



The Wall

Deanna Madden

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When a mutated HIV virus causes a global epidemic, one city in the American Southwest builds a wall that divides the city into two zones, separating the infected from the uninfected. As the epidemic continues to spread, unrest grows in the South Zone, where the infected are quarantined. Now in the scorching heat of summer, their power has gone off, and it can only be a matter of time until the wall fails to hold back the coming firestorm of violence. When that happens, will any place be safe?

25-year-old Sarah, who has sought refuge in the city after losing her family, lives in the North Zone and teaches children orphaned by the epidemic. To shield herself from more hurt, she distances herself emotionally from others, but she can't turn her back on everyone. Someone has to help the elderly woman who lives down the hall. And then there is the orphan Indian girl in her class who will be sent to a reservation to die unless she can prevent it. And how can she say no to Martin, the young hospital orderly from the South Zone who shows up at her high-rise with a bullet wound and a dangerous request?

As the crisis escalates, Sarah must overcome her past trauma and join forces with friends and strangers to save the people she cares about. She must decide who she can trust and what risks she is willing to take, including the risk of letting herself love again.

The Wall Details

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Colleen says

Not good. At all.

The premise, though interesting, was not well handled. Character development was rushed and unconvincing. It was not clear why the world was as it was. The virus??? No information about the virus. Basically there was far too much happening that was inelegantly described. It reads like a hasty 2nd draft.

Monica says

I was given a copy of this book from the Goodreads First Reads program in exchange for an honest review. In the near future, there is a global epidemic that keeps getting worse everyday. After horrifically losing her family, Sarah, a school teacher, moves to a city in the southwest that has a wall keeping the infected separate from everyone else.

Sarah has always been more of a loner, but because she is kindhearted, when things begin to go south for the city she begins letting people in. There is Milo, who is keeping secrets, Martin who lives on the other side of the wall, Mrs. Franklin, her elderly neighbor that she helps out, as well as Mary, an orphan from work who she takes in. Ultimately, the book is about caring for one another and helping those who need it.

I became wrapped in Sarah's story within the first few pages. The description of the city, and the dangers within are explained wonderfully. I could not help but want to know what would happen next to all of the characters because no one knows who to trust with the city being divided and the virus spreading so quickly. I liked that people from the south side who were infected were still allowed to work within the north side of the city, as long as they were showing no physical signs of the virus. That lead to many of the plot points. I loved that while there was a tiny bit of a romantic element to the story, most of it was concentrated on friendship and what one is willing to do to help those they love. It was a refreshing change. I will definitely be recommending this book to my friends, and will be looking for more of Ms. Madden's books to read.
