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# Replica



## Synopsis

Two girls, two stories, one epic novel From Lauren Oliver, New York Times bestselling author of *Before I Fall* and the *Delirium* trilogy, comes an epic, masterful novel that explores issues of individuality, identity, and humanity. *Replica* is a flip book that contains two narratives in one, and it is the first in a duology. Turn the book one way and read Lyra's story; turn the book over and upside down and read Gemma's story. The stories can be read separately, one after the other, or in alternating chapters. The two distinct parts of this astonishing novel combine to produce an unforgettable journey. Even the innovative book jacket mirrors and extends the reading experience. Lyra's story begins in the Haven Institute, a building tucked away on a private island off the coast of Florida that from a distance looks serene and even beautiful. But up close the locked doors, military guards, and biohazard suits tell a different story. In truth, Haven is a clandestine research facility where thousands of replicas, or human models, are born, raised, and observed. When a surprise attack is launched on Haven, two of its young experimental subjects—Lyra, or 24, and the boy known only as 72—manage to escape. Gemma has been in and out of hospitals for as long as she can remember. A lonely teen, her life is circumscribed by home, school, and her best friend, April. But after she is nearly abducted by a stranger claiming to know her, Gemma starts to investigate her family's past and discovers her father's mysterious connection to the secretive Haven research facility. Hungry for answers, she travels to Florida, only to stumble upon two replicas and a completely new set of questions. While the stories of Lyra and Gemma mirror each other, each contains breathtaking revelations critically important to the other story. *Replica* is an ambitious, thought-provoking masterwork.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I went to BookCon in Chicago this past May and was hearing a lot of buzz about this book so I was eagerly waiting to read it. The book is quite unique has it has two complete stories in one book. For example, I read Gemma's story first and then flipped it over and read Lyra's story. But you also read the book in alternate chapters. This way, the reading experience is totally up to you. The book features Gemma, a sheltered girl. She is slightly overweight and only has one real friend. She was supposed to go to Florida with her friend, April, but when a window in her house is smashed through with a rock hidden in a Frankenstein mask, her father refuses to let her go. See, her father has a lot of hidden secrets and Gemma overhears him mentioning a place called Haven. Gemma does some research about Haven but finds only a lot of conspiracy theories. She decides she's going to head to Florida to get some answers. She gets a ride with Pete, a very talkative and cute classmate of hers. From there, the mystery starts to unravel and Gemma finds out a lot of things she didn't think she would. Lyra is what is called a replica. She lives in Haven and has endless tests done to her body. She knows somewhat that this is not right and clings to the memory of the nice doctor who taught her to read and one of the few nurses that had compassion for the replicas, both of which mysteriously disappeared. When circumstances suddenly change for Lyra and another replica who is male and is only known as 72, she has to find her way in a world she barely knew existed. Overall, I really enjoyed this book. As always, Lauren Oliver's writing is excellent and the story made me want to keep reading. The book is larger because it holds two complete stories (Gemma's section is a bit longer than Lyra's part of the book) but it was still somewhat of a fast read for me. Some readers might see the twists and turns coming but it didn't stop the book from being enjoyable and hard to put down. I cannot wait to read what comes next. I would definitely recommend giving this book a try.

I've been fascinated with the idea of cloning ever since I saw an old 80's movie, 'The Creator', about a doctor at a research university who misses his late wife so much he spends all his time working on a way to clone her so he can get her back. I always wondered what happens to free will when you clone. I've heard that who you are is 10% what you're born into and 90% choice so who are you when you have no choices? I think Lyra's statement when she says 'we're not people, we're

replicas• chillingly sums it up. Creating individuals not necessarily classified as humans is the concept this story is set in. Because it's a YA novel it doesn't get into an in-depth examination of the major black market potential, power and political intrigue it would have created in an adult novel by someone like Robert Ludlum. I did enjoy this story quite a bit, and I really enjoyed the alternate viewpoints of the same scenes through the individual character's eyes, despite the gimmicky book flip set up. I wonder what marketing genius talked her into that, it got old after the first 2 chapters. I think it would have been a better read as alternating chapters between the Lyra and Gemma's chapters instead of leaving bookmarks at each end of the book on each chapter. While I would still like to hand this topic off to Robert Ludlum next, I thought it was an enjoyable YA read. Recommended.

The flip-style book (one girl's story on one side, flip it for the other girl's story) is a little gimmicky and, quite honestly, almost impossible to read as an ebook (which is what I first got this book as). Still, Oliver writes a compelling story, as always. One of the girls' stories was better developed than the other but, read together (or however you want to read it), they work well together.

Okay, to begin with I've always been a sucker for (for want of a better word) "gimmick" books. As a (very young) kid I loved those "Choose Your Own Adventure" books; I've got a small collection of those mystery novels with "real" clues that you can examine. So I was already primed to like this BUT When you add a beautifully written and intensely moving set of character studies AND An edge of your seat s-f thriller And pull the whole thing off without missing a beat? I mean c'mon!

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