

DEPARTURES (89,000 words) is a young adult science fiction novel in which the premise of DENTON LITTLE'S DEATH DATE meets the dual narrative of REPLICA. This is an #ownvoices manuscript for ADHD representation.

After 17 short years, Evalee Anders was scheduled to depart. She said goodbye to her sister Audra—her closest friend—and accepted the inevitable. After all, the Directorate had departures down to a science, putting citizens down painlessly before biology offered up something more painful. All part of the exacting system that kept citizens' lives in precise order. Only problem is, Evie's departure date comes and goes, and Evie's still very much alive.

When the Directorate tries to correct its mistake, Evie escapes with help from a secret rebel group. Free of the Directorate's control, she embraces a more chaotic life as she diagnoses the pain of the pending death the Directorate wanted to "protect" her from. Along the way, Evie joins the rebels in their work, with a secret mission of her own: get Audra out of the Directorate before she does something crazy and they turn their wrath on her.

My debut novel (City Owl Press) earned Florida Writers Association's top honor as Book of the Year, and I have released three more books in this series since. Through my day job, I am a content marketing and PR expert with 14 years experience, which I bring to my book marketing, as well, through social media, newsletter, and events. My speaking engagements have included the Writers Digest Conference, Awesome Con, RT Booklovers Convention, and Florida Writers Conference, among many others; and I am a regular contributor to BookRiot and DIY MFA.

The first three chapters and synopsis of DEPARTURES is included below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Speculative Fiction Author EJ Wenstrom and Selling a Dystopian in a Dystopia

Speculative Fiction author EJ Wenstrom joins Queries, Qualms, & Quirks this week to discuss taking a chance on a small press, not being too precious with your work, the zero draft method, not staying with an agent who's not a good fit, writing off trend, and positive ADHD representation.

E. J. Wenstrom believes in complicated heroes, horrifying monsters, purple hair dye and standing to the right on escalators so the left side can walk. She writes dark speculative fiction for adults and teens, including her new release, the young adult dystopian novel Departures.

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