

***Five Total Strangers* by Natalie D. Richards**

Mira is attending a high school for the arts in California, and all she wants to do is get home to her mom in Pennsylvania for Christmas. After her connecting flight is cancelled due to weather, she makes the mistake of catching a ride with some college kids who are heading in the same direction. Mira thinks it's safe, since her seatmate from the plane, Harper, is the one renting the car and the other passengers are Harper's friends. Things start going wrong pretty much right away, and Mira is most definitely not safe.

The book is compelling, and has some good twists and turns, but unfortunately most of the characters fall a little flat. Mira is the only truly fleshed out character. I wish we would have learned more about the backstories and motivations of the other passengers in the car, as well as the mysterious man who keeps showing up whenever they make a stop. There are also some unresolved plot threads at the end of the book that keep it from having a really satisfying ending. While it has some faults, I did enjoy it and it was an entertaining read to curl up with on a chilly afternoon.

GK