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The Rise of Young Adult Dystopian Fiction and Movies: Post 2000

Abstract: It has been observed that in the history of literature that one or the other trend had dominated the era starting from Tragedy to Problem Play to Romantic Poetry to War Poetry. Dystopian fiction is not new genre of literature but the modern writer and movie makers are infatuated to this genre although under a different name: Young Adult Dystopian Fiction. In this paper the researcher has endeavored to give the account of Young Adult Dystopian novels and movies that has appeared Post-2000 era.

Key words: Literature, Films, Dystopian, Young Adult Fiction & Movies

Literature & Films

‘Literature and Films’ are the mirrors of society and indelible part of human culture. The former has emerged centuries ago, while the later emerged just 170 years ago, circa. Literature is in the written form and it has its own limitations as well; only a literate person could read and enjoy the literature and it lacks the visual aspect albeit it creates pictorial images while one reads and the reachability is also very limited. Films on the other hand, albeit emerged from the literature, have wider reachability, because it is in visual form or in moving pictures. In books we read the story and in the films the same story is presented before us; the faceless

characters are given faces, they appear as described in the books, the most important factor of the films are that everyone can enjoy it: transgressing beyond the language boundaries and movie goers need not have to be a literate to understand films; the best example is Charlie Chaplin's movies, although for a better comprehension, nowadays, movies are dubbed into native languages for instance, Bahubali(2015,2017), The Avenger (2012-2018)&Iron Man (2008-2013)Series. A book needs sentences while Films requires images to give us feel and experience. In books a writer describes everything in words on the other hand in films a director has show what has described in the book. The story in a book is narrated in first, second or third person or by an omniscient narrator. In films the story has only one way of narration i.e. omniscient point of view. As Bluestone claims, "the novel has three tense, the film has one" (Giddings, et al., 1990, p. 15). Films are more direct than that of Books, but books does not have the limitations of time or pages. Films have limitations of time a film's length is of 90 minutes to 180 minutes. Both Literature and Films and have their own limitations and advantages.

Young Adult Dystopia

Young Adult (YA) novels are written for target audiences aged 15 to 25, became prominent post 2000 era. Its protagonist is aged 20 or more and lives of young people are portrayed but age is not the deciding criteria. In YA love triangles and self-discoveries and friendships are common themes as these things are the priorities for the young people. The story is always narrated in the present tense. Novels are set in a futuristic dystopian technologically advanced world and the struggles of youngsters are depicted.

What is Dystopia?

Sir Thomas More wrote Utopia (1516), the term 'utopia' came into existence as a literary genre. Utopia in literature an ideal place where all is well and it is of great antiquity. We find

descriptions of earthly paradise in the Sumerian epic of Gilgamesh (2nd C. BC) as well as in Odyssey. Even Plato's Republic (4th BC) was also a kind of Spartan-Utopia, a description of an ideal state, where rulers are philosophers, goods and women are communally owned, slavery is granted, breeding of children is controlled and art and poetry has no place in it. The concept 'ideal state' is based on "Heaven", a paradise, which is found in all the religions. 'Heaven' is a place somewhere in the sky which full of happiness, and sorrow has no place in it and "Utopia", on the contrary, is an earthly heaven where all is well and there is no class and all are equal and everyone is happy. In More's Utopia there is private property, free education, six working hours, free medical treatment, meal, all religions were tolerated etc.

"Dystopia" is seemingly opposite of the utopia, it is anti-utopia and forecasts the doom of human kind, Joseph Hall's *Mundus Alter et Idem* (1600) is first of its kind and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (1932) are the examples of dystopian novels. Dystopias are, most of the time, set in a future time, technology more advanced than today and common thing is that government is authoritarian and population is controlled.

Features of Dystopia

1. A background story of a war, revolution, uprising, overpopulation or some other natural disaster. Society itself has changed dramatically as a result and plays a very important role the story.
2. Standards of living among the middle and lower classes can be significantly worse than the contemporary society, although this is not always the case.
3. Freedom and elements of humanity can be taken away as a controlling mechanism. Conformity is a desired outcome.

4. A central character questions the society and the accepted norms. Often a group who are not under the control of the ruling government.
5. Two classes are portrayed where ruling class enjoys all the luxuries and poor classes are deprived of luxuries.
6. Advanced technology is often controlled by a ruling classes or a group, while rest of the population lives in an extreme poverty and primitive technology.

Rise of Dystopian Novels and Movies in 21st Century.

Man has always been in search of good way of living since the antiquity. Literature born out of this desire to make man civilized and to teach him correct way of living. The Greeks poets taught the contemporary society humility. Literature gave man a culture, an idea of ideal human being. Democracy is also a utopian concept. But man has always been comprehensive about future, probably because man basically is an animal and he suppresses animal inside him under the garb of civility. We have accepted democracy as a way of governing because there is no better option available for us. But are we democratic? Do we believe in the democratic principles? Do we believe in that all are equal Whites, Blacks, Rich, Poor, Dalits, and Brahmins? Democracy has some flaws and how long humans live in equal society no one can forecast, therefore modern writers are a bit comprehensive about the harmonious society which we are living in today. Technology had reverse effect too, it can be detrimental to human civilization therefore in dystopian world technology plays a seminal role. Dystopia is a sort of challenge to a utopian society and could be the future of human civilization because democratic countries sometimes behave like authoritarian or totalitarian State. It has also been observed by the social scholars that democratic societies are the most unequal societies. This uncertainty of future has fascinated the writers to the dystopian genre.

Dystopian English Novels and Movies

Suzanne Collins

The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, Mocking Jay

The Hunger Games is a hugely successful trilogy of dystopian novels; it follows the characters of Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark.

The story is set in a dystopia, Panem, a country consisting of wealthy Capitol and twelve districts in varying states of poverty. Every year the children from the districts are selected to participate in compulsory televised Battle Royale death match, The Hunger Games, where each participant must kill other and the last standing is declared as a winner.

The novels have all been developed in to films starring Jennifer Lawrence.



Scott Westerfeld

Uglies, Pretties, Specials, Extras

Set in post-scarcity dystopian world, where everyone is turned “Pretty” by extreme cosmetic surgery upon reaching the age 16. The theory being that if everyone looks the same, there will be no wars or conflicts. The Surge has side effects which make population compliant

and placid. Teenagers rebels against this forced surgery and escapes to live with the Uglies- a primitive place; the Smoke. The series follows the story of Tally Youngblood, who goes through the process of Ugly to a Pretty.



The fourth novel Extras centers on Aya Fuse, a girl struggling to find her place in a chaotic world after Tally frees people to think for themselves.

Veronica Roth

Divergent, Insurgent



Set in Post-Apocalyptic Chicago and follows the story of Beatrice Prior. The society is divided in five factions; Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful) and Erudite (the intelligent). At the age of 16 all citizens must select a faction where they would spent rest of their life, this is the time where anyone belonging to any afore mentioned factions can choose the factions of his liking, once chosen he/she cannot go back to the faction where he/she was born. He/she should be loyal to the selected faction.

The Divergent series developed into films starring Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Miles Teller and Kate Winslet.



Lauren Destefano

Wither, Fever and Sever

Popularly known as The Chemical Garden Trilogy, set in a future where scientists have been successful to create a perfect race of humans free of diseases and defects but in consequence that has also developed a virus that affected the children of these generation's and their children's children killing female at the age of 20 and male at 25.

Ally Condie

Matched, Crossed, Reached

Popularly known as Matched Trilogy, it is set in a tightly controlled society, where everything is controlled to avoid chaos. A commission chooses only Hundred Songs, Hundred Stories, Hundred Paintings and Hundred Poems and the rest is eliminated forever.

Only the best is selected. The society also pairs the couple. Cassia is matched to her friend Xander then an error happens and she is shown to match with Ky an orphan and the love triangle commences.

Michael Grant

Gone, Hunger, Lies, Plague, Fear, Light



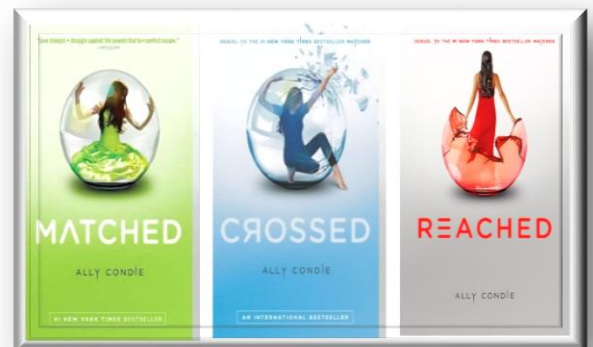
The series set in Perdido Beach, where at the age of 15 or older vanishes and they develop a supernatural powers the story follows Sam Temple. The remaining children are imprisoned in impenetrable bubble.

Marie Lu

Legend, Prodigy, Champion



Popularly known as Legend Trilogy



Day and June are teenagers on opposite sides of a dystopian regime in what was once Los Angeles. Day is the ultimate outlaw, stealing money and medical supplies for his family and others. June is being groomed for leadership within the ruling party.

After June's beloved older brother is killed, all clues point toward Day, and she vows revenge at any cost.



Kristen Simmons

Article 5, Breaking Point, Three

The Article 5 series, in post war USA all the religions are outlawed except Church of America. Society is now governed by Moral Statues, particularly Article 5, which states that children are only valid if conceived within marriage. Ember Miller is 17, and her mother has broken Article 5, and Moral militia is after them and they n the run.

James Dasher

The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trial, The Death Cure, The Kill Order

Popularly known as The Maze Runner Seriesthe teenagers arrives at the Glade in elevator with no memories of past life and how they got there. To survive they must lock themselves every night to avoid the horrors of Grievors-part animal and part machine. The maze must be solved and they must escape to be alive.

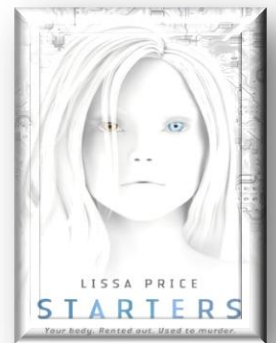


The Novel was successfully adapted to film The Maze Runner starring Dylan O'Brian, Kaya Scodelario and Thomas Brodie-Sangster.

Lissa Price

Starters

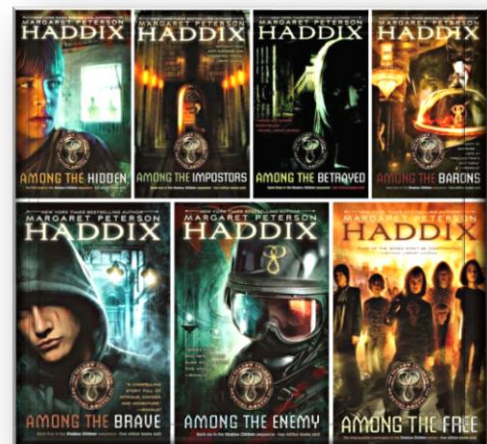
In the futuristic world the society is divided into Starters and Enders, the young and old. Everyone between the age of 20 and 60 has been wiped out in biological war. Young ones who are not claimed by their grandparents are either put in institutions or on the run. Callie, along with Tyler is on the run and struggling to survive.



Margaret Peterson Haddix

The Shadow Children Series: Among the Hidden, Among the Imposter, Among the Betrayed, Among the Barons, Among the Brave, Among the Enemy, Among the Free

In the future world drastic measures are taken to quell the over population. All people are allowed only to have two children and the third child is put to death. Luke Garner is secret shadow child he knows if he is discovered he will be put to death. When he meets Jen then he realizes that there are more shadow children like him and he thinks that all secret shadow children must come together and fight for their rights.



Conclusion: This outbreak of dystopian novels and movies confirms that we humans are not sure about our future perchance because of Nuclear Bombs and the destruction of WWI & II we have witnessed. What would be life in most advanced technological world and after nuclear war? These novels gives us the glimpse of that life and probably therefore these novels are so popular among readers of all ages.

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