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Patricia Williams

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Becca Wilkinson is a nobody, and those that are aware of her existence know her as "that quiet girl in the back of class", "loser", or her favorite- "that chick that killed all those people".

While most people at Leeville High have long forgotten Becca's role in the devastating car wreck that happened a year ago, she still has nightmares. Her memories are in fragments and what little she remembers doesn't make sense. Memories of hearing voices and moving things without touching them.

Luke Johnston is a new kid and has all the girls at Leeville eating out the palm of his hand...except Becca. He seems drawn to her but there's something dark and dangerous about him that gives her pause. But Luke knows something about her-the true nature behind what happened during the accident. Can she let her guard down to learn the truth?

Wasteland Details

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Author : Patricia Williams

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From Reader Review Wasteland for online ebook

Letterpress Revolution says

A great young adult read. Strong characters and a talent for creating strong visual and emotional scenery makes this book a winner.

Shannon Mawhiney says

Wasteland is the story of a 17-year-old girl, Becca, who at first seems normal. She's a loner at school, is picked on by bullies, and is often in disagreements with her parents. Her best friend Patrice is her only confidant, and even they have their problems. Like any teenager, she's growing up, and the process is a little painful. But suddenly learning the truth about who she is, where she comes from... and what she can do... puts a kink in things. Especially when she discovers others who are just like her.

This story is a good read and would especially appeal to high schoolers. The dialog is very well-written, and the author has a very good grasp on her characters. Becca is very relatable, and I think readers will appreciate that. I look forward to reading more of this series in the future.

Nikki says

Wasteland, by Patricia Williams, tells the story of Becca Wilkinson, who, for all intents and purposes, spent her entire life as the invisible girl in the back of the room. Except for her best friend Patrice, her classmates barely knew she existed. She maintained a nice 3.0 average, not because she wasn't smart enough to obtain an "A," but because when you were an A student, teachers tended to notice you more. By making herself as "average" as possible, she ensured that she would never really be noticed, and that was just fine with her.

Then came the accident, which happened a year prior to the time in which the story takes place. Becca had what everyone told her was a panic attack and caused a massive deadly pile-up. While everyone else around her seems to have long forgotten the role she played in the crash, Becca cannot let it go. Guilt permeates nearly every moment of her waking hours while nightmares plague her sleep. To top it off, her court-ordered therapist is a total tool who spends more time reworking his newest self-help book than he does actually trying to help Becca through her issues. Thankfully, the tool hits the big time and abandons his patients, leaving room for a new therapist, Mya, to step in, although both Becca and the reader will spend much time questioning her motives. Around this time, another new stranger enters Becca's life. Through them, Becca learns the truth about who she is and what really happened on the day of the accident. I don't want to give away what Becca's "true nature" entails, but I was actually surprised because I thought it was going to be something completely different.

Wasteland went by very quickly, I finished it in a few hours (spread out over two days, it's been a busy week). It was a great escape from all the mundane tasks I had to accomplish this week and I looked forward to breaks so I could get back into Becca's head. I immediately connected and empathized with Becca, as I am a long-time sufferer of major panic attacks. Although I'm almost two decades older than the character, I found her very easy to relate to. I like the fact that this book is about Becca discovering who she is, and the

author didn't derail that journey with a trite romance, although I am hoping the next book delves a little bit more into the blossoming connection that was hinted at in this book.

My only minor complaint is that, once Becca finds out the truth, the book flies by way too fast. It took a bit of time to reach that big moment and I really enjoyed the buildup. But once the big reveal came, it seemed like everything happened so quickly that it made my head spin at times. I wanted it to last a little longer, to find out more about why one thing or another was happening. I'm hoping the second book will answer some of those lingering questions. *Wasteland* ended with a big cliffhanger, and I'm just glad May is only a month away because I really can't wait to find out what happens next.

Note- This review originally appeared on my blog *Pretty Opinionated*

Evie says

Becca Wilkinson is just another quiet and "invisible" 17-year-old girl. She's smart, she does well in school, but she doesn't want to be noticed. She does everything to avoid standing out in the crowd. Even though she could easily get straight A's in every subject, she maintains a "safe" 3.0 average, to avoid drawing too much attention to herself. Together with her best friend, Patrice, they're doing their best to get through their days at Leeville High.

Ever since the horrible car crash, she caused exactly one year ago, Becca has been a loner and an outcast. She doesn't remember much about what happened during the accident, only bits and pieces of memories, but it's enough to make her life miserable. Unable to deal with the guilt, Becca is haunted by nightmares and suffers severe panic attacks. As if this wasn't enough, weird things are happening to her. She is starting to hear people's thoughts. She also discovers that when she's under stress, she has the ability to influence people and make them act in a certain way, to control them. And things just keep on getting weirder. She learns that her panic attacks are not really panic attacks at all, and that the pills she was taking are not exactly antidepressants either. One shocking discovery leads to another, and so Rebecca's whole world, everything she believed in, falls apart. She's going to have to face the truth about herself, who she is and where she's from, and she will be forced to make some tough choices.

Wasteland by Patricia Williams is definitely one of my top favorite debut novels of 2011. The storyline is fantastically unique and fresh. It's a fast-paced read, the plot develops very quickly and there is this really awesome tension to it, that makes you squeeze the eReader tightly in anticipation of what will happen next. It's unpredictable, I was very surprised to find out who Becca really was and what she could do. There's a great deal of uncertainty here, the story is so brilliantly constructed that the reader is never really able to predict anything. In the first book we have many burning questions and only a few answers. I enjoyed the twists very much, this novel keeps you captivated and it's just impossible to put it down. It's one of the best page turners I've ever read.

Becca went through many hardships, yet she's not a winy or overly melodramatic character. Quite to the contrary, she has a strong and likeable personality, she never backs down, she stands up for herself and tries to do, what she thinks is right. Same goes for the rest of the characters, each and every single one of them is very vivid and real, it's easy to imagine them and either like them, or hate them. The story is being told in first person narrative and it definitely works to its advantage, making it very dynamic.

I loved Patricia's writing style, she is no doubt a very promising and talented author and I can't wait to read

the next installments in The Kin series. If you like Young Adult dystopian and/or fantasy novels, you just have to add this book to your collection, it's a must read!

Wee Shubba's World says

Original Review on Love Fantasy Sci-Fi Novels

Let me just start with thanking the wonderful Patricia Williams for asking me to review this ebook. I had never heard of it before so when I read the description I knew I was going to at least like it. I didn't think I would fall head over heels in love with this superb Young Adult Sci-Fi.

Wasteland follows Becca as she is trying to recover from a car accident that she caused a few month ago. She tries to stay invisible and just get through school. However, when the handsome and mysterious Luke starts at her school, her world will never be the same again.

Becca is one of those rare characters that you can like from start to finish. Some characters in books you can go off them throughout the story. However, with Becca she is just so likeable it hard not to like her. At the start of the story she is very shy and just wants to stay invisible but when she meets Luke she starts to come out of her shell and we see that she is a very strong teen who doesn't shy away from really hard and important tasks. Luke is introduced a little into the story (usually the Luke interest is there from the very start) Luke is very sweet, funny and quite complex. I really like the relationship that developed between Becca and Luke. Becca didn't like Luke at first and it not until about half way through that she realises she might. I thought it was clear that Luke liked Becca very early on.

The story is flows just perfectly. Its very quick read that will captivate you and leave you needing the next installement like yesterday. I read it over two nights. I would have finished in the first night. However, I kinda needed to sleep. lol.

So do I recommend that book? HELL YEAH! If you like Young Adult books that has an intense story and likeable characters then this is the book for you.

Rachel Fisher says

For more of my reviews visit www.rachelefisher.com

Title: Wasteland

Author: Patricia Williams

Rating - 3.5 Stars

Sorry guys I got behind this weekend! Read it but didn't review it until now...

Ok so I finished Wasteland and I can say that I enjoyed it overall and will be reading the following books in the trilogy (at least that is my plan at this moment). That being said, I gave this one 3.5 stars because I read

Under the Never Sky a week or so ago and have re-read sections of it multiple times since and can't wait for the next installment.

This one I had to go back to in order to remind myself of story details because I skimmed a little in places and then kind of forgot it a little when I was done. That doesn't mean I didn't enjoy it but it's the difference between raving about a book (4+ stars) and saying, "It was really good." I put Wasteland in this category...the I wouldn't kick it out of bed for being a little hum-drum at times category. :)

What I Liked

I liked the main character Becca pretty well. She is a little confused and fearful at times and she finds out she has these amazing powers but she doesn't really use them much at first. So she is a bit weak at the start, but she is supposed to be after the car accident. Williams does a good job of portraying Becca as a believable teen trying to get over having accidentally killed a bunch of people. What would that be like? Do you ever see a major accident on the news and wonder if the person who caused it walked away? And how would they feel?

THAT Williams really nails I think. When you finally get to 'see' this accident through Becca's memories, it is horrifying and it makes you realize how traumatic it must have been for her. Over time in this book, Becca seemed to get stronger so you start to realize that she's going to harness her powers. By the end she is really starting to use them to protect herself and her family from the evil KIN.

I really liked Becca's relationship with her parents and her mother's utter certainty that Becca was an important positive force for good. The fact that they raised her knowing she was alien (part) and knowing that she was powerful and dangerous is very interesting, different from most of the Kin hybrid children who are seemingly universally detested. This contrast is illustrated (show don't tell - ha) when Becca visits Luke's home and finds out what it's like for him. It helps her to understand Luke's brooding darkness.

Luke is pretty good for all that bad boy with a dark secret stuff that we all can appreciate. Interestingly though, Williams doesn't really get into the romance too much in this book, which I like. It's brave of her to say, "Sure there may be romance, but I'll keep you waiting until later books." In this one there is too much action and too much mistrust between the characters for romance. Even Becca is smart enough to realize this, which I also like about her.

Luke is hot and mysterious, but he's also dangerous. Becca's attitude seems to be, "Hey, this guy is still keeping things from me, so I'm not gonna let him really into my heart." GOOD FOR HER! Unlike some so-called heroines who seem to endure any kind of treatment or lies from the objects of their affection, Becca don't play that. I really like that about her. Otherwise, Luke seems to be growing into good boyfriend material...that is, if they survive that long.

Mya is a very interesting possible 'villain'. I won't spoil anything except to say that you just never are sure about Mya. Is she good, is she bad and what does that mean to the KIN exactly? They seem to be awfully cool about killing humans (or their own kind if justified) and about wiping people's memories clean. Mya is very powerful, but she cannot control or stop the forces of war and aggression between the KIN and the humans. There are people signing up for 'teams' by the end of the book and as the reader it is difficult to discern if Mya is 'Team KIN' or 'Team Resistance'. I give Williams credit for keeping us guessing. I do think that she also has Mya exude a constant layer of icky self-assured-ness (my review, my made up words) that makes you dislike her automatically. (Very similar to COIN in Mockingjay.)

I like the twists at the end and the action. It really did start to heat up and get great by the end and I look

forward to the other books at this point.

One interesting point in this story...I do think that there is an interesting subtext here about PHARMA and it's uses to numb teenagers out and stop them from feeling so that they don't BURST (like Becca) and have their emotions cause themselves and others harm. In this book it's all about magic and alien powers, but I think there is a clear message for regular life and that is, "Why are teenagers being told that they must take all these pills by so-called well-meaning adults and why aren't we questioning that more?" Maybe Williams was not intending that message, but I feel like I got it when Luke is urging Becca to stop taking her pills and be free and the adults around her is telling her to take more and more, not really for HER OWN good, but for everyone else's safety and well-being. Interesting.

What I Didn't Like

There wasn't a whole lot I didn't like except the first chapter. That almost stopped me right there. The whole regular school thing with Becca and Mona is too long. Mona is a bully and she uses quiet, disturbed little Becca - I got it right away and didn't need it dragged out. Then shortly after the first chapter she introduces a mean girl named Ramona in gym class or something and I was so confused...were they the same character or two different characters? She didn't use obvious identifiers like a distinct hair color or clothing or other feature (ie - her flashing violet eyes). Eventually you figure out that they are the same person, but we haven't known Mona long enough to be comfortable (IMHO) with the name switch. Incidentally, Williams gives Mona a much bigger role in the overall story than I was expecting so maybe she comes into the following books.

The title? I have zero idea why this book was called Wasteland unless it is a vague reference to Teenage Wasteland? Otherwise I have no clue so don't expect an obvious connection to a Wasteland of any sort.

The relationship with Patrice. This was one of the difficult parts for me. Growing up, every girl has had true besties that were there by your side when the bullies attacked and who knew your deepest fears and your most sensitive points of anxiety. It seemed like that kind of relationship between Becca and Patrice in the beginning, but then you find out that Patrice has a secret (besides being super-rich which you don't know for some reason until near the end).

The problem is that Patrice's secret is a little unbelievable (Annoyance Level 2 of 5), but what is worse is the idea that Becca doesn't figure it out by Patrice's behavior and THOUGHTS SHE CAN READ!!!! (Annoyance Level 4.99) It is super obvious what is going on with 'Big Trice', but Becca doesn't seem to get it and you suddenly wonder what teenaged rock Becca has been under. In the end, I didn't buy the tightness between them and was not as devastated by the 'betrayal' as Becca.

Jackie -Sated Faery says

This was an interesting book. The story was intriguing and different and I really liked the storyline. Just enough mystery and action to keep you reading. I would've liked to have seen a little more interaction between the 2 main characters. I wasn't, and am still not, sure where they stand with each other. But I will definitely check out the next book in the series to see where the story goes.

Iben says

Very engaging and well written.

It was hard to put the book down, it was so captivating. I did not see the [spoiler] coming at all! I was a bit disappointed about the ending, as I feel there were too many questions unanswered, and the build-up didn't feel quite right.

I enjoyed the way it was written, it was very easy to follow and understand Becca's line of thought most of the time. I think more should have been done about her supposedly best friend Patrice though. They barely interact and Becca doesn't seem to know or care much about her friend. More could also have been done about the relationship with the Kin. Looking back, we're barely told anything, and the actions and words of some seem very random. It still provided a good interesting story line though and the plot was constantly on the move.

It's overall a bit fragmented, but I'm expecting answers to come. Wasteland is the first book in the Kin Trilogy and the second, Outlaws, is expected sometime soon(ish). I think I'd definitely enjoy reading the second book in the trilogy and see what happens, though I'm a bit concerned about where it will lead too. Book 1 was a bit anti-climactic, so if there's going to be huge showdown something in the future, things need to pick up the pace.

my review can be found here

Kelly/yllektra says

I liked this book, but I have to say that it turned out to be different than I thought. A lot different... Maybe it was the title or something, but I honestly thought it would have something to do with - oh, I don't know - destruction, apocalyptic scenarios.. It is after all called " Wasteland" , which is quite confusing.

This is more YA with specks of sci-fi and it was enjoyable. It kept my interest and I kept reading, although I have to admit that even though it didn't necessarily drag at points, it did drag some points.

I liked the explanation behind Becca's existence and abilities and her relationship with Luke and Patrice or even her parents and generally it flowed easily, but I think it didn't have to perpetuate so much the situation with Mona and what was happening with her, or even Patrice's secret which was pretty obvious to everyone but Becca (and she read minds!!)

I think I would read the next installments because it was left at a good point! :)

Melissa Smith says

You won't be disappointed in this purchase of this book. It pulls you in and makes you wonder what will happen next to Becca. You want to read on to find out what happened on her last birthday. To find out why she is the way she is. The cliffhanger at the end makes you want to make her fingers rush across the keyboard in an attempt to make her give you then next part of the story now!

A good read for sure!

Tess Harding says

Wasteland is the first in a planned trilogy by Patricia Williams, a new young writer from Sacramento. It tells the story of Becca, a high school senior who discovers over a period of time she is not like the other kids at school.

The Kin are a race of aliens living unknown among us, who breed with humans and whose offspring are regarded as a guilty secret. Becca is one of these secret children, and is being watched because she is different. She is Unique.

A year before the start of the story Becca is the cause of a serious accident resulting in several fatalities. Patricia Williams could have taken this incident and turned it to show it was not Becca's fault, but she refuses to take the easy route and instead weaves the entire incident throughout the novel to throw more light on the characters and plot.

The novel proceeds at a swift pace, introducing a number of plausible characters and some love interest. The style mixes the strangeness of the Kin with the mundanity of school life well, and is sprinkled with a nice thread of humor that occasionally made me laugh out loud.

The final climax feels a little rushed, as though Ms Williams wants to get her characters into the next book a little too rapidly. However, Wasteland is a satisfying and exciting read, and the characters of Becca, Luke and Patrice well drawn, as is Becca's relationship with her parents.

I recommend Wasteland to everyone who enjoys YA paranormal, aliens and high school romance.

Bonnie says

I think the thing that I loved most about Wasteland is that it kept me guessing right from the first page. It is such a letdown when you 'figure out' the story early on in a book and I am so happy to say that didn't happen here once! Wasteland is the perfect fusion of dystopian fantasy and contemporary YA. On the one hand we have a slightly creepy paranormal force and unexplained events and on the other we have 17 year old Becca struggling to deal with such very normal and relevant issues like boys, being invisible in high school, the popular girls, and complex and changing friendships.

This book was as much mystery as it was fantasy for me. At the center of the mystery – what happened in the accident that Becca caused, and how exactly did she cause it? As readers, we are taken on a journey with Becca as she discovers who she really is and how the life she thought she knew was just a façade.

I really loved Becca and Luke's characters. The whole concept surrounding their relationship had me intrigued and left me unable to put this book down! I kept changing my mind about Luke and throughout the entire book I was flipping back and forth between who I thought Becca should trust. Luke helped Becca to discover so much about herself, although at times his methods were questionable (but that did add to the excitement of this book)! I have a feeling that the next book in the Kin Trilogy will have a lot more focus on

Luke, and I can't wait! I also found Becca's relationship with her best friend Patrice to be compelling and I hope it will also be explored further in the next book. There is so much that I want to know, and so much that I want Patrice to be able to figure out.

I'm not going to give any spoilers but with regards to the ending I will say – WOW! Talk about a cliffhanger! Where is the next book in the trilogy because I am dying to read it!!! Wasteland is a thrilling and original story and I am so happy to have had this introduction to Wiliam's writing style. I know there will be great things to come from the Kin Trilogy!

I received a free copy of Wasteland from the author in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

Theresa Raymer says

I received this book for review from the author Patricia Williams.

I really liked this book. Wasteland is the first in a trilogy and I can't wait to read the other books when they come out. This is a great book for adults and teens. The story was well written and engrossing. Character development was great and the interaction between the characters was done very well. If you would like to purchase this book you can get it at smashwords.com or in April it will be available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Please visit the Authors website at <http://www.wix.com/triciatypes/wasteland>.

Edwin Stark says

The plot revolves around your typical high school misfit (a girl named Rebecca who has become the local pariah due a terrible multi-car accident) and at first I thought "Ho-hum, another teenaged girl who finds she's special somehow". And the book initially followed my prediction, almost becoming a cliché, till one-third through it; suddenly, some good magic started to happen: Wasteland begins to smack of a complex conspiracy, one in which the protagonist is unsure of who is a friend or a foe and who should she lay trust upon. Exactly my kind of book. It was a smooth, pleasant read as Wasteland is skillfully written. Recommended.

Cherylanne Ham says

A Gook Book Alert review <http://goodbookalert.blogspot.com/201...>

A seventeen-year-old high school student on the wrong side of popular, Becca Wilkinson uses her fantastic wit, sprinkled with equal parts sarcasm and humor, to cope with everyday life as she struggles with guilt over

her part in a deadly car accident.

Becca's personality drew me in from the start. She's relatable and I sympathized with her immediately. Even though life isn't easy, she still manages to laugh at herself and is never melodramatic. Plus, she's tough—always a bonus in my opinion.

Determined to discover the truth about the accident, her nightmares, and the myriad of strange occurrences that grow more and more frequent as the plot unfolds, the reader is taken on a fast-paced journey as she unravels the secrets of her life.

Trusting the wrong people could get her killed, but figuring out who's on her side is near impossible. My desire to learn the truth about Becca, kept me turning pages, especially after Luke enters the scene. If she ever wants to learn anything, she has to put her faith in someone, but is Luke the right someone? I could never be sure. And even though there is a lot going on in this story, the plot was easy to follow and well paced.

An even deeper exploration of Becca's internal struggle, as she deals with some serious issues and makes tough choices, in this reader's opinion, would have increased the tension and fully fleshed out her character.

Wasteland is a light read, with lots of surprises, twists, and ultimately—revelations. The questions—who can Becca trust, and what the heck is wrong with her—are always at the forefront and kept me guessing until the end.
