



In Time

Alexandra Bracken

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Don't miss this exciting short story that connects *The Darkest Minds* to its much-anticipated sequel, *Never Fade*.

Gabe's life has been devastated in the wake of the economic crash. The only option left for someone like him to escape his tragic past is to leave his small town behind and to attempt to become a skiptracer. This already almost impossible task is made all the more difficult by his first score, a young girl who won't speak, but who changes his life in ways he could never imagine.

In Time Details

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Author : Alexandra Bracken

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Dannii Elle says

This novella follows from the first book in The Darkest Minds trilogy. At just under 100 pages I wasn't really expecting a lot, but wow. Bracken really knows how to write a novella!

This is centered around Gabe's perspective, a character not featured in the original series. Gabe represents the average American citizen, attempting to struggle through the economic repression that has ripped through America in the wake of the mutant abilities suddenly conjured in almost all teenage and pre-teen children. An old knee injury means he cannot join the forces controlling these 'freaks' and there is little place left for him in society: he is a collateral victim in this futuristic community. His subsequent hatred for the 'freaks' that caused his current state is almost palpable. That is, until a small, mute 'yellow' makes his acquaintance...

Whilst short, this managed to incorporate a well-rounded story, featuring characters both new and beloved, in a well-formulated world. The action and intrigue was kept at a maximum, and there were so many places where I was reading this with my heart in my mouth. This is a great addition to the series, providing further details to the main plot, as well as maintaining itself as a single spin-off story.

Marie says

OH MY SWEET GOODNESS.

ALEXANDRA BRACKEN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

So let me start off by saying that this novella is 90 pages, including the preview of NEVER FADE. Those 90 pages happen to be the most stressful and emotional 90 pages I have ever read.

The main character in this novella isn't even in THE DARKEST MINDS. Which disappointed me at first, because I was really hoping for a Liam story. But the protagonist is a new character named Gabriel, who wants to become a skip tracer. And after reading the first few pages...

I HATED HIM!

He is awful. He calls the kids freaks, and has no respect for them, AND I JUST HATED HIM! HE IS SUCH A JERK!

Then a certain character shows up, and I about cry.

And the rest of the novella, I was right on the edge of tears the whole time. So many emotions!

Then the ending came.

I cried so hard! In just, like, 70 pages I had gotten so attached to the characters and the story, and the ending made me bawl.

I thought it couldn't get any worse. So, I read the preview of NEVER FADE, and I felt like this.

I can't I just can't.

I NEED NEVER FADE SO BAD!!!

In short, one of the best and most emotional 90 pages I have ever read.

Ever.

Thank you, Miss Bracken, for writing such an amazing novella to tide me over until NEVER FADE comes out. I cannot wait!

Vathna Dany says

Oh no :(WHY.

That ending was so sad.

♥ Becky 22 says

Sarah says

This was an enjoyable short story, but the ending was kind-of sad.

7 out of 10

Jessie says

I didn't know what to expect from this, only that it's a novella. So I went in knowing nothing and I thought it would be a happy story. BUT NO! NO NO NO NO! THE ENDING!!!!

THAT CANNOT BE THE ENDING! THAT IS TOO SAD TO BE AN ENDING!! It's just...

Janelle says

THE CHARACTER DEVELOPEMENT! Ms Bracken is just too amazing for this world.

I cried myself to sleep..

spoilers

ME: When Zu told gabe she had two brothers and a sister... Zu an only child.

"Liam is safe"

ME: AT THE END.

Dana says

Wow...that's how you write a novella! I really appreciated that this was a true sequel and not a random prequel. I love back story as much as the next person, but sometimes you just want story 1.5 to actually be story 1.5, so thank you for that Ms. Bracken.

I was riveted while reading this and yet, to be honest I despised Gabe. I can't remember the last time I cursed a character so much. **But** the writing was so good and the story was so interesting that even with my hatred for the main character, I still loved this addition to the Darkest Minds collection.

Buy, Borrow or Bin Verdict: For \$0.79 I would say this story is definitely worth a **Buy**.

Melissa says

Oh my god. *OH. MY. GOOOOOD.*

ALEXANDRA, YOU CAN'T END A BOOK LIKE THIS?! NOOOOOOOOOOO.

I think Alexandra just ruined me completely...

Lara says

When I first stumbled across the fact that there was going to be a Darkest Minds 1.5 I was so excited and filled with hope!

Then I saw the release day. It's so close but so far away.

So, now I'm just sad.

ambsreads says

I don't think I can possibly write a full review for a novella but I just want to say -- *what the heck?* That ending crushed my heart and the whole process of seeing inside someone who is not a kid with powers was so engaging. I couldn't put it down once I was given time to read. Seeing Zu as well filled my heart, but damn Gabe turned out to be a great protagonist. If you're reading this series, I would without a doubt recommend this novella!

Christine Riccio says

WHAT AN EXCELLENT NOVELLA. Don't skip this one!

Regan says

ALEXANDRA BRACKEN WHY DO YOU DO THIS TO ME?!

She made me cry in a novella. Twice.

I hate you.

But I love you too.

Lauren says

[I just met Gabe and after those hundred pages, he just DIED. WHY!?!?! My heart is broken because he can't just die like that. (hide spoiler)]

Mitch says

Apparently my problem with *The Darkest Minds* was just Ruby and Liam, because I really like this short story with Gabe and Zu. As I said (in a review I didn't expect to be as controversial as it's turned out), this is a series that excels at gritty dystopian - or it would be, if it didn't spend so much time making Ruby out to be this weak, self-loathing victim in a black and white adults versus kids world; it was all just a bit too much for me the way the book blatantly tried to play every. single. emotion. card. ever. (Nor did the meandering plot help.) Anyway though, *In Time* is different; it's a great companion that adds exactly the perspective I thought was missing from the first book - that of the reluctant bounty hunter who's supposed to be on the trail of these kids (Gabe). Sure, his reasons are a bit trite (the economy tanked; he's in it for the money) and I probably liked his character for mostly the wrong reasons (think of kids like dogs! you're just returning them to the pound!) but you know the whole thing is, in a way, absurd, and I really like his side of things (even if that kind of absurdity and dark humor may not have been intentional) as opposed to Ruby's whole 'woe is me!' thing she's got going (yeah, I know it's a natural reaction to being locked up the way she was, but I just thought the book for fiction was trying too hard in that regard). Plus, this story addresses a whole bunch of flaws from the original setup (not perfectly, but still) - how the color coding came to be, what's going on with the parents on the outside, etc., Zu's pretty great as usual, and heck, even the ending, while in the same style as *The Darkest Minds*, worked for me because I actually liked these characters (let's just say no good deed goes unpunished). All in all, pretty good for an original short story and I'm definitely glad this isn't another weak rehash as many tie in novellas have been recently. Still have zero interest in Ruby and Liam (sorry), but this was great.
