



When We Wake

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Sixteen-year-old Tegan is just like every other girl living in 2027—she's happiest when playing the guitar, she's falling in love for the first time, and she's joining her friends to protest the wrongs of the world: environmental collapse, social discrimination, and political injustice.

But on what should have been the best day of Tegan's life, she dies—and wakes up a hundred years later, locked in a government facility with no idea what happened.

The future isn't all she had hoped it would be, and when appalling secrets come to light, Tegan must make a choice: Does she keep her head down and survive, or fight for a better world?

When We Wake Details

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From Reader Review When We Wake for online ebook

Jennifer says

Tegan Oglietti's life in 2027 was great before she died. It was her first official date with her long time friend Dalmar when she was shot and killed. Then she woke up in 2128 and couldn't believe she had been frozen. She had checked the box on her driver's license to donate her body to science but she had meant donate organs to help people, not be frozen! After a bit of a freak out she decides it is better to be alive than dead so she will try to make the most of it.

At first the future looks great. Technology has improved and new environmental protections have been added. Then she realizes that all this had been done because the earth is in major trouble and global warming. Oceans are rising, land is disappearing, and they are not letting anyone into Australia. Tegan has to re-adjust to culture and it is a bit of a shock. She is seen by some as a miracle and by religious fanatics as something evil. One group of religious fanatics even tell her that she should kill herself and go back to god.

Tegan meets Abdi by mistaking him for Dalmar. It is hard for her to get over Dalmar even though he died 46 years ago. To her it feels like she was just in love. It was sad because he seemed like a great guy we barely got to know. She finds some friendship with Abdi even though he is an immigrant and trying to stay out of the spotlight. There is a small romance but not tell the end. I liked this because there was so much going on and she was still mourning her old life.

There is a mystery surrounding the freezing experiment. The government claims it is a way to bring back soldiers but it seems suspicious why they want to study Tegan so bad? She is the only one that has been brought back but why? Tegan and her new friends decide to hunt down the truth and I had a good ideaas to what it was from the beginning. The journey was still exciting and a few twists and turns along the way. Loved the details of the future and the science fiction elements.

The writing style was a bit different and interesting. Tegan was a huge Beatles fan so each chapter is titled after one of their songs and she often mentions them as she is a music major. This is Tegan's story broadcast on a You Tube like channel. There are breaks in her story where she talks about the present while she is telling her story that give us peaks into where she ends up. I would have liked a epilogue or something extra at the end. It was a bit of an up to your imagination ending.

Of course I didn't believe her. Would you? Think about waking up to a completele stranger saying, *Hey, surprise! It's the future!*

There were people judging my fashion sense, rating my hotness level, and wondering if dating me would be nevrophilia.

Bethari's computer was asking permission to break into government archives.
What kind of apps dd she *have* on there?

No mater how much money he'd been offered or how many glittering stars had requested duets, he hadn't

sung for them.

But he'd sung for me.

I borrowed an ARC and this in no way affects my review

Braiden says

At first sight *When We Wake* will call out for you, its bright, sharp, and almost white cover standing out on the shelf amongst the other covers, too dark in comparison. What the cover of *When We Wake* achieves is a sense of questioning already in the reader, and once the words 'cryogenically frozen' in the synopsis are read and connected to the cover, there would be no going back, no putting Karen Healey's new science fiction offering back on the bookshop shelf. *When We Wake* provides a quite different future from today's world, from today's Australia, packed with political, global, and humanitarian themes involving activism, social justice, distribution of propaganda, corruption, and deceit. Whatever it is that you enjoy, either the science fiction or speculative fiction elements, *When We Wake* will fascinate you to no end.

It was the year 2027 when sixteen-year-old Tegan Oglietti joined a rally about climate change on the steps of Melbourne's parliament house with her boyfriend Dalmar and was killed by a sniper. Thanks to her humanitarian beliefs of signing up to be an organ donor, Tegan wakes up 100 years later, the first to wake up after being cryogenically frozen. Tegan had become a major part of a government program to bring soldiers and casualties of war back to life due to the progress of science, but Tegan seeks out the truth in this changed world, much different to the one she knew. Because of the cryogenic freezing Tegan has become the newest celebrity, bringing fame but then also hate from religious and extremist groups who want to see her dead. Among all this, staying true to herself becomes her greatest test.

Tegan is quite a likeable and relatable character. Dealing with change, almost instantly in her case, isn't easy, but Tegan deals with it with maturity and modesty, thankful that she gets to live a second life, but dejected it won't be with her parents, brother, her friend Alex, and boyfriend Dalmar. Her predicament proves her fighting to strength to adapt and make change with her longing for the past and the desolation that resides inside her. She never stops questioning, never forgets who she was before she was shot, always determined to protect the memories of her old life and the friends she makes in her new life.

How the future in 2127 is described will make you tremble at the terror of how our very own future may look like (e.g., Australia's no-migrant policy and denigration of third-world countries) or cry in delight at things like marriage equality, diversity, and if you are vegetarian or vegan, the way the future may lean to your advantage. The setting on a global scale was well detailed. I'm looking forward to exploring Karen Healey's futuristic world in the next books. As a bonus, if there is a possible space setting in them, then Healey will hit the nail on the head in terms of setting execution.

There was much to enjoy about *When We Wake*. I found there to be a sort of *The Hunger Games* in there with Tegan attracting fame and attention and therefore must act like a token figure the government wants her to be. She'd get dressed up, outfit, make up and all, and have to participate in media interviews. Very *The Hunger Games*-esque, but Healey adds her own ingredients to make it distinctly different. I also loved that it was set in Melbourne, and since this is my home city, it instilled some pessimism in me, a trait which I never want to possess. If someone can do that then you've got a winner on your hands. *When We Wake* did have its moments where I lost interest, but that's nothing in comparison to all the positives.

Karen Healey has written a strikingly fresh new future through the eyes of Tegan Oglietti. While We Run: come at me!

Sam Cristol says

Rating: 1.5

First things first, let's talk about what this book did well. For example, the idea behind the book was really cool. The cover design was also really great. Also, the first chapter or so was a really great start to an interesting story.

Other than that though? Just put the book down. Stop- yes stop right there. If you're expecting it to be amazing (like I was), then you need to either lower your expectations, or prepare for a rough ride.

First of all, let's talk about the main character. First of all, SHE IS ANNOYING. I'm not even kidding. All the main character talks (or should I say whines) about (other than herself) is the Beatles. Approximately every other line of this book is about the Beatles. Yes, I get that the main character is obsessed with the Beatles- but I got it after the first 12 references or so. From there, it just got annoying, distracting, and took away from the lack-luster story.

Next, the love interest? Abdi was a boring, two-dimensional character who played the classic role of "loved and hated by the public, but adored by me". Yes, I understand that the story was from the main characters point of view, so of course she found him "perfect", but the whole relationship was a bit rushed, and seemed thrown together haphazardly just to add some quick and easy middle-school style romance appeal.

Let's move on to the story. It was well, boring. Like I said, good idea, but poor execution. The beginning, with the waking up and panicking part, great. Part of the problem, though, is that by the end, when you find out the reason behind this narrated story, it makes the rest of the book seem even MORE pointless than it had before. There were so many details included that

- a. wouldn't have been in there if the character WAS telling it to an audience in what should've been a rushed atmosphere
- b. NO ONE CARED ABOUT
- c. Had almost no reference to the story

A prime example of this would be her included love for Abdi and her constantly being hung up on her 100-year-ago friend Dalmar. In the situation this story was presented in, this stuff shouldn't have been said, and ALSO shouldn't have mattered.

As you can probably tell, this story was not really great for me. That said, it'd probably good for younger children, specifically anyone in between grades 5 and 7 (or let's say ages 11 to 14).

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

WHEN WE WAKE is a very political book, and, to a lesser degree, a very religious book. Those aren't

necessarily bad things. But when the politics and religion are preachy, it becomes much harder to enjoy the story hiding underneath.

And the story underneath is intriguing, or at least the premise is. A girl who is brought back to life a hundred years after she dies must learn to adapt to a hostile and unfamiliar world. Everything from technology to language has changed to the point that it's almost unrecognizable. Initially, Teegan was likeable enough with her Beatles obsession and free running hobby, but she ended up making a few too many temper driven choices that just struck me as stupid—though not as stupid as almost every adult in this book.

The problem arises when **WHEN WE WAKE** attempts to tackle almost every single potentially polarizing issue dividing people today: hyper environmentalism, vegetarianism, racism, homosexuality, sex change operations, Islam, Christianity, Roman Catholicism, cults, drugs, immigration, totalitarianism, and so many more. The author's position on all this issues comes across loud and clear. The characters who hold opposing viewpoints are complete villains. The problem isn't always the issues themselves, which I think most of us would agree the way they are portrayed, it's just so heavy handed and relentless. The story, such as it was, felt like it was just a series of events strung together in order for the author to get on her soapbox.

I had a hard time finishing this one. Instead of raising issues and letting readers think for themselves, only one position is presented as acceptable in **WHEN WE WAKE**, not because it is morally or intellectually more tenable (even when it is) but because the opposing view is a caricature/straw man version of itself. Regardless of your political and religious ideologies, it struck me as deeply disrespectful to lampoon and deride opposing viewpoints as thoroughly and overwhelmingly as this book does. There is clearly a sequel planned based on the unresolved ending, **WHEN WE RUN**, but I won't be reading it.

Sexual Content:

Kissing

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

3.75 stars!

Just when I thought I'd never find another good dystopian read again, here comes an unexpected book, (courtesy of my friend, Jobelle) and I really enjoyed it. I'm only frowning at the conclusion because I don't have the second book and I really want to continue with the story of Tegan Oglietti, also called "Teeg" and yep, her name alone has already bought me completely. It also helps a lot that she's a total kick-ass and adorably sarcastic.

Who wouldn't sympathize with a sixteen year old girl looking forward to a whole life ahead of her (especially now that the boy she's been secretly in love with was finally her boyfriend)? Then suddenly, she loses her life, everything she knew and everyone she loved?! She does wake up though except she woke up too late, a hundred years later.

I was hooked by the premise and impressed by the world building, the writing and the scienc-y details. It was a very realistic glimpse to the future and it was even more interesting that the story is set in Australia in the year 2127. I was also very amused by the technology. An earring actually rings because those little gems that used to adorn the ears are now the cell phones. Bahaha. It's also funny that *Lilo & Stitch* is considered a vintage Disney movie.

I thought the plot was very original. I couldn't imagine which direction the introduction will take but I couldn't complain. It was fast-paced, adventurous and smartly written. Downsides are probably the too obvious religious and political references but overall, it was an enjoyable read.

P.S. Happy Early Birthday, Jobelle! (June 19 is her birthday). May you have a dozen cake, a hundred smiles and a thousand books to read! Enjoy your special day! <3

Emer says

Read as part of the ABN Summer Reading Challenge recommended by Mirjam

Tedious. Clunky prose. Utterly lacking in subtlety. Laden with agenda. Poorly structured. Lacking in dynamic characters.

Generally dismal. Ironic how it's called when we wake when all it did was made me fall asleep from boredom.

Sorry Mirjam. I guess you and I are utterly diametrically opposed to each other when it comes to rating books. I'm sure someday we will find a book we both love with equal measure but sadly this one isn't it.

Erin says

The Beatles sang all you need is love. It would be nice if that were true. But, like everyone, they wanted a lot more than love alone; they wanted wealth and glory and freedom and peace. They wanted to travel; they wanted to investigate their spirituality; they wanted their children to be happy and safe. Love is a good start, but we need more than that to get through.

Now this is one futuristic novel that I may never have been exposed to if it hadn't been for a grade nine student that told me it was a must read. "When We Wake" is a futuristic novel set in Australia, that jumps readers from 2027 to 2128. The Goodreads synopsis is quite stellar and I really don't want to rehash it here. I felt that this book was infused with deeper religious, political, and scientific dilemmas that may or may not deter a struggling reader. Left me with a good cliffhanger, but I guess my new school doesn't have the sequel....yet. Maybe my favorite thing of all was that the book features a teen protagonist that isn't being fought over by two other male characters. Hallelujah!

Rosa says

I picked this book up off the shelf because, well, it was shiny. And the cover is so very, very pretty. Creepy, but the colours do look amazing together.

At first, I just couldn't get into this book. The premise just seemed too sad. To put it in perspective, I had recently read five dystopian books in a row, and without knowing it, in doing so I had filled my mind with all sorts of "We are all going to die! We are going to be taken over by a totalitarian government with horrible laws!" and of course, "Global warming is going to kill us all" scenarios. Basically, I had assured myself we were all going to have a horrible future ahead of us. So, hopefully you can kind of understand why I didn't

particularly feel like reading a story about a teenage girl who accidentally gets shot, is cryogenically frozen and then wakes up in a future that seems great but is actually full of underlying terrible truths - minus all of her family and friends and anyone she loves. I read the first couple of pages and just felt sad, so I promptly stopped.

Well, that turned out to be a big mistake. Because a few weeks later as I was searching through the pile of books that is higher than my bed (and probably consists of more than a few overdues!) I saw the shiny, new cover with the beautiful colours and the creepy girl. I started to read again, and I read, and I read. I couldn't stop reading - I just had to discover the dark secrets of the seemingly perfect world that Tegan had woken into.

The category this book completes is "a book set in another place and time." This book is set one hundred, or thereabouts, years in the future, in Australia. Being from New Zealand and having Australia just over the ditch, this book felt pretty close to home for me. I found it easy to imagine that the situation happening in New Zealand would be similar to what would be happening in Australia.

The world in the future, according to Karen Healey, is not a good one. People are suffering from some sort of global environmental crisis, sea levels are rising and despite the effort made in Australia to go clean and green, global warming is still occurring. All around there are Third World countries suffering the effects because they cannot afford to go green. Australia has introduced a rigorously enforced anti-immigrant policy. Tegan is the first person to be woken up successfully after being frozen and this has unforeseen consequences. It was extremely interesting to see how much progress the world had made in one hundred years, and as far as I can see from this book, not much. In my opinion, if we want any sort of green, healthy future we'd better start now.

In a quiet, not too over the top way I think Tegan is a wonderful heroine and she was my favourite character. With a quietly powerful and strong voice, she seemed innocent but would then say the occasional fantastic quote that reminded you the world was not perfect.

"It was time to give them a lesson in just how surprising Tegan Ogletti could be." I love this quote because it sums up the essence of the book. Tegan surprised everybody. She managed to remain strong when she was totally alone, isolated from anyone she used to love, and that strength is a very admirable quality. She went from a confused girl to a motivated one who used her brains to figure out what was really going on, and then she told the world. She was focused on changing the world for the better.

I loved how Tegan had a great appreciation for music, and although I don't share that passion I feel it really personalises a character and a story when one underlying quality in a person comes through, such as an obsession or passion. I enjoyed how the romance was a subplot in this book, and most of the story was focused on Tegan and her struggle for the truth. The mystery was the main point of the book, and it was great how it was kept that way.

This brings me to a part of the book I really enjoyed. I loved how the book seemed to come full circle, that we were reading Tegan's story that she was telling to audiences on her tubecast. This connected the parts of the story together right from the beginning.

Reading this book I learnt not to believe everything you see. Tegan steps into a future that seems a lot better than the place she left, but a dark secret is lurking. It taught me to be aware of what is going on and to persevere to discover the truth. I also discovered an interesting and believable perception of the future where technology has advanced and new laws have come into place. Yes, the world has begun to face environmental and political crisis but at what and who's cost? It is believable, but not so extreme that it seems unreal. Attention to detail made this whole story seem like a link to our future, and that link was fascinating.

I couldn't get into this book at first, but when I did it was well worth reading. 4/5 stars

Giselle says

What happens after death? Well for Tegan, it's another life. 100 years from now. A fascinating premise indeed! Who's not intrigued by the future? Curious about the state of our planet, the technology, even the fashion? I was really excited to get into this book and for the most part it I really enjoyed it. My problems mostly lay with the way the book came off as a big environmental/social speech.

Tegan is in love and it's all pretty and roses, then she abruptly wakes up... 100 years from now. That would be a shocker on pretty much anybody. I liked how this was done, she was on the defensive, not believing anybody and fighting to get her way. She was a great protagonist for this story and I found her very likeable. Same with the secondary characters she comes to meet and call friends. They were all a little quirky with their own traits and personalities. I liked that they weren't just fluffy plot fillers, they were fun characters and also very loyal to Tegan. Even though she leaves her love behind in the past, she does meet a new guy in the future (of course! ;) and the romance is, although I wouldn't call it chemistry filled, very sweet and well paced.

The plot itself is intriguing, too, we have the usual secrets and conspiracies that come about during the story. We know that what we're told are most likely lies. It's also told through Tegan's voice, her telling us a story that's already happened to her, so she adds short commentaries at spots to make us understand that we should be wary of everything she's being told at this point. I thought this was very well done, it added a great touch of suspense into the novel. The world building itself, though, I will say I expected more. We're suddenly 100 years in the future and not a whole lot is said about society itself. Cars, building, every day life, we don't get any of those details and it came off as very anticlimactic for what you'd expect in a setting such as this. We do get into some details in regards to computers and the environment--the planet as a whole--but it still leaves too many unexplained areas that I'd think anyone talking about the future would immediately want to know.

The environment, however, nope, that one was not forgotten! Our people's damaging ways and prejudices against several minorities were brought up so much in this book that it felt like a big speech on what our corrupt ways will bring if we don't change. The planet dying, extremists who are trying to take things into their own hands, gay marriage being universally accepted, topics like this kept being brought up and not in a way to strengthen world building either--though it did work for that in some ways--but forcefully so that it felt like the book was yelling at me. Yelling at our generation for being the eventual end-all of our world. Shame on us! The first thing I did upon finishing this book was ask a friend "Did you feel this book was very preachy? Like a big speech on how our world is corrupt?"

A fantastic concept, compelling writing, and great characters, *When We Wake* does have a lot to offer. I wouldn't say it's an especially memorable read, I can already tell I will forget most of this book in a few months, but even with my issues it's still fun and suspenseful while it lasts.

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An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at Xpresso Reads

Melani says

This book is just so clunky and obvious, I almost didn't finish it. I kept putting the book down to roll my eyes at the two-by-four Healey was swinging around to get her messages across. Because, make no mistake, this is a MESSAGE novel. And not just one message, oh no, Healey squashes as many as she can into the book. And none of it is done with any sort of grace or ease. Everything stops to make sure that we, the reader, grasp the IMPORTANT MESSAGE Healey wishes to impart upon us.

For example, one of the characters is revealed to be a trans person. And it has nothing to do with the plot, just a bit of info. I actually like this, I think it's great to have characters who are not white hetero whatever and not have the novel focus on that particular point about the character. What I have a problem with is the way it's revealed. The entire novel stops in order to make sure we know that piece of info and then moves on. And it's not even revealed in a believable way. See this character is an established drug user (or at least someone who plays at it to disguise what she's really doing) so the fact that she's taking pills shouldn't be noticeable to the narrator. And yet it is, and then we stop what we're doing to establish what the pills are and that the narrator is a-ok with it, and then move on. AND THIS WAS DURING A RATHER INTENSE SCENE. It completely ruined the flow of the novel. And the fix is SO easy, you have narrator look at character A in annoyance when she pops some pills. She explains what they are and narrator accepts that, apologizes for her annoyance and then you MOVE ON.

In another instance the narrator mistakes a boy from the future for her past love. As in, she sees this future boy and flashes back to her now dead boyfriend. She calls him by the wrong name and insists that future boy looks just like past boy. Except she's a white girl and both of those boys were black. Well, she is humiliated. And to make sure that we got the message, Healey makes sure to state outright what was wrong. This was my first real jarring moment. It could have been handled much more subtly with the narrator rushing out of the room in shame (as she does) and the other kids calling her a white racist (as they do- or at least a slang term meaning white racist) and then left at that. There wasn't a need to come right out and say why the narrator was in the wrong, the text said it already. That's just clunky writing and talking down to the reader.

But where it gets hilarious is that a couple of chapters later, when narrator is starting a friendship with future boy she apologizes for the mistake and he says that he forgives her. He goes on to explain that it was explained to him who past boy was and since past boy was nationality from place A and he is same nationality from place B, he could see how she might mistake them for each other. Do you see? Right after the text comes right out to say that it's wrong to say people from one race all look like each other, it subtly goes back and says but really they all do. It's like Healey heard the lesson about why that particular form of racism is bad but didn't really learn it.

There were plenty of other things that bothered me about the novel. Like why, in the format that it's in, does the narrator talk about her romance? It doesn't make sense, it's supposed to be an interview type thing, and the narrator is established as a private person. Or why it's necessary to have two, count em TWO, different bad guy groups. The addition of the religious fanatics didn't add anything to the novel and you could have easily revealed the information they provided in other ways, Healey could even have used the army to do it. Or perhaps her female hacker character.

At this point I think I'm done with Healey's novels. I really, really liked *Guardian of the Dead*. But none of her novels since that one have come close in content. And this one was just plain bad.

Amanda says

When We Wake by Karen Healey is set in Melbourne, firstly in the year 2027 and later in the year 2127. In the beginning Tegan Oglietti is sixteen and on her way to a climate change protest, along with her best friend, Alex, and her new boyfriend, Dalmar. But her day doesn't go to plan and she wakes up 100 years later to find out she is the first person to successfully be awakened from a cryogenic state. She's told she's part of a special project to bring soldiers back to life, but she soon finds out that's not the truth.

When We Wake was such a thought-provoking book. In Tegan's original life, the world is already suffering from extreme weather conditions. It's only spring in Melbourne yet most people avoid going outdoors during the middle of the day because it's just too hot. When she wakes up in 2127, the world is even worse; houses are now built with a level sunken into the ground, to try and keep them cooler. There are no more flushing toilets, almost everyone is vegetarian because it's impossible to raise, feed, and water livestock and it's extremely hot all the time. There are wars between countries who were formally allies, Australia has a no-migrant policy, and people from third-world countries are looked down on and referred to as thirdies. Basically, it sounds awful but completely believable. Although, there were some good aspects; for one, everyone being vego (it's not surprising I think that, right?), and that in mainstream society peoples' sexuality is more accepted than it is now. Also, most people have small, pliable, portable computers that can do almost anything and everything for you.

I liked Tegan from the beginning, she's smart, energetic (she enjoys free-running), and is a big fan of The Beatles – particularly Ringo. She also handles the news really well, I think most people would have flipped out or become depressed, but Tegan makes a good go of her second chance at life, despite having to mourn the loss of her mother, brother, Alex and Dalmar who all went on to live their lives and pass away years before she was awakened. I really liked Dr Marie, the women in charge of the project, and her new friends Bethari, Joph and Abdi. I appreciated that the slow romantic build up was not the focus of Tegan's story, she had bigger issues to deal with.

The story had me hooked from the beginning as it starts with Tegan explaining a little about her family and letting the reader know she will be telling us her story. It's clear that things in her new life have gotten messy and I was keen to know what had happened and what the secret behind the cryo-project was.

I also have to mention all the Beatles references and lyrics scattered throughout the book as well as the fact that each chapter starts with the title of a Beatles song – I loved this addition to the book.

When We Wake is a unique look at a futuristic world, featuring a solid cast of characters, and an intriguing and action-packed plot. It's ahead of the pack when it comes to dystopian YA

Ai Haibara says

DO NOT BE FOOLED BY THE MEDIOCRE AVERAGE RATING THIS BOOK HAS BECAUSE IT IS REALLY REALLY GOOD

Honestly I did not have high hopes for this book because of it's *deja vu* Across the Universe storyline but this was actually really good!

So, in the year of 2027, Teegan was living the best day of her life. However, that ends abruptly when she gets shot and finds herself 100 years into the future when she wakes up from being cryonically frozen.

The world building of *When we wake* was explored quite well. The story is set in Melbourne, and in 2127, the environment is severely damaged, with oceans rising and extreme weather patterns. Meat has become frowned upon and almost everyone is a vegetarian.

In the novel, Australia has become the new superpower of the world, a land of sources and an open minded continent in terms of gender and sexual orientation.

However, it has a no migrant policy and anyone who tries to come into its borders is sent to detention camps. People from other countries who have received government permission to stay in Australia are called Thirdies and are treated with an less than welcoming attitude.

It was a pretty realistic future where all the electricity are generated by solar/hydro/wind while third world countries still use fossil fuel because they have more oil sources and it's much easier/cheaper for them to do so.

There are some twists to the story, and while they're not that obvious, I wasn't all *that* surprised when the revelations were revealed.

Now, onto the characters:

Teegan was a great protagonist. When she found out that she was 100 years into the future, she didn't believe it and still felt like she was living in the past, with her boyfriend, family and friends' memories still fresh in her mind.

She wasn't really your typical brooding heroine who complains about her situation. She dealt with the condition she was in (even though she still felt like it was 2027) and tried to live a normal life even though the government is pampering her as this miracle that woke up 100 years later.

The secondary characters were diverse and very likeable. However, because they're not your average YA secondary characters, Teegan stands out in contrast due to her typical YA female looks. Which was a little bit disappointing. It didn't bother me much but still.

And of course we have romance.

The romance between Teegan and Abdi took the back seat of the story and burned slow and sweet. It didn't feel rushed (considering Teegan still had feelings for her boyfriend from the past when she woke up) and as far as I know, I don't think there'll be a love triangle.

So why did I give this 4 and not 5 stars? Well, the similarity of concepts between this and Across the Universe annoyed me a bit, even though it was done quite well. People who have read Across the Universe will notice that when they read this: (view spoiler).

Also, Teegan was cryonically frozen when she was dead. The process/science as to how the freezing process can bring her back to life was never explained properly. In the story, Teegan said she didn't understand much of the science terminology and steps to comprehend how she was frozen felt like a cop out to me.

Aside from that, I enjoyed the book a lot. The ending tied its knots together perfectly and even though there's no cliffhanger (thank god) **I NEED THE NEXT BOOK RIGHT NOW!**

Me:

You:

Me:

~Tina~ says

3.5 stars

It's the year 2027 in Australia - Melbourne and sixteen year old Tegan Oglietti is having a typical happy day. She's off to a political rally with her best friend Alex and new boyfriend Dalmar. The day was looking up and things couldn't be more perfect.

Till it all faded to black and Tegan woke up in the year 2128, a hundred years into the future.

A sniper was after the Prime Minister that faithful day, but he was sloppy and hit Tegan instead. She died on the way to the hospital but she signed up for a donation program, donating her body to science, only this is a very different kind of science.

Tegan is the first candidate to successfully survive cryonics, a frozen coma. But the future has its problems and its secrets and Tegan must choose what kind of role she wants to play in this new life.

When We Wake is a thought-provoking, cruel and unique look into one girl's journey in life, after death. In this book Tegan is talking straight to the reader as she tells us her story. What it was like in her old life and what's happening now. I really enjoyed the way this was delivered. It felt more personal and emotional. It was very sad to hear about Alex and her mom and Dalmar since it felt like she could have had such a wonderful life before her untimely death. Specially with Dalmar, the boy she's always loved and was only with him for one day before this all happened. I've always been a sucker for friends-turned-romance so this was even more bittersweet.

I really enjoy Karen Healey's writing, I've read one of her other books before, *Guardian of the Dead* and even then I found her work refreshing. But I'd be lying if I said I understood the entire world that Healey tried to convey in the book. It has a very heavy morality and religious approach as well as political and government scandals. Then we have the futuristic conditions and cultural shock and how strange this new reality is to both Tegan and the readers. There was quite a bit of information to process and a lot to take in which made this book a little hard to connect with, but I still found the general concept pretty incredible.

Tegan is a very easy character to lose yourself with. Her story is terrible and sad but at the same time it's absolutely fascinating. I love the fact that she has her own mind and her own will. She doesn't just roll over and play nice, she does things her way and is determined to have a life according to her rules. I also thought her love for the Beatles was great and I loved that the names of the songs were chapter titles.

Abdi was hard to connect with when we first met him, but eventually he started to grow on me more throughout the book. The romance is light, but it would have felt off if it was anything more than what we

got.

I also enjoyed what Marie brought into the story and was glad that she stayed good people since I wasn't sure who I could trust once we get deeper into the story line.

All in all, this turned out to be a decent read. It has its flaws but it also has its moments where I was glued to the pages. The characters are intriguing, the writing and the concept fascinating and this really is one of those story that makes you really ponder the possibility of what the future holds. Very scary stuff my friends. I may not have loved this the way I wanted to, but I think fans of this genre will want to experience this spine-tingling dystopia sci-fi thriller escape that is like no other!

This review and more can be seen at WinterHaven Books

Colleen Scidmore says

This is probably about a 3.5 star read.

Tegan Oglietti is known as the Living Dead Girl. She is given that name because Tegan died in the year 2027, actually she was murdered. But through technology and her prior authorization to donate her body to science, her body was saved through cryogenics and woken up a century later. She is told they have woken her to gain data for a government project to rescue and revive dead soldiers. She is only too happy to help because her father was a mortally wounded soldier and she would like to save others even if he couldn't be saved.

Even with the importance of this project Tegan is of course having a bit of a time adjusting, her emotions are still at the place where it was just yesterday, she had started dating Dalmar, her older brother's best friend and her secret love for forever. And her best friend is still Alex. But really those people are no longer in her life and she has to come to terms with that. On top of that the world has changed quite a bit in the 22nd century. Toilets are not the same (in fact it's pretty gross what they do with human waste, good for the planet but gross), temperatures are warmer, computers are different, the majority of people don't eat meat, even the slang is different. Then there is the fact that Tegan is basically the property of the Australian Government. And to top it all off she has the media hounding her every move and a crazy cult called the Inheritors of the Earth following her around and telling her to commit suicide because she is an abomination to God. Her soul has already left her body, she is an empty shell.

Now tell me that's not a lot for a sixteen year old to handle! But surprisingly she's doing a pretty good job, except for the occasional outburst to the media, her fights with Colonel Dawson to gain more freedom, which I fully support, and her problems with her every move being reported by certain fellow classmates.

Tegan is trying to live her second life, she's has a guardian who she cares about, a close new friend and maybe even a love interest when things get a bit funny. She begins to question why her? Why did the government bring back specifically? Surely there are other candidates that were put in a frozen sleep that have more knowledge of this century and able to deal better than her with the current culture. Then there's the creepy guy from The Inheritors of the Earth that directs the same question at her, why her and what secret project is the government working on.

Tegan now has to decide keep her head down and trying to live a semi normal second life or throw it all out the window and try to make her world a better place.

I liked When We Wake a decent amount but was not exactly in love with it. It read well, was an easy read and it definitely gave me a lot to contemplate. There are issues in this book that happen in their future that can quite possibly become a reality to us and that kind of freaked me out. I really should not turn a blind eye to the earths resources and turmoil, not that I don't ever think about it. It's just so easy to get caught up in your every day life and not consider what is going on outside your own person bubble of yourself and your loved ones. I even liked Tegan and her group of friends. I thought they were all very noble, eco conscious teenagers and shocked about their values considering their age. But I didn't get that emotional attachment with the characters that I do with the book I love, and I'm not sure why. Maybe it was the subject matter, maybe I was thinking more about the comparison of the fictional world to ours too much, or maybe it was the way it was written but I just didn't get that feel of investment that I do at times.

I was pretty shocked how it ended, and it definitely gives me a reason to pick up the sequel. Which I will most definitely. Maybe something additional will click for me with While We Run.

Lisbeth Avery {Domus Libri} says

The only reason I read this book was because of Renae's review. I couldn't have been any less interested in the book, to be honest. It sounded like another boring dystopian with a hint of ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.

I'm so happy to say that WHEN WE WAKE was different from everything I'd ever read in the genre. Dystopian and science fiction are my favorite genres, and have been ever since I was a kid. I don't often get lucky with them however and I tend to find most of my favorite books in the fantasy and contemporary genres.

I got lucky.

WHEN WE WAKE is set in 2127 where the world is very different from how it is now. But in a good way (for the most part). The world is greener, for one. Mankind learned to live by the land and follow the three 'R's of recycling. Homosexual love isn't viewed any different than heterosexual love - which is awesome. Yet the world is certainly not perfect as racial tensions are higher than ever.

I guess Lennon's 'Imagine' world hasn't happened yet. (view spoiler)

Tegan wakes up to this world - like she *literally* woke up. She was cryogenically frozen for 100 years after being accidentally shot and 'killed'. This is the point where you have to just go with the flow. It doesn't make any sense that Tegan could sign up for being frozen without actually knowing what she was signing up for.

Tegan faces the obvious cultural shock of walking up a hundred years into the future, not to mention the grief that comes with the realization that all of Tegan's friends and family have been dead for a very long time. She also faces the trouble that comes with being the first successful awakened person, target of a cult, and being used by various institutions and people.

Thankfully, Tegan is more than apt to care of herself. She's one of my all time favorite heroines. Tegan is strong and willful. She's definitely not afraid to speak her mind when and wherever she chooses.

"It was the truth," I said.

"Truth! We didn't put you on camera to speak the truth! We needed a pretty face!"

"Well, tough," I snapped. "You got me instead. I guess your little clockwork doll broke down."

-page 189

"I am so tired of being *used*. The army tried to do it, Tatia tried to do it, and now you're trying to do it. I'm a person, not a symbol, not property, and not a prop. If you want me dead, I can't stop you, but I won't make it easier for you either. Dirty your own fucking hands."

-page 273

The quotes remind me a bit too much of *MOCKINGJAY*, the finale in the Hunger Games series. Katniss was being used by both the rebels and the formal government for much of the book. What disappointed me was how well Katniss took it. All I wanted was for her to say what Tegan did.

She didn't.

I really love Tegan even though it's not like she was ever the most original character. I like that about her in this case. People can be brave without being a superhero - it's actually possible. Tegan was a brave, wonderful girl who wasn't a superhero, nor did she try to be. I think she was perfect without being... perfect.

While the book deals with a lot of really serious and deep issues like racial discrimination, Healey doesn't fill her entire book with that. She instead fills her time with needed character development and the most important thing to any book - character interaction. Each and every one of Healy's characters are well rounded. I feel like Bethari, Joph, and the others could be in my life and that they could be my friends.

What I truly love about the characters is how different they are. They all come from different religious backgrounds, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. This is very much lacking in most YA (and Adult) literature. The characters are usually white, very rarely anything other than a Christian or an Atheist, and straight. There is nothing wrong with white Christian straight people but I do really love when authors add characters that break the average mold.

Tegan and the other characters were definitely my favorite aspect to the book but the moral and ethical problems that were introduced were another one of my favorites. There are a few that I wish were more elaborated on but for the most part, I felt that they were a very nice addition to the book.

Before I end the review, I want to say that I, like some other reviewers, am very sad to hear that there is a sequel to *WHEN WE WAKE* in the works. I found the ending perfect for the book and wouldn't want it any other way. I will probably end up reading the sequel just because I want more Tegan but I highly doubt it will be anything like *WHEN WE WAKE*. But then again, you never know. Healy is probably talented enough to pull it off.

WHEN WE WAKE is an intelligent, beautiful dystopian that really challenges the norm of dystopian novels. With this book, I have a bit more hope that, just maybe, other authors will realize that there is more to dystopian fiction than love triangles. I recommend this book with all my heart and will be seeking out Healy's other books.

