



Decelerate Blue

Adam Rapp , Mike Cavallaro (Illustrator)

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The future waits for no one.

In this new world, speed and efficiency are everything, and the populace zooms along in a perpetually stimulated haze. Angela thinks she's the only person in her family—maybe the only person on the planet—who sees anything wrong with this picture. But the truth is she's not alone.

Angela finds herself recruited into a resistance movement where the key to rebellion is taking things slow. In their secret underground hideout, they create a life unplugged from the rapid-fire culture outside. Can they free the rest of the world before the powers that be shut down their utopian experiment?

From revolutionary and award-winning playwright Adam Rapp and veteran cartoonist and animator Mike Cavallaro comes a dark, breath-taking new vision of an all-too-plausible future for America.

Decelerate Blue Details

Date :

ISBN : 9781442000810

Author : Adam Rapp , Mike Cavallaro (Illustrator)

Format :

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Young Adult, Comics, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Lgbt

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Download and Read Free Online Decelerate Blue Adam Rapp , Mike Cavallaro (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Decelerate Blue for online ebook

Raina says

Future-dystopian world where even speech is regulated. Girl decides to break out. Discovers underground resistance. Things get complicated.

The language here really stood out to me. Rapp is a thoughtful, brainy writer.

Gorgeous illustration work by Mike Cavallaro. I grabbed one of the panels from page 137 for #projectrantattoo. Especially appreciate the lack of umbrellas. :)

More accessible than Rapp's other GN.

Black and white illustrations (although someone missed an opportunity by not making it Blue and White).

Booktalked this at four area high schools in September 2017.

Clarissa says

The premise of this is really interesting. A dystopia where everything, including speech, is rushed and an underground movement looking to slow things down.

It felt really rushed. Maybe that was the point? It would make sense since everything in this world is supposed to be "fast" and "hyper," but I think the characters suffered for it. No one, not even the protagonist, felt well developed.

It had promise though. I think it would have worked better as a series.

David Schaafsma says

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBQxG...>

"Slow down, you move too fast, you gotta make the morning last."—Simon and Garfunkel

Decelerate Blue has some interesting dimensions. It's a sci-fi comics book, a one-volume graphic novel, focused on what is for me a necessity for human survival on the planet, the slow growth movement—slow eating, slow relationships, slow economy, the slow reading of actual good and great books (as opposed to Reader's Digest versions of books, or even some superficial comic book versions of great books). And we all experience this acceleration, this hyper-spatial existence. The idea is to ramp down resource usage, Get Simple. So we can all get behind the idea of this book, I hope.

(I recall a "super" market nearby that decided to change to "hyper" market as a descriptor. Get in, get out, hyper! Zowie! Whew.)

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Decelerate Blue is a YA text, focused on a girl who (for some unnamed reasons) does not want to GO fast and Be Hyper, which is what society wants, what her parents want and want for her. One teacher gives her an influential (but undescribed) fictional book, Kick the Boot, for the resistant underground, a group of oddballs she thereupon joins, who want to have their government-implanted hyper-chips removed, and who want to take this drug that will slow them down, Decelerate Blue. But why the need for a drug? There's a moment when they all take this drug together that is reminiscent of Jim Jones and Jamestown:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonesto...>

which doesn't get addressed at all, really, by which I mean there is this creepy feel of the resistance all taking the drug together at the behest of the leadership without even knowing what effects the drug will have. One effect, besides lower pulse rates, in the black and white book, is that there are sudden variously blue colors in the book, somewhat mellowly psychedelic, meaning that this is real, vibrant life versus the hyper life. I guess. So it's vague, this blueness.

There's also some weird aspects of the resistance: They don't like contractions—slow down, say the whole words, but this seems annoyingly silly as a political point. Another one is also silly, about adverbs; the resistance likes adverbs, they (including Rapp, obviously) would hate Hemingway's and Stephen King's stand against them:

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2013/03...>

<http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-t...>

The guys in the resistance, while going green, don't also seem to be taking a stand to become feminists, making fairly typical comments about girls, eh. . . could we also slow down the sexism, boys?!

Decelerate Blue might have worked better as a series, because it has so much top-heavy background to get through. Rapp is clearly not a comics guy—he's too wordy, he's abstract-idea-heavy, less character-driven here. He's trying to get so much done he might otherwise have done better in a non-graphic-novel, the words overwhelming the panels, usually. Though I do like some of the wordless pages, and the illustration style of Mike Cavallaro:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Rapp dedicated the book to Kurt Vonnegut, whose Harrison Bergeron may have been an inspiration.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1...>

And why not name a real book instead of the fictional Kick the Boot (and what does that even mean? but at least describe it better!) that could be an inspiration to kids and resistance such as this book, or something by Bill McKibben or Rebecca Solnit?! I would read Harrison Bergeron instead of Decelerate Blue, to put it bluntly, though I do appreciate the impulse here to discuss very important topics where young people can make commitments to changing the nature of civilization on this planet.

Reading is my Escape says

A Hyper-fast society...

This story is set in a future society where speed and efficiency are the most important things. Every sentence spoken must be ended with the word go. Adverbs are considered unnecessary and a waste of time. Movies are only 15 minutes long and beds are designed so you can sleep standing up. All citizens have a tracking chip that monitors their movements and speed. As people get older and start to slow down, they are placed in reduction colonies.

The main character, Angela is a typically rebellious teenager. She is tired of everything moving so quickly, and she wants to slow down. One day, she stumbles onto a group of rebels who live underground. Their main goal is to slow down. They avoid contractions and delight in unnecessary adverbs. There Angela meets Gladys, a young girl who helps her acclimate to the underground environment. Angela and Gladys develop a relationship and fall in love. But the rebel group is constantly in danger and fighting against the hyper above-ground world.

This is a graphic novel and uses mostly black & white illustrations. Towards the end, color is used to emphasize strong emotions.

I read this novel for my graphic novel class. The story is ok but lacks strong background. Details are missing that support Angela's actions. We don't really understand why she wants to slow down when everyone around her is worried about being faster. Maybe she was just born different, or maybe it comes from her relationship with her grandfather. We aren't really sure. And the motivations of the rebellion are confusing too. Bottom line: it's hard to be invested in characters without a strong backstory.

I also read this novel for my first Free Read Friday. It has 200 pages, so it is worth \$4.00

William Stanger says

I borrowed this one from the library as I thought it looked fairly interesting and to read towards my Graphic Novel Challenge for this year. Set in a dystopian future (as it seems many of these books are today), where hyper is the key word to everything, it showed quite a bit of promise. Unfortunately it didn't quite live up to its expectations, mainly due to the way that it just seemed to end so abruptly.

The characters live in a world where if you can't keep up with the hyper space of society then you get exiled out of the mainstream. Nobody is able, or even allowed, to slow down and really enjoy or appreciate anything in life, and many people sleep in a standing position. The main character, Angela, seems out of place and out of sync with those around her. She hears rumours of an underground and yearns for a different way of living. I won't give away anything else, but it started to build up and move well, showing lots of promise until near the end where it just seemed to hurry too much to its conclusion. The way it ended leads me to believe that there will be no sequel or follow-up, which is too bad because there just seemed to be so much more that could have been explored or expanded upon.

Erin says

Set in a futuristic America, this YA dystopia reminds me of Kurt Vonnegut's *Harrison Bergeron*. Then again, it is perhaps not a coincidence that the graphic novel is dedicated to Vonnegut. Our main protagonist, Angela, a 15 year old girl, has begun to question the world in which she lives. People are expected to move as fast as possible, to use only contractions, and to not bother with reading books as they were originally written. Most annoyingly, it is a world in which every sentence ends with the word "Go." Like *Matched*'s Cassia, Angela is aided by her grandfather in charting her own course. Angela stumbles upon the "underground" rebels and soon falls in love with Gladys, one of the group's members. Angela is soon sent on a mission which inevitably brings the full wrath of the government on the underground and means major consequences for Angela, her family, and her newfound friends.

Although this story will not be out until February, I just couldn't wait any longer to read and review it. It taunted me every time I looked at my "to read" list. I liked the black and white illustrations. It's a little sad that this isn't a series because I would have liked some parts of the plot to be explained a little bit more than they were. Personally, I felt that the Angela/Gladys relationship unfolded really quickly. But then again there was only 210 pages to tell the story.

Thanks to NetGalley and FirstSecond books for an advanced proof of this book.

August Emmett Boyer says

Oddly enough, the thing that bugs me the most about *Decelerate Blue* is the timing. A lot of the transitions are sudden and makes me feel like my copy is missing several pages. The build-up to the romance is non-existent, especially compared to the time dedicated to several other elements of underground life, which is disappointing. The illustrations are beautiful (although could have done a blue and white instead of black and white) and the premise is fascinating, I just wish there was more time allocated to the queer romance to take this novel a couple of steps away from queerbaiting. (view spoiler)

First Second Books says

In a hyperkinetic future, the ultimate act of rebellion is simply taking a deep breath and slowing down. Angela's taking that breath . . . and it might be her last.

A perfect read for the rebellious mind, romance lovers, and those who want a story filled with a edgy, complex, and poignant dystopian story.

Stacy Fetters says

"Books don't change lives... People change lives... Sometimes, if you're lucky, if you get the thing right, a book can say some important things and that's all fine and good... but a book is just an artifact... a thing that sits on a desk or a shelf... People make the real difference...People and love..."

In our world nowadays, rebellion is always on our minds, on the tip of our tongues and in our hearts. But what happens when enough is enough and it's time to live your life how you see fit?

Imagine a place where you are told what to do, what to eat, what to read and even where to buy your clothes. A place where every sentence ends with go and don't you dare not use contractions.

In a world of sameness, there will always be radicals who push back. Living in the underground world and slowing down the processes while above everyone is speeding up. For Angela, everyday life is hell and she needs an escape. Her teacher and her Grandpa give her one. She joins the rebellion to live a life she wants.

This story was on point in what we are dealing with now. Head master Cheeto is on his way to controlling what we read and think about choices being made that affect us. It was fast paced and a fantastic look at rebellion through art. The thing that slowed it down was the lack of character development. Love bloomed, but where's the full story? Who is Angela really? Where did the Underground come from? How are people chosen to be apart of it? Those are just some of the many questions that I have.

If you're a fan of Kurt Vonnegut, then this is right up your alley. It's really no surprise at all that this book is dedicated to him. Fictionalized Kick the Boot is a story that he would have spread upon this world. When the world bites you, you bite back ever harder.

Go, Guarantee, Go!!

Joshua says

A dystopian future where its all about going fast. Everyone is supposed to use contractions, watch 10 minute "hyper movies", and read condensed versions of old books. Its taboo to slow down and enjoy the small things. Our lead doesn't like the fast pace of the world and falls into an underground of dissenters. It has the bones of an interesting concept, but the characters just didn't feel quite fleshed enough and I wanted more story development. Still a solid read with interesting points on where the world could easily fall.

Ellyn → Allonsythornraxx says

July 2016

I was surprised by how much I enjoyed this. If you're a fan of The Giver or Fahrenheit 451 you should definitely check this out.

I'll post my review closer to the release date.

Michelle says

I received a copy of this book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review...

I love the premise of the book (dystopia where everything is “rushed” and “hyper” and there’s an underground movement to “slow down”), but the storyline seemed rushed and characters were pretty flat. Even the society wasn’t developed very well; there were some things I was confused about for the whole book. I’m not a big graphic novel/comic book reader, but I thought the drawings were pretty good.

Jenna says

A high 2 stars, but rather disappointing in terms of world-building, character development, and plot points. I did enjoy the basic premise of the story and it is something you'd see happening now, although I'd disagree that we're becoming briefer as a society, instead we appear to be oversharing with the smallest, most inconsequential aspects rather than forming or discussing more pertinent ones.

What I disliked was actually a few of the details of the Resistance Movement. Yes, for slowing down and making human connections. No, for the cultish worship of being slow, of forcing everyone to speak in the same, unabbreviated manner (you can still be eloquent without sounding like a robot), and definitely no to their next stage in decelerating(view spoiler).

The romance also was extremely rushed and at first I thought it was actually a hook to keep her in the Resistance. Character development-wise, we barely even got to know our main character before she's thrown into the chaos of resisting. World-building hinted at intriguing concepts but didn't take the time to explain them, leaving us to guess how society ran rather than giving us enough details to feel horribly immersed in their fast-paced society.

Drawing-style was rather simplistic and rough, not to the level of the cover, whose lovely blue-tones gave it so much more emotion and emphasis. I wish there'd been more color used throughout, but the few instances that we did receive a splash or two were strong.

I'd recommend 1984 or Brave New World instead. And we're not too far off from chip implementation, but I'd rather not.

Giteeka says

At first I was just so confused. I didn't know what was going on until a couple more pages in. After that, I couldn't put the book down! It was extremely sad and made me mad at some parts, but isn't that what a good book does? The book was set in the future, and usually, in books set in the future, there are robots every where, and all that stuff, but this book had a different perspective. It showed how people want to be faster, but sometimes, slowing down is the better option.

Emma (Miss Print) says

In the future the world is obsessed with efficiency. Adjectives are a waste of time. Reading needs to be streamlined. Even conversation is utilitarian with "goes" at the end of every sentence.

Angela's parents are on board with everything the Guarantee Committee is selling. Why would they do anything to jeopardize their guarantee and its promise of a better life?

Angela isn't so sure. She wants a chance to slow down. To think. To feel.

After reading a book called *Kick the Boot* Angela realizes she isn't alone. Soon she finds herself at the center of a radical movement determined to slow society down in *Decelerate Blue* (2017) by Adam Rapp, illustrated by Mike Cavallaro.

This standalone graphic novel offers a startling view of a bleak dystopian future where human interaction and contemplation are secondary to speed and efficiency.

Rapp's fascinating and disturbingly possible premise is dampened by a simplistic plot and world building that falls short of building anything. Who are the Guarantee Committee? What exactly is a Guarantee? *Decelerate Blue* is short on answers.

Cavallaro creates some interesting spreads but the impact is often diminished by the comic largely being in black and white. (Blue is a key color to the story which is often lost given the black and white palette.) Although the comic does some clever things with full color panels contrasted with black and white it isn't enough to make the artwork cohesive. A blue and white palette also might have been more effective.

Angela has a romance with another girl during her (brief) time with the underground resistance. But instead of creating an empowering queer relationship readers instead get yet another tragic lesbian death.

Decelerate Blue takes on a lot of things to create an interesting sci-fi dystopian comic but it doesn't always negotiate the form well leading to questions of how the story might have functioned with different artistic choices or even as a novel with a bit more development.

Readers looking for an intriguing piece of flash fiction or a superficial treatment of dystopian themes might find what they're looking for in *Decelerate Blue*.

Possible Pairings: *Feed* by M. T. Anderson, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, *1984* by George Orwell, *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld

A copy of this title was provided by the publisher for review consideration

You can find this review and more on my blog Miss Print
