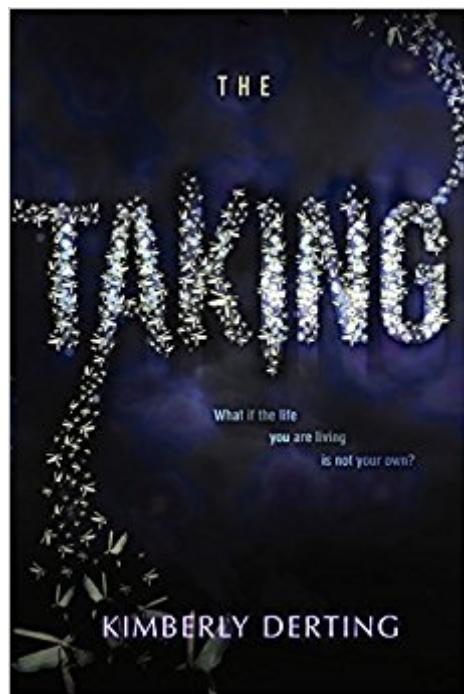


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# The Taking



## Synopsis

The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer meets The Fifth Wave in this chilling and explosive new series from author Kimberly Derting. The last thing Kyra Agnew remembers is a flash of bright light. She awakes to discover that five whole years have passed. Everyone in her life has moved on—her parents are divorced, her boyfriend is in college and dating her best friend—but Kyra's still the sixteen-year-old she was when she vanished. She finds herself drawn to Tyler, her boyfriend's kid brother, despite her best efforts to ignore this growing attraction. In order to find out the truth, the two of them decide to retrace her steps from that fateful night. They discover that there are others who have been "taken," just like Kyra. But Kyra is the first person to have been returned past the forty-eight-hour taken mark. With a determined secret government agency after her, Kyra desperately tries to find an explanation and reclaim the life she once had . . . but what if the life she wants back is not her own?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—In this compulsively readable sci-fi novel, Kyra, 16, impulsively jumps from a car while arguing with her father and disappears in a burst of light. She wakes up with no memory of what happened. She thinks it's the next day, but is terrified to discover five years have passed and she hasn't aged a day. Her mother's remarried, her boyfriend Austin's in college and dating her best friend, and her fastidious father has become a drunken conspiracy theorist who believes she was

abducted by aliens. The only comfort and support she gets is from Austin's little brother, Tyler, an extremely grown-up and very cute 17-year-old. Her father's theories don't seem that crazy as Kyra begins manifesting new physical abilities—she rarely feels tired or needs to eat and heals quickly. After several people whom she's come into close contact with die and sinister National Security Agency agents swarm her house wearing hazmat suits, the mysterious boy who helps her get away confirms her fears. Like him, Kyra is one of the Returned. She's more deadly to others, especially Tyler, than she ever imagined. Readers will sympathize with Kyra's predicament, although she's frequently self-centered and the story dwells too much on her and Tyler's mutual attraction. The characters' memory loss means there's no backstory about why they disappeared in the first place. Hopefully, that will be further explained in the next book in the projected trilogy. Nevertheless, the exciting plot zips along, leaving readers impatiently waiting for the next installment. --Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Library, Trenton --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kyra wakes up behind a Dumpster and doesn't know how she got there. Upon stumbling home, she discovers that home itself has changed. Her parents have split up, and her mother has a kid with her new husband. Her father, once a neatnik, is now an alcoholic obsessed with extraterrestrial theories concerning her disappearance. Wait, disappearance? Shocked, Kyra learns that it's five years later, yet she is wearing the same softball uniform that she wore in her last memory at age 16. Desperate, she turns to Tyler, her boyfriend's little brother who is now 17 and definitely attractive. As they try to find out what really happened to her, they learn that Kyra has powers and that there are others who have been taken and returned. What's more, the NSA wants them at all costs. Raising the questions of whether we are alone and who we can trust brings a timeless relevance to the story. Heart-stopping action and suspense combined with a budding romance make this book appealing to a wide range of readers. Grades 9-12. --Jeanne Fredriksen --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

\*\*WARNING: This book does end in a cliffhanger!\*\*This book- this story deserves way more than 5 stars\*Kyra is a normal sixteen year old. She plays softball. She's a good student. She has a lot of friends, and boyfriend she is head-over-heels in love with. She has two parents that love her. She's normal. But one night after a fight with her dad about college, she vanishes. Poof. Gone. Some people assume her dad had something to do with her disappearances. Some just think she simple ran away. After weeks of searching and searching, her family, friends, and the community lose hope of

ever seeing her again. They move on. Life goes on. Five years go by. Five years, and she's back. For her no time has past. She's still wearing her softball uniform she was wearing when she disappeared. She still has the same sun tan. She even looks the same. For her family and friends, time has gone on. They've had five years of living with the thought that she was dead. So they moved on. Some people grew up. Some grew apart. Now that she's back, she having to face all the changes that have happened, not just to her loved ones, but also to herself. Hope. Love. Betrayal. Tears. Smiles. Fear. Trust. Truth. Can you really come back after five years, and everything go back to the way it was? What if you've changed too much inside? What if you coming back might not have been a good thing? What if you coming back could have been the worst thing? And what if those people after you aren't there to help you? What if they're there to hurt you? There are absolutely no words to describe how much I loved this story. I loved how Tyler fit into the story. How he was so much different than Austin. I also adored Simon. Maybe he can get his own book too. \*hint hint\* ;) Just kidding. I'm absolutely in awe of X-Files, so this was right down my ally. I can not wait to get my hands on The Replaced, and The Countdown, and see where this adventure takes me. Kimberly, Mulder would be proud. :)

I don't usually read alien abduction books, but this wasn't like I thought it would be. We follow Krya who gets in a fight with her dad. Then disappears for 5 years, and returns with no memory of what happened. On top of that she still looks 16, and everyone she knows aged 5 years. There is a budding romance, and emotions start to run deep. I haven't stayed up to read in a long time, but I stayed up to finish this book! It wasn't as predictable as I thought, til a tiny bit in the end. There was a part I started to cry at til my prediction came in thinking, we can't lose this character! I'm seriously blown away at how this story sucked me in so much. I haven't finished a book in only 3 days in a while. I have a paperback copy of The Replacing and starting it today! I recommend this. It's not your average sci-fi read. It all takes place on earth, nothing weird, except Kyra's powers.

Every adult I knew, even strangers who I met in passing, told me that high school would go by in a blink. When I was sixteen I rolled my eyes to this response. Now, looking back, it is true, it does go by quickly. But, for sixteen year old Kyra Agnew from Kimberly Derting's THE TAKING? It literally flashes by in the span of a night. After a fight with her father about college choices, boys, and her future, Kyra storms off only to disappear. When she wakes up the next morning, with no memory of how she got where she was, her entire world is flipped upside down...and completely altered. What Kyra feels like has been one night, has actually been five

years. Five years she's lost. Five years she has no recollection of. And five years can change everything. Derting's THE TAKING is a suspenseful, mysterious, and endearing thrill-ride. One of the qualities I always love about Derting's books is her ability to construct characters that are so realistic their world becomes ours. She has a knack for nailing the attitudes of adolescents--from their perspective on new situations, to boys, to their reactions under pressure--and Kyra Agnew's character is no exception. Derting creates an incredible, endearing quality, within Kyra, while still revealing the girl's strength and stubbornness only a sixteen year old can have. Thrust into a life she can't recognize, with the frustrations of having no clue how she arrived there, Kyra's character is in a torturous teenage hell, and readers are right there, agonizing with her. Luckily, Derting also has a masterful way of interweaving levity within such a tension riddled tale. And what better way to do it then through a swoon worthy boy?

Tyler's character is just a well-rounded as Kyra's and he is the bright light to all of Kyra's gray world. Where everything else is a complete mystery or burden for her, Tyler is a source of solid happiness. And the chemistry between the two is off the charts. Derting never writes the same male lead twice, making each new boy she brings on the scene a delight to fall for. And, even if you put all the above aside, the suspense in THE TAKING is enough to hook you. The concept is fresh (honestly what would you do if you woke up one morning and five years of your life had been stolen? Not to mention the life you come back to is barely recognizable!) The perspective is unique (a high school girl placed in a world where everyone she knows has moved on and yet she is standing still) and the ending is killer. Each sentence drives the story and the reader's desire to unravel the mystery behind Kyra's disappearance. THE TAKING guarantees a wicked book hangover.

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