

[Reading] ➔ Under My Skin (Immortality Strain, #1) ➔➔ Shawntelle Madison – Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co

Posted on 03 August 2019 By Shawntelle Madison

This book just was not for me I couldn't get on the cool aid train Under Tate's skin and in her mind was a very boring place for me The inner dialogue just never clicked into place So many questions that I had just didn't get answered fast enough I HAS no patience I want all the answers This book didn't need any stinking romance Why throw in romance to every young adult book Why are the resistance dumb as a bag of rocks Why am I so nosy It is a good premise for a book and this author doesn't write badly I just didn't connect with the main character I may just be a bitch I'm giving it 2 stars because the writing didn't suck and that cover is awesome. 12 9 14 Now Available This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life I received an advance reader edition of this book from the author via Net Galley for the purpose of providing an honest review.4.5 Stars I picked this book up and was immediately hooked It is a very good thing that I did not have any plans on the day I started this book because this was the kind of book that is almost impossible to put down This book first came to my attention on Goodreads where I noticed it was getting great reviews so I immediately requested a copy from Net Galley I avoided reading any reviews that gave away any part of the plot and I am so glad that I did because this book really surprised me with the direction it took I loved the characters Tate Sullivan is a tough 16 year old girl She is in no way helpless and is willing to fight when necessary She has not lead a life of privilege prior to being thrust into the world of the Guild Where other girls would be dazzled by fancy dresses and servants, Tate

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Another Roadside
Attraction

misses her family and her previous life Her cousin, Zoe, whose life has taken an almost identical path as Tate s, is equally tough while other girls, like Eva, are eager to enter the world of the Guild.I was so happy to read a Young Adult novel that did not have a major focus on romance There is just a bit of romance in this book I really wish that the romance was not a part of this story I actually think that it took a bit away from the main plot I honestly do not believe that Tate would have been worried about any romantic feelings in the situation she is in just my opinion The bit of romance is really what stopped this book from being a 5 star read for me but it is really so minor in the total story that I think most readers will not be bothered by it at all.I recommend this book to everybody I suspect that this story can easily be the next big thing I was only halfway through this book when I told my 14 year old that she needed to read this one I really think that this book is one that can appeal to a very wide audience This is the first book by Shawntelle Madison that I have had a chance to read I can t wait to read the next installment in this series. I really enjoyed this book and it is available today4.5 Get Out of My Head StarsIf you are like me you have started some of dystopias excitedly thinking that they will be about a post apocalyptic future filled with a great story and world building only to find out that it is a love triangle thinly veiled in an underdeveloped world OR it is basically a romance filled with insta love and inner dialogue about the ever changing color and dilation level of the love interests eyes OR it is about some special snowflake girl boy who learns they have enormous power and then easily defeats there nemesis after some inner turmoil of accepting their power For all of you readers who have suffered through those dystopias like me I want to you meet TATE.Tate doesn t have a superpower, she isn t really special in any usual quantifiable way, she isn t the most beautiful girl in the land she actually has a scar on her lip and she doesn t have a tragic past She has grown up poor but utterly loved by her family In fact most of her thoughts about the future, before being chosen by the guild, are of what profession she can chose to be able to help her family financially The only thing we find that is truly special about Tate is her will to fight to survive.Tate has been chosen by the guild to become a Water Bearer, a position so shrouded in mystery that no one outside the guild seems to

Wintergirls

The Little Friend

Regina's Song

Tomcat In Love

Emma

Blueeyedboy

The Inheritor

The Son of Neptune

Doctor Who: Legacy

The Silkworm

The Woven Path

Mansfield Park

Humboldt's Gift

Omerta

House of Holes

The Wild Palms

know exactly what that entails Tate finds out the hard way when she starts hearing a voice in her head and knows the smile she just saw in the mirror is not her own She must fight with someone else for control of her body and no one has won that battle before To me, war used to be merely words in books I read about fighting and death, but I had no context Living with General Dagon in my head had taught me that war wasn't powerful words used to convey conflict, but it was something else far frightening, far deadly I was an unwilling passenger with the General to the battlefield. Tate fights with him every day just to stay conscious and have any control of her own body They are so different and he has conquered many hosts over the years The General might have the advantage in this fight Him being in her head is degrading and his favorite game is to lull her into thinking she is safe only to show up again when she least expects it I clasped my left hand over my mouth The sensation was nauseating The way he used me was such a violation of my free will that I couldn't stomach the idea of letting him speak again What I really liked about this book Tate is never over the top She is a normal teenage girl caught in a horrible situation She is a little shy and unsure of herself but she is also strong Not in a physical sense but in resolve and character, she never gets super human strength or can take over the general's experiences to be effective in combat or anything like that The only thing that she can rely on to save her from the General is her will and her brain Thank you You do not need to have a superpower to be important in a story. Tate grew up loved so she values family and people over things She is devoted to those she loves and will do whatever is necessary to protect her family even if it costs her I love that the Shawntelle Madison used a real book The Art of War to help teach Tate tactics and help her to find ways to combat the General Madison changed the title and a few of the words to fit better into her story but the ideas were the same Know thyself and thy enemy If you do, you should not fear any battle you encounter with them If you only know yourself, for every battle you have won, you have also lost If you do not know yourself or your foe, you will suffer defeat every single time There is a smidgen of romance, but just a smidgen, enough to keep the hopeless romantic in me at bay There are no declarations of undying love or I saw him across the room and my knees

The Bangkok Asset

The Pictures of
Emptiness

Ethan Frome

buckled nothing too cheesy There are two people working toward a common goal and they happen to have a few feelings for each other over time It was simple sweet and just enough to help Tate by knowing she wasn't alone, there are people who wanted to help her. I enjoyed the premise of the story One of my biggest fears is that my mind will go and I won't have control of my body It would be so much worse to be a passenger along for the ride while someone makes decisions for me that I would never agree to Worse still is blacking out and waking up not knowing what my body did while I wasn't there It built up a delicious tension that made my stomach knot. The technology behind how they prepared the water bearers for the transfer of consciousness and how that came about took something very real in nature and tweaked it a bit It was an interesting foundation that I hope the author builds on in following books She gave just enough information to peak my interest and not so much information that I got bored with it or tried to pick the science apart. For me this was a great beginning to a series There is an introduction to the world with a bit of backstory and you are shown what life is like currently The problems with the current society are slowly introduced and there was no info dumping Right now there is a really good foundation to build the rest of the series on and I'm excited to see what will happen next. A few of my fears There were some things that are touched on in the book but left a little vague This is the first book though so I hope in next books these are fleshed out a little . I have a love hate thing happening with dystopias currently in that sometimes they start out really strong and then by the third book they crash and burn So that is always my fear with any new dystopian I read since there have only been a few that I have read until the very end BUT this isn't Shawntelle Madison's first rodeo She has completed a trilogy before so I'm really hopeful that like Neal Shusterman's Unwind series she can complete a really strong story all the way through. Overall I found this an easy story to fall into with good pacing and interesting characters Tate is my Girl and I will gladly be following her on the rest of the journey Thank you to Crushstar Multimedia LLC via Netgalley for the arc 2.5 stars I wanted to love this one, but I just couldn't get into it. The gist of the story is that in this dystopian world a group of people referred to as the Guild basically run everything. Water Bearers

are people who are chosen as their servants through a draft like screening process. If you get chosen, your family gets taken care of, and you supposedly live a relatively luxurious life.

Conspiracy Conspiracy. Yes, of course there is. Without spoiling too much, whether or not you like this story is going to come down to whether or not you like Tate, and her inner monologue. I didn't find her dull, uninteresting, and somewhat annoying. There's a romance between her and the General's Blade Dude, but there was seemingly no reason behind their feelings toward each other. Or at least none that I could see. They are both in a situation that they don't like. And they are both THERE together. Ta Da Eh I just wasn't feeling it. I also found the rebels to be a bit idiotic. *view spoiler* Why, why, why the hell would they EVER let Tate into their secret hidey hole base of operations. She has their sworn enemy riding shotgun in her head. The explanation is that Tate knows when the General is awake, and can warn them before he shows up. Oh, come on. Do you seriously expect me to believe that adults, who have been fighting the Guild for years, are going to trust their lives and all the other rebels' lives on whether or not a teenager has mental control of an centuries old evil mastermind. Did none of them think the General could possibly trick Tate. That's what he's KNOWN for. General Tricky Bastard. I also failed to see why they had to meet at the Secret Base. Why couldn't they have had these meetings with her in a random hotel room somewhere. *bangs head on desk* *hide spoiler* But sometimes, it's the most unexpected plans that lead to the most fascinating places. Well, you can say that again. It's taken me a few days to review this, and I wish I could say it's because I've been so darn busy, but the truth is I was am torn on how I feel about this. It's not the best written book out there, and the MC isn't a kick ass heroine that will bust kneecaps the way a normal girl would eat chocolate ravenously, but the actual plot is amazing and unique. Fewer and fewer are born to be a Water Bearer, she said. I don't think I am one. I tried to pull my hand away. I'd make a poor servant. Her lips, which had formed a straight line, now offered a chilling smile. My dear, you are a prize. I hope you're not snatched away before I have a chance to bid on you. Bid on me. My swallow got stuck in my throat. I fought to take in a breath as my chest constricted. What are you saying. Congratulations are in order, Tate. You've

passed the test Welcome to the Guild, a circle of rich, noble people who every year like to hold an auction and buy servants, or Water Bearers If they pass the test, these people will never see their families again and instead go live a life of servitude in the city Everyone, other than Zoe and I, picked up their suitcases Will we get a chance to say goodbye to our families I finally asked Didn't you read the packet Astrid continued to usher us out of the room. I was the last to leave, so I followed Zoe You're Aspirants of the Water Bearers You won't ever see your family again No one is allowed to pollute you Tate passes the test and is auctioned off to the General, an old, horrible man What she doesn't know yet is that she will never be your run-of-the-mill servant My trembling fingers searched every contour of my face Touched my lips Pressed into dry cheeks Nothing had changed Yet my life had taken an unexpected turn. I'd been bought and sold and now I knew the horrific truth General Dagon wasn't dead. He lived inside of me Yep Basically, the new servants are actually new hosts, where the rich and the noble can transfer their souls into and live forever. My problem For about 50%, I was bored Living inside Tate's head was a chore I have no idea how the General pulled it off and her internal monologues grated on me Every time I tried to come up with reasons for her, I kept thinking, But still and it sucks so hard when you find yourself bored enough to start cleaning. Cleaning I never clean unless I absolutely have to It's cool, I live at home so it's not like I live in a barn or anything And when it finally did pick up I'd lost interest, which is an even bigger shame However, I really, really loved the idea of this book, and I look forward to the next one coming out so we can finally get some answers, but Tate killed it for me There was so much she could've done and said rather than sleep and eat, and it took her nearly half the book to finally come up with an idea worth reading about Ick. 3 stars. Close, but no cigar In the sea of young adult dystopian books out there, I think this one really stands out The concept is truly fabulous and wholly original I've not read anything like it in this genre Though it isn't hard to suss out what is going to happen after the first few chapters, and the blurb gives it all away, I think it is exciting if the details of the plot are left to a surprise For the first 30% of the book, I was fully engaged Honestly, it is creepy as hell, and I was good freaked out I was preparing for

this to be a 4 or 5 star read then things started going a little wonky First of all, I m just going to throw this out there Not all books are made to be a romance I HATED the romantic aspect of this story What a contrived, circumstantial pairing Tate and Quinn were Just strange I would have much rather this book have no romance at all, or have the romance come in book 2 The covert kissing and holding hands when these two have nothing in common and don t talk at all was just ridiculous to me I also thought that resistance was dumb as rocks Seriously, rocks Why on earth would you tell Tate anything when you know that Dagon could be listening at any time He had moments when he was paying attention and Tate didn t realize, why not when she was with the resistance or when she was talking to her servant girls My biggest issue with the book was how underdeveloped the world building was What happens to the people who don t get bid on Do they get killed Become other servants Why would the Guild like stronger people Doesn t that seem risky Because we know things can go haywire, because of Quinn s story And that side plot with Quinn s brother Weird It all just became the same tired YA dystopian stuff that I ve read before What was a really interesting and unique concept was totally wasted I

wanteddanger,creepiness,consequences,difficulty, and LESS ROMANCE and I never thought I d be saying that Maybe I ll have better luck with my next one in this genre Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Everyone Wants To Either Be A Member Of The Guild Or Work For Them Little Does The Populace Know That The Guild Hides Sinister SecretsFor Tate Sullivan, Life In Her Small, Coastal Town Is Far From Glamorous The Affluent Lives Of The Guild Members And Their Servants Isn T Something She Has Ever Wanted But All Sixteen Year Olds Must Take A Simple Test, And Tate S Result Thrusts Her Into The Guild S World, One Where They Hide Horrible Plans For Those They Select Tate Must Fight The Relentless General Dagon For Control Of Her Mind, Body, And Soul To Keep The One Precious Thing She Has Always Taken For Granted HerselfHer Only Ally Is The Same Handsome Boy She Is Pitted Against In General Dagon S Deadly Game Quinn Desires Nothing Than To End The Life Of General Dagon Who Has Taken Over Tate S Mind While Romance Blooms Between Tate And Quinn, General Dagon

Plots To Eventually Take Over Tate S Body, And Love Might End Before It Even Begins Actual Rating 3.5 5 stars And I m rounding it up because of this book s ORIGINALITY.WOW This one was freaking amazing I wasn t really into this at the first 25% of the book but afterwardsjust. OMG The blurb made this book sounds mostly about a romance but NO The plot is fantastic. Holy craaap My heart is beating so fast I really liked it I will not go into the plot because I might spoil it for you guys but the plot was the sure WINNER here.The characters Tate. She s a determined girl, I ll give her that She wouldn t go down without a fight I giggle when she s acting like the general I mean, it s funny Her inner dialogue rocks sometimes Quinn Or shall we say, Master of Blades is meh for me Or maybe it s just because this book didn t really work because of the romance aspect but because of the plot s brilliance Basically, he s a knight in shining armor just. not shiny enough, I guess XD I wish we could see him on the next book General HOLY SHIZZZ Seriously I, myself, was freaking scared of him I love a well built villain I mean, who doesn t I was like, No NOOO NOOO when he s coming back I m so weird Anyway, there s goosebumps whenever he s making his presence known.This book deserves 5 stars if only for the creativity and storytelling skill of this author The added romance kind of ruined that, though The heroine received a few eye rolls from me at some parts of the story I m not the biggest fan of their her relationship with Quinn.Definitely recommended Just. don t go into this book if you re particularly looking to read a romanceARC provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchanged of an honest review 4 5 Stars Thank you to NetGalley for the opportunity to read and review this book.Bid on me My swallow got stuck in my throat I fought to take in a breath as my chest constricted What are you saying Congratulations are in order, Tate You ve passed the test The skinny The day of the test is upon her Tate, a 16 year old girl, will either pass or fail If she fails this test, she will return to her family and live out her life, if she passes, she will be taken from her family to begin her service as a water bearer No one knows exactly what a water bearer is, but Tate knows that it involves some sort of service What no one realizes, is that being a water bearer will require service, but in the most horrific way imaginable.The review I didn t think I would like this at first In

fact, within the first few pages I thought my eyeballs were going to roll out of my head Why The clichés Clichés in the first 5% A bunch of 16 year olds need to take a test The test could be potentially life changing Something surprising happens when the main character takes the test If the main character does pass the test she will be taken away from her family never to see them again These reasons did not bode well for the rest of the book YET, very quickly I came to the realization that there was much to the story than I first thought My questions started to pile up why is everyone touching the main character's hand What is the purpose of the red credit cards I could not guess the answer to these questions, and when they were revealed I was left feeling some pretty intense emotions The seemingly tame story I had been anticipating was consumed by something fardemented and disturbing. Likes Tate Tate is the main character of the story and she really kicks ass At certain points in the story I was expecting her to be overcome by the absolute shit she was fighting against All I wanted to do was shrink to the size of a dandelion seed and float away with the wind Although it would have been so easy, and was for many of the other 16 year olds facing the same situation, Tate refused to back down Even when there was only a shred of hope, Tate kept fighting and plotting I'm going to be honest if I were in her situation I don't know if I would have been able to handle it Master Dagon AKA The General Master Dagon was such an amazing villain He was a total bastard with a capital B I can't really go into too much detail because I will give away important parts of the plot, but just know he is a creepy, disgusting, demented, asshole of an OLD FART As a villain he had absolutely no redeeming qualities More than once I wanted to jump into the book and strangle him The dementedness of the plot This book really got to me I mean really I started to question whether something like this could happen in the future of our world I started to think about how twisted people can be including how damn greedy people can be The feelings that I experienced reminded me of those that I had while reading Unwind Twisted I tell you, twisted. Dislikes I only had one major complaint, besides the clichés at the beginning I felt as if the romance in this book was extremely strange Without giving too many details away, I don't know how a relationship was able to form considering what Tate was

going through view spoiler how was Quinn able to fall in love with her if she wasn't even her half of the time hide spoiler Well, well How can I do justice to that original and alluring book First I think I can say without a doubt that the writing is compelling, as it was such a page turner for me even with the sleepy way I acted the whole week Last event falling asleep on my couch and waking up in the middle of the night, believing my boyfriend who said to me it was 7a.m Yes I was that tired.Second I grew fond of these characters We follow Tate's journey in the Guild, and well, that's difficult to tell you without spoiling you really difficult but let's say she has a hard time staying herself and to see her fight for her believes is truly fascinating and heart breaking, as slightly creepy her situation is Because trust me, that's fucking creepy That kind of horror which brings me chills Not ghosts Not vampires Not even a doll or a clown, and the whole world knows how much I'm afraid of those bulging eyes What Aren't you No Just the very kind of monsters I despise the most, the regular ones those who walk on two legs, you know, humans So, Tate She's not far from the kind of heroines I love the most strong minded, courageous, yet relatable because she goes through moments of doubts and trust me, she does have valid reasons to Yet she's a fighter, and I'm always incredibly pleased to see that side in a character Therefore, do I want female leads like Tate in the books I read Yes, pretty please.As for the love interest, hummm 3 words, guys Master Of Blades Die trying Wow, he was a piece of work Isn't that a bit harsh, Captain Belfry That's the reality of your situation The name's Quinn, by the way Whaaaaat Don't you see where I go with that Come onnnn Master Of Blades Nope Is it only me Naaaaah, I can't believe that Okay, let's move on Quinn is such a mysterious character Apart from the fact I told you before master of blades, you know, and no I'm not obsessing here Nope. , I must admit we spend the major part of the book without learning many information about him But even if I get it can be taken as a flaw, it never really bothered me because I loved every single apparition of him He even succeeded in waking me up when I struggled to keep my eyes open Yes He had that effect on me I sighed Still offering me an out You make a great hero, Quinn All in a day's service Plus, I kind of share his vision of the dreadful effect the power has on people, even if well, that's

pretty pessimistic it reminds me of Stello, a classic French book from Alfred de Vigny I studied when I was in college one of the main character, the Docteur Noir black or dark doctor, explains that in his opinion if we'd choose any person and give him too much power, that person could become a tyrant, no matter how kind he's been at first. Yes, that's depressing and yes I think it's almost always true He laughed You still believe in the human race I like that about you But that's not the way the real world works Oh, and before I forget no insta love, no What is the plot I don't care I saw a cute boy let me dream of his eyes Quinn is here, he's interesting, even adorable sometimes, but he never owns the show Tate does. Let's talk about the plot In a word Captivating And, yes, that's the only thing you'll get because I strongly believe the book is actually better if you begin it without any clue So nooo, that's not because I'm lazy I guess. Why didn't I give it 5 stars though The lack of world building No, that's not right The lack of world exploration I might be harsh about it because the plot is wrapped in a way which leaves no room for a world exploration so what I see as a flaw can easily be explained and then that, justified But that's a dystopia and in that kind of book I'm willing to discover a new world and I'm not very indulgent with the lack of details, where many readers might not care about it Yet this is the first book of a trilogy, so I might change my rating in the future if the sequel provides what I missed here I didn't laugh I know, I know, all the books aren't written to make me laugh but still, it stays something I seek out in the books I read and that's definitely a plus this one didn't offer me How can I explain In dystopias, and harsh stories in general, I need bubbles of laughter to reduce the pressure What can I say Funny comments are one of my main peeves. With this being said, let me answer to the two most important questions Would I recommend it Absolutely Will I read the sequel What don't you understand in the words kind of heroines I love and Master of Blades Huh ARC provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review



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