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Legend



Synopsis

"Legend doesn't merely survive the hype, it deserves it." From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Young Elites* What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets. Full of nonstop action, suspense, and romance, this novel is sure to move readers as much as it thrills.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL710L (What's this?)

Series: Legend (Book 1)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (April 16, 2013)

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Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2,150 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,076 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways #11 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian #16 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Romantic

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Praise for *Marie Lu* — "A New York Times bestseller" — *LEGEND* — From USA

TODAY: "Marie Lu's dystopian novel is a *Legend* in the making." *From Entertainment Weekly*: "Fine writing and excellent execution. A Sequel, please!" *From The New York Times*: "Legend doesn't merely survive the hype, it deserves it." *From USA Today*: "Marie Lu's dystopian novel is a *Legend* in the making." *From The Los Angeles Times*: "an action-packed love story full of inventive details." *From Publishers Weekly*: "Lu's debut is a stunner. . . raises hopes high for the sequels to come." *From Kirkus Reviews*: "A gripping thriller in dystopic future Los Angeles. This is no didactic near-future warning of present evils, but a cinematic adventure featuring endearing, compelling heroes." *From Booklist*: "[D]elicious details keep pages turning . . . you've got the makings for a potent sequel." *From VOYA*: "A fast-paced blend of action and science fiction (with only a hint of potential romance) means that this one will likely appeal to male and female readers alike." *From Library Media Connection*: "This book stands out. . ." *From Kami Garcia*, *New York Times* bestselling co-author of the *Beautiful Creatures* trilogy: "A romantic thriller set in a post-apocalyptic world where nothing is what it seems." *From Sarah Rees Brennan*, author of *The Demon Lexicon* trilogy: "A compelling dystopic world, with diverse characters, high tension and political intrigue. [If] you liked the *Hunger Games*, you'll love this." *-----* Don't miss the highly-anticipated sequel, *PRODIGY*! *Featured on Entertainment Weekly's Must-List!* *From The Los Angeles Times*: "Marie Lu has beaten the curse with *Prodigy*. . . it has all the chivalry of *Robin Hood* and all the shine and grime of *Blade Runner*. . . The well-drawn worlds, political undercurrents and the believability of the characters make it all feel fresh. . ." Lu proves that a Book 2 needn't play second fiddle, providing intrigue and deep pleasure all its own. *From*

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF BOOKS: " . . . clear your calendar to allow yourself the luxury of reading this book in one or two sittings. You will be shaken . . ."
A STARRED REVIEW from PUBLISHERS WEEKLY: "Lu opts for a high simmer of intrigue in her sequel to Legend. . .taut and insightful."
A STARRED REVIEW from SHELF AWARENESS: "Stunning follow-up to Legend . . . The thrilling action and futuristic settings are sure to please fans of Divergent."

New York Times bestselling author Marie Lu (www.marielu.org) graduated from the University of Southern California and jumped into the video game industry, working for Disney Interactive Studios as a Flash artist. Now a full-time writer, she spends her spare time reading, drawing, playing Assassin's Creed, and getting stuck in traffic. She lives in Los Angeles, California (see above: traffic), with one boyfriend, one Chihuahua mix, and two Pembroke Welsh corgis.

I probably stared at a blank page for some minutes before I could come up with the words to describe how incredible this book is. The truth is that there are no words! But I'll try to describe its awesomeness anyways. I'll start with our badass heroes. And I really do mean scale-a-building, gun-wielding, kick-your-face-in, defy-a-nation badass heroes. Day is the most wanted criminal in The Republic. He has set fire to police stations, robbed a bank, and exploding some military jets among other things, but he has never killed. Then when his family catches a new mutation of the plague, he breaks into a hospital to steal the cure. But things go wrong! Day's forced to attack a soldier during his escape, barely making it out with his life. June is a prodigy of The Republic and the perfect soldier. She got a perfect score on the Trials, she is super smart, extremely athletic, and has attitude. Then she receives the terrible news that her brother has been killed by Day. June vows to catch him and devices the perfect plan to do it. She goes undercover! But after getting to know Day, and seeing the terrible things done to civilians by her fellow soldiers, June begins to question the system. What she'll uncover is bigger than her brother's murder. Following orders blindly is no longer an option. Day and June are such great characters to read, and both POVs managed to keep my eyes glued to the action, the suspense, and the romance. They're both very precise, noticing every little details of everything they see, especially June (we get her details in parentheses). Their thoughts are always running a mile per minute, and keep you wondering what they will do next. The other characters were also very well written. I loved Metias from the short scene he got. Quiet Tess, was lovable too. I grew to hate Commander Jameson and Character X (named so by me to avoid

spoilers) with a passion! There isn't one boring page to this book and I will be pushing everyone I meet on the street to read it! This is one exciting and not-to-be-missed debut!

Legend is the first of a trilogy. Set in a future where parts of the US have become The Republic, and others 'The Colonies' (and they are at war, plus the Republic is also facing a rebellion in its own borders), weather is extreme and society has become more structured, the haves and the have-nots more obvious. June Iparis is a prodigy - the only individual in the Republic to score perfectly on their trial which is used to determine what level education you receive and what jobs you are suited for. She is also an orphan. Early-on, she narrates her rebellious streak, her relationship with her beloved brother, and how wonderful and powerful and good the Republic is. Then, there is Day. He narrates his life as one of the society's less fortunate. He's from a poor slum where life is hard, resources scarce, and plague a constant threat. He's supposed to be dead, failed his trial, and now, he's wanted for criminal activity - he likes to disrupt the Republic by bombing things, steal supplies, etc although he's never killed anyone. When Day risks everything to save a family member, June hunts him - for personal reasons. As is typical of dystopian novels, she comes to learn that not everything she was taught is the truth. But, her conflict with Day is personal. Both narrators are well-drawn, voices distinct enough. The action is tight and the novel moves along quickly, without extraneous plots of giant chunks of exposition explaining the history of the world. In fact, few details are known on the how or why, or even a complete picture of the current state of the world of Day and June. The focus is on the characters and the action. The theme and the connection to issues of today are clear, but not overdone - no long speeches or chapters of rumination on the meaning of it all. No big surprises or twists, but it also didn't feel contrived or unoriginal. And while the changing relationship between the two narratives is expected, it isn't overly angst-filled or focused on more than the plot or theme. Legend is one of the better YA fantasy novels.

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