



Being Amber

Sylvia Ryan

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Jaci Harmon was born a Sapphire, but after she's summoned to receive her final designation, the testing reveals she carries a gene slated for eradication. Within a day, she's sterilized and dumped in the Amber Zone, where the damaged are corralled away from the rest of New Atlanta. Scared and alone, Jaci would rather die than face her future as an Amber.

Born in the Amber Zone, Xander Dimos is a product of a lifetime spent under the oppression of the Repopulation Laws. Decades of suffering have taught the Ambers to make the zone a place where touch, sex, and unconditional acceptance ease the pain of their fate. Jaci has a lot to learn about her new home, and it's Xander's responsibility to guide her through the differences and the dangers safely.

With the simmering undercurrents of sexual chemistry growing between them, and in the midst of discovering the Gov's true motives, Jaci and Xander must overcome his secret and accept their love as undeniable...even if the time allotted to share it is short.

Being Amber Details

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From Reader Review Being Amber for online ebook

Dirty Dayna says

Update: 30 Jan 15

I'll be doing a re-read/buddy read to get ready for book #2 and book #3, since it's been a year!!!!

Buddy Read with my Sassy Sasha!!

3.5 *Fallow Stars*

So I'm sure if you read my reviews my Sasha is my bestest smut loving friend who's as down for reading smutmance like I'm down for naps !

I spent a month reading everything CoHo has written... and she's a great writer but good god did I need some smut and I decided to read this series with my Sashabear.

This is a dystopian book (futuristic) and if you have seen/read the divergent series I feel you will appreciate this novel. I initially received it as one of my very first contest wins –I had to google the word dystopian... it was embarrassing!

There was a terrible flu that knocked out 92% of the world's population which caused the Gov to create population laws. When you come of age you take a series of tests such as intelligence and gene testing . Our main character Jaci is facing her test results. She grew up in the ruling class and has dreams of being tested as a diamond. What Jaci doesn't know is she has scleroderma (dangit had to google that too!!), it is an autoimmune disease that hardens your skin)

SO instead of Jaci moving up in classes she is sent all the way to become an Amber and to make things worse the move is immediate and she has to get sterilized because she is no longer desirable to produce her allotted one child.

Classes:

- The Diamonds -the elites
- The Emeralds - the ruling class
- The Sapphires - the upper middle class
- The Ambers – scum/undesireables class

Jaci arrives in the Amber zone and is sterilized and immediately tries to overdose on her pain killers from her sterilization because she can no longer have a baby or be with her family and friends.

She is also assigned a job and is required to work 20 hours a week.

In the Amber zone every male lives with a female first in Dorm style apartments and then when they find a lover they can move out of circle city and out to the suburbs. Normally your opposite sex partner is just your protector/best friend/cuddle buddy and it is a common practice. Also sex and touching is free game all the time in this zone.

You want a threesome? ..leave the door open

You want to cuddle with a stranger ...walk in the open door

You want to touch people as they walk ...go for it.

So, do the men take advantage of this touching thing? You know, sexually? I mean how do you know if a man is touching you because he likes you or just because its what everybody does?

Jaci is getting better every day and accepting her new life but she struggles really bad and our sexy male character Xander

Gives her oral sex from beyond amazing.. I basically yelled at Sasha to read Chapter 7/8 haha.

In my defense theres a little hot siren named Sasha in this book and shes the leather to my lace. Whos always down for some hot Xander action they are benefriends... and I feel like me and Sasha are benefriends...no homo?? Small amount of homo!

The main story is that someone is killing fallows (people who come from upper class and get deemed Ambers) and Xander (a cop) is destined to find out who and why...but what Jaci doesn't know is she is actually his case...and all she knows is she met this hot guy and well is in love with him all immediate like So what do you do when everything seems to be a lie? What do you do when your parents forget about you? Where do you go when you don't belong?

This book has non-sex, a murder, a kidnapping , political torture but the heroine actually improves at the end and becomes stronger!

I am not less of a woman, less of a lover because I got knocked around. If I let that happen, ive given them the power to destroy my life, to taint our love.

Im ready for the next book! I still feel the same about this book a year later so yay!

Review dated : 19 Jan 14

I got an ARC COPY!!!!!! Yes yes yes ! Sylvia Ryan thank you for blessing me with this book!

I entered a contest with NO IDEA what sexy story to read as a Dystopia category book! Lucky for me I WON and I saw so many people read this as their selection with no bad comments (and I know why)

An elite has fallen and become an Amber in a world where amber is the worst color to be and Jaci is even forced to be sterilized due to a genetic problem. She immediately feels she has lost everything and tries to kill herself by overdose but Xander steps in and saves her life.

** im sitting here waiting for them to be like JUST KIDDING come back to the Elite (Sapphires)

Whats so good about being an Amber.. the supposed scum of mankind? TOUCHING!!! Touching is legal!

PAUSE... holy tear shed at the beginning Sylvia makes you completely relate to Jaci and I really felt like I was Jaci with the amazing writing!

“How do you know if a man is touching you because he likes you or because he can?” –“now that’s the question”

“he would of liked too know who she truly was before she was forced to become the person she is “ (omg this phrase is so touching)

In the Amber world no one is paid money and everyone works 20 hours per week with whatever job they want no one is given any more credits than another. All basics are provided all extras or luxuries are bought with credits.

“They were a still life, the jaded and the lost making a connection, tryingto make ytheir lives less brutal, helping eachother survive”

“that was the best not sex, sex I have ever had”

The fact was the sex scenes had me biting my lip the “love/romance” came out of left field for me.

I really want to know what Xanders disqualifier is !!!!
(p.s. this is only BOOK 1!!!)

? BookAddict 🖋️ La Crimson Femme says

BUY THIS BOOK NOW! How does an author create utopia in a dystopic world? Enter the Amber Zone. This book blew my mind. It's the type of story which really appeals to me. The components with the dash of kink made this a highly enjoyable read.

In this world, there are different classes of people in the former United States. It's based on...genetics. The discrimination against those who have "defective DNA" in this book is horrifying. It's horrifying because it's very easy to see a world turn into this way. This speculative fiction plays on my end time fears. It also brings in a slightly political message about the 2nd amendment. All I know is, no one is confiscating my guns.

Being Amber kicks off a series which captures my full attention. It shows how cruel humans can be yet at the same time, it is balanced by the kindness of humans. This dichotomy is beautiful because it showcases the good, bad and ugly of societies. I really admire how Ms. Ryan carefully juxtaposes hatred with sexual freedom. The contrasts between the societal classes is jarring. The world building in here is just enough to have a person see a good picture of this post-epidemic life. The designations of Diamond, Emerald, Sapphire, Amber and Onyx are fascinating. Hopefully in the next book, these are better defined and the reader is exposed to more of these societies. The theme is similar to In Time. The different zones and how the haves and have-nots are about all that's similar.

What really makes it for me in this book is the theme of hope. Not all is lost. That which is discarded is not unwanted by others. I love this kind of message in a book. To add some kinky flogging with it, I'm in high heaven. While this book isn't really BDSM classification, it does involve a little kinky therapy which enhances the book for me. This book is **highly** recommended to erotic readers who enjoy speculative fiction.

** Provided by the author for a review.*

Malinda says

3.5-4 stars

This was a pretty good story. I liked all the characters and the story line is interesting. This is the first thing I've read by this author and I do plan to read more of her work in the future.

This story takes place in a world where a deadly influenza has killed most of the inhabitants of Earth. 3 cities were rebuilt by the US Gov afterwards and re-population restrictions were put in to place by the Gov to control what gets passed on, including sterilizing citizens that have genes carrying certain diseases. The sterilized are sent to the Amber Zone, where they don't control much in their life but try to make the best of it and find pleasure where they can.

Jaci is from the Sapphire Zone of New Atlanta. She goes to get her "classification" testing done and finds out that she has a gene that is on the list that will get her sterilized and sent to the Amber Zone. Since her dreams in life were to have a baby and become a teacher, Jaci feels like her life has been ripped away. She is shipped immediately to the Amber Zone without even being able to go home to say goodbye to her family first. She goes where she's assigned but is numb and lost.

Xander was born in the Amber Zone. He works as a cop and is a good guy but for certain reasons he holds himself back from personal relationships with women, keeping everything on a Benefriend (Amber speak for friends with benefits) basis but never deeper. He's assigned on a case where fallows (women that have been sterilized and sent to the Amber Zone from other Zones) are being murdered but made to look like suicides. Xander finds out a new fallow (Jaci) has just been transferred in and was assigned as his new roommate.

In the Amber Zone, single person living assignments are a man and a woman in a small apartment with 1 bed. The people in the Amber Zone are very touchy/feely and although they're very open about sex and it happens frequently, sleeping together or touching is sometimes done for comfort and not sex. The men usually see their roommates as a sister as the two of them now become what's considered "family" in the Amber Zone. Because of this expectation of a roommate relationship, Xander is worried about Jaci, knowing she'll be feeling low after what she's gone through and feeling it's his duty to take care of her. His worries were not unfounded and she was in bad shape when he found her. Through a lot of TLC from women in the building and Xander, Jaci does manage to get back on her feet. Unfortunately, because of the issues she's already dealing with, Xander and the other cops that are watching her to make sure she's safe from the killer, decide to keep things from her. Jaci does recover and starts to assimilate in to her new life. She is attracted to Xander and quickly finds herself becoming attached to him as more than just a big brother figure but he only seems to see her as a friend/sister and shuts her down when she tries for anything further. When she ends up finding out about her being the focus of a case she's upset, thinking that they've all been acting nice to her only because of that and that she really didn't have anyone after all. She heads home to confront Xander, only to find him in the arms of another woman telling her he loves her. Not realizing that it's not what it seems, Jaci leaves thinking even worse things about Xander and the rest of them.

Jaci manages to stay off the radar for a bit and has Xander and his team in a tizzy. After a couple days, she's scheduled to work so she shows back up and there's a confrontation between her and Xander. Things aren't good between them and she doesn't know what to do about her situation and things seem kind of hopeless but she's determined to soldier on. Then the unexpected happens and the killer strikes, killing someone else and kidnapping Jaci. Jaci manages to get back home and things get settled by the Gov (but in a totally messed up way). Things seem ok for the moment and Jaci and Xander finally have time to talk. Xander admits he realizes he's been an idiot and explains his reasons but since he's jerked Jaci around a few different times and hurt her badly, she's hesitant about trusting him again. Xander is all about convincing her when trouble shows up again in the form of the Gov. There is much drama and Jaci goes through some major crap. There's so much crap that some people among the Amber residents start looking at ways to take on the Gov to start getting their rights back. It looks to be interesting times as the series continues. Eventually things are settled enough that Jaci is returned (if very battered and bruised) and she recovers. Jaci and Xander reunite happily and start their HEA.

I thought this story was pretty enjoyable. I liked both Jaci and Xander but there were times when I wondered what the hell they were thinking (then I guess love makes fools of us all). Fair warning, Xander holds off from him and Jaci being together for the first 3/4ths of the book. There is sex in the book before then but it's them with other partners or other couples all together. No actual cheating once they're together but fair warning if you're not much on the MCs having sex with others. I don't like that usually myself but it wasn't too bad in this book. The story was very interesting and I like the way the series story line is heading so I'm

planning to read book #2 Being Sapphire. I'd recommend this book. :)

Rissa (an M/M kinda Girl!!) says

This book screams everything that I stay away from...Drippy vaginas & New World building. I decided to put those issues aside and I got an advanced copy from the author in return for an Honest review.

I enjoyed this book very much. We were given the info on how this 'New Atlanta' came about, why, how it works all without the information being forced upon us. Instead it played right into the story and it read really well. Xander not only has the coolest name EVER, he was a take no shit Alpha and I love that in my guys! (Rock has peaked my interest and I really hope we'll get to see more of him down the road) This story had a bit of everything suspense, kink, menage, f/f stuff (which I coulda lived without but a little bleach will take care of those images!) and originality. I never really knew what was gonna happen next and that did keep me turning the pages faster and faster!

I look forward to sticking with this series in the future.

Christina T says

The Dystopian theme of this book really spoke to me. The world building was interesting and kept my interest throughout the book.

The Good Stuff: In the near future, when an influenza pandemic breaks out killing over 90% of the world's population our governments decided it was imperative they repopulate with only "perfect" specimens. Why is this good? Well, it's not but the world building surrounding this fact was actually really good. The government tests all humans as they become of age and determine if their genetic makeup is good enough to breed. If so they are designated an upper class. However, if they find a defective genetic marker the citizen is sterilized and designated Amber. This idea is truly terrifying. In addition to the Gov looking for potential unwanted genes, if you're IQ is low, you also get the boot to Amber. I have to really hand it to the author, she sucked me in to her world and I enjoyed learning about it. I also liked how she incorporated touching and comforting into the Amber world.

The Bad Stuff: Being an erotic romance there is quite a bit of sex. Now, erotica is not a favorite genre of mine and I don't read much of it but I didn't hate the sexual aspect of this book. However, the first sex scene happens rather quickly after we learn about Jaci's testing and subsequential fall to Amber so it feels completely out of place and it felt like I ran head long into a brick wall. Just a note, Jaci is not involved in the scene. In addition, the scene was a ménages à trois m/f/m and the author makes it a point to say that both men were for the female's pleasure as being gay and having gay sex were against the law. However, this apparently doesn't include sex between two women as this happens later in the book. This inconsistency really bugged me. Jaci's character was also not a great aspect of this book as she pulls several TSTL moments in a world she really knew nothing about.

The Stuff That Could Have Been Better: The mystery surrounding who was killing the fallows (those who were sterilized by the government) could have been fantastic. Unfortunately it took a back seat to an unbelievable romance that happened over an extremely short time. When the murderer was unveiled it was interesting but felt sudden and the reasons behind the murders are never fully explained. In addition, the fact that the Amber Zone is full of genetically unacceptable people and those with lowered IQs it made it seem really weird that the apartment building Jaci was assigned to was full of open door orgies. Where's all the creepy mutants? Wish this would have been explained better.

In a Nutshell: Despite the less than satisfying stuff I really did like the world Sylvia Ryan created and will probably read more in this series.

Heather in FL says

Probably closer to 4-1/2, not quite perfect, but this was a really intriguing story. I found myself thinking about the characters when I wasn't reading it. Contemplating their situation.

This is the year 2075, 25 years after a worldwide flu pandemic wiped out 92% of the population. When the US Government pulled the country up by the bootstraps, they noticed that some traits, like blond hair or blue eyes, were on the verge of disappearing, so they instituted genetic testing to split the survivors into three groups based on their intelligence or desirable traits, things like that. It was almost a caste system, where you can't really move up, but you can move down if you're tested and they find something undesirable about you. That's what's happened to Jaci. She goes to get tested, they find she carries a gene for a disease, and she is immediately dropped to Amber (the lowest caste) and shipped off to the Amber zone. No saying goodbye to family. No gathering belongings. Just put on a transport and shipped to Amber. Her first morning was spent being sterilized, because the Gov wouldn't want new Ambers procreating and possibly perpetuating that nasty gene. If you were born and raised Amber, however, you could have one child before sterilization. I wanted to cry for Jaci so many times in the beginning! Then my sadness turned to Xander. So much angst for both of them!

So here is Jaci. Completely on her own. She spent her first night in her new apartment by herself. She knew she had a roommate, but had no idea who it was, and he didn't show up until the next day. She was a bit surprised to find it was a guy. But that's what happens with single people in Amber -- women are paired with men and the idea is for it to be like instant family, the big brother you never had. A man to protect the woman, provide comfort, etc. But Jaci is attracted to Xander. And Xander is fighting his own reaction to Jaci really hard and hurting her in the process. Not that these living arrangements don't ever end up in marriage, but Xander has his own issues and promised himself he'd never fall in love. Funny how love doesn't always listen to declarations like that.

So Jaci has to learn to live as an Amber now, and Amber life is much different from Sapphire. Ambers are very much in tune with their sexual sides. And they're very touchy-feely, which Jaci isn't used to. She has to get used to that pretty quickly. She's a bit taken aback by their laid back attitudes about sex and group sex. It's not unusual to walk down a hallway, see an open door, look inside, and see an all out orgy going on. And you can join in if you want! Very laid back attitudes, lol.

Besides learning to live as an Amber, unbeknownst to Jaci, someone's been killing "fallows" -- women

whose rank have been lowered and were forcibly sterilized. As if the sterilization wasn't humiliation and torture enough? And Xander is one of many who have been assigned to make sure Jaci stays alive.

I don't think I can truly summarize this book and (a) do it justice or (b) get it all in without giving too much away. I will say that this was a great start to the series -- it better be the start of a series because there were some unanswered questions at the end. There is an epilogue (bittersweet) on Ms. Ryan's site. But this was such a compelling story. I wanted to know what would happen next. And while there were some sexy times in the story, it was mostly about Jaci getting used to life as an Amber and Xander realizing love doesn't stay away just because you tell it to. Add in a nice conspiracy and some suspense for a nice, well-rounded story. I really look forward to the next one to see where the story goes. I'm also hoping there's an HEA for one of the characters in this one. My heart broke for him as well.

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. These are my own impressions, and if I didn't like it, I'd tell you so!

Sasha elle a.k.a. Mrs. Liam Callahan! says

3.5 we shall save the Nutella jars from the epidemic

So you can tell where this is going. Me and my girl dayana decided awhile back that we should do a buddy read and knowing me I was like fuck yes! After back and forth messages for a week we finally started being amber though she had already read it, I'm sorry dayana I took me so long to save you from the asshat heroine who's been pissing you off but it's All good now. Behold gif fest:

Dayana:

Me:

Dayana:

Me:

Dayana:

Me:

Dayana:

Me:

Dayana:

Me:

Dayana:

Me:

Dayana:

In the end us:

Right moving on the story takes place in 2025 and things aren't shitting rainbows like they should, an epidemic of influenza has broken throughout the world and the human race is nearly wiped out I'm talking 92% wiped out.

•Funny I have a flu

With the human race in danger guess whose gonna fuck them up pum pum pum THE MOTHERFUCKING HUMAN RACE!. Times have changed for the worst from humans being put into groups and creating social and inhuman differences. Those who aren't perfect will be left to rotten and those who get lucky are kept on high pedestals.

things have changed drastically and people are put into groups

- The Diamonds -the elites**
- The Emeralds - the ruling class**
- The Sapphires - the upper middle class**
- The Ambers - the lowest and worst treated class**

Our story is about Jaci Harmon a bought and breed emerald but when she takes the test shes been assigned as an amber, sacred and lost jaci leaves behind her family to the new social degrading life as an amber. hurt and suicidal jaci is about to take the bullet but stops cause someone is her guardian angel

Now this is how you get classified, they take a test like an exam and in that they also check if you have any deficiency or genetic disorder. This all happens because they're trying to regrow the population with "PPERFECT" species, excuse me will I hit something. So turns out jaci has scleroderma which is an autoimmune and a shitty excuse to categorise people for fuck sakes.

Now when jaci gets her verdict she gets STERILISED *groaning* you want to know what sterilised means, well it means that all the women that are dropped from the higher classes to the lower class get Tubal ligation which means they're aren't aloud to have babies

Comes in our hero Xander tall, brooding and just down right swoon worthy, he will protect and love jaci till his last breath or have random three ways, yes people a three motherfucking way. Life in amber is kinda awesome people sleep with their door open, touching is allowed and just randomly take part in three ways

Things go smoothly until shit happens and Ambers are being killed especially the new recruits. Now here is what set me off as much as it was a four star book when the running around and government taking over happened I lost it I just couldn't control my anger, yes they were sexy bits but the death of a character or the brutal shit the gov is planning was just too much for me I mean..... NO.

PEOPLE THREE WAY, too much can be a questionable thing and I'm not big on three ways but eh! It works

Overall I had a fantastic buddy read with my girl dayana and I feel like there's more shit to Come, also this is the second buddy read I'm taking part in well the first one was me just trolling the treads for ruin *it was all for you Antonio*, thank you dayana for making me hate the human race you gem of a friend you.

Dayana review:D

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Poison says

Lets start with the rating for this book. I agonized over 4 stars, and its all Goodreads fault. It doesn't QUITE get to 5 stars for me, but if only we had half stars, I'd go 4.5 stars easily. Since I round down, sadly, Being Amber suffers thru no fault of its own.

This is a dystopian future, after a virus has decimated the world's population. No zombies, for once, but we

do get a new society, with lots of interesting foibles. I loved the classification system, like, really loved it. I'm not generally a fan of post-apocalyptic literature, but this was just so good.

So, the citizen classifications, in order of importance: Diamond, Emerald, Sapphire, Amber. Diamonds are genetic royalty, talented and without any genetic flaws. Emeralds are similar, but without the extreme talent. Sapphires are smart and without genetic illnesses. Ambers are the rest. A genetic flaw, or lack of intelligence, something. A genetic predisposition to illness, as a female, and you are sterilized by the state, so you cannot drag it down with your lines chronic illness.

Our heroine, Jaci, was born a sapphire, but she fails the genetic lottery and is sent away to Amber Zone. This is her story. I am not going to spoil any other part of the plot, but suffice to say, I enjoyed it.

Actually, I thought she handled the change astonishingly well, and I really liked her. Xander, the Hero was also pretty good.

So I liked the characters, I liked the plot, how was the sex? It was pretty good. Pretty gateway, though, so not the sort of material that sets me off into my happy zone. I suspect people into lighter stuff will love it.

****provided by the Author through BDSM group TPE BAR Read2Review****

Jacque says

It's not often I encounter a book that takes me a few days to write a review for. However, I finished Being Amber three days ago and I'm just now sitting down to put my thoughts to paper. Don't get me wrong, I think Being Amber is the best book I have read in months. Author Sylvia Ryan has done an excellent job explaining this Dystopian society. The depth of the characters was incredible. What Jaci had to endure, being ripped from all she knew and sterilized without a choice had me in tears. How Xander understands her needs, and cares for her selflessly astounds me. OK there is explicit sex, and yes there is M/F/M and BDSM, but in a society of the unwanted, sexual encounters are not for self-gratification but instead as a way to ease pain.

The possibility that this could be a future we are destined to exist in is why I find myself reflecting on this story. Never has a book moved me so much that I had to pause and consider could I live in a society such as this. If it wasn't for the explicit sex I would say this would be excellent high school reading along the lines of Orwell and Golding. I doubt that was the intent of the author but each person takes away from a story what moves them the most.

Being Amber was my first foray in reading Dystopia story and I was not disappointed. A job very well done Ms Sylvia Ryan. I applaud you and look forward to reading more from you.

I was provided a copy of the book for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review in any way and the opinions of this review are all mine.

Stars – 5 Flames - 5

Dee says

4 1/2 beautiful stars - rounded up to 5

Approx word count 75,000

Firstly a big thank you to the Author for sending me an ARC of this wonderful story. It was a privilege and pleasure to read.

This story has got it all, mystery and suspense, twists and turns, heartbreak and love! The world and character building was astonishing and drew me right in. The sex scenes are tasteful and steamy. I loved the first M/F/M scene it had an interesting twist that appealed to me personally. There are a couple of BDSM scenes but IMO they are light and should not deter anyone (not into that scene) from reading this story.

This was a near perfect read for me. I could go on and go and on about the plot but don't want to risk spoilers. I urge everyone who enjoys a story with a strong plot and some hot loving to read this story!

Amber Rose says

4.5 stars

Spoiler free

Let me start off by saying I wasn't sure if I would like this book or not. Within the couple of chapters I read glued me in for a amazing ride.

In the future 2050 influenza took out over ninety-two percent of the world population. 2052 what was left in the United States, the government and military started to come with supervised Re population laws. Everyone living under the government rules and control had to be submitted to genetic, psychological, and intelligence testing to determined what type of placement you were going to be placed under.

There are mostly classified as two placements. One is Sapphires. The Sapphires are the higher class where all genetics were perfect. And being an Amber is the lowest of them all and restricted. They were to be found with a genetic problem, their IQ wasn't high enough, or they were to be found unstable.

Jaci has been born and raised as a Sapphires. Now she took her testing to see where she would be placed. Jaci had a great IQ but was found with a genetic disorder. Right after the testing the gov took her to Amber zone. Jaci being scared and not knowing a soul there. She is terrified. Once being placed in the Amber zone Jaci will be living with a roommate and working. Being taken away from what she had grown up to. Jaci wasn't sure what to do.

At the Amber zone everyone will be living with a roommate, which will be a man and female. All the Amber's are very on hands touching each other. Not in a bad way but more this is your family we like to let you know we are here for you.

Jaci has a hard tome coming to terms of being an Amber.

Xander is Jaci's roommate. He has been born in the Amber zone. He is very smart and sweet but also damn right sexy. All the men protect the women. So it's easy for Xander to feel he needs to protect his new roommate and make sure she fits right with everyone and comes to terms of her new home.

Not only is this book brings you into a new come world, but the strength the Amber's have for each other is comforting. There are some hot sexy erotica parts. M/F/M, group sex, toys, and also a little BDSM. What is not to love about that.

This book sucked me in to my very core and didn't want to stop reading it. It brought out so much of the characters that you want to be apart of it. The love for each other, the bond that grows between them will carry with you after you read this. There are sad time and frustrating times where I wanted to yell at them like I was apart of them.

Amazing book. I am looking forward to what else Sylvia Ryan takes me with this story. I hope there is a second one. The story seems to be unfinished so I am guessing there might be.

Thank you so much Sylvia for allowing me to be apart of these characters world. You captured them beautifully.

I received a copy of this book from the Author exchange for an honest review.

Danielle Book Boss says

Sooooo I picked this book up as a freebie and to be honest I don't remember purchasing it at all. Either way there was something about the blurb that said to me, "you might like this". I've been looking for adult dystopians with romance so this could have been a good fit. The premise has potential. A society that has been wiped out by a terrible disease that killed off like 98% of the population. So to rebuild, paranoia ensues and a society is created where everyone is genetically tested in an effort to eradicate diseases in general (of any sort). There are designations and as with many of these books, characters undergo a test and from there we have the adjustment to a new world.

So like I said the premise was good. But once that initial world building is laid out, things go downhill from there. People in the amber zone act a little like shifters do in other books. And other than saying there is a lot of touch and no one understand personal space...it just seems weird. Jaci attempts to commit suicide and a day later is like oh this life is going to be awesome. Her roommate, our hero, finds her and is all like I'm going to protect her from herself...plus I have a hard on. It was just plain weird. I'm sitting here reading like dude, this girl clearly has some mental and emotional issues that she needs to overcome and you are all "the things I'm gonna do to her". Gross and turned me completely off from this book.

Things don't move much beyond that. There are some menage scenes - our hero and his friend actually have one in the second chapter - at the end of the day this is an erotica with a macho male who has BDSM leanings set in a dystopian world.

Wai says

Eugenics. The science of improving stock and plays an important role in animals. But apply it to humans and wars have been fought over it. But this is the dystopian future that Sylvia Ryan creates in *Being Amber*. In the near future a particularly virulent disease has wiped out a large portion of the population. By the time it's over the surviving government, in an effort to preserve certain 'strains' in humanity, such as blonde hair, and at the same time ensure that genetic defects are eliminated have instituted repopulation laws.

In Atlanta, one of the few remaining cities in the US, there are three designations that a person can be assigned. Those who are deemed acceptable in that they are intelligent and have no genetic disqualifiers are Emeralds. The crème de la crème are sapphires. But should anyone be found to have faulty genome or other undesirable trait that the 'Gov' do not want to be reproduced, they become Amber and are segregated into their own zone and sterilised.

This is what happens to Jaci, a young lady who is removed from her family, home and life in the Emerald section and becomes an Amber due to a genetic fault that she had no idea that she had. Being sterilised, she's known as a 'fallow' and because of this, is honoured amongst those in the Amber zone, an honour that has come about as a coping and support mechanism. Unfortunately for Jaci, there is someone killing fallows. One of Amber's own.

Other support mechanisms that have sprouted up as part of being an Amber. Nobody lives alone and single people are assigned a live in companion with whom they share a bed. Physical contact has also become very important to these people and as a result, Ambers are well versed in each other's bodies and make incredible lovers.

This brings me on to the sex. *Being Amber* is a highly erotic book. Sex isn't the focus of the book; that belongs to the great characters and plot but when it happens, the sex is very hot involving toys, light BDSM, F/F and group play. It's also natural when it happens and is very much part of the story. There is sometimes nothing worse than an out of place sex scene regardless of how steamy it is. It's telling how good the characterisation is when the death of one character and the betrayal of another affects me as a reader.

It's apparent that I enjoyed this so why only the four stars? That comes down to Jaci's live in companion; Xander. He's a policeman for the Ambers and is keeping a close watch on Jaci whilst investigating the fallow murders along with several others. For approximately three quarters of the book he's also a dick, in my opinion. At a time when Jaci needs support and honesty from the people closest to her in her new life, he comes up short. A reason is given as to why but it seems more like an excuse to me.

One final point and that is there is epilogue to *Being Amber* on the author's site at <http://www.ryanbooks.net/> which I found to be bittersweet. This may or may not spoil the enjoyment of the ending of *Being Amber*. Given that I don't normally read dystopian stories because I like my future to be all shiny and rosy, I'm glad that this was recommended and will be awaiting the next book in the New Atlanta series; *Being Sapphire* due in 2014.

Wicked Nyx says

Let me start off with a big warning that you will need tissues reading this book. If you don't need tissues then

you are a cold-hearted bitch (or possibly a Cylon).

Ok, now that that is out of the way, let me tell you why this book was amazing.

To start with, the world-building was excellent! The prologue and introduction as well as the descriptions throughout the book are rich and complete, allowing the reader to "see" this New Atlanta in living technicolor.

The characterization of the "Gov" and the society of this new world was not eased into. The reader is tossed right into the deep end from the get-go with the knowledge that Jaci is sterilized because of the possibility that she might pass unfavorable genetics on to any progeny she might have. Jaci's introduction to her new Amber status was painful and tearing, and that trauma stays with the reader as sort of a low-level hum through the rest of the book.

Xander is assigned as Jaci's roommate - sort of a male partner to form a (not necessarily sexual) family with. He is a generational Amber, in that he was born to Amber parents and grew up in the Amber Zone. He has some traumas of his own, but immediately feels his responsibility to not just help Jaci adjust, but to survive all that she has been through since reassignment to Amber. He takes a lot onto his shoulders, and through the book comes more and more into his own sense of self.

The open sexuality of the Amber world of Circle City was done quite well, without any sort of gritty or red-light feel to it. There is quite a bit of sexual activity in the book, however the combinations are varied and give needed insight into the characters that are involved.

Speaking of characters, regardless if they are main or secondary, the characters all felt real and human. I love books that have flawed characters that aren't broken or angsty and this book delivers. They are multi-dimensional and interesting and the reader is invested in learning more about them in upcoming books.

Let me be clear though, this is **not** a happy book. There are moments of joy and happiness, but we are talking about a completely oppressed population. They have adapted to make their lives as enjoyable as they can, but when you come down to it, there is a pall over their lives. They may not talk about it or dwell on it, but it is present in every bit of their lives.

The dystopian theme is a favorite of mine, and it is done well here. The real terror both in fiction and in life is not the monster in the closet or under the bed, it is the evil that wears a human face that you interact with every day. Those are the monsters that invoke true fear because unlike fairy tale creatures, human monsters are very real. Fairy Tale monsters can be stopped by sunlight or silver bullets or cold iron, human monsters are much more difficult to find and to stop because their motivations for evil vary so widely and they can hide in plain sight, blending right in with their prey.

I loved this book and read it straight through in one sitting, but I did have to take a few little breaks to catch my breath. I am thrilled that there will be more to come, and am looking forward to every step of the journey - even the painful ones.

warning...(view spoiler)

Shurn says

*****I was gifted with a copy of this book from the author as part of the following promotion*****
