



Counted Worthy

Leah E. Good

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Heather Stone lives in fear of repeating the past, yet she continues doing the one thing that could trigger another disaster. When the police trace an illegal Bible to her house, Heather's world begins to crumble.

Her father's life hangs in the balance. No one with the power to help knows or cares. If she tries to save him, she could lead her friends to their deaths. If she does nothing, her father's fate is certain. Can she evade a hostile police force and win public sympathy before it's too late?

Counted Worthy Details

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Author : Leah E. Good

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From Reader Review Counted Worthy for online ebook

R.F. Gammon says

Oh my goodness.

Oh my goodness.

Oh my goodness.

I read this thing in two days. I used to be a very fast reader, but I've gotten slower lately. The last book that I raced through like this was Catching Fire.

And oh my.

Before I go on to the rest of my review, ai wanted to mention a couple things I found interesting.

1. I am currently writing a Christian dystopian book with a similar premise to Counted Worthy.

2. In that book, the male best friend is named Bryce.

I just thought that coincidence was cool. And I'm also happy that there's another book in the same genre as mine. :D

On to the review.

WHAT I LIKED

-Can I just say everything?

-No?

-fine.

-I loved Heather. She was a very real heroine. I constantly found myself forgetting that she was a fictional character. Her struggles were incredibly real and she reacted to things the way I think a scarred teenager would.

-Bryce was just plain awesome. I usually feel like the male lead of this kind of story is lacking in development, and I definitely want to know more about Bryce, his story, and his life. But he was still amazing and very real.

-I just loved all the characters.

-The plot was compelling, and I loved the way the tiniest details were important later. Like the thing with the grass? O_O

-I want to know more about how the church underground system works. When the sequel comes out, I hope Ms. Good talks about that a little.

-And the twist at the end? I gasped out loud and went, "No! They wouldn't!" Even though I had an idea of how the book was going to end, it still shocked the pants off me.

-Can I just say I liked the whole thing?

Verdict: Leah Good is an incredible author. I read carefully, knowing that she was a teen and self-published, but it was very difficult to tell. The formatting, the number of wonderful little references (Do Hard Things, anyone?) and everything about the story is just amazing. I hope that if I, too, am Counted Worthy, I will show the strength and courage that Heather did.

5 glimmering stars. :D

Leah Good says

Finished re-reading this to get context and forgotten details to use in figuring out book two. Keep praying for me, guys!

Sarah Grace Grzy says

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!! I didn't want it to be overrrrrrr!!!! *weeps*

This book was amazing! I adored it! I must have a sequel, like, a week ago! Please please hurry up, Leah! I planned to read this slowly and enjoy it, but still ended up finishing it in two days. XD

The story was gripping. From the first page I was completely hooked. The world building was very well done. Some dystopian books tend to lack in the world building department, and leave the reader scratching their heads at times, but not so with Counted Worthy. Miss Good gave just enough description so you understood the story and setting, but not too much, and not all at once.

The characters were all well developed; I feel like Heather's father could have been better developed, but he was still a great character. And, short rant here: (view spoiler) Heather was very well done; her character was the best part of this book for me. Oftentimes in stories like this one, the main heroine is this brilliant, perfect, flawless character who is going to save the world! Think Superman. And I hate that, because it is just so unrealistic, and I cannot relate to that character at all. Heather was human. Heather was real. She had issues she struggled with. I could *relate* to her. She was so genuine. That is the main thing I loved about this book. Miss Good nailed her character! Bryce was awesome also; I loved how I wasn't the stereotypical perfect guy every girl falls for. Ick. I also liked how their relationship stayed un-boyfriend\girlfriend. I liked how they were almost siblings, and their care for one another, again, not in a boy\girl way.

I wasn't a huge fan of the fact that there was a great deal of *talking* about stuff, not actually *doing* stuff. For a decent portion of the book, the characters discussed what their plan was. I would have liked to read less discussion and more actually carrying out of the plan.

My only other critique would have been that the book was longer. It could *easily* have been twice as long, and not dragged or gotten boring.

All in all, very well done! I loved this book! SO so good!

Hailey Rose says

Counted Worthy is a book I had been wanting to read for a LONG time. I was so excited to finally read it...and to add another book to my list of favorites.

Plot/Storyline: 5/5

Well executed and well structured. Not to mention extremely realistic and enjoyable.

Characters: 5/5

I loved the characters. Heather confused me a little at first, but as the book went on I felt like I got to know her much better and she wasn't so mysterious.

Writing: 5/5

Not only was the writing spectacular, the pacing of the story was one of the best I have seen. Had the book been any longer, it would have felt dragged out. Had it been shorter, it would have felt too fast.

Dialogue: 5/5

Perfect!

Want-to-read-ability: 5/5

Talk about impossible to put down. Each chapter left me on the edge of my seat and I had to keep reading!

Paul Willis says

The dystopian genre is generally captivating (*The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *The Giver*, etc) but the worldviews, causes, and solutions (as well as content) always irk me. *Counted Worthy* was a refreshing change. It had all the elements of dystopian: over-regulatory government, the lasting effects of an old civil war, and just a little bit of unfamiliar technology. But what made the difference was the cause.

It is a story of Christians, persecuted for their faith, and struggling to survive in a hateful world. The fight to survive isn't another gun-blazing rebellion, it's the awakening of people's consciences. The final thing that stood out to me was the relationship between the male and female main characters. Though it was a little less guarded than I would prefer, it wasn't a boyfriend/girlfriend situation. Their thoughts and intentions were to protect one another and work together to save someone they mutually loved.

Although sometimes the story was slow (lots of dialogue and thought) the stakes were enough to keep me going. I cared!

The content was good. It had very little violence at all (maybe one mention of blood?). It states that one character curses and another time starts to swear. It was not condoned or written, and I attributed it to his character development. He was the only Christian in a relentlessly atheistic home, and I expected him to be rough around the edges. As a final note, I would have appreciated more male leadership in the Christian underground.

Best quote:

I brushed my fingers over the faded red house number. 73. Perfection and resurrection. A sign of safety for Christians.

Recommended!

Mikayla says

I liked this more than any Distopian I've read. And since I've only read five, that's pretty easy.

What I liked:

Heather was a likable character, even with all her struggles.

The action scenes were pretty well played out.

There was no romance, and really no content in that direction.

What I didn't like:

The over controlling government was never super clearly explained. I realize the author probably didn't want it to dominate the book, but it would have really helped if I had know who these people were, and what they were hoping to accomplish.

Heather's struggle wasn't really pinned down until about the 30% mark.

You know, at the end of this all, I really wish I could have given it a 3.5 rating. I liked it, but it just didn't love it.

Kate Willis says

Why did I not know this existed??!!! It has all the elements of my favorite dystopians--banned books, bicycle chases, sneaking past security, and some broken down infrastructure--with no love triangle or adult content to make me throw it out the window. Seriously good. The writing style was so fun, my Kindle highlighter and I went on a spree together after the first chapter pulled me in to the point of no return. Quite the surprise twist there! Heather was *so real*. She struggled so much but turned to God for her strength, and her friends (especially Bryce) were there to remind her of the Scriptures she needed. I liked Bryce quite a bit, and Ansley was a fun side character. The part that had me most flipping "pages" was when they discovered the (view spoiler) I did find the book slow and heavy on the dialogue at some points; but the Christian message, amazing action, and great characters made up for everything. *big fangirl grin* Not recommended for younger readers because of intense action, flashbacks to (view spoiler), and (view spoiler). Also, one character swears under his breath although the word is not mentioned, and there are a few woman leaders in the resistance.

Best quote: "I looked up and found an expectant expression on his face. He wanted me to sound spiritual, but I only felt scared."

And this one just because: "He put his hand over my mouth. I considered licking him until I heard the rhythmic thump of running feet."

Altogether, I LOVED this fantastic, God-honoring read! Anyone want to build a printing press with me?

Amanda Beguerie says

Counted Worthy changed my life - and quite literally, at that. Through reading it, my love for reading was reawakened, I became an Official Fangirl, I was introduced to the indie publishing community, and a passion for my faith was sparked once again. In getting to know the author, I started my own blog, decided to write my own book, and start college at age fifteen through her guidance to become an editor. If it weren't for Counted Worthy...my life would be so incredibly different.

Counted Worthy will always hold a special place in my heart; I love it all, from the inspiring themes to Heather and Bryce's friendship, to the book-appreciation aspect of it and the city setting, to the dystopian world, the strong Christian message, and the well-crafted writing.

This book deserves a re-read. <3

And now, for my shrieky, fangirly, obsessed-fourteen-year-old-girl-review:

My Original Review (Right After I Read it In 2014):

Amazing! Counted Worthy is literally my favorite book. Leah E. Good writes clearly and very well. She's very talented and such a sweet person. :) The plot is amazing, I cried twice, and it is ended well, but is still very open for a sequel. The characters are very well described and developed; I had to keep reminding myself that I was not Heather, that being a Christian is actually legal (whew!) and I caught myself rocking back and forth and hyperventilating randomly throughout the days reading it and following finishing it. No joke, it impacted me THAT much. This book is a MUST READ! It is a beautiful dystopian teen novel that defies the low bar set for the quality of teen fiction today. It made me think of things very differently and is very inspiring. Don't wait! Read it!

Clare Farrelly says

Exceeded expectations, It is so refreshing to read a book that is beautiful in every way once in a while. This book was like a shining gem. I have nothing bad to say about it! It may not have been quite as epic, long (I wish it was longer), fast, as many others, but everyone should read this book. It is terrifyingly realistic. I could fully believe it could happen in the future. Normally dystopian books seem just a little far fetched in some ways, but this one could happen, and the thought that similar events could happen in future generations is scary, and that in some ways it, well rather similar circumstances are happening now in some other countries.

There were a few bits that made me laugh but mostly I just turned pages, as the book took hold of my emotions and hopes. This is a book that will make you think about your faith. I mean really think, ask those hard questions, what would I do in such circumstances? This is not a book with just the label 'Christian' slapped onto it, it really is one. But I think that even if you were not a Christian you could enjoy this book. Oh and the cover is seriously cool too. So you should read it, you won't regret it!

Allison Tebo says

An amazing and inspiring read! I was very moved and uplifted by this book and was extremely impressed not only with Leah Good's writing style, but the deep truths that she conveyed. I was especially impressed with how she portrayed Heather's fears but balanced them with the enormous Christ given courage that she possessed at the same time. A beautiful and inspiring read!

I really, really enjoyed this book - and I NEED A SEQUEL!

Brett Harris says

Every generation must discover it's own storyweavers. Leah Good is one of ours and we are fortunate. Counted Worthy is a thrilling work of inspirational fiction that perfectly complements the message of Do Hard Things. Grab a copy for yourself, grab a copy for a friend, and help spread the word about this

phenomenal debut. Counted Worthy belongs in the hands of every Christian teen and story lover in the country. It's that good.

Jason McIntire says

I've been intending to read this book for some time. After picking it up on sale a couple of weeks ago, I sat down today and went through it in one 2-3 hour shot.

What I liked:

- It held my attention comfortably.
- The scenario seemed reasonably realistic for dystopia. Reminded me of the world in the Lammimans' film "Remember," but without the strange clothes and (mostly) without the made-up weapons and technology.
- I could relate to the main characters.
- The Christians accomplish things by sacrifice instead of by direct resistance.
- There is no over-the-top violence, romance beyond a hint, or suggestive content. At the same time, the book doesn't come across as preachy or overmuch righteous (Ecc. 7:16).

What I didn't like:

- One of the main Christian characters is said to have cursed once. That isn't exactly presented as okay (the narration calls it "rare"), and the word isn't repeated - but still, I felt like it was really uncalled for. Not being overmuch righteous can go too far (Ecc. 7:17).
- I felt the book could have used a bit more story, i.e. stuff happening vs. talking, worrying, moralizing, and recapping by Heather and her friends.
- Despite a pretty thorough editing job, there are a few typos. Notably, the characters "peddle" their bicycles rather than "pedaling" them. This (rather common) error wouldn't be noticeable, only they bike almost everywhere they go.

My favorite quote:

"Paul got stoned by people who were mad about his faith. They left him for dead and he got right back up. I could go for that kind of result.

On the other hand, Stephen got stoned too, and he didn't get back up. And Paul eventually got beheaded.

I sighed. At least David died of old age." - Heather Stone

Good, Leah E. (2014-11-03). Counted Worthy (pp. 177-178). Leah E. Good. Kindle Edition.

Grace says

Wow, that was good.

I read it in a single day, unable to put it down. The writing was so much better than any other self-published books I've read; it's to-the-point without skimping on descriptive details. Overall, in both writing and design, it didn't feel self-published, and I could tell that Good knows her stuff.

She wrote a book centered around Christianity, and it isn't sentimentalized or cheesy AT ALL, which is a huge accomplishment in itself. There are verses everywhere, and Good doesn't shy away from applying those verses to incredibly tough situations. I feel inspired to start memorizing Scripture again now, after seeing the power that it gave some of the characters to be able to recite verses off the top of their head!

It's scary to read because the scenario doesn't feel totally far-fetched. Yet it's also encouraging because it shows that no matter what persecution Christians may face in the future, we serve a God who is so much bigger than any government.

R.J. Rodda says

I count this Christian dystopian novel worthy of being read and enjoyed! If you are Christian and liked the Hunger Games (or at least the premise) check this out. This has a girl leading a campaign against a repressive government who executes Christians. While this scenario actually does happen around the world currently, this book is set in a future America. This is a fast-paced easy read that is very Christian and even includes lots of Scriptures in a way that felt relevant to the narrative (my one quibble would be why use King James Version?). Glad I read this.

Gabriela says

Well, this was certainly not what I was expecting, but it was very very good. Then it made my eyes watery. Let me tell you, ninety-nine percent of the time, I do not cry.

Police trace a illegal Bible to Heather Stone's house, and her world begins to crumble. Her father is arrested and it's only a matter of time before he's killed. Heather has already lost her mother, can she handle losing him too? She doesn't want to repeat past mistakes. Though if she tries to save him, it could lead her friends into danger and brings about their deaths. Can she evade the police on the lookout for her and win the public's sympathy to save her dad?

So I wasn't expecting it to be this way, but I was pleasantly surprised that it was kind of dystopian. The world building was fantastic. It steadily added tidbits of information about the world and the history behind it without dumping a whole load of information at one point.

The characters were great. Heather was really real and I loved everything about her. Then there's Bryce. I just wanted to give him a hug. He was so sweet and kind and worried so much for Heather. He was like a brother to her, but I think it is going to grow into something more. There were many more characters and I liked how they were introduced. It didn't feel rushed and you felt like you've always known them even if they were only there for a little bit. I do wish that there had been a bit more character development, but it fitted with the pace of the book.

There was a lot of action and suspense with a amazing, and a bit shocking, conclusion. It had such a great message attached to it. I would have liked it at a bit slower pace, but it didn't feel forced and went smoothly. That ending was just fantastic, I wasn't expecting it at all. It was realistic, but I didn't expect it for a fictional book. It made it more enjoyable, if that is the right word for it. Probably not.

I'm recommending this to everyone out there. It was great! Prefect for people who want an easy and fast paced read with a great message. I hope to read more by this author soon!

You can check out this review on my blog too, at: <https://aheartredeemed.wordpress.com/...> Thanks!
