Book Review: The Hunger Games

By Annie Yoskoski

Suzanne Collins puts an interesting twist on post apocalyptic North America by creating a teenage girl main character whose biggest responsibility is keeping her mother and sister alive. The book reminded me of a cross between Survivor and Orwell’s novel *1984*. The futuristic society is engaging, yet brutal in the way two tributes from each of the twelve districts are chosen by raffle to compete in the annual Hunger Games, a televised fight until death. No reader has to wait for the action to start, it starts on the first page. Once I picked up *The Hunger Games* I didn’t put it down until I was done.

I found the main character Katniss very relatable. She volunteers to take the place of her younger sister in the games, and sends herself into the arena. Even if you don’t have Katniss’s strong personality, she is relatable in her family struggles, her love life, and her challenges in the arena.

At first I was pulled into the book by concept alone, the description reminded me of gladiator fights and television drama but The Hunger Games has something for everyone. Make no mistake, this is not a light hearted comedy, but it won’t make you sob either. This book puts adrenaline into its characters, as they face situations today’s America can’t imagine.

I found the reading easy and clear, no plot lines were dropped and nothing went unresolved. For a relatively short book, it packs adventure and suspense into every page , Collins created a world that I might not want to live in, but I defiantly want to read about. The Hunger Games is a New York Times number one bestseller in young adult fiction, adult fiction, and science fiction/fantasy. The movie is to be released in early 2012.