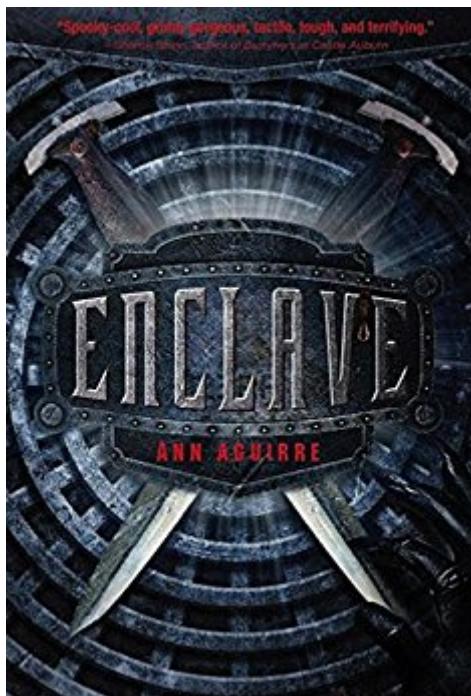


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Enclave (Razorland Book 1)



Synopsis

New York City has been decimated by war and plague, and most of civilization has migrated to underground enclaves, where life expectancy is no more than the early 20's. When Deuce turns 15, she takes on her role as a Huntress, and is paired with Fade, a teenage Hunter who lived Topside as a young boy. When she and Fade discover that the neighboring enclave has been decimated by the tunnel monsters--or Freaks--who seem to be growing more organized, the elders refuse to listen to warnings. And when Deuce and Fade are exiled from the enclave, the girl born in darkness must survive in daylight--guided by Fade's long-ago memories--in the ruins of a city whose population has dwindled to a few dangerous gangs. Ann Aguirre's thrilling young adult novel is the story of two young people in an apocalyptic world--facing dangers, and feelings, unlike any they've ever known.

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Customer Reviews

I first read this book five years ago, but didn't make it through the series. You see, this book was so strong I just had to read the second one, Outpost, so I did and I loved it, but by the time the last

book released, Horde, I wasn't that into the series and when it came to read it, I wasn't ready to, so I ended up DNFng it. Well, in January of this year, I decided there were certain series I wanted to give a chance and this was one of them. I'm so glad I did. Enclave's a fast-paced book focused on the world of Deuce; a huntress in a underground enclave living in a post-apocalyptic United States and in a semi-dystopia. College, the name of her Enclave, is supposed to be this safe place with all these rules that make it the best place for all of it's people, but as time passes Deuce realizes this isn't true. Not that Fade, her fighting partner and future interest, wasn't aware. He wasn't born in the Enclave; he's from Topside (above ground). This book gives you Freaks/Muties/Eaters (read; zombies), action, romance, and intrigue. I can't recall how long it took me to read this book the first time I read it, but it took me about 4-5 hours this time. Yes. This is book is that good and it's that short, so you aren't missing much time just in case you decide you don't really like it. I will definitely be reading the sequel Outpost, I currently own it, along with the novellas Foundation (Book 0.5) which I haven't read and Endurance (book 1.5) which I have read and will be re-reading!

I was drawn to this book, because it sounded like a promising plot. I was keen to get my teeth into a new YA series that had some grit. The Enclave is a horrible place where people have lived for longer than the memory of those who are there. Customs are ingrained into their being, learned from one generation by the next. It's a tough life in a world of darkness that is deep underground after the downfall of society. Life expectancy is very limited. Breaking twenty is a feat, and anyone who reaches twenty-five is considered an elder. Society is composed of Breeders, Hunters and Brats. Each tribe member has their place. Dark tunnels beyond the settlement are full of stinking hungry Freaks who have a hunger for meat that will never be met. They sound absolutely horrible, I'm glad they're not real. The motto of life in the Enclave is 'Only the toughest survive'. The story is about a Brat (what we call a kid), who reaches her naming ceremony and becomes a Hunter. She is named, Deuce, and we follow her battles to live up to her dreams. To become a trusted Hunter and provide the food and protection for the tribe. She is paired up with a partner named, Fade, who is also trying to prove his worth, given that he was born somewhere else and taken into the tribe because of his strength. In order to survive, the Enclave elders have set rules in place. They aren't always fair, they aren't always logical, and they aren't always tasteful. The rules are black and white. You either follow them, or you break them. And if you break them, the punishment can be extreme. Needless to say, some rules are broken, and Deuce and Fade are exiled from the Enclave. We follow the trials of this unlikely duo as they fight against the deadly threats that live underground, and watch as their trust and friendship grows. Deuce is caring and considerate, it's no wonder that

she dreamed of being a Hunter, to care and provide for others. Their journey leads them back to the surface, where they find that there actually are other survivors, themselves caught up in their own nightmarish society that has also evolved in isolation. The big message I got from this book was that humans grow into what they see. It shows how we can grow and believe things based solely on what we learn, whether it's right or wrong. If elders tell us something is blue, we believe and it becomes fact. If they tell us that no one else survived the end of the world, we believe and it becomes fact. Like, Deuce not knowing what a shop was, but upon seeing one, learning that it is a good idea. Or, when Twist secretly helped them with food and water when they were exiled, and Fade wondering why he would do such a thing. Fade's life had never experienced one person helping another, it was always just 'the strong survive', so it seemed like such a strange thing for someone to do. Along the way Deuce and Fade are joined by two from topside. Stalker and Tegan are characters at extreme ends of their own tragic society. Stalker, the brutal leader, and, Tegan, the worthless weakling. Necessity brings the four together and they embark on a journey to a legendary safe place in the north, borne from distant memories of Fade's childhood. Finally, they reach a place called Salvation, and I was gearing up for some answers and perhaps a climactic event with the Freaks. My Kindle book showed a little over 60%, so I read with an air of anticipation. Tegan was at the doctor, I was concerned for her wellbeing, given her injuries. The others sought refuge, I wanted to see them safe and planning their next move. I turned the page and then the blood drained from my face. The book finished. There was no more story to read. The end hit me in the face, it was completely unexpected. Bummer. I know that it is a series, but I have to say I was a tad surprised with its end. In a nutshell This book is great at showing that society is built on what one generation passes on to the next. It clearly shows the paths taken by different isolated groups can make them so different, but yet so similar. It's a good read, but be warned about the sudden ending. It's an incentive to move onto the next book in the series. Note: I don't claim to be a pro-reviewer, I am a reader. My reviews are based on my personal thoughts around the story that the book is trying to tell. I try to focus on the story (which is the reason I read) rather than dissect the book and pass comment on typos, writing style or structure.

Thrilling! *Enclave* is one of those books that will have you on the edge of your seat the whole way through; you never know what is going to happen next. *Enclave* is Ann Aguirre's YA debut and she has done a fantastic job. She does a terrific job world building, without slowing down the pace of the story. *Enclave* starts off on Deuce's naming day. All her life she has trained to be a huntress and today she will show she is strong enough. In the enclave there are three classifications - a breeder,

a builder and a hunter. Hunters are in charge of walking the tunnels (sewer/subways underground) collecting meat and protecting the "tribe" from the Freaks (zombies). After her naming ceremony, she is partnered with Fade - an amazing hunter, but also an outsider. Fade was not born in the enclave; he is from topside and fought his way into the tunnels. Life in the enclave is detached, Fade on the other hand, had parents and he has a loving side that confuses Deuce. During a routine mission Deuce and Fade leave their post, they are punished with a suicide mission. They survive and warn the elders of what is going on, why the Freaks are getting closer and more organized - but the elders blow off their warning. Deuce is starting to distrust what the elders are telling her. Over the course of the next few weeks, things happen that eventually lead to Deuce and Fade being forced to leave the enclave. To me this is where the story really gets good - lots of action, little bit of a romance starting and lots girl power. Deuce will finally learn the truth about the world around her. One of my favorite things about this story is Deuce seeing herself as a huntress, but then thinking things that make her a great huntress are her weakness - then realizing that they aren't a weakness. Sure she can fight, but it's her heart and her drive that make her a great hunter. I would recommend this to anyone who likes dystopia, zombie Apocalypse books. I can't wait to get my hands on Outpost, the next book in the Razorland series.

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