



## The Grower's Gift (Progeny of Time #1)

*Vanna Smythe*

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The future is bleak in the year 2102. The planet is in chaos and the weather patterns have completely shifted, turning most of the world into an uninhabited wasteland.

The rich and powerful of North America have pulled back into the six remaining megacities, erasing all trace of a central government and leaving millions displaced by the environmental crisis to fend for themselves in the dying world.

Sixteen-year-old Maya has a gift, a power she thinks can heal the earth and make it habitable again. A gift that she must learn to harness. The school for the gifted in Neo York is the only place where she can learn to control her power and reach her potential.

Yet the school is not what it seems. Ran by the ruthless head of the city of Neo York, the school's only objective is to extract the powers of the gifted and then discard them. Only Ty, heir to the city, can keep Maya from being destroyed there.

But Ty has a secret, and his loyalty to his family has never wavered.

Will his growing love for Maya be strong enough to save them both?

## **The Grower's Gift (Progeny of Time #1) Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Grower's Gift (Progeny of Time #1) for online ebook**

### **April says**

This book is about a world that we destroyed and then had to find a way to live. Maya has the gift of growing a very useful but feared gift. Ty has a gift that is even more feared but he must not let anyone know he has this gift or someone close to him may destroy him. Maya decides against her parents' wishes to attend a school in NEO York the new domed city that barely allows people to survive with some comforts. Maya being from the outside is not allowed within the city and must find a way to get to the school or lose every dream she has ever had. Will Ty be the key to her dreams or her destruction? This is a YA novel with a bit of a twist on the end of the world versions. I really liked this one!

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### **Niyati Em says**

Wow!! Wow!! Wow!!

I had to read barely 5 pages before I was sucked into the world of 2102 with cities made up of the rich and the poor struggling in the BadLands. It isn't hard to imagine, it is how abnormally the world is tilted today as well, with the rich countries and people on one side and the many, many poor languishing on the other!

In a world where we now cannot afford to take climatic change as a joke, this book comes as a cruel reminder of what will be our fate if we do not wake up and reverse the damage! This book!! I can't even begin to say how amazing this book is for someone who loves the environment. It talks of a world, a different world, mixed with a dying Earth, and one person who wants to change this grim outlook that the world has adopted!

The characters in this book appear so real, it feels like you are reading their progress yet seeing it within your head, using a form of a Virtual Reality Goggle! It is so realistic!

I absolutely fell in love with the lead pair! I fell in love with how strong Maya is and how she exudes warmth! I could feel that even though I was reading the book!

The whole world that Vanna created seeped right through my laptop and stood in front of me. I could see Neo York and the Earth then in 2102, I could see people in the Badlands, surviving and people in the cities spending their lives trying to simply stay alive!!

I really recommend this book to anyone and everyone who loves a good and a strong read! This book has the potential to change the way you look at things, not to mention, it will make you want the next installment sooner than you finished reading the first one!

Brilliant, absolutely Brilliant~~ I just don't have the words! This has got to be the best book I have read in 2014!

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### **Marc Williams says**

A YA dystopian future story tackling the consequences of surviving in a world where nature has 'broken. There are some interesting concepts at play here, environment degradation, what happens when there are no predictable seasons anymore and in what ways will plants, animals and humans adapt in order to preserve some kind of balance. An interesting addition to the genre that may well grab some readers attention.

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### **Rebecca says**

Set in a future where the earth is near destruction, the main characters in this story are polar opposites: Ty is genetically engineered to his parents orders and Maya is a gift from nature. Ty lives in the fabricated city -- a city sapping the earth of its resources -- and Maya is surviving with her people in the badlands outside the city. This book would really appeal to a young adult audience but also kept me thoroughly entertained throughout and I'm really looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

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### **Caroline says**

I enjoyed this book so much I have signed up to be told as soon as in series is available good start to hopefully a good series

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### **Beth Mcnamee says**

First, I want to say that I was given a free copy of this book to review. I won't summarize the book, since that is in the description of the book, but I will focus on different aspects of the book.

Writing: this book is well written with few typographical areas. It flows from one scene to the next and has a continuous story line.

Plot: I really like the idea of this plot. Unfortunately, this book is a set up for other books in the series and it takes a while to get to the action. I struggled until 65% of the way through the book. Then it took off and I couldn't put the book down.

Characters: here is the issue. I REALLY didn't like the female protagonist. She is too naive and stubborn. I also think the acceleration of power is too unbelievable at the end of the book. In a few short days she goes from barely being able to use her power to having massive power. The other characters are okay, but I haven't bonded with them.

All in all, a good read and I expect future books will take care of the issues I have with the first book.

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### **Heather Faville says**

Just imagine living in a dry arid desert area where food is scarce and water is even scarcer. Where plants, specifically, fruits and vegetables are all but nonexistent. Now imagine that you had the power within you to

make things grow, you just needed to learn how to master your power. You would probably do all you could in order to help your fellow man by using your gift to grow food, trees, grass etc to help life flourish, right? That is exactly what Maya wants to do and in searching for the ability to focus her power, Maya puts herself in danger.

The danger, Maya finds herself in is due to the desire of some to keep the knowledge that there are people who have certain powers under wraps. If that information got out their perfectly little run world, where they have all the power would start to crumble. Add in a little budding romance between Maya and the heir to the city Ty and you have The Grower's Gift book one in the Progeny of Time series.

I have to say that I really enjoyed this story. I was a bit saddened to learn that I would not get a true ending due to this being a trilogy, but I dealt with it and moved on. I enjoyed the headstrong attitude of Ms. Maya and her desire to help her town/world to become a better place. Her eventual love interest, Ty is another fun character. He has a strong will and feeling of obligation to keep his family safe and out of harms way. Ty, also, of course, has a strong attraction to Maya and the two have an interesting connection that I look forward to seeing continue.

The Grower's Gift is a book I would have no hesitation to suggesting to someone as a potential new read. It has good characters and development. The setting is detailed and descriptive and I, quite happily, admit that I enjoyed the dialogue between all the characters. It felt genuine and aided in moving the story along while bringing the characters to life.

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### **Rob McFarren says**

enjoyable. good characters and developed plots as the start of a series. sure lots of questions to the premise, but a solid world and plot. interesting. characters to love, hate, and some naive enough to annoy.

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### **Marnai says**

Wow! This book should come with a warning: do not start reading when you have work to do! I started reading this book two nights ago, and without even realizing it, I was completely entranced and struggled to put it down to get to such mundane things as grad school work, sleep, etc.

In this book, Smythe takes us on a journey to a future Earth that has been stripped of all remaining resources, barely making it livable. We meet Maya from the "Badlands," so named for the harsh environment and torn lives, and we meet Ty from Neo York, one of the last hubs of prosperity. Maya has a gift for healing and is certain that, if only given the chance, she can heal Earth; Ty is the heir to his family's fortune and power, but only if he can maintain his own secrets. When their paths cross, their lives and the lives around them will change forever.

The adventure here is breathtaking. We are left wondering and wanting more. I can't wait for the next in the series! If it's anywhere near as mesmerizing as this book, then Smythe has got a hit on her hands!!!

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### **Caroline says**

Wow - okay, so there are so many loose ends at the end of this...very smart. Sequel, anyone? (\*Raises hand\*) When I first started reading this, I found it a little confusing. The story started right in the middle of things, and there were so many characters and they were all in this world that was completely unfamiliar and it was a little hard to get a grasp on what was going on. A lot of things were not really fully explained - I mean, I get that the wealthy families were the ruling class. But I didn't get why these wealthy people lived inside a dome with all these other people when there were so many folks living in the "badlands" outside of the dome. I get that the earth was dying, but I didn't get the need for the dome. In *Breathe*, they needed a dome because the air outside didn't contain enough oxygen to breathe. I guess in this story, the dome was just there to keep people out. But I didn't get why the people in the badlands were there in the first place. Why were they chosen to be excluded from the dome? I don't know, maybe I did read that and just don't remember why.

Anyway... in this world, there is a lot of genetic tampering going on and sometimes people are born with "gifts" - special abilities. Like the ability to heal living things or revive them when they've died. Or to make things grow...really quickly. Maya, one of the main characters, lives in the badlands where the seasons are all off kilter and there's something amiss about the water. She keeps saying if they could fix the planet's water, they could revive the earth, but I don't think that was ever fully explained - but it's a series, so I'm sure that will come. The people in the badlands barter - they really don't have much use for money - and they barely scratch out an existence. They have a hard time growing crops because, well, the earth is dying, and they have a hard time predicting the seasons, so sometimes they plant only to have everything destroyed because the seasons unexpectedly change. But Maya is special - she has the ability to take the ruined, withered crops, revive them, and make them grow - like, overnight. Only she hasn't really mastered this gift. It's sort of hit or miss. She just knows if she could learn how to properly use her gift, she could help restore things. She could help her people. But her parents keep trying to convince her it's all in her head and she doesn't have a gift. They seem to be afraid of her letting anyone know about her abilities.

Enter Ty and all his wealthy, large-and-in-charge friends - the children of the members of the "Panel" - those in charge in the dome of Neo York. (By the way, the old New York City is underwater) Anyway, Ty ad Co. travel out to the badlands every so often and release lab created animals to hunt. On their latest hunt they show up in Maya's village and that's where things get rolling. Maya finds out there's a "School for the Gifted" back in Neo York and she is determined to go there to learn how to harness the power of her gift. It just so happens that Ty's mother runs said school. However, not everything is as it seems inside the dome. There is a major lack of empathy in some of the people - which seems to be a side effect of all that genetic tampering. And, of course, the people in charge will do whatever it takes to stay in charge - all while smiling their phony smiles.

Loved the action in this novel. And the story-line is interesting. I wasn't especially feeling the romance that I think was supposed to be building up between Maya and Ty, but, really, that was secondary to everything else that was happening, anyway. I also didn't understand many times why Ty didn't use his power instead of letting himself be cowed by his parents so easily all the time. I guess he was trying to hide his ability, and, well, they were his parents, after all. This was a quick read and I really enjoyed it. I'll definitely continue with the series!

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### **Adedeji says**

Short, interesting, liked it

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### **Sheila says**

An engrossing, enjoyable, young adult novel, set in a future world where the earth is dying, survivors struggle to live in the Badlands, and the over privileged live a life of luxury inside protected cities in the Ring.

The story follows Maya, a Badlands girl with a gift of making plants grow, as she tries to get to the Ring where she believes there are schools that will help her learn to harness her gift to help save the world. But life in the Ring, and the schools there, are not what she would believe...

This appears to be the first book in a series as much is left open at the end. I'm looking forward to reading more. I could easily imagine this story being made into a movie.

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### **Bob Craton says**

I am a big fan of Ms. Smythe's 'Anniversary of the Veil' trilogy and therefore I expected good things from her next book. I was right. Other reviews have given plot summaries so I won't repeat those here. I will say that the future where this story is set is both severely apocalyptic and disturbingly plausible at the same time. The characters are well drawn and real, and the plot grabs the reader's attention and keeps it. The author has a particular talent at creating young characters (a few years younger here than in the 'Veil' trilogy) who are complex and unique -- no 'cookie cutter' characters here.

This is the first volume in a series and should be understood as such. Obviously, a lot more will be happening in their future for Maya, Ty, and the other characters. The story is not quite as complicated as the author's previous trilogy, but it is far from a simple tale.

It has been a long time since I was young, so I can say without hesitation that the book appeals to both the YA audience and OA (old adults, like me). I recommend it highly.

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### **Shannon says**

When I started this, I felt like I started the series in the middle. The story is good (not a stand out but good), but there is absolutely no world building.

There are cities covered by domes, but a lot of people live outside the domes. Why are the groups separate? Why is there a dome if people can survive without it? The cities are run by mafia-like families. Were they elected? Did they fight their way to power? Why do certain people have powers, and why does Ty's mother want to study them?

For such a short story there are a lot of loose ends and they prevented me from really enjoying the story.

