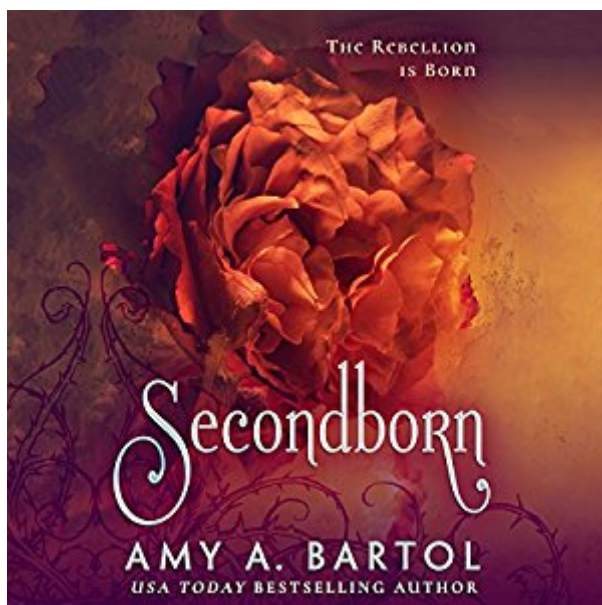


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Secondborn: Secondborn, Book 1



Synopsis

Firstborns rule society. Secondborns are the property of the government. Thirdborns are not tolerated. Long live the Fates Republic. On Transition Day, the second child in every family is taken by the government and forced into servitude. Roselle St. Sismode's eighteenth birthday arrives with harsh realizations: she's to become a soldier for the Fate of Swords military arm of the Republic during the bloodiest rebellion in history, and her elite firstborn mother is happy to see her go. Televised since her early childhood, Roselle's privileged upbringing has earned her the resentment of her secondborn peers. Now her decision to spare an enemy on the battlefield marks her as a traitor to the state. But Roselle finds an ally - and more - in fellow secondborn conscript Hawthorne Trugrave. As the consequences of her actions ripple throughout the Fates Republic, can Roselle create a destiny of her own? Or will her Fate override everything she fights for - even love?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let me just start by saying that I, LOVED, this book!!!! I LOVED IT. It enthralled me. It swept me away. I read it in one sitting. LITERALLY one sitting. I got up for a drink twice, and the rest of the time I spent trying to leave my nails alone while sitting on the edge of my couch. Roselle is a no nonsense heroine who doesn't really follow anything or anyone but her own convictions, the science fiction world is exceptionally well developed and interesting, and while the plot up to 50% was good, the plot after 50% blew me away. There is no language, and some very mild sexual content. And now to the cliffhanger. This is the first book in a series, yes, so not all the loose ends are tied up. But

it still has a definitive ending. An ending that was well written, and planned for. It doesn't just abruptly cut off in the middle of something, leaving you wanting to toss your phone across the room. It ends with this book wrapped up, and then there are some teasers that feed into the next book. I just don't categorize that as a cliffhanger, and I wanted to offer a difference of opinion for those saying it has one. But that's just my two cents about cliffhangers. Overall, I absolutely loved this book. There are so many mysteries. So many, I literally had no idea what was going to happen next. At every turn I was guessing, enthralled, and hungry for more. I really don't have any idea the last time a book swept me away so thoroughly as this one did. Get it. You will NOT be sorry!!!

In a world where Firstborns rule, Secondborns serve, and Thirdborns are forbidden, semi-celebrity secondborn Roselle St. Sismode struggles to find her place in the world...Bartol never fails to write a story that just enthralls you from the moment you start reading. There are some stories that you just read, but the great stories you become immersed in, and this is what Bartol succeeded in doing. I couldn't tell whether this was supposed to be a post-apocalyptic world, or a fictional world entirely, but I definitely loved all the gadgets and different technology, including the Star-Wars-like light swords! Roselle was a very likable character- she's smart, capable, and kind; even in a world where she is considered second-class, she still attempts to love a family that despises her and attempts to serve her country in the best way possible. She deeply cares about other people, even those who are fighting against her, and that is an extremely likable trait. I have to admit, I was a little lost sometimes trying to keep up with the different Fates, the politics involved, and then the rebels involved in the war, but it was still an enjoyable read. The only thing that annoyed me was I can't figure out this author's fascination with creating antagonists who lust after the main character, who have this strange sexual obsession with them. It was weird, creepy, and kind of took away from the plot of the main story. If you are looking for a book with a brand new world with futuristic gadgets, a story that has tons of intrigue, friendship, action, fighting, and romance, I would definitely recommend this book!

I read some unfavorable reviews on another site and I was shocked. I really liked this book. For some reason when I picked it from Kindle first, I did not think it was science fiction, but pre-tech fantasy. Maybe that was wishful thinking. Anyway I began reading and I thought, "oh no, another Hunger Games". While there are a lot of similarities, I was pleasantly surprised. I like Roselle WAY better than Katniss, and this world seems more sophisticated and makes more sense. I liked her friends, her self-serving boss, hated the villain, liked the enemy soldiers she befriended, and really

want to strangle her wimpy brother. I'm a bit upset I have to wait for April, and like another reviewer, I am pretty sure she'll end up in the trials, which will make it even more like Hunger Games... but I still like these characters much better. Enjoy. Oh and, it's not a cliffhanger. It's just a denouement pause that lets you know there is a sequel coming. I knew it was a series when I started, so I wasn't upset.

I loved this! This was a great start to a new Dystopia series and I had a really hard time putting this down. I listened to the audible version and have nothing but good things to say about the narrator. I am limited to when I can listen and if I had the time, I would have listened straight through to the end. I'm a fan of this kind of series and I especially love a female warrior. I really liked Roselle's character. The unfairness to her situation and all Second Born situations makes you root hard for her to succeed. So much seems to be against her that you can't really see that happening. I also liked that I couldn't predict what needed to happen for her to cause change. By the end of this book, I'm still not sure how she is going to succeed. This did have the feel of Hunger Games, but with its own unique twist. I will be anxiously waiting for book 2!

Overall, the book was good. The story was well-paced and the characters fleshed out. However, the reason I gave it three stars is because there was no real awesome factor to it. It felt like a story I've read before. Roselle comes across as a washed out version of heroines of other dystopian novels. In fact, she's so like them that there's nothing unique about her. Where is her spark, her flaws, her special powers/gifts? What makes her a true individual? When she's not being the perfect soldier, the humble daughter, or the self-sacrificing heroine, circumstance is just happening to her left and right. This pulls the plot along, but doesn't give me, the reader, a lot to cheer for. Thus, I don't feel as connected and invested in Roselle's future as I should be. That being said, I am glad I chose this book and I will be interested to see what the next one is like. However, without something unique to invigorate me, the second I put this series down, it will be easily forgotten.

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