



Rebel Nation

Shaunta Grimes

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Sixteen years ago, a plague wiped out nearly all of humanity. The Company's vaccine stopped the virus's spread, but society was irrevocably changed. Those remaining live behind impenetrable city walls, taking daily doses of virus suppressant and relying on The Company for continued protection. They don't realize that everything they've been told is a lie...

Clover Donovan didn't set out to start a revolution—quiet, autistic, and brilliant, she's always followed the rules. But that was before they forced her into service for the Time Mariners. Before they condemned her brother to death, compelling him to flee the city to survive. Before she discovered terrifying secrets about The Company.

Clover and the Freaks, her ragtag resistance group, are doing their best to spread the rebellion and stay under The Company's radar. But when their hideout is discovered, they are forced, once again, to run. Only this time, The Company has special plans for Clover, plans that could risk her life and stop the uprising in its tracks...

Rebel Nation Details

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Author : Shaunta Grimes

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From Reader Review Rebel Nation for online ebook

Eli says

I was a fan of VIRAL NATION for a few specific reasons, namely how unique it was, the adventure elements and the strong characters. I expected the same from REBEL NATION.

One of the things I loved the most, that really makes this series stand out, was the fact that Clover has autism. She's brilliant, and combined with her brother and guardian West, the two come together perfectly as the main characters of the story. The world that Grimes is able to create and weave together with the complexity of her characters was awesome to see, and it made for a thoroughly enjoyable story.

If anything was lacking, the action themes and the plot at times feels slow. The adventure and storyline elements are well-done and thought out, but for me the story just doesn't build very quickly. That's not a bad thing, but there are certain times where I have to skim slow parts.

What really was great for me in this story was the relationships in RBEEL NATION. Clover has shown time and time again that she won't be defined by her autism, and with every time she grows as a character alongside the people around her, I was cheering for her. I think that with stories like REBEL NATION and VIRAL NATION, it's even more critical for the author to showcase how the main characters make and define their relationships with other people, and Shaunta Grimes has done that perfectly.

Overall, while this book was a little slow for me, I would definitely recommend it and the book that comes before it in the VIRAL NATION series. The characters are awesome, premise is unique and well-executed and the books make for an exciting ride that will keep the reader entertained until the very end. Would definitely recommend it. 4 stars.

Wendy says

"Rebel Nation" is the second book in a riveting dystopian series that began with "Viral Nation". Shaunta Grimes has set the stage sixteen years after a plague devastated most of humanity. The Company devised a vaccine that stopped the virus's spread, but quickly the populace became addicted to the suppressant. What those living within the city walls don't realize is that their protection costs lives, and that they're being controlled by the Company.

In this story Clover Donovan has escaped the confines of the city with Jude Degas and several children from Foster City before Langston Bennett can force her back into service with the Time Mariners. If her plan is successful she wants to join the resistance group lead by her brother, a man thought to be dead and to continue the hunt for Waverley's notes which she suspects are hidden in Washington DC. But Langston is not about to let Clover escape his clutches. With the help of the Headmaster of the Academy where Clover went to school he intends to hunt the fugitives down, destroy the resistance and utilize her ability to travel through the time portal.

The plot is fast-paced and action-packed especially when Clover and Jude are being hunted by Langston's guard. As events unfold, the storyline begins to twist and turn as enemies suddenly become friends and those

who are disloyal are faced with death. The heart of this story is centered on the growing rebellion as dissent spreads; the Freaks finding small pockets of resistance emerging.

The main characters have begun to mature in the face of danger, becoming stronger and more resilient. Clover Donovan the highly intelligent teen with an acute memory is honest, committed, self-sacrificing and reckless. Because of her autism which is valuable to the Company's Time Mariner program, she suffers from panic attacks, her only salvation the stabilizing effect of Mango, her devoted bulldog and the calming effect of Jude Degas. Although she hates to be touched Clover desperately tries to overcome her aversion, and has finally yielded to Jude's affection which can be overpowering at times. Scarred by an abusive foster father the amiable and clever Jude has become more demanding and overly sensitive to the moods of the young woman he loves.

West Donovan, Clover's brother struggles with the weight of responsibility, making reckless decisions at times. He's caring, over-protective and selfless Shattered by the death of his wife and trying to be of service to his city, James Donovan's belief in the Company has begun to crumble. He takes a courageous and momentous step that could save the life of the loyal and brave Time Mariner trainer Leanne Wood. In this storyline Langston Bennett has become even more despicable with his heartless murders and his insatiable need to capture Clover. All these characters and more add to the passion, drama and energy of this emotionally-charged story.

I thoroughly enjoyed the second book in the series and can't wait to see what happens after the shocking cliff-hanger. I'd rate it 3.5 but will give a 4.0.

Rabidreading says

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Absolutely AH-MAZ-ING

Last year, when I had the opportunity to read the first book in Shaunta Grimes' Viral Nation series, I knew I had found something special. It wasn't "just another" YA dystopian novel. It was truly and totally different, in the way we always hope books will be and so many, disappointingly, aren't. (You can read my review of book 1 [HERE](#)). So of course, when book 2 came along, I was all over it. Armed with high expectations, I dove in, fully prepared to have my socks rocked off.

Congratulations, Shaunta Grimes. You did it. I was even more impressed by book two than I was by book one.

In Viral Nation, the primary focus was on discovering the secrets the dreaded Waverly-Stead Company didn't want anyone to find out - proof that they'd been lying to everyone for years, following their own agenda and forging a new world where everyone is dependent on them and the supposed life-saving drugs they provide. In Rebel Nation, that focus changes a bit. It's no longer about finding out what the secrets are. It's about surviving them.

Clover is, hands down, one of the most unique and remarkable heroines I've ever had the pleasure of reading about. Her brilliance, her tenacious spirit, her determination to not be defined by her autism...no amount of

praise I heap on her will come even close to doing her awesomeness justice. I will tell you this, though. I am consistently blown away by all the times Clover "rises above", as they say. All the times she has raised a defiant finger to adversity and somehow, some way, beaten the odds. Which is why, when the book ended on a sort-of cliffhanger for her, I didn't feel any fear or nervousness on her behalf. Because I know this girl. I know she will do exactly what she promised and find a way to prevail. She always does.

I ranted and raved a lot about Jude in my review of book 1, and I was sooo happy that he didn't lose any of his amazing-ness in book 2. I just adore him. Totally, completely, break-out-the-fangirl-t-shirt love his character. He is exactly the guy Clover needs by her side and I was beyond thrilled that their relationship had a chance to grow and deepen without any of that pesky angst getting in the way. They're just so beautiful together.

As for West....oh, West. I just want to hug him, because damn, if anyone could use a good hug in this book, it's him. He's under such enormous pressure in this book, but like his amazing sister, Clover, West may be down but he is never out. Over and over again, he is able to dig deep and find the strength to keep fighting another day. Even when it all seems impossible. Even when he's so tired and pulled in so many different directions, it feels like he will surely break.

Character love aside, for me one of the best things about this book was the tone. There's this intense, almost desperate feel to every situation and chapter. The struggles the characters are forced to endure, the sheer stress and strain they are all under, is contagious, and as a reader, I was completely infected by it. I was on edge almost the entire time, constantly waiting for the next bomb or axe to fall - and when it did fall, I was caught up in a whirlwind of frantic emotions, right along with the characters, as they tried to figure out how to deal with this new challenge that had come their way. It was crazy, and I loved every second of it.

Now about the ending. OMG, the ending! I've been sucker punched in the feels by books before, and I've even been knocked out a few times, but the ending of Rebel Nation hit me so hard, so fast, I didn't even know what was happening until I heard myself make this weird, half-strangled noise and felt the burn of tears in my eyes. And it wasn't even a sad type of ending! But after everything that had happened, the relief I felt knowing there was even a tiny ray of light at the end of the tunnel was so overwhelming, it sent my emotions into immediate overload. I wanted to hug everyone. I wanted to scream. I wanted to hunt Shaunta Grimes down and demand she give me the next book, right effing now.

If you haven't read this series yet, I strongly encourage you to do so. Like, immediately. Because everything that I've said here? All the praise I've heaped on the book? It doesn't even come close to matching the awesomeness of the books themselves. You simply must read them.

Reanne says

For the most part, I really enjoyed this book. I really like the characters and their relationships. I particularly like that different family relationships are so important, and that the book includes adults as well as kids as major players (and not just the villain). Most YA books don't have adults who are actively involved in the action. I think in this case it works because the kids are older, basically adults in most cases, and the adults come into it later, after the kids are already the established leaders of the group. And because none of the adults are particularly responsible themselves (in the way that would make them naturally take charge of the situation).

Another reviewer said that not much happens and this book is mostly people going from one place to another. I can't really argue with that. But somehow it was still interesting to me, and I finished the book pretty quickly because it kept me engaged.

The ending kind of annoys me, though. (view spoiler) It's the sort of ending that it feels like the author did because it has to set up events in the third book and not because it was the most logical thing for the characters to do. I wanted to yell at her, "He's the bad guy! He won't stop coming after everyone until you're all dead! You can't appease him!" (view spoiler)

Speaking of which, the characters seem to make a lot of plans, then not follow through on them. They start going one place, then change their mind and go home. It's kinda weird. Not always, but multiple times in this book.

Still, the characters really engage me, and this is still the most believable (to me) dystopian YA that I've read yet, so I'm looking forward to the third book.

If you like your YA to be about more than the romance between the main character and her love interest (though that's certainly present) and enjoy stories about complicated yet loving family dynamics, you should definitely check this book out.

Shelley says

I received this book for free from NetGalley/Berkley Trade in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Genre Post-Apocalyptic

Rating 3.5

My Thoughts

Shaunta Grimes has created a world that is interesting as well as dangerous. It is a world where a major plague nearly destroyed humanity. Now, the survivors, who live mostly within the confines of walled cities like Reno, are expected to get a daily dosage of a suppressant said to control the return of the plague. The Viral Nation series uses Time Travel as a way to control the populations safety, a kind of Minority Report, if you will. While the Viral Nation series is NOT filled with zombies, or maddening creatures that attack humans willy nilly, it does have a wonderful cast of characters that you can lean on in times of heart break and trouble.

Rebel Nation picks up several months after the end of Viral Nation. Rebel Nation has less time traveling, but with more emphasis on the growing rebellion against the Waverly-Stead Company, and the determination of one man to keep what he believes is his. In Viral Nation, readers learned the real truth about the suppressant the Company created, the cost to society, and how it there is an alternative. But, the question remains why The Company is so focused on 16-year old Clover Donovan that they would stop at nothing to control her, and keep her as one of the Time Messengers.

Full Review Posted at Gizmos Reviews [Link Below!](#) Thanks for your support!

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Recvd via NetGalley Published July 1st 2014 by Berkley Trade

Sandra says

I need book three, now!

Lelia Taylor says

It's not all that easy these days to come up with a fresh idea in dystopian fiction but, in *Viral Nation*, Shaunta Grimes did just that and has now followed it up with a nicely done sequel, *Rebel Nation*. In this second of the trilogy, the reader becomes re-acquainted with Clover Donovan, an autistic teen who happens to be of serious interest to the government specifically because of her autism. It's possible that other books have been written with an autistic protagonist in a dystopian world; if so, I don't know of them and I think it would be difficult to find a better characterization of how such a child might fit in. I don't know a lot of details about the spectrum but I believe Clover would be deemed high-functioning in today's reality.

Clover is a unique protagonist and is written so well that she came alive for me on all levels. I appreciated the author's depictions of Clover's awareness of those times when her behavior is not quite appropriate and her determination to contain herself. At the same time, we can see that she needs a special sort of assistance which she gets from her loyal and loving service dog, Mango. Her relationship with the very admirable Jude is another highlight of the story and his devotion to her, even when faced with her reactions to certain stimuli, is **so** much more believable than the all-too-frequent romances we find in Young Adult fiction. Jude is the young man I would want on my side if I were Clover.

There are plenty of villains in *Rebel Nation* but none quite so despicable as Bennett and his single-minded determination to make use of Clover's abilities comes across loud and clear. Whether Clover and Jude, along with the rest of their ragtag group, could stay out of his clutches and spread the rebellion against The Company kept me reading all night and I didn't regret a moment of my lost sleep. The Freaks are a resistance group that shoulders a great weight and I really wish I could continue the story now, especially since Ms. Grimes has left us with a humdinger of a cliffhanger. There's a prequel novella coming out soon—I guess that'll have to tide me over till the third book ;-)

Reviewed by Lelia Taylor, June 2014.

Caitlin says

Looking forward to reading this one. *Viral Nation* was great. waiting very impatiently for *Rebel Nation*.

ARC where are you? I really hate waiting :(

Bonnie_blu says

306 pages and almost nothing happens. I was looking forward to this second book in the series, but became quite frustrated and irritated by the lack of plot development. The majority of the book does little more than have the characters leave and return to various locations, over and over again. The characters change their minds too often to count, but none of the changes result in advancing the plot. A true disappointment.

Carla says

One of my favorite things about this book is that the romance and the small little love triangles don't overshadow the plot. The characters aren't turned into love sick morons, and that is so hard to find in YA books.

My only complaint about this book is Jude constantly being so protective of Clover is a bit annoying at times BUT as I'm feeling this annoyance, I can see why he would be and I can see that Clover doesn't mind, so it all evens out.

I recommend Viral Nation and Rebel Nation to everyone who asks me for book recs!

I need the next book. And a movie series.

Pamela says

Three and a half stars.

Not quite as good as the first installment. Again the book leaves off with the story not complete. This book felt like a little more revision or editing was needed, a few places where it was unclear who was talking, saying "he" with a room of males doesn't help. Most of the story again takes place in dialogue, but some of the back and forth was repetitive. Overall a quick read and enjoyable enough that I could recommend reading it, just not heartily. Hopefully with the next book the writing is a little better.

Since I received this book free (Thank you Penguin!!) I read the first Viral Nation in the series. It has been worth my time for both books, but not sure how hard I'll look for the next one in the series. Will have to wait and see as this one just came out.

Samantha (ColdTeaAndCrumbs) says

Even more twisted and survival based than Viral Nation! This series keeps getting better and better with every book.

Rebel Nation seamlessly wove the story from Viral Nation (book 1) and reminded us readers of the main

story developments from book 1 but without overkill - an element not usually done so efficiently, well done Grimes! I did however miss the time travel element from book 1 but I do fully understand and appreciate its non-existence due to the focus of the Freaks in the present and concentrating on rooting themselves for the Winter months as well as escaping Bennett's grasp.

Bennett's character in Rebel Nation was even more evil than book 1 - a task I didn't think possible! There was one scene in particular that was so craftily written by Grimes that I thought I knew what Bennett had done, but I wasn't sure - I was also hoping he hadn't - and it turned out he did! I still can't believe it! He's so evil!

I further continued to enjoy Clover's character in Rebel Nation, as I did in Viral Nation, and continued to feel that her autism made her character more interesting and her behaviour in certain situations added to the chaos of the post-apocalyptic world and the dystopian theme. Mango, Clover's dog companion, again was my favourite character, he didn't get as much focus in Rebel Nation but he continued to understand and help Clover's behaviour and thoughts. She's certainly building herself a good support system now with Mango, West and Jude - there was more development of the Clover and Jude relationship in Rebel Nation too which was sweet.

Overall Rebel Nation did not disappoint with its dystopian content, more details were presented about the Company and their evil doings, the Freaks rebellion as well as the world outside of Reno and other survivor settlements. This rebellion has officially kicked off and I guess we'll now have to wait until Book 3 to see how it all continues. Once again I've been left wishing I had the next book. Grimes writes a superb cliffhanger again!

Darcy says

It seems that with this one the rebellion is a growing. I find it funny how kids are the start of it. I do like how they all see things need to change, mostly because of how they are treated. And being kids they don't have the mind set of "it could never happen". I like how Clover sees things and manages to get people to see her side of things. I don't agree with her choice at the end, but I love what West and his band of motely crew find when they make their choice. No longer will they be easy prey. I also loved how Clover encountered at the end, it almost makes up for her bad choice.

Elizabeth "Liza" says

4.5 stars

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Last year I participated in the blog tour for Virus Nation, I really loved it because it's very different. I was dying to read Rebel Nation and it didn't disappoint at all.

One of the things that makes this book different is the plot development. It is so unpredictable and I find it fascinating. Every time that I think I know what's going to happen, the complete opposite ends up happening! The story picks up a couple of months after the ending of Virus Nation and follows our favorite

characters in their fight against The Company.

The second thing that makes this series so good are the characters. Clover is autistic and she's amazing. She's smart, loyal, logical, and tries her best to overcome her limitations to help others the best way she can. Jude is so understanding, and tender with Clover and their relationship is so sweet. I love them both and I hope it all works out. West is so endearing, he's only 20 but has the weight of a big group of people to take care of. He's full of doubts, but does what needs to get done without question and tries to be the leader that the Freaks need. These are the main players in the resistance. Go Freaks!

"He looked at the pallet he'd made on the floor out of the sofa cushions and started to ease away from Clover.

"Just say," she murmured.

He slipped down so he was lying next to her and she curled against him, her head on his chest. How was he ever going to keep her safe?"

The main freaks that we met in the previous book, Christopher, Phire, Marta and Emmy are all there. Also Isaiah, James, and Leanne, join them, even if they are not exactly willing at the beginning. It is also interesting that we now get to see how other live outside of the walled cities and the possibilities. As bad guys go, Bennet is one of the absolute worse. I'm not even sure that we know the extent of his madness and his obsession, but I have a feeling that we will know soon enough.

The story is told in the third person from multiple points of view, mainly from Clover, Jude, West, James, and Bennett. I know it is a bit unusual for YA books to do this, but it works perfectly, in the story. Revel Nation expands on the world building that started in the first book. This is a dystopian that starts in an undetermined future when a virus and wars decimated most of the population in the US. The cure was achieved because someone found a portal to travel to the future and brought the 'cure' over to the present. The world changed a lot during that time. Not regressed, but most survivors live within walled cities and don't have access to things that we take for granted, like electricity, phones and internet. Except, of course, if you work for The Company. So... no zombies or mutations, but instead a lot of discontent and political turmoil. The writing is so good! I loved how easy it is to understand and follow.

"Virginia City was like something out of one of the old Western movies they sometimes played at the library. "City" was a little ambitious, Clover though, but guessed that when it was built, the name fit."

Holy cliffhangers Batman! What was that? The wait for the conclusion of the series will be torturous at best.

Jenne says

Hot damn she's done it again! This was ever bit as good as the first and even better than the first in a lot of ways. Kinda hard to review this one without spoiling it! I would of easily read this in one sitting if it hadn't of been for RL. It was pretty cool to see he characters grow into their roles more and there were some "I didn't see that coming" moments! With the way it ended i can't wait to see where Ms. Grimes takes the third book!
