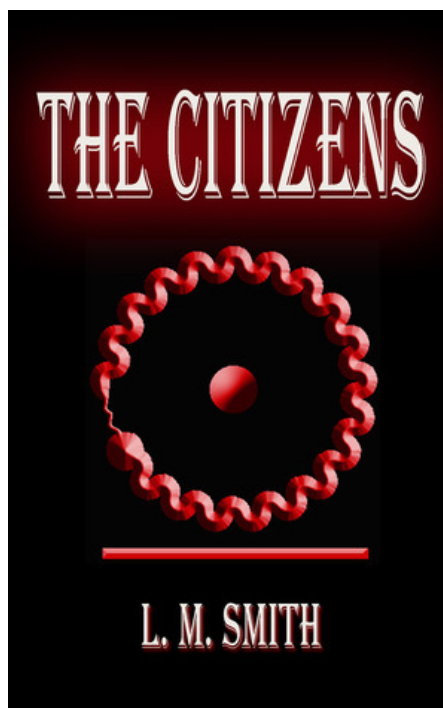




## The Citizens

*L.M. Smith*

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# The Citizens

*L.M. Smith*

## **The Citizens** L.M. Smith

Imagine a town where you can stay out as late as you want, wake up when it suits you, you never have to go to work, and everything is free for the taking. Sounds perfect right? But what if you can't remember where you are or how you got there? What if you can't ever leave? And what if the only other people around are hostages, just like you? Would you still want to stay?

Jasmine Marshall certainly didn't think so until she met Justin Beck; a dashing active-duty member of the United States Army and fellow hostage. With him around life in Kolob might not be so bad after all ... or so she thought. There are vampires and psychics at the breakfast table! Disturbing acts of torture and senseless violence are commonplace. Biochemical warfare is a very real threat, and the town's mayor is an elusive mad-scientist obsessed with his own theories about December 21, 2012!

In a place where one has everything to gain and nothing to lose, one thing reigns true: nothing in Kolob is ever as it seems.

## **The Citizens Details**

Date : Published March 20th 2012

ISBN :

Author : L.M. Smith

Format : Kindle Edition 432 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Science Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Citizens for online ebook

### Christina M Condry says

This book had so many twists and turns that I'm not sure where to begin. What I can say is that the story is leaving me wanting more. After all that the 5 went through it isn't finished as the book ends. The character development over the course of the book and how they changed during the story is amazing. The way they interacted and depended upon each other and found that they were stronger as a group than they were as individuals is a fabulous lesson. I highly recommend this book to everyone, young and old alike.

I don't want to put spoilers on here but suffice it to say that EVERYTHING is NOT what it seems. And NOTHING is what you EXPECT.

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### Maryann says

This story is amazing! I was drawn in from the beginning and had to keep reading, I couldn't figure out where the plot was going but wanted to know all the answers.

5 strangers end up "citizens" of Kolob, a secluded deserted town with a sinister and evil Mayor. The citizens are at the mercy of their captor and keep looking for ways to escape. They become friendly with one another, but can they trust each other? Will they turn against each other or find a way out together? Can they even get out?

After some time of living in this town, they start noticing changes about themselves, some are physical, some are emotional, some are mental. Why is this happening? Why are they there?

The characters are well developed, each one is believable and you can relate to them, and feel for what they are going through. The plot is great! I can't wait for book 2! 5 stars!

I received a copy from the author for an honest review.

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### Miseh01 says

ALright, I had to go and give my mum the money back, cause I used her kindle to buy this.

I'm at about 30% and don't think I can finish this. How dare you people push this garbage with good reviews and make others believe it's worth reading.

You know what? I tried to write too. It sucked balls and that's ok. At least I was honest enough to admit it to myself and moved on to something else.

I don't even know where to start. Apparently none of you noticed the pile of logical mistakes, the typos or just the horrible writing.

The beginning wasn't too bad. The writing was poor but I didn't want to stab my eyes out. The bad part started as soon as she gets taken and wakes up in the hotel room. There was no mention she even drank alcohol at all. And she lives by herself so.... anyways, she wakes up with a black eye and no memory of even

touching alcohol and assumes she got drunk last night. This luckily just lasts like 30 seconds and she realizes she's not in her own bed.

Move to next part. Meeting (or not meeting) the woman being held in another room. The woman seems to be super annoying in her panic, because Jasmine rolls her eyes and on the next page the woman is 'the strange woman'. So it must be her voice or something. Or no, maybe it's just friggn nothing, cause Jasmine is a bitch.

There are a lot of depressed handles. I feel with them, cause I was getting depressed at that point as well. And what the hell are general noises?

"The strange woman began shouting a variety of general noises that Jasmine followed easily to a door at the other end of the hall."

So we move on into the lobby. It's being described as very large and goes on with furniture and counter and whatnot. There is no phone or computer or nothing on the check-in counter, so she 'looks around briefly' but nobody is home. And that's where the elevator door almost closes and she holds it open.

Yes, Jasmine has been standing either by or inside the open elevator cabin checking the large room out with her special eyes. She might even have had x-ray vision, cause obviously there was nothing in or around the check in counter.

But wait, there was no x-ray vision, else she'd ve noticed the big, black, military guy that punches her in the face after jumping out from behind a pillar. She might have walked into his fist too, that's a little unclear. So she's on the floor... or not... he offers her a hand, she doesn't take it. So I guess she's still on the floor. He looks down but not at her, he's looking at the floor. And then up again. Or down maybe, cause she's still sitting there. He has nice eyes though and that's important.

Anyways, I could go on for ever but I'll just cut it shorter.

The love interest is crystal clear from the very beginning. The bad guy too, which is horrible, cause the poor man didn't even do anything yet. Everyone just finds him stupid for no reason. But I guess he's the bad guy, so he must have no sympathy.

And everyone knows that if you're in a weird situation YOU DO NOT SPLIT UP. Which, of course is what's happening the first chance they get. So Jasmine finds a teenage girl talking like a 6 year old hidden away in another building. Within 2 minutes Jasmine manages to make me hate her by acting like an asshole and threatening the kid with getting physical if it doesn't come out.

Jasmine hates kids, fine. I think the author hates kids as well, else she'd ve bothered talking to one that's 13. You know what 13 year olds do nowadays? They dress like 20 year olds and use their cellphones for pretty much everything. But Jasmine doesn't have a clue, so she gets her some crayons to paint with. Really?

So we got the black guy she's flirting with and who is the only character that sounds half way believable, the woman from the other room (Piper), the bad guy, the teenage, asian girl and Jasmine.

It's awesome. You're just one latino away from a Benetton commercial.

Piper (an english lady) says something that really annoyed me. She is glad that they'd taken the black guy, saying it would be fortunate cause americans would try really hard to get back their people. Of course, it's widely known that no other country cares for their own.

They find the bad guy knocked out on the side of the road and drag him somewhere. The english lady s apparently some kind of nurse and makes it sound very urgent when she sends Jasmine off to get some medical supplies from the 'apothecary'. By the time Jasmine s back though, the guy doesn't matter anymore. Nobody s in a hurry to help him. But then, he's the bad guy, so what does it matter?

He wakes up all by himself at some point anyway.

The group dynamic is weird. Every now and then someone starts shouting for no reason but everyone seems to be taking it really well. There are no tears, no real panic, nothing. Nobody freaks out about the cameras all over the place or tries to tape stuff over them or spray paint them or do SOMETHING.

They know they're being watched and they know the people behind it have audio as well but they make no effort trying to hide what they're planning.

Lady, if there'd be a zombie apocalypse you'd be dead within 20 minutes. First thing you need is water/food and shelter. You don't walk off by yourself, you work as a damn team, you try to find out what the other people are all about and what they can do to help and you don't let the zombies know what the hell you're up to.

This book is bad and you should feel bad.

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### **Rachel says**

"The small, chubby woman had once been shy, innocent and angelic looking. Now she stood proud, sleek, and dangerous." I think that is my favorite line in the whole book. It isn't until toward the end but so worth the wait to get to it!!

This book is like a really great roller coaster you get off shrieking how fun, scary, thrilling it was and you can't wait to do it again. I would read about another set of citizen's again, or about these citizen's. There are just so many ways to go with this idea!! At first I kept thinking it was reminiscent of those old "The Outer Limits" television shows.

Five strangers are abducted and dropped into a fake town. Everything they do is watched, EVERY THING. The doors opened and closed at their captors will, as do the lights come on and off. They eat only when their hosts allow. They are punished for not following directions, and rewarded for completing their assigned tasks. Throughout the book the citizens play their game of "where on planet earth are we?" Comparing the weird weather, plant life, sun sets and absolutely no animal life. Every tiny thing is staged. But to what end?

This is an intensely entertaining story for anyone that likes a good mystery, sci fi, paranormal, and a little romance in their reading. The five characters are well written and even if you don't like them, you still want to read to see if they get to eat or if they get electrocuted.

WaAr

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### **Wanda Hartzenberg says**

I absolutely adore this book. At 3% in I thought, Ah, I know where this is headed; at 7% it became apparent that I had it wrong. Then later as the story progressed I formed theory after theory. I have to say, all of them were wrong. This is a reading experience that might not appeal to all. As the citizens of Kolob realise they are in for the long haul so do the reader. It is a matter of survival at first, then of forming bonds, then of staying alive. But what want to change them? Why are they changing? And will they survive?

I definitely recommend this book to all lovers of psychological thrillers, all who like paranormal, and all who read. So basically, GO GET THIS BOOK. You seriously want to read this. Trust me. I give this book an 8

\*\*\*\* review rating. This is an awesome book, one I am sure none of you will be able to put down.

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## Books says

This is definitely going to be on my top ten list of mindblowingly awesome reads of 2012. I'm not kidding. I was knocked off my feet by the downright intensity and splendid storyline of this book!

Other than for me to simply beg you to go get this book - no matter what the purchase price – and move it to the top of your to-be-read list, here are a few reasons why I can guarantee you'll agree that this book should be either made into a tv series, or at the very least be nominated as one of the best fiction books published this year.

For starters, I've never read a paranormal book with this type of plot. It's way past unique. It's completely different and it keeps you guessing right from the start until the very end - and then some. That's only one of the reasons why I couldn't put this book down. I just couldn't figure out what was going on or what was going to happen next. Talk about twists and turns; there's absolutely no way you can predict the ending – and what a shocking and surprising ending it is! I'm a little upset that we'll have to wait some time for the next book in the series, but like they say, good things are worth waiting for, right?

Secondly, you'll love the characters. Initially you might not like all of them, but close to the end, they are no longer the same people they were at the start of the book; and once you've read the stunner ending, you'll find that you're disappointed to have to say goodbye to five characters who've become more like friends, instead of mere fictional characters.

Third, the plot in this book moves at a nice and steady pace. There's never a dull moment, and with all that is happening in the story, it keeps you on the edge of your seat because you're constantly expecting something dreadful to happen next. How can you not? You have five diverse characters trapped in a small town in the middle of who-knows-where, with absolutely no way out. Every time they try to escape, something awful happens to them. Oh, and there's no-one else in the town with them...or is there?

Last, but not least, the author's distinctive writing style engages, and keeps you guessing and pouring all your reading energy into a book that gives new meaning to the word "unputdownable" (which is not really a word in the dictionary, I know, but any bookworm will agree that it should be). The sincerity and genuineness of the characters draws you into the story and lets you experience their fear, confusion, anxiety, their hopelessness, but also their will to survive. In addition, there is plenty of heart-racing action in the last few chapters, and at one stage I thought to myself, "Eat your heart out Lara Croft"!

To sum my gush-fest up – this is an unforgettable, one-of-a-kind, read. L.M. Smith now has a new and devoted fan who will be reading all her future books. It's a pity the highest star rating is only five, because I happily give this amazing book ten out of ten and a standing ovation!

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## Denise says

The Citizens (A Jazz Nemesis Novel)  
by L.M. Smith (Goodreads Author)  
Synopsis from Goodreads

"Imagine a town where you can stay out as late as you want, wake up when it suits you, you never have to go to work, and everything is free for the taking. Sounds perfect right? But what if you can't remember where you are or how you got there? What if you can't ever leave? And what if the only other people around are hostages, just like you? Would you still want to stay?"

Jasmine Marshall certainly didn't think so until she met Justin Beck; a dashing active-duty member of the United States Army and fellow hostage. With him around life in Kolob might not be so bad after all ... or so she thought. There are vampires and psychics at the breakfast table! Disturbing acts of torture and senseless violence are commonplace. Biochemical warfare is a very real threat, and the town's mayor is an elusive mad-scientist obsessed with his own theories about December 21, 2012!

In a place where one has everything to gain and nothing to lose, one thing reigns true: nothing in Kolob is ever as it seems"

I really enjoyed The Citizens. When I first started reading it seemed reminiscent of a television show I had watched a while back and that disturbed me, but as I read on I realized this was not the case and I became more and more intrigued wanting to find out where it was going. I loved the characters and their interaction with each other in dealing with the trauma of being plucked out of their lives and into this strange place. I enjoyed how they worked together and through the hurdles that were placed in their path. I loved the fact that the whiner in the group was equally despised by the other characters as he was by myself and that the intrigue that keeps you guessing all the way to the end. I closed this book with a smile on my face and a desire to continue on with this story, which I believe will continue on by the title, and am anxious to see where Jazz goes next. I definitely recommend this read to those who enjoy a taste of dystopian, paranormal, and mystery all rolled into one tasty ride.

I requested this book from the author to read and review and it was provided to me with a request for my honest opinion without any compensation whatsoever, other than the joy of reading a new book.

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### **Kim culbertson says**

this book was amazing! caught me up in the story and didnt let go! twist after twist. i thought i knew for sure what was coming next, but no! it was totally different. i can not wait to read more from this author.

with no TV no for of entertainment at all except each other, i'm not sure i could survive ! lol

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### **Heather Alexander says**

I was given this book in return for an honest review. Jasmine is a gamer and likes to keep to herself. When she wakes up in a strange hotel with 4 other people, she's not sure what to do or how to act. Jazz, Beck, Kaori, Piper, and Gordon all are trapped in this abandoned town. They are kept there by unseen people and can't escape due to an ankle monitor that doubles as an electric shocker and a sedation device. They soon realize that they can't leave and they can't ask questions because the only time anyone shows up is when they are sedated. Jazz and Beck start getting closer to each other and they continue to try to find a way out as the others give in. They at some point become complacent. They are occasionally given "chores" to do, and punishments, when they don't finish on time. When they are all fairly comfortable in their newfound home, they are doused with a white powder substance. They believe that they will die from it, instead they begin to see changes in others. None of them are sure who they can trust but in order to survive and escape, they all

need to band together. In this story you will get vampires, a superman, telekinesis, an empath, and a psychic. You have to read this book to discover if they escape and if there are others like them out there. I will definitely be watching for the next book.

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## **Duncan McGonall says**

Review of L.M. Smith's *The Citizen*

*The Citizen* is a character driven story of a group of individuals abducted and thrown together in an apparently deserted, or perhaps mocked-up, "town." All their basic needs are met, food, shelter and clothing and some latitude for choice is afforded. There's just one catch, none of them are free to leave, yet there isn't a captor or a minion anywhere in sight--only video cameras and ankle monitors that pack quite a punch. Of the five stranded, two develop a romance, the development of which is almost but not quite out of place, given personalities involved and circumstances afoot. My reaction to a few isolated elements was immediately mixed, but given time to ponder, I believe I have a fair grip on their purpose.

Character development of the protagonist, Jasmine is well done. The story is saturated with her voice and the frequent mention of her astrological sun sign is not actually needed. She is quite a bitch, at times, but the author's earliest treatment of her suffices to establish a rationale. Left to her own devices she might prefer the loner lifestyle, but is thrust against her will into the setting of the story. That's enough to make anyone permanently crabby. Still, the author displays high talent in her back-and-forth struggle to grow and yet remain true to herself in the process. Jasmine is wholly human and a wholesale believable character. Her humanity is never compromised even for sensation and this demonstrates to me a high calibre author with real potential.

One would not think that in the purposefully limited setting afforded the reader in the economy of *The Citizen* that there would be not much room at all for secondary characters. The temptation to highlight such beings is often too much for most authors to resist. Smith; however, does a marvelous job using secondary characters to support her protagonist. It should be noted also that the ideal romance is purposefully and skillfully sacrificed in the novel to forward the story. L. M. Smith shows courage as an author, here.

The twist in *The Citizen*, while not wholly original in basis, is original in treatment and an enjoyable lens through which to view the latest craze of supernatural creatures and beings in more naturalist terms. Smith's rendering is an understated, nonetheless, chilling possibility for origins of some of the more overused mythic monsters present in the popular canon since the debut of Stephanie Meyers' *Twilight*. The sequence used to lead the reader to that point of origin is done with an entertaining mystery-solving frame that does not reveal too much at one time. Accomplishing such a feat in a singular setting is at best difficult and an approach few authors will brave, yet Smith does a fair job with it and manages to keep the pace and flow interesting.

The reader is as limited as the characters in the novel within the limited frame. The predicament the abductees find themselves in is a real stumper and the weirdness factor is set early to a creeping pace toward a boil--like the frog in the kettle. Characters figure out what's going on in pace with perceptions of the readers, only on occasion is the reader given a glimpse around the corner, and even then it is brief. The effect is the reader, in a sense, is in every way as limited as the characters. Well done, L.M. Smith. I give this one a solid four stars.

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## **Anne (Angel Anne Reviews) Nelson says**

I received this book for my enjoyment from the author herself in exchange for a fair and unbiased review.

Goodness gracious, this story was most definitely like NO other that I had read! I have tried repeatedly to put myself in the same scenario as Jasmine, Justin, Koari Piper and Gordon and I just can't do it...

To wake up in a completely different world and place than where you were when you closed your eyes his bad enough... eekkk but to be in the nightmare with four other people that you have no idea who the heck they are??? \*nope, I want out of this dream\*

Their new world is Kolob smack in the middle on no where land, they have all been kidnapped - the fight for survival has begun. Being trapped together in the abandoned town, seemingly with no way out.. Who are their captors? Questions and more questions, needing answers.

Author L.M. Smith has created a fast paced, entertaining story that keeps you guessing on what's going to happen next as you try to step off the roller coaster and onto level ground. Just when you think you have it figured out you are swept off into the next twist or turn.

The Citizens has everything from science fiction, mystery, romance and paranormal that will curb your taste for them all. With characters that are realistic and believable. I highly recommend this highly addictive novel as a must read. I absolutely loved this story, the ending is one that you won't be able to see coming.

I won't go into much of the storyline, because I feel that to truly enjoy the magnitude of The Citizens, the way that it unfolds and keeps you turning the pages, you must read it. It's that excellent... you won't be disappointed at all.

Recommend: YA and up

Rating: 5/5 angel stars

Angel Anne Reviews

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## Samantha says

So I stumbled upon this book by ...I actually don't remember...browsing through the site, my update feed, GR friends..something like that? After reading the synopsis and the reviews I was compelled to read it right away. And well..shit.

This is me.

This book had me on edge a lot. It made me say things out loud like "wtf", "awhshitshitshit", "seriously?", "WOW" and my roommates would be like "calm down"...jk, kinda. Overall, I loved this book. I was able to envision the characters and their personalities clearly and I felt just as trapped in the town of Kolob as they were. It was hard to put this book down once I started...and actually resulted in waking up after 12:30pm one time after reading past 4am.....

(my spoiler doesn't actually spoil it, I just don't want to give people who haven't read it any clues or ideas about it)

(view spoiler)

I'm assuming this is a start of a series hence the "Jazz Nemesis, #1"...so I'm very eager to read the next book. The author better come out with another book soon before my head explodes from all these unanswered questions and anticipation.

The whole concept of the storyline is really interesting and actually really creepy. The book gives me this eerie feeling...like it's watching me....

I'm starting to think this book found me instead...

jk...but seriously, read it.

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### **Julie-anne says**

I received a copy of this from the author for an honest review.

Jasmine gets kidnapped from her farm and winds up in Kolob, locked in a room. She hears another woman trying to get out of her room and, when she finally get out, she goes to try and find help but ends up running into (literally) Beck. None of them remember anything other than waking up in their rooms, they realise they've been kidnapped and placed in this town. Why? Well, that will be discovered later.

The story of this book interested me and the author was offering a free copy for review so I got one. One thing about this book is Jasmine is a very hard-to-like main character, I tried (I really did!) but she is really rude and hard to take. The author made a big point of letting us know that Jazz is a loner and doesn't like people - fair enough. I'm antisocial, I don't like people (there's a reason I work with animals!) but I still know how to act around people, I still have basic social manners. Jazz doesn't, she just plain doesn't! She's rude and treats people horribly but seems to think it's OK - it made me not like her at all. Although I have to say, this quote:

... she'd never really been much of a people person to begin with, not because she was afraid of people but because, as awful as it might be, she just didn't care about them.

, endeared her to me a little 'cos this is exactly how I feel about people. I just don't care.

Aside from my disliking of Jazz (aided by my liking of Beck and how nasty she is to him), I still enjoyed the book. Obviously my hatred of her didn't stop me from reading the book, it didn't stop me from getting involved with them and working with them to try and work out what the hell was happening in that town. And it won't stop me from reading the next book because the storyline is so totally different from anything else out there that I've read and I can't wait to see what happens to our group next.

## **L.M. Smith says**

The following reviews can be found on Amazon.com by their original authors.

### **Intrigued from the beginning! - 5 STARS**

By Misty Rettagliata

"I found the book to be an exciting read. It's full of suspense and leaves you with all these questions that you "just have to know" so you keep reading. The end had a bit of an odd twist to it. But there is no doubt that a sequel **MUST** be in the works in order to quell the remaining questions. This wasn't an ending I could just put my own assumptions to...KEEP WRITING! :)"

### **When is part 2? - 5 STARS**

By C. Swanson

"I enjoyed reading this book and cannot wait for the next book. (There will be more riiight?) As another reviewer said it screams for a sequel. I did flip through about 5-6 pages of chatter but that is just me wanting action."

### **Great Book - 5 STARS**

By Steph Moyer

"This book was great. I was sucked in almost immediately and was still sucked it after I finished it. I need more! I loved the character of Jazz. Loved reading about how relationships played out. Everything was great. I'm going to recommend this to my friends."

### **Love this novel! - 5 STARS**

By K LW

"I absolutely loved this novel! It had me captive from the very beginning until the exciting end. Speaking of captive, that's just what these five well developed and interesting characters of the book are. They each wake up to find themselves in a very strange little small town called Kolob. They have no idea how they got there, or why they are there, but they soon learn that their every movement is being somehow closely watched. After an attempt at trying to walk out of town, they quickly realize, if they want to stay alive, that that isn't an option. At first things aren't so bad. They have everything they need, except answers to their many questions, but L. M. Smith does a great job keeping you guessing what might happen next. Her talent for writing is very obvious in this novel. There were a few typing mistakes, but only a very few and they didn't bother me in the least because the story is so good. This book had everything I love in a novel. I couldn't wait to get to the end to find out why these unfortunate characters had to go through everything they went through. This novel screams for a sequel! I highly recommend it."

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## **Bonnie Bernard says**

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Despite the fact that everything in town looks home-spun sweet (a hardware store, old-fashioned movie theater, and even a penny candy shop), things are not apple-pie a la mode in Kolob. One moment the citizens of that too-sweet-to-be-true town are home minding their own business and the next...they're in 1950s Americana...without a clue how they got there. Just the five of them, all strangers. No family, friends, or anything at all from their real lives. Food is abundant, as is clothing, blankets, and other needed items...pretty much everything except for the one thing Kolobians want most - answers.

This book is chilling, twisted, and wild. The characters are believable and real. I didn't want the book to end...even though I really, really wanted to get to the last page and find those pesky answers. That's the ultimate charm of this book, in my opinion. You feel present with those poor citizens and just like them, you want to know what the hell is going on. The book drew me in like that and wouldn't let go. I FELT like a citizen.

Well-written, good style, dialogue that moves along, balanced action, realistic plot. The Citizens is one of the best books I've read this year. I am recommending it to everybody...regardless of age, gender, fiction preference. If you have an imagination and the desire to read...you should help yourself to this book. It's a five-star slice of brilliance.

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