

Nemesis by Brendan Reichs (written for Young Adults)

4 stars

A refreshingly unique thriller

In 2007 a class of six-year olds are immunised against a mystery virus; they also have their blood taken. Two of these children, Min and Noah, are the narrators of this novel and they appear to have been singled out for special attention.

From the age of ten, every two years, on her birthday, Min is stalked and murdered by a mystery man in a black suit and sunglasses. He only ever speaks two words, 'I'm sorry' as he takes her life. You will have no doubt wondered how she could be repeatedly murdered, but after each killing she wakes up in a clearing with no injuries.

Noah has similar experiences but in his case he is plagued by nightmares and bad dreams about murder and catastrophic events.

Both children are being counselled regularly by the slightly dodgy psychiatrist, Dr Lowell.

By the time their sixteenth birthdays come around, both Min and Noah have had enough and are determined to find out what is going on and they form a partnership, together with Min's friend Tack.

There is little more I can say without spoiling the read for you. Suffice to say that you won't have read anything quite like this before, so just sit back and enjoy the ride. This is a real page-turner with a complicated plot and loads of suspense. My only criticism is that at the end I was befuddled by the science and am none too sure whether the conclusion clears up the mysteries or in fact just adds an additional layer of complexity!

Nevertheless I enjoyed this novel with all its twists and turns and intend to read the author's *Virals* series which he wrote in conjunction with his mother Kathy Reichs.

*Pashtpaws*

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.