



Slave

Laura Frances

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There is no sun. There is no moon. There is only gray—the smog belched from coal-fueled factories. The Workers silently shuffle to their assigned posts. The Outcasts watch from the alley walls. On every corner, a Watcher stands stone-faced, a rifle in hand. This is the only life that exists. Beyond the mountains is a dream. But dreams are foolish in a place like this.

Hannah has spent nineteen years dodging Watchers and doing as she is told.

"Do not look Watchers in the eye. Don't give them a reason to notice you."

But when she wakes to the valley exploding in revolution, Hannah is forced onto a dangerous path, where nothing is what she believed. Suddenly freedom is in her grasp, and the way there requires working with the men she once feared.

Slave Details

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From Reader Review Slave for online ebook

Payal says

The story had such great potential; the description pulled you in, the first chapter gripped you tight, and the rest, well, it just gradually disappointed.

Smog; the one that prevents the sun and the moon from penetrating is broken through often by rain (and if physics have anything to say about it, strong wind). The slaves are called; workers, not slaves and given the barest education. Which brings us to the logical question of; how in the world did they end up being named slaves??! (hint: its lousy editing)

There's ample reason to explain about the surroundings and the products they produce, yet I only found fleeting references to it. It is more than 2/3 of the way in that I even realized that the buildings are set up in logical product sectors.

The MC is supposed to be this amazingly beautiful and courageous girl. *She is technically a woman at the age of twenty - somehow remaining in that age even after a birthday, producing a collective sigh from older women worldwide - however, she acts like a tween.* I fail to see WHY anyone places any value in her. She cries, constantly, when she's afraid, when she's happy, when she's in pain, when she's in love, and naturally when she's sad. The only redeeming part about the trails of tears is that the author has found every possible way to describe crying.

Read it if you must, but it is a sad attempt at cashing in on the dystopian, teenage love angst genre.

Emily O'Malley says

I loved this book! I am starting the second one right this second! The details!!! If you need a book where you can live through every word this is the book. I could feel the pain, suffering, and struggle. Everything went together and I can't wait to see what the second book holds. I am glad I found this book for a spontaneous read. Highly recommend!!

Dee/ bookworm says

Slave from Laura Frances is a breath of fresh air! Best dystopian novel I have read this year!! Frances does a great job using the prospective of the main character to acquaint you to her surrounds and take the journey through the book with her. When she is disoriented, the reading is more disoriented, etc. Great book!!

BookLoversLife says

This book was all kinds of awesomeness!! It's been a while since a book captivated me so much but this one did, and it's weird because it's a very bleak world. Everything seems grey and dull and everyone is so cowed and afraid that there is no music, no laughter. Yet the author manages to make you want to be apart of this

world!

Hannah has always been told to "Do not look Watchers in the eye. Don't give them a reason to notice you." otherwise bad things can happen. She has always done what she's been told, but has questioned everything in her mind. The day that a revolution, of sorts, takes place, Hannah is caught up in it and now finds herself part of the rebels. How can she try to take down the people that made her this way, when she is afraid?

I have to say, I loved Hannah. She felt "real". She isn't a typical heroine but shines non the less. She is forced to become a rebel, and while she loves the idea of freedom, her submissive behaviour has been so ingrained in her, that she finds it hard. She doesn't feel like she is able to do what the rebels want her to do, but knows she needs to find courage somewhere. There were parts where my heart broke for her and parts where I was rooting for her. She was just such an awesome character, and being in her head just made me love her more.

The romance was a slow burner but nice. It kind of snuck up on Hannah even though the reader can see where it's going. I was happy that Hannah found someone, sort of :) The plot kept a steady pace and was engaging. The world building was amazing though. It's such a bleak world, but the author wrote about it beautifully and really captured the atmosphere and desolation. It was easy to picture.

Anyway, this was such an engaging and entertaining read. Well written and developed, with characters that will capture your heart and a plot that will captivate you, this is a must read! Can Not Wait for the next one!!!

Stacey Glemboski did an amazing job of capturing the feel of the place and she nailed the performance of Hannah. She brought across her cowed spirit but also showed us her inner thoughts and the hope she has in her heart. I need to see what else she has narrated!!

I was voluntarily provided this free copy by the author, narrator, or publisher. This in no way affected nor influenced my thoughts.

Georgie Devereux says

I recommend everyone to read this book. I've been reading mediocre books for so long that I forgot what it was like to read a good book.....until this one showed up!

KandyMay Poff says

This book is freaking amazing.

If you follow me on Goodreads or have seen any of my reviews on Amazon you know it is few and far between for me to give a five star review. I give this book a five star review easily!!! As an avid reader one of the ways I rate books is by how much skimming I do. If I skim more than three or four times, the rating loses a star. In this case, I didn't skim a single time, I devoured every word, not wanting to miss a single syllable. Amazing, astonishing, I can't find the words to explain how good this book is. I can tell you that I laughed and cried, and read it in two sittings. I read chapter one the night prior and read the rest in the final sitting. This story is a masterpiece and that's saying something because normally a book in present tense can not hold my attention. Waiting to watch it hit number one!

Laura A. Grace says

Reread December 2018: This story is still as deeply moving as it was the first time.

Original review:

This story was exceptional.

The author did a fantastic job of really bringing Hannah's anxiety to life that I had to remind myself to breathe a few times. It was extremely engaging and though there were some foreshadows to a few upcoming plot twists, I found myself still surprised and saddened as Hannah as was. What a transformation she experiences as the book progresses!

I totally loved the Watchers, especially Cash. I felt I even grew as a reader in trusting them like Hannah! I'm very curious to see how things unfold because that ending was absolutely perfect. I LOVED it so much and bought out all the feels.

Looking forward to diving into book two!

Meggy says

Simple but very clear, **I liked the combination of the title and the cover**. Plus, I hadn't read a dystopian story in a while! I admit I missed desperate situations and protagonists pushed to the extreme of their being. Well, **Slave definitely gave me what I wanted!**

Watchers are everywhere, with their guns and dark outfits. Life for Hannah is all about staying in line, doing your work, and dreaming of a blue sky she has never seen. **I really enjoyed diving into this grey world and learning the harsh way people survive, disappear, and obey. Everything felt hopeless and I was hooked very fast by the dark description and loneliness oozing from the pages.** Cut from everything else, surrounded by factories, people live and die without anyone noticing. **Though short, the world-building was efficient enough to transport me!**

I only wish there had been a little bit more of Hannah's life before the revolution came and the assumptions I had made were questioned and both Hannah and me were sent into a new world with its own set of rules.

When you have lived your life being told who were the bad guys and what you should not do, it's difficult not to be overwhelmed by the big changes created by people you believed you couldn't trust. **Trust is at the heart of this book. Appearances, and the "who is really what they say they are??"** I loved wondering, questioning actions, feeling lost with Hannah. **It was as though the world had been turned upside down.**

But our main character had nothing to do with it, and it was refreshing! Hannah goes with the flow, at least for most of the story, and I admired that the author created a nicely-rounded cast to set the action and take everything into their hands, leaving poor Hannah to make decisions and witness what she never would have guessed. Life has more to offer, the revolution is not new, and everything is more complicated than we think! Usually in dystopians, the MC takes a bigger part in events, so I thank the author for the different angle she went with! Not to say Hannah just watches and stares, but she is simply a young and lost girl who finds friendship, hardships, love and pain when she thought the numbness of her old life was all she would ever get.

The different secondary characters all get enough background to feel real and for you to get attached. **There's enough character development to understand and feel for Hannah, and the others.**

The ending promises more difficult times, but far from the desolation of the first pages I felt that was the real beginning.

Slave is a refreshing and well-executed dystopian story, with a game of trust that is fantastically gripping, a main character you can't help but root for, and a lot of potential to be a fantastic series!

I was provided with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Elise Edmonds says

I really enjoyed this dystopian novel. The worldbuilding was straightforward and believable without any of the quirks that sometimes make me question dystopian societies. In recent years, dystopian has become very inventive which can reduce credibility, but here the focus was more character based.

Despite the fact that Hannah wasn't a particularly active character (she reacted to the situation around her and was often carried along with circumstances) the internal development and changes of thought and belief more than made up for this. The book does a great job of showing how fear and loneliness can change to hope and friendship - and this process is the strength of the book. The first person narrative really does it justice.

The mild romance was subtle and tasteful and did not overshadow the plot, which is often a complaint of mine in YA dystopian.

Great read all round.

Charybdis says

I can't believe this book was rated on Goodreads by 84 people and got an average of 4.5 stars. That's more

than "The Hunger Games"! I think it was a rather shallow story. The main problem was the heroine: she is 19 years old, but a helpless crybaby. When she needs to run, she freezes, and when she needs to duck for cover, she starts running. For some reason the leaders of the resistance think very highly of her and send her on a dangerous mission, which she stumbles, and freezes, through. Also she is allowed to attend meetings where the leaders plot their strategies. Three of the most interesting young men are attracted to her, which must be because it makes them feel manly when she's crying all over them all the time. There's absolutely nothing special about Hannah to explain this otherwise. She is very passive and needs to be rescued by others all the time, and she faints! Katniss Everdeen and Hannah are one hundred percent each others opposites. Then there were the small things that bothered me: 78 times people nodded instead of simply and more politely saying yes, half of the people Hannah meets have green eyes, and it seems only villains have bad breath.

I finished the book because it was a short read and I was curious to find out why this book got so many stars. Unfortunately I'm still in the dark about that.

Kristen Kooistra says

This was the book chosen for my book club this month. I'm really happy we picked this because wow, it was GOOD!

Slave is easily one of the best dystopians I've read in awhile(not falling into so many of the common "problems" of the genre). Writted for a NA audience, this is clean enough for a YA readers(though there is some light torture that might be too much for a young YA reader).

Hannah is our MC and with the story being told in first person POV, I didn't actually learn/retain her name until quite a way into the story. I was shocked when they said her name. I was like . . . wait, I didn't know her name, but I feel so connected to "I". I think that's a testament to Frances' ability to make her characters easy to relate to.

Hannah lives in a world that's lost all of its beauty in more ways than one. There is no sunlight, grey clouds from the factories cover the sky, and I swear there's no grass or trees, or nature anywhere in this miserable place. The people live in hovels with no luxuries or anything nice whatsoever. They are given just the bare essentials and live to work.

Those who can't work are cast out to live on the street.

The absolute despair of the place seeps in everywhere and Hannah is a reflection of her world. Sometimes being in a character's head is not enjoyable for the reader, but I loved being in Hannah's head. The book spends a lot of time there but it's sooo well-done.

Hannah is a product of her system. She's terrified of everything, she's completely cowed. Too often with dystopians the character is like "oh yeah, totally not affected by my crazy world and ready to rebel!"

Hannah felt REAL and I couldn't put her story down. I understood her fear, was freaking out with her when everything was normal but she and you KNOW the other shoe is going to drop any second!! She does the right thing, even when she's scared. She's not willing to take the chance that if she doesn't make a good choice that someone else will, because what if they don't?

The romance was slow, and I wouldn't call it sweet but rather it had a depth and realness to it that fit the story.

I already can't wait for the second book to be out. And I so want that Aspen girl to DIE!!! She annoyed the heck out of me.

My only "complaint" was that I didn't see the twist with one of the character's identities(connection to the South) coming and didn't feel like there was really any indicator(Hannah states that it made sense to her, but it didn't make sense to me.) leading up to the point that the other characters deferred to this character in anyway or that there would be a reason for it.

Great story though! And so nice to read something with a slightly older cast.

Valerie (Howler_Puff) says

Hannah is a Worker. She lives in The Valley where the sun never breaks through the smog. She is a slave. Every Worker in The Valley is a slave. She has accepted her fate as just that. Then one night Watchers come into her sleeping unit to take her away. Watchers are the Iron Fist of The Valley. They have orders to kill for the slightest mishap, if you talk, you die, if you make eye contact, you could die. Turns out, there is a rebel group. They are trying to get all the Workers out of The Valley and out under the Council's rule.

This is an OK book. I enjoyed it, just wasn't my favorite. Hannah was MEH, she wasn't very likeable to ME. The last few chapters were pretty good, a lot going on, secrets come out and then BOOM, the book is over. I don't see myself continuing with the series.

Simply Sam ? says

I love dystopian settings. I just do. The thing about them is that there is always a ring of truth. That this terrible, unimaginable future is not so unimaginable after all. And there's just something about people overcoming these hardships that hits me in all the right feels. It gives me hope.

The story is told from the POV of Hannah, a Worker AKA Slave to the Council. These people are the backbone of manufacturing for the nation, but are kept under very close supervision by Watchers, basically enforcers meant to keep the Workers in line. Due to all the manufacturing facilities, they live in a perpetual smog, never seeing true daylight. And in a valley, surrounded by mountains teeming with dangerous wildlife, there's no escaping this life. Or so the Council would have them believe. Hannah wakes one night to explosions and in the blink of an eye, everything changes. She is whisked away in the night by rebels, Watchers who have revolted and now mean to free the Workers. She soon learns not everything is quite as it seems while the lines between the good guys and bad guys begins to blur.

Of the characters, Hannah was the most problematic for me (surprise, surprise) and was more than a little frustrating at times. There were even moments that I feared she would (and did) fall into the dreaded TSTL category. But I really tried to put myself in her shoes, tried to evaluate how I'd react and fare in the same situations, and I'll admit it was tough. Living the life she lived, being conditioned to fear and stay covered at all times, well I imagine overcoming that would be quite difficult. But does it excuse all of her behavior? No. And should it encourage as much trust in her as it apparently does? Not at all. She experiences some growth throughout the story but, in the end, remains kind of maddeningly helpless.

Edan was wonderful. He's the guy who will always be in your corner. The perfect best friend or big brother figure. I'm just leaving it at that...

Cash is one of my favorite kinds of Heroes. The big, brutish, hulk with a heart of gold. It was apparent pretty early on that there was more to him than met the eye. It wasn't much of a leap to guess the his role, but that didn't really take away from the story at all.

I'm still not sure that I trust Solomon yet. He's seems too compassionate, too consoling, too something. Like he's really trying too hard to sell his genuiness. We'll see...

There are a few others that play minor roles in the book, but since I have no real strong feelings about them at this point I'm just leaving them alone.

All in all, this book kept me entertained in one way or another from beginning to conclusion. The author has a interesting writing style that I appreciate. It's subtle but it's there. And while the story may not have been a totally unique concept (how many times have groups of people been enslaved and controlled by fear?), and Hannah may have been a problematic MC, it was one that was told well. Those who enjoy YA dystopians will probably enjoy this too.

Sara Baysinger says

This. Book. Deserves. Five. Stars.

First of all, THAT COVER! I actually found this book on a Facebook group where the author was trying to get feedback on the cover, and I contacted her and asked if I could beta read it. I AM SO GLAD I DID!

The pacing, the characters, the story as a whole is just brilliant. I cried a few times, and, guys, I DON'T CRY IN BOOKS. Well, sometimes I do, but it's very, VERY rare.

The story begins by introducing the reader to the story world by showing you the living conditions, the expectations of the Workers, and their fear of the Watchers. But we're not stuck in the "norm" for long before Hannah wakes up in the middle of a revolution. Watchers are disguised as Workers and rescuing the people from slavery. This is where we're introduced to more characters. Some with heart wrenching pasts, others that are completely swoonworthy.

The pacing keeps you turning the pages, wondering what's going to happen and if the characters are going to make it out alright. Seriously, with one twist after another, SLAVE keeps you hooked until the last page.

And the ending!!! Guys, I can usually guess what's going to happen, but there were still some surprises that slid by me.

If you like dystopian fiction (and even if you don't) pick up this book! It's original. It's clean. It's GOOD.

Noninn says

Beautiful dystopian story

I love the dystopian genre and when I saw this book I was excited to read it. The cover is beautiful and goes well with the story.

From the beginning the story engages, with lots of action to keep the reader wanting more.

However, it is the characters and how they relate with each other that I really enjoyed.

I look forward to reading more from this author in the future.
