



## Schism

*Britt Holewinski*

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## Schism Britt Holewinski

"My name is Andrea Christensen. I'm one of the oldest oldest people in the world."

SCHISM is the first book in a new dystopian trilogy that tells a tale of survival, of good versus evil, and of constructing a future with only memories of childhood.

A government-created virus is accidentally released before testing is complete and within weeks it kills six billion people, children are the only survivors. Andy Christensen and her two friends travel across the country searching for a safe place to live, but nowhere, it seems, is capable of resurrection.

Reviews for SCHISM:

"SCHISM is an engrossing page turner that skillfully deals with dark subject matter in a compelling, through-provoking manner." -IndieReader.com

"This apocalyptic teen drama's character interactions may draw readers in, but its vigorous story will keep them hooked." - Kirkus Reviews

"The author includes detailed character backgrounds that lend depth and believability. Below the surface of the story is a much deeper examination of human nature...and this makes the book truly fascinating. 5 Stars"  
~ Foreword Reviews

## Schism Details

Date : Published March 15th 2016 by Delirious Pixie

ISBN : 9780988300750

Author : Britt Holewinski

Format : Paperback 264 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Schism for online ebook

### **Jessica Bronder says**

Andy recently lost her mother to a car accident so her father decides to spend the summer in Bermuda. While there, Andy makes friends with Morgan and Charlie, two kids from England. But then a virus sweeps the world and anyone older than 13 is killed. They make a living on the island until tragedy strikes and they decided to sail to America. When they get to Washington DC they discovery that anything Andy may remember of America is no longer left.

The friends then meet Ben and Jim and try to find a place to make a home. But things are not easy nor safe and every time they think they have found a place to start their lives things get thrown to the wind. From a town run by the rich that abuse their power, gladiator like events, trafficking, secrets, and many other perils will keep the group on their toes if they plan on making any kind of life for themselves.

I loved this book. You can't help but feel for the kids trying to figure things out on their own and being thrown into this world. I liked all the characters and cheered and cried with them throughout the book. And just when you think it can't get any worse, surprise something else comes up.

I love dystopian/apocalyptic stories and Schism is now up on my keep shelf. I recommend this to anyone that likes this genera. I will be keeping my eye out for other books from Britt Holewinski.

I received Schism for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sherwood Smith says**

Copy received courtesy of NetGalley

Young teens Andy, Morgan, and Charlie are on vacation in Bermuda (Andy with her father, recently bereaved after the death of Andy's mother in a car wreck); Morgan and Charlie from England. When a virus sweeps through the island, killing everyone over puberty age, the kids have to learn to cope. Many die like flies, giving us our dystopian setting. (Which I found way more believable than the amorphous Evil Governments of too many dystopias.)

Charlie, though the youngest, is extremely smart. He susses out tech. Andy has grit—it is she who learns to fish, and to hunt. Morgan, the gentler one of the three, begins teaching smaller kids, in hopes of instilling some civilization, until something happens that forces the three of them to sail to the mainland in hopes of a better life.

They struggle until they meet Jim and Ben, a couple of teenage boys who seem to be on the run from something. After initial suspicions settle down, the five kids drive cross country, for a time fetching up in New Mexico, and then Aspen, Colorado.

There's a lot to like here. Andy's a strong character, as is Ben. Some of the others show signs of complexity, though don't get fully developed, especially Charlie. He and Morgan speak in American rather than UK

rhythms. There is plenty of action (including the obligatory gladiator scene (view spoiler)), and conversations as the teens struggle to make sense of a world forever changed. Morals and ethics get their airing, as well as motivation.

I would have loved this as a teen. But I'm an older adult reader, and remained unconvinced when certain plot points were to be accepted as just because. More importantly, I felt that all that needed to be said got said, so when I drew near the end and suspected there would be no resolution—and indeed I hit a cliffhanger—my reaction was disappointment.

But don't take me as a guide if you loved the *Hunger Games* trilogy. I know I was a minority of one at finding the second book basically the same as the first, and the third a total shipwreck. Millions loved the series. I didn't even make it through the first third of *Divergent* because in my crotchety old age I found the worldbuilding unconvincing and the teens stereotypical. Again, millions disagreed.

This book as a series points toward escalating violence as the bad guy continues building his evil empire, and our heroes up the stakes in their fight against him. As a teen, I would have been enthusiastically into it. Unless I hear differently, I probably won't follow on to books two and three, but I look forward to seeing what this author does after this story is concluded, as there was a whole lot of promise in this debut book.

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### **Danielle Deforest says**

Schism is a book for young and old adults alike. Its a thrilling read and I couldn't put it down once I started. The characters are well written and you find yourself rooting for them to the end. I can't wait to find out what happens in book 2!!

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### **Ailyn says**

Thanks to the author for the book given in exchange for a fair review.

Andrea Christensen, known throughout the book as Andy is the main character in Schism. Even the book cover suggests a heavy topic to write about: death of childhood, and violence. The story has a scene before Andy becomes the main focus, a hint of what is to come. Fast forward a few months after the virus was unleashed, Andy's father, together with the other adults in the world, died due to the virus.

For five years, Andy, Charlie and Morgan lived in an uneasy existence in their shared home in Bermuda. When Morgan was attacked, the trio decided it was time to leave their 'holiday home' in favor of their usual home in the United States. Their journey was perilous, but upon arriving on mainland, things did not improve.

Those who have pointed out that it has resemblance to Lord of the Flies, I would agree, except this time it is in a bigger scale and possible deadlier. The trio met Ben Kelly and his cousin Jim, and together they journeyed to find a piece of sanctuary away from gangs and rogue kids who could deal harm. I shudder to think that humanity would end up like Schism, it is a horrible scenario where kids are left to fend for themselves, and the stronger ones quickly learn how to either control the weaker ones or eliminate

competition to improve survival.

And the only group that had everything under control is being ruled by a tyrant who is the epitome of bad news. The group discovers that, even if they were the fittest in the population, they might not get to live very long.

Schism is not really post-apocalyptic to me, but it reads as it should be: the crumbling society and the loss of structure. Most important of all, how humans have blurred the line between what is ethical and not by creating such a scary notion as a virus that kills adult men in the first place. If that does not make you wonder, then this book is a wake up call to what may happen if there are no adults with common sense in this world.

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## **Koeur says**

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2016/05/0...>

Publisher: Delirious pixie

Publishing Date: March 2016

ISBN: 9780988300750

Genre: SciFi

Rating: 1.8/5

Publishers Description: A virus, created by the smartest minds in the United States government, which is meant to target male adults in times of war, is accidentally released before testing is complete. Within weeks six billion people are eliminated from the world. The only survivors are prepubescent children.

Review: The beginning of this novel is “The Andromeda Strain” meets “The Blue Lagoon” where Morgan and Andy are so fucking hot they could be Super-models on a beach....er, their beach in Bermuda. Andy’s Dad was a Doctor (she inherited his skills) and her mom was a first-chair concert cellist. REALLY??? Then everyone dies.

After sailing 600 miles to the mainland because Charlie, Morgan’s brother is a CERTIFIED GENIUS the novel morphs again, reminding you of “Mad Max, Beyond Thunderdome” meeting “The Hunger Games”. Again, everyone they meet (the oldest people are eighteen) are hotter than a half-fucked foxes and constantly brush their hair back or think longingly of showers and food. So they go here and there, get into scrapes, get out of scrapes and generally behave like retarded hormonal adults (teenagers).

I could go on but time is a fleeting thing not to be wasted. If you like pina coladas, and getting caught in the rain, and the sound of the ocean.....buy this. If not, then run screaming like there are really fast zombies after you and not the slow shuffling, moaning type.

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## Ally says

Schism is a very interesting story about what it could be like if a virus killed everyone, except children. How can children survive on their own, without grown-ups? What would they do, and would there be order and government? I received this book from the author a long time ago, when it was a different title, and I just loved it. I read it cover to cover in less than a week and could not stop thinking about it.

It's better than Hunger Games and Divergent put together because the plot is just so amazing and realistic. I love the characters in the story, especially the dynamic relationship between Ben and Andy.

I would recommend this book to everyone (kids and adults) who love a gripping, intense story that keeps you wanting to read more.

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## Jenny Baker says

**Britt Holewinski's** *Schism* is a highly entertaining dystopian novel that reads like a futuristic *Lord of the Flies*. I'm pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed *Schism*.

**This captivating storytelling grabs the reader from the beginning and doesn't let go until the very last word.** I had tons of fun reading this.

Here's a basic summary, but I don't want to give anything away. The government created a virus that is accidentally released before they complete their testing and as a result, billions of people die. The only survivors are children. Andy, short for Andrea, meets Morgan and Charlie in Bermuda while on vacation. They become an instant family when all of the adults die from the virus. Their personalities are diverse, but complimentary. Andy is a tough girl, Morgan is the softer one, and Charlie is a genius. After something traumatic happens to one of them, they decide to leave Bermuda and sail to the US. Through their journey, they meet Maria, Ben, Jim, Susan, Brian, Matt, Kevin, Liam, Dez, Danny, Sean and Luke. I may be missing some characters, but these characters are the main focus of the story.

At the beginning, time leaps forward rather quickly, but then moves at a more reasonable pace. **The story never drags, which makes this novel hard to put down.**

None of the characters were over twenty, but they sounded much older. When someone spoke, I kept forgetting that they were kids because they sounded like they were in their thirties. It's not a huge deal, just something that I noticed. Maybe it's just me. **I found the characters very likeable making it easy to cheer them on as the story progressed.** They had a relentless will to live even under these dire circumstances. You get a strong sense of their true character, their need to do the right thing for humanity and this adds wonderful depth to the story.

Their adventures take them to multiple states where they meet other kids, both allies and enemies. There's a lot of violence — guns, knives, death and injuries. There's a constant need to find the basics — food, shelter, clothing, gas, and a working vehicle. OK, maybe a working vehicle isn't a basic need, but they had to travel far distances to find a place to live. Their safety is always in question. You get a clear sense of their anxieties as they fight to survive. Throughout the book, there's a constant battle between good versus evil with a Big Brother theme. At times, it was even graphic. When they were finding a car, they occasionally found one

with a decaying body in it.

**Schism has twists and setbacks to catch you off guard and I love that.** There were some intense moments when I was yelling *What?* or *No!* or just yelling at the characters for something they were about to do.

There were a couple of snags in the story that sort of jumped out at me. At midpoint, there was a lot of backstory that was thrown into long dialogue passages. I prefer not to have information dumped in a matter of a few pages. Later on, Ben says that he destroyed all of his personal files, but Sean happens to find one page that just happens to contain the most important information about Ben. Out of all of the pages of information Ben destroyed in his file, that's the page that you accidentally drop? I found that a little far-fetched.

The ending is left wide open for the next book in the trilogy, so there's no resolution. The novel feels like an incomplete story and seems to come to an abrupt stop. I'm not complaining. I'm just point out some of the aspects that made this four stars instead of a five-star novel.

Even with these issues, **I'm still looking forward to the next book. I need to know what happens. It's an addictive story that left me wanting more.** If you enjoyed *Hunger Games* or the *Divergent* series, you'll enjoy this one.

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## LiteratureIsLife says

Read this review (and others) at: [https://literatureislife.com/2016/08/...](https://literatureislife.com/2016/08/)

This book came into my possession thanks to a Goodreads giveaway.

Author Britt Holewinski states that *Schism* was largely inspired by *Lord of the Flies* and boy does it show. Think *Lord of the Flies* mixed with Stephen King's *The Stand* (minus the supernatural elements) and you can start to get a clearer picture of *Schism*. The premise is fairly straightforward; a super-virus kills everything who is 14~ and older. Our story begins with three survivors, Andy, Morgan, and Charlie, who were marooned on Bermuda after the virus killed their parents. While the book is by no means perfect it is much closer to that mark than many other novels.

The pacing is the first thing that sets *Schism* apart from so many other post-apocalypse/dystopia novels. The three starting characters do leave Bermuda and make it to the US, but not until years after the last of the adults died from the virus. This gave Holewinski time to rebuild the various societies we see throughout the novel. As the story progresses these time changes persist; many chapters are back to back but some have time skips that are weeks or even months long. These long stretches of time make the character relationships much more believable.

Speaking of characters, the slow introduction of the cast was another great thing about *Schism*. Instead of having a bunch of people forcibly grouped together like many other post-disaster stories, *Schism* brings in new characters over many pages as the characters bump into new people who are trustworthy one or two at a time. Likewise, the group meets many people who are untrustworthy; these villains range from psychotic

Mad Max types of raiders to “businessmen” who seem to fashion themselves after Scarface at the height of his power. Having characters from different parts of the world talk with different slang, idioms, and other grammatical tools was also a fun inclusion.

Events of the books take the characters all over the United States and throughout that journey readers get to see how societies have been rebuilt. While some places are your crazy, “there are no laws here” types of societies many places were more or less rebuilt to pre-virus standards by the survivors. Whether that type of scenario, kids being able to band together and get things running again, would actually happen is uncertain but it was a nice change of pace from many other novels that start with a premise similar to Schism’s. Holewinski also takes into account factors that many post-apocalypse stories tend to skip over, like bottled water becoming undrinkable and gasoline becoming unusable after sitting for a few years.

For all the things that were good about this book, it is a Young Adult novel and best read by members of a younger audience. Every important character is incredibly (unrealistically) attractive, most of them seem to have genius level IQs (Holewinski even outright states this is the case for one or two characters), and almost every protagonist ends up romantically with someone else in the group. Readers who enjoy The Hunger Games, Divergent, or similar books will likely enjoy Schism but other audiences (older readers) may not find it to their tastes. Schism is similar enough to those other series for readers to find similarly enjoyable while at the same time different enough to bring something new to the table instead of trying to ride off the success of other authors, as is oftentimes the case these days. Overall it was a good read, the author did an incredible job for her very first book, and I personally look forward to part II of this trilogy.

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### **Olivia says**

*Find my in-depth review on Heir of Glitter.*

\* I was sent a copy to review by the author. This does not affect my opinion in any way. \*

\* This book does involve a rape. It's not detailed and only includes the aftermath of one, but it may be a trigger. Just to warn everyone. \*

This was a great book. It seemed slow at first, but looking back after about 80 pages, I realized a lot had happened; it was more subtle than I'm used to in a dystopian world. The plot seemed slightly similar to that of Gone, but I can't judge that because I haven't read it \*yet\*. Regardless, I really enjoyed this book and thought it was a unique dystopian story. There were a lot of interesting characters, particularly in the main circle, but I could always keep them straight in my head. The last few chapters were intense, and the ending didn't end on a cliffhanger but still has me hungry for more. A great debut for Britt.

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### **Randie D. Camp, M.S. says**

I won an advanced reader's copy of this book as a GoodReads Giveaway Winner. It was a nice surprise that the author signed the book--thank you!

The first few chapters were hard to read. It took some time to develop the world but this was done more factually with little character development or emotion. After the 5 year jump, the writing greatly improved

and I quickly became consumed by the plot and characters. Some events don't really feel possible...or maybe just seem unnatural but it's not overly distracting.

I was disappointed that Andy and Ben felt compelled to resort to such extreme lows to pursue their mission. The ending contains several twists, some more predictable than others but nonetheless suspenseful and thrilling.

I'll definitely be reading book 2 when it's released!!

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### **Brittany says**

You can also see my review on my blog, Maybe Books Will Be Our Always! ;D

The moment I opened this book and started reading, I was hooked. The entire story is so thrilling and compelling to the point that I never honestly wanted to put it down. The point of view in this book is third person which I am not very used to. I feel like it is very rare in Young Adult books, or it's just the ones I am reading. At first I wasn't so sure about it, but I ended getting used to it and didn't mind. One thing I really like about Schism is that it didn't dwell forever on useless or unimportant things, and right from the beginning it got to the point. Which, I absolutely love by the way. One other thing that really stuck out to me in this book was how well Britt Holewinski made this feel like it was actually happening. It all felt so real! From how the characters conversed between each other to how the entire world building felt like it wasn't fiction. It was amazing, and it blew my mind! I have never really experienced that with a book to that extent, and I loved every second of it (as I may or not have already mentioned). ;D

Before I read this book, I had read a couple of reviews about this book to just see others opinions on the book, and there was one common complaint that I had come across. That was that it was apparently unrealistic on how at that young of a age (around 13-18) were that smart and how much the children know about certain things. The characters in this book are extremely smart by the way. This book takes place after a virus had broke out that pretty much killed anybody except for those who were under thirteen. The three main characters, when they aren't fighting for survival, are reading and building up their knowledge. In my opinion, I don't think it is unrealistic at all about how much information the children had obtained and learned over the years. I think people forget that children are like sponges and that they soak up all the information that surrounds them. They learn stuff from their surroundings, and as explained from the book, some of the characters had learnt certain things because their parents would do stuff related to their career around them. The kids picked up from what their parents had shown them. So yeah, in my opinion, not unrealistic at all!

Overall, I loved this book! I really look forward to what will happen next! My rating for this book is 4 Stars out of 5! I totally recommend you all to check this one out! It's awesome!

received this book from the author, in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Laura Hernandez says**

This book was such an adrenaline rush that I was left feeling like I wanted or better yet, needed to jump out

of my skin. The story line was an intense and thrilling ride from beginning to end and the characters were unique and their individualities shined through. The world building puts you smack dab in the virus riddled world and you quickly find yourself immersed in the thick of things.

My heart felt for what these children and young adults have had to endure and I am anxiously awaiting the release of the next book. This read deserves more than five teacups {stars} and truly a must read. This debut novel is a HIT and a dystopian masterpiece.

{I received a copy when I signed up to host the book promotion and made no guarantee of a favorable review. The opinions expressed here are unbiased and my own}.

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### **Michelle says**

The first 25% read more like an outline than a free flowing story. After that, it just felt an in depth outline to a possibly interesting story. It was not very good. I feel bad for saying that but it's true. Hard to read. Hard to like. Annoyingly shallow plot. Moved on from one scene to another - only catching glimpses here and there of an alternate plot that could have been and maybe should have been explored. A chapter or two in Bermuda. One or two in Colorado. One in California. Then back to the East coast for a few month stint in lockup. Blow up some stuff and escape... overall, I'm being generous giving 2 stars. But hey, its better than anything I've ever written!

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Tracy says**

I just finished the ARC copy of "Schism." It was an excellent read. Very gripping and interesting dystopian story about what could happen if a virus wiped out the entire world population of people over the age of 13-14. It will be interesting to see how the story continues and what new characters could possibly be introduced.

I would definitely recommend this for older YA readers - high school & up. As a middle school teacher, due to the nature of some of the content, I would not recommended it to middle school readers.

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### **Meaghan says**

This was my first Goodreads Giveaway win! Let me start by saying I enjoyed the book. It only got three stars from me mostly because I found the book to be very hard to get into. The book starts out feeling like a list of facts. It took about 30 or so pages for it to even begin feeling like it was finally a story. Little things about the book definitely got to me. Things that just didn't make any sense to me. The dynamics of the virus I guess could be plausible, but just seems very unreal and that doesn't help. Andy and Morgan are 13 and Charlie 10 when the virus happens and yet 5 years later they can miraculously drive a stick shift trick. All of that being said, once the story gets going it's easier to ignore some of those things and just enjoy the story. There is a lot of character growth and I absolutely love that. I will definitely be looking for the next books in

the story because now I need to know what happens next.

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### **Niki says**

When Andy's mother died in a car accident, her father quits his jobs and takes Andy to live on Bermuda, there Andy makes 2 friends.

Not knowing that the government released a nasty virus that would kill all adults, and kids fight to survive. Andy, Morgan and Charlie fight to survive, they fish and try to grow food. Then Morgan is attacked and the trio decides to get off Bermuda to America, a dangerous trip, but they make it and meet Ben and his cousin Jim and the five decide to go and look for a safe place, away from all the stealing and murdering gangs, if they make it, find out for yourselves! go buy the book.

It is a great nice read, a nice pace and you just can't guess what's on the next corner, love the characters, can't wait for the next book to come out

I received a free copy of this book in exchange of a honest Review

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### **Elise says**

I would give this book 3.5 out of 5 stars.

When I read the description I was intrigued, but when I read further and saw that it was somewhat inspired by Lord of the Flies, I paused. I did not fully read Lord of the Flies because I did not enjoy it and it was not a book that was assigned to me in school.

This book was different, however.

And the biggest difference to me - and what really drew me into this book - were the relationships. I felt like the relationships that formed between the characters were relationships that I wanted to be a part of. But I also felt that the relationships barely cracked the surface at the same time.

Andy, Morgan, and Charlie have returned to the US after the death of adults from the virus. They meet up with Ben and Jim. Having so many main characters - even when they are all going through the same thing - makes it hard to get to know the characters.

I wasn't quite as enthralled as many people, but I was intrigued and I am curious to see how the relationships deepen and progress in the subsequent books of this trilogy.

If you are a fan of dystopian literature, this is another that needs to make it onto your shelf.

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### **Katrina Jensen says**

I highly recommend this book for any who enjoys a good fiction with twists and suspense. The author draws the reader in very early and keeps you wanting more throughout the whole story. This book had everything you would want: action, suspense, emotion, romance. The author creates a very plausible story that will keep

readers thinking about possibilities days after finishing the book. This is definitely a must read...be one of the first to discover!!!

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### Recipe Fairy says

Wow! This is the best book I've read this year so far! I was completely captivated from beginning to end and found it so hard to put down. The writing is excellent, the plots are well thought out and the characters are absolutely believable. The complexities of the characters and society are so realistic, it felt like I was reading a true story memoir. With plenty of action, a hint of romance and well versed dialogue, I didn't experience a single dull moment in Schism! While it does have vague references to drugs and sex, there's no explicit scenes or anything that I found offensive. This is an absolute perfect read for young adults, adults and anybody who likes dystopian literature. I absolutely enjoyed reading Schism and am anxiously awaiting for the sequel! Schism has made my top 5 list of best books that I've ever had the pleasure to read!

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### Arielle says

**Disclaimer: A free digital copy of this book was received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

<https://booksforari.wordpress.com/201...>

Check out this review on WordPress

Anyone that knows me knows that I'm a complete groupie when it comes to utopian/dystopian novels and anything ethically or morally questionable. So when I saw “[kids rule the world because all the adults are dead]” I thought to myself, **YESSSS, TINY HUMANS ARE JUST UNTRAINED PEOPLE WITH MINIMAL MORALS. If there are no adults or societies to train them, what would they make of the world?!** I didn't exactly get what I... expected? I guess, it was a lot more traditional dystopian than I originally anticipated.

*Hmmm...* My feelings on this book were fairly divided... The summary was intriguing enough to request on NetGalley, and the story line was very ***Lord of the Flies* meets *The Walking Dead*** which kept me interested enough to finish; yet, I felt like the writing was somewhat lacking.

Every character is white, except for a secondary character that plays the role of Maria, the daughter of a Hispanic drug lord. \*eye roll\* The lack of diversity is something that I'm used to. And because it's such a commonality, I don't usually let it affect my rating of a book, but I *always* feel like it's something worth mentioning in my reviews. (Not going to lie, the whole drug and slut trope constantly being applied to Hispanic/Latinx/Spanish-speaking/South-American/Central-American characters really irks me, but that's an issue to be addressed at a later time.)

The author also makes an effort to point out that everyone involved in the story is *beautiful* and *skilled* ~~things they've obviously obtained via osmosis from all the dead adults lol~~. Andy is damn-near a surgeon before she's 20. Charlie is a certified genius and the youngest. Ben and Jim have military physique and mental capabilities without any prior training. There is no *gray* characters; it's all black and white. Everyone fits a

kind of purpose and specific criteria for the stereotypical good or bad qualities. They lack that sort of depth that usually accompanies dystopian novels, which are constantly filled with characters that toe the line of benevolence and malevolence. Where are the ugly people? Where are the kind-of-decent-looking characters that struggle in this new world because they literally only know the Pythagorean Theorem? Where are the ones that can't even tell the difference between good and evil anymore?

Granted, there's a huge gap of time missing, given that the story jumps forward 5 years, but I would have liked to see the cultivation of this new world and how the children established their hierarchy after they've fully exhausted anarchy. I wanted to see more dimensionality with the characters. I felt like they were too *perfect*. And *so dry*. The writing made each of them seem unintentionally straight forward and very much no-non-sense, which *could* be a result of the new post-virus world, but if that's the case, then where's the internal monologues? The explanatory chapters flashing back to the instances ~~hopefully from the 5 year gap~~ that led up to these stoic moments? WHERE IS THE PASSION?! THE THRILLS?! SUSPENSE?!

FYI: the suspense in this book never lasted long, which kind of boggled me. Every issue that arose was solved before the next issue arose, instead of being suggested and weaved across plot. Maybe I'm just missing the interwoven plotlines because this is only the first book? But there wasn't really much of a build up, and, because the characters were so direct, the reader always knew where the story line was headed...

... It wasn't... bad? I think the author lays down all these beautiful ideas that were itching to be explored, which I think is as equally a positive as it is a negative one. Positive, because it gives the reader the opportunity to fill in the blanks and take it upon themselves to explore possible outcomes and what-if situations that result from the post- ~~apocalyptic~~ virus world that the author has created. Negative because there just wasn't enough information for the implied ideas to be thoroughly appreciated. Though the writing is as simplistic and thought-provoking as a book like **The Giver**, the target audience doesn't share the same age group and the expectations for each are different. The content of **Schism** seemed to be for an older crowd, but didn't flesh out enough of the story to be satisfactory for someone like me. Because of the author's background, there was an almost-personal feel to the ideas of government conspiracies and terrorism, but that same effort wasn't put into other aspects of the book, like setting, history, and character development.

Overall, it wasn't a waste of my time. I relatively enjoyed it, but I wouldn't recommend it to my friends. I would, however, recommend it to my philosophy partners just to get their take on such situations.

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