Flawed: A Novel

CECELIA AHERN

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Synopsis

Celestine North lives a perfect life. She’s a model daughter and sister, she’s well-liked by her classmates and teachers, and she’s dating the impossibly charming Art Crevan. But then Celestine encounters a situation in which she makes an instinctive decision. She breaks a rule and now faces life-changing repercussions. She could be imprisoned. She could be branded. She could be found FLAWED. In her breathtaking young adult debut, bestselling author Cecelia Ahern depicts a society in which perfection is paramount and flaws are punished. And where one young woman decides to take a stand that could cost her everything.

Book Information

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Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

FLAWED, by Cecilia Ahern, introduces to Celestine, a model female living in a dystopian world. Celestine has the perfect boyfriend, whose father is the head judge of the Guild, a court that decides whether the accused is Flawed or not after intensive questioning. Celestine has always followed the rules and stays away from the Flawed just as the government wants. The Flawed are rule breakers and are never to be helped by citizens. But when a Flawed man is seen dying at the front end of the bus, Celestine makes a decision that destroys her image --- she helps him. In Celestine’s eyes, this is a moral issue and she simply cannot allow an old man to die because two Unflawed people
decided to take his seat. In the eyes of the government, however, this is a sign of rebellion. Not wanting to be marked as Flawed, Celestine receives all the help she can get from her boyfriend’s father; but, in the end it’s up to Celestine. Will she hide her true intentions and become a monster in her mind or reveal her true intentions and become Flawed? FLAWED is a book that forces readers to question whether it’s better to follow one’s beliefs or to blindly obey laws, no matter the consequences. That is one of the reasons why I found FLAWED to be such an interesting read. Questioning the laws set by futuristic governments is a plot device that is growing more and more popular; however, this is one of the first I’ve read that displays both a large case of discrimination --- to the point of segregation --- as well as a government punishing people for saving the lives of others. I also really liked following the growth of Celestine. She blossomed from a girl who didn’t dare speak up to anyone to a woman who took pride in speaking her mind. It was a truly inspirational text that I really enjoyed.

I award this book 4 stars. Flawed by Cecelia Ahern stars Celestine North, who is perfect and has it all. She makes great grades, has a perfect boyfriend, and everything is going right. Even her twin sister envies her. Up to this point, she never strays from the "perfect" path because she has never needed to. In fact, the people who aren't perfect are literally branded for their sins. These people are ostracized as second rate citizens, and Cecelia knows to avoid these "wrongdoers." But what she doesn’t realize is she lives in a society that has specific rules for perfection that may not correlate with right and wrong. One day, she is confronted with a situation in which she needs to decide in what she believes to be right and what is status quo. Her choice shatters her life, her family, her whole world...The beginning of this book is entertaining, but since I’ve read a large majority of the dystopian YA novels out there, it seemed run of the mill. Cecelia is a reasonable heroine, and I liked seeing the discrepancies between her and her twin sister. Art, her boyfriend, is a compelling character that I hope to see greater developed throughout what I believe will be a trilogy. I wasn’t sure I believed Cecelia’s transformation because how could it be that she has never seen a case of injustice happen in her life in this type of world? I thought this could have been developed more naturally or have given us hints more towards how Cecelia may have had doubts previously, but because she believed in the system, she never strayed. That said, something changes for me about 25-30% in, when something horrific happens to Cecelia. Suddenly, this book, which seemed so standard for the genre, becomes something different.

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