



Fast-Tracked

Tracy Rozzlynn

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Study hard, do well on your assessment, and you'll be rewarded.

The phrase had been repeated throughout Alexandria's life. A person's rank on their assessment test determined everything. Their job, where they lived, and even who they could marry. At least that's what Alexandria thought before she received the results.

Alexandria's assessment elevates her to fast-tracker status, but Byron, her best friend turned true love, isn't as lucky. His results sink him to the lowest possible rank and a guaranteed life of hardship and misery.

Everything Alexandria believed is a lie. Fast-trackers run the country. Anger one of them and your whole world could fall apart. Anger one of them and the people you love suffer.

Disillusioned, Alexandria plunges herself into the fast-tracker's world in hopes of helping Byron. But can she help Byron before she completely loses herself to the allure of their lifestyle?

Fast-Tracked Details

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Author : Tracy Rozzlynn

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From Reader Review Fast-Tracked for online ebook

Kerri says

This book was a total surprise. I downloaded it off of Amazon for only 99 cents and so I was very happy that it captured my attention right from the first page. If you are a fan of dystopian novels like I am, then you will really like this book.

A note about the cover: I'm hoping this is just a working cover and not the final product because there is nothing attractive or attracting about this cover. I know that Lexi loves roses because they remind her of Byron but I just think a more interesting cover would be better.

Seventeen year old Alexandria (Lexi) and her best friend/boyfriend Byron have just finished writing the assessment test - "a test that determines everything - their job, where they live, and even who they can marry." In a colour-coded social ranking system, both Lexi and Byron have grown up in Blue class, which sits at the bottom of the upper class. They both hoped to achieve a score that would keep them in that upper class. That way they could plan a life together. But Lexi's happiness at achieving a great score comes crashing down around her when she finds out Byron has been placed in the bottom ranking Orange working class. Lexi must find some way to use her new ranking of Gold to help Byron.

I was intrigued by the concept of mixing a dystopian futuristic storyline with the upper-class lives of the rich and famous fast-trackers. It's like a very scary glimpse at a futuristic Hollywood gone bad.

I really liked Lexi's determined attitude to help Byron. However, I found the relationship between Lexi and Byron was not enough. I wanted to care about Byron more instead I actually found that I liked Avery more and even though his character is questionable at times. Who doesn't love a bad boy turned good?

My only other complaint was that I found the book ended a little too abruptly. Though I have to say that I read the book nonstop late into the night and I am looking forward to reading the next book in the trilogy?

Linda Rollins says

Wow, what a fantastic story! The synopsis sounded an interesting concept and I wasn't disappointed. Alexandria has grown up in a very different America that has evolved from post-financial crash devastation. She's in love with Byron but, because of certain events, is prevented from being with him. Really, I think this story is aimed at young adults but I'm 42 in a couple of weeks and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I think this is because it is a very clever book and for me it feels that there are many different levels to consider within the main story – if you choose to. It has politics (that aren't boring), romance (that isn't slushy or uncomfortable) and observations of a society that one would hope was very different to our own but sadly probably is not. I think there is a lot to learn from this book – no matter who you are.

When I first started reading the book I loved the way Alexandria always knew what to say and what to do – it's where we'd all like to be. I did worry about the strong element of materialism throughout the story but I think that it is probably a key point that underpins some of the other things that are going on.

The writing was clean and flowed well so was easy to read and the ideas and concepts were unique and well

thought out. It is a very exciting story and, in my mind, Book 1 ended just as the first book in a trilogy should end and I am looking forward to getting hold of Book 2. The only reason I'm giving 4 stars rather than 5 is because it isn't my usual kind of book, but other than that it comes highly recommended.

Christina (Ensconced in Lit) says

I discovered this book as I was browsing through the 99 cent books. I actually did not download it first because I had read a few pages and decided to buy Verita (Tracy Rozzlynn's other novel) first. Because I was so impressed with that novel and because I love the YA dystopian genre overall, I decided to give this book another shot.

I am very glad I did.

What I tell everyone is stick with it. It does start slow, and it really doesn't pick up pace until after Lexi moves away (will try not to give any more spoilers to that point). This and because of grammar/spelling errors, which as someone else already pointed out is really the editor's mistake more than Rozzlynn's, is the reason I am not giving it 5 stars.

However, the story more than makes up for it as Lexi/Zandria moves to a Gossip Girl/Revenge sort of scenario, with twists and turns that even I, a well versed dystopian snob, couldn't predict. I loved Wendy, the girl that Zandria saves. She keeps Zandria remembering why she is doing what she is doing.

It's very difficult at this point to keep books fresh in this genre, because it's been so well done by other authors like Lois Lowry, Suzanne Collins and Stephenie Meyer. But Rozzlynn has accomplished that, and I think she is one of the most promising fresh voices/talents out there now. I am looking forward to the sequels of Fast-tracked and Verita, and also to the start of her new trilogy as well.

Audrey Graser says

Title: Fast-Tracked

Author: Tracy Rozzlynn

Genre: YA dystopian

Where I got it: E-book giveaway from LibraryThing

One sentence: Their lives are dictated by how they score on the assessment test; when Alexandria is elevated to the fast-track class and her best friend/boyfriend is assigned the lowest rank, Alexandria does whatever she can to save Byron from a life of hardship and misery.

Themes: Romance, dystopian society, class conflict,

Main character: The first couple chapters didn't give me much to go on with Alexandria, and I wasn't sure that I would like her at first, but I ended up enjoying how she decided to make the best of the situation she was in, and yet still retain her own morals and beliefs in such an extravagant society. She had just the right

amount of virtues and flaws so that she was down-to-earth and likeable; went through emotions and feelings and confusion, without being helpless.

Secondary characters: I thought the character of Avery was actually very well developed, Autumn was useful in her part of the “queen-bee” without being completely unlikeable, and Wendy was sweet, kind, and ready to push Alexandria back into place when needed. However, I didn’t have enough time to feel that Byron developed as a character, as I didn’t see very much of him through the novel. When I did see him, I didn’t understand his actions, like pushing Alexandria away.

Writing style: I have to admit, I opened up this book and didn’t think I was going to be able to get through it. As cool as the concept was, the opening scenes didn’t grab me, and there were definitely some writing characteristics that I didn’t like. For example, I didn’t understand why Rozzlyn used Byron’s mother’s compliments to form Alexandria’s physical description: “Why, that lilac dress is the perfect color for your alabaster complexion and your lovely ebony hair. I swear it just makes those sapphire eyes of yours just pop right out.” However, once the novel really started moving, it smoothed out some of the stylistic problems I had- whether I just didn’t notice them or they lessened in frequency is still undecided.

Plot: The concept of the book was really cool, although the idea of being assigned to a class based on a test or assessment is really nothing new. What I found interesting was how Rozzlyn combined this dystopian/science-fiction concept with the upper-class lives of the fast-trackers, which reads like it could be an account of the lives of the Upper Manhattan prep-school kids.

Best scene: The scene where Alexandria is taken shopping is every girl’s dream! I was literally drooling.

Positives: New spin on an old plot, romances, strong female protagonist, entertaining and believable backstory.

Negatives: Avery’s motivation?, some of the writing style, the beginning (started out a little slow on the uptake), Byron, the cliffhanger ending.

Ending: Ahhhh! Such a cliffhanger! I’m so mad, now I’m hooked and have to read the sequel!

Verdict: Entertaining, fun, blew my expectations out of the water.

Rating: 7.2 / 10

Tennille says

FANTASTIC if i could sum this book up in one word that is the word i would use!!! Once again Ms Rozzlyn has done it with this first book in her trilogy Fast-Tracked. I loved the characters the story line and the cliffhanger. Once again i am left hanging out for the second book as i was with Verita!! Ms Rozzlynn has made her way fantastically into my favourite authors list. If you haven't done so already get this book and read it....and do it now! I could not put this book down, what a scary world to be in :)

Obtained for review with Library Thing giveaway

Avry15 says

originally appeared on: Bookshelf Confessions

I won a free copy of this e-book in a LibraryThing Member Giveaway

Ms. Rozzlyn is now one of my fav authors.. really she's good in bringing her readers to her story... luring us to her own thoughts and characters..

I have read Verita and it's good too and it's more fiction..

while on Fast-tracked it depicts well..races.. how people are misguided by beliefs about who's superior and who are slaves... like in true life..we always face racial discrimination everyday..maybe not obviously..but still there it is.. the author here clearly relate to us in a novel way.. of what really it's like.. a great book.. can't wait for the sequel if there is one..

A short synopsis from Amazon:

Study hard, do well on your assessment, and you'll be rewarded.

The phrase had been repeated throughout Alexandria's life. A person's ranking on the assessment test determined everything. Their job, where they live, and even who they can marry. At least that's what Alexandria thought before she received the results.

Everything Alexandria believed was a lie. fast-trackers run the country. Anger one of them and your whole world could fall apart. Anger one of them and the person you love would suffer.

Alexandria was elevated to fast-tracker class while her best-friend turned true love was plummeted to the lowest possible rank— a guaranteed life of hardship and misery. She plunges herself into the fast-tracker world in hopes of helping Byron. But can she help Byron before she completely loses herself to the allure of their lifestyle?

Suzanne says

I won "Fast-Tracked" through a Library Thing member giveaway program. I entered to win it because it seems Dystopian can do no wrong in my eyes, since I am avidly hooked on the genre, and I love how many ways there are to twist it. After reading this story, I am glad it was available as a giveaway, because it enabled me to read a rather good addition to the genre that I might not have found out about on my own.

Just so you know, I do give my honest opinion in reviews, and if anything comes off as harsh, I do not intend it that way! I have a great respect for writers, and the views I am about to express are only my opinion, and should be taken as such.

The first couple of pages seemed a little awkward to me. Like the author was so excited to start her story, but just wasn't sure exactly how to begin, which ended up in a beginning that felt like it was running all over the

place. Fortunately, this doesn't last long, the first couple of pages at most, and then this story settles into a smoother rhythm.

I enjoyed the back story on how this world came to be. Too often, it is something most books that fall in this genre omit, and Rozzlynn earned instant points from me for giving us some background without it feeling forced. Also, it added great dimension to the story, and had me thinking "hey, this is actually pretty plausible."

The characters do come to life in this story. I was so amused how the main character, Alexandria, goes by both 'Lexi' and later, 'Zandria'. Both names, while derived from the same initial one, depict such drastically different personalities, which I saw as perfectly suiting in this story. It was almost as if the main character had to create an alter ego to survive in the world she was thrust in, and it was very nicely done. And ahhh... Avery. He was so much more complex than I ever expected him to be, and even knowing what I do now about his character (no spoilers) I still don't know if I should admire him, or fear him, love him, or hate him.

The only parts of the story that came off a bit forced to me were the business aspects. I understand why it was essential to the story line, but I didn't really feel like it was introduced right, or carried out right, and so it sometimes seemed to take away from the story instead of enhance it.

On the other hand, another plus of this story was Rozzlynn's vivid descriptions of scenery, clothing, and even expressions. Hell, I would love for Rozzlynn to write my wardrobe! I feel pretty sure if she wrote it down on paper, than I sprinkled a bit of fairy dust on it, I would find the written clothes hanging in my closet!

One small thing that didn't really effect my enjoyment of the story too terribly was the few misspellings and such through the story. Although, that really isn't the author's fault, it falls on the head of the editor, so a little more editing please! :)

All in all, this story was really very good. It had its ups and downs, but always succeeded in holding my interest and making me think of it even when I wasn't reading it. This story is a bit "Gossip Girl" meets modern dystopia, and that was fine by me. I enjoyed the cattiness, the power struggle, and the dystopian setting enough that I will definitely be reading the rest of the trilogy, in addition to happily checking out Rozzlynn's other works. If this book sounds interesting to you, I suggest you do the same!

Nurture Waratah says

This is an awesome book about love, loyalty, stalking and the perils of catching the eye of somebody in a far higher social station than yourself. Set in a dystopian society, where your high school results determine your social standing for the rest of your life, this book tells the story of a girl who is fast-tracked - elevated by her results to the highest social status there is. However, it doesn't take her long to discover that fast-trackers are rarely welcomed and high school results can be manipulated by those in power. Kiss off the wrong person, and your child's life could be ruined. Catch the eye of the wrong person and you could find yourself fast-tracked - and trapped. Like many young adult novels, the quality of writing in this book is superb, the plot complex, and the story enthralling from the start. I am hooked and I absolutely cannot wait until the second novel is released.

Heather Robbins says

Review: 5x5

I really wasn't sure I was going to like this...No really I don't like everything I pick up some I just put back down and don't review! This however turned out to be an engrossing story.

Alexandria is a great character! She really reminds me of...well lots of girls. We tend to go back and forth with ourselves ALOT, here she keeps it all together when loads would just fall apart. She keeps her standards and morals in check when it would be super easy to just go with everyone else so Kudos! Now Byron well just let me be honest I didn't and I'm still not sure I'm on board with him :(I do heart some Avery though.... there is all thrills and excitement that go along with being in with the Rich in-crowd. Backstabbing, beat-downs, and Love...and well the ending will leave you with your mouth hanging open and eyes wide 0.0

I cannot wait for the next book in this trilogy! If you have yet to read it... well click on the link up there to Amazon... srsly it's only .99!!! GET IT!!

Dixie Conley says

In this book, how hard you study determines your rank in later life. Gold status means you can do anything you want, while red status and lower means you're a lowly worker ant, and pretty much part of the untouchable caste.

The heroine tests as gold, while her boyfriend tests as orange -- the lowest of the low. As she thinks her boyfriend is as smart if not smarter than her, she thinks something's wrong. Something is. As classes commence to teach her about her new status, she finds that she's considered a newbie among the golds. A blue (her family's color) in new clothes. There to take advantage of, sleep with and even kill. Because golds are ruthless fuckers. She just wants to succeed so she can make things better for her boyfriend (who no longer wants anything to do with her). It even looks like it might be possible, except for the plot twist that would spoil everything. Brave but ultimately stupid, the heroine risks it all and gets her boyfriend his correct status and ends up facing a nightmare life to come. The end.

I thought there was a rule that, even with a series, you have to time it to end on an upnote. Not at the moment of highest tragedy. Doing so is novel, but not in a good way.

Neither is the complete lack of respect for humanity that the golds have. I don't see how a system with that much corruption can stand. It seems unrealistic. Everyone in their place and everyone has a place -- except that there's people who can do anything and everything they want to. The only explanation I can see for it is the conclusion introduced in a book of true history that the heroine reads. Their current nation was founded on killing everyone who wasn't white Anglo-Saxon -- and everyone who complained. Those left are those who are complacent.

It's an interesting book, but ultimately, I find its themes and characters to be distasteful.

4 out of 5 stars for a convincing universe. 1 of 5 stars for taste.

Simone says

Lately I have become addicted to dystopian novels, so that is the main reason that I choose to read this book. Another reason is because of the beautiful cover it has. The fact that I have never heard of the author was another good reason for me to read this book. I find that the less heard of author can have better stories. This is sometimes not true though.

The dystopian society in this story was pretty basic. The government and the rich have control of the USA after the financial crash. Everyone sees the man who fixed it all has god, while the real truth of the matter was forgotten. In this society in your last year of high school you take a test that determines where you are placed in society. So when she is fast-tracked and her best friend/boy friend is moved to the lowest level she will do anything she can to save him. Along the way she learns some of the hidden facts about the fast-trackers and the formation of the society they live in.

I felt that this story was written pretty well and the characters were all interesting, even though they were a little predictable. There were events that happened that surprised me, which is good because I don't like guesses the book in the first 5 pages. Over all I don't regret reading this book and I recommend it to any dystopian lover out there.

Lee Ann says

I read this book as a break from a really dark series I have been reading and I must say I really enjoyed it...finished it in a day. It reminded me of the book Legend, but with a different twist...where Legend has a dystopian military feel to it, this is kind of your social take on it...where the future dictates where you can work, live and who you can date or marry and it is all the result of your assessment results, and that determines your future life...all thanks to Toufee who took over after the US economy collapses....but is there something even more sinister going on or covered up?...we will find out as the story unfolds. Although there were some silly relationship issues, and a Paris Hilton type of character, I loved the underlying themes. Can't wait for the next one!!!

Psylk says

I really enjoyed this book! It was fantastic. I won't lie in the beginning I was a little worried that this was a story we had all read before. It starts a bit slow, but at about 20% I was completely sucked in and actually stayed up the entire night reading the rest of the book in one setting. It was seriously that great! I love that even though this is YA the author doesn't dumb down anything. I feel like a lot of others have a tendency to do that and it is kind of a pet peeve of mine. It can ruin an otherwise great book. However, Rozzlyn isn't not guilty of dumbing anything down. I felt that her subject matter and even her characters thought processes really challenged you to think yourself. I have to say that is quite refreshing. The synopsis above does a great job of describing the book accurately so I won't really do that. What I will do is say... Go pick up this book! You won't regret it.

Jade says

Great Book!! Tracy makes it so easy to want to be completely involved in the characters lives.. like Lexi/Zandria, Byron, Avery, Wendy and so many others! Once I started I had a very difficult time putting it down, as I needed to find out what happened next so I can't wait until the second book comes out!! I love the way the different places, people and attitudes and the feelings behind them were described! It's a scary thought that the world could become that way... or scarier that in some ways it's not too far off. Makes you think but it's written so well that it's not at all preachy or dry. You are able to just fall into this future world and Lexi's life and all the 'what if's' she stuck with... some seemingly impossible decisions and you want to be there as she fights her way out! Great read!! Done it again Tracy!! Thanks!!

Teresa says

OBTAINED FROM A LIBRARYTHING.COM GIVEAWAY

If you are a fan of other dystopian novels such as 'MATCHED' or 'DIVERGENT', 'FAST-TRACKED' needs to be added to your 'to-read' list. Here's why:

Growing up in a color-coded social class system, seventeen year old Alexandria Scannell (Lexi) has no reason to doubt her country's government. She is perfectly content and has her life planned out for her and her BFF/Boyfriend Byron. They just have to get past the assessment testing, which determines what social class and work force you will be placed in for the rest of your life. Lexi and Bryon grew up in the Purple class, which is middle-class, blue-collar workers, and both are content to stay there. After Lexi finds out she received an incredible score and placement on her assessment, her world comes crashing down when she finds out Byron, the love of her life was placed in the other end of the spectrum.

In this, the first book in a trilogy, Lexi discovers the government is not at all what they portray themselves to be, and those that seem to have all the money in the world are the ones with the most problems. Lexi makes it her mission to blend in with these people and rise to power not only for Byron's sake, but for all those that have suffered in similar positions.

I'd never even heard of this book before reading it's description on LibraryThing, and that's a shame because I would've missed out on a great story. Except for typo's, the book is well put together and author Tracy Rozzlynn could have a successful series on her hands, if there was more marketing involved. I'm looking forward to the next book in the trilogy, said to be due out late December of this year.

PLUS: Amazon only lists the Kindle edition at \$0.99, so there's no reason for you not to download it!

4 out of 5 stars
