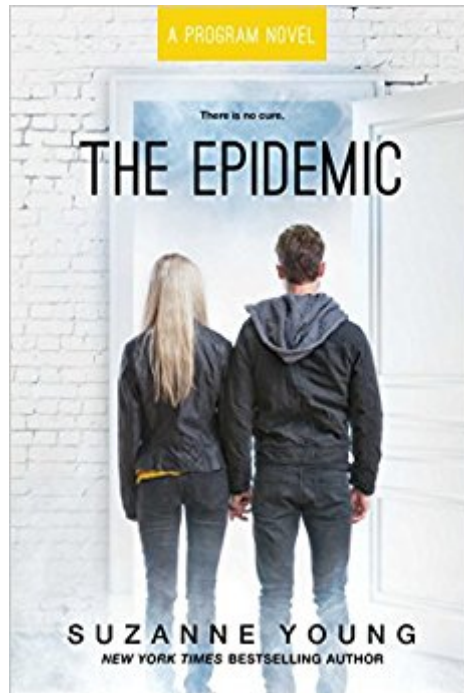




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# The Epidemic (Program)



## Synopsis

Can one girl help others find closure by slipping into the identities of their loved ones? Find out in this riveting sequel to *The Remedy* and companion to the New York Times bestselling *The Program* and *The Treatment*. In a world before *The Program*, Quinlan McKee has spent her life acting as other people. She was a closer—a person hired to play the role of the recently deceased in order to give their families closure. Through this process, Quinn learned to read people and situations, even losing a bit of herself to do so. But she couldn't have guessed how her last case would bring down her entire world. The only person Quinn trusts is Deacon, her best friend and the love of her life. Except Deacon's been keeping secrets of his own, so Quinn must set out alone to find Arthur Pritchard, the doctor who's been trying to control her life. The journey brings Quinn to Arthur's daughter, Virginia, who tells Quinn the truth about Pritchard's motives. The former closer will start to see that she is the first step in fighting an epidemic. But Quinlan doesn't want to be a cure. And with all the lies surrounding her, she realizes she has no one left to rely on but herself—even if she doesn't know who that is anymore.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*Starred review\* VOYA, April 2016 (Vol. 39, No. 1) - Jen McIntosh In a dystopian society, closers are hired by grieving families to impersonate a deceased child and give the family a chance at

closure. Quinlan McKee is the best closer there is, but then she discovers that everything she has ever believed is a lie. Not sure who she can trust, Quinn flees her controlling employers and sets out to discover who she really is, uncovering far more than she could imagine. Quinn is a sympathetic character, and readers will want her and fellow closer-on-the-run Deacon to succeed in their mission and their relationship. Young's latest book perfectly illustrates how good intentions can lead to horrible results. An effort to save people from pain and grief actually causes much more damage than simply letting people feel hurt. The Epidemic is the sequel to The Remedy (Simon Pulse, 2015/Voya April 2015), and both novels serve as companion books that lead to the events in Young's popular Program duology. Although this new duology can stand on its own, teens who have read The Program (Simon Pulse, 2013/Voya April 2013) and The Treatment (Simon Pulse, 2014/Voya June 2014) already will finish The Epidemic with a deeper understanding of how and why society could wind up like it does. Readers who have not read the Program duology yet will be interested enough to continue with Young's unique dystopian world. Reviewer: Jen McIntosh; Ages 12 to 18. Praise for THE REMEDY: "A visceral exploration of the eternal and misguided search for pain-free happiness in an almost-now Brave New World." (Kirkus) "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." (SLJ) --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition.

Suzanne Young is the New York Times bestselling author of the Program series. Originally from Utica, New York, Suzanne moved to Arizona to pursue her dream of not freezing to death. She is a novelist and an English teacher, but not always in that order. Suzanne is the author of The Program, The Treatment, The Remedy, The Epidemic, The Adjustment, The Complication, A Need So Beautiful, and Hotel Ruby. You can visit her online at [Suzanne-Young.Blogspot.com](http://Suzanne-Young.Blogspot.com).

The Epidemic starts immediately where The Remedy ended, with Quinn trying to figure out what Deacon's motives are after reading the suspicious text on his phone. The start of the book is reminiscent to an espionage film, and perhaps, even a little Jason Bourne. Quinn uses her skills as a closer to blend in and take on new identities in order to escape the grief department and to find Virginia Pritchard, a girl who seems to be the key to providing Quinn answers to her own life. The Epidemic shines light into what will eventually become The Program and Suzanne Young manages to brilliantly weave characters into the story who will later appear in some capacity in The Program and The Treatment. As for this duology's characters, I just absolutely love Quinn and Deacon. Their

relationship has been a rocky one from the start, and I love reading every scene they have together. The side characters have a life of their own and are heartbreaking in every single way. In *The Epidemic* Quinn proves that she is more than capable at working through tough situations on her own. I really liked the ending, because it not only shows that there's a chance at something better for the characters we've come to know and love, but ultimately, the ending seamlessly leads up into the events in *The Program*. I'll be interested in seeing what'll happen in *The Adjustment* and whether we'll see any characters from these two duology sets making an appearance in that storyline.

How do you review a book that puts an exclamation point on a fantastic series? Honestly, what can I really say about *The Epidemic* that won't give away the whole plot of *The Program* and *The Treatment* or even *The Remedy* for that matter? What Suzanne Young did with this series is nothing short of perfection and I feel like I used all the words I can to tell you what I loved about each book and they all apply to *The Epidemic* as well. (You can find my reviews [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)). I guess what I can try to do and explain why I loved the series as a whole. In my review for *The Program* I mentioned what fascinated me the most about the story was what came first, the depression or *The Program*? It was such a simple concept and one that stuck with me. It seemed like these kids were in an endless loop of fear. They couldn't feel grief and loss because then they were high risk and pushed into mandatory therapy but they also couldn't not feel them because they really could become depressed. They were in a catch-22 of sorts and *The Program* showed that. These kids had no choices and that made it even scarier of an idea and made me curious where it started. Then there was *The Treatment*. *The Treatment* was different from *The Program* as it showed what happened after you were taken away from you. It showed what happened after you completed *The Program* and how it effected every part of your life. It was so interesting to see what the kids would put themselves through to get control of their lives and not live in fear. They put everything on the line and did it without flinching. But still I wondered how it all truly started, what came first. So that brings me to *The Remedy* (which I said I was scared to read in my review of it) and *The Epidemic*. Both books billed as part of a duology and prequels to *The Program* and *The Treatment*. Each book added a layer to the already fantastic narrative Suzanne Young created and did the impossible by making the story even better. There are subtle and obvious connections in the prequels that really make parts of *The Program* and *The Treatment* stand out. Honestly I can't say enough good things about the two books and the series in general. What I'm trying to say here is that Suzanne Young pulled off something very few authors could do. She started at the middle, went to the conclusion, backed up to the beginning, and connected it all together with a fantastic ending

and did it perfectly leaving very few questions. I know a lot of you have read The Program and The Treatment and if you have I highly suggest picking up the prequels and finding out what this story is really made of. And for those of you that haven't read any of them? Stop waiting! Pick up The Program and read them by release date. You won't be sorry.

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

Great follow up in the series.

I read the other books and this one fills in questions, and really brings the other books into a more full story. It took me a while to finish the book, but not because it was a bad read I just got busy. After I started read it again, it went by very fast and I just couldn't put the book down.

Great book, excellent series for young adult readers.

After falling in love with The Program, I was suspicious that prequels could pick the same punch for me as a reader, since I already know the end-game. This one had so many twists and turns, I loved it. I think this is the best dystopian, YA series out there right now.

I absolutely loved this book. I read the entire series in a week, it is a book that'll keep you on edge. The storyline is different than what you're used to. This book arrived perfect as well, no tears or damage to it. Love it!

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