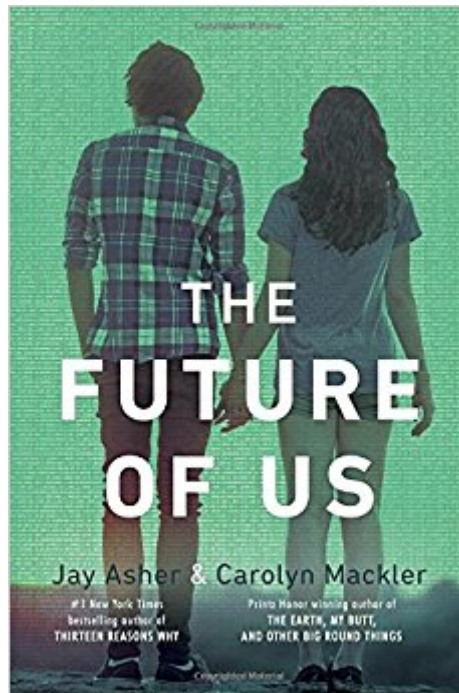




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The Future Of Us



Synopsis

What if you could see how your life would unfold--just by clicking a button? It's 1996, and less than half of all American high school students have ever used the Internet. Emma just got her first computer and an America Online CD-ROM. Josh is her best friend. They power up and log on--and discover themselves on Facebook, fifteen years in the future. Everybody wonders what their destiny will be. Josh and Emma are about to find out.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Jay Asher's first novel, *Thirteen Reasons Why*, spent over two years on the New York Times bestseller list, with foreign rights sold in over 30 countries and more than 1,000,000 copies in print in the US alone. Carolyn Mackler is the Printz Honor winning author of *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*; *Tangled*; *Guyaholic*; *Vegan Virgin Valentine*; and *Love and Other Four-Letter Words*. Her novels have been published in over 15 countries.

In 1996 I was 14 years old. I remember what life was like before the Internet, I remember 'getting' Internet when I was 16 and I remember what a dial-up Internet connection sounded like. So I was incredibly excited to read *The Future of Us* - pop-culture references from the 1990s are my

favourite. The problem is, there actually weren't that many pop-culture references in *The Future of Us*. What there was in *The Future of Us* were two characters that I didn't particularly like, nor find very realistic. If I like the characters, I can overlook a lot of other faults, but it just wasn't happening for me. Josh wasn't particularly interesting and Emma pretty much spent the whole book complaining about her future husband/boyfriend and trying to change who she ended up marrying without even knowing more than what a few status updates hinted at. The second thing that really irked me was their complete lack of interest in the futures of other people in their lives. Now, if I had discovered a Facebook page of my 30 year old self, I would have searched the s*** out of it, trying to find out how the lives of my family and friends and those horrible bitchy girls at school turned out. I would have searched for pages of my favourite movie stars and singers to find out future gossip, looked through peoples photos and walls. After all, when I first had Internet access at home (and OK even now!), I was completely addicted. At one point, Emma does make a list of all the people she wants to look up on Facebook, but Josh talks her out of it. And that didn't make a lot of sense to me either - on one hand they are immaturely self-absorbed, and on the other hand are mature enough to think that it might not be a good idea to look up other people. The whole thing just didn't sit right with me - it was all a big contradiction. Thirdly, there are unresolved plot lines and it's not just small stuff - it's big stuff that they found out about the two people they searched for other than themselves and there's no resolution, despite the fact that they were actually life-changing events. *The Future of Us* had so much potential that I just didn't feel was realised - a few more pop culture references, more realistic behaviour, less obsession from Emma about boyfriends and husbands and tying up those plot lines would have made this a much more enjoyable read for me.

The Future of Us was one of the books released in late 2011 in which I had high expectations for. It was also a "Must-read" recommended by my cousin-who had read it a couple weeks after it was just released. I however, had a dozen of other books piled on my "must-read" list, and decided to put off getting into this (I AM GOING TO STRANGLE YOU NOW, IF YOU DO NOT READ THIS) book, my cousin forced into my hands. But that decision did not last for long, due to the fact that my cousin started nagging and acting annoying, so in the end I end up reading it. And let's just say my expectations were not met, yet I still find the book likeable. Authors Jay Asher and Carolyn Mackler, takes readers back to 1996-when the internet was a lot less common than it is now-where obviously there were no social networks such as Facebook and Tumblr to stalk one another after school was over. They introduce Emma and Josh-our leading characters as longtime neighbors and once-upon-a-time best friends; whom because of a momentarily confession caused them to distant

themselves. But one day because of a normal looking American Online CD-ROM, they were both in a way, forced to step in to one another's presence once again. Because unlike its exterior, there is something strange about this CD-ROM ... it leads them to Facebook-a social network that is yet to be created at that time. This is where the book takes off, and as Emma and Josh get glimpses of their futures, they begin to do all they can in order to set how they desire the future to be.

Meanwhile, also learning that some things are best left the way they are, and how to appreciate the people and things you currently possess in the present. Overall thoughts on the book A 3.5 out of 5 stars rating (means I liked it), because ...even with all the look-into-the-future stuff going on, I still felt there was not enough happening. There were a few times during the middle of the book, where I zoned out and caught myself only skimming the page (which is not a good thing). After finishing the whole book, my overall thoughts were that it was an enjoyable read-light, simple, and sweet, but, because I had too high of an expectation for it, it may have been the reason for my slight disappointment. The Characters I loved the secondary characters more than Emma and Josh. Kellen and Tyson (Emma and Josh's friends) made the story a whole lot more excited; and this was what made up for my spacing out parts! Don't get me wrong, Josh and Emma are also awesome, but there were a couple of times I got frustrated with the both of them, for not speaking their minds. I was especially annoyed with Emma for her self-seeking behavior at times (then again, who doesn't act that way sometimes in high school). Would I recommend it? Yes, because my cousin would KILL ME if I don't (not really ... or ... maybe), but that is not the reason. As I said above, it's a good read, just minor dissatisfaction that doesn't really faze me about liking the book.

I had just gotten done watching 13 reasons why, and wanted more, so I picked up the book. I immediately fell in love with the way Jay writes. I blew through that book in under a day and was looking for something else of his to read. This popped up on and I read the description. Happen in the mid to late 90s, but with a look to the future through a website called Facebook. All the years matched up with my life. I to was in high school in the mid 90s. I loved all the references to that time, it truly brought me back to that time. This was yet another quick read, but just as awesomely written. Every other chapter is from one of the 2 main characters point of view. I really enjoyed it and have since ordered the 3 Jay Ahor book. His writing style is something that keeps even someone like me turning pages, and it takes a lot for me to want to read something or not get disinterested and stop.

I really liked the idea, it was a quick read, and it was fun. It had a good pace, I liked how it switched points of view back and forth between a guy and a girl. However, I think the story ended up being

too simple for my tastes. I wanted to see more ramifications, get more in depth into the characters and relationships, and I wanted something bigger and more drastic to happen and have to be fixed by the characters. I thought a lot of the character stuff was just touching the surface, and it could have gone a lot further. Overall though, it was cute and, like I said, a great idea behind it. If you're looking for a quick YA read on the beach or just for fun and nothing too deep then this is for you.

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