



MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE WHO NEW TENTON TO THE PEOPLE WHO IN THE PE



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Lawrence as Collins' heroine in The Hunger Games, 2012

Katniss Everdeen

Origin: Suzanne Collins' 2008 young-adult novel, The Hunger Games

eens love a rousing postapocalyptic tale (how better to channel their rage at the mess adults have made of things?), and they were positively besotted when Katniss Everdeen, the heroine of Suzanne Collins' hugely popular Hunger Games trilogy, took the weight of a beleaguered world onto her 16-year-old shoulders. It's not that Katniss is a superhero, though she's handy with animal traps and a bow and arrow. Nor, at first, is she a revolutionary, though she despises the plutocrats who oppress her ravaged homeland. All Katniss wants is to save her starving family—and she'll do that with whatever she's got.

When her little sister is chosen for the Hunger Games—an elaborate competition/reality show that pits children in a fight to the death as the nation watches on TV—Katniss volunteers to take her place. From there on, her life is all survival and show biz, as she gets primped for the cameras, then sent out to kill or be killed. Throughout her ordeal she is a fascinating bundle of contradictions: brutal yet pricked by self-

doubt, angry yet kind, self-involved yet displaying a fierce integrity.

This being a YA story, there's also a love triangle, but unlike another famous threesome (think *Twilight*), there's little time for flirting. Katniss spends three volumes vacillating between her handsome and devoted suitors, careful to conceal her vulnerability from the oppressors who are recording her every move.

When the inevitable movie was announced, Jennifer Lawrence, then 20 and a "rabid fan," got the plum Katniss part. The choice was controversial to some—she was thought to be too old—and Lawrence so loved Katniss that she confessed she was "terrified" of failing. But she took command of the role and helped bring in almost \$700 million in worldwide box-office grosses. "This part is so special to me," she told Entertainment Weekly. And then, channeling the sentiments of Katniss's army of young admirers, she added, "She's like Joan of Arc for a new generation."