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The Wilds: The Wilds Book One



Synopsis

My name is Dahlia but I'm called a Plaguer, a person who survived the Bloody Death. When the virus first hit the world, it ravaged the human race. I thought I was lucky to survive it but survival comes at a cost. Ever since the sickness, I see things and I'm hunted for these visions. Some seek me out because they want to keep their secrets safe. They don't want the world to know the truth of what they are. Others, like Dax, want my knowledge. Dax has secrets of his own but as long as he helps me evade the Dark Walkers, he can keep them. There's only one place left for people like me, the Wilds, and only one man who can lead me there. This book is for all the Plaguers, the truth sayers branded and marked as liars, often hunted and sometimes forgotten. This book is for the girl who was right.

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Customer Reviews

I have to say this is one of the best books I've read in a long time. Don't let the sentimental YA cover fool you. This is an awesome book for anyone. I loved it. The author got the tone of the main characters just right. The plot was tight and believable and never took a step wrong. The strength and intelligence, the humor and honor, the touch of almost fey abilities, the just plain grit of the

heroine was so perfect. And when things got scary or painful, she stayed true to her ideals and purpose and showed wonderful inner strength. It was a pure pleasure to hear her thoughts and watch her actions. I loved it when funny or emotional things were happening that the reader understood but the main character did not due to her lack of experience and social interaction. But she never looked weak or silly due to this - you just wanted to hug her and find out what she did or said next. Again - a brilliant character. In conjunction with this, the second main character was such a worthy "opponent" for our heroine and yet so much more. The sparks just fly off the page when the two interact. And rounding out the story, the secondary characters were each unique and special in their own ways too. In many ways the book reminded me of the old westerns my family and I used to love to read, coupled with science fiction elements and a touch of magic. Again, I felt the author got the tone just right. Very imaginative. Excellent writing. I am looking forward to the next story with much anticipation. A thoroughly enjoyable read. Highly recommended.

What an addicting read. This is an urban fantasy that will have you chewing through the pages. I picked (figuratively) up the book up and couldn't put it down. This book was better than the blurb makes it out to be. The female protagonist, Dahlia, is a plager she has been trapped inside a facility since she was 4 years old. Plagers are people who have survived the black death and are pariahs of society, deemed crazy and locked up away from normal humans. They're tortured, abused and treated like dirt. Nobody ever taught Dal things but she learned. She is both innocent and world wise at the same time. She is determined to escape her prison and come back to free her friends, she is just waiting until the opportunity presents itself. However before she has the chance she is rescued by the mysterious Dax. A man from the wilds. He is her chance to enact her rescue plan for her friends. But Dax needs her for his own agenda. He's exceptionally tight lipped about what exactly that is. They will use each other and Dal thinks that's just fine. The characters in this book have depth. We watch Dal grow, come into her own and as she does we watch her crack Dax's cold concrete exterior. She chips away at him, too stubborn to let him keep his secrets for long. Donna has built a unique world, setting up mysteries that will have you begging to read the next book in order to have them solved. She writes well and the story flows. She drip feeds you information that is just enough to satisfy you (so you don't feel the need to hunt her down and demand answers) and keeps you craving more. I now find myself itching to read book two and wanting to shout from the roof tops to everyone that they should read it too.

I really hated this book. It was written in an incredibly low level and the characters have no

development. This girl is 18, but has attitude and knowledge no one would know if you've been locked up for 14 years. Things are mentioned as explanations for behaviors "what would Mooby do?" but never really explained or linked in a way that it actually made sense. I can't even write properly right now I'm so annoyed that I read this. I wanted to like it. The world building seemed like it could have been good. But it's like a 16 year old girl who wanted to write a tough character did it without research. You have to give motive and experience for behaviors, not just "Oh I want to make so and so tough". You can't just say a character, who has been locked away for MOST OF HER LIFE, knows how to navigate a library, or read, or anything. Also, the author clearly has done no research on how a post-traumatic society would function. A virus that wiped out that much of society? Nothing would look like that. There wouldn't be enough people left. Guns and gunpowder don't last that long. Oh, and he can drill for oil? REALLY? Is there electricity? How? Myers used to be Florida? Way to throw that in as an afterthought. Like I said, I can't even write about it in a way that truly expresses my ire because my brain is still on strike. I get that Young Adult books are not high level intellectual pieces of classical fiction. But let's actually commit to Young Adult then, and not throw in random adult themes in such a childish way. I'm so annoyed.

Unfortunately, I did not find this short novel that I finished in a night to be particularly great. I found the characters to be shallow, their motivation and characteristics to be predictable, and the plot to lack depth. Conversation between characters at times was awkward, and not in a way to show an awkward moment. The main female lead character quickly falls into the stereotypical, "I'm attracted to the hot guy, but I'm a strong independent woman, hear me roar, but his hair is soft, and he's so broody and ice cold, that I find it strangely attractive when he blows me off!" The setting was decent. I think what really got me was at the end the author doesn't follow one of the best tenants of good writing. Show, don't tell. Near the end we get a wrap up of many plot points told as a local folk tale, by the main male lead. *Spoiler* It's about him and his life! Surprise. Surprise. The author should check out *On Writing A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King. It does a great job of explaining Show, Don't Tell. Maybe with a bit more editing I would have been more likely to give this a higher review.

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