



Insurgent

Veronica Roth

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One choice can transform you—or it can destroy you. But every choice has consequences, and as unrest surges in the factions all around her, Tris Prior must continue trying to save those she loves—and herself—while grappling with haunting questions of grief and forgiveness, identity and loyalty, politics and love.

Tris's initiation day should have been marked by celebration and victory with her chosen faction; instead, the day ended with unspeakable horrors. War now looms as conflict between the factions and their ideologies grows. And in times of war, sides must be chosen, secrets will emerge, and choices will become even more irrevocable—and even more powerful. Transformed by her own decisions but also by haunting grief and guilt, radical new discoveries, and shifting relationships, Tris must fully embrace her Divergence, even if she does not know what she may lose by doing so.

New York Times bestselling author Veronica Roth's much-anticipated second book of the dystopian DIVERGENT series is another intoxicating thrill ride of a story, rich with hallmark twists, heartbreaks, romance, and powerful insights about human nature.

Insurgent Details

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From Reader Review *Insurgent* for online ebook

Inge says

2.5 stars

If you have been following my status updates for *Insurgent*, this gif will look very familiar to you. That is because I have used it twice in a row. I wanted to use it again, but that might have been overdoing it. Sadly, I didn't enjoy *Insurgent* as much as I thought I would. The first 100 pages were a total snore-fest and I was literally vibrating my lips just like that, because that was more interesting than what I was reading. I already have concentration issues, and *Insurgent* didn't hold my attention for very long. I really wanted to like this book. I wanted to love it and marry it and have tiny literary babies with it. I had high hopes. Very high hopes. Maybe too high. I think it is safe to say that *Insurgent* was my most anticipated book for this year. I needed this book, I was yearning for it. And it left me sorely disappointed.

Since I read *Divergent* only a couple months ago, I didn't have any trouble recalling who everyone was and what happened. Nevertheless, I did read the summary Veronica Roth provided us with and it freshened up my memory. I was good to go. I actually liked the fact that there were no pages wasted recalling everything that had happened in the previous book. That's typical for this series – the speed. No time wasted. Just getting straight to the point. And I liked it. Lord knows this book was long enough as it was.

Tris was not the badass girl we knew from last time. Don't get me wrong, she had every right to be sad and less badass. I completely understand. I am a very empathetic person, you see. *nods* She lost both of her parents and killed one of her best friends. That's bound to leave permanent, emotional scars. But she also turned into a whiny, Bella Swan-like persona, constantly whimpering about her past actions (the past is the past, Tris! You can't change what happened!) and her relationship with Four. And don't even get me started on Four. Okay, you've asked for it. Four, or *Tobias* as dear Tris now so lovingly calls him, was not the brooding, sexy Four we knew from *Divergent*. He was selfish (a Dauntless trait), mean, judgmental and not likeable at all. I was not able to swoon over him (a girl needs to swoon!) and basically I just wanted to whip him with a belt (oh yeah, *I went there*).

There were too many unimportant characters I couldn't care less about and the villains were so easily dealt with that it was laughable. As was the *major cliffhanger*. Only not. I saw the ending coming from miles away. It did not make me gasp, nor did it make me beg for more. I won't have any trouble waiting for the third instalment, though I will read it, because I want to know how it ends. I assume this is a trilogy? I just hope *Insurgent* suffered from the 'Second Novel Curse' and Detergent (or however the third book will be called) will be a lot better again.

And Tobias, I'm warning you. You better not be a fucknuckle anymore, or you'll have to deal with my knuckles.

Miranda Reads says

People, I have discovered, are layers and layers of secrets.

Umm, no honey. You're thinking of something else...

Of the three books, this book is the long-neglected and likely disturbed middle child.

Not as fun as the first nor as smart as the third. Doesn't contribute or stand out. **Essentially, it's just there, staring at us and wanting us to notice it.**

The "plot": **Tris & Co. are betrayed, run to a new faction, cue long description** of new faction/faction life, **Tris & Co. are betrayed...**run to new faction...etc.

Literally, the whole book is **Tris running around of the Divergent world**. It's like Veronica spent too much time designing these factions and didn't want the effort to go to waste...hence we **get the grand tour**.

Well, I shouldn't say that's all we get...we also get gems like this:

"Killing you is not the worst thing they can do to you," I say. "Controlling you is."

You could completely skip this novel and not miss a thing for the third. **Oh wait**. They do use the classic 'government knew of everything and manipulated every possible thing to get this exact outcome.' Lovely.

My favorite part? When Veronica Roth assumed we were too stupid to understand the title:

Insurgent, he says. Noun. A person who acts in opposition to the established authority, who is not necessarily regarded as a belligerent.

Mind. Freaking. Blown.

Nataliya says

Uh-oh. Why did I break my promise to myself and read this book?

Was it my curiosity? Well, I need to be more careful. **After all, curiosity killed the cat - and I'm a Leo.**
Uh-oh.

Now I'm afraid that this book may have made me use up a few of my allotted nine lives. O_O

Welcome back to the senseless world of dystopian Chicago where you are only allowed to have one personality trait, which apparently is determined in what seems to be an equivalent of a 5-question multiple choice test. And this ridiculousness is presented very seriously. Let's catch up, shall we?

If you happen to give your seat on a bus to an old lady - well, you must be selfless! Welcome to **Abnegation** where you can enjoy shapeless clothes and bland food.

If you have ever wondered how stuff works and dared to ask a smart question - welcome to the **EEEEvil Educated Erudites Exclusive Establishment!** A set of complementary spectacles and a seat at the library are waiting for you!

You frown upon lying? **Welcome to candid life of Candor**. Enjoy your lie detector tests! Now there's only one answer you can give to the eternal question, "*Does this make me look fat?*" (and punched in the face you will be, no doubt.)

You are a tree-hugging (or people hugging) hippie? **Amity, 'nuff said.**

You are a near-suicidal borderline sociopath who loves jumping off moving trains and beat the crap out of people??? Heh-heh. **You must be Brainless Dauntless.** Enjoy your youth because you'll die young and in true Darwin Awards fashion.

But what if you happen to be a normal person with more than one personality trait? ***What if you are a tree-hugging gardening-loving hippie who helps old ladies cross the street while being able to truthfully recite 34 decimal digits of pi?????***

HIGH ALERT!!!! YOU ARE DIVERGENT!!! THE HORROR!!! YOU ARE SOMEHOW SPECIAL!!!
DANGER TO THE SOCIETY!!! RUN AND HIDE!!!!

This how we left things in *Divergent* that for all its flaws was quite entertaining. Now we're moving on to *Insurgent* where ridiculous overpowers the fun amidst nothing happening.

We start with our lovely heroine Tris, recently tortured and shot in the shoulder after which she lost quite a bit of blood - right away easily jumping off trains and running around like the invincible little special snowflake she is. **When she's not defying basic laws of human physiology, she moons over her boyfriend Tobias**, and tries to pull the traditional YA self-sacrificing for the sake of the loved one cliché.

Peripheral characters die left and right in this book - but Tris is not even slowed down by serious physical injuries. It's like she's Superman's long lost cousin.

And how exactly is she so badass? Is it her 'extensive' Dauntless training? I beg to differ.

After a few weeks of haphazard training in the Dauntless compound - *the training that appeared to consist of teenagers pummeling each other into pulp, shooting guns and throwing knives without any real instructions, jumping from moving trains, and never actually having time to recover from physical injuries, and playing 'Capture the Flag'* - Tris is, of course, a highly trained physical menace.

If that's what makes you so super-fit in this dystopian world, the rest of them must be so deconditioned they fall over from just walking.

Dauntless training: Left: what we are expected to believe it is. Right: what it probably looked like the entire time.

Seriously, all the training happened in the previous book. This one really presents Tris as an accomplished badass - again, after a month or so of physical training. Really, book?

Tobias, apparently less than impressed with Tris's special snowflake-ness, spends the majority of this book pouting at her, yelling at her, being bossy, patronizing, dismissive, and full of double standards. In the meantime, Tris spends quite a bit of time swooning over him, **while Nataliya spends quite a bit of time perfecting the eye-rolling exercises** (my version of Dauntless workouts, using eye muscles only).

And here's the worst thing - in many many many many pages of this book not much of significance ever happens. Seriously.

The rest of the story (the parts not about Tobias and Tris' relationship) consists of contrived yet repetitive situations in this ridiculously constructed world that is completely unsustainable the way it's presented that read like a 12-year-old wrote them. Go to a new compound, meet stupid and selfish/evil/plotting/weak leaders, engage in a confrontation with the Erudites, meet those prejudiced against you, watch a peripheral character die, do something noble, do something reckless, do something selfless, rinse, repeat, pass 'Go', collect some angst points.

Most side characters are so under-developed and one-sided that the idea of the world where people are okay with being defined only by a single quality almost begins to make sense - except I think it's less deliberate planning than poor characterization. Add to this the fact that not much actually happens in this book to meaningfully advance the plot in any way - and you see how this can get *juuuuust* a bit frustrating.

And the much-talked-about ending? I found it (a) ridiculous and (b) quite predictable - I called it not that far into the book, thinking about the only possible way a world so illogical as this one would ever come into being (*and, in all honesty, I watched enough of M. Night Shyamalan's films to jump to the conclusion that is the Big Reveal. Call me nerdy? Well, yeah*).

Hey, but at least we get a mention of prefrontal cortex and mirror neurons in the context of pseudo-science of the Erudites here. **Neuroscience Made Ridiculously Simple, huh?** If things like that are what makes the Erudite seem smart, this world is screwed.

By the way: What did smart people ever do to Veronica Roth? **Erudite = Evil** gets annoying rather quickly. Why is it that it's the "brave" who are awesome - and all the other qualities appear vastly inferior? Is it because Gryffindor in Harry Potter (another universe that sorted kids by their one defining character trait) housed the brave? Is it because bespectacled kids (the stereotypical 'smart') seem like easy targets on the playground? **C'mon, Veronica Roth, smart kids are cool, oh-kay?**

Cool smart people. See - I'm not kidding.

Anyway, **2 stars** - I feel generous since I had so much fun looking for all the Big Bang Theory images for this review. I still may read the third one because apparently I enjoy torturing myself with eyeroll-worthy

books.

By the way, my review of 'Divergent' is right over here.

And my review of the final book in the series, 'Allegiant', is here.

Diane ? [Lestrangle] says

*“Come on, **Insurgent**,”*

“What?”

*“**Insurgent**,”* he says. *“Noun. A person who acts in opposition to the established authority, who is not necessarily regarded as a belligerent.”* I look at Fernando. The last time I broke into a faction’s headquarters, I did it with a gun in my hand, and I left bodies behind me. I want this time to be different. I need this time to be different. *“I like it,”* I say.

*“**Insurgent**. It’s perfect.”*

Once again I find myself with mixed views over a book. Middle books are usually filled with landscape designing, set up and transition for the next book so I usually didn't expect much from them. But Divergent is far from *usual*. And it’s **ending**? Let just say the expectation to the second book was set pretty high.

I admit there were so many things I forgot about in this series. I had trouble remembering who was who -like with Tris guilt for killing Will (*I can’t freaking remember who’s Will was*). To my defense Divergent was blindly fast pace and with a year gap between the two books it’s a bit disorienting for Insurgent to immediately jumping right in.

Insurgent started directly after where the first book left us - Will's murder, Tris parents' deaths and the destruction of Dauntless and Abnegation, with Tris, Four, Marcus (*Four's father*) and Peter, all on the run. It picks up exactly where it ended - on the train.

The first part of the story was already full of action. And comparing the amount of actions in this book to the first one? Better not, because this will give you no pause for time out. There is also a great sense of unease and unknown. As the book progresses, there are events that complicate and confuse me more that It made the pace kind of slow. But the worst was me keep guessing what's the **unimaginable-scary-thing outside the fence** that they kept secret -all the time. I really can’t get that out of my mind the whole time I’m reading this. It’s frustrating, like **Tris-annoying-character-in-here**.

Insurgent has lots of loopholes and unpolished side that to my opinion is not that noticeable if you didn’t give it too *damn* time to criticize. Veronica writes with a believable heroine. I kind of hated Tris character in here, but it still believable none the less.

I still like this book and still super like this series. The shifts gear of the ending was a major WHOA. And the other major thing that I really like is the -**'It don’t have love triangle drama'**!

'That' my friends, is a major plus for me.

Post from Veronica Roth's blog about her 2nd book:

INSURGENT!

This post really wouldn't be complete without a dictionary definition, so here it is:

INSURGENT. Origin:

1755–65; < Latin insurgent- (stem of *insurg?ns*) *present participle of insurgere: to get up, ascend, rebel.*

1. a person who rises in forcible opposition to lawful authority, especially a person who engages in armed resistance to a government or to the execution of its laws; rebel.
2. a member of a section of a political party that revolts against the methods or policies of the party.
3. one that acts contrary to the established leadership (*as of a political party, union, or corporation*) or its decisions and policies
4. (*international law*) a person or group that rises in revolt against an established government or authority but whose conduct does not amount to belligerency

Not all of those definitions are equally applicable to the book-- some are more spot-on than others. But I won't tell you which ones yet.

Now all I have to do is finish! Back to the writing cave!

Now my friends if you haven't read Divergent yet well turn off that darn screen and run the hell out of your house and buy that freaking book and READ IT! NOW!

Super love the title! <3

Alejandro says

I was glad that I decided to continue the book series!

A FORETOLD DOOMED DYSTOPIA

They've made mistakes, of course, but they like everyone else, are a blend of good and bad.

I commented in my review of the first book, *Divergent*, that the presented dystopia in the story was doomed to fail by itself, and it wasn't any shock that happen, even due many of the observations that I did. So, I don't know you, but I think that all was part of the plan...

...well, not their plan, of course...

...but the plan of the author, Veronica Roth...

...now I am realizing that she did all this intentional, and if so, it's working wonderfully!

STILL THE SAME FACTIONS AND SOME ODD THINGS HERE

There is always something to learn, always something that is important to understand.

As I commented in my previous review...

...Amity and Candor are still a bunch of wimps and cowards (but as in anything, there are some exceptions)...

...Erudite still should be smarter to realize how faulty was this society system (but surprising enough, while the supposed “villains”, they were like the only faction trying hard to keep on the current system (by questionable methods but still)...

...Abnegation still is a bunch of hypocrites, and definitely is one of the factions that will suffer the worst part in this war...

...and Dauntless is still a bunch of moving trains jumping psychos (and now the favorite pawns of everybody)...

While I say that Veronica Roth must do everything according to some secret plan of her own, still there are some odd elements in the narrative...

...how the heck a car took an hour to reach the Amity Headquarters from the center of the city? There wasn't any traffic! I can't believe that this city can be that big to need an hour to reach a compound in the limits of the fences...

...how is that all Abnegation house have the same inner structure? So far it seems, they took an already constructed city and they took it as their own place to live. Proof is in comments like the Candor Mart, the Ferris Wheel, and other buildings, so it's really weird that all the sudden the Abnegation people have identical family homes...

...how the heck the Factionless have safe houses?! Was Dauntless (even before the shit hits the fan) sleeping? The Dauntless should be patrolling the whole city and securing non-occupied buildings, and even so, the Factionless should be contained in a sector without option of leaving the assigned areas. Now, the Factionless not only got free food and clothes, but also they can roam the entire city without supervision? This dystopian system is everytime dumber and dumber...

...there was an odd comment at some moment telling that “Joshua” wasn't an Abnegation name. Mmh. Hello! Transfers! How the heck supposed to exist typical names in any faction if they keep tranfering a lot to other factions?

THE LONELY ROAD OF A HERO(INE)

You're the best attack dog they've got.

Tris still can't think of a world without the dystopian system that it has been her reality since she was born.

One curious thing is that in this second book, *Insurgent*, the story starts just where the first book ended, there isn't time displacement, so Tris is still with her injuries suffered during the events of the first book and with no time to heal, she will have to deal with that.

Tris will be tested in her belief about the society system, but also her desire to know the truth behind it.

However, she may not be prepared for the sacrifices that it will mean.

Her loyalties in all levels and fields will be tested to the maximum.

And in some moments, she will feel so lonely, **but** she may find allies in the most unlikely places.

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

The truth has a way of changing a person's plans.

In this book, the most inner secrets of Tris and Four will be in the open, and nothing will be the same anymore, but also, they will see how while weaker and more exposed they may be at first, now with their most personal shames known by everybody, now they are only stronger and even their enemies will be unable to push their buttons so easily now.

FUNNY THING CALLED LOVE

And sometimes, if you want the truth, you have to demand it.

The romance between Tris and Four is managed in an excellent way, since Four isn't the perfect guy and he will do some mistakes and he will be contradictory in some of his actions, and Tris won't be afraid of pointing out all that.

I think that all that conflict makes a lot more interesting and real their love relationship without falling in cliché oversaturated romances.

FORTITUDE IN CHARACTERS

Cruelty does not make a person dishonest, the same way bravery does not make a person kind.

I commented in the first book, that the interaction and richness of the character was one of the strongest positive points in the narrative, and here, in the second book, that still the same for the good.

The characters have depth, and sometimes they are so complex that it's impossible to know what they will do or why they are doing it.

The characters' interaction is richful and with surprising twists in the least expected moments.

One thing is certain, after this, nothing will be the same anymore in the story.

Lola says

"You're too important to just... die."

This book was extraordinary. Not like the first one at all, but a good different. A different that will bring many emotions out of you and will definitely hook you from the first to the very last page.

I pout my lower lip for a second, but then I grin as the pieces come together. "That's why you like me!" I exclaim. "Because you're not very nice either! It makes so much more sense now."

Tris and Tobias have this incredible chemistry that is impossible to not see. They belong together. But that doesn't mean that everything is easy for them. Not at all. They have to face many obstacles and ones that are quite dangerous but do they ever give up on each other? No. They don't. And, they never will. At least, that's what I'm hoping for, because they became one of my favorite couples of all time.

Crying defies scientific explanation. Tears are only meant to lubricate the eyes. There is no real reason for tear glands to overproduce tears at the behest of emotion.

There are some witty sentences in this story. The writing is not only great but also intelligent. I think this author will be one no one will ever forget, if she keeps writing amazing stories like this one. I could have quoted this entire book, to be honest, since every written word was, to me, important and I read them with a vehemence desire to know what would happen next.

There are actually many characters in this book that have a unique role attributed and ones you can't imagine dying. However, there is a high number of deaths in this story. I don't know how this will sound to you, but I actually like seeing characters die in these kinds of plots. Not main ones, of course not, but some that will only contribute to make the story seem more realistic or give intensity to some specific scenes.

I do admit that there were times when Tris' choices were a little...too much. And she does lie a lot. But, she

has her reasons and she in fact learns from her mistakes. I'm definitely not saying that what she does is the right thing but she just has her motives and she believed she could succeed at everything she planned...so I did too, in a way. Very strongly.

"What is wrong with you?" I shake my head. "Pull it together."

And that's what it feels like: pulling the different parts of me up and in like a shoelace. I feel suffocated, but at least I feel strong.

I can't recommend this series highly enough. It is worth it. It is actually worth putting whatever you're currently reading aside and start this moving, well-developed, written and unique story.

Khurram says

I could not put this book down. I kept saying to myself one more chapter, with turned to 3. The flow of the book is amazing it is very easy to get lost in Tris' world. The story is very fast paced. Even being a slow reader, I ended up finishing the book in less than one weekend and started the next book straight away.

This deals with the fallout from the last book. Tris has to deal with the trauma of being forced to kill one of her best friends. That fact that it was self-defence does not seem to make it any easier. To this end she is incapable of carrying or firing a gun. This makes her a liability in certain life and death situations. Hiding her grief and guilt also puts a wedge between her and 4.

4 himself must make peace his former life as Tobias. A ghost of his past is resurrected with their own agenda. If you read 4 (the book) you can probably guess who that is otherwise read this one and enjoy. The factions themselves are in disarray. Half the Abnegation are dead. The Dauntless are split, by those that are pi\$\$ed with the Erudite and those who have decided to side with them (the latter group are branded Dauntless tractors). Both the Amity and Candor have managed to stay natural but they are reminded of their place in the pecking order by the Erudite. There are many revelations in the book (that keep coming till the last page), why the Erudite decided now was the time to attack, and what is their next move. Also Tris and Tobias may need to make deals with different devils to do what they believe is right possible at the expense of their own relationship.

Maggie says

FINALLY the book is out! After months of waiting, I managed to snag this book on the day of its release and thank goodness for that!

****Warning: There will be no spoilers of Insurgent, only of Divergent****

After having not been immersed in the Divergent world since the first book came out last year, I had qualms about diving headfirst into Insurgent without refreshing myself with the basic events that happened prior to the start of this novel. However, having neither the time nor the care for rereading a book with this enticing,

new, fresh book lying in front of me, I decided to be a Dauntless and take the risk (small risk, but hey, it's the thought that counts).

My first thought? That rereading *Divergent* would have been unnecessary in the fact that *Insurgent* picked up right where *Divergent* left off and had enough continuity to it that I slowly but surely picked up all the dormant pieces of information that I needed to know for this book. The action picks up right away, and my worries for this book, the middle book of this trilogy, were completely blown away with the events that happen. Oftentimes the second book of a trilogy slows down and loses some, if not a lot, of the pacing of the first book, only for the climax and the denouement to pick up drastically in the finale. *Insurgent*, however, did not disappoint me in that way.

I loved so many things from this novel, many of which I will point out below:

STRONG FEMALE LEAD:

Tris is a kickass sort of person, and there's no denying that truth. Not only is she *Divergent*, but she's also a particularly strong type of *Divergent*, which we had all the clues for in *Divergent* but were not pronounced clearly until now. She is inherently strong, but she isn't invulnerable; she shows weakness when we expect her to, just like any human and regardless of her Dauntless faction. She's strong, but she's not overly ambitious, unlike Jeanine and other people who will rise up to power and take advantage of the chaos. What sets her apart from others is that she has all the capabilities of a leader, yet she shows enough humbleness and humility to know when to step down. I was feeling iffy about the polarization of characteristics between the different factions, but Tris's multiple affinities make her more well rounded and more admirable for what she chooses to do instead of what she can do with the capabilities she has.

FOCUS OF THE NOVEL:

Come on, I didn't read *Insurgent* for its romance. It's obviously a perk, of course, but the romance between Tobias and Tris isn't the main focus of the novel, not at all. The conspiracies, the conspiracies within the conspiracies, and the struggle between choosing what feels right and what logically is right is oftentimes employed here that makes you want to read further and further to see who's really the good guy. And then somewhere along the way, you realize that the good guy may not be the nicest guy. I think Roth aptly puts this to justice when she writes: "And while he has done cruel, evil things, our society is not divided into "good" and "bad." Cruelty does not make a person dishonest, the same way bravery does not make a person kind." The multilayers to every action and every character makes you stop and think of the macro events, which is what I believe books should truly be about.

REALISTIC OUTCOMES AND PLOT DEVICES THAT MAKE YOU WIDE EYED FOR MORE:

Stemming from what I said earlier about events that occur in this book, I just want to say that Roth really does know how to set her pacing for the trilogy well. Just reading the revelations that each page brings shows the careful thought and planning that was placed into the creation of the *Divergent* world. People you thought you could trust to be on the "good" side suddenly aren't so clear anymore; everyone falls into some gray, fuzzy area on where their loyalties lie. The aptness of the adage "the road to hell is often paved with good intentions" fits in with this world, and many people think that the end justifies the means of their actions. This strikes out to me not only for the complexity it brings to the series, but also the reality of the situation that no matter how much you're a part of Abnegation, in the end human instincts demand that you take a look at the grand scheme of things and figure out how you're going to survive. It's not necessarily saying that people are inherently bad or good, it's just that everyone takes action for their own survival, and that ultimately pits people against each other, both realistic and true. Who you trust ends up affecting what actions you take, and quoted from Roth: "People, I have discovered, are layers and layers of secrets. You believe you know them, that you understand them, but their motives are always hidden from you, buried in

their own hearts. You will never know them, but sometimes you decide to trust them." Roth doesn't hesitate to pull out all the stops with layers upon layers of events that make Tris change her mind about which course of action to take countless times. It's the sort of thing that makes your brain freak with the constant flow of new information while it simultaneously processes what it just learned.

CHARACTERS:

'nuff said. You don't find multifaceted characters easily, and every single one of these characters has something to contribute to the Divergent world as a whole. Remember, it's a society where things were always a specific way when a huge wave of reform is about to strike violently at you. It's a time of strife and war, something that most of us in first world countries can't comprehend on a personal level. (I quote an example from Isabel Allende here: "Once my daughter said to me that feminism was dated, that I should move on. Feminism is dated? Yes, for privileged women like my daughter, but not for most of our sisters in the rest of the world who are still forced into premature marriage, prostitution, forced labor"). In such a setting, chaos is everywhere, and I can't stress how good it was reading about the diversity of people who, at the end of the day, all wanted to just survive.

ENDING:

I would be cautious of reading *Insurgent* if I were you. The ending was the most terrible, horrible, jaw-dropping cliffhanger that I've read in a while. We don't even have a specific date to look forward for the third book, either! I can't (well, yes I can, but you understand my shock) believe that Roth would put us through such misery of revealing such a huge closely guarded secret, the truth of all truths to *Divergent*, and then end it right when chaos breaks out. Such a tease, and such a brilliant move. That'll keep us fans holding on for sure.

Would I recommend this book? Heck yes, without a single doubt. It's got action, suspense, adventure, mystery, and romance packed into it, and it was both cleverly and well executed. I couldn't ask for more of a novel, and I sincerely thank Roth for sharing it with us.

The pre-review I had posted that gathered all the likes to this review:

WHO REVIEWED IT ALREADY??? I'm tempted to give death glares to any that did because at this point giving it a rating is just petty hate mail. Judging by the average rating for the first book and the FACT THAT THE SECOND BOOK ISN'T EVEN OUT FOR ARCs YET, there should be no ratings! How can you rate a book based on what you're *anticipating* it to be???

What it's rated now is by no means true, since we don't even know what the book is about!

Steph Sinclair says

I want to give a big old round of applause to HarperTEEN and their insane marketing campaign. Bravo. That is not mockery, but a legit salute. I sincerely have to give it up to you for convincing me that I *had* to own this book. I was caught up and boarded the Twitter hype **train** as it drove me round and round the blogosphere's **Factions**. (BTW, I still don't know who drives the damn train.) So, by the time I stepped into my local bookstore and laid eyes on *Insurgent* I happily handed over my \$17.99. I wasn't thinking **logically**. It was as if I was under a **simulation**. (HAHAHA! Did you see what I **did** there?)

And that ending? Ugh. I... I... I need a moment. Let me just stop myself right here before I end up writing a *really* negative review and 1 starring one of the most anticipated books of 2012.

But know I am displeased. VERY. Just look at how long it took me to finish the book!

What a shame. The most anticipated book of 2012 is my most disappointing read so far. After all the positive reviews I read, I knew for sure I'd love it. Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way. I was conflicted on whether to give this book one or two stars. In the end, *Insurgent's* saving grace is that it simply doesn't belong with some of my other one starred books. So, **I feel I must warn whoever stumbles across this review: If this is one of your favorite series and you love it with the burning passion of a supernova, this review might have the potential to piss you off. It might be best for both you and I if you just hit the back button now before things get going.** Go on. Spock and I will wait.

whistles

Oh, you're staying, huh? Well, strap yourself in because I have a feeling it might just be one of *those* reviews...

Spock tells me this review must contain mild spoilers in order to logically explain this illogical novel. Sorry, kids. Spock's call.

The first big negative right off the bat was that *Insurgent* picks up directly after *Divergent* left off. There is virtually no recap to the story or characters and if you read the book a year ago, well, you may be screwed. But thankfully, Roth wrote up a lovely little cheat sheet for just this purpose. Yay! However, the problem doesn't just lie with remembering names. It lies with the connection the reader may or may not have had with the characters in *Divergent*, which was now non-existent since I could barely remember who was who. What's that you say? So and so just got shot in the head? I'm sorry, I can't find a single fuck to give. Then, we are introduced to even more characters. So, not only do I have to attempt to remember the old characters, but I have to keep track of these newbies too? That's just way too much work. Obviously, this isn't really *Insurgent's* fault, but I thought it would helpful to point this out.

The Plot:

What happened here? What happened to the action packed dystopian series I was introduced to in *Divergent*? Where the hell was Tris and why was Bella playing her role? Why did Four suddenly update his Facebook status to Douche Bag? Who's idea was it to turn *Insurgent* into a *Dystopian Romance*? One thing I loved about *Divergent* was that the romance took a back seat to the story and action. But in *Insurgent* the action is scattered with a heavier focus on Tris and Four's relationship. Look, that is not what I signed up for. I really don't care if Four loves Tris or if they'll end up riding a unicorn that poops rainbows as they ride off into the sunset. Whatever, whatever, whatever.

So, the Erudite are trying to take over their world by creating a new serum for those that are Divergent while the Factionless plan a rebellion. But all that usually happens in the background with occasional mention to keep the reader up to date. Most of the novel we are stuck in Tris' head as she goes into angst mode over Four, her parents and Will. It was so boring I felt like I was stuck in a throwback episode of *As the World*

Turns. On repeat. Save me. But wait! We have a random plot twist at the end right before the battle is about to go down. Marcus (Four's abusive father) decides to enlist Tris to help him retrieve information stolen from Abnegation. He tells her it's super secret and that he can't tell her what it is because it's something you have to see, that she'll just have to trust him. Doing so would betray Four. She agrees.

Wait. Pause.

Tris hates Marcus. Tris loves Four. Tris doesn't know what information they would be retrieving. She also doesn't know if Marcus is telling her the truth. She has absolutely no reason to believe him. No real evidence to back up his claim. She agrees. Without much thought. Tris is supposed to have an aptitude for Erudite, right? She's supposed to be logical, RIGHT?!

Tris, pack your bags. I think Spock has just voted you off the island.

That makes no sense! And then when I found out the super big secret, guess what? He could have easily told her! I smell an easy plot cop-out, folks. The secret is kept long enough from the reader just so it can push you off the cliff on the last page.

World Building:

In *Divergent* I let a lot slide and roll off me because I was entertained throughout the entire book. I'm known to do that with a lot of books like *Wither* and *Across the Universe*, for example. I could not do it with *Insurgent*. You see, I have the attention span of a fruit fly. If I'm not fully engaged in the book, I'm going to notice things. Things I probably wouldn't care too much about if I were enjoying myself. Like how the Erudite wear glasses just because they're smart. Or how even though Tris is emotionally unbalanced 16-year-old, everyone still looks to her to "analyze the situation." Or even how impossible I find these factions. How is it that you can put all of these traits into neat little boxes and ask a person to choose one over the others? This is the same problem I had with *The Hunt*. In both novels the author tries to pitch an idea of human behavior completely different from what reality is, but you can clearly see the flaws with it. However, the main character fully believes in that world and way of thinking. They try to rationalize it, convince you of it. Yes, I realize it's a Dystopian novel, but this is a hard concept to sell because it makes it difficult for me to sympathize with the main character, their conflicted feelings and understand their world. Believability is key for me and I have a hard time believing this world. Tris frequently switches back and forth between her Dauntless, Erudite and Abnegation sides. Other characters comment on her embracing one trait depending on what the situation calls for it. But this doesn't work for me. Real talk, you can't just put logical thinking back in the toy chest when you decide you don't want to play with it anymore. It doesn't work like that. At least... I don't think so. Spock?

I'm getting no-ish vibes.

Tris:

This series gets a lot of comparisons to *The Hunger Games* and in a way I can see why. You have your young girl who, one way or another, plays an important part in bringing forth change to her society. And if I really had to compare the two, I'd say that *Insurgent* is like *Mockingjay*. Tris is depressed, struggling to hold it together and fight in the war. The difference comes into play when Tris borderline gives up, while Katniss kicked ass until the very end. I'm not saying Tris didn't have the right to be depressed because I do believe

she did. But it was really over done for me. I felt like I was drowning in her angst. This book is over 500 pages long and most of the action doesn't even show up to the party until the last 30 pages! So what was Tris doing for the other 500 pages? **Not a damn thing.** No, scratch that. Spock tells me that is inaccurate. Tris was in fact doing something. She was off being selfless, trying to get herself killed so that no one else would die. ~~Bella is that you? I didn't know you did~~ **Dystopias now!** That irritated me to no end. At one point she turns herself into the Erudite because they threatened to kill off people until Divergent started surrendering. So, of course, Tris thinks it has to be her and sneaks off to give herself up before the Dauntless can form a plan. Now, let's think about this **logically**. Tris knows the Erudite want to experiment on her for a Divergent-proof serum. Which means more people would be enslaved and/or killed *because* of her turning herself in. *facepalm* Then she almost dies, but it was too late because I had run out of fucks by then! So I had to shake Spock down for some.

What do you mean you're out of fucks?! One of us has to care if Tris lives or dies!

The Ending:

Okay, lots of spoilers here, folks. Spoilers all around from this point on.

I didn't like the ending. I felt cheated because I had hung on for the ending. Everyone said how it made up for the rest of the book and what not, but here's the thing: The ending couldn't make up for all the angst-filled fluff the rest of the book was stuffed with. I didn't feel the anticipation throughout the novel and I hate to admit that I was really tempted to skim. The villan was killed really fast without much of a fight. I always hate when that happens. The villan has been giving the characters hell all throughout the story and by the time their number is up, they beg for their life and die by a simple stab wound?

"Yes, if you kill me you'll never find the information!"

stabby stab

>insert blood and stuff<

"UGH! I'M MELTING!"

dies

Still no fucks I see. That's cold, bro.

And the big secret wasn't anything you couldn't have guessed from *Divergent*. It's revealed that the world is in chaos outside of the fence. Murders, destruction, etc. The weird thing is that I actually forgot about their society being enclosed in the fence until it was brought up near the end. It totally slipped my mind. But, I digress. The entire point of their society was to be a fresh start to the world. Somehow by boxing people in these Factions and waiting for the Divergent to emerge that equates to saving humanity. I'm not exactly sure how that works since the book just ends with that revelation and the Acknowledgements rolled. But I feel like Roth wrote herself all the way to a deserted island, sent up her S.O.S. signal and that cliffhanger fell right out of the sky to the rescue. *sigh* I really hate cliffhangers. It was one of the things that I liked about *Divergent*. For the most part things were tied up, but with *Insurgent*? It's quite the mess we'll be walking into in book three.

Will I read the next book? Yes, because I've come this far and I'm hoping I will enjoy book three as much as I enjoyed *Divergent*. I think *Insurgent* suffers from "Second Book Syndrome" and the infamous "Hype Train," may it die in a fire (the Hype Train, not the book). But ultimately, I'm interested in how Roth will explain away everything. Maybe then this whole series will make perfect logical sense to me. Until then, drink time, Spock?

More reviews and shenanigans at Cuddlebuggery Book Blog.

Ellie says

Well, I definitely like the title "Divergent" better than "Insurgent." Sounds a bit like Insurance.

Wow, eight likes. Maybe people have had some bad experience with insurance....? Dunno.

TEN LIKES.....O.O O.O O.O <--- I love that face. #.# \$. \$ There are so many different combinations. XD

Eleven. Whoa. O.O I don't understand this. My review isn't at the top of the review page, is it?! It's very cool, though. :D Thanks, everyone....

Oh my word!!! *Fourteen likes!!!* o.o O.O **O.O**

228 DAYS (I think)

219 DAYS,
5278 HOURS,
316728 MINUTES, AND ABOUT
19003700 SECONDS UNTIL

INSURGENT, THE BOOK WITH THE WACKY TITLE.

217 days
5223 hours
313427 minutes
18805657 seconds

I don't know how I'm going to SURVIVE when/if Tris meets up with Christina and Christina FINDS OUT TRIS KILLED WILL. WAHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!! D'X Christina and Will were PERFECT!!! PERFECTPURFECTPAIRFECT! Ahaha, pairfect. Oh---*sobs* PAIRFECT!!!

I think I'm going to reread *Divergent*. I can't wait 212 more days.

211 days.

210 days, 5055 hours, 303346 minutes, and about 18200800 seconds.

HOORAY!!! DIVERGENT CAME!!! I can reread it!!!!!! ^.^ ^.^ ^.^

I've forgotten how gripping it is. o.o It's like....wow. Wow. WOW.

Aww...Tris and Four are so cute together!!!

Hey, am I reviewing Insurgent or Divergent?! Better cut down on the Divergent snippets. Of course, properly I shouldn't even be reviewing Insurgent. I mean it's not out yet. (My main cause of dismay: books that are not out yet. Go figure?) 199 days!

189 days
4536 hours
272190 minutes, and about
16331455 seconds!

And so in agony. I'm probably the most agonized person waiting for Insurgent/Insurance. AGH. AGH, AGH, AGH.

Back to rereading Harry Potter. :/

167 days...

52...

77 now. O.O

My countdown clock is acting up. ____.

AAAH!!! ONLY 131 DAYS!!! It's a palindrome, oh yeah!

I don't like this cover as much as Divergent's, but it's still cool. I dunno, Divergent just had a little more...something...to it. It was more striking, in my opinion.

55 days, 1,330 hours, 79,851 minutes and about 4,791,064 seconds until you-know-what.

FOOOORRRRTY TWO DAYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

AAH I JUST FOUND OUT THE RELEASE DATE HAS BEEN BUMPED UP!!!!

Just kidding. April Fool's! :D

AAAHH!!! AAH!!! AAH!!!! **IT'S OUT!!!!!!** Only there are thirty-four-darn-holds on it at the library. I have to wait, like, for ages.... *sobs*

UPDATE: READ

Oh, my gosh....it was....how do I even begin to review this book?

It was, first of all, awesome. I am so thankful that Roth didn't install a love triangle. I hate those. But all of

the hopes I had for Will still being alive were crushed. :(

The cover has the tree symbolizing Amity on it, and for pretty good reason. Tris, for reasons which you will have to read yourself, spends a good deal of time in the Amity headquarters (compound? complex?), and you got to know their faction better. The leadership system is quite interesting--they don't really have one. I actually think being Amity wouldn't be too bad. (view spoiler) It'd be sort of like Abnegation, but a lot less Stiffer. (Get it? STIFFer--oh never mind.) I thought that Candor actually would have been better on the cover, but Amity is okay, too.

There was one paragraph where Tris mentions that tears are just some sort of extra function that was not understood by her people. They didn't know why humans cried when they got emotional. But I remember reading somewhere in my seventh grade science book that tears are believed to (or actually do) release stress hormones or toxins from the body. That was one thing which struck me.

One of the things that actually did make me cry was the big betrayal in this book. I won't say who it was, but it did hit me like a punch in the gut. Brace yourselves.

I did think I liked Divergent a bit better. Insurgent was great, but it didn't have, for me, the addictiveness of Divergent. Perhaps it was just a bit too confusing. There were a lot of new characters to keep track of, and they were constantly moving from place to place. But Roth handled the romance pretty well. My respect for Tris grew when she didn't become the normal YA teenage girl who only thinks about her boyfriend and he takes up an unnecessary fifty pages of the book. She got mad at Tobias, but not for any irrational reasons. Actually, my respect for Tris grew a lot, period. She struggled with coping with Will's death, and with the death of her parents in the previous book, and these struggles seemed totally real to me. I could really sympathize with her. When Christina found out that Tris killed Will, her reaction was believable and understandable, and when she forgave Tris it was one of the moments that touched me the most throughout the entire book.

Peter was one character which was developed more in Insurgent. I wasn't surprised when (view spoiler) He's very interesting....I get the feeling he'll play a large role in book three. Maybe he'll sacrifice himself, or something dramatic. Or maybe he'll turn traitor, again. Either way would be awesome.

On the whole, I was very happy with Insurgent. The plot did drag a bit in the middle, but the end was great. And the big surprise was really exciting. :D Can't wait for book three!!!!!!

edit

The person who spoiled Allegiant for me: Curse you!!!! Not literally. Seriously, though. I'm so mad right now.

I don't think I'll read Allegiant, sadly.... I don't want to (view spoiler)

Lyndsey says

All right. Start it up "**We Will Rock You**" style, now.

Clap, clap, stomp. Clap, clap, stomp. Clap, clap, stomp. Clap, clap, stomp.

We are, we are DAUNTLESS
We are, we are DAUNTLESS

Beatrice, Now called Tris, Made a big change
Playing on the trains, She became a Dauntless one day
She's got mud on her face
A parental disgrace
Now she'll be kickin your ass all over the place

Singin'
We are, we are DIVERGENT
We are, we are DIVERGENT

Tobias is a Dauntless, Divergent
Shoutin' to them all, We can take on the world today
Erudite got blood on their face
We'll put them in their place
Into the past, out of our Fear Landscapes

Singin'
We are, we are INSURGENT
We are, we are INSURGENT

Come on!

We are, we are INSURGENT
We are, we are INSURGENT

The Rundown

Okay, I'm sorry but I am NOT going to give you a summary of this book. I knew nothing going in and I loved it that way. Everything was a surprise and I think maybe that's how it should be. Plus, you know you want to read it anyway.

And if you haven't read Divergent yet... WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! Shoo! Go read it NOW.

The Plot and World-Building

This world in Insurgent is darker and even more exciting than Divergent. Each chapter raises the stakes until you're all in. The characters in this book are so much more alive than in any other book I've read recently. They have such fascinating layers and depth that I feel I could never uncover all the secrets they hold. Luckily, Veronica Roth is amazing at helping us do just that. The characters are masterfully unraveled before our very eyes. Insights unlocked that I'd have never seen coming.

The same goes for the storyline. There are things happening in this book that I wouldn't have once guessed. And I consider myself pretty adept at figuring out storylines. Every new plot twist is a welcome surprise.

Every new bit of info is an exciting reveal.

I was very pleasantly surprised that the romance storyline DID NOT overwhelm the majority of the plot. This was a book about society and about war and about dealing with everything that comes with both of those. *That's what dystopian fiction is supposed to be about.*

The plot expands greatly upon what we know about the society and it's background, which in the first was mostly nil. I was thrilled with the way the information was revealed and what it means for the future of the series.

The Characters

Tris really FEELS the emotions brought on by the deaths that she believes herself to be responsible for, even when she had no other choice. In fact, she feels her feelings almost too much. A lot like the way people really do in even less dire real life situations. She's just an ordinary girl in an extraordinary situation. At least, that's how she sees herself. She doesn't at all realize how strong and extraordinary she really is.

As much as I love Katniss from The Hunger Games, I never really felt her inner turmoil the way I do with Tris. My stomach clenches when I think of what she's gone through so far. If I think about it too much, I'll get nauseous.

On another note, I have a tiny gripe about the passages involving Four's looks, like this one: *"Some girls might focus on the way his ears stick out, or the way his nose hooks at the end."* Plus, many other little ones about his spindly long fingers and gaunt face.

Wow, move over Fabio! Lemme at him!! GOOD LORD, this woman really does not want us to find Ol' Toby attractive, does she? I appreciate that he isn't your typical "hero" type, because let's face it - not every guy has long blonde waves and gleaming teeth. But not every girl finds that kind of guy attractive either. It doesn't have to be one or the other. I would like a bit sexier description of him from time to time. You know, something that doesn't make it sound as though he looks like Beetlejuice.

For example, most people wouldn't call Edward Scissorhands himself a classically handsome man. If you tried to, you could make some of Johnny Depp's characters sound pretty hideous in a text description, but he somehow manages to transcend the gloomy and unique nature of those characters and bring them to life in a way that makes them sexy and intriguing. I just would like a little something like that in the description of Four in the future.

The Romance

First off, yes, I still call him Four. Tris switches off between calling him Four and Tobias in the book. Lately, I've found myself calling him Tobias in my head but when I write it, it usually ends up being Four. I mean, that's what he was called throughout almost the entire first novel... but the name Tobias is starting to grow on me.

To be honest, I was afraid that Tris and Four's relationship would go down the cookie cutter route. I couldn't be more thrilled with the direction their romance has taken. They have real issues that they work through. There is no angst purely for the sake angst. It's all based on their present and past situations. If you're looking for a lovey dovey, pink fluffy unicorns dancing on rainbows kind of relationship, then sorry but you won't find that here. Sorry to burst your cotton candy bubble gum bubble. And yes, I know I'm evil. *sly grin*

There's angst and arguing but NO love triangle with the main character. At least not one that was discernible to me. If there was one, it was a *ninja assassin* love triangle.

The Verdict

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE. I cannot wait to get my hands on the next book in this series. Insurgent was an incredibly delicious, exciting, and emotional read! But mostly, it just flat out made an impact on me.

The other night I was watching Merlin, which has newly been added to my list of all-time favorite TV shows, and there was one particular moment where a character shows a redonkulous amount of bravery in a certain heartbreaking scene which cannot be named, and I literally thought to myself "That's so Dauntless." That's the power of the world that Veronica Roth has created. When a story becomes part of pop culture, when it is so unique and recognizable that it can be spoofed or merchandised, and when it's terminology works its way into your everyday life - that's when you see the true power of literature. I believe that this is one of *those* stories.

Oh and by the way, I want a T-Shirt with the Dauntless faction symbol, so... someone get started on that ASAP. *snap, snap*

The winner of the Divergent and Insurgent PRIZE PACK has been announced on STRANGEMORE.COM. Check the Rafflecopter Widget to see the name of the winner!

Emily May says

The size of my disappointment probably has something to do with why I can't bring myself to award this two stars. I know Divergent isn't really a great book, the dystopia makes no sense, the Dauntless are ridiculous people who jump off trains to prove themselves... but, for me, it was still a wildly entertaining read. It was fast-paced, full of action, Tris was delightfully kickass, and the romance between her and Four complemented the main story without overtaking it. Insurgent failed on all of those.

Normally, I might put it down to middle book syndrome and carry on with book three anyway, but not this time. Even though no time passes between the end of the first book and the start of this one, Tris and Tobias/Four feel like completely different characters and this is an inconsistency I can't forgive. Whatever happened to tough Tris who made difficult decisions and put survival above all else? She has disappeared and in her place is a "heroine" quite like the majority of other young adult romantic heroines. Tris is now solely concerned with Tobias and their relationship angst, I lost count of how many pages were filled with their make-out sessions and melodrama.

Tobias also seems to have changed a lot more than his name. I really liked his character in Divergent, I found him to be sweet, kind and a little mysterious (indeed, in this book he was the only mystery). However, he has been replaced by someone who is aggressive, always frowning and frequently yells at Tris. He used to be so cool, even in a crisis - so what the hell happened? I couldn't even begin to believe in a story where the characters had changed so dramatically without logical reason.

Plus, there's also the whopping great fact that *nothing actually happens*. Okay, so let me be honest, I read the

first 300 pages and then I skim-read the rest. So I suppose that it's entirely possible that I missed something really good, it couldn't have saved the novel for me anyway, but I'm just saying that it is possible. In those first 300 pages, though, nothing happens. People sit around talking about their problems and what they should do, Tris repeatedly remembers her parents (I know she's upset, but can't we move on to the current drama?), Tris thinks about Tobias, obsesses about Tobias, worries about Tobias, tries to solve the mystery that is Tobias...

Basically, the first 100 pages go something like:

- Tris and Tobias make out
- Tris thinks about where they should go from here
- Tris and Tobias make out
- Tris and Tobias talk about where they should go from here
- Tris and Tobias make out
- Tris thinks about her parents' deaths
- Tris and Tobias make out

I honestly don't care about their relationship. Maybe I did when I liked their characters, but now I don't even recognise them. It's not even that I doubt Roth has some brilliant ending planned for the third book, it's more that I no longer give a single damn about Tris or Tobias. I didn't even care enough to read this book properly and find out what happens at the end. I think it's clear that this series just died out for me.

Eunice says

4.5 stars

When I first read Divergent, I was awed. I loved it and I really enjoyed it. However there was this small part of me that just cannot acknowledge that this series could be, like most reviews had said, leveled with The Hunger Games. I don't know, there was something I need to see or feel for me to be completely convinced that it is worth comparing to THG or say that it could be as great as THG.

And well, great job Veronica Roth, because Insurgent just had me convinced that this series is indeed f*cking AH-MA-ZING! I was floored! I can certainly say now that this series could be leveled with not just THG but other really great dystopian novels as well.

I was so happy this sequel didn't become a filler book, or that it didn't suffer on the "second-book syndrome" in which most second novels in a trilogy tend to be. I was surprised to realized that throughout the book there were so many things that actually happened, so many discoveries and things learned.

I thoroughly enjoyed the parts where we get a look on each faction. It was fascinating and interesting to see how they work and learn their beliefs and principles and ways of living. I saw the good and the bad in each of them, their issues and flaws and realized how much their world were twisted seeing how it limited their people to have their own individuality.

With her grief over the loss of her parents and her guilt over Will's death, Tris went through an intense emotional roller coaster ride. Her regrets and remorse from what had happened drove her to make thoughtless and careless decisions and actions. Which made me ache for her but also drove me pretty crazy and frustrated me a bit. It was understandable and believable though especially after all that had happened

and obstacles they were still facing. With all those emotional suffering she'd been through she was still an amazing and admirable character, a really brave and strong-willed heroine. In the end she was able to find her way and realized the right things she has to do.

Tobias/Four. I saw a lot of different sides of him in this book. His usual 'cold and aloof' facade he wear most of the time was gone. He showed a lot of emotions in this one and he'd been more open regarding his feelings. I saw a frustrated Four, a vulnerable Four, a regretful Four but also a very loving and caring Four ~~and boy did I fall in love all over again!~~

What I also loved so much in this book was how Tris and Tobias's relationship was handled. It was very real, believable and mature. I love that it showed how it was to have a relationship in a situation were too many obstacles, conflicts, emotional baggages were thrown. It wasn't easy and it wasn't always beautiful. But they were still able to overcome it. The downside of it helped established their relationship into a much stronger and more in depth one. I was touched by them and I just so freaking loved them.

I found myself dumbfounded by the ending. It was mind blowing and I was seriously surprised. It wasn't really a brutal cliffhanger but it was a very good cliffhanger! I wasn't expecting that and it made me so excited for the next book! Overall, Insurgent was a very remarkable and impressive sequel! Once you read it, you'll never have a doubt about his series. I highly recommend it. Book 3, hurry up! :))

This review is also posted at Book Overdose

Teaser:

"He kisses me again, more insistent this time, his hands squeezing my waist. His breaths, his body, my body, we are so close there is no difference."

karen says

wait, so book three is out soon, right?? RIGHT???

second books are always hard, particularly the middle book of a trilogy. so many times, they just operate as filler - adhering the beginning of a story to its conclusion with unnecessary stickiness. most trilogies should probably just be duologies, you ask me.

there are always exceptions: *the border trilogy*, *chaos walking trilogy* - where the middle book is actually the strongest, and books like kjaerstad's *jonas wergeland trilogy*, where each book is a perfect luminous gem. but usually, the second book will let you down.

and this is NOT a bad book. it's just my expectations were too, too high.

i loved *divergent*. loved it. and that was despite its having one of the more ridiculous premises i have come across in YA fiction. but it didn't affect my enjoyment of the book one bit, because her writing was so remarkable, and the pacing was so blindingly fast, i barely had time to register the silliness. and by the end, when i stopped to think, "wow, there are some ridiculous foundations to that story," it didn't matter at all,

because i had had such a wonderful time reading that book.

this book is a much slower and more deliberate story, with more psychological character development that slows down the pacing just enough to really highlight its weaknesses.

the strengths:

tris is a fantastic character. i really love her. she is tough and foolish and headstrong and capable and athletic without losing her femininity. she is completely believable. and even though she gets lost in her own head for a great deal of this book, and that can be really frustrating, it is also very believable. i mean, with everything that has happened to her and those around her, i think giving her a little me-time to mourn and wallow is completely reasonable. i'm glad that she doesn't just bounce right back after everything, and that it affects her relationship with four and others around her. realism is appreciated.

and her relationship with four is *so* refreshingly real. this is a very mature treatment of a relationship that isn't blinded by neediness or delusions of the others' perfection. i was really touched by them, if you want to know the truth. they each have their own shit going on, and a lot of this book finds them dealing with that shit independently, but they keep believing in each other and the strength of their bond. i love his expectations of her. he never tries to shield her or protect her because she is such a capable character, even with all her human frailties. she never needs to be put in a corner, even when she doubts herself.

my biggest problem was just, again, the factions. i thought they were silly in the first book - these very limiting designations where everyone is one of five ways with very little deviation. silly. this one just made it a little sillier, with people leaving factions and going undercover into other factions, and blending with other factions in sanctuary, and i just got a little muddled trying to remember who is wearing what color and what that means and who is double-crossing and wearing a disguise and no one can tell because they are wearing red, so everything else is overlooked...i found it hard to believe in the built world, even though she manages to give enough details that it can be accepted as "their world, not our world." suspend your disbelief, and you should be fine.

you should read this book. you know you want to. just know that it is a more meditative volume. there is plenty of action (oh, boy, is there ever!), but overall, it is a more sedate and in-depth study of tris' world, and the way it affects the populace.

read it for tris, if nothing else.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

OMG! That ending! Well, now I'm going to have to binge the next two books along with some other books I'm reading so I will probably fade away into the mist somewhere!

I loved this book a lot more than the first book. I'm seriously going to read that one again at some point because I think something was just off with me. I really think I had watched the movie so many times that it felt like I was kinda watching it again only not watching it and it was weird. Who knows!!!

Movin' on . . .

This book had a lot more going on and someone I really liked died. Well, a lot few people died in both books I liked but that's the way it goes.

I'm going to have a hard time with the next books because I saw someone's spoiler about what happens to someone so that was a bummer. But, I'm going to get through it.

So all of these factions are against each other now with all of the stuff that went down in the first book. Well, some are getting together to go against other ones. I can't keep up with them all. I just know that I like Abnegation and I do like the good Dauntless people. Oh, and the Amity people.

It turns out Tobias is a very important man because of his parents. I still think he's crush worthy =) Not because of his parents, because it just popped in my head. Don't ask.

Tris is going around like some kind of robot. It makes me wonder, I really wonder what is going on with her. I know the Divergent's are different but still, I wonder if something else is going on too.

Caleb, her brother is a twat. I mean one minute he's this and one minute he's that but he's still with them. He's just easy to brain wash.

Watch, I'm going to get to the end of the books and the author is going to say it was all a dream or something weird. NO ONE TELL ME!

And I have to mention that I am in love with these hardback covers. I still had the plastic on the boxed set until I opened them last week and started them so I had no idea. I don't usually like those shiny weird covers, but these are awesome. I don't know if it's a different kind of shiny cover and they are so pretty and big and YES, I WILL JUST ADMIT I HAVE HUGGED AND PETTED THEM SEVERAL TIMES! There, you happy? I love my books, I can't help myself.

On to the next and I'm scared =(
