



## Evolution

*Teri Terry*

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## **Evolution** Teri Terry

Into the fire ...

The final part of the trilogy from multi award-winning author Teri Terry.

Shay has followed Xander and joined his mysterious scientific cult at their remote Scottish compound. She's desperately searching for Callie, who went missing before the start of the epidemic that kills 95% of cases, and leaves a tiny number of survivors with astonishing new powers.

Can Shay uncover the truth about the origins of the epidemic, find Callie and perhaps even rekindle her relationship with Kai? Or will Xander's grand plans destroy them all for ever?

## **Evolution Details**

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Author : Teri Terry

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## From Reader Review Evolution for online ebook

### Leonie Byrne says

Thank you to Netgalley, Teri Terry and Hatchette Children's Group for my arc of Evolution.

Teri Terry is such a great author I loved her Slated Series as well as the others which followed, but the Dark Matter series is definitely up there as one of my favourites.

This review is spoiler free but may contain spoilers for the first two books Contagion and Deception where necessary for the purpose of this review.

Evolution sees everything come to a head. At the end of Deception Shay disappeared with Alex Cross, now known as Xander to the secret survivor base he has created, called Multiverse. Kai meanwhile is left behind with Freja and not understanding how Shay could have left him again when they were only just reconciled.

There was a lot to wrap up and I was unsure how this would be possible in a single book, but Teri did it! Finally, we start to get some answers about why people are immune or survivors when others die. And there's some shocks along the way!

I really felt like I got to know the characters better than ever in this one. Some I liked more and some I went from liking to all out hating! There was a lot more science stuff in this one but it was explained in a way which was easy to understand and also interesting.

I do like when a book comes to a satisfactory close and reveals all. I'll definitely be reading whatever Teri comes up with next!

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### Emma Schembri says

This trilogy was simply amazing. I love all of Teri Terry's books and am genuinely torn between whether this trilogy, or the Slated Trilogy is my favourite (only because I haven't finished Mind Games yet). Her books are wonderful and the kind that keep you wanting more. Yet when you get more and finish the book, you sit there wishing you hadn't and could read it for the first time all over again?

Can't wait to read all of her other books!!

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### Steph says

Review to come.

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### Aoife says

I should never have doubted Teri. I couldn't see how everything could possibly be tied up nicely by the end of the book, but she got it all done without rushing anything or dragging anywhere. Everyone gets an ending;

most of them even get the end they deserve. Some fairly heavy science stuff comes out of nowhere at the end, but it's easy enough to follow.

I would absolutely adore another book set a few years down the line, to see what's happening in England (and other countries mentioned during this one) but this is a great place to leave it if nothing else is coming. Fantastic trilogy, well worth your time, and I'll be watching for more from Teri Terry in the future.

Receiving an ARC did not alter my opinion in any way.

*'They're kids. They haven't done anything wrong; it's not their fault they got sick, and didn't die. Look, this isn't something you have to do, it's just they need help –and you need help, too. I thought it was a good idea.'*

*'You thought wrong. I think you'd better leave.'*

*I stare back at Angus's closed, angry face, and I'm bewildered. How could I have got things so very wrong? As I head for the door I can hear Maureen pleading with her dad to listen to me, to take a chance. The desperation in her to have children in the house is painful to hear; it's greater than her fear of survivors. But he's not having it.*

*I start to unload the bike from the back of the truck; Angus comes outside again. His face is like thunder. 'It makes sense to me now, what you said –that you've known survivors. That Freja is one of them, isn't she? That's why she never had the tattoo. You lied to us, and you brought her into our home.'*

*He's says it like she's a poisonous snake. I don't answer him. I start the bike, and head up the road.*

*As I go I'm replaying what happened, the things he said, and I'm stunned. Even Maureen. The thought of survivors horrified her; she might have been willing, but only because having no children horrifies her even more.*

*How can they be so prejudiced about people they don't know, that they know nothing about?*

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### **Charlotte Burns says**

Evolution is the finale to this amazing trilogy. It opens with things still very strained between Shay and Kai; Kai is struggling to accept what Shay has become and she is still obsessed with her new power and unconsciously pushing him away. This made my heart hurt and my brain want to bang their heads together. I love these two together. Shay is struggling with the revelation that Xander is her father (fair) and finds herself in a settlement filled with survivors, learning to manage and explore their powers. Shay finds herself looking deeper in to the DNA changes and what causes some to survive and others to perish. I found her investigations fascinating, and the science was easily accessible. I loved finding out more about what happened to Callie. I also loved the intrigue and hint of darkness around the whole settlement, although when Xander put Shay in a particularly difficult position it made me sick to my stomach. When Shay gets to the bottom of the mystery, she resolves to change things and this brings the series to a dramatic and thrilling conclusion. I've loved every bit of this trilogy, and highly recommend it for any dystopia fans.

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### **Beth Knight says**

A stunning finale to an excellent series that blends actual physics with sci-fi and mixes into a wonderful story. Loved it. I will always have time for Teri's stories.

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## **Kay Smillie says**

The ending of this interesting trilogy seemed a bit rushed in comparison to the journey to get there. Intelligent YA sci-fi and I can see this being made into films but, in all probability, relocated on the other side of the Atlantic.

Ray Smillie

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## **rebeccca elane (pistachiobooks) says**

I have so many mixed feelings and I don't know how I'm going to fit all of them in my review. This series has had its moments for me. I think a huge factor in why I couldn't get into it is because it just wasn't my type of book. I enjoy sci-fi, I enjoy thrillers but this was really dense and quite science heavy. As founder and president of the Dumb Bitch Society, a lot of stuff went over my head. It introduced some cool concepts and if you are into sci-fi that is very science-based and in-depth I think you'd really enjoy this book.

I did enjoy this much more than I enjoyed Deception. I read the first two books in this trilogy back to back and that was TOO MUCH for me. I also noticed a slight shift in tone in the first third of this book. I think it was because we were in a drastically different setting. I really enjoyed the cult element of this. Do I think it was spectacularly done? Nah, but it was a nice turn for this series to take.

The mystery didn't feel too much like a mystery. I kind of found out a lot of the plot twists beforehand but I still enjoyed them. I like how it was explained and wrapped up.

The characters were my biggest issue. It wasn't that I disliked them, I just felt painfully neutral about them. The dialogue was really unnatural, it didn't flow well. Because of this, I found it hard to reconnect with the story. I didn't really like Freja's development and her ending just felt lazy.

As a whole this series was alright. Not for me but I can see why others enjoy it so much

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## **Caesar Andes says**

(I received an advance copy of this novel and the first two for free. Thanks to Scholastic Teen Reviews)

It's important to note that throughout the Dark Matter trilogy, there is some swearing (however, in each book, there are never more than two explicitly said swear words), as well as descriptions of blood, death and violence. In this book there's some implicit references to sex that take up like two lines. This shouldn't be a problem but I think it's still good to know.

In the finale, we continue to follow our protagonist Shay and (her boyfriend?) Kai as the duo become separated while trying to figure out the origins of epidemic, the disappearance of Callie and the mysterious Xander, leader of the Multiverse. With more characters, betrayals, twists and turns, will Shay and Kai ever find each other or what Xander has to do with the epidemic and the disappearance of Callie?

Who knows?

I do!

The strongest part of this novel and the whole trilogy is definitely the mystery surrounding the epidemic, what causes it and Callie's disappearance. Terry skilfully creates a mystery that is very intriguing. This is what kept me reading the trilogy, the premise was so interesting and I just had to know how everything tied together. And Terry truly does tie all loose ends from the previous two novels by the end of 'Evolution' which makes it feel like I was rewarded for reading the trilogy. Where the characters and character development fall a bit flat, the plot and mystery is seriously what drives all three novels.

The survivors' 'powers' was interesting to read, so was the way Terry describes the survivors' using their minds to manipulate their surroundings and the physics concepts used throughout the series. As someone who isn't the biggest fan of physics, I found all the science explained well enough and convincingly enough too.

Unfortunately, I didn't personally connect strongly to any of the characters, not even the protagonist, Shay. I had a neutral feeling towards Shay, I didn't hate or dislike her, but I didn't like her much. I felt a bit meh towards her and felt that she was a bit generic. And I felt this way throughout the whole trilogy. In fact, I even found some other characters such as Kai, JJ and Freja fairly annoying at times, but when any of the POV characters experienced pain or regret, Terry's writing evoked these emotions strongly enough that I felt pity or sadness for them when needed. The villain was a character I liked a bit more than the other characters simply because he had quite a bit of depth to his character, was unpredictable right until the very end and seemed like he was the least reactionary compared to other characters. He was the one causing the problems and those around him were reacting.

I quite liked how throughout the trilogy, Terry shows her characters going through both emotional and physical anguish as a result of the epidemic. She also doesn't shy away from swiftly killing characters as well as random men, women and children to remind the readers of the danger that is constantly surrounding the characters and how the epidemic doesn't discriminate when it comes to killing people. (Not quite GoT-style though, no main characters die, only side characters, but it can be very unexpected sometimes). Terry also shows how people can be more destructive and brutal to their fellow humans than any epidemic when there's fear and mass hysteria involved – a concept that I felt was realistically written.

Generally, I had very little problems with this novel. I only had a minor issue with the ending of 'Evolution: Into the Fire'. The romance was focused on a lot less in this novel which I was grateful for since I felt the romance was definitely the weakest part of the whole trilogy. Although I was pretty much satisfied with the explanations given at the end of the novel, I felt like the ending was a little rushed. I mean I've read all three books, I've been here for over 1,200 pages (each book is a little over 400 pages), I wouldn't have minded an extra 5 pages to stop things from feeling rushed towards the end.

The Dark Matter trilogy as a whole, is a very good read that is extremely intriguing, the writing is highly emotive when it needs to be and accessible, with a few challenging words sprinkled through the novel, so anyone can enjoy this series. Overall, I'd give 'Evolution: Into the Fire' and the Dark Matters trilogy 3.5 out of 5 stars.

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## **Sinead says**

Thank you Netgalley for my review copy of this book for an impartial review.

This final book in the trilogy held its own but it just didn't have the addictive factor of the first two. It was great to have a plausible ending for the characters and the plot but it took its time getting there. Again, the physics of the virus etc threw me off and the sci fi element at the end left me rolling my eyes. But not bad considering most young adult series' let me down in the main with the final book.

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## **Sandra says**

Ich habe mich extrem auf dieses Buch gefreut und ich wurde nicht enttäuscht! ❤?

Das Buch lässt sich wieder einmal unglaublich gut lesen, der Schreibstil ist fesselnd. Wieder gibt es Kapitel aus der Perspektive von verschiedenen Personen. Dies macht es viel leichter, die Gefühle der Charaktere zu spüren. Die Charaktere finde ich alle sehr echt und tiefgründig.

Die Handlung ist wieder sehr spannend und das Ende habe ich so nicht vorhergesehen. Die ganze Thematik finde ich sehr aktuell, auch wenn das Ende wieder sehr Science Fiction/Fantasy war!

Ein gelungener Abschluss einer sehr tollen Reihe!

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## **N9erz says**

The Series startet quite good but I'm not totally sure about the ending. It wasn't bad and I really had some fun reading it but it just got a bit out of space for me. So much crazy chemical/biological stuff happening, it just got me confused and overwhelmed some times.

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## **Ophélie Mélodie says**

I have thoroughly enjoyed this last instalment in the *Dark Matter* Trilogy, being reunited with these characters truer to themselves and finally getting all of my questions answered (albeit in the very last few chapters, but the wait was so worth it).

What I found particularly appealing in this book is the real spectrum of character identities you encounter. There are those firmly rooted in their convictions that they are doing the right thing for the future of the planet, those who fight against what is morally wrong, those who are mentally deranged, those who look beyond their differences, and those who have had their heart broken again and again but they plough on amidst their feelings. Thank you Teri for these so *human* characters.

As for the overall arching plot we have been following since the very first page - WAO, it all fits together very smoothly and I found it to be very satisfying. I loved the science behind it and as an archaeogeneticist, it was all plausible. Not sure about the physics aspect of it, but I didn't see any flaws either. It was very well researched.

I am so not ready to say goodbye to these characters. I have truly loved them and they have taken me on a

journey packed with thrilling suspense and emotions. I guess the best I can do now is to start one of Teri's other novels!

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### **Lily says**

I've not been as excited for these books as much as I have for other Teri Terry books, but I honestly don't know why. The books are just as good as the other Teri Terry books I've loved and they pull you in just as much as the others. It's just that when I'm not in the middle of reading them that I've not got that same buzz I normally feel from the books.

I love these books though! That's the craziest part. I love the characters and all the mysteries surrounding Callie and the origin of the epidemic. I love the conspiracies and Xander's involvement. I love Shay and Kai and the concept. The writing is good, the plot is unpredictable and engrossing. There is absolutely no reason for it to fall flat. It makes me sad that I'm not looking back at these books with the same feeling as the other books.

But it was a really satisfying conclusion. Everything came together nicely and it was a good conclusion.

This series was really good and I did really enjoy reading it. It may be that I don't remember it as fondly as the other Teri Terry books, but it was a really great series all the same. I hope you don't let my lack of excitement about it put you off.

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### **Beth says**

This conclusion to the Dark Matter series was fantastic. I honestly did not know how on earth it was going to be tied together with all of the characters still so conflicted and only half way through their journeys. I need not have worried because without rushing the story, the series came naturally and also explosively to an excellent and satisfying end. The moralistic side to the story made you feel for all of the characters regardless whether they were "baddies" or not because their perspectives were all so vehemently represented by each character and this was why the ending was so satisfying. Xander was deeply flawed but so was Shay in her own way. They played off each other very well. This book was emotional and cleverly done, the suspense, mystery and science fiction made you think about what you were reading long after putting the book down. Mind Games is still my favourite book by Teri but this series is right up there among my favourite YA reads.

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