



# Reckoning

*Kerry Wilkinson*

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## **Reckoning** Kerry Wilkinson

One girl. One chance. One destiny.

In the village of Martindale, hundreds of miles north of the new English capital of Windsor, sixteen-year-old Silver Blackthorne takes the Reckoning. This coming-of-age test not only decides her place in society – Elite, Member, Inter or Trog – but also determines that Silver is to become an Offering for King Victor. But these are uncertain times and no one really knows what happens to the teenagers who disappear into Windsor Castle. Is being an Offering the privilege everyone assumes it to be, or do the walls of the castle have something to hide? Trapped in a maze of ancient corridors, Silver finds herself in a warped world of suspicion where it is difficult to know who to trust and who to fear. The one thing Silver does know is that she must find a way out . . . The heart-stopping first book in a new trilogy by UK author Kerry Wilkinson, *Reckoning* is the story of one girl's determination to escape the whims of a cruel king, and what she must do to survive against all odds.

## **Reckoning Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2014 by St. Martin's Griffin (first published May 22nd 2014)

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Author : Kerry Wilkinson

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## From Reader Review *Reckoning* for online ebook

### Amy E says

As a pretty big fan of the genre, you're never quite sure what you're going to get with a book that has a description such as this. Will it be the same as so many other futuristic tales of dystopia, or will it offer something new? Crucially, will it be good?

Thankfully, *Reckoning* grabbed me from the beginning and by the end, I was panicking as the pages ran out, wanting to know what would happen to poor Silver and her friends. The end is satisfying in as much as it concludes the tale but my goodness does it leave you wanting more. From what I understand, the next book is out next year, which seems a long time off.

I won't go too deeply into the plot, largely as other reviewers have already done that, plus it's in the description anyway.

What works for me - really works - is the feel of Silver's world. It draws you in and has the sense of being something that could actually happen, not a random idea thrown together in order to fit the plot. It's like *The Hunger Games* in that sense because you're never left thinking 'well that wouldn't happen' - which was the feeling I had a lot with *Divergent*. With the world fully formed, it allows the reader to enjoy the story - which I certainly did.

What it also does, perhaps in the vein of something like *Harry Potter*, is create a small group of people for the reader to get behind. It's Silver's tale but it's more than that, too. Especially by the end, you want to know how the rest of her 'gang' are going to get on. I finished this in the very early hours of the morning, unable to put it down and really can't wait for the next book.

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### Pamela says

Love it or hate it, you have to admit that Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy is a very, very good example of young adult dystopian literature. The world is fleshed-out and believable, the bad guys are BAD, the populace is sufficiently beaten-down and repressed, and Katniss is a likeable, relatable protagonist. I realized upon my last rereading of *Catching Fire* that I relate to her--a lot. And really, the whole Gale vs. Peeta thing isn't even that much of a *thing* in the books--it's something that the fandom stirred up and made larger than it really is. What's unique about Katniss' situation as savior is that it's not something she asked for or tried to do--she was actually kept in the dark and it was something she had to adjust to and take on, even if it seemed too difficult or too much for one girl.

I know, this review *isn't* about *The Hunger Games*, but I'm going to be referring to it a lot, so I figured I'd just lead with the outstanding points of that book. Given its success, we have a lot of other YA dystopias out there (some of which are definitely more sci-fi than true dystopia). Many of them skew heavily toward the romantic side of things, as if two hundred extra pages of kissy-kissy-goo-goo-eyes-love-triangle can substitute for plot. If done well, yes, it can add a lot to the book. Most of the time, however, these "romances" are charred husks of instalove that are portrayed as normal and healthy relationships. But that, too, is a whole other review. Yet, at least with many of these romance-heavy dystopias, the ideas are more original and they don't seem to borrow as heavily from Collins.

I'm quite torn on *Reckoning*, actually. It was enjoyable, but it was quite derivative of *The Hunger Games* in an almost over-the-top way, and the ending was completely unbelievable (not like, "Wow, that was unbelievably good!" but more like "I literally cannot believe that.").

What I very much liked about *Reckoning* was the mash-up between dystopian and high fantasy. This is our future--not far future, but far enough away. The oil's run out. There were wars between nations and wars within nations. The people in what used to be the United Kingdom survived another civil war that completely destroyed the country. King Victor, now monarch of the realm, was the charismatic leader that brought peace to the island and devised a way to get rations to the citizens. The whole country is divided into four Realms based on the points of the compass. Silver Blackthorn, our protagonist, lives in the north, in a village called Martindale. Scotland is something they don't talk about (this could be a great plot point in further books!). King Victor rules from Windsor Castle, and the law is enforced by Kingsmen, a class of neo-knights in post-apocalyptic armor. "Everything they wear is made of a thin, flexible metal that no one else seems to have access to. They have black tunics, matching trousers and shiny boots, as well as helmets that arch over their head and ears. Even their thinkwatches are made of the same black material." Thinkwatches are not out of the realms of possibility--Samsung has already developed a wristwatch-phone hybrid. Thinkwatches "remind us of what we need to do each day and when each night's curfew is ... everyone has to use their thinkwatches to enter and exit buildings and pick up the weekly rations." Thinkwatches also serve as displays of your social status: which class you belong to, bringing us to: the Reckoning.

As in all good dystopian societies, the populace is heavily stratified. At age sixteen, everyone must take a test called the Reckoning. It's different for everyone, but it assigns you your place in society: Elite, Member, Intermediate, and Trog. The problem that I had with this system is that the categories are not well explained. They're just ... there. Elites are the best--but I don't know what they're the best at or how they're used specifically in society. What do Members do, and what makes them different from Inters? Trogs, we learn, do menial tasks, but life seems to be pretty dismal everywhere, so I would assume that most jobs aren't exactly easy-peasy. The classes play a larger role in the beginning of the book, and then they just sort of peter out of the narrative, only appearing when Silver has to identify someone whose name she doesn't know: she'll say, "That girl Inter" or "two Elites from the West." Hmmmm.

Then, each year, a random lottery (ha) selects male and female members of each group from each Realm to be Offerings. These Offerings are sent to Windsor Castle to serve the king and ... do mysterious, secretive things. They're never heard from again, but no one seems to think this is very suspicious.

Of course, Silver is chosen to be a ~~Tribute~~ *Offering*, and leaves her family and childhood friend/possible crush/future member of love triangle Gale Opie (which is a very unfortunate name choice for my brain, because all I could picture was a wee Ron Howard in a checked shirt, carrying a fishing pole). There are these really big parties in the cities to send off the Offerings because the citizens feel that this is a great honor. Even on ~~Reaping Day~~ Reckoning Day, sorry, the whole town turns out to honor the teens who will be taking the test.

Do you see why this book irritated me? I mean, the Offerings are even transported to Windsor via train, and there is a huge emphasis on feasting and food. Wilkinson's descriptions of the feasts, however, certainly can't touch Collins' masterfully mouthwatering odes to food (those make me salivate even now). Many of the plot points and concepts come directly from earlier dystopians. I'm fine with expanding on ideas, but just plain borrowing them isn't impressive to me.

Silver, too, is a character who had potential, but her individuality disappeared right after her Reckoning.

She's a whiz with technological stuff (which is verboten in the Kingdom), but that doesn't stop her from digging through old tech, taking it apart, and tinkering with her thinkwatch in order to get rations for her family. I think it's awesome to portray girls in the sciences so positively in a teen book. However, although Silver's assignment at the Castle also has to do with tech, it takes a definite backseat to *Plotting To Escape With The Cute And Sensitive Boy You Just Met*. She's a loner and an outsider (naturally), yet has a defiant streak. She also, handily, has a silver streak in her hair (this is where I started getting things confused with *The Murder Complex*, in which the heroine also has silver hair).

The plot contains far too many instances of the deus ex machina for my taste (would that be dei ex machina? Sorry, I didn't study Latin). Many crises are averted by handy revelations or sudden insights. For example, Silver somehow figures out that borodron, the mysterious metal, overrides all of the scanners that normally require thinkwatches to operate. You'd think that the King and the Minister Prime, as obsessed with control as they are, would fix that GAPING HOLE IN SECURITY. Also, Silver is able to sneak into the Minister Prime's office because "the Minister Prime knew it was possible for someone to walk into his office and use there borodron armour--or a stolen scrap--to access his thinkpad. He knew it could happen--but he was filled with the absolute arrogance that no one would dare. When you have that level of delusion, it's no wonder you don't do something as simple as closing a door."

Wait, what? Everything that happens in the last few chapters is because the Minister Prime is so arrogant he thinks he's above being burgled? It just doesn't fit in with his character or with the kingdom he rules.

However, I will say that the scenes at the castle are suitably horrifying, and in King Victor, Wilkinson has created a villain who frightens, disgusts, and yet inspires contempt because of his weaknesses. He is the epitome of corruption.

There is a lot of promise in the castle scenes, and I wish we learned more about this world rather than hearing about Imrin and Silver's deep conversations. I would read the sequel to this to see how it pans out, but if it ends up being a reread of *Catching Fire*, I don't think I can support that.

I received an ARC from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Miriam Smith says**

My 17 year old son lost interest in this half way through, though I believe it was more him than the book!

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### **Michelle (Much Loved Books) says**

\*\*Make sure to check out my post on 24th June 2014 for an interview with Kerry and a UK giveaway of *Reckoning* that will run for two weeks\*\*

When I got my copy of **Reckoning** for review I had no idea what to expect. The synopsis of **Reckoning** sounded amazing, but this is the first book of Kerry's that I have read so I was somewhat hesitant to start reading. *The Reckoning* is a test that all 16 year olds on the 1st July have to take, which determines which section they belong to, Troggs, Intermediates, Elites, or Members. Silver takes the test and is a member, but

her name is then selected to be an Offering, someone who is sent to Windsor castle to stay. What happens to these offerings no-one knows except that they never to see family of friends again.

The minute I began reading **Reckoning**, I was hooked plain and simple. I love that it is set in the UK, but not the UK that we know of, and I fell so hard and fast into this world that I found it hard to come up for air. Silver is such an easy to like character, I had no problems instantly feeling sorry for her and how she lives. I love her attitude towards life in her village with her family and friends, and her belief in what is right and wrong. Her ability to take apart technological items from the past and use bits and pieces to her advantage. She is selfless and caring towards her friend and his younger brother, and even ensures that her own gifts are shared with others.

When she finds out she is an Offering I was shocked. I knew it was coming I just didn't expect it so soon. I had tears in my eyes when she was leaving home, that was only the end of chapter 7, knowing she would never see her family, her Mum or her brother Colt, or friends Opie and Imp again, knowing this would be the last time she sees them in her life, that she would die having this one last glimpse at them, broke my heart.

Silver is an understated heroine that I instantly liked and rooted for. Seeing how she struggles to live at home, and then how worse it gets at the castle, but still continue to believe that she can somehow make her way out, to go and see her family again is a true sign of determination and heroism. Some of the things she does were so risky I held my breath, scared that she would get caught and punished for it.

Imrin was someone who took a lot for me to trust, I could never tell why he did what he does and why Silver is so quick to ally herself with him. Near the end of the book I was completely blind sided by what he does, just as I began to let my walls down he does something that I didn't think I could forgive him for. Reading how the boys are getting on while the girls aren't also showed how nasty the girls can be. While the boys seems to be getting on and taking advantage of their different roles in the castle, the girls only seem to want to stab each other in the back just for their own personal gain, and while part of me could see this as a way of keeping yourself alive, it also made it so much harder to find allies within your group, people who you can trust and know have your back.

Just when I thought I had got the pattern of what to expect from everyone being at the castle, I was thrown completely off guard when I really got to see the King for who he truly is. A vicious, evil, tyrannical, old man. What he does to Wray completely shocked me, the brutality of the situation was not something I expected, but afterwards my guard was always up whenever they had to eat with him or even be in the same area as him.

I had no idea what to expect from Kerry going into **Reckoning**, and I was surprised to find myself devouring the pages, needing to know what would happen next, wondering who would be safe or who would be the next victim of the Kings madness. The constant change in events only left me guessing even more, just as I thought everything was going ok something was thrown into the mix that made me re-evaluate what I thought was really happening, and had me trying to figure out what could happen next. There were things I did not expect to happen, and things I expected would happen but not in the way it transpired. **Reckoning** was an unputdownable read, and I really wish I had the next book in my hands so I can see how this story plays out.

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## Lucinda says

An outstanding story that's deliciously addictive and compelling!

I was literally blown away by this extraordinary debut that fuses together an eclectic mix of sci-fi, Young Adult and Dystopia. With subtle similarities of **Divergent** and also **the Hunger Games**, I was swept away by the sheer vastness of the plot packed with forthcoming premise. Well-written and addictive, I just could not get enough of this fantastic story that promises so much to come for the next instalment of the series. The compelling fantasy world is remarkably original and breathtakingly inspired, with new concepts and captivating characters that are fascinating. The archaic, historical 'feel' to the story was also a wonderful unexpected surprise.

I loved the entire concept of "The Reckoning" {basically when children of a certain age they are placed into four groups within society that determines their future work and place in life.} **Elite. Member. Inter** or **Trog**. This was reminiscent of *Divergent*, but an action-packed adventure like no other!

The authenticity of this novel was due to the English setting, with many familiarities that caused a wave of nostalgia to wash over me as I plunged into Kerry Wilkinson's chosen backdrop. The Reckoning slots into the realms of possibility and so bridges the divide between reality and fantasy, in such a convincing way as to connect to its readers. Containing a cast of unforgettable, likeable characters this multi-layered, profoundly haunting tale is one that keeps you glued to the pages for hours on end.

*Silver Blackthorn* is an impulsive, brave heroine whom I instantly loved as she grew and developed throughout the book into a strong female protagonist. As the truth is revealed to her in all its shocking brilliance, I was sucked into the story eager to find out more...

Fans of Young Adult books with a strong female lead, substance and depth and extensive, well-conceived world building will be astonished this impressive book! This hugely ambitious work stands-out as something supremely singular and spectacular, within an enormously popular and incredibly competitive genre. I am desperate to find out what happens, as after reading into the early hours of the morning I feel drained and so upset that I have finished reading!

How can you not love the gorgeous covers?

\*I would like to thank Kerry Wilkinson for providing me with a copy of 'The Reckoning' {the first instalment within the *Silver Blackthorn* series} to read and review. \*

**Publication Date: May 22nd 2014 from Pan Macmillan**

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## **Rachel says**

Some pretty serious wars have left England a bit of a mess; it's divided into quarters, each kept at bare subsistence levels. At 16, all young people participate in a Reaping - oops, I mean Reckoning, in which they are given their citizen status (Elite, Moderate, Interim(?), and Trogs), and assigned to some area of productivity. All this is the brain child of the King, who brought an end to devastating war and is pretty well idolized.

Every year, 30 young people from the Reckoning are sent to the King's palace, to work/serve/well-no-one-is-really-sure-what. Silver Everdeen- oops, Blackthorne, is chosen to be sent to the palace.

Once there, she finds that the King is a sick sadist, and all is not wonderful. No big surprise, but it's a lot less wonderful than previously supposed. The King selects from the female tributes -oops, Offerings - to fill his bed. He chooses from male and female offerings to battle to the death for his amusement. They are encouraged -under the guise of survival- to betray, to shun friendships and human connection. There is no communication with the outside world.

It wasn't bad, but it wasn't brilliant. It may have been more original than I've implied here, but comparisons in a post *Hunger Games* world are difficult not to draw, especially since it's narrated first person, with a female protagonist in a dystopic world, in which children are compelled to battle and betray.

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**Grace (LovingDemBooks) Z. says**

**Buy this book on AMAZON  
or buy this book on BookDepository with FREE WORLDWIDE SHIPPING**

*I received a free hardcover of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.*

**I just finished reading this title. Full review to come.**

**My rating system:** (I do use half stars.)

**5 - I do not use the 5 star.** Not because a book might not be worthy, but because a book is never perfect.

**4 - I loved it!** There weren't too many flaws, and I had no trouble getting through it. (A 4 star rating is the highest rating I've ever given a book.)

**3 - I enjoyed** the book, but there were flaws that made me enjoy it less.

**2 - I finished** the book, but there were too many flaws for me to enjoy it.

**1 - I could not finish** the book, and I probably did not finish it....

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**Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says**

Giving this a 4.5 rating.

A pretty good and interesting start to a series I heard nothing about. And glad I did because while I like starting a new series, I like not knowing not too much about it.

Read this because the summary for book 2 and the cover sounded good. Cover for this also interesting.

Anyway, while reading this, it reminded me a bit of *Divergent*, *Hunger Games* and *Grave Mercy*. Other than that, I liked how the story played out and kept me wondering what Silver and co will do about their predicament, who to trust, tension etc. And that ending.

Yes there is romance, but you can tell the focus is the story. And for that, makes me like the book more. Pace and writing style also good. Hope the next book is just as good.

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## **Heather Duff says**

Thank you to Pan MacMillan for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review

Once I again I find myself with a new dystopian read and once more I find myself typing what will make this one different from the hundreds that have gone before it, will the Reckoning give me something new, something that will give the whole genre a good kick up the backside?

Honestly yes it does! First of all before I even go near the storyline lets look at the cover, bad-ass looking woman, awesome hair and possibly not advisable to mess with. Covers do mean everything to me, a crap cover will totally put me off a story but this one is very effective.

The female lead of this story is Silver Blackthorn, a 16 year from.....nope this is not set in America, it is one of the rare dystopians where the UK has fallen foul of something bad in its past, this pleases me (not to see this island of my birth up s\*\*t creek) as whenever anything bad happens it is always America, I love the States but I love something closer to home.

Silver, so named for her striking streak in her hair, is about to come of age, a time in her life where a test, the Reckoning, will sort her in to either one of the following classes - Elite, Member, Inter or the horribly named Trog which as you may guess is not a good place to be.

Silver is chosen to be a Member but there is also another "draw", one that could select her as an offering to the King who rules from Windsor Castle, this is thought to be a honoured position but when Silver is chosen as offering what she finds in not a life of comfort and privileged but a life of fear and suspicion, male and female offerings treated terrifyingly bad.

As an offering she will never see her family or friends again but she when she is behind those walls and sees first hand what is going on that she needs to get out at any cost. The question is will she?

This is a good read and I love the mix of the old and new technology, at the start of the book you find Silver wading through a mountain of tech from the "old" days but once she gets to the castle there is something truly medieval about it. It is truly a well imagined world in which Silver lives in.

This is the first book in a trilogy of which I am pleased to say I am taking part in the blog tour for the second book Renegade on May the 4th and I will be giving away a copy so please come back and join me then!

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## **Yzabel Ginsberg says**

*(I got an ARC through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.)*

2-2.5 stars. In itself, it was a decent enough read, only I couldn't help but be reminded of many other dystopian YA stories... and after a while, those start to blend together. Among other things, it felt quite reminiscent of *The Hunger Games* and similar stories, except that the people involved weren't actively trying to kill each other, but were doing so in underhanded ways, notably being cowards and telling on others.

I was drawn towards this story because of its setting (post-war UK, or rather England/Wales—Scotland,

well, nobody talks about Scotland, there must be something fishy with Scotland) and the promised mix of technology and mediaeval buildings/structures. However, such a mix is usually kind of hard to achieve, and I'm not sure it always worked here. The idea of a King totally fits the United Kingdom (much more than it would a US setting, for sure), and I think oppression resting on the ashes of a lasting civil war might be believable for a time. I can see people being so wary that they just want to close their eyes and ignore their current predicament, because at least they don't have to fight anymore.

On the other hand, I'm not sure that "oil ran out" could be used as the sole justification behind wars on the world level; I keep wondering what else should've been involved to make the situation as desperate. Also, the class society in the novel didn't really convince me: it remained too vague. What do Elites do, except being "the upper class", with the Members and Inter being, let's say, "upper-middle" and "lower-middle", and the Troggs being the "working class"? It seemed to me that no matter their status, those people kind of did the same jobs: an Elite guy and a Trog girl both end up working in the kitchens, for instance, and this system seemed to clash with how the Offerings were assigned to their jobs depending on skills (Silver ends up in a technology-related environment, because she was picked a tech-savvy during her Reckoning, but whether she was a Member or a Trog didn't seem to matter at this point). So in the end, I didn't really understand the point. I suppose it would've made more sense if I had seen society as a whole depicted here, with non-Offerings going about their work. Whenever I saw some, those were people who hadn't gone through the Reckoning (like Silver's mother, or the Head Kingsmen, who were already there before Reckonings first took place). They were outside the new class system, so to speak, and it didn't help me understand the latter.

Another problem was that I found a lot of things predictable. It might be just me, it might be due to similar stories I've read before, I don't know. It was obvious from the beginning that the King was completely mad, to the point of (view spoiler). The "let's try to escape" part was obvious as well, just like the romance part, and what actually happened to the families of those who didn't keep a low profile.

Silver Blackthorn: let's not dwell on that name; I still can't stand it. I had mixed feelings about her. In some ways, she came off as a coward, but at the same time, this attitude was also clever: don't get noticed, so that you live longer, and if you live longer, you have a chance of actually doing something. She limited her interactions with, and therefore her understanding of, other characters, who mostly remained bland and stereotypical. On the other hand, she also kept other people in mind: her family, Opie's, as well as the other Offerings. She's not planning a selfish escape just for herself and The Boy (OK, she does at first, and then she considers the bigger picture). I think what bothered me was that I would've expected her to do more tech-related stuff. Well, she does, but... in such a way that it's only seen afterwards.

And here's where I must touch upon something that really hindered the novel in my opinion: the first person point of view. There's a moment when a big twist unfurls, and the reader is led to believe something, while something else altogether is brewing. However, I think that the first person narrative is problematic in such cases, because once the twist is revealed, the reader immediately thinks: "Hey, the character knew about it, so how come s/he withheld the information, both from me and *from him/herself*?" This is what happened here. Before that point, the narrative was all right. After it, I couldn't get back into it anymore. For those who've already read the book: I'm talking, of course, about (view spoiler) In any case, what followed was a recap of who did what, and then only Silver's role was made more apparent... but by then, I felt cheated.

I would add to this a mild case of convenient chains of events, such as this or that character forgetting to lock a door on a regular basis. It didn't sit so well with me when it came to a place where paranoia was a rule.

Bonus point, though, for the romance, in that:

1) It doesn't dwell too much on a potential love triangle. This might come back in the next book, but for now, I'm going to ignore such a possibility, because I can and I want to.

2) The characters are attracted to each other while they do and think of other things. They mostly meet to find a way out, not merely to kiss and grope in the dark. The attraction comes later—and it doesn't take too much space, contrary to what I've seen happen in too many other stories.

I somewhat enjoyed this novel; I'd probably have enjoyed it more if it didn't feel and taste like many others in the same genre.

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## **Liz Barnsley says**

Publication Date: May 22nd 2014 from Pan Macmillan.

Thank you to the author and publisher for the review copy.

In the village of Martindale, hundreds of miles north of the new English capital of Windsor, sixteen-year-old Silver Blackthorn takes the Reckoning. This coming-of-age test not only decides her place in society – Elite, Member, Inter or Trog – but also determines that Silver is to become an Offering for King Victor.

But these are uncertain times and no one really knows what happens to the teenagers who disappear into Windsor Castle. Is being an Offering the privilege everyone assumes it to be, or do the walls of the castle have something to hide?

Trapped in a maze of ancient corridors, Silver finds herself in a warped world of suspicion where it is difficult to know who to trust and who to fear. The one thing Silver does know is that she must find a way out . .

So, more dystopian YA and I just can't get enough of it especially when it is as well written and addictive as this one turned out to be – with a flowing imaginative tale of a world moved on.

We'll get the immediate and obvious comparisons to Divergent out of the way first – yes, in this novel, when children reach a certain age, they take the “Reckoning” which puts them into one of 4 groups in society and decides their place, what type of work they will undertake, amongst other things. And that is where the similarity ends – this is very much its own tale of adventure and what an adventure it was!

Silver Blackthorn is one of only a few chosen to become an “Offering” to the King. Considered to be a high privilege, and bringing great benefits to the families of the chosen, still if you are an offering your life as you knew it is over. No-one knows the true nature of what it means as those chosen are not seen again. When Silver arrives at Windsor, and comes face to face with her King, she begins to realise that all is not well and she is going to have a fight on her hands simply to survive..

Things I loved about this one: The setting. It is in the UK and therefore all the more real to me – and also the premise for why the world is as it is now – authentic and not at all beyond the realms of possibility. Then there is Silver herself – she's a tomboy, a bit impulsive, fairly brave most of the time but definitely not the first choice you would necessarily make as a saviour of others. Technology is her thing – she is savvy, has taught herself everything possible, and is actually a bit of a geek. I loved her – she was a perfect “foil” for the world she inhabits and as she discovers the truth behind the propaganda, you are dragged along happily in her wake as she attempts to unravel the impossible.

There are quite a few nods to the things that “work” in this genre – the dual possible love interests (although this is very low key for the moment Silver has far too much to worry about to be thinking about boys!) the dictatorship of a seemingly benign “government” and a few characters who are not what they first appear. Its all done extremely well however and the supporting cast of characters all offset our heroine beautifully and keep you right on the journey with them.

Overall this is a great example of its kind – I DO however have a complaint. I finished this one, came out of the book daze, looked around me and realised I’d have to wait to find out what happens next. WAIT? Well we all know how good I am at THAT. Sigh. Mr Wilkinson may not be able to see me but I tell you now...I’m glaring.

Top notch. Recommended!

Happy Reading Folks!

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### **Smurray says**

WOW!!!! I'm already counting down the days until the next book. This is a must read for any dystopian lovers.

Expect big things from this series!!!!!!

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### **Pete says**

Having gobbled up every word of *The Reckoning* in a few hours, one thing strikes me more than any other; Kerry Wilkinson has found his niche.

It really is obvious as you work your way through Wilkinson's latest novel that this sort of young adult, fantasy world is where his heart really lies. The quality of writing here is much greater than that on offer elsewhere in his back catalogue, which comes as a bit of a surprise when you consider the target audience of the piece.

I am not the target audience of the book, but having read each and every one of the author's previous works, and being offered an advanced preview copy of book one in the *Silver Blackthorn* trilogy, my interest was piqued.

*The Reckoning* was, quite simply put, the highlight of this author's career so far. Having not read a great deal of this genre in the past, and thus a limited basis of comparison, all I can tell you is that I was hooked from early on and I stayed as such. No book written by this author, and certainly no character, have had such an effect as *The Reckoning* and its chief protagonist Silver Blackthorn. Kerry Wilkinson has created something special here, and you don't need to be a young adult to relish it in all its glory. It also reaffirms my belief that this is one author whose strength lies in writing female leads.

The focus of the book is in the all too familiar world of the post-future-war Britain; something seen in countless end of the world films of late. What Wilkinson does very cleverly, however, is to mix the old with

the new. The old castle at Windsor with the new technology. The old ways of living with the the new essentials of modern life. It's an interesting juxtaposition, and one which lends an air or originality to proceedings.

Silver is our hero, and she offers an interesting mix of strength weaknesses. Her mental strength outweighs the physical weakness she endures as her time serving the King goes on. Her character is well rounded, brimming with personality, charm and charisma. She is somebody you find yourself rooting for. Her new friend Imrin is a worthy sidekick, with a believable back story himself. The will-they won't-they narrative is something I expect to see carried through to the remainder of the trilogy. The possible reason that they won't succumb to temptation, however, is the one part of the book I found weakness in. The character of Opie. This is a less developed character, who appears mainly through dreams and flashbacks. I am again expecting to find out more about his inclusion as the trilogy develops.

I enjoyed the portrayal of the other main players in the book, especially that of the King. You could picture the evil git, getting off on others misery as he devours his wine and turkey legs. Very convincing stuff.

I was slightly surprised in the setting of this book, if for no other reason than Wilkinson's had tackled a relatively similar environment in his most recent addition to the DS Daniel series, Behind Closed Doors. I enjoyed both of these books, but would highlight this one as being far superior.

Fans of the young adult, fantasy genre will no doubt love and appreciate what this book delivers. Fans of Wilkinson's other work will find this a better written, whilst different type of story, but one with plenty of merit. Me? I just can't wait for. Book 2 in this splendid new series.

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### **Crystal ☆ Lost in Storyland says**

While the concept is not entirely new with so many dystopian novels out there, the English setting was promising. However, the story and Silver's character fell flat for me. Things seem to unravel too conveniently for Silver. She knows exactly what will happen and what to do (at least, in the first part of the novel), and her thoughts weren't interesting. Furthermore, she doesn't bother to explain certain things, leaving it to the reader to figure them out. For example, her relationship with Opie, which seems to be more than friends. I ended up skimming much of the first 10% of the novel in search of something that would pique my interest, but nothing really did. When Silver's place as an Offering was announced about 14% into the novel and she announced out of the blue that she figured it would happen, I decided it was time to stop reading.

DNF 14%

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For more of my reviews, visit my blog [Imaginary Reads](#).

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### **Keehle says**

Good God what a waste of time this book was.

I absolutely hated Silver- she did NOTHING for me. I wanted to jump into the book and yell "WHAT ARE YOU DOING" on many occasions.

The plot was just too obvious. Okay, clearly this chick is going to be chosen for the Reckoning, clearly the King is going to have a totally cruel and twisted side regardless of his honorable reputation, and clearly Silver is going to try and find a way to escape.

Now here's the part where I shut the book and threw it across the room.

So Silver and this guy- who she's obviously crushing on but doesn't acknowledge it- finally have the opportunity to escape. Fantastic. So they got on the train, find somewhere to hide, and boom. The dude Silver works with is hiding on the train. So, instead of saying "Oh hey, you're escaping, too? Great! Shut up and ask questions later," this chick decides to drag her and the guy she's crushing on BACK into the castle and offers the lame excuse "I thought it was too risky." Really bitch. You've got be kidding me. You're risking not only your life, but the guy who came with you, and running off the train because you saw someone else hiding already and said it was too risky?

What. The. Fuck.

I didn't even finish the book. Quite honestly, if Silver can't find her brain and escape the King who raped one of the girls and kills for fun, then I'll use my brain and stop wasting my time and post it on ebay for someone else to "enjoy."

Good riddance Silver.

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