



The Academy Alignment (The Academy #1)

David Davis, Andra St. Ivanyi

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Who decides what music defines a generation or which war gets funded? Who determines high fashion?

Who gets to choose which dusty African village thrives and which suffers famine and genocide?

For centuries, the world's wealthiest have sent their children to an elite boarding school known as The Academy to ensure continued control over global events. This year, The Academy offered its first scholarship to Peter Foster, a 17 year old from the blue-collar town nearby. Before Peter can get his bearings in this world of unimaginable wealth, sexual gamesmanship and obscene entitlement, he uncovers information about the mysterious and violent disappearance of a recent student — information everyone, even the teachers, is desperate to cover up. As the forces of Light and Dark continue their age-old dance of influence and manipulation, The Academy students fight to run their parents' empires, and to consolidate wealth and influence at any cost. Peter soon realizes he is up against forces that operate far outside his reality, and he'll have to risk everything, even his life, to expose the truth ... even if his discoveries upend the fragile balance of global power.

The Academy Alignment (The Academy #1) Details

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Author : David Davis , Andra St. Ivanyi

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From Reader Review The Academy Alignment (The Academy #1) for online ebook

Kristi says

I received this advanced reader copy from Netgalley in return for an honest review.

Such an interesting start to a series. It took a little while to set up and for me to get into it simply because the world needed to be set up, but once I was into it the story went fast and the action stayed moving. I liked that, for a little while, the reader is as lost as the main character without any real idea of what is going on. It kept me on my toes, kept me wondering and theorizing and even then nothing was exactly as I had thought it was going to be. I'm very interested in seeing the sequel to this book.

Phoenix says

The absolute WORST thing about this book is the fact that I got it through NetGalley (***I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review***). Which means it isn't even out yet. Which means I have to wait EVEN LONGER for the sequel. Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuck.

This is going to be a difficult review to write because this is one of those books where just about everything I could possibly say about the plot is a spoiler.

This is probably the best synopsis I can give: Peter Foster gets mysterious scholarship for fancy, rich-kid school. Because reasons. Freaky weird magic shit happens. It's a mystery!! Solve the mystery, Peter!! *Solve the mystery before it's too laaaaaate!*

I like the pacing on this. You get answers but very slowly. There's not really much in the way of DUN-DUN-DUN!! style reveals. Once it gets going, it's more of a slow, steady drip.

There are a few things I still have questions about, though:

Light spoilers, I'm not giving much away here.

(view spoiler)

There were a few things I took issue with the book (other than my unanswered questions):

- Peter needs to consult an old book with vellum pages that's in a special, climate-controlled room and he's required to wear gloves to handle. But it's written in completely modern English and formatted kind of like a lab report. Hm-kay...

- It's a bit on the mature side of YA. This isn't *really* an issue because I don't personally take offense to stuff like this *but* are we sure we want this marketed to that *particular* age group? There's quite a bit of underage sex, drugs, and drinking going on in this book. The book doesn't come out and say "Hey, kids, isn't all this stuff super cool and awesome?" but it doesn't exactly condemn it either. (It's all pretty ambiguous. Which is... ironic.)

There's not really a message in this at all. No moral, nothing about doing the right thing in the end. Just a decent story. The sex and drugs and stuff was pretty necessary scene-setting for that story. But yeah. I personally would not give this to a thirteen year old. Seventeen would probably about where I would think a kid would start to handle the content appropriately.

- The planetary alignment. Wtf. None of that made sense to me. The stuff that happened, not just at the campus, but all over the world. And apparently this happens pretty frequently but not frequently at all? I'd be interested in the data behind that one.

The stuff I did like:

- The story was engaging. I was genuinely interested from the get go and always enticed to keep turning pages.

- Most of the characters were pretty well fleshed out. Most of them. Richard and Charley could've used some work in particular. But Sophia was decently done (even if she was a bit of a Mary Sue). You got a pretty good sense of her motivations and her history. Never all the details in this book, but enough. Chloe...

- Chloe is a bullet point unto herself. I really liked Chloe in the worst way. She's a terrible person. For real. Just goddamned awful. But she's like Angelica from the Rugrats. Completely self absorbed and awful but you go, girl. Even if I cannot support the terrible, cruel things you're doing.

- This book is not sugar coated or diluted. I definitely complained about that earlier.... in the sex and drugs area.... But in the dialog and social interaction aspect: *yasss*. Kids are terrible to each other. Just fucking terrible. In most books, insults are watered down and might as well be: "YO MAMA" "NO, YO MAMA!!" The jabs these kids take at each other? Dayum. Every one is a little bit crueler than the last. Each one makes you question how far is too far? Because *fuck*. Those were dickbag things to say, kids. Jesus christ.

- Sort of continued from my last point... I loved reading this for terrible reasons. The same kind of reasons that bring you back to awful, *just awful* reality shows and prime time dramas. I need the juicy gossip. I want to watch the decadent lives of the rich kids and the terrible things they do for their own amusement. I could've read this whole thing wide-eyed with a bucket of popcorn. I would watch a movie or tv series based on this the same way. I would watch the fuck out of this book on screen.

TL;DR: Mysterious book is mysterious. Bratty rich kids with decadent lifestyles do terrible, prime-time-drama-worthy shit to each other. *gasp!* Weird symbols n shit! Wherethefuckisthenextbookineeditnow??

9/1/16 update: Cross-posted to Amazon here: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/review/R2X0...>

I've also just seen that this is available from Kindle Unlimited. So yay! :D I love me some KU availability.

Dilushani Jayalath says

I kindly received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Wow. Just wow. This book was such a pleasant surprise. When I saw the cover and read the blurb I did not expect such an awesome book. I expected something like *Carry On* by Rowell and was partially dreading reading this book and the cover was not that promising either (I know it's a cardinal rule that we should not judge a book by its cover but sometimes you can't help it). This was one of the most unexpected books I've read this whole year.

So I do not know how to write a review of this book without giving out any spoiler. This book is just a maze of mystery. I just couldn't wait to get to the ending at first, I mean the prologue itself got me hooked. But then I figured I had to read it slowly and decipher the meaning slowly as every single action done by the characters were important in the end. The pacing of the story was amazing and manages to keep you at the edge of your chair. Every single character is a mystery you just want to figure out (Though I should accept I really didn't like Sophia). The main character is bit of an idiot but other than that he acts as your usual MC would, rushing to save the world without a care about his own life, saving the life of the girl he loves by even sacrificing his own life. Well that's the basic part of the story. I'm not going to write anything else cuz it'll be a total spoiler.

The characters were all interesting. You get to see the lives of the young and the rich and their partying and how in the end they only are the people who will do good to the world and all that shit. That part annoyed me, maybe cuz I'll never be a part of that? :D who knows. Just reading about that piece annoyed me. I didn't like how they portrayed them being the people who lead the world but then again it's the reality. The terrible truth of the world. But wait, what the hell am I even rambling about? :D

All in all I just want to say this was super awesome book and in any sense for me it was a better mystery than *The Girl on the Train* even (I keep hearing people say it's one of the best mystery books of the decade, while I on the other hand regretted buying it even). I can't wait to read the second book and see what the hell (view spoiler) But what I would have really loved is if they made a movie out of it. Through out the book I just kept having these Harry Potter like images running through my head, I even imagined the Tree to look like the Whomping Willow. Seriously, a movie would be great. Then again this book need a lot more recognition and deserve to be on top shelves.

Jennifer says

This was a very fun book that kept me up pretty late.

I enjoyed the quick wit and dynamic between the characters. The plot was very well paced and it was a hard book to put down. I am not sure why I didn't write a review right after I finished it, I am pretty sure I finished it pretty late and that is probably why.

This was a fun fantasy novel and I do look forward to this author in the future, especially since this is a new series!

I received a copy of the book on Netgalley in exchange for review.

Lucie says

3.5 stars- 4 stars

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

I enjoyed this book. My main issue with this book was that I felt confused almost the entire time I was reading it. I feel like a lot of things were unexplained and I know that that was supposed to enhance the *mysterious* aspect of the story but it just made it really confusing and harder to connect with the characters. That being said I did find myself invested in the plot and wanting to continue reading to find out all the things that were hidden from me.

Video Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8zHA...>

Alyssa Marie says

*Thank you to NetGalley for my copy of *The Academy Alignment* (*The Academy* #1).*

The Academy Alignment was not the story I expected to be, in a good way! I usually like stories set in boarding schools and thought this would be similar to those, but The Academy is on a different level.

The premise of this story is very unique. The Academy Boarding School is one where the students are extremely wealthy. That's why Peter Foster was a little reluctant on attending the school for his senior year from an offered scholarship. Peter didn't grow up rich or privileged and was clearly not like the other students that attend The Academy. When he arrives there, he slowly begins to realize that The Academy is not what he thinks - it is much more. It is hidden with secrets and mysteries and darkness he never imagined. The Academy is a school that has control - not only over their own lives, but of global events. I thought that was such an interesting concept I've never seen before.

This book was fast-paced and always exciting. The mysteries unravel slowly, which I really liked. Not everything was given away all at once, which made me want to keep reading more. The points of view alternate between a few different characters. My favorite point of view to read from was when Peter was telling the story - I found him the easiest to connect with. I had a hard time connecting with a lot of the other characters and understanding their reasoning and thoughts. But I did enjoy reading from the professors and Peter's point of view.

The Academy is an interesting start to a new series full of mysteries and hidden secrets.

Bailee says

I was surprised by this novel, to be quite honest. I figured that it would be reminiscent of several other novels that I've read that are set in a boarding school type of setting; however, it surprised me. This novel took on the philosophy of light and dark in an intriguing way. Every action is stemmed from light and dark, and each of these actions has a consequence. The novel suggests that there are influences that change each action, that impact each decision but there is one place that is free from these influences — The Academy. This boarding

school is built solely for the elite and its doors have been closed to the general public for centuries. The students are the children of the world's wealthiest individuals, and many of them have known each other since they were young therefore solidifying the clique-ish nature of the ultimate popular group. All of these things perpetually leave Peter Foster, the first scholarship student, at a distinct disadvantage.

With Peter, I've discovered that there remains a lot more questions than answers within the text, which either could be described as a disadvantage (because some people hate unanswered questions) or an advantage (because that will urge people to keep reading). One thing is for certain, Peter is extremely important to this battle of light and dark. It appears that without him, this battle of the wills would essentially continue to be moot. Indeed, he is a favorite chess piece for both sides, and neither seems willing to share him. His goal is to do what is right and sometimes, that means indulging both sides of his nature — the light and the dark. He proves to be important not only to his own journey, but to other people's journeys as well. His journey throughout the novel proves to be complex as he struggles to grasp his new surroundings — and understand them (I kind of like to think of this as the test aspect of the novel, where everything seems to test where he thinks he belongs). Next, he has to deal with this expectation that he will act as some sort of heroic figure to the other characters. Overall, I am curious to see how the entire series plays out in regards to his role since there are a lot of things I am still curious about.

Another POV (point of view) character is Chloe, a young woman who could be described as indulging the dark more so than the light. Whereas Peter is the middle ground, she is most assuredly not. However, a lot of her desires towards the darkness prove to stem from the feelings of insecurity that chases her throughout the novel. She feels that she will never be good enough for anyone, which creates a sort of stilted vanity where she is only as beautiful as her looks — only as worthwhile as the world tells her. She lacks the self-confidence that would make it possible for her to chose anything but the dark. In the dark, she has found her meaning, and therefore she neglects the somewhat essential parts of herself. Even in her most powerful moments — in those chances where she can redeem herself, it is stilted by her vanity, furthered by her desire to be found beautiful and to be wanted. I am curious to see how her character evolves in future novels because I think she has great potential to be a powerful character.

One of the things I really liked about the novel is that the light and dark are not particularly abstract, rather there are two characters that epitomize them. I think that it can be complicated to try to make a character purely one of those things because there is so much gray area in humanity that no one can be described as simply light or simply dark. While many of the characters exemplify the gray area in between both essential aspects of humanity, Dr. Browning is the light and Professor Linden is the dark. Both view their roles as mutually exclusive and more important than the other. There is no balance for the two of them, rather it is a game of dominance to see who could come out on top — who could persuade enough of the people at The Academy to honor one side above the other.

Overall I enjoyed the novel, and I am interested to see how the story develops and the characters change. There are a lot of plot twists and surprising elements to the novel, so I hope this continues in all of the future novels.

Isla says

I received a free ebook from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review:

In a school that's literally its own world, the forces of light and dark battle for students' souls. The Academy

is where all the rich and powerful send their children, to train them for making future world-changing decisions. Peter, the Academy's newest student, is neither rich nor powerful. But when he starts finding secret messages in his dormitory, Peter has to try to work out what happened to the last student who stayed there. Read this for good vs. evil, socialites vs. regular people, and an intriguing mystery!

Sean Davis says

In a little good news, The Academy has moved up to #24 and #32 on Kindle Amazon for best selling books in kids and teen young adult Fantasy and Supernatural category. This is up from #307 yesterday and 800 a couple of days ago. Its important to note this is updated frequently and accounts for presales since the book isn't even out yet!

Imogene Dacanay says

Thank you NetGalley and The Pheonix Organization for providing me a review copy of The Academy: Alignment by David Davis and Andra St. Invanyi.

"Why?" "What?" "How?"

Those are my first thoughts reading the prologue of The Academy Alignment.

"What the hell is happening?"

"Why is it happening?"

"How on earth am I going to put this book down?"

I immediately requested a review copy of The Academy after reading the provided blurb in NetGalley. I love stories that are set in boarding schools. I really do. The Academy is a school where only a number of 300 students are allowed, a few yet their family have money almost half of the percentage of the world's wealth.

Peter isn't one of those students. Well he got an outreach scholarship. Reading about a school for elites, and a boy who got a scholarship made me think of Boys Over Flowers, a Korean Novela that I truly love. BoF vibes, but I know it's way different.

Every character, I think, knows something that Peter doesn't. All he have to do is find those things out. But there are rules, and there are prices to pay. Everything in the school is either a trap or a lie. It's like saying, "help, or disappear."

The book was really enthralling, it didn't let me put it down even just for a second. I loved reading it, I loved how I feel like I'm just right beside Peter while he's unraveling the secrets of The Academy, cheering for him, telling him to do this do that, not to do this and that. One chapter to another, leads from one question to another. A lot of unanswered questions. The mysteries, they unravel with enough time, not slow neither fast. Every chapter I read makes me more interested, eager to know more. It kept me guessing who's on the right side and who's not. Who are trustworthy, and who's veteran in betrayals.

The book would be a perfect one for me, a 5-star, if it wasn't for the way it was written. It was written as if

it's for middle grades, pretty much almost the only thing I didn't like in The Academy. Not to mention about some really predictable parts too. As well as the number of point of views. As a reader, more point of views mean more confusions. Guess that one added complexity to the story, and twisted minds to the readers.

Overall, I enjoyed the book! Everyone needs to read this! Though, warning, the book was a real cliffhanger!

Nikki says

Thank you Netgalley and The Phoenix Organization for giving me a chance to read this.

Where to begin...

Well, first off, I would like to start by saying that this book isn't what I expected. I thought it was going to be some crazy school teaching kids how to control everything, but you spent most of your time learning about the characters and what not. I actually hoped for more insight on the classes.

When it first started I didn't understand why everything was happening, and it wasn't until almost the end of the book that it all began to make sense. However, the book held my attention. I wanted to know what was happening, the book made sure that it teased you with details throughout each page.

Now the characters. Yes, the characters. At first I thought I was going to hate Peter, but he grew on me, as well as the other characters (except for one). The book left me wanting to know more about them, to understand why they said and did most of the things they did. Of course you can only discover so much in a single book and I hope that there is another book later to satisfy my wants.

I feel like the book carries a great message about good, evil, and how those aspects are influenced.

A few things that put me off about the book is that I felt like the way it was written was more middle grade, however, it contains some strong language and what not, so it fits better in the teen section. Another thing is, sometimes I was confused about who some of the characters were talking to. It, thankfully, states who's point of view you are reading from, but sometimes they would be talking to someone and I felt totally lost about who and what.

Otherwise it was a great book and I am ready for another one (please?) because I just, I seriously yelled "what" on the last page.

April (BooksWithMaps) says

I received a free copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not shape or change my opinion of the book.

Synopsis: Who decides what music defines a generation or which war gets funded? Who determines high fashion? Who gets to choose which dusty African village thrives and which suffers famine and genocide? For centuries, the world's wealthiest have sent their children to an elite boarding school known as The Academy to ensure continued control over global events. This year, The Academy offered its first scholarship to Peter Foster, a 17 year old from the blue-collar town nearby. Before Peter can get his bearings in this world of unimaginable wealth, sexual gamesmanship and obscene entitlement, he uncovers information about the mysterious and violent disappearance of a recent student information everyone, even the teachers, is desperate to cover up. As the forces of Light and Dark continue their age-old dance of influence and manipulation, The Academy students fight to run their parents' empires, and to consolidate wealth and influence at any cost. Peter soon realizes he is up against forces that operate far outside his reality, and he'll have to risk everything, even his life, to expose the truth even if his discoveries upend the

fragile balance of global power."

I was really intrigued with the concept and premise of The Academy Alignment. An academy where the most rich, and powerful send their children in order to carry on the world's most influential decisions...yesss! There were some interesting themes woven in: good/evil, light/dark, social hierarchy, wealth and influence "haves" vs. "have nots" etc. The mysteriousness of the plot kept me turning the pages.

That said I did have some issues. I found the lack of some basic information (while it may have contributed to the mysteriousness) also made it confusing to follow. There was also a disconnect, in my opinion, between the target audience and the writing and some of the content. Most of this book is not mature or sophisticated enough to appeal to an older audience. I think it is geared toward a younger audience, BUT some of the content and writing was inappropriate for that audience. I am a fan of multiple POV's. I find that they can greatly aid in the development of characters; adding some layers and dimensions. I never have a hard time following, but I did at some points in this one.

Given the premise, there was A LOT of potential for just MORE. More eloquent writing, more depth, more dimensions, better developed and more well rounded characters...but this failed to execute a bit for me.

Borja says

Un libro para pasar el rato, entretenido, de esos que vienen bien de vez en cuando entre lecturas o cuando no sabes qué leer. Tienes a tu colegio/internado misterioso del que nadie sabe nada, con alumnos ricos, y pasan cosas... Pero la historia no ha llegado a calar del todo en mí, y por eso llevo un buen rato pensando en qué puntuación darle... Creo que lo dejo en un 3 sobre 5 por lo rápido que se lee y hay algo de salseo que ha hecho que el libro se me haga entretenido. Pero con la trama que tiene, podría haber sido muchísimo muchísimo más

AMR Reviews says

Okay, so first of all, it was a lot more fantasy-ish than I expected in the first place, and that made it all the better. When Diane first told Peter that he was going to the academy, he was in disbelief, and I would be too if I were put into that type of situation. Peter was being sent to a school where the richest kids in the world go, and he is just a normal townie? Wow, that would be a major change.

Peter got to the academy and immediately knew that things were not right, he tried to figure things out and when he found James's computer and hacked into it, he got some half answers, half questions. For a reason that I have no idea why, he felt compelled to help James. I guess it could have been that the other students introduced Peter to a fake James at initiation, but what would I know?

Let's begin with the intense emotions through out the book. So when Peter first learns that he has to go to the academy he is sorta devastated but he gets through it. When he arrives at the academy he sees all of the rich, arrogant, and beautiful people there. Like with any story that have young adults in them, there are always going to be some relationship drama. So when I found out that Anton was truly in love with Sophia I was actually stunned, I had not expected someone like Anton to actually want a relationship with anyone. But since Peter arrives, there was an undeniable connection between him and Sophia, and Anton was not happy

about that. He was so upset that he wanted Chloe to distract Peter, but that did not happen, Chloe just anted a distraction for herself, and she said it herself that she was done following orders from Anton. For a while Anton tried his best to prove to Sophia that he was worth all of the trouble, but when Chloe found out about Sophia's little fortune, she couldn't help but tell Mr Linden about it. When Linden heard, he relayed the info to Anton's father. Anton then became the youngest CEO of a company. He had no doing in this though and helping people was Sophia's dream. He realized that he had just destroyed Sophia's only dream. Sophia felt instantly betrayed and they sort of broke up but they were never together at the time to begin with. James was also a big part. He and Sophia met in rehab but they were not together, but Chloe seemed to think so and Chloe was in love with James. She believed that Sophia was the one who stole James away from her.

The way the authors described the way Chloe felt and how she thought that her best friend had stolen the boy that she loved was priceless. I could have put it into words a better way. They seemed to capture all of the emotions and put it into words, which is something I can say that is not done very well most of the time.

The book has so many different things going on at the same time, it whisk you away from reality and transports you into the mind of whoever's perspective it is. I truly think that I could go on and on about this book but there is one last thing I have to talk about before I close this all up. I have to talk about how James worked so hard to get Peter to help his get out of the tree, but then he just betrays him. Who does that? That's an awful thing to do, and when Sophia is being dragged away, he does nothing, Nothing! And Peter just tries his hardest to get Sophia away, he sacrifices himself to the tree instead of her. when she realizes what was happening she wanted Peter to live. That shows that what was between them was love. They loved each other and I do not think that they knew it yet themselves.

I really can't wait for the next book to come out. I know it will drive me insane until I read it. David and Andra, you guys did a fantastic job on The Academy: Alignment.

Imogene Dacanay says

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Overall, I enjoyed the book! Everyone needs to read this! Though, warning, the book was a real cliffhanger! Because what the hell? ZACH?!
