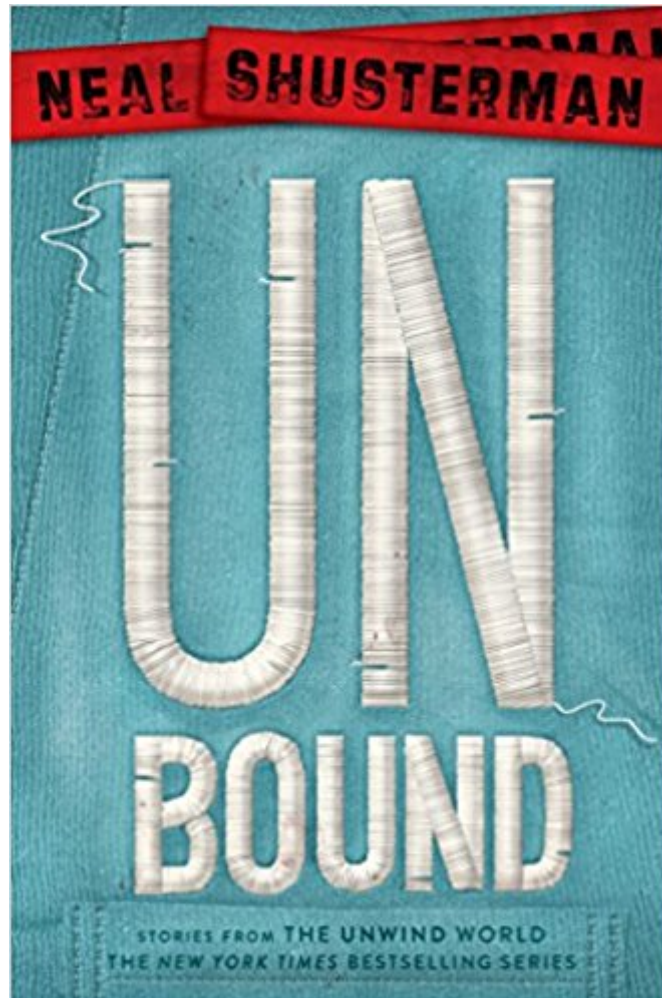




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# UnBound: Stories From The Unwind World (Unwind Dystology)



## Synopsis

Find out what happens to Connor, Risa, and Lev now that they've finally destroyed the Proactive Citizenry in this collection of short stories set in the world of the New York Times bestselling *Unwind Dystology* by Neal Shusterman. Connor Lassiter's fight to bring down Proactive Citizenry and find a suitable alternative to unwinding concluded in *UnDivided*. Now Connor, Risa, and Lev are free to live in a peaceful future—or are they? Neal Shusterman brings back his beloved *Unwind* characters for his fans to see what's left for those who were destined to be unwound.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For fans of the series, this one will be hard to put down. A necessity where the *Unwind* dystology is popular, these stories are every bit as engaging and will leave readers satisfied but still hoping for more." (School Library Journal) "Stories that will send fans over the moon and swiftly intrigue newcomers." (Kirkus Reviews) "Highly satisfying for general readers with a taste for stories featuring all-too-plausible dystopias or ghastly medical experiments, as well as for existing series fans who want a little more." (Booklist Online)

Neal Shusterman is the New York Times bestselling author of more than thirty award-winning books for children, teens, and adults, including *The Unwind Dystology*, *The Skinjacker* trilogy, *Downsiders*,

and Challenger Deep, which won the National Book Award. Scythe, the first book in his newest series Arc of a Scythe, is a Michael L. Printz Honor Book. He also writes screenplays for motion pictures and television shows. The father of four children, Neal lives in California. Visit him at [Storyman.com](http://Storyman.com) and [Facebook.com/NealShusterman](https://www.facebook.com/NealShusterman).

It's been a few years since I read the UNWIND Dystology by Neal Shusterman, but I really enjoyed the world he created so much that I had to buy Unbound when it came out. And if you haven't read the series, then I'd suggest you not continue with reading this review as there are spoilers (from the series, not this collection) involved. This is a collection of short stories set in the world of UNWIND. Some of them include characters from the books themselves and some are entirely new characters. Perhaps most interestingly, some of the short stories are set before, during, and after the events described in the series. I particularly enjoyed the prequel story, UnSchooled which gave insight into the making of the Juvey-cop turned pirate character of J.T. Nelson. Another favorite short was Unfinished Symphony which gave a glimpse into the events that led to Risa Ward's unwind order. UnDevoured was a little bit of a heartbreaker because it really fleshed out the sad life of Roland, the boy with the shark tattoo on his arm. When I first encountered Roland in the series, I really disliked him. He was something of a bully with a temper, as I remember him, but by the series end when readers finally get to experience what being unwound is like from his perspective, I remember being moved to tears as the process continued. So, getting to read this story about his youth added additional perspective and depth to Roland. Unnatural Selection was an interesting story introducing new characters on the other side of the world (Burma/Thailand) that focuses on the Dah Zey. This was a nice way to flesh out the world Shusterman created beyond the confines of America, noting that the practice of unwinding had become a global phenomenon. I didn't really see the point of including UnStrung, considering the story was previously released on its own, but that's a different sort of criticism. Other stories included in this series that I liked, but weren't particularly impressed by included UnConfirmed (because it was so incredibly short and I wasn't really sure how much it added to the entire collection, given that it's not really driven by action on its own--it focused on suggestive theoretical locations on where Connor and Risa may be now) and UnTithed (because I thought the storyline itself was fairly predictable and not altogether as interesting as some of the others). Overall, though, I think the short story collection accomplishes a lot since it allows the reader to see some of what's happened before the Unwind Dystology events and even see what happens to some of the characters after they exit the main story. In particular, the story called Rewinds, which focuses on Camus Camprix and other rewinds he's in charge of, provided an additional

epilogue of sorts for some of the characters we came to feel for within the Unwind world and I think it's worthwhile reading for people who really enjoyed the UNWIND series. I would've been satisfied if the short stories ended with that one, but I didn't mind reading on to see what's become of Skinner in the final story, either. A word to the wise, though: if it's been a while since you last read the series, at least refresh your memory on who's who because I'm sure some of these stories would have a greater impact on me had I remembered everyone!

As always, I love the Unwind series. The only problem I had with UnBound is that we don't really get anything from Risa or Connor's point of view. It is all from character we have never encountered, or some other outside pov on our protagonists. I do have to say, I loved several stories while others had me craving more... Just ONE more page to tie it all up! Maybe a few spoilers? Just going over the stories and what I thought about them.

UnSchooled- Very good insight to the history of one of the major antagonists. It was easy to figure it out early if you remember key details of every character. I liked the chapter, though I felt the start of it was kind of dry. I remember thinking to myself, 'what exactly am I supposed to be getting from this?' Since it was the first chapter, it just kind of eases you into everything.

Unfinished Symphony- A very real look into what people do to stay alive... and delves into how a certain protagonist got where they were. We know the protagonist is a musical genius, so just... HOW did they end up on the chopping block so to speak. This chapter answers the question we all had when we were first introduced to this character. Did I like this story? It was 'alright for me. I didn't really get into the story until the middle. I liked the dynamic between Thor and Brooklyn, even if I felt off about Brooklyn's character as a whole.

UnDevoured- Now let me tell you, I thought I was going to be indifferent about this story... I ended up loving every bit of it. As someone who loves psychology, this whole series throws me for a loop... but this story, THIS story right here took me back to psych 101. After finding out the major details of this characters backstory, I understand them so much better and see why they acted the way they did. (Not to mention the meaning behind a certain marking.) It wasn't as random as we thought guys.

UnClean- UnClean was a story I tried SO HARD to enjoy. It just dragged for me. It has a cliché character, cliché backstory, cliché 'try to be meaningful' ending. I could not for the life of me get into it.

UnStrung- Just// It was just... taken from the actual book itself. I love UnStrung, but I didn't buy UnBound to just read it again.

Unnatural Selection- I liked this one, we hear a lot about the Burmese Dah Zey, but never really got to the knitty gritty. Oh, I didn't not know just how disturbing it could actually be. Were the rumors true? You gotta read for yourself to find out. I did enjoy all of the characters in this one. It seemed like they all had a place in the story, a purpose. It also, ties into the final chapter of this

book. UnConfirmed- I have waited for this moment for a while now. This one has two of my favorite characters in the entire series. The way they interacted in this chapter was absolutely fantastic and in character. The one problem I had, and maybe it was just me, was it seemed like this one character's demeanor changed, and they weren't as charming as I remember. You leave this story wanting to know more. It just seemed a bit rushed and open ended. I liked it a lot despite all of that, and it plays into future of the book. UnTithed- Hands down one of favorite stories in the entire book. I will not grace it with a description. Just know it is good if you, again, remember every little detail from previous books. It took me a minute, but when I realized it, I was left in awe. I was like, 'oh, random character interacting with minor character from another book... nice.' Then toward the end it hit me like a truck. I just like thinking about previous books and tying it into what happened in this book. It filled in a lot. The random 'parts' in UnDivided had a life too, and we get to see a bit of that. Rewind- The other favorite story. Love or hate this character from the previous books, you might like them now. The way they found humanity... it makes you feel for them. Not to mention the growing relationship with one of the other characters. It is always great to see two broken 'souls' rewound together. Pff. Anyways, you really get to see the growth of this character. It is staggering. Unknown Quantity- It was great to read, but was very open ended, left me wanting more. It did not make the book feel complete... at all. It was a nice story, don't get me wrong. I just didn't like the pacing. It was very VERY choppy to me. It was great to see the fate of these two characters, but it leaves more to be desired. It left more loose ends to the UnWind story itself. What does the future hold? How will it all pan out? These are just my opinions on the stories themselves. I still thoroughly enjoyed the book, as always. It is not exactly a sequel, nor does it all go in sequential order throughout the book. You kind of have to piece the timeline together as you go along, fill in the blanks from the other books. I love this fan tribute. I am giving it a 4/5 for my love for the series itself, and the continued insight into the history of the UnWind-verse.

I love the unwind series and was very excited about this book coming out. Having sped through it yesterday I was very disappointed that it's basically a collection of fan fiction and character origin stories. This book is not sequential and does not pick up where the 4th book left off. I think the author should have stopped at 4 books and not written/co-written this. The book is dedicated to his fans but I think he may have miscalculated what his fans would appreciate.

If you loved the Unwind dystology, this collection of short stories won't disappoint. The first few stories are prequels to or during the events of the series and the last set are the epilogue we didn't

get at the end of Undivided. Each story follows a character from the dystology, some minor and some major, and introduces a few more. My personal favorites are the stories of Miracolina's activities saving AWOLs and the new whollies we meet running from their unwinding in Thailand. The only major characters to This is slightly disappointing since the description promises more from them, but there is just enough information to satisfy the desire to know they are alive and happy while leaving a little mystery. Perhaps that is just enough to leave room for a true sequel in the future.

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