



Delirium (Delirium Series Book 1)

By Lauren Oliver

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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?

Supports the Common Core State Standards

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Delirium (Delirium Series Book 1) By Lauren Oliver Bibliography

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- Released on: 2011-08-02
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon 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 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.

From [Booklist](#)

Oliver's follow-up to her smash debut, *Before I Fall* (2010), is another deft blend of realism and fantasy. The hook is irresistible: it's the near future, a time when love has long since been identified as a disease called *amor deliria nervosa*, and 17-year-old Lena is 95 days away from the operation that everyone gets to cure themselves. Can you feel the swoon coming? Enter Alex, a rakish daredevil who, as it turns out, is one of the Invalids—a tribe of uncured who live on the lam in the surrounding wilderness. With the clock ticking down to her surgery, Lena is drawn into Alex's world, one of passion and freedom, while her emotionally castrated family members hope to turn her into yet another complacent zombie. Oliver's masterstroke is making a strong case for love as disease: the anxiety, depression, insomnia, and impulsive behavior of the smitten do smack of infirmity. The story bogs down as it revels in romance—Alex is standard-issue perfection—but the book never loses its *A Clockwork Orange*-style bite regarding safety versus choice. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Review

"In [Oliver's] dystopian America, love has been outlawed as the life-threatening source of all discord. Lena's gradual awakening is set against a convincing backdrop of totalitarian horror. The abrupt ending leaves enough unanswered questions to set breathless readers up for volume two of this trilogy." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"Strong characters, a vivid portrait of the lives of teens in a repressive society, and nagging questions that can be applied to our world today make this book especially compelling and discussable." (School Library Journal (starred review))

"Oliver's follow-up to her smash debut, *Before I Fall* (2010), is another deft blend of realism and fantasy...the book never loses its *A Clockwork Orange*-style bite regarding safety versus choice." (Booklist)

"In a thick climate of fear, Oliver spins out a suspenseful story of awakening and resistance with true love at its core." (The Horn Book)

"Oliver's deeply emotional and incredibly well-honed prose commands the readers' attention and captures their hearts. With a pulse-pounding tempo and unforeseen twists and turns, Lauren Oliver has opened the door on a fantastic new series; the second book can't come soon enough." (New York Journal of Books)

Praise for *Before I Fall*: "Oliver's debut novel is raw, emotional, and, at times, beautiful....readers will love Samantha best as she hurtles toward an end as brave as it is heartbreaking." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

Praise for *Before I Fall*: "Samantha's attempts to save her life and right the wrongs she has caused are precisely what will draw readers into this complex story and keep them turning pages until Sam succeeds in living her last day the right way." (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (Starred Review))

Praise for *Before I Fall*: "Oliver, in a pitch-perfect teen voice, explores the power we have to affect the people around us in this intensely believable first novel...This is a compelling book with a powerful message and should not be missed." (ALA Booklist)

Praise for *Before I Fall*: "This story races forward, twisting in a new direction every few pages, its characters spinning my emotions from affection to frustration, anger to compassion. You'll have no choice but to tear through this book!" (Jay Asher, author of the New York Times bestseller *Thirteen Reasons Why*)

Praise for *Before I Fall*: “*Before I Fall* is smart, complex, and heartbreakingly beautiful. Lauren Oliver has written an extraordinary debut novel about what it means to live—and die.” (Carolyn Mackler, author of *Tangled* and *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*, a Printz Honor book)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andre Roberts:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Jessica Ball:

The book *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*) make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable far more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*) for being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a guide *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

Kirk Banks:

This *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*) book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*) without we know teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't always be worry *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*) can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This *Delirium* (*Delirium Series Book 1*) having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Arthur Faust:

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of you who wants to always be success person. So , for all you who want to start reading through as your good habit, you could pick Delirium (Delirium Series Book 1) become your own personal starter.

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