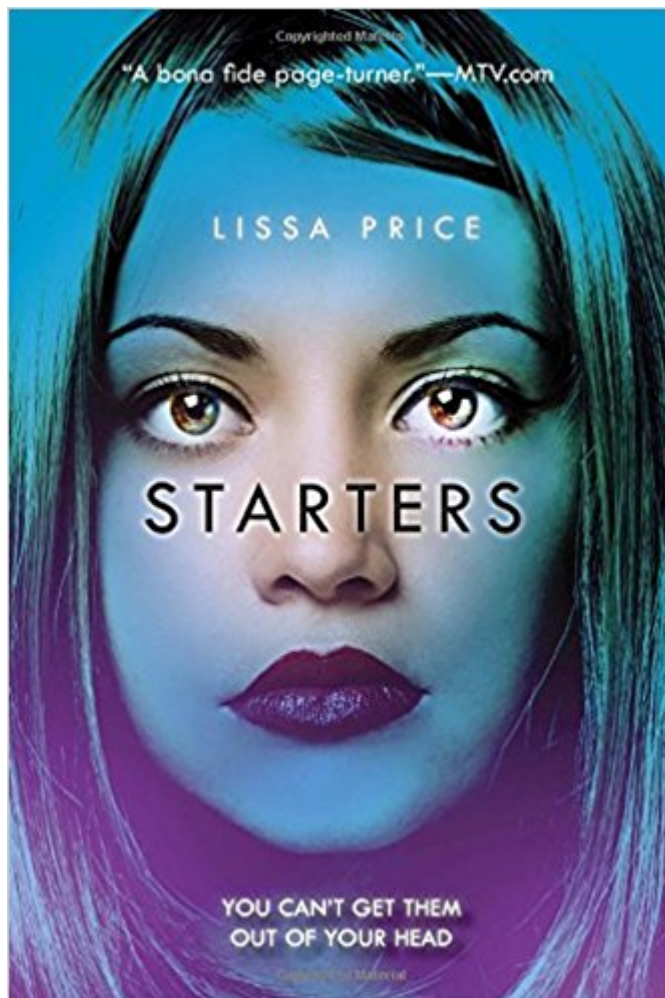




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# Starters



## Synopsis

An international bestseller—published in over thirty countries, this riveting sci-fi dystopic thriller is “a bona fide page-turner.” —MTV.com

Callie lost her parents when the Spore Wars wiped out everyone between the ages of twenty and sixty. She and her little brother, Tyler, go on the run, living as squatters with their friend Michael and fighting off renegades who would kill them for a cookie. Callie’s only hope is Prime Destinations, a disturbing place in Beverly Hills run by a mysterious figure known as the Old Man. He hires teens to rent their bodies to Enders—seniors who want to be young again. Callie, desperate for the money that will keep her, Tyler, and Michael alive, agrees to be a donor. But the neurochip they place in Callie’s head malfunctions and she wakes up in the life of her renter. Callie soon discovers that her renter intends to do more than party—and that Prime Destinations’ plans are more evil than she could ever have imagined. . . .

Includes Portrait of a Spore, a never-before-published short story that takes place in the world of STARTERS.

Praise for STARTERS: “A smart, swift, inventive, altogether gripping story.” —#1 New York Times bestselling author DEAN KOONTZ “Compelling, pulse-pounding, exciting . . . Don’t miss it!” —New York Times bestselling author Melissa Marr “Readers who have been waiting for a worthy successor to Suzanne Collins’ The Hunger Games will find it here. Dystopian sci-fi at its best.” —Los Angeles Times “Intriguing, thought-provoking and addictive.” —BookReporter.com “Readers will stay hooked. . . . Constantly rising stakes keep this debut intense.” —Kirkus Reviews “Fast-paced dystopian fiction. . . . The inevitable sequel can’t appear soon enough.” —Booklist “Intriguing, fast-paced . . . Fans of dystopian novels will be completely engaged and clamoring for the sequel.” —School Library Journal “Addictive and alluring.” —Examiner.com “Chilling and riveting.” —Shelf-Awareness.com “A must-read for fans of The Hunger Games and Legend. Fast-paced, romantic, and thought-provoking.” —Justine

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0550 (What’s this?)

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Ember (July 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385742487

ISBN-13: 978-0385742481

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 427 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #154,427 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian](#) #207 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings](#) #430 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Science Fiction](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Following the Spore Wars, 16-year-old Callie struggles to carve an existence for herself and her younger brother, Tyler, in a California where everyone between the ages of 20 and 60 has perished. Although many in this near-future society eke out meager, hopeless existences, an elderly, wealthy Beverly Hills population and their grandchildren continue their lavish lifestyles.

Medical advances ensure that entitled adults live beyond the century mark, creating a self-absorbed, controlling "Ender" class. Too young to work, Callie is a "Starter" on the run, in constant danger of arrest by the marshals and attack by renegades. Adding to her desperation is Tyler's rare lung disorder, making finding a stable home environment imperative. Unable to legally earn money, Callie registers with Prime Destinations, a clandestine service where Enders can re-experience youth by renting the bodies of teenage Starters via brain implants and computer interfaces. Although Callie's instincts scream danger, several rentals of her body proceed smoothly. But a malfunction during a third rental causes Callie to regain consciousness while being inhabited, immersing her in the lives of the rich and powerful, providing a love interest, and propelling her to the center of the sinister schemes unfolding at Prime Destinations. Lissa Price's intriguing, fast-paced tale (Delacorte, 2012) is enhanced by Rebecca Lowman's flawless voicing of each character and perfect timing. Fans of dystopian novels will be completely engaged and clamoring for the sequel.-Rebecca James, Currey Ingram Academy, Brentwood, TN (c) Copyright 2011.

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“A smart, swift, inventive, altogether gripping story.” —Dean Koontz  
“Fans of The Hunger Games will love it.” —Kami Garcia, coauthor of the bestselling BEAUTIFUL CREATURES/Caster series  
“STARTERS is a compelling, pulse-pounding, exciting sci-fi adventure with a strong female lead. Don’t miss it!” —New York Times bestselling author Melissa Marr  
“The only thing better than a terrific concept is one that is as well executed as Starters. Readers who have been waiting for a worthy successor to Suzanne Collins’ The Hunger Games will find it here. Dystopian sci-fi at its best, Starters is terrific series kickoff with a didn’t-see-that-coming conclusion that will leave readers on the edges of their seats.” —Los Angeles Times  
“Built up to a dramatic climax and a stunning twist, Starters is an addictive and alluring tale about human nature’s darker side, and how far we’ll go to get what we want. Readers everywhere will want to dive right in, and Hunger Games fans especially will find themselves hooked.” —Examiner.com  
“This story of those who are not what they seem twists along with multiple-identity switcheroos and chase scenes worthy of a Hollywood blockbuster . . . The inevitable sequel can’t appear soon enough.” —Booklist  
“Constantly rising stakes keep this debut intense.” —Kirkus Reviews  
“Newcomer Price launches a dystopian series that offers . . . a notable command of technique . . . Raising questions about class, property, and body/mind separation, Price’s thriller features well-crafted tension, believable villains, and moments of stolen sweetness.” —Publishers Weekly  
“Intriguing, fast-paced . . . Fans of dystopian novels will be completely engaged and clamoring for the sequel.” —School Library Journal  
“Hard to imagine a young adult reader who would not be interested in this book.” —VOYA  
“The concept is compulsively gruesome. . . . Price develops her plot and characters with tight, punchy writing and a sure, confident touch.” —The Daily Mail  
“This action-packed novel is set in a twisted, hostile world and is a must-read for fans of The Hunger Games and Legend. Fast paced, romantic, and thought provoking, the jaw-dropping ending left us starving for a sequel.” —Justine Magazine  
“Starters is a dystopian read you’ll want to snatch up for yourself . . . With its intriguing plot-twists and dash of romance, Lissa’s novel is a bona fide pageturner that proves you can’t take anything—or anyone—at face value.” —MTV.com  
“cs Hollywood Crush Blog  
“Intriguing, thought-provoking and addictive.” —BookReporter.com  
“Chilling and riveting.” —Shelf-Awareness.com

This is a fun dystopian YA book, following the trend of recent years. An evil organization with a mysterious leader. An unusual government situation. A strong heroine. There are many ideas that are becoming cliché, but they are done different enough in this book. The country contains only Starters, the young mostly under 18, and Enders, the elderly some of which are over 150. Callie is one of these unclaimed Starters. I liked the way these two social groups are portrayed. I was confused as to why the Enders of the future have the same interests as the elderly now. Why would they like cribbage and crochet? Wouldn't they have grown up with technology? I don't think it's ever specifically said what the year is, but that was one thing that irked me. Although the story seems simple enough, there are many things that turn out to be more complex. A lot is revealed in the last few chapters. The technology in this book reminds me of Joss Whedon's tv series Dollhouse. There are many similar issues dealt with as the end of that series, but this book has a younger audience. This is just a personal qualm, but I didn't like the way the author used the word geek. If you can't get enough of sci-fi dystopian YA, you should pick this one up as well. It is a fun, easy read. I give this book a 3/5. I'm excited to read the sequel.

I like young adult literature, and I love science fiction. Starters proves to be a fabulous specimen of both. Callie Woodland, the protagonist, struggles to survive in a war torn world that seems to like stepping on young Starters like herself. Robbed of her parents in the infamous spore wars, Callie must take care not only of herself, but also her younger, sickly brother. This leads her to become desperate enough to take a job as a renter, allowing decrepit old Enders to temporarily transplant their minds into a younger, healthier body. Callie knows this is a bad idea, but poverty and a deep love for her brother forces her to go through with it. She is told it is safe, simple, painless, and best of all, lucrative, but nothing in this upside down world is as it seems. Callie finds herself caught up in a world of mystery, danger, and deception. What should she do? Who can she trust? The twists and turns of Starters will leave you on the edge of your seat, eager to see what happens next. The only thing you will know for certain as you read is that the protagonist, Callie Woodland, is a superbly dynamic, captivating character. She may start out as your average teenage girl, but is forged into a woman of quiet strength by the novel's end. Callie has me cheering her on and wanting more! I cannot wait to find out what happens next in Enders! Starters was an unexpected delight. I live in a personal hell of reading pickiness. It is so hard for me to find a book that I can enjoy. When a 15

year old student handed me this book and said "It's good.

Seriously, you need to read this. I had no idea how thankful I would become for such an invaluable recommendation. To say Starters is the next

"Divergent" or "Hunger Games" would be doing it a disservice, because it is so wonderfully unique and thrilling! However, I would say without a doubt it is one of the best young adult books I have ever read, and certainly one of the best sci fi novels! If you haven't read Starters yet, you are seriously missing out!

What if you could rent your body -- basically go to sleep for a day or a week, while another person's consciousness "lived" inside of your body, skiing, skydiving, or skipping through fields -- for big, big bucks? No way, right? What a creepy thought...Well, what if your parents were dead and your little brother was sick... really, really sick, and the only way to save him was go on into Prime Destinations and rent yourself out to a stranger? That's the basic premise behind Lissa Price's fantastic YA thriller, STARTERS. In this excellently-drawn dystopia, there are only "starters" -- young people -- and "enders," very old people, some of whom have celebrated over two hundred birthdays. Why? When a recent war went biological, there was only enough serum to vaccinate the old and the young...The book jumps straight into the thick of things, the first scene taking us straight to the uber-creepy Prime Destinations, where the likeable main character, Callie, is understandably skeeeeeeeved, talking to the old "enders", who, in their power and hunger and basic chilliness, come off as something like vampires. The writing is great without drawing attention to itself, and the story rolls along smoothly -- despite its excellent plotting, amazing twists, and an ending you'll never see coming. STARTERS is a fantastic thrill ride sure to please both teens and adults, from readers who love action to readers who love mystery to readers who love mind-blowing creativity. This is a can't-miss read!

Contains spoilers. How long did it take me to finish this book? One week. Was it enjoyable? Yes. Flaws? As well. I stumbled across raving reviews of Starters, marking it as the successor of the Hunger Games series. Intrigued by the plot synopsis, I downloaded the Kindle version. To be honest - the first half of the book was stunning. I could not put my kindle away, and finished half of the book in one evening. The concept was great and creepy, and not unrealistic - renting your body out to wealthy aged people, who are longing to relive their youth. There is also a strong moral in the story: Youth don't waste your youth! The protagonist Callie is a mature girl with a heart of gold, and also a bit naive in love. This altogether made her character a little bit boring and flat. One thing I

could not stand was her blind infatuation for a shallow rich privileged kid who did not demonstrate any kind of depth through out the whole book. Towards the end I started to lose my interest in her and her story because the endless plottwists - it almost seemed they were only to be there. So altogether the concept is brilliant - the character a bit bland and boring. I do look forward to a movie adapation.

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