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# The Unwants



## Synopsis

A riveting middle-grade dystopian novel from New York Times bestselling Wake author Lisa McMann that Kirkus Reviews calls “The Hunger Games meets Harry Potter.” When Alex finds out he is Unwanted, he expects to die. That is the way of the people of Quill. Each year, all the thirteen-year-olds are labeled as Wanted, Necessary, or Unwanted. WANTEDs get more schooling and train to join the Quillitary. Necessarys keep the farms running. Unwanteds are set for elimination. It’s hard for Alex to leave behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted, but he makes peace with his fate until he discovers that instead of a “death farm,” what awaits him is a magical place called Artimf. There, Alex and his fellow Unwanteds are encouraged to cultivate their creative abilities and use them magically. Everything Alex has ever known changes before his eyes, and it’s a wondrous transformation. But it’s a rare, unique occurrence for twins to be divided between Wanted and Unwanted, and as Alex and Aaron’s bond stretches across their separation, a threat arises for the survival of Artimf that will pit brother against brother in an ultimate magical battle.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 880L (What’s this?)

Series: The Unwanteds (Book 1)

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reprint edition (July 10, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442407697

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 401 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Children’s Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian #52 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings #179 in Books > Children’s Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Imagination runs wild in this creative adventure." --#1 "New York Times" bestselling author Brandon Mull  
"Reading Lisa McMann's THE UNWANTEDS was like discovering a brilliant, lost children's classic--except it's never going to be lost, because readers will never, ever forget the magic they'll experience in its pages." --James A. Owen, author and Illustrator of HERE, THERE BE DRAGON  
The Hunger Games meets Harry Potter in this middle-grade departure from McMann's string of paranormal mysteries with romance for young adults. On the day of Purge in totalitarian Quill, which is run by the High Priest Justine, 13-year-olds learn if they are deemed Wanted to attend the university, Necessary to tend the land or Unwanted and purged by execution. Without a good-bye from his Wanted identical brother Aaron, Alex Stowe and the other Unwants travel to the Death Farm. Instead of death, they meet the lush and magical world of Artime, kept secret from Justine by mage Marcus Today. In a third-person narration characterized by even pacing and whimsical inventions, Alex and his peers learn that their creativity threatened Justine's power. Surrounded by talking blackboards, transporting tubes and such fantastical creatures as an octagator (with the head of an alligator and body of an octopus) for instructors, the teens hone their drawing, music and acting skills while also wielding paintbrushes for invisibility spells and iambic pentameter to stun attackers during Magical Warrior Training, in preparation for battle against the Quillitary. As the youths explore fear, responsibility and free thinking, their spells may be used sooner than they think when Alex's twin bond is tested and rivals vie for Aaron's new position in Justine's government. Blending elements from two popular genres, this is sure to be a double hit. - "KIRKUS, "April 15, 2011

Lisa McMann is the New York Times bestselling author of the middle grade dystopian fantasy series The Unwants, the YA paranormal Wake trilogy, and several other books for kids and teens. She lives with her family in the Phoenix area. Check out Lisa's website at [LisaMcMann.com](http://LisaMcMann.com), learn more about The Unwants Series at [UnwantsSeries.com](http://UnwantsSeries.com), and be sure to say hi on Instagram or Twitter (@Lisa\_McMann), or Facebook ([Facebook.com/McMannFan](https://www.facebook.com/McMannFan)).

I read this book aloud to my 5th grade class, and they just couldn't get enough. They would beg me to keep reading! This book sparked some interesting conversations about dystopian literature, the skills our society does and does not value, and the idea that you often can't change people--but should still try. The story was rich with details, giving just enough foreshadowing to keep my students happily predicting what might happen next without making it obvious. The language was challenging--although subject-wise, 4th or 5th graders might be interested, they may need adult

support in fully understanding it. Middle schoolers should be fine. My students are all English learners, so we stopped often to discuss vocabulary in context and reread paragraphs that were difficult. Before I'd even closed the cover, my kids were already asking for the next installment of the series. We've got the next two in the shopping cart already. Keep writing, Lisa McMann!

This was a great read. Felt fresh. Birthed a bit from Hunger Games and Harry Potter....but honestly this world felt much more fleshed out than others I have read recently. Congrats to the Author. You did good.

This book is seriously amazing! I was hooked from the first chapter, and it only got better. What I liked about this book was the author got to the point and didn't take time to explain unimportant things. The little questions we had got explain as the story went on. At the end of the book it left you waiting to see what will happen next (in a good way). I'm a person who loves story's with magic, and this book is one of my favorites! So glad I read it, and now I'm onto the second book. Can't wait to see what happens next!-Seventh grader

I really enjoyed this book. It had a lot of action and thrill inside. I like The Unwanteds because it made you want to read more and more. I wish this book had never ended! It was so good. My brothers and I have all read this book and, we agree that it is our all time favorite fantasy story! I would suggest this book to anyone who is craving a book that they won't be able to put down. I am definitely going to read the rest of the books in the series. Thank you Lisa McMann for writing the best book ever. BUY THIS BOOK!!!

Captivating and enthralling. My 4th grade son and I not only read and enjoyed the book but had great discussions about it along the way. Great character development and imagery.

Super interesting and engaging book. My twelve year old is enjoying it.

My great-nephew was happy with his gift.

A great junior fiction read. My 12 (now 13) year old son enjoyed it and so did I. Good characters, good story. As junior fiction it is light and sweet with the right amount of adventure and character development. I'm looking forward to the next!Dr. Tracy Brower, author of Bring Work to Life by

Bringing Life to Work: A Guide for Leaders and Organizations

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