



# Matched

*Ally Condie*

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## **Matched** Ally Condie

In the Society, officials decide. Who you love. Where you work. When you die.

Cassia has always trusted their choices. It's hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one...until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now Cassia is faced with impossible choices: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path no one else has ever dared follow—between perfection and passion.

*Matched* is a story for right now and storytelling with the resonance of a classic.

## **Matched Details**

Date : Published November 30th 2010 by Dutton Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780525423645

Author : Ally Condie

Format : Hardcover 369 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Romance

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# From Reader Review Matched for online ebook

## Flannery says

This book is like a long train ride. When I first got on I was like, "Oh man, look at this train! Wow! Look at all the people! \*peeping out the windows\*, \*looking at the scenery\*." Then, after about 40 pages I was like, "You know what? This scenery is kind of repetitive. I'm getting kind of bored. Maybe I'll check out the dining car." After a little bit longer, I was second-guessing my decision to take the train at all and wondering about my sanity level. "When is this train ride going to be overrrr?" As I neared the end of my ride, I was (sort of) getting excited for the final destination, but don't get your hopes up, because it turns out this train ride only ended at a pit stop. The train will leave again, probably next year. And you know what? I'm not freaking taking it. I'll stick to other modes of transportation.

\*note: It's not that this was *awful*; it wasn't. Two stars means "it was ok" and that just about sums it up.

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## Kristi says

Matched drew me in with it's unique summary and beautiful cover, unfortunately that is where my fascination ended.

I wanted to like this book.... actually I wanted to love it, but I didn't. I had a very hard time getting through this novel. I even had to take a break from it completely, and I only kept reading because of the encouragement from others that had read it, insisting that it would get better. It didn't get a whole lot better for me.

I guess my biggest problem was that I was bored for most of the novel. I was bored with the story, the characters.... everything. Cassia was selfish, and dull. I tried to like her, but she never really gave me much reason to. Her relationships with Xander and Ky were impassive, I understand that Xander was 'chosen' for her, so there were going to be fireworks every time they touched, but I still didn't even understand their appeal as friends, not just as a romantically involved couple. And the obsession with Ky... why? And that's all that it felt like to me, an obsession. I didn't feel or see the energy between them.

The Society wasn't explained very well. Why is The Society there? How did it come to be? Why the current precautions? Why are there people that live in The Society and others that don't? There is a war going on? Why? Where? With who? I had more questions than anything.

I didn't know enough about the characters and the life they were living to really care about them. It felt like a very long prologue to another story.

The few chapters at the end of the story piqued my interest somewhat, but even then it was tainted with how I had felt through most of the entire novel. It was beautifully written... but I just couldn't get into it.

Still undecided on reading the rest of the trilogy.

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## **Cait • A Page with a View says**

I've been going back to a few books I called DNFs several years ago because some (like Shatter Me) turned out to be new favorites. This one, however... is not.

I had forgotten most of this plot, so it was fun to see it be almost new. The story seemed really promising at first, too! I love typical dystopian YA setups with a 1984-type society and some kind of one sorting/test at the start. This one also had a clever way to set up the necessary love triangle. Everything was very simple & cliché, but totally worked.

But the girl's tone/personality/entire existence was so painfully annoying that I couldn't bring myself to finish the book this time either. I get that she's a product or reflection of her dystopian society, but reading from the POV of a naive robot got reallllly irritating after 100 pages. I'm out.

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## **Joyzi says**

### **Book Review**

Okay I promised I'll write an in depth review so here it is and I'll try to not put biggie spoilers. (I'm going to use Q & A style of reviewing this time)

#### **What made you pick-up the book?**

> I actually watched a book trailer in Youtube (the link to that vid was way down there somewhere) so and yeah I got intrigued by that video and then I go to goodreads and read reviews about it. I was a bit shock about the mix reviews, some was positive and some was negative. So because of it I think I should read it so I have to know for myself if it's good or not.

#### **What are your expectations before reading it?**

> I actually have lower expectations since I've read a couple of negative reviews and they said it was very similar to The Giver by Lois Lowry. Honestly I didn't like The Giver (I just gave it two stars) and at first I thought that maybe I wouldn't like the book but at least I'd love to give utopia a second try.

#### **What do you love about the book?**

> Okay there are many things I love about this book:

a. **Writing Style**- it was prose with a mix of poetry (somewhat lyrical) so if you adore **Maggie Stiefvater's** or **Carrie Ryan's** style of writing you probably would love Ally Condie's style as well.

b. **Cassia (the heroine)**- actually the heroine was not annoying and she has a strong voice. To be more specific, her character at first was a weak one and as the story progresses, her way of thinking changes and it got deeper and deeper. She actually got a good character development and she has a lot of epiphanies about her so-called perfect society and that's what I love about her.

Everything around her seems perfect when you look at it superficially but when you try to analyze it deeper there society was perfect but they have no choices, no freedom at all, they're like society's puppets.

c. **The love story**- at first the love story was idk just a love story, but it has actually implies idk what you call that uhhhm symbolism or whatever...so yeah this is what I just think about it:

### **Xander vs Ky**

or this could mean (own interpretation folks)

Conformity vs. Rebellion

Known vs. Unknown

Perfection vs. Imperfection

Love that was dictated by Society vs. Love that was dictated by oneself

d. **Ky and Cassia's relationship**- it builds up (it actually builds up \*sorry for the repetition folks\*). So yeah I just wanna rant those other books wherein yeah the boy meets girl or rather the girl meets boy and then baaaaaam for 5 seconds they freaking love each other (like they're soulmates or idk destined for each other \*gags\*). Come on that was so unrealistic when authors do that, it seems they're too lazy to write the part of you know "getting-to-know-each-other" part of a relationship \*coughs\*. So yeah :) that was what I like about this book, I mean yeah whatever idk how to explain it but they actually have that "getting-to-know-each-other" thingy.

And idk when I was reading this book I felt like I'm not reading it (if you know what I mean), I felt like I was existing inside the book. Like I was Cassia and I felt all her emotions and I empathize with her problems and I can see her world right into my eyes.

So yeah I just felt that while I was reading this, I would definitely pick every choices that Cassia made. I know that in my hearts of heart I would fall in love with Ky even though it was forbidden, even though my Society says that Xander was the one I was suppose to marry. I mean there's just something about Ky that pulls you into him even if it was dangerous. Ky was mysterious and his story was what urge me to know more about him (just like Cassia). Is it that wonderful when you actually was curious to know more about a person because of his/her imperfection and rather of his/her perfection?

### **What do you hate about the book?**

#### **a. It was unoriginal.**

> Actually there's something about this book that screams out Rip-off and Plagiarism \*ever read The Giver and Hunger Games?\*. Yeah but I think since this book was in the genre of utopia/dystopia, maybe there were just a few things/elements that will be always similar like:

- The Political Intrigue
- Human vs. Society
- Rebellion
- "The Government/Society Lied" thingy or "Your whole life was a lie" thingy
- the protagonist will always have moments of "Epiphany" on the book
- Social Manipulation sort of stuff
- Philosophical and Political morals/ideas that would be shove into your throat as the storyline progresses

b. I felt that the book was idk the term uhhhm "**bridge**" or "**exposition/ introduction**" for the other books.

I mean in this book there are hints that some people outside the province were actually rebelling and there's like a war blah blah blah. But in this book the rebellion was not yet elaborated so I think that will be for the next books to come.

c. I love it but the **ending**, I felt that it wasn't an ending at all. Idk there are so many questions that are left hanging and I felt that to be able to really judge this book you need to read the whole series and how things will be played out in the end. So yeah I need the next book pretty fast!

**What are other books you want to recommend with the same genre?**

Okay so I just list them here, I'll divide dystopia and utopia and will sort of rank them out:

**Dystopia:**

1. (5stars) (5stars) (both 1 star and 5stars)
2. (5stars) (2stars)
3. (5stars)
4. (4stars) (2stars)

**Utopia:**

1. (5stars)
2. (2stars)
3. (2stars)

**Note:**

Weeeeee! I just finished Matched and it was AMAZING. I want more!!!

I love Ky Markham btw he kinda reminds me of someone \*daydream for a moment\*

\*coughs\*~~the guy I fallen in love with in High School~~\*coughs\*

(Eeeeeeeeeek, \*violently shoves someone\*)

Yeah and I just want to share a conversation with my classmate here:

Joyzi: Hey I recommend you to read the Hunger Games it was so amazing blah blah blah and I read it like in one sitting cuz I can't put it down and Peeta was so sweet and everything blah blah blah, best book ever blah blah

Friend: ah okay :)

After a few days...

Joyzi: Hey have you finished the Hunger Games?

Friend: No I don't want to read it.

Joyzi: Why?

Friend: I kinda go to wikipedia and I found out it was a violent book, children killing children

kinda.

Joyzi: Yeah it was pretty violent. Why? Don't you wanna read something that has gore on it?

Friend: Sorry friend but violence is not my cuppa.

(So yeah I think I just recommend Matched by Ally Condie to my friend, because this book has zero violence but has an amazing Dystopia theme \*it was quite similar to the Giver but this one has romance and the writing was breathtakingly beautiful\*)

Yeah, idk what else to say, I will have an in depth review of the book on Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaeNWL...>

(very nice book trailer here)

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## Emily May says

Soo... basic storyline being of a society where officials decide every aspect of a person's life from the big stuff as in who they'll marry (or be 'matched' with) and when they'll die to the little stuff like what they eat, how they dress and their daily routines. The story tells how Cassia is matched to a boy but falls for another and suddenly begins to question the rules of the society, heading as she does so straight into a world of secrets and danger. Great sounding plot, am I right? Too bad it turned out to be rather mediocre in practice.

Well, for me this book managed to redeem itself right near the very end and escape being the "it's ok" marker. One of the biggest problems was the hype about this book, I've been waiting to get my hands on this for ages, just dying to sink my teeth into it - after all, dystopian fiction is my one true literary love. So, because of this, the disappointment fell even heavier. I love the idea but there were just so many things about the story that made me feel it never really took off and reached it's full potential. To make my point, I'm going to review the novel as two parts: first as a dystopian novel, and then as a love story.

As I already mentioned, I love dystopian societies and I have done ever since I read Nineteen Eighty-Four when I was twelve. However, my love for dystopia is concentrated on the high action and/or shocking tragedy that define the genre. In my opinion, it's hard to feel a great sense of dystopia in Matched. Nothing majorly tragic or gripping happens until the last few chapters and by then you've lost touch with the story and the characters. It's slow-moving and, though I never thought I'd use this phrase in a review, it 'lacks drama'. If you compare it to 'The Handmaid's Tale' or 'Declaration' for example, there's none of that built up tension throughout. I read these books on the edge of my seat feeling every emotion with the protagonists and even beginning to panic at the peaks of the two novels. Matched just never got my blood pressure up, there was no sense of urgency or despair. For a long time the society didn't really seem that bad at all. Where's the dystopia? The action? The despair? Maybe I'm just a twisted individual but the society wasn't 'bad' enough for me.

And the love story. Because that's the other thing this novel is about. Well, the only time I felt any real

connection or chemistry between Cassia and Ky was in the last few chapters, I could sense that the author was attempting to build it up slowly but I never latched on to it. In fact, for a good while all I did was feel sorry for poor Xander and wish she'd just except a life with him and let Ky get on with being mysterious and weird. But, it did pull back and the novel ended with me wanting Cassia to go find him. There may be hope for this love story yet.

The ending was the most commendable part of the novel. I'd started to think that there would be no point in me buying the second book in the series as the first one had done nothing for me. And then the ending left me interested, engrossed and eager to find out more. It opened up a wider mystery that would have been so much better if the author had built it up by slowly alluding to it throughout the novel, then I wouldn't have been so shocked to find that the book wasn't so terrible overall. I will say, though, I loved her Grandad from Cassia's first conversation with him, I found him cute and lovable - far more intriguing than any other character.

I might get the second book because of an unexpected need to find out where the author will take us next. I did enjoy parts of it, especially the ending, I'm just a strange individual who's more into dark dystopia, I have too high expectations of the genre. Also, with the girl in that stunning green dress, it will look way too pretty on your bookshelf.

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## **evelyn says**

So I didn't expect them to at all, but a little part of me was really hoping Scholastic would come to BEA with a stack of galley's for "Mockingjay" the way they did with "Catching Fire." Of course they didn't, they wouldn't want to ruin the end of the trilogy before it's released. But a girl can dream.

So, anyway, there was a big gap in my galley pile that could only be filled by some quality YA distopian fiction. When I went to the YA Editors' Buzz panel and heard about "Matched" I thought "Yes! This is what I'll read instead."

And then--blah. The editor dutifully talked this book up and it did not rise to my expectations. There is no urgency to this book at all, and it's not terribly creative. My favorite part of distopian fiction is slowly uncovering the new world the author has shaped. What are people's roles in this society? Why is everyone acting so weird? Ohh, what's that pill for?! But there was no real mystery here. Cassia's "Society" is pretty much just a cross between "The Giver" and "1984." But halfway through the book I really didn't care what the red pill did, and when we found out I thought "yeah, I guess that's about right." I also thought "If you're only allowed to take those pills at the command and in the presence of a high official, then why do people carry them around with them at all times, anyway? Shouldn't the officials just carry them so no one takes one accidentally, or on a dare?" But no, we had to manufacture the one thing everyone wonders about in this society, so it's there in their little tablet vials.

And then plot is just a romance, and not a terribly compelling one. I know, I'm 27, and I'm not supposed to give a shit about teenage romance. But some authors make me care. Suzanne Collins made me care, John Green makes me care. This is more "Twilight" love triangle romance where I don't really care about anyone involved, and therefore am ambivalent about the outcome. And then there isn't really anything else to this story to keep me entertained. If we're supposed to care about the weird unrest occurring within "The Society" we're not given enough information to do so convincingly. So here I am, sitting with a bunch of 17-year-olds freaking out about first love, and I kind of want to punch them in the face.



This book will probably be reasonably successful. Everyone loves a dystopian future setting these days, and if "Twilight" is any indication, girls will gobble up the romance. (Although neither Ky nor Xander is the next Edward, so maybe I'm wrong. Teenagers these days, right?! Huh?) Me, I'm just going to wait impatiently for "Mockingjay" to finally come out.

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## **Elena Salvatore says**

I actually quite enjoyed this book.

Not because it was a great book per say, but more because it was a very fast and easy read. I did reach page 167 in just a couple of hours.

But even tho I enjoyed it, I don't know if I'm interested enough to keep going with this series.

I've heard that the second book is not worth reading since nothing really happens in it, so I did plan to skip it and just read some spoilery review for it but I also don't know feel like picking up the last book in the series. I just don't care enough about the characters and the situation to invest time in it. Even more so because I have a huge TBR that I *do* actually want to read.

There wasn't anything that really bugged me about this book and I don't know why it gets so much hate, but personally... I'm just not invested enough.

*Cassia lives in a society where everything is already chosen for her. From the food that she eats to the cloths she wears, everybody has a program to follow and no one dares to disobey.*

*People are led to believe that everything that happens is for the best.*

- *The food they give them is personal picked for each and everyone of them to keep them strong and energized without them gaining any excess weight.*
- *They are monitored when they exercise, so they don't over work themselves.*
- *They all wear the same clothes and have to obey to the same rules which mostly are not to disturb other citizens.*
- *They are all sorted into jobs from a young age based on their abilities.*

*to name a few. But perhaps most importantly,*

- *When they reach 17 they go to a banquet where they are "Matched" with another person of a different gender based on their statistics, whom they supposed to marry one day. (Unless they chose to stay Single for ever which however means that they can't have any children.)*

*Our story begins the night of Cassia's Match banquet where she gets matched with her best friend Xander.*

*However when she gets home and takes a look at the chip they gave her with Xander's information, she is surprised to see another face too. Someone she also knows.*

*Don't knowing what to do since the society never makes mistakes, she decides to tell no one.*

*When one day an officer approaches her and tells her that everything was a mistake, that*

someone found it funny to put Ky as a match to her even tho he won't ever be able to get married because of his status, she feels relived but also curious.

What does she actually know about Ky? They have been friends for a long time but he keeps a low profil and doesn't get close with anyone.

So when they find themselves in eachothers company more often, they grew closer and as closer she comes to Ky, the more she finds flaws to the socitey they live in.

But in a world where everything you do is monitorized, how many times can you break the rules before you get caught?

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## **Tatiana says**

As seen on The Readventurer

First thing first. I think Ally Condie owes at least half of her seven-figure paycheck to Lois Lowry. The entire dystopian world is lifted directly from Lowry's *The Giver*. Almost everything interesting in *Matched* is very familiar - the idea of highly controlled Society (the Community in *The Giver*), the prearranged Matches, uniform clothing, the pills suppressing emotions, predetermination of everyone's life course, euthanized elderly, regulated personal possessions, the precision of the language, the family structure. The list goes on and on... What Condie adds of her own is too often doesn't make much sense - people are not allowed/can't write, but they know how to read and operate computers; Matches and procreation are controlled but teens can still snog around a bit; and what is the sorting job all about, I still have no idea. I am not the biggest fan of *The Giver* out there, but that novel had a horrifying, structured, world hiding behind its simplistic language. What hides behind the words of *Matched* is sheer emptiness. And boredom and unoriginality.

If all "borrowed" dystopian ideas are stripped away, what is left is a tepid, G-rated teen romance affair with an obligatory love triangle and magical love connections. Even the male love interests are the same old tired cliches - a sweet and loyal best friend type and a mysterious, hurt, emo type quoting poetry. Yawn! Yawn! Yawn!

Ally Condie's writing is serviceable enough. So are the characters. No male character requires a restraining order against him, no female - a head check for putting up with abusive crap. But is this (and a pretty cover) really a recipe for success these days? There is nothing in this novel to get excited over. There is no urgency to Condie's writing, no passion. Just dull characters, dull relationships, dull conflicts, dull conversations...

I can't whole-heartedly recommend this book to anyone, it simply doesn't offer anything new or noteworthy. But some fans of lukewarm-romance-driven stories like *Birthmarked* or *Beautiful Creatures* might enjoy it I suppose.

Do I really need to say I am not coming back for more?

P.S. Apparently, Disney picked it up for development! WHY?!

<http://www.variety.com/article/VR1118...>

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## Laurel says

The fart was this? I just...the **FART WAS THIS?!**

That beautiful cover is mean. It drew me right in with its pretty lime green bubble bait of death. Can't help wanting to have some of my favorite color on my reading shelf. Hnnnnng. It said, "*READ ME OR I WILL MURDER YOU FAMILY.*" And I bought it so it'd stop glaring at me in the teeny-bopper section of B&N.

I opened *Matched*, and snails came at me with their shells and antennae of slime and grime and chime and dime. SNAILS EVERYWHERE. I couldn't move, I couldn't breathe, I was forced to understand things that weren't first explained! **It was horrible I tell you!**

*Matched* tells the story of Cassia Reyes, robot extraordinaire, who lives in this nameless City run by the Society. It has a Hill, an Arboretum, and Outer Provinces, and special 'emergency tablets', but don't worry, they're not dove into right away, so you're supposed to know all about this place *right the fuck away*. Thankfully, Cassia finds it necessary to tell us about this Matching ceremony that binds people together for life (but teens have flings anyway so how is this Matching accurate?). Then Cassia gets her Match: her bff, Xander Carrow, cool kid, the best of the best. She goes "Yay!" But then, a NEW FACE APPEARS! SHIT. It's this kid that she knows named Ky Markham, who's an Aberration, you know, people who's parents got an Infraction and now the kids are screwed too or something. Whatever, **forbidden love all around! Take it in folks!** But Cassia simply *must* know why the Society fudged up, and thus says, "Looks like it's up to ME!"

**Let's burn this little suckah down to the GROUND WHERE IT BELONGS:**

Writing. I will give a nod to Ally Condie for not *completely* fucking up the style in this book. There was some nice prose, especially with the scenes with Ky and Cassia writing poetry while hiking. OH BUT WAIT, we discuss later in this book that even though these citizens can **read and operate computers**, they can't write. Someone tells me how that makes sense and I'll give them a cookie or something. Until then, fook that noise.

Another point on the writing was the pacing. The snail pace of *Matched* was the exact reason why I ran to Vladdy Tod, said "HOLD ME SWEET LORD", finished it in a day, cried my heart out figuratively, then stumbled back into this mess. There was nothing exciting going on in this book. I'll give a bone to Condie for providing some nice romantic scenes and one scene where I actually had a small sense of grief, but everything else was robotic, plain, and uninteresting. Even good old Robot Jones had more personality than most characters in the beginning of this novel.

SPEAKING OF CHARACTERS WHO ARE ROBOTIC, how about that Cassia Reyes? Or hell, the entire Reyes family? Molly and Abran Reyes are just drones to the Society in the beginning. Mr. Reyes gets better later on, and even Cassia does, too. I mean, she even makes strong, good decisions. STUNNING INDEED! Bram was adorable though, I'll give Condie that too.

Xander and Ky were the two dudes in this **pain-stakingly unnecessary love triangle**, but then again, what is YA without one right? It must be some new required rule that I could give less than a fuck about. Moving on, the good thing (the **ONLY** good thing) is that both of these guys aren't abusive, douchey, lust-filled, or cocky. They are normal guy friends with Cassia and THANK YOU LORD FOR BLESSING ME THAT

MUCH. Sadly, the need for this love triangle is never seen to me. I just see that forbidden love nonsense and another boy is hopelessly in the way.

Xander teased Cassia in a best friend way, he was nice and smart and tried to live in the Society with no problems. He never wanted anything bad or maddening to happen; he just wanted the ordinary life of being Matched. **But no, Cassia couldn't have that. So she sneaks around with Ky.**

But it's with Ky that she can actually evolve from a robot into a real girl! Ky is a rare catch cause he can write! He likes poetry! I bet he plays guitar and sings songs in the forbidden lands that are mentioned once and never again. Ky is a good character. He's not trying to get Cassia to fall for him, and he has a nice personality.

Ms. Robot remained just that all throughout this book except for the times she was with Ky. Ky saved her from my strangles. She should be lucky. But again, when she does develop, she is a good character. She is strong, she does what is right when she has to. And shockingly enough:  
**She's not an idiot!**

That may take a few seconds to sink in...but I'll wait...

.  
.   
.   
.

So what blew this up for me? What killed this book? **Le structure.** There is close to nothing. Structure is nearly dead. It was horrifying and I wished the snails holding me to this book would at least grant me a half-assed story with the somewhat nice characters made by Condie. But no, I was not given that.

If there was anything set up correctly in this book I would be alright with things happening the way they were. BUT THERE WAS NO CLIMAX. NOTHING THAT DROVE THIS ENTIRE BOOK OTHER THAN CASSIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH KY. Sure, it was cute, but there has to be a bigger story than romance. This is dystopian, gimme GODDAMN-FUCKING-DYSTOPIAN. **This is why I can't handle those fucking triangles. Even a square would be more entertaining for Boba Fett's sake.** And the antagonists...where were they?

"The whole Society is the antagonist! Doy! :B" No no no, I'm talking about that ONE ROADBLOCK that means to drive Cassia into Hell, preferably on a motorcycle HAHAAHAHA, I'm not funny. There is that one person who drives to destroy Cassia's hopes and dreams and gigglesnort the hell out of it later. Now that character does exist, but I think Condie had a tough time with names or something. This lady was a single Official, one that bothered the shit out of Cassia. What was her name, you ask?

~~THERE WASN'T ONE. SHE WAS NO NAME. OI' No Name.~~

~~How. What. KSJDBFLKJSBDGKLA.~~ She actually has a name. Courtesy of commenter Alejandra, her name was Officer Standler, which is mentioned once and only once. But Who's the real antagonist? The ACTUAL ONE? It's not Cassia vs. the entire fucking Society, is it? Jesus fuck, that doesn't make ANY SENSE.

They shouldn't be trusted, I got that, but how can we tell if the Society wants Cassia dead or whatever when we don't even know the head honcho of the Society? Or why there's an Official for EVERY PERSON

LIVING. That's like saying there's a soldier for every citizen in the United States. WE DON'T KNOW. WE HAVE NO FUCKING CLUE. CONDIE AIN'T TELLING. Give us a mention or something. I need to know things.

Brings me to that anti-climactic ending. Cassia moves on with her life (view spoiler). Xander, though he's still upset for Cassia being in love with Ky and NOT in love with him, gives Cassia all these blue tablets that'll help her on her journey. This ending was trying to be cliffhanger-like and whimsical or something, but it just sat on the front porch and farted. It did nothing. The book cut off so hard, I called shenanigans. I wish so hard that a climax would at least exist SOMEWHERE.

I just...ugh...I am disappointed in this book because it DID give me hope in some areas, but this it just pooped out. It lost the little bit of steam it had. I don't want to read *Crossed*, but I do wanna see what happens to Ky, because Ky is the only reason. Ky is the second star in this review. He knows where it's at.

I guess I should mention that this entire world isn't even that original. I haven't read it myself, but I heard from enough reviewers that this is strikingly similar to Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. Fuck you then, Condie, for lack of originality. It sickens me when people just can't THINK of anything themselves!

GJNSDAKG:LJBNASLKJBGAKLSJFNGD:KAGS

#### EDIT:

OH HEY, so my dad told me about the movie *Logan's Run*, where everyone has a gemstone in there hand and it blinks when you turn 30, where you are then killed. YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. Well Condie, let's all poison every old person who reaches 80. *I SEE WHAT YOU FUCKING DID THERE*. Goddammit can originality PLEASE COME BACK TO YA?!?!?!?

I'm gonna get a book can will actually satisfy my needs. *Twelfth Grade Kills*, *The Unwanteds*, I'm looking at you longingly.

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#### Joe says

##### Official Transcripts

June 21, 2001 • AOL Chatroom *AuthorTalk*

**ACondieHottie:** Oh my gosh! Lois Lowry! You're actually online!

**2timeNewbery:** Sigh. Hello, Allie.

**ACondieHottie:** It's Ally. With a 'y'!

**ACondieHottie:** I can't believe u forgot! Don't u read my letters?

**2timeNewbery:** I've received them, yes.

**ACondieHottie:** Ur my favorite author! Ur books R so rad!

**ACondieHottie:** Especially *The Giver*! I love that one! It's so aweum!

**ACondieHottie:** Jonah's world is so neet! I want to write a book just like it!

**ACondieHottie:** I wish *The Giver* had more romance, though. My book would have romance.

**ACondieHottie:** Do u like romance? Have u ever been in love?

**ACondieHottie:** I haven't. I wish 2 boys would fight over me. That would b awesum!

**ACondieHottie:** Are u still there?

**2timeNewbery:** Yes.

**ACondieHottie:** If 2 boys fought over u, which one would u pick?

**ACondieHottie:** Would u choose the brooding, rebellious, artsy hottie or the gentle, good-natured boy you've known ur entire life?

**ACondieHottie:** I don't know who I would choose! It would b so confusing!

**ACondieHottie:** Do u ever get confused?

**ACondieHottie:** Are u still there?

**2timeNewbery has logged off.**

April 5, 2004 • AOL Chatroom *AuthorTalk*

**ACondieHottie:** Hiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!!!

**2timeNewbery:** Hello, Allie.

**ACondieHottie:** Ally!

**ACondieHottie:** I started writing a book!!

**2timeNewbery:** Good luck with that.

**ACondieHottie:** I have a question. How do u create tension in a book?

**ACondieHottie:** I can't seem to create any tension in my book!

**ACondieHottie:** Do u create tension by setting the story in the future? Because *The Giver* is set in the future, and it is really tense!

**ACondieHottie:** What if I capitalized random words? Does that create tension or uncertainty? Maybe that's what they'll do in the Future. ;)

**ACondieHottie:** Kissing is not Allowed in the Society!

**ACondieHottie:** lol

**ACondieHottie:** Are u still there?

**2timeNewbery has logged off.**

January 1, 2008 • Yahoo Instant Messenger

**ACondieHottie:** Happy New Year Day!!!

**2timeNewbery:** Hi, Amy.

**ACondieHottie:** Ally! Ally Condie!

**2timeNewbery:** Sorry.

**ACondieHottie:** I'm almost finished with my book, but I keep writing myself into corners.

**ACondieHottie:** In fact, my book just seems to trundle along happily, nothing much really happening.

**ACondieHottie:** It's actually kind of boring. I've fallen asleep a couple times while writing it! lol.

**ACondieHottie:** The more I try to make things happen, the less action there is. Maybe I should just have my characters kiss each other. Or long to kiss each other, even though it is not Allowed. ;)

**ACondieHottie:** Can I tell you something?

**ACondieHottie:** I really want my book to be just like yours! Really good and profound!

**ACondieHottie:** Don't get me wrong. My book is about horny teens, truth, and justice in a repressed society and yours is just about truth and justice in a repressed society. So it's different. But the same!

**ACondieHottie:** Because ur a genius and I like ur ideas. ;)

**2timeNewbery has logged off.**

May 18, 2010 • Yahoo Instant Messenger

**ACondieHottie:** Eeeeeeeeeeee!!!! Ur online!!!

**2timeNewbery:** Hello, Allie.

**ACondieHottie:** Ally!

**ACondieHottie:** Did u receive the ARC of my book, *Matched*? I mailed one 2 u last week!

**2timeNewbery:** Yes.

**ACondieHottie:** What do u think?

**2timeNewbery:** I think you should find yourself a lawyer.  
**ACondieHottie** has logged off.

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## Inge says

### 1.5 stars

Wow. That was not what I expected at all. What a total snorefest. I was prepared to be blown away by the awesomeness hidden in these pages. Instead, I was so so disappointed. Such a shame, because the idea sounded amazing and I was so excited. I was expecting it to be fantastic, but unfortunately, it wasn't. Not at all. It didn't even come close to fantastic. Frankly, it was boring. Dull. Yawn-inducing. Every character had less personality than a paper bag. My mind kept dwelling while I was reading and it is not supposed to do that, because books are supposed to grip me! Damn you, *Matched*, I told you to make me love you!

I wish I could give this book points for the setting, but that barely happened. I know nothing about the Society or why it became that way, and why they think it's better like that. Very little explanation was given. Pages and pages were spent on talking about writing in the sand and a compass and poems and how special Ky is. I didn't care about any of that. I wanted to know more about all the Hundred Everythings, why and how it happened. I don't understand the sorting or how it works. I don't understand why the artifacts had to be taken away or why the maple trees had to be cut. I don't understand why everyone follows these ridiculous rules like tame lambs, never questioning anything, always obeying. I don't understand anything because she doesn't explain anything because she goes on and on about Ky. YES, WE GET IT. SHE LOVES KY. Look at all the fucks I give.

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## Kiki says

This book reminds me of *Insidious*.

I borrowed it from the library and watched it with my sister one afternoon, expecting horror greatness. I popped some corn, we bumped elbows and on it went. She grabbed a cushion for safety.

While the starting creds are up, I look at the box and say to her, "It's PG-13."

She screws up her face. "What?"

"PG-13," I say. "Look."

"Hm." She looks back at the screen, then at the creepy picture of the silhouette monster with big scary claws on the back. "Well, thirteen-year-olds these days are desensitized to horror. Maybe that's why."

I shrug, the credits cut, and we start to watch it.

I'm quite enjoying it. The shadows, music and atmosphere are chilly and the acting isn't the worst I've seen. I also enjoy the hot dad\*. That helps.

It starts to get a bit slow, so I point to the box and titter stupidly. My sister looks at me in disdain. "What the fuck is it now?"

"They look like your fingers."

She slaps my arm and says, "Watch the damn movie."

I keep watching and it's still kind of creepy. I'm almost enjoying it. But then we find out about the astral projection, and my eyes begin to inexplicably roll around in my head. My sister sits with her hand over her eyes because she's a sissy.

I grab her hand away and she screams, "NO! Something bad's going to happen!"

Then we see the ultimate demon bad guy and it's supposed to be such a horrifying bit (y'know, where the thing appears behind the hot dad's head) and my sister screams like a coyote, but I'm absolutely dying with laughter because the thing looks exactly like Darth Maul. She punches me and yells, "Why are you *laughing?*"

We keep watching and then we find out about the woman in the veil, and then there's some more astral projection BS, and then when we finally see this so-called demon in full flesh the thing looks like the weird goat devil thing from *Powerpuff Girls* (you know, the thing wearing the pink apron?). Then there's those stupid smiling girls with the tea party and the whistling guy and when the baby's hand comes out of the sock drawer I'm on the floor, howling.

My sister's really cheesed that I'm not being all Serious Business about it, but it's pretty clear that she's totally disenchanted with the whole thing. We both start to laugh when Michael Jackson's *Thriller* backing dancers start to pour out of the airing cupboard and after the completely ridiculous ending with the photograph and the psychic getting her whole head glomped, we have another hearty laugh at the fact that the lady in the veil was played by some dude called Philip. I bet his resume says, "Played the sPoOkY lady in the veil in that movie that's kind of like *Poltergeist* but with all the horror genre merit of *Krypto the Superdog*."

I should've known when I looked at the box and saw the words, "from the makers of Paranormal Activity" that the movie was going to be a colossal waste of time. After about a half hour, the whole thing turned into a less spirited edition of *Scooby Doo: Murder In Suburbia!*. I went on Facebook and complained about it, and then my other sister said she saw it too at the movies and fell asleep halfway through.

She tends to do that.

Basically, the *Insidious* fiasco was a lot like the *Matched* fiasco. It starts off pretty good and hooks you in, but after about fifty pages shapes start to dance in front of your eyes and you get this weird urge to do a *Final Destination* and jam a piece of lawnmower into your right eye.

Really, though. It's not about the writing. It's not Capote, but it's not Meyer, either. It's very readable and the derivative world isn't hard to envision. The characters are just annoying and the story bland, and basically, it's one big MEH from me.

(There's also that thing with the sorting. What the hell was that? Seriously! Someone explain it to me! I don't understand it!)



No, this book really isn't terrible at all. It's probably not even bad. It'll will suck you in with the Matching ceremony (which is fabulously imagined and oh! Just beautiful) but then spit you out right in the middle of a whole pile of smelly old conundrums and teen love. It's another one of those stories that's all about how one teen couple who fall into the trap of instalove will somehow save the world without really doing anything at all except chaste kissing and wangsting about this terrible, terribly dystopian society (that's about as dystopian as my kindergarten).

It's about as ridiculous as Darth Maul possessing a small bed-ridden child to cause meddlings among Mystery Inc. Oh noez!

(\*It's Patrick Wilson!)

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## **karen says**

yeah.

this is one i might be too old for. a lot of people compare this to *The Giver*, and i get it, in that they are both these forced-utopias, but then, so is *The Stepford Wives*, yeah? but since i didn't like *the giver*, i can't really complain that this was a rip-off, because neither of them did very much for me, so i'm not going to go waving any flags around in either's defense. you are on your own, books...

but if i had to.

this one may have been slightly more entertaining to me because it was less dated. and of course, they both take place in a temporal neverland, so it's not that it is *actually* dated, but that the ideals of the society just feel more shiny chrome in this one. but this is a utopia with cracks. and they are starting to show. and i like that.

i like reading these dark-future novels just for the details - to see how they differ. and even in the ones i am not in love with, there are always one or two details that make me think - "oh - interesting take on the subject"

in this version, everyone is beautiful and fit - everyone automatically receives their required amount of calories so no one is overweight or enjoys food - it is purely fuel, except on v special occasions.

books and ideas are stripped down to 100 poems, 100 songs, etc.

museums are for unnecessary things like jewelry and trinkets from the past

marriages are arranged between teenagers to create the most productive pairing/offspring

everyone dies at 80.

those are the facts, but at the end of the day, it is still a pretty basic love triangle, so - yawn.

it is frustrating because there seem to be so many opportunities for rebellion, but no one really takes advantage of that, including the author. there are tiny, teen-angst rebellions, but they are almost factored into

by the society as inevitable, as part of a learning curve. i wanted to hear more about that, and the ripple effect those had to group dynamics and obedience in adults. maybe in the sequel?? which i will read because even books like this that are only okay have enough page-turning-ness to keep me interested.

or maybe i am just a sucker.

it's a pretty tame, pretty unchallenging read - probably good for those reluctant teen readers, it just doesn't push the YA envelope enough for my old haggard tastes.

come to my blog!

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## **Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says**

### ***5.5 scorching soul-matched stars....***

*Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

***"I push myself hard. The words of Thomas poems so wild and beautiful that i keep repeating them silently as i run.. Do not go gentle, do not go gentle, do not go gentle, until realization hits me : There's a reason thy didn't keep this poem.***

***This poem tells you to fight. "***

*Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

***"I smile as Xander's face appears on the screen. I reach out to touch the words COURTSHIP GUIDELINES on the screen but before I do that Xander's face darkens and then disappears.***

***My heart stops, and i cant beleive what i see. A face comes back into view. And its not Xander. "***

*Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

***"Why are there so much green and brown and blue here ?" He asks me.***

*"Maybe because they are growing colours and so much of our Province is agriculture".I say."You know.How blue is the color of water ,and brown the color of fall and harvest.And green is the color of spring."*

*Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*"You know,you dont need me.You could teach yourself" he says."You could look at the letters on your scribe or your reader."*

*"There not the same.",i tell him."They dont connect like yours.I've seen your kind of writing beofre ,but i don't know what its called."*

*"Cursive",he says softly."It's harder to read , but its beautiful .Its one of the old ways of writing."  
"That's why i want to learn."*

*Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*“Every minute you spend with someone gives them a part of your life and takes part of theirs.”*

*And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*“Once you want something, everything changes.”*

**MY THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** honestly ? This book defiantly surpassed all my expectations...Thats probably the reason im giving this a 5. i loved the dystopic theme and the strong character buiding the author decided to follow on .

But again,Yes,there's no denying.i did find the plot moving to a bit to slow, but then again the book's great narration and unpredicated ending,defiantly made it self up to me .

all in all..not a bad read ! will definatly be checking out the rest of the series soon.And yes, this book will be going into the set of "My favourites" , what can i say ? LOL i just liked it better than "HUNGER GAMES" ;D Cant wait for the movie to be out anyway ! ♥

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## Jessica says

Everything in this book is so CLEAN! I loved that. You have to understand, I had a "thing" for utopian societies in high school. BRAVE NEW WORLD, THIS PERFECT DAY, HARRISON BERGERON . . . oh, yes! I've read them all. And what struck me about some of them was that it was supposed to be the perfect, future society, but everyone just seemed so sweaty . . . But not so in the Society. Everything is carefully sanitized. Clothes are clean, or quickly changed when they are not. The world has been cleaned up: there are only one hundred poems left, one hundred paintings . . . because too many choices, too many THINGS contributed to the confusion of their ancestors (us, in short). The world has been streamlined, recycled, and recreated into this sterile perfection, and it fascinated me. I loved the fact that Cassia feels like things are spiraling out of control, and they are, for her. But she continues to eat her specially prepared meals, continues to go to work and to the school, so the temptation to succumb, to go back to the dreamy calm of no choices and no worries is always there. The reader wonders until the last page: what will she do? Will the Society pull her back in, or will she rebel? Her dilemma is artfully done, and there is appeal in both of her choices. It was what kept me reading, along with the flawlessness of this serene Society which Ally Condie has created.

So, this book has been heavily promoted. (I should be so lucky as to have PR like this!) And with that comes the fear that the book itself isn't very good, just the PR team. Well, have no fear, my people! The book is worth the hype. This is 1984 for teens, and it works. Also, I myself am not a "romance" person, particularly when it comes to YA. I will admit there have been other books in which my eyes rolled so much I feared they would fall out. I loved the romance in this one, I thought it was very natural and very well done.

Two thumbs way up for Ally and MATCHED! Can't wait for the sequel!

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