

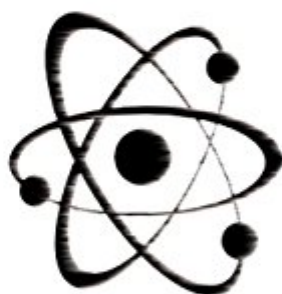
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Replication: The Jason Experiment

JILL WILLIAMSON

REPLICATION

[THE JASON EXPERIMENT]



Synopsis

Martyr—otherwise known as Jason 3—is one of hundreds of clones kept in a remote facility called Jason Farms. Told that he has been created to save humanity, Martyr has just one wish before he is scheduled to “expire” in less than a month. To see the sky. Abby Goyer may have just moved to Alaska, but she has a feeling something strange is going on at the farm where her father works. But even this smart, confident girl could never have imagined what lies beneath a simple barn. Or what would happen when a mysterious boy shows up at her door, asking about the stars. As the reality of the Jason Experiment comes to light, Martyr is caught between two futures—the one for which he was produced and the one Abby believes God created him to have. Time is running out, and Martyr must decide if a life with Abby is worth leaving everything he’s ever known.

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Customer Reviews

Can you imagine living your whole life with a purpose? It sounds pretty awesome, right? Umm...for Martyr, not so much. Actually, he is one of 56 brothers living in an underground facility in Alaska, each with the same purpose. They don't know what that purpose is, just that it is their job to live for it. All of his shaven brothers look eerily alike. There is a reason for that. They are all clones and the purpose they were made for isn't quite as noble as they were made to believe. Jill Williams challenges her reader to think in the arena of what if. What if a human was cloned? What if that clone questioned everything about his "life" and his conclusions brought him to a divine Creator? Could he have a soul? Is he a creation of man or the divine Creator? Is it not true that everything we know or will know is God's and if that is the case, isn't it logical to think it is possible that if God wanted to, He could grant a soul? I really enjoyed stepping into what if with Jill Williamson. She had a smart and well thought out plot that kept me pressing the next page tab on my kindle. The only issue I had was with character believability of Martyr, but that could be a personal thing in how I view teen boys. I didn't believe that he wouldn't know lust or arousal. And with his questioning nature, I didn't believe that he wouldn't be curious about the changes that happen in boys during teen years. Beyond that, he was a very likable character. I would recommend this book without reservation and have already handed it to my 11 year old son to read.

An intriguing read about cloning. Jill Williamson is one of my favorite authors so it was no surprise that I loved it. She's great at weaving tight stories with multiple points of view. Martyr is a clone that is also an individual. He's empathetic to the "broken" clones destined for destruction and fights for them. Abby is a bright student uprooted from the East Coast to Alaska for her father's new job. Immediately, the bookish outsider Abby is pursued by the school's star athlete, J.D.. However, his behavior makes Abby wary. She becomes even more confused when she finds a scared boy in her house that bears a striking resemblance to her classmate who goes by the name of Martyr. Abby quizzes both Martyr and J.D. and figures out that her dad's job may be more than biological research. When the director of the laboratory searches for his escaped clone, Abby, Martyr, and J.D.'s lives are at risk. Along with unraveling the mystery and the suspense of Martyr's future (he's scheduled for expiration) are moments of great humor as Martyr learns about the outside world. The ethics of cloning are woven through the story as are Abby and her father's approach to her mother's death. Abby, like her mother, seeks solace in God while her father pursues science and medicine.

My infatuation with this book started right on the cover. I love the cover art. It does a great job of

both capturing the theme and intriguing me. So of course, I had to find out exactly what it was about. Then I read the blurb and took a sneak peek and I was absolutely hooked. It's true, in today's world, pretty much every idea has been written. This, however, can truly be called fresh! Even the reviews had me intrigued, because I was very interested to see how the author would weave in the various angles of the story. I must say, it lived up to all my expectations. I found the characters real and believable, and I immediately was invested in them. Especially Martyr. If I had to vote on what Williamson did most successfully, it was to perfectly capture the complete innocence of this unique character. Maybe it was the way he was compelled to care for the "broken" boys, or maybe it was his childlike simplicity, but I was rooting for him right out of the gate. If I had to vote on other successes, I'd say the way that Daughter Abby reacts to Martyr is right up there. I can't even count how many times I've read a story where something surprising happens, and the story then spends several pages (or chapters) while the character(s) figure out what's really going on. This author manages to give Abby a very real, normal and believable response, without needing to explain it. Basically, Abby is smart enough to figure it out quickly, which I totally loved. Thank you Jill, for being brave enough to make Abby smart!!! :) No hand-holding the reader, no chapters and chapters of "when will she figure this out?!?" frustration. And the plot doesn't suffer at all from it. Just the opposite. It makes it work. Now tie into this the aspect of Abby's spirituality, her struggle with how to deal with different challenges while adhering to what she thinks is right, and even the places where she fails, and the result is very real, honest, and sweetly endearing. If you enjoy suspense, this book carries a healthy dose. If you want a strong heroine, Daughter Abby fits the bill. If you want to be invested, look out. This book will make you want to go out and adopt a Jason of your own. I loved everything about this book. It's going to resonate with me for a long time. I can't wait to see what else Williamson writes!

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