

# UNWIND

by Neal Shusterman

Published in 2007

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary/Realistic

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other: Dystopian

Unwind — a thrilling dystopian Young Adult novel based on the chilling concept of organ donation. Have you ever wondered what would happen if scientists found a way to “fix” troubled teens? A way to remake their purpose, so parents could feel at peace with their child's future? Three kids — Connor Lassiter (16), Risa Ward (15), and Lev Calder (13) were meant to be unwound. They were supposed to be dismantled, their body parts donated to people with injuries, all because their parents signed the Unwind order once they turned thirteen. Connor was to be unwound for being too troublesome for his parents to handle. Risa, because she wasn't considered talented enough to be kept alive. And Lev — a tithe — was raised as a religious offering, his only purpose in life to be unwound the moment he turned thirteen. These three teens run from the government, hoping to survive, because the moment their legal guardians signed the order, they became property of the state. To them — and to other Unwinds who have gone AWOL — death seems like a better option than being taken apart, 99.4% of you technically still alive. All they have to do is make it to eighteen. They can do that... right?

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After that lengthy summary, you may be asking, “Should I read this?” The simple answer: yes. You should absolutely read *Unwind*. I’ve never been someone who gravitates toward thrillers, science fiction, or even mystery. But the moment I opened this book; I couldn’t stop reading. *Unwind* takes place in a world told from a teenager’s perspective, reflecting real-world issues in a way that feels exaggerated — yet somehow painfully real. The only reason I rated this book nine out of ten stars instead of a full ten is because of the sheer number of plot twists that had me constantly on edge. Neal Shusterman describes the process of being unwound in a hypnotizing way, making readers truly feel how horrifying and wrong it is. This book is an absolute work of art. You cannot go wrong reading it.

Now, what type of reader would enjoy *Unwind*? Honestly, I believe anyone who enjoys fiction would love it — even fantasy readers. As I mentioned before, I was never interested in science fiction or thrillers. But once I was introduced to Shusterman’s writing, those genres quickly became my favorites. So, does it matter whether you prefer horror, romance, or even historical fiction? Not at all. I promise you, no matter who you are, reading this book will be worth your while.

By Manuela F, 8th grade, enjoys reading mystery, science fiction, fantasy, and action/adventure