

Matched

Ally Condie

Reviewed by: Rina Guo, 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Cassia lives in the Society, where everything is carefully controlled and calculated by the Officials, so that everyone can scientifically live their most optimal lives. One of the things that is strictly controlled is The Match, a system that will determine the life-long companion for every eligible late teenager. The Match is based on the best scientific studies and predictions in order to promise a suitable marriage and ideal future for every citizen of the Society. But when it's finally the day that Cassia receives her results for her Match, she's suddenly met with an impossible surprise. Instead of seeing one boy, she sees two. Xander and Ky, both being friends she knew as children. Cassia thinks the whole thing is a mistake, but when she unexpectedly starts falling for the wrong boy, she can't help but feel conflicted over who she should listen to: the Officials or her heart.

This novel is for readers 13-18. It delves in the genre of science fiction, romance and dystopia.

This was a great story. I loved how well done the setting and context was established. You could really come to understand how Cassia is raised and brought up. You can see growth as she goes from living without question, to suddenly noticing the invisible confines and lack of freedom she has grown used to. One of my favorite characters of the novel is Cassia's Grandfather. Her Grandfather is someone that sees right through the Society's perfected façade, and he is one of the first people that leads Cassia on her journey to figure out her beliefs for herself as well. The installment of adding small excerpts of poetry into the storyline was such a great touch, too. The poems that Cassia starts to recite, start out as mere words, but then grow with deeper meaning to herself over time.

This novel explored some themes of independence and defiance. I like that Cassia challenged her limits and at times, found hope in the small things in her situation. Overall, I enjoyed this novel a lot and I would recommend it for readers who like dystopia, science fiction and romance.

Recommended Titles:

Crossed by Ally Condie

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Divergent by Veronica Roth

The Selection by Kiera Cass

The Jewel by Amy Ewing