

THE OUTLANDS BY TYLER EDWARDS

REVIEW CONTEST BY TNETBR

O1'S REVIEW

“Hope is a powerful thing. But be mindful. It's only as good as the object you place it in. Hope can bring you through the darkest night. When that hope is in an impossible dream, it will bring only despair.”

I read this book since it was BOTM in the group "The Never-ending Tbr" and let me tell you that: IT WAS AMAZING!!!

This book isn't really popular so I don't think I would have read this otherwise so thanks to this group for suggesting this incredible and criminally underrated book <33

It had pretty much everything anyone could ask for in a book: **the found family trope, friendship dynamics, well-developed characters, an actual/really interesting plot that kept you at the edge of your seat the whole time, many plot twists, BETRAYAL** (that ending.. so painful)

I heard that there is going to be a second book and I'm super excited!! This book was just a masterpiece. I love dystopian books and this specific one had such an incredible world building that I cannot wait to read more of it :)

The plot:

In the ruins of the world that was lies the city of Dios, a haven protected from the hostile environment known as The Outlands. Ruled by an oppressive Patriarch, the people of Dios are conditioned in fear. The smallest infraction could result in banishment to the Outlands, a fate worse than death.

With his make-shift family of "Undesirables", Jett Lasting struggles to find his place in a world where drawing attention to yourself can get you killed. His very existence is considered a crime. To survive, he must avoid guards, beggar gangs, and an ever-growing tension that could drag the whole city into chaos.

Jett unwittingly becomes entwined in a plot to overthrow the government where his choices could lead to freedom or the death of everyone he's ever known or cared about.

In my opinion, this book had such a unique plot and it was done so perfectly that you couldn't possibly not like it. I was so invested in the plot throughout the whole time!! The world-building was incredible as well!! Everything about it was so good ahh

The characters:

~Jett Lasting

Just like that, I am a thief no longer. I am the voice of a revolution.

I really liked our main character. Jett was an interesting and well-developed character. His story was very sad, yet he never lost hope. What I really love about him is how he never stopped trying to make a change for the better, he kept trying despite the disastrous consequences it had on him and his friends.

~Victor

"A leader sees not just what is but what could be. A leader inspires people, drives them. He doesn't just command them, he makes them better. A leader can unite enemies and motivate people to do things they'd never have thought to do on their own. That is why all your other rebellions have failed. You didn't have a leader."

HUGE SPOILER

So, in the beginning, I have to admit he was one of my favourite characters. I loved his relationship with the group, but especially Jett. He was always so inspiring and clever. I loved how he encouraged Jett to be the leader he was supposed to be. But then *boom* betrayal.. At some point during the book, when we had learned that someone had betrayed them I was like:

"Imagine if it was Vic.. Umm, no there's no way he would betray them, he loves them. Besides, he was one of the people that started the revolution. That would make no sense"

Boy was I wrong.. I wish I had filmed my reaction while reading that part because I was literally SHOCKED. I reread the same page over and over again to make sure I was seeing things right.

"Do you trust me?" Victor looks straight at me. Why? No one trusts him like I do. I trust him more than I trust myself. So, why is he giving me this look? I don't hesitate for a moment.

"I'm in," I declare boldly. "We trust you. Let's do it." Victor almost seems disappointed in my response. I don't get it.

If only Jett knew what was about to happen.. God I feel terrible for him. His best friend, the person that was always next to him since his parents' death, betrayed him like that, for a title and a position.

"You knew he wasn't the traitor because you were. How long, Vic? How long were you planning for this, to lead us into this trap?"

"You were our friend. We trusted you. Put our lives in your hands. You gave us up for a title and a position? You're the worst. It's a good thing your parents are dead. If they saw what you've become, they'd be ashamed!"

This chapter broke me.. I still have hope though that in the next book somehow things are going to change.

END OF SPOILER

~Spike

I think, to honor the friend we had for so long, I want to remember more than just his betrayal.

Spike was probably my favourite character in the entire book. I don't have a lot to say about him. He was so wise, always ready to fight for his friends. I love him so much.

SPOILER

Gibbs death.. ouch. He wasn't even such an important character but the fact that he sacrificed himself for Jett is heartbreaking..

END OF SPOILER

The writing:

“Unity comes from diverse people who work together for a common goal. Uniformity comes from everyone trying to be the same. Unity makes us strong. Uniformity makes us sheep—sheep who are docile, easy to control.”

The writing of this book was simply amazing. There were so many beautiful and meaningful quotes in this!!

"The outlands" is now one of my favourite books. I don't think I'll ever stop recommending it. If you're a fan of dystopian books and especially the found family trope read this book right now!! Words are not enough to describe this book. It will keep you at the edge of your seat the whole time!

O2's review

4.5 STARS

The Outlands certainly doesn't lack intrigue. The government, called the Patriarch, reminded me a bit of V for Vendetta, very nasty people. Jett Lasting, the main character is amusing. I was put off a bit by him at first as the comments he makes in his head about his friends seemed petty or even mean-spirited. However, as the story progresses I started to see how much he cares for them and that this was more of his way of playfully expressing affection. Where the Outlands really did well for me was the development of characters and how they behaved. I found the characters' actions and the way they handled situations different so well developed and unique to each character that it really brought the world to life for me. Becka, the former religious "Potter" as they are called, handles things with grace and softness. Spike always maintains his principles and uses his technical skills. Olivia uses her charms. Victor uses his mind. We see the world from Jett's point of view. What really impressed me was: what he told us about the characters I got to see from the character in how they behave. Rare that I find a book that does this so well

O3's Review

"Hope is a powerful thing. But be mindful. It's only as good as the object you place it in. Hope can bring you through the darkest night. When that hope is in an impossible dream, it will bring only despair."

The Outlands is a well-told story about a group of friends who become a family and work together against the government to survive and try to build a better future. It feels shockingly relevant to the world we are in today and really made me think. Filled with unique characters, sharp dialogue, and lots of great quotes, the Outlands thrilled me. It's an excellent book! Would recommend to anyone!

