



27 Hours

Tristina Wright

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Rumor Mora fears two things: hellhounds too strong for him to kill, and failure. Jude Welton has two dreams: for humans to stop killing monsters, and for his strange abilities to vanish.

But in no reality should a boy raised to love monsters fall for a boy raised to kill them.

Nyx Llorca keeps two secrets: the moon speaks to her, and she's in love with Dahlia, her best friend. Braeden Tennant wants two things: to get out from his mother's shadow, and to unlearn Epsilon's darkest secret.

They'll both have to commit treason to find the truth.

During one twenty-seven-hour night, if they can't stop the war between the colonies and the monsters from becoming a war of extinction, the things they wish for will never come true, and the things they fear will be all that's left.

27 Hours is a sweeping, thrilling story featuring a stellar cast of queer teenagers battling to save their homes and possibly every human on Sahara as the clock ticks down to zero.

27 Hours Details

Date : Published October 3rd 2017 by Entangled: Teen

ISBN : 9781633758216

Author : Tristina Wright

Format : ebook 404 pages

Genre : Lgbt, Young Adult, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review 27 Hours for online ebook

Eric Smith says

From the diverse, inclusive cast to the non-stop intense action to the visually lush world-building, Tristina Wright's debut has everything I look for in a great YA novel. And I truly can't wait for her second book.

While reading, I kept thinking how this book read like the best video game I've never played. If anyone at Bioware is listening, please pick up Tristina immediately. Thanks.

Melanie says

[Edit: February 12th, 2018] I had given this three stars back in 2017, but I no longer can support this author or their work in light of recent events. I am keeping my original review up, but please know that I do not support this author or their inexcusable actions. If anyone needs me, my DMs are always open. And RAINN (1-800-656-4673) is available 24/7 to talk to anyone who needs it.

ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

?: And check out the rest of the reviews, interviews, and more from this blog tour Here!

First and foremost, before you read my review, you should check out my amazing friend Aimal's review, because it's an important and eye-opening discussion about colonization and it shouldn't be ignored.

In my opinion, *27 Hours* had so much good, yet so much disappointment, too. This book falls completely down the middle for me. The representation is beautiful and important, but a lot of the romance was too unbelievable for me, which I feel like the twenty-seven-hour time frame really did this book a disservice. Then there is the issue with the colonization that's very hard to unsee once you've seen it, and finally, the only two white main characters in the book do most of the explaining to the main characters of color about what is right. It feels bad, like, really bad.

Yet, I love that any marginalized teen could pick this book up and see themselves. That, is something I can't even put a rating on, and I cannot emphasize how important that statement is to me. This book honestly has me feeling very torn.

27 Hours is Tristina Wright's debut novel that follows six teens that live on a moon many years in the future. On this moon, humans have settled into different communities, that specialize in different things, but there were already chimeras and dragons that were indigenous to the moon. After one of the communities are attacked, one of our main protagonists, Rumor, flees to another community to tell them what happened and to warn them that they could be next. All of these teen's paths eventually cross; some from old friendships, some from old communities, and some from a not talked about forest community that live among the chimeras.

► **Rumor** - Biracial, bisexual, suffering from PTSD.

► **Jude** - White, gay.

- **Nyx** - Latinx, pansexual, hearing impaired, plus sized.
- **Dahlia** - Black, bisexual, transwoman.
- **Braedon** - White, asexual.
- **Yi-Min** - Asian, genderqueer, hand disfigurement.

This book has a lot of representation, but this book is so damn queer, which is completely normalized. The world needs more queer stories that aren't just coming out stories. The world needs a vast array of books, in every genre, that just stars queer characters. Gay, bi, asexual, genderqueer, trans, this book is an unapologetically queer SFF novel, and for that I love it. And I can't express or emphasize how important each of these characters perspectives are.

Unfortunately, I think what really hurts this story is the 27 hour time frame. We have characters that have had some horrible things JUST happen, we have characters learning secrets that have been told to them as lies of their entire life, we have characters suffering from exhaustion, we have characters dealing with near death experiences, we have characters fleeing the only homes they have ever known, but somehow all they can think about is sex. And this wasn't in a scene or two, this was a constant theme in this book. Like, sexual jokes and innuendos and all, when it's supposed to be a really high tension and scary situation for these teens. If this story would have been stretched out for days or weeks, this would have been fine and enjoyable, but it was just too unbelievable for me in this hour to hour chapter format, and it consistently pulled me from the story.

Or maybe if there wasn't as many points of view this would have worked better. Like, if this book only focused on one romantic couple it would have been easier to relate and understand. Instead, we get a Sarah J. Maas, "everyone in my story must be paired up and with romance on the forefront of their minds constantly" story.

Also, I touched upon this a bit earlier, but Jude is from the forest community and he is pretty much the one that opens everyone's eyes to their prejudices. There are some good discussions about not using certain words, and things that tie in and make good parallels to our world, but it still felt so bad that the white character had to constantly tell the PoC characters it. And the "quickest adaptor" is also Braedon, the other white character.

I almost feel like Tristina Wright did so much research and got such amazing feedback for her diverse cast and representation, that no one really helped her with the pacing and structure. Again, this is just my opinion, but I feel like if she changes a few things that the second book in this series could be amazing.

And obviously the diverse cast and representation was my favorite part of this book. Like, all I want are queer stories in space, and for that I'm very thankful that I was provided an ARC of *27 Hours*! Hopefully, if you pick this one up you will enjoy it a little more than I did.

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Buddy read with Jules! ♥

Katherine Locke says

EDITED 2/24: I fucked up. I also should have edited this in the fall (when I pulled my stars from it) when I

read many wonderful and extremely well-constructed critiques of this book. I did not see the racism in it, and I'm sorry for that. I am striving to do better, and I know that that has to be more than what I write here. Additionally, I apologize to anyone who believed that my leaving this review up as support for the racist narrative in this book or for the author who has been accused of sexual harassment and grooming. I stand with the victims and I believe you.

ORIGINAL REVIEW:

I was lucky enough to read this early and you guys, it is everything you dreamed of.

Someone flagged this review so yes, I did receive an early copy from the author but not in exchange for a review. I beta read this and worked on this as a freelancer.

Honest Reviews says

EDIT: Since @nickyoflaherty and others have been tweeting about this and accusing me of lying and faking this review asking for it to be flagged because they don't like that someone didn't like the book and can't stand anyone who goes against their grain, I'm happy to discuss who I got the early version from privately. But since all of the OTHER reviews on here are early version, and they seem to have only an issue with mine... hmmm!!!!!!! Seems fishy to me.

Anyway this is a 100% real review, and you will NOT silence me. I'm sorry if you don't like it, or if you don't like how I got the book. But if my review isn't allowed, neither should any other early reader's review. Just because I don't suck her ass over it doesn't mean my review isn't legitimate just like all the ones who do.

A friend who read this one early gave me her early digital version of this to share, because she was made uncomfortable by a lot of the content. Not saying who the friend is, because I don't want to start a hater brigade on her. I don't know if there are ARCs out.

I started in with an open mind, despite already knowing the author personally. Say what you want about her personality, but you have to give people a chance to show you that their art is good. See, this is why I have this account with my others. It's books like this, where I would be too afraid to say what I really think because of the cult of personality surrounding some authors.

The thing is that Tristina Wright has the ability to be a talented author, but her writer's ego gets in the way. Where her writing might be seen as lush and deep by some, I see the tendency to go for florid overly descriptive writing to hide some flaws in things like plot and characterization. I think it's pretty obvious to the reader why this was published through Entangled, a small press known for mediocre books and poor writing, and not through a better publisher, with more resources. Might have been that this book suffered from poor editing? Because the bare bones of the story are entertaining, but just not very good, or very memorable.

On the plus side, she's very good at writing catchy and dreamy one liners. I think Tristina should do marketing for other books, because she has a eye for them. Unfortunately, there were too many one liners that didn't link up.

I'm big on ships and shipping and all of that, yeah yeah I know, but I didn't really care about any of these

characters. They didn't feel real to me, and their desires didn't feel real. It all felt flat to me. These characters felt like caricatures.

But really, there's just nothing memorable about this one. And I think part of this reason is that the author tries so hard. I think when I was 13, I might have swallowed this one up whole. But at 16, I've learned a little about good writing, good storytelling, and this isn't it. For people who don't read as much, I think they might like it.

In terms of representation, well... you can definitely tell the author is just another bland white woman who was trying very hard. I give her a lot of props for trying, but this is kind of one of those "stay in your lane" deals. I'll let someone else do the big takedown on it because I just don't care, because *Entangled* isn't known for quality among readers. Part of me wonders if this was the only place that would buy her book?

She did the best she could with what she had with this story. Sure, she has some talent, but I think it might be for one liners and Twitter rants, and not so much for YA novels.

Nita says

Review removed.

Emma Giordano says

Update 9/24: I've noticed a lot of discussion about the racial representation & themes of colonialism in this book and I believe this review started said discussion: <http://bit.ly/2fpXO6X>

I don't really have anything to say on this topic, especially considering I didn't finish the book myself, but if you're interested in reading a different perspective, you may want to check it out. (And here follows the unnecessary disclaimer that me providing you with a link to a review does not mean I agree with it or that I'm forcing you to read/agree as well. It's just there if you're interested in keeping up with the discussion.)

Never thought I'd be DNFing a book, but I just have to put this one down. I'm disappointed, not necessarily in the book itself, but because I was SO looking forward to this read and I can't love it as much as I wanted to.

Unfortunately, this one just wasn't for me. At least right now, I can't seem to get into this book at all. Let me be clear that I don't actually think this book is "bad", but I just have a lot of little problems that are making it too difficult to read and I feel I'm spending too much time trying to love a book that I just *don't*.

I do actually really like the characters. They aren't my favorite in the world, I don't think they'll stick with me for a long time or that they've made a huge impact on me, but they are good characters. They have their own individual stories and are all interesting to learn about. Of course, this is probably the most diverse cast I've ever read, which is a MAJOR plus. I can't find the exact list of representations in this book but we have a biracial bisexual MC, a Cuban/Deaf MC, we have an ace MC, a gay MC, a black-Latinx bisexual trans MC, there's just a lot to love about these characters and I think a lot of people will be pleased with this cast. If you are looking for a diverse science fiction fantasy novel and find yourself getting invested in characters often, I would recommend *27 Hours* to you.

The world-building confused me a lot, and I think that contributed to a lot of why I DNF'ed. I think the story began way too quickly and there wasn't enough time to actually set up how this sci-fi world has evolved. I really could not tell you anything about the world of this book because every bit of information just did not stick with me. I recognize my lack of enjoyment as a possible factor, but I seriously could not describe what a HUB, a colony, a gargoyles, or a chimera is and it made understanding the plot impossible.

I also felt like it was too obvious that this book was written in 2017? The book takes place hundreds of years into the future, but it felt too tied to modern times. It felt very "picky and choosy" as to which Earth customs were kept and which were left behind which made it feel a bit disjointed and not clean-cut. Personally, if I'm reading a book set in the future, I want to KNOW I'm in the future, and I just didn't feel like the world was separate enough from the world we are living in today. It had all the elements of science fiction, but it honestly felt like an urban-scifi where Earth today was waiting below, unaffected by the events of the story.

The writing was also very distracting for me. It felt a lot like purple prose where sentences were just too detailed and elaborate to the point of unnecessary. I found myself having to take a break from reading every few paragraphs because I just could not retain anything from the story. I was forgetting details from the top of the page 10 lines in. It became overwhelming and ultimately unenjoyable.

Honestly, I just don't think 27 Hours is for me. I'd consider giving it another go in the future because I really did want to love it. I definitely do not think this is a bad book whatsoever, there are just a bunch of tiny little things that made the story really difficult for me to read personally.

To me, this is just one of those things where it was the wrong book for me at the wrong time. I'm not sure if I'd go solely off my experience when deciding to read this book because I think my problems with it are very individual to my reading experience. I really do hope those of you interested in this story pick it up and love it.

Leah says

As one of Tristina Wright's beta readers, I've had the honor and privilege of seeing this story in multiple stages. It has come a long way since the first version I read, and there have been some fundamental plot changes along with little tweaks here and there. But in every form it's taken, this story has been incredible.

27 HOURS is a story of loss and love, family (both by blood and those you make for yourself) and friendship, and finding yourself in the midst of chaos. But above all, this novel is one that explores the morality of humanity. In a world where the color of your skin, your sexuality, your gender, and so much more are of no consequence to anyone, Wright explores the give and take of humanity. She unflinchingly details the selfishness and greed, as well as the love and kindness, and everything in between.

27 HOURS is not a book that you want to miss.

ETA: Take a look at Aimal's review for critical analysis of the racial rep.

Laurie says

27 HOURS by Tristina Wright has everything I could ever want in a YA sci-fi novel – a visually stunning foreign planet, human space colonies, a fascinating indigenous alien race (LOVE that horns figure into the alien hierarchy), SPACE DRAGONS (with 6 legs!), and action that starts right up and does not let up (Tristina throws her readers right onto her sci-fi roller coaster and you better hang on). Oh, yeah – and I should probably mention the HOT romance (and the tender romance – I LOVE multiple romantic storylines in books). And let's not forget THE BEST TIMELINE-PROLOGUE I've ever read, and the really cool futuristic weaponry (and exciting mode of transport, and breathtaking scenery – there is a whole lot of eye candy in this book - of the setting, alien and human variety). AND...in addition to all this fantasticness, there's something deeper going on thematically – something beautifully subversive and relevant for our times (as is the case in much of the best sci-fi). The future of sci-fi has arrived, friends - and Tristina Wright is blazing the path ahead, speeding past in her spaceship and leaving us all in her spectacular, rainbow-technicolor, intergalactic dust. I know that I will be doing my best to catch up. Sending out much griffin love to this author for her fantastic YA novel (if you hadn't guessed, I most highly recommend it). P.S. Want the graphic novel AND the movie RIGHT NOW. (And the TEAM GEORGE t-shirt).

One Word Reviews says

Asinine.

Aimal (Bookshelves & Paperbacks) says

A visual representation of me trying to figure out how to write this review:

In all seriousness, this might be one of the most difficult books I've had to review, simply because I have so many thoughts. So many different aspects to a novel as complicated and nuanced as this one, and so many thoughts about several of these aspects. More than this, perhaps – the reason why reviewing this book is so difficult is because I can fully see the invaluable benefits of it, as well as the potential harm it can cause, and the intersection of both can be difficult for a reviewer (who isn't, by any means, claiming to be an expert) to encompass and do justice. But, I will try my best here, and if I start to ramble, resulting in a post that resembles word-vomit more than a structured review- well, you'll have to forgive me here, I guess.

27 Hours is a futuristic (set, I believe, 150-200 years from present day), science-fiction, action-packed tale which counts down from 27 hours to certain war. When the clock hits 0, prompting the sun to come up, our characters' world is going to be torn apart by the two species fighting on (over?) it. **A couple hundred or so years ago, humans arrived at a moon from all over the Earth, giving rise to a civilization, unaware that an indigenous species was asleep underground. When the construction of a lake causes several underground tunnels to flood, the indigenous species (referred to as chimera, or “gargoyle” as a slur) lost many lives. Ever since, war has raged on.** The humans consider the chimera blood-thirsty monsters, while the chimera are staunch in their belief that the land is theirs. A third group emerged some time during the war – a forest civilization – that broke away from the humans, formed an alliance with some chimera, and strive for peace.

Perhaps it's my own background and cultural history, but I couldn't fully root for any of the main characters, all of whom are human.

I was born and raised in Pakistan, a country that emerged in 1947 from India after a brutal war raged on, killing millions upon millions of people; much of that bloodshed, the consequent splitting, and the after-effects that exist even now were a direct product of the British colonization of the Indian subcontinent. We are still told horror stories, of piles of bodies at the border – **riots, massacres, friends and families torn apart for the rest of time, as my ancestors, as my neighbors' ancestors fought for their rights on a land that belonged to them. It was our land.** It was our country, not some colonizers'. They had no right to be there.

It's not an issue that raged just then – it's an issue extremely current and relevant even now, whether we're talking about the war over Kashmir (again, a direct product of British imperialism), or the Israel-Palestine situation that seems to have no end in sight. Maybe it's my hypersensitivity to issues of indigenous peoples' having their lands stolen by invaders who have no right to be there, **but I found it almost impossible to sympathize with the main characters.** When I realized that the theme of the novel was an indigenous species versus colonists, and the main characters all being colonists or descendants of colonists, I was immediately put off.

Let me get something straight here: **Wright does not excuse colonists' actions, nor does she pass off the war as a binary issue.** What does, however, happen is that all the characters who get perspective chapters are humans (in this case, colonists), and three out of four of the perspective chapters are humans who are learning to rid themselves of long-held prejudices against chimera, while the fourth perspective character is a forest-human who doesn't have these prejudices anymore, who instead strives for peace. The issue here, at least for me, was glaringly obvious: **in a war raging between an indigenous species and colonists, why is the colonist's perspective centered? Why is the storyline so intensely focused on colonist guilt, and realizing that indigenous life that existed on this planet is still, you know, life?** And despite them unlearning their prejudices against the species itself, the issue of invasion and settling is almost entirely ignored, while all the weight is put on violent warfare.

To me, it parallels a book where white characters realize that people of color are “humans as well,” and start working towards co-existence, while also refusing to (intentionally or unintentionally) acknowledge or dismantle **the root cause of the issue: systematic, institutionalized racism and white supremacy. In this case, the human characters' narrative is the only one being centered, while the root issue of invasion, trespassing and unethically settling over land that already belongs to beings living on the moon is thrust aside, instead focusing on the byproduct of this main issue: war.** There was a moment in this novel where the villain (so often described as the monster who needs to be destroyed for peace to finally be achieved) says:

“Humans are a parasite, and you're destroying this land with your mining and your colonization. You came and took with no regard to the life already existing here and, according to your histories, that's fairly standard for your species, isn't it?”

This tells me that Wright is **fully aware of the complicated issue at hand, yet the villain – hell-bent on destruction and blood and chaos – is the only one who brings it up.** Bro, if I'm twenty pages from the end

and I'm siding with the villain here? That's not a good look.

Some of the thematic choices made regarding character prejudices were also... uncomfortable for me to read and consider.

27 Hours is a **book full of underrepresented identities on the page, with beautiful relationships forming – both platonic and romantic.** We have a truly diverse cast of characters. Our four perspective chapters are Rumor, Nyx, Braeden and Jude, while a fifth character can still be considered a main character, despite not getting a perspective chapter. Rumor is a bisexual, multiracial Nigerian/Portuguese & Indian who falls for Jude, who is gay. Nyx is Deaf, pansexual, chubby, signs ASL throughout the book, has Cuban ancestry, and is in love with her best friend, Dahlia, who is an Afro-Latinx trans girl. Nyx's abuela is also Deaf. Braeden is asexual, and has two moms. Jude is adopted by a family of two brothers – both are people of color, both are queer. There is an Asian side character who uses they/them pronouns, and there is discussion about using and normalizing pronoun introductions.

Rumor and Jude form a beautiful bond immediately, and their interactions are lovely to see unfold on the page. Dahlia and Nyx's complicated romantic relationship is slow-burn, and the pay-off is ultimately swoon-worthy, for lack of a better phrase. Braeden discusses his asexuality often, there is sign language throughout the book – so **these identities are given proper time and weight. But with three of your five protagonists being people of color, there is no discussion about race,** but I'll get to this later.

In line with the imperialist discussion I was having above, let's talk a little bit about **Rumor.** I believe Rumor could be considered the driving force of the novel – his perspective chapter starts the novel off, and his actions and reactions are, for the most part, what drive the story. For me, when it was revealed that **he has Nigerian and Indian ancestry,** I was immediately intrigued. Why? Because for a story dealing with colonial issues, **a main character having ancestry from both Nigeria and India – both countries that have been colonized by the British in the past? That seemed significant to me.** But I was... disturbed (if that's the right phrase) by the fact that Rumor, more than anyone else, **holds the most vicious hatred for chimera.**

Rumor's past with the indigenous species is bloody; his mother and his father both died during the war, and the book quite literally begins with his colony being wiped out by an attack. So, his reactions are to be expected, but... I'm a little uncomfortable that **a character who has ancestry tracing back to countries that were torn apart due to colonization is so staunchly pro-colonist,** is so staunchly vicious in his hatred of chimera. That's a strange thematic choice for me. And it gets especially strange (this is a euphemism for problematic, by the way) that the two people who, arguably, have the most sway over changing his prejudices are white. **The two characters (Jude and Braeden) who basically show the boy, who has ancestry ? tracing ? back ? to ? countries ? that ? have ? been ? colonized ? by white ? people, that his prejudices are unfounded, unfair and discriminatory are white.** Bro. White.

"Aimal, you're overthinking this. It probably wasn't that serious, it probably isn't that deep." Is that what you're thinking? I've already acknowledged that perhaps it's because I'm hypersensitive to imperialist issues, I saw flaws in this novel that many others would have overlooked. But come on – even the most non-interested of you couldn't say that it isn't a big deal that **the most racist (specie-ist) person from our cast of characters is a person of color, and that the people who changed his mind were white people.** Like... that's just... ????? Moving on.

You could argue that Rumor's ancestry isn't as significant as I'm making it out to be, mainly because **Wright makes it clear that the humans have one language (referred to as "the human language"), and don't retain much from their culture back from home.** Which: if the book is set 150-200 years in the future (which is 7-8 generations at most), would people who immigrated from all over the world really have forgotten their language, their cultures? Here's a passage from the book:

"My mom was Indian. Like India. My dad was... He was Portugese and Nigerian. I only know because we had a school project to see what, if anything, we'd kept from our Earth ancestors."

This seems to imply that **the humans don't know much, if anything at all, about where they came from on Earth.** And that's fair, if the book was set even further into the future. Would entire cultures cease to exist in just a few generations? (More on this later, too). And even if they did, **why does the book seem to imply that they gradually, over the course of a century, defaulted to a Westernized way of living?** Where romantic, familial and platonic relationships are modeled after Western culture? This is vague, and this is where the holes in world-building start to seep through. Are there no other cultures? And if there aren't, how did the near-7,000 languages that exist in the world right now get wiped out in just a century or two from now?! How did entire civilizations coming from all over the world forget their own cultures to default to the present "human culture?" How is there no variation past ideological thought (and even then, only as it relates to war versus peace)? And if there are cultures, why not show them? I'm so confused about this – **there are so many gaps and holes in world-building here** that it's driving me up the wall just thinking about the lack of information there is to grapple with.

Is racial representation really REPRESENTATION if the characters of color can be replaced by white people without changing anything else at all?

Basically, every single character of color in this book could be replaced with a white character, and nothing would change. Absolutely nothing, apart from a couple words here and there (and a large chunk of my review *badum tss*). Like I said, there is little to no significant mention of differing cultures, or different languages (the only non-English words in the book are "chai," "prem," and "abuela," which just... make up your mind. Do languages exist, or do they not?) Fine, take away cultures, take away languages, but **even people of color who live in diasporas, who have largely assimilated to the society around them and retain little to nothing of their ancestral culture still undergo micro aggressions, if not outright racism.** And there is no mention of it. Anywhere. When I say that the characters of color could be replaced by white characters and nothing would change, I mean that quite literally. You'd just have to replace every time the color "brown" is mentioned with white, change the ethnicities, and... that's it.

Apparently, in this society, **people aren't prejudiced based on race, because it's of no consequence to anybody, so it doesn't exist anymore, despite there being a very clear prejudice against the indigenous. species. So, prejudice does exist – just not intra-human racism.** Which, just...

Racism has existed for centuries. It has been the cause of genocide in various parts of the world, wars, slavery, systematic and institutionalized oppression. Look at the ethnic cleansing in Myanmar right now, the refugee crisis and the fear-mongering against Middle Easterners and Muslims, the legal and violent war underway against black Americans in the U.S., the purging of Native American lands and rights in today's society, the discriminatory rhetoric against Mexicans that won someone the election. **Look at our fucking**

President. Look at the Ku Klux Klan, the neo-Nazis taking off their robes and parading around in the streets with torches and tell me racism is going anywhere. It has always existed, because as a human race, we're prejudiced people. You mean to tell me that a colony, that exists and is an amalgamation of human society from cultures all over the world, has no racism?! Especially if this colony isn't even that far into the future?! I...

The only way this could be even slightly possible would be if a scientific device existed that purged the very idea of prejudice out of your mind. I would buy this if prejudice, in and of itself, didn't exist in the society. But prejudice does exist! Against the indigenous species! So that takes that out of the equation.

It feels a lot, and I mean A LOT, like erasure of the struggles people of color go through every single day, and have gone through every single day. For a white author to build a world where (1) colonialism thrives, but (2) racism no longer exists? It feels like a cop-out. It feels like Wright wanted people to say that people of color exist in her book, but didn't want to do the heavy-lifting of representing the lives of people of color. So with the complete lack of representation of non-white culture, and the insinuation that racism no longer exists, while every other identity is given the proper balance and proper weight? Just... *endless sigh* I'm sorry. It's lazy. It's lazy writing, to me. It's lazy world-building, **it's a lack of understanding of racial issues, both historical and contemporary, and it feels like simply checking off checklist items rather than actual representation.**

I am not going to deny that this book has so much potential to benefit so many people, but it also participates in erasure, as well as a base misunderstanding of imperialist issues.

Which is exactly why it was so difficult for me to review this book. **It is a diverse book and offers on-the-page representation for trans, gender non-conforming, asexual, pansexual, gay, bisexual, lesbian, and Deaf representation.** And not even just that – it's still a decent book with constant action, well-developed characters, an interesting (albeit under-developed or vague) world, and engaging dialogue. But it still falls flat in so many areas. And I hope that me pointing the things out that made me uncomfortable, that left a bad taste in my mouth doesn't seem to you that I'm negating all the good this book can do in so many young people's lives. **I hope that if this review does anything, it at least sheds some light on the issues in the book, and maybe the issues will be rectified or redeemed in the sequel(s).**

And with that ~3,000 word review...

I received a free physical ARC at Book Expo '17.

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Claudie Arseneault says

I lost my first review to internet crashing, that's cool. Here is a shorter version.

27 Hours was never meant for me as a book, and part of the low star rating reflects that. It might be better for you, but I could never get into :

- All the violence. This is a book about teens who spend a lot of time killing, killing, killing.
- All the sexual attraction. If you're not in Braeden's POV (he is the ace teen), you will be constantly told how seriously horny the narrating teen is. Non-stop.
- The idea I'm supposed to root for the colonists teens? Aimal covers it way better in her review, but basically your heroes are settlers with families who have killed thousands of chimeras, the indigenous species, upon arriving and now treat them like beasts. 27H is clearly aware of this, but also fails to counter it.
- The tension that never goes down, ever, and feels like a string of actions without room to breathe. Seriously, i was 25% in and I wanted a real break. Instead of staying tense, I got bored. Lost track of wounds, who killed what, why it even mattered. Just one more dead chimera, y'know? YMMV I'm sure.
- The inconsistent worldbuilding. This book wants me to believe that in 200 years, entire cultures and languages have merged and mostly defaulted to Western, but that little internet memes have survived? I was already struggling with "200 years to wash away prejudice", but the references to the All or Nothing Pan/Ace tumblr post, to "cool motive, still murder", and other little nods like this really shattered the illusion. 27H has a weird way to be selective about what survived the passage of time. You know what else did? :
- Aromisia! Yay! Apparently racial prejudice is no longer a thing, but aromisic microaggressions are alive and thriving. Friendship is still considered a lesser relationship form than romance, and aromanticism is not mentioned once in the entire novel, despite that fact that Braeden's intense aro coding would have made it very appropriate.

But hey. There's ace rep, right? Indeed! And Braeden gets to be a kickass member of an awesome group of friends, a valuable part of the community, and a 3D character. And before I move on, let me state something clearly: Braeden's description and experiences are honest, real, and valid. They represent something many, many teens experience. I have no issues with them in themselves.

I have a lot of issues with how they fit the world. Here's the thing: out of all these happily queer teens, Braeden is the only one who struggles with his orientation.

27 Hours literally tells you that the ace pride ring and ace puns are a front, that in truth Braeden feels broken. He frequently says he does not understand other people's emotions or attractions, he calls himself an alien, says others make connections and move past him, and he struggles to define the kind of relationships he wants. Again, these are real and valid experiences that need representation, but they are completely disconnected from the worldbuilding. And it feels like a slap, like saying aces won't ever be rid of the brokenness, that we'll always be stuck in 2016/2017, because the world will always be ruthlessly, cruelly allonormative. And I guess that, in that at least, 27 Hours is coherent with itself, because every narration except Braeden's will constantly hammer on how hot the love interest is, and how much Nyx, Rumor, and

Jude want to kiss and touch and more. Every ace has its own tolerance, but the superposition of Braeden feeling broken with everybody's constant lust was hard for me to handle.

He also wants a bond with a robot. Yeah, the asexual teen is the one that is really into robots stuff and wants a meaningful connection to them. He also frequently talks about exploring the stars alone, leaving, etc. And he frequently mentions not understanding other people's emotions. So the teen who doesn't always understand people, wants bonds with robots, seems to struggle with how to name his deep relationships but doesn't want romance ... is the one that talks of leaving the colony behind with *maybe* his friends. So while 27H isn't deep in the robots and exile tropes yet, it sure feels like it wants to head that way.

Finally, finally... All. That. Aro. Coding! Drove me up the wall! For the record, Wright has publicly stated that Braeden was alloromantic. Good, because otherwise I would never have guessed. In fact, I would have thought of Braeden as one of the greatest representation of a teen struggling to define relationships, needs, and attractions in an amatonormative society (though, again, worldbuilding incoherence?) I'm at a loss. Braeden literally states that he wants neither a girlfriend, nor a boyfriend, nor another best friend ... but let's pretend that doesn't sound like an aromantic teen who wishes he had a queerplatonic relationship (let's pretend he's not slowly building one in 27H, too). Let's pretend, also, that it makes sense for a world that is so open and accepting of queerness that Braeden never questioned if he might be aromantic. The answer doesn't even have to be yes! But the constant conflation of attractions, the representation of a wide spectrum of queer ID but no mention of aromanticism anywhere, the several microaggressions ... all of that coupled with Braeden's very relatable questioning of what he wants? It hurt. Forgive my salt, and let's put 27H on the top of the pile of books that completely erase aromanticism, even when it would absolutely fit the world.

EDIT: just to be very clear here, my problem with this is not whether or Braeden is or not aromantic. My problem is that his questioning draws heavily on experiences that will resonate *deeply* with many aromantic people, including aromantic teens, including teens living through the same questioning, who deserve to see the identity labelled, to have it among their possibilities in case it fits *them*.

Anyway. Patreon will have a longer, more detailed analysis with quotes and discussions, and hopefully a little less salt, but here you go for now!

Natalie says

whoops i should've added this since last year ahhhhh cuz i was blessed to read an early copy of it and then another revised copy as well but the release is sooooooon (October) so here i am to flail about iiiiiiit.

It's so good ya'll. The world Tris has created is unique and so vivid and the characters are well fleshed out and helloooo none of the mains are straight WHOO!!! and some are POC as well so double whoo!!!

I was on the edge of my seat while reading this cuz damn so much is going on and you're just so riveted! An with every turn of the page you just want to know WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT. And everytime you think you know? nope you don't. you reallly don't

This is a story of budding relationships, already established relationships, loss (single tear falls down cheek NO SPOILERS!) conflicts, both internal and external.

And the characters, yes i had to come back to them. I'm not even sure i can pick a fave because i love them

all so much.

And ya'll there is a freaking dragon. a DRAGON, among the other non-human creatures you'll see ;)

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

I spend three months trying to pretend I hadn't lost all interest in this book after the author was accused of 1) harassing a reviewer i trust and 2) having some shit in her book. because I had finally won a preorder giveaway!! and then this author gets accused of sexual harassment and has the Worst possible response so yeah wow this got off my shelf real quick

destiny ? [howling libraries] says

update feb 11, 2018:

There is nothing I can say to take back the fact that I stood up for this author, that I went to bat for her endlessly and took her side of the story over other sides I was presented with. I can't take any of that back. All I can do is say that, if I *ever* made you feel like it wasn't safe to tell me what she had done, or how her actions made you feel, I am so, so genuinely sorry. My heart is breaking today for anyone she has hurt, and I will certainly not be supporting her work in the future. I'm taking down my review because anything positive I had to say about her supposed attempts at diversity and activism have been refuted by her actions.

Gabby Olumide says

***I receive many communications telling me that the author was sending people to flag reviews because she has pulled a Donald Trump and is calling it a fake review because it does not meet her liking. I am not affiliated with the people harassing anyone. I do not own a Twitter. My opinions are mine and I have a right to them. You are trying to silence a WOC to protect a white woman's feelings.

**I am being harassed by the author regarding my review, so I have changed it to 1 star.

This was not a good book, and Entangled Publishing is not a good publisher. Harassing me will not change my opinion of your poor pacing, over the top descriptions, or badly edited writing. This had potential, but the author needs help. In more ways than just this.

The author herself states that there's only a passing reference to the characters ethnicities and the rest of the time they're fighting monsters. To me, that says the much talked about "diversity" and "representation" were intrinsically done for allyship cookies and ass pats.

There is no real representation here. It's all for show. This is not what my sisters and I need when we are pointed to representation of our people, so please do not say that it is.

That makes this book complete and utter trash to me.

You will not silence me or brigade me.
