



The Future Unborn

Khristina Chess

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Acceptance into MIT means everything to Kansas Jones, a straight-A student, class president, top female swimmer on the varsity team, and member of the local teen robotics club. Her high school resume is immaculate. Getting pregnant at eighteen is unthinkable.

Then the unthinkable happens.

Twelve weeks seems like plenty of time to take care of the situation. She knows what to do. It's just that she has to take SATs first... and study for finals for the grading period... and prepare for her local MIT interview. Her Early Action college application is due. The team is pushing hard to finish their robot in time for the R2-RoboCon competition in December. An abortion requires money and time to plan, and she doesn't have either.

When a close family member loses a child, Kansas sees how she could fix everything, but it might cost her MIT and all her dreams for the future. Is she willing to carry this unwanted pregnancy to term? Will she be able to give the baby away?

The Future Unborn Details

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From Reader Review **The Future Unborn** for online ebook

Olivia Farr says

"The Future Unborn" covers a lot of really big issues. Kansas is an 18-year-old senior determined to work on robotics for NASA. To achieve this, she is filling her schedule with extracurriculars, retaking her SATs and applying for MIT early admission. At the same time, her mother is increasingly distant and less involved, her father is getting remarried to someone she's never met, and her shoulder injury has gotten worse, preventing her from swimming, the sport she loves. When she is on a fall break with her mother, who ends up spending the whole time working, Kansas is seduced by a windsurfing instructor, Foster. For fear of seeming too naïve, Kansas does not insist on using protection. She soon finds out she is pregnant- something that could derail all her plans.

At the same time, one of Kansas's extracurriculars is to help her aunt at the no-kill shelter she runs. Her aunt is desperate to have a baby and has burned through her savings for infertility treatments. Her last chance works- only to result in a devastating miscarriage (miscarriage here is the future unborn). Kansas keeps putting off making a decision about her baby, but she begins to think this may be the answer to her aunt's problems- her aunt could adopt her baby and she can keep her future intact, the way she had imagined. She just worries about her aunt (who almost functions as a parent since hers are somewhat negligent) would react to the mistake she has made in getting pregnant in the first place. This self-blame leads Kansas to keep hiding her pregnancy until she must confront it with her family.

At the same time, the book centers around a robotics competition that Kansas has entered with her friends- one of whom, Taylor, has a really obvious crush on her. Kansas is unwilling to take a chance with him after how burnt she felt from Foster. Everything gets wrapped up in a bow at the end, but the conflicting feelings persist. This was a somewhat unique perspective on teenage pregnancy. However, the real shining star, so to speak, of the book was the insight into miscarriages and what they can mean, how people react to them, and the effects it can have on the mother/parents.

It's a well written and fairly quick read with clear start and end points. Overall, it was an emotionally intense but thought-provoking read. Please note that I received this book through a goodreads giveaway. All opinions are my own.

Ericka Rheanne says

This was provided by the We <3 YA Books! group on Goodreads and Khristina Chess in exchange for an honest review.

I rated this 3 stars because of the following:

The beginning of **The Future Unborn** really grabbed my attention. I read the first twenty pages or so that were for preview on goodreads before requesting the free PDF to read for review and I really liked it. The first few pages had me sold on the book.

Though, I realized a few things as I was reading. The story told a lot instead of showing. The main girl, Kansas, thought everything in a narrative way instead of in a way that made me feel like I was her. She said

what was happening, instead of describing what it was like to watch what was happening from her own eyes. Get where I'm coming from? I know, I sound a bit confusing, but it's hard to put what I'm thinking into words.

"I don't want to start any relationships I can't finish. If you love someone, you get hurt when they go away."

Because of the narrative aspect of things, I felt like the story skipped over a lot of situations and points that could have been further delved into and explained. It seemed like a lot of activities that Kansas was doing in the book were just skimmed over or left out completely. I didn't really get to connect to her as much that way.

However, *Khristina Chess* did a really good job of diving into the teenage mind. She talked about the use of hashtags, twerking, **Batman vs. Superman**, the **Big Bang Theory**, and much more! That is what a lot of teens center their conversations or actions around these days and it was nice to read from the mind of a teenage character that actually acted like a teenager.

The tragedy (with Kansas's Aunt Marcy) happened way too early in the book in my opinion. I didn't even get to know the characters that well before the tragedy happened so I didn't sympathize that much because I just didn't know the characters well at all. I hadn't gotten connected personally to them yet.

"There is no place for the word twerking anywhere on your college application. Ever."

Taylor was a really cute character. I liked him all along. He was a nerdy flirt and it was very cute. Not a lot of people take up the Nerdy-Slash-Cute-Guy-With-Confidence type character that Chess did. I became really attached to him very early on in the book and I was cheering for him every time he made a move on Kansas.

The middle of the story kind of dragged on for me and I only ended up reading 50 pages in two weeks, but I finally got back in to the story towards the end and rocketed through the last 60 pages in the same evening.

Overall, the story wasn't bad. It's a short, sweet read about family, learning and growing into an adult, and maybe a little romance if you're into that. I'd recommend.

"In all those movies, how does Lois fail to see that Clark Kent is really superman? I mean, his disguise is a pair of glasses."

Check out more reviews on my blog: <http://rheareads.wixsite.com/rheareads>

InD'tale Magazine says

A contemporary YA novel, “Future Unborn” is a poignant tale of one girl’s true test of coming of age as she weighs all the possible consequences resulting from having a one night stand.

Read full review in the 2016 October issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Keep Calm Novel On says

The Goodreads group We Heart YA Books provided a copy of the PDF in exchange for an honest review.

The Future Unborn is a coming of age Young Adult novel where the female protagonist is a strong and driven young lady. Kansas Jones is an exemplary student completing her senior year of high school. She is determined to attend MIT and wants to work in robotics. Kansas discovers the unimaginable—she is pregnant—the consequence of unprotected sex.

The novel quickly introduces the reader to Kansas’ world. It is clear that she is focused, ambitious, confident and comfortable in her own skin. She is truly likeable and real. Her endearing circle of friends adds depth as well. Their voices are well developed with identifiable personalities. This character driven novel follows Kansas on her journey and the decisions that may change her path as she explores her options. The author explores the twists and turns of one’s life with sensitivity and compassion.

Kansas’ mantra is simple: ‘if you follow your dreams everything will work out’. Will it work out for her? This page-turner does not disappoint.

Shannon Springer says

Amazingly Written

This author is amazing! I'm gonna read all of hers! Highly recommended for readers of Young Adult fiction! This will be in my top ten books of 2016!

BethLee says

I RECIEVED THIS BOOK FROM WE HEART YA BOOKS AND THE AUTHOR IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW. THIS DOES NOT AFFECT MY VIEWS OR OPINIONS IN ANY WAY.

Khristina Chess has written a brilliant novel about teen pregnancy.

Kansas Jones has her future all planned out. She wants to get into MIT, and be in the robotics program. But when an unexpected pregnancy changes her plans, she is forced to change her plans. Will she keep the baby,

or will she have to give it up?

I thought this book was about a very unique topic. There are many books out there about teen pregnancy, but not many like this. It was relatable and fun to read. The Future Unborn reminded me of Someone Like You by Sarah Dessen. I don't compare a lot of books to Sarah Dessen, so that is saying something.

Kansas was a very relatable character. She had big goals and knows how to get them done. However, she still has flaws. She slips up on night on vacation and gets herself in this big mess. When in it, she has to make some big decisions.

I didn't like how much time Kansas liked debating whether to keep the pregnancy. She spent at least half the book without telling her parents about it. I did like how she debated giving her baby to her aunt, who couldn't have kids.

The robotics aspect was very interesting and cool. It made the book more modern, and gave Kansas more depth. I liked how she made friends (and more than friends) in the robotics club, and learned to be less controlling.

Overall, this is a good book dealing with a great topic.

Joanne says

I HATED the main character with a fiery passion. She was juvenile, narcissistic, and for someone who was going to MIT (which we heard no less than 17,000 times), she wasn't that bright. She kept saying that she was old enough and mature enough to handle this "problem" herself, but she spent the entire time bemoaning that her life was over and whining about how stupid she'd been. If she had bothered doing more than the absolute bare minimum of research, she would've learned that Planned Parenthood could've helped her in so many ways. And for someone who was oh so mature, she was incredibly prone to sulking and temper tantrums whenever she didn't get her own way. Instead of admitting that choosing things to do with the robotics contest via vote or draw was fair, she went into a pout because her idea wasn't immediately chosen (and it wasn't even her idea to begin with but did she give her friend the credit? Um, no!). The thing that irritated me the most was that she spent the whole book whining and crying and having fits whenever she didn't get her way and then she just got to get away with everything scot-free. She told her mother and had her mother say she was PROUD of her. I'm pretty sure if her mother knew how she'd been acting for the past three months, she wouldn't be proud. She'd probably lock her in her room for a month for being a spoiled brat. If the author had made Kansas deal with some consequences, it would've gotten more stars but I just can't justify giving it a good review when good things happen to bad people.

Kate says

An okay little book. Kansas made some interesting choices and was able to handle her mistakes remarkably well. The story seemed to be building towards one of those too-easy happy endings for everyone, but then it definitely didn't. Worth a read.

Doris says

I would like to say, that it takes a brave person to dive into such topics as we see in *The Future Unborn*. Khristina Chess is a brave woman indeed!

In this book, we meet and follow Kansas Jones, an 18 year old MIT hopeful, as she finds out that just one time can alter the course of her life.

As a character, Kansas is a tad hard to follow. I think that the POV that we are provided adds a little to her mystery. I found that I was told what was happening more than being allowed to feel it with her. This caused me to not be as emotionally vetted as I usually am in a story. Sometimes this type of writing style is perfect, in this case, with such a heavy subject I personally feel that I would like to connect with Kansas more, and actually feel her growth and change through the tale.

A little out of the norm for me, this book hit on a lot of emotional triggers for me, her aunt has a situation that hits very close to my heart, and while there are times I can feel her strain and emotional pull... I feel there could really be more. With the two characters with the parallel issues, there was an amazing chance to build an emotional connection to and from Kansas that I just didn't feel.

I think that more than a teenage pregnancy story, this was a coming of age story for Kansas and Taylor. I found that we got more of a connection with that story line than anything, and the rest kind of faded away even though it was supposed to be the focal point.

I did enjoy the story overall, and I would like to see where Kansas Jones ends up.

Victor Oh says

The Goodreads group We Heart YA Books provided a copy of the PDF in exchange for an honest review.

The book is full of spirit and energy. Very few books have gripped me this well in ages. All the geeky people will love this. There were references to all the cool robot movies. I will just leave it at that. All I can say is.... I LOVED IT and if you give it a chance, you might love it yourself.

I started this book with no expectations or any preconceptions of it.

It turned out to be a book I will never forget!

Khristina is a genius I must say. Brilliant!
