



So Shelly

Ty Roth

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Until now, high school junior, John Keats, has only tiptoed near the edges of the vortex that is schoolmate and literary prodigy, Gordon Byron. That is, until their mutual friend, Shelly, drowns in a sailing accident.

After stealing Shelly's ashes from her wake at Trinity Catholic High School, the boys set a course for the small Lake Erie island where Shelly's body had washed ashore and to where she wished to be returned. It would be one last "so Shelly" romantic quest. At least that's what they think. As they navigate around the obstacles and resist temptations during their odyssey, Keats and Gordon glue together the shattered pieces of Shelly's and their own pasts while attempting to make sense of her tragic and premature end.

So Shelly Details

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Author : Ty Roth

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Rebecca says

Things I liked about this book:

The cover -- it's gorgeous

The idea - the poets John Keats, Lord Byron and Shelley reborn as American teenagers.

The voice - as the narrator, Keats has a really powerful personality that shines through the text.

What I didn't like:

All the sex. This is YA, not some heavy duty bondage novel in an erotica line.

The focus on Byron and his sexual conquests and this in a book titled "So Shelley".

Overall, this book was a disappointment. Ty Roth can write well, but he should find some better ideas to use his talent on.

Kendare Blake says

It's hard to review SO SHELLY without using expletives. Because it's that effing good. But I'm going to try. Yes, it's a reimagining of the lives of the major romantic poets, Byron, Keats and a mishmash of Shelleys. Sometimes when reading it something happens and you think, "ooh! I wonder if that's historically accurate." It's fascinating, and the author explains the majority in an equally interesting afterword.

But that's not the thing about this book. Don't care about the romantic poets? Doesn't matter. This book is beautiful. It's tragic, melancholy, hole in your soul stuff. So intensely atmospheric, and the great lake hovers constantly in the background. Looking to discuss setting as character? Check out Lake Erie in So Shelly.

Love, death, obsession and flawed people are the order of the day, wrapped up in a layered, literary package. It took me forever to finish this book, because Keats dragged me along with my heels dug in all the way. You see the end from the beginning and I just didn't want to get there.

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

My Cover Thoughts: When this book arrived in the mail I was intrigued because it shows a girl in a long white dress walking off a boat dock. The dock is rickety and looks like it is about to fall apart and the girl is going to fall through it. The girl looks like she is walking right into the water. After looking at the cover I knew I needed to read this book because I needed to know whether or not she walked into that water and drowned.

My Thoughts/Review: From the very beginning I knew I was not going to be able to put this book down. The opening line goes like this "Most of us like to believe that we are born to do great things, maybe even to be famous. Truth is, we aren't and we won't."

This book is about three people who have a huge impact on one another's lives. Shelly grows up with Gordon who is her neighbour and best friend. She loves him so much that it hurts because he does not reciprocate her love. Gordon is a self centred spoiled boy who gets whatever he wants, whenever he wants, wherever he wants. He has no boundaries and is given everything to him by his mother. Then you have Keats who has jumped up in a grade because he is smart but he is also awkward so he shies away from people. But when you bring the three of them together you get a great story about finding true love and true friendships.

This book made me laugh and cry. Shelly loved Gordon but he loved himself so he did some not so nice things to other people. But the one constant in his life was Shelly. She loved him in spite of what he did or how he acted. Gordon on the other hand slept with a lot of women drank alcohol and only thought about what would benefit him. Keats comes along and becomes friends with Shelly because they have the same passion for writing. Keats and Shelly start their own school newsletter and write about their passions and other stories for the school. With their passion for writing ignited they get the school paper published and on-line.

While all this is going on at school Shelly is feeling depressed because Gordon will not give her the time of day and he is busy setting out a name for himself. So Shelly is feeling lonely and a little awkward at school because every time she tries to have some type of happiness Gordon ruins it by telling her he loves her so she will back away from the other person. She finally has had enough and decides to be friends with Keats because Gordon doesn't deem him a threat. As the story goes on Shelly has her ups and downs and she finally decides she is going to up the ante by doing something drastic which Gordon calls "So Shelly" moments.

This book has so many ups and downs that I can not tell you because I will spoil the book. It is a must read. I promise you, you will not be disappointed. Ty has done an excellent job of spinning the old with the new. This book leaves you breathless and wanting more from the characters. I have read a lot of books but this one captured my heart and soul. Ty weeded a story so good you did not want to put this book down. Who can resist true love and true hatred all at the same time by the same person?

Memorable Quotes: Page 319 Shelly says to Keats "He (Gordon) ignores me because he loves me"
Advice: This is a must read! I am going to buy this book and keep it on my favourite book shelf.

Audrey says

A fanfic in which Lord Byron, John Keats, and an amalgamation of Percy and Mary Shelley are teens with cellphones and ipods, living in the Midwest. At times I thought the story worked, but most of the time it didn't. How do you bring the second generation of Romantics to the present? To Ohio? In many respects Ty Roth was pretty faithful to the scandalous biographical details, especially involving Byron. Augusta, Claire, Caroline Lamb - they're all there. But the author couldn't get too smutty because it is supposed to be for teenagers, not adults. Thus the book vacillated between being either an unusually debauched YA novel or a tepid version of *Less Than Zero*.

Overall *So Shelly* was an interesting exercise. I didn't feel it was bad, but it was not good either.

Kristen says

Why I read this: Cover lust really. I was like ooo pretty. And I really cannot resist a debut novel, for sure. :)

Plot: So, some of you may not know, but this basically throws the famous poets Keats, Shelley, and Byron into a high school setting and well, it makes for quite the interesting story. This book was exactly what I needed after drudging through some "typical" paranormal romance. Ty's writing is like poetry compared to what I've been reading lately and I probably am not the first to say this, but I can see Literature teachers teaching this book in the future (most likely High School or College though..). It's that good.

Back to the plot, the book is told from the point of view of John Keats, who is in love with Shelly, who is in love with Gordon. Ty does a fantastic job of melding the history of the three with the current situation - which is the two boys stealing Shelly's ashes (after her 'accidental' drowning) to grant her last wishes. Weaving the colorful pasts of Gordon and Shelly into the story, you really get a feel for the characters in this book. That being said, there is a lot of sex in this book. Younger YA readers beware, Gordon certainly has some infamy with the opposite sex.

Characters: Keats may be the least mentioned character in this book, but you get a feel for his voice, you get enough information about it, but he is definitely shadowed when it comes to Shelly and Gordon. Gordon is such a colorful character, one that you try really hard to hate, but you really can't - because his character is so warped and so Byron-like you simply understand him and keep watching him for his next insane move.

Shelly reminds me of John Green's female characters all mixed in one - overdramatic, overloving, and never falling for the right guy. And always with a mission in mind. The clues she leaves also remind me of Paper Towns (a novel I highly suggest if you loved this one). I couldn't help but love her and her undying love for Gordon, the unattainable male that actually does love Shelly in a way that really cannot be described.

Relatability: Lovers of John Green will fall in love with this novel. I think Gordon will have more fans than us readers would like to admit and is easily the most insanely likable scoundrel I've ever read.

Cover Commentary: Gorgeous, like I said, it's probably the main reason I picked this one up.

Jay G says

Want to see more bookish things from me? Check out my YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfer...>

2.5 Stars

This book is a loose retelling of three dead poets lives if they were teens in modern day society. Shelly has died and her final wish was for Keats and Gordon to spread her ashes on a beach while playing her REM CD from her old boom box. While travelling to the beach, Keats and Gordon get to know each other and reminisce on the times spent with Shelly.

I found all the characters to be lack lustre and a bit boring to me. Gordon was extremely self-centred and Shelly's obsession with him was a bit pathetic. The book started off great and I thought I was really going to

enjoy it. Unfortunately no real plot developed and what did come of the story was very slow.

Christie says

So Shelly revolves around the lives of three character based off long dead poetic greats. Anticipating how John Keats, Lord Byron, and Percy Shelly might live and interact if they were teens living in modern day. Shelly is dead, and Keats and Gordon have swiped her ashes from her memorial service. Armed with an urn, a boom box, and an REM CD they set out to spread Shelly's ashes in a location she chose before her passing. Along the way Gordon and Keats get to know each other better, and take us down memory lane via flashbacks of their lives with a living and breathing Shelly.

I wanted to love this one. I really did. I think the premise of the novel is brilliant, but I found the characters seriously lacking. I couldn't relate to or sympathize with them. Even Keats who I should have felt sorry for didn't leave an impression. Gordon is horribly selfish and self-centered. Shelly's obsession with the narcissistic Gordon was pathetic. Keats was just there, and didn't appear to serve a purpose beyond that of narrator.

The plot moved slower than I would have liked, and honestly I spent most of this book in a state of depression. Avoid this one if you're looking for happy because this is a dark and deep read. I do appreciate the idea behind the novel, but unfortunately it didn't win me over. History buffs and poetry fans might enjoy this one more than I did. I encourage you to read the author's notes at the end of the novel before reading. They are very informative if you aren't familiar with the background of these poets.

I also have to slap a content warning on this one. It contains colorful language, references to drugs, sex, incest, and other heavy topics that some younger teens might not be ready for.

Cover notes: The cover is absolutely stunning, and the reason this book garnered my attention in the first place.

Kelly says

You know, I'm not sure what scares me most: that this novel is a spot-on representation of teenagers today or that it might actually influence them. In what can only be called an insult to young adults the world over, Mr. Roth delivers a literary travesty. In fact, the author manages in one fell swoop to: disgrace the names of three beloved poets, murder any/all depth and seriousness to issues facing teens today, and create a cast of characters that are so vapid, annoying, unrealistic, and utterly repugnant they made me appreciate the Twilight series.

And that, friends, is only the beginning.

The dialog appears to be taken almost word for word from episodes of Beverly Hills 90210 and Dawson's Creek; and before you ask, no, it's not an homage. The plot - what little that exist - started as a good idea, but completely derailed into a shallow reconstruction of history for an under-appreciated school outcast. The writing, while skilled and at times beautiful in construction, is completely devoid of feeling and movement. It's as if the writer is relaying a story that has been told so many times even he's bored with it. Finally, in

what you can only laugh at for fear of crying, Mr. Roth's sloppy mistreatment of 80's pop culture references is an egregious example of why this trend needs to end.

Gemma says

One of the more tragic books I've read in a while.

Tragic because of its storyline? Nooo... Tragic because this book could have been a heck of a lot better than it really was, and the author proved it to me.

It's forward or prologue or whatever was lovely. Beautiful and insightful and genuine. It gives us false hope that this book will be excellent.

So Shelly is supposed to be about dead poets reimagined as teenagers in the twenty first century. I haven't actually heard of any of these poets, but I'm not known for my knowledge of literature and poetry, especially when the writers are dead. Shelly is dead, and it leaves Keats and Gordon with a quest to go scatter her ashes or something (that's what I gathered from it).

Judging from the premise and the prologue, this book had the full potential to be original, insightful and beautiful. Excellent. Unfortunately, it goes downhill very quickly.

Contrary to what the title, cover and summary may lead you to believe, this book is really about Gordon. It begins with a history of his sexual exploits, and proceeds to give you a full view of his life story. Shelly comes in second to him for most of the book.

This is disappointing; I didn't like Gordon. He was too much of a player and thought too much of himself.

Do I have a natural disliking for egotistical players? No. Jack Sparrow and Tony Stark/Iron Man are two of my favorite fictional characters ever (admittedly, they're movie characters. But I like pre-CoFA Jace Wayland). Sometimes the massive ego is part of the charm.

But Gordon just didn't have charm. His self-absorbedness was genuine; there was nothing hiding behind the ego. So he didn't have the charisma to boost an entire book mainly dedicated to him.

As for the other characters... The narrator, John Keats is vague; we don't know much about him, really. And I actually did like Shelly, sorta. She was interesting, at least. She was all tough and made of steel, but that was only the outer shell. She did actually manage to have a sort of depth to her, as well as a vulnerability. Her unrequited love for Gordon made her tragic.

It was also sweet, how the narrator seemed to be half in love with her. He never said it (or if he did, I skimmed over it; might have happened), but you could feel it. Honestly, this was a good love triangle, or fake love triangle. It was actually tragic, unlike the whole Bella-Edward-Jacob thing (or, more specifically, all the ones based off of it), because it was all genuine, and all unrequited.

Unfortunately, Shelly is dead. We don't ever encounter her, except through memories, so we don't ever really mourn her, just sort of wish she were here so we'd stop having to deal with Gordon's monologue.

John Green wrote a book called Looking for Alaska (you've probably heard of it). It was a lot like this one, except in the beginning, Alaska's not dead. We get a chance to actually get to know her as a live person, which makes us more connected to her as a character. It makes both her and her death seem more real.

That's another issue; Shelly's death never felt real. After I read If I Stay, I complained that the narrator didn't feel her situation deeply enough; the whole thing felt more like nostalgia fest than an actual 'to be or not to be' situation. She wasn't reacting enough. I felt that here. Most of So Shelly is spent reminiscing the past, but when they're in the present, I don't feel that they're really mourning Shelly. They don't seem sad.

But then, for the last ten pages... it's beautiful again. Which makes me sad, because that means the whole rest of the book could have been a whole lot better than it was.

One more thing I disliked it for: waaay too much sex. Sorta described, and of the gross variation, not the romantic. There's incest, rape, abortion, pregnancy... Just, didn't need to know.

Perhaps a bit like the character of Shelly herself: could have been great, but went wrong somewhere along the way and destroyed itself.

karen says

just because you *can* knit a sweater for a chicken, doesn't mean you should.

just because you *can* write a YA novel about Keats, Byron, and some mash-up of Percy and Mary Shelley set in modern times doesn't mean you should.

from the afterword:

just as it would be a mistake to study Shakespeare's history plays for an understanding of the succession of English monarchs from the thirteenth through much of the sixteenth century, one should not read So Shelly for its dogged adherence to historical accuracy. Like Shakespeare, I would never let historical facts get in the way of telling a good story.

and I don't want to be the obvious asshole here and point out that "you ain't Shakespeare, buddy," because I think this was a well-intentioned project: the author is a professor of English lit, and there were actual books consulted in the writing of this one - research was done, hallelujah!

my concern is that no one took a moment to consider who, exactly, the audience for a project like this would be.

because even though this book is called *So Shelly* and is "written" by Keats, it is, naturally, all about Byron.

Byron.

and I don't know who sits around thinking, "Byron, now *there* was a life worthy of presenting to a YA audience. what an inspiration!"

this book has a little something for every young teen: incest, teen pregnancy, indecent exposure, rape, abortion, drugs, death, skinny-dipping, strippers, group gropes, terrorist activity, teacher-seduction, adultery, pedophilia, homoerotic subtext, and REM.

it goes into way more lurid detail than the typical YA fare, even the edgier ones, but it is tame compared to a lot of adult fiction.

so who is this for?

die-hard fans of second-generation romantic poets?

hmmm, well, as a byron-girl, i can tell you that while some of the little winks are greatly appreciated, a lot of the time i could feel the story straining to make connections to the life of byron, like those button gaps on a too-small sweater. the plot seemed to be there solely to tie one reference to another, to retell byron's life and accomplishments in modern times.

at times, the liberties were astonishing: byron's most stable relationship; teresa guicciolo reduced to a fling with an athletics secretary? caro lamb a strip-club waitress turned denny's waitress who barely makes a peep, much less the roars she really should have made? byron's writing career reduced to some vampire novels?

and i still don't understand the smooshing of the shelleys into one, female, person, who is an intensely irritating character. well, at least he got that right. hahahhaa. sorry, shelley fans. i do not care for the (male) shelley.

and i know next to nothing about keats, except that he never ever met byron, much less was pals with him. keats isn't given much to do here - he gets to be obsessed with mortality and his inevitably short lifespan, and he has a real "make the most of every passing day" kind of thing that leads him to write... this novel. hhmph. i would think that someone so obsessed about leaving a lasting mark could have done better than to write what is essentially a gossip rag about some high school cassanova.

*Who alive can say,
'Thou art no Poet may'st not tell thy dreams?'*
Since every man whose soul is not a clod
Hath visions, and would speak, if he had loved
And been well nurtured in his mother tongue.
Whether the dream now purpos'd to rehearse
Be poet's or fanatic's will be known
When this warm scribe my hand is in the grave.

"if i'm a woman, stacy, how do you explain this?" gordon pulled his junk through his open zipper and waved it at her.

a near-perfect imitation, that.

but i'm being a bitch again. and i don't mean to be, it's not like i haven't read a zillion bizarre interpretations of the life of byron.

i just genuinely do not understand the impulse that would lead someone to write this. is it supposed to give an appreciation of the work of these poets, to show their relevance today? if so - giant failure. the mere fact that our narrator introduces himself to the reader: "i'm keats (rhymes with sheets)" makes me believe this is

meant to be directed towards an audience never exposed to these "characters" before. and too young to ever have heard a smiths song. this does not inspire awe - it would not make me want to go out and read any actual works by these people. especially shelley. so annoying of a character, jeez. and i loved shelley when i was twelve. i really got into that whole "poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world" business. then i grew up a little.

but for readers who know nothing about these people, the story must be so boring without all the sly jokes and clever twistings. without the gimmick, i don't know what this story has left. unpleasant characters who only care about themselves. narrated by a guy who can't stop spouting death-statistics. not fun.

this is just creative wanking; weirdly misplaced fanfic. and that's fine - i am just amazed that it got to the publication stage.

i will keep reading these byron books, even though they are so frequently underwhelming, and someday i am bound to find a perfectly told, thoughtful story.

come to my blog!

Missie says

When I first saw the cover for *So Shelly*, I knew I wanted to read it even without knowing anything about it. Yes, I'm that superficial when it comes to gorgeous book covers. Sue me. :P

It wasn't until I stumbled upon an interview with author Ty Roth on Teens Read and Write that I actually took the time to read what the novel was about and realize the connection to literary legends, Percy and Mary Shelley, Lord Byron, and John Keats.

You can't deny that a book like *So Shelly* leaves a lasting impression, but as I try to piece together why, I'm find myself unable to pinpoint a single answer. Resisting the urge to spew metaphorical bullshit, I will say that the morbid much concept of bringing historical figures into modern day contemporary fiction was not only genius but absolutely mesmerizing.

Like all mortals, John Keats is dying, and like most, because he believes his time will end sooner rather than later, he is desperate to leave a lasting impression. So begins his retelling of tales that his friend Shelly shared with him before her own untimely death. And as her life often did, many of her stories revolve around her childhood friend, the unrequited love of her life, George Gordon Byron.

Powered by humorous musings and homogeneous ties to history, romanticism, and death, I thought the book started off much stronger than it ended. While reading, I frequently noted many quotes and passages I simply adored. Though I did reach a point where I noticed my interest wavering a bit, at about the middle, and it never really picked back up. I can't help but blame Gordon, at least partly.

Self conscious as he was about his clubfoot, Gordon did everything possible to prove he was just as worthy as normal boys. He easily excelled in anything he tried, much to the dismay of his friends and family. What others struggled to master, Gordon naturally shined at.

What I found myself most astonished to realize was that Gordon really is the type of flawed character you

can't help but initially succumb to because of his charms only to feel completely repelled by once to get to know him better. Yet, even when his more untoward side was revealed, you realize his disposition to be self-centered is not malicious, it is simply who he is, and somehow he manages to make that quality enviable while simultaneously causing you to marvel at the pureness to his simple philosophies.

Shelly was a much more spirited character. The girl you secretly admire because she doesn't care to follow social norms. Marching to her own beat, Shelly was an idealist, a hopeless romantic, and an independent thinker. She impressed upon me that the world could do a lot worse than produce more of her kind. And because I never got the sense from her that she'd want to chose death over life for any reason, her end surprised and saddened me.

John, though very intelligent, didn't really inspire much thought on his character. I wouldn't say he lacked motivation to do anything other than to tell another person's story, but absent was the conviction needed to make him remarkable.

Though the Afterward by Roth warns that you should not read *So Shelly* as a historical accurate account of the lives of the Shelleys, Byron and Keats, you can't help but notice the parallels, and I found it all quite enchanting. Though *So Shelly* is marketed as a YA novel, I'd have to say that I'd only recommend it to more mature audiences because of the frequent references to sexual situations and crude language.

So Shelly was more than a haunting, entrancing tale of love and loss. It was a quiet yet thought provoking exploration of self; a novel I will undoubtedly share with many to offer a different kind of reflection on life and living.

I'm really looking forward to reading more by debut author Ty Roth.

<http://www.theunreadreader.com/2011/0...>

Savannah (Books With Bite) says

This book would make one heck of a life time movie. It was written beautifully. The characters were well describe and the plot... well the plot is not only graphic but destructive. It was a type of plot that pulls you in drowning you in the characters life and sorrows. I will do my best to write this review without revealing any spoilers. Bare with me, cause this is the first time I found myself loss for words.

I enjoyed this book even though for me was hard to read. I found myself shaking my head a lot wondering why on earth were they doing what they were doing. Shelly. Poor Shelly. I love her character. Shelly is a girl who puts up with anything. Her emotions show clearly in her actions. Shelly did what she had to do to keep Gordon in her life. Either he was at a distance or next to her. They had what I call a very destructive relationship. One they were tied down to and could not let go.

Gordon, was a well written beautifully describe character. I can understand the way that he is because of what he went through, but I can't help but dislike him for what he did. He is selfish and will never learn.

John is the third wheel caught in the middle between all this drama. I like how he didn't take sides and saw everything for what it is. Now, how this guy ever learn love from watching this relationship is beyond me. I think, he learned more about love from seeing its opportunity that is lost. Love that was never given a chance because of selfish people not letting go and seeing the good that was always in front of them.

This book overall is great. I loved reading it. It does have some very graphic things in it. There was drugs, sex, incest, suicide, and every kind of hurt you ever felt. Good book.

Kathleen says

Many times I've been told I should write a book. I assume that the people who suggest this are thinking much along these lines. She teaches English so must know something about books. She knows a lot about a handful of authors. She loves literature and has an understanding of its mechanics. She manages to write pretty decent academic prose.

Yet I've always suspected these simple factors wouldn't be quite enough to write a (really) good novel. And if I ever need to offer proof as to why my literary endeavors could very well suck, I'm going to suggest that those people try reading So Shelly.

Because, basically, I fear that if I decided to write a book it would come out sounding a lot like this one. I'd be super tempted to take some authors I loved, bastardize the truly amazing events of their lives by offering them moronic contemporary equivalencies, and then present the whole mess in stilted prose more suited to the most basic college freshman argumentative English essay.

I had high hopes for this book. Hopes that the writer would tackle these problems of authorship more skillfully than I could/would. I had hoped, even, to try teaching this book in future courses--to give my students a nifty new look into my beloved Romantics. And I might still consider assigning this book to a future classroom of my students. In the eventuality that I truly hate them.

Hopefully, I'll continue to be slightly more self-aware than this misguided author and avoid inflicting a novel that is "So Shitty" on future generations.

Dawn Vanniman says

Ok, so if I had known this the book wouldn't have seemed so crazy to me! "If Lord Byron, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Shelley were living adolescents today, how would their literary talents, notorious personas and known fates collide?"

I was warned that the story might squick me out. It did. This is most definitely for the older teens, if for teens at all. There's death, drugs, sex, rape, incest, abortion and a variety of other shadowy things gonig on.

To truly appreciate the book, you need to know about the lives of these people. There is a quite a bit of historical fact mixed in with the fiction. Go read about them before you read this, you'll appreciate it more.

As for the story, here's what we have:

Shelly - goes by her last name, her mom died, her dad behaved poorly then got remarried, they're wealthy, she's radical and writes great stories while she pines for Gordon Byron who is her neighbor and best friend.

Gordon Byron - rich spoiled kid, first novel published in eighth grade, full of himself, athletic, club foot, debauched behavior with women in general (maybe men) and with relatives in particular, divorced parents, some sexual abuse possible in younger years.

John Keats - poor, parents died, brother dying, short and skinny, writes poetry, fear of death, narrator of story.

It's worth reading, just take your time and soak it all up.

Ariel Leigh says

I honestly went into this anticipating to either 1. hate it, 2. enjoy it for the schlocky high school AU cheese its premise is; and while it is as schlocky and trashy as anyone can anticipate out of a privileged high school YA novel, what makes *So Shelly* incredible as a book is its self-awareness and its criticisms of the genre it models and of the persons it has appropriated to fit its respective roles. Ty Roth clearly knows his Romantics beyond the superficial read-throughs of their works and the wikipedia blurbs of their biographies. There's some deep, probing considerations, a lot of what-ifs and a lot of bold conjectures about the Romantics and their environment. I could see my own academic theories in practice, masquerading as plot fodder for a Francesca Lia Block-esque narrative climax. Super intense--super invigorating. I'm wholly impressed.

As for the reviewers actively complaining about how Roth has supposedly "defaced" the names of poets and authors literally infamous for fucking the system and defying the norm while wrestling with the conflicts and comforts of their privileged stations--well, I'm pretty sure that actually states it.

&& As for the reviewers actively complaining about the explicit content and how they wouldn't recommend this book to teens--the lack of faith they have in young readers is completely disturbing, and the insult to their intelligence and their ability to recognize how the characters suffer because of their lifestyles is even more atrocious.
