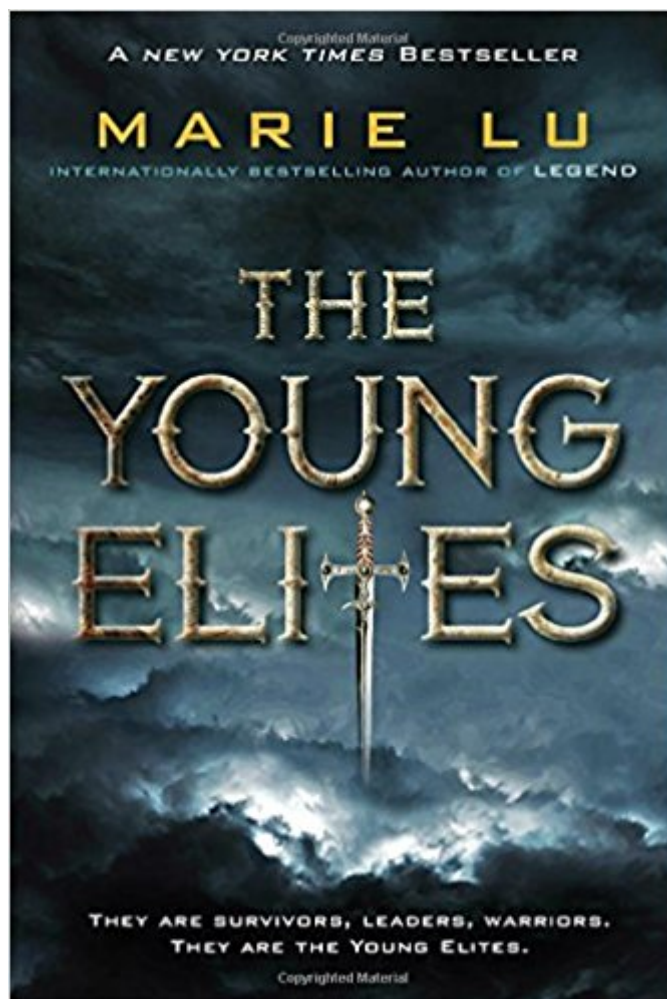




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The Young Elites (A Young Elites Novel)



Synopsis

An explosive new series from New York Times bestselling author of the Legend trilogy, Marie Lu

À À À À Darth Vader, Voldemort, Maleficent. Witness the rise of a new villain. Adelina Amouteru is a survivor of the blood fever. A decade ago, the deadly illness swept through her nation. Most of the infected perished, while many of the children who survived were left with strange markings. Adelina's black hair turned silver, her lashes went pale, and now she has only a jagged scar where her left eye once was. Her cruel father believes she is a malfetto, an abomination, ruining their family's good name and standing in the way of their fortune. But some of the fever's survivors are rumored to possess more than just scars—they are believed to have mysterious and powerful gifts, and though their identities remain secret, they have come to be called the Young Elites. Teren Santoro works for the king. As Leader of the Inquisition Axis, it is his job to seek out the Young Elites, to destroy them before they destroy the nation. He believes the Young Elites to be dangerous and vengeful, but it's Teren who may possess the darkest secret of all. Enzo Valenciano is a member of the Dagger Society. This secret sect of Young Elites seeks out others like them before the Inquisition Axis can. But when the Daggers find Adelina, they discover someone with powers like they've never seen. Adelina wants to believe Enzo is on her side, and that Teren is the true enemy. But the lives of these three will collide in unexpected ways, as each fights a very different and personal battle. But of one thing they are all certain: Adelina has abilities that shouldn't belong in this world. A vengeful blackness in her heart. And a desire to destroy all who dare to cross her. À À It is my turn to use. My turn to hurt.

Books in the series: The Young Elites À À (The First Book of The Young Elites) The Rose Society À À (The Second Book of The Young Elites)

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • A rollicking series opener from the author of the "Legend" series (Putnam). Imagine surviving a plague of fever, only to be marked as an abomination by your countrymen. Most survivors of the sickness that vanquished thousands in this alternative medieval world possess a strange and unique marking, whether it be a facial coloring, oddly tinged hair, or, in Adelina's case, a missing eye. Called malfettos, some are endowed with magical gifts that enable them to control wind, fire, earth, and even humans. All Adelina has ever wanted is to feel accepted and loved, but she's ignored by her father, and her sister doesn't have the power to save her. When the teen escapes an unwanted proposal, she unwittingly becomes a member of the Dagger Society, an Elite group of malfettos bent on using their supernatural abilities to escape the Inquisition's genocide and place their leader, Enzo, on the throne of Kenettra. Adelina struggles with an increasing distrust of Enzo, her fellow Elites, and herself, all while learning how to control her powers of illusion and disillusion. Lu seamlessly melds an unforgettable and intoxicating historical fantasy narrative with a strong female protagonist that grapples with an issue experienced by all young adults—acceptance of one's self. Well written, fast paced without being confusing, and enjoyable enough for teens, reluctant readers, and even adults. Brimming with engaging battles—physical and emotional—and meticulous backdrops, Lu's new series will be a surefire hit with old and new fans alike. —Amanda C. Buschmann, Atascocita Middle School, Humble, TX --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for Marie Lu • The Young Elites: A New York Times bestseller! Five starred reviews! An Best Book of 2014 • Teen & Young Adult! An Best Book of the Month, October 2014! "By permitting her characters some grand failures, she raises the stakes in the best way possible." There is clearly more to know, and I look forward to it. This is a world worth revisiting. —The New York Times Book Review "Lu pivots from the

Coming of age via romance
formula to pry apart the many emotions that pass under the rubric of love
There's nothing easy here, for Adelina or readers
there are no safe places where the pressures of betrayal, death threats, and rejection aren't felt.
Publishers Weekly, starred review
"Readers should prepare to be captivated
and to look forward to a continuation of the Young Elites series."
Booklist, starred review
"A must for fans of
totally immersive fantasies."
Kirkus Reviews, starred review
"A Game of Thrones meets X-Men in this 14th-century fantasy from Marie Lu (the Legend trilogy), in a world where fear is power.
The overriding epic fantasy will keep readers hooked for book two, which teases to be a game-changer. Bring it on."
Shelf Awareness, starred review
"The taut, tightly packed narrative provides an engaging mix of pulse-quicken- ing fight scenes, heart-stopping near escapes, touching interpersonal interludes, and devastating betrayals."
BCCB, starred review
"Lu weaves her magic across the page as she unfolds the story of Adelina and the Young Elites. Nothing is as it is expected."
VOYA
"Lu seamlessly melds an unforgettable and intoxicating historical fantasy narrative with a strong female protagonist that grapples with an issue experienced by all young adults
acceptance of one's self
Lu's new series will be a surefire hit with old and new fans alike."
School Library Journal

After enjoying Marie Lu's Legend series, I was excited to dive into The Young Elites. The story opens with Adelina Amouteru, a survivor of the blood fever. Once considered a beautiful and desirable girl her father could marry off, Adelina was marked by the blood fever. Her dark hair turned silver and she lost her eye to the fever, only leaving a scar on her face. Her father has since never treated her as well as her sister, Violetta and constantly reminds her that she is marked, a malfetto. A series of events and a betrayal from her family leads Adelina straight to the Young Elites, a group of survivors of the blood fever with special abilities. As Adelina delves deeper into the world of the Young Elites she discovers her own powers and considers the trustworthiness of this new group. While the premise wasn't incredibly original to me, Adelina was the character who intrigued me. How many books have you read with a character who imagines such a bloodthirsty, violent revenge? In my case, not many. Adelina wants those who wronged her to suffer and she does not imagine any mercy. Adelina is dark, villainous and yet I rooted for her the entire book, even if it made me slightly uncomfortable to do so at times. Throughout the book it is hinted that she has a 'darkness' in her and that she can't be trusted. While we only got a glimpse of this power, it is both

intriguing and powerful, and Adelina relishes the power she possess. Like I mentioned above, the idea of a world catastrophe with emerging young people with strange powers is a trope I've seen before. It also happens to be one of my favorite tropes because I am a sucker for discovering all these characters with unique powers. Some can control elements like fire and wind, while some can make objects disappear and reappear in another location. While I don't want to go into detail for Adelina's power, know that it is versatile, original and probably more powerful than we realize at this point in the story so far. As far as supporting characters, there are a few important ones to note: Enzo is the leader of the Dagger Society, or the group of Young Elites that Adelina discovers. Enzo is distant, interesting and definitely has an agenda of his own. He is fascinated by Adelina's powers, despite repeated warnings that she could be dangerous. There is also a hint of attraction between the two, but I had a hard time trusting his motivations. Adelina's most important priority is herself, so I couldn't get too attached to other characters because I never knew when Adelina could turn on them. Teren is a character I am excited to see more of. While him and Adelina are on opposing sides of this story, I have a feeling he will be an important character in the series. He is responsible for hunting down Adelina and the other Elites, but we soon learn he is harboring a secret of his own. Violetta is Adelina's sister and while their relationship is contentious at times, she is arguably the only character Adelina has any feelings for at all. Unfortunately, Adelina has been hardened by the harsh treatment in her childhood and the prejudice against her for being a malfetto has hardened her heart. Violetta represents the only good part of Adelina that is left and I was pleasantly surprised with her character arc in this book. The ending felt a little flat for me in terms of action, I think I was just hoping for more. Although there were a few surprising twists and turns! I will definitely be reading the next book because I need to know what happens to Adelina. Sure, she has had a pretty terrible life so far, but she is going down a dark path and I personally can't wait to see where it leads. I love the idea of reading about an anti-hero! Adelina makes a lot of questionable decisions throughout the book and it seems like she is starting to succumb to the call of her dark power. Will she continue down this path? Will she get the revenge she desires? Or will Violetta continue to be the voice of her conscience? I am excited to find out!

If I had to do a one worded review I would say this book is AWESOME! I am a huge fan of Marie Lu and her writing. I love the way she quickly engages me into her stories. Her story telling is vivid, her characters are ones I enjoy reading about, and the worlds she create are just as dangerous as they are enticing. Marie Lu has yet again proved why she's one of my favorite YA authors. First of all, let's talk characters. Lu is one of the few authors whom I feel has mastered the art of story telling from

multiple points of views. Not only does this enhance the reader's ability to quickly become engaged with the story, it allows readers to get to know the characters, understand their motives, and see all sides of the story without hindering the story's fluid plot line. Whether the characters are good or not, I liked understanding where each character stood with all that is going on in The Young Elites's world. Each of their point of views add so much depth to the complex story, as well as to their over all character development. It was interesting to see how certain events of their childhoods drove to make the decisions they did, or believe certain ways. Their beliefs only fueled their stance on the events taking place. The world building is awesome. Like with her previous series, Lu once again ranks up there with authors who have this ability to create these incredible worlds that fuel the story. Much like the characters, the world plays a huge rule in the story. I loved how vividly detailed her story's world is. It was incredibly easy for me to picture it in my mind as I was reading the book. Bonus, the published book has a map! YES, a MAP! Y'all know how much I love maps in books. Lu's writing is flawless. The Young Elites is a book that hooked me from beginning to end. There is adventure, magic, secrecy, betrayal, a hint of romance, plenty of danger and the kind of character chemistry I love. You know the kind that makes you want to turn the pages faster just so you can find out when the two characters finally kiss. YES, there is kissing! Don't worry, there's more to the story than kissing. In fact, the romance in this story is not the main point of the story, and it's great! There is so much going on, and so many other elements to this story. There's good and evil, darkness and a drive I got with all four of the characters, though I didn't necessarily agree with each of their actions. The way in which Lu combined all her elements is perfection. I love it when I sit to read a book, and become so engaged with the story that I don't have time to wonder how much longer do I have till the end nor do I want to skip to the end of the book. Don't judge me, you guys know those kind of books I'm talking about. The Young Elites is a book I really enjoyed reading. I'm looking forward to seeing what Marie Lu has in store for her characters next. I need answers after those shocking twists/reveals near the end of the book. Oh, and that ending.... if I could have the sequel now please, that would be great. Thank you!

I bought this book after reading and enjoying the Legend series by Marie Lu. I thought the concept of the novel had a lot of promise. People with powers against a backdrop of political and social unrest, and a dark, conflicted main character? Sign me up. In the end, this did not turn out to be the book I was hoping it was. I know, from reading Legend, that Lu can write, but everything I liked about the Legend series was missing here. All characters, with the exception of Rafaele, were flat and difficult to connect with. The narrator, Adelina, is not quite a part of the Young Elite group.

That's supposed to fuel the "conflict" here, but all it accomplished was distancing the reader from the real conflict between the Elites and their oppressive society. The story would have been much better served with a narrator who was in the thick of the action, instead of one dealing with deeply personal struggles for the entire novel. If you're an X-Men fan, I wanted Adelina to be more of a Magneto - someone with a noble goal who goes about it in ruthless, questionable ways. I won't even comment on the romance, since it wasn't a significant part of the story to me. It could have been left out and I wouldn't have missed it. The epilogue hints that the sequels may get more complex, but I also feel like I know where the story is going. I think I'll pass on the future installments unless I have nothing better to read (hah!) If you want a conflicted hero, well developed character relationships, a depraved ruler and a world in chaos, try the Throne of Glass series.

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