



Defect

Ryann Kerekes

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Locked in the mental ward on her sixteenth birthday, Eve Sterling doesn't think things can get any worse.

They can.

After failing the mindscan procedure that predicts future crime, she's deemed a Defect and subjected to endless psychological and physical testing as the government tries to determine what's different about her.

The one bright spot is military guard, Will. He's gentle with her when no one's watching and suppresses a smile whenever she defies their challenges. Will's lessons begin to dance dangerously close to knowledge she shouldn't possess, like what's beyond the fenced compound. Though it's forbidden and Will would be killed on the spot if they're discovered, they steal away moments together. With her very life on the line, Eve has to decide if she can trust the guard she's falling for.

DEFECT, young adult romance takes place in the near-future.

It is a survivalist love story.

Defect Details

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Author : Ryann Kerekes

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From Reader Review Defect for online ebook

AJ says

I'm a big fan of dystopia, and I really liked the premise of this one. Kerekes' dystopian world is set 40 years after the 'Medical Revolution' which sought to irradiate crime, physical and mental illness, and socially unacceptable behaviour from the population. In order to do this, all citizens living in the fenced-in, heavily guarded cities, are subjected to a 'mindscan' at age 16 which predicts their future susceptibility.

We meet our heroine, Eve, on the day of her mindscan, when she, most unusually, fails the procedure and is taken into custody and subjected to intense testing – and labelled a Defect.

I really liked Eve. Thrown into a completely unknown and terrifying existence, she refuses to let anybody break her. She is determined to fight, to stay true to herself, and to tackle all of the obstacles thrown at her. There's a strong *Divergent* vibe going on when she begins training as a soldier and endures extreme physical challenges, grows stronger, learns about her world and becomes one tough little chick.

And then there's Will *sigh*, Eve's trainer, who is a bit of a badass but who is nothing but gentle with her. He looks out for her, protects her, and helps her adjust to her new world. And then there are the meaningful stares, hidden smiles, little touches and forbidden talk about their situation and life beyond the fences. And in defiance of the rules, a sweet romance develops.

"Nothing here was by choice. Except us. That's why this feels so right. We're choosing each other."

But Eve's status as a Defect is a unique one, and unbeknownst to her, her government sees her as a threat, putting her in very real danger.

The story is told entirely from Eve's POV, and you really feel her emotion as she adjusts to everything around her. The side characters are great – both the good and the evil, and the dystopian world is intriguing and well developed.

But as excited as I was to read a stand alone, cliffie-free book, I felt that the ending was really rushed, and it could easily have been expanded out to become a fuller story. Part 2 of the book, with a major shift in focus, starts at 85%. To keep with the flow of the story, I feel like this should have happened at the halfway point of the book, but instead, after the well paced and detailed lead up to get to that point, too much story is squished into that last 15%, with new characters introduced, and major events taking place that are just glossed over. I feel like so much potential has been missed. The whole book builds up to an epic finish which just... isn't there. There's an Epilogue so we now know how Eve's story ends up – two years later – and it is a HEA, but all of the action is missing, and so many threads are left undone. I wanted more.

Rabidreading says

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Defect is a YA dystopian novel set in a not-too-distant future where life is heavily regimented and

controlled, and citizens are subjected to invasive mindscan procedures. Fail the scan and you're branded a Defect. Family, school, friends - you lose it all. Suddenly you're government property, and they can do whatever they want to you. Which is exactly what happens to Eve at the start of the book.

Eve's voice reeled me in almost instantly. She doesn't understand why she failed the mindscan, or what makes her different from the countless others who have taken (and passed) the same test. All she knows is life as she knows it is over. Rather than give up, though, or waste time railing against the unfairness of her fate, Eve makes up her mind that she is going to survive at any cost. She's not going to give anyone the satisfaction of beating her, or of turning her into a mindless drone. She's small but tough, this girl, and has plenty of smarts and spirit. It helps that she has a totally swoonworthy guy in her corner who isn't afraid to break and bend the rules for her.

Will....ah, Will. He sorta snuck up on me. He's a little tough to pin down at first, but when he turns it on, it's ON. I am not at all embarrassed to admit he made me sigh like a dreamy-eyed schoolgirl more than a few times. (What? Like you haven't oooh'd and aaah'd over a sexy book hero? Yeah, that's what I thought LOL)

The romance has the right amount of buildup and sizzling moments, and the characters are solid and pretty well defined, so it's easy to stay invested and interested in their story. Unfortunately, as much as I liked what I was reading (and I truly did), the book is not without its issues.

For starters, the world-building is slow to get off the ground, with a lot of necessary explanations about why things are the way they are postponed until further into the novel. Even then, I didn't feel like I got a crystal clear picture of how this dystopian world worked. What details I did get were vague and in short supply. The story also lacks urgency. I was told about various threats and dangers but I wasn't really shown them, and as a result, I didn't take them seriously.

Where Defect really let me down, though, was in its ending. The final 1/3 or so of the book had a bare bones, slightly rushed feel to it that I wasn't happy with. Like I was reading a recap of events, instead of being allowed to actually experience things as they happened. Adding Will's POV might have solved this problem, or better yet, splitting the story into two books instead of making it a standalone. Because honestly, there was a lot more to this story than what I read, and I was disappointed I had to settle for less.

All in all, though, while Defect didn't wow me as much as Ryann Kerekes' debut novel, The Cirque (which I cannot recommend strongly enough), for a sophomore effort it ain't half bad. I like Ryann Kerekes' style and believe she's just beginning to scratch the surface of her writing potential. I look forward to her next project, whatever it is.

This book would be ideal for those who are new to the YA dystopian genre. It's an easy read, not too heavy or angst-ridden, and the two main characters are sure to win you over.

3 Stars ★★★

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

dluvsbooks says

NEW FAVORITE BOOK OF 2013!!!

Ryann sent me an ARC of her new book Defect and I was totally like...

Eve and Will *sigh* I loved the fact it wasn't love at first sight kind of thing, it was a sweet and gradual progress.

Defect is filled with action, amazing bffs, sweet kisses (and steamy ones too!) and a girl finding inner strength. I was enraptured from page one and couldn't stop reading (even though I was literally going cross-eyed) till the end:)

Ryann does it again!!! The type of story all us booklovers are addicted to and this one is like crack. I can't wait for more from Ryann. I'll definitely be stalking her till the next one.

Johanna says

sigh

In essence, the idea for this book was great. The execution? Not so much. I really just couldn't finish this book. I got to page 190/328, and from the start, was thrown off by the protagonist, as well as the "love interest" (I actually don't know if he is really the love interest as I didn't finish the book). The characters didn't seem to have much depth to them and it was all too wishy-washy for my liking.

axola says

There is a reason (however annoying we find it) why this kind of books are usually written as a trilogy: if you are giving us a new world you have to make us part of it as if it was our own. You have to give us heroes and heroines we would be happy to follow in real life and make us become invested in the revolution.

Unfortunately that didn't happen in this book. We get glimpses of this new world, but nothing else. How are we going to become members of this movement if you don't let us know what our heroes and heroines are fighting for? The idea was good, the story underdeveloped. I couldn't believe when the first part of the story (let's call it the warm up to the revolution) finished at 85% of the book. 15% of the book to start a revolution, win it, have the hero and heroine sort out their relationship and even an epilogue! Exhausting!

In addition, the " love story" let me feeling completely cold. I was never interested on it (which is sad, because I usually focus in the love stories as if I was still 15, so imagine how lukewarm it was) and didn't care a bit if they ended together or not (maybe because I still don't know what they were doing together in the first place).

Marie says

There are some spoilers down the way, so be warned!

First off, I need to put a disclaimer:

I don't usually read dystopia books. The only ones I read before I started Defect, were the Hunger games books, and those I read only because I wanted to see what was all the fuss about them. It's not that I didn't like The Hunger Games, on the contrary, I loved them, but dystopia as a setting for a story is waaaay to much depressing for me. When something is depressing, I tend to avoid it, so there's a big chance I won't go through the whole book; which is a blasphemy. There's a special hell for people who never finish books they've started, and in it the authors who write books that CAN'T be finished read their novel aloud to the chained non-finishers. At least that's how it is in my head.

Back to the Defect, I expertly excavated it somewhere in the depths of the hard-drive on my computer (I'm an archaeologist, you know :D) and when I checked it out on Goodreads (as I've come to learn it's necessary after reading a little thing called Laid Bare unprepared) and saw that it's a stand alone, I decided to give it a shot, because one does not simply start studying without an unrelated book to procrastinate with.

We meet Eve Sterling and her mother on their way to the lab in which Eve has to undergo a mandatory mindscan. The language is simple, sentences short and to the point, and Eve seems completely secure in what she is about to endure. It's mandatory. It's safe. Everyone does it. Everyone has to do it. Nothing can go wrong. But her mother is nervous and tells her to guard her mind. That's the first thing that bothered me a little. Ok, let's say you live in a world where everything has to be just right, ordinary, non-defective. It's an unimaginable concept to me, but I guess when you're brought up in a society that believes in it, you believe too. But she was brought up by a person who doesn't believe. We find out later that Eve's mother is the first Defect, that she was let out of the Labs because she ended knocked up by a doctor (no less!) and it was a scandal and the whole shebang. Then WHY THE HELL hadn't she run over the fence (or border, or whatever) with her child, why hadn't she protected Eve?

So, Eve fails her mindscan (mind you, it's not defective, as is for every other defect, she fails it) and she ends up in a mental institution. Cue the cute Dimitri Belikov-trainer-guardian-warrior-type-that-fall-in-love-at-first-sight (we'll call him Will here), who is a kickass fighter and an asshole to everyone but her. He saves her from the hospital wing and puts her in warrior training.

Now, the hospital wing: I don't get it. Why would you (if you are dystopian government) keep a bunch of defects that you have absolutely no use for in a hospital for their whole lives, where you have to sedate them, and feed them, and so on, when you have no problem with killing people already? Isn't it a bit redundant? I

mean, what people would object if you killed those teenagers that failed their mindscan, but they won't make a fuss if you just torture them for 50 years? Yeah, that makes sense!

I don't have to retell you what happens next – she becomes a kickass herself, hooks up with Will, has to run away, does it, has a Bella Swan New Moon moment in the wilderness outside the border (he's dead, he's dead, he left me, etc, etc.) and a HEA in the end, of course. I expected it, so I don't think I should go on and on about the plot. The only thing that really poked me in my mental eye is the so –OMG-I-have-to-finish-and-wrapp-up-this-book-like-yesterday-ending. The writing in itself was already fast paced through the whole book (I read it, in an afternoon, and still managed to learn everything about Roman art in the Republic period), and I like it, it seemed natural, somehow, in sync with her day-for-day thinking. But that ending could have been written on at least as many pages as it is long now.

Do I recommend it? Yes, ok, especially if you are a dystopia-novels-virgin, like I was. But now, while I'm going through the third book of the Delirium saga – Requiem, I would not be as eager to recommend it to someone who knows the genre better.

Aestas Book Blog says

Yet another awesome sounding book!!

Locked in the mental ward on her sixteenth birthday, Eve Sterling doesn't think things can get any worse.

They can.

After failing the mindscan procedure that predicts future crime, she's deemed a Defect and subjected to endless psychological and physical testing as the government tries to determine what's different about her.

The one bright spot is military guard, Will. He's gentle with her when no one's watching and suppresses a smile whenever she defies their challenges. Will's lessons begin to dance dangerously close to knowledge she shouldn't possess, like what's beyond the fenced compound. Though it's forbidden and Will would be killed on the spot if they're discovered, they steal away moments together. With her very life on the line, Eve has to decide if she can trust the guard she's falling for.

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Barbara Ann says

[image error]

Mazzie says

This would have been a great book to read, especially seeing as I am such a huge fan of dystopian stories because they can feature all kind of genres such as romance, action, humour, angst...etc. The list is endless. The writing for this story was actually pretty great, nice writing style and Kerekes has a way with words that makes you want to read on - which is the only reason I ended this book.

This book is not original. I know this because I have read so many dystopian books now, and this story did not even hide the fact that it was using plots from Divergent, Hunger Games and Delirium (to name a couple). If I was Veronica Roth, I would be so angry because so much of her plot line was used. Ryann did not have enough originality to make it believable that this was her plot and not somebody else's. I am amazed that when it was being published, no one recognised the similarity of the story line.

(view spoiler)

I was not impressed, to say the least. I had high hopes for this but I was really annoyed that the books I had loved previously were being ripped off in this piece of fiction. Kerekes clearly has the writing style but where is the originality?

Liz says

Sigh Will. :)

Lyn says

I liked the strong characters. I also liked that it wasn't a to be continued. I enjoyed the plot build up. I found myself emotionally invested in the characters.

Ashley Pender says

I'm in love with the first 85% of this book. But I hated the ending, and how it was just kind of squished into

one conjumbled mass of story. Kerekes spends so much time carefully building the first 85% of the story, and then abruptly ends it without any of the satisfaction I was looking for. Honestly, I thought the book was missing pages or something! I feel so utterly robbed of my time because I feel that the ending of this was so rushed and missed all of the potential that it had going for it. It could've been the next Divergent, but not with that ending.

Shelley says

I absolutely loved reading this book; Ryann Kerekes is an author to follow! Situations that may seem ordinary and non-dramatic are made to feel absolutely vibrant and true to life, as if you are sitting in the shoes of our heroine. Your heart beats with hers, your breath catches with hers, and your hopes for her drive the story in a quick and riveting fashion. And, boy, how Kerekes created such a handsome, charming and sweet hero! Will had some major sex appeal; you could practically smell and taste him, and feel his breath on your neck... At times my heart felt like it was going to explode out of my chest from the level of sexual tension!

HOLY SEXUAL TENSION!!!

GIFSoup

Don't be fooled by the book cover, this is not a simple romance, this is a dystopian fiction, full of government corruption, embattled citizens and the loss of free will. The romantic story is delicately woven into the larger drama, in a subtle yet sometimes explosive way. I enjoyed that I got to share the struggles, joys, heartbreaks and insecurities with these characters, and then to witness their just rewards. I only wish that the story could have been longer, and that we could have had more details around the resolution of the story. I feel like I only scratched the surface of these fascinating characters, and would have been willing to dive into a much bigger book. I can't wait to move on to *everything else* Ryann Kerekes writes!

An ARC of this book has been provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Kotka says

Now THESE young characters I'm happy to read even as a fairly jaded adult. There's too much goodness here to cover, but I'll skim the highlights:

1. A strong, non-bitchy female lead who reflects on her actions, questions herself and grows as a person. And we get a male counterpart who is compelling without being the slightest bit abusive, obnoxious or pointlessly mysterious. Dear readers, the young man communicates! He actually opens his mouth and says important things that correct mistaken impressions, drive the plot forward, and give us a reason to like him!
2. A spare writing style that does a great job conveying creepy without edging into melodramatic. Pretty decent plot -- it may not be madly original, but the execution and pacing were fantastic.
3. No ridiculously forced love triangles. There may be the occasional sideline guy mooning over our Eve, but she respects herself and her emotions too much to play mind games with any of them or with herself.

Seriously, there are probably a lot of readers like me out there by now. I avoid love triangles in which your average brainless twit just doesn't know how to choose between the good boy who is her best friend and the mysterious boy who quickens the fire in her loins, or some such bullshit. Those are usually enough to shift a book from the "must-read" to the "consigned-to-the-dustbin-of-shitty-lazy-plot- devices" pile. Rant over.

Thank you Ryann Kerekes (and whatever powers inspired you) for tying up a story in one single well-written book! No pointless cliff hangers, no invented relationship barriers erected by sheer stupidity. This is just a breath of fresh air of a book that left me hugging a very confused cat in giggly glee.

Melissa says

I've always loved dystopian novels. The world building in this was interesting and definitely kept me reading but I think it could've been built upon more and could've easily been turned into a great 3-4 book series. The ending felt very rushed to me. The end of part one is around 82%, I think, which made me question the reason to even break the book up into "parts". Part Two was so rushed I almost got whiplash at the time lapses. Without giving away spoilers, there was a WHOLE lot that happened during part two that the reader didn't even get to experience. It's what was being worked toward the entire book and it goes from "I can't believe it's about to happen" right to the Epilogue. I did like the characters and the build up to their romance. I admired Eve's strength, both physical and mental, and Will was a fantastic hero and leader. I just wished there was more to it.
