



Icons

Margaret Stohl

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Your heart beats only with their permission.

Everything changed on The Day. The day the windows shattered. The day the power stopped. The day Dol's family dropped dead. The day Earth lost a war it didn't know it was fighting.

Since then, Dol has lived a simple life in the countryside -- safe from the shadow of the Icon and its terrifying power. Hiding from the one truth she can't avoid.

She's different. She survived. Why?

When Dol and her best friend, Ro, are captured and taken to the Embassy, off the coast of the sprawling metropolis once known as the City of Angels, they find only more questions. While Ro and fellow hostage Tima rage against their captors, Dol finds herself drawn to Lucas, the Ambassador's privileged son. But the four teens are more alike than they might think, and the timing of their meeting isn't a coincidence. It's a conspiracy.

Within the Icon's reach, Dol, Ro, Tima, and Lucas discover that their uncontrollable emotions -- which they've always thought to be their greatest weaknesses -- may actually be their greatest strengths.

Bestselling author Margaret Stohl delivers the first book in a heart-pounding series set in a haunting new world where four teens must piece together the mysteries of their pasts -- in order to save the future.

Icons Details

Date : Published May 7th 2013 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780316205184

Author : Margaret Stohl

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Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Icons for online ebook

Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

I wasn't completely sold on the style with this one, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

Aliens usually aren't my thing, but the alien presence in this book didn't put me off. This wasn't all in your face about the visitors from outer space. Yeah, they were there, they were mentioned a lot, but it was done really well in this book so it's NOT just a book about aliens invading earth. Which is good, because it kept me reading.

I think this is part of a series (the first) but I don't think I'll read on. For me the book ended pretty well, I was satisfied with the story as a whole. But then again, perhaps it's the thought of aliens that's putting me off, as it seems there might be more in the next book.

The relationships between the characters were good. They seemed pretty natural apart from the Ambassador; I didn't understand her motives at all.

I didn't like how some things were left unexplained, but it was only little things. Pretty much everything that mattered was set out for the reader.

I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.

Brad Sells says

Words cannot even begin to describe how much I adore Icons. You know how some people say "I can't even", and some people don't understand it? Well, guess what. I CAN'T EVEN.

Everything about this book is phenomenal; everything. I was emerged into the world of the Icons immediately, and I never for a second wanted to put the book down. When I would, it was the only thing on my mind. And whenever I picked it back up, I would read 150 pages in one go. Icons is definitely a favorite of 2013 and of all time. I have been pushing this book onto everybody lately, and I don't see that stopping anytime soon. Seriously, if you haven't picked up Icons, you're missing out. It's wonderful!

Dol is such a fantastic main character. She's strong, loyal and fierce - everything I like in a protagonist - and she never let me down during the book. And Ro and Lucas were just great. What I love about this love triangle (I guess you could call it that) is that both loves feel genuine and real. The relationships aren't forced, and there are obvious reasons why Dol is attracted to both Rol and Lucas. Stohl did a stunning job with these characters and their development during Icons. Brilliant.

The whole concept of the Icons? Freaky as crap. They honestly scared me, even though we didn't get to see much of them (which I'm hoping we do in book two!). The fighting, the war, the struggle, the survival, everything about Icons worked for me, and this is easily one of the best books I've read.

Overall, what else can I say about Icons except that I love it so, so, so much and it is mind-blowing? Fast-

paced and captivating, Icons didn't just exceed my expectations - it blew every book I've read in a long time out of the water.

Kathy says

This book was just ok until then ending. Then I finally became interested.

I had this on audiobook and it kept my interest enough to keep listening when I was driving or working but I never really fully understood what was going on or why things were happening or really even cared about the story or characters.

I liked Ro from the first time we met him but never quite got when or why Dol fell for Lucas so the love triangle didn't work for me.

By the end of the book I was intrigued and so will read the next book.

Rating: 3 Stars

Content: a little language scattered throughout, mild innuendo

Source: Audible.com

Sabrina says

Short and Sweet:

I really disliked this book. I was confused and/or bored 90% of the time. I hate to give such a poor review, but I'd also hate for anyone else to waste time and energy on this book.

To Elaborate....

I wanted to love this one. I really did. When it showed up in my mailbox I literally jumped up and down. I was that excited.

sigh

However, Icons is a book filled with disjointed and incomplete information. I still really don't understand more than the basics: The 'alien-ish' things came, they killed a lot of people, and there is something 'amazing' (although hardly ever utilized) about each of the four teenagers the story centers on, but as much as Icons hints at a deeper, more intriguing plot throughout the story, it never quite gets very interesting.

Here is a link to someone who disagrees with me though: [Birth of a New Witch reviews Icons](#)

(Note* The above review has been edited to exclude some of it's original content. While I did not enjoy

Icons, I felt that I let my negative emotions get the best of me and have decided to leave the last few comments I made out of the review.)

Rosie Pearson says

So far I'm not overly impressed. I loved the concept and everything she's hinting at is interesting but Margaret Stohl just isn't explaining these ideas. Now I understand what the characters are and what they can do is the mysterious element in the story. But when you have those elements you have to almost overshadow that and keep it as a nagging in the back of your head thing and fill the gaps with action sequences, maybe through in a love triangle and a minor antagonist to keep the readers interested but she does none of these things and quite frankly it makes the story boring. In the book Margaret Stohl is always talking about the threat of the icons and the lords. But unlike the 5th wave they don't seem to have the effect the ever looming threat those antagonists had on the readers. Overall so far I think it's a weak story, great ideas but with vertically no development, a weak romantic element and little excitement throughout the book. it's weak.

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

ICONS has this original feel to it that hooked me from page one. I LOVED this book! It's one of those reads you pick up expecting one thing, and end up with something a little bit different, and oh so addicting. The best way to describe this book is to say it's an exciting, action packed dystopian / science fiction read loaded with twists and turns that will leave you wanting more when you finish it. Having a storyline fueled by action, some sizzling character chemistry, intrigue, betrayal, love, and having me try to figure out what exactly is going on, was perfect! Now add that with some really creditable, layered characters who I got to know just enough of to understand their motives with ICONS, while leaving me wanting to know more about them that I didn't want this story to finish, and you have yourselves a 5 star book!

What really captured my interest and hooked me with this exciting read was they way it was written. Margaret gave me just enough of her story to keep me turning pages, revealed small doses of what was going on to keep me engaged, and left me with a few unanswered questions that make wish the sequel was already in my hands. Despite this book's size, I read it one sitting. Once I started it, there was no stopping. Though I'm a fan of Margaret's writing from the Beautiful Creatures she co-wrote, I have to say that ICONS is her best writing yet! There is something in the way ICONS is written that made me as a reader feel as though Margaret found her niche. ICONS is not like any other book I've read. I can't even begin to compare to another. Having read a ton of YA books, I have to say that in itself seems like an impossible task to accomplish.

Though this book is about Dol, her three fellow characters all share her spot light, and their dangerous adventure into finding out more about who they really are, and what exactly their powers can do is an exciting, thrilling journey in itself. This story isn't just told from Dol's point of view. To add to all that's going on with the rebellion, and the mystery behind what's really happening, Margaret has inserted articles and letters between various chapters that only adds to the danger of what these four teens are up against, from those on the "other side". Yes, that just adds more fuel to the conspiracy that's going on here on Earth after the aliens invaded and well, there seems to be a lot more going on than what gets uncovered here in ICONS. I can not wait for the rest of this series to be released.

If you're looking for an action packed book that has some fabulous character chemistry, a rebellion, characters who pull you right into their story & leave you wanting more from them long after you finish it, then I'd recommend picking this book up! Another fabulous thing about this book, is it's one I'd recommend to higher level 11 & 12 yr readers. It's a clean cut read, and one teachers could easily discuss a variety of themes from the book with their students. I LOVED IT! I'd totally recommend this book to anyone and everyone.

Erin Dunn says

Maybe more like 2.5 Stars

Icons is yet another post apocalyptic/dystopia/alien novel that unfortunately doesn't really have anything new to deliver.

Years ago everything changed on the day the Icons dropped from the sky and a lot of people died. Now Dol and her friend Ro are captured by the Embassy and they meet two other teens with similar "dots" on their wrists. Together all four have to unravel a conspiracy and use their uncontrollable emotions to save their future.

So pretty much this book follows a basic formula that may sound familiar. Aliens come to earth, a lot of people die, there are people with abilities that can stop it, wait there is a conspiracy too, and oh of course a love triangle. I could pretty much guess where everything was going and so about midway I had a hard time trying to focus on it.

Also, there was a lot of confusing stuff that I still don't understand. Like the whole thing with the dots on their wrists was different, but I feel like I still don't get it exactly. I feel like I'm missing a lot of specific information there. The whole dot thing weirded me out to. I don't get why it was almost sexual-like??

Another thing I feel like I'm still confused about is the aliens. I was extremely bummed to not find out what the aliens actually are, what they look like, or anything. I guess your supposed to read the next books in the series to find out, but I don't think I'll be making that commitment.

One big thing I did like about Icons was Ro. I LOVED his character. He was so good to Dol too. Very early on in the opening part (with his birthday present to her) I could already tell I was going to like him for her. Sadly, there is a love triangle though. Dol's character really irritated me because of her with Ro/Lucas. She was so wrong to Ro and he was her ride or die dude for real! Well Dol's character irritated me anyway because she was a bit dull. Although, I can't say I liked any character in this book other than Ro.

I do have to say that there were a few other interesting things happening in the book. For example there was a twist about all of the four teens that I didn't see coming. I really do enjoy a good twist! Also, I found all of the emotions and dot stuff fascinating and unique, even if it was a bit odd. I think this would have been better for me if it didn't feel like something I've already read multiple times before.

Overall Icons is an average book. I think I am just really done with "alien" novels that do not have any good alien action or information about the aliens. I can say I like this better than The Fifth Wave, which I couldn't even finish.

I recommend *Icons* for fans of Alien novels without any alien information or action, YA Dystopia novel super fans, and anyone who wants to see for themselves what the heck the dot/sexual thing is all about.

<http://angelerin.blogspot.com/2015/09...>

Leigh Collazo says

More reviews at Mrs. ReaderPants.

REVIEW: When I first started reading *Icons*, I thought it was going to be a five-star book. Crazy-creative world-building is easy to spot, and *Icons* has unique world-building in spades. I liked Dol and loved Ro, and I enjoyed trying to figure out just exactly what was going on. Ramona Jamona the pig just cracked me up, and I was actually a little sad when the aliens killed her (not really a spoiler--it happened right at the beginning). I love the "Classified" documents that appear between the chapters, especially since they helped to explain some things while also introducing some new mysteries.

But once Ro and Dol make it to the Embassy, the story started to lose its spark. Even more than 250 pages in, I still felt like I was trying to put together the pieces, trying to figure out just what was going on. I liked the puzzle of it, but it went on a little long for me. Plenty of questions, but almost no answers. I am still unsure exactly the point of the whole thing. Why did the Ambassador want the Icon children again? Huh? I feel like I must have missed something important, but I didn't care enough to go back to figure out what. All this stuff happened, but it felt so random and disconnected that I felt lost.

While I liked Dol in the beginning, I got annoyed with her quickly. I get that she is sadness and sorrow, personified, but I didn't care for her behavior with Lucas (who I also didn't really care for). I loved Ro all the way through and just felt this tug at my heart that Dol was ultimately going to end up breaking his heart. That for sure didn't do Dol (or Lucas) any favors.

THE BOTTOM LINE: In the end, I feel kind of sad about this book. I LOVED the first 100 pages, but I just felt so confused as to the how and why of it all. Why are the aliens here? Why did they kill a billion people? What do they want to do now, and why do they need to do that? Did I miss something? Surely, I must have.

STATUS IN MY LIBRARY: We don't have it. I plan to give my ARC to a couple of my really smart readers to see what they think. If they like it, I'll get it for the library.

READALIKES: *The 5th Wave* (Yancey); *Shadow & Bone* (Bardugo)

RATING BREAKDOWN:

Overall: 3/5

Creativity: 5/5

Characters: 3/5

Engrossing: 2/5

Writing: 3/5

Appeal to teens: I have no idea--I want to circulate this one a little with my better readers to get opinions.

Appropriate length to tell the story: 2/5

CONTENT:

Language: don't remember any, but I was so focused on figuring out what was going on, I may have missed some

Sexuality: mild; kissing, characters hold their wrist markings together to "connect" each other--the scenes have an intimate feel to them

Violence: medium--lots of death, but they're not very gory; as a "Rager", Ro gets into lots of fights

Drugs/Alcohol: none

Zenki the Hermit says

1 star. :(

At the beginning, it was okay. I appreciated the plot and I was excited of how different it is from other novels. Still, I was expecting more.

When I was reading, I felt like a mere spectator. That's it. I was just reading, waiting for the words to pass by, and I just wanted it to end. I wasn't drawn to the book, unlike others and I actually thought it was corny :(I'm sorry, but it's what I think anyway.

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

Uh...ah...uhm...I really don't know how to review this book because everything in the story to me is cryptic. I'm not a big fan of alien stories in the first place and not only does this book have them, but it also portrays them in the most unfathomable way that is kind of hard to appreciate. I do have a little empathy for the heroine in the story but there are not enough events for her to display her character and personality. So, I'm stuck and I don't know what to say next because there is really nothing much to say about this book. I definitely won't read its sequel.

Michele Mattos says

This is one of the few situations when I wish GoodReads allowed us to give half stars ratings because I don't want to give this 4 stars, but it does deserve more than 3. I liked this book, but I didn't love it. My problem with it was the writing since the characters and the overall were pretty interesting.

The writing was just too repetitive and I'm pretty sure this is why this book is so long. Sentences are repeated to show emphasis or the fact that someone's feelings are soooo strong, which is kinda silly to me. I know it's the author's writing style, but I don't think I'll be reading more of her books. I could overlook that if it happened sporadically, but it was like every other sense. Every other sentence. You see what I did there?

I went into this book knowing close to nothing about it and I was a little surprised when I realized the plot

involved aliens taking over the world. I really liked that expect and it was refreshing to me since I don't see a lot of YA novels revolving around aliens. I liked the concept of four young adults destined to save the world and how the author portrayed big cities being taken by aliens.

The beginning is very slow and a little boring, but it does get better towards the middle. I really liked the ending, I think it closed the story really well and it left a window opened for a sequel. Like I said before, I won't be reading the sequel - again, mostly because of the writing style but I'll admit I'm a little curious to see how this story will be wrapped up. Not curious enough, though.

If you're a fan of dystopian YA, like Hunger Games and Divergent, I think you'll enjoy this book. Those other books are better, no doubt, but this one is pretty good too.

For more book reviews and other bookish things: www.letmecrossover.blogspot.com

Franzi Bücherseelen says

3, 5 Sterne

Hermione says

2 stars. So, here's the thing, Margaret Stohl. I gave *Beautiful Creatures* a try, but I really, *really* didn't like it. I didn't like it enough to give your sequel(s) (did that make sense?) a try.

But then I heard you were making a dystopian series, first book titled *Icons*. So I was like, Okay. She's doing something new. I'll give this a try. Even though the absolute MAJORITY of dystopians seemed half-assed, with weak plots, boring stories, and even worse world building.

Needless to say, Ms. Stohl, yours seemed to be one of those stories.

I'm very frustrated. I really am. I don't understand how authors pull off stories such as these when they having strong relationships with their fanbase. If this is so, then *in theory*, they should have an idea or so about what their fanbase usually, as a group, likes and dislikes.

And I am pretty *sure* that fans don't like half-assery, weak plots, boring stories, or even worse world-building.

(Unless ... you do. Then I don't know.)

So with that said, Margaret Stohl, your story failed to have me immersed. It failed to interest me, to wow me, to find a place into my hard, without-a-chink-in-its-armor heart. **It was, in conclusion, like another one of those wannabe *Hunger Games* or *Divergent*, character- and world-building-wise.**

Folks, nothing to see here. I guarantee that if you move along in the dystopian line nothing will be missed.

Jen says

Icons is an excellent novel full of 'big feels' Icons is based primarily on fear. Humans live in a post-invasion world where the aliens only deal with the Ambassadors and can wipe out entire cities with a single pulse. The cities are remnants of some of the most inhabited cities in the world. The landscape, described in vivid detail, is a character all its own.

The story follows Dol a grass girl who leads a simple life away from the Hole, what used to be Los Angeles. Dol is not a normal teen, she somehow survived The Day when no one else in her family did. Along with Ro, another orphan from The Day, she leads a simple life at the Mission in the grasslands. But not all is what it seems with Dol and Ro. They are a secret hidden away from the Ambassador and the rest of the world.

With quiet character moments and pulse pounding action Icons takes you on a journey of self discovery and revolution. The future of the people lays in the hands of four teenagers who have no idea just how powerful they really are.

This is a great book for readers of all ages and fans of Stohl's Beautiful Creatures will not be disappointed in the subtle romance mixed in with all the other cool sci-fi/dystopian themes.

Tatiana says

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