



# United

*Jaci Wheeler*

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When the United States of America crumbles under civilian protests and riots, a new United America rises from the ashes...

After a reformation, United America runs like a well-oiled machine. Solar power trumps fossil fuels, strict laws keep crime at an all-time low, and at sixteen, residents are assigned their role in society—and fulfill it without complaints. But unbeknownst to the citizens, they are also under constant monitoring, and reigning President Vaughn has eyes in every sector of the gleaming country.

When Rosaline Thatcher turns sixteen, it is time to receive her position in society...

When President Vaughn calls Rosaline to the stage, she dutifully follows orders. Though she dare not disobey, it's unclear why she is being singled out. As she passes her best friend, Wesley, she's reminded of what's at stake. With her new role, she could be torn from her friends and family forever.

Rosaline goes from ordinary citizen to leader of the free world...

Shocked and overwhelmed, Rosaline can't understand why she was chosen for the most vital position of all. But with great power comes great responsibility, and with the help of those closest to her, the fate of their thriving country rests in her hands.

When she discovers a secret location only known as the O.C., the United America Rosaline thought she knew may turn out to be history's greatest fraud...

In a society where citizens obey without question, what will happen when one girl dares to defy, and what will that mean for United America?

## United Details

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Author : Jaci Wheeler

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# From Reader Review United for online ebook

## Ginger Snaps says

Author Jaci Wheeler was so generous to provide a copy of her United trilogy to my 16 year old son, who loves to read. I'm going to let him take over and leave his review of the trilogy here:

Hi, my name is Haven and I'm 16 years old. Thank you Miss Jaci for giving me your books to read. This series really touched my heart in a way that most books don't, and I read a lot of books.

The two main characters are Rosaline (Rose) and Wesley. They aren't from the same family but they are best friends and have a brother-sister kind of relationship.

Wesley has Aspergers with poor social skills. He didn't know what to say and often just spoke what was in his mind. It was cool because Rose was able to help him with his social skills, and because they knew each other for so long, they always understood each other.

This book is about a dystopian society with a socialist government that wasn't actually corrupt. The government actually helped the people. It made me think differently about the world, with more of an open mind. There were people who did not like the government, which was called "The Council". They were free to leave but were not able to then get any of the benefits the other citizens had. The city gates stayed open between the citizens and the outcasts and there was peace between them.

The first two books were written with Rose's POV. Rose is 16, like I am. I was able to relate to Rose and her personality since she was compassionate, likes to follow the rules and was morally good-hearted. But sometimes Rose had mood swings and I didn't know that was normal for teenage girls until I asked my mom.

There was no clear villain in the first two books which I found refreshing and they held my interest. The last book definitely had a villain, but I love how the books are so upbeat and positive.

Also in the last book, the POV switches between Rose and Wesley. When it was Wesley's POV, I was able to see that for some people, being social is mostly a negative thing. I saw how his mind worked (he was very smart!) and the coping techniques he used when he was uncomfortable. Being inside his head helped me better understand people with Aspergers. I had never really thought about what it was like to have Aspergers. This trilogy made me more compassionate about people on the Autism spectrum. Now I feel like I can approach people who have it without being scared or uncomfortable.

I loved this trilogy so much and would be so happy if this author ever decided to continue the series with these characters!

-Haven G.

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## Yvonne Davies says

This book is set in the future after the USA was in turmoil. A group of idealists got together to form a better life and United America was born. At sixteen each child had to choose what path they wanted to follow, either University or Labour. Once decided they were put into the job that the Ministry thought was best. The story is about Roz who at 16 is announced as the next President. Taking on this role at a young age

she has a lot of prejudice to overcome and a lot to learn but she doesn't have to do this alone, she has her best friends Wes and Molly with her. Wes has been her best friend since birth is autistic has some amazing qualities and ideas. Molly her friend from school is her go-to girl and will get things done. Roz from the start of her new career starts making changes for what she see for the better and slowly is making a lot of fans. The three of them together make a powerful team.

Whilst Roz is making the changes to the country she never forget the teams of people who work for her and shows more compassion than most 16 year old girls would do. She never forgets the importance of family. What she does not like is being left in the dark and near the end of the book she finds out something that could throw United into turmoil, but how she handles it you have to read the next book. Roz is fun, determined, and overall caring and she will capture your heart. You will identify with all the characters, and as a mom of a 16 year daughter I would not know how she would run the country.

There are some great comedy moments in this book especially between Roz and Wes, as an Aunt to an autistic boy, I see so many of the same traits in Wes as I do my nephew. The author has wrote a book that kept my interest from the start and the story is unique, at the start there is a divergent feel when they choose their path but that is where the similarities stop. This is the first book I have read that was written by this author and it will not be the last. In fact I have downloaded the second book in this series as I don't want Roz's adventure to end.

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## **Jennifer Ellis says**

In a way this book is a dystopian book. It takes place after a civil war in which the people of the United States rose up against the corrupt government. Millions of lives were lost and the capital was destroyed. However the country was rebuilt into a utopia called United America. It is closed off from the rest of the world and completely self sufficient and Eco friendly. Every child is watched from birth and at the age of 16 is placed into their perfect job and given the choice to go to university or straight to labor. The belief is that each job and person is as needed as the rest. Everyone is provided for. There is no more homelessness, no more hunger, and all are equals. Even the President and the council.

This is a very interesting book. Roz is a girl unlike most. She is extremely empathetic, logical, and yet playful. She has a clear understanding of right and wrong and doesn't stray from it. To her surprise she is chosen as the next president when she turns 16. She, her friend Wes, and her friend Molly are all chosen for jobs in the Department of Ministry.

In this book, you get to see Roz grow as the president and win over the people. I love how she sees the world and the fact that she doesn't back down from what she feels is just and right. I also love watching this small 16 year old girl go head to head with the big scary adults and win. She is a very strong female lead.

I have a special needs child myself and I could see him in Wes's character. In how smart he was, but also how logical. How he didn't pick up on social etiquette, but tried really hard to fit in and have friends. It was refreshing to see a character like that who manages to thrive.

This was a pretty long book. It took me awhile to read it, but it was really good. This being the first book, most of it was spent meeting the characters and introducing us to the world this book is set in. I was kind of surprised by the lack of action and conflict. I kept waiting for it, but there really wasn't any until the very end which leads you into the next book. Don't worry, it's a nice clean ending. Not really a cliffhanger. I still found it a pleasant read even with the lack of much conflict. I'm looking forward to the other books in the

series.

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### **Amanda Lindsey Bursting Bookshelf Blog says**

I loved everything about this book! It starts out like a normal book with a high school 16 year old point of view. But then life takes an unexpected turn at the job ceremony for the main character Roz. She has a unique relationship with her guy best friend Wes. United America is literally a whole new world with a big brother aspect. I loved the entire idea behind the story. You'll have to read it to find out what happens next. I loved the characters and the relationships that are built. I can't wait to read the other two books in this fantastic trilogy!

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### **Jessica Zelkovich says**

Intriguing book one to what will become a trilogy. After America has an uprising, a new order is created reminiscent of books like the Giver. The new society appears peaceful and above all, United, unlike the previous America. Rosaline is a young girl who has been watched and groomed for her future role but will her role in this society keep it running as is or will she become a driving force for necessary change? A good read with good world building and character development. Absolutely love her quirky sidekick Wes. One I would think my daughter would enjoy very much.

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### **Kimberly Vanderbloom says**

This book was recommended to me by a friend.

I'm always on a hunt to find a ya dystopian that makes me fall back in love with the genre. I just found it. It gets back to the basics of the reason why I love this genre. I just can't get over how much I loved it. I think I may shout from the rooftop. For me it ranks in the top 5 dystopian I have read.

This book begins by giving a description of how the world as we know it collapsed. It seems possible. Then we find out how the world is now. It is really interesting. You have less crime but the Ministry is looking over your shoulder constantly. They monitor you to determine if what job you will like and give it to you when you turn sixteen. Part of me thinks that it is a really good idea in theory. I mean to not have to work extremely hard to barely make it is a nice thought. I don't think I would want that many people looking at me all the time. We get to meet a character named Rosaline Thatcher or Roz for short. She is a brilliant and level headed girl. You also get to meet her best friend Wes. He is a straight to the point 16 year old boy who has Aspergers. They are about to get their careers and we get to follow them on that journey. I'm not giving to give too much more away because I want you to experience it how I did.

Here are my thoughts. I loved it. It is the type of book that will stick with you long after you read it. It is early yet but it might be my favorite book/series of the year. My favorite character of all time is Roz. There is just something about her that draws you in. I feel protective over her. She is the type of girl that you want as your best friend. The author did such a good job at writing her that she feels real in my heart. She is such a self aware, selfless, caring, brilliant, happy, innocent, and strong character. My other favorite character is Wes. He has such a sweet soul even if he comes across as awkward. I want to be around him and Roz. I just

can't get over how much I loved both of these characters. They could have sat on bench chewing gum talking about clouds and I would have wanted to read it. My favorite moment was the dance party. There is just something so fun and sixteen about it. I know I still love a good dance break. It shows how fun and thoughtful Roz is.

Overall I loved this book so much that not only did I buy a copy, I had to gift a friend it too. I can't wait to read the rest of the series. This is the first book I have read book from this author and I'm a fan for life. I would recommend this to anyone who loves Hunger Games series, Unbound series or Divergent series.

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### **Maghon Thomas says**

I'm very upset right now... Because I can't have book two in this instant!! Lol you thought I was gunna say cuz it was bad. No no, this book is great! I loved the relationships and story line the author created! I'm seriously dying for the next book. I see that they are being republished and getting new covers so hopefully I won't have to wait too long. Now let me tell you a few goodies.

Roz seems like a normal girl. She wants to follow rules and get a good career from her government and live a happy life. She has two hilarious best friends, one who is a genius that reminds me of Sheldon from Big Bang but with actual compassion. He's so smart but sometimes needs some social manners. And Molly is her best girl friend. They are her anchor to what's normal, especially when a bomb is dropped on her, she is chosen to become the next president of this new world. Now my favorite part is that Roz is independent and strong willed get kind and caring and thoughtful. She is not bitchy or vengeful or spiteful in any way. She truly wants to help others. I loved her compassion for Smith- a little side character. I absolutely loved her relationship with those around her- Kevin, Annabelle, Natasha, and of course milky and Wes. I absolutely this the great characters make this whole story- which is all a big set up for the series. We are just sipping our feet in the pool here. There's a lot doing to change and since this is post apocalyptic America, things are about to get even crazier. But I still loved the dance parties!! Lol and I really hope there's a love interest for Roz. I'll take Sebastian for myself :) or even Adams!

I liked that this book followed with some normalcy. Kids go to school. Kids are friends with opposite sexes- not segregated. I like that there's normal job titles as well. And of course I love the subplot of the council hiding a lot from Roz, former president Vaughn being all vague. People liking Roz enough to make the bad guys pause. I think I also like Samuel for this reason- and he's funny.

Now before you get huffy- this story is all about set up. There's no real plot solution- we know that will come in the next book- we know there's some hidden things about the outcasts at the end, we know it's a little anti climatic... I actually liked that. The author gave me fantastic characters to grab on to, get to know, and now need to see them through with their lives. I read a review about how nothing really happened in this book. Yes I read other reviews because I like to make sure I'm not stating the exact same thing as everyone else. I want my review to show a little conflict lol but a lot happens, it's just not in the normal affect-- action to effect to aftermath to epilogue. I love series more than standalone novels so I really look forward to seeing Roz grow into her beautiful future. If you don't like cliff hangers or open ended books- don't skip it!! Wait til book two comes out and read them together lol!! I will definitely be reading the whole trilogy and I will shamelessly stalk the author to get it ASAP lol :) so now with that, I will leave you with one more thing... If most things are planned out for you, and at 16, you are given the presidential role to rule a country, how would you handle it? I would have lots of dogs hahaha but I dunno if I would donor as well as Roz has. :) 5 PAWS!!

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## Glenda Dykstra says

### Fantastic!

Taking. Future variable and changing the outcome. Wonderful. Much like Divergent and Mockingjay, it shows a strong female lead while allowing the reader to see that she relies on others without being weak. Roz could be a leader to think about and with Wes and Molly helping, the whole premise the society is built on could actually work.

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## Shelle Perry says

Roz Thatcher is a typical 16 year girl for her time and world. She, along with best friends Wes and Molly, are about to be matched with their jobs, and then sent on their way into adulthood. Roz has always known that her job would be chosen for her based on her strengths, for the good of the country, however when she is chosen to be the next president, she enters a world she never dreamed existed.

Upon taking on her new responsibilities she discovers that every citizen is watched and monitored, all under the auspices of the greater good. She was chosen for this job because of her strong convictions and high moral compass, but those same qualities will also make it hard for her to do her job now that she knows the truth.

This story is a fabulous take on the dystopian concept and quite timely given the political climate at the moment. This is the beginning of a series so it mostly background and prep. Roz starts off strong making necessary, but honestly what should be rudimentary changes. She soon realizes that there is more going on than she knows.

There are some fabulously well developed characters in this stories. Roz and her friends form a small, but strong core that provides the gravity Roz needs to pull in others along the way. You can get a real sense that change is in the wind by the way that the council behaves. The strong personalities on the council are mirrored by characters Roz comes in contact throughout the book. Wes was particularly resonant for me. Having a child with high functioning autism, I find that he is well written and Roz's commitment to him is wonderful.

It wouldn't be dystopian without a nod to Orwellian society, but the twist of this society is an interesting one. Big Brother has created a Utopia with no real flaws visible to the average citizen, but is still hiding a seething mass of contradictions. There is always a price and as always it is those who least able to advocate for themselves that pay the biggest portion of it and it is those issues that will eventually make or break Roz's tenure as president. I am very much looking forward to the rest of the series.

4 stars

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## **Leslie M. says**

The United States of America crumbled under civilian protests and riots. A new America, United America, arose from the rubble. In this new country, basic needs, including work, food, healthcare, and shelter, are provided for everyone. This is the only world sixteen-year-old Rosaline (“Roz”) Thatcher and her friends, Wes and Molly, have ever known. They are preparing to learn their future.

When they turn sixteen, all citizens of United America are informed of their chosen career path. Never in her wildest dreams did Roz imagine the job she would be given: leader of the free world. With this title comes great responsibility. Thankfully, she won’t be alone, as Wes and Molly are chosen for jobs in the Department of Ministry, so they’ll still be together.

Roz uncovers some disturbing and eye-opening information. She is determined to make changes which will have a positive impact on everyone. What secrets will she uncover as she begins to dig deeper? Is someone setting her up to take a fall?

This YA dystopian is the first book in Wheeler’s “United Trilogy” series. One of my favorite things about dystopian novels is the “this could really happen” nature, and United is no exception. It is a bit unique in the fact that it has a more positive, hopeful angle than some in this genre. I adore the sweet yet awkward side of Wes, and I want to befriend Roz, who is an empathetic and logical heroine. While there are some minor editing issues, this is certainly a book for dystopian fans to check out. Wheeler does a nice job of making the teenage characters realistic. This was a new-to-me author, and I look forward to checking out her other books.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book. I wasn’t required to write a review. Opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Nancy (The Avid Reader) says**

I received a free copy of the book from the author for my honest opinion.

The United States of America has fallen after civilian protest and riots and out of the ashes rises the new and improved United America. In a world where all crimes are controlled with strict laws and punishment that keeps everyone from acting out and cause trouble and it also keeps the people safe and happy.

In the new and improved United America all citizens are watched from the day they are brought into this world unbeknownst to them. It puts a whole new light on the saying “Big Brother is watching”. The citizens are watched to see what kind of person they are and how they react, handle and deal with any given situation. They are watched and trained in some form or fashion for their future job and at the age of sixteen everyone male and female are assembled and are given their new roles or job in society.

Imagined when sixteen year old Rosaline Thatcher aka Roz to the stage by President Vaughn and is told that her new role in life is to be the new leader or President of United America. She will take over his job and will lead United America until her death or she does something that goes against the council or she does anything that is against the law or rules of life. Roz is not sure about her new role in life at first but after



some time has passed she sort of gets use to it and accepts her faith in her new world.

After becoming President she discovers a lot of secrets that she or the rest of the citizens have no clue of. She doesn't know what to do about it at first because she is not calling all of the shots and if she tries to change somethings that is happening then she could lose her new position or may be more. But she makes her choices the ones that she believes that is right for all the people and herself. Roz does a remarkable job as President for one so young. She will surprise you with how much she knows about life and people at such a young age. She really does want to do what is best for all the people and not just a select few. She has everyone's interest at heart and what a great big heart she has.

Roz has the best bff ever he is so amazing. You cannot read their stories and not fall in love with him. Roz worries about him when it comes to his placement or the role he is assigned. She is not sure that he will even get a job or that people will take control of him and run over and he will get the short end of the stick. But she is so happy when she finds out what Wes' new role in life is. She knows it is the perfect job for him and he loves it and that is all that matters. Wes is very intelligent person only most people don't know this because they never take the time to talk to him and get to know him. They won't give him that chance to let them know who he really is deep down inside and all the amazing things that he has locked up in that head of his.

I love reading books in this genre and United was no exception. I loved from the very first page right up until the end. I loved the person that Roz and Wes are and I also loved the idea of the world building and all the effort that was put into writing United and creating such wonderful characters and world that they live in. United will stay with you long after you have read the last page and keeps you hanging wanting more of Roz's story and what she is going to do next in her role as President. I can't wait for the next book in the trilogy. If you love this genre then you would love United I recommend it highly to anyone who does.

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### **Ms. Just One More Book (Kris Miller) says**

I find myself a bit torn on this story and the overall rating of it. Let's get to the good things first. The book starts off extremely well with a nice pace and a very interesting storyline. The author does an amazing job at building her world. You are given the back story of how the United States fell and how United America came about. There was a lot of thought put into how this dystopian society functioned and I enjoyed the overall breakdown.

The characters are nicely thought out and well rounded, each bringing balance to the others. I especially liked the character of Wes. A sixteen year old with Asperger's, he was carefully constructed in a way that still highlighted his individual quirks, while making him impossible not to love.

Now on to my own personal set backs with this story. While the beginning was engaging, it lost its stream midway through. The plot itself becomes bogged down by the mundane and the story ceases to propel itself forward. There's some flitting of the main character to and fro, but nothing of significance truly happens until the last few pages. It's only in those last few pages that the main character finally discovers that not everything is perfect in her little world, and we are finally introduced to the secret location called the O.C. which was hinted at in the summary.

At this point, there is a very, very brief explanation as to what the O.C. stands for, and then, the story abruptly ends on a cliffhanger. To say that the summary was a bit misleading, is an understatement. There is

really nothing that shows that this was United America's 'greatest fraud', nor was there any point in which 'one girl dares to defy' this Nation.

I'm guessing that this \*might\* happen in book two, although honestly, I don't see myself reading it to find out. Without reading it, I can only surmise that the story would have been better had the author (or a good editor) cut out a great deal of the middle. Thereby focusing on propelling the story towards its actual plot, and possibly making this a dualogy instead of a trilogy. Overall, this is a book that had a wonderful beginning, a great deal of potential, but fell flat for me halfway through. Nonetheless, I do think the author is quite talented in her ability to write, but like many new to the trade, just needs a bit more practice in pacing.

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### **Emma Bradley says**

I wanted this book to be good, but it did very little for me. The story feels like one long first act (maybe a little more but not much). There's no real conflict until the last chapter because the main character has the power to fix anything she doesn't like. And the characters are weak because everything we know about them is stated by other characters. People are always telling you what Roz is like, how good she is, and sure you can see it, but never without the narrative point it out.

Also the writing is pretty amateur. There's a real resistance to contractions that makes the dialogue feel stilted and unnatural.

A good idea, but poor execution.

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### **Tricia Hardesty says**

#### **Exciting**

I really enjoyed this book. Jack Wheeler really is making a new United States in her book and to me at this point I would love to move straight to this amazing place. Secrets start to come out the further Roz gets in to her new position as President. There are parts of this nation that no one knows about and by keeping the council secret it all comes down on the President and Roz is about to shake everything up!!! With the help of her closest friends Roz is determined to make this the best place to live no matter what gets in her way!!! I can't wait to see where Jaci Wheeler takes us in her next installment of the United Series!!!!

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### **Melissa says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I found the story carried me swiftly into its hold, I could not put it down. United was taken place with the downfall of United States, then carries the new ways that revived and rebuilt the country. With new leaders, new rules, new boundaries comes a story of how one country chooses to rebuild and within its new rules can the new generation carrying forth the foundation that was built by the founders.

This story brings you into the lives of many interesting characters Roz & Wesley by far my favorites are coming of age and with that comes responsibility.

I did find favorites in the story. The characters are their own person, with their own characteristics, quirks

which was why I liked the uniqueness of this story. As up beat as the characters can be the story does give you good vs bad , truths to lies... I can't wait for the next installment.

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