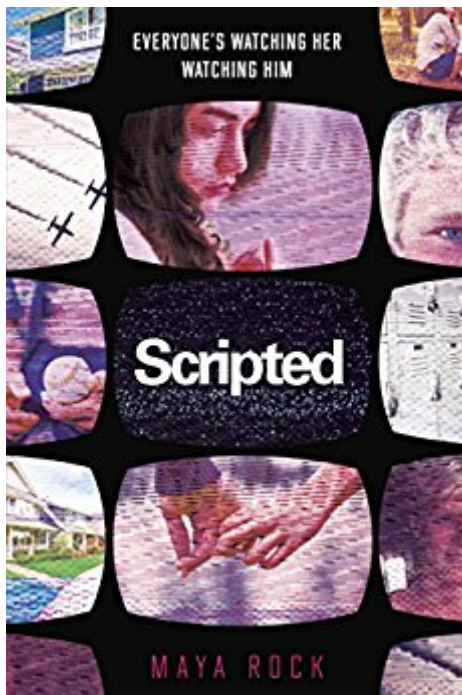


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# Scripted



## Synopsis

Reality TV has a dark future in this thought-provoking thriller. To the people suffering on the war-torn mainland, Bliss Island seems like an idyllic place. And it is: except for the fact that the island is a set, and the islanders' lives are a performance. They're the stars of a hit TV show, Blissful Days. Characters are adored by mainland viewers, yet in constant danger of being cut if their ratings dip too low. And no one really knows what happens to cut Characters. Nettie Starling knows she's been given the chance of a lifetime when a producer offers suggestions to help her improve her mediocre ratings—especially when those suggestions involve making a move on the boy she's been in love with for years. But she'll soon have to decide how far she's willing to go to keep the cameras fixed on her. . . especially when she learns what could happen to her if she doesn't.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The premise of a young woman growing up on a reality TV show is a modern take on the dystopian genre. What is very special about this book is that the story is both a personal journey and a societal commentary. I love how the world of Nettie Starling, the protagonist, is created with a vocabulary that pokes fun at our reality TV/social media obsessed society. In this world, popularity goes hand in hand with wealth and survival. Nettie struggles with the very real need to stay on the show and her desire to be a character with a purpose. A person of any age can relate to this conflict. Despite the intricacies of describing the reality show's production, Scripted's characters are fleshed out in a satisfying way. While Nettie feels weak and insecure when the book opens, her friend Lia seems to be the dominant, confident one. Their relationship has depth, and the way it unfolds is central to the story. Lia, like Nettie and the rest of the cast, is not just another one-dimensional character, even though the show's producers would want it that way. Scripted took me in with suspense and kept me in with strong character development and vivid imagery. I can't wait to read more like it!

Fun, quick-read. I'm not a YA person but I thoroughly enjoyed this story.

I really did not like this book, and I don't know why. The writing was okay, the plot was an interesting idea (though a bit overdone), the characters were...whatever. I guess all aspects of this book were so mediocre that it seemed like it was worse than it was. It didn't take me away, and reading it felt a bit like a chore. Nothing stood out. I was bored. I didn't really care.

First off I need to state that the copy I read was an advanced uncorrected galley that I picked up from NYCC back in October. I don't know how much or if any of the story was changed from this draft to the final print. The book was released February 5, 2015. I really did like the idea of this story. The world building could have used a bit more work. I would have liked a bit more history, especially about The Originals. (That only made me think of the vampire show on The CW.) There were a couple of slang words that could have been explained better. Also, the restrictions that the Characters had didn't seem necessary. Why not talk about cut Characters? It seems so silly to just forget about them as if they didn't exist and move on. Some events didn't seem very plausible. The smoke detector scene for one, and all the off-mic conversations that the Characters were getting away with. The way the high school drama and romance was portrayed made me feel old. I do like YA stories but this one was too juvenile for me. Though I did like how Nettie handled her last Suggestion to avoid doing something she wasn't ready to do. How disgustingly inappropriate and a

human rights violation that Suggestion was. I'll end with some some positive notes. I liked the character Scoop. He was a good friend and ally. The last few chapters became more interesting and explained the reason for some rules. While the solution was not the big break down one might get satisfaction from, it was the most believable. It couldn't be that easy.~Reviewed by Stephanie @ Lazy Book Lovers

I almost didn't pick up this book. After reading the brief synopsis in the front I figured this would just be a young adult version of The Truman Show. But something about it grabbed me and I went ahead and bought it. I'm glad I did. My first impression, it turned out, wasn't all that far off. But there are differences. In the Jim Carry movie there was one character who was the subject of the TV show but he was unaware of the fact that his entire life was being broadcast. In this story we have an entire island where every resident is fully aware of what is going on. They even refer to themselves as characters. They are all aware of the rules; act naturally, ignore the cameras, never do anything to let the audience know you are aware that they are watching. But the general idea, living out a life o TV to entertain the masses, is pretty much the same as The Truman Show. However, Maya Rock manages to take that concept and really run with it. Her story is so much deeper. She takes a rather far-fetched idea and makes it seem plausible. Her characters are real, with real feelings and real problems, all fully identifiable. They are people we know in our own lives and their problems are problems we have all known. (But they have to face theirs on a TV show!) The description I see for this book suggests ages 12 and up. Personally, I would set the age a little higher. Perhaps 14 or 15. There are no graphic sex scenes or anything so crass but the characters are all in high school and I suspect a younger audience may not identify so easily. As for the older crowd, this book is certainly suitable. I'm 47, nearly 48, and I found this to be a real page-turner. The book comes to a satisfying close with questions answered and issues resolved. Scripted certainly works as a stand-alone novel. However, the world Maya Rock has created here is so full of possibility that I'm hoping for more. As I said, this book has a neatly tied up ending so there would be no need to follow the characters involved any further. But the world itself, the "real" world beyond the TV show hasn't been explored. There are also some other islands which play a pivotal role in this story without ever actually being explored. I want to know more about them. I want to know more about everything in this book. I can easily come up with ideas for two or three other books. I hope Maya Rock will go further into this world she has created. She's hit a rich vein that needs to be mined.

Nettie lives a real-life soap opera. And it's a role she can rarely step out of or speak freely because of it. When a character is cut from the show, they become a Patriot although no one really knows what that means. Until Nettie and her friend decide to find out. Scripted is a dramatic, near-future dystopia on a Truman Show or Ed TV-like island. There is great character development. And the drama and suspense made for a highly enjoyable read. As Nettie becomes more involved with a clause in her contract which pushes her to do suggestions from the producers, her decisions seem to affect those around her in unexpected ways. And events build to a thrilling and unpredictable conclusion.\*Review previously posted at SciFiChick.com

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