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UnDivided (Unwind Dystology)



Synopsis

Teens control the fate of America in the fourth and final book in the New York Times bestselling Unwind dystology by Neal Shusterman that Horn Book Magazine calls “ambitious, insightful, and devastating” a fitting conclusion to a provocative series. Proactive Citizenry, the company that created Cam from the parts of unwound teens, has a plan: to mass produce rewound teens like Cam for military purposes. And below the surface of that horror lies another shocking level of intrigue: Proactive Citizenry has been suppressing technology that could make unwinding completely unnecessary. As Conner, Risa, and Lev uncover these startling secrets, enraged teens begin to march on Washington to demand justice and a better future. But more trouble is brewing. Starkey’s group of storked teens is growing more powerful and militant with each new recruit. And if they have their way, they’ll burn the harvest camps to the ground and put every adult in them before a firing squad which could destroy any chance America has for a peaceful future. “Everything culminates in an action-packed, heart-wrenching conclusion guaranteed to chill readers to the bone” (Kirkus Reviews).

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0870 (What’s this?)

Series: Unwind Dystology (Book 4)

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (November 10, 2015)

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Best Sellers Rank: #24,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #57 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying #120 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Science Fiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • In the final book of the "Unwind Dystology," everything comes full circle. Shusterman expertly reminds readers about the characters and their current situations without distracting from the current plot. Teens gain information on all of the key players, and each well-crafted narrative moves at a refreshing pace. Connor and Risa are together again in Sonia's house, with Grace in tow. They have found a way to change people's minds about unwinding by providing other options. Lev is on the reservation but cannot contain his need to fight for what he feels is right. Cam is back with Roberta, and though they try to affect his thoughts and memories, they cannot suppress his genuine contempt for Proactive Citizenry and his creators. Starkey and his storks, on the other hand, are leading a revolt that only makes things worse for the unwinds. Characters old and new are integrated into the story line, providing insight and closure. Shusterman generates a lot of thought-provoking topics for discussion. The story is intriguing: a wonderful end to a unique and noteworthy series. • Kristyn Dorfman, The Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, NY --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Shusterman's finale might be the best one in the series since the first...Everything culminates in an action-packed, heart-wrenching conclusion guaranteed to chill readers to the bone." (Kirkus Reviews)"The battle for hearts and minds--and teenage body parts--winds to a dramatic close in the finale to Shusterman's darkly satiric UnWind Dystology...true page-turner like the previous books." (Booklist)"Real recent news articles (with working links) about the present-day scientific and policy realities presaging Shusterman's imagined future punctuate the narrative...Ambitious, insightful, and devastating • a fitting conclusion to a provocative series." (Horn Book Magazine)"[A] lot of thought-provoking topics for discussion. The story is intriguing: a wonderful end to a unique and noteworthy series." (School Library Journal)*"The popularity of this series is warranted: it is smart, it is dark, it is riveting, and the characters are drawn with respect. Furthermore, Shusterman's series transcends the dystopian fan base. Libraries without books one through three should get them. Those who already have them, start the waiting list now." (VOYA, starred review)

I finished all 4 books in this series in about 4 days. I'm a big fan of dystopian novels and this one had a premise that I had yet to encounter before. I have to admit that at first I was annoyed by the multiple POVs throughout the novels, but once you see all the pieces coming together through all the different characters you can really enjoy seeing the world through their eyes (pun intended). Unwind and UnDivided were my two favorites of the series, but all 4 books are real gems in this

genre. What really surprised me was that I had to actually dig around online to even discover this series. I think this has as much potential to be a blockbuster franchise and is just as well written and engaging (and violent) as The Hunger Games. This is a must read for anyone who love dystopian stories. It will stay with you long after you finish it.

Overall Series 4.5 Stars
Nice Socks 5 Stars
Unwind 5 Stars
Unwholly 4.5 Stars
Unsouled 4 Stars
Undivided 5 Stars
I thought, I couldn't be shocked anymore.
I thought, nothing Neal Shusterman says or does will surprise me now.
I thought, there was nothing more horrible than the things I've already seen in this series...
I thought, I knew who to hate and who to love in the story.
I thought, I was prepared.
I was wrong.
So I was wrong--
Tools are neither demonic nor divine. It's all about who wields them.
I've been severely disappointed with dystopian novels lately. They all seem to start out strong and then just dwindle or they are exactly the same as everything else out there Aligent, Requiem. However, the Unwind series is a true sparkling diamond in a sea of cubic zirconia. Neal Shusterman lines up all the pieces in the story, sets the tumblers in motion and much like a game of Plinko I had no idea where the pieces would finally come to rest. Undivided is an AMAZING wrap up to the Unwind series. This is the series you recommend first when someone asks if you know of any good Dystopian or YA novels. Just like the other books in the series it is told in the multiple PoV fashion mostly from the viewpoints of Connor, Risa, Lev and Cam but also there are others from Hayden, Argent, Una, Starkey and more peppered in. It is amazing the full scope of the story you feel you are getting from seeing it from all of these perspectives. The villains are so powerfully portrayed, I really felt like I understood their motives and some of their craziness.-- Starkey believes he is invincible. He believes he is more than just destined for greatness, but that greatness is owed to him, and every one of these "victories" makes him believe it more and more. The Stork Lord. Hayden's epithet is more on-target then even he realizes, for Starkey truly does see himself as royalty reaching for divinity. A chosen one with the pride and privilege of a god. The heroes are portrayed equally as honestly with all of their attributes and faults on display as well. No one is perfect but everyone is trying to do the best they can with what they have. Conner is not the same troubled boy he was in Unwind. He has really grown up over that last two years of running. He is easy to like and I am so happy that he and Risa were finally together again for the majority of this book. The love story between them is truly fantastic, well

developed and beautiful. There has been no insta love here. There are a lot of really horrible disturbing moments in this book, but they are written in such a way that while yes, they are still disturbing I couldn't help but read on, enthralled by the story. There are also as many truly touching heartfelt moments. I teared up more than once with the emotion of those moments. Even characters I thought I could not feel any sympathy toward somehow were able to elicit very confused feeling from me. I hated them but the events of a few situations really made me feel all the more sorry for them. A revolution is building but for change to happen a bunch of things will all need to fall into place at the same time. So many issues on the ballot for the election that have to do with unwinding and Proactive Citizenry are ramping up their propaganda campaigns. This is one of the things I really like about these novels, the way that advertising is used to show how different organizations are really promoting the same ideas and really all working for the same organization even though they seem to be promoting different things. It is incredibly smart.-- THE FOLLOWING IS A PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT DON'T BE FOOLED BY MEASURE F! Supporters of the so-called Prevention Initiative claim that it's all about the protection of at-risk children but read the fine print! Measure F allows the Juvenile Authority to identify and track incorrigible children for the purpose of unwinding them as soon as they turn thirteen which will be legal once the Parental Override bill becomes law. Measure G, on the other hand, funds the Juvenile Authority by giving cash incentives for the capture of AWOLs who have already proven themselves to be menaces to society. No on F! Yes on G! Make the sensible choice!-- Paid for by the Alliance for an AWOL-Free Nation At the beginning of every section there are also references to actual stories from today that if taken just a little farther to a slight extreme could lead down this road. It is amazing to think that some of the stuff in the book is not that far from reality. There are also some radio broadcasts being put out by Hayden trying to ramp up support. He is slowly exposing Proactive Citizenry and the Juvenile Authority for the monsters they really are a little at a time in hopes that the people will have had enough and join in a single voice.-- "Yeah, I know, if I wanted to make sure that the Juvenile Authority had greater and greater support, I would trick angry teenagers into blowing themselves up, and then blame the angry teenagers! No mess, no bother. Well, quite a lot of mess, but you get my point. All the little touches of the radio broadcasts, advertisements and articles from today and part of what makes this story so special and gives it just that little extra something. The story ties comes together so well and I really sat on the edge of my seat near the end so worried for all of the characters I love. There are some happy endings, there are some endings and there are some new beginnings. Our heroes Connor, Risa, Lev and Cam will all go to

some extraordinary lengths so that no other troubled teen, ward of the state or tithe will ever suffer the fate of running from the law and the threat of being unwound. One of them will risk everything they are just for that hope. I'm sad to leave all these characters behind but I know that this is one of those stories that will stick with me and I will read time and time again throughout my life and get something different from it each time. I don't read much YA anymore but books like these are why I still bother to read this genre at all. It is the journey that you want to see in a YA novel, but rarely get. The series is complete so no time like the present to jump in.

Unwind is the book that I recommend more than any other. It's hard to sell it as a "good book" because the subject matter is too dark and twisted to explain. It's not a fun ride, it doesn't have a happy ending. But it is impossible to sear from your brain. UnDivided is a worthy finale. I thought I was prepared for the final chapter. I didn't particularly care for the third book in the series, which I thought telegraphed the end-game too heavily, and didn't advance the plot much. I was wrong. Shusterman surprised me, because UnDivided takes our characters on a far worse journey than I could have imagined. This book contains more horror than all three of the previous books combined. Shusterman takes risks here, and they pay off. The events of this book, the actions the characters take, made me squirmingly uncomfortable, but there is a deep, heartbreakingly poetic rightness to them.

The first book in this series haunted me. The second destroyed me. The third gave me hope. And this last book released me. There are so many things these books say about what defines life and where the soul lives and how easily the masses can delude themselves--ourselves--into believing anything is okay if it comes to easing our fear. There's enough substance in these four books to fuel any number of debates for years. But the most profound yet subtle idea these books crack open is the almost universal fear parents have of their children. Whether it's the toddler who throws a tantrum at all the wrong times or the six year old who refuses to bathe or the ten year old who decides to start calling you by your first name instead of mom or dad or the fifteen year old you find out is sexually active or the seventeen year old who may not graduate from high school because of bad grades and apathy about that imminent failure--our children commit endless insults to our pride throughout their childhood and adolescence. In ten years these "crimes" will matter little. The toddler learns self control, the ten year old cries out for "Daddy!" after a fearful nightmare, the fifteen year old grows into a wise young parent and the seventeen year old becomes an entrepreneur. But we

parents don't see the brighter future that may lay around the bend because our children bombard us and reflect back to us our most troubling inadequacies. Where did we go wrong? Why is our child like this? We failed. And that angers us. We don't see the 60% that is successful parenting reflected in them or the 30% that is every child's need to set themselves apart from his parents because growing up means growing away. Too often we only see the 10% that are our failings as parents. And in that anger how many of us have thought, "This kid is hopeless. I want to murder that little brat." And what if someone convinced you that you could get rid of that reflection of your failings and still be considered a good parent? In the darkest days of parenting, when you are overwhelmed with the ways in which you have failed this child, if someone came and took him and you could have peace, would you sign on the dotted line? Absolutely not, right? How many of you reading these books felt certain people deserved to be unwound...Roland? Starkey? Nelson, who received no anesthesia for his crimes? Did you see it as justice? Are you absolutely sure you would not sign that dotted line? We fear for our children all the time but there are also plenty of times we fear for ourselves because of our children. This book series takes that shameful fear and shows what can happen when we collectively decide to look the other way so that we can feel "safe" again.

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