Unwind by Neal Shusterman

Lauren Kristele McMullan
laurenkmcullan@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
McMullan, Lauren Kristele (2013) "Unwind by Neal Shusterman," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 33 : Iss. 3 , Article 27. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss3/27

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
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

TEXT © The Children’s Book and Play Review 2013