

***The Darkest Minds* (A Darkest Minds Novel)**

Alexandra Bracken

Reviewed by: Marissa Klippenstein, 21

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Ruby is not your average teenage girl. She lives a life away from her parents, but this does not mean she is free to do what she pleases. Due to new laws, Ruby is sent to a camp at the age of ten for children with special abilities. When she finally escapes the prison, Ruby meets a group of runaways from a different state. Together, Ruby, Liam, Zu, and Chubs travel in search of a rumored Promise Land – where children with special abilities are welcome – and Ruby tries to learn how to control her abilities before it hurts those she love the most.

The most lovable feature of this book for me is the diverse group of characters. The group we follow through the book develops into a close-knit community of friends by the end of the book – friends you come to love and cherish. The way the author eases you into the idea of these different categories of super abilities is very well done. The author does not patronize the reader, but she also does not get ahead of herself in the narrative. I also really enjoyed the society that the author created and the way the people handle the children with these abilities. It seems very well thought out and convincing. Though I won't give anything away, I have to say that the ending will definitely keep me around for the second book! There is not much to dislike about this one!

I would recommend this book for ages 14+. The biggest warning would be for violence, though it is not graphically detailed. There is also mild sexual themes and language. Because this book explores darker themes, I would only recommend gifting this to someone who has previously implied that they want to read it.

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