

## **Carve the Mark**

Veronica Roth

Reviewed by: Anika 16

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

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Carve the Mark is a story that takes place on a faraway planet where people have unique abilities called currentgifts and in extreme circumstances have foretold fates. Cyra and Akos both have fates that led them to meeting each other for the first time. Cyra is the sister of Ryzek Noavek, the ruler of the Shotet who uses her currentgift as a weapon against those who disobey him. She is destined to cross the divide. While as Akos, the son of the Thuvesit oracle, lives a gentle life. But that ends when he and his brother Eijeh are kidnapped by Shotet soldiers for their fates. Akos is destined to die in service of the Noavek family. After arriving in Shotet, he is forced to serve Cyra. Shotet considers Thuvhe as an enemy of their people, but will that rivalry get in the way of the survival of Akos and Cyra?

Carve the Mark was a mediocre story to read. I really enjoyed the idea of currentgifts and the current the story talks about. The cultures of the two nations was also something I found interesting. Veronica Roth switches between the perspectives of Cyra and Akos, which allowed me to get a better understanding of where the characters were coming from. The way their relationship developed was something special to see as well. You could say Carve the Mark was out of this world, quite literally in fact.

But there are some negatives when it comes to reading this book. The way Veronica Roth presented these two races was a bit questionable. There is also plenty of violence and death within the story, as well of the use of drugs. Veronica Roth's use of chronic pain as Cyra's gift has caused some controversy, so that may be a unwelcome aspect of the story for some readers. As I read the book I found the story to progress rather slowly in the beginning until all the action that occurs later in the book. That being said, Carve the Mark may not make for a great gift. With all things considered, this book would be best for anyone 13 years old or up.

### **Recommendations:**

The Fates Divide by Veronica Roth (Sequel to Carve the Mark)

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Artemis by Andy Weir

This Savage Song by Victoria Schwab