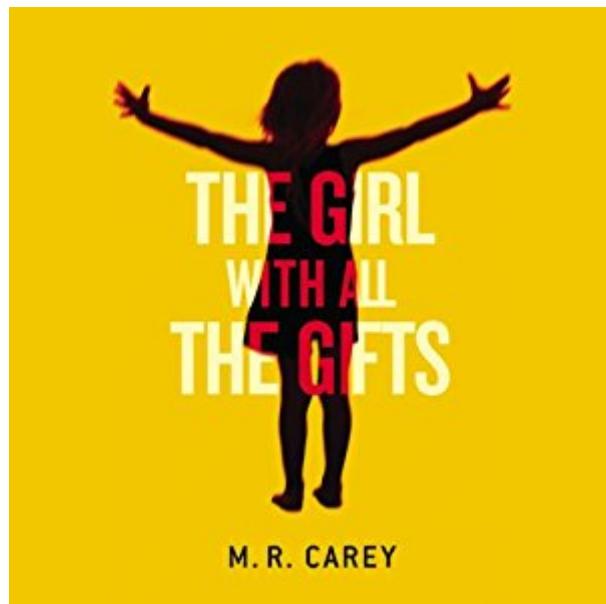


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# The Girl With All The Gifts



## Synopsis

Melanie is a very special girl. Dr Caldwell calls her "our little genius". Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant keeps his gun pointing at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite, but they don't laugh. Melanie loves school. She loves learning about spelling and sums and the world outside the classroom and the children's cells. She tells her favorite teacher all the things she'll do when she grows up. Melanie doesn't know why this makes Miss Justineau look sad. *The Girl with All the Gifts* is a sensational thriller, perfect for fans of Stephen King, Justin Cronin, and Neil Gaiman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The *Girl with All the Gifts* might be my favorite book of 2014 (so far). It's certainly in my top 5. Before I discuss the book, I have to discuss the synopsis. I feel like I've been complaining about synopses a lot recently, usually because they don't reflect the tone of the book. This is probably the most egregious example. The synopsis is written as though a very young child with a very limited vocabulary is speaking. You would rightfully assume that the book would be written in this same manner, but you would be wrong. WHY do marketers do this? Are they intentionally trying to turn off readers? I heard about this book from somewhere other than Goodreads, and I'm sure I would never have chosen to read it if the synopsis was all I had to go on. The main character is a 10 year old girl named Melanie, and I could understand the desire to write the synopsis in a young

voice IF the MC had that same voice in a first person narrative. But that is not the case here. Melanie is a very intelligent girl, and the narrative is written with an intelligent tone in the third person and doesn't reflect her voice at all. Sorry to go on and on about this, but I don't want the odd choice for the synopsis to discourage anyone from reading the book. Because ALL of you should want to read *The Girl with All the Gifts*, and I'm going to do my best to tell you why. I'm going to keep it vague, because you need to discover the secrets of the book for yourself. The story is set in a post-apocalyptic society in the U.K. Melanie and other children attend school classes, which seems normal enough on the surface, but it soon become apparent that something is not quite right, both with the children and with this school. We get hints of the nature of these differences early on, but it takes some time to learn what caused the apocalypse and how Melanie's world reached this point. Melanie has what could be called a childhood crush on her favorite teacher, Miss Justineau. Miss Justineau sees something in Melanie that stands out from the other children, and she can't help responding to Melanie's adoration, even though she tries to keep an emotional distance. Miss Justineau differs greatly from the other adults in Melanie's life who treat her with apathy, at best, and shocking cruelty, at worst.

It's not hard to see why Melanie feels such affection for her teacher. The scenes between Melanie and Miss Justineau are heart-breaking. Melanie craves physical and emotional affection, just like every child deserves. But Miss Justineau can only do so much without risking her life and Melanie's. *The Girl with All the Gifts* starts out so strongly, and I thought that there was no way the story could maintain this pace. I was wrong, because the latter part of the book was even better. Melanie makes a decision at the end that has enormous implications. It affected me so much that it took a little while before I could even pick up another book. But was it the right decision? I think so, but that doesn't mean that I was emotionally prepared for it. Public service announcement: *The Girl with All the Gifts* is published by Orbit, a division of Hachette, the publisher that is battling. If you choose to buy this book (and you should!), think twice about buying from . Aside from the obvious reasons, is selling this at list price. B&N, Powells, and possibly your local indie, too, are selling it for significantly less. Note: I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Melanie is a very special girl. Dr Caldwell calls her "our little genius". Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant keeps his gun pointing at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite, but they don't laugh. Melanie loves school.

She loves learning about spelling and sums and the world outside the classroom and the children's cells. She tells her favourite teacher all the things she'll do when she grows up. Melanie doesn't know why this makes Miss Justineau look sad. So. Mr Carey. I have been waiting for another book in another series, some folks will know what I mean, but I thought hey, this one will do to be going on with. Especially when good blogger friend Kate waxed lyrical about it and told me I must read it. Frankly it wasn't a hard sell.. This is an INCREDIBLY difficult book to review without spoilers I had no idea why Melanie was so special going in, and I'm not going to tell you either, but special she is. And not just because this is a clever, fascinating, addictive story about "ha see you nearly had me" its about THINGS OCCURRING - but because she is ridiculously easy to love, so well written is she. In fact all of the characters pop right off the page for one reason or another. You will either want to protect them with your life or shoot them in the head. Often with no inbetween. Its a horror story. But not really. Its a fantasy. But then, no not really. There is certainly love there. And loss. And some stand out scene setting. And a heck of a lot of jaw dropping moments. And don't start reading it just before bed time. You won't sleep. For various reasons not all of which will have to do with how eager you are to find out what happens. When I read a book like this it reminds me why I love to read. Utterly compelling, taking you away from the madness of the real world and into the madness of another offering a new twist on a popular theme and getting you right at the heart. RIGHT at the heart. Its only the end of January but I would be MOST surprised if this one doesn't end up in my top 5 of the year. And trust me, choosing last years top 5 was hard enough.. PLEASE be careful which reviews you read of this one before you dive in my reading friends. It really is best arrived at with a beautiful blissful ignorance. Highly Recommended. HIGHLY. Happy Reading

Folks!\*\*HardBack Version purchased via UK\*\*

This book is so much more than a zombie thriller. For the most part, books about zombies don't interest me. Zombie lore needs a visual medium to be affective, which is why I think "The Walking Dead" graphic novels work so well. "The Girl With all the Gifts," however, has higher aspirations. The central unanswered question here is "what does it mean to be human?" The book explores this question against a post-apocalyptic backdrop that we've seen before in a 100 zombie flicks, but it brings a fresh perspective with the main character, Melanie, being a hybrid zombie who is both a danger to and a savior of the non-zombie characters. I use "non-zombie" instead of "human" because, again, that is the question. Are the non-zombie characters more worthwhile, moral, and human than Melanie? Of course, you'll get the easy-to-hate villain in the form of Dr. Caldwell, who

sees only specimens when she looks at the zombie-hybrid children. But even she is not superficially drawn. In the end, I had a better understanding of what made her tick, and didn't see her as the pure evil I did when she was first introduced. No character is one-dimensional, and M.R. Carey is to be applauded for accomplishing what so many writers can't seem to get right. I loved that this book respects the reader's intelligence and doesn't force feed the answers. I love reading a book that keeps me thinking not only while I'm reading, but after I'm finished reading. If you enjoy the zombie genre, but find the human drama and the human question more compelling, you'll be glad you chose this book. Highly recommended.

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