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Blackout (Annum Guard Book 2)



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Amanda Obermann (code name: Iris) has more on her mind than usual. As a member of a covert government organization called the Annum Guard, which travels through time to keep history on track, Iris has been getting some particularly stressful assignments. Plus, Jane Bonner, the Guard's iron-fisted new leader, seems determined to make life as hard as possible. Thankfully, Iris has Abe (code name: Blue), her boyfriend and fellow Guardian, who listens to her vent and helps her cope with her mentally ill mother's increasingly erratic behavior. When Guardians start to disappear on their assignments, Iris makes a terrifying discovery: a "blackout" squad is targeting anyone who gets in the way of a corrupt force that's selling out both the Annum Guard's missions and Guardian lives. Together, Iris and Blue must go undercover to untangle the Guard's elaborate web of secrets and lies. But when Iris discovers that the terrible truth may involve her own father, a former Guardian undone by his own greed, she must decide how much she's willing to risk to rescue her friends and how dangerous the consequences will be for all of humanity. A thrilling time-traveling adventure that spans from Abraham Lincoln's assassination to the Cuban Missile Crisis and back to the present day, this pulse-pounding sequel to *The Eighth Guardian* reveals that playing with time can turn into a deadly game.

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Customer Reviews

Blackout, the second book in the Annum Guard series, was a phenomenal sequel that is a must read for fans of the first book, The Eighth Guardian. It's no secret how much I adored The Eighth Guardian, and I was hoping with everything I had that this book wouldn't disappoint as some sequels do. Sometimes you build up the story so much in your mind that by the time the next book comes out, it is lackluster. Well, have no fear because Ms. McCardle has crafted an imaginative, amazing sequel that will be very satisfying for fans. However, the ending...gah! I'm still reeling from it, and all I know is that I need the third book right now! Time travel is always a difficult thing to write about, and it's a genre that requires a delicate, skilled hand. Ms. McCardle does an amazing job at ensnaring the reader immediately, and if you forgot anything from the previous book, you'll remember it quickly. Time travel and the way it works with the Annum Guard is explained again in a way that doesn't feel repetitive from the first novel, and the writing is flawless. The pacing was fantastic, and you will fly through the pages wanting to know what will happen next. There is plenty of action, adventure, and yes...some romance. This was the one main thing I was afraid of since Abe (code name New Blue) is now part of the Annum Guard, however Ms. McCardle created a very nice balance. The romance between Amanda (code name Iris) and Abe never once overshadowed the story. But just fair warning, the romance might not be what fans are expecting. Another highlight were all of the settings. Even though we didn't get to experience the times that were traveled to very much (trust me there were much more important things going on, so it's no biggie), there is still so much detail and description that you feel as if you are truly there with Amanda on another exciting journey. The plot was brilliant and will definitely leave you guessing until the very end. Ms. McCardle has set up events that will make for an extremely interesting third book, and I honestly have no clue where the story is going to go from here. This second book does an excellent job at moving the story forward, and never once feels like "just the next book, just another adventure." Where this novel truly shines is the characters. The character development was utterly fantastic, and you can see how each character has changed since the events of the first novel. Obviously the dynamic of the team is forced to change, and with the introduction of new members to the Annum Guard, everyone is on edge with not knowing who to trust. Amanda is such a strong lead, and I adore her sarcastic, witty commentary. She had me cracking up so many times throughout the story. She is

brave, strong, and will go to any length to find the truth, and those traits are clearly on display in this novel. I am extremely interested to see how Amanda handles the little problem (and by little I mean gigantic) that occurs at the end of this book. Which leads me to the end...it is the cliffhanger of all cliffhangers! Everything is changed, and who knows where we will go from here. It's a mystery that no one is ready for. And that's all I'm going to say ;) Overall, this was an outstanding addition to the Annum Guard series, with the perfect mix of action, adventure, and humor. If you haven't started this series yet, you are missing out! And if you're already a fan? Go pick this book up now! You won't be disappointed. Now, I'll just be patiently waiting for the third book, which can't come soon enough! Happy reading :)

This is exactly what I wanted from the second book in this series. I love YA lit for myself because it's fun, but also as a teacher with an American history and American literature curriculum. This book really grabs some of my most reluctant readers and they are blown away when Iris and her friends end up in a moment in history they've learned about and when they learn something new about that moment from the novel, they can't wait to share it. And the love story is enough to pull in some readers but doesn't overwhelm other readers who don't really dig that kind of thing. That balance in YA lit is tricky and Blackout does a good job with this. As to the language issue another review mentioned, I think YA lit with no cursing feels disingenuous. 16, 17, 18 year old kids curse. A lot. And while that alone is not a great reason to use profanity in a novel, McCardle uses the profanity to create a specific mood or to create an authenticity that the dialogue would lack without it. And it's hardly even worth mentioning, in my opinion. I use this book in my classroom and haven't heard a single complaint about it. The only issue with this book is that the ending is so compelling and leaves me wanting to immediately read the third book, but it's not been published yet!

I don't like to recap the story while giving a review, you can get that by reading the summary provided by the publisher. What I do like to talk about is whether or not I liked the book and why... I really loved this book! In fact, I can't remember the last time I finished a book and said (yelled), "NOOOOOOO! I need more now!" but that's exactly what happened when I finished this one. It picked up right where the first book left off with its awesomeness and in my opinion, exceeded it. The challenges the team, and Iris in particular, were dealing with kept me emotionally involved; when Amanda was mad, I was frustrated, when her feelings were hurt, I was right there with her and I loved that she never gave up. I really enjoy all of the supporting characters as well, Abe is a normal guy, with normal frustrations, screw-ups, and challenges but he's so good to her, and Yellow and

Indigo are friends I'd definitely want on my side. There were no slow/boring parts of the book, it definitely kept my interest the whole way through. Now I just can't wait for the next installment, it can't get here soon enough for me!

I just finished reading the 2nd book in the Annum Guard series! This sequel did not disappoint! I am a very busy mom of three so sitting down to read a book does not happen very often! Blackout was full of twists and turns on every page! I could not put it down! I read it in three sittings! Meredith did such a phenomenal job further developing these characters that we came to know in the first book! I am so attached to them now! I love how she is so detailed in the historical settings of this book! This book has one of the craziest endings I have ever read!!! I cannot wait till the next book!! read some of the other reviews about harsh language before I read this book... I didn't notice any of that in the book. I almost feel that they were reading another book!!!! I can't wait for the third book in this series! I hope that it comes out very soon!!!

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