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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.

Book Information

File Size: 1380 KB

Print Length: 350 pages

Publisher: Strong Hold Publishing, LLC (August 29, 2015)

Publication Date: August 29, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B014N9C80I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,717 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #58 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > New Adult & College #75 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror > Dark Fantasy #80 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Horror > Dark Fantasy

Customer Reviews

This was the first book I read by Augustine. I will admit, I was hesitant at first. The opening of this book smacks of a writer that has created a fictional world so complex that it is extremely confusing to try and follow the story. However, that problem quickly resolves (though mysteries remain until the very end of the fourth book), and what you have is a unique, well-paced, and very inventive

story. While I was waiting for the fourth book, I read the other two series Augustine has out. All of them showcase a talented writer with a vivid, incredible imagination. My complaint with this book/series is that the leading man is the same leading man as in all of her other series- powerful, handsome, almost misogynistic in his need to control/protect the heroine, boorish, but secretly good deep down. Her romantic leads have a very predictable dynamic when this man meets her inevitably strong-willed protagonist, one which I was very tired of by book 4 of this series (the 12th book of hers I had read in a row). That said, while I hope she branches out on her "type," this and all of her books are very enjoyable! I am pretty sure this is my favorite series, as the premise is just so frigging cool, but all of her books are page turners for sure.

I thought this novel began quite well, but after the first chapter it took a nosedive. I liked the idea of an Earth after a terrible plague, but then the "hot government worker" strolled in and I knew it was going to go the way of many corny love stories. The story became more about Dax, the mysterious tall, dark, and handsome stranger, than about Dal. The author tries to portray Dal as intelligent and determined, but she comes off as stubborn, irrational, and completely selfish. She was not an interesting character, at least not for a protagonist. The story becomes so entangled in the sexual tension between Dax and Dal that it simply is not enjoyable to read anymore. Without Dax, there is no story, which is truly unfortunate considering that Dal could have become a strong character all by herself. Other characters are lost to these two, so it made for a very ho-hum novel.

This was a really enjoyable start to an interesting series. I would definitely call this YA or NA since the main character Dahlia is 18. She seems very naïve at times, but it is excusable since she spent most of her life in a mental facility. The world they live in is vividly drawn, as are all of the secondary characters, but I am taking away one star because I was left with so many questions: What exactly are Dahlia and Tiffany? Why did Dax want Dahlia to find the Dark Walkers? What are the Dark Walkers? What do they want with Dahlia? If the world is so broken down, how do Dax and his followers have so many modern resources (like chocolate)? I am sure some of these questions will be answered in upcoming books, and I liked this enough to stick with the series, but I feel like a few more answers were warranted.

I feel like Donna Augustine just gets me and my sense of humor and adventure. *The Wilds* introduces a unique and exciting world filled with those we love and love to dread. It takes place in a disease ravaged world, but you aren't distracted by the pillaged landscape and conditions, because

Ms Augustine immediately draws you into the communities that exist within this type of environment. It is full of adventure and keeps a fast pace without failing to explain Dal's emotions and develop the relationships between her and those around her. I love the witty dialogue and the depth of all The Wilds' characters. Augustine stays true to Dal's maturity level and mindset without being annoying. Then there is Dax and you want to slap him and kiss him all at the same time. In short, this book has everything I love in a book. Unique fantasy world, with new creatures free from all your usual, worn out fantasy world creepers. Tons of Adventure. Witty and exciting dialogue. Quick pace. A sprinkle of mystery to keep you guessing. Very little to nothing predictable. Well rounded unique and thought out characters. And an ending that leaves you excited and surprised and shocked and nervous and happy and thirsting for more. The next few books I read, after reading this one, all felt empty and dull in its shadow. FYI, I have now read The Hunt, the second in this series, and it did not disappoint. :)

I did like this book, despite the fact number one, there were plot holes big enough to drive a semi through (how was Dax able to break Dal out of the Cement Giant?), and number two, for a girl who's been institutionalized for most of her life, I would have expected a lot more emotional reaction to everything she experienced outside the prison walls. She adapted adapted far too easily. Still, I shall probably continue with the series if only in the hope of learning more about Dax, and finding out what the Dark Walkers are really after.

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