with vulnerability to the point of perfection. Her voice is distinct and extremely memorable. Also her friendship with the other main female character, Jo, was simply amazeballs. They are true friends that trust and care for one another through all their flaws, instead of a forced persona by either of them. This and "Truthwitch" both are some of the best female friendships in books I've seen.

I REALLY, STRONGLY recommend this. It has made my all-time-favorites list.

I'm gonna peer pressure you into reading this.

DO IT. >:D

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Ok, hang on a minute.

Now I'm back.

This book!

Meda is a bad girl..well she sometimes is. She is human souls. Just the bad guys so relax.

I fricking loved her. I think I liked most of the characters in this book. All of them are fleshed out and are great on their own. (JO!!!) Put them all together and you have SHAZAM!!

I wanted to quote this whole book but that would stop you from reading and you so want to read it. Run don't walk to get it.

Oh and yes this:

Everytime I smell or eat popcorn for the rest of my life I'm going to think about this book.

Psst get this..my cheap/broke ass actually bought this book. I know huh?

Rachel E. Carter says

4 out of 5. Honestly felt like it would be a 3 for a while there, but it is definitely a 4 after that ending.

What I loved:

* Meda. So sarcastic and awesome, like Joss Whedon's Buffy on crack. I love, love, loooved her narration. I honestly am not sure I have read better sarcasm from a main character in any book. Period.

* Meda & Jo. These two. I ship them as BFF's. They are feisty brats who don't trust each other and alienate everyone around them and I just love how their friendship builds throughout the book.

* Jo & Chi. I did root for them, and that ending was just adorable.

* the ending. DAMN. Did not see that much happening in the first book of a series. Color me impressed. I could give 5-stars for that ending alone.

What I didn't love:

* the story seemed to drag a lot after the first chapter up until the last 1/4 of the book -that said, I just kept looking for romance and the school/ghost bit bored me, but it wasn't ever boring because we had Meda's narration

What I want to know more about:

* Armand. We only had a glimpse but he felt very curious. I think there is more to him then meets the eye, his being down in the prisons was a bit too convenient. That said, he was hot.

* Meda's mom & father. I have a feeling I'll get more in the sequels.

To help go through my TBR faster, I am going to try and write shorter reviews:)

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

I really, really fucking hate it when a character in a book refers to a character in another book and exclaims "She's just like me!" No, beeyotch, you are not Elizabeth Bennet *snaps fingers*. No, you are not Juliet. Do you even realize how stupidly the characters in Romeo & Juliet behaved? Nuh uh. Don't you dare make that claim.

Therefore, it is with the greatest amount of shame and hypocritical horror when I found myself laughing as I read this book, "MEDA IS JUST LIKE ME." I don't know how Ms. Eliza Crewe managed to capture my personality so well without ever having known me, without having met me, without knowing of my existence in any conceivable way, but bravo, Ms. Crewe, BRAVO.

Fine. There are some discrepancies between us, ok? I can't fight, and I'm more inclined to run (seriously, I am a fast little mofo), and I used to sleep with the blankets tucked up all around me, particularly around my feet so that monsters wouldn't eat my toes while I cowered in bed. And Meda, while fantastically snarky sometimes, never has a profanity-laden vocabulary. But it's all good. Meda is a teenager! I was a squeaky clean teenager once. But I can see the potential in Meda as she grows up to be more like me. Ah, Meda, my dear. You have much to learn as you grow into your twenties. Your mind and mouth will no longer censor itself, and Meda, my love...the fucks will fly. ^_____^

I should probably go back to the actual review and talk about stuff that's relevant to this book. I will try to tone down my narcissism meanwhile...

In short: Interesting (though imperfect) plot. Likeable main character. Above all else: **the characters are fantastically conceptualized, the dynamics within the group are absolutely brilliant.**

Summary: Meda Melange isn't exactly human. She knows she's half human...but the other half certainly ain't anything remotely angelic. Why? Um, one clue may be the fact that SHE EATS SOULS. Here's where Meda and I differ: I crave chocolate, Meda craves souls. She's not all bad, though, she only munches on a soul every, say, month or so. Me, on the other hand *snorts*.

Meda is pretty much indestructible to the average human. Her skin is like fucking steel. She almost cannot be hurt. Until she runs into a group of demons and realizes that...well, fuck, she's not so indestructible after all. Well, shit happens, and Meda lucked out and gets her ass saved (and eats a huge dose of humble pie in the process) by a group of Crusaders. No, not the ones in the 12th century who traipse to the Holy Land. These are oh-so-righteous people whose destiny is to protect humans with special destinies who will make a contribution to mankind called Beacons. **They think Meda is a Beacon. Meda doesn't want to die. Meda lies her ass off.** She pretends to be a Beacon in order to:

1. Infiltrate the Crusaders and figure out their super special secrets!
2. Survive (she did almost get her ass handed to her, after all, girl's gotta live)

One thing leads to another, and Meda and her very disorganized group of Crusaders find themselves on the run from a bunch of bloodthirsty demons who wants Meda's ass handed to them on a silver platter. Meda seriously lucked out, because these Crusaders are good-hearted and are so convinced that she is a Beacon

that they will risk their life to save her.

Meda also slowly uncovers the truth about her past. **There are secrets! Lies! A sexy half-demon in a dungeon!** (Another way Meda and I differ, she ignores him, whereas I would have kept him imprisoned in my bedroom. It's understandable, though, Meda's not even *legal* yet.)

Needless to say: this book is a lot of action, and a lot of **fun**.

The Characters: **The best thing about this book.**

Meda Melange is one of the funniest, most kick-ass character in YA paranormal that I have read in a long time. She is truly kick-ass. She can FIGHT, man. If Rose Hathaway and Charley Davidson were to have a daughter together, I like to think she would turn out to be just like Meda. Let's just conveniently ignore the fact that two females cannot have a child containing both their DNA. Because, as we all know, scientific facts have no place in YA literature. As a Soul Eater, **Meda has twice the kick-assing potential of Rose Hathaway, and half of Charley Davidson's snark** (and for many people, that's a good thing. Charley can be way too much sometimes.)

Not everyone likes me. Not everyone likes my sense of humor, my snarkiness, my personality. That's fine. As such, not everyone will like Meda. There is a fine, fine line between humor and bitchiness, and as it turns out, Meda is a character I can relate to, a character I understand, a character whose personality I love. If you don't like her, if you hate her, if she grates on your nerves, it is completely within reason and I will not judge you for it.

Meda has a hilarious inner monologue. The first few chapters are particularly brilliant examples of it. We get to see her bad-assedness firsthand as she ruthlessly kills a murderer and eats his soul. Truthfully, I would have liked to see her fight more instead of suppressing her inner demon and pretending to be a normal human girl.

We get to see her internal weakness and her guilt at what she's done. We get to see her use her feminine charms and tears (she is not beyond fake-crying if it gets her out of a tough spot) to manipulate a very naive, starry-eyed Crusader boy:

*I consider the many tools at my disposal, eyeing his large blood-splattered frame, and settle on my weapon of choice – one so infrequently used I need to dust it off first.
My eyes fill with tears. “Wha–” I swallow hard “– what were those things?”
“Demons.” Thanks, Einstein. I got that part. I let a tear trickle over.
He hurries to reassure me. “Don’t cry – I’ll protect you.”
Humiliating. Absolutely humiliating.*

snickers

Meda uses whatever she needs to lie, trick her way into the group to earn their trust. It doesn't always work--- particularly when there's a fellow bad-assed girl in the Crusader group who's just not into her crap.

Cue innocence! My sweet lashes flutter against my helpless cheeks, my useless hands wring the edge of my guiltless, blood-soaked nightgown. My lovely lips quiver over my pearly white teeth. Jo isn't buying...Damn, that gimp bitch is a hard sell.

Meda is not perfect. She feels guilt. She makes some discovery that blows her world apart. Her trust has been betrayed, her life has been a lie. She has to come to terms with that, as well as her own dark nature. She kills out of necessity, but she hates herself for it, when her base nature isn't rejoicing in the darkness.

I'm ashamed of my wickedness – when I'm not reveling in it.

Certain books completely ignore the side characters: this book does not. The side characters---namely, Jo, Chi (Malachi), and Uri, are all equally well drawn. The dynamics of their relationship are spectacular. Jo and Meda, and Jo and Chi in particular.

Jo and Meda do not start off well. Jo is a really, really tough kick-ass girl. She is truly a match for Meda---except for the fact that she has lost one leg in a fight years ago. Meda and Jo start off on the wrong foot (no pun intended, I swear on my grandmother's grave, I would not be so callous D:). They distrust each other, Jo knows Meda isn't who she seems, she knows Meda's just putting on an act of innocence. In turn, Meda looks down on Jo, calls her a "gimp," because of her disability, and hates her tough-girl personality. Slowly, they learn to trust each other, they learn that each has her strengths and her underlying weakness, they come to trust each other, they develop an odd sort of friendship. The developing relationship between Meda and Jo is a beautifully written one. Jo is such a complex character, she hates herself, she hates her disability, she hates her helplessness.

"I just get so mad sometimes. I'm never going to be a Crusader, never get married, never do anything. But who do I get to be angry at? The demons? They're constantly trying to destroy mankind and, if at all possible, Heaven too. There's enough reasons to be angry at them – my leg's superfluous. The other students, the Crusaders for how they treat me? They're not trying to be cruel, I am damaged. They're so very kind, so full of pity. I'd rather they hate me than feel sorry for me."

Meda never sees Jo as helpless, and Jo appreciates her for that. Their friendship builds on top of that.

Jo and Chi...wow. They were best friends, until the incident where Jo lost her leg. Chi feels guilty, and they both pull away from each other.

"You don't deserve to be a Crusader – and it isn't because you don't have the legs, but because you don't have the heart."

Their hurt, their anger, their tense relationship is so intensely well done.

The Romance: Um, what romance? Throw away your expectations of romance, of love. **There's no insta-love, there's no love triangle, there's none of that shit here.** Can I get a "Fuck yeah?" FUCK YEAH.

The new attendee, a man, crouches in the doorway. Well, not really a man, a human teenager. One of God's most misbegotten creatures – big like grown-ups and yet dumb like children. Selfish, moody, reckless, with a tendency to sleep too much and complain too often.

This book is tremendously fun. It is not without its faults. There are elements in the book that I tend to frown upon (death of a parent, a special destiny), etc., but it is also wholly original in other. It takes quite a few YA tropes and throws it out the window to a bloody death, and I found it absolutely admirable. The book is action-driven, plot-driven. I would have liked this book to be less fast-paced. It felt like some scenes were glossed over far too fast, and I would have liked to know more about Meda's past. Not a perfect book, but still quite enjoyable. Because Meda is the main character. And Meda is *so me*, man!

Lola says

****5 ENTIRELY DESERVED AND BRIGHT STARS.****

I'm going to be VERY honest with you guys:

I want to eat this book. Nom nom.

I want to devour every word and every chapter slowly and taste its flavours because, if it's as amazing as the reading was, it may be even better than pizza. Or sushi. Or ice cream... Nom nom.

Yes, believe it or not, it's the truth.

Cracked is the most entertaining book I've read so far in 2014. Even more than Rebel Belle which I didn't think possible because that book is so much fun!

Cracked is the kind of book you don't want to let go because there is always something interesting and surprising in it and it has a hold on you. There were so many things I was hoping to do yesterday, such as watching Once Upon A Time, Hit The Floor or *clean dishes*. Oh, and I was looking forward to seeing this movie called *How to Train Your Dragon 2* at the cinema. But no, Eliza Crewe had to write a fantastic novel to keep me off doing all those enjoyable things I planned to. Did you hear that? It's called being sarcastic. I'm warning you, if you want to read this book and like it (or love it!), you better get used to it. *winks*

Meda, can I kiss you? *Maybe shouldn't have said that publicly, sigh*. I feel so connected to that character. It's not because I have the same personality as her, no, but mostly because she's so... *real*. She *is* honest with us readers even if, yeah, sometimes you may think she isn't. Again, she's really sarcastic. *And I loved that so much about her*. It's pretty rare that I actually laugh out loud while reading a book but Cracked simply succeeded to make me giggle and smile *and bite my nails* because, yes, it is not only rainbows and sunshine. Let's not forget that there are demons involved so don't expect this to be *to die for* funny.

The story, wow. The story is unpredictable and, again, WOW. When I started reading this book, I was expecting it to be good because of the rave reviews and the hype, but I'm always a bit suspicious when I see a lot of 5 stars. I'm not the kind to give 5 stars all the time and very easily so I'm as surprised as maybe you are. There are so many twists and, yes, secrets but it was actually interesting and I always wondered if the characters would or not discover the truth. Either way, I was excited and couldn't wait to see what was going to happen next!

There is some romance but not in fact including the main character a lot. My GR friends know that I could read a book only if there is a little romance in it. In Cracked, there was some indeed and just the perfect amount to keep me hooked. Plus, I just love love/hate relationships. Don't you?

I love/adore this book so much that (yes I know I already have it in digital copy duh but...) I ordered Cracked in paperback so I could eat it...I mean...read it, *of course*.

Highly recommended series.

Poonam says

After having a dry spell with books I finally picked this one up and I am glad I did.

Meda the main protagonist came off as really creepy at the start.

"His eyes are wide and panicked, and I pause to enjoy that perfect moment when the hunter realizes he's become the hunted, when he tries to reconcile what he knows to be true with what just happened."

Meda is also devious.

"I don't want to jump in with an alternative plan- I'd rather they do it. It's usually a good idea to let other people think my plan is their plan. I have enough brilliant ones that I don't mind missing out on the credit."

And then she became one of the funniest main protagonist I have read in a long time!

"Fortunately the nearest couple are in a heated debate concerning each other's lineage and don't care about a pack of high-school students. The way they're going at it, we might get lucky and get dinner and a show."

We have some very interesting side characters and the fantasy angle of the story was interesting to me from start to end!

The twists at the end and the note on which this story ended made me love it even more...

I really hope Meda does not change in this series and in the last few pages I was like
