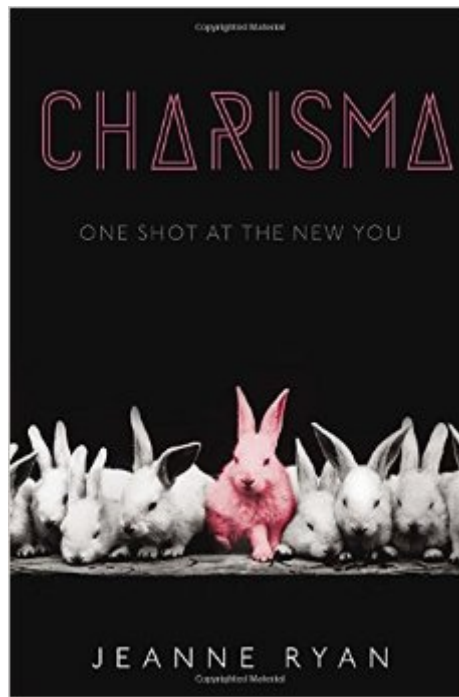


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# Charisma



## Synopsis

A chance at the ultimate makeover means deadly consequences in this Sarah Dessen-meets-Robin Cook thriller. Aislyn suffers from crippling shyness—that is, until she’s offered a dose of Charisma, an underground gene therapy drug guaranteed to make her shine. The effects are instant. She’s charming, vivacious, and popular. But strangely, so are some other kids she knows. The media goes into a frenzy when the disease turns contagious, and then deadly, and the doctor who gave it to them disappears. Aislyn must find a way to stop it, before it’s too late. Part medical thriller, part social justice commentary, Charisma will have readers on the edge of their seats.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Dial Books (March 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803739664

ISBN-13: 978-0803739666

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #268,838 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children’s Health > Cystic Fibrosis](#) #162 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues](#) #213 in [Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

4.5 Stars ‘Charisma’ is a thought-provoking YA thriller that revolves around gene therapy, which is always a hot topic in our society - and will probably become even more relevant in the near future. The story focuses on our main character, Aislyn, who is extremely shy and suffers panic attacks due to social anxiety and the stress it causes her. She’s incredibly smart, pretty, a loving and devoted daughter who helps to care for her younger brother, who suffers from cystic fibrosis. She should have everything in the world going for her - but her extreme social anxiety prevents her from saying things she wants to, doing things she’s dreamed of - even small things like going to a party with her

classmates. When Aislyn is offered a chance to change that part of herself - to make her shyness and anxiety disappear - by taking an underground gene therapy drug called "Charisma," she takes it. The effects of Charisma are almost immediate, and Aislyn feels herself becoming more sociable, sure of herself, and self confident. For once, she's popular and tons of fun to be around. It's everything she wished for and more. Aislyn starts noticing the same type of differences happening in some of the other teens she knows from the lab's family days and wonders if they secretly took the drug too. Soon there's an epidemic, with the effects turning into a disease, becoming contagious - and then it starts killing people. When nobody can find the doctor who created the drug, Aislyn knows that she has to do something to make this disease stop before it kills even more people. Even if it means giving up everything she's always wanted for herself.

CHARISMA is a fascinating, chilling and immensely entertaining story that invites readers into a world where an untested gene therapy drug promises amazing results but unbeknownst to its recipients comes at a deadly price. It's a story that reveals a likely and not-so-far-off future where one's personality can be radically altered with a single injection. It's a thought-provoking and gripping and utterly compelling read that will have readers debating the pros and cons of the scientific advancement. When Aislyn Hollings is offered the opportunity to be a test subject for Charisma, a gene enhancement drug that is guaranteed to be life-changing, she is eager to accept. Her debilitating shyness has kept her from living the life she wants and she's desperate to be someone who is not afraid of everything and everyone all of the time. But when she starts to suspect that she's not the only one to have been given the dose, or even the first one, her enthusiasm begins to wane. That is, until she finds herself becoming more confident, taking more risks, being more social, feeling more normal. However, when some of the people she believes had their personalities altered by Charisma start getting sick and falling into comas, and the doctor who administered the dose stops responding to her texts and calls, Aislyn decides to break her silence, find out who else might be at risk, and begin a frantic search for a way to reverse the effects before the same thing that happened to them happens to her. Jeanne Ryan penned an absolutely thrilling and heartbreaking and riveting story with a heroine who is incredibly sympathetic and smart and "with the help of Charisma" determined.

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