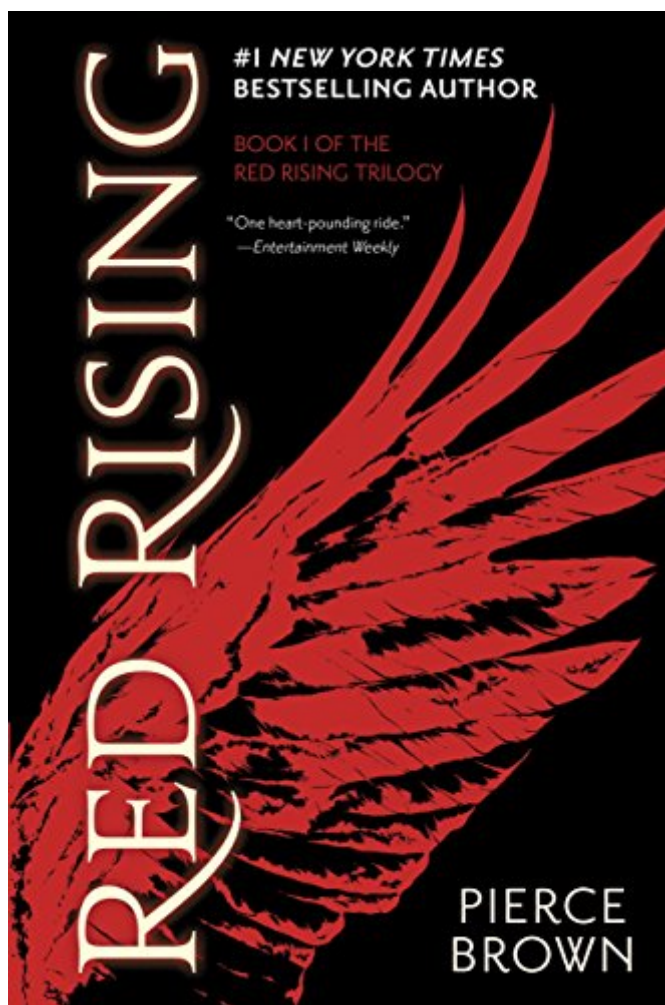


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Red Rising (The Red Rising Series, Book 1)



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, BUZZFEED, AND SHELF AWARENESS • “Ender, Katniss, and now Darrow.” • Scott Sigler • Pierce Brown’s relentlessly entertaining debut channels the excitement of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card. “I live for the dream that my children will be born free,” she says. “That they will be what they like. That they will own the land their father gave them.” “I live for you,” I say sadly. Eo kisses my cheek. “Then you must live for more.” Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Soon he discovers that humanity reached the surface generations ago. Vast cities and lush wilds spread across the planet. Darrow and Reds like him are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class. Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity’s overlords struggle for power. He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society’s ruling class. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so. **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from Pierce Brown’s *Golden Son*. **Praise for *Red Rising*** “[A] spectacular adventure . . . one heart-pounding ride . . . Pierce Brown’s dizzyingly good debut novel evokes *The Hunger Games*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Ender’s Game*. . . . [Red Rising] has everything it needs to become meteoric.” • *Entertainment Weekly* “[A] top-notch debut novel . . . Red Rising ascends above a crowded dystopian field.” • *USA Today* “Red Rising is a sophisticated vision. . . . Brown will find a devoted audience.” • *Richmond Times-Dispatch* “A story of vengeance, warfare and the quest for power . . . reminiscent of *The Hunger Games* and *Game of Thrones*.” • *Kirkus Reviews* “Fast-paced, gripping, well-written” • the sort of book you cannot put down. I am already on the lookout for the next one.” • Terry Brooks, New York Times bestselling author of *The Sword of Shannara* “Pierce Brown has done an astounding job at delivering a powerful piece of literature that will definitely make a mark in the minds of

readers. •The Huffington Post "Compulsively readable and exceedingly entertaining . . . a must for both fans of classic sci-fi and fervent followers of new school dystopian epics. •Examiner.com "[A] great debut . . . The author gathers a spread of elements together in much the same way George R. R. Martin does. •Tor.com

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Customer Reviews

Dystopian novels seem to be a dime a dozen lately, some good, some horrible, so it is great to see a book set itself apart and really capture my imagination. Red Rising is a combination of The Hunger Games and Lord of the Flies if you turned the volume up to 11.-- I am the spark that will set the worlds afire. I am the hammer that cracks the chains.The beginning was a little predictable, I mean to create a man with an epic quest there must be a great injustice done to him. Darrow is that boy/man, while most boys of seventeen but he has seen and been through too much to be a boy any longer. Married to his childhood sweetheart Eo at sixteen he works for his clan mining underground on Mars so the planet can be terraformed for future generations. He works hard to

provide for them but it seems that they are destined to be low forever. Eo has dreams to make their lot in life better for Darrow to stand up and rebel but he wants nothing except her.--

“You think a dream is worth dying for. I say it isn’t. You say it’s better to die on your feet. I say it’s better to live on our knees.”

When Darrow finds out his entire life has been a lie, that Mars is already terraformed and has been for generations he is recruited to rebel against the system by transforming from a lowly Red into a Gold, the rulers of the worlds who believe themselves to be Gods among men. Now he must infiltrate their system and become the best Gold possible so that in the future he can destroy them from the inside. Red Rising is dark and intense, full of intrigues and betrayals. Even though the beginning is predictable the rest of the book is not. Just when I start to feel comfortable with the characters and the roles they are playing the rug gets pulled out from under me and I have a very new understanding of the game and the society that constructed it. No one is safe and no one is what they seem. I loved some of the side characters, there are so many that are slightly off. It could be because they are brilliant but it could also be because they are crazy, perhaps both. Servo was one of my favorites and I was never quite sure what that guy was going to pull next.--

“I killed their pack leader,” Servo says when I ask why the wolves follow him. He looks me up and down and flashes me an impish grin from beneath the wolf pelt. “Don’t worry, I wouldn’t fit in your skin.”

Brown has given us glimpses into a vast and complicated world. We have only seen a small part of it so far but what I’ve seen is dark, cruel and intricate. Throughout the story Darrow stumbles and falls but the transformation of him from the beginning of the story to the end was amazing and you get to see every misstep and mistake along the way to make you believe the transformation. I can’t wait to see how Brown follows Red Rising up. Definitely a dystopian worth diving into.

Where should I begin? I guess I should start with the beginning, but it is the ending that I fell in love with. So, on with the beginning, but it will be short. “But never has Eo been more beautiful to me than in that moment. In the face of cold power, she is fire.” As soon as Eo is introduced, I like her. She is strong, stubborn, and just a bit carefree. The way Darrow describes her is heartbreaking. He loves her. Darrow fears for her life. His fear and love combine to create something amazing in the chapters to follow. “My life becomes agony.” Never has this been more true. Darrow’s life is the epitome of agony. This is something that seems to continue throughout the book. One trial after another, Darrow is challenged and pushed to his limit. Servo. There aren’t enough words to describe

just how much I like this character. He comes in with a bang and continues to surprise and shock everyone throughout the story. He's snarky, smart, and unpredictable. He is quite the force. Mustang. I wasn't sure what to think of her at first. She was of an enemy camp. However, I found myself intrigued by her strength and compassion. Pax. Oh, the beast! He is huge. Literally. Huge. I am terrified by this character for his sheer size, but I also love the role he plays. The following sums up how I feel about Pax and Darrow feels it, too. Overall, I obviously loved this book. This is the first time I have ever read a book by Pierce Brown and I can honestly say that I look forward to reading more of his work. Read it. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Red Rising is a book that everyone kept telling me to read, but I just kept putting it off, or I got stuck between review books and I could never fit it in. I was hoping to get to it so I could review it for last Sci-Fi November, but alas I just couldn't get to it until now. I loved the beginning of this novel. The bleak life and hardship that the Reds face is so clearly mapped out. I really got a good feel for what life and culture was like for the Reds. I love a good sci-fi novel with a class struggle, so I was hooked from the beginning. The book takes a turn once Darrow gets mixed up in the revolution and finds out that everything he had ever been told was a lie. I found Darrow's physical transformation super interesting, and watching him try to change himself and struggle so hard with that was one of the things that I loved about this novel. It's something that I was glad that he constantly conflicted with throughout the novel. He had to find a way to appear like a Gold, but without losing his identity as a Red in the process. Not an easy thing to do, and I like that we saw Darrow not always succeed with this. I will admit, I do feel like at times the pacing got a little too slow for me. Once Darrow is in the battlefield, parts of that just got too slow and boring for me. A lot of what happens at this point in the book is really important to Darrow's mission, so a lot of it was integral to the overall plot but...some of it just dragged on way too much. I was like, "I get it, can we just finish this battle now?" Darrow was an interesting character to read about. I felt like he read more like an adult, which I think was fine in this case because he was a Red that had already had a wife and grew up a lot quicker than the Golds he was surrounded by. Dude was straight up diabolical at the end as he systematically started to take out all the big bads to win favor in the battlefield. While, I really enjoyed this, at times I thought he was super reckless! Like when they were forging his name into the institute and he refused to go by a Gold-like name and insisted on keeping his Red-name. I thought that was a really stupid plan, and I'm actually surprised more people weren't suspicious of him. He also makes a lot of bad decisions in the battlefield, even if he is trying to do the best for everyone. I really liked that about him, because although he seemed like this amazing hero, he also

had a lot of flaws and sometimes he just failed. Sometimes it's okay to fail. I think a lot of the characters in this novel were written really well. Some are just there to be background characters, which I think is pretty obvious, but Mustang and Sevro have to stand out the most from the other characters. I loved that Sevro was such a little psycho! I also liked that he was just so loyal to Darrow. He didn't ask questions, he just made sure things got done. I also really liked that we never knew what was with Mustang until the very end. I was real cautious of her the entire book, as I wasn't sure what her angle was. I'm still not entirely sure she still isn't just playing the game, and that's what made her so interesting! I liked this book a lot, and I'm kind of mad that I didn't read it sooner! I would definitely recommend this for fans of The Hunger Games or Sci-fi fans in general.

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