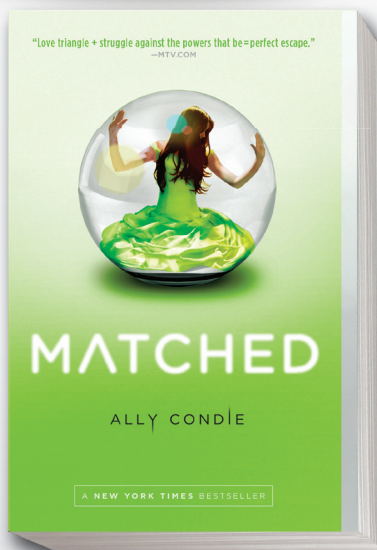




A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MATCHED AND CROSSED BY ALLY CONDIE

SOCIETY MATCHED THEM, BUT LOVE SET THEM FREE

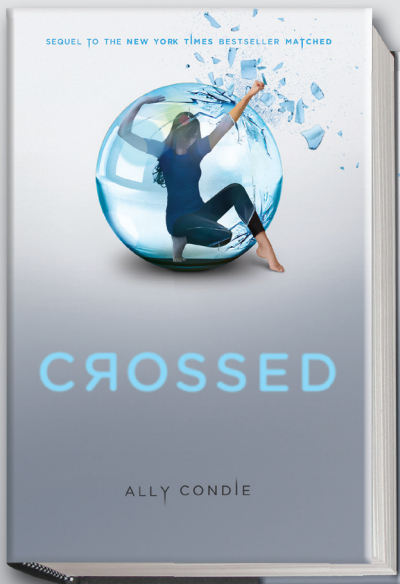
978-0-525-42364-5 (HC) • \$17.99 • 978-0-14-241977-9 (PB) • \$9.99
Ages 14 up • Grades 9 up



Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black.

The Society tells her it's a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she's destined to lead with Xander. But Cassia can't stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path that no one else has dared to follow.

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In search of a future that may not exist and faced with the decision of who to share it with, Cassia journeys to the Outer Provinces in pursuit of Ky—taken by the Society to his certain death—only to find that he has escaped, leaving a series of clues in his wake.

Cassia's quest leads her to question much of what she holds dear, even as she finds glimmers of a different life across the border. But as Cassia nears resolve and certainty about her future with Ky, an invitation for rebellion, an unexpected betrayal, and a surprise visit from Xander—who may hold the key to the uprising and, still, Cassia's heart—change the game once again. Nothing is as expected on the edge of Society, where crosses and double crosses make the path more twisted than ever.



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A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MATCHED BY ALLY CONDIE

- *Matched* is told in first person; how would the story be different if someone besides Cassia were telling it?
- The Society only allows citizens to own one object from the past. What can readers learn about Cassia's world from this rule? If you were asked to select a single item to pass down to another generation, what would it be and why?
- What is the purpose of the three emergency tablets each member of the Society is required to carry with them at all times? Why is Cassia encouraged to never take the green tablet? Consider the lack of effectiveness the tablets have on both Xander and Ky. In your opinion, does this put them at an advantage?
- Each member of the Society is assigned a job as well as a spouse. Consider your personal strengths. What role might you play in such a community? What problems might arise from being given a job based only on your strengths?
- Readers learn that in Cassia's Society, only one hundred pieces of art, music, and literature are saved from the past, as a way to ensure that their world isn't too cluttered. Do you agree with such a practice? What are some of the other outcomes for the Society by providing such restrictions?
- Throughout the course of the novel, Cassia, Xander, and Ky learn that the world as they know it might never be the same. In what ways will it be better or worse for them? Have you had an experience that reshaped your life? In what ways have you changed due to this incident?

ENRICH YOUR READING EXPERIENCE WITH THESE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Through the poetry given to her by her grandfather, Cassia begins to see her world for what it truly is, and she realizes she can no longer be a passive participant. Using information from library resources and the Internet, have students research either Dylan Thomas or Lord Alfred Tennyson and prepare a Glogster poster (www.glogster.com) which details the following:

- Biographical information about the poet
 - What work are they most known for
 - A student selected favorite poem to share with the class
 - Why they believe this poet's work has withstood the test of time.

Music is often used to connect people to each other and the world at large. Select a favorite character from *Matched* and create a CD with an original playlist which is representative of the experiences that character undergoes throughout the novel. Create original art for the jewel case and on the interior, and after including appropriate artist information, offer an explanation for the selection of each song.



A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CROSSED BY ALLY CONDIE

- *Crossed* opens with Ky performing an informal last rites ceremony for one of the lost as he recites the poem “Crossing the Bar” by Lord Alfred Tennyson. What can readers infer about Ky from his actions? What is it about this particular poem that makes it so special for Ky and others who wish to change Society?
- In *Crossed*, readers gain a better understanding of the Society’s intent to preserve DNA of Society members in good standing in hopes of overcoming death. Are there any parallels to the preservation tactics in our present society? If you were given a similar opportunity, would you want to participate? Why or why not?
- Throughout the novel, the story is told in alternating chapters by Ky and Cassia. In what ways does hearing these diverse perspectives benefit the story?
- While considering his compass and the scrap of green silk from Cassia’s gown from the Matching ceremony, Ky states, “Because in the end you can’t always choose what to keep. You can only choose how you let it go.” Explain his statement. In what ways does this speak to the events that transpire through the course of the novel?
- Why does Ky seem so reluctant to serve as the Pilot for the Rising? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?
- Trust is a major theme throughout the novel; offer specific examples where a character’s willingness (or unwillingness) to trust others (or himself) proves advantageous or disastrous.

ENRICH YOUR READING EXPERIENCE WITH THESE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Through the course of *Matched* and *Crossed*, readers learn of the Society’s commitment to storing DNA samples of its Citizens in the hopes that they will ultimately be able to bring back those who have passed. Using information gathered from library resources and the Internet, research and create a digital presentation which reflects your findings about mankind’s fascination and dedication to preserving life after death. Be sure your information details the following:

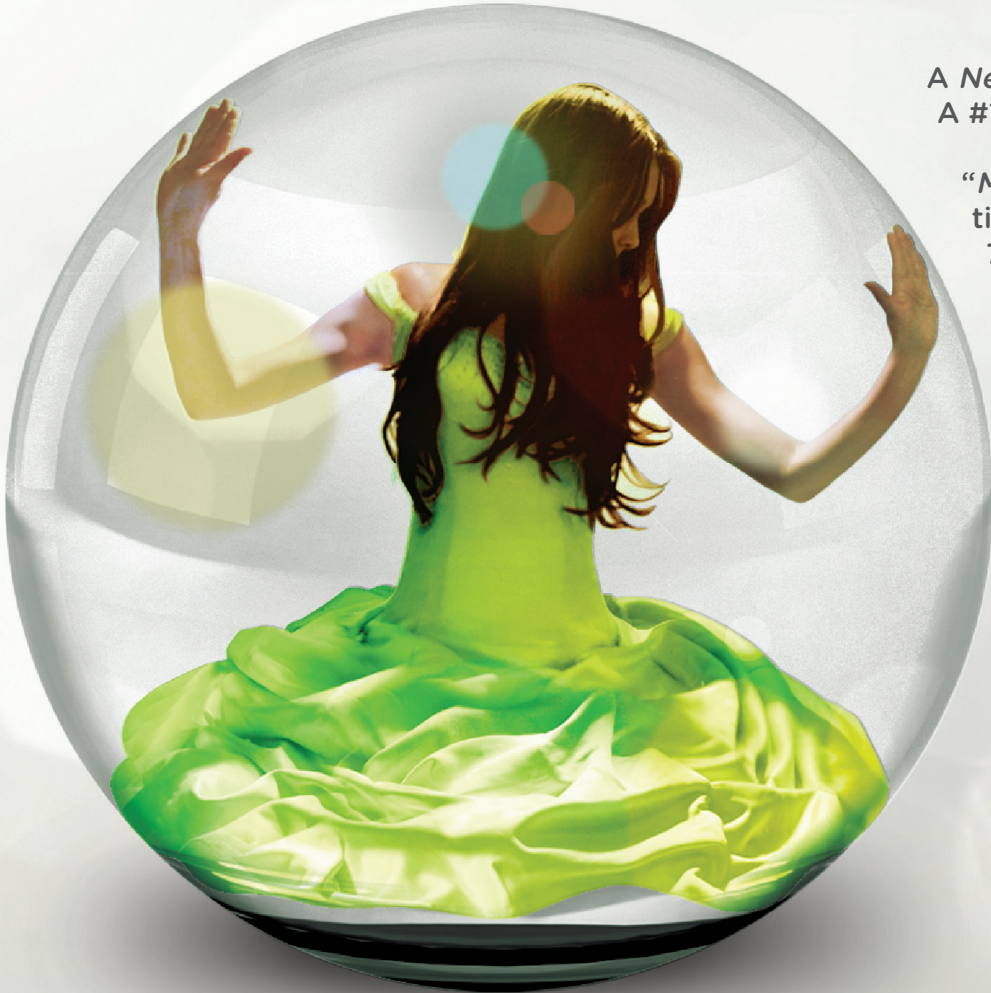
- Which ancient societies were committed to life preservation?
- What techniques were employed to secure life preservation?
- What modern procedures are available for life preservation?
- Other unusual or interesting tidbits discovered during research process?

In what ways does the Society’s policies and treatment of Anomalies and Aberrations who longer have Citizenship seem similar to other governments in history? Write an essay where you analyze the human dynamics of bias, exclusion, and oppression and examine the consequences of social and political injustice using examples from the text.

Design an original book trailer for *Crossed*. Begin by creating a storyboard, detailing which scenes you intend to incorporate in your trailer. Use a moviemaker program of choice such as www.animoto.com. Post your finished trailers to www.youtube.com.



PRAISE FOR MATCHED



A *New York Times* Bestseller
A #1 Indie Next Selection

“*Matched* is the hottest YA title to hit bookstores since *The Hunger Games*.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*

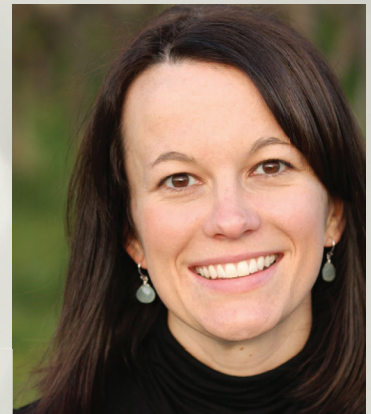
★ “A fierce, unforgettable page-turner.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*,
starred review

★ “Condie’s enthralling and twisty dystopian plot is well served by her intriguing characters and fine writing.”

—*Publishers Weekly*,
starred review

ALLY CONDIE received a degree in English Teaching from Brigham Young University and spent a number of years teaching high school English in Utah and in upstate New York. She lives with her husband and three sons outside of Salt Lake City, Utah. Visit Ally at www.matched-book.com.



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