



## Starburst

*Carol James Marshall*

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**Starburst** Carol James Marshall

*This is an alternate cover edition for ISBN 1537377051.*

What do you do when you are living a lie?

Lisa only wants to follow orders from her mysterious leader, Superior Mother, and get back to life in The Grey. When she is sent on her first mission among the humans, Lisa realizes she is more human than Superior Mother led her to believe. In her first mission for the Women of the Grey Lisa begins to not only challenge her orders from Superior Mother but everything she has ever known. Defiant and on a quest for the truth Lisa will follow orders no more while she creates a path of her own.

Starburst book 1 in the Women of the Grey series is mysterious and a fascinatingly creepy coming-of-age tale. The Women of the Grey series is new adult with some horror and science fiction that focuses on the relationships The Women of the Grey have with humans. It is an emotional connection that will have the reader questioning the depth of their character and of those around them.

If you like books that are wrapped in mystery challenging you to read just one more page then Women of the Grey series is a thrilling read just for you.

Buy Starburst today to start the journey into the dark and disturbing world of The Grey.

## Starburst Details

Date : Published January 2017 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

ISBN :

Author : Carol James Marshall

Format : Paperback 228 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Womens, Dystopia, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Starburst for online ebook

### Courtney says

Carol James Marshall brings a very unique style to her debut novel, Starburst (book 1 in the Women of the Grey series). She bring us into this strange place called Feline Street. A strange place inhabited by even stranger people. We are immediately introduced to Lisa and her four human targets: Craig, Maggie, Iggy, and Rafael. Getting to know these characters one-by-one is intriguing, curious, and (against your best judgement) you will become attached to every single one of them. The one thing to keep in mind from the moment you open the book...nothing is as it seems.

Lisa was raised by her Mothers in The Grey. Marking her right of passage in becoming a Mother herself, Lisa is sent to the human world to complete a mission. She must identify her four marks by the trademark icy itch of her race, then find a way to get them all to End Point. What will happen at End Point? Why these four people? Why this place? How is she supposed to get them there? And, what will happen to her if she doesn't? She has no idea, and she isn't allowed to ask. She was sure she was on the right track by how quickly she was able to identify these four unusual specimens. One thing was for sure, they weren't going to make this easy on her--not one bit. Craig is abrasive and anti-social. Maggie has an innate distaste for people and life in general. Iggy talks to sidewalks and worships apples. And the boy, Rafael, he didn't do much of anything besides spin in circles and follow sidewalk guy around. How did the Mothers expect her to accomplish anything with such a group!

This book is clever, oozes sarcastic humor, and is pleasantly creepy. Marshall creates a wonderful atmosphere of intrigue and keeps you wondering which way the story will turn next. All of these characters are rough around the edges and you really learn to love that about them. Starburst is perfect for readers who aren't bothered by strong language, who look forward to a little gore and crude humor, and who enjoy the suspense of a series where the questions answered only leave you with more questions. This book is highly entertaining, and I anticipate nothing less from the sequel. Anyone needing a good paranormal fiction series to curl up with this fall will not be disappointed by what Carol James Marshall has to offer.

<https://readingonrepeat.blogspot.com/>

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### Fabian says

Book One in "The Women of the Grey" series is a treasure trove of plot threads that extend way past the origin; of mysterious characters, alliances, novelistic themes. It ends & the writer knows that it is not enough, hence Book Two (which I cannot wait to read; does it have as many red herrings as one might expect?) I personally appreciate all the dialogue in Spanish which, oftentimes unitalicized, is natural, confident, and ultimately rewarding. It is wondrously and confidently, devoid any obvious form of classification ("Coming-of-age" this isn't.) PLUS: it's unexpectedly gory, violent, & un-PC.

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### Sean Talbot says

this book was interesting with chatacters that are very unique. I was a little shocked at how violent the book got at the end. full rebiew will be on my blog

## Lauren says

This book was quite interesting. It was different from the books I typically read, but it was still enjoyable.

\*I received this book for free in a giveaway\*

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## Carissa Hudgins says

3.5

Thank you to the author for reaching out to me for this.

Lisa may look like a normal person, but we soon find out she is not of this world. She is from a world known as 'the Grey', and is on a mission to become one of the 'Mothers', or 'Women of the Grey.' The women are known to be a breed of superior female species, not human, and all look identical to one another. When Lisa is sent to Feline Street, a small miserable neighborhood located in California, she has been given a task to gather four different individuals, known as her 'marks' to await the endpoint. Lisa has not been told why she is to find these particular people, nor what the endpoint means, but this mission needs to be completed in order for her to be accepted into the Women of the Grey. The endpoint might mean death for her marks, but Lisa does not want to find out what happens to the girls of the Grey who are unable to complete their mission. Craig, Maggie, Iggy, and Rafael are all those identified as Lisa's marks, and Lisa soon realizes that she needs to build relationships with these people in order to gain their trust to gather them all together for what is to come at the endpoint. She soon finds out that this is no easy task. Lisa does not know how to act like a proper human, except for what she has seen on TV, and her marks show no little to no interest in her from the start.

Find out my thoughts at [carissareadsitall.wordpress.com](http://carissareadsitall.wordpress.com)

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## Liz (Quirky Cat) says

I received a copy of Starburst in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Starburst is the first novel in the Women of the Grey series by Carol James Marshall. It's a twisted sort of coming of age story. The novel is one part science fiction and one part a study on human nature. Overlaying all of that is a sense of foreboding and an eerie feeling of what is to come.

The world of the Grey is not a place a human has ever had the luxury of seeing, and that's probably for the best. Especially when one considers the women it sends out...

(view spoiler)

For more reviews, check out Quirky Cat's Fat Stacks

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## Saundra Wright says

Starburst is the beginning of a hauntingly unique series. Not at all predictable plotline, from the beginning curiosity for what happens next keeps you turning pages until the conclusion. Totally intriguing storyline.

Lisa is a woman of The Grey on her first mission. Failure could easily result in her death, success a step higher in her society. She should be well prepared. After all she isn't the first to undertake a mission. Lisa has been taught to obey her orders without question.

All she has to do is identify her marks, and guarantee that they are where they should be on a specific date. Simple, right? Except the only society Lisa has ever known is that of The Grey. Everything here is new and strange. There is so much that she doesn't understand.

Most of all Lisa doesn't really understand emotions. It isn't something ever dealt with in The Grey. She needs to just let it go and follow orders, but she is starting to question. That isn't allowed. Will Lisa be able to throw off the influences of this strange place in order to succeed?

Kindle Unlimited edition

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## E.P. says

Operating somewhere on the border between horror, suspense, and sci-fi, "Starburst: Women of the Grey" is deceptively simple and yet creepily riveting.

The narrative alternates between Lisa, Craig, Maggie, Rafael, and Iggy. We gradually learn that Lisa belongs to a non-human (but humanoid in appearance) all-female group called the Grey, and has been released into a not-very-nice part of Los Angeles on a mission to find a group of marks (the other characters) and bring them to a rendezvous point at a certain date. If she succeeds, she will become a Mother and gain power in the Grey; if she fails, she will...she doesn't know, but it won't be good. She also doesn't know what will happen to her marks if she succeeds, but she suspects that won't be good, either.

Despite being victims, both of life and of Lisa's schemes, the other characters are more fascinating than sympathetic. In fact, the entire book is essentially a study in autism, depression, and mental illness, as all the characters feel unable to connect to anyone around them, and suffer from visions and confusion. The "horror" of the book is more about disengagement from society, and even from reality, than it is about more traditional monsters, but is all the more horrific for that.

The alternating narrative viewpoints builds and builds the tension, as we learn more and more about the characters and their interlocking lives, even as no one, not even the orchestrators of the event, knows how things are going to end. I didn't exactly "like" the characters, but I desperately wanted to know what was going to happen to them, and I flew through the book, even though horror is not normally a genre I enjoy. As it's only about 230 pages, it was a very quick read, and I definitely recommend it to anyone looking for some gripping psychological horror that's not too long.

## Becky Muth says

The non-traditional format of this book takes you through the story of five people - Lisa and her four "marks". Lisa is from a place where everyone is the same, and none are different. Different is bad. The more Lisa gets to know her marks, however, the more different she feels until the end of the book when she is confronted by Mother Superior's henchwomen.

Before I was halfway through this book, I knew I'd be committed to reading the entire series. I'm familiar with the author's work and this story lived up to the other works I'd read by the author in terms of creepiness. If you like books like Stephen King's THE STAND that shift points of view, and near-future thrillers like THE STEPFORD WIVES, then you'll love this series!

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## Rachel Thijssen says

Actual rating: **4.5** (Goodreads still doesn't do half stars...)

\*I made the new cover for this book!\*

As someone who reads lots of YA I come across pretty much the same things in books; love triangles, girl-faces-society, chosen one... But this debut novel was original and refreshing.

We've got a mysterious main character from an even more mysterious society of The Women of the Grey. The many questions I had kept me reading, as well as the writing style. The author has a voice of her own that's honest and even funny at times.

You'll find that the characters in this book seem very real and they're not the usual characters we're used to either; a skinny blonde, an elderly latina, a young boy, a hobo and a middle-aged man (and the other Women of the Grey, of course). These people are so diverse and realistic it was truly nice to read their stories and the way their stories intertwine with that of Lisa, our main character.

As for genre, I'd say this is a New Adult scifi/horror novel, but it's hard to give one genre to this book. There's some mature content, but it wasn't bothersome and you'll find some light scifi- and horror aspects. The only problem I had was getting into this book. Like I said, it's different. It's told from several perspectives and that makes it a little hard to get into. But once you know all of the characters, you'll fully enjoy this story.

Now I just need the next book because that ending was kind of evil...

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## Carole P. Roman says

Interesting book about a young woman who is on a mission that involves four diverse people that seem not to have any relevance to either her or each other. Told in alternating points of view, we see each perspective of the characters and how they feel about the other people in the story. With a clear, crisp voice, Marshall is able to create credible characters that are damaged, some on the outside, others on the inside. Lisa has been given these "marks" that are somehow all connected. Together they are propelled to an shattering destiny and a whopper of a cliffhanger ending.

## **BookAholiC12 says**

This is the first book of the Women of the Grey trilogy. I've never read anything like this & it was a very pleasant surprise! The creepy factor was on top & I felt the chills run down my spine at some points.

The characters are very different from what I'm used to read which was refreshing. They were relatable & sometimes it felt like the author described me, through a character. That feeling will stick with me for a very long time & it feels amazing. I had a wonderful time with this book & also the whole trilogy.

If you haven't yet, pick them all up now! I believe that if you want something out of this world, this is exactly where you should begin that journey.

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## **Em Frappier says**

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started this book, but I was quickly engaged in the story and the various characters. The story is told through five perspectives, and each character is well-developed and interesting. The plot is dark, mysterious, and paced well. I'm a lover of all things horror, and this was a good read!

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## **Jennifer Tooker says**

Full Disclosure, I was provided a copy of this book by the author, but have voluntarily chosen to write a review. All opinions are my own.

All the same and none different

Lisa comes from a mysterious place known as "The Grey." In this ordered and rigid society the inhabitants are reared on a strict regimen of demeanor, diet, thought and action. The Mothers of The Grey teach the girls from a very early age that only obedience and conformity matters in preparation for their missions into society. Lisa has recently left The Grey to begin her mission on Feline Street, where the residents are as bereft as the buildings they inhabit. Armed with knowledge of their faces only, Lisa has a relatively short time to locate her four "marks" and guide them to the "end point" of the mission. She sets about her Mission with determination, but the more time Lisa spends with her marks on Feline Street and the closer the end point gets, the more Lisa wonders what her Mission truly is and what the outcome will be.

Starburst is written primarily from the point of view of Lisa and her four marks; with each section or piece of the action being seen through their eyes. The story was not hard to get into and the writing style was perfect for the tale being told. As we learn more about Lisa and her "Marks" the more we see that each one, Lisa included, is damaged in their own way. For some, it's a self-imposed exile due to previous life events or tragedy. With others, it's an illness so bizarre that they cannot be reached by normal means. As the author weaves these lives together with their mutual acquaintance with Lisa, we discover that there is more that they have in common than the dirty, run down street where they exist.

Starburst can be classified loosely as a "coming of age" tale because it chronicles Lisa's journey of self-discovery while navigating the odd world outside of The Grey. As she encounters new people and experiences, an inner struggle starts to develop between what she has always known and what may be. There is also a bit of dystopia tossed into the mix. On one side, there is The Grey, with its rigid rules and

regulations and noncompliance is dealt with swiftly and efficiently. The other side of that coin is Feline Street which is the polar opposite of The Grey. On Feline Street there isn't much order, everyone has their own demons to battle and many of them are not faring well. In the midst of it all is Lisa who attempts to reconcile what she knows with this new experience. There is also a bit of a Sci Fi element as the entire notion of "The Grey", the female dominated totalitarian world of Lisa's birth has an otherworldly feel to it as if the Women of The Grey are on this planet, but are not from this planet. This alone coupled with the missions that Lisa and others before her have been send on create a sinister vibe that runs through the Mothers.

Starburst is a fabulous read from start to cliffhanger finish. I would recommend this to anyone who likes Sci Fi, Distopia, Horror or things with an underlying creepy vibe.

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### **Pórey Jónsdóttir says**

Very interesting with unexpected twists and turns. Look forward to read the next one!

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