



## Rebel Heart

*Moira Young*

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Saba thought her world would return to normal after they defeated the Tonton and rescued her kidnapped brother Lugh. The family head west for a better life and a longed-for reunion with Jack. But a formidable enemy is on the rise. What is the truth about Jack? And how far will Saba go to get what she wants?

## Rebel Heart Details

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Author : Moira Young

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## From Reader Review Rebel Heart for online ebook

### Alaina Meserole says

*Rebel Heart* is a pretty good sequel book for this series. It's not the best of the best or better than the first book.. but it was pretty decent to read.

The characters were okay, I shipped a couple of people together.. but knowing my luck that ship will probably be burned down to the bottom of the sea. I'm terrible at picking ships people! But hey, if Saba and Demalo could find a way to be together just to prove me wrong.. then I will give them a slow clap and all the props to them. Speaking of these characters, they did seem to have grown up a little bit more or change their douchiness from the first one. Again, props to them.

Overall, it was a pretty good book. It was highly interesting and entertaining.. just with a lot of boring parts. I still love the characters and I can't wait to dive into the next book. I need more of them ASAP. I also just kind of want to see if my "ship" will last or not..

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### Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

#### 3.5 stars

I have a small confession to make, though it's hardly a secret since my review is here for all to see: I wasn't really a fan of Blood Red Road. In fact, I was so disappointed by it that I never intended to read Rebel Heart. That said, I'm happy it showed up on my doorstep completely unexpectedly. Painful as it may be, I like the direction the story is taking.

Rather than focusing on giant killer worms, Moira Young decided to explore the extent of human cruelty and willingness to survive. The pacing is noticeably slower, but Rebel Heart undoubtedly offers more than its predecessor – at least to a reader with my preferences. It is emotionally intense, grim and layered – I could actually feel the dust on my skin for the first time, and it was a most welcome feeling, one that told me Young has finally done it right.

If there's one thing I admire about Young (other than the language, of course), it's that she's more than capable of surprising me. This is what sets her apart from most Young Adult writers: she goes where the story leads her, regardless of what it might mean for her, and even when it's not easy for her characters and, ultimately, her readers.

Whatever objections I had to Saba's character in Blood Red Road (and I had quite a few) no longer apply. It's almost like she was still a work in progress then, and now she's finally completed, damaged but consistent, well-rounded and perfectly clear. I didn't necessarily approve of her actions or even like her most of the time, but I understood her and everything she did made sense to me.

After what she's been through in Blood Red Road, Saba simply had to change one way or the other. I'm glad Young chose not to ignore the emotional trauma she would have suffered. Instead, all her decisions have repercussions that could have been foreseen, but in no way avoided. Spirits of the people she's lost follow Saba's every step. She is terrified and broken, afraid to touch her bow, and desperate to hide it from Lugh, who is in no better shape himself. Whatever the Tonton did to him left him bitter and furious – at Saba, at their father and especially Jack. It is so hard for Saba to admit that their relationship has changed, that they're

no longer the inseparable twins they used to be and that Lugh can no longer offer the same sense of security and warmth.

***Here. Now. Alone. With none but my own heart for witness, I'll say it. Without Lugh, I'm able to breathe. He smothers me. Chokes me. Pens me in. Tethers me to him with his worry and anger and sorrow and fear.***

For most of this book, Saba and Jack are nowhere near each other, and yet he is always with her, every second of every day. I'm very uncomfortable with some of the events in Rebel Heart, but I accept them as proof of good writing and I can't help but appreciate the risks Young decided to take. At this point, I can't even imagine a happy ending for these characters.

But I'll end this review on a more positive note. Here's some candy for fellow Jack fans:

***I think about Jack. Of how it'll be when I see him agin. When he's holdin me tight an I'm holdin him tighter an the heartstone's burnin my skin.***

***I think of what we might say. Him to me. Me to him. I ain't no soft girl. I don't know no soft words. Be with me, Jack. That's what I'll say. Burn with me. Shine with me.***

Also posted at The Nocturnal Library

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## **Stacia (the 2010 club) says**

What is up lately with me and books that almost made it to the DNF pile, only to be yanked back at the last second, when a scene all of a sudden grabs me by the throat and forces me to keep reading?

**Yes, I completely meant that. Certain books are pulling a master/slave act on me, telling me that I will like them...or else.** I can feel the books almost glaring at me, daring me to push them, else I feel their punishing wrath.

WHY BOOKS, WHY?!? I want my reading experiences to be black and white - either I like you from page 1 or I quit out. Don't pull this confusing wtf-ery on me. Please.

This is another one of those times when I feel like the things that I really want to say are things that I can't. Because if I tried, then I'd have to spoiler tag the entire review and I really hate doing this.

So what can I say? Uh, there was a moment which reminded me of a scene from *The Sound of Music*. Yes, I can pull comparisons from just about anywhere. (very) Mini spoiler ahead - quick, jump to the next paragraph if you are afraid! Without giving away who the traitor was, I had a brief flashback when Mr./Ms. X turned on a member of Saba's crew, just like the little squealing nazi-in-training did to the Von Trapps when they were hiding in the abbey. Btw, did you know that the famous hiding scene from that movie was inspired by a cemetery? I just found this out now. Random, but I really want to go to Austria on a *Sound of Music* lovers tour. Does such a thing exist?

**What else?** If you're looking for lots and lots of Jack time, sorry. Oh, he's there. And he's awesome, of course. But I felt like a fangirl standing outside of Michael Jackson's balcony back when he was still alive, hoping to catch a glimpse of some baby-dangling. By the time I finished the book, I'd felt like I'd been camping out for days, unwashed and grumpy - and the baby dangling was not worth the reward.

If you were a big fan of book 1, then *Rebel Heart* is probably worth the read. Even though it took me a while to warm up to the plot, eventually I did get there. If you were on the fence about book 1, I'd say go ahead and skip this because any struggling that you might have had with the first book will be echoed in the second.

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## AJ says

[ And when it happened, it was in the final few pages, was entirely too brief and it

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## Keertana says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

I think we're all aware, and familiar with, the concept of the second novel in a trilogy being the weakest link of the series. *Rebel Heart*, however, for all its flaws, is actually a *much* stronger novel than *Blood Red Road* ever was. If we think back to *Blood Red Road*, it was nothing more than an engaging, fast-paced, and page-flipping dystopian novel. Yet, *Rebel Heart*, despite its page-flipping action, is also a much slower, deeper, and intoxicating tale. Yes, there were moments when I felt like pulling my hair out and crying into my pillow. Yes, there were characters I wanted to shoot down and plot threads I wanted to burn. *Yet*, this book was perfect. I can't think of any other way this story could have gone and when you step back and really *think* about this novel, disregarding your own conflicted emotions, you will come to see that Moira Young is an unbelievable author, for she lets her characters lead the story and that truly does make all the difference.

*Rebel Heart* starts out with Saba, Lugh, Emmi, and Tommo on their way to a new, and better, life in the west. Saba, however, is tormented by dreams of Epona and she feels as if the spirits of the dead are walking with her. Thus, when she stumbles upon a small village with a woman who claims she can help, she takes her chances with the strange magic this woman claims to be able to control. Yet, before Saba can fully be cured, she receives a message – from Jack. Thus begins, yet again, a thrilling and tortuous journey to The Lost Cause, an inn in the north where Saba is set to meet Jack. Along the way however, Saba will be forced to confront her inner demons, her strained relationship with Lugh, and most dangerous of all, her own heart.

I think what prevented *Rebel Heart* from being a 5 Star read were just a few plot threads that went haywire. For one, I found that the beginning of the novel, with Saba's grief and guilt over the death of Epona, were remarkably well-written, but it was solved rather strangely, not to mention abruptly. In addition to that, Lugh, Saba's brother, seems to be the ultimate downfall of this novel. It is evident that Lugh has undergone a terrible experience during his time with the Tonton, but we are never told what actually happens to him. Instead, we can simply watch as his relationship with Saba wilts away and while these sibling dynamics were brilliant, Lugh's angst, rudeness, and constant anger simply wasn't. If anything, he became an extremely annoying character and I felt like smacking him every time he opened his mouth. Lugh never undergoes any type of character growth throughout this novel and ultimately, he winds up remaining a flat character which was rather disappointing.

Those qualms aside, I loved *Rebel Heart*. Moira Young's conscious decision to make this a slower and more brooding novel was definitely the right choice as we are able to see some of the after-effects that the events in *Blood Red Road* have wrought upon Saba. Furthermore, we are privy to a whole new side of Saba, which only goes to further give her more depth than she already had. While *Rebel Heart* had its fair share of

incredible action, I feel as if it was Saba more than the plot that drove this novel forward. Yet, I thoroughly enjoyed the crew of new characters we got to meet as well as the turn in relationships that we were able to witness with some of the older characters. It is hard to imagine just how firmly these fictional beings worm their way into your heart, but they really make a home there, immersing you, the reader, even more fully into this tale. In addition, there were *plenty* of jaw-dropping plot twists, unexpected reactions, and betrayals to keep this plot moving wonderfully, so fans of *Blood Red Road* will not be disappointed on that front either.

Now that I have discussed my issues with this tale, as well as the change of pace, new characters, and the heart-pounding plot line, it's time to turn our attention to the one aspect of this book I am sure everyone is eagerly waiting to hear more about – the romance. I know there are rumors floating around of a love triangle in this novel, but there *isn't* one! Yes, we *do* have another guy creep into Saba's thoughts, but this only happens during the last quarter of the novel. Furthermore, I hardly see this as a love triangle. In my opinion, a love triangle is a situation where the MC is torn between two guys, but Saba is *not* torn. Saba loves Jack, end of story. Does she make some *terrible* decisions in this book? Yes, she does. Is she conflicted over another man? Yes, she is, but not in a romantic sense. I may just be in extreme denial, but from my perspective, what occurs with the other man in this novel is a combination of many things and *love* is not one of them. So, while there isn't a love triangle in this, there is another prominent male figure during the last 25% of this novel which definitely makes this difficult to read and worrisome for the sequel.

In all honesty though, I wouldn't worry. Moira Young, more than just being a wonderful author, has proved with *Rebel Heart* that she knows what she's doing. I found her characters and their reactions to every situation to be spot-on and while I didn't particularly *like* the direction the last quarter of this novel headed and while I am worried beyond *anything* for the sequel, that doesn't mean I don't see the necessity and truth behind it. I think many authors would have steered away from the path that Young took, but I'm glad she took the more difficult – and frankly speaking, controversial – route. Yet, I must reiterate this, that when you step back and look at this novel without allowing your emotions to distort your perception of it, you can see that everything is just *perfect*. Yes, even the romance because although Jack and Saba aren't together for the large majority of this novel, they always remain in each others thoughts and their love only grows stronger with their separation.

Overall, *Rebel Heart* is a novel I wound up enjoying much more than its predecessor, despite the fact that my rating for this is slightly lower than that for *Blood Red Road*. While I doubt I'll be re-reading this installment as much as I will *Blood Red Road*, there's no doubt about which book is the stronger one and it is refreshing to see such an original take on this plot line. I will warn you though that plenty of plate-smashing is there in the future of this story and once you finish this, you will spend a countless number of sleepless nights waiting for – and worrying about – the sequel, but it is *so* worth it. *Rebel Heart* is yet another wonderful installment from Moira Young and has made me a much bigger fan of hers than I ever was before. I doubt everyone will love this novel like I have, but I truly believe that if you look into the heart of *Rebel Heart*, you will only find something to love.

You can read this review and more on my blog, Ivy Book Bindings.

Pre-Review Discussion...

**DO NOT READ THE SPOILER TAGS IF YOU HAVE NOT READ THIS BOOK. THEY ARE FOR DISCUSSION WITH THOSE WHO *HAVE* READ IT. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.**

I just wanted to run some theories by those of you who have read this one, so if you could comment and we could discuss that would be *great!* :) (view spoiler)

## Leah says

When i found out the sequel was coming out this year

When i found out it was coming out in October..

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## Meredith Holley says

YA writing often lives on surfaces: the girl with the blue eyes fights with the dude with the grey eyes, car chase, change of clothes, somebody dies, blue eyes and grey eyes kiss, to be continued. I find some storytellers exceptionally good at that type of writing. For example, Kristin Cashore knocked it out of the park with *Graceling*; Veronica Roth hit it with *Divergent*; and, of course, Suzanne Collins took that story, shook it all up, turned it upside down and used it as a mirror for the brokenness of humanity in *Hunger Games*. All of those authors talk in surfaces, but they still convey something I love. The prose does not stand alone, but the action does. As with anything, that seems to be a specific skill, and I'm sad to say that I think Moira Young is out of her element in that type of story but has decided to turn Saba's adventure into that anyway.

To be fair, there was some thoughtful subtlety of relationship plot in this that I appreciated. It is so common to see male protagonists get seduced by a femme fatale and then go back to kicking ass, but you don't really see that with female protagonists. You don't see female protagonists (view spoiler). I have a lot of respect for Young's introduction of more nuanced and complicated choices on Saba's part. At the same time, though, I think there is a reason we don't see female protagonists like that – because it is as douchey to listen to a girl talk about being seduced by a homme fatale as it is to listen to a man being seduced by a femme fatale. And I don't really care if the douchiness is induced by a Discovery Channel orgasm – still douchey. (view spoiler).

Digression about douchiness: it is really fun to watch TV shows in which douchey people get punched in the face a lot. For example, one of the best things about *How I Met Your Mother* is how you get to see Barney Stinson, the douchiest guy on the planet, get punched in the face all the time. Likewise, *Vampire Diaries* is fun because you get to see the *Dawson's Creek* characters get eaten by vampires. I struggle with watching characters I love become douchey, though. While, in real life, we probably all have our douchey moments, and maybe a slice of douchiness adds some realism to a story, I do not go to YA fantasy for realism. I would rather see stories with male protagonists lose the douchiness (or save it for the characters getting punched in the face and eaten by vampires) than see stories with female protagonists pick up the douchiness. I know you can make a good argument about it validating girls making mistakes, and that's fair, but I just don't find it very entertaining in either male or female protagonists. And here I am now, entertain me.

Even though Saba was an asshole in the first book, I could get behind that. My friend has this rule that if you are more funny than you are mean, you are okay. For me, too, if your amount of badassery outweighs your

assholiness, you are okay. And, in the first book, Saba's badassery was crazy high, while her assholiness was moderate. In this book, she has very little badassery, and her assholiness was gone but replaced with douchiness. In the roshambo of unfortunate character traits, douchiness can only be dominated by a punch in the face. Sorry, Saba, but I would stand in line to deck you or smash you with a cream pie. I would put a banana peel outside of your tent just to watch you slip on it. For your own good.

My point is that I think I figured out why the first half of Blood Red Road was so beautiful, and the second half fell so flat. The first half lived in cracks and dwelt on Saba. Saba did things: she discovered the land and people around her and defended herself, but it still had a good balance of dwelling in moments. It was magic to me. It was not in the typical style of surface-action YA, and there was only loose plot, but I loved that about it. I think the ability to pause and consider and dig deep into a character is more valuable than the ability to plot, though I do appreciate both. So, when Young captured that in the first part of BRR, it really knocked me out more than YA typically does.

Once BRR stopped digging into Saba and her surroundings and started skimming the surface, though, it got boring and kind of lame. This second book continued with the skimming, and that is not Young's talent in my estimation. She doesn't pull it off as solidly as Cashore, Roth, or Collins. Even in this book, for the brief moment when Saba dropped the other characters, the story got really interesting. For the most part, though, it was scattered and the plotting seemed simplistic, while at the same time it made very little sense. There were loose ends, dangling characters, and fuzzy motivation. I'll always have a special place in my heart for the first part of Blood Red Road, but *Rebel Heart* is not the series I married anymore.

Also, I want to kick Lugh so hard in the balls that he sees stars until this whole series is over.

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The publisher provided me with a copy of this book. Also, fun fact: it took me exactly the time of my flight (with one stop) from Portland to Chicago last week to read this book. I started reading when the first plane took off, and I finished when the second plane prepared for landing. High five on that, book.

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## Giselle says

The long anticipated sequel to Blood Red Road is finally here! Rebel Heart reacquaints us with our stubborn and fierce protagonist, Saba, after she found her brother, after Jack left her, after everything has become so complicated. And the fact that she is seeing things, things that aren't there, is not making it easier.

What I enjoyed the most from the first book is what has been the most polarized; you either love the writing style, or you hate it. Myself, I looked forward to being propelled inside this vivid, desolate world again by a writing style that truly makes it come alive. As much as some may find it hard to get into, I find it powerfully characteristic. It gives the book a very tangible atmosphere. You are not reading a story, you are being *told* a story. It still remains the most unique and best aspect of this series.

In this sequel, the characters we have come to know are back, but they aren't quite the same. Saba herself was turned from a strong, unstoppable character to this emotional mess. Yes she has gone through a huge ordeal and I'm glad that Moira didn't turn away from the emotional circumstances, but she *has* to stop thinking only of Jack for 5 seconds so she can realize how much she is crippling herself, and bringing her friends down with her. She was never a *loveable* character --what with her attitude towards her sister in book one--but she was a character I gladly rooted for. All she made me root for in this sequel, was for someone to smack her upside the head. Nonetheless, I like her, I do. She is flawed and real, no matter how frustrated she made me. As far as the side characters go, some of them definitely have grown--Tommo for one--but it

wouldn't have hurt to get a little more character breakthroughs. I'm still waiting to see what Lugh's problem is; what made him so bitter. Basically, I love all the side characters so much that I'm dying to get more face time with them. I need their stories! I'm even drawn to the mysterious villain with which we make fascinating plot progress.

As *Blood Red Road* is in action, *Rebel Heart* is in emotion. There are not many intense scenes and dramatic situations such as we saw in high numbers in *Blood Red Road*. No cage fighting, no crossings filled with killer worms, sadly, nothing of the sort. We do get oodles of emotional distraught, hormone filled angst, and love. Lots and lots of love. No love triangle though, more like a love... waiting list? Saba is plenty busy with them boys. As much as I enjoyed all these emotions running amok, it turned the book--which I was expecting to be fun and action packed like the first--a lot more broody, and much more slower pace. For this reason, I didn't enjoy it *quite* as much as I was hoping.

It isn't a bad book, by any means, proven by my 4 stars, and actually by itself I would have loved it. It's raw, gritty and emotionally intense, slowly filling its space with cruelty and trauma. But when I sit there and compare it to the first, when I go in expecting a sequel on a par with its predecessor that stifled me with exhaustion, end after end, and made me feel the never ending longing for something other than.... nothingness, it has nothing on it.

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*An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.*

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

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## Reynje says

A friend and I were recently discussing what we call the Plot Slap: when it feels exactly like a book leaps out of your hands, smacks you in the face, and crows '*Bet you didn't see that coming, did you?*'

That's what reading *Rebel Heart* felt like. Repeatedly.

In general, I'm a fan of novels with plots that evolve in surprising, unpredictable ways. But rather than just throwing up a couple of twists, *Rebel Heart* feels like a sudden, sharp turn from *Blood Red Road*, bolting away in a completely unexpected direction.

Sure, *Blood Red Road* had a slightly absurd plot and a story that stretched a little thin in places, but there was a lot I loved about that book. Besides the hellwurms, (come on, who doesn't like giant mutant worms that explode out of the ground?) Moira Young's characterisation was excellent. And while occasionally a little heavy-handed with the themes, I think the book overall had really interesting things to say about self-sacrifice vs the survival instinct, fate and free will, and the question of whether one person's life is more valuable than another.

I think maybe I unconsciously expected *Rebel Heart* to be *Blood Red Road II*. But it isn't, and that's a good thing.

I mentioned Young's character development before, and that remains my favourite thing about this series. While maintaining the strong voices of Saba and the supporting cast, she pushes them harder than I expected. No one gets an easy time of it (view spoiler) , especially Saba. This novel reads like her deconstruction, then her gradual re-assembly. It's a story full of conflict in a physical sense (explosions! Headhunters! Sibling standoffs!), but the most compelling conflict is that which occurs internally, in Saba's own head.

It would be easy to put Saba in a box - (not literally, she'd probably kick you in the face); filed away under Kickass Heroines, Subcategory: Post-Apocalyptic. And there's no denying she's one of a crop of recent warrior-woman styled protagonists who's handy with a bow and doesn't suffer fools or romantic claptrap. But Young develops Saba further than this, forcing her to deal with the consequences of her actions, to question herself, to realise her flaws and strengths. From the opening chapters, where Saba is likely suffering PTSD after the events of BRR, to the finale of Rebel Heart, her emotional arc is pretty gruelling. And she feels real because of it. She's not a character that always does the right thing (none of them are, really). But she's raw and compelling and strong – not just physically –because she is made vulnerable in many ways, and she finds a way to survive. Truthfully, I love this girl. I want to high-five her. I occasionally want to slap her. I want to give her a hug. Basically, I'm invested in her as a character. I want to know what the future holds for her.

Characters grow in Rebel Heart, and relationships are tested. Saba and Lugh have to face the fact that they have changed, and so has their dynamic. The scenes between these two are realistic and painful, fraught with tension, resentment and frustration. While occasionally unpleasant to read, I applaud Young for taking their story in the direction it did, because it felt true to the characters and what they had been through. Their inability to return to their former relationship, and their tendency to both occasionally act like complete jerks, made sense given the context of their individual journeys and growth.

If there's an element to this book that I really found hard to come to grips with, it's (view spoiler)

There's also the fact that every one wants to go to Saba's Pants Party. (Don't get me wrong, I can understand the appeal.) But Rebel Heart really ups the fixation and the Angel of Death apparently leaves a trail of lust-ridden in her wake.

That said, I think this is a strong second book in a trilogy that remains interesting and fresh in the current overcrowding of dysto-mance and post-apocalyptic YA. Young sidesteps the obvious tropes, or at least puts a unique spin on them, and writes strong characters with agency and engaging conflict. While I was willing to chalk my fondness for Blood Red Road up to the fact that it was fun, I've come around to the idea that I also like these books because Young's character development is brilliant, she has a flair for voice and writes engaging relationships.

But mostly, if I'm honest: **NERO!** ♥

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## Masako Lin says

I feel that this book really needs a warning, that this isn't really the sequel to Blood Red Road. I mean on the surface it is because it takes place right after the events of BRR but in terms of essence, characterization and definitely writing style Rebel Heart is no way a direct sequel to BRR.

Now the main problem is that I had just skimmed through Blood Red Road prior to reading Rebel Heart (just to refresh my memory) and I couldn't help feel how jarring the differences between the two books are. They are so stylistically different that I almost felt cheated in some ways because well when you're writing a trilogy, you kind of expect the books to be stylistically similar because there were certain things you liked about the first book that you're hoping to see in the 2nd.

Rebel Heart is the grown up version of Blood Red Road but not necessarily as fun. It is definitely more emotional as Saba sorts through her feelings of missing Jack. Than there's Lugh who is broken by the

traumatic experience of getting captured by the Tonton and we're also dealing with the grief of some familiar characters from before. Oh and Tommo is no longer a kid but a teen boy with raging hormones. While the action is still there, it's taken a dramatic back seat to give way for emotional tension and development.

The sweet almost naive romance in Blood Red Road is absent and instead has turn into the typical raging hormone teen romance. Well I suppose it was only a matter of time but I do miss that sweet romance in book 1. Now the romance turns into a giant mess involving several people and calling it a love triangle is just simplifying things.

I think I would have liked Rebel Heart a lot more if it was a stand alone book and if RH happened a couple of years later. As a sequel to Blood Red Road, I don't like it as much because everything I liked about Blood Red Road was absent in Rebel Heart. I like how juvenile Blood Red Road is and how simple it was. I liked the fact that it was mostly action and it didn't bother me that there wasn't much in terms of an emotional connection.

Now the differences between the two books is almost like comparing Harry Potter book 1 and Harry Potter book 5. One may argue that the characters and the writer have matured but I think the difference is way too great in too short a time (considering the fact that it did take JK Rowling 4 books in between HP 1 and HP 5).

The plot twist also further drive the differences between the two books as the plot turns in Rebel Heart seem to come out from no where! Old characters are reintroduced but there's no hint of foreshadowing in Blood Red Road that alludes to their bigger role in Rebel heart. I really dislike it when writer's do this because it seems as if the writer had no idea what was going to happen in book 2 and didn't foreshadow these items in book 1. I prefer if my trilogy books plot lines and themes flow one from the other. This just seems jarring and out of place.

It's really hard for me to rate Rebel Heart objectively. As a stand alone book it's not bad actually, I would probably rate it around 3 stars I guess but as a sequel it's quite weak.

So for fans who were expecting all the fun of Blood Red Road may be in for a disappointment. I do applaud the writer's effort in trying to mature her book but I think it just happened a little too sudden and too fast.

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## **Queen Keely Tubbs of Salt "the Last of the Moral, Conservative Catholics on the Internet" (aka \*Keelskilo\*) says**

**NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO-OOOOOOOO!!!!!!**

**WHAT THE H#&& ARE YOU DOING, MOIRA YOUNG???! I THOUGHT I WAS SAFE! I THOUGHT I COULD READ THIS SERIES FREE OF LOVE-TRIANGLES! INSTEAD, YOU GAVE ME A FLIPPIN' LOVE SQUARE!!!**

**WHY CAN'T I ESCAPE???** Everywhere I go....YA love triangles...Everywhere...Everywhere...Why can't authors write about a teenaged girl who actually has to make some tough choices in life other than just which guy she wants to end up sleeping with? (Because apparently, in YA, "love" is a synonym for who she wants to have little babbies with the most...)

AHHHH!!!!!!

*\*Sobs\* Dear God, please have mercy on my soul.... Wash away the horror.... Wash away the horror*

Okay. Getting ahold of myself here. Breath in and out. Whew. Okay. I'm good.

Now: for the review. Really, it could be summarized in one word (said in true David Tennant fashion):  
*What?*

First: the dealbreaker. The love triangle, er, square, er, possible pentagon. Or, actually, a four pointed star with Saba in the middle. Yeah...that makes the most sense...

Anywho, Number one: Tommo. Um....huh? I thought he was a kid. Like, a little little kid. Like, Emmi's age. I thought they were two cute drag-alongs to relieve tension and create some sort of emotion other than lovey-dovey sort of love. Cuteness and cheer and all that. And--for once--I approved. That was book one. But...apparently...not??? Suddenly Tommo is all grown up and IN LOVE WITH SABA??? WHAAAA???? Me very cufuzzled....

*Mi-iiind flip!!*

And once I finally got settled with THAT, something else struck me....WAIT A FLIPPIN' SECOND!!! IS THIS A TIGER'S QUEST SPAWN?? WHERE EVERY SINGLE GUY IN THE BOOK SEEMS TO INEXPLICABLY FALL FOR THE GIRL EVEN THOUGH SHE KEEPS DESCRIBING HERSELF AS NOTHING SPECIAL???? Or even worse, Twilight spawn....?

*(He did what we all dreamt of doing....)*

Gah. We've covered that already. Jeez. [See my review of Tiger's Quest for more fun and laughter...]

Then comes Jack. Um...thought he was a major character in these books, so why is he barely in this one? Why bother putting him on the cover if he only gets appearances in the very beginning and end of the book and then scattered in through out? Was it to give him more face time to attract young fan girls? I have no other explanation. He and Saba have almost ZERO relationship interaction other than her getting pissed at him for "betraying" them and feeling oh so alone and heart broken and sad and whatever. Other than that, its just...blah. No nothing. Nothing like the slow build in the first one which was enough to bother putting a love interest in the book at all but not so much that I was gagging. This book: ick. So much *fake* love that it was...weird. Distracting. Scary and disgusting. And just plain BORING. It was like the strange Saba-love star was the only piece of plot barely holding the book together by treads.

Then let's talk about Lugh. What is his problem? Is he actually in LOVE with his SISTER as implied? Come on, this is not Game of Thrones or the Mortal Instruments here. OR EVEN GLADIATOR!!!

[image error]

*"Get away from me, asshole..."*

Let's not get all cliché and DRAMA-tic. Besides, Lugh is just a complete 'jake-ace' for the whole book

so...screw him. (Ha, actually, he does that himself with a freakin' prostitute. Because despite the end of the environmental world, we can never have too many prostitutes, can we??) And the last point of our lovely \*puke\* star??

*"I may throw up on you..."*

Well, because that is such a egregious error in itself, we're saving an entire section for it at the very end! Huzzah!!

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Second: the world itself. The first Dust Lands had a brilliantly crafted world. The Wreckers, the worms, the strange and dangerous environment....Cool to read about, and yet she didn't throw so much random vocabulary at you that you found it hard to keep up with. In this book, its like we're in an entirely new universe. Its strange and disjointed and just so very...random. Really, I have no other way to describe it. Pretty much the only connections back to the first book were the odd mention of their father, the lake, and Merci (or however they spelled the broken leg neighbor lady, I forget). Other than that, it's like they jumped into a Tardis and took a few hops away to a parallel universe. I thought after reading the beginning that this perhaps could still be salvaged, but no. Moira Young has fallen into the SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT DYSTOPIAN (haha, I actually wrote 'dust'-opian fiction the first time...) FICTION trap. Please. Environmental protection does not an intriguing plot make.

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Third: relationships. Yes, I already touched on the love "triangle" (shudder....) but what about the other ones? Hmm, lets see. All of the remaining Free Hawks etc. were pretty much useless characters put into the story only to fill in the plot holes with characters that we vaguely remember from BBR. Maev pretty much did....nothing. Ash did pretty much...nothing. And that other guy whose name I can't remember did pretty much....nothing. Summary? They did....nothing! Good for you, you passed the test!

Now on to Emmi: all of Saba's development with her younger sister in the first book, which was interesting to watch, is pretty much ka-put. It's like they've wiped the slate clean and started all over. Emmi has no existence in this book other than to follow Saba and get caught and be ignored by her TRAUMATIZED older sis. Now, some of you may be thinking: wait, isn't that exactly what she did in the first book? Heh, ah, NO. Emmi provided character development for Saba. She helped free Saba from the Cage fights. She showed Saba that there was more to her life than just mourning her mother and caring for Lugh. In this book??? Whatevs.

And the weird star-teller girl? Does she have a purpose in this book? Why is the star-future-telling-thing such an annoying plot device that goes no where forever and ever the end? In the first one, it was okay because it was subtle and sort of went along with the heart pendant thing. But in this book? FOR-get it. Yah-very confusing indeed. Not sure what's happening, when its happening, or what the plot of this story was. Even writing this review is making my brain hurt!!!

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Fourth: Saba. She's just....so....flipping....IRRITATING!!!! She was strong and bad-a in the first one, but even her slang-talk (which was a little weird, I'll admit but it worked) is diminished in this one. What? How did this happen? When did she become EDUCATED?? I THOUGHT THERE WERE REALLY NO BOOKS LEFT????!! Oh dear, more plot gaps....

In RH, Saba is WEAK WEAK WEAK. When *certain things* (cough, see last point, cough) happen, she's all "okay, sure, why not!!". Um...what? What happened to the coolio heart pendant thingy? What happened to the whole love majig with Jack? Why does she approve of (view spoiler) but is still pissed at Jack for "betraying" her??? Am I the only one confused here? And when did Nero suddenly fade into the background until he was randomly important again, I'd like to know? He was a boss omen of awesomeness in the first one. Now I forget he's there sometimes.

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And finally, most importantly of all, the old standby. My Code of Conduct for Books by which to judge them by (which you will be very familiar with if you've read any of my other reviews): A series is only ever as good as it's villain. And it's true! The villain development in BRR is Bea-utiful! No, no, I don't mean Pinch-- he was a jack-a\$\$\$. I mean the REAL villain. The wonderfully evil DeMalo himself!!! Doi....DeMalo is the perfect background villain.

**Devious.**

[image error]

**Poker faced.**

**Conniving.**

*Evil...*

**With just a hint of possible supernatural powers. Mwahahaha....**

I loved him from the moment he stepped into the room. He was the background player. Mr. Cool. And it was brilliant.

But then...she had to go and ruin it all. \*Sob\*. Who is this 'Seth' guy and what has he done with DeMalo??? He's gone soft! He is NOT the guy we saw in the first book in any way, shape, or form. I actually didn't even make it to the part when he and Saba apparently....*ya know*. (Or, if you don't know, thank your lucky stars for it. Because after *I* found out, I wanted to do this:)

As soon as DeMalo showed up and wasn't acting like himself, little warning bells starting ringing in my ears. I put the book down right away and starting reading other peoples reviews. And boy am I glad I did. Now I can preserve the DeMalo from the first book in my mind forever and forget about whatever the h#&& this guy in the RH is.

Villains who start out awesome should stay awesome. **END OF STORY.** They should not go all soft because they want to, um, (how to put this delicately?) **SCREW** the heroine!! That's the backstory for the weak villain we laugh at behind their backs. Now...it was possible that that sort of thing could be used for a good villain (i.e. a villain who falls in love somewhat with the heroine) but not in this format and **NOT WITH DEMALO.**

So...really...very disappointing. This is a prime example of a lovely, interesting sort of story that just...died. It was beautiful until evil social media got ahold of it and ripped it all to shreds. Now, if you excuse me, I'm going to go and cry and throw this book against a wall. Boy do I want my money back....*Or*, even better....

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## Anna (Enchanted by YA) says

What. The. Hell. Did. I. Just. Read?

After relatively enjoying Blood Red Road I thought there were high chances this book could bring me out of my latest reading slump, but little did I know it would destroy these hopes... Completely and utterly. After a slow start *things went from bad, to worse, to throw book into the pond terrible*. And all for 2 reasons:

1) *Saba is an idiot*. The bad-ass fighter from book 1 is gone, replaced with a girl haunted by the ghosts of her decisions (incredibly interesting actually) UNTIL her problems seemingly disappear into thin air because of some heat lodge ritual. Pur-lease \*rolls eyes\*. After that her character is *unrecognizable*, choosing paths that don't make sense and bouncing between boys.

Which brings me to reason 2) The plot relies on the idea Saba is irresistible, otherwise *there would be no plot!* Introduce a love triangle and I'm anxious, introduce a love square and you have lost me as a reader. Introduce a love interest with insta-love (of which I shudder at the word) and *I can no longer take any of the writing seriously*. I'll be fair though and let's consider for one second that boys do naturally flock to her - yet the story still makes just about no sense.

Now there are many other reasons I disliked this book so much – unrelatable characters, boring dystopian plot etc etc. *What it boils down to* is the fact that I no longer care about what happens. So no I will not be reading the next book, and no I cannot recommend the series.

Posted on: <http://enchantedbyya.blogspot.co.uk/>

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## Maria says

I like Rebel Heart.

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Have you read *Insurgent* by Veronica Roth? If yes, ever thought that Tris was annoying and mind-numbingly useless? Well, she's got a twin. In the form of **Saba**.

For a moment, I thought about giving *Rebel Heart* a 4. But I realized I had a few issues that kept bothering me.

1. What happened to Lugh in the hands of the Tonton that made him such a prick to Saba?

2. The "destiny" and "all in the stars" crap that Saba's father told her were as vague as ever.
3. The story behind Jack's life was as frustratingly thin.
4. *Rebel Heart* was too long to *only* deal and talk about Saba's emotional downfall.
5. If a love triangle's not enough, Moira Young made it into a love *square*. Three guys vying for Saba's heart, can you believe it? Ha.
6. Moira threw in a mix of scandals that i believed did little to contribute to the characters' depth.

I hated **Saba** here. as in *hated*. Whatever you thought of Saba in *Blood Red Road*, forget it. The Angel of Death is dead. *For Dustland's sake, get your act together and fight!* But all that's left is a whiny, crippling Saba who can't tell who her heart's desire was between two guys. *Please, spare me.*

And Jack. I thought I'd see more of him here. :( So sad and infuriating to expect more Jack-Saba moments in the sequel. Alas, it was not so. But he's as charming and compelling as ever.

Forget Saba. Hail to Jack's POV! to **Auriel!** to **Maev's** awesomeness! to **Molly's** and **Creed's** flirty bantering! to **Slim** and **Moses!** to **DeMalo!** Man, it rarely happened to me - that I like a villain so much as I like DeMalo. So mysterious yet more open than Jack ever really was to Saba.

I still like the ending. And that last POV? So intriguing and deviously brilliant. Another betrayal in the making, people!

*Rebel Heart* will not be for every BRR fan. So little action but heavy with emotions, it barely made it to my liking. but it did. and even if it was 3 star rating, I still can't help but be disappointed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Saba Maev rocks.  
Jack Creed.  
Lugh? i hated him.  
DeMalo? i really like him.

I want more of **Jack!!!** Saba can die for all i care.

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## Kenia says

[ Sorry! Spoiler has been removed. I'll post it back up when the book is released. (hide spoiler)]

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## Brigid ☆ Cool Ninja Sharpshooter ☆ says

I read *Rebel Heart* several weeks ago by now, and I still can't decide how I feel about it. Let's just say, I had a lot of mixed feelings about it. While I enjoyed it, there were several things in it that infuriated me. And over all, I thought it was kind of a disappointing follow-up to *Blood Red Road*.

I was in love with the first book. It was like someone had taken *The Knife of Never Letting Go* and *The House of the Scorpion* and combined them into one crazy story. Not to mention, it had a kickass female lead and an awesome love interest. I thought it was really exciting and well-developed. When I got to the end, I was kind of surprised to find out that there was going to be a sequel. I thought Moira Young could have

possibly just tied it up at the end somehow. But, of course I was still going to read the sequel.

Going into book two, I wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't really know where Young was going to pick up the plot or what was supposed to happen in this one. So, I was excited, but I was a little bit skeptical. When a series really starts out with a bang, sometimes it's difficult to follow up. And I feel like that was kind of an issue here.

But I'll get to my problems with it later. I'll start with what I *did* like.

A lot of things I liked about the first book were still present in the sequel.

First of all, it's a very atmospheric series. The world Moira Young creates is very intriguing and easy to picture. It was easy for me to get lost in the story and imagine myself there along with the characters.

Secondly, I like the writing style (for the most part). There are times when it gets a little annoying. And it does remind me a lot of Patrick Ness's style in the *Chaos Walking* series which makes me wonder if that's somehow intentional ... But it's still an interesting style and gives the book an extra something.

I like that the plot moves fast. It just keeps running and doesn't slow down. Even if there were things in the book that bothered me, at least I was never bored with it. There's always something going on and Young keeps the readers guessing about what will happen next. So, I appreciate that.

I also liked the addition and/or development of certain characters. I had hoped that Lugh would become a more prevalent character in this book, and he was. He was not really in much of the first book, so I was glad to see more of him in this book, and I thought his relationship with Maev was sweet. Although, honestly, I thought he was kind of being a jerk for most of the book. But I found him to be an intriguing character, anyway. I also really liked Molly and Jack's history with her; at first it weirded me out a little, but it was also really sad and I thought it felt believable. So, I found their relationship to be a compelling aspect of the story.

However, as I've mentioned a few times by now, there were some major things in this book that bothered me. **SPOILERS AHEAD.**

I still loved Jack, but the whole thing with him supposedly "betraying" everyone was kind of clichéd and predictable. I mean, it was pretty clear from the start that it was going to turn out he hadn't really turned evil. Like, he had no reason to do that at all. And yet most of the characters gave up on him pretty much right away. They were just like, "Well, even though Jack has no reason at all to betray us, we've all instantly lost faith in him. He's evil now. Too bad, I guess." So when it turned out that it was all a misunderstanding and everything it was like, HMM YOU DON'T SAY.

But probably the biggest thing was that I had some big problems with Saba in this book. I loved her in the first book and thought she was a super cool heroine. In *Rebel Heart*, I lost quite a bit of respect for her. Sure, she was still pretty kickass and tough and all, but she made some pretty damn stupid decisions.

**MAJOR SPOILER:** So, there's this part where she sees Jack kidnap Emmi. And at that point, she goes totally nuts and runs off on her own and jumps off a cliff Bella Swan style. I mean, she's going after Nero, but still. It's a bit dramatic. She then runs into the villain, DeMalo. They end up spending some time together and he shows her this trippy place where they hallucinate about flying over daisy fields or something. And then ... they have sex.

So yeah. For some reason Saba decides not to go save her kidnapped sister, but to be a whiney brat and run away, jump off a cliff, and have sex with the villain for virtually no reason. (I mean, I kind of get the feeling there's some weird kind of mind-control type thing going on, or some other thing that Saba can't control. But, it was still really weird.) And I mean like, why would you ever sleep with someone whose name like literally means "Of Evil"? (Not very subtle, Moira Young.)

So yeah, that one thing really threw me off.

I also didn't like the way Saba treated Tommo. Poor dude. I wish Saba had just been honest with him rather than being manipulative and seriously *using* his feelings for her against him at one point. It just seemed super bitchy of her.

Basically, I thought Saba was awesome in the first book, but in this book she did a lot of things that really got on my nerves.

Anyway ... I did like the ending. The last scene between Jack and Saba was really cute and I still think they're a great couple.

In conclusion ... I liked this book. I just didn't like it as much as I liked the first book. It was exciting and fast-paced, and the world and the characters are interesting. I was disappointed in Saba by the end, though. However, I still plan on reading the third book and finding out what happens.

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### ??? Jα??ι?? ??? says

**18-Oct-12:** Ok, I'm puttin this back up to 2 stars. When I finished, I was thinking of rating it three, but I was so annoyed I rated it two. Then I kept talking about it & thinking about it, & I got so angry that rated it one. I deserves more than one though, so while I can't bring myself to rate it three, I will give it two. Barely.

~~**1-Oct-12:** I originally rated this two stars, but I've decided to rate it one. I'm just so mad. And when I look back to see what things I liked? I remember next to nothing.~~

*[Note: The original review was better written. Say thanks to my Internet for disconnecting, and to Goodreads for not saving it.]*

I have NEVER read a book 1, loved it like I loved Blood Red Road (BRR), then read book 2 and hated it like I hate Rebel Heart (RH). My expectations were so high, and this was so disappointing. The whole time I was expecting it to start getting awesome, but no. Rebel Heart made me angrier, more frustrated & disappointed than almost any book ever. And on top of it all, it was just so pointless.

Here are 10 things I hated:

1- Lugh. He was one of the things that in BRR, I said was one of the best things. I always love twin brothers. But in RH? He is one of the worst things. He's always so angry, never giving Saba freedom, acting like the boss or something. (Loved it when Merve told him off for it)

2- Saba. Again, one of the best things in BRR. One of my new favourite MC's. She used to be smart, independant, kickass, & she had flaws but was awesome. Now she's just a stupid, dependant, weak, reckless teenager, who also plays with guys feelings to get her way & IS FREAKING (view spoiler).

3- Saba, again. Remember in BRR, how she had to shoot that Free Hawk? Yeah, now she can't use a crossbow anymore. She freezes. Annoyed the hell outta me. Ok, you regret it, a lot, but when a freaking wolf is about to have you for lunch, & you can't use your bow for that? Not acceptable.

4- The love SQUARE. Here I was, desperately wishing that DeMalo wouldn't create a love triangle, so Tommo thought, hey since DeMalo is so desperately in love with Saba and wont grant Jasmine's wish, I'll join in too, that way it'll be a love square not love triangle! Turns out the whole word-your-wishes-perfectly-and-be-careful-of-loopholes thingy from fairy stories is true.

5- Free Hawks. Awesome group. Another of the best things in BRR. How many were there, again? Around 40? Ok, so, in RH: Big fight. And how many survivors? Lets see.. 3 or 4. And then lets not forget there's plenty of the book left. So there's MAX 4 left. I wont say if any more died.

6- Jack. Yet another of the best things in BRR. And he wasn't even in RH. He was only in the end for a bit, and in the 1st chapter which if in his POV. And what the hell was with what he told Saba to do? It made the book COMPLETELY POINTLESS.

7- Wait for it... Ghosts. I mean what the hell? In BRR, would you have guessed GHOSTS would be a part of the story? And their not even, like, in the whole story.. It's like their in half the book, then suddenly their not there. Not even mentioned.

8- Light witch girl. She's warning Saba, telling her she's in GREAT DANGER (sound familiar?) because Lugh interrupted the close-your-self-off-to-ghosts ritual thing so she's exposed and unsafe. Saba, of course, being who she is now, runs off anyway. Then we don't see anything indicating she's in great danger in that way for the rest of the book. Like it never happened.

9- The whole stories in the stars crap is going no where, and it's so very vague. Only causes trouble.

10- WHERE DID THE AWESOME ACCENT GO?! It added spice to the book. Now its like salad without dressing. Though considering the above 9 points, I'd hardly call it salad at all.

And that's just 10 points. This booked is mined with a lot more.

Y'know what? Go back to BRR, rewrite the last bit so that that big guy (his name starts with I) doesn't die and Jack stays with Saba, and the story would have been PERFECT right there.

I'll read book 3 just cuz I can't leave the story hanging with only one book left, and because I hope that maybe it'll be better than this, though I'm not at all expecting it to be awesome.

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Right After Finishing: ~~ARRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!! WTH JUST HAPPENED?!~~  
~~And A FREAKING LOVE SQUARE?! Between Saba, Jack, DeMalo & Tommo?! NO NO NO~~  
~~NOOOOO!!!!!! (view spoiler)~~

*Proper review to come*

~~**A few days later:** AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!! GOODREADS DIDN'T SAVE MY REVIEW!!~~  
~~NOOOOOO!!!!!!~~

## C.G. Drews says

IF I DO NOT GET MY GRUBBY PAWS ON THE NEXT BOOK IMMEDIATELY, I MAY PASS OUT. **That was so so ridiculously, suffocatingly good.** And horrible. I hate this book. I'm having a heart attack, okay? If you see someone screaming in the corner and beating their head against the floor -- that'd be me. I AM IN PAIN, FOLKS. This books. omg.

**So basically there are NO second book blues here.** This one dives into a more emotional side...and the plot IS kind of similar. But I didn't even care?! Because it FIT and WORKED. So obviously we know Saba has to go find Jack, but we've got all the mixed emotions between her and Lugh now and -- omg they break my heart. I LOVE LUGH. But I also want to smack him into the middle of next year. **Saba and Lugh's relationship has kind of fractured...and it hurts to read.** Which proves what an extremely talented author this is. But I CRY because they're not getting on. And siblings betraying and being jealous of each other is my entire undoing in books. I weep.

And the book actually starts off narrated by Jack (!! ) which was just about the best thing ever. Then it cuts off and we go back to Saba's narration. **It's a journey again.** So there's dusty horse tracks and weird/quirky characters to meet and there's blood EVERYWHERE. Omg. It is so great. :) I loved how the action and pacing were just *perfection*. I was never bored even though there's a lot of travelling and journeying.

**The character development was the GOLDEN part of this book and definitely was emphasised.** So a quickie look through them all:

- SABA: Well, she's a lot more emotional in this one. Did she EVER cry in Blood Red Road??? I don't think so. But in Rebel Heart she's in tears a LOT. She has PTSD and can't kill and is sleep walking and seeing dead people...basically she is. a. mess. And all emotions are convoluted and...I love Saba. I love her strength and her sharp tongue and her stubbornness.
- LUGH: Ugh, Lugh. Why are you such a pumpkin face? YOUR SISTER NEEDS YOU. Obviously he's jealous of her relationship with Jack (not in a sexual way, gawsh, get your brain out of the gutter). Like they're twins. Before he got taken they were EVERYTHING to each other. The only friends they had. And then suddenly Lugh gets his sister back and realises she's in love with a dude he knows diddly squat about? I GET IT. But he was such a jerk so much. And I hate how he expected her to be entirely honest with him but he was NOT honest and open with her. (view spoiler)
- EMMI: She is just as adorable and wonderful as ever. Oh Emmi! She's like the sunshine of the group and I love how much she looks up to Saba now and how they're closer and care about each other. SQUAWK.
- TOMMO: Um...okay. I didn't see this coming, but he has SUCH a crush on Saba. I kind of thought he was Emmi's age? But apparently not. So. Awkward. I got annoyed about this because it didn't really add to the story?
- JACK: He's barely in the book. BARELY. I cry. I love Jack. I also don't like how he decided, at the end, to (view spoiler)
- DEMALO: Look, I don't really remember him in book 1? I wasn't paying attention? But he is the Big Name Villain and also has a crush on Saba. (So that's 3 guys who want to marry her, and 1 who just wants to lock her in the basement. Wow Saba. You have yourself a following...) He's a complex villain and that is wonderful...but he freaks me out, okay?!
- MAEV: Omg, Maev. :) She and Lugh have a thing!! I SHIP IT.

So basically there is still **a ton of character death and NO ONE IS EVER SAFE.** Actually the main characters kind of are? But all the secondary characters I'm afeared for their lives, y'all.'

**My ONLY quibble was this one thing near the end...** Which I'll wrap in spoilers, because it's kind of a big spoiler: (view spoiler)

**And the writing is goooorgeous.** I can't get enough of it. I just whipped through this book because I'm so suffocatingly in love with the story, the characters, and the style. I love the little sprinkle of magic and spirits, and the between all the rough grittiness, they'll be these PERFECT sentences that just make me squawk. \*flails and flaps like an excitable penguin\*

**I'm pretty extra sure that this series is MY EVERYTHING.** I cannot even breath right now. Half way through the book I had to put it down and go *calm down because I was so worked up*. YER IN MY BLOOD, Y'ALL, THAT'S ALL I KERN SAY. \*dies\* I haven't loved a series this much in...um...forever?!?!?

EVERYONE WITH A FACE NEEDS TO READ THIS BOOK.

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### **Pickle Rick says**

If DeMalo is not in this book, I will flip shits. What would have been the point of all those sexual tensions from the previous book? And he saved her life. Umm, yeah, that's a pretty big deal.

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### **Trudi says**

I don't know, maybe I'm just getting too old and curmudgeonly for these types of stories. Too much angst and melodrama, this time around, not nearly enough of that spectacle and heart-stopping action found in Blood Red Road. Even the excruciating dialect and lack of punctuation bothered me, when I barely noticed it last time, so engrossed was I in the story.

Hardly any Jack. I wanted more of his part of the story, and not just his absence and Saba's brooding over possible deceits and betrayals. Her episodes of "acting out" grated on my last nerve through most of the story too. After everything she's been through, seen, survived, I expected a maturity that just didn't manifest itself.

...and hints of a love triangle....WHYYYYYYYYYYY!!!!??? ::pulls out hair in aggravation::

Not enough forward development of the plot either, a horrible sin that most sequels of a trilogy can't seem to avoid committing. I was so impressed with Young's execution of Blood Red Road however, I really expected her to pull it out of the fire and separate herself from the pack. Sigh. She did not.

I'm still enjoying the role of Nero the crow and Tracker the wolf. Reminds me of what I loved about the movie The Beastmaster when I was a kid. This pang of nostalgia fondly remembering a B flick from 1982 will not be enough to salvage this series if I don't get more -- much more -- meat on the bone in the final book.

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### **Maureen says**

THAT LAST BIT MADE ME NOT OKAY AT ALL.

I'm really really enjoying this series. There's so much happening and so much foreshadowing and things coming full circle and I just...I really like it.

Also yes plz protect the earth let's not become the Wreckers okay? Okay.

