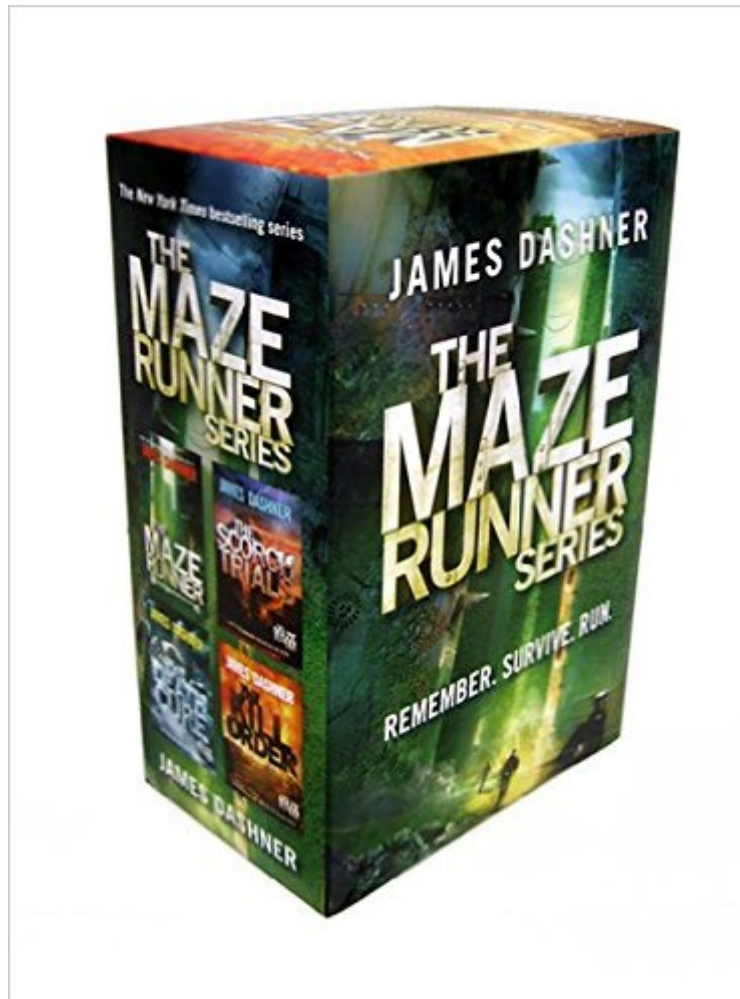


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The Maze Runner Series (Maze Runner)



Synopsis

The perfect gift for fans of The Hunger Games and Divergent, this boxed set includes the paperback editions of James Dashner's #1 New York Times bestselling series--The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials, The Death Cure and The Kill Order. The first and second books, The Maze Runner and The Scorch Trials, are now major motion pictures featuring the star of MTV's Teen Wolf, Dylan O'Brien; Kaya Scodelario; Aml Ameen; Will Poulter; and Thomas Brodie-Sangster! Also look for James Dashner's newest novels, The Eye of Minds and The Rule of Thoughts, the first two books in the Mortality Doctrine series. "If you ain't scared, you ain't human." When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers' boys whose memories are also gone. "Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade." Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out and no one's ever made it through alive. "Everything is going to change." Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying. "Remember. Survive. Run." Praise for the Maze Runner series: A #1 New York Times Bestselling Series A USA Today Bestseller A Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of the Year An ALA-YASLA Best Fiction for Young Adults Book An ALA-YALSA Quick Pick "[A] mysterious survival saga that passionate fans describe as a fusion of Lord of the Flies, The Hunger Games, and Lost." "EW.com "Wonderful action writing" "fast-paced" but smart and well observed." "Newsday "[A] nail-biting must-read." "Seventeen.com "Breathless, cinematic action." "Publishers Weekly "Heart pounding to the very last moment." "Kirkus Reviews "Exclamation-worthy." "Romantic Times [STAR] "James Dashner's illuminating prequel [The Kill Order] will thrill fans of this Maze Runner [series] and prove just as exciting for readers new to the series." "Shelf Awareness, Starred "Take a deep breath before you start any James Dashner book."-Deseret News

Book Information

Series: The Maze Runner

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1,374 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

This is a good sci-fi series that draws you in right from the start. Thirty teenage boys trapped in the center of a maze, with no idea as to where they are or why. Worst of all, none of the boys have any memories of their life before they got there. Things begin to change dramatically when the last two teenagers arrive, Thomas and Teresa (the only girl!). I downloaded the complete collection and read all the books at once. Each book picks up right where the last one left off, so there is not much repetition when you read one right after the next. I definitely thought the first book (The Maze Runner) was the most enjoyable. While there was plenty of action, the characters seemed to do the most thinking in this book. The pacing was pretty good, revealing little bits at a time--enough that you felt it was moving and that there'd be some resolution at the end of it. The Scorch Trials and The Death Cure shed more light on the mystery of the maze, as well as what life is like in the real world. Dashner did a great job creating a really creepy and scary feeling of life outside of the maze, making some characters almost wish they were back there. There were a lot of very suspenseful scenes, however, I thought there was too much action. It seemed they just kept running from one fight to the next and it got tiresome. I know this book is really targeted to a younger audience, so that might not be a problem for them. The fourth book was not what I expected at all. I was hoping for more of the story of Thomas and Teresa before the maze. The Kill Order, however, is set several years before Thomas and Teresa ever enter the picture. Instead, it describes how the world got to the state it did.

I enjoyed this series, but began to get bogged down with the read by the time I got to the third book. As recommended, I read the prequel "The Killzone" first. I'm glad I did; however, it didn't help any in understanding books 1-3. I'm not so sure it even related to the series at all, except to show how the FLARE came about. I really got into the first book. It was interesting and different from the many other books of this genre. By the time I got halfway through the second book, I was finding myself getting bored with the read. There was a lot of redundancy in stating the same thing over and over

by using different types of phrases and words. Okay...I get it, why be repetitive about something that has already been explained and/or presented? It seemed the author used this technique to get as many words as possible into the books to meet a word count quota. Some of the scenarios were just not believable. For a 17 year old boy to take as much physical punishment as was depicted in this series and still be standing was ridiculous. Constant beatings, getting cut, physical exhaustion and mentally debilitating situations that even an adult in great physical condition wouldn't even be able to contend with. It's like Thomas was this superhuman kid that could regain his energy in just a couple of hours. It just was not realistic, imho. The author could have done a much better job at explaining more about why things were happening, more clarification as to who WICKED was and expound upon why the tests, variables and blueprints of the mind were needed. How did Commissioner Paige come about? Who was she...really? Why was Rat Man the bad guy? Where did he come from? Thomas was touted as the "real leader", but he never truly took on a leadership role.

This will be a rather lengthy in depth review of the series collectively, excluding the prequel. I will start the review by giving my overall opinions and feelings, and conclude with basic book by book synopsis, which I will try to just hit the big ideas and leave out major spoilers. I picked up this book after seeing the trailer for the Movie. As a member of the Teen Wolf Fandom, I had to get in on the action since Dylan O'Brien, our favorite non-supernatural of Teen Wolf, and my personal favorite actor was playing the lead of the movie adaptation of The Maze Runner. He is a profound actor so I had to read the series before the movie came out. BEST literary decision I have made in sometime. The second book of the series actually makes it into my top 2 favorite books of all time, number one is reserved for TFiOS, but The Scorch Trials is two for sure. TMR is easily in the top 5 and The Death Cure ranks in the top 10. This series is magnificent. Many compare it to THG or Divergent, which it is similar in the respect that it revolves around teens and is a part of a dystopian society, however the story in this series is unlike anything I have ever read. It is one of the only trilogies I have read that everything is not so black and white. You read this series and every 50-100 pages you find your self rooting for the bad guys, then rooting for the good guys, then no longer knowing who is good or bad, if the main characters are good or bad or what the heck is going on!!! Perhaps the protagonist is actually bad, maybe the antagonists are good, you just don't know what to think!!! It is so profoundly written and keeps you guessing all 1000+ pages of the series, and about 200 chapters.

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