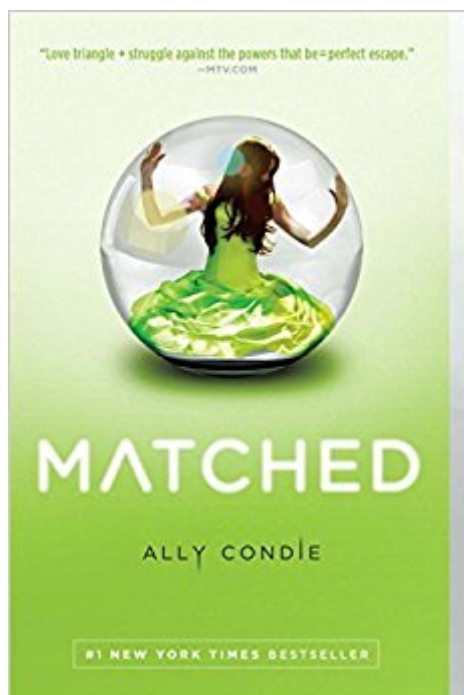


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Matched



Synopsis

"The hottest YA title to hit bookstores since *The Hunger Games*."--Entertainment Weekly
This *New York Times* bestseller is perfect for fans of *1984*, *Brave New World*, *Black Mirror*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*. Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her it's a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she's destined to lead with Xander. But Cassia can't stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path that no one else has dared to follow. Look for the sequel, *CROSSED*, and the epic series finale, *REACHED*!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL680L (What's this?)

Series: *Matched* (Paperback - Trilogy) (Book 1)

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Speak (2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780142419779

ISBN-13: 978-0142419779

ASIN: 014241977X

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 2,376 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,500 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in *Books > Teens > Romance > Science Fiction & Dystopian* #64 in *Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian* #83 in *Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Coming of Age*

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, December 2010: For Cassia, nothing is left to chance--not what she will

eat, the job she will have, or the man she will marry. In *Matched*, the Society Officials have determined optimal outcomes for all aspects of daily life, thereby removing the "burden" of choice. When Cassia's best friend is identified as her ideal marriage Match it confirms her belief that Society knows best, until she plugs in her Match microchip and a different boy's face flashes on the screen. This improbable mistake sets Cassia on a dangerous path to the unthinkable--rebellious against the predetermined life Society has in store for her. As author Ally Condie's unique dystopian Society takes chilling measures to maintain the status quo, *Matched* reminds readers that freedom of choice is precious, and not without sacrifice.--Seira Wilson

Exclusive: Author Q&A

with Ally Condie

Q: What inspired you to write *Matched*? A: *Matched* was inspired by several experiences--specific ones, like a conversation with my husband and chaperoning a high school prom--and general ones, like falling in love and becoming a parent.

Q: How do you think *Matched* differs from other dystopian novels? A: I think it's different in that it's perhaps less action-oriented and more introspective. This is really the story of one girl, Cassia, learning to choose.

Q: The cover for *Matched* is so eye-catching and mysterious. What does the image represent to you? A: I cannot imagine a more perfect cover for this book. To me, the image is a clear representation of Cassia, the main character, and the way she is trapped in her world. It's kind of a lovely world--the bubble is beautiful--but it's confining nonetheless. And, of course, the color green is very important to the book. I'm just so thrilled about this cover. Theresa Evangelista, the designer, and Samantha Aide, the photographer and model, are incredibly talented.

Q: In *Matched*, each member of the Society is not only assigned a spouse, they're also assigned a job, and Cassia, your main character, is a data sorter. If you lived in the Society, what job do you think you'd have? A: I would definitely not be a data sorter. I am terrible with numbers and patterns. I think I would probably be a teacher or instructor. Or maybe one of the people did a mundane task, like dishwashing. I have a feeling that I wouldn't fare very well in the Society.

Q: Dylan Thomas's classic poem, "Do Not Go Gentle," is part of a theme that you've woven throughout *Matched*. Do you remember when you first came across this poem? What made you decide to use it in your novel? A: I don't remember when I first read this poem, which is pretty embarrassing. But I do remember the first time I heard a recording of the author reading it. I remember feeling almost reverent, and paying close attention to how he said the words and went through the lines. This poem came to mind almost immediately when I started writing the book. It's probably the most universal poem I've ever encountered. The first line alone resonates immediately with almost everyone.

Q: What do you like about writing for teenagers? A:

Everything. I like talking with teenagers themselves about books. I like trying to capture the teenage voice. And I like writing about teenagers because they have SO MUCH happening in their lives, and they are passionate about those things. Q: What were some of the books you loved as a teen? Did any of these books influence *Matched* at all? A: I loved (and still do) Anne Tyler and Wallace Stegner. I remember being introduced to those authors in ninth grade and being floored by the beauty of their writing. I also loved anything by Agatha Christie. I think these books did influence me— not in any concrete, specific way, but in that I wanted to write a story about a character worth caring about even though/because of the fact that she is flawed and human. Q: What would you like your readers to take away from the experience of reading *Matched*? A: I hope they can take away whatever they need from the story. I hope there is something there for a reader—whether it’s relating to a character or reading a scene that feels true or anything else. Q: Will there be more books featuring Cassia, or set in the world of *Matched*? A: Yes! There will be two more books in the *Matched* trilogy.

Gr 7 Up— In a story that is at once evocative of Lois Lowry’s *The Giver* (Houghton, 1993), George Orwell’s 1984, and Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, Condie introduces readers to the “perfect” Society. Cassia Reyes is a model student, daughter, and citizen. How could she not be when the Society has everything planned and functioning perfectly? All of her needs are met: food, shelter, education, career training, and even her future husband are selected by officials who know what is best for each individual by studying statistical data and probable odds. She even knows when she will die, on her 80th birthday, just as the Society dictates. At her Match Banquet she is paired with Xander, her best friend and certainly her soul mate. But when a computer error shows her the face of Ky, an Aberration, instead of Xander, cracks begin to appear in the Society’s facade of perfection. A series of events also shakes her dedication to Xander and puts her future in jeopardy. Cassia exhibits some characteristics of Winston Smith and Lenina Crowne in her silent rebellion against societal control and in her illicit friendship with Ky but ultimately, and more satisfyingly, she is more like Lowry’s Jonas. Her awakening and development are realistically portrayed, and supporting characters like Cassia’s parents and her grandfather add depth to the story. The biggest flaw is that the story is not finished. Fans of *The Giver* will devour this book and impatiently demand the next installment.—Anthony C. Doyle, Livingston High School, CA. (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The world was developed nicely however led you to no emotional tie. I guess this was intended since the society is so cold and calculating. I get it had to be created this way but still... it seemed so flat. The pacing was slow. I didn't find myself really intrigued or connected until I was about 70% of the way through. The character development could have used a lot of work. Cassia seemed very flat and I didn't feel any sort of connection to her at all until almost the end of the story. Again, this may have been intentional because she was so molded and brainwashed by her society, however I would have liked to see more action, more outward fight as opposed to all internal fight or at the least, way more curiosity. Xander was a solid character and a bit interesting but that's as far as my feelings go on that one. Em is utterly forgettable. There wasn't really a love triangle... it was always just Ky. Ky was really the most interesting character although I didn't think so until the very end which means pacing was too slow. I think 50% through the book Cassia and Ky had only spoken a handful of words to each other. When she first told him she loved him, my response was why? She barely knows him. I wonder if she only fell for the idea of rebellion that he encompassed because she was too weak and molded to feel true rebellion in her own gut. Again, too much internal going on. Nutshell: pacing was too slow for my taste. Characters were very flat. The concept was interesting but the world was flat. I get what the author tried to do. Internal story, internal struggle. It just all fell flat for me. I give it three stars because Ally Condie did have a poetic turn to her writing though at times it was overdone. It was written nicely. There were a few memorable quotes. I will actually read book 2 because now that the story has moved out of Cassia's province, maybe the pace will quicken and there will be more external struggle and action. And finally the girl is beginning to THINK of developing a backbone. Just wish it hadn't taken a whole book to get to that point.

This YA Dystopian romance was super good. I read it in 2 days, and when I had to put it down to get things done, I couldn't stop thinking about it. Cassia, Xander, and Ky are the main characters in this one. Cassia goes to her Matching Banquet where she will find out who the Society has chosen for her future mate. Xander, her best friend, shows up on her screen. But so does Ky, an Aberration who blends in and is quiet. The book takes her on a quest to determine whether she will allow the Society to make all her choices for her, or if she will choose for herself. The theme is great. Would you accept loss of agency in favor of the government making sure your life is peaceful and nothing bad happens? But you never get to make your own choices, or question the government's choices. It's crazy with lots of danger, intrigue, horrible secrets, and love. Super good book. I'm looking forward to reading the next one in this series.

" It strikes me that perhaps this is part of what we are fighting to choose. Which pain we feel."" This is a difficult balance, telling the truth: how much to share, how much to keep, which truths will wound but not ruin, which will cut too deep to heal."" And when I see Ky again, which I know will happen, I will whisper the words I have written in his ear, against his lips. And they will change from ash and nothing into flesh and blood."Yes, a love story, one that slowly arises in a society where everything from what you eat to who you are matched with for life and when you die are chosen for you, for your own good.Cassie is excited for her matching ceremony, dressed in her lovely borrowed gown. She can't wait to see who her match will be. And when she sees his face at first she is happy, but another face comes up briefly to confuse her.And the rest of the story is about the cruelty of not having a choice, of Cassia realising she not only wants choices but must have them.I can't wait to read the next one.

I picked this up from my library because it looked interesting.It starts a bit slow, but it gradually picks up and started to hold my interest. Although there are still random parts that are duller than others, I got through them quickly enough.Out of all of the characters, I felt the most connection with Ky. I really wish there was more on his background. He seemed to be the most... human. Likely because he was raised outside of the system.For a lot of the book, I found myself frustrated over the system. It connects you to your match based on what is most beneficial to the community, kills old people after a certain age, and the list goes on. Typical things you'll find in a Dystopian. I was most curious to see what was going to happen with the situation between Ky and Xander.Cassia, the main character, was the storyteller for this book, and I felt she was reacting to things in a way that made sense with the world she has grown up in.Fans of YA Dystopian would likely enjoy this. I am interested in continuing the series, although I have heard the following books aren't as good.

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