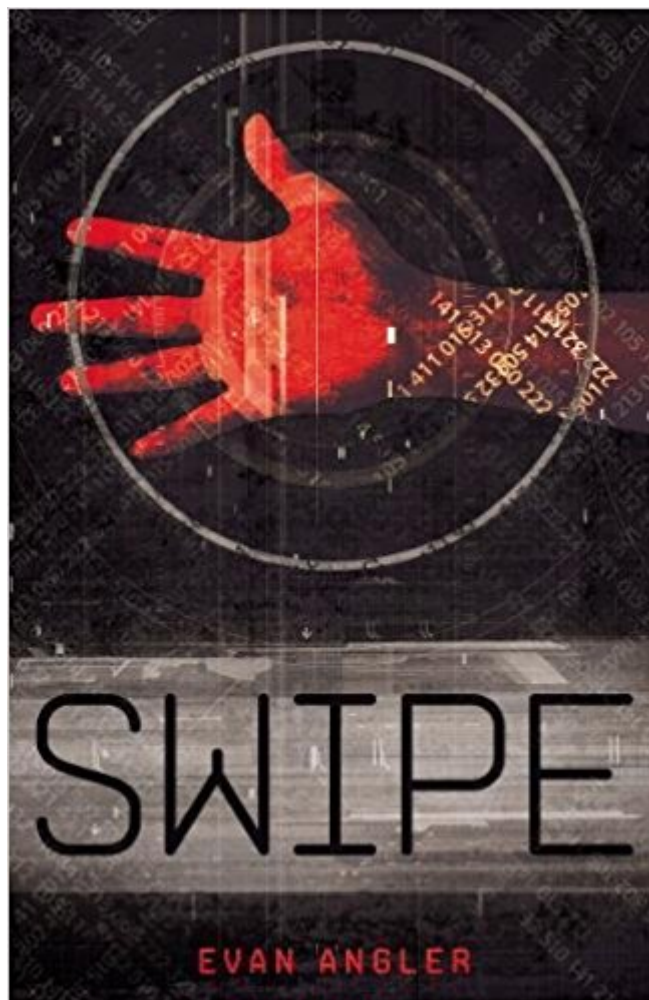


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# Swipe



## Synopsis

“Apocalyptic dystopian fiction at its best. Angler’s sharp wit and dexterity with political themes are matched only by the thrilling suspense on every page.” • Lis Wiehl, New York Times bestselling author and FOX News correspondent

Everyone gets the Mark. It gives all the benefits of citizenship. Yet if getting the Mark is such a good thing, then why does it feel so wrong? Set in a future North America that is struggling to recover after famine and global war, Swipe follows the lives of three kids caught in the middle of a conflict they didn’t even know existed. United under a charismatic leader, every citizen of the American Union is required to get the Mark on their 13th birthday in order to gain the benefits of citizenship. The Mark is a tattoo that must be swiped by special scanners for everything from employment to transportation to shopping. It’s almost Logan Langly’s 13th birthday and he knows he should be excited about getting the Mark, but he hasn’t been able to shake the feeling he’s being watched. Not since his sister went to get her Mark five years ago . . . and never came back. When Logan and his friends discover the truth behind the Mark, will they ever be able to go back to being normal teenagers? Find out in the first book of this exciting series that is Left Behind meets Matched for middle-grade readers.

## Book Information

Series: Swipe

Paperback: 288 pages

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Bibles > Children’s & Teens

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10-Evan Angler's futuristic novel (Thomas Nelson, 2012) is set in North America where everyone is struggling to recover from famine and global war. Logan Langly is about to turn 13, and he is not really looking forward to receiving the Mark, even though it is basically a rite of passage that most kids are anticipating. His reluctance stems from the fact that his sister previously left to get her Mark and never returned. The Mark, a tattoo that can be swiped, is a sign of independence. Those with the tattoo become citizens of the Union, and they are permitted to get jobs, use public transportation, receive medical care, and shop for themselves. Logan feels like he is being watched and followed. He becomes friends with Erin, the new girl in town, and they work together to find out the truth behind the Mark. Narrator Barrie Buckner does a great job of evoking the emotions of the three main characters and his reading helps to build suspense. Sure to be a hit with fans of dystopian fiction. Listeners will eagerly await the next title in the series. -Sheila Acosta, Ed Cody Public Library, San Antonio, TX

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“Apocalyptic dystopian fiction at its best. Angler's sharp wit and dexterity with political themes are matched only by the thrilling suspense on every page.”

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This isn't exactly what I'd call four stars, rather a 3.5, but overall, for a YA dystopia, you could do a LOT worse. Logan and his timidity+paranoia snagged my interest from the very first page and I found myself rooting for him a lot more than I expected. Erin, the new girl in town, was also a joy to read. It's a little different than usual YA, given that they're both barely thirteen, but I loved their interactions and their chemistry, which eventually grew to include some very sweet romantic elements. Not too much, but it's there and I thought it was adorable. I also loved Logan's arch throughout the story, and Erin as well. The writing was airtight and the dialogue of this story is just the crown jewel. Erin and Logan's banter is hilarious to read. The problem is that Erin and Logan were just about the only people I could care about and the overall plot didn't expand the way I would have expected to. I feel like so many of the last YA books I've read contain the same problem. The summary promises so much adrenaline and world-building and then the plot just doesn't deliver!

The premise for this book sounded so intriguing and made a big deal about "what does getting the Mark mean?!! what does it do to people?" and that question is just NEVER answered or even brought up. Peck, supposedly a kidnapper in the shadows, a wild card, turns out to be the mild mannered head honcho of a gang of kids that I just never grew to care about. We don't learn anything about them at all. I can't remember their names. So their eventual transition from "evil psycho kidnappers!" to "noble rebels risking everything!" doesn't strike any chords at all! I couldn't care what they were to begin with! And too much of the plot revolves around them to make it a passable insult. By the end of the book, although Logan and Erin's lives have taken a dramatic turn, that's about all that happens. Now that I think about, the book rating could take a severe dive if it weren't for Logan and Erin. They really are what made this for me!

The world that Evan Angler builds in *Swipe* is, well...creepy. As stated in the synopsis, at the age of thirteen all citizens are required to get "marked" by the government. The mark is essentially Big Brother's human bar code. Without a mark, you are not eligible to earn money, spend money or have any societal benefits. Those who choose to remain markless end up squatting in the slums, scrounging or committing crimes just to eat. I loved the premise of this world, though admittedly the idea freaks me right the hell out. I can imagine a world where the government has a complete 'nanny state' control on it's citizens and I can see them spinning it as a good idea. Perhaps the fact that I can imagine it, is what freaks me out about it. Angler does a great job at taking the imagination to the next level. Logan is a great character. He is so paranoid and scared and written with such care that you really can't help but feel for him. I practically tiptoed around in the dark with him. The other main character, Erin, left me wanting. I couldn't really connect with her. She's a tough girl, brave, confident but not empathetic. That was hard for me to like. She just wasn't very endearing most of the time. But a few of the other characters made up for what I was lacking in her. All in all the story is a good one. My only real fault with this story is that, for a middle grade book, it lacked in action and humor. There is a bit of both, mind you. I'm just not sure there is enough of either to really hold most younger audiences attention. *Swipe* ends on quite a cliff hanger and I am anxious to read book #2, *Sneak* which is due out in September. I think it promises much more action, to which I am looking forward to. My Rating 3.5/5 Stars

Having been given it for review, I read the second book in this series a couple years ago. So I already knew I liked the characters. I both read and listened to this book and I think it really made the story better. I enjoyed the twists and turns as Logan and Erin set out on their adventure/quest to

stop Peck and the Dust. It was a little slow getting into this one, which is why it ended with 4 instead of 5 stars. But, all in all, I really enjoyed this book.

Logan Langley's thirteenth birthday is approaching. He should be excited. Getting The Mark is the transition to adulthood. The Mark is a tattoo required by law in the American Union, the only way to access food, services, life and livelihood. Five years ago, when his sister went to make her pledge and receive The Mark, she didn't come home, and Logan is noticing it happens to others as well. So, Logan is beginning to think The Mark may not be best for everyone. Logan feels like he is being watched. Things in his room are moved or missing. When he is out and about he notices shadows and hears movements that indicated he is under scrutiny. Then, Erin moves into small-town Spokie from Beacon City, half a continent away. Her father works for the Department of Marked Emergencies and is in Spokie to find and eliminate Dust - the unmarked. The twists and turns begin. What is DOME really doing? Where is the Dust? Can Logan and Erin find answers before Logan takes his pledge? Older elementary, tweens, teens and adults alike will enjoy this near future dystopian American Union seeking global unity where there is no conflict, no religion, no war - or, is there? Rick Riordan meets Suzanne Collins in Evan Angler's well-crafted first novel. Non-stop suspense kept me reading when I needed to be doing other things. Watch for Sneak, the sequel, to be released on September 4, 2012.

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