



Where Futures End

Parker Peevyhouse

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Five teens.

Five futures.

Two worlds.

One ending.

One year from now, Dylan develops a sixth sense that allows him to glimpse another world.

Ten years from now, Brixney must get more hits on her social media feed or risk being stuck in a debtors' colony.

Thirty years from now, Epony scrubs her entire online profile from the web and goes “High Concept.”

Sixty years from now, Reef struggles to survive in a city turned virtual gameboard.

And more than a hundred years from now, Quinn uncovers the alarming secret that links them all.

Five people, divided by time, will determine the fate of us all. These are stories of a world bent on destroying itself, and of the alternate world that might be its savior--unless it's too late.

Where Futures End Details

Date : Published February 9th 2016 by Kathy Dawson Books

ISBN :

Author : Parker Peevyhouse

Format : Kindle Edition 272 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Where Futures End for online ebook

Sonya Mukherjee says

This book, which I was lucky to read in an advance copy, kept surprising me in such delightful ways. The first section made me feel like a 10-year-old discovering Narnia for the first time, with all that magical sense of wonder. Then the second section read to me as fast, very funny, and definitely having a thing or two to say about our current world. And so it continued, with each future world opening a door to another, each one completely different but deeply interconnected. This is definitely for people who enjoy innovative and/or complex storytelling, and also for those who like puzzles, games, and surprises.

Margot Harrison says

This book blew me away. As soon as I read the description, I knew it was for anyone who likes mind-bending plots and satirical near-future SF — i.e., me. I haven't seen many truly strange YA SF books in recent years, and was eager to get my hands on it.

But I wasn't expecting the deft, magical prose, or how cleverly the book would riff on fantasy tropes as well as SF, or how much the central themes would resonate with me. *Where Futures End* has a daring narrative structure that won't work for everyone, but if it works for you, you'll be hooked.

Essentially, it's several stories (and types/tones of story) bound together by a single plot. Along the way, I was reminded of some of my favorite authors from childhood and adulthood. In the first section, it's Diana Wynne Jones and her skill in weaving enchanting portal fantasies together with gritty real-world stuff.

In the middle sections, I thought of George Saunders and how he combines lit fic with wickedly funny dystopian satire. Toward the end, I started remembering Ursula K. LeGuin. Peevyhouse has a similar gift for making the Pacific Northwest landscape such a powerful presence that the world she creates becomes our own, and the book has a recurring elegiac tone that got me all choked up. When time passed and we left earlier characters behind, I genuinely missed them.

I could compare this book to plenty of other things — it's likely to appeal to anyone who loves *Inception* or Charlie Kaufman movies, for instance. It's a book about the stories we tell, how they sustain us, and what happens when they turn out to be half the truth, or just a sliver of the truth.

And, while it's not the dense-worldbuilding kind of SF, I found its futures pretty plausible (allowing for some satirical exaggeration). Just as Nero fiddled while Rome burned (according to legend, anyway), the human race will probably still be telling itself enthralling stories when/if our world burns. Whether that's our biggest problem or our redeeming grace is up to each reader of this book to decide.

I received an ARC of this book through the Sweet Sixteens.

Rahul Kanakia says

I actually can't believe this book exists. It is so strange and so different from everything else on the shelves. It's a series of five interconnected novellas about the relationship between a steadily-worsening dystopian Earth and a far-off fantasy land, The Other Place, that's become entangled with our world. Each story is completely self-contained, with its own protagonist, and each one is so full of hope and longing. All of these stories are about kids who are trying to better themselves and who, in some way, latch onto the idea of The Other Place--just as kids today latch onto fairy stories--as a way of feeling some kind of hope. Surely, they reason, in a world that contains something so wonderful, we can't all be doomed?

The book is heart-breaking. Each novella (they're all set in different time periods) describes what feels like a completely different world, and each world is precise and well-described. There are so many fun little side trips on this journey: we're taken into debtor's colonies and terrible fast-food restaurants and a Seattle that's been taken over by a strange video game. And there are also fascinating thematic throughlines, such as the ever-mutating uses for social media.

But what keeps you reading is just the audacity of the work. If you're like me, you can't help but wonder: "How can this possibly pay off? How can it possibly interconnect!" And then it does!!!! The ending is mind-blowing.

If you're tired of the same old thing, then you need to buy this book.

Laura Resau says

This book was fantastic! I picked it up to read every spare minute I had-- while the toast was toasting and the tea water boiling-- it was so intriguing and strange and wonderful, I didn't want to stop. I finished it in just a couple days, and it's still lingering strong in my mind... I wish I had someone to discuss it with, but alas, since I got an ARC, I'll have to wait a bit for that!

The five interconnected stories, set at different points in the future, were brilliantly written. I was in awe of the author's world-building-- for each novella, she created an entirely new scenario-- an imaginative yet believable glimpse of what our future might hold. Like the best speculative fiction, this book gives insightful commentaries on all the disturbing things going on in society today. You get fascinating perspectives on where we're headed with technology, social media, corporate sponsorship, abandonment of privacy, etc.

I really loved how the book weaves sci-fi premises together with hints of an alternate world/universe that is reminiscent in some ways of Narnia, or a land of classic fantasy. Very unique. The language is wonderful, too... packed with meaning, layers, imagery, and smart humor. And all of these elements are woven together in an artful way that left me with a kind of sweet, deep, melancholic feeling... as excellent books tend to do.

I'll definitely be recommending this book, and can't wait for its release this winter.

Brittany Cavallaro says

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

You guys. I picked up this book at 10pm and read it straight through all night. WHERE FUTURES END is a

novel made up of a series of interconnected novellas, all focused on a different teenage character. All of them yearning for something else, something better, more comforting, something stranger than the life that they have. I worried before I picked this up that the interconnected-novella form might kill some of the momentum, but it worked the opposite way -- this novel is so filled with tension and longing and secrets that each novella end only made me want to read more.

And the WRITING. On the sentence level, this is one of the best-written novels I've read in a long time. The sentences are gorgeous, but they don't call attention to themselves, and Peevyhouse is great at making each reality she explores so specific and strange and still so familiar.

Finally, as a major SF/F fan, I was so taken with how this novel managed to inhabit both genres. Science fiction AND fantasy, in a believable way? YA fiction for fans of adult-fic writers like David Mitchell, George Saunders, and Kelly Link? Don't walk, RUN to pre-order this book. I know I did.

autumn says

this book is really incredible. i feel like i've just finished the last book of an epic fantasy series spanning at least 2 decades and 30 books, rather than a 290 page ya. it's made up of 5 short stories centered on different characters, all sort of different genres and styles, set decades apart, expertly done so that i felt like i had read 5 whole different books, plus the overarching story connecting them all. the characters and plots are extremely well fleshed out, esp given the little space it's written in. definitely recommended, esp for fans of experimental fiction!

(one thing i would say - i think the blurb puts too much emphasis on the implied big plot twist at the end, when i think the draw of the story is less the literal elements of the plot and more the interconnectedness etc. don't expect a big inception-y twist and youll be happier)

Emily says

Edited to add: this book is so CRIMINALLY under appreciated that whenever I think about it, I get legitimately sad. If you like innovative books, if you like surprising/strange/literary books, PLEASE do yourself (and me) a favor and READ THIS.

Do you ever read a book that feels like a puzzle? And the whole time, you're not quite sure what the question is but the sense of the inevitable and the immediacy keep you alternating between speed-reading for hours and picking apart a couple sentences for twenty minutes as you try to figure out what's happening between the letters?

That is this book. Compelling, strange, intriguing, fascinating, utterly puzzling. I'm going to be thinking about this book for weeks (also rereading at least a few more times when it comes out to see all the details I no doubt missed).

Since I read the initial announcement for this book I've been telling everyone who will listen that it's my most anticipated 2016 read! Luckily, I was able to wrangle an early copy (!!!!!). It's weird: on the one hand, this book defied all my expectations (in regards to content and style) but on the other, it hit me exactly how I

expected (and hoped) it would.

Where Futures End may not be everyone's cup of tea, but I think that the people who connect with it are going to REALLY connect with it (read: be obsessed). It reminded me of so many of my favorite things: David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas (mysterious and strange and constantly balancing what's said versus what's between the lines), Scott Westerfeld's Uglies (compelling, disturbing, and entirely believable projection of the near-future), Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five (comparisons I won't make because *SPOILERS* but that any fan will surely see), and Madeline L'Engle's Wrinkle In Time (for the more fantastical, paradoxical, and metaphysical elements).

I really can't think of anything Smart™ to say right now because this has left my mind so blown out. BUY THIS. READ IT. REREAD IT A MILLION TIMES.

Patrick Samphire says

If it's not hard enough to write a straightforward, linear novel, Parker Peevyhouse has made it far harder for herself by writing a novel that is actually five interconnected novelettes. So it's enormously to her credit that this book has turned out so well. In fact, I'd go so far as to say it's the best YA novel I've read this year.

The first story is set right now (or very close to now) and the subsequent ones step into the future, developing the story up to some unstated point over a hundred years from now. Our universe has somehow intersected with another universe, and a very few people can cross between them, weakening the barrier between the universes.

Over the course of the five stories we experience the lives of different characters – some of whom are able to cross between universes and some of whom aren't – as the intersection alters both universes, as technology advances, and as global warming begins to take hold.

So what's so great about Where Futures End? Well, first up the structure is not easy to pull off. Different characters? Different time periods? Different voices? Not an easy thing to manage, but something that could go terribly wrong. Well, it doesn't. It works beautifully, and rather than losing narrative drive, the end of each story leaves you wanting to read the next to add more pieces to the puzzle. Each adds another layer, revealing more about what was going in the previous stories while developing its own story.

Then there are the stories themselves. I'm going to come right out and say that the stories remind me a lot in style and type of many of the short stories that I've written, although these are more fully developed, and no doubt that makes them appealing to me. But each is a really well thought through glimpse of the future, rigorously developed, with compelling characters.

Ambitious. Clever. Gripping. You should add this one to your wish-list right away!

Rating: 5 Stars!

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

Parker Peevyhouse wrote this book with one goal: to blow everyone's mind. And oh my god, did she achieve that goal. This book is so *good*, so different from anything I've ever read before.

There's no way to truly describe this novel's plot; it's set in an alternate reality with a world interconnected to ours, with characters living years into the future. Each one of the five stories brings something new to this story, adding one element to the puzzle that is the end.

Everything here is not only creative, but also well-executed. Peevyhouse's world is effortlessly interesting, and her writing pulls you in until it's ten pm and you're still reading. Her characters are developed even within their short stories.

As I've read more books with the same "let's-blow-their-minds" goal, this book almost should have fallen down the chain. It blew my mind, yes, but so did books like *The Ghost of Heaven*. Yes, this book has great characters and a creative plot, but other books do too. **What sets this book apart? The ending.** This book ends with one of the most melancholy scenes of all time, an ending that I still can't stop thinking about. Not only is the ending effortlessly creative, it's also filled with emotion and depth of meaning.

Vague spoilers ahead, but I want to say things about the ending. Because really, is really so satisfying just in terms of themes. The way it emphasizes environmentalism!! The way it subverts your expectations but also feels so *right*!! I just. *Adored* the ending.

I actually got a chance to meet Parker Peevyhouse last year - she was randomly doing a talk on sci-fi at my school. She almost seemed surprised that someone had read her book. And I'm so sad about that. I want everyone to read this book. I want this book to get a fucking hype train and fanart and a FANBASE. It is truly that good.

VERDICT: One of the most underrated books of all time - I couldn't put it down. Can't recommend this enough.

Ashley Blake says

Wow. Just holy eff wow. This book is the most unique book I think I've ever read. I'm rendered nearly incoherent. It's the story our own world and the Other Place and five people spanning decades and the ways in which we're all connected. It's bonkers good. Gorgeous prose and each voice is so distinct and compelling. Add this one to your TBRs stat!

Eryn says

2.5 Stars

Um. What did I just read? This honestly made no sense - half the time I was just searching for answers and wondering if I should feel as confused as I was while reading. However, I will add that this was a unique idea (not the time-travel and alternate universes part) - which made the book interesting in its own right. But the bland characters and dry story-line took away from that.

Overall, I don't have much to say about this book other than it has a beautiful cover which pushed me to read it - because *look* at that cover! It's lovely. But once I started reading it, I wanted to stare at the cover rather than continue reading.

Whitney Atkinson says

I'm just gonna DNF this on page 260.

It's honestly not a bad book, it's just so much more sci-fi than I was intending. I was originally going to try to finish out the audiobook, but I realized i'm just not enjoying it and I don't want to force myself to listen to 45 minutes more of something i'm not invested into and probably won't raise my rating of. I was attracted to the premise of this book, but I thought it would be more of a character-driven narrative in which all of the people eventually interconnect, but it was more of this weird fantasy world and how all of the characters relate to it, and that lost my interest very quickly.

I'll most likely be passing on my physical copy to someone who will more likely enjoy this! It just ended up being something totally different than my expectations and I'm not a fan of the genre.

Sarah Ahiers says

This book. THIS BOOK!!!

I hardcore loved this book.

I wasn't sure I would, when I first got it. A collection of novellas? It would either work for me or it wouldn't. And it did. It did SO MUCH.

WHERE FUTURE'S ENDS is a collection of five novellas, moving forward in time. There are mentions of the previous characters in the future novellas which adds a nice perk of recognition. As time goes on, the reader can see how technology and society changes as time passes between the novellas.

Every novella was fantastic. I kept thinking I wouldn't like the next one as much as the one I just finished, and I would be proved wrong over and over again.

I would have read a novel of each of these novellas easily. I don't even think I can pick a favorite I loved them all so much.

There was a fantastic theme of seeing how our stories shape us, how technology drives our culture, how little moments in time can forever alter the future, whether we know they will or not. And at the end, the stories come together in an ending that is satisfying and heartbreaking and beautiful.

I could have read this book in one sitting, except I didn't want it to end, so I read as slowly as possible, to savor it.

I read this book as part of an arc tour, and I cannot wait for it to be available so I can buy a copy and recommend it to everyone I know.

Traci Chee says

WHERE FUTURES END is everything I want in speculative fiction: thrilling magical worlds, thought-provoking themes, innovative structures, and lyrical prose. It's the book I would have loved to have written.

Each of the five novelettes sits at the juncture between the real and the magical, where everyday people find inside themselves the stirrings of something greater, of some Special Work that calls to them, whether that's the discovery of a new world or the rescue of their family from crippling debt. The language mirrors this intersection--unassuming and yet peppered with little moments of beauty that make you stand back and go, "Wow. That is it. That is the feeling. Perfectly."

As each novelette moves forward in time, it's a joy to see the way the stories of previous generations influence the stories of the present, changing in meaning (and in form) from what they once were. And it's equally delightful to encounter characters again and again, each iteration slightly different from before. This is the kind of book that pushes the boundaries of what fiction can do. A wonderful read!

Lauren Stoolfire says

In a year from now, Dylan will begin to develop a sixth sense allowing him to see into another world. In ten years, Brixney will have to get more hits on her social media in order to avoid being sent to a debtor's colony. In thirty years, Epony will go High Concept by removing her online profile. In sixty years, Reef's life will be a constant struggle in a city turned virtual game board. In one hundred years, Quinn will learn the alarming secret that ties all five of them together.

Where Futures End by Parker Peevyhouse is a fascinating debut that is comprised of five intricately plotted novellas. Each of the five stories is able to stand on its own because each appears to be quite different on the surface, and it isn't until that final story that one really begins to understand just how tightly interwoven they truly are. Peevyhouse's prose is consistently excellent across the board, and the characters are all well-drawn. I listened to it on audiobook and the multiple narrators really suit the nature of the novel. While I enjoyed each story, my favorites are the first, featuring Dylan, and the last, featuring Quinn.

Parker Peevyhouse's *Where Futures End* is a unique and ambitious YA sci-fi novel. If you enjoy *Donnie Darko* plus *Cloud Atlas*, with a dash of *The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell, you will enjoy this very cool and compelling 2016 release. I, for one, am looking forward to whatever Peevyhouse writes next!

This review is also featured on my blog.
