



## Extraction

*Stephanie Diaz*

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## **Extraction** Stephanie Diaz

*"Welcome to Extraction testing."*

Clementine has spent her whole life preparing for her sixteenth birthday, when she'll be tested for Extraction in the hopes of being sent from the planet Kiel's toxic Surface to the much safer Core, where people live without fear or starvation. When she proves promising enough to be "Extracted," she must leave without Logan, the boy she loves. Torn apart from her only sense of family, Clem promises to come back and save him from brutal Surface life.

What she finds initially in the Core is a utopia compared to the Surface—it's free of hard labor, gun-wielding officials, and the moon's lethal acid. But life is anything but safe, and Clementine learns that the planet's leaders are planning to exterminate Surface dwellers—and that means Logan, too.

Trapped by the steel walls of the underground and the lies that keep her safe, Clementine must find a way to escape and rescue Logan and the rest of the planet. But the planet leaders don't want her running—they want her subdued.

With intense action scenes and a cast of unforgettable characters, *Extraction* is a page-turning, gripping read, sure to entertain lovers of *Hunger Games* and *Ender's Game* and leave them breathless for more.

## Extraction Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2014 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN : 9781250041173

Author : Stephanie Diaz

Format : Hardcover 406 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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# From Reader Review Extraction for online ebook

## Shelley says

\*Source\* Library

\*Genre\* Young Adult / Science Fiction

\*Rating\* 3.5

\*Thoughts\*

Extraction is the first installment in the Extraction trilogy by author Stephanie Diaz. This is a story that takes place on a planet known as Kiel, not to be mistaken for the German port city of Kiel. Kiel is a planet that has a shield surrounding the planet to keep acid from a nearby moon from leaking through and killing everyone in its path. It is why the upper class fled underground where they are safe. In this world, ten sixteen-year-olds with the highest Promise will be Extracted away from the brutal camps that most of the surface kids find themselves living in.

\*Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

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## Zoe says

So, *Extraction*, eh? Not really. More like:

I may not be the biggest fan of Divergent, but I am a huge supporter of originality in stories, and I can't say that *Extraction* had any. The similarities between the two books are almost hard *not* to notice, which is unfortunate because you end up becoming distant from the characters and story, and instead focus all your effort on noticing the similarities the two books have, including:

- the use of serums (the government in *Extraction* basically has a peace serum exactly like the Amity do in Divergent), and the fact that some people are not able to be subdued by the serum ("Divergence")
- the concept of having to be a good fighter to become a member of society
- the personalities of both Tris and Clementine and the similarities between them
- Sam = Eric; Four = Beechy; Oliver = Al; Ariadne = Christina

Anyhow, *Extraction* follows a futuristic society that has somehow managed to find another life-supporting

planet. Once they arrive, however, they discover that the surface of the planet is covered with a toxic gas. Scientists are able to shield the surface off - but everyone knows the shield won't last forever, so every year 14 of the planet's most intelligent and resourceful teenagers are taken to live safely in the planet's acid-free core in hope of eventually finding a safer planet and populating it.

Our protagonist, 16-year-old Clementine, is shocked when she finds out she is one of the "Extracted" teenagers being taken to the safety of the core - even though it means she'll have to leave her boyfriend Logan behind. However, upon arriving in the Core, she soon discovers that her planet is not as idyllic as it appears, and that if she doesn't find a way to stop it, everyone on the surface will be killed.

Clementine was likeable enough, but I didn't feel she was especially unique compared to other dystopian protagonists. She didn't really leave much of an impression on me, but I admired her inner strength and will to fight for what she thought was right.

All in all, even though this wasn't a very original story, I still found myself mildly entertained throughout despite the flaws.

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## Debby says

### 1 star

You know, I'm one of those people who has a love-hate affair with the dystopian genre. I love the possibilities, and the nostalgia about all the good series there have been in the past. So even when I'm disappointed, I keep coming back and giving it more chances. However, the more I read, the harder and harder it is to impress me. And sadly, *Extraction* failed to impress me on any front.

Let's break down the premise of *Extraction* and look at its influences.

- Extraction takes place in a world where the moon is poisonous. It's dripping acid onto the planet, which makes it **unsafe to live on the Surface**. In fact, there is only one settlement left on the Surface, which is protected by an acid shield. (*Under the Never Sky*)

- In this society, people are **divided into communities based on their class** (or "Promise"). The lower class live in different layers of the planet - Surface, Crust, Mantle, and Lower - and the elite live in the Core. They live privileged lives with plenty of food, resources, and opportunities while the lower classes are basically starving. (*The Hunger Games*)

- The people on the Surface are generally the lowest of the low. They work in work camps, like slaves, and **population control** is being enforced to prevent rebellions, as there have been in the past. Indeed, if people do not show enough Promise they are resolutely executed by max age 20. (*The Hunger Games* / *Dualed*)

- So what is Promise, you ask? Basically a measure of intelligence, strength, and obedience. People take an **aptitude test** for it when they turn 16. If they score well enough, and thus are "Promising", they are "Extracted", and get to live in the elite Core and survive past age 20. (*Divergent* / *The Testing* / *Pawn*)

- If they do not show enough Promise, they will be forced to work to the death in the work camps and have children to **sustain the population** (while they are age 16-20). Indeed no one in this society actually knows

who their parents are (except for privileged families in the Core). (The Chemical Garden)

- The MC, Clementine, has a significant other on the Surface (although they've never really established their relationship out of fear), but he did not test as Promising in his year. When she passes the test, **she has to leave him behind**, which is awful. They have a dramatic goodbye. (The Hunger Games / Pawn)

- When she gets to the Core, (view spoiler) (Dualed)

- And after this first test as new citizens of the Core, the Extractions are **cleansed of physical imperfections** and surgically altered to improve muscle mass, after which they are put into a **rigid training program**, featuring obstacle courses, simulated battles, and intelligence tests. (view spoiler) (The Hunger Games / Divergent)

Now that might all be a bit overwhelming, but let me be clear on one thing: the story does deviate and gain some sense of originality AFTER all of this. You just have to sit through the first **half** of the book, being smacked upside the head with all these parallels, but then you're good! Sadly, the "original" plot also failed to impress me. I will say that this is more of a sci-fi dystopia than I was expecting, so in some sense that did surprise me in a positive way. However, I felt many of the plot twists were still extremely predictable. The world building seemed pretty implausible to me (which is sad, considering dystopias are most effective when you can in fact imagine them happening in real life), and the plot resolutions were oftentimes way too simplistic (i.e. the MC has to cut a wire to disable a system - conveniently this one wire, amongst thousands, is the only silver one). Action sequences were bizarre and confusing (i.e. MC is being attacked, in the middle of a battle with guns and lasers, but her ally pulls the guy off her - doesn't shoot him but says she'll distract him??), and the MC was just magically gifted whenever necessary to the plot (i.e. she climbed a building exactly ONE time, and later claims that climbing - that's the thing she excels at).

But more than anything, because of the slow build up to an actual plot, I just couldn't bring myself to care about any aspect of this book. I didn't care about the main character, whose nondescript personality is... exactly that. I really didn't care about her romance with Logan, because having a relationship already established before the book begins just never works for me. I had exactly zero feels reading kissing scenes between them. ZERO. And I like to feel things. And the other characters are practically cardboard placeholders fulfilling necessary roles in the story. I just... I don't know. It didn't work for me.

### ***Summing Up:***

I keep thinking the next dystopia I pick up will prove me wrong but... it's not *Extraction*, that's for sure. The story lacked in originality, interesting characters, and an engaging storyline. It pretty much put me to sleep. Three times. And made me put off reading it for almost a week. And that's just sad. I'd recommend you pass on this one.

### ***GIF it to me straight!***

\*eARC was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the contents of the review.

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### **Liviania says**

In the world of Kiel, people from the Surface are tested on their sixteenth birthdays to see whether they are worthy of living in the Core. Maybe five people are picked per year. Clementine is determined to make it, and to do well enough to convince the Core people to change their mind about Logan, her brilliant and strong boyfriend who happens to be disabled. When she does make it to the Core, it is a struggle to fit in and excel. Especially because the Core sees the Surface as an enemy, still.

I have to give it to Stephanie Diaz. She does a good job of making the division between the Core, Surface, and other layers seem plausible. The Surface people did revolt, and lost hard. They're all killed off before they turn twenty, and a population of mostly children doesn't have much potential military force. There's an acid rain that plagues the surface and also keeps them from becoming upwardly mobile.

EXTRACTION definitely has some narrative influence from the dystopian trend. However, it does slot more into the rising science fiction trend as the story goes on. There is much more to Clementine's world than there initially appears to be. EXTRACTION also avoids the dreaded love triangle. Any gestures towards it are mere feints, and the boy who would usually be the other leg of the triangle is not a mysterious bad boy but a petty, cruel villain with the merest shade of sympathetic backstory.

I thoroughly enjoyed EXTRACTION, even with the brutality of life on the Surface and the boot camp in the Core. The romance between Logan and Clementine is both sweet and strong, two people who love each other deeply and have each other's backs. I like that their love story was allowed to stand on its own.

And for those who aren't sold, I have one word: aliens.

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### **Brittany (Brittany's Book Rambles) says**

I have had a hard time deciding how to review this book. I really wanted to like it but there were so many factors that prevented me from just that. There were a lot of details that were so similar to other YA books I have read such as Divergent and a bit of The Hunger Games. Aside from that, Clementine (our main character) is in this all-or-nothing world where you either get "Extracted" and you get to live the good life or you fail and are forced to work as a slave until the government decides you are worthless and kills you via gas chamber at the age of 20. That sounds extreme and like something that should make you feel terrible, right? Yet somehow I didn't feel anything. I felt like I was being told to feel things. In theory, I could understand how things were terrible or sad, or both, but the way it's written didn't evoke those feelings from me naturally.

To see my full review go to my blog here. There are some spoilers though, so beware.

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### **Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says**

You can also read my review here and **ENTER THE GIVEAWAY**.

I don't like book comparing. Loathed it, actually. It brings false expectations and angry readers with raging disappointments. I must admit, I did compare Extraction from Divergent, from a lot of dystopia books that I've ever read even. How can I not? The blurb already did it for us. And as I finished it, I was completely torn. It's not what I'm hoping for, but I wasn't disappointed either. Am I the only one who ever had this feeling?

Extracted started pretty slow for me but I just realized that this is a first book in a series therefore all information might be necessary. To be completely honest, Extraction is pretty hard for me to review. There's just a lot of conflicting issues for me. It's a case of "ugh-i hate-this but i-also-love-that." I know, it doesn't make sense. But to be fair, Dystopia isn't really my cup of tea. I tend to DNF them a lot. So because I'm still a little confuse, I'll just break it down to my Cons and Pros.

CONS:

1. Similarities - I can't help it. It's there. I am not saying that the story is carbon copy, **NO**. But where the book got it's influence is soooo obvious. Like you can really know who and what did the author used for inspiration.
2. Love Triangle threatening - (lol, yes this is a thing) There are some scenes like I feel like it's going there.. That somehow even though the romance is wonderful already, there will be a love triangle in the sequel. So I'm really pleading that it doesn't happen. The romance isn't perfect and I think it needs a lot of emotional development, but as I said above, it's already wonderful.

Pros:

1. Original and fascinating setting. I don't even know what my face looks like when Clementine is describing her world.

It's so cool. I've never encountered this kind of world before. It's mesmerizing and terrifying and I LOVE IT.

2. Likeable heroine. I've seen reviews and there's a lot of Clementine hate going on. And I honestly understand their points but we have to consider that Clem is just 16. And personally, her response to the things that she's been going through is pretty normal and convincing.

3. Slow building romance. Okay, it needs a lot of emotional development. A lot. And Logan is pretty much not in the picture most of the time so I am really hoping that we see so much of him in the next booksss. He's an interesting and swoon worthy love interest.

I dont want to spoil anyone so I'll wrap up this review. I'm keeping it short because I think this book needs to be read without anyone affecting their opinion of the book. Do I recommend this? YES. And I want to know what you think. Will I read the sequel? YES. The last few chapters are intense and Logan is on the picture again... so.... All in all, Extraction is a pleasant read for me. It's not *like that book*, it can definitely stand on its own. Stephanie Diaz gained a new fan right here. \*waves\*

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## **Anthony says**

I did see some similarities between this book and Divergent, but I liked how Extraction did it better than Divergent. So, it actually had a few steps up.

And to say this book was like Divergent would be a gross over statement, anyway. The plot lines were very different--a few plot development similarities aren't near enough to equate one book with another.

I'm not a huge fan of hardcore sci-fi, and I think this could be classified as such, but it was tastefully done. There was some weird sci-fi stuff, but the main plot was close enough to what I know for me not to mind at all.

The writing was excellent and I found myself trapped in the story from the very beginning. The author did a great job of convincing me of Clementine's and Logan's love, even though Logan wasn't in it that much--which is quite a feat. So the character development was very good. The plot itself was also excellent, and well paced and well developed.

And the end of the book...well...that was quite a ride. I thought the climax was superbly done...

A great read. I'd recommend it to anyone.

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## **Stuti (Turmeric isn't your friend. It will fly your ship says**

Let's get on with already. I've been staring at the blank screen for almost an hourrrr now for something snazz-tastic to come up and beg me, but na-nana-na-nah! I won't just give in, because the more it pleads, the sweeter the taking. Yeah, noooooo... I don't what I am smoking. I think it's the air; recently, it's been begetting these things in me: sneezes, struggles to breathe, dizziness, lapses in my remembrance of all the math and Mesopotamian crap I read few months ago, lapses in my recreational reading. There must be something amiss here. THERE IS EVILNESS AFOOT!!!

ARE THEY TRYING TO \*GASP\* MAKE ME INTO IGNORANT CATTLE FOR THE TERRIBLE, INEVITABLE, TRITE, GRATUITOUSLY EVIL, RIGHTEOUS FUTURE TO COME? \*GASPING\* \*SNEEZING\* \*what is the formula for cosine(A+B)??? i can no remember(I do, actually, but why ruin the mood)\*

Bleh. Isn't this how it goes every. forsaken. time? I come up eagerly every. forsaken. time to these dystopian/futuristic novels but the only books they hold up candles to are the ones that well, couldn't even manage to hold my interest long enough for me to finish. But this book, finish I did!

There is a pattern here that I have grown weary of, when I remember once saying that I will never, ever sigh/groan at the influx of nonsensically evil regimes and people overthrowing them. If you've already a considerable, or even average, collection of similar novels you've read, I assure you you'll be able to track the story's progress without even needing to read much beyond chapter three. LOOK! I made you psychic! This is going to be awesome, innit?- but wait, you must go hide because the aforementioned terrible regime making me forget all the intricacies of the Binomial Theorem don't like mystics. You can resist. You can overthrowwww themmmmm!!!! Runnnnnn, baby!

Again, bleh. For those of you who don't fall in with the resistance, here's the banal formula they follow: girl carves a way into the utopia, utopia is an absolute dystopia, there is a resistance(I am starting one, you're welcome to join so long you ain't a Wormtail), girl is tortured, learns of resistance, fight ensues, turns out there's reason behind the dystopian aspect but it actually doesn't make a fucking sense and the evil people are just deluding themselves, girl saves the day blah! blah! blah!

Here we have the story of Clementine, a name that has never agreed with me(much like my own), and that is pretttty much what follows.

Clementine works, rots, suffers on the surface of planet with a moon covered in pink clouds\*(which was new, so I liked). People are either make it through a test, which beams them down unlike the guy calling to Scotty into place where the elites liver, or just go on until they die, having filled their breeding quota, of course. The rest, you can read in the blurb which gives away too fucking much, I daresay, since a few specific beginnings and tribulations mentioned start about more than halfway into the story. Recheck yoself, buddy.

One of the major problems with these stories is lack of consideration of the actual workings of human population. Evil regimes are gratuitously so. Gratuitousness doesn't agree with the efficiency they seek to impose upon their views of the future. Evil regimes can't be evil for the sake of being evil. There needs be purpose; a proper fucking explanation, not one to be torn apart in the clumsy, red hands of a sixteen-year-old resisting snottiness and privilege. Hell, in much of history, the gratuitousness we talk of has generally come of soldiers, stagnant overlords; not of men, sometimes women, bent upon an agenda. (I could be wrong. Eh.)

And the populace. All I comprehend is brain stuff! brain stuff! brain stuff! because that's all there is. And also some pew! brain stuff! pew pewpew! brain stuff!

To begin with, I had tumultuous relationship with Clementine and her plight. I wasn't interested, nor was she interesting- one of the blandest, most predictable creatures. However, her *hints* were like a bloody elixir to my dwindling, theoretical passion for her story. The story still followed the road taken too many times for its good, but there were character dynamic I was interested in. Unfortunately, most of it didn't pan out.

Clementine herself. I could see the author trying to create a character carve a special place of her own, not as a ramification of her conditions or speshulness, but because she worked for it with determination. Yet because of hastiness, it all came tumbling down and our dear protagonist, a beaten down and tired girl, almost defeats a veteran's time on her first try, finds the cheat in a simulation game she's just discovered the existence of and by the by, also happens to have memorized the solution to Yates' equation. Just like that. Man, I wish I had the caliber of these characters. Unless the void of personality is a prerequisite. Then I don't want in. No, thank youse!

Clementine and Logan. He's the boy she left behind. Albeit their relationship mostly developed in her reminiscence and yearning and comparing, it engaged me. Not because Logan was a particularly vibrant or expressive character; it's the way she described him. Beautiful, hardworking, caring, intelligent, obedient yada yada some version already bored... but then my attention snagged on the obedient part. Obedience is a way of survival in their world. So it follows that obedience would be a desirable character in a partner. I wanted exploration, development more!moremore! I demand it! I was disappointed.

Clementine and Ariadne. Nope, she ain't loving with her. Don't visit here for girl-on-girl time. I liked the tentative, abashedly hostile, understanding friendship they develop. However, it isn't spotlighted or even

plays a major part in either of the girls' progress as individuals.

Clementine and Beechy. He's a character introduced muchhh latero. The knight in black velcro. Or that is how I picture him. There are slight, trembling sparks that jump from one to another that were nonsensical! fillers! badly written fillers that drove me insane! pointless because there seems to be no love triangle! then what the fuck?!?! Perplexing, needless and exasperating. Her friendship with this other guy proves you don't need sparks for a close, platonic relationship with a specimen of the sex(es) you have a preference for.

Basically, characters and their dynamics? Floppity flop, baby. I don't know what's left for me to objectively review in order to help Stephanie Diaz's debut find its audience. The writing is average, and sometimes thespian- and seriously, if the plot and characters aren't worth your time, the writing won't change shit. I had lots of notes to dissect the whole frame and actions and decisions of this world, but I'm not writing a, or in the mood for (like I sometimes get), a dissertation.

But I will say that to get invested in this story will require a great deal of suspension of belief and common sense. Also, not fulfilling in the most basic sense. I just have so many questions about this world.

This world. Right. A tiny positive for *The Extraction* is the development and introduction of a twist (was it rrrealy a twist???) much later on in the story that YA novels of this trend don't ususally follow. And if there's going to be a war, it might actually get interesting. This world, not the characters.

In any case, on an even more subjective level, I had various peeves, including but not limited to: instant know-how of swimming, a sexual assault that is not given its due diligence-almost brushed over and holy fuck! is that guy trying to make an excuse or what saying that the perpetrator is unkind to everyone! gee, she should be so thankful that it wasn't *personal*. This is one of the nicer guys. \*sigh\* Blah blah blah lack of test tube babies, which would be the logical course for a government that wants workers, not families but loggiiiiic! dear logic!

Logic has been more of an impediment, as opposed to a precondition, for this bandwagon.

416 pages of not worth it, unless you like the formula and it gets you off (I remember when I was in that fleeting phase).

And on this note, I shall depart while you decide.

\*Coincidentally, the epic (in its immensity) story I started telling my brother at night back in May or something also has deadly pink clouds covering a moon.

*Review copy provided by St Martin's Press.*

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## **CJ says**

*Extraction* by Stephanie Diaz came to me as an Advance Reading Copy from Goodread's Giveaways. It is a story similar to *The Hunger Games* but with a grittier reality base story. I find the premise of testing children when they reach the age of 16 to find and train the brightest and fittest to increase the odds of survival on a hostile planet a much more believable scenario than a government who steals your children to fight in a battle to the death as revenge for an ancient uprising. Now I really liked *The Hunger Games*, but *Extraction*

is much more believable and equally enjoyable. The bared to the bones existence of the surface dwellers is disturbing and the fervent desires to achieve and be chosen as one of the few to be picked to dwell at the Core just to survive is remarkably stark. Then to find that life at the Core is no bed of roses is heartbreaking. Sometimes it's hard to tell between the good and the bad, the trustworthy and untrustworthy. The extremes of the Hunger Games made it easy. In Extraction, nothing is easy, most of all ... living.

This is such a good read. I can't wait for the next installment.

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### **Grace (LovingDemBooks) Z. says**

**Buy this book on AMAZON**

**or buy this book on BookDepository with FREE WORLDWIDE SHIPPING**

*I received a free finished copy of this book from the publisher (St. Martin's Press) in exchange for an honest review and read along with BookBusters. All opinions are my own.*

**2.5 of 5 stars (Please read my rating system further below). WATCH MY VIDEO REVIEW ON YOUTUBE HERE**

**My rating system: (I do use half stars.)**

**5 - I do not use the 5 star.** Not because a book might not be worthy, but because a book is never perfect.

**4 - I loved it!** There weren't too many flaws, and I had no trouble getting through it. (A 4 star rating is the highest rating I've ever given a book.)

**3 - I enjoyed** the book, but there were flaws that made me enjoy it less.

**2 - I finished** the book, but there were too many flaws for me to enjoy it.

**1 - I could not finish** the book, and I probably did not finish it....

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### **Stephanie Diaz says**

My book baby is out in the world at last!! I hope some of you readers enjoy it, and maybe even love it. Can't wait to share the rest of Clementine's story in the next installments. :-)

**BOOK SALE & CONTEST TIME: (9/21/15)**

Extraction is on sale for only \$2.99 on all e-book platforms for a limited time! Spread the word to enter to win awesome prizes! More info at [steph-diaz.blogspot.com](http://steph-diaz.blogspot.com).

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### **Alyssa says**

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

Extraction by Stephanie Diaz

Book One of the Extraction series

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin

Publication Date: July 22, 2014

Rating: 1 star

Source: eARC from NetGalley:

Summary (from Goodreads):

"Welcome to Extraction testing."

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What she finds initially in the Core is a utopia compared to the Surface—it's free of hard labor, gun-wielding officials, and the moon's lethal acid. But life is anything but safe, and Clementine learns that the planet's leaders are planning to exterminate Surface dwellers—and that means Logan, too.

Trapped by the steel walls of the underground and the lies that keep her safe, Clementine must find a way to escape and rescue Logan and the rest of the planet. But the planet leaders don't want her running—they want her subdued.

With intense action scenes and a cast of unforgettable characters, Extraction is a page-turning, gripping read, sure to entertain lovers of Hunger Games and Ender's Game and leave them breathless for more.

What I Liked:

Obviously, I didn't love this book. Or even really like it. I can't say I like it, either. I wanted to like it though - I mean, come on. Science fiction? Intense action scenes? Earth's Core? Lethal moon acid? This book sounded kickbutt! And science fiction, no less! And... it's a tour review book. My tour post was originally a review one - well, that got changed, because we can't have a 1-star review on tour!

Basically, Clementine is one of ten sixteen-year-old children to be chosen to be taken to the Core. These ten are the elite, the best of the best, the smartest or strongest (or both) teenagers of this year. Clementine's best friend Logan didn't get chosen last year. He'll be killed at age twenty, along with other rejects. But Clementine is chosen. She is taken to the Core for training. But she slowly realizes that the Commander has been lying to her, to everyone, and that there is so much more at risk than Extraction testing and training.

I was not at all impressed with the first half, hmm, three-quarters of this book. See the next section. However, in the last quarter of the book, I was interested. Or maybe desperate to finish because, dear God, this book is a carbon copy of Divergent. With the space aspect.

You'll say, oh, but the space/planets/moon acid thing is SO BIG AND DIFFERENT. Well, it is, but it's not. We really don't get to see much of this aspect until the last 25% of the book, in which suddenly the moon is super important. So, the last 25% was okay. Interesting, but ehhh, I really just wanted to be finished and be done. Sorry to say that (but not really sorry at all).

What I Did Not Like:

I actually made a list of things that I found were disturbingly similar to Divergent. Ready? \*Possibly\* spoilers. Maybe not though. Depends on what you think is a spoiler. Nothing major.

1. The simulations: Clementine is put under a simulation several times, for intelligence tests. She has to make decisions in the simulations, to show her character, her obedience to the government, her compliance. There is even a FINAL simulation, like how Tris had that last simulation to battle her fears. Eerily similar, eh?
2. Sam (Eric): in this book, there is a character named Sam. He is a ruthless young lieutenant, just under the command of the Core's leader (Commander Charlie, we'll get to him). Sam is bloodthirsty and unfeeling, and takes pleasure in showing off his strengths and picking on weaklings and acting smug. He is just like Eric, but there is one thing that he does that is just like Peter.
3. Oliver (Al): in this book, there is a boy named Oliver. He is weak, has bad eyesight, sucks at fighting, constantly needs people to tell him he'll make it... and there are a few other similarities that I won't mention. HE IS AL.
4. Ariadne (Christina): if we have Al, we have Christina. Ariadne is feisty and tell-it-like-she-wants. She sticks with Clementine, and stands up for her. She fights her own battles and isn't too bad in training. Christina much?
5. Shots: there are monthly shots, to ensure compliance among Core citizens. In Divergent, the Dauntless were given "tracker" shots, which controlled theirs minds. Which is basically what the shots in this book did.
6. Clementine gets chosen/i.e. she is special (like Tris): Clementine is one of ten teens that get chosen per year. Yet, she has a mental fortitude (like Tris's divergence). Clementine has a clear mind after a certain intelligence simulation, whereas everyone else... doesn't. I say Clementine is divergent, yeah?
7. Ariadne telling Clementine that it's okay to be afraid: and I quote,

"It's not a bad thing to be afraid." (45%)

You have to understand the context of the situation, but this reminded me of everyone saying that Tris was fearless, of Four saying that fear wakes Tris up. This quote by Ariadne is basically saying that Clementine hasn't been afraid of anything (or shown her fear). Ariadne is telling Clementine to be vulnerable. Definitely a parallel.

8. Sam almost raping Clementine: this is the possible spoiler I was thinking of. It was kind of a drop in the bucket, in this book, and after it happens, we never hear of it again (like it doesn't affect Clementine AT ALL, though she fears Sam - for other reasons). Definitely something Peter would do.
9. Clementine beating everyone in the obstacle course and almost setting a new record: Clementine blows everyone out of the water at the obstacle course. Let me break this down for you: she isn't used to physical activity, but after her strenuous workout (several miles, pushups, etc.), she does this obstacle course in like four minutes. The record (held by Sam, after years of training) is around three minutes, and everyone else got like seven minutes. TELL ME THAT ISN'T RIGHT. An unfit, non-athletic, tired girl beats everyone on her first try, and almost beats Sam? Yeah right.

But the parallel with Divergent - it's like Tris with the simulations. Tris has record-breaking times (though

her times actually make sense). Tris is marked when she starts putting up good scores - just like Clementine. Once Clementine starts achieving exemplary things (like the UNBELIEVABLE time at the obstacle course), she is marked.

10. Clementine setting a record in the Phantom simulation game: basically, see #1 or #9. The Phantom simulation is different - it's a game simulation (not a fear landscape), but OF COURSE Clementine puts up record-breaking kills, even more than the legendary Beechy's (um, wut. Is his name supposed to be a pun? What a horrible name). Just like Tris and her divergent ability in the fear landscape.

11. Clementine living in a poor world with little food choice: basically, Clementine is an Abnegation. Except she's an orphan. But she lives in a poor, poor world on the Surface, and she hasn't seen most foods. So when she gets to the Core, and sees all of the food choices, she's like whatttt?? Just like Tris and the burger.

12. "Training" to be soldiers (though no one knows what/who they'll be fighting): they take the top ten most "Promising" teenagers of this year, and train them to be soldiers. Yup, you heard me. All of these nerds get some serious physical training, especially in guns. And what are they fighting? Who knows! At least in Divergent, it makes sense that the Dauntless would learn to fight and use weapons. In Divergent, no one knows who they are fighting (until it is revealed about Erudite and Abnegation). The parallel is very, very similar (I won't say more though, in case someone hear wants to read this book).

I could actually go on, honestly. I stopped listing similarities. This book is entirely too much like Divergent - you can't TELL ME that these are all coincidences. You can't tell me that the space/moon craziness aspect makes this book totally different. Yeah, okay. It's just another dystopian novel in which the poor, everyday people revolt against the elite, and try to destroy the intricate and larger-than-life system that the elite has created. \*rolls eyes\*

Talk about originality. But anyway, the similarities between this book and Divergent weren't the only things I didn't like about this book. Similarities aside, this book wasn't that great. It was kind of boring, totally predictable, and not that interesting. I didn't care for Clementine (good God, she is dumb. For such a "smart" girl, she is stupid. That stunt in the crowd, looking for Logan? WTF). I have no feelings toward Beechy, Ariadne, or Oliver. Or anyone. I guess I just didn't care. Unforgettable characters? HA! Give me two days, I'll forget all about them. And this book. Cross your fingers.

The romance is pretty horrible, too. Nonexistent, but it's kind of there. We know Clementine loves Logan, but in the end, they both realize they're in love with each other? Or it's adrenaline when they kiss? Honestly, it feels like bulls\*\*\*. Everything Clementine did, she did for Logan. Which is noble and all... but she loses so much of herself. Like, I don't want to spoil it, but was losing SOME CERTAIN THINGS worth it? Nahhh. Not in my opinion. Maybe that's selfish, but also? Saving the world (in a general sense) is more important than one person's life. No matter how important that person is. In my opinion.

Okay I'm finished. No more.

Would I Recommend It:

No. Not at all. And not just because it's Divergent. Don't misunderstand me - I LOVED Divergent. I hate copycats, carbon copies, etc. Don't bother with this one. It's honestly not that original, not that captivating, and not worth my time.

Rating:

1.5 stars -> rounded down to 1 star, because what the heck. I want to say the space aspect might have saved this one... but not for me. In general, this book wasn't for me.

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### **Michael Waters says**

Wow. WOW. This book is totally addicting. Also, Stephanie is an evil genius. (You now officially have permission to picture her cackling like a mad scientist.)

**UPDATE:** Here is what Stephanie looks like:

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### **Liz Barnsley says**

Publication Date: 22nd July 2014 from St Martins Griffin.

Thank you to the author and publisher for the review copy via netgalley.

Welcome to Extraction testing.”

Clementine has spent her whole life preparing for her sixteenth birthday, when she'll be tested for Extraction in the hopes of being sent from the planet Kiel's toxic Surface to the much safer Core, where people live without fear or starvation. When she proves promising enough to be “Extracted,” she must leave without Logan, the boy she loves. Torn apart from her only sense of family, Clem promises to come back and save him from brutal Surface life.

And here we are again with yet more awesome Young Adult fiction, another terrific start to what is going to be a series, and this was a fast and furiously addictive read with a heck of a lot of edge of the seat action alongside some quieter and more contemplative moments where the characters shine through. Brilliant.

Ok its true that I'm a bit of a sucker for this type of novel – my No 1 read of last year was “Red Rising” and I'm a huge Hunger Games fan, so this hit the spot very nicely for me and will definitely draw in its target audience and give them something to love. The author manages to walk the line between the “greatest hits” if you like of young adult dystopia and some new and improved idea's then pulls it all together in a wonderful way. Well constructed and well written it was a pretty perfect start.

I was rather fond of Clem. She muddles through but always has one focus – Save Logan – and I liked that the author avoided the terrible cliche of a love triangle. There are some well known plot lines here – the test at a certain age to see where you fit if, the eden that is not as it first appears and the evil dictator who seems benevolent at first glance – but its all wrapped up in a tremendously clever premise, and I enjoyed it all thoroughly. Without giving too much away, I thought the set up was excellent to prepare us for what is to come, the ending leaves you wanting more but also completes the current tale and wraps up enough that you are satisfied. The heart of the story is intelligent and well drawn and it is a definite page turner.

Overall a great read and yep I'm on board for the whole of this series wherever it may go. There is much to discover...

Happy Reading Folks!

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### **Jess says**

DNF. Stopped around page 90.

Oh, Extraction. I wanted so badly to like you. I really did. Unfortunately, I made it only about 90 pages in before I just had to put you down. I might eventually try to continue you, but to be honest, there's nothing drawing me back.

When I started Extraction I was expecting an exciting sci-fi with high stakes and a strong, passionate romance that makes it impossible for Clementine to leave Logan behind. I got... none of these things. Sure it was sci-fi, and it has some interesting elements to it. I like the idea that people took to different levels of the Earth in order to try and protect themselves - although I'm pretty sure it'd be impossible to live near the core, so... how are they doing that? I like the idea of the shield protecting them from the moon's acid smoke - although, since when does the moon give off acid smoke? How did that start? Starting to see why this isn't working for me? Even the aspects I like are marred with questions that are essential to understanding why these things are the way they are. I wish they had been explained at the same time as the so-called solutions they came up with were.

Now what about those high stakes I thought I was promised? Meh. There were some moments I was supposed to feel tense or scared for Clementine and Logan. I know I was supposed to; that's how it read. But did it actually raise any stakes for me? Nope. Did it create tension? Nope. Did it manipulate my emotions like scenes of that nature are supposed to? Sadly, no. I know that things were bad and that life was dangerous, I could read that. But the writing gave me no feelings about the fact that things were bad and dangerous. It was a lot of telling and not a lot of making me care.

As for the romance, well, I just wasn't feeling it. There was nothing there that made me ship them, let alone anything that would make me feel like Clementine should risk her only chance at safety ever for this guy. There was some sweet backstory but it didn't feel powerful. It wasn't convincing, nor did it even really establish them as an actual couple. They almost had a couple of moments but they kept getting interrupted. There was no passion, just a dull "I like this guy. I want him to kiss me." I'm sorry, but that does not a ship make. I wanted to like them and I wanted to want Clementine to do something about having to leave him to die. But I just didn't care.

I know this sounds a little harsh, but I honestly just wasn't being drawn into this book at all. I promise to be honest when I'm writing reviews, so this is me being honest. I was disappointed. To be fair, I really didn't get that far into the book. It's entirely possible that everything picks up one or two chapters after the point at which I put it down. If you've read it and it does, let me know and I'll give it another shot. And I am still curious about life in the Core. (No, unfortunately I didn't even make it that far). I just wasn't connecting with the story I got. I wasn't feeling anything - not the stakes, not the connection between Clementine and Logan, not the fear that she's supposed to be feeling, nothing. There was nothing there to get me invested in anything. I just... didn't care. Sorry, Extraction. You just didn't do it for me.

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