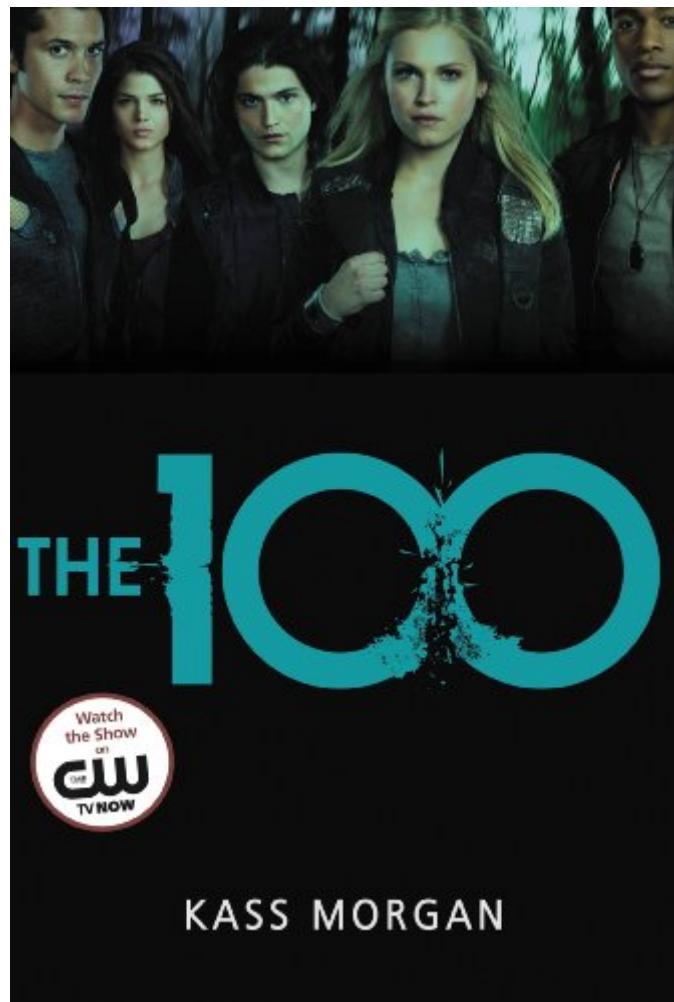


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The 100 (The 100 Series)



Synopsis

The first book in the New York Times bestselling series that inspired the hit CW television show. No one has set foot on Earth in centuries -- until now. Ever since a devastating nuclear war, humanity has lived on spaceships far above Earth's radioactive surface. Now, one hundred juvenile delinquents -- considered expendable by society -- are being sent on a dangerous mission: to recolonize the planet. It could be their second chance at life...or it could be a suicide mission. CLARKE was arrested for treason, though she's haunted by the memory of what she really did. WELLS, the chancellor's son, came to Earth for the girl he loves -- but will she ever forgive him? Reckless BELLAMY fought his way onto the transport pod to protect his sister, the other half of the only pair of siblings in the universe. And GLASS managed to escape back onto the ship, only to find that life there is just as dangerous as she feared it would be on Earth. Confronted with a savage land and haunted by secrets from their pasts, the hundred must fight to survive. They were never meant to be heroes, but they may be mankind's last hope.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having interviewed Kass Morgan last year and given the success of the CW series based on the books, I was plenty eager to give *The 100* a try. While I haven't read a staggering amount of YA dystopian, the books in the genre that I have tried (e.g. classics like *The Giver* and the *Uglies* series), I absolutely loved; given my background, my initial impressions of the premise were highly anticipatory.

UPDATE: Since reviewing *The 100*, I've finished the first two seasons of the TV show, which I will say is almost completely different from the book series. I'm a glutton for dramatic teen TV shows, and since *The 100* is produced by the same people as *The Vampire Diaries*, I was destined to fall in love with it! If you've seen the show and are inclined to try the book because you liked it so much... I'm sorry, but they will disappoint you sorely. Just stick with the TV show (A+ COMPLETELY RECOMMEND).

The books, while similar enough in premise to serve as the foundation for the show, are much more slowly paced (the entire first book, *The 100*, is basically the time frame of the first episode of Season 1), and definitely less gracefully executed than episodes are. Just a little disclaimer.

REVIEW: The book is told from four different teenagers' perspectives—Clarke, Wells, Bellamy, and Glass. All narratives aside from Glass's are told in a concurrent timeline, through the eyes of the delinquents who have been forced to settle on Earth for the first time in centuries. While Glass's story, which takes place back on the mothership, was initially the least interesting, it eventually pans out to serve as an anchor—a tie to the surviving, but still unstable lifestyle back in space.

Kass Morgan creates a vivid high-tech world in *The 100*, where citizens are divided by social standing and resources are limited—of course, except to the upperclass. Back on Earth, the prospects are obviously grim, but it's still a thrill of a journey to follow Clarke, Wells, Bellamy, and the other 97, as they each rediscover a planet that they've only read about in books, yet have such a deep internal connection with. I appreciate the idea of providing different points of view, but think it was slightly too ambitious for the author to try to squeeze a *Lord of the Flies*-esque conflict AND a love triangle AND an undercurrent of radiation's aftereffects (say what?) into everything. It's all interesting until it just becomes too much; I'd have much preferred one central conflict with stronger relationship-building and more background insight. While there is no one thing fatally wrong with any of the characters, all four of them are too generic, too idealized. Everyone loves having attractive/smart/clever characters to read about, but they all start to blend together when the author tries to make them all perfect, especially since everyone thinks in close third person. The unrealistic

and unextraordinary characterization prevented me from developing any sort of attachment to any of them. The only one that seemed remotely human and believable was Bellamy, our resident rebel. But then again I've always been a sucker for bad boys with a past...That said, the story itself is filled with drama and tension between the main characters (and secondary characters!) which makes The 100 exciting to read. The sheer nature of the resettlement of our planet is enthralling; Morgan does well with engaging readers to the surprises and twists scattered throughout the novel. There's definitely lots of action-filled scenes and, love it or hate, an INTENSE cliffhanger ending, that just leaves you thirsty for more. Structurally, I found The 100 quite hard to work with. The constantly changing perspectives get a bit disorienting because it's not just a "he said, she said," but rather a "he said, she said, another he said, another she said." Kind of exhausting. On top of that, each of the narratives are very heavy on backstory which, in good fiction, is absolutely necessary. But when it takes up 50% of the book in the form of italicized flashbacks, it gets out of control. Pros: Fascinating storyline and world-building // Engaging; keeps you hanging on constantly // Dramatic Earth-bound adventures and minor plot twists // Bellamy is a strongly written character // Ending makes me want to read the second book! That's what ultimately matters, right? Cons: Abundance of flashbacks is annoying; causes disorder in the flow of the storytelling // Constant narrative shifts also gets chaotic // Stylistically unimpressive // All the characters are grossly idealized (i.e. sweet, pretty/handsome, kind, brave, etc.) and thus pretty forgettable (with the exception of Bellamy) // Cliffhanger ending may cause distress Verdict: Despite my numerous quips with the lacking characters and structure of The 100, I found myself enjoying it while reading and left wanting more once finished. It's definitely a plot-driven sci-fi novel with lots of action and lots of suspense; if that's your thing, you should totally give it a chance. Kass Morgan's debut is one of those books that isn't mind-blowing, but is still hard to put down, so I definitely understand its appeal to mainstream young adult audiences. While unimpressive in a literary lens or by composition, The 100 is still a promising first installment in an exciting dystopian series. Rating: 7 out of 10 hearts (4 stars): Not perfect, but overall enjoyable; borrow, don't buy! Source: Complimentary copy provided by publicist in exchange for an honest and unbiased review (thank you, FSB Media!).

I truly enjoyed reading this book. I'm always a little sheepish when I read one of these YA stories but I love dystopian type stories and find a lot of the genre in YA fiction books. My YA daughter gave me the idea! :-) Anyway, many of the YA books are a bit "simplistic" and sometimes even stiff at times. I assume this comes from the expectation that YA aren't as experienced and don't notice disparity. This one flows smoothly and great story line - a bit different from the typical End of World situations.

The characters in the story are actually much more likable than the TV show and I like the TV show as well. It's hard to compare them - because the TV show really went off on some different tangents. That's OK (usually I hate that!) In this story, Bellamy and Clarke, along with Chancellor Jaha's son (whose name escapes me at the moment) are the main characters. Son Jaha takes the main scene quite a bit on earth, and therefore the story goes in different directions than on the TV series. The author knows to keep it "real" by allowing some of the characters to have flaws, and some of them end up underground. No happy fairy tales here! :-) The ending leaves room for sequels but does not keep you hanging in disappointment.

This book was just missing any real detail to flesh out the characters and plot. I could have gone along with the story no matter how improbable, but there just wasn't enough detail to connect me to the characters or story.

If you found this book because you watched the TV series on The CW, you will notice several differences but overall this is an excellent book. I have yet to decide which storyline I prefer, and keeping the characters from the book and the TV show separate is difficult but well worth it. The book has a love story, political intrigue and the grittiness of a post apocalyptic works. It is very easy to imagine yourself among the 100, fighting for survival with them. I highly endorse this piece of literature!!

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