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The Eighth Guardian (Annum Guard Book 1)



Synopsis

Amanda Obermann. Code name Iris. It's Testing Day. The day that comes without warning, the day when all juniors and seniors at The Peel Academy undergo a series of intense physical and psychological tests to see if they're ready to graduate and become government operatives. Amanda and her boyfriend Abe are top students, and they've just endured thirty-six hours of testing. But they're juniors and don't expect to graduate. That'll happen next year, when they plan to join the CIA together. But when the graduates are announced, the results are shocking. Amanda has been chosen the first junior in decades. And she receives the opportunity of a lifetime: to join a secret government organization called the Annum Guard and travel through time to change the course of history. But in order to become the Eighth Guardian in this exclusive group, Amanda must say good-bye to everything her name, her family, and even Abe forever. Who is really behind the Annum Guard? And can she trust them with her life?

Book Information

File Size: 20615 KB

Print Length: 386 pages

Publisher: Skyscape (May 6, 2014)

Publication Date: May 6, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00DH3MP82

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #46,319 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Historical Fiction > United States #46 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Mysteries & Thrillers > Science Fiction #62 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel

Customer Reviews

4.5 Stars Wow, what a thrilling intense adventure through time, that takes us through corruption, conspiracies, betrayals, lies, deception and murder!!! THE EIGHTH GUARDIAN is full of so much

awesomeness, all packed in one little book!!! I don't even know where to begin with all of this book's awesomeness! The world building was so complex and full of layers of plot and character development that made this book what it was, a bombshell of a debut!! The characters were interesting... They're was a few I didn't really care for at first, but then as the book progressed, they kinda grew on me. But I was and still am a little iffy of the love interest, Abe. He's supposed to love Iris (Amanda) with all his heart, and have her back until the very end, no matter what. Yet he didn't, not at first any way. I can't say too much on that without giving spoilers away, but there was a very big important part in this book where his loyalties and trust in the girl he loves is tested, and in my opinion, he failed, big time!!! Granted, something was hanging over his head, but he didn't believe in Iris at first, and was willing to separate himself before even knowing the truth behind it all. And with that part my whole faith in him--in them as a couple, went right out the window. As far as I know he is the main love interest in book two, BLACKOUT, but he better do some serious making up to Iris before he gets my love, again!!! But as far as the other characters go, they were great! The main character Iris was awesome!! Yes, she did kinda drive me crazy in the beginning, and even managed to get a couple eye rolls out of me from time to time. But then I put myself in her shoes, and if I was just ripped out of my life and tied to a bed and told time travel existed, and that I had to join or bad things would happen to me, then yeah, I would probably be acting the same way she was. So after that I softened towards her and got to see her for what she really was: An awesome, hardcore chick, that wasn't afraid to get the job done, even when the job seemed impossible!!! And that's why I loved Iris, she made the impossible, possible!!

THE PLOT Amanda Obermann just wants to graduate from training school and become a CIA agent with her boyfriend and love of her life, Abe in tow. But things aren't as simple as she thought. There's a whole new world she's about to be pulled into, and she's totally unprepared for what's about to begin on Testing Day... Amanda Obermann, Code name Iris. She was forced to leave that birth name behind on Testing Day when she was knocked out, dragged out of school, tied to a gurney, and told she'd graduated testing day and is now apart of a secretive organization that travels back in time to change history to fit their future. But nothing is right about any of that, and Amanda--No, Iris, is determined to find out just what game they're really playing... Iris is considered an outsider among the Annum Guard--the secretive organization she's being forced into. She'll be the Eighth and final Guardian if she passes her probational period, and then will be granted the rare opportunity to travel back in time and change the course of history. But Iris is struggling with her adjustment in Annum Guard. With everyone being so secretive, and making her feel like she doesn't quite belong, it makes following her superiors not too high on her to do list. But her choices are very limited: Either join Annum Guard, or spend the rest of her life in an

8x8 cell, forced to forfeit her life, as Time Travel cannot be known to the public. So with Iris having little to no choice, she reluctantly does as she's told and joins Annum Guard. Until her final testing mission reveals something that could blow the whole top of the corruption within the guard, and who's really behind it. Iris is not prepared to sit back and take the fall for the corruption within. She's determined to uncover the truth behind everything, and everyone who is involved. But theirs just one problem? She's a wanted fugitive in the present for crimes she did not commit. So that means time and an unlikely teammate are her only allies...Iris will have to weave through time to uncover conspires, reliving the past of love ones she didn't know were entangled in the guard. While evading her teammates, trusting an unlikely ally, and staying one step ahead of time. Time is running out and the game has just begun, the race for her life is for sure, and death is inevitable, but who's death is what's uncertain....Race through time with Iris as she uncovers conspires, tangled webs, lies, deception, betrayals, and unexpected friendship and alliances. First I have to tell you I am not a fan of Time Travel books. Really, I try to steer clear of them all together. They're just not really my thing.... But, there was something about THE EIGHTH GUARDIAN that compelled me to want to read it. Something that was so appealing that I couldn't deny my urge. So I picked it up for review and waited forever to read it. But when I did FINALLY read it, OMG I was entranced!! Meredith McCardle has to be like the Time-Travel master!! It was full of soooo much drama and action and adventure. Intertwined with dates and times of history that gives us a whole new look at our countries past and their struggles. She seriously had to do her homework on this one, and I give her mad props for producing such a gem within the Time-Travel book world!!!NOTE: I received an ARC from Skyscape/ for reviewing purposes! All opinions express are my own and are not influenced in any way!

Once I got started reading, I could not put this book down! The story of Iris is fueled by her entrance into the Annum Guard, her longing for her boyfriend Abe, and her driving desire to find out what really happened to her father. There were so many twists and turns that kept me turning the pages instead of putting the book down. You will not regret your purchase of this book. I've been recommending this book to anyone who will listen. I can't wait for the next one!

I got this book in the mail and decided to set it aside to read on Mother's Day. Later in the day I opened it to read a couple of pages and ended up reading the entire book in (almost) one sitting. I loved the characters and the history in the book. Being from New England I could really picture all of the scenes and the author did a phenomenal job describing everything so I felt like I was able to go

right back in time with the characters. I can't wait to read the next one!

Actual rating 4.5 stars
This book was amazing! I flew through it, and never once wanted to put it down. Yes, it is that good. I wasn't sure what to expect with this book. I knew going in that it was dealing with time travel, and was a little wary. I have read many time travel books that have just flopped because it was way too confusing and not well executed. But, time travel is very difficult to write about, so I never let my opinion of those books influence my opinion of those authors. However, there is nothing to fear with this book. Everything is very well explained (perhaps this is one of my favorite parts of the book), and the story is extremely well written. The first sentence draws you in, and by the end of the first chapter you will find yourself speed-reading to finish this book in one sitting. One of my favorite aspects of this book was the characters. Each had a very distinct personality, and was very strong in their own right. Our lead, Amanda, whose code name is Iris once she becomes involved in the Annum Guard, is an extremely relatable and bad-ass heroine. I loved her! She had the right amount of sass and snark, but was also very honest and flawed. She never felt fake or unrealistic. Iris reacted to everything how you would think a person in her situation would react. I loved all her fellow recruits, and all very similar to Iris in that they were all very honest, real characters. Another great aspect of this book was the time travel. As I said before, it was well explained, and one of the more enjoyable things was being able to learn with Iris. This is one of my favorite parts of any novel, being able to feel so connected to a character that I actually feel like I'm part of the novel. When the character learns something new, you learn something new, and you start filing everything away because it's a clue for later on. However, the time travel aspect is also the only place I had a small (and by small I mean teeny tiny) problem. I wanted more time in the places that Iris and her fellow recruits traveled to! There were several times in this book where the setting and time period were elaborated on, and these times shone like a bright beacon on a dark night. But I wish that the other times Iris traveled, there was a bit more description. This is the type of book that you wouldn't have minded the extra pages (thus making the book longer) because you are enjoying it so much. Nevertheless, this was the only flaw I saw, and honestly, it's not even really a flaw. The writing is superb, and Ms. McCardle is one to watch! I thought I had things figured out, but you will be completely blown away when everything comes together. However, I think if you pay close attention to every little detail, you might...might be able to figure things out ahead of time. Even if you do, trust me, it won't detract from the book in anyway. There will still be something that will throw you for a loop! I am highly anticipating the next in this series, and I can't wait to see what happens next. I just hope the sequel comes out soon because I don't know if I can wait a whole

year!! Happy reading :)

From the beautiful cover to the mesmerizing plot, this book has it all. Miss McCardle is a talented author with all the right amounts of voice, style, and flare. I will recommend this book to all my friends, family, and strangers off the street! Seriously, this book is flat-out brilliant. How did she pull off such a twisty and fascinating story? Well done!

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