

## **The Flame Has Just Start!**

*Catching Fire*  
Suzanne Collins  
Scholastic Press  
Science Fiction  
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391 pages

*Catching Fire*, the second novel in *The Hunger Games* trilogy is a story in which Suzanne Collins exemplifies the meaning of life in a dystopian society and the knowledge and courage a person needs to fight through that state of being. She uses vivid language to unmask the emotions and actions of the characters right in front of the readers' eyes: "My eyes strain to capture one last image of beauty to take with me. Right before the explosions begin, I find a star." Even though, Collins' language is very expressive, she chooses her words very wisely, so that a teenager can understand it and won't get bored while reading it.

In the breath-taking sequel, it has been a couple of months since Katniss and Peeta have won the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunger Games and they are living a life full of honor. They have just come back from the Victory Tour, going around all the districts and asserting their victory. Once they get back, President Snow, the head of Panem, decides to use the Quarter Quell to help him get Katniss back in the arena, as she became a political target after she won the past games. To protect her secrets, love ones, and herself, Peeta and Katniss teamed up again to fight against the past victors in the Quarter Quell as President Snow wished. Throughout the novel, Katniss and Peeta's relationship is interdependent because they work like a package deal to help one another survive.

They will do anything for each other so they can be together. The relationship between the characters in this book makes it even more appealing and interesting to read.

However, I do think there were unnecessary characters and events that didn't really have a huge effect on the plot.

“While you live, the revolution lives. The bird, the pin, the song, the berries, the watch, the cracker, the dress that burst into flames.” Being a determined and adamant person, Katniss' power throughout the novel is like a spark in a fire that gives her the title, “girl on fire.” Because of her fortitude in protecting her family and the people of her district, she always has a way to get what she wants, even if she has to break the rules to help achieve her goal.

When I was reading this novel, I remember how I almost read half the novel in a day without stopping because the events and details just kept getting more intriguing. But, the most fascinating part was how each chapter ended with a cliffhanger, so the author would become so detailed going up to the climax and then just end with a simple sentence. Therefore, even if you wanted to stop reading the book you couldn't because you would want to know what happened. Hence I would always put myself into the shoes of the character to sense their emotions, which made me feel like I was in the arena also fighting for my life to protect my love ones and myself.

*Catching Fire* is an all in one novel that has action, adventure, suspense, romance, and a rapidly unfolding plot line. It is a novel that should be read by any teenager because it illustrates everything a book needs! It has all the parts of the dramatic structure that make for a fast, entertaining, action-packed read.

The ending of *Catching Fire* is an unexpected and unique one that hasn't been used or heard of in any of the novels that I have read. There were no clues that can hint to me what would happen because there were so many unexpected twists. The ending is also a cliffhanger that makes you want to read the third sequel right way. *Catching Fire* is not just a book that can be left alone! The effect of this novel comes right through your eyes as your reading, onto the paper. The life lessons and entertainment you will get from it are unbelievable and unregretful. As a teenager, who doesn't read that many books I would utterly recommend anybody to read this novel.