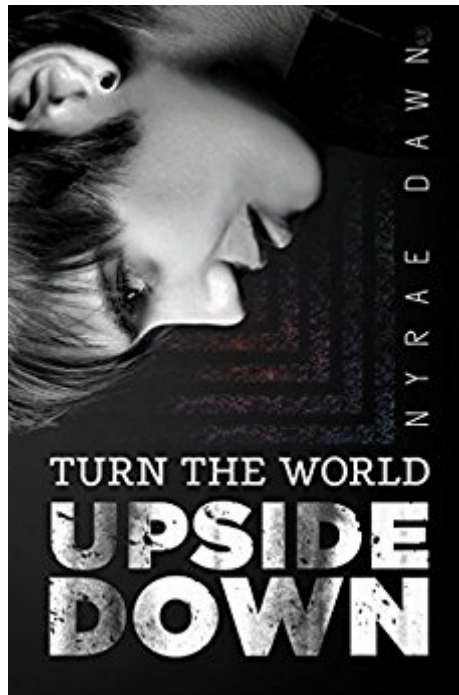




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Turn The World Upside Down



Synopsis

Hunter Donovan's life always seemed perfect, but there was something rotten beneath the shiny surface. When the truth comes out and his dad is sent to prison, Hunter can only react with anger. His rage boils out of control, leading to a violent incident at school, and then to Hunter being sent to a mental health facility—Better Days. Hunter doesn't see how therapy can help him. If it can't change the past, what good is it? It's not like he can go back in time, see the horrible things going on right under his nose, and put a stop to them. No, he should have found that strength when he had the chance, and now it's too late. There is a ray of light at Better Days, though, in the friendships Hunter forges. Anxiety-ridden Casey, uninhibited Rosie, recovering bulimic Bethany, and Stray, a self-harmer who's never had a home, lighten Hunter's feelings of isolation. Despite the connections he's forming—and even the love blossoming between him and Stray—Hunter can't escape his shame and remorse. If Hunter can't open up and find a way to deal with what happened, he might end up another casualty of mental illness, just like one of the friends he's grown to love.

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Customer Reviews

I have to say that this is my new favorite Nyrae Dawn book. I knew it would be something special when I started seeing blurbs about it a few months ago and I was excited to read it. I had a feeling there would be tears. I had a feeling there would be pain. But I also had a feeling that this book would be, above all else, about love. Not just romantic love, but the love we have for our friends and families. Turn the World Upside Down was about all of those things, with characters you care about from page one. It everything I hoped it would be and more. Yes, I cried, but I also laughed. I morned the downs and I cheered the ups. I was there, right along with the characters in this book. I love a well written coming of age story and Nyrae is so good at it. This is the kind of book that will break your heart and put it back together, stronger than ever. Buy it! Read it! Love it! Recommend it to your friends!

Sadly, mental health issues is a fact of life for many teens and this book thankfully doesn't make them light and fluffy. Instead Nyrea Dawn tells the painful truth.. There is no easy cure.. A life time of struggles. The main character Hunter definitely knows what he needs to do to archive forgiveness and in the middle of his darkest moments he meets these teens who are in worse shape then him. Hunter goes through a ton of different emotions and one is love. Stray is so loveable but so mentally ill. While I was reading this book I was trying to imagine these kids in 10-15 years from now as adults. I'm a huge fan of all of Nyrea Dawn's books.. A hundred thousand words by far is my favorite!! Keep them coming Nyrea.. I'll read what ever you write :)

Loved this story. Hunter was so angry with events he couldn't control. I just knew when his mother took him to Better Days he was going to have to unpack his drama. I loved the interactions between The gang of five. 5.0 for blue hair.

Mental health is not an easy subject to write about, but Nyrae Dawn has written a fabulous story. I couldn't put the book down. Their journey is is not easy, I cried, I smiled while reading Hunter and Stray's story. I highly recommend this book.

Hunter is furious. With himself. His father. And the world. He thinks he let his little sister down by not realizing she was being molested by their father. Now he's at Better Days, a mental health camp for

mentally ill teens. He refuses to talk about why he's in treatment, but slowly opens up and befriends some other teens. Unfortunately, they won't all recover or survive their summer. *TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN* takes an interesting premise, a brother's guilt over his sister's abuse, into a mostly clichéd story with characters you'd find in every story about psychiatric treatment. The residents include: a bulimic, a suicidal self injurer, someone with anxiety and a bully. Incidents include: a LGBT romance, bullying, a suicide. I never felt like Nyrae Dawn added any originality to the plot and while a few characters had interesting backstories, there was nothing I hadn't read in other similar books. I also didn't feel like she did much research into the mental illnesses or treatment other than basic googling or knowing someone or suffering with a particular condition. I did enjoy Dawn's very readable writing style. *TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN* is a decent, but unoriginal story.

This is an incredibly vivid, sad for the most, tale that's not solely about Hunter, but about the friends he makes when he goes into residential therapy. Though I read the author's note about having had experiences via family of mental illness, it made me wonder if she had a specific aim in writing it or if the characters simply spoke to her. I didn't get an answer either way and in the end it didn't matter, as I found myself absorbed into the book. I hope it reaches its intended audience, as YA need to know how common mental illness is, and how important it is to speak up and get help, instead of hiding/feeling shame/hurting oneself. Perhaps this is a book that needs to make its way into school libraries... Each character had a different problem, which I could believe and each took time to open up and some dealt with things better than others. I felt for them all, for differing reasons and could empathise with them, though I'm likely old enough to be at least ten years older than these guys' parents/responsible adults. I was very glad that Hunter found his way to Better Days, that he matured there, learned to open up, learned to understand that two wrongs don't make a right, learned to listen and to make sense, despite the confused messages that his mind was giving him, and that he found the courage to open up and speak out when something bad happened, rather than following the unit's residents' unspoken Omerta-like rule. I think that he grew up in there, going from a not unreasonably - at his young age and given his experience - slightly Me, Me, Me type, to a guy who'd endured, who'd been hurt by someone he should have been able to trust without reservation, but who hadn't been irretrievably broken; one who was able to find his worth and to make positive steps for his future life. That he found happiness with Stray/Jeremiah, was sweet, but not the focus of the tale. ARC courtesy of Harmony Ink Press for my reading pleasure.

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