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The Hunt (The Wilds Book Two)



Synopsis

Living in the Wilds isn't any picnic, but I thought I had a handle on things: avoid the beasts and I won't get eaten, avoid the waterways and the pirates won't kill me, and stab every Dark Walker I see. That was before I found out Tiffany's friends were real and back when I'd never heard of the Skinners. Now my magic is on the fritz, and people are disappearing. Dax doesn't want me to kill any Dark Walkers, and avoiding the beasts is impossible when I live with one. Amidst all this, I've become the most wanted woman around.

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Customer Reviews

The Hunt is the second installment in The Wilds series by Donna Augustine, and what a hunt it is! This novel picks up where The Wilds left off, Dahlia is in the homestead, trying to determine her place in the new world order, concerned about her safety and the well-being of her new family, knowing that she is a target in this post-apocalyptic civilization. In this book Dahlia contends with old enemies and new while she learns to navigate life in the Wilds. What I loved about this book was Dahlia's growth. Still young and naïve to the world outside of the asylum, she is learning

more about herself, her strengths, her weaknesses and acceptance of all of these. She is a fun protagonist full of determination, angst, and self-doubt all rolled up into one hot mess. I eagerly await the next book in this series.

I read the first book in The Wilds series and thought it wasn't bad: a worldview that I haven't encountered before and a fairly interesting situation for the main character. While the worldview continues in this second book, the situation has become significantly less interesting. Augustine can't write action to save her life. It can take 6 pages to get through a conversation about leaving the safe compound to investigate Dal's enemies, but fight scenes are over in 2 paragraphs. And there's way too much mystery. It makes sense for all the characters to have trust issues, but by giving nothing but blank walls the author doesn't do a lot to engage readers. The worst part is that the plot is incredibly thin: Dal, the last surviving Plaguer in a post-apocalypse world, is being desperately sought by creatures who have infiltrated humanity. We learn in The Hunt that she has a lot of magic. And that's it. At the end of book 1 she was told she was the "key", but there's no sign of what that means, and most of this book is taken up with high-schoolish relationship issues. While that may be fine for a young adult audience, it's not interesting for the rest of us.

So many reasons to love this second book in The Wilds series! The Hunt takes off where The Wilds ended. And what an ending we were presented with in that story! While the first book in the series was action packed, it left us with questions about the world as it is now left after the plague wiped out much of the human population. In The Hunt a few of those questions are answered as we learn more about this fascinating world Ms. Augustine has built for her characters to live in. And while we have some answers (which I love since I'm not a big fan of waiting until the last book in a series for a massive reveal) we're presented with new mystical dangers and a brutal human clan that is every bit as horrible, if not more so, than the Dark Walkers. After all, they are human and what they're willing to do to other humans is hideously gruesome. I love the characters in this book! Dal is so determined and caring, willing to fight for the underdog. Then again she can come off as cocky and a bit prickly. But you have to remember she was raised in an institute from the time she was a very small child, persecuted for being a survivor of the Bloody Death. Her only defenses were those of a child and just because she's now free doesn't mean she is treated any better by other humans that don't know her. And being free doesn't make her automatically lose her coping mechanism she learned while a prisoner. But there is growth with Dal and it's fun to watch her turn from a naïve girl into the strong woman she's becoming. This is a wonderful series and I can't wait until the next

book comes out! Ms. Augustine is a favorite author and has been for years. Her books are always unusual, entertaining, with complicated twist and The Wilds is no different. An easy book to recommend to lovers of Urban Fantasy or readers that just love to read a well written story.

I am so over the YA trope of the Guy Who Treats The Main Character Like Garbage being the guy we're supposed to swoon over. The narrator tries to wave this off multiple times as "his wall", or by making excuses that he's trying to make her tougher by being awful to her. The simple truth is that the main love interest is controlling, ridiculously possessive, and verbally abusive to someone who has been through a lifetime of trauma, and somehow we're supposed to think that's sexy. Yes, he has a Deep Dark Secret and that's supposed to be an excuse for being a horrendous human being, but honestly it's an awful example to set for the demographic who is reading these books. The storyline is interesting enough, if a little trite, and the writing veers between "casually funny" and "so casual it seems like it was written by someone very young", but for the amount of time we're supposed to spend swooning over Dax, it's just not worth it.

I loved Dahlia in the first book, and she continues to be a wonderfully likable heroine in this story as well. The author is skilled at showing us who Dahlia is rather than telling us, something I very much appreciate. I stand by all the things I said about her in my review of the first book. There are great secondary characters, and while I am struggling with Dax, who sends seriously mixed messages if ever I have seen them, the people in the story are realized and interesting. The story is a good story with events that make sense and characters that do things that make sense and not just to advance the story. Great series, worth reading. Highly recommend!

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