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The Treatment (Program)



Synopsis

Can Sloane and James survive the lies and secrets surrounding them, or will The Program claim them in the end? Find out in this sequel to *The Program*, which *Publishers Weekly* called "chilling and suspenseful." How do you stop an epidemic? Sloane and James are on the run after barely surviving the suicide epidemic and *The Program*. But they're not out of danger. Huge pieces of their memories are still missing, and although Sloane and James have found their way back to each other, *The Program* isn't ready to let them go. Escaping with a group of troubled rebels, Sloane and James will have to figure out who they can trust, and how to take down *The Program*. But for as far as they've come, there's still a lot Sloane and James can't remember. The key to unlocking their past lies with the Treatment—a pill that can bring back forgotten memories, but at a high cost. And there's only one dose. Ultimately when the stakes are at their highest, can Sloane and James survive the many lies and secrets surrounding them, or will *The Program* claim them in the end?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

3.5 stars The Treatment was one of my most anticipated reads of 2014. I absolutely loved *The Program* and I was dying to know what happened to Sloane and James. When I first started reading *The Treatment* I seriously questioned my sanity. This is the writing I liked so much? These are the characters I fell in love with? Having read *The Program* almost a year ago the details aren't

completely clear in my mind, but I didn't think my memory was that bad. My favorite part about The Program was Sloane and James' relationship. It was meeting them that made me realize how much I appreciate already established relationships in YA. The fact that Sloane and James loved each other and were together felt so real and I loved that although there was romance in the story, the story was really about other things than their romance. The Program was also an emotional read for me, it really made me think about what makes us us and if it's worth being alive if you can't remember what makes you you. The biggest surprise about The Treatment for me was my lack of emotional investment. The story picks up right after The Program ends with Sloane and James in possession of one of the treatment pills and on the run for The Program. Shortly after the story starts they meet up with rebels that Michael Realm sent to find them and they go to a safe (ware)house in Utah. The Sloane and James we meet here were so different from the Sloane and James that I remember from The Program. Sloane was much more passive and lost than I remember her being (minus the time immediately after she left The Program) and James was a possessive jackass. Where were the people I fell in love with in The Program? As the new Sloane and James adjust to life on the run they also need to figure out if they can trust the rebels. Although there's a whole group at first, eventually it turns into just Sloane and James and Dallas and Cas. Dallas, who went through The Program herself, is a bad-ass dread-locked girl who Sloane isn't sure if she can trust. Cas, who never went through The Program himself, but had friends and family who were taken away by The Program's crazy scheme, is sympathetic to the rebels and really an important part of their network. The first half or so of the book takes place at different safe houses and although they are forced to move from place to place because of rumor of threats there is very little action in this part of the story. There's also, oddly very little character development. We learn a little about Dallas and Cas, but not much beyond their hardened exterior shells. Sloane and James are still trying to get to (re)know each other and often get into little arguments and then have makeup cuddling/hooks up/sex. Although I wish this part of the story had gone deeper, I did like that the fact that Sloane and James were having sex wasn't treated as a big deal. They're 17-years-old, they've been together for a while so of course they're having sex. And there's also a condom discussion, yay for safe, smart sex in YA. Basically I was not at all sold on the first half of this book and I even considered putting it down for a while (I definitely would have picked it back up, but I thought I needed some time away). When I was about 100 or so pages in I told myself to read for another hour and a half and see how I felt. Of course, when my time was up, I got to one of the most exciting parts of the story so I then had to spend another hour and a half finishing the book. I still never

came to feel emotionally invested in the story and I wasn't made to think anywhere near as much as I was when I read *The Program*, but the real Sloane and James did reappear and there were bits and pieces that reminded me of why I loved *The Program* so much. Bottom Line: In the end I liked how the story ended, even though I don't think *The Treatment* lived up to *The Program*. Certain things happened where I had to suspend disbelief and there were some loose ends that never got tied up. I question whether Suzanne Young went into this duology with a clear idea of how the story would unfold, especially because of the pacing problems in this one. However, the Sloane and James I knew in *The Program* did eventually reveal themselves and they remain one of my favorite book couples.

A friend once told me the more she read of *The Twilight Series*, the more she hated the heroine, because she didn't do anything useful. That's my major problem with this book. Sloane is in a love triangle. She's not whiny, I'll give you that, though there's some rage aimed at another character that might make sense in some emotional way, but really seems unfair, especially if you've read the prequel duology. (I really loved the first book of the prequel, which I read first before making my way chronologically through the rest of them.) Anyways, the love triangle continues, and there's no idea to help anyone but herself/themselves, and this seems to involve expecting other people to come to the rescue, pay for things, cook, research - do every damn thing while she sits around being suspicious of them. Repeat. And in the end, the part she plays in change happening is only through the accident of other people loving her and actually DOING things, unlike Sloane.

I loved *The Program* by Suzanne Young, so I had to get *The Treatment* as soon as it was released to find out what happened to James and Sloane. While I didn't love *The Treatment* as much as *The Program*, this was still a good read. I like the title. It's a good fit for what the books about, and it fits with the first book in the series. I like the cover. I like how, to me, it kind of portrays James and Sloane on the run. I had the hardback copy of this book, so when I took off the dust jacket, it had the pill cover which is the treatment. The world building was done fantastically! I could see each of the scenes in my mind clearly. This time, the setting of the book takes James and Sloane all over the United States. The pacing was a bit slow for about the first two-thirds of the book, and I was really disappointed. However, I kept reading because I desperately wanted to like this book. Luckily, I was rewarded when the last section of the book picked up pace, and I couldn't wait to see what would happen next. The plot is good. Sloane and James are on the run from the Program after rekindling their romance from before the Program. They meet other rebels who are on the run, and they all try

to stay one step ahead of the Program. Sloane is still wondering if she should take the Treatment, which would restore all of her memories, that Realm gave her. The only thing I didn't like about the plot is that it was too mushy when it came to the romance. The first book in the series wasn't as bad as this. Plus, it seemed in this book that James and Sloane were having sex at the end of almost every chapter! I thought the characters were written really well even if James and Sloane were humping like rabbits all the time! Sloane is still a very strong female character, and in this book, we're introduced to Dallas who is also a very strong female character. Dallas does have some vulnerability though, and I found it very interesting to learn what she was like before the Program. We're also introduced to Cas in this book. Cas was like the comic relief in this book. He would always try to defuse the situation. Realm is back in this book, and I don't really like him. He's not written poorly, but he just grates on my nerves the way he's always trying to make Sloane second guess her love for James. James is very hot-headed in this book. I still do like him as a character, and I can understand why he got angry. I enjoyed the dialogue especially when Dallas or Cas were involved in the scene. The dialogue felt very natural and fitting for a young adult book. There is some swearing in this book as well as violence. There are some sexual scenes in this book although they aren't graphic. Overall, *The Treatment (The Program #2)* by Suzanne Young starts off being slow but picks up during the last third of the book. The characters are still written very well, and the world building is fantastic. I'd recommend this book to those aged 16+ who enjoyed *The Program* and want to know more about Sloane and James.

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