

*Divergent*

Author: Veronica Roth

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Digging Deep into *Divergent*

By Marly

Veronica Roth's *Divergent* tells the enticing and intriguing story of Beatrice Prior, a girl who crosses the threshold into a new world as she faces the biggest challenge of her life, choosing between the values of her family and the identity of herself. In front of the entire city of dystopian Chicago, Beatrice and everyone her age must choose the faction of society to which they will dedicate the rest of their lives (out of Dauntless-bravery, Amity-peacefulness, Abnegation-selflessness, Erudite-intelligence, and Candor-honesty). Having been impounded with Abnegation's selflessness since birth, Beatrice makes a not-so-selfless decision to leave her family behind and choose Dauntless, a representation of her bravery. While coping with a violent initiation in her new faction, contradicting feelings for an enigmatic man and a quest for her true identity, Beatrice (self-renamed Tris") is faced with an even bigger challenge from the authorities: avoiding death.

Although an action-packed, romance-filled, thrilling novel, it is no lie to say that Veronica Roth's *Divergent* started off very slowly. Having primarily introduced Tris's unusual case in the midst of a futuristic dystopian society, Roth sets the stage for a mysterious and eerie plotline, leaving the reader always curious. She opens the book with

Tris being told that, out of the five factions of society that she must choose from to start her new life, her future lies in the hand of “Divergence” and leaves her no other explanation or reasoning. Until the end of the book when Tris finds out what her situation really means, some parts of the book drive away from the main purpose of the story. For example, when Tris is being lectured by an authoritative figure, he tells her that her strength “will determine the order in which you will select a job after initiation.” This is irrelevant because it is rarely, if ever, touched upon in the entire story. Being the only one of *Divergent*'s flaws, this serves as a detriment to the story in its entirety because it gets the reader's mind off the point, belittling pertinent themes.

On the other hand, so that the reader does not get bored with the slow start and long page count, Roth incorporates hints on what “Divergent” means when Tris visits her aptitude test proctor, Tori, who reminds her that she should “never share them [test results] with anyone, *ever*, no matter what happens. Divergent is extremely dangerous.” This line displays one of Roth's many skills that override her weak start because it keeps the reader hungry for more. During later encounters with Tori, Roth speaks with a very dark tone, thus setting a very spooky mood. She illustrates these scenes usually at nighttime and always sets Beatrice alone. This writing style continuously motivates the audience to want to delve deeper in order to reveal what her unique case has on the stake of her future. Because of this, it is as if Roth wrote each page as its own cliffhanger, making it such a quick and easy read.

Veronica Roth wrote *Divergent* as a senior at Northwestern University, showing extraordinary talent for the young age of 22. Following *Divergent*, Roth came out with *Insurgent* and *Allegiance* to finish off the trilogy. Roth's perception of a perfect society

was what influenced the particular attributes of each faction that appear in *Divergent*, each one being its own distinctive contribution to society. This standpoint on a utopia sets the scene for the exhilarating novel about Tris, a girl whose internal sufferings serve as a detriment to her and those around her futures.

*Divergent* is a novel suitable for high school students as it strays from the stereotypical fantasy aspect of most novels of its genre, and revolves more around a nail-biting romance, stomach-churning thrill, and heart-paining conflicts. The reader follows Tris on a conquest to find her true identity. Not only is the audience attracted to her relatable teenage qualities, but also, her romantic and peculiar relationship with Four teaches a lesson on making true love work in the most difficult of times. It is because of this that most teenagers would very much enjoy this book, as it is very easy to step into Tris' shoes and imagine what she is going through. *Divergent* teaches a story about a girl who is able to overcome insecurities in order to find herself. The novel deserves 4 out of 5 stars, and it is 100% worth the read.