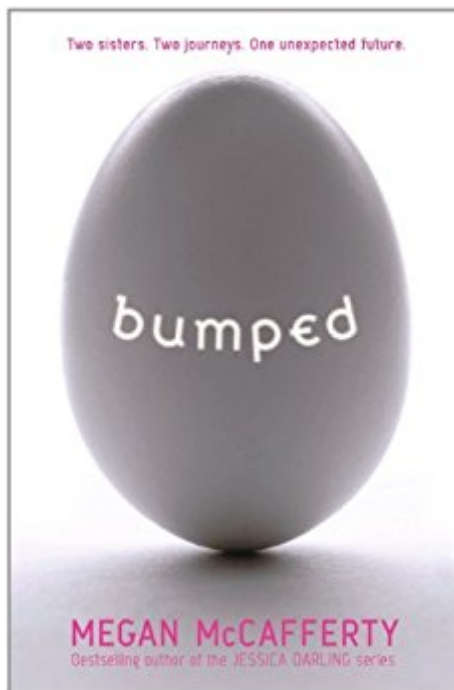




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Bumped



Synopsis

When a virus makes everyone over the age of eighteen infertile, would-be parents pay teen girls to conceive and give birth to their children, making teens the most prized members of society. Girls sport fake baby bumps and the school cafeteria stocks folic-acid-infused food. Sixteen-year-old identical twins Melody and Harmony were separated at birth and have never met until the day Harmony shows up on Melody's doorstep. Up to now, the twins have followed completely opposite paths. Melody has scored an enviable conception contract with a couple called the Jaydens. While they are searching for the perfect partner for Melody to bump with, she is fighting her attraction to her best friend, Zen, who is way too short for the job. Harmony has spent her whole life in Goodside, a religious community, preparing to be a wife and mother. She believes her calling is to convince Melody that prepping for profit is a sin. But Harmony has secrets of her own that she is running from. When Melody is finally matched with the world-famous, genetically flawless Jondoe, both girls' lives are changed forever. A case of mistaken identity takes them on a journey neither could have ever imagined, one that makes Melody and Harmony realize they have so much more than just DNA in common. From New York Times bestselling author Megan McCafferty comes a strikingly original look at friendship, love, and sisterhood in a future that is eerily believable.

Book Information

File Size: 568 KB

Print Length: 341 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; Reprint edition (April 26, 2011)

Publication Date: April 26, 2011

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004CFA9K0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #290,145 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26

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Customer Reviews

Harmony and Melody are twins separated at birth. One is sent to live with a Luddite, religious community while the other grows up in a modern world. Both girls, however, are compelled to breed as early and often as possible since the future of the human race depends on it. What do I think...? Well, I'm very confused by this YA book. On the one hand, the writing is solid, the characters are excellently crafted, and the story is very compelling. I read this book very quickly because it was quite a page-turner, and I felt close to all of the characters. The *idea* of a virus affecting human reproduction was also interesting as was the *idea* of the futuristic world in which young women are viewed as brood mares. But there are problems. For one thing, the entire womb-cult is a stretch. In the book, young men and women run rampant, having sex at any possible opportunity in order to sell their babies to older couples who (because of the disease) are no longer fertile. But hasn't anyone heard of the terms 'sperm/egg donor' or 'in vitro fertilization'? It would have made much more sense for the younger generation to sell off their DNA rather than give away their babies. Sure, it makes for a more compelling story, but it doesn't ring true. Secondly, the story moves at such a breakneck speed that it tends to become confusing. I had to re-read a few sections in order to figure out what was going on. This was less of an issue in the final third of the book, but at first, I wasn't sure if I could continue reading. Finally, the story ends with a jolt. There is no denouncement which makes turning the last page is like slamming into a brick wall. I certainly wouldn't give up on this author, but I simply can't give a better rating to this book.

"I dream of a life where girls don't hide behind veils. And they can dress as they want to and cut their hair or keep it long if that's what they like. And they can study the Bible, really study it by asking questions, and having them answered, and also read other unbiblical books too." The only reason that this book gets two stars is that it turns out to be a feminist novel that does have a good message - as a woman you CAN think for yourself, you ARE powerful... wait, let me find the quote. "We are smart. We are stunning. We are strong. We are everything we need to be." A GREAT message for any teenage girl. But so poorly executed. This definitely is not a book for anyone under the age of about 14. It's like 'Oryx and Crake' meets 'Brave New World' without birth control. And

with terrible writing. Which is so sad, because like I said the message is AWESOME.8 May: About half-way done. Let me preface. I'm not a puritan, I'm not a prude, premarital sex - a must. I believe it's possible for (older) teenagers to have safe sex and understand what the possible consequences are.BUT. This whole book is selling sex! It's ABOUT selling sex! Maybe my opinion is premature and there's some fabulous moral ending. We'll see.Other than that, the writing is weak and uninspired, (really Melody and Harmony? Zen - the super nice super balanced guy? Gotcha.) I'll let you know the results tomorrow.

Let me begin this by saying that I hated this book for most of the time I spent reading it (which wasn't much, it's a pretty quick read, a couple hours at most). It's an aggravating tale of innocent deception (you can't take too much of a dislike to the characters, because they are completely unaware of how awful they're being) and a completely corrupted not-so-distant future. The book is told in alternating narrations from the twin's perspectives. I liked the character Melody, she was a strong character doing what I would do in her place. She didn't whine, she wasn't a mean person, and she was a full, developed character. Harmony . . . Not so much. Almost every sentence she thought or said referenced god. I don't believe that this is authentic, and though I bought the book after reading reviews saying the same thing thinking it would be interesting to get inside a religious person's head, I can't help but think that the author thought the same thing. That was the main con of the book.But on the other hand, I felt that the story really picked up in the last 200-300 kindle pages. The ending left me with a lot of space to make up which way the story could have gone, which I respect in a novel. There's supposed to be a sequel, but I doubt that I'll read it. The message, in the end, was a better one than I felt there would be in the beginning of the book. Melody's best friend, Zen, was a great character, flawed but very endearing. All in all, this book isn't one I would recommend to a friend, but it's not one I regret reading.

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