



Wilders

Brenda Cooper

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Coryn Williams is left behind in the megacity of Seacouver after her parents commit suicide and her sister, Lou, flees the city to work for a non-governmental organization (NGO) in the wild lands. For company, Coryn has her companion robot, Paula, who helps her get through school, keeps her safe in the city, and acts a coach for her in many things -- including running marathons. But Coryn misses her sister. When she graduates from high school, she is required to choose a profession. She refuses, instead choosing to “go feral” and leave the safety of her city to find Lou. She abandons most of her technology, which will not work in the wilds anyway, but brings along her robot companion, Paula.

Wilders explores the relationship between the two sisters, between the megacities and the wild lands, and between a city girl and her robot protector. Coryn must grow up during a science fictional adventure full of drone flights and fights, frightening ecobots, and dangerous weather.

Wilders Details

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Author : Brenda Cooper

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Young Adult, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Wilders for online ebook

Mitchell says

An interesting near-ish future set in the Northwest after a semi-collapse. Not one of the author's better books, and yet still good. There was something odd about the pacing in which the latter half of the book dragged. But the ideas were good enough to push on through, and some of the characters as well. What I would call a young adult book, in that it's pov character is 17 or 18 or so throughout this. Definitely some amount of violence, but a lot more running and bike riding and horseback riding. I would have thought this would have been a standalone, I'm curious to see where the author goes with it. 3.5 of 5.

Viva says

I found the writing to be very dry, slow and uninteresting. The characters were flat, each character was interchangeable, one might as well have just been another. The writing was awkward and very difficult to read. I had to struggle to force myself to read this. 1 star.

I got this as an uncorrected ARC.

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

Trigger warning: suicide

Reading Wilders was a struggle from the get go. It took me three weeks to finish. I haven't had this much difficulty forcing myself to finish something since my senior English class read Faulkner. I may take Faulkner over Wilders.

The future is divided between the cities and the unincorporated land outside them, intended to be restored to nature and wilderness. Coryn Williams lives in the megacity of Seacouver but is left orphaned after her parents double suicide. Her sister Lou leaves her behind to become a ranger, working for an NGO on the outside. On her eighteenth birthday, Coryn is determined to reunite with Lou... so she ventures outside her city, accompanied only by her robot Paula.

I don't know where to start with Wilders. It's just got so many problems. I kept trying to think of something positive to say about it and coming up blank. I did eventually hit on one positive: Wilders is well intentioned. It drips with earnestness. Brenda Cooper clearly cares about the ecology and the environment. However, the author's sincerity was not enough to make Wilders readable.

Wilders starts with a completely unnecessary two page long info dump about the setting. Honestly, that was the first sign I wasn't going to like this book. Then Wilders starts up the actual storyline about Coryn. This leads me to something that bugged me throughout the entire book.

How the heck is it the city's fault that Coryn's parents killed themselves? The narrative keeps asserting that her parents killed themselves because they hated living in the city so much. Here's the thing. They weren't trapped in the city. Coryn literally just walks out when she decides to go find Lou. So if they didn't like living in the city... couldn't they just leave? From what I can tell, her parents didn't die "because of the

city.” They died because they had mental health issues that I see no way the city was responsible for. This future involves some sort of universal healthcare that appears to be much better than whatever America currently has. Coryn mentions going to the doctor whenever she needs to, not worrying about it. She also mentions her mom was on anti-depressants, so she was getting at least some sort of treatment for her depression. So from everything I can tell, her parents were getting health care coverage and treatment (from the city FYI), so it’s not the fault of the medical system that they killed themselves. The explanation implied by Wilders is that her parents killed themselves because they hated living in the city since “the city’s soulness not like nature” or something along those lines.

I just... this entire backstory makes me so angry. I really don’t like the whole “it’s the city’s fault” line of thought. For one, the city erases many of the social ills our country currently struggle with. Coryn’s family had a guaranteed basic income, housing, and healthcare. That’s more than can be said for many families right now. Secondly, a walk in the woods isn’t going to cure depression. As someone who has been depressed, trust me when I say that reconnecting with nature isn’t going to magically fix your brain attacking itself. I found the plot point of Coryn’s parents suicide incredibly frustrating and to be trivializing mental health issues.

Of course, all of that happens within the first twenty pages or so. There’s still the rest of the book. Coryn’s fifteen when her parents kill themselves, but she’s eighteen for the majority of the book. Unfortunately, she reads more like twelve. I don’t expect eighteen year old protagonists to be completely mature, but I do expect a degree of common sense. Coryn doesn’t tell Lou she’s coming to live with her. She just walks into a completely unknown, potentially dangerous situation. I kept thinking that she was spoiled and bratty. Logically, I know that she lived in an orphanage for three years after her parents killed themselves, but I couldn’t stop thinking of Coryn as “spoiled.” On the bright side, at least I got the impression of a character trait? The cast as a whole was completely cardboard and two dimensional. The characters were little more than names on the page.

There was an attempt at a romance subplot. I would have been annoyed about it, but it was mostly just so bland and half baked that it never even got on my nerves. Truthfully, it was the least of this book’s problems.

For instance, I am still not sure what was going on with the plot. Eco-terrorists are definitely involved, but I haven’t figured out whether or not Lou was one? Lou and some of her ranger friends were planning something, but I am confused as to what they were trying to do. It must have been more than just a protest. Lou and some of the other characters felt sort of like those extreme animal rights people who think anyone who’s not a vegan is a murderer. At one point she calls species extinction “genocide,” although thankfully Coryn comments that the word choice seems a bit extreme. No duh. As terrible as killing polar bears is, it’s extremely offensive to compare it to the Holocaust.

It took me three weeks to finish reading Wilders, and I lost track of how many other books I started and finished during that time. The world building, the characters, the plot... in all regards Wilders was unsatisfying. It’s not a book I would ever recommend.

Originally posted on The Illustrated Page.

I received an ARC in exchange for a free and honest review.

Riley says

Nature and progress collide, both subtly and violently. That is the short description of the events of **Wilders**.

In a future where most people live in vast technologically advanced cities, the wilds outside the city are struggling to survive.

Coryn Williams has grown up in the city and, although she may not love it, she is very comfortable there. But her sister Lou, left several years ago to become part of the rewilding effort. In **Wilders**, Coryn leaves the city to find her sister and gets caught up in Lou's life whether she wants to or not.

Coryn is young, just graduated from high school. However, **Wilders** does not read as a young adult. The storytelling is mature and complex and the characterizations are from an adult view. The occasional sibling arguments between Coryn and Lou remind you they are young, but do not overshadow the adult decisions and actions that both take.

And they have both made major decisions that will affect the rest of their lives and possibly those around them. While Lou seems to be aware of that, Coryn will take a while to figure it out. The journey of Coryn and Lou will take them from city to the outside and back to the city. Along the way, they will encounter danger, friends, enemies, hope and courage. If you accompany them, that journey will make you reflect on your own views of nature and cities and the people that dwell therein.

For my part, I wondered about philosophy of the cities and those that control them. Either you are in or you are out. People don't really go back and forth. Neither seemed to be an ideal place to live – to me. The city was stifling and the wilds were often unpoliced. These are just a couple of observations. Any reader will have their own views depending on their background.

Before the events in **Wilders**, an ecological disaster nearly wiped out the wilds. Human-kind, recognizing that they need the wilds in order to survive, commissioned the rewilding efforts. Corporate foundations run the rewilding, but why? I would have liked to know more about what happened in the past. And how humans came to realize what they needed to do. Exactly what is that connection between nature and man's continued existence? In **Wilders**, there is a lot of effort that goes into trying to maintain the wilds, but the story is lacking in motivation for that effort.

That effort, though, is noble and beautiful. One of my favorite scenes involves Lou showing her sister a vast herd of buffalo. A herd still at risk, but one of the most amazing things Coryn has ever seen. Nature has the ability to amaze me any day, so I could relate to the feelings experienced by Lou and Coryn.

The book is not just about restoring the natural balance. And this is the part that kept me reading. There are forces at play that will interfere with the rewilding efforts and much of the story is about confronting those forces. Resistance and intrigue will challenge Coryn and Lou as they try to reconcile their own relationship. And all the while, there are the usual power-plays that typically plague such a situation, with our heroines somehow planted in the middle.

Mostly, I think of **Wilders** as a story of progress versus nature. Technology can have both positive and negative influences on our lives and that is evident in the story. Nature is depicted as wild and beautiful, but not necessarily welcoming. This applies to both the natural world and human nature. If this sounds too philosophical, you might also consider that **Wilders** could be said to be a coming-of-age story for Coryn. She proved to be a most interesting character to follow and might have more of a story to tell in coming books in the **Project Earth** series.

The author provided a copy of **Wilders** in exchanged for an honest review.

Originally posted at Whiskey With My Book.

Vanessa says

I make it a point to always finish a book, I think there's only ever been one that I just couldn't muster the verve to complete. Usually this works out for me, either in that it all turns around and I end up being surprised, or that it's so terrible I hop on here and review it to vent my rage.

Luckily Wilders doesn't fall in to the latter category. Unfortunately it doesn't fall in to the former either. I'm not quite sure what it was all about, there's some suicide, soul searching, trying to re-build the planet back up after we deplete it, megacities, and lots and lots of biking. Lots. Like, all the damn time, all over the place, all over bridges and walls and trees and AR, and fairies and a dog? The endless biking descriptions I found tedious in case that wasn't clear.

The characters to me were flat and not very well thought out. The main character is Coryn and we follow her as she leaves the safety of Seacouver (mega city) to hunt down her sister who left a while ago to help with that whole re-build the planet thing. Coryn bugged me, her attitude, her thoughts, her damn giggling at the weirdest parts of the story. Her jealousy, her obnoxiousness, single mindedness on "family" that seems really important to her but I couldn't find it in myself to give a hoot about, and her switcharoo notice of things. So, I didn't like the main character.

I won't go on about her sister, Lou, her romantic interest, Blessing, or that damn Aspen. And I won't even mention Paula.

So what exactly was good? The IDEA of the story. There were about 30 pages there where it shone through and I could see what the author wanted to say. I could feel her passion about the planet, the message she wanted everyone to hear. And then I lost it. And to be honest it looks like the editor did too because after about page 210 the errors and grammer drops just about did me in.

So, in short (if you've read this far) if you are a 16 year old, self centered and absorbed OCD vegan Eco-terrorist who LOVES biking-good news! I found a book for you.

If you are anyone else, you can go ahead and give this one a pass.

Jason Pettus says

[This was also published at my website, the Chicago Center for Literature and Photography.]

To be fair, the premise behind Brenda Cooper's new series-starting science-fiction novel *Wilders* is legitimately pretty great; namely, in a post-ecological-crisis future, the power of nations has fallen apart to be replaced by a return to autonomous city-states, leading to a series of domed socialist paradises comprising former metropolitan areas (our story takes place in "Seacouver," which stretches from Seattle to Vancouver and has scooped up all the smaller cities that laid between), where crime and poverty have been conquered through an army of robots and a pervasive surveillance state.

Now these autonomous regions have started venturing back out into rural areas in order to "rewild" them (that is, to remove all the former manmade structures like highways and small towns, leading to a new continental utopia of unspoiled nature dotted here and there by billion-person cities), just to discover that there are way more Tea Party climate-deniers still living out in those areas than they had ever thought, and that they're mighty pissed about the city-slicker libtards abandoning them when everything first went to hell.

Unfortunately, though, the problems with the actual novel itself start early and don't let up. For example, although not a direct ripoff of *The Hunger Games*, the book's details and overall tone are "Hunger-Gamesish" enough that it will make some readers uncomfortable; the pacing leaves a lot to be desired, with

the too-few interesting developments surrounded by literally dozens of pages of filler conversations and meandering rides across the countryside, forgivable if they had led to a deeper understanding of the characters but increasingly intolerable as simple page-count-filling cotton candy (the closer to the end of the book you get, the more you'll find yourself skimming through entire chapters); and the book suffers from "Franchise Building Syndrome" too much as well, very nakedly inserting entire subplots and groups of characters that are quite obviously not going to play a serious role until book 2 or 3, making the book often feel like one of those minor superhero movies that exists only to introduce situations that will eventually play out in the "cinematic universe" team-up blockbuster four years from now.

The most serious crime this book commits, though, is of being a Young Adult novel being marketed as a book for grown-ups; and as regular readers know, CCLaP has sort of taken this on as a political cause in the last couple of years, the fight against the continual infantilization of the American arts that's been happening more and more since the original rise of Harry Potter, including our new policy of no longer accepting books for review at all when the main character is under 18 and the storyline deals mostly with coming-of-age issues. I went ahead and accepted *Wilders* because it skates just above that cutoff line -- our hero Coryn is officially college-aged in the book, and the marketing material promised that the story would go in dark, adults-only directions as it continued, which combined with publisher Pyr's good reputation made me optimistic.

Unfortunately, though, Cooper sabotages herself by often characterizing the non-minor Coryn not just in Young Adult terms but sometimes even younger than that; the author literally describes the character as someone who "giggles at dogs," thinks she shares a mystical connection with the horse that's been assigned to her out in the wild, and who has a running habit of responding every time her "nanny robot" is being overprotective with a childish pout while muttering, "Silly robot!" These kinds of narrative details may pass by a 12-year-old girl without her making particular note of it; but as a 48-year-old male who's exclusively interested in grown-up science-fiction designed deliberately for adults, such flourishes stuck out like a sore thumb, driving me more and more crazy the more I encountered them, and I have to admit that it's because of this issue alone that I won't be reading any of the other books in this series.

Although its heart is in the right place, I found *Wilders* only fair to middling, the kind of SF book that only hardcore convention-goers will be able to love. For those people it comes recommended today with reservations; for those looking for only the best in this genre, though, you should skip this entire series altogether.

Out of 10: **7.1**

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/07/20/...>

Brenda Cooper is taking a new direction in her new book *Wilders*, switching from space operas to look at a world in a future where human expansion and environmental change has shaped the face of the planet in dramatic ways.

The story takes place in the Pacific Northwest, in the megacity of Seacouver. Established after the merging of Seattle and Vancouver, the place is a shining example of progress and modernity: every citizen is connected to a greater network that takes care of their every need. And yet, not everyone is happy in this high-tech environment where everything is clean, controlled, and carefully ordered. Our protagonist is Coryn Williams, who loves living in Seacouver, but the same cannot be said for the rest of her family. Unable to

take the pressures of the city anymore, her parents commit suicide, leaving behind Coryn and her older sister Lou.

Lou, however, is also miserable in Seacouver. At eighteen, she has reached the age where she can choose an occupation after graduating high school, but instead, she decides to leave to work in the wild lands, the unincorporated zones outside the city limits. Coryn is still fifteen, so she is left behind to finish her studies, with only her robot Paula for companionship. For the next three years, she receives regular updates from Lou, who writes about her idyllic life as a ranger working to restore the devastated ecosystem for a non-government organization. Charmed by these wonderful accounts of the wild beyond, when Coryn turns eighteen she also decides to leave the safety of the city with Paula to go reunite with Lou, only to discover that her sister might not have been entirely truthful with her descriptions.

I knew from some of the common themes in Cooper's previous books that she was very passionate about environmental issues, and she's brought them to the forefront here in Wilders, a story that speculates how humanity would live after the planet has gone through ecological degradation. Thus, it was with no surprise when I found that the messages in this novel—well-intentioned as they are—were delivered with the approximate delicacy of an orbital strike. That said, the narrative is completely upfront with this, as early as the prologue, so I have to give credit where credit is due. Even before the story started in earnest, I knew exactly what I was going to be in for, and because of that, I was able to overlook most of its weaknesses resulting from the author's not-so-subtle messages, though admittedly it was a struggle sometimes.

One area I thought the book excelled in was character development. Coryn was a great protagonist, and I thought the story captured her personality and thought processes very well. Having grown up in the city with an appreciation for it not shared by her sister or most of the other characters in this novel, she also gave us a unique point of view. And while it may be true that she's a city girl needing to overcome her naïve ways to learn about survival in the wild lands, it surprised me how frequently she ended up being the voice of reason. When Lou goes overboard in her romanticizing of nature, for example, or when the Wilders put down the life in the city unfairly, Coryn is often there to slap the truth and reality back into picture. Despite being childishly foolish and having her priorities confused at times, I thought Coryn was an independent and determined character, and as an outsider among the lawlessness of the wildlands, she did a good job holding her own.

In terms of criticisms though, I felt there was an overall "sparseness" to the world of Wilders that prevented the concept of the megacity and its surrounding wilderness from being fully realized. With Coryn being an exception, all of the others characters were painted in very broad strokes and given overly simplistic explanations for their motivations and actions. Furthermore, serious topics like suicide were diminished, such as when no other reason is given for Coryn's parents' suicides beyond simply that "they hated the city", and most of what life is like in Seacouver was told to us instead of shown. There also seemed to be an "all or nothing" division to it, i.e. people in the city either suffered or thrived with no in between. At first I thought there might have been an underlying reason for this that author would reveal in due course, but nope. The Wilders also had a similar weird dichotomy in their attitudes, i.e. if you're not on their side, then you're an animal-murdering, planet-hating, city-slicking dirtbag.

For all the book's flaws though, the story was entertaining, with frequent bursts of action to drive the pacing. Wilders won't be for everyone, but some parts did work for me, especially some of the more intriguing ideas about futuristic smart cities and ecological reconstruction. I also have a good feeling that any weak points will be beefed up in the sequel, so for now consider me interested and optimistic about the next book of the Project Earth duology.

Joy says

Disclosure: I know the author personally, have done copyediting and other work for her (not on this book, however), and got a copy of the book from her before it was published.

What will happen to us as climate change accelerates? One possible option is the creation of megacities that house 95% or more of the world's population, while the rest of the world is "rewilded" back to a more natural and sustainable state. That's what has happened in this near-future speculative fiction, which starts off in the city-state of Seacouver that was created jointly by the mayors of Seattle and Vancouver some time back. Coryn and her older sister Lou have grown up in Seacouver, and both leave the city once they reach their majority to go on different adventures that end up bringing them back together.

This book excels at bringing up a lot of important ideas - climate change, connected and managed cities, neat technology (we've got domes!), basic universal income, automation, NGOs and corporations and governments (and their interactions), and probably a few more. This melange of ideas is the story's strength but also a bit of its weakness, at times, as there were some points where I was not entirely sure what was going on or why, especially when it came down to the motivations of offscreen characters/factions. Coryn and Lou's story is set amongst this rich and complicated backdrop, and at times I was far more interested in what was going on behind them than I was in what they were doing or why. Part of this is due to the "coming of age" aspect of this story - it starts when Coryn is just about 13 or so, after all - and so I hope this will be improved with the next book in the series. This lack of knowledge of the rest of the world can also be viewed as a problem that plagues lots of us in today's world, however, so perhaps that is intentional.

My favorite character was Julianna, and I'm fascinated to learn more about her, her backstory, and her motivations when the story continues. Presumably Coryn and Lou will also continue to develop into more capable and rounded adults, and learn more about how the world is set up along the way - I'm especially interested in how the cities were setup, the boundaries that were drawn, and how people outside of those boundaries were handled.

This is a fun read, with some interesting bits, some awe-inspiring bits (those bridges...), and lots of interesting ideas to chew on. I think this one suffers a bit due to being a "setup" book, as while I love worldbuilding in general this one is just enough different from our own that I feel I needed more social history than I got to understand it, and I hope that'll be rectified in the next entry. I'll definitely be reading the next book in the series!

Clay Kallam says

"Wilders" (Pyr, \$18, 350 pages) is Brenda Cooper's best book so far, and a promising start to the Project Earth series, but her best still doesn't quite qualify as "must read." Her best is pretty good, though, and aside from an unlikely premise and a few too many coincidences, "Wilders" hits all the marks.

The protagonist is a young woman who lives in the megacity of Seacouver, one of many megacities that emerged in response to a near-future environmental collapse. Nation-states have disappeared, and technological civilization exists only in the megacities while various groups do their best to restore the world's ecology in the Wilds.

Naturally, things aren't going quite as planned and when Coryn Williams leaves Seacouver to find her sister, who's working in the Wilds, even more complications arise. The plot turns on several unlikely turns of events, but a moderate dose of willing-suspension-of-disbelief makes "Wilders" a fun read – and a good

beginning for a series.

Lovey Dovey Books says

Published on Lovey Dovey Books

Brenda Cooper is one of those authors whose books you immediately pick up, maybe before even reading the blurb. Wilders, first in the Project Earth series, is a prime example of her ability to create vast worlds with environmental, futuristic, and dystopian appeal. The dynamic between the characters and the world they live in is intriguing and pulls you in as the dangers they face are revealed.

With robot companion in tow, Coryn Williams leaves the protection of domed Seacouver to reunite with her older sister, Lou. Lou works on the Outside on a rewilding crew, but her messages home convince Coryn that Outside is her next logical choice after graduation. Her travels opens her eyes to the truth of Outside and the factions moving to attack the city. The issues unveiled in the story show the complexity of the world readers will step into. I thought it interesting that the people Coryn meets try to keep her in the dark about what they're planning or why they're trying to force change because Coryn proves to be in a unique position to help. Her experience and tenacity drew me in to see what role she would play in the end.

I enjoyed Coryn's character. She's sassy, smart, and not afraid to speak her mind or stand up for herself. She has the unique ability to connect with many different people and along the way befriends a variety of interesting characters. Coryn didn't really find her voice until closer to the end of the story, but her initial naivety helps readers get to know the true state of her world right along with her.

Coryn's journey allows readers to experience the natural and technological side of her world. With steady pacing and an underlying sense of impending change, Wilder's delivers a complex plot that you won't be able to pull away from until you've reached the end of the adventure! I can't wait to see what's on the horizon for Coryn and her friends in the next book, Keepers!

Review copy provided in consideration for review

Lori L (She Treads Softly) says

Wilders by Brenda Cooper is a highly recommended coming-of-age dystopian science fiction novel.

In the near future cities have expanded to megacities that take care of most of the populations every need. The land outside the cities is set aside for wilding, or returning it to a natural state, sans humans with the exception of those hired in the capacity to assist returning nature to a natural balance. Coryn Williams and her sister Lou grew up in Seacouver, a merging of Seattle and Vancouver. After their parents' suicides, Lou was hired to join a rewilding crew and left the city. She left Coryn behind at an orphanage, occasional sending her bland emails about the beauty she sees in the wild. Once Coryn becomes of age, she chooses to leave the city with Paula, her companion robot, to look for her sister.

Outside the city's dome, the world is much different and more treacherous than Lou let on. Coryn is in almost constant peril of being harmed, robbed, and having Paula stolen from her. Even the weather, uncontrolled outside the city dome, is dangerous and unpredictable. While it seems that most people outside can't be trusted, Coryn manages to press on, meets a few people who may be friends, and she eventually does

find Lou; but everything Lou wrote about outside to Coryn doesn't seem to reflect the reality of the life Lou is living. There is also some risky plan and private agenda between Lou and some people Coryn knows are evil. The only problem is that no one, not even Lou, trusts her enough to tell her what is going on.

This is the first book in a future series. Admittedly, I enjoyed Wilders considerably, although it felt like it was a whole lot longer than 367 pages while I was reading it. Part of the issue is that even though the plot has interesting little scenes or hooks in it to propel you forward with bursts of speed, the action is rather slow moving. Once you keep reading, not all the interesting bits are fully explained and the world building is a little lacking.

You need to set aside certain expectations and roll with the narrative in this case. The story flows smoothly, and we reach a conclusion of sorts, but obviously more books in the series will mean more information about the city, etc. Coryn is an interesting character and there are several other interesting characters along the way. Now, we don't get to know too much about any of them, except Coryn, but I'd imagine future books will flesh out people more completely. Wilders reads like a YA title and would be highly suitable for that audience. This is a nice start to a new series.

Disclosure: My review copy was courtesy of Pyr Books.
<http://www.shetreadssoftly.com/2017/0...>

Jessica Higgins says

Another dystopian novel that is a bit more unique than you might think.

Coryn Williams has grown up in the metropolis of Seacouver, Washington. A town that has been developed under a weather dome. This is a new generation of smart city that is completely connected with each person and tells them when they need certain items or when to go to the doctor. But the city is not for everyone, many suffer from it. Coryn's parents each took their life and her older sister must get out of the city before it drives her to the same fate, so she sets off to work for a rewilding foundation that is reestablishing the ecosystem that humans have destroyed.

Three years later, Coryn is set to graduate from school and must head into a career. Instead she decides to do the unthinkable; voluntarily go outside of the dome to find her sister. But will her sister want to see her? And will the city let her back in?

Dystopian novels are rapidly becoming a dime a dozen. It's hard to find something new and fresh that doesn't build upon an already realized idea. However, Cooper definitely piqued my interests with this one. I've done a lot of research into smart cities and how they currently interact versus how they are planning to connect in the future with the internet of things. This book easily brings my fears into place with the amount of data that the city knows and how the city can protect itself.

Coryn was an interesting character. She was very independent (and stubborn) and set out to find her sister with no thoughts of what could happen to her. But she got more than what she bargained for once she found her. I'm curious if the storms were a result of the damaged ecosphere, but that may come in a future book.

There is some occasional harsh language for a YA novel, which is why I took it down to 4 stars. Even so, it is a really good read.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. The views and opinions expressed within are my own.

Kat says

In the fairly near future, Earth is beset by global warming. Major cities build weather domes and become almost autonomous entities - massive collections of technologies working together to protect and better the lives of humans. The cities work more and more towards self sufficiency, and laws are passed returning most of the outside lands to public ownership so they can be actively "re-wilded" in an attempt to curb the rapid global warming. Of course, no first try at such a system is going to be perfect, especially when human personalities and desires are involved.

This is the first book in a series, and I'm really interested in seeing where it's going. The story in this first installment was a little bit clunky in places, but it was a decent setup for a series.

This story also began to explore what AI means, with hints that some or all might be achieving sentience. I'm really hoping future volumes in the series will dig deeper into that.

I'm definitely looking forward to the sequels!

Kate Sherrod says

Full review at [Skiffy and Fanty](#)

Sheila says

2 stars--meh.

I liked the idea behind this book, and it's clear Cooper cares a lot for the environment. Her passion comes through. But that's not enough to be a good book; I found a lot of grammar errors, a muddled plot, and a lack of characterization. I just couldn't get into this book.
