

Cinder by Marissa Meyer

Cinder is the best mechanic in New Beijing, which is pretty remarkable considering she's a teenage cyborg, and the only mechanic forced to set up at the weekly market instead of their own shop. But that's exactly what brings young Prince Kai to her to fix a broken droid. However, when Cinder is volunteered for the cyborg draft by her selfish stepmother, she discovers that her DNA might hold the answer to stopping the plague ravaging the nation. What will happen to Cinder when she's holding some of the biggest secrets in a world filled with growing discrimination, disease, and political turmoil?

Enter a world filled with cyborgs, android robots that look like humans, people that live on the moon, magical types of deception, political and personal intrigue, selfishness, selflessness, and fights for justice. *Cinder* is complex, believable, and fast-paced, ready for anyone who loves dystopian fiction. This isn't a simple story of the fight between right and wrong, but a complex world filled with choices that could sculpt generations to come.

I highly recommend this book to anyone that's a fan of science fiction, fantasy, or dystopian novels. A futuristic fractured fairytale, *Cinder* reimagines Cinderella as a different type of fearless beauty that challenges the norm instead of being accepted by it. Prince Charming isn't some suave prince who falls in love, but a scared prince doing his best to stand by his nation. Gone is the traditional kingdom of fairy tales, and in its place we receive a world that's richly diverse yet deeply flawed, fully ready for the future. In that sense, *Cinder* is the perfect book for teenage readers because it presents life, freedom, and justice as messy but worth fighting for.

As this book is clearly written to be a YA novel, readers ought to be wary of some intense situations that might be scary or emotionally dense for children.

Katie Kruger