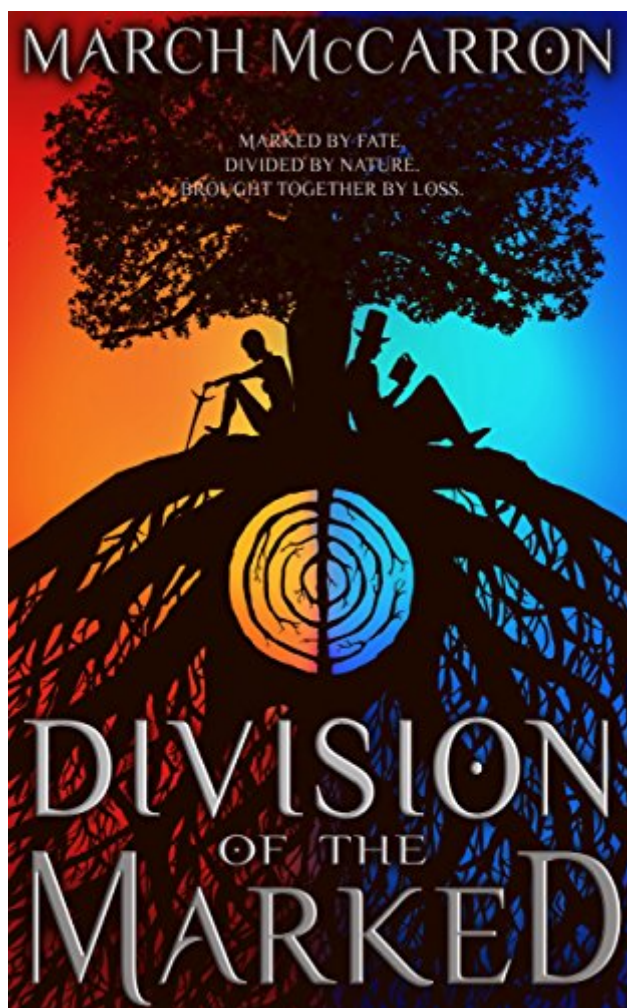


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Division Of The Marked (The Marked Series Book 1)



Synopsis

For all of written history, on the day of Da Un Marcu, fifty boys and girls across the three kingdoms are marked. They become a class apart from society. Taken to join their brothers and sisters, the Chisanta, they enter a culture of knowledge-keepers, martial artists, and possessors of strange and wonderful abilities. When Yarrow discovers himself marked, he is lost and lonely; until he meets Bray, a spirited and curious girl with whom he feels uncommonly connected. As the two of them become familiar with their new lives, unaccountable events unsettle the peace. A mysterious murder leaves the Chisanta in confusion. Odder still, one of the fifty children never arrives. In the years that follow, more and more children of the Chisanta go missing. Ten years later, the devastating truth comes to light. The death of a young marked girl is uncovered. Yarrow and Bray—separated for a decade and grown apart—are thrust back together to investigate the crime. Can they overcome their differences to save the fate of their kind and the peace of the nation?

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Customer Reviews

I just finished reading the first chapter of Division of the Marked by March McCarron. I intend to review as I read because I don't want to forget anything. I decided to try this book after raving reviews were written by other members of our review group. With the first line, the

author hooks me: "Yarrow ran his finger along the raised mark upon his neck, as if hoping it would rub away. I need to know what the mark is. The author describes Yarrow's family little by little with clear, beautiful snippets of words that leave a clear, lingering image in the reader's mind. I loved the family! I just finished Part 1, and I am loving the book. I was under the impression that the book was a YA read as one reviewer had described it. I can't imagine why she'd say that. I just finished part two. Ten years have passed and the characters are no longer children. The characters are not immature or lacking depth; they are wonderful and multifaceted characters. Obviously, the reviewer that called it a YA did not finish the book. I just finished reading the entire book. It was both wonderful and painful. Beautiful prose, gripping story, great heroes, hateful villains, and promises of more to come. A great read deserving of all the great reviews it has gotten. March McCarron, I wish I could write like you!

needs to add a special rating system for Kindle books that goes something like this: 1. Read less than a chapter and deleted. 2. Read half the book, then deleted. 3. Read all of the book, then deleted. 4. Read all of the book, then saved it to a collection. 5. Read all of the book, then bought another book by the same author. This would obviate the need of having to type out a review for every book and provide a much more accurate measure of how good a book is. According to my rating system, March McCarron's "Division of the Marked" is a five. I read the book and wanted more, so I'm going to buy the next book in the series. The book is well written. The world building is good, with a fascinating, believable setting that doesn't quite match up with any real world setting. Nor does it copy from any other author's settings. The flavors, however, all fit the themes the author pursues throughout the story. For example, to go with the mystery, there is a bit of a Victorian feel to the clothing styles and level of technology (ie. Sherlock Holmes), but the culture is not at all Victorian. The main characters are part of a quasi religious order with a Shaolin temple flavor, but the characters are more interested in psychology and science than exploring Tao. It sounds like it wouldn't fit together, but the author manages to blend everything successfully, and gives you hints of further bits of culture to discover in the wider world. The characters are diverse, sympathetic and interesting with a lot of room for growth. The book won't change your life, but it will give you several hours of entertainment and a lingering desire to follow the character's stories to the end. Kudos to the author, looking forward to seeing what else you have to offer.

If I could give this book 6 stars, I would. It's a crazy good book. In June of 2013, I read a book called

Fire Country by an Indie author and when I had finished it, I was stunned. I had not read another Indie book quite of that caliber and was sure I wasn't going to again. I mean this book was so good, I found myself asking "why is this an Indie book?" and that doesn't mean Indie books are bad, it just means that it takes so much more for them to be phenomenal. They don't have the luxury of professional editors or a whole slew of people letting them know what works and what doesn't. If it's that good, it's because THE AUTHORS have made them that good. Of late, the Indie books I have been reading are getting better and better, so it's really an exciting time for discovering new finds. So imagine my surprise when I found one that not only has beaten that book, it has blown me out of the water again. I'm trying to put my finger on what exactly made this book so amazing to me, so I'll try to just list the things that I can't get over.

BOOK CRUSH If I was 17 and still a girl in high school, the answer would be Ko-Jin. He reminds me of Bruce Lee and I had a bit of a crush on him back then. So the answer is Yarrow. As an adult, I find the bookish/intelligent type irresistible. Add to it that he has a deep soul and empathy for others, done deal. I pictured him as Andrew Garfield (the new Spiderman.)

THINGS I LOVED

- 1) The author has a way of making me see what's going on. I can picture everything perfectly, which is quite a task since this is a fantasy novel. I still can't figure out what EXACTLY she did for me to see the characters, setting, and actions so perfectly.
- 2) One of the ways a book makes me fall in love with it is if it can make the words dance and feel as if they belong together. This can't be done by just anyone. This is usually reserved for those who were born to write...or very, very hard workers. This happened quite a bit in this book and I would just sit back and smile...and reread the sentence again. I'm kind of kicking myself for not highlighting them as I went on because of the gems I found, but maybe that was part of the beauty of reading this book. I enjoyed every minute of the immersion.
- 3) The characters. This can't be stated enough. This is probably the biggest reason this book will always have a special place in my heart. Usually I have one character who I can't live without. In this book, there were at least three and I'm still grieving over one I lost. For some reason when this character calls those he loves, "love" I find myself choked up a bit, even a little as I think about it right now. No idea why. There is also a part where the character Bray (who is beautiful) changes her physical appearance dramatically and normally I would think this might bother me, but it didn't...not even a little. Still not sure why that is. Either Bray was so great either way or I just got less shallow, I'll let you decide.
- 4) I cannot even explain my feelings for this book. There is a cliffhanger of sorts of an ending and usually this pisses me off, but this was the type of book I did not rush (rare for me) because it was just a joy to read and I don't mind waiting to see what happens next. That's a unique thing to do for an author. They rely on suspense to keep the reader involved and while there was plenty of suspense, it wasn't the reason I

kept turning the pages, I was just enjoying myself. THINGS I DIDN'T LOVE Nothing. I'm looking forward to the next installment.

Pacing was a bit off and at times you saw the "tricks" the author used trying to show and not tell, like having a character read a book about the history of the "marked" to get a lot of world building information out quickly. Some spelling mix ups such as "poured" instead of "pored" over a book, which editing would have fixed. Seriously I could smell the sequel coming from about a 5th from the ending, That's the negative So it has familiar themes etc, but I wanted to finish, some characters were better developed than others but all were developed and thank god, I was beginning to despise Bray after a while. It's a solid 3 out of 5.

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