



The Vanished

Sarah Dalton

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“The Compound bustled with action and anticipation, causing my stomach to do a flip. I stopped in my tracks, realising something, something I hadn't thought of before. We were going to war, and people were going to die.”

The Vanished are the forgotten: those who live beyond law or society. Mina fought for freedom. She fought for a better life – a future. But even a free world can decay.

As Mina begins her new life in the Clans she meets people with surprising knowledge about her power, knowledge that could change everything – even her relationship with Daniel. But as she makes new friends, old friends turn against her in shocking betrayal.

Life in the Compound is tough; there are ways and traditions so strange that Mina begins to suspect foul play at the very heart of her new home. Instead of leaving corruption behind in Area 14, Mina is faced with the rotten core of human nature as a Clan warlord threatens to invade the Compound. The Clans are turning against each other and Mina is stuck in the middle.

The Vanished is the second instalment in the Blemished series and follows Mina's story as she continues to challenge those in power and seek out new dangers. With even more rebellion, romance and betrayal, The Vanished promises to take the reader on a roller-coaster ride of adventure and emotion.

Will freedom fall?

The Vanished Details

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From Reader Review *The Vanished* for online ebook

Jessica says

Ugh, that's it. I'm calling it. I can't finish this series.

We start off with the group arriving in Scotland and hoping to find safety with the clans. Obviously they aren't going to find it. I'd hoped we'd be returning to England to learn more about the GEMs and the resistance instead we get some more sexism and prejudice in a different setting. We still don't even learn what's happening anywhere else in the world or get any sort of explanation as to why Scotland went to crap because of the GEM situation. It's obvious there are no GEMs there nor is that stuff welcome so what exactly happened? Was it a proximity thing?

The overall story isn't too horrible. It's just dragged down to the depths of awful by Mina. From the very start she's ridiculous. Yes there is something wrong in the clans but there is no way she could have known that after only a few minutes of being there and interacting with no one! She spends the entire book being selfish and impulsive. Despite constantly acknowledging that she is, she does nothing to change her behaviour. She actually leaves on a dangerous mission for days and begs her new friend to only tell her Dad and Daniel hours after she's left! Immediately before leaving Mina is so worried about Sebastian and wants to help him. Thankfully only a few minutes later she's offered the chance to leave doesn't have to bother with him. Screw Sebastian! What's his freedom and sanity worth when you could be risking your life like a total moron?! Even worse is her trying to explain it away to Daniel. She just had to get out of there and get some space. Right... no one else is feeling the same things as you. Mina is just a petulant brat about everything. Her dad left her to save younger child that was in danger but all she can think about is that she was alone. Totally ignoring the part where he left her uncle to save her and she had all those friends. Mina has a big problem of ignoring what other people are telling her. These aren't just random people with the same life experiences as her; It's people she calls her friends. People that actually know more about the clans and the compound than she does. Yet she ignores them and generally does the exact opposite of what they tell her. I'm amazed she's alive. She is too stupid to live. Mina is constantly noting how people look untrustworthy or have look in their eye that she doesn't like yet is always surprised when bad things occur. We spend the whole book with her mistrusting the doctor then are expected to surprised when things go bad. It wasn't surprising or shocking. It was expected and beyond obvious.

The *Vanished* introduces some new characters that are actually likeable. Sadly they can't pull the story up as Mina pulls it down. All the other Freaks seem like good people. Too bad we see the bare minimum of them. We never really get to see them train or even find out exactly how the five of them interact. We do however get Mina announcing that they're some kind of amazing unit that should be used to fight a war. We also don't get to see them do anything to support that. I want to know some more about what happened with Sebastian and why Angela feel to such intense prejudice towards her friends so quickly but I won't be hanging around for the last book. I'll just have to remain... unsatisfied?... I guess. I'm curious but I honestly don't care enough to be truly unsatisfied.

The *Vanished* was obviously a disappointing read. Nothing was surprising or new. Even the ending felt obvious. When I read it my only thought was "Of course that's what happened.". It was clearly meant to be a "holy crap!" moment but for me it fell flat. This book wasn't even a good setup for the remaining book in the trilogy. I hate leaving series unfinished, especially with short books, but I cannot force myself to read another word of it. Mina is an awful character that I cannot relate to or sympathize with and reading any more about her would be terrible. If you, like me, were on the fence after the first book you should just avoid

The Vanished. It doesn't get better.

Kiara says

(I read this book for R2R program in Making Connection YA Edition Group. I received a free copy in exchange for a review)

The Vanished is second installment followed The Blemished, a dystopian story written by Sarah Dalton. The story follows Mina Hart, the blemished girl, after she ran away from the Ministry into the Clans and joins the vanished.

Mina struggle a lot in earlier story, she must find a way to fit into the society that turns out, not as good as she thought it gonna be. They have their own rule, and as the Ministry, they want to control people, only in a different way.

Her BFF, Angela, is not making things easier either, she became mad at her and totally gone crazy, even attacking her. But, Mina didn't lose faith in her, unlike me, I would probably gone hating and cursing her. Lol.

Fortunately, Mina finally made up her mind and chose Daniel over Sebastian (thanks God). But still things aren't go as smooth as she wished, but luckily she then be able to make things right in the end.

I love Mina's new group, Freaks, consist of Mike, Kitty, Daniel, and my favorite, Hiroshima, and of course Mina herself. They bonded so tight and I finally figured out the mystery behind Mina's power. But I won't mention it here, for it will be spoiler :D

I love this book better than the first one, the adventure is much more thrilling and unpredictable, with the war between Compounds and all left me breathless. and thanks God this book (kinda) has a happy ending, although the author still has a mystery in the end of the book, left the reader can't wait for the next book.

Melissa says

Thank you, Ms. Dalton, for providing me a copy in exchange for a review.

In my experience, I was a little bored from reading *The Blemished* because there was a lack of action. I tend to like action or fast-paced books. The first book in this trilogy didn't provide that much action, but *The Vanished* certainly does! The second book was extraordinary and I have no doubt now that Ms. Dalton is capable of writing a riveting novel. I was satisfied and then some with the contents of this book.

The Vanished starts exactly where *The Blemished* ended. Mina and her group of friends (Daniel, Sebastian, and Angela) are on their way to the Clans-somewhere in Scotland-where they don't follow the rules the Ministry has set up. These people who rebel against the Ministry and its rules are called "The Vanished" because to the Ministry, they don't exist anymore. However, life in the Clans is no easy matter. The Clans is just a broad term for the people rebelling against the Ministry, but in the Clans there are smaller groups with different viewpoints.

The group where our main characters are—the Compound—is just as hostile as Area 14. You get a real sense of how terrible this world is with its discrimination. While in the Areas it was merely a separation between GEMs and Blems, but now it's freaks against normal people. It's clear that the main characters are different, but now we realize that being different isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Majority of the book dealt with the characters and their relationships with others. Going through all of their problems; Mina, Daniel, Sebastian, and Angela have all evolved in some way. Mina and Daniel remained the same, maybe a little stronger in terms of their judgement. Mina took on the leadership role she was destined to have and Daniel got a self-confidence boost.

I certainly did not like what happened to Sebastian and Angela in the second book. I didn't really like Angela in the first book, and that feeling intensified in the second. I have some mixed thoughts about her, but I will say that I really don't like her. Sebastian, on the other hand, was hardly mentioned but when he was it was kind of sad. The things the people living at the Compound say to him are horrible, but it just shows that there is a lot of discrimination here.

There was a lot of plot advancement and character development in *The Vanished* and I was satisfied with how the second book turned out. There were new characters and villains, but I felt this was more of a book for the characters and them realizing their potential in this world. I love the action and glad to see some strings tied up from the first book. But there are new secrets revealed in the second installment and I have no idea what's going to happen in the third.

Adam says

I think my review for "The Blemished" could be essentially copied and pasted here, and would still be accurate to a "T". I'm definitely not the target audience, but I enjoyed it, and would recommend it young adult readers. I will put the caveat on "Vanished" that I thought about putting on "Blemished" (way down though, since it might be spoiler-y), but in the end, I wish there had been more time to get to know the Neds and the Children of the Sun, so I really shouldn't complain.

Doesn't mean I won't though. I repeat my complaint that Mina seems too perfect to really resonate with any of the teens I know. She has insecurities, sure, but for two books now, multiple people have crowed over her beauty and talent and power. I feel like Angela would be a far more likely connection for most of the teens I know, and I really do hope the author keeps her around for future installments.

I will follow that up with my statement that the continuing father-daughter dynamic is better than the standard "She's an orphan" that permeates YA novels.

Spoiler-y bits from here on out:

The one caveat I have to put on "Vanished" is its treatment of what is essentially institutionalized rape and forced motherhood. I don't find the idea of this situation popping up unbelievable, but I do find many of the characters reactions to it significantly altered my enjoyment of the book. Are you telling me that a woman as strong willed as Mary isn't going to be strongly objecting to this? Are you telling me that Ali isn't going to tell every teenage girl he sees to seek shelter elsewhere? Do you honestly expect me to believe that Mina's father actively seeks this group out, from good information given to him by his brother, and has absolutely no idea what's going on? And although Mina's dad is a respected intellectual and is grooming the Freaks like

a post-apocalyptic Professor X, he doesn't notice the wrongness of two dozen teenage single mothers wandering lost and helpless around camp? There are too many blind eyes, too many collaborators to allow me to see goodness in the "good" Compounders, although it seems to be the author's intent. I can't even see competence in them, and despair of them leading the Compound forward. I guess I'll find out in book three.

Rebecca says

Check out this review and more at: <http://apocalypsereads.blogspot.com/>

I was very excited that I only had to wait six months to read the sequel! The *Vanished* picks us right where *The Blemished* leaves off. The heart-pounding action of book one greets you as you begin book two. Mina, Daniel, and Angela have been saved from Murder-Troll, but will they reach the compound? Dalton teases the reader for a couple of chapters. Once they reach the compound one might think all is good.

Most people might relax once they reach safety but not Mina Hart. Though she finds a new home with the Clans, she still craves excitement. She finds it with the Clans and on a scavenging trip.

Dalton creates a realistic character whom I loved and hated. Mina struggles with her feelings for Daniel, becoming her own person, and knowing when to use her powers. She is selfish and selfless. She leaves on a scavenging trip without notice to her family, but she protects her family and friends fiercely. She is a contradiction, but she struggles like many people do.

The Compound reminds me of the Rising in *Matched*. Everyone thinks the Compound will be perfect, but it too has its own quirky things like the Children of the People and the bad guys! No place on earth will ever be perfect...sigh.

Dalton leaves a trail of bread crumbs and foreshadows the villains' evil actions. If you are good at solving mysteries, you will enjoy *The Vanished*. If you are clueless like me, enjoy the surprise.

The Vanished felt a little rushed, but Dalton likes to pack in the action. (*The Blemished* is full of action.) The scavenging trip and the resolution seemed a bit rushed to me.

I found the ending satisfying until the last paragraph. The cliff hanger leaves you wanting more! Where will Mina Hart go next?

Many thanks to Sarah Dalton for providing me with an ARC to review. If you cannot wait for book number three, do not worry. She is publishing two new stories in a spin-off series.

Jenn says

This book is the second part of a trilogy (as of this date) and picks up where book one ended. As such, if you haven't read book one, you may be asking yourself questions about the world and its characters.

Here's a brief summary of book one, "The Blemished." Mina resides in what was once the UK. She lived in

the London zone that was broken down into areas whose society revolved around those with perfect genes and those with "blemished" genes. Mina, as a "blemished one," was forced to hide her appearance and serve those with perfect genes. But Mina has a secret, she has the power to move things with her mind. Mina and the other blemished girls are controlled by a very strict, wicked woman, nicknamed Murder-Troll, who makes a point to stamp down Mina's willful spirit. This book has a lot of action and drama with a bit of romance thrown in. Towards the end of book one Mina and friends escape from the confines of the London 'areas' and enter the 'free' district of 'The Clans' (current day Scotland). Everyone in Mina's group feel that The Clan compound will be where they can be free and not controlled by those in charge. In book two, we learn that this is not so.

When Mina escapes to the Scotland clans she (and her friends) encounter others with powers similar to Mina. They learn that they are all connected and as such combine to make up a complete group of 'Freaks' as they are called within the clan compound. They face several new challenges, both externally and internally, along with learning more about the "fracture" of the UK.

Overall, a very good read. The story delves more into the characters from the first book and introduces new characters with powers like Mina's and those that become her friends and enemies. It shows the growth and understanding of Mina, her desire to make wrongs right and above all her moral compass pointing towards equality for all. This book also touches on procreation, feminism and social politics within the interactions of Mina and other clans as well as the clan she has joined. The story ends with a good climax as well as more questions to be answered.

Book three, "The Unleashed," is out now and I'll be reading it soon! I'd recommend this series for those that like near-future sci-fi tales, strong heroines, action, paranormal undercurrents along with a bit of romance thrown in. I feel this series is well-written and provides an interesting story line.

I originally received "The Blemished" as a LibraryThing.com member giveaway and liked it so much I purchased the remaining books in this series.

Wendy says

This series was just OK for me. I liked the storyline, but the writing was not great.

Merve says

Merhaba, 2018'in ilk kitabı 'Kayplar'ı #okudumbitti.

İlk kitap Lekeliler'i sevmemiştir, tamam konusu güzel ama gerisi yok. Yazar açkçası bo bir kurgu çkarmı ama dedim ki bu daha iyidir belki. Ama tşk yok!

?

İlk kitabın sonunda, Mina ve arkadaşları 'skoçya'ya gitmiştii, Direni'e katılmılardı.

İkinci kitap, hemen burdan başlıyor. Direni' in toplandı yerde de tuhaf şeyler olmaktadır. Mina gibi başkaları da vardı ve bu diğer kişilerin Mina'yla ortak özelliği nedir? Falan filan..

?

Anlatılacak çok fazla bir şey de yok hani.

Açkçası, Mina karakteri o kadar dengesiz ki, baş erkek karaktere bari bir fangirl'lük yapaym diyorum ama

Daniel'da sevilecek bir yan yok ?

?

?lk kitaptaki Sebastian, o kadar arkalardaki... Ayr?ca Mina sormuyor Sebastian'a senin baban?n olay? neydi falan diye! Diyaloglar basit. Hee bu karakter kötü, sevmedik diyorlar, bir ?a??rt be yazarc?m, öyle ç?k?yor... Yook yook yermeye devam etmek istemiyorum.

?

E?er serinin hepsini almasam okumazd?m aç?kças?. Kitab?n en iyi yan? dili ak?c?, kolay ak?yor ve s?km?yor. Onun d???nda üzgünüm arkada?lar ???

O zaman kitap ve müzikle kal?n ?????

Amanda says

This one was much slower paced than the first in the series. I found that unlike the first one, I could set this one down. I really wanted to know more about the other societies outside of the compound. That was my favorite part of the book. Sarah Dalton did a wonderful job there, I could really picture Sun and his followers. The ending to this book felt a little too neat for me, and the fight at the end was just too easy and abrupt. If your powers are that great sometimes, yet other times can't even unchain yourself? Seems that her powers work or don't work when it's convenient. The first one was much better, but I will continue this series til the end. 3 stars

Becky says

After finishing book 1 I just had to know more, I immediately bought it from Amazon on my kindle app. I'm still not a massive fan of ebooks but they certainly have their uses.

This starts right where book 1 left off, Mina has managed to escape Area 14 and has made her way to Scotland, it's supposed to be a safe haven but things aren't all what they expected.

The clans aren't quite what Mina expected, there is split groups, arguments and dissension between the members and Mina is thrust into the heart of it with her friends Daniel, Angela and Sebastian.

ONce there Mina is reunited with her father and you discover some of his past and secrets, I don't like him very much, he tends to put plans and strategies before his daughter, he does show a soft side but not very often. Then we are introduced to the 'Freaks', a group of kids who have powers like Mina, her dad had been 'collecting' them, meet Kitty, Mike, and Hiro. They all have different powers but they fit together and become stronger. (I won't spoil the link or their powers).

I really liked the group and how well Mina fit into the group, they bring more excitement and a sense of belonging into the book. The real shocker for me was Angela's reaction, I actually quite liked her in book 1, I felt sorry for her and admired her strive and kindness, but all that vanishes in this book. Mina is still determined to stand by her, but I have to admit I would have distanced myself as much as possible.

I liked the characters at the Clans and round it, they bring a wider view of the world. And each person mentioned had a purpose, they all moved the plot forward or made a difference somehow, one of my favourites is Ali.

This book has a lot more action than the first (The Blemished), it's a lot faster-paced and dangerous, a war is brewing and Mina seems to be caught in the middle.

The writing flows off the page and the characters become like friends, you are transported through the story and it draws you further and further in.

I really love this series and can't wait to see where it goes in the next book.

Alessandra says

Warning: this review contains spoiler for the first book in the series, *The Blemished*.

Mina and her friends are now safe in the Compound, a Clan settlement beyond the Scottish border. The people living there are called the Vanished, because they live outside law and society. There, children are still born naturally, and people live by farming and raising cattle.

Mina is reunited with her father. She discovers why he abandoned her: he was trying to reunite kids with different powers, similar to her own. Beside her and Daniel, there are other three children with extraordinary power: Mike, who can smell emotions; Kitty, who tracks people by their taste; and Hiro, who can read minds. But life in Scotland is not as idyllic as it might seem. Mina soon starts to suspect that something is very wrong there. Also, she needs to fight as a Clan warlord threatens to destroy the Compound.

The second installment of the *Blemished* series is as action-packed as the first. Mina, Daniel, Angela, and Sebastian have found shelter in the Compound, but there are enemies there, too. Mina's and Daniel's powers label them as Freaks; people in the Compound are suspicious of them and keep their distance. Sebastian is regarded with contempt because he's a GEM boy. Angela, who used to be Mina's best friend, is jealous of her relationship with Daniel and turns sour towards both of them. Someone in the Council ruling the Compound is behaving suspiciously; and another Clan tribe is marching towards the Compound, threatening war.

The main character, Mina, needs to develop her powers in order to keep her loved ones safe. She also needs to trust her father again after he abandoned her. Her relationship with Daniel evolves into something different. The love triangle is apparently over; anyway, it was clear Mina favoured Daniel over Sebastian.

The book ends in a serious cliffhanger, which would have had me biting my nails had I not been able to start reading the third book immediately.

Tiana Dalichov says

Oh. My. Flipping. Pancakes.

If I thought *The Blemished* was good (which I did since I rambled endlessly about it to all my friends), *The Vanished* was like twenty-thousand times better! The characters, the plot, the action, the romance, the suspense...all of it was fantastic!

Mina, Sebastian, Daniel, and Angela have all escaped to the Clans in Scotland. But what looks like a perfect haven from the outside is exactly the opposite on the inside. We meet several new characters, including Hiro (omg I want a little brother like him), Kitty (sounds like my best friend), Mike, Dr. Woods, and General Lloyd. All of these characters were equally interesting and full of life. No clichés here, people.

The world of the GEMs, the Blemished, and now the Vanished is so well-thought-out. Dalton has created a world where people no longer can make their own choices, and where women and men are treated like scum by the opposite sex. There is no respect or tolerance for individuality. It's the type of world that only exists in nightmares. And watching Mina live through it is quite the interesting journey.

I will admit, however, that Mina kind of irritated me with her selfishness throughout the book. But I've got no room to judge since I proooobably do the exact same thing. We see a lot of character growth in Mina, who learns how to fight and defend herself. She certainly grows up a lot through this book, and I love her relationship with Daniel and how that develops! It was so adorable!

The one character that intrigued me the most was Sebastian. Not knowing what to expect from him throughout the book kept me literally on the edge of my seat. (view spoiler) Another really intriguing character was Dr. Woods (view spoiler)

The fact that it's 2am while I'm writing this review is proof enough of how engrossed I was in this story. Everything felt so real to me. The characters spoke to me like I was a part of their universe. And that ending has me begging for more (which I won't get very soon...typical), so I'm very excited to see how this amazing trilogy ends.

I'm a little sad that this amazing adventure will be coming to an end with the next book, but I sure as heck am pretty excited to find out what happens next! :)

Jonel Boyko says

It's always great when a sequel picks up right where the last instalment in a series left off. The reader isn't left wondering or guessing what happened in the interim period. That is exactly what Dalton did with this novel. It was made all the better and much trickier by the fact that the first instalment in the series wasn't a cliff-hanger. That said, once into this novel, it was completely different (yet somehow still the same) as its predecessor.

This novel was just as intense as the first in the series, but in a completely different way. Although genetic manipulation and mutation still plays a major role in the story, there is a great deal more fighting in this novel. The story at the core remains the same but Dalton runs with it. With this twist, she avoids the staleness that can occur in a series that never changes, evolves, or in this case, mutates. The story remains extremely well written. Dalton employs many different techniques while describing the world that her characters find themselves in. Through the symbolism found in colour and scent she very subtly, yet effectively, differentiates between individuals and locales.

Character development continues in this novel in a very efficient manner. Characters learn a great deal about themselves through their interactions with others and through situations that they find themselves immersed in. Being caught up in peer pressure causes them to fight for who they are. They also grow up quite quickly due to the lack of parental units but yet remain true to themselves. I thoroughly enjoyed that most of the characters held to their beliefs and didn't do things that made them uncomfortable. It was very nice to see them being the same individuals at the end of the novel as they were at the beginning, regardless of what they went through or how hard they had to fight to get back to themselves.

If the uniqueness of this novel doesn't grab you then the characters will draw you into their world. Dalton

has an amazing way with words that connects your imagination to hers. You can't help but love the characters and want to help them through the unimaginable yet very possible world that they live in.

Julie Hall says

OMG! Amazing! This book was awesome! Very intense, action packed, full of drama. This book is even better than book 1, the Blemished. It's a page turner for sure! I couldn't put this down and I can't wait to move on to the 3rd book, The Fractured: Elena. What an exciting series! Sarah Dalton you are an amazing writer and I am so glad that I was given an opportunity to read your books.

Alison says

More action than the first novel. There was also more attempts at explaining or describing the use of the "freaks" powers which were in my opinion forced. Didn't elaborate enough on the other characters thoughts/experiences to make me care about them. Mostly just got annoyed with the main character and left me not wanting to continue on with the series.
