



# The Rebel Trap

*Lance Erlick*

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## **The Rebel Trap** Lance Erlick

Federal union hunts boys ... boy begs for Annabelle's help ... Annabelle has audio implants, contact cameras, and no privacy ... helping could destroy her family.

"This book is a great stand-alone ... plenty of plot twists to keep your attention." – Bri Masters

Helping a boy escape may not have been Annabelle Scott's smartest move. Her military commander assigns her an undercover mission to spy on local police and gives her audio implants and contact cameras to hear and watch everything she does.

Perfect for fans of the Hunger Games, Divergent, and Maze Runner. The Rebel Trap is the second book in a science fiction thriller series in which a young woman is drafted into the elite military to enforce laws she believes are wrong.

A second American Civil War ended in a shaky stalemate with the country divided into the "civilized" Federal Union and the warlord-controlled Outland. Annabelle lost her biological parents to the conflict when she was little and was adopted by a member of the Union's political opposition. The loss of her parents and her adoptive mom's opposition leads Annabelle to be rebellious in a society where conformity is everything and disobedience is punished.

Drafted into the elite military to capture escaped boys, she stayed true to her conscience by helping Morgan to escape, but there are consequences. He hacks her implants to plead for her help to rescue his brother from a heavily guarded geek institute. Suspected of helping Morgan and with her mom in the opposition, Annabelle risks getting the boy and his brother killed, her mom framed for treason, and her and her sister imprisoned, killed, or sent to the Outland as slaves.

Unable to get either her commander or Morgan out of her head, Annabelle can't confide in anyone, which tears at her bond to her sister and mom. As a pawn in a bigger game, who and what can Annabelle trust, including whether her mission is the commander's vendetta? Can she find a way to help Morgan and discover the link between an attempted assassination of her mom, the geek institute, and her corrupt police captain without leading Morgan into a trap or destroying herself and her family?

## **The Rebel Trap Details**

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Author : Lance Erlick

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# From Reader Review The Rebel Trap for online ebook

## R.C. Bean says

I was provided with a digital copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This book is part of the Rebel series. I had not read the prequels to this book and hence was apprehensive about being able to follow the story and the characters. But The Rebel Trap proved to be a lovely read, and there is more than enough foundation information to get readers acquainted with the set-up.

The story revolves around 16-year-old Annabelle Scott, who is caught in a completely dystopian world - one where the world is ruled by a kind of a military regime. In fact, this is a world where the men have been rendered obsolete and the remnant boys are castrated off from where the girls live. Annabelle needs to carry out commands and orders from her military commander, much to her chagrin, as do the other girls. Things take a turn when Morgan, whom Annabelle has feelings for, manages to disrupt her auditory signalling device and communicates with her, to explain his situation. Annabelle has a choice of now being obedient and following the orders of her world, or help Morgan. What she chooses, is what the book talks about.

The pace of the book is an absolute plus - with no point where it slackens, the tale moves briskly and smoothly, completely keeping the readers' attention engaged. The internal turmoil in Annabelle is portrayed well - she is torn between doing what is right, and doing what she has been assigned to. Although it's targeted at young adults, the book is thought-provoking, making one think about where humanity is really headed - where does one begin to wage a gory war with ethics? I would highly recommend this book to lovers of young-adult fantasies and dystopian stories.

My rating for this book: 5 stars

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## Moniqua Sexton says

Living in a world where us women are trained to fight men and have to kill them because they are meant to be extinct, is not a world I want to live in, which is why I'm glad this is only a book. Although, I found it weird to have been written by a man lol.

This book had me laughing and angry at the same time. The main character, Bella, is more than just rebellious; she has feelings. She purposely lost a fight against a boy, Morgan, because she didn't have the heart to kill him. Instead, she helped him to escape along with the help of her Mom. Ever since she was snatched from the arms of her birth mother and she never met her father, she has been a strong person, even in the hardest of times.

Sam, who I honestly do not like, at all, was always in her head, in the literal sense. Bella had a chip in her head and contact lenses that Sam could see what she could. Not only that, Morgan tapped into her chip as well. He wanted her to help him get his brother out of "prison" before he was killed.

Bella worked for Sam and the police department for two witches (replace the 'w' with a 'b') who did not like her. In fact, they more than just didn't like her. They wanted her dead. Until then, they tried to use her to spy

on Sam while Sam used her to spy on them.

In the midst of all of this, Bella was torn because she couldn't tell her baby sister, Janice, what she was doing. Sam saw and heard everything she did. Not only that, Sam was controlling Janice as well. I loved their communication style, drawing with their fingers on each other. Their relationship reminds me of the relationship I have with my cousin. We are so close and tell each other everything, no secrets allowed.

In the end, I was happy with how the story ended. I will be going back to read the first in the series and then the last in the series. Morgan and his brother got out, despite Bella almost being sent back to prison and then exiled. Her sister coming on board to help her despite the laws that are to prevent them from doing that shows a lot of courage and a lot of trust.

I highly recommend this book and I commend Lance Erlick on writing this book from a female perspective, killing off his own kind. Well done

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### **Carrie Slager says**

[Full disclosure: I received a free ebook in conjunction with the blog tour in exchange for an honest review.]

The Rebel Trap is the sequel to The Rebel Within but is actually the third in chronological order in Lance Erlick's rebel series. (Although within the book universe it's actually book #2.) Thankfully for me, you don't have to read the first installment about Annabelle to understand this book. It seems that the whole series is quite self-contained so that you can start at the end like I did or start at the beginning.

What I really liked about the book was the characters. Of course your impressions of many of them are biased because you're seeing them largely through Annabelle, but I like how Lance Erlick gave us insights into people around the main character, including her sister Janine and her adoptive mother. But of course Annabelle was my favourite character. She's tough and determined to succeed in life but there's a slight hitch when she gets auditory implants and contacts that allow her commander to see and hear everything she does for a mission. There's a lack of privacy and then there's having your boss see and hear everything you do.

Still, she finds a rather interesting way around it as Morgan constantly hounds her to help him rescue his little brother. And that really showcases the complexity of Annabelle: she wants to help Morgan's little brother because she knows imprisoning young boys and men for their gender is wrong but at the same time she needs to root out the corruption taking hold in her society. Did I mention that she's also caught in a little power war between the commander of the Mech Corps and the commander of the police? Like all teenagers, Annabelle does angst a fair bit, but unlike some her angst is completely deserved at this point so it's not actually annoying for the reader.

The only thing I didn't really like about this book was the repetitiveness of the plot. It seemed to follow a pattern: Sam would tell Annabelle not to do something, she'd do it, Sam would be happy because she discovered new evidence against Commander Voss and Scarlatti. This was sort of understandable the first few times because Annabelle was figuring things out and really blundering through the whole 'subtle' part of the missions, but it got kind of annoying after the fourth or fifth time. Unfortunately, this constant repetition made the plot kind of predictable. I knew how it was going to end and I saw pretty much all of the twists and turns because of course everything Annabelle tries to do as an intern cop is made to trip her up.

Still, despite my dislike of the whole repetitiveness of the thing, the plot was at least reasonably fast-paced. It was slow enough for Lance Erlick to develop his characters properly but not so slow as to bog the reader down. Not all of the characters' motivations are clear in the beginning (although you can probably guess if you try hard enough) so it does keep Annabelle and the readers on their toes until about the middle of the novel where the motives become clearer.

The characters really are the strength of The Rebel Trap, though, so even if the plot was totally awful (which it really isn't) I would definitely recommend this book. They're ambiguous enough to be real but not so ambiguous that you feel like their actions come from nowhere. It's a delicate balance and Lance Erlick does it well. So if you're into dystopias with flipped societies (women are superior in this one as opposed to men), then I would recommend The Rebel Trap to you.

I give this book 3.5/5 stars, rounded up to 4 stars for Goodreads rating purposes.

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### **Jessica Buike says**

What I loved about this book - I loved the strong female lead, and the cast of characters was interesting. There is a good pace to the novel, with a compelling storyline.

What I didn't love - Somehow I ended up reading this book without having read the first book in the series, which slowed me down a little! I received the book from the author but must not have checked to see if I needed to read another book before this one.

Overall, great read and I need to see about reading the first one eventually! ;)

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### **Terri M. says**

The Rebel Series by Lance Erlick is a curious examination of society after the Second World War which divides men and women into separate communities. Each with their own government, religion, morals and values.

#### **What I Liked Most About the Series**

The grey area. There are some obvious plus sides to a society made up of a single sex. And there are some obvious down sides. Erlick, through the characters, presents many of these views, but doesn't push the reader in either direction.

Annabelle. She fits right up there with Katniss and Tris, but Erlick takes her a bit further than Collins took Katniss and Roth took Tris. There's a complexity to Annabelle as she discovers the dark side of an all female society and starts to actively fight against it. She's stronger, in my opinion, physically and mentally. The obstacles that break her down do not paralyze her or scare her. You can feel her fighting every inch of the way.

#### **What I Liked Least About the Series**

The order of the books. If you read them in publication order, I am almost certain you will be confused because I certainly was! Annabelle is given a mission at the end of book one which is not mentioned in Rebels Divided. The Rebel Trap explores that mission. Now that all three books have been released, I hope

that GoodReads will change the series order.

The many voices in *The Rebel Trap*. While there was good formatting to show you the different voices speaking to Annabelle, it got frustrating to follow what was going on. With so many competing voices—both internal and external—I wasn't sure which side I should be rooting for.

Overall, I would give *The Rebel* series by Lance Erlick a thumbs up. The unique single sex societies along with a strong female lead drove the story forward. If the books are read in chronological order (*The Rebel Within*, *The Rebel Trap* and *Rebels Divided*) I believe the reader will find the series reaches a satisfying conclusion.

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## **Dani says**

*The Rebel Trap* by Lance Erlick follows a young girl by the name of Belle who has been thrown out the Mech Warrior institute because of not killing a young man she met on the battle arena. The story is set in a futuristic world where men have been outcasted and only women remain. Some men have been captured and are either imprisoned or used by the Mech Warrior institute for practice in how to kill. We are thrown in the middle of the action, where Belle has been kicked out of the Mech Warrior institute, if only for a second. Secretly, the leader of the institute wants her to stay and spy on the police force, as they fear it may be corrupt. Meanwhile, Morgan, the boy she saved, has escaped with other imprisoned boys and somehow is able to talk to Belle through a device in her brain. Along with this, Belle's sister has been secretly recruited to the Mech Warriors as well. There are many twists and turns through this story and it always keeps you on your toes.

I found the characters to be quite dynamic, Belle being strong, yet still acting her age, he being only 16, which gave her a sense of realness. I wanted to know more about Morgan, but I think that more was explained in the first book, which I have yet to read. Belle reminded me a bit like Katniss, in that she was a strong warrior but sees the corruption of the world.

But also you know there is something going on, and the world is full of secrets...

There are a lot of secrets going on throughout the book, which left you wanting more when ending a chapter. I couldn't put the book down and read it in only a few sittings. I loved how Lance Erlick was able to weave so much together, yet execute it in a way that made sense. The only problems I had were that I didn't understand why the men had been exiled and I also didn't like how he had a change in point of view since Belle was in first person, and in other chapters it was another person in third person. To me, that distracts from the flow, but it could just be a personal thing and I got used to it after a few chapters.

So if you like military science fiction, young adult science fiction, strong girl characters, or a complex plot and secrecy, this is definitely the book for you. It is a lot like *Hunger Games* meets *Aeon Flux*, so if you enjoyed either of those movies, you will enjoy this series! I give it 4.5/5!

Original review posted on A Bibliophile's Reverie

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## **Katie Robinson says**

The Rebel Trap is a part of a series. I did not read the book before this but I felt like it wasn't completely necessary to do so. I, however will go back and read the first, there are some questions I had about the characters past that I am hoping will be answered in the first book.

The author did a wonderful job of creating a true story. He did not jump from action scene to another he took the time to introduce you to the characters and develop a story line.

The book is appropriate for mature teenagers, the language is very mild, no sexual scenes, and the violence level is a little high, but kids have probably seen worse on tv.

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## **Bri says**

**What I Liked:** This book picks up right where book one left off, with Annabelle having her special and secret assignment to infiltrate the cops she interned with to take down the police captain. We meet a new character, Seth, and Morgan makes a return from the first book. They're not really there but they do have a presence that makes you wonder about them. Annabelle faces many complications with having her loyalty torn between the mechs and her family throughout the book, facing the decision to follow her orders from Sam or help her mother.

**What I didn't liked:** We still have those inconsistencies with the writing going from great to "what?" on occasion, though everything is done better. I don't want to complain about the plot because it would give stuff away, but some of the characters actions just, I don't know their actions didn't sit right with me. Even Annabelle's actions were questionable about being believable to her character sometimes for me.

**Overall Review:** There's still inconsistencies in this book, but it's more polished in its own way than the other books have been. The book brought in more mystery aspects than the other books but it didn't really have that big of a presence and didn't have a big impact. I loved watching Annabelle grow even more in this book. The characters are more developed than they were from book one, but everything was done to show their progression in its own way. I loved it!

**Recommend?:** Definitely! It solves the mystery of what happened after book one and gives insight on some degree why she is the way she is in the second book.

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## **Naturalbri (Bri Wignall) says**

What I Thought:

I once saw a film where women had taken over the world and men were used as fodder, for many things. This book makes that film look ridiculous. It takes dystopian, women-based worlds to a new level.



After the first book ended with one of our major characters winning in the arena, but shunning the thought of killing a man, Morgan, we find ourselves thrust into book two, with so much excitement and emotion sweltering to the surface.

We watch as a selection of females show us what the 'peace' in this female-driven world is really like. Secret upon secret, slathered in a sauce of secrets seems to be what these girls eat. Everywhere we turn, people are watched, monitored and kept in order. Everyone has their own agenda, which has often been set in place by someone above them benefiting from the success or failure of their agenda. Even thoughts are sacred, as we see Morgan (and a few others) hack into the minds of our readers.

With nothing private and everything at stake, we follow along as this supposedly peaceful, oestrogen driven world starts to crumble. From love to hate, and every emotion in between, we find ourselves choosing sides, as readers, and often wondering if we are following the right side.

I found myself drawn to the pages, often fighting for the side I thought best, chapter after chapter. I loved every minute of this read. IT was written very well, provided a great deal of action (though not all the action was physical, as most of the characters were battling mental and emotional wars as well). I was left hanging after each page, itching for more and this was only compounded as I turned the final page. I have been left wondering, desperate to read *Rebels Divided* and find out how the story pans out.

I highly recommend this read if you are into Dystopian reads that give you more than just a physical war, but play on your emotions and toy with your thoughts.

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## **Matt Ely says**

original review @ JC's Book Haven.

I won. I lost. I'm out. I'm in. I cannot tell a soul. It was enough to spin my head, to make me wish I was back in that zoo of a high school I just left.

### **The Good**

So imagine my surprise when I go to write the review only to find out this wasn't the first book in the series. Needless to say this book works well all on its own. There were a few parts that had me looking for a bit of back story but not to the point where I thought there was another book or two. I for one love mechs and power armor. The whole female society where males live in the outlands and are arrested for being male was a fun twist. Annabelle is a heroine you can root for and sympathize for. She can kick some major butt yet at the same time is pretty vulnerable.

### **The Bad**

I kind of wish there was more action involving the mechs. I went in with an expectation to see more of them in the series but they were more window dressing than anything else.

### **The Romance**

Forbidden attractions. Can our heroine like a boy when they are against the rules? Particularly when she's only met one and that was during a battle to the death.

## Conclusion

Honestly I enjoyed it thinking it was the first book in a series. Now I need to go read the earlier book and see what I missed. I'm excited to see where this series will lead and so far I'm happy 2 books in (book 2 is normally my make or break book in a series.) So needless to say I recommend this to any one that enjoys a strong but vulnerable heroine protagonist.

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## Marina Fontaine says

The Rebel Trap is a fairly self-contained sequel to The Rebel Within, and although the author does a good job catching up the reader on basic information necessary to understand the world and the characters, I still recommend starting the first book in the series. That having been said, I actually enjoyed this book more as it is faster paced and goes deeper into character development at the same time.

The main premise of the story is the world where men have been rendered obsolete due to scientific advances that made it possible for two women to have children. Contrary to popular assumptions, this world is neither less violent nor necessarily kinder to women as human nature inevitably remains the same. Most of the action is narrated by 16 year old Annabelle, who displays a perfect balance of vulnerability and strength, with an added layer of very typical teen angst that adds realism to the fantastic setup. Her internal conflict- following orders versus doing what is right as well as choosing between personal needs and safety of the loved ones- is far from groundbreaking, but the author does an excellent job in both pacing and characterization to keep our interest throughout. Every player - heroes, villains and those in between- is a complete, memorable person with realistic, if not immediately clear, motivations. The characters of Morgan and Seth are especially impressive, considering they spend so little time "on-screen." Somehow they manage to get not just into Annabelle's head, but the reader's as well, making us care about their fate while still knowing very little about them.

As modern YA offerings go, The Rebel Trap is fairly light on both romance and violence (although as a mother of two teen boys I found some scenes pretty hard to read, which of course is part of the point). It is definitely a thinking person's story, raising questions on everything from gender identity to medical ethics to limits of government power in humanity's quest for safety and perfection. This is a good book to read with your teen, but has enough solid action scenes and interesting characters to be an enjoyable read for any adult fans of thriller/dystopia genre.

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## Mary Bearden says

If you are like me and love reading YA Fantasy or Dystopian books, then you will love this story! It is a series of books and while I didn't get to read the first book, I was still able to understand a good bit of the story. But, if you can, I would get the first book because I think it goes into detail what happened and how this comes to be a female society that evidently uses males.

In this book, Belle is being punished for not killing a boy whom she was in a game of some sort in front of a lot of other females and these are fight to the death battles. Not sure what happened since I didn't read the first book to know why this society came about, but boy, it sure is intense!

Read how Belle is different from the other girls who are out for blood and how she wants to help the boys

escape this awful life to a place called the Outlands which is where they can get freedom and be safe.

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## **Fran says**

### The Rebel Trap: Lance Erlick

In a world where teenagers are concerned about socializing, dating and going to parties what would happen if all of that were taken away? What would happen if you were conscripted into some type of military service regardless of your preference or desire to do something else with your life? Boys are considered dangerous and therefore exiled to different parts of the world and if caught within the parameters of where the girls live, they are arrested or worse. Welcome to Harmony where everyone is anything but harmonious and where greed, power, control and revenge seem to be the main agendas.

Annabelle Scott, aged sixteen, has been washed out of the Mech program because she failed to kill her opponent in the arena. Strength, power and fear reign as Annabelle makes a decision that would change her life and the way so many others think about her. Did she purposely defy orders or did she see something in her opponent that warranted making her spare his life? But, she would be shunned, ridiculed and cast aside and thrown back into the police program under the control of a Captain thought to be corrupt and a Lieutenant out to make her life a living misery.

Samantha Hernandez is the commander of the Mechs and she and Annabelle have a rare and special connection. Annabelle has brain implants that allow others to speak to her, cast their thoughts, control her movements and even monitor her every word. Even more they are able to tell where she is at any moment and unless she manages to jam the connection she cannot avoid detection. Added in she is made to wear special contact lenses which allow not only her but others to see what she writes, send images to her lenses and orders when a mission needs to be completed.

Janine Scott is her sister but only in name not in blood. Senator Scott adopted Annabelle and Janine is her daughter. Although close and never wanting to be too far away from each other what happens within this novel just might alienate them forever.

The Underground Railroad was responsible for helping boys escape to freedom and Annabelle's adopted mother, Cora Scott, was a key player. But, things spiral out of control when she is questioned. Annabelle is forced to play two sides of the fence and with not only Samantha in her head, she now has the opponent she let live in the arena, too. Captain Voss and Lieutenant Scarlatti are her new bosses and they will go out of their way to torture Annabelle. But, her goal is to find out just what these two are up to, what corrupt businesses they are running and why and how they find out before anyone else that boys are escaping from the many places that are supposed to be so secure. Oak Ridge Institute: Just what are they doing to the boys and why is Morgan, the boy who Annabelle saved, asking her to help his brother Seth escape.

Torn between loyalties to her family, her younger sister Janine seems to think that there is something Annabelle is hiding. The two become estranged. Commander Samantha Hernandez seems to be playing many different sides and at times the reader might think she purposely endangers Annabelle's life. Withholding information, records, files and not allowing her to interrogate the police or certain officials,

Annabelle has to work long and hard and as Sam says, dig deeper in order to find the answers she needs to save not only the boys but bring down Voss and Scarlatti, but anyone else involved.

Throughout the novel Annabelle is tested not only physically, but mentally too. Placed in difficult situations she is forced to choose between her family and her mission. Close to the border, special coating on shields so that no one will be able to see her, vehicles that can spot her if she is not careful, disgraced but only in name only not in reality, Annabelle has to use every ounce of her intelligence and strength to not only see the mission through and bring down Voss and anyone else that is working with her, but uncover exactly what they are doing.

When the Governor calls for the police to come to her home due to a disturbance somehow Annabelle is called in. She finds a dead boy on the floor in the Governor's mansion. Just how he came to be there and why brutal force was necessary you just won't believe. But, the cleanup occurs and we meet more players. The Institute's Director Margaret Devotte had her own agenda in mind. The goal of the boys is to get to the Outlands but with so many involved and guards on alert and Voss in the know, how could they even think to escape. Each time Voss captures more boys it makes her look ready for a serious promotion that would lead to a better position and more money. But, there is much more as what is revealed and done to the boys that are captured will make you wonder if they have brought back the asylums of the early 18 and 1900's. But, there is a Mole that wants to not only help Voss but also bring down Annabelle. The mole will make you wonder just whose side anyone is on and what exactly Morgan expects of Annabelle each time he invades her brain and thoughts. What Morgan and Seth have planned you will have to learn as you experience it yourself. Whether they succeed you have to decide. Oak Ridge Institute for Quantum Informaties is not what you might think.

With Annabelle trying to win the good graces of Scarlatti and Voss, Samantha hammering away in her mind and her contacts, Annabelle is often confused, torn and placed in situations that a 16 year old should not have to deal with. Lies, deceptions, betrayals and loyalties are tested as Annabelle and Janine face some difficult choices.

The Underground Railroad: Can they be stopped? What happens when things come to a head and Janine wants to know why Annabelle reacts the way she does? Will she give up her sister? What is the real mission and why are the sisters caught in the crossfire? Antonia Rossi, Dara, Lieutenant Scandia and the Director, just who can be trusted? A facility that is a biogenetics lab. What their real purpose is you will have to learn for yourself as author Lance Erlick takes you inside the minds of some very dangerous people that claim what they are doing is for the betterment of everyone but in order to succeed they need to complete their experiments on some innocent boys? Just how will the world fair without men? Just how will children come into this world?

Leaders want an all-female healthy society but how will that be achieved? Loyalties, friendships, family ties, visions, career, moral and ethical issues are brought to light as once again author Lance Erlick provides a story line that will give both teens, young adults and adults much pause for thought and discussion. What would you do if you were Annabelle? What about her relationship with Janine? What is next for the sisters and will they survive the final outcome? The Rebel Trap: Who gets snared?

Fran Lewis: Reviewer

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## Brian Wilkerson says

Lance Erlick asked me to read his novel "Rebel Trap". It is a Twenty Minutes Into The Future style dystopia story. It's basically a teenage girl from one division of her country's police department going under cover to investigate corruption in the other division. I will examine Plot, Character and Polish and then assign a grade.

Terms in All Caps are tropes, and their definitions can be found on Tvtropes.

### PLOT

I thought this book was a stand alone and that the first book "Rebel Within" concerned a different cast; same setting but different people. For this reason, I thought the start was In Media Res. It is not but it is constructed well enough, and enough information from the first book is provided in an unobtrusive form, that I thought so until I looked at the premise for book 1 on Amazon. Kudos to Mr. Erlick for that.

What we have here is a cop intern named Annabelle who is investigating the local police force on behalf of the leader of the mech corps, which are basically an elite police/border guard outfit. At the same time, she is kinda-sorta helping an Underground Railroad organization smuggle boys out of the country so they won't be killed for sport or experimented on. She's also looking into an assassination attempt on her mother, a senator who opposes such blood sport legislatively and whom both her bosses would love to pin like a roach. Yes, it's pulled in a lot of different directions.

TvTropes would call this the "stale beer" approach to espionage. It is dirty, not glamorous; stressful, not exciting; so classified that Annabelle has trouble doing any kind of spying because she can't talk to anyone about it nor can she hack databases for fear of being tracked. I got the sense that her secret boss was sticking her out like a candy bar so when her public boss grabs for it, the secret boss can cut her hand off.

### SETTING

This is a special section because it is big enough to warrant its own space.

It is hard to take this setting seriously due to the drastic changes made from what is America in reality and what is in this fictional history. Don't give me "But it's not drastic! Stuff like this is already happening!!!" I don't want to hear it. This is absurd, both in terms of the scale of politics, the fundamental change in society, and the sophistication of technology given the scant time from the date it was written.

I don't see the point of including separate gender society with the police state dystopia. It sounds like the stories the ancient Greeks told about the amazons; warrior women who oppressed the men in their society. The general message was "we oppress them so they don't oppress us."

My other thought is that the point is to counter the belief that a matriarchy would make for a kinder and gentler world. In that case, Mr. Erlick's thoughts on the subject are that women are just as capable of corruption, oppression etc. as men.

There's so much backstory and world building that I'm missing that I wonder why Mr. Erlick asked me to

read the second book in the series before the first. Judging from the premise of the first book, it ends in a cliffhanger because this second book starts in such a way that the first can not have had a clean ending. Then judging from this, I suspect that Mr. Erlick knew that I didn't like cliffhangers. If this is the case, it is appreciated.

The ending is satisfying. It closes the book's conflict in a satisfactory manner but the series' conflict is still open and being developed.

## CHARACTERS

Annabelle has a lot of personal angst and is given to voicing it frequently. Because of the first person narration, the reader will hear all of it. Also, while she regularly speaks of how awful her society is, from the stuff that's banned for some reason to the corrupt officials who do the stuff anyway and pay the police to ignore them, her tone is disinterested apathy. It's like she's annoyed by it instead of a more heroic outrage.

Janine is Annabelle's younger sister and is also in the mech corps. I found her preferable to her sister because she doesn't angst as much as Annabelle, and when she does, she takes action on it. While her sister has this grumpy fake politeness, Janine can more convincingly play the part. She compares it to pastel wallpaper; something everyone sees but no one truly notices, or acknowledges.

The immediate villains are here a couple of police officers who act petty and nasty due to personal grudges they've held for far too long. There's a more visionary and far reaching Evil Plan but the reader will not hear of it or its main actor for over one hundred pages.

Annabelle's mech boss is a Stern Teacher who is fond of the Secret Test of Character. She also strikes me as the kind of person to say We Have Reserves.

## POLISH

It looks good. No errors.

Trickster Eric Novels gives The Rebel Trap a C

This has been a free review request. I received nothing in exchange except a free copy of the book.

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## Victoria Brinius says

This book was a great dystopian novel. What would happen if men were not needed to reproduce? Where would that leave the women and the males? That is what this author created in his book. It was also interesting that the sixteen year old girls were the "soldiers" carrying out commands or following her heart? She knows that she should help Morgan, but she also has feelings for him. The author does a great job of letting the reader "hear" Annabelle's inner voices, and her conflicts. This was an interesting read and I would like to read the whole series. The ending was good, and left room for future books. I am giving this author a 4/5. I was given a copy to review, however all opinions are my own. - See more at: <http://dealsharingaunt.blogspot.com/2...>

