

## Teacher's Guide *Soulprint* by Megan Miranda

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### soulprint

reincarnation isn't a clean slate



megan miranda

BLOOMSBURY

#### Blurb:

Alina Chase has spent her entire life in confinement. With the science of soul-printing now a reality, she is 'protected' for her own safety – and the safety of others – because her soul has done terrible things ... or so she's told. When Alina finally breaks out of prison, helped by a group of people with unclear motives, she begins to uncover clues left by her past life that only she can decipher. And she may not be as innocent as she once believed. Can Alina change her future, or is she fated to repeat her past and face the consequences?

This stunning, “new world” romance from acclaimed author Megan Miranda will leave readers wondering just how far they would go to escape the past.

Perfect for fans of Sophie McKenzie.

#### Synopsis (Plot):

Seventeen year old Alina Chase has spent her entire life imprisoned on a secluded island – not for a crime she committed in this lifetime, but one done by her ‘past’ self. Hers is a world where reincarnation not only exists, but can be tracked. Her very soul is like a fingerprint, carried from one life to the next – and Alina is sick of being guilty.

Aided by three teens with their own agendas and ulterior motives, Alina manages the impossible: escape. Although she’s not sure she can completely trust them, she soon finds herself drawn to Cameron, the most enigmatic – and alluring – of the trio. But when she uncovers clues from her past life, long-buried secrets begin to unravel and Alina must figure out whether she’s more than the soul she inherited ... or if she’s fated to repeat the past.

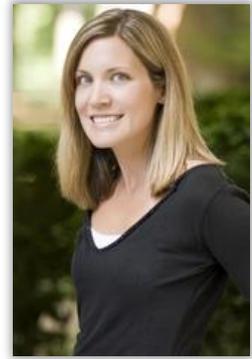
#### CHARACTERS:

- Alina
- Cameron
- June
- Dom
- Casey



### About the Author:

Megan Miranda is the acclaimed author of *Fracture*, *Vengeance*, and *Hysteria*. She spends a great deal of time thinking about the “why” and “how” of things, which leads her to get carried away daydreaming about the “what-ifs”. She lives in North Carolina USA with her husband and two young children.



### Author Inspiration:

Back when I was in college, scientists were close to completing the project of sequencing the human genome, identifying what each section of our DNA coded for. I kept hearing about it—in school, and on the news—and it got me thinking: What if, one day, we could prove the existence of “the soul” in a scientific way? What would it look like? What would it be? And, most importantly, what would that *mean*? Fast forward ten years later, and that question was still bouncing around in my head. It was the question I decided to turn into a story, to explore all those *what ifs*—and wonder not only what that knowledge would mean *for* each of us, but how that knowledge might, in turn, be used against us. – *Megan Miranda*

### Learn More:

If you'd like to know more about author Megan Miranda please check out her website [www.meganmiranda.com](http://www.meganmiranda.com) or follow her on Facebook (Megan Miranda Author) and Twitter (@MeganLMiranda).

### Classroom Activities:

#### Creative Writing:

Write a short story, set in the future, from the point of view of you in your ‘next’ life. Where would you imagine yourself?

Write a newspaper report about Alina’s final capture. Keep the most important journalistic questions in mind: Who, where, when, what, why, how?

#### Drama:

Act out a live news broadcast about Alina’s escape from prison.

#### Art/mapping:

Draw a map of the island prison where Alina is held.

Create a code in small groups and let other groups try to decipher it.

#### Team Debates:

In *Soulprint*, Alina is held for a crime she committed in a previous life. But in real life, many prisoners serve long sentences for crimes they committed many years prior, in some ways when they were considered ‘a different person’. Should a person continue to serve out a sentence if they can show they’ve changed, or been rehabilitated?



### **Classroom Discussion Topics:**

Open a classroom discussion (or team debate) about people held in captivity without charge or trial because they are suspected of a crime or knowing of one, e.g. Guantanamo Bay/alleged terrorists.

This is also a good starting point to discuss the detention of alleged spies or rebels in history (e.g. Stasi Germany).

If a person commits a crime under the influence of drugs, can they truly be held responsible for their actions? Does your opinion change if the drugs were consumed willingly or unwillingly?

If the science existed to discover the lives your soul had once belonged to, would you want to know? Why or why not?

The “science” of soul printing is fiction. But many modern day medical advances would have sounded like science fiction 100 or more years ago. Discuss some examples (e.g. cloning, antibiotics, vaccines, DNA testing, organ transplantation, myoelectric prosthesis, laser-eye-surgery, prenatal diagnosis, 3D ultrasound).

What medical advances do you think might we see in the future, that sound like science fiction today?

### **Cross-media:**

In Tom Cruise movie *Minority Report* people are convicted of crimes they have not committed yet. Do you think that this is morally right?

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority\\_Report\\_%28film%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_Report_%28film%29)

### **Research topics:**

Many people, religions and cultures around the world believe in reincarnation. Here are some webpages to start researching the topic of reincarnation:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reincarnation>

<http://www.comparativereligion.com/reincarnation.html>

<http://www.dalailama.com/messages/statement-of-his-holiness-the-fourteenth-dalai-lama-tenzin-gyatso-on-the-issue-of-his-reincarnation>

<http://buddhism.about.com/od/karmaand rebirth/a/reincarnation.htm>

### **Further Reading:**

*Other books by Megan Miranda:*

Fracture

Hysteria

Vengeance



**REVIEW QUOTES for Megan Miranda's *Fracture*:**

"One of the best YA thrillers I've ever read – Praise for 'Fracture'" *Wondrous Reads*

"The fluid writing, empathetic characters, and big questions raised elevate this paranormal romance into a haunting meditation on what it means to be human and to truly live." – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Brilliantly written, I was gripped and absorbed by every single second of the story. It's quite literally one of the best debuts I have ever read – Praise for 'Fracture'" *A Dream of Books*

"The unique plot would be enough to draw YA readers to Miranda's first novel, but add multifaceted characters, a true-to-life high-school setting, and a love affair between Delaney and the boy who saved her, and the novel has further appeal." – *Booklist*