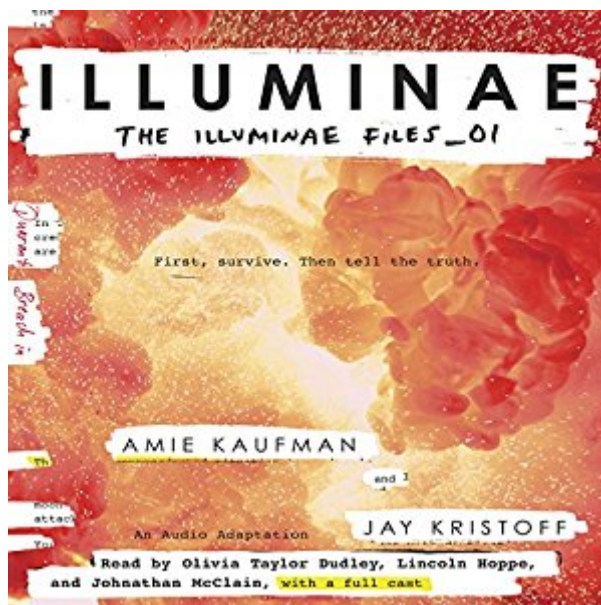


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# Illuminae: The Illuminae Files, Book 1



## Synopsis

Audie Award, Multi-Voiced Performance, 2016 For fans of Marie Lu and James Dashner comes the first book in an epic new series. This morning, Kady thought breaking up with Ezra was the hardest thing she'd have to do. This afternoon, her planet was invaded. The year is 2575, and two rival mega-corporations are at war over a planet that's little more than an ice-covered speck at the edge of the universe. Too bad nobody thought to warn the people living on it. With enemy fire raining down on them, Kady and Ezra - who are barely even talking to each other - are forced to fight their way onto one of the evacuating fleet, with an enemy warship in hot pursuit. But their problems are just getting started. A deadly plague has broken out and is mutating, with terrifying results; the fleet's AI, which should be protecting them, may actually be their enemy; and nobody in charge will say what's really going on. As Kady hacks into a tangled web of data to find the truth, it's clear only one person can help her bring it all to light: the ex-boyfriend she swore she'd never speak to again. Told through a fascinating dossier of hacked documents - including emails, schematics, military files, IMs, medical reports, interviews, and more - *Illuminae* is the first book in a heart-stopping, high-octane trilogy about lives interrupted, the price of truth, and the courage of everyday heroes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I chose this book based on co-author Amie Kaufman, who is also co-author on the *Starbound* series, which I love. When I received the book, two things shocked me: its size and the strange format. But neither of these things should put off a potential reader. Instead of narrative, this book is presented through transcripts of interviews describing events, email conversations, reports, graphic

elements of it are very odd. At first I found it intimidating, and wondered if I would be able to read a book in this manner, but after maybe 30 pages, you're well into it. Because of the format, it's not truly like reading a 600-page book. The copy is very loose, since it mimics the format of the communication type instead of being running body text. As for the story: Kady and Ezra have just broken up when their planet is attacked. As their ships attempt to escape from their long-term pursuers, Ezra is drafted into becoming a fighter pilot, and Kady becomes a hacker. They're trying to put together what is happening, why the artificial intelligence seems to have gone haywire, and a deadly disease is spreading among the survivors. Can two teens save them all, while getting their romance back on track? You may be thinking, "This sounds like every sci-fi movie I've ever seen rolled together. Why should I read it in book form?" I promise, the story is really, really exciting the way it's told. Also, there are some twists and turns along the way. I went from "What IS this book?" to "Yep, get me the sequel, NOW!" once I had finished. Sequel will be an auto-buy, and can't come fast enough.

*Illuminae* is one of the best books I've read recently. The authors created such an amazing story and had me completely in love with the main characters, Kady and Ezra, within 15 pages. I think *Illuminae*'s biggest strength is its characters. Kaufman and Kristoff did such an amazing job making you care about Kady and Ezra very early on. By the end of the first interview, you have a very real sense of who they are as characters. The fact that Kaufman and Kristoff were able to fully define them so early on is a testament to what great writers they are. Kady is deeply loyal and will go to any lengths for the people she loves. She has an amazing strength and is able to accomplish so much over the course of the book. She's also sarcastic and witty and an absolute badass. Ezra is quite charming and his love for Kady is simply amazing. The format to which *Illuminae* is told, through classified documents, reports, IMs, pictures, etc., is so unique and I enjoyed it immensely. It was so interesting to experience the story as if it was a file someone gave you. This definitely made for a unique reading experience and I don't know that I'll ever find something quite like it again (with the exception of the sequels in this series). A few spoilery thoughts, but nothing too specific. Kady and Ezra's relationship was fantastic (and I majorly shipped them), but I wish we would have seen more time with them together. They spend roughly 90% of the book not actually with each other and only communicating through IMs. It would have been nice to see more of their interactions in person. AIDAN was an absolutely fascinating character and I loved how you could tell he cared for Kady by the end of the story even if he didn't know what that meant. I

am so excited to read the sequel, Gemina, and see where this story leads. Also, I got a lot of Firefly vibes from this book and would definitely recommend the book to fans of the TV show.

What an interesting format for a story! I really liked it, it was so interesting! As a note, I found some of the images difficult to zoom into on my Kindle for iPhone App. I have read really wonderful things about the images in the printed format, so this book might be better read on paper. Having said that, I don't feel like I missed any parts of the story by skipping the small amount of images I couldn't zoom in on. Maybe I would have had better luck on my Kindle Voyage? It took me a while to get into this story, but once I did, I was really hooked. The beginning felt kind of slow, when Kady and Ezra are dealing with the fall out of their planet being invaded and them being refugees on some space ships. Once Kady started to dive more deeply into what was going on with the commanders and the artificial intelligence AIDEN on the Alexander, things definitely picked up. I liked how, even when things were going really terribly badly, Kady and Ezra still found time to flirt with each other and argue over things that happened in their relationship. It was a nice reminder that they were only teenagers. This story is a part of a series, but once I finished Illuminae, I didn't feel compelled to start Gemina right away. I'll probably get around to it eventually, but it's not something that I feel like I need to start immediately. Which is nice, because I usually have no patience and end up devouring a series in a few days!

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