



Replica

Lauren Oliver

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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.

Replica Details

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Author : Lauren Oliver

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From Reader Review Replica for online ebook

Laura says

*Monsters, they call us. Demons.
Sometimes, on sleepless nights, we wonder if they're right.*

I love what Lauren Oliver set out to do in Replica. She writes two books that can essentially be read on their own, but they ultimately enhance the experience if read them together as you'll get more to the story. This format is perfect in **this** particular story as it focuses on the themes of individuality and identity in a world where there are clones, or human replicas (unbeknownst to the rest of the world).

Both stories promise to bring surprising revelations critically important to the other story meaning the way you choose to read this book could affect your reading experience. i.e. if you choose to read Lyra's story in it's entirety first and then read Gemma's after. Certain revelations would remain unknown throughout the first story you read. OR if you opt to alternate chapters. Read one Lyra, then one Gemma. As secrets get revealed, you'll experience a different kind of suspense because you'll learn details in one that inevitably affect the other unbeknownst to them. OR you could only choose to read Lyra's story or Gemma's giving you a different experience as you didn't read the other perspective given. Anyway, whichever route you choose to go I'm sure will be fine. I chose to alternate chapters.

I truly loved how Lauren Oliver wrote scenes in both stories where there were minor differences because everybody has different perspectives and experiences. No two people experience the same thing. When two reiterate something that just occurred, it'll have minor variations.That idea is displayed in these pages. And only brings home that theme of individuality just a little bit more.

"Those girls are clones, Gemma. They lack brains."

The replicas are kept at the Haven Institute, found on a highly guarded private island off the coast of Florida. They keep it locked and sealed up tight with armed guards. Haven is a top-secret research facility where thousands of replicas are born, raised, and observed. This is a mystery to the rest of the world leading to plenty of conspiracy theorists wanting to know what is kept on that military-guarded island.

Lyra is an experimental subject at Haven, also known as 24. She's a very curious, inquisitive young lady since she's been stuck in the walls of Haven. The institute is all she knows only learning what those inside the walls allow her to learn. Until an explosion on the island gives her and a boy known only as 72 a chance to escape.

Gemma has been in and out of hospitals all her life. She's very sheltered thanks to her parents and is from a wealthy family. Gemma doesn't understand why her father treats her the way he does leading to questions she only becomes more desperate to answer as she learns of a mysterious connection to Haven. Can you say secret road trip?

The stories become intertwined somewhere along the way, which only raises more questions for both Lyra and Gemma about the mysteries of Haven.

I'm undecided on whose perspective I actually enjoyed more. Lyra's is fun with how innocent she is discovering the world for the first time. But in a way, Gemma's is more relatable being from the typical

world. The format is ambitious, but somehow leaves this feeling of disconnection. It is interesting how the repetition of certain scenes truly displayed the idea of individual perspectives, but this was a flaw at the same time for how it impacted the pacing of the story never really adding anything additional to it. In other words, it made the book slower and boring at times. I did find the format fascinating and intriguing, but I also wonder if the joke is on the rest of us and really she only wrote a dual-POV novel and then separated them. I'll have this thought when going into the sequel. There are a few big twists and secrets, as well as a satisfying ending that doesn't leave you hanging too bad. One side comment....if you've seen the movie *The Island*, wasn't this basically a YA version of that film? You could tell me it's the Haven institute in that movie and I wouldn't argue a bit.

Anyway, good book. I'm still trying to figure out if I would have found it as thought-provoking if it had been written in the more typical dual-POV format.

Heather 'Bookables' says

What a ride! I really loved how the whole concept of this book & how you can flip it to each character's side and the story ebbs and flows perfectly!

I also loved the sci-fi element! Cloning and these replica's, so interesting! It makes you question how far we should go with new science and what really makes you human!

Will def. be picking up the sequel in the fall!

I am filming a book review on this so I can share my thoughts on it, how I personally read it and if I thought the stories truly intertwined and etc! Be on the lookout for it soon!

Stacee says

I really liked the idea of this story being told from two entirely different sides.

I started with Gemma and was instantly captivated. The pages turned quickly and I couldn't wait to see what was next. I also really enjoyed Pete and their scenes together. Even when they were in danger, Pete was taking care of Gemma.

The Lyra side wasn't as exciting to me. I did like her scenes with Caelum and how they were slowly figuring things out.

The mirrored scenes weren't a complete copy. My main complaint is that I wanted more from the story. Where each side ended was hopeful, but not really cemented.

Overall, it was an intriguing read that I think a lot of people will enjoy.

****Huge thanks to Harper and Edelweiss for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review****

Nastassja says

Two girls, two stories. One epic journey for truth, friendship, family and love. Sounds quite intriguing, right?

Reality check: teenage drama, teenage hormones, teenage bitchiness, teenage love saves the world.

This book is - quoting: *Replica is an ambitious, thought-provoking masterwork.*

Ambitious - yes, plenty of it. *Thought-provoking* - um, **abs-provoking**? I know it's not *New Adult* level, but *Replica* is very good at reclining from the main theme, diving into sexuality instead of sci-fi element it claims to have.

Lyra is the replica aka clone. *Lyra* is on the run. *Lyra* wants to punish men who did bad things to her and her friends. What *Lyra* does? Riiiiight, thinks about abs.

The soap *Gemma* had bought was lilac-scented and pale purple, and *Lyra* found herself thinking of 72, naked, washing with purple soap, and the urge to giggle bubbled up in her chest.

72 is the guy whose abs *Lyra* wants to ogle, by the way. Like, you just got out of the facility you were living your whole life in, you know shit about real life or what to do, but, of course, your first instinct is to fantasize about boys. Yeah, why not indeed.

Gemma is a human girl, whose father is somehow involved with the whole *Replica* business. She, of course, goes to look for answers. Shy, absolutely self-conscious about her weight girl, who never did anything radical in her life before, goes on a fucking adventure without planning what she's gonna do once she reaches her destination. Brilliant! Predictable. Of, course, a cute guy agrees to drive her there. What does the girl think about?

His lips were soft. He didn't try and put his tongue in her mouth and she was glad. It was her very first kiss and she was nervous, too nervous to have to sort out whether she was doing it right or worry about opening her mouth and whether she was using too much tongue or too little.

Then she meets another cute boy and guess what?

Maybe she'd sit down next to him and he'd try and touch her thigh or force his tongue down her throat. Then again, she wouldn't mind. If anyone was in danger of getting sexually harassed, it was probably him.

And more abs!

Then we have some slat-shaming of the best friend, because she was ogling Gemma's abs. Fuck you, my best friend!

“And who’s that?” Her eyes had landed on Jake. She looked as if she wanted to lick him.
Gemma was surprised her tongue wasn’t lolling out of her mouth.

This is all **so primitive, so juvenile**. If I was reading a book about two teenage girls discovering the world, this book would've matched the profile, but I was promised a sci-fi book with EPIC fucking adventures! Plus the girls act like they have multi-personalities. At first, they investigate and mull about really serious stuff, and play - effectively - detectives. It takes quite a mature level of reasoning to do what they do, but the next moment stupid teenage drama kicks in, and we have four-year-olds in da style "show me you pennis, and I'll show you my vagina". Plus I am really bothered by the fact that - not only in this book - a girl can distinguish a guy's eye colour standing on the other side of the rode (jeez, I'd need kiber-sight to see shit from such distance), or seeing a stranger for the first time in her life, she notices every fucking detail about him: his nose, lip's shape, what he looks like under his shirt, hair colour - precise hair colour, mind you! Geez, I can't even remember one situation in my life when I was paying attention to so many features in a person I've only met five minutes ago.

And the ending is just epic. I get that there's going to be a sequel, and no real answers were given in this one. But if you read *Delirium trilogy* and remember how it ended, you probably know everything you need about Replica's ending (view spoiler)

I tried, really tried, to read and like *Lauren Oliver's* latest books. But none of them managed to hold my attention or interest. **Too much ambition, bad execution.**

Bye, Replica!

rin (lorenzo) says

I liked the idea of a 2-in-1 book, but it only worked when MCs were separate.
I also liked the idea of the story, but overall, I can't say I enjoyed it. I also couldn't connect with characters, so I didn't really even care about them.
Not sure if I'm going to continue the series.

Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says

This review appears on Happy Indulgence. Check it out for more reviews!

They say there’s three sides to every story – and there’s three ways of reading Replica. With two stories

printed on either side of the book, you can choose to read one story at a time, or alternate chapters between Lyra and Gemma, which is what I did.

Lyra is a replica who starts off life in a research institute, who has never known anything else. Being subjected to endless medical experiments and seeing countless peers suffer and die, I kind of thought she would be more traumatised or emotionally affected at her circumstances. However, despite her disturbing back story, Lyra kind of felt bland and boring. As she discovers the real world around her with the boy replica 72, she endlessly compares life to the research institute. She didn't really have a strong personality and didn't feel like a very believable character.

On the other side is Gemma, a girl who is searching for answers about her past which leads her to Haven, the same research institute where Lyra resides. Despite her insecurities with her weight and her swooning for the pervy Pete and later, the symmetrically pleasing Jack, there also wasn't much personality to her. She thought about kissing and her crushes at the most inopportune times, like when a man is holding a gun to her friend's head. Also it's kind of weird feeling anything for a love interest who is constantly referred to as "Pervy", but there you have it.

If Lyra is from the freaky dystopian future, then Gemma is more of a contemporary character who is struggling with her identity. Being the key selling point of the book, I was waiting for their storylines to converge, but when it got there, it was kind of underwhelming. Seeing the same situation happen in both of the characters point of views was repetitive and didn't really give any useful deeper insight. As twists and secrets unfold while reading each perspective, I also felt like reading one side of the story first would spoil the other.

While I always find clones to be a fascinating topic, Replica doesn't really delve too deep when it comes to them. I also didn't like how the book lacked action despite a few dead bodies here and there and some explosions. There wasn't much excitement while reading the story, despite a mild mystery as to what really happened at Haven. Upon reaching the end, I felt kind of disappointed like there wasn't really a point to the story.

This isn't the first time I've read a Lauren Oliver book – in fact, it's the 5th one I've read from the author. Aside from Delirium, which I read at the peak of my dystopian phase, I've been disappointed with each and every one. Replica was no different and I don't think I'll pick up any of her other books after this. The books always end up focusing on a romance that I don't really care about and bland characters with no personality. This is also the first book of hers that I've read that is set in third person perspective and it just didn't feel natural, with a lot of "She did this, she did that, then she talked to this person".

Even a pretty package and a cool premise couldn't save Replica for me, with it's bland characters, lacklustre plot and direction-less story. At over 500 pages, it's quite a long book to be invested in and it really dragged out for me. While some people might enjoy the alternating chapters, I found myself to be quite disappointed when I reached the end.

I received a review copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah says

Only 99p/\$1.34 on Kindle at the moment!

UK - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Replica-Laur...>

US - <https://www.amazon.com/Replica-Lauren...>

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

“They’ve been experimenting on the replicas,”

This was a YA sci-fi story, about clones.

Lyra was an okay character, and I did feel sorry for her, her side of the story didn’t feel very well-fleshed out though, and once I’d read Gemma’s story, Lyra’s almost seemed a bit unnecessary.

Gemma was a fuller character, and I liked her story much better. We actually got a lot more explanation as to what was really going on, and things made more sense.

The storyline in this was about Lyra living on an island at some kind of facility where clones were grown and experimented on, and finding the chance to escape when an explosion blew the place up. Gemma’s story was about her finding out about the facility where Lyra was living, helping Lyra to escape, and finding out what her father’s involvement in everything was. The pace in this was pretty good though, and we did get a pretty major twist which was interesting.

As for the whole two separate stories thing, I think it’s a bit of a gimmick. The story would have been better had it been Gemma’s story, with some chapters following Lyra thrown in (I read Lyra’s story followed by Gemma’s story, which is how the eARC was laid out).

The ending to this was okay, and it will be interesting to see what happens in the next book in the series.

7 out of 10

Tatiana says

A little better than I thought it would be.

Although "Never Let Me Go" this is not, the whole replica setup is fairly interesting. But, of course, the moral dilemmas of cloning are mostly forgotten to give space to romances. Which kind of grated because the span of the story is about 3 days, and both girls manage to fall in love with strangers anyway. Eh.

Only interested in how the duology ends if someone recaps the second book for me. Clones living on a scary compound hold my attention, kids in love on the run - don't.

P.S. The dual narrative is an ineffective gimmick. If you read one half all the way through, the second doesn't have any reveals left. People in our group who alternated chapters from both sides ended up liking it better, which begs the question - why not write it this way?

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

I have always appreciated Ms. Lauren Oliver's writing and creativity. The inventive layout of her latest novel was enough to convince me to buy the book as I have never encountered a flip book until Replica.

Yep, just one book. Cool, right?

I decided to start with **Lyra's** story just because I prefer blue over yellow (lol). To be an "it", a replica, made at the so called "Haven" facility and be somehow content made me admire her character. I admit to not immediately liking her story because it started a bit slow but I'm telling you, do not give up on the book because it gets really good. After reading Lyra's chapters, I admit I was shocked but at the same time I wasn't very satisfied either. I thought there were so many plot holes and unanswered questions but these things are what Gemma's story was meant for. ;)

Gemma's story is one I really enjoyed from the very beginning and even though her and Lyra's interlap at one point, it felt like reading a fresh new story, a whole new different world. Gemma's story is complete with mystery, suspense and it even includes your standard high school drama. It reads more like a contemporary while Lyra's was more sci-fi. It's incredible to have two different stories converging at one point making a single unified meaning while managing to be everything at once-scientific, realistic, philosophical and most especially human.

I don't think it matters which POV you decide to read first though. It's entirely up to you. You could even read alternating chapters from each of the girls' stories because however you decide to read the book, I'm pretty sure you'll end up enjoying the experience.

Adam Silvera says

YOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.

5 stars! Actually, this is technically two-books-in-one so that means it's a 10 star read :)

Full spoiler-free review soon, but for now, just know that I took my sweet, sweet time reading this because I loved it so much. Both stories, that is. I did have a SLIGHT preference to Lyra's narrative because she's a clone ("replica") and I love reading books that are very familiar to our world with a speculative twist to them, and that's what Lyra's story offered from the get-go. Still extremely fascinating to see the story from the other side of the street, too, where you have this every girl Gemma uncovering a greater mystery that's tied to the Haven Institute where Lyra was made. This reading format where you can bounce back and forth between the two stories is so ambitious, and I'm so happy it delivered in creating a fuller story without spoiling each girl's story.

Sandra says

NEW LAUREN OLIVER BOOK!

I want it now!!!

Asma Iceybooks says

If you had any doubts about REPLICA by Lauren Oliver, you can drop them. Because this book is wonderfully marvelous through and through. It's complex, it's different, it's mind-bending. It's everything you've ever wanted.

From the start, we're thrust into Lyra's world of hospitals and replicas, twisting in with Gemma's life of secrets. I read REPLICA alternating between Lyra and Gemma's chapters, which I believe lets us know more than reading each side of the story separately.

I loved how there are pretty much two stories in one book depending on how you choose to read it. It was incredibly genius of Lauren Oliver to be able to write Gemma and Lyra's story without spoiling the other, so that when combined you see their world in a greater aspect, but alone it's a shrouded mystery. It was pure epicness. And SO. WELL. DONE.

Lyra was the more intriguing of the two: her story and the way she perceived things was incredibly interesting. Her side of the story had more action and depth than Gemma's, which I think is mainly because Lyra doesn't know much about our world, so she ended up experiencing more.

While the ending did answer a lot of important questions, I still feel like it was pretty open. Open endings may be nice, but this was *too* open for my tastes. Not a cliff hanger, but our characters' stories aren't fully wrapped up. Hence, the reason I didn't enjoy the ending as much as I thought I would.

If you had any doubts (like I did), throw them out. For REPLICA is indeed: One. Epic. Novel.

Full review to come on IceyBooks.

Trina (Between Chapters) says

This is one of the most fatmistic books I've ever read. It's blatantly harmful and never once challenged the fat shaming. It also has a good deal of thin shaming. I would really recommend avoiding this book if you've ever had an eating disorder. There are also microaggressions toward mental illness, and a trigger warning for self harm.

See my reading updates for direct quotes from the book and why I felt they were problematic. My thoughts on the fat rep are from experience, as I'm a fat reviewer. Maybe not everyone will share my thoughts, and I don't claim to speak for everyone. I'm also not telling anyone not to read the book, or that they can't like it. I'm mad at the book only, not the readers.

Underdeveloped characters. Bland romances. The format was completely unnecessary, as the story was told entirely in 3rd person and I don't see why the two sides of the book couldn't be combined chronologically to avoid all the backtracking and repetitive scenes.

The premise of the plot is better than the execution. There was one good twist, but the ending was so lackluster and the synopsis of the sequel doesn't seem like it will explore what I want it to, so I won't be

continuing.

If you want to read this, I highly suggest using the reading order from Pretty Geekery (here: prettygeekery.com) as it flowed really well. At the very least I would recommend starting with Gemma's first 8 chapters (builds suspense, Lyra's side gives away everything from page 1) and ending with Gemma's last few chapters (it has an actual ending, Lyra's does not).

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Well, I liked the idea anyway!

Mel ???

Dannii Elle says

It is such a shame that I could not give this book a higher rating, as I found the ideology behind the conception of the story, as well as how the book was physically set out, to be both unique and interesting.

This story is told from the split perspective of Lyra and Gemma. Gemma is your average teenager, obsessed with how her peers perceive her and concerned over high-school dramas. Lyra isn't actually a human being at all, and is instead a cloned replica of an original person. She lives, along with the other replicas, on Haven Island. There she is subjected to testing and harsh living environments.

Gemma and Lyra's stories combine about a third of the way through their individual narratives. From this point, my adoration with the story quickly dwindled. What was originally an exciting concept, to lay the book out in two split sections, became a dull one. There were subtle differences in the plot that made each worth reading, but often the scenes overlapped and it just felt like you were reading the same thing twice over.

The focus of this book was on identity and it was interesting, at first, to note the subtle different ways two people could react to and what they could take from the same happenings. I appreciated what the book was trying to do, but, after a while, this felt dull and repetitive rather than exciting and innovative.

Also, if this book had continued to focus on the two original characters, it would still have managed to hold my interest. Instead, there were characters brought in, purely for added romantic drama, and this ruined any remaining affinity I had with the book. There were so many unnecessary characters and surplus drama when all I cared about was the central plot and the internal struggles of the protagonists. The extras felt like just that... extra. And not the good kind. For me, they served no purpose and I would have greatly preferred if this book had remained focused on the original and central topic of the concerns over identity, as well as the dystopian society being created, and continued to explore and open these themes up.

In all, I found this an inspired concept, but unfortunately, it was just not for me.
