



## The Future Collection

*Beth Revis*

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### **The Future Collection** Beth Revis

This collection of sci fi stories from NY Times Bestselling author Beth Revis features worlds and technology from the future. Featuring three brand new, original tales and three reprints, each story explores a different set of characters in a different world and facing different problems in the future world.

"Doctor-Patient Confidentiality": A girl wakes up in a cryomed unit and must recall why she's there and what's she's lost.

"The Most Precious Memory": In a world where memories are sold and consumed like drugs, one deal has a weird twist.

"The Girl & the Machine": A time traveler meets someone who claims she's met his future self and that they'll change the world together.

"Lag": A reporter has found the story of a lifetime--but a malfunctioning teleportation has made her forget it...

"The Turing Test": A college student must determine which test subject is human and which is an android with A.I.

"As They Slip Away": A novella set in the world of Across the Universe, exploring the fate of a side character.

### **The Future Collection Details**

Date : Published January 13th 2015 by Scripturient Books

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Author : Beth Revis

Format : Kindle Edition 127 pages

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## From Reader Review The Future Collection for online ebook

### Amber (Cosying Up With Books) says

THE FUTURE COLLECTION is a compilation of 5 short stories, each with some sort of nod to sci-fi. I generally don't read short stories as I like to hear the whole story. Each of these shorts had a somewhat twist of an ending, some left me wanting a whole book and others I was happy to leave be. The former is the reason I don't really read short stories; if it's well written and in a genre I like then I'm going to want more and I'm going to obsess over what could have happened after the cut off. But I digress; For those reasons above I never review stories like this but I really really enjoyed these! More than I thought I would actually so I'm going to do a small review for each.

#### **DOCTOR-PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY**

This was one of the shortest stories in the collection but I was invested pretty quickly. I love stories about earth so far in the future that anything seems possible. I like seeing what authors have kept the same, what they think is timeless, what they think could happen in a new century. Beth Revis did a good job of pulling me in and I liked learning little snippets of the new world from the characters. The whole situation was very predictable though, especially the ending which is why I'm rating this 3.5 stars instead of a solid 4.

★★★★½

#### **THE MOST PRECIOUS MEMORY**

I really enjoyed this story even though it was the shortest in the whole collection. I would love a whole book about this, I've never read anything like it, memories used like drugs. It was a little creepy and a whole lot intriguing and that's the perfect balance in my opinion! Beth \*waves\* I wouldn't be opposed to a whole book. ;)

★★★★★

#### **THE GIRL AND THE MACHINE**

Now this one was my favourite. Not just my favourite story from this collection but my favourite short ever. I honestly wanted to applaud the female MC at the end and never have I been more proud. At first I wasn't interested much because the time travel genre, for me, can be a hit or miss. There is generally no in between and unfortunately it's usually a miss. Time travel is too dense of a subject and it's too easy for mistakes to be made and overlooked. I read this one anyways because what the hell? It's just a short story. So, as I said, at first I was skeptical, then I was a little confused because some things didn't add up to the story I had already made in my head (back when I thought it was a typical time-travel short) and then I was annoyed. Confused and annoyed which isn't the best combo. By the end I'm pretty sure my jaw was on the floor and I felt the overwhelming urge to slow clap. Love, love, love this short story and I went on a little rant in my facebook group (The Book Owls) telling them all that if they were to read one short story in their lives let it be this one.

★★★★★(★)

#### **LAG**

This one was my least favourite. I did enjoy the general story, don't get me wrong. Beth Revis's writing is really good. I just didn't do well with the imagery created, it was pretty gross. It was also the story with the least substance so there wasn't much to invest myself in or judge.

★★

### **THE TURING TEST**

Ah I love stories like this. Ones where I'm kept guessing until the end. I did guess the turn-out but barely before the reveal so I can't take much credit for that. I can't find much to say about this one though - It was good. Not my favourite but not my least favourite.

★★★½

### **AS THEY SLIP AWAY**

I have yet to read Beth's ACROSS THE UNIVERSE series but I do have the first book. I will definitely be reading it now though because I am beyond curious. The world on board Godspeed is pretty complex and I know I only got to see a small portion of it in this short. This was my second favourite from this collection, it was also the longest. I feel like I got played a little bit... But it's hard to explain why without spoilers. Gah. I felt so many feelings. I felt pity and intrigue then happiness and then BAM, I was creeped out to the max and anxious. If you're a fan of the ACROSS THE UNIVERSE series then definitely read this. If I understand correctly, it intertwines with the first book in a couple of parts. I have a feeling this may have spoiled parts of ATU for me but I'm going to have to deal with that because I am definitely bumping it up my TBR. I'll probably actually read it next! It may not be as tied in as I think it is but hey, wont know until I read it.

★★★★½

Overall, I'm giving this collection 5 stars because I liked all the stories, some more than others, but they were all really interesting.

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### **Frances Peterson says**

I am not usually a short story reader. I love the idea of short stories, I even love writing them but for me I usually find myself rushing through them not enjoying the true story. Also I find myself being board not having enough time to get into the story.

The Future Collection was a perfect short story collection. I got into each story without thinking about finishing it. When I was reading each story I kept wanting to read it. A lot of the stories I wish were longer. Beth Revis wrote in a stile that I love in science fiction. There are times when I am reading I feel that I will never meet a science fiction writing that I truly love, then I read something from Beth Revis and fall in love with it. If you love anything in the world of science fiction and are stuck inside because of poor weather read this perfect collection of stories.

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### **Frida says**

*The Future Collection is a collection of novellas, containing four new and two already published novellas. All of the novellas are set in the future, but apart from that they're very different and contain many current topics and parallels to the world today. I like every one of them very much and Beth Revis really shows what an amazing author she is. I just want to read more and more and more. Definitely going to read her other works!*

### **Doctor-Patient Confidentiality**

The first novella is about a girl who wakes up in a cryomed unit and she's trying to remember what has

happened and why she's there. The novella is skillfully written and I like it, but compared with the others, it's my least favorite. I manage to figure out the twist in advance and it was quite uneventful.

### **The Most Precious Memory**

This was one of my favorites! The novella is set in a future where people use memories as drugs. First they drain themselves of memories and when their own memories are gone, they buy other people's memories to devour. Very interesting and thought-provoking concept, but also super scary.

### **The Girl & the Machine**

My favorite! It's difficult to say anything without spoiling the twist at the end, which would totally ruin everything, but I can say this: Beth Revis explores entire new (for me at least) perspectives in this time-travel novella. It's unexpected, thought-provoking and extremely emotional. You'll understand when you read it.

### **Lag**

The main character in this novella is a reporter who has found the story of a lifetime, but after a malfunctioning teleportation she loses her memory and we get to follow her as she tries to regain it. I still don't know what I think about this novella. It's a bit more complex than the others and it ended quite abruptly. It's an interesting concept, and I like the setup, but I'm not sure I understood everything. A re-read would probably be a good idea.

### **The Turning Test**

This novella has been published before and I have already read it, but it was just as good this time, except from the fact that the big twist wasn't very surprising the second time around. The main character is a college student who is participating in a sort of test and has to determine which of the test subject is human and which is an android. It's an interesting concept, it's thought-provoking and incredibly well written.

### **As They Slip Away**

In this novella we follow one of the character's from the "Across the Universe"-series, but you don't have to have read that series. I have not read it, but I still really liked this novella. It has a darker tone than the others and it's very emotional. It brings up current themes and the emotions are really whirling like a storm while reading. You get both angry and sad and everything in between. After "The Girl & the Machine" this one's my favorite!

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## **Rayna says**

4/5 stars

Each short story left me feeling like I got punched in the gut. They each held their own unique characters and story and each one had enough mystery to keep you wondering whether or not what was happening was actually taking place.

The first short story, Doctor-Patient Confidentiality, told of a girl who wakes from hyper-sleep to discover she had come close to death and that she had been brought back again. Many years have passed and she's

unsure of where she is, but it mostly deals with her inner struggle of the past. And then you discover who the doctor is and then it hits you in the feels.

The second story, *The Most Precious Memory*, is about a world in which you can sell your memories for money, and then you can drink those memories and get a high. The main protagonist doesn't know his name after having drunk all of his memories or given them away for money until someone offers him to give him the most precious memory. And then it continues and you learn more about the character and he tries to hold onto that memory. Again: right in the feels.

The third story, *The Girl & the Machine*, is about a teen boy who can time travel, but only within an immediate time frame. He meets this girl who knows him somehow from the future and the two then go to change the future. Well, things get kind of dark, and the subject matter turns to rape, and things are just... Heated.

The fourth story, *Lag*, is about teleportation and how a woman has lost two weeks of memory from her last travels. As a reporter, she uncovers why and how that was even possible, and she learns that she isn't exactly what she thought she was. This one was kind of intense.

The fifth story, *The Turing Test*, is about a girl who has to figure out if the two machines she's talking to are either human or artificial intelligence - AI. As she talks to them and makes her choice, it is then discovered just who the AI is. It was a surprise to me and I really enjoyed this short story the most. Well, it was my second favorite after the memory one.

The sixth and final short story, *As They Slip Away*, is about a group of teens who are all at the Hospital and they are all deemed crazy. Each one has a unique ability, but not necessarily for the good of the ship. As they break into partnerships, it really becomes clear just how creepy one kid is, how one girl decides to give it up and become nothing more than someone who chases rabbits, and how the others try to help her, but can't. This one was kind of the creepiest and most frustrating, but definitely interesting.

There were several typos I noticed through the collection, but the stories and plots themselves were unique and different, each situation leading somewhere I didn't see coming. I highly recommend it if you're looking for a quick and fun sci-fi fix.

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## Melody says

I'm not typically one for short stories but after reading and enjoying *The Turing Test* so much when it released, I knew I was in for reading a collection of Beth's short stories when this collection was announced. *The Turing Test* is probably one of my favorite short stories ever. So I was excited to start this short story collection which includes *The Turing Test*. It's so smart and so compelling. I love it. I love how stable yet disorienting each of the stories are. I really did love them all.

If you enjoyed Beth's *Across the Universe* trilogy, you'll love *As They Slip Away* which is set in the same world (and is seemingly the longest short story of this collection!) as well as the first short story, *Doctor-Patient Confidentiality* which is not set in that world but has similar elements. If you liked the memory centric "The Entire History of You" episode of *Black Mirror*, the movie *In Time*, or *The Bodies We Wear* by Jeyn Roberts, you'll enjoy the short story, *The Most Precious Memory*. I felt elements from all of the above there and loved every bit of it. More time/memory centered plus teleportation is *Lag* which I enjoyed very much as well. But that's not all. Time travel fans, *Doctor Who* fans, *The Time Traveler's Wife* fans, *The Girl and the Machine* is for you!

Basically, I really enjoyed seeing Beth's vision of some of the most mind bending ideas in sci fi. *The Turing Test* remains my favorite of the short stories though I don't feel comfortable ranking them because they are all remarkable and stand out for different reasons that all lead to amazing. These short stories have great characters, wonderful pacing, and fantastic storytelling. The stories are smart and sharp and exciting and have me hoping that this is the first of many short story collections from Beth Revis. So when you've got two hours to lose yourself in this collection, take a seat and enjoy the ride.

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## Caitlin Gutilla says

I averaged out my individual ratings and the book as a whole turned out to be like a 4.17....SO....

Doctor-Patient Confidentiality: 3.5. This was an interesting little story, but a little predictable.

The Most Precious Memory: 4. Awesome! This would be a really cool premise for a full-length book.

The Girl & the Machine: 5. MY FAVORITE story in the whole collection. Interesting and dark and I didn't see the ending coming at all!

Lag: 4. This was pretty rad, a little gruesome, but really makes me interested in the idea of future teleportation.

The Turing Test: 4.5. So cool and different, artificial intelligence is always a fascinating subject and I was completely thrown off from where the story was going!

As They Slip Away: 4. I read this before, it's sad and haunting and allows me to reminisce of Across the Universe.

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## Paula says

I enjoyed 'The Future Collection' from start to finish and I looked forward to reading it because I enjoyed the 'Across the Universe' series so much.

'The Future Collection' definitely packs a punch, all of the stories are well written and full of potential to become novels.

My favourite stories were 'Doctor-Patient Confidentiality', 'The Girl and the Machine' (I love how it ended) and 'As They Slip Away' which is a story from the 'Across the Universe' world and its the story of Bartie, Victoria, Kayleigh, Harley, Luthor (Luthe), Orion, Doc and Selene. Selene was 'the rabbit girl' who meets Amy in 'Across the Universe'. 'As They Slip Away' is a sad story, Selene never gets a chance of happiness and you want her to have happiness. I also enjoyed being back on Godspeed. The story highlights as it did in 'Across the Universe', the struggle of living in an enclosed place, people are seen for their skills, not as people which does not help Selene when she needs help.

This is a great collection of stories.

The only downside of the book is that I wished the stories were longer.

There is also a excerpt from 'The Body Electric' which I am planning to read.

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## Elyse says

### E-Book won a Spring Fling Reads Giveaway.

These were some cool dystopian short stories and they didn't feel lacking in content. They felt whole, though they're short. I've often felt like there needed to be more said in most short stories. But these ended well. I liked them all! They could've been full-length novels but were also fine the way they are! Gotta read more Beth Revis because I LOVED her *Across the Universe* series!

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## Genni Eccles says

Such a good collection! I really loved some of the stories, but they were all much darker than I anticipated. I could have read this in one day, the collection is short, but I wanted to draw it out and I'm glad I did! All the stories are unique and yet still have a common underlying theme of a twisted future in them. If you're looking for some thought provoking short stories, these are the ones for you. My least favorite would be *The Turning Test* and my favorite would be *As They Slip Away*. The latter is part of the *Across the Universe* world, so if you want to know some more about minor characters from there, you'll definitely enjoy it. This collection was worth the small price of 2.99 on my Nook and I encourage anyone to read it if you're into dark sci-fi reads! I now really, really want to read *The Body Electric*, the only novel I haven't read of hers.

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## Kristen says

7.5/10 (3.5/5--> 3/5 on the Goodreads stars)

1- Doctor-Patient Confidentiality: This one was just alright. As I was reading, I was intrigued and curious about what was going on, but it was incredibly short (or at least it felt shorter than the others) and I felt like the 'twist' at the end was pretty expected. Just average.

2- The Most Precious Memory: This one was really interesting, and I really enjoyed it. I think that the ability that the main character has in this story is really cool, and I would love to see a full novel exploring this world and the ability that these people have. However, given the nature of the ability, I'm not exactly sure how that would work. Either way, this was a really cool one.

3- The Girl & the Machine: Although this one wasn't super unpredictable, I did find it really intriguing and thought that it was an interesting commentary on the topic that it addressed. I did kind of catch on to what was going to happen pretty early on, but didn't discover WHY until just before the twist was revealed, so it was nice that the suspense was still somewhat there. Overall, a pretty solid story.

4- Lag: I think that I would have been more impressed by this novella if I'd read it before reading *The Body Electric*, because some of the ideas in here were placed into TBE. That being said, please DO NOT read this novella before reading *The Body Electric*, because that is a great book, and I think it would be a travesty to have a major plot point of the book be spoiled by a novella that I deem as just "good." That being said, this was an interesting one, and it did take me a little while to catch on to the elements that were also used in

TBE.

5- The Turing Test: I think that this one might be my favorite novella in the entire book, just because of the fact that I didn't see the ending coming. If I remember correctly, it's also one of the shorter novellas, which is especially surprising. Overall, really intriguing and kept me guessing.

6- As They Slip Away: This is a novella related to Revis's Across The Universe trilogy. I would recommend at least reading book 1 of the trilogy before you read this. It does take place before the main plot of the trilogy, but it would confuse you and spoil some stuff from book 1. Anyway, I thought this one was interesting. I just wish it was about something else. It focused on some minor characters- one that I like, one that I hate, and many that I don't care about. And there are so many interesting things that could go on within the ship other than what happened in this novella. HOWEVER, I can't just sit here and fantasize about what she could have written. This is what she wrote, and overall, I liked it. Not bad, not outstanding, but I liked it.

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### **Princess Godoy says**

I got this from the author herself from the YA Spring Fling

This is an amazing read because for someone who loves the Across the Universe series, I have high expectations for Beth Revis other works and some of the short stories here are really amazing. Unlike other author, Beth explore other possibilities and doesn't stick to her usual Across the Universe's world, she made different setting and story that are enjoyable.

She is really an amazing author who are underrated and deserves more fame.

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### **Tamara says**

I entered the YA Spring Fling because I wanted to win a copy of "Body Electric". I didn't win one, but got a copy of the "Future Collection" instead. Thank you Beth Revis. This doesn't influence my opinion. This is a collection of well-written short stories which often have a surprising twist at the end. I can recommend this to everyone who liked the "Across the Universe" series and likes short stories.

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### **Jennifer says**

[ from the names. The doctor's name is Richard K. Philip (as in Philip

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### **Nadine says**

Wow. Colour me impressed!

Beth Revis delivers fantastically crafted science fiction stories in very few pages. Each story gives enough information to capture the readers' attention and to understand the present situation. Each story made me wish they were part of a full length novel. Revis' writing style is clean and precise and her ability to craft a comprehensive world in a few pages is truly impressive. I will always read whatever she writes.

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Short story rating break down:

Doctor-Patient Confidentiality - 5 Stars

The Most Precious Memory - 4 Stars

The Girl and the Machine - 5 Stars (Did not expect the ending!)

Lag - 5 Stars (So good!)

The Turning Test - 5 Stars (So good!)

As They Slip Away - 5 Stars (Novella attached to the Across the Universe trilogy)

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## **Rabea Guettler says**

3.5

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