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The Bar Code Tattoo

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Book Review

The Bar Code Tattoo

Author

Suzanne Weyn

Illustrator

Reviewer

Natalie Hatch

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

250

Year

2004

Publisher

Scholastic Inc.

ISBN

9781467702324

In this world, there's a code, scanner, or chip for everything. Actual cash, coins, or currency has become a thing of the past. Most people are coded themselves by their bar code tattoos. This code allows access to everything connected to them regardless of location. When Kayla refuses to get a bar code tattoo after her father was driven mad by his, she watches as her life continues to unravel. Her friends are forced away and, left alone, Kayla must flee for her life as she is accused of her mother's death, fires, car crashes, and more. She survives and escapes with help to fight Global-1 another day.

Overall the book is well written and enjoyable. The characters are complex and well-thought-out. Kayla has obvious strengths and weaknesses, and seeing from her point of view limits the reader to only her perceptions and knowledge. The struggles that teenage girls face with emotions, relationships, believing in others, wanting to fit in or conform, and even a difficult home life are tackled well. Technology and scientific advancements meet science fiction and fantasy in a very believable way as governments become the corporate giants, pushing their own agendas, and resistant's start developing telekinetic abilities to adapt to the social constraints. This book is definitely a recommended read for lovers of dystopian plots.

*Contains moderate violence.