



Scarlet

Marissa Meyer

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Cinder is back and trying to break out of prison—even though she'll be the Commonwealth's most wanted fugitive if she does—in this second installment from Marissa Meyer.

Halfway around the world, Scarlet Benoit's grandmother is missing. It turns out there are many things Scarlet doesn't know about her grandmother, or the grave danger she has lived in her whole life. When Scarlet encounters Wolf, a street fighter who may have information as to her grandmother's whereabouts, she is loath to trust this stranger, but is inexplicably drawn to him, and he to her. As Scarlet and Wolf unravel one mystery, they encounter another when they meet Cinder. Now, all of them must stay one step ahead of the vicious Lunar Queen Levana.

An NPR Best Book of 2013

Scarlet Details

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Author : Marissa Meyer

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From Reader Review Scarlet for online ebook

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

(more of a 3.5)

I really enjoyed this installment in the Lunar Chronicles, but I didn't think it was as good as Cinder. I was annoyed reading about Scarlet throughout this book. We really didn't get to know her, we only saw her concerned about her grandmother and wolf. I did love the sections that were focused on Cinder though! I also really liked how the two story lines came together. I'm looking forward to jumping into Cress!

Steph Sinclair says

I have to give it to Ms. Meyer for one again combining your favorite fairy tales with sci-fi/fantasy. Seriously, well done! The Lunar Chronicles is quickly becoming one of my new favorite series and for good reason. It has kick-ass protagonists like Cinder and now Scarlet. When we first met Cinder in book one, she was shy and timid, eventually coming into her own strength. And when I heard that we would be introduced to a new main character, I was a little nervous. I was worried that I'd end up comparing the two and dislike Scarlet. But let me tell you! When Cinder was unsure of herself in the beginning, Scarlet is fierce. Who's afraid of the Big, *Bad Wolf*? Not Scarlet.

I should warn you that this review **will** contain spoilers for *Cinder*. So, if you haven't read book one...

Scarlet picks up directly after *Cinder* left off. Cinder's busy breaking out of jail, Kai is trying to placate Levana (the wretch) and we get to meet Scarlet (yay!). And if you can't remember the finer details about what happened previously, there *is* a nice little recap.

The biggest difference between this installment and Cinder is the point-of-view flipping. And with that, you have two different main characters with two separate goals. Scarlet's is to find her missing grandmother, who was abducted and Cinder's is to escape from the Eastern Commonwealth and... not get caught. Somewhere along the way their paths intertwine and revelations are had. Now, here's the thing: Though, overall, I did enjoy *Scarlet*, there are still a few things I really disliked about it too. Don't give me that look! There is method to my madness.

Things I liked:

1. The new characters - Along with meeting Scarlet, we also are introduced to two other characters, the wolf, who travels to Paris with Scarlet in search of her grandmother and Carswell Thorne, a womanizer and fugitive that escaped prison with Cinder. I thought they were both great characters, especially Thorne, who I happen to love and hate at the same time. Wolf is a bit more complex because of his past (which I can't talk about due to spoilers), but I like the mystery surrounding his character.

Scarlet is fantastic. I mean, the girl wears a red hoodie and carries a gun in her belt. Sweet and innocent?

pfft How about sweet and deadly?

She's all about action and doesn't take "no" for an answer. She doesn't sit back and wait for someone else to save her grandmother. And I think the best way to describe her would be to quote Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus*: "Take chances, make mistakes and get messy!" So, while she isn't a perfect character, she certainly is determined to do whatever it takes to reach her goal. I loved that about her and I think other readers will too or at least respect her spirit.

2. I also really enjoyed the plot and back story. We get to find out more about Cinder's past and how she ended up ended up on earth and who helped her. I really think Meyer did a good job at telling two different stories and later having them weave together. And I really like seeing Scarlet and Cinder together. I only wish that they had teamed up sooner than the ending.

Things I didn't like:

1. At times it felt like there was too much story to tell. (Maybe this was just me wanting more from *Scarlet*.) Even though *Scarlet* is longer than *Cinder*, I'd even say that I think that there was *too* much happening in this installment and not enough time spent developing the new characters or the new relationships, which, incidentally, leads to my next con...

2. I'm not sure I liked Scarlet and Wolf's relationship. Since the novel very frequently flips back and forth from Scarlet to Cinder and even Kai, there wasn't much page time the reader is left developing some kind of connection with their relationship. Actually, they themselves didn't even have much time developing anything and by the end, I found it all rather cheesy. And while they do both admit that they've developed feelings for one another (in a matter of days), it never felt *real* because I was too busy keeping up with all the story arcs.

3. I missed Kai and Cinder being together. Kai is in the book, but I missed the chemistry they had in *Cinder*. I think Wolf and Scarlet's romance was supposed to fill the void temporarily, but since I didn't really spend much time with them, the sparks never flew for me. Perhaps in book three, *Cress*, things will be different. But right now, I have my doubts considering it looks like we will be meeting even *more* characters. I'm starting to wonder if this world is just too big for this series. Ah, well. We'll see.

The Ending:

'Cause, yeah, it needs its own section.

Kai. WHY?! WHY? WHY? WHY?

Okay. I think I need a moment to process that ending. ***breathes in and out***

Did that just make you want to read this book even more than you already did? Oops.

So, in conclusion, even though I liked *Cinder* more, *Scarlet* was still a fun and exciting read. Meyer has built an interesting world, making "old faces" from fairy tales new again. And I know you're probably giving me dagger eyes for the little bit above, but just think how hard it will be for me to wait for *Cress*. It's torture, I

tell ya.

ARC was provided by Macmillan. Thank you!

More reviews and other fantastical things at Cuddlebuggery Book Blog.

GAH!!! LOOK AT THE PRETTY COVER!!!

And I just found out about the new Sailor Moon anime!! Too much awesome for one day. I shall be off in my corner spontaneously combusting.

<http://t.co/29QLtAD3>

Sana says

Edit: i kind if realized how much i hate myself for giving this *four stars*. I have sinned omg, changing my rating to five stars like right fucking now,

THIS BOOK WAS TEN THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN Cinder.

Scarlet and Wolf will be the literal death of me. I'm incapable of writing a review for this. It's just....READ IT PLS.

THIS LAST IMAGE KILLED ME. I actually screamed you guys.

I love Wolf so much it hurts.
I need a Wolf in my life.

Riley says

4.5

I loved this book! I don't think I liked it as much as Cinder but I still really enjoyed it. I just love being in this world.

Things I loved:

- Scarlet/Wolf <3
- Cinder and Thorne's friendship
- Iko being a ship
- Captain Thorne.

I read the majority of the book in one night, I was so addicted to it. I'm very excited to move onto Cress now as it seems to be most peoples favorite.

Jenn says

I don't even know what to do with myself right now. This review probably won't make sense, and I'm probably leaving a shit ton out, but here goes.

I was lucky to score an advanced copy of Scarlet from Marissa Meyer while at Comic Con.

Totally me.

I was in the middle of another book which I quickly finished in order to start this. So, Cinder left us with our heroine basically on the run after finding out that she was Princess Selene. Scarlet opens by introducing us to the new character in this universe, aptly named Scarlet who is looking for her missing Grandmother and along the way meets a mysterious guy who goes by Wolf.

The book started off a little slow for me. I, like I'm sure most will be, was more concerned with what was happening with Cinder and Prince Kai than I was with Scarlet and her journey. But Meyer's storytelling would not let that be, and I found myself eagerly enjoying Scarlet's feisty personality while also searching for how Scarlet would come to meet Cinder. How could these two completely different characters come together? How are their pasts joined?

Well, let me tell you, the answer is pure genius. Meyer has created such a deep, complex story that when you find out how Scarlet and Cinder are connected, you're just like, whoa. Along with the flawless backstory, Scarlet introduces us to two more characters besides Scarlet herself: Wolf and Thorne. I really hope we see more of them in the final 2 books.

And just as in Cinder with the classic Cinderella losing the glass slipper, Meyer's use of the the famed Red Riding Hood scene is flawless. I love the way she just weaves in the fairy tales but makes it work for the plot.

Another thing I love about about Meyer's writing, is there's a point in her books that you hit where you suddenly can't put it down. You have to finish it! My point was when Scarlet and Wolf arrive in Paris and I sat on my couch reading like a madwoman until I finished.

Now...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW MARISSA???? THAT WAS NOT AN ENDING???
WHAT WILL CINDER DO NOW? WHAT ABOUT KAI AND HIS ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE END?

I wanted this book so bad...so bad!! But now that I have it, I have to wait that much longer for the third one.
WHY????????

Sigh...I will wait...rather impatiently for 2014 to get here.

Just one final note: Prince Kai, no matter what happens:

Truth

Beth says

Actual rating 4.5 Stars

I liked Cinder, it wasn't anything magical or something that really stood out to me, it was just okay. However Scarlet the second book in The Lunar Chronicles has made me think again. I honestly really liked this book, I liked the new characters. I can't even decide between Scarlet, Wolf and Thorne because they all bring something different to the plot.

The building of the story progressed really well, I was curious as to how these two stories would entwine, but it was apparent quite early(ish) on. I thought it was really clever how they described Scarlet, with the Red Hoodie, her companion is wolf and when she went to watch a fight they were called Hunter. Little attention to detail like this made me really happy and just think of the story that this once was.

I honestly think I preferred Scarlet and Wolfs story rather than Cinder and Thornes, although later on in the later chapters I did enjoy this. Thorne was an added bonus to the story, I always like some form of light heartedness and that comes perfectly with this cheeky character.

I'm looking forward to continuing on with the series, the ending of this book has set up the next book perfectly.

Wolf are you...going to ask me to be your alpha female?

Swoooooooon, Swoon, Swoon.

Wolf is my fave, there I said it.

Reviews:

Cinder- 4

Scarlet- 4.5

Cress- 4.5

Winter - 5

Lola says

This series is quite special to me.

Some months ago, after struggling with **SO MANY** science fiction reads, I came to the conclusion that, perhaps, it may not a genre for me. Dur. I didn't take it well, let's say, because that meant the hundreds and hundreds hyped sci-fi books out there would most likely not appeal to me either. I know that not every genre can work for everyone, but it's always unfortunate to learn something like this. I just realized how dramatic my confession must have sounded, but I can't help it if that's how I felt at that time.

But, the thing is, after reading Cinder, Scarlet and some of their short stories and **LOVING** all of them – Scarlet the most however – I realized that, in the book world too, it is not exclusively black or white. There are shades, exceptions. And thank god, because starting this series literally made me realize how there are certainly some other books of this genre out there that I might enjoy as well. Seeking them doesn't hurt. Now that this “problem” has been resolved, I shall start working my way to – at least – tolerating horror reads, heh.

Why I preferred this sequel to the first book is probably due to the fact that this continuation to the Lunar Chronicles series contained multiple POVs, unlike Cinder did, of what I remember. We had Cinder's – of course, Scarlet's, Kai's, Captain Thorne's and even one chapter from Queen Levana's point of view. With so many different events, plunging into a state of boredom was something impossible to achieve. But no one's complaining, *wink* *wink*.

Something else that appealed to me was the (swoon-worthy, handsome, charming, unforgettable...) male leads. I know Prince Kai was wonderful – even though a little too simple and banal, prince status aside – in book one, but I definitely saw a second side of him, more mature and serious and loyal in this read. If I wasn't convinced before, now I absolutely agree that he would make a great and honest leader that will only grow and rule with kindness and as much fairness as possible.

The only thing that could have been different is Scarlet and Wolf's love for each other. It did take time before they warmed up to one another, but, when they did, their sentiments did not gradually evolve from that point. In the contrary, like a rocket, it is as if whatever sparkled could not be controlled and, well, it did not feel realistic. Although, I can understand, this being a fairytale retelling, that some elements were rather embellished to a magical and dreamy point. On purpose or not, that I do not know.

Nonetheless, Scarlet deserves every single star I gave it!

Sarah Maas says

Even better than CINDER! I could NOT put it down yesterday. And when I was forced to put it down (yes, FORCED), I could NOT stop thinking about it. It was absolutely amazing. Beautiful and heartbreakingly action-packed and just...wow. Can't wait for the next book!!!

Reynita Maharani ★ The Night Reader ★ says

~~REVIEW TO COME TODAY~~

~~I AM REREADING IT NOW~~

~~I WILL REREAD THIS SERIES THIS YEAR~~

Second Read Review

"I just think we shouldn't judge her, or anyone, without trying to understand them first. That maybe we should get the full story before jumping to conclusions. Crazy notion, I know."

the first time I read this book was in 2015 and I LOVED it so much and this book instantly became one of my all time favorite. So months ago, I had this thought to reread this series just to make sure whether I still loved it or not and I was so excited when I finished reading Cinder because that meant I would read this book and this book was also the one who made me fall in love with the lunar chronicles world and I hoped so much that I still could love this book but I didn't feel the same anymore about this book and I think I used to give this book 5 stars but now I just gave it 4 stars but I still enjoyed reading it and here are the reasons I gave this book 4 stars instead of 5 stars like I used to rate it.

The Romance

I seriously don't know what's happening to me now. I mean, I fell in love with Wolf when I read this book for the first time and I really really loved him so much until I even wrote his name all over my school books and my friends even called me weird for loving him but well, I didn't care and after I finished reread Cinder, I was so excited to start this one because I used to love this book so much but I think that time I loved this book so much because I loved Wolf and I expected myself to love Wolf even more when I reread but it didn't happen and honestly, I was sad I didn't love him anymore and I don't know why I thought this book was slow burn romance because I didn't think it's slow romance. it's insta-love.

This was just one more example of her emotions carrying her away, all over a guy she'd known for only ... she strained to count back and realized with some shock they'd barely known each other for a day.

and insta-love is one my bookish pet peeves and I don't know how could I said this book was slow burn in 2015 and you know I kind of hate myself for not loving Wolf anymore. I had been in love with him since 2015 and then I reread this book and **POOF!** I don't love him anymore. how could something like this happen to me!? I just feel nothing toward Wolf now and he used to mean everything to me.

and when I read it for the first time, I used to cry over some scenes and when I reread it, I was just like this

The Story

I used to think that this book was better than Cinder and now I don't really think so ... I mean, yeah it was better because there's Thorne in this book! but sometimes, I felt uneasy every time I read Scarlet's POV and I don't know why! it frustrated me! maybe it's because I felt guilty for not loving Wolf anymore (?) (did I just sound weird?) and I enjoyed Cinder's POV much more but the story was great and I enjoyed it. I have nothing to complain to the story, which is a good thing, isn't it? but sometimes, it's really annoying when I enjoyed reading a certain POV then it changed. sometimes, it's annoying because I was focused on that but well, it's not really a problem even though it's kinda annoying.

The Characters

THORNE!!! this guy is so funny! and he's one of the reasons I enjoyed reading this book. he made me laugh and sometimes I just wanted to hug him but he's annoying as well but you know what's special about him? he still managed to make me grin even though he's kind of annoying and I have nothing to complain about the characters. they're all good, especially IKO AND THORNE. ❤️❤️

oh and I just have one word for Levana

First Read Review

(view spoiler)

Emily May says

“She did not know that the wolf was a wicked sort of animal, and she was not afraid of him.”

3 1/2 stars. I do not know that this is actually an amazing book, but dammit, **it was entertaining**. Honestly, I pretty much hated Cinder when I finally forced myself through it last year. It was a 1-star, ranty hate at all the wasted potential and - worst of all - tediousness. But so many commenters told me to read Scarlet anyway.

At first, I wasn't going to. Seems kind of stupid to read the sequel to a book you disliked so much, right? But, somehow, over time, my curiosity got the better of me. And hell, **I just had so much fun reading this.**

I think Scarlet is a much more interesting and less bland character than Cinder, and her introduction to the story actually contributed to making Cinder and her story more exciting. The big twist in this book is easy to guess, but it is surrounded by **little mysteries and surprises** that I never expected, keeping the pace at breakneck speed.

I love the girl power, the emphasis put on Scarlet's love for her grandmother, and even the romance. Unlike with Cinder and Kai (who I also had way more sympathy for in this book!), I enjoyed the arc of this relationship and found myself curious where it would lead.

And there's something about a sexy wolf that just does it for me. Maybe I have problems.

So strange how much more I liked this sequel. It still feels very much like a light, YA sci-fi and yet the fire in this book makes the pages fly by and the characters appeal to me. We are starting to get answers to bigger questions and I'm looking forward to seeing what else Meyer has up her sleeve.

I also can't wait to get to Fairest because Levana is a raging bitch and I want to know why!

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Katerina says

“Even in the Future the Story Begins with Once Upon a Time.”

Once Upon a Time, there was a little girl (let's call her Rina) who loved fairytales. Her favorite was **Red Riding Hood**, and she knew this story by heart since she was 2-years-old (everyone thought that this was a sign of her intelligence but in my opinion it was a warning. A warning that she'd never shup up). The girl grew up and decided to become a lawyer (so that people would pay her to talk non-stop) and she came across a horrible, horrible dilemma: she had to choose between what she **had** to do and what she **wanted** to do. She had to study, she had to finish her incredibly boring/difficult essay and being a perfectionist she barely

had enough time to sleep, let alone read. But she wanted to read, to get lost inside her books, to travel in faraway lands and witness the **upcoming war between Earth and Luna**. In a desperate effort to balance her life goals, she stayed up all night to finish Scarlet so that there wouldn't be any distractions from her studies.

Pathetic excuse, I know. She read it because Marissa Meyer had the wondrous ability to make her forget her fears, her insecurities and worries and instead she introduced her to a world where **Cinderella was a cyborg and a fugitive** who tried to come to terms with the revelations that changed her life, where the **Big Bad Wolf was a boy that tried to control his bloodlust and questioned the way he was raised**, where **Little Red was a feisty girl who would do anything to save her grandmother and smugglers were extremely hot**.

“She did not know that the wolf was a wicked sort of animal, and she was not afraid of him.”

Rina found **Scarlet's story extremely addictive!** She was not the heroine she expected her to be. She was brave, stubborn, hot-headed and always ready for a fight, **she was the little sister Hulk never had!** Rina followed her quest wide-eyed and eager for adventures, secrets and romance because stars above! Scarlet's dynamic with Wolf made her feel **fuzzy and giddy and warm inside!** It took her a while to trust Wolf, but she couldn't resist the urge to **hug him and cuddle him and make him her personal teddy bear!**

“I think I realized that I would rather die because I betrayed them, than live because I betrayed you.”

See? Sweeter than milk chocolate! But his savage and wild side was also intriguing and kind of hot! Rina could not predict his secrets and the reasons he acted this way, he hurt her many times but she always forgave him! But Wolf wasn't the only adorable male character in Scarlet. There was also Kai and his difficult decisions that almost made her weep. And there was Thorne. Captain Thorne. **A blend of Disney's Flynn Rider, Han Solo and Dean Winchester.**

Yummy! Such a hilarious character that could not stop talking (a sign from the Universe that he should marry Rina), self-centered and charming and loyal... just great! His interactions with Cinder? **Brotip alert!** Cinder was more likeable when she was next to him and wanted to smack his head!

“A captain always knows where his ship is. It's like a psychic bond.”
“If only we had a captain here.”

When a book features an **awesome gang, chaos, war, prison breaks, evil monarchs, bloodthirsty beasts, fights and psychic powers, it's impossible not to love it**! And bleary-eyed, disoriented and sleepy Rina

was no exception!

P.S. Do I even have to say it?

- ? Cinder review
- ? Cress review
- ? Winter review
- ? Stars Above review

Lisa says

I really didn't want to write this review because I hate being an outlier, especially when I'm being Debbie Downer. I fully expected to love this one. After all, I gave Cinder four stars and by all accounts *Scarlet* is even better. Perhaps I was expecting too much, but I also have to chalk some of the discrepancy to a change in taste. The things that irritated me about *Scarlet* were issues I noted with Cinder, only they were more problematic for me this time around.

The first sign that *Scarlet* and I weren't going to get along was my irritation over the writing style. It is very juvenile. There is a lot of telling and very little showing, and everything is told in a very simplistic way (as opposed to Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*, which also has a fair amount of telling but with very pretty prose). Instead of providing visual or auditory clues to show character emotion, characters in this novel say things in a/an [insert emotion] way, or [insert emotion] radiates off of the character, or [insert emotion] is written all over the character's face, or one character senses that another character is feeling [insert emotion]. This made it hard to visualize many of the scenes, and kept me from vicariously experiencing the story.

As with Cinder, the world-building, both in terms of history and present scenery, is lacking. By the end of the second book, there should be a clearer picture of how this post-apocalyptic world came to be, yet the reader is given no more details about the vague world wars and consolidation of countries than in the first book. While I do think there was some improvement in the description of the current scenery—there are actual French landmarks mentioned in Paris—the setting was still superficial. I could find nothing to distinguish Asian, American, and European culture aside from Europe having wine and Asia having dragon decor.

In terms of plot, *Scarlet* suffers from predictability issues, partly because the story follows *Little Red Riding Hood* and partly because much of Wolf's character is spoiled by The Queen's Army. I think I would have enjoyed *Scarlet* more if Wolf's history had been a mystery. The Queen's Army is a nice addition to the series but would be better read after *Scarlet*. There were also a couple plot twists that were obvious to me because I knew the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*. (view spoiler) While Cinder also had predictability issues related to Cinder's history, I thought there was enough suspense in other areas to sustain the story despite its predictability.

In the end, the most problematic aspect of *Scarlet* is the characters and their utter stupidity and nonsensical thinking. They all have a real blind spot when it comes to figuring out that Cinder is Princess Selene. Kai still doesn't figure it out, nor does Captain Thorne despite having clear evidence thrown in his face. But it's Scarlet and Wolf who win the award for most oblivious. They know that Princess Selene was adopted by a man from the Eastern Commonwealth, that his surname is Linh, that there is a Lunar teenage fugitive whose surname is also Linh, that she is the same age as Princess Selene, and that she is wanted by Queen Levana,

and they don't figure it out. Their lack of reasoning is unbelievable and it makes them both look like idiots.

Character stupidity does not end at Princess Selene's true identity. Scarlet shows poor judgment in trusting Wolf after knowing him only a day. (view spoiler) While there is no love at first sight between Scarlet and Wolf, the love between them comes out of nowhere and is baseless. (view spoiler) Kai's solution to the Lunar problem also makes absolutely no logical sense. I can't give him credit for nobility because he's only making the situation worse. (view spoiler) None of the characters are particularly intelligent.

Lastly, Meyer gives inaccurate information about the social structure of wolves. This indicates a lack of research, which is one of my biggest pet peeves. Even Wikipedia gets it right, and there are several free scientific journal articles on that subject that are readily available. While it would certainly make sense for Wolf and his hybrid pack to behave as they do (with betas and omegas and such), it's misleading to suggest that this is how wolves behave in the wild.

While I did not enjoy *Scarlet*, I do think most people who liked *Cinder* will like this one as well. The things people loved about *Cinder* are still true in *Scarlet*. The plot is fast-paced and the female characters are strong-willed, however, I would caution people away from this book if they are at all sensitive to shallow world-building, simplistic writing, obvious plot points, or oblivious characters.

Jessica ♡ Silverbow ♡ Rabid Reads-no-more says

11/8/15 - UPDATED thoughts and miscellany: Still my favorite in the series, for more than one reason. Obviously, I love Wolf. But I equally love Scarlet:

"I just think we shouldn't judge her, or anyone, without trying to understand them first. That maybe we should get the full story before jumping to conclusions. Crazy notion, I know."

PREACH. And while most people would react to Wolf's "enhancements" with disgust:

*"So are there any other oddities I should know about? A tail, perhaps?"
Finally, he met her gaze, flushed with insult until he found her smiling up at him.
"I'm joking," she said, offering an apologetic grin. "They're only teeth."*

My kind of broad.

THEORIES and spoilery (but swoon-worthy) quotes: (view spoiler)

\$20 says this turns out to be a HUGE mistake. Which makes me happy, b/c hate dat bitch. I bet Wolf gathers them b/c ALPHA, and they pledge themselves to Cinder.

Disclaimer: if the above has in fact already happened, please excuse. I've only read CRESS once, and it was right after it was released. I am old and senile and therefore can't be held accountable for lapses in memory.

WOLF SWOONS:

“I knew they would kill me when they found out, but...” He struggled for words, releasing a sharp breath. “I think I realized that I would rather die because I betrayed them, than live because I betrayed you.”

“. . . you’re the only one, Scarlet. You’ll always be the only one.”

(hide spoiler)]

11/7/15: REREAD. B/c WINTER. On TUESDAY.

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

The first time I read SCARLET, I nearly lost my mind.

CINDER had been one of my favorite reads from the previous year, and I had waited the *entire* twelve months for the next installment to come out. When it showed up at my house (after being pre-ordered for months), I probably hugged it tightly to my chest and SQUEE-d. Then (after petting the lovely cover) I ran to my comfy chair, settled in, and began to read.

And the perspective I was reading . . . Was. Not. Cinder’s.

If I was the kind of person who threw books, I would have thrown it across the room. Then jumped up and down on it a few times. But I’m not that kind of person. So instead, I shrieked in pure frustration--probably a few times--then I forced myself to calm down and come to terms with the situation.

So this was a *new* story, from a *new* perspective . . . it could still be good right? Right?!

Sighing heavily and not at all convinced, I began to read again.

I soon discovered that once again “Scarlet” was both book title and MC. And that a grandmother was missing. Then a mysterious underground fighter shows up who is described as acting like “a scolded puppy” and goes by the name of “Wolf.”

Wait a minute . . . I flipped back to the cover. That looks like it could be a . . . LITTLE RED RIDING

HOOD!!

Things were looking up. Then I got to chapter four and woo-frickin'-hoo there she (she being Cinder) was.

All that rage for nothing. I then decided, belatedly, to do some research.

I knew the LUNAR CHRONICLES was a four book series, but I learned that each book was a retelling of a *different* fairy tale, not a four book-long retelling of a *single* fairy tale, like I had originally assumed (yes, I am distinctly aware of what that makes me). The four retellings are as follows:

1. CINDER – Cinderella
2. SCARLET – Little Red Riding Hood
3. CRESS – Rapunzel (My personal all-time favorite fairy tale)
4. WINTER – Snow White

Firm in the knowledge I finally knew what was going on, I returned to SCARLET.

The rest of the story was told alternately from Cinder and Scarlet's POVs, with a few chapters from Kai's perspective tossed in for fun.

And let me tell you--Meyer has mastered the art of the cliff-hanger chapter (to the tune of several more shrieks). You may be the kind of reader who can nonchalantly skip back and forth between chapters, I, however, am sadly *not*.

But don't freak out. While Meyer heartlessly ends chapters at pivotal moments, *thus far*, she has not ended an entire book that way.

And SCARLET was S-P-E-C-T-A-C-U-L-A-R. I loved it even more than CINDER. Scarlet and Wolf's story is pure hearts and flowers (in that I saw them in my head, not in that they didn't encounter any difficulties--they *definitely* did). I sighed in blissful happiness NUMEROUS times throughout the progression of their relationship. Toss in Cinder's new sidekick (and fellow jail-break-ee) Thorne, who is equal parts swagger, flirtation, and hilarity, and what's not to like?

Cress, the third book in the *Lunar Chronicles*, is TBR February 4, 2014—NEXT WEEK.

My other reviews for this series:

Glitches (Lunar Chronicles 0.5)
Cinder (The Lunar Chronicles, #1)
The Queen's Army (Lunar Chronicles, #1.5)
Cress (The Lunar Chronicles, #3)
Fairest (The Lunar Chronicles, #3.5)
Winter (The Lunar Chronicles, #4)

Kainat ?HUFFLEPUFF & PROUD? says

*"She did not know that the wolf
was a wicked sort of animal,
and she was not afraid of him."*

She is sassy and fiesty.
He is dark, mysterious, and ADORABLE!
What more do you need people?!
. . . Did i mention she carries a gun around?? Yeah, you don't mess with that one. ;)

*"Wait until morning," he said.
"The world wont be safe tonight."*

Still cant find a perfect Wolf! This will do for now. Who do you guys picture as Wolf?

Now that i have read all four books, i can say this without a doubt Scarlet and Wolf are indeed my favorite of them all! I am very ashamed to say after reading Cinder i wanted to skip this one and jump onto Cress. It might have something to do with Rapunzel being my favorite fairytale, or me being uncomfortable with the idea of welcoming a new main character, especially since i know almost nothing about the Red Ridding Hood. I see them more as Beauty and the Beast. I JUST LOVE THESE TWO SO FREAKING MUCH!

Holland Roden would make a perfect Scarlet.

I have read this book 3 times already, it's about time I move onto the audiobook. Just can't get enough. =D

Kassidy says

4.5

I loved seeing all of the storylines coming together and the different perspectives. Things got crazy in this one and it was awesome! Loving this series.
