


THE SMELL
OF GUN
SMOKE CUTS
THROUGH
THE AIR AS
THE SPENT
CASING FALLS
TO THE
GROUND.



I CAN FEEL
THE RUSH OF
ADRENALINE
IN MY VEINS,
MAKING
ME DIZZY,
FEATHER-LIGHT.



THE TASTE
OF MY
BLOOD FILLS
MY MOUTH.
STINGING
HOT AND
TANG LIKE
COPPER.



I CAN
HEAR THE
DRUMBEAT
OF THEIR
SHOES
ON THE
PAVEMENT
FARTHER
AND
FAINTER
AND AWAY...



BUT
ALL I
SEE...

...IS
DARKNESS.



JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

FIRST FLIGHT



MAXIMUM RIDE doesn't know much about her past.

She remembers the **LAB** where she was given wings and the ability to fly, the **SCIENTISTS** who experimented on her, and the **ERASERS**--half-human, half-wolf monsters--who kept her prisoner. Most of all she remembers **JEB**, the man who helped her and her friends--Fang, Nudge, Iggy, Gasman, and Angel--escape, taught them how to blend in and ultimately gave his life to protect them.

Recently, the Erasers and their leader, Ari, ambushed **THE FLOCK** and kidnapped Angel. On their way to rescue their friend, the group stopped to rest. While searching for food, Max heroically stood up for a girl being attacked by a gang of bullies, not knowing one of them had a gun.

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WHERE
ARE YOU--?



→GASP←
WH--
WHAT
ARE--?!

