

# **A Fight for Freedom**

By Jessica

*Insurgent*

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HarperCollins Publishers

Fiction

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525 pages

War is inevitable in human civilizations, people aren't perfect. And a futuristic Chicago is no exception, even though it is supposed to be a utopian society, for the people there are divided into factions based on their beliefs. In the second book of Veronica Roth's *Divergent* series, *Insurgent* was not a disappointment for the fans of Beatrice Prior. Not to say this book was perfect, but still a worthwhile read. Reading *Divergent* is highly recommended before reading the sequel, for characters are created and have experienced things in the first book that would leave a reader confused by starting with this section of the plot.

*Insurgent* continues to tell the story of Beatrice "Tris" Prior. An Abnegation born girl, who chose Dauntless as her faction, fights against the oppressive Erudite. For in this advanced version of life, society is broken up into factions based on the flaws of humanity. Shown in this book series, knowledge can be a dangerous thing, for the Erudite are trying to take over the city. Together Tris and her boyfriend, Tobias Eaton, try to stop the Erudite leader, Jeanine Matthews, from taking over their beloved city. Tris and Tobias are considered a threat because they cannot be controlled in simulations, which are forced hallucinations that invoke fear or some other alternate reality. While trying to save their "utopian" society, Tris and Tobias must face hard battles, including the horrors of their own feelings.

*Insurgent* picks up exactly where *Divergent* left off, with a group of people heading towards Amity headquarters after an initiating attack provoking a civil war. This novel is full of engaging action throughout the novel; there are battles, executions, attacks, and betrayals. In *Insurgent*, plot twists also keep people engaged in the storyline, in this novel you're never sure who your friends or enemies are, "People, I have discovered, are layers and layers of secrets. You believe you know them, that you understand them, but their motives are always hidden from you, buried in their own hearts. You will never know them, but sometimes you decide to trust them" this quote shows how complex people can be, especially in times of crisis. Roth also effectively uses a first person perspective of all the events to show emotional motivations and internal conflicts, which is very helpful in humanizing the events and really make the characters come alive.

*Insurgent* has characters which are inconsistent, for injury doesn't matter in this setting, at different points in the story characters are too injured to do much, and then rush into a plan that exerts a lot of energy, and the wound, no matter how severe, becomes insignificant. The plot flow stalls and starts with pages of indecision with the characters ultimately choosing the choice that does not surprise the reader. Such as the heroine choosing to sacrifice herself for the greater good, the brave "knight" who rescues his fair maiden, all archetypal and not very spontaneous.

What did you do?" I mumble. He is just a few feet away from me now, but not close enough to hear me. As he passes me he stretches out his hand. He wraps it around my palm and squeezes. Squeezes, then lets go. His eyes are bloodshot; he is pale. "What did you do?" This time the question tears from my throat like a growl. I

throw myself toward him, struggling against Peter's grip, though his hands chafe.

"What did you do?" I scream. "You die, I die too" Tobias looks over his shoulder at me. "I asked you not to do this. You made your decision. These are the repercussions."

This scene shows Tobias, unwilling to live without Tris, the classic rescuing of the damsel in distress. An interesting point is that the protagonists' love is not perfect. Although the tendency of imperfect romance is reviving in today's literature, it is still an interesting aspect of the novel. For the boy wants to protect the girl, even though the girl would rather be fighting on her problem on own. Major themes in this book include the difference between selfishness and self-sacrifice, shown by how Tris risks her life in order to live up to her parents. Another theme in this book is loss of innocence, as most of the characters mature throughout the novel.

*Insurgent* is Roth's second book, following the eponymous first book in the *Divergent* series. *Divergent* was finished in 2011 while the author was still at Northwestern University. Roth has followed *Divergent* with *Insurgent* in 2012 a year after *Divergent's* original publication. After a surging popularity increase, the *Divergent* series took off. *Insurgent* is then followed by *Allegiant*. Roth is currently working on a collection of short stories told from the perspective of Tobias. Also a short story with no correlation to the *Divergent* series has been released furthering Roth's experience. *Insurgent* also won two 2012 Goodreads Choice Awards, one for best Young Adult fantasy and the other for Roth with the Author of the year award.

Overall, *Insurgent* was an entertaining read, and one of my favorites, even if it is not the best book that I have ever read. I recommend strongly reading this book at the conclusion of *Divergent*. Even though there were a couple of times where the plotline fell flat, and the romance overpowered the storyline at times the book was well written and was a good read. The next book, *Allegiant* is also worth the read, because it closes a lot of questions that are raised at the conclusion of the novel. *Insurgent* is definitely a novel that Blind Brook High School kids will like. The characters face relatable social problems; it has evident romance between major characters, a plotline that is somewhat unpredictable. This book deserves four out of five stars for being an amazing book overall, with unforgettable characters and interesting plotline. *Insurgent* is sure to let you know "that sometimes the people you oppress become mightier than you would like" and will fight back for the greater good.