



Scrapbook of My Revolution

Amy Lynn Spitzley

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I may as well say it up front. I'm Malian. Yeah, one of the freaks. I've got gold skin and the ability to read emotions. It's great fun, too, believe me. Yeah, right. Anger. Frustration. Desire. Try reading those all day. But I'm not the only one who's frustrated. We're all mixed-up and sick of the bad press and attacks and everything else from Regulars. Things are changing, though. I'm getting other Malians in my school together. We might be able to show people that we're just as human as they are...unless one of my best supporters is really public enemy number one.

Scrapbook of My Revolution Details

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From Reader Review Scrapbook of My Revolution for online ebook

Bobbie says

Amber is a great protagonist. She has to deal with a lot of unwanted attention, but it doesn't make her a wallflower. She's hot and she knows it. We all get a bit fed up with those girls who don't know just how beautiful they are. Well Amber, Golden Goddess, knows exactly how attractive she is, and that's an interesting angle to read - because she can sense the emotions of people around her, she knows how they react to her looks. I can't imagine feeling the dirty desire coming off a bunch of teenage boys. Ick. Full review at <http://escapeintowords.blogspot.co.uk...>

Karen says

It took me a while to get into this book. Everything that at first seemed a like a flaw or a shortcoming actually helped in making this book work.

The font is a faux handwriting print, so that you feel like you are reading someone's journal (or, of course, scrapbook). Intermixed with the writing are copies of receipts, newspaper clippings, drawings, etc. I am so much older than the target audience that, even though I could read the journal entries just fine, I had to put on my magnifying glasses to read the "extra". For about the first third of the book, this just felt gimmicky to me, but later on, everything slid into place and the format made perfect sense.

I didn't especially like the main character at first. She was pretty self-involved and suffered from a case of "Look at me! Don't look at me! Why isn't anyone paying attention to me?" But, again, her character makes perfect sense. She is seventeen, and on the cusp of adulthood. She is attracted to two guys. Sometimes she acts young; other times she acts like an adult. She is facing her own internal revolution. Further, she is gold-skinned and very tall. She stands out, literally. She wears the label of "Malian" instead of "Regular". While in the midst of her internal revolution, she leads an external revolution. By the end of the book, I not only liked the main character, but admired her as well.

Actual rating: 4.5 stars, but I round up.

Nara says

For full review, please click [here](#)

I went into Scrapbook of My Revolution thinking that it would be another typical dystopian- class segregation, political intrigue, some sort of epic adventure....but surprisingly, from the first few chapters (and indeed most of the book) it basically seemed to me like a contemporary novel with a slight science fiction twist. I actually enjoyed the novel a lot more than I thought I would- it was quite riveting. Somehow, I was expecting big things to happen, and although not much happened on the world stage, Spitzley went with the realistic route and had Amber and her friends manage to make changes within their smaller community.

Something that was quite interesting was that the book was set up like an actual scrapbook- complete with pictures (newspaper cuttings, photos, drawings) and font that looks like handwriting. Clearly, much care was taken with the design, as there are nice little details throughout to make it seem more like a real scrapbook e.g. fingerprints and smudges (on another note, since I was reading the book on my iPad, I kept scrubbing at the little marks thinking they were on the actual iPad. EVERY TIME.)

"So Amber, what's that guy in the corner thinking?"

It's always about thinking. I don't get "thinking". I get "feeling". And let me tell you, sometimes that's worse.

Our main character Amber, as a "Sensitive" Malian, has the ability to feel the emotions of those around her, but not why they're feeling those emotions. Amber was quite a likable character, with a very strong voice and snarky headstrong personality- as I suppose one would have to have if they could read the emotions of others. I did find it a bit annoying that she was stringing on two guys at the same time (Jonny and Cam, as mentioned in the blurb), although on that note, it was clear that one of them was the better love interest. I absolutely loved the connection between Amber and Cam. Their relationship was built up slowly (some even before the beginning of the novel, as Amber mentions having liked Cam for a long time) and as the reader, I could definitely see the sparks between them.

He was three feet away when all his emotions came rolling at me. Frustration-Anger-Caring-Desire-LOVE.

I found the concept of Malians rather interesting- especially the different skin colours (I can't get the image of this poor hot pink boy out of my head...the bullies would have a field day)- although one thing I would have liked to see explained (once the characters themselves find out, of course) is the background to the Malians- why are they called Malians? Where did they come from?

There isn't a sequel listed on Goodreads...and I'm a bit sad about that because I kind of want there to be one. I want to see what happens to Amber and her friends, and whether the prejudices of the rest of the world can be overcome. Perhaps for the younger young adult readers, this book was still one that was quite unique and interesting.

Have a look at more reviews at my blog: [Looking for the Panacea](#)

Stephanie says

Find my full review on my blog [A Secret Book Affair](#).

Let me just start by saying ...wow *silent applause here* wow. I was truly, pleasantly surprised by this title. When I first read the synopsis for *Scrapbook of My Revolution*, I had expected a fun light hearted YA book that scratched at the surface of current social issues. Not to say that I was expecting a just okay read, I just wasn't expecting such an amazingly inspiring read! I can't even begin to find the right way to sing praises for this title, especially in regards to our young adult readers. Spitzley did an superb job merging everyday trials and triumphs that teens these days might typically face, with more serious social issues that occur within every society and every culture today.

I think my absolute favorite factor of *Scrapbook of My Revolution* is the way Spitzley completely annihilates the issue of racism. Not only does she create a new race called Malians, but she cleverly makes them all different colors and shades, not a one of them the same. To me, as a reader, it conveyed a strong message of how a society should be accepting and tolerant to another's differences. Instead of making this an issue about the obvious differences in skin color today, Spitzley takes away from the reader their own skin and makes them walk in the shoes of someone that no one in our world has every looked like. It really forces the issue

that we should not be defined by our skin, but by who we are inside. In essence, we are all one race, and that is the human race.

The second factor that Spitzley so effortlessly provided that impressed me was the fact that she not only gave a primary example of what positive activism is, but she also wasn't afraid to show us what negative activism looks like. Our young readers that may have a fire in them for activism really need to know the right and wrong ways to interact with the world and whatever cause they fight for. Spitzley proved that it's easy to cross the line, that you can have good motives while making bad decisions, and that you can easily hurt your cause with negative activism.

All in all I would, without a doubt, recommend reading *Scrapbook of My Revolution*. Both adults and young adults would enjoy this title. The format that this title uses is a fun take on a journal/scrapbook that gives more to a realistic feel while reading. Bravo Spitzley for such a well written novel, and also thank you Curiosity Quills for the chance to review this amazing title through NetGalley!

David Rowney says

A fun look at an alternative reality where humanity is beginning to mutate and is dealing with this in much the same way as other differences of appearance have been treated. Some understand, some don't have a problem and some seriously do!

Told from the point of view of a teenage Mailian (the book's name for Mutated/evolved humans) it offers an interesting insight into the early stages of this group's growing need for a civil rights movement. In this we see how different people view the purpose and strategies for said action. Think about the difference between say Martin Luther King's strategy compared to Malcolm X's.

A fun Read.

Kelly says

The reason this is a DNF isn't as much the book's fault as it is mine. I got this from NetGalley but my lending period expired before I got to finish. X-/ In my defense, I didn't know there was a time limit until I reached mine, and I kept putting it off because the non-traditional font and formatting didn't work very well with my Nook.

I did manage to get to page 129, so I feel like I can give some idea of the reading experience. While it's not great, it's not terrible. There are a lot of the typical YA pitfalls - building love triangle, kind of annoying MC that didn't really stand out despite her (literally) golden skin - but the writing itself is easily readable. Once you get used to the odd font and feel of it being told in scrapbook format, it's not hard to turn the pages. While I don't really think I'm missing out on a whole lot by being unable to finish, I was being kept overall entertained with what I was able to read.

Nadia Carabella says

I love love loved this book!

Rashika (is tired) says

I couldn't enjoy this book, it had its moments but for me it just didn't work out. One of the reasons for that could be that I've read a book that had the same idea and I loved it. It isn't that popular so I am not sure I can claim that this was a rip off because it wasn't, they just had similar ideas but there were different things going on.

One of the things that really bug me about this book is the main character. She is so obsessed with this idea of a revolution she forgets about the people who care about her. She doesn't even realize that she is hurting them and then wonders what the hell is wrong. The idea is great but it just makes relating to her harder. I know that most people, at some point in their life have wanted to make a change but this girl takes it to a whole new level, to her it is more important than her parents and her friends and her relationships. She says this herself so it isn't just a mere observation. As far as I know, no teen is that inspired. Sure she isn't a normal teen but according to her the only difference between the Malians and the regular kids is their skin color.

I also dislike the idea of a bunch of teens saving the world. It doesn't work for me. I do not believe that a bunch of teens can change the world, of course they can make a difference in their own community but they cannot make changes at a global level. That's just unrealistic. Or maybe they can and I don't realize it.

The relationships in this book are actually well developed; the only one that bothered me was the one between her and her parents. In the beginning she doesn't have a lot of positive things to say about her relationship with her parents, I mean sure her parents are cool but they don't understand her. It's mostly her relationship with her mom though that gets 'picked on'. But the thing that bothers me is the dramatic change in their relationship; I don't really see any development so that is why it bothers me so much. It is almost like an overnight change.

The whole Malians thing was very disappointing. I am kind of a science geek so to not get any explanation about this 'phenomena' really annoys me. No one really knows how Malians came into existence, just that about 20 years ago, these kids with weird skin colors were born. There is no explanation and 'science' hasn't been able to find one. I was kind of hoping some big secret would be revealed by the end but there was nothing. I don't believe that in 20 years science in their world has found NOTHING what so ever about Malians (of course with the exception of strong teeth, maybe they are tooth fairies... they are colorful and pweety and have strong teeth).

Aside from that, there isn't much going on in the book, I mean it's a revolution and there are some crazy regular guys attacking the Malians. I think this book could have been more interesting had it focused more on Johnny. I know revolutions aren't always exciting and it takes time for things to happen but you know, I just wish there had been more because this idea is original, a lot could have been done with it.

This review has also been posted on my blog

James Wymore says

In the wake of an unknown mutation which has affected a large percentage of the population to have colored skin and next level powers, the generation affected is forced to deal with dividing issues greater than any previous group. At the age of seventeen, the protagonist is plunged into the spotlight as her friends and cohort all struggle to find space for something new and sometimes scary.

With amazing characters and fun narrative, this story is both strong and compelling. In a non-traditional book format, which I always love, the story unfolds to deal with issues of difference and fear among teens. With a strong push toward activism, the coming of age takes a relative but interesting twist.

Maria Cope says

4 Stars

To see the entire review, please visit <http://lions-and-lambs.blogspot.com/2...>

Summary:

Amber Alexander is Malian. No, this isn't some tribe on some island you've never heard of and will search high and low on your favorite search engine to learn random facts. I've already tried this. Judge me later. Malian is the name given to people born with certain abnormalities like, say, gold-colored skin and hypersensitivity to people's emotions. But not all Malians have the same skin tone or ability; some are blue, green, red, pink and some have the ability to camouflage, manipulate, or are really athletic. Not all Malians have good intentions.

I received a digital copy of this book from NetGalley in return for my honest opinion. I will be purchasing Scrapbook of My Revolution in my next book haul.

Complete review at <http://lions-and-lambs.blogspot.com/2...>

Heather Bridson says

This book is absolutely delightful. The characters are creative and well developed. The book itself is unique, the font is not a standard font and adds to the scrapbook concept. Some of the clippings added to the scrapbook are a little hard to read in the print edition, but the electronic version my husband has allows the reader to make them bigger so that works well.

The underlying concepts are ones we are familiar with. People who are different scare some people. These characters fight for equal rights and fight fear from everyone. With their abilities and skin tone not letting them hide what they are and making it impossible for them to blend into society.

Also with the abilities these characters have is fear of what they will do when they grow up, since they are teenagers in this story. The fact that each "Malian" can influence the world in different ways seems to make them more dangerous. And as always, one bad apple can spoil the pot.

This is a wonderful story, and I encourage everyone to read it. We all need to be reminded now and then of how we may treat people who are different from ourselves, and how other people may see us as different as

well. And the author did a great job with the "colorful" characters in this book. I hope to see how things work out between the sky-flying camo and the golden goddess.

I purchased this book, and was not paid for my review in any way. The opinions in this review are my own.

Angie says

At some point in the future some babies are born different. They have different colored skin and abilities. There are blue, pink, green, gold children who can manipulate things, sense things, blend in like camouflage and are great at athletics. These children are known as Malian and they are everywhere. The government has instigated a policy of benign indifference, but people are still afraid and mistrustful of Malians. Amber is a sensitive, gold Malian. She can read the emotions of those around her and believe you it is not a fun ability. She starts a Malian support group at her high school to get the word out about Malians. Her best friend Bree, a regular, and her boyfriend Cam, a camo, join the group. Amber also meets Johnny Marino, a high profile Malian who can persuade people. Amber's group is all about peaceful coexistence and education, but Johnny has a different agenda. All this is set against the backdrop of high school and all the angst that goes along with it, plus a little extra because of the Malian issue.

This book is told in the format of a scrapbook/diary. As such there is a lot of high school girl drama as Amber waffles between her feelings for Cam and Johnny. But the real story is out these high school students take a stand and become activists for their cause. They learn how to stand up for themselves and not be afraid. They also learn the bad side of activism. I thought Amber and Johnny were a nice contract to each other; both sensitives, both passionate about their cause, but going about it in different ways. Kind of reminded me of the contrast between MLK and the Black Panthers; civil disobedience versus rebellion. I like how Spitzley addressed racism in a different way. She took away the old black versus white argument and made it a regular versus Malian argument. I think she made her point that we are all the same no matter our skin tone; our actions should speak for us not our color.

I received a copy of this book from the publishers on Netgalley.

Jeremiah Diaz says

On first acceptance, the overall quality and feel of the book greatly trumps that of the majority of other large-size paperback novels I have purchased over the years. The title is original and captivating with intrigue along with the ambiance of torn and tattered pages used for the cover. The feel of the book immediately harkens back to a style that very few novels dare venture, using the form of journaling (not a verb, I know), scrap-booking, letters and notes to form the narrative and develop the overall base of the story. Other novels such as *Dracula* and *The Whalestoe Letters* use such a format, much to their particular fans' delight. Equally delightful, I feel, will be the readers take on the protagonist of the story, and that of the Malians, and how "they" deal and face a counter-culture that seemingly cannot decide between not accepting them and forcing outright forms of violence. I feel there are many forms and approaches taken here that can and will appeal to most YA enthusiasts. You have most of the focus around a central Malian who seems to find her own strength and sense of self all while still dealing with all of the normal angst of being a teen, complete with normal teenage language, troubles, obsessions, heartaches and triumphs. The social aspect I found most interesting derives from a few varying forms. How some of these Malians view some of the issues that we are currently dealing with today, dropped in our reading laps in little snippets of drips and pieces. I thought the prose was wonderful and that less was indeed much more here. Then how the social aspect of the

"normals" deal with that of the varying Malians, since they have no similar residing feature other than (outwardly) they simply have differing rainbow colored skin or other features. The fear lies with identifying them based off of the tell-tale physical clues, then fearing the unknown aspects of their powers that lie underneath. In the developing conflicts, insights and even resolutions that boil over within these pages, one might remember that of a Stranger in a Strange Land, where alien aspects are often feared before they are learned to be understood, and that instead of celebrating differences in culture, race and even ability, we possess and overwhelming nature of fear and paranoia which often leads to violence instead. Suffice to say, I honestly feel like this could be the next book taught in classrooms about social issues. It really is that good. If we simply get over the few things that would fluff us up and offend us and see it for what it is, this could be a wondrous thing not only for ourselves, but for a future set of readers as well. I am in true appreciation for the publishing house to take a chance on this author, and for this author to take the time and effort to produce and write this book. Well done, and keep up the good work.

Davina Jamison says

I was really impressed by this novel. Here comes a book from a small press (Curious Quills Press) and I'm expecting a light, YA fantasy read. Instead, I get a thoughtful metaphor for intolerance with great characters and story. I'll post a full review at davinajamison.tumblr.com in the next few days.

Eustacia Tan says

This is one of the first books I read on my new iPad, and it was a good choice. This was a gorgeous reading experience (I'm talking about both Retina and the book). Because this was a scrapbook, there were loads of images, and they showed up beautifully.

Seriously, beautiful.

Ok, enough about how beautiful it is, let's talk story. This book has as its protagonist Amber Alexander, a Malian. A Malian is kinda like an X-Men, as she is born with a superpower - in this case, the ability to read emotions. Plus, she's golden. That's the two traits of Malians - superpowers and different skin colours (there are others, but they're not widely known). And like the X-Men, there's an Anti-Malian group about making this difficult for them.

As a result of events, Amber starts up a Lake Michigan Malian Support group (check name) and gets pulled into a revolution of her own. In the process, she gets to know this guy called Jonny Marino, a persuasive Malian who may or may not have an evil agenda.

To be honest, the first one third of the book bored me. And this is from someone who likes slow books! Somehow though, her descriptions of her angst (and her way of coping) due to being a golden girl desired by all guys just bored me. But, the book picked up after she formed her group and I was pulled into the story.

Character-wise, I think it was fine. It definitely wasn't bad, but I'll be hard-pressed to say they were exceptional. I liked Amber and her (regular) cousin Bree, but some characterisations, like Kevin the blue Asian kind of annoyed me. Why did he have to be alcoholic?

One warning, while there is nothing explicit in this book, there is a lot of innuendo. I didn't have to skip any sections, but I was uncomfortable with certain conversations - and I certainly don't condone their morals.

So in conclusion, I'd recommend this for older teens looking for an X-Men like book.

This review was first published at Inside the mind of a Bibliophile
