



# Fifteen

*Jen Estes*

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## **Fifteen** Jen Estes

Legend has it if you die in your dreams, you die in real life. Fifteen-year-old Ashling Campbell knows that's not true because when she closes her eyes each night, she doesn't dream about public nudity or Prom dates. Instead, she's catapulted to the front row of her future self's execution - fifteen years from now - where monsters have taken control of her hometown and she, or rather, her 30-year-old counterpart, is their public enemy number one.

For three months and counting, it's been the same dream... until an encounter with an antique dreamcatcher. Ash falls asleep to discover she's no longer a mere spectator in these dreams - now she's astral-projecting into the body of her future self. Each night, she goes on the run with a ragtag group of rebels - who have no idea she's really a high school sophomore and not their noble warrior. She has to make it through each night so that she can wake up and find a way to change the future. For every action she does in the present day, she falls asleep to discover it had an equal impact fifteen years later. It's up to her to manage her two worlds and make sure she's still got a place in both.

## **Fifteen Details**

Date : Published January 15th 2015 by Curiosity Quills Press

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Author : Jen Estes

Format : Paperback 233 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Science Fiction, Time Travel

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## From Reader Review Fifteen for online ebook

### Beth says

*Fifteen* takes us on a dark magical adventure that brings the Lakota folklore into a contemporary urban or should I say suburban fantasy.

Ashling has been plagued with horrible nightmares, well its actually the same nightmare reoccurring every night, and every night Ashling witnesses her own murder of her older self; her adult self. Keeping a journal and with the help of her best friend Tate, Ashling tries to discover the cause of these nightmares.

Ashling volunteers for a dream study and is given guidance by the doctor on how to continue her dreams where they left off. But when her physical injuries during her dreams manifest on her waken body, Ashling realizes that there is much more going on than she could ever imagined.

Ancient Demons, spirits and sleep walkers, Estes gives a fascinating and highly imaginative plot that twist enough to keep your reeling with the what ifs and maybes. Plots within plots and carefully orchestrated changes by Ashling's dream interventions give hope for the future that will come.

*Fifteen* was utterly mind blowing. Just when I thought I had a grasp on what was happening, I was once again surprised by Estes creative twists.

I have to admit I was disappointed in Tate but the ending leaves so many more what ifs and maybes that I will be anxiously waiting for the next installment.

I received this copy of *Fifteen* from Curiosity Quills in exchange for a honest review.'

Written by: Jen Estes

Series: The Dreamwalker Diaries

Sequence in Series: 1

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**Rating: 5 Stars**

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Genre: Scifi | Fantasy

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### Jaki says

This review and more posted at [Tangled Bookmarks](#)

I love time travel or parallel universe stories, so **Fifteen** by **Jen Estes** was right up my alley.

Every night, Ash Campbell has the same recurring nightmare - she is being executed on a stage in front of a crowd of people in her hometown. By a monster that couldn't possibly exist.

This was such a fun read. Ash discovers that if she *controls* her nightmare, she can *change* it. She is actually inhabiting her future 30 year old self, and being that she is aware she is dreaming, she is able to do different things that will help her discover exactly **why** her town was taken over by a monster, and how she can **stop** it. And along the way, she must prevent a horrible personal tragedy.

I really enjoyed **Fifteen**. Unusually for me, as I'm not too particularly keen on young adult novels. Ash was a great character - still only fifteen, she feels a little out of her depth in her older body, particularly when she realizes she has a relationship with a fellow rebel, Coop. In the future, Coop is a little younger than her, but he's also a lot older than her when she is astral-dreaming. As Ash says, he wouldn't pass the "mom test" for her present self. So Ash is dealing with her new-found feelings for Dream Coop, at the same time as having to deal with a spoilt selfish foster-sister her social worker mum has brought home, and working with Tate to discover the reason for her nightmares. She's not a whiny self-absorbed teenager, but she's not a Dawson Creek-too-old-for-her-years teen either. She's quite level-headed and I really liked her.

Tate, her best friend, is a bit of a hoot. I actually kept expecting he and Ash to get together, sticking with that old trope of best friends finally discovering their love for each other. :rolls eyes: But if that's going to happen, it's obviously not going to happen in the first book - didn't really go there at all. Tate unfortunately is going through that teenage-boy-in-lust-with-the-hot-popular-chick thing, letting his raging hormones for Nadette override his good sense. Nadette being the spoilt selfish bitch of a foster sister - and omg she is AWFUL. I truly want to see her **die horribly**. Her parents died a few months before, so she is being fostered by Ash's mum - and Nadette's only concern is how awful Ash's single mum is cos she won't buy her an \$800 dress for the Homecoming Dance. Aaargh. Self absorbed, selfish, cruel, nasty, and downright evil bitch, I still can't work out why Ash hasn't popped her one yet. She puts up with Queen Bitch for her mother's sake really - and for some reason, Ash's mum really wants to help the little cow. I guess that's the only character really that I had trouble getting a handle on - not that she is a bitch, but because no-one in the whole book ever has a go at her. Even Ash's mum sits back and takes the shit she spews - not something that I would EVER do, particularly from a snotty spoilt little fifteen year old teenager. I had a lot of trouble with the way people reacted to Nadette - it just didn't ring true that no-one would ever say anything to her about her attitude and behaviour, particularly the adults.

Despite that, **Fifteen** really was an enjoyable read. The majority of the characters are very well-drawn and the monster itself is drawn from **Lakota** legend. It's the first in a series, and ends on a bit of a cliffhanger, and I'm really looking forward to the next one! The world of the **Dreamwalkers** that **Jen Estes** has created is intriguing, and a little bit "timey-wimey wibbly-wobbly" with Ash's actions in her nightmares, changing her future.

Recommended if you like:

Good well-written female protagonists

Time travel/parallel universes

Native American myths & legends

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### **Jenni Crawford says**

I am reviewing this book on behalf of katsindiebookblog. I was given a great opportunity to read this book and enjoyed it every minute. Even though I'm in my mid 30's does not mean I don't read YA's. I actually tend to enjoy them more so than other books out there. This happens to be one of them. Jen has a way of putting you in the story as you read it. It kept you on your toes and wondering what is going to happen next. If it wasn't for having to help around the house with the kids I would have never book this book down =) Ash is a 15 year old girl, a sophomore in High School. Nothing should be strange about an average girl, right? Well she is a dreamwalker. Without trying to give too much away, a dreamwalker is sent every 15 years, why? I won't say, sorry, I hate giving spoilers. But, something big, bad, and nasty works it's way onto our earth around that time every year. Her best friend Tate is there every step of the way trying to help her out even giving her old tales past down by his granddad.

For me this is not your typical YA book with typical plot lines. Much is to be said about Jen and her writing skills. If you want to step out of the norm, this is a perfect book for you.

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### **Sarah-Jayne Briggs says**

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a review).

(This review may contain spoilers).

First of all, I'd like to say that I absolutely loved the front cover. When I saw it for the first time, I was immediately drawn in... and the blurb of the book just made me want to read it even more.

I did really like Ash as a character. I was pulled into the book fairly quickly and she was a character I could really relate to. I was also drawn into the future timeline really easily. The group of people that Ash meets and interacts with were really interesting and it was also quite cool to see them in the different future timelines.

I liked Coop as well, but I was less than thrilled with Tate's sudden interest in Ash, since there was no hint of that until much later in the book. Unless it was something caused by Ash... but it didn't come across as that.

The linking in to the legends is quite intriguing, but I was still left with a lot of questions by the end of the book. I would have liked some more of the answers to my questions, since there were a couple of things that didn't make a lot of sense.

I did like how the future-people differed slightly in each subsequent timeline. I did figure out one of the things fairly quickly, but it was nice to see that guess confirmed. There was one character who didn't seem to have any redeeming qualities, though.

I found Skylar an interesting character and it would have been nice to see more of her, especially since she seemed to be quite a contradiction. When it came to the school scenes, however, I didn't get much of a sense of there being a lot of students. A lot of the characters were well-defined... but outside of the main characters, the students were just grouped together as exactly that.

It would have been nice to see some of the present-day versions of the future characters, especially Coop... though I imagine that would have been quite strange to see.

This is apparently the first book in a series and although it has a resolution, there are still many questions I'd like to have answered and things I'd like to see more of. I would definitely read a sequel to this book.

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### **J. Ford says**

Curiosity Quills recently offered me the opportunity to read **FIFTEEN** by Jen Estes in exchange for an honest review. After reading the back cover blurb, I decided to take a chance on it as the premise really captured my attention.

I'm really torn over this book. Part of me really, really loved it and the other part of me only liked it.

I thought the beginning started out kind of slow and I was wondering when the story would pick up. It didn't take long before the first 'dream' sequence, and boy, did it catch my attention. The monster in Ash's dreams is wicked beyond wicked, and what happens to her during the dream is just too freaking weird and unsettling.

I'm really trying hard not to give spoilers away here but it's difficult to talk about this book without giving something away. Hmm, let's talk characters.

There is this doctor in the book that is an oddly placed character. Ash and her friend, Nadette's, reaction to him seemed too quick. They just went with him unknowing, unthinking, and it's not like he was a young college kid, either. He's an old guy, well, old to a couple of teen girls. I thought this entire scene just unfolded way to easy. They were too trusting. Personally, I was kind of creeped out by the guy, the way he stood under a tree staring at the two girls, and yet they're like "hey, baby." It felt 'off' to me. It through my creep groove off. However, I liked the character and I really enjoyed watching the way he helped Ash come to terms with her dreams.

Anyway, Ash's relationships with Tate, Nadette and Skylar are all very typical teenager, and there is a strong YA voice when the three of them get together. I would have liked to have seen deeper characters, a little bit deeper POV with Ash and her feelings toward Tate. Don't get me wrong. We know he relationship with him. We know how she feels about him. I just would have liked to have seen a bit deeper connection.

The settings are pretty typical - high school and college campuses. The scenes are easy to picture in my mind. The prose is fairly quick overall and engaging. The storyline and plot are easy to follow, but there are some twists and turns that are really quite nice.

There is a scene where Ash falls asleep in class that I would have liked to have seen developed a bit more. I think there would have been more reaction among the students. I really liked this first introduction into carrying things over from sleep to reality - one dimension to another. Very nicely done.

Bad thing is, I found myself wanting to get to the dreams instead of reading the story. At one point I found myself skimming because I thought it was taking too long to get to the dream scenes, which were becoming more and more intense and vivid. Ms. Estes knows how to write these villains and monsters, and even better, she knows how to weave them into reality. I can't really say it's the author's fault I wanted to jump ahead.

Then again, a slow enticement is much better than a WHAM! Know what I mean?

As for the end of the novel, Jen Estes knows how to end a book. I loved the twists and turns in the end and the last line was most excellent. It made me go "ooooo". All I could think of is if I were Fifteen, everything she'd just been through would completely freak me out.

Overall, I wish there had been a tad more deep character development. Sometimes they felt flat to me and then in other spots, they were bopping all over the page. I didn't like the ending with Tad and Nadette. That really sucked and I would have liked to have seen a different 'ending' for them and Ash. Again, my preference and nothing the author did wrong.

Try as I might, it is really difficult to peg down score for this one. It would be between a 3.75 and a 4.0. I think I'll give a 4.0 because the creepy, wraithy kind of villain was just written so damn well. I could see him in all his ghoulishness. At times, it was if he were standing right in front of me. \*Shiver\* And then to find out he's really ...

Nope, not going to tell you. You're going to have to read the book to find out.

I give FIFTEEN 4 stars. It really does have a menacing, hair-raising storyline and I think most people who like edgy YA horror without going overboard, will love this novel. It is pretty intense for the most part, with a very interesting plot line. I am happy to say this is the first book I've read in 2015. Thank you Curiosity Quills Press and Jen Estes with starting out my year with a really enjoyable read.

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## **Marjolein says**

*Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>*

Ash has a repetitive dream and it's not a nice one. Fifteen years from now she's to be executed and thrown in front of a hideous monster. But, as in Groundhog Day, she's able to change some small details every day that will eventually lead to massive changes.

I was immediately intrigued when I first heard about the book. It really sounded like something I'd like. And I did like it, but perhaps not as much as I thought I would. The premise is fantastic, it's kind-of time travel, Groundhog Day and Inception all together. But while Ash her story was interesting, there were some things in her life that bothered me.

Not a lot is explained about everything that has changed in this future world. It's only fifteen years and it looks completely different. Even the language. I would have liked to see a bit more worldbuilding there. In current day Ash her life, I mostly got annoyed by the character of Nadette, her 'sister'. I understand that's she's written to be the character you don't like, but that seemed to me the only reason she existed. The whole subplot with the college and the dreamlab didn't work for me either. Her struggling between wanting to stay awake and having to sleep was interesting, as was the dream-in-dream-to-the-past thing, although things got a bit confusing at that time.

I will definitely read the next book in this series!

Fifteen is the first book in the Dreamwalker Diaries.

Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

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### **Dianne says**

Do you have a lucky number? Do you have an unlucky number? Can you really die in your dreams? Jen Estes has taken myths, cultural legends and a mysterious future look at one girl's life, it's called **Fifteen** and it is fantastic!

How can a fifteen year old girl see the future in her dreams? Why is she seeing her own execution at thirty years old? What has happened to her town? Who has taken it over? Who are the rebels and how did she become part of them? How is her fifteen year old self caught up in the nightmare of her future self and should she keep the future others from finding out? Can she change the future? With the help of her best friend Tate, Ashling must first unravel the ties between the present and the future. With Tate's fascination and beliefs in the legends of his Lakota ancestors, answers to the twisted world of demons and death may be within reach as Ashling's dreams come to horrendous life. If there was any good in her nightmares, it was Coop, a fellow rebel, but so much more. Will he be in her future reality? Is he destined to be part of her life?

Through it all, this YA read is fascinating, angst-free and brilliantly gripping! Be prepared to hang on for the sharp twists and turns that will leave your head spinning and your breathing shallow. What Jen Estes has created is first class reading with strong characters, drawn so well, they practically jump off the pages. The maze of subplots, side stories and interactions between each character is all part of a tale that will hold you tight as the world around you fades away and you are there, emotionally connected, mentally playing out each well-defined scene. After Ashling's dreams, I'm thinking that even my worst nightmare is pretty boring. The biggest problem I'm going to have is waiting patiently for the next addition to this series, although it will give me time to unclench every inch of my body!

I received an ARC edition from Curiosity Quills Press in exchange for my honest review.

Series: The Dreamwalker Diaries - Book 1

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### **November Is Nyarlathotep says**

REVIEW: **FIFTEEN** by Jen Estes

**FIFTEEN** is an absorbing YA novel, with a delightfully self-deprecating heroine who lives in two different

time frames: her ordinary fifteen-year-old self in Billings, Montana; and her life (and death) fifteen years into the future, same place, different time, different everything. Fifteen years on is a dystopia, in which humans are third-class and ruled by a definitely "other" species. Ashling has a lifetime bestie, Tate, who despite being an adolescent male with a crush on Ash's wild foster sister Nadette, is of Lakota lineage and steeped in the traditions of Lakota Spirituality. It is Tate who is Ash's foil and spiritual guide, as every night she dreams her brutal death, fifteen years in the future.

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## **Stefanie Kral says**

### **★★★4 Flying High Stars!!★★**

Once I sat down and started reading this book, I couldn't put it down!! It reminded me of that movie with Ashton Kutcher called *The Butterfly Effect* . It's where when he reads his journals he can go back in time and change things and wakes up to a completely different future. Yup, *Fifteen* is like that.

For the past three months 15yr old Ashling AKA Ash tries everything not to go to sleep. Because, when she falls asleep she's fast forward 15yrs. Now, she's 30yrs old and being executed. She is part of a rebel group and her town has been over taken by demons. Yea, Ash has every right to not want to fall asleep.

In her present 15yr old life she has her mother, her aunt and best friend Tate. Then, there's Nadette, her foster sister. Her parent's died a few months before and man oh man!! She's an evil evil person. In her 30yr life she has Coop. He's part of her rebel troop. He's totally in love with Ash. But, he's younger then her so she's against it. Not that she continue's to think that all the time.

Tate is the only person who know's everything about Ash's dreams. He trying to help her. It's part of a Lakota legend. One person every 15yrs gets this ability. Tate & Ash learn real quick that she is Astral Projecting. For 3 months she was going to her execution. It was always a 45 min time frame. She learns that there's a way for her to pick up where she left off.

Ash learns very quickly that every time she did something the next time she visited her future or woke up to her present it was different. Sometimes it was goof and sometimes not so much. Coop was always there in her past and Tate was always in her present.

I don't know how she dealt with everything. There was so much stuff for a 15yr old to process and deal with. But, she really handled it well. Coop was one of my favorite people in the book. Nadette was beyond evil. She has Tate under her spell. Oh to be 15 and lovesick. Hahaha. And, that's what Tate was.

Now, as much as I liked Ash. We knew a lot about her at 15yrs old. But, not her 30yr old self. It was never explained how she got caught up in the rebels. Or what she did to be executed. And, what made her & Tate's friendship go the way it did. I wish that would of been explained.

You must def pay attention when you're reading this book. There's a lot going on. It's fast paced and you won't be disappointed that I can promise. I hope Jen gives us book 2 sooner then later. Because, I am dying to know what's coming next for Ash, Coop, Tate and even Nadette.

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### **Kat says**

I was gifted this book as part of the Release Tour check out [www.facebook.com/Katsindiebookblog](http://www.facebook.com/Katsindiebookblog) on Jan 15 2015 for the full release post.

If you like Books that keep you on your toes until the end then this is a book to read - It maybe YA but I think any reader who likes a suspenseful plot will enjoy reading this book.

This book is well written, the plot runs smoothly, giving you enough information to grasp what is happening, but not giving too much away so you figure out what's happening before you should.

Fifteen-year-old Ashling Campbell is dreaming of her future self and the future isn't something she wants to happen!

When Ash isn't having these nightmares she is a sophomore Student trying desperately to not fall asleep in class or trying to figure out why shes having these dreams with her childhood bestie "Tate"

Then one night 3 months later Ash realise's that she is Astral Projecting and starts to control the dream, from that point on when she falls asleep she is on a mission to find out as much as she can before she wakes or dies in the dream which wakes her up.

With each "Dream Walk" Ash tries to change the future, will she succeed?

Grab a copy and find out...

This book does end leading it open to continue but not enough that you are left with a book hangover.

I will be keeping tabs on Jen Estes so I don't miss out on Book 2

Thanks Ms Estes for a Delightful weekend read.

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### **Aly says**

This book is very good. In this book, a 15 years old girl falls asleep and then she is in her 30 year old body. This author did a great job with this book. I was mesmerized! I was not sure what was going to happen next or what happened to the town in this book. So many questions this book start you off with and then hands you many answers along the way. \* I received this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Kate says**

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

15 year old Ash dreams about her future public execution every night. In her dreams she watches as she is

thrown to a pack of monsters but after tampering with her ancient dreamcatcher, her dreams change and she is now in the body of her future 30 year old self, experiencing her dream including the fear, confusion and pain. She finds that she now has the ability to subtly change her dreams, escape her execution and in doing so change the future.

At first I found Ash a little grating and had to remind myself that she was 15, as YA is not my regular genre it took a bit of getting used to. As the read hit it's stride I started to enjoy her character more, her sense of humour is dark and self depreciating and she is no whiny brat unlike her adopted step sister, Nadette. Nadette came across as rather one dimensional, she was purposely written as an unlikeable character and although this is set up for the future storyline I feel she could have been more complex and not just written as someone that readers are set up to hate.

There were some nice twists in the story and I liked how small changes that Ash made in her dreams caused big changes to her future. It did get a bit confusing when she started to sleep in her dreams and try to wake in her past to change what had already transpired. The future world was also not explained that well especially around the supernatural elements and how it all came about. This is part of a series though so I'm sure future books will be exploring this much more.

An interesting read that had a great concept, just needed to keep things a bit clearer with relation to the future world building.

Recommended.

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### **❀Aimee❀ Just one more page... says**

#### **3 STARS**

Some things I quite enjoyed and other things annoyed me. I admit it was a page turner for me.

I know some people can't stand time travel books, but I'm sort of addicted to them. In this case, I enjoyed the somewhat "Groundhog Day" way Ash was reliving the dream/future until she got it right. Except in this case, she proceeds a little further each time.

The book starts almost immediately in Ash's recurring dream of her future execution.

What I initially thought was instalove, I was able to forgive. In this case, Ash is literally crushing on the older (early twenties) Coop who is her future boyfriend. On his end, he has had a long relationship with the future Ash, and is NOT affectionate to her whenever she is "young" Ash. Somewhat confusing to explain here, but it worked out really well. I enjoyed her friendship with her best friend Tate. No one is pining or yearning for friendship to turn into love. Yay for no love triangles!

Ash's voice is snarky and fun. There's my favorite quote of the book...

***"Well, if that wasn't the thong calling the pasties skanky."***

### **Dislikes**

I wasn't fond of the inserted future slang, especially since this is supposed to only be 15 years from now. I have never seen this pulled off in a book successfully. It always seems forced.

Ash takes longer than she should to connect the dots and be suspicious of people certain people. I prefer books where the author understands when the reader is going to figure things out and makes it happen at the same time as the main character. Otherwise, you're just annoyed until the MC FINALLY catches up and we can finally keep moving.

I'm not so sure that I really understand how the bad guys work, but this is a series after all I suppose. We learn what they want to do, but we don't understand why or to what extent their power has manifested.

I'm intrigued enough to want to read the next in the series to see where it goes.

*Thank you Netgalley and Curiosity Quills Press for a free digital copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Alba says**

\*I received a free ebook copy of this book via Netgalley\*

Ash is a fifteen years old girl and each night she dies in her dreams(which tbh it's quite creepy) but a night everything changes and instead of dying she's saved by a mysterious boy. Then in her "actual life" she meets a doctor from her local university who is part of the dreaming studying field so she tell him about her dreams and the doctor offers her to run a test on her while she sleeps to analyze her weird dreams. So after running this tests the doctor tells her that she has lucid dreaming which basically means that while you are dreaming you know that you're dreaming and you can control your actions.

Thanks to this Ash will discover that she has to save her town from a supernatural creature and that even the smallest thing you do can change the whole world.

I really loved this book, I thought that the idea and the concept of lucid dreaming is such an original thing. I really connected with Ash because we're almost the same age and I could kind of imagine how she was feeling so I found her really relatable. Also the writing style was pretty awesome and the rest of the characters were really well done too. The only thing I didn't like about this book was Nadette, seriously she really pissed me off. She was such an idiot and emotionless person.

Overall I really enjoyed this book. It was a 5/5 stars and I totally recommend it to anyone who wants to read some original fantasy/sci-fi book.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Fifteen (The Dreamwalker Diaries Book 1) by Jen Estes is a very intense young adult fantasy novel but one that adults will love too! It is so well done, and it keeps you on your toes. It is a nail biter, a fantasy, touch of romance, time travel, and just plain awesome! Every fifteen years there is a Dreamwalker, and lucky for our gal of the story, she is it. She is to save the world basically. It is sooooo exciting. The plot is well thought out

and the characters very well developed. I was going to give this a 4 star although I could not stop reading it until 2 am, but I thought about it the rest of the night. Any book that lingers that much and I keep thinking about must be a 5 star. There is so much to it, the back and forth time travel is well planned. This is why I normally don't like time travel books but this one is great. There are so many twists and surprises in the book, even to the end. Wow. I can't wait to read Sixteen! Thanks to Curiosity Quills I had a chance to read this book.

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