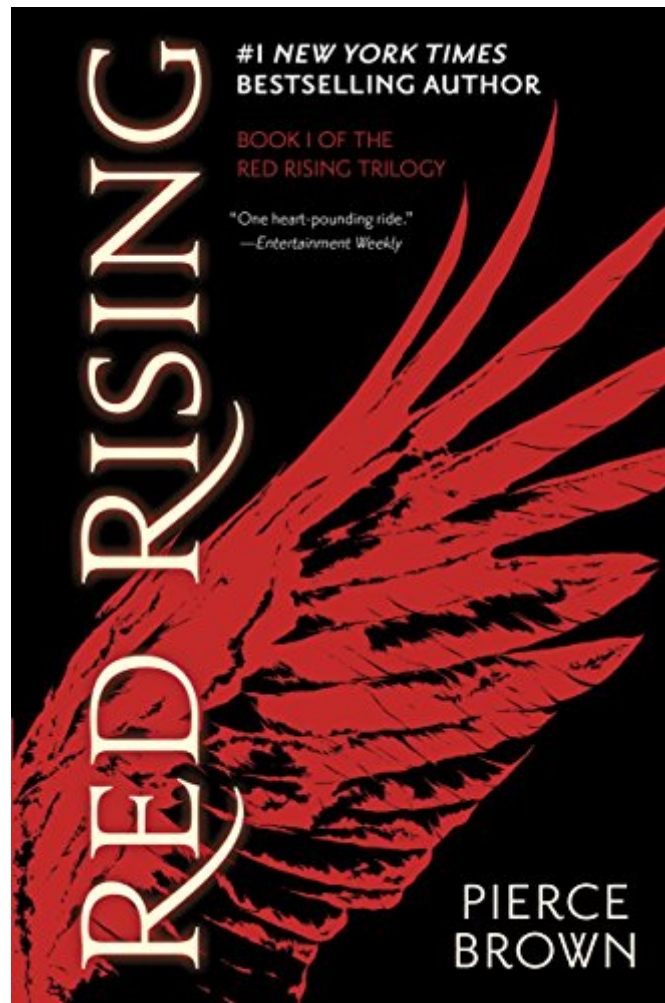


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Red Rising (The Red Rising Trilogy, Book 1)



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, BUZZFEED, AND SHELF AWARENESS • Ender, Katniss, and now Darrow. • "Scott Sigler • Pierce Brown's relentlessly entertaining debut channels the excitement of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. • "I live for the dream that my children will be born free," she says. • "That they will be what they like. That they will own the land their father gave them." • "I live for you," I say sadly. • Eo kisses my cheek. • "Then you must live for more." • Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children. • But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Soon he discovers that humanity reached the surface generations ago. Vast cities and lush wilds spread across the planet. Darrow • and Reds like him • are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class. • Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity's overlords struggle for power. • He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society's ruling class. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Pierce Brown's *Golden Son*. Praise for *Red Rising* • "A spectacular adventure . . . one heart-pounding ride . . . Pierce Brown's dizzyingly good debut novel evokes *The Hunger Games*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Ender's Game*. . . [Red Rising] has everything it needs to become meteoric." • "Entertainment Weekly" • "A top-notch debut novel . . . *Red Rising* ascends above a crowded dystopian field." • "USA Today" • "Red Rising is a sophisticated vision. . . Brown will find a devoted audience." • "Richmond Times-Dispatch" • "A story of vengeance, warfare and the quest for power . . . reminiscent of *The Hunger Games* and *Game of Thrones*." • "Kirkus Reviews" • "Fast-paced, gripping, well-written" • "the sort of book you cannot put down. I am already on the lookout for the next one." • "Terry Brooks, New York Times bestselling author of *The Sword of Shannara*" • "Pierce Brown has done an astounding job at delivering a powerful piece of literature that will definitely make a mark in the minds of readers." • "The Huffington Post" • "Compulsively readable and exceedingly entertaining . . . a must for both fans of classic sci-fi and fervent followers of new school dystopian epics." • "Examiner.com" • "A great debut . . . The author gathers a spread of

elements together in much the same way George R. R. Martin does.â •â "Tor.com

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Customer Reviews

If you took a little Lord of the Flies, a little Hunger Games, and a little Hogwarts Academy, then mixed it up with some Roman history and set it hundreds of years in the future you might come up with this book. With all the "borrowed" elements one might think it would feel a little "been there, read that" but that would be wrong. It took a little while at the beginning for me to get into the story, but once it kicked into gear, I could barely put it down. The story is set on the planet Mars in a caste-driven society where your entire role in life is determined by the caste (denominated by color) into which you are born. Children are often genetically (or otherwise) modified to suit their caste status and be easily identifiable by color. The Reds are at the bottom, slaves forced to live and mine deep beneath the surface for a necessary substance. They live short lives of hardship and oppression (certain songs and dances carry a death sentence), but are unaware of the lies they've been told. Darrow is a young Red miner, married to Eo until she is killed by the government for a small act of rebellion. Then everything in his life changes and the story really starts when Darrow is recruited by a revolutionary group to infiltrate the ruling Gold society. The first step is to be accepted

at the Institute where the elite Gold young people are trained for leadership. I don't want to give away any more of the story because it is so much better to read it without knowing what is going to happen next. I have to warn you that there is a lot of violence in the book. The level of brutality makes it often hard to remember that most of the characters are only teens/young adults.

Just the other day, I was telling my daughter that I don't like trilogies, but they seem to find me. Red Rising found me. A debut novel and the first book in a trilogy, Red Rising by Pierce Brown is a science fiction dystopian novel set on terraformed Mars. Dystopian novels abound and some people are getting tired of them, but I love them. Brown's book has been compared to Hunger Games, The Lord of the Flies, and Ender's Game. I agree with the comparisons. As you might have guessed, the novel isn't wildly unique—it borrows from everywhere, including Roman mythology. However, I did enjoy the book and put aside another book I was having trouble finishing to read it. The borrowing doesn't bother me; after all, Shakespeare borrowed extensively. It's also been called dazzling, which I don't agree with. The book is violent, brutal, graphic, and needs a shot of feminist sensibility. It also reflects our world in disturbing ways while reflecting on the complexity of individuals within society. Brief Summary: Mars is divided into classes with color designations: Golds are the rich, powerful rulers, above everyone, and Reds are the lowest dregs in this cast system, lower than the Grays, Coppers, and Pinks. Darrow, the sixteen-year-old protagonist, is a red "Helldiver," living underground. He discovers Reds have been lied to and that Mars is inhabitable and has been for generations. After his wife is killed by a Gold, he joins a group of revolutionaries and is transformed, like Pygmalion/My Fair Lady, into a Gold. He infiltrates a prestigious school for the elite. His goal is to take down the unequal society and overthrow the Golds. Review: Okay for some honesty, I have a love/hate relationship with this book.

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