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# The Remedy (Program)



## Synopsis

Can one girl take on so many identities without losing her own? Find out in this riveting companion to *The Program* and the New York Times bestselling *The Treatment*. In a world before *The Program* | Quinlan McKee is a closer. Since the age of seven, Quinn has held the responsibility of providing closure to grieving families with a special skill: "she can become anyone." Recommended by grief counselors, Quinn is hired by families to take on the short-term role of a deceased loved one between the ages of fifteen and twenty. She's not an exact copy, of course, but she wears their clothes and changes her hair, studies them through pictures and videos, and soon, Quinn can act like them, smell like them, and be them for all intents and purposes. But to do her job successfully, she can't get attached. Now seventeen, Quinn is deft at recreating herself, sometimes confusing her own past with those of the people she's portrayed. When she's given her longest assignment, playing the role of Catalina Barnes, Quinn begins to bond with the deceased girl's boyfriend. But that's only the beginning of the complications, especially when Quinn finds out the truth about Catalina's death. And the epidemic it could start.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up "In this prequel to *The Program* (S. & S., 2013), Young tells the story of Quinlan McKee, a closer who helps families grieve the loss of their teenage daughters by temporarily posing as the deceased to provide families with closure. Families pay lots of money to get closers to dress up as

their dead children, spend a few last days with them, and say to Quinlan what they wish they could have said to their daughters. Quinlan is one of the best, but being a closer has its drawbacks: she's a social pariah and often feels like she doesn't know who the real Quinlan McKee is. When she's given a long assignment to help the family of Catalina, a young girl who committed suicide, she sparks a forbidden romance with the dead girl's boyfriend and begins to lose sight of reality and forget who she really is. With the help of her ex boyfriend-turned-best friend, Deacon, she's able to snap back to reality with a renewed resolve to uncover the secrets of Catalina's death. This poignant and well-written novel does an exceptional job of providing fans of *The Program* with a vivid picture of how the suicide epidemic began. The end will leave readers thinking about the mysteries surrounding Quinlan and Catalina long after they've finished, and the loose ends leave the story open to the possibility of a sequel. VERDICT With three-dimensional characters and perfect pacing, this work won't disappoint fans of the first novel.â "Candyce Pruitt-Goddard, Hartford Public Library, CT --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

VOYA, April 2015 (Vol. 38, No. 1) - Elisabeth W. RauchQuinnlan McKee is only a teenager, but she works as a Closer, a counselor who helps to heal those grieving from the loss of a loved one. She impersonates the recently deceased, living their lives and interacting with their family. They get the chance to do and say the things they regret never having done when their loved one was alive. This allows the family to have closure. Although her job is difficult, she has been doing it as long as she can remember, and she genuinely feels she can make a difference. Her latest assignment, however, is too soon after her last one. It is also too long and too difficult. For the first time ever, she is not only helping the family members but also a boyfriend. Her tendency to get wrapped up in her assignments goes much too far this time, leaving her to wonder who she really is. This prequel to Young's *The Program* (Simon & Schuster, 2013/Voya April 2013) is emotional and will grab many different teen readers. The premise is unique among young adult books and will offer a lot to teens who are simply looking for something different to read. The characters are the kind of people teens can imagine themselves having as friends. If they have not already found Young's series, this book will launch them into it. Reviewer: Elisabeth W. Rauch; Ages 12 to 18. School Library Journal 03/01/2015 Gr 9 Up--In this prequel to *The Program* (S. & S., 2013), Young tells the story of Quinlan McKee, a closer who helps families grieve the loss of their teenage daughters by temporarily posing as the deceased to provide families with closure. Families pay lots of money to get closers to dress up as their dead children, spend a few last days with them, and say to Quinlan what they wish they could have said to their daughters. Quinlan is one of the best, but being a closer has

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Quinlan has an uncanny ability to become someone else, especially if that person is dead. Working for an elite government program, Quinlan is a "closer." She enters the lives of the bereaved and temporarily plays the role of the deceased in order to bring closure to the grief-stricken. Having had this job since she was a child, 17-year-old Quinlan is starting to feel hairline fissures in her psyche, finding it increasingly difficult to recall her own personality. Quinlan is driven both by compassion to help the despairing and pressure from her father, who is the head of the grief department. Her latest assignment requires deeper immersion than ever before, and her father is secretive about the details. She becomes Catalina, a beloved daughter who died of mysterious causes. Catalina's boyfriend, Isaac, is included in the assignment, and Quinlan, her own loneliness heightened by his need, finds herself drawn to Isaac's desperation and passion. As the melancholy and eerie story unfolds, Quinlan realizes that no one is telling her the truth, and her life has never been her own. Exploring the topic of memory manipulation as a cure for distress, this stand-alone prequel offers shadowy references to Young's previous novels, *The Program* (2013) and *The Treatment* (2014). A visceral exploration of the eternal and misguided search for pain-free happiness in an almost-now Brave New World. (Dystopian romance. 14-18) A visceral exploration of the eternal and misguided search for pain-free happiness in an almost-now Brave New World. (Kirkus review)

I loved this. I loved how she was a professional doing a job to help people, and we got to watch that process, and I loved her relationships outside of that job, hanging out with her boyfriend and friends. I loved the story. This is the first prequel to *The Program* series - third written, but first chronologically. It is by far the best, and I imagine particularly so if you haven't read any of the

others. I really found exceptional the authenticity of the language and the naturalness of her with her friends. I also loved the very deliberately "not in her authentic voice" choices she made that were due to her job training, to help the family she was working with. This book is exceptional.

Unfortunately, the next book, while reasonable to read and finishing off her story, is a run-of-the-mill story where her skill set seems to have completely deserted her. That ends Quinlan's involvement in the series and I don't recommend you move onto the next, particularly the 4th, unless you like a romantic triangle where the girl does nothing useful.

"The Remedy" stands on its own as an excellent book. I purchased an e-copy without a clue that it was part of a wider series, and I enjoyed it tremendously. The concept is original and compelling: 'The Closer' is a therapeutically trained stand-in for a loved one who has been lost. The Closer has natural empathy and refined talents at mimicry. They gently guide back those who have been thrown to the edge of the abyss by tragedy. By its nature, the book has a lot to say about the grief process, and the goals of a healer caring for those who suffer from a wound that can never truly be healed. Grief and healing paths are elements upon which Suzanne Young builds her compelling story, but what dominates and drives the story is skilled character conception and development. From the earliest pages, you care about the characters. They take on a unique life and humanity. Add in a whirlwind of plot twists, and place it all within a dystopic society that cares less about human rights than it does about forcing role conformity, and you have a 'can't put it down' read. Here are some of the questions the story deals with: What would it be like to live in a world where individual privacy was considered to be a danger to the government? Where even the youngest school children are compelled to journal their lives - only to have these intimacies coldly scrutinized and cataloged by a heartless ruling class? What would it feel like to see a loved one, lost to tragedy, live again? Not only looking like the person you lost, but also speaking like them, acting like them? To know that the person was gone, but to see them essentially reincarnated by a Closer who was privy to their innermost thoughts and emotions? To grasp onto that person like a life preserver, while knowing that like Cinderella's carriage, the stand-in version would vanish forever in a few short days? What would you say to them? Would you eat favorite foods together with them, or sob out feelings of guilt and rage, or recoil at the Doppelganger that only great need and great wealth can afford? What would it feel like to be a Closer? Would you lose out on the chance to live life yourself? Would you become immersed in your own skills at enabling suspension of disbelief until you had lost your own soul? If there was such a therapy, and if it began as well intentioned, might it be misused by the greedy and sociopathic? Far from offering cold academic answers, Suzanne Young

has woven a tale marked by intensely human bonds, and driven by her character's relationships. With a style that manages to depict conflicted emotions without becoming maudlin or operatic, I commend Ms Young on her skilled plotting, and masterful pacing. I think you will love this YA read.

Absolutely poorly written, no plot line and lacking character development. So disappointed.

an amazing sequel to The Program

Amazing, surprising, heartbreaking, suspenseful, sinister. THE REMEDY is an absolutely riveting story that will draw readers into a world where closers " or replacements " are used to help those suffering from loss move past their grief. It's a richly layered story filled with unexpected plot twists, shocking revelations, disturbing realities, conspiracies, secrets and lies. It's a page-turner of a read that promises chills, tears, trepidation, anticipation and excitement. It's a must read for fans of the series and new readers alike. Even with the heavy toll it took on her, Quinn McKee liked being a closer. She liked knowing that she could help families get over losing their loved ones. She liked being a part of those families even if it was just temporary. She liked becoming someone else even if it meant losing herself for a while. But when her latest assignment comes so soon after her last, promises to be even more challenging, and is to be the longest one she'll have ever been on, she's worried about losing herself completely. Especially when she learns that it's not just the parents of the girl she'll be replacing that she needs to help, but the boyfriend who loves her. And that she'll be more exposed to those who despise what she does. And that there are things about this assignment that are being kept from her " things that threaten to change everything. Suzanne Young has brought all that was deliciously dark and disturbing and inventive and thought-provoking from her other books in this series to THE REMEDY. She introduces new characters, with fascinating new roles, places them in a world that is familiar yet different, and at a time that precedes the events in her other stories. She puts her main character Quinn's strength and emotional stability to the test. She drops hints that things may not be as they seem. She gives readers a sense of foreboding about what is to come. And she delivers an ending that will be jaw-dropping even to those who see it coming. THE REMEDY is yet another incredibly imaginative story in this series where something designed to be helpful is in reality more harmful, where good intentions are corrupted by hidden motivations, and where deception and betrayal ensure that no one can be trusted. It is a story that

can be read as an introduction to the series and its characters or one that will return readers to the world before The Program, where it all began. But whether new to the series or an existing fan, it will be a captivating, thrilling, edge-of-your-seat read that will leave readers desperate for the the next installment.

Took me a while to "get into" the book, but the ending had me wanting more! I do like that this is the #3 book in the series of The Program, but it was weird having to fall in love with new characters. The plot of the story didn't catch my attention at first, but it got better as I read through. Condition of the book was excellent!

I am not sure what order to read all of these books in, I read this one after the series even though it is set in time before them. This book itself had a very surprise ending, The Remedy is a very good book to read and intertwines perfectly with the rest of the books a well.

my son likes this series

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