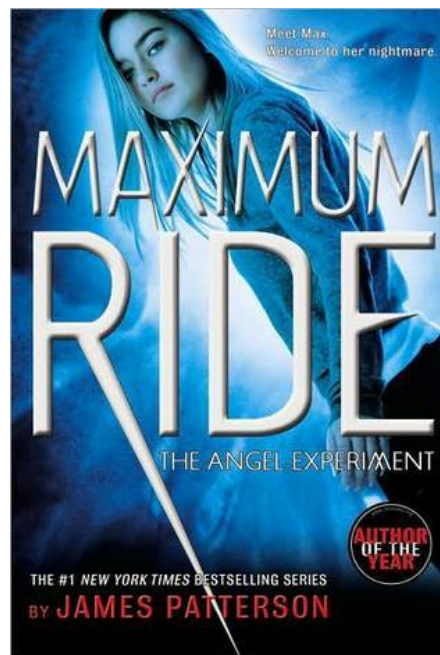




## The Angel Experiment

*James Patterson*

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# The Angel Experiment

*James Patterson*

**The Angel Experiment** James Patterson

**In James Patterson's blockbuster series, Maximum Ride soars above the world. But when that fantasy becomes a nightmare, Max and her friends take an unforgettable adventure and fight for their lives.**

Maximum Ride and her "flock"-Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel-are just like ordinary kids, only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time.

Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on by a crew of whack jobs. Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, CA, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare: fighting off the half-human, half-wolf "Erasers" in New York City. Whether in the treetops of Central Park or in the bowels of the Manhattan subway system, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives.

Along the way, Max discovers that her purpose is save the world. But can she?

## The Angel Experiment Details

Date : Published April 1st 2007 by Hachette Book Group (first published April 11th 2005)

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Author : James Patterson

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## From Reader Review The Angel Experiment for online ebook

**Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

Well that wasn't too bad!

You have six kids that are human and have some bird in them. Huh, and all this time I thought they were angels ? Goes to show you have to read to know.

I'm glad this was on one of my challenge lists because I have wanted to read it. I think I will keep checking them out on Overdrive to see what else happens. I mean they all escaped and have people/things after them.

Happy Reading!

Mel ♥?

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**Angelc says**

This book was okay, but I just felt like it didn't have a lot of substance. I didn't really take anything away from it, almost like it didn't have a lot of deep meaning. And it wasn't terribly entertaining, either. I just would have liked the characters to be a little deeper, I guess. I doubt I will read the rest of the series.

Reviewed for: <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com/>

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**Lola says**

This is a book I always thought I wouldn't enjoy.

I saw it numerous times at my former high school's library and, each time I came across it, I would let my fingers linger on the cover, a pensive expression on my face, and think, "Naaaah, not for me."

Boy was I wrong not to read it YEARS ago. "The Angel Experiment" is such a fast-paced, action-packed, well, RIDE.

I thought it would be about actual angels, but that's not what Max and her friends are. They are literal experiments with bird genes in their blood. How messed up is that? But hey, they have crazy superpowers and...

ALL OF THEM CAN FLY. I thought Catwoman was pretty awesome with her ability to jump great lengths and move like a cat, but nothing beats being able to fly.

It's definitely an enthralling read. The action is ever present; things are always moving, always progressing.

Granted, for most of the book, there's this game of cat and mouse going on, so that can get repetitive, but there are many other things happening.

Max's voice is a young one, but that's normal since she's fourteen years old. We can't really expect her to be devoid of immaturity. Still, she's strong, brave and loyal to her friends.

And isn't it refreshing to read YA novels without romance? SO refreshing. BUT, I think there will be more of it in the sequels...

Give this a shot if you have some time to kill and are curious about mutants like "The Fantastic Four" (but with cooler superpowers!).

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## **Khadidja says**

2.5 Stars!

"The funny thing about facing imminent death is that it really snaps everything else into perspective."

Well that was fun, i LOVED MAX she was great, annoying at times. but funny, and loving big sister. The writing was okay, The story had potential but was poorly executed.

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## **Jared Vincent Lacaran says**

This is a really *terrible* book. It's even worse than the whole Twilight and Eragon series combined together. The plot is extremely obnoxious, it features cardboard characters, and it has awfully absurd twists. It's dialogues are really horrible, like an old man trying very hard to sound young. this book is *very,very,very* badly written. A 12 year old could probably do better. The *battle scenes*, if you could call them that, are also poorly written and not realistic. Not even in the least. This book is oh-so very boring and fails to entertain. Also, most of the plot was wasted on insignificant fillers. I won't recommend this book to anyone.

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## **Jenny says**

OK. I thought this was going to be a lame cheese fest. I mean, James Patterson? I know kids seem to like the

series OK, and even a couple adults have recommended it to me. But I figured it wasn't my bag. I'm not sure why. Genetically engineered mutant kids with wings escaping from evil scientists and fighting super strong werewolf-like soldiers. What's not to like? I couldn't put it down. Fast paced, exciting, kind of horrifying and a lot better written than I expected. I'm totally reading the next book. In fact, I can't wait to read it.

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## Denae Christine says

**Reader thoughts:** Max is a sarcastic and tough teen with amazing wings. She's leader of her flock of bird kids, and they work hard to stay away from the troublesome adult scientists. Max struggles to keep her flock together, discover her destiny, and save the world while she's at it.

Finding their parents would be a nice bonus, too, if only the whitecoats would stop trying to kill them.

(Sadly, only the first 3 books of the series are good. But they are so good!)

**Writer thoughts:** It's amazing that JP can pull off such a fast-paced book with so many hilarious and sarcastic comments. The pacing and timing blend very well to push the reader to the end without thought for the outside world.

However, there is little to no resolution in any of these books, which catches up the readers in book 4. It's like in Series of Unfortunate Events; loose ends can only be interesting for so long. Random is fast and creates mystery, but it doesn't create satisfaction.

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## Jasmine says

I want you, the reader, to take a moment and scroll down to the lists this novel has been shelved in. "Best Young Adult Books," "Best Books Ever," "What To Read After Harry Potter," "Best Female Lead Characters," and "Best Science Fiction & Fantasy Books". If you haven't guessed by the titles, these are pretty big and popular lists. If you click into them and view the lists, you will see that this book is pretty high up the ranks. And if you looked behind the book, you'll see raving review after raving review. If you looked inside, you will see MORE raving reviews telling you that Maximum is a soaring story that will sweep you off your feet, etcetera etcetera.

This book reminds me to the ad for Kellogg's Rice Krispies Squares. They would say the most fabulous things about the product, and then would turn around at the very end they say in a big, booming voice;

I was lead to believe I was about to read a soaring adventure novel filled with damaged characters who stick together out of both love for each other and fear of their enemies. I thought I was going to read about the horrors they went through, and the horrors they'd have to face. I thought this book would make me feel the magic of flying, to make me truly understand the meaning of freedom. This book lied to me – it lied right in my face. It told me it was a Christmas Dinner with juicy turkey and ham and lobster and chocolatey dessert but instead I got a plate of brussel sprouts.

What I got was a pathetic and one-dimensional cast of character (who seemed mentally sound even after their years of abuse), unclear and unemotional writing, poor action scenes, has no depth whatsoever and

lacks simple life to it. While I was reading it I felt like I was reading the writing of a reluctant reader or the back of a cereal box. It lacks character to it.

One single paragraph written in simply for humour was what *really* ruined the book for me. It was the paragraph that made me almost cry at the lost of the money I spent on this book.

*“Am I tough? Am I strong? Am I hard-core? Absolutely. Did I whimper with pathetic delight when I sank my teeth into my hot fried-chicken sandwich? You betcha.”*

Your probably reading that quote and wondering what’s wrong with it, aren’t you? Let me paint you a picture first, and then I will ruin that quote with some of my logic. The main character, Max, is part human part bird. Before this quote was written they had spent several days hiding out on some cliffs with a couple of wild hawks. On and on they went, telling the reader how fascinating these creatures were and what they learned from them. They all even call themselves *The Flock*. Then, zoom on a hundred-or-so pages and Max is munching down on some fried chicken. So; she’s part bird, spent most of her time with birds, and calls her family the flock. Oh yes, now you can see where I’m going to go. Chickens are birds. So Max – a half bird girl – is eating a bird, and is completely cool with it. Relishes it, in fact.

Yeah. Solid thinking there from the author.

That quote also shows you how shallow the characters are, because Max continues to tell us how "spunky" and "feisty" she is. But does she actually show these characteristics? Nope. Unless you count the truly horrendously bad come-backs she made. In many way's she reminds me of Celeana from *Throne of Glass*. Talks the talk but never truly walks the walk.

The rest of *The Flock* merge together, most having no real purpose to the story. What does the sweet little Angel do? Nothing. What does the Gasman bring? Nothing but farts. Iggy? He made something explode. Nothing after that. And I can't tell you the rest of the characters, because I have forgotten their names. Just shows you how much these people stick in your mind.

The plot mainly featured weird twists, confusing battle scenes, constant running and flying away, and useless scenes. Another reviewer named Joe wrapped up the useless scenes perfectly. There's a concert scene, a family sub-plot that has no real reason of existing, and many chapters wasted by them spending days with hawks (I'm pretty sure I've mentioned that before).

I hope your happy, Mr Patterson. You tricked me into thinking that you would take the more emotionally powerful and moving route with a dash of action and adventure, and for your trickery I will award you with this; this shall be my first and last book of yours. Your welcome and good day.

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## Sella Malin says

Whoa!!! This book is sooo good. It's really, really, REALLY fast-paced and action-packed. Even the very first chapter throws you headfirst into straight-on action. It's a very easy read, with short chapters that flow right into the other with cliffhangers. It's not something you can start/stop reading; once you start, there's no turning bag. You're dragged into the story from the very first page, willingly or not, and nothing can tear you from the book- only forceful things, like school, homework, parents, etc. While reading this book, I experienced rushes and throbbing through my head at all the excitement, thrill, and suspense. It felt like

watching an intense action movie. And the end is a huge cliffhanger, making me sure that I'm going to attack the next book right away! This is good for anyone who wants to read a good, fast, exciting action book! :D

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### **Mizuki says**

#### **Do Not Finish at page 145.**

I want to finish this book, but after a while I remember life is too short for reading one crappy book after another.

If I read The Angel Experiment when I was 12 years old, I guess I would have been oh-so impressed.

But readers who possess the mental maturity of a 13 years old or above are free to skip this book.

And James Patterson, I'm blacklisting you. I will not read any other of your books. Trick me one, shame on you; trick me twice, shame on me.

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### **Emily May says**

Nothing massively wrong with it but the writing was just way too young for me.

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### **Mario says**

#### **Warning:**

*If you dare to read his story,  
you become part of the Experiment.  
I know that sounds a little mysterious-  
but it's all I can say right now.  
-Max*

I read a lot of Patterson adult thrillers, and after a while, I kind of got bored of him (I mean how many sequels can a book have?!). So, with that said, I had really low expectations for this one, but the book really took me by surprise. This book is just pure fun. 400 pages of action packed fun, that leaves you wanting more. I also found out that I like 'young adult' Patterson more than 'adult' Patterson, if that makes any sense.

Max was such a fun character. To me, she is literally female version of Percy Jackson. I loved hearing her sarcastic and snarky tone throughout the whole story.

I also love that chapters were short, and there was a cliffhanger at the end of each one. Because of that, it was very difficult to put the book down. I think I would've finish it in one sitting if life didn't get in the way.

If you like to read action packed, quick books, I suggest giving this a try, and hopefully, you'll like it as much as I did.

## Joe says

Now *this* is a terrible book.

Written with all the wit and grace of a one-legged puppy, *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment* reveals its intentions within the first chapter alone. This is not a book of striking prose or even serviceable but entertaining MOR lit. It is merely a cash cow, another mindless series designed to appeal to reluctant readers. It is, in a word, soulless.

*Maximum Ride* follows the adventures of six children, each of whom is the product of a genetic experiment: they are 98% human, 2% bird. These characters (each bequeathed with atrocious names that are supposed to be hip - Maximum, Nudge, Iggy, the Gasman, Fang, and Angel) spend 422 pages being chased by "Erasers" while trying to discover the secret of the School, the institution responsible for their mutations. **422 pages** for what could have been a novella, nay, an essay.

The stilted narration, provided by the "edgy" Maximum Ride, perhaps one of the most grating heroines in YA literature, is weakened by attempts to provide three-dimensionality to her character through her thoughtful analyses of those around her. Unfortunately, Patterson's creativity as a writer is strictly limited to half-baked and poorly described battle sequences, so Ride's introspection is relegated to heinous platitudes like, "It was like I had just lost my baby sister. And like I had lost my little girl" (p.25). (Guess what, Sister Girl... you *did*.)

Because Patterson has made a career out of writing awful books for adults, he has convinced himself that he knows how to write for teens, and, more horribly, *like* teens. In fact, his writing reads like an old man trying to sound young: "Angel stared and stared and stared at Jeb Batchelder" (p. 143) is writing worse than the output of most 2nd graders, and "Then, in a burst, she leaped up, sprang off the table, and practically crashed through the fire door. The Gasman was practically glued to her back." (p. 183) makes me practically tired of bad writing.

Worse than the one-dimensional characters and the freakishly awful writing are the countless pages devoted entirely to filler. Hundreds of trees could have been saved if Patterson had employed an editor. Here is a sample of go-nowhere events in the book:

- The gang sees a concert in Central Park.
- The gang enjoys Mrs. Fields' cookies.
- Two characters hang out with a bunch of hawks and learn cool flying tricks, all of which occurs while...
- ...Maximum spends about 8+ chapters with a family in a subplot that appears to tie into the primary story, but, in fact, does not.
- The majority of Chapter 103 is spent enumerating each character's orders in a fancy restaurant in great detail.
- Most of the book is devoted to "to-ing and fro-ing" - running from one location to another - with the express purpose of supplying a new setting for a battle.

The only upside to *Maximum Ride* is its appeal to reluctant readers... and I'm all for that. Avid readers, however, be warned. This book will take hours of your life that you will never get back.

## Jane says

One of my students recommended this book, and while I was intrigued by the premise, and the fact that the protagonist is a female action hero, I found the dialogue beyond basic (only an adult would imagine that kids really communicate like this) and the plot was a little repetitious. It's part of a trilogy - but I don't care enough about these characters to read more.

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## Allison says

Take a bit of the child-like innocence vs. evil of *Harry Potter*, some of the artificially-created destiny from *Ender's Game*, throw in the flying fantasies from *Eragon* and mix them in with Patterson's trademark flippant characterization, and you've got *Maximum Ride*.

This is the book I'm going to recommend when everyone's recovering from the end of Harry Potter later this month. Really. It's that good. And the best part is there are two more books after this one. There's already a waiting list for my copy.

Premise: six kids bred with avian DNA in a lab (which explains their superstrength and their wings) escape in pursuit of a life as normal kids, as normal as you can get without parents.

Written for teens, so it's automatically a fun and fast read. Definitely worth the time, even if there's a few places where continuity and plausibility are challenged.

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