



Lush

S.L. Baum

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Bluebell has spent the last twelve years of her life at Training Tech, the government-run boarding school all children are required to attend. Now that she's seventeen she is fully prepared for Incorporation; a time when females and males are allowed to mingle again, for the first time since they were toddlers. It is also the day she must endure Citizen Branding - the mandatory searing of a mark into the flesh of the left wrist of all new Citizens. O for fertile, X for infertile. The fate of every Citizen, male or female, is determined by the results.

Bluebell knows that a Citizen's duty is to live for the glory of Concord, just as she was taught. But the frantic dreams and hazy memories that haunt her make her different, and the questions she cannot deny threaten to turn her world upside down.

Disclaimer: LUSH is not just a Series - it's more like a Serialized Television Show. As the beginning novel, it sets you up in the LUSH world and asks a lot of questions; many that are not immediately answered. Think of it like LOST or The Vampire Diaries or Heroes... and not so much like E.R. or Fringe or House. The follow-up novel is due October 2013... where the story continues.

Lush Details

Date : Published April 16th 2013

ISBN :

Author : S.L. Baum

Format : Kindle Edition 194 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Lush for online ebook

Rachael Kibwana says

The book awesome. I love the creativity and the suspense at the end of the book. Makes one want to read the next book in the series.i can't wait to read "hush"

Kelly Pratt says

I actually liked aspen ughhhhhh I want to like her

Brenda Blair says

I'm not one to read YA dystopian but I took a chance on this one. It was slow to start but after it picked up I was curious to find out what happened. Now I'm definitely curious to see what the next book has to offer.

Brooke Shelly says

This book was ok for me, but found it to be similar to a lot of other books. The beginning of the book was really good, and then really slowed down.

Sarah says

3.5 stars

(Read using Kindle Unlimited)

This was an interesting dystopian, and I liked the ending.

Bluebell was an okay character, although she was a little naïve at times. The way her mother treated her was a little odd, but she seemed pretty normal the way she reacted to her branding.

The storyline in this was quite slow, and I didn't really feel like much was happening until the 75% mark. There wasn't really any romance, there seemed to be a lot of info-dumping, and the whole thing just seemed way too slow.

The ending was good though, and redeemed the book a bit for me. Finally things seemed to be coming together, and I found the ending quite interesting. Failing a spectacular sequel it will at least be interesting to see if the story picks up from here or goes back to being slow.

7 out of 10

Vicky Connolly says

I think living in such a controlled society with such high expectations would be awful. I didn't expect the cliffhanger.

Abbie says

Actual rating - 3.5

Lush was an okay read, but I didn't love it until the end.

Bluebell was an okay character, but I didn't love her.

The first half of this was pretty slow, so I felt quite bored. The ending was good though, and defiantly made things more interesting.

Overall, A 3 star read with a 4 star ending. I'll defiantly be reading the sequel soon to see how it plays out.

Kimmarie says

3 1/2 - pretty good little story :) There were some similarities to other dystopian novels. but over all pretty good.

Would have given it higher, but didn't really feel the chemistry between the her and her love interest.

Kyra Dunst says

In a way, this is kind of a scary story. Not with monsters and chase scenes and fear, but with how the government has completely taken over every aspect of every individual's life. They cannot raise their own children, choose their own spouse or career, and are told whether or not they can even reproduce based on social standing. If that isn't scary, I don't know what is. At least you can kill a monster, right?

I can't wait for the next book. It is time for some government reform!

Dr. Raye of Sunshine says

I love Dystopian fiction. It's my current go to. I am definitely not the target audience as this is billed as YA and I am in my mid-30s. I loved this book and how realistic the plot was. You can definitely see how this could really happen.

It's a great book. The first of a trilogy. The characters are well developed and I felt hooked from the first to the last page.

Lindy says

Sterile

3.5 stars. The premise was a good change from what I've read. Thorn is my favorite character. The story just seemed sterile like the environment that was projected. If we are not careful this could be our reality instead of fiction.

Al says

Lately I've had a few discussions about serials, in essence a full work published in installments. Very common in the 19th century in both Britain and the US, novels such as Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers* and Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* were published first in magazines with a new part in each new magazine issue. Although much less common in the last fifty plus years, there are a few examples of modern serials. Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities* was serialized in *Rolling Stone* magazine while Stephen King's *The Green Mile* was published as several very short books. In fact, that's how I read that book, borrowing the full set from my sister after all the episodes had been released. I'd never seen such a thing before and thought it strange. Serials are apparently making a revival (Amazon even has an official Kindle Serials program).

With all the talk about serials, I'm obviously setting up to tell you that *Lush* is a serial. Unlike King's book or the Amazon program, it isn't a novel split into bite-size pieces, but a serial with each installment having its own title and being novel sized. It differs from a series in that each book in a series will go through a complete and obvious story arc. A serial is more like episodic television with conflicts happening and being resolved throughout, but without a single, overriding conflict that happens and is resolved in one installment possibly ending with a cliffhanger so you'll watch the show next week or maybe talk about it around the water cooler. It leaves you with something to anticipate. And that's how I feel about *Lush*. I've been left hanging, eagerly anticipating the next installment.

Lush serves as an introduction to the world and characters in this continuing story. It takes place in the distant future in a dystopian world very different from our own. Dystopias often have squalor and poverty, which isn't true of Concord, the name of the world Baum introduces us to. The standard of living appears to be high, but what makes it a dystopia is the people are oppressed. As in most dystopian fiction, there is a political subtext, extrapolating elements of contemporary society into the future, imagining what the results of continuing in a particular direction might be, and serving as a warning. It was clear to me that the world Baum imagines was the result of excess nanny state-ism with the government or state becoming too involved in the care and life decisions of its citizens. (For political types, wherever you fit on the spectrum from right to left, you should be able to spot examples here that are projecting what Baum thinks will happen if the other guys get their way, but also what will happen if you get yours. Both political parties in the US are guilty of nanny state-ism, just in different areas.) Concord, as painted by Ms Baum, is a great fictional world. But I wouldn't want to live there.

The protagonist, Bluebell, is in her late teens and has the qualities that make a great focal character for a

young adult novel. She's likable and conscientious, yet not too perfect, with flaws and the quality most of us had at one time or sometimes testing the limits placed on her. Even though I don't want to live in Concord, I'm eagerly awaiting the next installment (promised in about six months) to see what happens to Bluebell next. (That cliffhanger left me ... well, hanging, obviously.)

**Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. **

Teya Peck says

I actually read this in the Fractured world's series box set.

This is an interesting book 1 in this particular series. I now understand why as an author you need conflict. You cannot have a perfect book, perfect people, perfect looks etc. IT'S BORING! You're always wondering where the bad is lurking, or where the imperfection is. I almost skipped this book but I wanted, no I NEEDED conflict. Oh, I got, I could not put it down after half to three-quarters of the story. Then the bombshell at the end (which I suspected but not to the degree) and immediately wanted the next. Is it a stand-alone story, NO! It is a series and leaves you wanting the next.

Tati says

[it was good, and well paced (not too fast nor too slo

Charlotte... I love books says

I love this book so much. I was searching YA dystopian free kindle and this one came up. I wasn't sure about the blurb. It gave me the wrong idea. But then I thought, if I don't like it I can delete it. So I got it. It was amazing. I don't want to ruin so I'm going to say Get It I'd you love future dystopian. ??? I'm getting the other one.
