



FISSURES

D.L. Hodges



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Andrew (Drew) Parsons, the product of an abusive upbringing by his adoptive father, has spent 7 years in jail for a crime he committed in his teens. While in the penitentiary he befriends an older inmate, John, a seasoned veteran of the prison system, who mentors Drew, teaching him the path he has chosen isn't the one he should continue on. Returning home, after his prison release, with the desire to change his life, Drew steps back into a world fraught with conflict and misery; but also to a mother who has always been there to protect him. Soon, however, he realizes he must break away from that environment if he is to have any chance of success. Escaping his parents' house, Drew sets out on a journey of discovery; to make a new future for himself, but also to learn the mystery of his past, to find his birth parents. As Drew begins to uncover his history he is swept into a world of lies, abandonment and violence, and the truths he finds are far from the ones he sought.

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Fissures Details

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From Reader Review Fissures for online ebook

Kristine says

When I first started reading this book I thought I would really like it. The first half of the story is told through a back and forth current time then flashback. The story was interesting and so were the characters. Drew grew up with an abusive father and a mother who didn't seem to really care about that. He got caught up with the wrong crowd and ends up having to do some time. While in prison he meets John, another inmate who acts as a father figure to Drew. Up to this point I enjoyed the book and was looking forward to the end. Then the book kind of falls apart. The author throws in a few sex scenes that don't really do anything for the story and which were kind of weird. Often times this author will use words that people would never use in everyday language. Then I got to the end and was very disappointed. Just not very believable and kind of a let down. I ended up giving it 3 stars instead of 2 because up until the end, I did like it.

Cate says

I doubt very much of anything will prepare the reader for what they find within the covers of this book. Many may be put off by the title, which does seem to indicate that the contents maybe all over the pace and depressing; but once I started reading this I had to admit it was not engrossing, but a book I didn't mind picking up when I had a few minutes.

The novel is definitely character driven, and in writing their character the Author has done a skilful job. The main protagonist is one who realises that they have made mistakes throughout their lives and has now decided things have to change. Through the emotions and difficult decisions this character has to make, the reader is sometimes unwillingly caught up in the emotions that seem to pour out of the character and, although this can be a good way to identify with a character in certain situations, at times I found it to be emotionally draining on myself and had to put the book down and walk away. It is the journey to redemption of the main character that is the driving force in this book, and the reader travels every inch of this journey with them.

The storyline itself is tight and well written mystery, with some very good edge of your seats moments. However, I did feel at times that the Author had referred too many times to his thesaurus to find the exact word they needed, but this didn't always hit the mark and slowed the pace of the novel down considerably; this is the reasoning behind my three thumbs rating. Some of the scenes of abuse written in this novel may upset some people, and well it should, as it serves to remind us what fragile lives we all lead and hold in our hands to mould and shape as we will. This Author does an outstanding job of showing the reader the lives of those less fortunate; those you could almost call the lost children of society who end up in the same situation of the main character in this novel.

However, this book is definitely an enjoyable read and I would recommend it to those readers who enjoy a "bad boy turned good" tale.

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Abby Vandiver says

I give this book 4 1/2 stars.

Fissures is a good read.

Andrew "Drew" Parsons, has had it rough his entire life, still he perseveres and tries to make the best of the life given him. This story is sad in some places, makes the reader anxious in others, and is a dark tale most of the time. Mr. Hodges is imaginative in his storytelling, yet he is able to make it all seem very real. The dialogue throughout the book is often stilted making it hard at times to enjoy, but the end will knock your socks off! And the end makes up for any and all the shortcomings of the book. After putting it down, this book will stay with the reader for a while. Nothing prepares you for it and while reading it you may find that some things seem unnecessary, but they all fit in at the end.

Good job making such an impact in wrapping up the book.

Antonio Simon Jr. says

Drew, the main character, has had a rough life. His adoptive father abused him, and he spent several years in the penitentiary for a crime he committed when he was a teenager. But it is his hardship that makes him want to turn his life around. Once out of prison, he seeks a fresh start. Wanting to know more about who he is and where he came from, he sets off to find his biological parents.

The author's character development is commendable. Drew comes across as a man who knows he has made mistakes, but wants to rise above them and make his life anew. Drew, the protagonist, has been abused, but is not, and refuses to be, beaten. The book is as much a story of perseverance through adversity as it is a reflection of the strength of the human spirit.

This is definitely a good read.

K. says

This novel is a must-read. Defined by a captivating, suspenseful plot and perfectly character-driven writing, this novel epitomizes edge-of-your-seat mystery. I loved the parallel between past and present, ultimately merging the two to create one of the most compelling stories I have read recently. I highly recommend this novel if you are looking for a good read - it's one you don't want to miss!

Gloria Antypowich says

Fissures is the compelling story of Andrew "Drew" Parsons, a young man who grew up in a dysfunctional family with an abusive father and an overprotective mother. Looking for acceptance and companionship, he became involved with a local group of drug users and thieves. While he knew that it was dangerous to stay involved, he didn't make the choice to sever the relationship until it was too late, and he got caught in a robbery that went wrong, resulting in him going to jail for seven years.

He begins his sentence as a juvenile, still cocky, relying on his size and his bravado. When he is transferred to hard core prison he quickly discovers the harsh reality of where his mistakes have taken him. John, an older inmate befriends him, mentors him and helps him to look to a future beyond confinement. Drew does his best to stay out of trouble while inside. He uses the time to complete his schooling and work toward a university degree.

When he is released, nothing at home has changed. His parents relationship is still the same; his father is still abusive, his mother still needy and over protective. In a moment of anger, Drew's father had unkindly informed him that he was adopted when he was a child. Drew decided that he needed to find his birth parents so he could better understand himself; he wanted to know who they were, why they had given him away. When Drew announced his intentions, his adopted family splintered even further.

Drew finds himself floundering in a maze of lies, family secrets, and heart wrenching deception. No one is who they seem to be; and there are no happy endings for anyone involved.

D.L. Hodges has crafted a thought provoking, tragic story. The plot contained material that really made me think about the importance of love and a solid support system through a child's formative years. When we grow up in that environment we often take it for granted, but for the millions who grow up in violent, dysfunctional, uncaring homes they are left to struggle on their own. Many of them find their way to prison, just as Drew did, and Hodges painted a vivid and realistic picture of that life. Drew was possibly more fortunate than most inmates, when a man who played a defining roll in his life during and beyond his incarceration took him under his wing.

As Drew explores his past, the reader is forced to look at the role his mother played and how it influenced his father and set into motion his future. And the discovery of his birth parents is shattering. Oh what tangled webs we humans weave!

If you are looking for a "feel good story" of redemption, Fissures is probably not for you. If you enjoy a book that will challenge you and make you think; one that will hold your attention from page one; a plot that forever keeps you guessing as it reveals one more twist and turn--THIS IS A BOOK FOR YOU!

Enjoy!!

Sean Randall says

This title was depressing: I seem to be having a bad run of suicides in fiction lately! The speech was a little stilted, contractions seem hard for the author to use in dialogue and the sex, especially the domination scene,

was off-putting simply because it was out of character (or at least too graphic for the tone of the work).

Denise MacDonald says

The story is about a young man who is released from jail after serving several years for a crime he committed as a teen. He grew up with his adoptive parents, and was abused by his father. When he leaves prison he wants to do well in his life and also wants to find his birth parents.

What I liked:

The idea of the story was great. There were a few twists and turns, some I saw coming, some I didn't. It was easy to relate to some of the characters.

What I didn't like:

I didn't like the language the author used. It seemed like the author used a thesaurus a lot, I know I had to, and that took away from the story for me. It made the conversations seem a bit forced.

Overall, I really enjoyed the story.

M.D. says

I didn't know what to expect when I opened *Fissures*, but it's an incredibly hard-hitting, realistic look at life. Flashbacks are paired with current events to excellent effect and I found myself wanting to finish "one more page" to add one more piece to the puzzle.

Drew Parsons has lived a hard life and is determined to make amends but life has a habit of keeping him held back. Mr. Hodges did an exceptional job of adding realistic details: small-time teenager crime, gang life in prison, high-society art and a broken home that the reader can't help but envision and relate to.

Be warned: It's dark and fairly intense but only to the point of adding to the story.

Highly Recommended!
