Recently, I've found myself reading more fantasy/adventure/paranormal books. While this isn't my usual genre, I've been on a bit of a paranormal kick recently. Sometimes, you've got to change it up a little to keep things from getting too monotonous and this book was a great change of pace for me.

The story is a futuristic dystopian tale, based in a world where an elite race, the Silvers, rules over the Reds with an iron fist. The Silvers are gifted with supernatural abilities and are superior to the Reds in strength, speed, etc. They have every imaginable luxury at their fingertips.

In contrast, the Reds are extremely oppressed. They are forced to work at jobs assigned to them by the Silvers. Their living conditions are dire and their every move is watched closely. Furthermore, they are forced to go to war on behalf of the Silvers.

When Mare has a chance encounter with a stranger one day, she could not have known that it would alter the course of her life so drastically. Mare is given a job at the palace, serving the reigning Silver royalty. It ends up that the stranger was none other than the Silver Prince, Cal. He took pity upon her and arranged for her to be given the job instead of being sent to war, as she was destined.

The story takes off quickly once Mare goes to begin her job at the palace. She is thrust into the spotlight when an accident awakens supernatural abilities within her that she knew nothing about. As a Red, she shouldn't have any powers and this makes her both a novelty, and a threat, to the Silvers.

In order to keep her under their control, the Silver King and Queen arrange for her to be betrothed to the youngest Prince. Despite being promised to his younger brother, Mare continues to harbor feelings for Cal. The two keep crossing paths and he seems to be constantly rescuing her from one calamity or another. Although the two try to fight their feelings, the attraction seems inevitable.

As the story progresses, Mare becomes involved with a rebel group determined to free the Reds from the Silver oppression. There is danger around every corner and Mare will learn the hard way that nobody can be trusted. "Anyone can betray you," are the words she'll have to live by.

The first book ends with a big cliffhanger. Everything has changed and Mare is left in the wake of a huge betrayal. Things are just starting to heat up in this story.

While I did notice similarities to other stories, I thought this story stood out as unique in and of it's own accord. It could be that I just haven't read some of the other stories that have been compared to this one, but I just didn't see anything other than very superficial commonalities.

In any case, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I listened to the Audible version and it was great! I'm listening to the second book in the series now.

My only gripe is that I want more romance. I want to see the sparks between Mare and Cal turn into a raging inferno. Bring on the heat!