

# EGMONT

## USA

### **Hourglass** by Myra McEntire

**Ages:** 12 up

**Summary:**

For seventeen-year-old Emerson Cole, life is about seeing what isn't there: swooning Southern Belles; soldiers long forgotten; a haunting jazz trio that vanishes in an instant. Plagued by phantoms since her parents' death, she just wants the apparitions to stop so she can be normal. She's tried everything, but the visions keep coming back.

So when her well-meaning brother brings in a consultant from a secretive organization called the Hourglass, Emerson's willing to try one last cure. But meeting Michael Weaver may not only change her future, it may change her past.

Who is this dark, mysterious, sympathetic guy, barely older than Emerson herself, who seems to believe every crazy word she says? Why does an electric charge seem to run through the room whenever he's around? And why is he so insistent that he needs her help to prevent a death that never should have happened?

Full of atmosphere, mystery, and romance, *Hourglass* merges the very best of the paranormal and science fiction genres in a seductive, remarkable young adult debut.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. *Hourglass* is full of complex female characters: Cat, Ava, Emerson, Dru, and Lily. Pick two of these women and compare them. How are they similar, how are they different?
2. How does Jack differ from the other time ripples Emerson sees? Why does she choose to keep him a secret from the other members of the Hourglass?
3. On page 25, Michael asks Emerson about the other specialists Thomas has hired. He says, "He's clearly a shrewd businessman why would he hire such obvious frauds?" Why do you think Thomas has continued to hire so many fakes and phonies to try to help



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Emerson?

4. "Life is about gains and about losses." (pg. 36) How do you think this statement relates to the story as a whole? Cite examples from the text to support your answer.
5. Why is Michael so angry when he discovers Emerson has been researching the Hourglass and Liam Ballard? Why do you think he chooses to withhold information from her? Do you think this was a wise decision?
6. Emerson is drawn to both Kaleb and Michael. Compare and contrast these two characters. What is it about each of them that Emerson is attracted to?
7. Is there an event in your life that you would like to go back and change? Knowing the consequences that come from changing the past, would you still want to try to change the event? Why or why not?
8. Kaleb's ability allows him to feel the emotions of those around him. What are the pros of having ability like this? What are the cons?
9. On page 269, Emerson asks Michael if he has a hero complex. What do you think it means to have a hero complex? Based on this definition, do you think Michael has one?
10. What is it about Emerson's ability that is so special? Why would Landers want to target her specifically?

## *Hourglass*

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### **About the Author:**

Myra McEntire knows the words to every R&B hit of the last decade, but since she lives in Nashville, the country music capital of America, her lyrical talents go sadly unappreciated. She's chosen instead to channel her "mad word skills" into creating stories infused with her love of music. *Hourglass* is her first novel. You can visit her online at [www.myramcentire.com](http://www.myramcentire.com).

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