The Hunger Games -- and You!

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The Hunger Games takes place after the destruction of America, in a nation known as Panem. Panem consists of a wealthy Capitol and twelve surrounding, poorer districts. District 12, where the book begins, is located in the coal-rich region that was formerly Appalachia.

and Peeta are taken to the Capitol where their drunken mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, victor of the 50th Hunger Games, instructs them to watch and learn the talents of the other tributes. They are then publicly displayed to the Capitol audience in a televised session with interviewer Caesar Flickerman. During this time,

Peeta

reveals on-air his long-time unrequited love for
gain audience support for the Games, which can be crucial for survival, as audience members are encouraged to
send gifts like food, medicine, and tools to favored tributes during the Games. The Games begin with 11 of the
24 tributes dying in the first day, whilerelies on her well-practiced hunting and outdoor skills
to survive. As the games continue, the tribute death toll increases. A few days later,develops
an alliance with Rue, a 12-year-old girl from the agricultural District 11 who remindsof her
sister Prim. The alliance is short-lived: Rue is killed by another tribute, whomshoots through
the neck with an arrow before comforting Rue as she dies. At Rue's requestsings to her, then
spreads flowers over her body as a sign of respect and of disgust towards the Capitol.
Supposedly due toand Peeta's beloved image in the minds of the audience as "star-crossed
lovers", a rule change is announced midway through the Games, stating that two tributes from the same district
can win the Hunger Games as a pair. Upon hearing this,searches for Peeta and eventually
finds him wounded. As she nurses him back to health, she acts the part of a young girl falling in love to gain
more favor with the audience and, consequently, gifts from her sponsors. When the couple are finally the last
two tributes, the Gamemakers reverse the rule change in an attempt to force them into a dramatic finale, where
one must kill the other to win in the hopes that the Gamemakers would rather have two
victors

than none, retrieves highly poisonous berries known as "nightlock"; from her pouch and offers some to Peeta.
Upon realizing thatand Peeta intend to commit suicide, the Gamemakers announce that both
will be the victors of the 74th Hunger Games.
Although she survives the ordeal in the arena and is treated to a hero's welcome in the Capitol,
is warned by Haymitch that she has now become a political target after defying her society's authoritarian leader
so publicly. Afterwards, Peeta is heartbroken when he learns that; actions in the arena were
part of a calculated ploy to earn sympathy from the audience. However,is unsure of her own
feelings, and realizes that she is dreading the moment when she and Peeta will go their separate ways.
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