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Unwind by Neal Shusterman

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Author: Shusterman, Neal

Title: *Unwind*

Year of Publication: 2007

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

ISBN: 9781416912040

Number of Pages: 335

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Dystopia; Horror; Fiction; Death; Survival; Revolution; Teenagers

Review:

Connor's parents signed the paperwork to have him unwound; statistics declared Risa was not worth keeping, so she is to be unwound; Lev prepared from birth to be unwound. The three teens' current fates were settled long ago as a result of a war fought over the pro-life/pro-choice debate. Desperation for peace resulted in a law allowing for retroactive abortion, a process called "unwinding" in which human bodies are disassembled into parts that will be used for someone else. In a moment of chaos, Connor, Risa, and Lev are brought together. Their joining becomes the catalyst that will awaken the world to the horrors created by a law meant to bring peace, but first the trio must escape and survive.

In this chilling book, Shusterman takes a difficult issue of our day to its potential extremes. Like the issues addressed in Haddix's *Among the Hidden*, *Unwind* demands that readers think seriously about a hard subject that is generally avoided. The story unfolds through various perspectives and finds a conclusion that is simultaneously heartbreaking and redemptive. It is a book that deserves a place on school reading lists, and it has the potential to draw in even the most reluctant reader.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

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