Lovereading Reader reviews of Mindwalker by A.J. Steiger

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Stacie Ball

*Loved this book, absolutely brilliant dystopian debut and one that I might not have seen if not for Lovereading4kids.*

When I first read the summary the first thing that caught my eye was just how unique and original the story sounded, it wasn't one I felt like I had read hundreds of times and instantly my expectations were high. Everything about it sounded good but it was one that seemed to be relatively unknown through out the young adult community, so that itself was enough to make me unsure about reading it.

‘Mindwalker’ is a book that is set in a time, way in the future, where its now possible to have all your bad memories erased. Because everyone is able to in essence change the person they are, without all the traumatic things bringing them down, everyone lives in a seemingly peaceful existent without war or social unrest. But having a government that maintains the peace and tranquility by brain-wiping those they see as a threat, things can’t be as controlled and happy go lucky as they may seem. Lain Fisher, one of the youngest therapist’s at the Institute and a Mindwalker in training, is the daughter of the deceased scientist and someone who’s goal has only ever been to be a Mindwalker. But when a classmate comes to her for help, she is torn between what's right and what her father would do, even if it means she will no longer be able to follow her dream.

*This book had me hooked right from the fist chapter. The characters were...*
perfectly developed, there was more than enough back story and action to keep you on your toes. I just need book number 2, now please.

http://beautifulbookishbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk/

Natalie Hunter, age 13

I absolutely adored this book and couldn't put it down. The characters were engaging and realistic. The plot was exciting and full of so many twists and turns.

There wasn't a boring point in the entire book. The environment was described so well that I could see everything and the way the world worked in the story was so original and interesting. I'll be recommending this book to so many people: My friends, Mum, Granddad possibly even my English teacher. Everyone should read it.

Lynsey

It is the future. There is no war, no social unrest, no painful memories... and no freedom.

This debut novel by A.J. Steiger thrusts the reader straight into action from word one. 'Mindwalker' is set in a futuristic, utopian society where all traces of war, violence and crime have been eradicated by the totalitarian government. This is new America and the government, aided by the IFEN (Institute for Ethics in Neurotechnology), maintains peace and tranquillity by brain-wiping all disturbing experiences from people's memories. This is the job of Lain, the youngest member of the Institute, and it is whilst attempting to wipe the memories of her troubled classmate, Steven, that she realises something is very, very wrong. As Steven discovers his mind has been altered, and the terrifying flashbacks to his past may not be entirely true, the pair set on a life-threatening adventure to unearth the truth.

This novel is incredibly thought-provoking and a brilliant choice for a Book Club or Read Along. There are so many plot points I want to discuss but, as everyone hates a spoiler, I will have to keep many of my thoughts to myself until I find a fellow 'Mindwalker' fan to compare notes with. A.J. Steiger explores the misunderstood, and often stigmatised, issue of mental health from an interesting, futuristic perspective.

Through it’s exploration of surveillance societies, genetics and mental illness,
this 5 star debut hints at a future not too far removed from our present time. A. J Steiger has created an entirely believable dystopian world full of wonderful technological advances.

www.readrestrelax.com

Rose Heathcote, age 16

Gripping you won’t want to put it down. Be warned this book is spooky and I stopped reading it before bed. It has a great imaginative story-line and is a must read for those who like a Sci Fi horror.

I would recommend this book to an older reader, suicide is mentioned in the book and dark flash backs of assault and violence. It captures your imagination throughout. You can really feel the emotions of Stephen who approaches Lain to wipe a terrible memory from his brain, when nobody else would help him, Lain understands his feeling of despair and wants to help him. It is romantic but not over the top as this would have ruined the book for me. The government are not all they are made out to be and are not entirely truthful with their people and Lain and Stephen are determined to find out the truth. I liked that there was a huge cliff-hanger at the end and looking forward to Steiger writing the sequel. I would give this book 5 starts ***** as I was gripped and couldn’t put it down (accept at bed-time)!

Amy Laws, age 13

This dystopian novel was amazing- I literally couldn't put it down! I would definitely recommend it to any of my friends.

'Mindwalker' is a dystopian novel set in post-apocalyptic America. It was completely unique and different to any of the dystopian novels I have read before which is good because sometimes I get bored of this type of book because they seem so similar to each other but this one definately stood out from the crowd by a long way. 'Mindwalker' explores everything from ethics to physiology and neurological science.

The system of the society in 'Mindwalker' revolves around mental-health and you are given a grade based on how 'mentally stable' you are. Like any other dystopian society, there are major flaws in the system and discovering how unjust the society could be was so gripping! I literally couldn't out the book down and can't wait for the next books in the series!
Izzy Read, age 14

Lain Fisher, 17, is a young therapist learning the art of mind walking, a therapy used to wipe all painful memories from the clients mind. But when Steven comes to Lain for help, she’s not sure she can cure him...

‘Mindwalker’ is an interesting new dystopian novel with science, war and a corrupt government, much like existing novels like ‘Divergent’.

I loved the new society formed in ‘Mindwalker’, one built on the idea of someone’s mental stability. The plotline was clever, including fragile topics and new technology.

http://jumpinmuddypuddles.blogspot.co.uk/

Katie Miller, age 13

Great! Interesting and intriguing and just plain brilliant. I love this book so much. I would give it an award.

This book is amazing. It has all the elements of a great book - comedy, adventure and you can relate to it in a weird way. It really digs in deep about how society treats people with social difficulties and shows a good alternative view on the world. It makes you think of the things that you might not think of normally. I didn't want to put the book down. I think this book is amazingly written and I would give it an award! It rises questions of how others may think of how the world is/will be as well as being just a good read. I love this book so much and cannot wait for the sequel!

Ella Hollingshead, age 13

Lain is a clone of her father, she has an unpleasant job and is about to discover her life is full of manipulation and lies.

‘Mindwalker’ is an interesting dystopian novel set in the future where you are judged by your mental health. One is perfect and five is really worrying. Lain Fisher is 17 years old and is the youngest therapist to master the art of mind walking - the process of crossing clients traumatic memories.

Lain’s father helped create many parts of the institute and taught her the basics, until he committed suicide leaving Lain parentless and alone in the world.

As Lain tries to get through her life and her unpleasant job in which she trawls
through disturbing memories in peoples lives, she meets Steven. With his help she discovers that the world she knows is not about healing, but manipulation and lies.

A fantastic book that I would recommend to others especially fans of the 'Divergent' and 'Hunger Games' trilogies.

Jodi Coffman aged 13

‘Mindwalker’ is one of the best books I have ever read! I recommend it to anyone who loves dystopian fiction. Lain Fisher is only a student but she has already mastered the art of Mindwalking. This is the process of using direct neural links in the brain to erase traumatic memories. She is the youngest person to ever do this and it is a very demanding job. When an unlikely classmate asks for help, she is told that Steven’s scars of his past are too great and the risk is big. As Lain begins to explore Steven’s memories, she realises that there is a big problem. Is the institute where she works really helping people? And is her father’s death more than she thought? This was an a great book and I couldn’t put it down!

Edel Waugh

This is the story about a seventeen year old girl called Lain, her father is dead. Lain goes to school at Greenborough High School. When she is not being a student she is a Mindwalker. A Mindwalker is someone who is asked to basically go for a walk around your head removing bad memories you have so that you can get on with your life as a happier person while forgetting permanently terrible incidents that may have happened that are traumatising the person involved. In this dystopian world the government created this way of segregating people into five different types. Type one is the best, the smartest, the people allowed the best jobs and allowed the most clearance. In a world where what's going in your head matters to which number you are given, an example would be someone with severe mental problems would not be given a job with a gun and they would be in section five in the community, where jobs and their life would be just about bearable. People in section one have much better lives in every way. Lain’s life centered around her work and school until the day she meets Stephen then all she believed in and trusted starts to crack then shatters.

http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com
Farah Alam

I'm surprised I enjoyed this book. For me it had the components you generally see with dystopians but it really makes you question today's views on mental illness. Moreover, it was interesting to see Lain develop as character and do what do she can to save the people she cares about.

Delilah Acworth

‘Mindwalker’ was an adrenaline fuelled novel, containing death, romance and destruction which amalgamated into a passionate fight for mental freedom. Dystopian novels always have the possibility to fall into the dark depths of endless depression and war, but this novel mixed love with the latter, and an innocent fight for survival. A definite must for those who love dystopia!

Sophia Ufton

Wow, that was mindblowing. Captured me right from the start, couldn't put the book down.

I found it hard to put down, it absorbed me so thoroughly and drew me in so completely. This is an engaging, unusual and beautifully written book.

Its about 17 year old Lain Fisher, who is in the Institute for Ethics in Neurotechnology. He is the youngest therapist at the Institute to master the art of mindwalking.....the process of using a direct neural link to erase client’s traumatic memories. Lain comes across a classmate named Steven who asks for help, his superiors say his scars are far to deep and not to help him.

Is the Institute really an organisation of healing? Or one of manipulation and state control?

Is there more to Lain's father's suicide than meets the eye? Read now!