



Inheritance

Malinda Lo

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Reese and David are different now. Surrounded by a web of conspiracies, Reece feels that she must choose between two worlds.

Her choices: David - or Amber? This world - or another? Should they tell the truth, and risk everything?

Inheritance Details

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Author : Malinda Lo

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From Reader Review Inheritance for online ebook

Samantha says

Here's the deal, I really liked *Adaptation*, and I loved *Natural Selection*, but *Inheritance* really fell short of my expectations. In many ways I felt it read like bad fanfiction.

Inheritance picks up right where *Adaptation* left off, and moves rather slowly from there. What I did like was learning more about Amber and her Alien Cohort, and that is where my enjoyment stopped.

The follow through on the romance really confused me, and it felt very contrived. The end of the book is the pink elephant in the room (view spoiler) I wish more consideration and build up was present to better justify the end.

I felt myself meandering through the book and forcing myself to the end, rather than breezing through it like I did with *Adaptation*. I didn't feel that there was all too much growth in Reese's character, but I did like that we got to learn a lot more about David.

While I don't recommend this book, I still think that Malinda Lo's other books are worth a read. There aren't too many good science fiction or fantasy books that feature LGBTQ characters.

shunnaoaddict says

There are many good things that I could say about first book, but - unfortunately - there is much less of them that I can say about the second.

The bad? The thing that bothered me the most was the love triangle. While it was refreshing and played nicely in first book, in this one it was so over the top I was getting annoyed. Even the fact that it was bisexual triangle didn't help, I can only imagine my distaste if that would be het-triangle-only. So much overthinking and drama. I didn't even like the polyamory here - this is the kind I dislike the most. Two people disliking each other, but bearing to be around for that one they love. Ugh. Nope.

There was also a little too much talk about sexuality and relationships. While I believe that it's good that such books are written, it was too much in-yo-face.

The good? Writing. Malinda Lo is a treasure. I love her style.

Characters - despite the drama, each and every character has its own merit. And, what made me really want to read on, side-characters were even better. I love Reese's parents - they're nicely fleshed-out, not just some noise in the background. Julian is great. But the best character, although she appeared in only few pages, was Torres. So much potential and maybe giving her such a small role was what gave the real punch to her importance.

All in all, it was a wasted potential, but still a good read.

Lindsay says

Reese and David are not normal teens, not since they were adapted with alien DNA by the Imria, an extraterrestrial race that has been secretly visiting Earth for decades. Now everyone is trying to get to them: the government, the Imria, and a mysterious corporation that would do anything for the upper hand against the aliens. Beyond the web of conspiracies, Reese can't reconcile her love for David with her feelings for her ex-girlfriend Amber, an Imrian. But her choice between two worlds will play a critical role in determining the future of humanity, the Imria's place in it, and the inheritance she and David will bring to the universe.

Inheritance is thrilling, mysterious, and ever so complex. This book is an exploration of many things, of being a teenager, of sexuality and attraction and the emotions behind them, of the other and the unknown, and, most importantly, of trust. The transition between this and its predecessor is seamless and fluid. The tension is just as high and the stakes are even higher.

Now the truth is out for Reese and David. Now the public knows that aliens are real, that they have been on Earth for some time, and that the two teens are different because of their encounter. Now comes the backlash from this information getting out, now comes the fear and the hatred and the confusion. But things are still being kept from them, hidden away in secret, and soon they'll learn that everyone from the US government to the Imria to covert groups have an agenda.

Reese is struggling to keep a hold on every part of her life. She has new abilities gained from the addition of the Imrian DNA, she has the government keeping her mouth shut tight to keep from exposing anything that might harm their credibility, and she has people both wanting a piece of her and wanting to hurt her. Plus, some hurdles have arisen in her love life. She really likes David, just as much as he likes her, but she can't forget Amber Gray, her Imrian ex-girlfriend. Reese doesn't know what to do anymore. All hopes of a normal life have been quashed, ruined by that car crash in Nevada. No decision she makes will please everyone. But she's spreading herself too thin trying to learn as much as she can about what's happening, and everything could explode around her as a result.

In literature, in YA, there is often an other, be it a character or creature or something more. The other is often feared, often not accepted, and often hated because it represents what the majority are not. As much as we promote openness and individuality now, our past is filled with hatred towards those who didn't look like us. Racism and sexism still run rampant through society. Here, the other is a being not even from our planet. It's alien, it's unfamiliar, it's not human. What are their intentions? Will they be peaceful, reaching out to connect with other worlds and learn, or will they come with plans of domination and destruction? First encounters are complicated, first impressions are crucial, and trust will not be given easily. Reese and David have a slightly different problem in that they have become the other. What are they supposed to do now?

Just like with the other, this book explores sexuality. Reese's, in particular. In *Adaptation*, Reese was moving away from her crush on David and towards her attraction and connection with Amber. Here in *Inheritance* it's slightly the opposite with her and David together, trying to have a relationship, while Reese resents Amber for lying to her. But Reese still has the connection to Amber, it's still there no matter how much she'd like it to go away. I like how there were moments of Reese exploring her sexuality, trying to figure it out. I also liked the foray into sex versus gender. Sex is biology, what we come into the world as, while gender is more connected to sociology, what we identify as and how we want the world to see us. But what if the lines were blurred? What if there was no differentiation between genders, between sexes?

This is a thrilling book about a teenager trying to figure out a lot of things in order to have something that

resembles a normal life, things like high school, her sexuality, her abilities post-alien experimentation, and one or two government cover-ups. A big part of this duology is that, yes, it's science fiction, but it's also about Reese and her discovering who she is, her identity and humanity, and that keeps the book grounded. It makes her sound more like a real teenager with real problems.

P. Industry says

This book invoked mixed feelings in me. On the one hand, it certainly delivered on its promise to close off plot-holes and solve mysteries left over from Adaptation. On the other hand, the solutions to those mysteries were dumber than a box of hair.

Far more of this book was dedicated to sorting out the main character's sexuality and the arrangement of their relationships. Another goodly portion of the book was devoted to explaining the telepathy that David and Reese found themselves the unwitting recipients of in the first book. Finally, there was the 'meta' narrative of the aliens and their relationship to humanity, and the struggles to both understand and publicise that relationship to a world-wide audience.

The plot connecting these elements feels jerky and unfocused; this is unfortunate, as the first novel was fairly tightly laid out. The characters seem to be dumped into random unfortunate situations with the minimum of set-up or lead-in. Press conferences, assassination attempts, training sessions, and kidnappings; all make an appearance, and all seem to disappear as quickly and as easily as they arrived. It is surprisingly uneven from such an otherwise accomplished author.

Reese remains bland. It becomes difficult to like a main character who's strongest emotion appears to be "meh", even when her life has spiralled completely out of her control. Julian is probably the best characterised person in this book, followed by David. The fire and life that Amber possessed in the first book seems to have been replaced by either not being shown on screen, or a medley of guilt and frustration. The minor characters are often done far better than the main ones. At the end of the novel Reese, Amber, and David break into a bachelor's house. That bachelor gets more depth given to him by the heroes rooting around in his fridge for six lines than the actual heroes have gotten in two whole books.

The aliens - the Imrian - are quite stupid. There are a lot of reasons why I would make this statement, but mostly I would say that a lot of the ways they are woven into the story of humanity at large simply broke my willing suspension of disbelief. Add in the random alien words dropped at random into plain English text, and the aliens quickly become less a mysterious wonder and more than weird glue-sniffing kid next door who won't stop showing you his poetry.

This book is by far the weakest thing Lo has written, and I couldn't recommend it.

Miriam Joy says

Let's be real, this book features the only acceptable way to deal with love triangles. Bless Malinda Lo for unboringifying that.

Also this was pretty awesome. I'm not sure if all my questions from book one were answered? But I can't

entirely remember what they were, so yeah.

Voronwer says

Even starting to write this review, I'm not sure what rating to give it. I always have trouble with picking out a rating, but *Inheritance* makes it extra difficult. In a way, I like this second (third?) part of the series better than the first. That's because I was curious about what was to come next and I wanted to know more about the Imria and everything else. I wasn't disappointed when it came to the story part. *Inheritance* lives up to my expectations there and it brings me back to the good old X-Files days.

The part that let me down was everything involving Reese and her little love triangle. Admittedly, Reese wasn't even my favourite character in the first book. She doesn't quite stand out to me and she doesn't really on this part either. Same as David. (view spoiler) I admit, in part this is because I love Amber so much. She kind of takes the spotlight and most of my reading experience was me yearning for the book to move on and get back to Amber already. (view spoiler)

I admit, I'm terribly biased when it comes to the love triangle. I was rooting for Amber in the first book and I continue to do so now. Sadly enough, I knew the minute I read *Natural Selection* how this particular romance would end (view spoiler).

So how should I rate this book? I'm not sure. I enjoyed it in some parts and hated it in others. I wish Malinda Lo had focussed a little less on the romance side. It's a strange remark to make when all her other books had me wishing she'd concentrated a bit more on them. (No, really. Ash needed a LOT more Kaesa in it. (view spoiler)) A three then, because some parts were worth a four, but other parts made me want to stop.

Ali says

SPOILERS!

I wanted so badly to like this book... I really liked *Adaptation*, and I was eager to find out how the story ended. *Inheritance* delivered on finishing up the plot points nicely, but the pacing felt off, as did the characters.

Much of this book was dedicated to describing how attracted Reese is to David. I know I'm biased because I was more interested in Reese being with Amber, but even beyond that, the endless descriptions of the "warmth in [Reese's] stomach" when she touched David got really, REALLY old for me. Perhaps Lo did this because the first book was more about her attraction to Amber? And she had to make Reese's bisexuality and eventual polyamory believable? It actually served the opposite purpose, actually, in my opinion. Reese deciding to date both David and Amber seemed rather odd after we spent the whole book reading about how into David she was. How amazing he is. How perfect. And yeah, and here's Amber, and she's okay too. It was a total after-thought, and it made it so the polyamorous relationship seemed completely unbelievable.

I also feel like I never really got a sense of Reese as a character. I feel like I know David the best, then Amber, and last of all Reese. I even feel like we got a better picture of Julian than we did of the main character! So much of the book was spent describing David and Reese's feelings for him, and I felt like that

really took away from the time that should have been used to develop Reese's character so we could really see her growth and progress from the awkward, shy girl from the start of *Adaptation* who would never date anyone to the possibly-homicidal bisexual Imrian/human hybrid in a polyamorous relationship in outer space.

And while we're on the topic of possible homicide... so yeah... Reese and David likely each killed a guy. No fall-out from that? It felt like I was watching an episode of *Pretty Little Liars* for a moment!

Overall, I think Lo is a wonderful writer (I've loved her other books), but this one fell short for me. It felt like it couldn't pick a focus, and the piece as a whole suffered for it.

Jill Guccini says

4.5 is what I really want to give it. Reading a Malindo Lo book is just so ENJOYABLE, and while I've had this ARC for a while, I've been trying to put it off since it doesn't come out until September, and I have a hard time holding in thoughts. So while I'll put off writing my full review, I will say that for a lot of this sequel, there is markedly less action than in the first book. But the explanations of why everything is happening the way it is, and who the Imria are, was so satisfying and interesting to me, so I didn't mind. And the way the love triangle is resolved is SORTA GREAT and not like anything I've seen in YA before.

Marie the Librarian says

I liked how it all came together in the end, and I like Reese. More bisexuals please.

karen says

real review added, but it's after all the maggie pictures because nobody puts maggie in the corner

maggie!! what are you up to??

i reading the book!!

maggie, i hate to break it to you, but that's book two, and i know you haven't read book one. also - upside-down, dude.

i hate you - you're not even my real mom!!! *sulk*

3.5 stars.

possible spoilers for book 1 - i don't know how much of the basic plot of this series is known to those who haven't read it.

3.5 is one of those "me-ratings," but i definitely think this book and its predecessor Adaptation are valuable and should be pushed on put in front of teens. particularly, but not exclusively, to teens who are questioning or exploring their sexuality.

and i'm so very glad that i read this book so soon after reading Grasshopper Jungle, because i think this one deals with bisexuality in a much more delicate and thoughtful way. this shares a lot of situations with Grasshopper Jungle: aliens, bisexuality, (view spoiler), but it is in every way superior in its treatment.

it's possibly combustible to point out that Grasshopper Jungle is male-penned/male protagonist and this is female-penned/female protagonist, and that the problems i had with grasshopper jungle ("i'm bisexual, so that means i get to bang everyone - sweet!") are handled with more maturity and sensitivity here (i'm bisexual and i care about two different people enough to not want to hurt either of their feelings.") i definitely think that this contrast is indicative of the different sexual values between teen boys and teen girls, but i know that making any kind of absolute gendered statement on the internet is opening up an angry door, so imma back away - this was all just to inquire if anyone knew of any better (i.e. - less careless) examples of bisexual male protagonists in YA lit.

lo is an accomplished writer - she's not afraid to take her time to tell her story in this densely textured way, and to remind us of the events of the first book without boring exposition. but occasionally she gets a bit too conceptual, with too much time spent away from the action into this sort of anthropological/philosophical realm where the aliens try to explicate to the humans their insights into nebulous concepts like the distinctions between feelings vs emotions or sex vs gender. all of which i found interesting and well-intentioned, but a little muddy. i think the arguments themselves are presenting all the right kinds of important questions, but they don't explore the complexities, so it's all a little unsatisfyingly superficial.

but apart from that, i think lo has managed some pretty impressive work in these books; tackling gender, racial, and sexual issues while still telling a fascinating story of alien visitation and speculative evolution.

in this book, reese and david find themselves the focus of attention from the media, the government, conspiracy theorists, and other groups after they are returned home to san francisco after being repaired with imrian dna following a car crash and subsequently quarantined on a secret military base. they have emerged from the experience with new abilities, including telepathy, which both complicates and enhances their newly romantic relationship. also complicating the relationship is amber, the alien with whom reese had a thing before she knew amber was an alien. or before she knew that she could have feelings for a girl, alien or not.

david and reese are subjected to a startling amount of public scrutiny from the curious, the suspicious, and the malicious - people who want to know what happened to them and what the imrian want from humanity. and it's exhausting - david and reese's first date includes two sets of security detail, they find themselves juggling the agendas of several different agencies who want to exploit and manipulate them and fending off protesters and reporters while still trying to understand and define their own personal lives. reese, despite her former reluctance to ever have a romantic relationship has suddenly found herself in a love triangle, and it's a doozy of a love triangle: two genders, three races.

because of her new celebrity status, reese finds that her relationship with david is being discussed, splayed out all over the internet, including racist commentary around the fact that david is chinese. lesson worth repeating: never read the comments board. pretty much everywhere. which only intensifies her conflicted emotions and her fear about her relationship with amber being exposed - being both a girl and - you know - *alien*. so it's a coming of age/coming out story with a hell of a twist and lo is really great at handling race and sexuality in a heartbreakingly realistic way. there are other secondary gay characters, a boy and a girl, which allows for some great moments of supportive community but also frustration regarding reese's hesitation to embrace her bisexuality.

and reese is definitely a realistic and sympathetic character. because it's *hard* to address matters of the heart while also saving the world, adjusting to new telepathic abilities, and playing several government agencies against each other. and also, for her, the novelty of being in a relationship at all, let alone two. she is making herself emotionally vulnerable for the first time, so the extra baggage is heavy. she doesn't want to hurt either amber or david, and she also has some very strong personal ideas about avoiding following her father's example of being a cheater.

the solution is a bit optimistic and reminiscent of (view spoiler)

but it *might* work for them!

anyway, i think this is one of those books that more people should read because it addresses important issues and poses smart questions, but i'm just not that into aliens. still - an objectively solid achievement.

S.E. Smith says

A stunning followup to ADAPTATION. Without being all spoilery all over the place, INHERITANCE plunges into some fascinating and complex issues re:sex, gender, and relationships that make it a delicious read well beyond the terrific story. My admiration for Malinda Lo has just increased by like 2,389%.

Sara Norja says

I didn't like this as much as Adaptation, but it was an enjoyable conclusion to the story nonetheless, and a quick read. However, TW for threat of rape towards the end - that was not something I expected in this story, and it made me feel unpleasant even though it was "just" a threat.

Would recommend these books to teens, though, because it feels great to have a bisexual protagonist and alternative relationship forms. If books like this had been out when I was a teen, I might have realised some things sooner. ;)

Oh, another brief point: there was some cluelessness in the narrative as to nonbinary genders in humans... singular they as a pronoun option for a genderless(?) alien did not even come up. Not sure if that's because of when this book came out, but well, it's not even so long ago and people have been using singular they foreeever.

(view spoiler)

Jordan says

<http://wandering-world.skyrock.com/32...>

Haaaaa ! Ça faisait bien longtemps que je n'avais pas entamé puis terminé une saga en l'espace de deux semaines. En fait, je me demande même si cela m'était déjà arrivé auparavant ! ADAPTATION m'avait tellement, tellement, tellement plu que je m'étais empressé d'acheter la suite, INHERITANCE.

INHERITANCE une est très très bonne lecture, qui reprend l'histoire exactement là où le premier volet l'avait laissé (genre, vraiment, la première ligne du roman est celle qui suit directement la dernière ligne d'ADAPTATION). Ce que j'ai adooooooré avec ce récit (et avec ce diptyque en général), c'est tous les nombreux thèmes qui y sont abordés. J'ai trouvé ça tellement génial, novateur et passionnant de la part de l'auteure de vouloir explorer autant de sujets HYPER importants et bien trop mis de côté. Malheureusement, INHERITANCE m'a semblé un peu en-dessous d'ADAPTATION. En effet, comme les bases de l'histoire sont déjà posées du départ et qu'on tente de trouver des solutions aux problèmes qui ont vu le jour dans le premier tome, il m'a manqué un peu d'intensité, de surprise, de cette petite étincelle qui rendait ADAPTATION ultra haletant. Je ne dis pas qu'INHERITANCE n'est pas prenant, bien au contraire, mais il est un (mini mini) poil moins exaltant et saisissant que son prédécesseur.

Comme dit précédemment, INHERITANCE commence là où ADAPTATION s'arrête. Ainsi, nous replongeons dans l'univers à la fois sombre, inquiétant, perturbant mais ô combien fascinant que Malinda Lo a créé. Retrouver Reese, David et Amber a été un immense plaisir. Genre, vraiment. Je me suis attaché à ces trois héros d'une telle manière que j'arrivais même à connaître leurs réactions à l'avance, un peu comme si je parlais à mes amis et que je savais d'avance comment ils allaient réagir à telle ou telle situation. C'est la première fois que j'en arrive à ce point-là, et laissez-moi vous dire que c'est vraiment TOP ! Le trio que forment ces fabuleux protagonistes m'a juste époustouflé, et je sais déjà qu'ils vont profondément me manquer. Seul petit bémol : Julian est bien trop absent de ce second tome. Je suis également tombé amoureux de ce personnage, mais l'auteure a pris la décision de le mettre de côté. C'est ultra dommage ! Côté protagonistes secondaires, c'est, là aussi, un véritable succès. Qu'il s'agisse des parents de Reese, ceux de David, des Imria ou des "méchants" de l'histoire, ils m'ont tous semblé dotés d'une authenticité et d'une profondeur rares que très peu de personnages "moins importants" possèdent habituellement. Malinda Lo a réellement un don pour décrire ses héros. Grâce à cela, le roman est très visuel, très vivant, très ancré dans le réel. On ne peine pas une seconde à croire aux dialogues qu'échangent les protagonistes, à comprendre leurs réactions, à voir les scènes qui nous sont décrites, tout simplement. J'ai trouvé ça tellement génial ! Les rebondissements, exactement comme dans ADAPTATION, sont omniprésents d'un bout à l'autre du récit. Il y a toujours un élément qui vient nous couper le souffle et nous permettre de rester hors d'haleine alors qu'on pense enfin pouvoir respirer. Cette impression de suffoquer et de pesanteur (parce qu'on est RÉELLEMENT oppressés) et juste jouissive. J'en voulais TOUJOURS plus. Malheureusement, comme dit au début de ma chronique, même si les retournements de situation s'entrechoquent et nous déroutent, ils sont un peu moins choquants et renversants que ceux du premier opus. Ici, les surprises ont beau être grandes et nous laisser bouche bée, elles ne sont jamais aussi énormes et dévastatrices que les précédentes. C'est assez frustrant, en fait. J'avais tellement envie d'autant aimer ce roman que son prédécesseur que, lorsque j'ai réalisé que ce n'était pas le cas, j'ai eu un peu mal au cœur. Mais ça veut bien dire que, dans le fond, j'ai adoré cette histoire, non ? Pour en arriver au point où je veux vraiment que l'intrigue soit super, c'est que j'ai mis la barre assez haut. Et pour la placer aussi haut, c'est que les livres valent le coup, vraiment. A l'inverse, il y a certaines révélations qui m'ont juste ébloui et que j'ai trouvé extraordinaires. Tout ce qu'on apprend sur les Imria ainsi que sur le passé et l'avenir de l'humanité m'a carrément laissé sur les fesses. C'est brillant. BRILLANT, je vous dis. L'auteure prend un chemin qui m'a énormément plu et que je n'avais absolument

pas vu venir. C'était TOP TOP TOP TOP !!!

Même chose avec les différents thèmes qui sont abordés ici, d'ailleurs. Le choix de Malinda Lo d'écrire sur autant de sujets à la fois tabous et trop peu explorés m'a touché. L'auteure n'hésite pas à parler de bisexualité et d'homosexualité, des thèmes qui me tiennent tout particulièrement à cœur, mais également de sujets plus généraux et qui font partie de l'inconscient général de l'humanité : les autres. "Les autres" dans le sens des aliens, de ces extraterrestres qui fascinent l'Homme depuis toujours, mais également de "l'autre", aussi bien l'humain que l'alien. Malinda Lo traite de la différence, de l'acceptation et la compréhension de l'autre et de soi, du respect de la vie privée, de la folie des médias et des complots du gouvernement avec brio. Autant d'excellentes idées aussi bien abordées, c'est juste du génie quoi. Je regrette d'avoir déjà terminé ce diptyque, parce que je sais que les romans dans la veine d'ADAPTATION et d'INHERITANCE se comptent sur les doigts de la main.

Arrivé à la conclusion du livre, j'étais ultra satisfait tout en étant hyper frustré (si, si, c'est possible). L'auteure nous livre toutes les réponses à nos questions (satisfaction extrême) tout en laissant certains blancs ou certaines décisions qui nous laissent penser que les choses s'arrangent, certes, mais que c'est seulement provisoire (frustration totale). Je très mitigé, en fait. J'adore cette fin autant que je la déteste. C'est ULTRA embêtant, parce que j'ai craqué pour ce duo de livres, et j'ai envie que tout soit parfait. Mais cette fin ne l'est pas. Enfin si, mais non. HAAAAAAA, voilà, je suis encore perdu. Je déteste ça ! Malgré tout, c'est une fin qui me plaît. Restons là-dessus.

En résumé, INHERITANCE est très bonne suite à ADAPTATION. Elle possède quelques petites faiblesses, c'est indéniable, mais c'est surtout parce que l'auteure aborde tellement d'excellents thèmes qu'on finit par devenir très exigeants au bout du compte et que toutes nos attentes ne peuvent pas être comblées. Donc beaucoup de positif, énormément de positif, tellement de positif que du négatif finit fatallement par transparaître. Mais ce négatif ne compte pas, enfin pas vraiment. Les personnages sont tellement parfaits, leur relation est tellement passionnante, les rebondissements sont tellement extraordinaires et ce diptyque est tellement saisissant qu'on passe au-dessus des points noirs. Si je devais recommander une saga en deux tomes à quelqu'un qui lit en anglais, je crois que je dirigerai automatiquement cette personne vers ADAPTATION/INHERITANCE. C'est un diptyque enivrant, obsédant et inoubliable.

Jenn says

I got to pg. 142 and had to dnf. I'm just not feeling it. The first book was okay but so far in this one, I'm not feeling the "clever, fast-paced, romantic adventure" that's described on the front of the book. I'm left bored and not feeling the romance. I don't feel the chemistry between Amber or David. Shame because I was hoping for some fire between them. Oh well, maybe I'll try again in the future.

Suzi says

Yay polyamory! Yay bisexuality! Yay aliens! Yay Malinda Lo! If only there were more books that blended explorations of teen romance and sexuality, complicated families, race relations, what it means to be human, government cover ups, and aliens so seamlessly. There were certainly some moments in the first half of this book where I wanted to give the story a shove to get moving faster, but it definitely picks up pace in the second half. A very enjoyable series.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Two girls and a guy....plus aliens!

Opening Sentence: “The triangular spaceship hovered motionless in the sky above Resse Holloway’s house, as inscrutable as a blackhole.”

The Review:

Reese, David and Amber are back again in this conclusion to Adaptation. Reese is still struggling to come to terms with Amber’s betrayal, her sexuality and her new abilities as an adapted human hybrid. David is struggling with the adjustment and his relationship with Reese. Amber is just avoiding them all.

I think some interesting questions were answered in this book. The Imrian’s have been to Earth more than once, and well some things that are just better read. However, for the most part, I felt like the main focus of this book was Reese’s sexuality and her relationships with Amber and David. Which I could tell you how that would end, but why spoil the fun.

The rest of the storyline felt thrown in and rushed. The science fiction was compelling and interesting, there just wasn’t enough of it. I really thought it was interesting as their abilities began to unfold and they became more comfortable with them and themselves. This almost feels like a coming of age story with aliens...but I did dig David, Reese and Amber and I liked seeing them grow and become stronger, better people.

On the whole as you can probably tell, I wasn’t blown away by the book. I thought the series was good overall and different. Aliens with bird connections and creating hybrids, very interesting concepts. Execution for me personally fell a little short. I don’t care about her sexuality, but honestly it seemed to be the main theme and larger storyline. Everything else felt like a distant second. Which there is nothing wrong with that, but it just sent mixed signals. Is this a coming of age story or science fiction?

I don’t want to seem if I am tearing down the book, it was good. The writing is excellent, the concepts are fresh and exciting. It just didn’t completely work for me.

Notable Scene:

“He blew some smoke away from her. “This adaptation thing that the Imria are working on could change everything. It’s amazing. Think about what this world would be like if human beings could really do this shared consciousness thing.” He spoke with a rising intensity, his body bending toward her as he gestured with his cigarette. “Do you know why people hate each other? Because they don’t understand each other. But if we could really know how other people feel—really know it—all that would change. It would bring humans to the next level of evolution!” Julian’s fierce belief in the adaptation procedure made Reese uncomfortable.”

FTC Advisory: Little Brown Books for Young Readers provided me with a copy of Inheritance. No goody bags, sponsorships, “material connections,” or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Alison Evans says

so on point!!!! Lo's portrayal of internalised biphobia hit me like a ton of bricks.

Jan says

This Young Adult novel gets an extra star for having a bisexual protagonist. I often like sci fi that is more social-science fiction than hard-science fiction. Social sci fi, like that of Ursula Le Guin or James Tiptree, Jr., tends to have a world where something is different socially rather than just technologically. In this case, it's the ability of the visiting aliens to communicate feelings through touch. That kind of sci fi, sometimes called New Wave sci fi, I think, usually has more of a focus on characterization than the old robots-and-rocket-ships stuff. The writing is often more literary, too.

The writing in *Inheritance*, however, struck me as competent but oddly bloodless and clunky. The characterizations were shallow and not all that interesting. The story and characters bored me, I'm afraid. At the end I had no desire to read the first book in this series, *Adaptation*. The one thing I really liked, however, was how it made me understand polyamory on an emotional level rather than just on an intellectual one.

Thanks, Malinda Lo!

Jocilyn says

A wonderfully gripping and heartwarming piece of science fiction, YA and LGBT lit, *Inheritance* is the followup book to the cryptic near-but-not-quite-apocalyptic X-Files homage of a novel, *Adaptation*. As a long time fan of Lo's work, I was thrown by the uncharacteristic setting and plotlines in *Adaptation* and found it much less enjoyable than her previous books. However, read in sequence, *Inheritance* answers all of the questions posed by its prequel as well as far advances the plot and builds solid characterisation. In truth, I put off purchasing *Inheritance* and instead read a library copy since I'd been so let down by *Adaptation*. This problematic decision will be soon rectified however as *Inheritance* far exceeded my expectations.

Although I appreciated *Adaptation* for being an X-Files homage (Julien's bin42.com being a kind of teenage Lone Gunman was particularly amusing) and thought its ideas were dark enough to satisfy the genre. Though being a SF-SF Cali-scrub bildungsroman it was fairly lackluster. Amber Grey was adorable, but then petulant and supposedly a turncoat (which I never believed for a second) and David Li was... obligatory hottie? Reese actually made a convincing protagonist, pushing for the truth about what'd happened to them and the June Disaster. But the climax was confusing and the reveal only gave you a sense of "I told you so" about Amber that Reese upsettingly chooses to ignore. All-in-all, *Adaptation* was unenjoyable... by itself.

I wish *Inheritance* had been released simultaneously with *Adaptation* as the first book was such a let down. *Inheritance* throws Reese into a heart-throbbing (telepathic?!) relationship with David, who's definitely a hottie and all about being with Reese, and beings to shed more and more light on the shady characters from *Adaptation* and their various agendas. Where *Adaptation* was nothing so much as fear of the unknown, *Inheritance* switches perspective and as Reese's loyalties slowly draw further and further toward the Imria (her struggles with the Jedi-like mental training makes for a fun read), the reader is given a chance to feel her persecution for being different, both for being part-alien as well as for her burgeoning non-traditional

sexuality and lifestyle. The plot is less predictable and more stirring than I would have imagined and I blew through 400 pages in two days. I think what I enjoyed the most about Inheritance was how the characters growth was incremental and we don't necessarily come to see them as larger than life, so much as simply teenagers thrown into extraordinary, trying situations and doing their best to cope.

I highly enjoyed Inheritance and think it was perhaps my favorite novel of the last year. Malinda Lo is really an accomplished novelist and I wish, not for the first time, that her work would garner greater attention.

annie says

AAH THIS BOOK REESE AND AMBER AND DAVID AND THE ENDING AND THE DIVERSITY AND THE PLOT AND CHARACTERS AND I JUST IM EMO BRB
