



World of Shell and Bone

Adriana Ryan , S.K. Falls

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In a world ravaged by a nuclear holocaust, Vika Cannon knows there are no guarantees: no guarantees of safety, no guarantees that your neighbor is not actually a spy for the government, and no guarantees you'll be allowed to emigrate to a new life in China. New Amana is dying. Food and water are scarce, and people suffering from radiation-caused mutations--the Nukeheads--are the new class of homeless. Vika has just one purpose: to produce healthy progeny using a Husband assigned by the Match Clinic. Unhealthy children are carted away to Asylums to be experimented on, just as Vika's little sister Ceres was, eight years ago. Parents incapable of producing healthy progeny are put to death in gas chambers. When she's assigned a Husband shortly after her twentieth birthday, Vika expects him to be complacent and obedient. But Shale Underwood has a secret. He is a member of the Radicals, the terrorist group intent on overthrowing the government. And Shale has information about Ceres. As she learns more about the Rads's plan, Vika finds herself drawn to Shale in ways she'd never imagined. When freedom calls in the way of a healthy pregnancy, will she betray her government and risk death for Shale and Ceres?

World of Shell and Bone Details

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From Reader Review World of Shell and Bone for online ebook

Kathryn Hogan says

The characters were flat, with the exception of Shale, who disappeared halfway through. The Evil Villain Character kept popping up in unexpected and unbelievable places. I rarely understood what was happening. The climax of the book made absolutely no sense.

I thought this would be a neat read because it seemed to be about a strong but complex woman trying to survive a crazy post-apocalyptic fallout typed society that plays with issues of feminism.

It is none of those things.

First of all, the 'feminist regime' that 'rose to power' after the 'war of nations' is such total bullshit that no one would believe it ever in their lives, unless they have swallowed the load of crap that 'feminism is a bunch of angry women who no one wants to sleep with'. This 'feminist regime' is just pre-suffrage sexism only in reverse, and set in a post-apocalyptic world. There is nothing feminist about it AT ALL.

WILL YOU PEOPLE STOP DRAGGING THE WORD FEMINIST THROUGH THE MUD FOR GOD'S SAKE.

This is a book aimed AT YOUNG WOMEN READERS. You know, the people who could use feminism in their lives, so that they don't

-Get raped

-Get paid less for the same work

-Die in a back-alley abortion deal

-Etc.

The only thing remotely 'feminist' about this imaginary regime was that they saw childbirth as a huge accomplishment and celebrated mothers. EXCEPT that then, randomly, the regime changed their mind and decided that even the most fertile mothers would be left to die in the ashes of their post-nuclear-war society, neener neener, serves you right for being a feminist.

AND ANOTHER THING: Feminists have great sex. THIS IS A DOCUMENTED FACT OF LIFE.

Feminists have better relationships. Feminists are not anti-man. But in the book they have terrible sex that is totally male-pleasure oriented and their relationships suck and it's possible that everyone is a lesbian (though I'm not sure).

Here is what a feminist society would look like:

Everybody chills out having great relationships and incredible sex. There is less rape and violence towards women and nobody makes jokes about donkey-punching. END OF STORY.

... I apologize for my rant. Actually, wait. I don't. I don't have to apologize for my opinions.

AND I THANK FEMINISM FOR THAT.

Katie says

Okay, first, can I talk about how pretty the cover is? The cover is what made me want to read the book in the first place. I LOVE the cover. Even though it really has nothing at all to do with the book.

The book had great potential, but none of the characters really felt developed to me. They were flat. I never felt attached to them, or really cared what happened to them. And in my opinion, Vika and Shale... I mean, I never saw the romance. At all. So... yeah. Definite potential, but needs some fleshing out.

Sarah says

Edit: *It's been a few months since I reviewed this book and I'm deducting a star. I think I was really stretching with 3 because I wanted to like a book with a pregnant heroine and I didn't hate all of it, but things like "some pretty writing" shouldn't make up for poor plot and world-building and a gross misunderstanding of Feminism.*

This review can also be found on my blog

World of Shell and Bone quite nearly made me give up at first. There are glaring problems I have personally with the world-building and the concept of it as a “dystopian.” However, the writing is great and a lot more sophisticated than other dystopian novels out there. Though the diction can be pretentious at times, there is some pretty beautiful prose in some parts.

In a world ravaged by nuclear war, Vika Cannon lives in New Amana, a nation uniting the Americas under one government. Life there is hard; everyone is struggling for emigration passes to China which can only be gotten through passing an extremely difficult physical exam or by bearing children. The society has become matriarchal, but women’s worth is still based on how many healthy children they bear. Men are second-class citizens, relegated to raising children, cooking, and cleaning while women work to restore the environment. When Vika Cannon finds out her husband is a Radical, a male terrorist organization bent on overthrowing the “feminist” regime, he shows her information about her sister, Ceres, who was sent to a state-run “asylum” when she was four. When Vika finds out that she is pregnant, she must decide between easy freedom with a healthy baby or saving her sister and risking her life to expose the secrets of a vile regime.

The biggest problem I struggled with in this book was the idea of the “feminist regime” as a male-hating group filled with lesbians who spit upon those ravaged by genetic malformations and their own children who are “defective.” The point of a dystopian is to take a problem of society and demonstrate what will happen if we don’t stop it. The Hunger Games, for example, addressed the problem of our obsession with reality television and the growing political power of the extremely wealthy. Divergent addressed polarization and the problems of segregating ourselves based on beliefs. This book seems to address the problem of... Feminism? Now I don’t believe the author intended for this to be an anti-feminist piece; I really believe she was trying to address the problem of rad-feminism of which there are members who believe all men are rapists and that women are superior. I don’t deny that those people exist. What I have a problem with is the

author saying that this is society's problem. Rape culture and the hypersexualization of women of every culture isn't the problem, radfeminism is. Basically the author is taking the very extreme members of a group that is actually fighting for equality and demonizing the whole group based on their words and actions. Doing this makes for a very poor dystopian, in my opinion. It's not addressing an institutionalized problem within society or even Feminism as a whole, so the entire premise of the book seems extremely implausible to me and the whole point of dystopian is to create a scary, but possible future that the reader feels they must stop from happening when the book is over. Is Feminism a cause I feel should be stopped because I'm afraid the future will end up like in this book? No, and I'm really ticked off that the author gives the impression that people should feel this.

I'll admit that men were portrayed poorly too, which left me a bit confused. I guess I just wasn't really sure what the author was trying to get across. Not that one gender is better than the other, but I ended up hating all the men and women in this book. I think it's likely the author was trying to say that women and men are equal, they both have problems, and we should work together, but feminism is about equality and it was obvious that she didn't believe in that.

Understanding that and loathing that the basic premise of this book is extremely contrary to my beliefs, I can't honestly recommend this book to people. I would love to hear from someone else disagrees with me about the issue of feminism in the book, but I can't say that I want people reading this book and blindly trusting that the author has any idea of what she is saying.

That being said, I think the author's prose was a above average. I thought parts of it were pretentious and she clearly had a thesaurus open when writing certain paragraphs (thank god for the dictionary function on my kindle). There were also some prettily written paragraphs too. There were weird metaphors and good metaphors. I can see a lot of people thinking the writing is absolutely beautiful, so I'll leave it at that.

The romance wasn't really believable. It was like all of the sudden Shale and Vika are in love and I was having whiplash trying to find out when that happened. I didn't despise it though, and I was glad that Vika had relationships worth fighting for other than her and Shale's.

This book has sexual violence and a lot of abuse against pretty much everyone, so definitely don't read if that makes you uncomfortable. This book gets a few bonus points for having a pregnant heroine, which is something I don't think I've ever seen before. Pregnant women aren't really portrayed as strong or empowering, so there's that. Hm. I think I could recommend this only if before reading it, you educated yourself about feminism and what it actually is fighting for.

Misty Baker says

One of my favorite things to do, even now...as a 32-year-old mother of two, is sit across from my father at the dining room table and talk about books. My husband is not a reader, my dad...he reads almost as much as I do, so being able to "talk shop" with someone who appreciates the wild world of literary genius as much as I do is a special treat for me. But last Sunday something funny (and by funny I mean weird) happened. Hubs joined the conversation.

A quick fact about David, he is a pessimist. Now, he isn't as bad as me (I don't think that's humanly possible) but get the two of us in a room and flip the TV to CNN and we will bring down the house with our negative commentary. Anyways, David was off in his own little world (that's code for staring at whatever random blinky light he found in the room) when I decided to tell my dad about the book I was currently reading. "World of shell and Bone."

“So, Dad...you are not going to believe the premise behind this book I’m reading right now. The world is basically destroyed by nuclear warfare”

David’s head shoots up

“and since apparently the men did such a horrible job of keeping everyone safe the first time, cause you know...they basically blew up the world...women are the only ones allowed in charge and the men have been reduced to ignorant (by design) house-husbands who’s only job is to cook, clean and procreate.”

My Dad: “That sounds awesome. I could totally stay home all day and be a man-servant.”

David: “That’s ridiculous. The whole “man thing” not the nuclear warfare thing. Did you know that North Korean has been doing testing on their bomb for over a month now and they have pretty much said that as soon as they are satisfied with the result they are going to take out the US.”

crickets

This is the point in the conversation when Dad and I decided “Enders Game” was a safer topic, but it got me thinking...if we were bombed tomorrow, and I was stuck in the same impossible scenario that the citizens of New Amana found themselves in...would I behave as inconsiderately as they do?

And how about you? Would you cage your conscience, your humanity for a 1% chance at a better life? I would like to definitively say I wouldn’t, but if I’m honest with myself...I don’t really know. Circumstances change people. And it’s not always for the better.

But I digress, first...a little about the book.

“In a world ravaged by a nuclear holocaust, Vika Cannon knows there are no guarantees: no guarantees of safety, no guarantees that your neighbor is not actually a spy for the government, and no guarantees you’ll be allowed to emigrate to a new life in China. New Amana is dying. Food and water are scarce, and people suffering from radiation-caused mutations—the Nukeheads—are the new class of homeless. Vika has just one purpose: to produce healthy progeny using a Husband assigned by the Match Clinic. Unhealthy children are carted away to Asylums to be experimented on, just as Vika’s little sister Ceres was, eight years ago. Parents incapable of producing healthy progeny are put to death in gas chambers. When she’s assigned a Husband shortly after her twentieth birthday, Vika expects him to be complacent and obedient. But Shale Underwood has a secret. He is a member of the Radicals, the terrorist group intent on overthrowing the government. And Shale has information about Ceres. As she learns more about the Rads’s plan, Vika finds herself drawn to Shale in ways she’d never imagined. When freedom calls in the way of a healthy pregnancy, will she betray her government and risk death for Shale and Ceres?”

Now, before I begin my rant on the beautiful prose I found gracing the pages of Adriana Ryan’s trek through the nuclear holocaust, I want to talk about the characters.

I know I sound a bit like a broken record, but I can not express to you how important it is for an author to establish strong, engaging characters. And I’ll be the first to say that if Ryan hadn’t done so in this book, it would have been on the capital side of epic failure. Despite the multitude of sub-plots, this story was ultimately about the people. How they were affected by their circumstances. Their interactions between each other. Their inability to trust, forgive, look past societal outcast and take a stand against injustices. Simply put, if I (as the reader) was unable to emotionally connect to Vika, her husband or even her sister the way I did, all of the actions performed by them would have been meaningless. Luckily, Ryan was able to establish connections through internal dialogue. Though mostly stemmed from guilt or anger, they allowed emotion to

bubble to the surface acting as a catalyst for dynamic relationships.

For example:

“I stare at her as her eyes flutter away from me, her gaze perching on everything around us. She is not there. They have taken my sister and done something with her spirit, ground it up under their dirty boots.”

Though not exactly conventional, this one sentence illustrates just exactly how broken Vika's little sister is. It establishes precedence for Vika's guilt, rage and motives throughout the remainder of the book.

But...let's say you are a person that reads for the underlying message. Lofty prose and stylistic commentary is more up your ally.

No prob, Ryan managed to include that too.

“In the seas of life, when the weather is bad, the optimist says the boat will be fine and the pessimist says we're all going to die. But the realist – she adjusts the sails.”

“Despite what legend might have us believe, death is not proud, it isn't fanfare and trumpet blasts. It is quiet but unassailable, absent one minute and absolute the next.”

“World of Shell and Bone” did have its fair share of flaws though too. For instance, the plot was inundated with highs and lows. For three chapters you would be in the thick of things. People were taking a stand, or Vika was unraveling a pocket full of lies, then...nothing. The story would stall while trying to make a point that was (in the end) relatively unnecessary. And even though I thought the ending was rather genius (and a total set up for book two.) there is a very good chance the majority of readers will find fault in it. (Let's just say the ending was a tad more sedated than one would expect. Also...the last sentence left a lot of things open to interpretation.)

In the end however, all of the positives outweighed the negatives, and while I'm still not sure if my actions would be selfish or selfless (if found in the same situation) I'm somewhat comforted by the fact that others will be. Positive that is.

Highly suggested for those of you that love dystopian or apocalyptic literature.

Happy Reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: you may pretend not to see them, but that doesn't mean they don't see you.

Zoe Cannon says

The first thing I noticed when I started *World of Shell and Bone* was the writing style. Adriana Ryan has an undeniable way with words; she writes in a lyrical, almost literary style, while never letting the language overshadow the story itself. This is an atmospheric, beautiful book, even though the world it describes is anything but beautiful.

The story flowed smoothly from start to finish. There were no dragging parts, no places where I was tempted to put the book down. I bought it late one night, had to force myself to put it down so I could go to bed, and then finished it the next day. Vika's voice, and the unexpected turns the plot took, kept me reading until the book was done.

I also have to applaud the author for writing about a female-dominated society where men are subservient without making it gimmicky or like a political lecture. In some books this sort of thing comes across as trying to beat the reader over the head with the author's opinions or look-how-clever-I-am attitude; in this book, it was simply a plausible part of the world the author had created.

If you're looking for a sophisticated, introspective post-apocalyptic novel with plenty of ambience, I can't recommend this book highly enough.

Tzippy says

Yeah. This is totally what would happen if feminists took over the world. Okay.

Carol Rubens says

Adriana Ryan, you have truly outdone yourself.

The description of the book is already posted, so I won't bore you with that. I downloaded a sample of this book on my Kindle, not thinking it would be that great. It's only a \$2.99 book, and the last three dollar book I bought was pretty awful. I mean really, truly awful. Needless to say, I wasn't expecting much. So you can imagine how surprised I was to find that this book was absolutely, utterly fantastic. I read a ridiculous amount of books, and getting a new one every other day is a pretty normal thing to me. But finishing one in about six hours is something I don't normally do. I literally couldn't put it down because I was just so invested in this story. The story line is outstanding and original, which is hard to come by nowadays. The characters were fully developed; I really feel like I got a strong sense of who each person was. Ryan did a great job of giving everyone very different and distinct personalities - headstrong, secretive, manipulative, or asshole-ish. In some books, the characters all seem to meld together, they all have the same voice in my head, which makes it hard to remember who is who and who is saying what. But in this book, everything was so distinct, and each person so different (it's like I'm a broke record).

I'll be the first to admit it: I judge books by the cover. It's a thing. I do it regularly. A bad cover, to me, is a sign that it's just average, maybe it doesn't spark the creativity needed to make a beautiful cover. So of course I was pulled in by the cover of this book - it's stunning. Absolutely stunning. More than that though, the writing itself was beautiful. Some authors have a way of making the poetry, so to speak, of their books forced. But Ryan's writing seemed so effortless; I'd like to hear that woman speak in normal conversation, I can't imagine it being any less eloquent than her books! I'm not usually one to use quotes in my reviews, but she just had a way of making things seem so beautiful. "Suicide. The word seems to echo. The murder of oneself. It's something I have thought of many times, turned over in my hands like a piece of pretty sea glass." Is it just me, or does she make a selfish, terrible act seem almost beautiful?

I've already written a pretty lengthy review, so this may be where I stop writing and leave you to decide for yourself. Something this book has taught me, though: not all three dollar books are great, some aren't even remotely good, **but don't let that fool you**. The cheapest book may be the greatest thing you'll ever read.

Pragya says

Gah! Just Look at that cover. I'm in love with it. I keep going back to look at it again and again. What do you think of it?

When I started reading this book, I found myself comparing or rather identifying it with *Eve* (Eve, #1) by Anna Carey and *Matched* (Matched, #1) by Ally Condie. But as I progressed with my reading, I found *World of Shell and Bone* making its own place in the bookish world with an innovative world-building and an entirely different storyline.

The book hooked me right in and I devoured it in less than a day since I couldn't possibly part with it. The editing is flawless, not a single extra word is written. The speed with which the book moves is thrilling and captivating.

The characters are well-built and as I love myself a strong female character, Vika fit the bill perfectly.

The story is so well-written that I found myself emoting with the character's situation – smiling, feeling sad and fearing for her.

The plot took turns I didn't even expect, throwing me off balance. I like that – unpredictability in a book.

Overall, I think Adriana has done a brilliant job with her very first book. It hits the mark for me on all fronts- the plot, characters, pace, editing.

Go grab it right now.

Damali says

The world is suffering from radiation sickness, poverty, and China is the new super power of the world, and apparently the only safe place. Vika lives in New Amana, formally North America, where she dreams of being able to emigrate to Asia. China only wants them if they're healthy, if they can prove they're fertile. New Amana is female-run and men are subservient, and aren't allowed to learn to read or think at all. Women are given five chances to conceive before they're sent to the gas chamber. Vika is assigned her first Husband, Shale, at age 20, and begins her fertility process. But time is running out. Resources are getting scarcer, and those who don't die from hunger will soon die from the radiation fallout.

I really enjoyed this world, even with all the bad stuff going down. Children who aren't perfect are sent to live in asylums. "The human race simply cannot afford to let unhealthy genes into the gene pool anymore. We're an endangered species." Nukeheads are the people deformed by the fallout. They live on the streets as beggars. The men work as, nannies, maids, studs, or in maintenance. The women are the breadwinners with all the responsibility. Vika says, "I wish I could be as carefree as Shale – my biggest problem how small to slice the potatoes."

This world seems to be empty of all emotion. Everyone's afraid if they don't act appropriately, they'll be labeled as a traitor and gassed. Everyone's so paranoid and ruthless and out for themselves. And best of all, the writing is as beautiful as the cover art. I had a few small issues with the plot, but overall, I loved it!

Eddie says

is this chick-lit? I don't know, but I stumbled upon this book via Amazon and it sounded interesting, and no, the cover didn't catch my interest! OK, I'm lying, but like your father used to say, "I read Playboy for the articles, not the pictures." This cover ended up eventually falling into that category as well.

Anywho...

As far as This book goes, it didn't come off as completely original, but it was fresh enough for me to finish it within a 24-hour period, and I usually don't do that with books, even the ones I really like. It comes off as your standard dystopian novel. You know, some great disaster, in this case a great war that involved nuclear proportions, a great divide and order submerged from this war of two-classes--the oppressed and oppressors, a torn landscape. You get my drift, I'm sure. Except this book wasn't YA, I believe. Not that all dystopian novels are YA... Regardless of the standard formula used in this book, I still enjoyed every page, the plot, and all the characters in this book. This book definitely ends with a cliff-hanger, but this book has only scratched the surface with its possible potential and still has tons of room for the plot and its characters to fully develop. I do hope this author continues on with this series and will read her future work if she does so.

Brooke Moss says

This book was recommended to me by a friend, and I bought it as a courtesy to her...as well as because the cover was so exquisite. And while I was expecting a good read, possibly a 3.5 or 4 star read....my mind was officially blown. Like, to kingdom come.

Okay, so I can't even write a long, extensive review....not because I don't want to, but because I literally cannot wrap my head around this amazing book. I am baffled that it wasn't published by a big 6 publisher, especially when every book I seem to buy from a big 6 lately turns out to be a waste of money. This book is stellar, and edited impeccably. The cover is gorgeous, and the characters are amazing. I was creeped out, intimidated, paranoid, completely in love with the characters, and moved all at once...and when the book ended, I had one of those *holding the Nook above my head* "NOOOOOOOO!!!!" moments. (I don't have very many of those.)

This story line is so plausible, it is scary. I am starting to tire of dystopian stories, but this one is fresh, inventive, and completely terrifying all at the same time. The main character is relatable, and her "husband" is just lovely enough to make you crave another scene with him in it. The younger sister character is like a train wreck. You don't want to look, because it's scary and disturbing, but you can't help yourself...you need to see what happens. To say I enjoyed this book would be an understatement. I loved it. I LOVED IT. It is going on my list of favorite reads of 2012, right up there with Easy by Tammara Webber and On The Island, with Tracy Graves Garvis--and those who know me know what a bold statement that is.

Amazing. Amazing. Amazing. I will reread.

Look at that....I wrote a longer review. Not surprised. It was *that* awesome. My only complaint? (and I'm

pulling at strings, here) It ended abruptly, and so help me...there had BETTER be a sequel. Otherwise I'll die. True story.

Thank you, Ms. Ryan. Your books will be on my auto buy list from now on.

Emily says

I will not be seduced by a pretty cover. I will read samples.
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I will be scribbling this out on my blackboard another 90 times until I learn my lesson. Yes, the cover is very, very pretty. The book dips in a few different dystopian pools, but not in particularly logical ways, so that there are gaping holes in how the world functions. Add to that flat characters and mediocre writing and plotting (seriously, this thing jumps from point A to B to C with all the elegance of a hastily-jotted outline), and there isn't much nice to say about this except that it's very short.

Rebecca says

I loved World of Shell and Bone. Ryan did a great job of portraying a world destroyed by nuclear holocaust, with lyrical writing and deep, flawed characters. Every time you think Vika will be saved by some outside force, she's not, and she has to rely on her inner strength for salvation. Even if she manages to save herself and those she loves, it may not be the glorious moment she was hoping for. It was a very real book, and the only negative I found was that the ending wrapped up a little quicker than I was hoping for. Hopefully we'll see a second book in this series from Ryan, because I am very invested in these characters after spending a few nights reading their story.

Anissa says

I came across this book in my Amazon recommendations & the title & cover caught my eye. I downloaded the sample & as soon as I'd finished reading it, I bought the book. I had to know where this was going to go. I am happy to say that I enjoyed where it did go & I've found out that there's going to be another book to follow, so I'm looking forward to that.

There were some things that didn't seem very fleshed out & the progression of time was hard to get a handle on (save one instance where the fact that two weeks have passed is mentioned at the outset of a chapter). There certainly was no insta-love between Vika & Shale & it is shown that they do have feelings that are

deeper than the original matching of them but to have refer to him as the man she loves was a bit jarring. Up to that point, she had never made any sense of her feelings & expressed mostly wonder at them. She lives in a society in which there are no "boyfriends" & no opportunity to have crushes on the opposite sex, so I didn't know how she made that leap. It's never even established that she's had a girlfriend so that she has some knowledge of experience with romantic love. Still, that was a minor issue.

Vika also seemed to pick up a few "skills" out of nowhere (driving the bus) & was strangely lacking in others. She's given a pistol but has no knowledge or experience using them, yet it is not a concern in any way to her or thought that she should maybe ask someone how to use it (how she gets it back after Drew takes it from her is also a mystery). We're told often that the matriarchal society in which she lives is one that sees men as inferior & inherently dangerous physically but it does not appear that any of the women have taken the time to learn basic skills of self-defense, just in case. I had to wonder how that planned infiltration & takeover of China is really going to go down successfully. Part of me loved that after repeated situations that turned more complex & not quite what was told to her, Vika had an openness & willingness to trust that remained. It seemed nice even if it were also foolhardy. Just as a facet of self-preservation, I wanted her to be more critical & circumspect & not keep thinking that things would just work out. I wanted her to be a planner & take on more of her own agency to reach her goal instead of relying on what others told her. But, this is just the first book & she grew quite a bit, so I temper my expectations.

Even so, there were many moments that I found fascinating, endearing & memorable. Vika's interactions with her mother, Mica & Ceres are all wonderful & the characters shine. I almost felt some sympathy for Vika's mother when she's rendered as the poster child of futility in their society. I never stopped wanting to know more about Mica because his appearances were always reminders that his life has been as much a mystery to Vika as it is to me. I was just glad Ceres turned up alive & Vika found her and their interactions were truly special. The scene where Vika braids Ceres's hair & the other girls with flowers really struck me as beautiful. I really wanted some vicious retribution to come Moon's way early on (she was a great character) & it only increased when she reappeared at the end of the story (view spoiler) The ending isn't a typical cliff-hanger & could serve as a good ending to a stand-alone story but it did leave me wanting to see what will happen next in Vika & her companions' journey.

Julianne says

I really don't understand how this book got such good reviews. First of all, the story is pretty similar to others I've read. And it isn't pulled off nearly as well. The characters are shallow and predictable, the world-building is mediocre at best, and there are just too many holes or things left unexplained. Not to mention the story was incredibly predictable. There were times I wanted to slap some sense into the main character because even though obvious things were staring her in the face, she still didn't seem to get it.

There were also some editing issues. I'm glad I only paid \$2.99 for this book. It's not worth more than that.
