



Endurance

Ann Aguirre

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When rebellion destroys the underground world in which Thimble and Stone have grown up, they take Stone's son and try to escape the chaos. Along the way, they must evade the Freaks, beings who feed on human flesh. Leaving behind the roles of Builder and Breeder which they were assigned at birth, they wander the underground tunnels, looking for safety yet afraid to go "topside" where legend has it that the light and water will burn their skin from their bones.

Their journey takes them upward to an unimagined world of tinned food, comfortable furniture, and books. Away from their regimented society for the first time, and still facing imminent danger, Thimble and Stone acknowledge the forbidden attraction which both have denied for years.

Endurance Details

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Author : Ann Aguirre

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From Reader Review Endurance for online ebook

Heather Thurmeier says

I really wish it had been a full novel instead of a novella. I liked that Thimble and Stone had different internal struggles than Deuce, Fade and Stalker. It was interesting to read a completely different take on this same world. I would have enjoyed reading about these two for longer and learning more about where their travels took them. But at least I know what happened after Deuce and Fade left the Enclave!

Kristin (Blood,Sweat and Books) says

Reviewed originally @Blood,Sweat and Books

Despite being a Novella, Endurance read like a full length book. When I finished Enclave I was surprised to find that my edition had Endurance included. Naturally, I didn't want to wait so I started it immediately after finishing Enclave and boy, am I glad that I did. Endurance filled in so many burning questions that I had after finishing Enclave. Primarily what happened to those left underground after Deuce and Fade were exiled.

What I liked best about Endurance was that it followed my two favorite characters Thimble and Stone. I loved getting to see how each of them dealt with Deuce leaving considering they both essentially betrayed her as judgement was handed down by the Elders. I also enjoyed seeing the duo struggle with the fact the two of them have undeniable chemistry despite Enclave rules dictating that a pairing between them could simply never happen. It's forbidden romance and isn't that really the best kind?

Another thing that I liked was the Action. From beginning to end I was glued to the story. It wasn't necessarily pulse pounding but I was certainly biting my lip with each turn of the page knowing it might be either characters last. Something bad takes place in the Enclave and I was terrified that one or both of them might not make it through the night. Most shocking of all is it's not just the Ferals who cause it. Speaking of the Ferals, I felt they were much more menacing in this tale. I could finally see why the inhabitants of College were afraid of them. I am still left wondering how exactly they made it out of the underground but I guess that will come in the next book. I have my suspicions though.

Lastly, I really liked that we were able to see more from what happened in the past. Those poor survivors thought they were smart hiding underground but the joke was on them. Had they known it would end up their tomb I'd wonder if they'd have still taken the risk in the first place? In that respect I did see similarities to a video game called Fallout but did I really care? No. Also I did sort of wonder how the pressurized doors still worked. Wouldn't they need electricity?

The only real downside to Endurance was the fact that it was over too soon. I could've followed Thimble and Stone to the ends of the world and been content doing so. It's not really the stories fault, it is a Novella after all and despite its length I was satisfied from first to last page. It's mainly that I know in the next book these two beautifully amazing characters will be relegated back to the background so Deuce and Fade can once again take center stage.

Final Thoughts

In the end I highly enjoyed Endurance. In fact, I have no problem saying that I enjoyed it even more than

Enclave. Thimble in my eyes would of been a more interesting protagonist to follow than Deuce. She has vitality and charisma despite her disability that's infectious and it doesn't hurt that I find her an adorable companion for Stone. With that being said, I'll be rating Endurance by Ann Aguirre ★★★★.

*Copy purchased. All opinions are my own and I was not compensated in any way for providing them.

Katy says

2.5 stars - I have mixed feelings about this novella.

On one hand, it was different than most novellas because they are usually side stories because some people just read the novels and not the extra stuff. In the beginning of this one, Aguirre did write in some important details to the revolution and the fates of some major key players, so I'm interested to see how she plans on explaining that in Book 2 for those who plan to skip "Endurance."

On the other hand, I felt this novella was kind of pointless because other than the revolutions scenes, the book spent a good deal of time reiterating all the setting building and summary of what happened in the first book. It was about halfway through before we really got to the meat of the side story - which was the developing romance between Stone and Thimble.

I thought the romance was really rushed and surface deep, even though they've known each other from brat-hood. I mean, I know Thimble has been interested for quite some time, but Stone just all of a sudden thought, "He couldn't remember noticing she was female before. strong body?" I guess I just thought it was a bit too cheesy in my opinion.

And I felt the novella ended so abruptly. They're in the middle of nowhere, in this supposedly intense but unknown situation. It's like the book is telling us they will have hope for a better future, but at the same time, it leaves no resolution but no cliffhanger either. It's just a weird way to end a book, novella or otherwise.

Ellana Thornton-Wheybrew says

An amazing side story

Amanda Croley says

Endurance takes place between the first and second Razorland books. After Deuce and Fade left the Enclave there was an uprising, they few people who survived were attacked by the freaks. Stone & Thimble (Deuce's bratmates) were able to get away with boy23.

Spoilers

Even though it isn't permitted for breeders to know which of the brat's are their own offspring, Stone always knew boy 23 was his. Once they make it safely into the tunnels, Stone has to fight off some of the freaks.

Breeders are not permitted to think, only to breed. Thimble is handicapped, one of her feet turns inward, and because of this she has always had to work twice as hard to save herself. Each of them now must use their skills, and learn new skills to make it to safety. They find a hidden bunker with food, and many other treasures. The book ends with them deciding to stay there awhile, since it provides them safety from the freaks. Thimble wants to read the books to see if she can discover how to move forward. I really hope they somehow connect with Deuce and Fade in book 3!

Perla The IB Teen Book Blogger says

Fantastic! Fans of *Enclave* need to read this short story about what fate befell the College Enclave after they banished Deuce and Fade. And more importantly what became of Thimble, Stone, and Boy 23. If you have yet to pick up *Enclave*, maybe this free short story will turn you onto one of the best post-apocalyptic series around.

Chappy says

Really good novella that gives us a glimpse of the enclave downfall after Deuce and Fade are kicked out. I'm glad Stone and Thimble made it out alive with baby Robin in tow. They are now free to explore their growing feelings for each other.

Sarah says

I really liked the relationship between Deuce and her childhood friends Thimble and Stone so I was a bit disappointed that we didn't find out what happened to them in **Enclave**. Luckily **Ann Aguirre** didn't leave us hanging and **Endurance** is a novella told from their points of view. I don't want to go into too much detail but this shows Thimble and Stone's reaction to Deuce being banished and lets us see what happens in the College enclave after Deuce and Fade left.

These characters are very different to Deuce and Fade, their strengths aren't in fighting and they've never left their home before so they aren't at all prepared for what awaits them in the tunnels. They have to play to their own skills if they want to survive. Thimble is physically weak but incredibly intelligent and has spent her life creating tools and weapons for the hunters, Stone was a breeder so he has a very caring and protective nature and hates the thought of killing but if it comes down to it he'll do whatever it takes to look after Thimble and his son Boy 23.

Thimble and Stone are both great characters and I enjoyed the romance developing between the two. I really hope that **Ann Aguirre** wrote this novella because we're going to see these characters meet up with Deuce and Fade again in the future because I don't think we're done with their story yet!

Anagha Uppal says

June 18: I'm so confused! Goodreads lists Endurance's publishing date as Feb 29, but the URL listed doesn't show the story and it's not on B&N or Amazon or anywhere! There must be some way to read this short story, it had my interest piqued!

Sept 15: Never mind above. They took it off HeroesandHeartbreakers.com to make a buyable ebook, which I just bought! I'll get to this after re-reading Enclave :)

September 21: My Review -

The GOOD

This is amazing in a different way. It's touching. It lets you feel the more emotional side of battle:

"Stone only knew his strong arms let him slam people away. He didn't want to hurt them. The idea of using this blade on someone--his stomach turned. But he couldn't help it. Stone tried, but they kept coming[...] Why won't they stop? What's the point? Stone wept as he fought until his arms were heavy and he smelled nothing but burnt meat and despair. His lungs burned raw; his eyes stung from the sweat trickling into them. His blade grew sticky, until it disgusted him to hold it."

And every once in a while, you can Aguirre's signature writing style shine through, like this:

"He glimpsed their mutated, monstrous features: pale skin cut with sores, yellow fangs, milky eyes, and bulging brows with sparse hair[...] Terror and revulsion wedged in his throat, but as long as feelings didn't freeze him, it would be all right. He waited until the first one ran for him, and then he wheeled, vaulting the snare, dodging right to avoid the spring-trap. The light in his hand blinded the Freaks, leaving them unable to mimic his path. Behind him, he heard the rope snap and the metallic clang, and then an animal growling in both pain and anger. He ran on, holding in his mind the deadly path they'd laid. Deviation meant death."

And this (only during action scenes did it sound like something Aguirre would write):

"She couldn't see how many there were, but he killed one cleanly, as if he had been practicing the movements in his head. Just as he'd said the night before: pierce, pull, pierce. His motions were economical, and he went for eyes and throats.[...] Then he killed them out of mercy, not fear, no rage in his motions, but with an awful tenderness, as if these were creatures worthy of his pity."

The BAD

But there are other instances I wonder if this novella has been edited at all. I think I've read the below line before in some indie novel:

"That's why? Because I notice you have a mind as well as a fine, strong body?"

Other than a few cool fight scenes, this is a romance story - about Stone and Thimble finally giving in to their urges once they escape the constraints of Enclave society. Unlike with Fade and Deuce, with whom it progressed normally (and very cutely) as something that was bound to happen, it felt completely rushed and forced with Stone and Thimble.

"There were rules'. 'There aren't any now, except the ones we choose.'

He nodded. 'That's the best part, even if the rest is terrifying.'

Their romance is, quite frankly, absolutely boring. I'd expected fireworks, not predictability.

"With him, she wasn't just an imperfect Builder. She could be anything with him."

Okay, if we'd come to this beautiful conclusion through hard work and going through crazy stuff together and 200 pages later, then that would sound cute. Coming to this conclusion after less than 50 pages sounds rushed and just thrown in haphazardly. I feel like Stone & Thimble should have "given in to their passions" but not learned everything there is to know about a relationship so early. Maybe save that for Outpost?

More lameness proceeds to fill the virtual pages of Endurance...

"Don't," he begged. "You're perfect. You're you. You're my whole life."

Basically, Endurance consists of Stone and Thimble having to escape the Enclave after it is attacked and destroyed by Freaks (the fun part) and while on the run, each coming to terms with the attraction he or she feels. It gets really repetitive after the first 30 pages, and even if you are a fan of the Razorland series, I see no reason to waste your time on this book.

Outpost on the other hand.....

Helen says

Short and incredibly sweet.

Justine says

I'm one of those people who normally skips the novellas and short stories that come with a series, but I read this because it was at the end of the copy of Enclave that I read. It was actually worth reading and filled in some gaps that I had wondered about.

Gillian Murrell says

I think this was an important novella to read as it shows what happened in the enclave when they did finally rebel. Stone and Thimble along with Boy23 appear to be the only ones to escape. No longer held down with the stigma and rules it does not take them long to over come the obstacles ahead of them in order to find safety.

Katie Michaels says

I've got two words to describe this story: Too. Short. It's really good, packed with action and heart, and it was over in less than half an hour. (*sob*)

Here is where we find out what happened to the enclave after Deuce left –and it's not a pretty picture. In short order, there is an uprising. And just when their forces are weakened by their own infighting, the zombies attack. Thimble and Stone turn to each other to survive and escape.

I love these two together. Both think themselves unworthy of the other, but they are both so wrong. Thimble struggles with her bad leg and Stone thinks he's too stupid to be useful. Really, though, their bonds of childhood friendship have been something much more for a while –only, they could never act on it until now. Watching them finally come together tops off some great tension and makes for some good emotional payoff too.

Not to mention, there is plenty of action. Remember all those zombies. It was hard enough for Deuce and Fade to make it Topside and they were Hunters. Neither Thimble or Stone is trained and they are lugging his baby around.

This story is engaging, it moves fast, and made me feel. No small feat for 70 pages. I hope we see these characters again before the series is over.

Rating: B+

Sharon Mariampillai says

This was an intriguing read. I really enjoyed this one more than Secret Heart. I thought that Ann Aguirre wrote a great novella about two of Deuce's friends, Stone and Thimble. There was a bit of romance as they develop feelings for each other as the story progressed. I hope they make it to Topside as well. It would be nice to see how they will react in the same environment as Deuce and Fade. I hope there is more to their story as I think it was interesting to see the changes in themselves from who they were in the Enclave to who they are now after leaving the Enclave. The ending was interesting. I can't wait to read Outpost and the rest of the series. Overall, a great read.

karen says

now that i have my very own book-reading machine, i get to read stuff like this SO CHECK ME OUT, SUCKAS!!

this is another one of those interstitial "who wants to write/read another whole book when we can just bust out a novella and it'll answer a couple of questions and everyone will be happy??" little numbers.

and i'm happy.

this is just a little shorty that gives the lowdown on what happened in the enclave after deuce and fade left. it is mostly the tale of thimble and stone and boy23, but it also gives closure on what happened to twist and silk

and some other characters.

but, it's 62 pages long, so it's not going to be more than just an outline, basically.

like any book, to my mind, the action parts are good, the romance parts are dull. add to that the reader-reminders regarding the rules and traditions of the enclave, and you get why this is only a three-star read for me. action, booby-traps, discoveries/possibilities are all awesome, but the rest of the stuff just takes up precious space in the tiny book.

in a full-lengther, you can gloss over the romance-y bits without there being much lost, but in this one, ratio is more precarious.

so - thumbs up to the freaks and the action and the stacking of bodies. thumb-to-the-side for the "oooh, our love is forbidden" blah blah.

but i'm glad i can read these things now. i like having questions answered.

BOOM!
