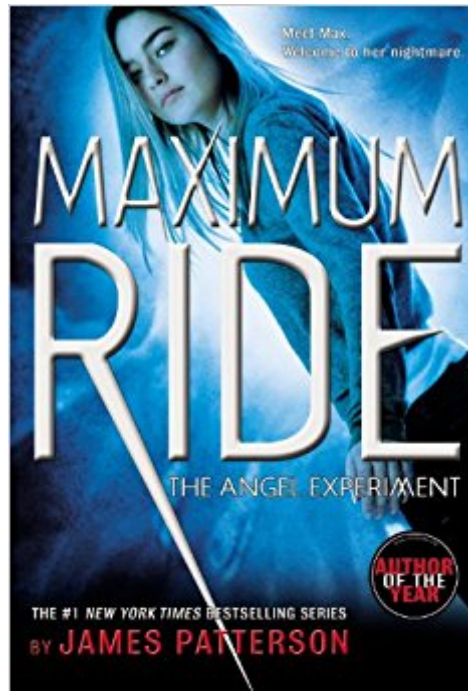




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The Angel Experiment: A Maximum Ride Novel (Book 1)



Synopsis

In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on by a crew of wack jobs. Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, CA, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare--this one involving fighting off the half-human, half-wolf "Erasers" in New York City. Whether in the treetops of Central Park or in the bowels of the Manhattan subway system, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives. Along the way Max discovers from her old friend and father-figure Jeb--now her betrayed and greatest enemy--that her purpose is save the world--but can she?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 1,299 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,874 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories](#) #71 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship](#) #117 in [Books > Teens > Romance > Science Fiction & Dystopian](#)

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Themes from Patterson's popular adult titles *When the Wind Blows* and *The Lake House* waft through this YA thriller, the author's first in the genre. Wood stars as Maximum Ride, 14-year-old

leader of a band of kids who have escaped the lab where they were bred as 98% human and 2% bird (wings being a key component) and developed a variety of other-worldly talents. In Patterson's unusual universe, Max and her young cohorts are soon forced to rescue one of their own—a girl named Angel—from a pack of mutant wolf-humans called Erasers. Wood nails Patterson's often adult-beyond-their-years dialogue with a jaded tone. But the result of this pairing makes Max sound more off-putting than cool or intriguing. The listening experience is stalled in the starting gate, keeping the action-adventure earthbound rather than high-flying. Ages 12-up. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grade 7 Up A group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents are on the run from part-human, part-wolf predators called Erasers in this exciting SF thriller that's not wholly original but is still a compelling read. Max, 14, and her adopted family—Fang and Iggy, both 13, Nudge, 11, Gazzy, 8, and Angel, 6—were all created as experiments in a lab called the School. Jeb, a sympathetic scientist, helped them escape and, since then, they've been living on their own. The Erasers have orders to kill them so the world will never find out they exist. Max's old childhood friend, Ari, now an Eraser leader, tracks them down, kidnaps Angel, and transports her back to the School to live like a lab rat again. The youngsters are forced to use their special talents to rescue her as they attempt to learn about their pasts and their destinies. The novel ends with the promise that this journey will continue in the sequel. As with Patterson's adult mystery thrillers, in-depth characterization is secondary to the fast-moving plot. The narrative alternates between Max's first-person point-of-view and that of the others in the third person, but readers don't get to know Max very well. The only major flaw is that the children sound like adults most of the time. This novel is reminiscent of David Lubar's *Hidden Talents* (Tor, 1999) and Ann Halam's *Dr. Franklin's Island* (Random, 2002). Sharon Rawlins, Piscataway Public Library, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

My husband and I are retired folks, ages 80 and 76. We bought the first in the series because we enjoy James Patterson books. We did not expect to actually like it! Although it was fantasy, it was compelling and fascinating. The Bird Children were splendid, with well developed feelings and personalities...and wings! It was believable and fantastic. We travel weekly to our second home 100 miles away. We enjoy listening to audio books to pass the time on an otherwise boring drive.

I have read every book in the Maximum Ride series and now am getting my 12 year old into them. I bought her this one and she loves it. I am enjoying talking about the characters, plot and science of it with her. The writing style and content are good for pre teen to adult, although I will say the last book had some adult themes in it that would keep me from letting her read it. This first book is my favorite of the series. Honestly, I think each one gets a little less realistic (if kids with wings are realistic at all) and there is a lot of repetition as the books progress.

I read this book back in 2007 and fell in love. I originally read "Where the Wind Blows" which "Maximum Ride" first gets it's start. It seems that "Where the Wind Blows" and it's sequel "The Lake House", were the more adult versions of the story of Max, then rewritten towards a more young adult audience as the actual "Maximum Ride" series. I would highly recommend reading the originals before diving into "Maximum Ride" books, even though they are two completely series and the books do not match up. I will also add that I received this book in incredible condition. I did order a used copy and there is no sign of this book ever being used. It looks as brand new. I am extremely happy with this purchase!

My daughter read this book first. She started with a library copy, and when the Kindle books went on sale, I bought the entire series. She devoured them and this series is one she can't stop talking about (in addition to Hunger Games and Divergent). Because she loved it so much, I took my Kindle to the 8th grade reading class where I work. We were struggling to get the kids to read because they were intimidated by the thickness of books, so I was hoping that the books in Kindle format would be less intimidating. One girl started reading Maximum Ride and enjoyed it. But she was struggling to maintain focus, so I bought the Audio Book through Audible. While I was listening to the beginning to sync up the audio book with where she was in the book, I noticed that there were whole sentences missing from the audio. Not sure why this is, but for a student who is reading the book along while listening to the audio, this might get a little confusing, especially if they have tracking issues. Otherwise, seems to be a popular book with the teens!

All it took was just this first book and my son was hooked on Maximum Ride Manga books. He now has all 5 volumes by James Patterson and has read and reread them several times. He really likes the story line and I love that he is reading.

Fast-paced adventure story featuring the pack of winged children chronicled in other Patterson books. Very short chapter lengths are mildly annoying, but apparently popular with others. Quick read.

James Patterson, for better or worse, is one of the most prolific and bestselling authors of all time. Such a title doesn't come without its hard knocks. For instance, any rummaging through reviews will reveal that while there are those who love Patterson's work, there seem to be many who dislike it with a passion. I'd heard enough negative or mixed things that I'd shied away from Patterson's work (it's not like I didn't have other things to read), but through a free offer on Amazon's Kindle, I had a chance to read through Patterson's *The Angel Experiment*, the first book in the Maximum Ride series. Maximum Ride isn't your ordinary fourteen year old girl. First of all, she hangs out with some pretty weird people--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, the Gasman, and Angel--not your typical crew. Even stranger, Max and crew aren't completely human. They have wings. Created by the School in experiments combining human and animal DNA, they are the successes. Well them and the half-wolf/half-humans called Erasers that do the School's dirty work. Several years ago, Max and her friends escaped from the School with one of the scientists, who they think of as their father. But he's been missing for a while now, and the group has been forced to cope on their own. But the School and the Erasers are closing in on them, with the result being a wild, frenzied chase with several interesting and unexpected twists. All in all, *The Angel Experiment* was enjoyable. Nice, mindless beach read, good for entertainment. The writing quality is mediocre at best, but the pace flows well and makes for an easily read, fast-paced story. The book's cliffhanger ending intrigued me, but not enough to where I want to go out and read the next book, at least not if I have to pay for it. For those interested in stories like this, I'd advocate reading Sigmund Brouwer's books *Broken Angel* and *Flight of Shadows*. Patterson's goal appears to be to just merely entertain, which he does well, and obviously it sells. But I think I'll be sticking to authors who give me a bit more meat with my literary feast.

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