



All Rights Reserved

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In a world where every word and gesture is copyrighted, patented or trademarked, one girl elects to remain silent rather than pay to speak, and her defiant and unexpected silence threatens to unravel the very fabric of society.

Speth Jime is anxious to deliver her Last Day speech and celebrate her transition into adulthood. The moment she turns fifteen, Speth must pay for every word she speaks ("Sorry" is a flat ten dollars and a legal admission of guilt), for every nod (\$0.99/sec), for every scream (\$0.99/sec) and even every gesture of affection. She's been raised to know the consequences of falling into debt, and can't begin to imagine the pain of having her eyes shocked for speaking words that she's unable to afford.

But when Speth's friend Beecher commits suicide rather than work off his family's crippling debt, she can't express her shock and dismay without breaking her Last Day contract and sending *her* family into Collection. Backed into a corner, Speth finds a loophole: rather than read her speech—rather than say anything at all—she closes her mouth and vows never to speak again. Speth's unexpected defiance of tradition sparks a media frenzy, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps, and threatens to destroy her, her family and the entire city around them.

All Rights Reserved Details

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Author : Gregory Scott Katsoulis

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From Reader Review All Rights Reserved for online ebook

Alison says

I've been raving about this one to my friends after receiving an ARC from the publisher. The book presents a frightening future of corporate sponsorships and copyright infringement gone haywire that we are probably closer to than you expect.

Amy Giles says

Smart, interesting, and often heartbreaking, All Rights Reserved may be dystopian, but it often hits too close to home. I was racing through the last section to see how this one would end. Looking forward to the sequel.

I received an advance copy

Amanda Searcy says

This is great science fiction. The world building is vivid and intriguing, it has a unique plot, and it makes you think. Speth's world is uncomfortable to read about. Every word and gesture is copyrighted and a payment has to be made to the rights hold. Any slight provokes a lawsuit that eventually sends people into so much debt that they are sold as indentured servants. Speth, in shock and grief over the suicide of her friend, chooses not to speak, which makes her a pariah and even dangerous.

This is an engaging read with very clever details—like the secret product placers who sneak into houses in the middle of the night to leave samples from advertisers. I really enjoyed this book. Great for teens and adults!

Trin says

Hey, it's a dystopian YA novel that's really *about* something! This is actual, proper social and political criticism, folks. In a YA novel published by Harlequin. I'm pleased, but not surprised: *Teen Vogue* is providing some of the best political commentary of our era, so it makes sense that Harlequin would also choose this moment to step it up.

All Rights Reserved takes place in a future where every word you say after age 15 is copyrighted and incurs a fee. The protagonist, Speth, doesn't set out to be a revolutionary, but when events on the day of her birthday cause her to choose not to speak, she's thrust down the path of reluctant heroism. Katsoulis does an excellent job illustrating her journey to becoming a leader of this silent rebellion.

The world of *All Rights Reserved* is, by nature of the dystopian genre, extreme, but Katsoulis' exploration of poverty and the crushing, inescapable weight of debt felt very, very real. I also really liked that this is (mostly) a much less action-packed revolution than, say, *Katniss*'. This book is (mostly) about silent, peaceful protest, and I found the sections of the novel where Speth's understated -- ha! -- heroism inspires others to action incredibly moving.

The book is not perfect -- I felt like the whole thing could be tightened and trimmed to a more effective length, and the bad guy seemed too weak and fallible to be at the center of such a vast system. (He'd at least need better henchmen, if this were the case? Or maybe this is part of a twist being set up for book two...) Nevertheless, this is an excellent addition to the dystopian genre, one that harkens back to the old-school, 1984-type: more oppression, fewer love triangles.

Bea Turvey says

This book must be read by everyone, now!

We are coming to that time when litigation stifles our lives. Monsanto have copyrighted whole genetic sequences while cuckoo nesting farms with barren seed crops. Taylor Swift has successfully registered whole sentences which cannot be used by anyone - she didn't think of them, but she wrote them down and now feels validated to claim ownership of them. The estate of Marvin Gaye successfully sued Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke for the sound of a cow bell in their song. A COW BELL! Take a page from Sir Berners-Lee's book and learn to share!

When you stifle creativity, you stifle progress and we will find ourselves in the situation Mr Katsoulus has so eruditely captured in this wonderful book.

It was depressing - how could it be otherwise - yet there was a spark of hope. Our heroine, a bland, so-so girl, broke the system and became an unwitting Joan of Arc

This book has taken the oppressive idea of intellectual property rights and given us a flash of hope.

Loved the book. Read it and pass it on. Spread the message.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environme...>

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/new...>

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/new...>

Heather says

This book was absolutely amazing! I simply could not put it down. I read fifty pages one day, and when I picked it up the next day I couldn't put it down until I finished it.

All Rights Reserved is a dystopian novel that takes place in a futuristic America. The laws have been distorted so much by copywrite laws that citizens have lost the freedom of speech, and must begin paying for every word and gesture the day they turn fifteen. Speth, the main character, is so utterly relatable. The book opens on her 15th birthday as she is walking to give her speech. After witnessing a tragedy brought on by someone else's debts, Speth decides not to speak. This leads to a roller coaster of events as the society struggles to comprehend what she has done by remaining silent.

The scariest part of this book is that it is plausible. It wouldn't take to many alterations to bring our own society to this dystopian future.

The world building is absolutely fantastic. I can practically see the horrific adds stalking people across the city, appearing to match people's moods or needs. Speth's struggle is so realistic, I could feel myself choking with her inability to express herself to those trying to help her.

All in all, this book is absolutely amazing and I highly recommend it to everyone!!!

Maggie says

The entire time I read this book I kept thinking to myself "Could this BE anymore timely?!" All Rights Reserved is a smart, detailed commentary on what might happen if the reigns are held too tightly on copyright and freedom of expression. There are so many wonderful and subtle nods to the big copyright holders in the present. I can hands-down say this is the sharpest Dystopian YA I've ever read. I can't wait to read more about Speth and Co. in book 2!

Mandy Webb says

Thank you to netgalley and the publisher for the pleasure of reading this e-arc

This was a brilliant read. I love a good Dystopian novel and this comes with such a creatively detailed social commentary. . . I had a hard time putting it down. The future laid out in this book made me pause to take a look at what our 21st century looks like, and being able to imagine our society reaching a place where it costs to communicate added a goosebump inducing tension to the whole story. Speth was such a relatable main character, and I felt so deeply for the pain she felt when she wanted to communicate but couldn't. Katsoulis does an amazing job with world building, I pretty much felt like pop up ads were glowing against the pages of the book, and every time I let out a sound or reacted outloud to the story I half expected to hear a beep from my very own cuff. The details were so well thought out, the plot grew and unraveled in a way that kept me engaged but didn't feel rushed or forced. This is definitely a book you'll read and spend weeks after talking about with your friends, about our relationship with technology and advertisements and whether or not we consider what it means that we get to speak without charge. I can't wait for this to come out so I can recommend it to everyone!

Sarah says

Well that was terrifying! In the current world that we live in with "fake news", sue happy people, and companies trying to copyright just about everything this book really caused me to pause and think. Throughout the whole novel I constantly gave thought to the idea of not being able to say what was on my mind because it would cost too much or what it would be like to not be able to hug a loved one when they needed it because it would send my family into collections. In Speth's world these are realities.

The novel does an excellent job of building the world that Speth lives in while also explaining how it got that way. I think this is one of the strengths of the novel. Very rarely are you dropped into a dystopic novel and begin to understand what lead to the undoing of society. Katsoulis clearly paints the picture of the gradual erosion of some of the rights that we hold so dear. Actions that may seem small or meaningless at the moment begin to snowball into something much bigger, something that eventually becomes unstoppable. It makes you pause and think, at what point do you stand up and protest before a situation becomes so insurmountable that you feel you can't make a change?

I also felt Speth's method of protest was brilliant. She was able to go against the grain and create meaningful change although that was not her initial intent. Her struggle throughout the novel to determine if she would break down or hold to her principles was so real that you felt the pain as a reader.

Overall, this book stands out for me because it really makes you think about the rights that we all take for

granted. Any novel that can make you take a genuine look at what you have as a society and appreciate it deserves to stand above the rest.

Figgy says

Even before the start of this story, readers are shown a glimpse of the world they're about to enter, in the form of a copyright page as it might look in the State of Vermaine, the place where Speth lives some time in our future, where freedom of speech is no longer a thing and special permits need to be bought just to maintain ownership of a physical book.

The Owner assumes any and all Legal obligation for this physical copy of the book and indemnifies the author and publisher against liability, including but not limited to the following:

- i) Paper cuts
- ii) Eyestrain or eye fatigue
- iii) Cases where the physical existence of paper, printing or binding might present physical, emotional, or intellectual harm or distress.
- iv) Cases where the textual content might present physical, emotional, or intellectual harm or distress.
- v) Confusion, disorientation or irritation
- vi) Intestinal distress
- vii) Death

And to be sure, there is a lot to take in with regards to the dystopian world Katsoulis offers up, so this is a nice primer for readers who won't dismiss this offhand as uninteresting copyright information.

For the most part it is evident that a lot of thought has gone into the building of this world, and fans of Black Mirror are bound to feel a little familiar with some of the technology holding people to ransom.

We were all familiar with Blocking. It was becoming increasingly common for companies to Block certain imagery in-eye using the overlays on your corneal membranes. An expensive perfume bottle, for example, might appear as a blocky mess of color if you fell too far out of the company's target demographic. People who were too poor, or fell too far in debt, could end up with a full-blown case of The Blocks.

Anything that wasn't explicitly in the public domain was blurred to little more than colored squares. Shalk and Yundoro became two masses of moving blocks in the approximate shape and location of the human behind them. As far as the authorities were concerned, I had basically lost my right to see. In all likelihood, I would be like this for the rest of my life. My hands were the only thing I could see.

The rest of this review can be found [HERE!](#)

Pre-Review

An interesting idea, though it did require quite a lot of suspension or disbelief and at times the rules seemed

to change on a whim to help the story, not hugely, but enough that it was hard to get a proper handle on all the ins and outs.

The other side of this coin is the fact that there was a lot to take in about the way their world was built, so maybe I just missed something in the huge scope of the story.

A bit of a *Black Mirror* feel, with technology holding people to ransom, including overlays on their eyes which enable people to watch the "stream" of information through the subject's eyes, shock the subject when they speak without a cuff or without the credit to do so, and allow the option of "Blocking" things in the real world from the view of the poor or unsavory.

Indy says

Received digital copy from NetGalley

This book just grabbed me from the very first page.

Essentially a commentary on society, and how we view words and our freedoms of speech and expression. Gregory Scott Katsoulis provides a harrowing perspective of a society gone completely wrong, where the policing and ownership of every single word, phrase and gesture is rigidly monitored. This is told from the perspective of 15 year old Speth, as she is about to become a legal adult and begin 'paying back' the almighty rights holders with each word and gesture she makes. Her chosen silence is something that begins somewhat of a revolution, in a society built upon expression and endorsement.

I loved Speth, despite not actually having her speak, her communication with the others around her is just amazing. It's something very different from what I have previously read, and you get quite more of an insight into her development and thinking than a typical verbal main protagonist. I enjoyed seeing the dynamics within her broken family, and the regrets and plans she makes along the way. She didn't become a predictable YA dystopian protagonist, instead forged something different and quite inspiring.

Katsoulis writes amazingly, with absolutely no predictability as to where the story is going. It kept me guessing right to the end.

This is a book I'd definitely would want every teenager and adult to read, as it made me think quite deeply on the actual power of our words. And, with a price on each, what and how would you communicate your deepest needs and thoughts. It's one I'd definitely put up with Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, as a definite game changer of the YA genre. Can't wait to see if there is going to be follow ups, and where they may lead. Katsoulis has created such an amazing and profoundly deep world, with lots to contemplate.

destiny ? [howling libraries] says

“Words matter. Words make ideas. They preserve truths and history. They express freedom and they shape it. Words mold our thoughts. That gives them value and power.”

✘ plot

In the future, lawyers have realized they can put copyrights on things as basic as *words*, and now, on each individual's fifteenth birthday, they are given a device that tracks every word they speak or gesture they make - and *charges* them exorbitantly for it.

On Speth's fifteenth birthday, she realizes she doesn't want to be sucked into this life, so she decides to do the unthinkable: she adopts silence as her protest. Lawyers everywhere are enraged, and Speth suddenly finds her entire world turned upside down as the world around her attempts to punish her for her nonconformity.

✘ the good

- The **plot** of this book is so unique, and unlike anything I've ever read before. A world in which people are charged for every word they speak, every nod or sigh, every kiss or hug - it's honestly a little bit terrifying to even *think* of, especially as the story goes on to explain that people who go too far into debt are basically forced into indentured slavery to the government.

- I loved the **sci-fi** aspects of the story, such as the ocular lenses everyone was forced to wear that could shock them for transgressions, or the Ads that were custom-tailored to the potential customers walking by at any given time. So many features in the story just felt so innovative!

- The **Product Placers**. I assumed from the very beginning that they would be important, given how much Speth was fascinated by them, so I was pretty pleased when they recruited her onto their team. Kel, Henri, and Margot are all such fun and sweet characters, plus I was especially fond of the scenes in which Speth was getting her feet under her and learning the ropes. The missions the team were sent on just sounded so intense and fun, and I am a sucker for the whole "lonely/misunderstood MC finds a group of misfit friends to become their family" trope.

✘ the bad

- **Speth**. This poor, sad child... sigh. I mean, the very first decision she makes in the entire book is so astonishingly poorly thought out that I just thought, certainly, she would have to progress in an upward fashion as the story continued... right? *Nope*.

She makes one poor decision after another, and by the end of the book, I honestly was just wishing someone would scream at her until she finally grasped the severity of the stupid, reckless, and terrible choices she made.

- Despite being a first-person narration style, I had a very hard time connecting to Speth **emotionally**. The story as a whole drew me in, and I found myself feeling attached to other characters at times, but I think the complete lack of dialogue from Speth makes her really hard to relate to. She constantly caused emotional duress to others through her silence, when they *needed* her to speak, and that made it really hard to view her as anything beyond this calloused and aloof child.

- Without trying to spoil too much, there's a serious story arc of **exploiting someone's feelings** to *use* them (and it's such a sweet character who gets hurt, at that!), and then it's just... never really called out? There are no actual repercussions, and very little remorse, seemingly.

- Again, no spoilers, but there is a **heartbreaking** turn of events towards the end of the book that made me want to throw my kindle and never, ever finish this story. I literally made a Goodreads status that basically said there are books that can break your heart and make you love them *more*, and then there are books that go for the Big Traumas and just piss you the hell off. This incident was the latter scenario.

- The ending leaves a lot of things unexplained, and the story is wrapped up in an incredibly unrealistic and rushed manner. I know it's the first book in a series, but the story would have been better to leave off on a cliffhanger than to rush through the last few chapters the way it did.

✘ conclusion

This was actually an incredibly anticipated read for me, and I thought I would love it and totally fly through

it; sadly, though, it just didn't cut it for me. If you're particularly into dystopian titles like I am, I would say pick it up, give it a chance, and it may be much more enjoyable for you than it was for me! As far as I'm concerned, though, I'll pass on continuing the series.

Thank you to Harlequin Teen and Edelweiss for providing me with an ARC of this book. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own!

You can find this review and more on my blog!

Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says

I was on the promotional blog tour for this book!

T/W- Suicide

I'm so happy that All Rights Reserved is coming to the UK and with a July release date, the wait to purchase a copy is almost over! The main character Speth is turning fifteen and has to make a speech, before being charged for every word or gesture that she makes. She refuses to say her speech however, due to the fears of debt and her best friend committing suicide due to debt. She plans to remain silent, no matter what the media or those closet to her try to do. It was an interesting storyline, full of digital and hi-tech equipment and terminology, making for a good read. Speth's perspective over not speaking a single word was fun to read, hearing her thoughts tied into actual events that take place opened up her development as a character. Overall, a chilling but eye-opening adventure that I would highly recommend to readers!

Annie says

Wow.. what a unique concept!!! Imagine a world where EVERYTHING you said was subject to Copyright? Where even your name is subject to a price and for those who can't afford to pay to name their child are obligated to settle for a "half name"... A world where generations later are penalised for an illegal download their great grandparents committed.. I found this book really interesting because this story is told from the perspective of "Speth" who was due to give a speech on her Last Day prior to entering "puberty" yet she decided to take a stand and zip her lips - a vow of silence for the rest of her life, a vow that costs the copyrighters as her silence isn't paying for words that could be said.. This act of silent defiance is the spark of a revolution.. The concept was quite unique but it was also interesting to see how the protagonist Speth interacts with those around her without an ounce of communication. How can one tell a story without words? How does one face questions without being able to answer? The flow of the story was easy to follow, and I found I was able to get into the head of the character.. Special thanks to Harlequin Teen Publishers for sending me an Advanced Review Copy in exchange for my honest review. This book is due for release in August 2017.

Bradley says

This happens to be one of those books where the only thing I wanted out of it was the satisfaction of seeing a super BOLD idea slapped across the page. The BIG IDEA is admittedly fantastic.

I was even more interested in seeing if ANYONE could pull it off. It comes with a ton of issues, but if properly handled, even as a YA dystopia, it might have been brilliant.

I have no problems with a huge suspension of disbelief, but sometimes a big idea doesn't (and can't) ever jibe with reality. Sure, if the author put tech inside everyone's head that forced them to comply quite aside from the monetization of words, I may not have had too much of a problem... BUT. And here's the big but:

The world is ruled by lawyers, and beyond that, it's predicated on perpetual copyright taken to the full extreme. Very cool. Every word is monetized. You pay to use anything. Therefore, the only way to rebel is to stay silent. But even gestures are copyrighted and the totally observed police state is quite diligent and any neighbor can easily get a big paycheck by a helpful suite of lawsuits when it comes to pain and suffering. Good stuff. I love this kind of worldbuilding. I don't even have an issue with perpetual copyright laws handed down 6 generations of punishment for a stolen song.

It's good, perhaps great, satire.

However.

When it comes to the next step, when and if a populace decides to rebel, I had to ask a simple question. Why not make up our own words? When every word in existence is monetized and you need to start using them beginning on your 15th birthday, wouldn't YOU begin looking for a way around that? Keep the old language for making money with product placement. But make up your own words or language, or BETTER YET, any number of OTHER LANGUAGES?

Humans a wily that way. Just the idea of unintentional drift drives makers of dictionaries crazy. Some people can make tons of money keeping ideas stratified, but others would EASILY start making up whatever they want to get around the whole stuffy thing, too! That's just human nature! How many curse words do YOU know?

Exactly.

Well, I would have explored that issue instead of wringing my hands and crying and sticking by my weird silent guns on the hope that others would care. Or watch loved ones die. Or rely on the off switch.

Where are the pirates of the mind?

Other than this, it's a pretty decent YA SF dystopia. In one aspect, all the monetization and ads is pretty great worldbuilding. It's just the next step, the next dig down, that I have an issue with.

I usually don't go this hard on a book for ideas, especially since the rest was a pretty decent read as long as you suspend disbelief. Unfortunately, the disbelief became just a tad too heavy. ; ;
