



The Rule of Claw

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A move away from the effervescent over-the-top world of Amy Peppercorn, this is the first of a series (to be followed by "City of Screams").

We enter a futuristic world and meet a band of sixteen year olds who were dumped in isolation at an early age. They're educated partly by gleaning facts from the few books in their possession, but primarily through their experiences of survival which features death and danger. A new threat emerges when the teens transcend their own rules and eat animal flesh. Ash is kidnapped and becomes a pawn in the power struggles between the formidable raptors. In these beautiful beasts, she glimpses new forms of evolution which make her consider her own humanity. Soon she learns the frightening truth of their origins. And realizes the dangerous implications for herself and her friends.

The Rule of Claw Details

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Author : John Brindley , Ian P. Benfold Haywood (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Rule of Claw for online ebook

Trisha says

You will probably love this book if you are a vegetarian, aethiest.

Ravencrantz says

2.5/5 stars

This book was...weird. Nothing like I expected. It took me a good 200 pages to actually get into the book, and even then I struggled to keep reading. I had no idea what was going on for most of the book, but I think that's the point. You know as much as the teenagers, the Agles, do. You find out what's going on as Ash does. Usually, I enjoy that in a book. It makes you keep reading to figure out what's going on. But here it was so unclear that it backfired. It didn't help that the language was choppy, to mimic the Agle's way of speech, until the Rodents came in. It was really interesting to see the different species try to communicate and it was a great way to show modern day language barriers and how different cultures have different ways of living and speaking and it can start wars. Like how the yellow raptors think nodding your head is an insult and shaking your head is friendly, but the blue raptors think the opposite.

I really don't know what to think of this book. In some ways, it was brilliant. A way of showing us how messing with genes can be dangerous, much like in Jurassic Park. The imagery was beautiful, with so many different colors and carnivorous plants and bugs in the jungle. But the characters were boring. I think I felt most for Little Three the Raptor, and you barely see her at all. She doesn't play too big of a part in the story, at least not until the very end. Most of the characters are jerks. I really wanted to punch Jon and most of the kids from the ASP camp and the members of the Ark. No one listened. I guess that's how people really are, especially when emotionally unstable and with access to guns and flame throwers, but it just seemed so exaggerated that it was more annoying than believable.

There wasn't a whole lot explained, but I guess that's because there's a sequel, which I will not be reading. I mean, we know a bit of what happened and of Helix's plans and what he has done to the world, but what about why Tori has suddenly gained this new power and what does that mean. How did these two kids not know what getting pregnant meant but knew how to get pregnant? It's the little things that are bothering me. I don't know if it's because I just don't know what to feel about this book or what, but I just had a hard time truly enjoying this book.

Kevin says

some weirdness at the end but it held my interest

Annie says

Too political for me.

Jennifer says

I'm gonna be completely honest i bought this book because the cover was cool. It's all shiny green and scaly looking and i couldn't really decide what i wanted to read anyways so hey why not. Well because you end up getting a kind of crappy book. I just can't seem to get through this book and i really don't know why. It's not that bad of a book it's interesting and unlike anything i've ever read before but i just can't do it. I think it has something to do with the characters they aren't very smart, it's not their fault it was really inevitable due to circumstance, also i like a main character who is going to stand up and be brave and strong and this one is kind of lacking for me sometimes she is brave and other times she is not. I can't say don't read this book cuz someone else might like it where i do not but right now i'm just hoping i can finish it.

Jianny says

Best book yet! After Twilight of course!:) I highly recommend this book because it is a mystery, and also about nature. You will enjoy reading it from day one, until the end.

Erin Sterling says

Ash and her friends seem to be the only human teenagers left on earth, surviving in a camp by the ocean on the edge of a terrifying jungle. They survive by knowing which fruits and plants are edible, trusting each other, and looking to Ash for guidance, but their world is turned upside down after another camper takes control forcefully, leads a charge to kill a seagull, and creates distrust and anarchy in the group. However, a bigger storm begins to brew when Ash is kidnapped by the savage Raptors, becoming part of their own civil war battle, and is saved by a rat-like creature who speaks English and awakens her to the truth of their origins. A tale of a fantasy world about genetic evolution and the fate of humans, *The Rule of Claw* is inexplicable at first, with nothing becoming clear until about halfway through the book, which means that while there is a lot of action, some readers may lose interest at first. While the tone of the book is at times extremely dark and somewhat preachy, readers will be shocked, saddened, and fascinated by the compelling story.

Renee Hall says

An odd book, though I don't mean that in a negative way. If I had to compare it, I'd call it *Lord of the Flies* meets *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (with maybe a bit of *Jurassic Park* thrown in thanks to the sentient raptor societies). I found the story difficult to get into at first, possibly because of the odd linguistic structure of the teens, but I stuck with it and got used to things eventually. While the last villain to be introduced was a little over-the-top stereotypical for my taste, overall it was an intriguing read and quite unlike most of the YA science fiction I've been reading lately. I'm not in love with the book enough to seek out any sequels, but I did find the overall setting and concept memorable, which is a compliment in itself.

justablondemoment says

I wasn't sure I was going to like this book. And at first, I didn't. The way the children spoke really put me off as a reader. It was very hard for me to keep my attention going, and I found myself re-reading things to get what was being said. However, as the story progressed towards the middle that eased a bit, and I was glad I stuck with it. It turned out to be a very exciting journey. One I look forward to continuing.

Lorena Lopez says

The future has always held many things for humanity. Robots, flying cars, you name it, it's been done. But what isn't often told is what could happen, if it all goes wrong. If somewhere through time, we mess up, and the fate of the human race dangles on a thread held by a handful of teenagers.

Ash and her friends are the only teenagers left on Earth. Beyond the the fence of the ASL camp is only death and danger in the woods. They've grown up without adults, dreaming only of the world from their magazines, and trusting their 5 commandments.

Honor your father and mother. You shall do no murder. You shall not steal. You shall not- shall not covet your neighbors house. Surf's always up- Honor the best rider like your father and mother.

But now the rules no longer apply. When Ash is captured by a savage clan of raptors, she must not only fight for her life, but for the future of her entire race.

John Brindley's The Rule of Claw was unlike anything I've ever read. And to be honest, it scared me. At our pace, is this what evolution will lead us to? The fate of humanity, dangling by the hairs of kids who've never known life outside their camp? The book really is intense, the characters all blissfully Innocent, and thrown into a war that was not theirs to fight. I'd easily recommend this to anyone who needs a break from the otherworldly fantasy we've gotten so used to reading. Just pick it up and read a few pages in, it will really change you.

Lindor16 says

So good. I was sucked in from the first page. Raptors! Yes! Mutants! Yes! Awesome story. I can not wait for the next one. The characters are great especially Little Three and Rat. Highly Recommend this one.

Crowinator says

Posted to my Livejournal in January 2009:

This science fiction novel is part survival story, part dystopia, and part slightly annoying treatise on the perils of genetic manipulation and environmental ignorance. Ash barely remembers a time before the ASP camp, where she and other kids have taken refuge on the beach after tumultuous events none of them remember. The adults disappeared long ago into the jungle, never to return. All that's left of them is the wire fences marked Admittance Strictly Prohibited and a set of commandments to follow. The fences protect them from dangerous mutant plants and insects on the other side, and it is strongly hinted even in the beginning that

some of the horrible creatures on the other side of the fence were once the adults. A series of events -- including the death of one camp member -- brings this little camp to the attention of the Raptors, a race of clawed bird-people, who kidnap Ash because they want to use her in their war (the blue raptors and the yellow raptors are having a war based on mutual ignorance of each other). Ash discovers other races living on the island and tries to bring them all together peacefully, and in the process she learns the truth behind their island camp and what's become of humanity. (Hint: it's pretty bad. Oh, and adults are evil.). The book has tons of fast-paced action, clipped sentences, and short, short chapters, making it a very quick read. It has an awesome cover, too, and so I think it'd be a good pick for reluctant readers. It gets didactic, especially when the evil adults show up at the end, but I didn't really care, because a lot of the adventure was awesome. If I had to try to think of a cool tag line, I would say this is kind of like Lost meets Jurassic Park.

Robin says

This started out great--I couldn't put it down. The strangeness of the teenage characters(Agles) and their behavior having grown up without adults was fascinating to me. I liked the evolution spin and the development of all of these other species. But the end was a bit strange for me. I am still intrigued to read the sequel though.

Samah M. says

Note: Spoilers down below

Another Note: It's just some thoughts I have, since I don't do reviews often

It was a bit hard to get used to the 'slang' of the Ages, however it slowly becomes normal. The thing is, when Rat appeared with his 'proper' English, it was really interesting to see the changes the teenagers made to the language.

Another thing I liked is the plot and semi-heavy themes. That we can mutate so largely in such a short time was an interesting idea, and how the humans reacted to it was really realistic (calling the mutated people freaks and monsters).

Later we get to see the religious Adults, and while yes, stereotypical (this book isn't for those who are sensitive about their religion), I didn't mind it. The thing that annoyed me was how all the characters just didn't listen to Ash, and it made me so...UGH! It probably is a reasonable reaction, but Jon, Will, and Alex annoyed me so bad. Sometimes I just put the book down (and picked it up 2 seconds later because I wanted to see what happens) because I couldn't handle it.

Also I really like how near the end, when the Adults are destroying the forest and killing the Blue Raptors, that Really (the Rodent) tried to convince herself it was for the best (for her family), and how Rat just sat in disapproval. And then there's Ash who tried to keep everything in control, and how Alex just shot at whoever. It was just a bunch of emotions at once and that's how I would feel if I was there. It conveyed it really well.

Louise Jones says

i must admit i really liked the cover with its scales on which made u think about the topic of evolution and dinosaurs etc as u read it . i could never make my mind while reading this did i like or not , i at times got a bit lost with the plot line must admit this is not a genre i generally feel or care about !!!
their was the odd occasion when i thought wow the talks on evolution and could see bits of lord of the flies in it up to a point !!! lets just say i was glad i got to the end and did not give up on it which i imagine alot of people doing !!! but will not be rushing out for the sequel
