



Replica

Jack Heath

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'Whose body is that on the table?' I ask.

She stares at me, as though the answer is obvious. 'It's yours,' she says.

Before I have time to scream, she types a command on the keyboard. My consciousness whirls away like storm water down a drain.

Chloe wakes up to find all her memories have been wiped. And the only person who knows what happened is a teenage girl who looks and sounds exactly like her.

Who is she? And what does she want?

Chloe is running out of time to discover the truth. But she's in even more danger than she realizes, and nothing is as it seems . . .

Replica Details

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Author : Jack Heath

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From Reader Review Replica for online ebook

Steph Bowe says

An awesome possible-near-future sci-fi novel with a fantastic premise and lots of killer twists. It's very, very difficult to talk about *Replica* without accidentally revealing any of these twists (and I hate to be a plot spoiler, I do) but I will say things that are pretty clear from the outset: it's a novel about a replica of a teenage girl, created via 3D printer with silicone skin and a consciousness downloaded as open-source software - technological details that ground *Replica* in our reality. *Replica* raises lots of interesting questions about the nature of consciousness and what makes us human. I love thinking about the possibility that I am a robot, or in the *Matrix*, or that we're all aliens (I use the excuse that I'm imaginative and a writer but I'm actually just a bit odd) so I found this premise immensely engaging. It's set in Canberra but nothing feels overtly Australian about it. Without being horrifically spoiler-ish, I love that for once there's a non-hetero romance in a YA sci-fi/thriller novel - I want to see more of this!

The ending is of the open variety, clearly set up for a potential sequel with a lot of things left unresolved. I am not a fan of endings that spell it all out for the reader and tie up all loose ends - I like to both write and read endings where it's up to the reader what happens next. That said, as much as I love open-ended stories and concise novels, there are things I would've loved to have seen explored further and in more depth - it's a very plot-driven novel and while characters are authentic and believable (Narrator Chloe is realistic and likeable and complex), there's a necessary economical use of detail at times to maintain pace. Between the nefarious organisation and the conspiracies and the robotic clones it was difficult to get to know Chloe's family and friends as well as I'd like (as a reader of primarily character-driven novels) so I'm really looking forward to a sequel.

Replica has an amazing concept and a terrifically intriguing opening scene, and it's stacked with thrills/ twists/ action that means it's probably inadvisable to start reading it at ten p.m. if you'd like to be asleep at a reasonable time. If you like sci-fi, action, mystery, thrillers or some combination thereof, it's definitely worth a look. Robotic replicas, you guys. How could you not want to read this?

Rhys says

The ending, quite frankly, is absurd.

Emma says

REVIEW BY JOSEPHINE 8:7

Replica is a thrilling story that keeps you guessing the entire time and never stops with the action and puzzles. Chloe Zimetski wakes up as a disembodied head and with someone who looks exactly like her working on a headless body. Hers. Of course, this is a lot to take in for a head on a shelf, but what's worse is this copy of her is taking over her life. Or is it the other way around? What does this girl want with her family? And who is she? Chloe has to find this all out in a time where nothing is as it seems. No biggie, right? Try adding secrets and lies and a stolen device. Biggie now?

My favourite part of the story was when Chloe (the one who woke up without a head) went to school, was getting nervous and jittery and just that entire section was funny and well written with the sudden plot twist. Replica is written in a familiar setting so it was easy to identify with and how awkward and paranoid Chloe was made it funny. Then, when the plot twist happened, Chloe changed completely making the plot intense and gripping.

There aren't many characters in Replica, out of the few characters there weren't many very important characters so my choice for favourite was quite narrow. Chloe had a split personality and went from scared and innocent to bad-ass and quick thinking which made her really unpredictable and exciting to follow in the storyline. She came up with theories of what was happening and plans of escape really well, and it made me excited to discover if she was right and how the plan was going to work out. At the start, she seemed slightly dumb and not very interesting, but as the plot went on she revealed her quick mind and brave actions and became a very likeable character.

Chloe's parents didn't feature much but when they did they seemed like very average parents. Then you discovered a HUGE secret!!! Learning about that made you spend more time thinking about Chloe's parents and how involved they actually were. Henrietta- Chloe's best friend- was a normal teenager who drew the reader towards her with her bubbly, friendly and funny nature. She noticed Chloe wasn't quite herself and it put the reader on edge, wanting to protect Chloe but also wanting to see what would happen if someone found out. Then there was the glaring girl in Chloe's classes- Becky. She was an utter mystery for a short while then her secret was unveiled as well. Another turn in the maze that is Replica's storyline.

The ending of Replica was a massive surprise and I was definitely not expecting it. It made me want a second book even though most of the loose threads were tidied away by the conclusion. I don't know if I'd have written it differently though, because it was a really interesting way to end the book and it makes you want to re-read the chapter again and again in case you missed anything to make the end make more sense. It doesn't, but it would make the book more popular because readers would tell people about the ending and make people read it too so they could discuss it.

I would like to read more books by this author mainly because of the plot twists and ending. It made the book really interesting and I think other books by this author would have the same sort of style. His writing also includes mature themes that made it even more interesting to read about and was educational too. I would (and have) recommended this book to my friends and family because it was a really good read and was also gripping. However, I think it wouldn't be suitable for children under 12 because of the mature themes and ideas. Also, if anyone over this age is uncomfortable with themes like homosexuality, I would suggest not reading it. I found it very enjoyable and these types of themes just gave the story an edge for me but I understand that others may feel differently.

Overall, I would give Replica four out of five points because it was a very good plot and ideas but the secondary characters were lacking in depth and there were a few grammar/spelling mistakes I spotted. But otherwise I really enjoyed it.

Hockley says

This is a cinematic thriller with a chilling core wrapped deep within twists, turns and constant surprises.

Read more here <http://raven-reads.blogspot.co.uk/>

Dean C. Moore says

Replica builds on ideas explored in Ink, Inc., one of my all-time favorite single-issue sci-fi books. The story is told from the first-person perspective of a newly awakened and freshly printed person! She is a copy of her maker, but unlike her maker has no human rights legislation to protect her. As it turns out, that's the least of her problems, as she's being tracked by nefarious parties for reasons she doesn't understand. She must not only dodge vastly superior forces out to get her but must do so as a stranger in a strange land and as someone who has yet to discover the intricate workings of her own mind. What's more, it's vitally important at all times to her survival that her true identity not be known, meaning she must pass one Turing test after another on the fly as police, the real Chloe, her own "parents," and best friends, all put poignant questions to her that could easily trip her up and betray her imposter status.

The author excels at the sci-fi thriller format, writing with an immediacy, an urgency, and a frenetic pacing that is non-stop. Anyone contemplating what it might be like to be scanned or uploaded into robot bodies in the days ahead, as Ray Kurzweil and others predict will be an option in the not too distant future, or is fascinated by the "print everything" economy many futurists also say is lurking around the corner, will enjoy this book nearly as much as its predecessor.

Young adults and teens will find much to enjoy here also, as the story follows a high-school aged girl (the replica is built to pass for.) The high school high jinks and teen psychology was as realistic as the forecasting of things to come. This is great futurism done in a highly enjoyable format; why be simply intrigued by insights into tomorrow-land when you can also be entertained by them?

Some ways in which this novel contrasts with Ink, Inc. is in the pervasive use of black humor. It's by no means a comic thriller, but Chloe's replica has some die-for snarky reactions to what's going on around her that had me reeling on multiple occasions.

I also found myself fascinated by the humanizing process the replica undergoes and the author's ability to keep such a difficult transformation highly believable at all times.

As to my nitpicks, the story starts as a promising psychological thriller slash sci-fi horror but wanders quickly into what feels more like a mystery thriller with more of a who-done-it format as the replica continues to investigate just what kind of intrigue she finds herself embroiled in, who is after her, and why. I personally think the author's writing style fits the action-thriller format better than the mystery thriller, but you can't blame a writer for wanting to stretch himself, and a reader for wanting something that isn't entirely predictable from one story to the next. This is arguably not a flaw in the writing, just something to be mindful of depending on the reader's preferences. Moreover, as the action thriller aspect of the story periodically dials back up as the mystery thriller aspect takes more of a backseat.

Ann Elin Odland says

4,5 stars

Wow, denne var virkelig bra!

I løpet av mars mistet jeg hele leselysten, mest sannsynlig på grunn av hvor sakte og tungt det gikk med Anne Franks dagbok. Denne boken var perfekt "to get back on track", og endelig er det gøy å lese igjen. Den var kort, det skjedde alltid noe, den var spennende og morsom. Slutten var også litt trist, og selv om jeg fant et av hovedspørsmålene litt vel forutsigbart, var det flere plot twists som overrasket meg gjennom boken. Definitivt verdt å lese!

Adam Kirtland says

Imagine waking up on a normal day...any day of the week, totally at random only to find out that all of your memories have been erased? That alone is scary enough, but then to find out on top of that, that your one hope in the world is another person who is the exact replica of you. The same as you in both appearance and sound, this other person practically is you, they've got all the traits that you used to have and so much more.

Who is this other person and why is this happening to you? For Chloe that is the mystery that she must solve before its too late. Nothing is quite as is should be, or at least she thinks it isn't, if you can't remember anything...how would you know? Simply put, Chloe isn't ordinary.

The opening chapters are honestly some of the best of any book that I've read and it doesn't really relent right up until the end. Chloe (which ever one, trying to the review as spoiler free as I can) is an admirable character, she is a 'machine' with strength and determination that you will not believe. The only thing that let this down for me was a bit of a lacklustre ending, however I'll let this off as I'm almost certain that this was done to allow for a sequel, that would tie-up some of those loose ends.

With incredibly striking cover art, *Replica* is exactly the type of book you'll highly recommend to friends and then you'll soon realise that you've started a trend! The style and pace of the book means that you'll probably read it in a few sittings or even one long night if you've got the stamina, which I don't! This is a smart YA novel that is action-packed and thought provoking, that raises some really interesting debate.

WatermeLoonie says

YAS ACTUALLY, SURPRISINGLY GOOD??? ESPECIALLY FOR A NOVEL WHERE THE GIRL WAKES UP AND DOESN'T KNOW SHE IS AND BLAH BLEH BLEH BLEH ew. Plus, um robots? Yes please. And let us not forget the fact this was SET IN AUSTRALIA. Well Canberra. Which kind of loses a few points but hush.

And the twists! I really did not see them coming. That is some good work there Jack Heath. Please come to my school :(

Nikki says

This was fun! I'm glad I went in blind, because the story grabbed me from the start. The character development was much deeper than an earlier book I had read of Jack Heath's, so that was refreshing. I really liked Chloe and the way we discovered things with her. However, the plot became a little thin at times, and I

felt like the world building was a bit lacking. I was confused as to how far in the future this was supposed to be, and the level of technology available to a middle class family, and a teenage girl... Overall though, I really enjoyed this book.

Read the bloody book says

Replica by Jack Heath Review

So, right off the bat I should mention that I bought this book because I was in Dymocks and they were featuring it and it was written by someone I went to primary school with, so I was curious. I haven't seen them since 6th grade, so I don't actually know them or anything.

Replica

Genre: YA Science Fiction

What's it about: I think it's better going in not knowing much about this, so rather than telling you what it's about, I'll stick to how it starts. A girl wakes up in a basement with no memories, unable to move. Across from her is a headless body on a table. She is being held prisoner by a girl who looks exactly like her... and when she asks whose body is on the table, the girl tells her, 'it's yours'.

What did I think: I actually enjoyed this more than I thought I would. It will be really difficult to discuss this without giving away spoilers, so this review will be brief. It was entertaining and I think it was well written. It does require suspending quite a bit of logic though. Quite a bit. It is very young YA, like almost bordering on middle grade and it comes across as quite a simplistic story on the surface, but it actually has some deeper ethical issues hidden underneath which was good (or at least for someone like me who tutors bioethics and is thus interested in such things). I liked that although there were some twists that I saw coming a mile away, there were some that actually threw me, and I wasn't expecting that. I was completely engrossed in it while I was reading it and didn't want to put it down, but I wasn't dying to pick it up again once I did. That being said, I did read this in two days (it's a very short book.) That brings me to my biggest criticism was that it was too short (which is an odd thing coming from me because I love quick reads), but It did feel rushed, particularly the ending. I feel like the whole book could have been fleshed out more and we could have got to know the characters better as there wasn't much in the way of character development.

It was so weird to read a book set where I live though.

Anyway, overall I found this book enjoyable, far more so than I thought I would and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a quick YA sci-fi read.

I'm thinking of also reading another of his books Ink Inc. which I believe is about a serial killer in a world where everyone is telepathic or something.

3/5 stars

Sylvia says

Melihat covernya sungguh seraaaamm!! Bertanya-tanya dalam hati apakah ini novel horor pembunuhan, atau thriller hantu, rasa penasaran ini sudah tertunda selama setahun. Yap! Setahun sudah saya menunggu untuk bisa baca novel ini, dan akhirnya kesampaian juga. Hehe sabar menanti banget yes?

Kisah diawali dengan Chloe yang terbangun di basemen rumahnya, beberapa bagian ingatannya hilang. Seorang gadis duduk di dekatnya, memandang komputer dan dirinya, lalu Chloe melihat di seberang tempatnya ada tubuh tanpa kepala yang terbujur kaku. Siapa gadis yang ada di dekatnya ini? Mengapa dia memerintah-merintah Chloe seolah dia adalah masternya? Dan saat akhirnya gadis itu menoleh, wajahnya sama persis dengan dirinya! Siapa dia?

Keesokan harinya Chloe terbangun masih di tempat yang sama, dengan beberapa bagian ingatannya yang kembali. Gadis yang berwajah sama dengannya itu memberinya sederet perintah. Dan saat Chloe protes, dan menyerang gadis itu dengan kata-kata bahwa dia tidak bisa seenaknya mengambil alih kehidupannya, gadis itu malah mengatakan bahwa Chloe adalah ciptaannya. Nah lho! Kita masuk ke dunia cloning, kah ini?

Complete review on my Blog: Syl's Reading Corner

Joshua says

Jack Heath, I feel, is one of the most underrated thriller writers in the business. True, his material can be uneven, but it's all startlingly original, which is a welcome thing in a genre that is unfortunately stagnating. *Replica* is one of his most original works, and certainly one of his most important. Although he probably could have done more with this novel, what he did end up doing was absolutely amazing in its originality and implications.

Replica is filled with twists and turns and if I tried to keep all of them secret, I probably couldn't write a review. I'm going to assume that anything the publishers decide to reveal on the back cover is fair game. SO! *Replica* starts with a young girl named Chloe, who has been acting extraordinarily oddly as her paranoia mounts tenfold. For unknown reasons, Chloe creates an android copy of herself and then disappears. This leaves the android – we'll call her Chloe, too, for simplicity's sake – left on her own in a hostile world.

Chloe is left with no choice but to determine what the hell is going on with her creator before someone realizes she isn't human. Her investigation leads her to discover some uncomfortable truths about herself and the world around her, be attacked by a private military company, and, most uncomfortable of all, fall in love with Human-Chloe's sort-of girlfriend. Love is confusing enough for humans, but it turns out it's even more confusing for androids.

Throughout the story, Heath doesn't miss an opportunity to investigate the philosophical and ethical conundrums of Chloe's existence. Is she sentient or does she just think she is, and is there a difference? Can she really fall in love? What really makes a person human? And, perhaps just as pertinently, how did Human-Chloe manage to create her in the first place? And why? He also doesn't miss an opportunity to throw twists and turns at us, along with plentiful action. Add a really adorable LGBT romance, and this is a

damn good book.

It's not without its flaws, of course. The primary flaw in this book is its relatively short length. Heath throws a LOT at us over the course of this book, and the whole thing felt very breathless. I thought this book could have benefited if we'd have a few moments to catch our breath between one shocking revelation and the next. The ending is also pretty terrible – although an upcoming sequel may rectify this. It's not terrible because of how tragic it is, but because of how contrived that tragedy is.

But despite its flaws, *Replica* is one of the finest examples of thriller out there from a master of the genre. It has engaging characters, plentiful twists, interesting ethical conundrums, a believable romance for once, and left a gaping hole in my heart. One that I hope will be filled with a sequel!

Vivian Undag says

- 1: I only picked up this book and read it because of the cover and how 'scary' it had seemed.
- 2: I liked it because it was like a thriller and action, the story line was great and the plot twist near the end was just amazing.
- 3: Everything is not what it seems like.
- 4: I liked "Chole" she tried so hard to do what she was told even though she had know she was a clone. She stayed to help instead of running off.

Joanne says

Originally posted on Once Upon a Bookcase.

I found the premise of *Replica* by Jack Heath so intriguing! A strange doppelganger, consciousness outside of a body, and danger?! Sounds sinister, kind of scary, and all kinds of awesome! And coupled with that oh-so-creepy cover, reading it was a no-brainer. *Replica* turned out to be a different story to what I was expecting, but seriously good! My summary below gives a little more away than the synopsis above, but it's not spoilery - we find these things out very early on in the story.

When Chloe wakes up in the garage, paralysed, with no memories, she is filled with fear. There is a body without a head on a table near by, and a girl who looks exactly like her. Chloe soon learns that she's actually a machine - the body is hers, her head not yet attached. She's a replica of the real Chloe, created to take her place and live her life. The real Chloe has discovered that she's being followed by strange man, so has decided to create replica Chloe to use as bait, and follow the stalker. But neither Chloe realises the danger they are in, that a group of people are after real Chloe. Soon replica Chloe is on her own, trying to figure who these people are and why they want her creator, without letting them catch her.

Oh my god, *Replica* is *so, so good!* I can't even begin to tell you just how amazing and original this story is! My summary above barely scratches the surface of what we discover in this book. It's so clever,, full of action and mystery, and I couldn't put it down! There's not much I can really say about it without spoiling the story, but *wow*, it's one hell of a ride! It's quite a short book at 256 pages, but there's so much going on, and never a dull moment. If you read it - and I highly recommend you do - you'll fly through it so quickly, not just because it's a short book, but also because the story is incredible!

(N.B. You may be wondering why, if it's such a short book, it took me six days to read - it's December, there's a lot of busy Christmas preparation going on, and I'm also very busy at work. It was *hard* not to be able to just sit down and read this all the way through!)

There is a small romantic subplot in the story, but it's very much a subplot. The focus is all on the danger Chloe is in. However, it was awesome to see the LGBTQ romance, and how the fact that it's to do with same-sex attraction is not even mentioned. It's just attraction, a big deal is not made out of it, and it's not even really thought of. It's a very small part of this story, but it's wonderful to see a same-sex attraction be the completely non-issue it should be.

If I had one issue with *Replica*, it would be how easily replica Chloe, and later, another person I won't mention, accept the fact that she's a machine. There's freaking out at first, but then almost like *that*, completely acceptance. This is what she is, let's carry on with life. I would have thought if you woke up to find out you actually weren't human like you believed, and were a machine, that would have a serious impact on your identity, but it doesn't really. Replica Chloe has questions about what will happen to her later, after - as a machine, once she's done what's required of her, will she be switched off, for all intents and purposes killed? But no real identity issues after the initial, very short freak out. I found that really quite strange. But this only a tiny thing that is overshadowed by the brilliance of the story!

Action-packed and keeping you on the edge of your seat, *Replica* is an absolute page-turner, one of the most addictive sci-fi thrillers I've read in a long time.

Thank you to OUP for the review copy.

Janusz Sojkowski says

Good book. Very interesting and has what i like
