



The Rising Storm

Ceri A. Lowe

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What if the end of the world was just the beginning?

15-year-old Alice Davenport was a loner and an outcast before the Storms swept away everything she knew. Saved from the ravaged remains of London by the mysterious and all-powerful **Paradigm Industries**, her fierce independence and unique skills soon gain her recognition from the highest levels of command. But their plans to rebuild civilisation from scratch mean destroying all remnants of the past – no matter what, or who, gets left behind.

Alice must decide if she will fight for the old world, or the new...

Decades later, 15-year-old Carter Warren is woken from the Catacombs after years of cryonic sleep. He's determined to do whatever it takes to climb the ranks to Controller General - until he realises the Industry's control methods have become harsher than ever. The Barricades make sure nothing from the Deadlands can get in to the Community – and no one can get out. And a shocking discovery about his own family causes Carter to question everything he's ever known...

As Alice becomes entangled in the Industry's plan for the future, and Carter delves into the secrets of his past, they must make sacrifices which threaten to tear them apart. And both of them are forced to confront an impossible question...

Would you dare to risk it all for the perfect world?

An addictive and gripping dystopian series, perfect for fans of The Girl Who Dared to Think, The Hunger Games and The Gender Game.

This book was previously titled *Paradigm*.

The Rising Storm Details

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From Reader Review The Rising Storm for online ebook

Ellen says

Dystopian and YA are two of my favourite genres so I was excited to get suck in to the first book of this trilogy. I loved how the story was told over two timelines: Alice at the point of the world's collapse and Carter in the future that has adapted to the new way of living and is oblivious to how the world was before the creation of the Paradigm society.

In all honesty I preferred Alice's narrative; witnessing the devastating effects of the vicious storms that rip London apart and how ten year old Alice survived (and eventually thrived) horrific scenes to eventually lend a hand in the creation of a new society was gripping. Her policies are rightfully questioned by Carter years after the event but at the time she believed what she was doing was for the greater good. Go Alice! Also, as I've mentioned, I'm a huge fan of dystopia and more so in the destruction and survival of people in the immediate aftermath. I'm not sure what that tells you about me!!

Where Alice was building the future and safeguarding future generations, Carter has his eyes opened to the truth of his family and the harsh reality of mankind's history being erased. He begins to question the politics of the Paradigm which is pretty awkward as he has been raised to be a leader of the people and the powers that be are not comfortable with him questioning their authority. I did enjoy seeing his beliefs change throughout the story.

The Rising Storm is a great start to the trilogy and I will definitely be reading the rest.

My thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for my copy

Shalini says

Every expedition of any kinds requires sacrifices and sometimes they are one too many. But survival calls for it everytime...

This is the experience of Alice who has seen the world getting destroyed by the Storms till Paradigm Industry rescues her and trains her to build their own community of survivors for the next generation, but a functional community with no creativity, no music no books (horrors)

Till

90 years later, Carter is awakened from a cryogenic sleep, when the Industry decides it is time for him to become the Controller General of their Model establishment. But where there are rules, there is always rebellion against them... And then it is Carter's journey till he is betrayed...

Ceri A. Lowe has created a unique world where we get to see how it all started via Alice's eyes and where it is leading to via Carter's journey. I liked the way she has kept this impending aura of anticipation wondering if the 2 worlds would meet. There is an excitement in the air as the pages are turned, knowing that the truth of both their journey resides in Others.

The book has a few things which are not explained, about the Model and the science of the community, they did niggle me. But being the first in the series, I think the author is laying down the foundation of the characters as well as leaving us with the need to know more.

Sally906 says

THE RISING STORM is the first book in the new Paradigm Trilogy – and what a great scene setter it is. The good things about Dystopian novels is that it frees the author to follow their own particular ideas on how dreadful a society can be – so there is no right or wrong to world building. So the challenge is to place characters in your world that the readers are going to relate to, who they are going to care about. Ceri A. Lowe produced not just one, but two main characters who had me cheering them on sometimes, and tut tutting when they missed something that I felt was obvious. Carter and Alice take it in turns to tell us the story of the Paradigm Society from very different viewpoints – how the society is currently, and how it was at the beginning.

The books open with a prologue – Carter is sent to the freezing chamber and he thinks this is a good thing as he has high expectations for his future role – while at least one other thinks it is a bad thing and asks for it not to happen. The reader immediately feels compelled to ask two questions - why are they being frozen? Followed by – why is one happy with the idea and the other isn't? Cue Alice and our witness to the end of the world.

Alice is alone in her flat when she witnesses the devastation of the first catastrophic storm. While it is not really stated – storms start to increase and cyclonic winds now batter Europe on a regular basis – global warning has hit. Millions of people are killed – either in the storms or in the floods that occur as a result of the torrential rain. Paradigm Industry has sensed somehow this is going to happen, and they have set themselves up a fortress/ark to protect survivors until everything settles down. Alice is among those rescued. Alice is alone as her dad died before the book started and her mother is prostituting herself to pay the rent and bills. Her mother disappears in the first huge storm. Inside the safety of the fortress, the rescued population are no longer allowed to read or listen to music as it is these recreational activities that lead to the downfall of the world. Alice is a tough little cookie as a result of fending for herself so it makes sense that she has the smarts to rise up and become a responsible member of the system – and one of the chosen few to go out and scout once the floods die down. Films are made of these scouting expeditions to be shown to the populace.

Decades later we meet Carter. Carter has been groomed from birth to one day be the leader. He belongs to one of the original families – sort of the high society of the community. There are also lesser beings called Lab-made – test tube babies – which are second class citizens. He had been frozen as a 15 year old to be brought back as a candidate to be Controller General. While he's been frozen the political climate has changed and there's rebellion developing. He also finds out he is a father of twins, and he has to go through a series of test to prove he has what it takes to be leader. As the story progressed – the past and the present being propelled forward by the two storytellers – the links between the past and present are gradually revealed. While they never meet, Carter is aware of Kate as she narrates the scouting films.

I have to be honest did get a little confused once or twice – but that didn't prevent me from loving the story and looking forwards to seeing what happens. There are some questions that haven't been answered – but I am guessing there are going to be more revelations in the subsequent books.

Shannon says

I thought I was going to hate this book. I thought it was going to be a rehash of the same book I've been reading over and over for the past three years. Consider me surprised.

Dystopian series usually focus on the end of the dystopian society. This one focuses on the formation of one. Teenaged Alice is put in charge of building a new world after freak storms ruined the current one. And then there's Carter: groomed to one day be the leader. But while he's been frozen the political climate has changed and there's rebellion developing.

The book ends in a very precarious place for our characters and I'm really excited to see what happens in Book 2.

Karen says

This book is pretty amazing. An apocalyptic story about the beginning of the end and the end of the beginning. There is so much about Paradigm that made this enjoyable. The story was really original and the characters had such different viewpoints and strengths. This story shifts from one timeline to another, both riveting in their delivery.

This story covers the end of the world as we know it through a girl named Alice. A storm brings floods so bad civilization is forced underground. The survivors are mostly children aided by a company called The Industry. These children lead the way to a new way of living. They decide to start fresh and wipe out most of the things that led to the world's demise. In the future there is Carter, a boy destined for leadership. He is unfrozen to a time 15 years into his future. He is propelled forward by being frozen in a way that has become normal. He is to be the next comptroller, a president like leader that controls the masses. The problem is that his family, both old and new, are the start of the rebellion to a society where art, music, and entertainment are prohibited. These two characters mark the beginning and the end.

What a fantastic way to start fresh! Wipe out everything that distracts from production. Alice and her generation see the error of the ways of the world. They see that the distractions take away from the things that are important. I found the character of Carter a bit less likeable, but his story was still . His reality is so rigid. He wakes up into the future. Society for him is so callous and unnatural. It is easy to see how, by avoiding somethings, a bit of humanity was wiped out. I was so captivated by the Industry. This population is made up of mostly younger people. The young and strong have found a way to survive and they are much more adaptable.

There wasn't a bunch of technical talk in this story. We are given the elements of the community as they are known to the characters without boring explanations. This made it a much easier read than most sci-fi I have encountered. I found this book such a great escape. This was a well written story that was easy to envision. The story comes full circle in the end. There are supposed to be two more books in this series. Paradigm is so complete, I just could stop here. This book didn't read like a series, and I am very happy to report this. Knowing and loving the characters the author has created, I am grateful there will be more. I would love to

read more about this world. Bring it Ceri!

Ian Wood says

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmatic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's novels reviewed on the blog will generally have some images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a novel is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate a novel three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

I rated this novel WARTY!

WARNING! UNHIDDEN SPOILERS! PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

This is yet another clear rip-off of The Hunger Games style dys-trope-ian ethos and the god-awfully appalling Divergent disaster. Indeed, the cover of this one is such a blatant rip-off of Divergent that I'm surprised that I haven't read of the publisher being sued! I kept looking at this thinking it had to be a parody like my own Dire virgins but it isn't!

So why oh why did I request to read this? Well, there are some differences, and I'm sorely overdue for a good dystopian trilogy after reading so many awful ones, right? Yeah, dream on! I am sorry to have to report that my hope was not fulfilled in this novel. This was a DNF, although I did gamely plow on through four-fifths of it.

Unless you self publish, you really don't have any say over the cover your novel gets, so that's not usually on the author. The author does the interior, and in this one, I was delighted to discover that it's not set in the USA! This was a big plus for me - finally someone is willing to break the mold! This was one creation I decided to give this one a try. You have to respect an author who grasps that the entity "USA" does not equal the entity "The World"!

Also in its favor is that this one is about a guy, not a girl (at least the dystopian end of it is), which is another big difference. Paradigm is set in London, which is an intriguing change, and it has a dual story line - one from a woman in the (near) present, and the other from a guy in the sad, bad future, so it was because of these marked differences (at least I had hoped they were marked!) that I thought I'd give this a spin and see how it goes. There has to be someone out there who can write a decent dystopian trilogy, right?

There's a nine-page prologue which I skipped. I don't do prologues. There is absolutely no call for them. If the story is worth telling, then it's worth labeling it as chapter one and enough of this prologue crap. I've seen trilogies where the second and third volumes have a prologue. Seriously? The first volume is the prologue to the second volume, and so on, so what's with a separate prologue?! I don't get that mentality at all.

The novel begins on the day the storms started. It's in the past (our present) where things are just starting to seriously go down-hill. We're actually in that place now, in 2014, but that's in reality. This story is fictional,

and Alice Davenport lives on the ninth floor of a block of flats (apartments) in London. She's playing hooky from school because of a school bully named Jake Anderson. We're told that Jake's stories - even the fictional ones he spreads about Alice's mother - gain legs because he was in London when Hurricane Alison hit and "Big Ben had toppled". How that's supposed to lend him veracity, I don't know!

A small point of order here! Big Ben is the name of the bell inside the tower, not the tower itself. Most people conflate the two. It's possible that Big Ben (the bell) could topple even without the tower doing so, but I guess we're meant to understand here that the whole tower went down.

On a second point, Hurricanes are not known to strike Europe. They don't typically work that way although Coriolis "force" does tend to bend their path into a rough U shape with the curve on the USA's eastern seaboard and the open end out in the Atlantic. Some hurricanes have, albeit very rarely, reached the UK. I remember staying home from school one day as huge gale-force winds ran through my home town over there. It wasn't a hurricane, but it was extremely windy that day.

Alice and her mom sleep on a shared, stained, smelly mattress on the floor of the apartment. Alice has been told that she must never ever go into the bedroom up the stairs, but was offered no reason why. Nor do we ever get such a reason! If we did, I missed it. She's reduced to stealing from the wad of cash her mother thinks she's secreted under the mattress, in order to bring home bags of groceries. Alice is stronger than she looks. I liked Alice herself, although at one point, right before I quit reading this, I started to go off her. She would have made a great hero in a story just about her, and with a bit more going on than was going on here, but her story just became tedious and stretched out, with very little happening, and I found myself hurrying through her sections.

Alice's mom works nights, and it's easy to imagine what it is she does when she goes out and doesn't return until dawn, but the day the storms began, she went out and never came back, so Alice was alone and felt physically ill. She was nauseated and ran a fever, and was too lethargic to pay serious attention when everyone seemed to be abandoning the apartment block and rousing everyone else to go with them. Some emergency or other. Alice didn't care.

Many years into the future, Carter Warren finds himself unfrozen from some sort of cryo-sleep and expected to run for the highly important position of Controller General, which he actually wants, because he thinks he can bring a whole slew of fresh ideas to the job - and maybe even find his missing parents. Carter discovers that he has two children: twins born the year after he was frozen. How weird is that? Those children may prove to be more trouble than they're worth.

Page 75 has this odd sentence: "The room was dim and Carter just about made his way to one of the other benches that were laid out in rows running from the door through which he had entered to the other side of the room." I can see what's meant by this, but the way it's worded suggests that it's missing something: like it should have another clause explaining why he didn't finish making his way over there. "Carter had just about made his way across the room when he was interrupted...", or "Carter just about made his way over there without tripping up, but he almost fell over right before he sat down. Otherwise I don't see the point of wording it that way. Maybe it's just me!

There are two other sentences that are like this on this same page. One of them isn't so bad, but then this appears towards the bottom of the page: "...the one that presents the most impressive and impactful will likely win the day." The most impressive and impactful what? It needs something to explain that, or it needs to be re-worded so that it reads, "...the one that presents as the most impressive and impactful...." Hopefully these issues will be ironed out of the final copy. Ceri Lowe ought to get me to volunteer as a beta reader!

Meanwhile, back in the future, Carter learns that there are two other candidates for the position of Controller General, against whom he must compete, so once again we have a situation like in The Hunger Games and in Divergent, and it seemed like it might be just as brutal, but in the four-fifths I read it was not, thankfully - otherwise I would have quit it much sooner! This is not another Divergent, which makes it even more sad that the covers look so much alike. It's supposed to be an election, yet the three of them are subject to practical and psychological testing. This made no sense. If the tests can pinpoint viable candidates, why bother with an election? If the election means anything beyond a dog and pony show, then why do we have the testing?

In fact this whole process made no sense. We learn that the three candidates are each as different as chalk and cheddar, so how can all of them be ideal for the job? And so things see-saw back and forth between Alice and Carter, each section alternately revealing more about their life and their world. The Alice side just wasn't as interesting as the Carter portions and sadly, they also began to grow tiresome about half-way through this novel.

One thing I had a problem with on the Alice side was the underground tunnels. London is entirely awash in many feet of floodwater, we're told, yet a network of tunnels underneath London is dry? How did that work, exactly?! On top of that (so to speak!), we're given no explanation regarding from whence this endless rainfall, er, hailed! Yes, it rained heavily, but the rain ultimately comes from one variety or another of groundwater so the level overall doesn't vary a whole lot, and the flooding came on far too fast to be the result of melting of ice sheets.

There's another problem, too, and this is common to all dystopian fiction, and it is that of other nations. Where are they?! People in the USA too often think of it as the only nation on the planet, or the only one worth thinking about or living in, but it's obviously not. Each nation probably feels the same way to one extent or another, including Britain, but none of these nations exists in isolation, and that's the problem. This story is told in complete isolation from the rest of the world as though Britain - indeed, London alone in this case - is the only place on Earth! It's just not credible. If you want to make it credible, you need to offer your readers some reasons why it's this way.

I can't believe that every nation would perish so completely in exactly the same way that Britain did, or that there would be nowhere left which had power, or transportation. I can't believe that no one would come from any other nation to see if there are survivors in Britain. I can't believe that the emergency services and the military, and the entire Royal Navy would simply vanish, but that's the conceit which we're expected to blindly accept in this novel. Nowhere is this addressed, and I couldn't swallow it; it's too glaring of an omission.

So to sum up, I liked the Alice character very much. I really didn't; like any of the others. And the story was far too plodding, with really not much going on for page after page after page, and it just wore me down. I could not bear to read the last fifty of so pages when there are so many other books presenting such a powerful temptation.

Sarah says

I requested through NetGalley to receive this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This is my first disclosure. My second disclosure is that I am a thirty-something reading a YA book so I am not it's intended audience.

“You have five minutes of this life left.” - The first line of the book is a great opener and really draws you in. But then just a few sentences later it mentions something about the over thirties which gets my back up. *“If he could keep himself together, then surely the old-timers should be able to manage it. It just confirmed everything he knew about anyone over thirty.”*

Despite the inference that I’m an old-timer, I carried on with the story. ;-)

I really like how the story was told. It is written in third person from two different POVs and two different time frames. Confused? Well there’s no need to be as it’s really well done. Carter Warren, a 15-year old boy, shows us what it’s like in a present day post-apocalyptic world while Alice Davenport shows us how life as we know it changed forever and how the new society was formed. I thought this was quite unique among the dystopian/post-apocalyptic stories out there as we generally see what it’s like after the s**t has hit the fan as opposed to as it’s happening. Each chapter switches POV to progress the story and each story line makes things fall in to place in the other.

While we don’t know exactly what has caused the Storms, it’s obviously global warming related in some way. The Storms came followed by floods then people died. Any remaining stragglers were picked up by Paradigm Industry and taken underground to sit it out until a society could be established above ground again. This is the bit I found scary! Not in a horror story kind of way but that this could happen; Corporations gaining control and being in charge is where we’re heading now. While we still have a government in our country many of the MPs have shares or some other involvement in big businesses and banks, so laws are passed to favour themselves, we have schools sponsored by companies and things being tendered out to private companies such as homeland security and prisons to name just a few.

So Back to the story! 87 years down the line, technology has advanced significantly and people are chosen by the Industry to go back in to the catacombs underground to be frozen in stasis for an unknown period of time to be awakened in the future to bring balance to society. Carter Warren is one of those people who were chosen and frozen just aged 15 to be brought back in the future as a contender to be Controller General, the person in charge of the Industry and Society as a whole.

I forgot to mention that the book is set in London too which I also liked being a Brit myself.

Whilst reading, I felt like I was waiting for the obligatory romance to start which always seems to crop up in YA books. But it didn’t happen which was quite refreshing. There were some mentions of crushes and love and the odd kiss and cuddle but it wasn’t the main focus of the story. And no angst!

A few interesting issues are raised in this book. Carter has sex for the first time, aged 15 on his going away party, and gets a girl pregnant with twins. I thought this sends a clear message to the YA audience to practice safe sex and that even on the first time you can get pregnant, although the message is more implied rather than being spelled out. It also briefly addresses paedophilia/sexual assault with Alice being attacked by an old man whilst she was under his care. Difficult topics to broach but they were woven in to the story nicely and sensitively.

I felt that some of the things that happened were predictable while other things happened which were really unexpected (but were good) and blew me away. I also felt that some characters were well thought out and developed, for example Alice and Carter, while others not so and it was difficult to understand who they were and what they stood for. At times things happened and I wasn’t sure what, leaving me feeling confused although that eased off as things were explained later in the book.

I really liked that it covered the creation of a post-apocalyptic world and the reasons why they made the choices they did and the omissions they made to society and life. I also get why those restrictions which once worked no longer do when time moves on and why 87 years later people are rebelling against the rules.

If I could, I would give this 3.5 stars but I can only give whole stars so 3 stars it is!

All in all I thought it was an enjoyable read. Will I be reading the sequels? I'd quite like to know how the story progresses so I probably will.

Yzabel Ginsberg says

(I got this novel through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review. My copy being an ARC, some things in it may be different than they are in the published book.)

I'm not sure what to make of *Paradigm*. On the one hand, while its cover is terribly reminiscent of *Divergent*, and while it also deals with a dystopian world, it does so in a different way than what is usually seen in similar novels: the reader is actually given to see both the dystopian society and its origins, through the eyes of Carter ("present" time) and Alice ("past" time). On the other hand, I did find the story confusing in several places, and its good ideas not exploited enough.

What I liked:

* Two timelines with their own characters. I'm fond of books that make use of different timelines, because I always hope this will give me a deeper insight on what's happening to whom, and where and when it's happening. It opens up a lot of possibilities, and the one here—seeing what led to the "present time" dystopian state led by the Industry—is definitely interesting. The thought process involved is somewhat logical enough: "the old world failed us and we failed it, so if we are to survive, we must destroy what's left and reinvent something new, not try to recreate our old lives."

* Alice's bleak background, and how she decided to shape a life for herself. She lost her father when she was still quite young, her mother had to sleep with men to earn money (it's heavily implied that the forbidden room was where she would welcome customers at times, or at least, that's how I understood it), her daily life and surroundings were far from brilliant. When the Storms hit, when she was brought underground with other survivors, she decided that she was given a chance to start all over, on equal footing with people who, before the catastrophe, had more money, weren't bullied at school, had better prospects than her... She didn't dwell on the misery, on the lost world, and when she did, she realised she had to come to terms with it, because it would never come back, and moping wouldn't change anything, except set her back. The way she grew up after that, the way her mind shaped itself, was fascinating both for its positive take and for its wickedness, as contradictory as it may seem: she started from a "now I have the same chances as everyone else" approach to go through a process that would make her a perfect candidate for establishing a dystopian society.

* The setting. No USA this time, but London. I love London. I'm totally biased about London. And the Black River definitely lives up to its name. (Every person who's been to/living in London must know by now that the Thames isn't fit for diving, even now. ;))

* No romance, or so little (a couple of kisses, a few memories) that it didn't really matter. Don't misunderstand me, I can appreciate romance, but YA novels, whether dealing with dystopia or not, so often end up with stories boged down by love triangles and lovey-dovey scenes that it quickly gets old. Love wasn't the focus here, it never was, there were so many other things to tackle first, and that's exactly what the author did.

What I didn't like:

* The world building started off on an intriguing footing, but some things didn't make much sense. I would've liked the Storms phenomenon and its origins to be better explained—more than "we ruined our planet with pollution and now it's too late." Was it the same in *every* country? Can it only be the same everywhere? Where *are* the other countries, anyway (because it seems London is the only place left in the world here)? How come the Storms happened so fast? What about the government's actions, the Army's, the Navy's, the police's (it looks as if they didn't do anything, and just died like everyone else)? Also, hurricanes by definition can't hit Northern Europe; windstorms, sure, but not technically hurricanes. Another thing that bothered me: why were the Scouts affected by the water when they were equipped with hazmat/anti-radiation suits? From what I know, those are supposed to block particles, and I doubt whatever was in the water was tinier than alpha and beta particles—and there *was* heavy radiation around, since exposure was shown to lead quickly to radiation poisoning, with hair falling in clumps, bleeding, etc. If the water could affect them, then shouldn't they have died of such poisoning pretty fast, too? (Which still happens too fast, by the way. Radiation sickness develops in 24-48 hours, not a few minutes only.)

Although it's something younger readers might not pay attention to, you can never tell what they know exactly, and I think those things will clearly lead to questioning.

* Carter's arc went too fast in places, and I found his character inconsistent. He started like the perfect brainwashed candidate for Mr. Dystopian World Of The Year, having worked all his (short) life to become Controller General, which is totally all right with me in such a setting... but then, he seemed to be affected too quickly by what he discovered, to be swayed and changed too drastically. His development may have been more believable to me if he had had more contact with Ariel and Lucia, with Isabella, with Iseult, and hadn't been influenced so easily.

* Speaking of which, the characters in general didn't feel very developed. I think the problem might've stemmed from the use of two timelines, demanding that the focus be on many things. As a result, we'd probably have needed a longer novel, in order for most of those people to be given their chance at development.

* A lasting feeling of confusion. It somehow worked in the beginning, in that it reflected Carter's own confusion upon waking up, but after a while, I wasn't sure anymore why the story jumped to this or that scene, and I always wondered if I had missed a chapter in between.

* The whole process of waking up people 15-20 later for them to contribute to society wasn't too clear in its origin and goals. In a way, I can understand the desire to keep people with specific skills in cryo-sleep if they're not absolutely needed in the now, in order to wake them up at a time when their skills are more in demand. However, why wake up a few kids and make them compete for Controller General position when they haven't even had time to get adjusted to a world 15 years older than the one they knew? The Industry knew things had been changing, they wanted someone to right them, and I can't decide if this made sense (keep the kids in the dark so that they compete the way they would have 15 years ago, and "bring back" ways considered as more appropriate) or not (having more data in hand could help contenders to grasp the

situation and adapt their actions in order to make society the way they had known it).

* The writing style: overall an easy read, but sometimes I found sentences that didn't make much sense, clauses with missing words, or descriptions that were way too vague ("There was something about him, thought Alice, that reminded her of something, but she couldn't quite place it.") As said, though, this was an ARC, so those problems might have been edited out of the final version.

I'm rating this book 1.5 stars because I really appreciated it not giving in to the pressure of "YA must have romance" and for dealing with the making of a dystopian world, not only its current existence. But it still left me frustrated on way too many accounts.

Marta Cox says

Sometimes I see a book and the very fact that opinion is divided fuels my interest. This story goes back and forth between Alice from the past when the world as we know it changed and then forward to Carter a boy awoken from a cryogenic sleep. Essentially we see how Alice rises up against all odds to become a fabled scout of what is known in the future as the Industry . She's bright, adapts easily and yet there's a softness to her that recognises others have needs.

Yet it's Carter who dominates and his findings when he comes back to what he thought would be a perfect job. Carter has always known he should be Controller General but he is tested and forgets the one thing that can change everything, there are other candidates waiting for the position. A world full of secrets, punishment and even termination. Rebellion threatens the Industry but is Carter doing the right thing or being led down a slippery path ?

I didn't mind jumping about from Alice to Carter although if honest wanted a little more information initially as we walked along with Carter. The ending made their connection very clear and I understood exactly why the author chose to write her story this way. My slight niggle is that I really wanted more of the here and now with a stronger world building and if brutal I didn't really understand Carter or really connect with his cold, selfish personality. The ending however left possibilities for Carter to step up and if a rebellion is on the cards then they just might have found the perfect leader ! Not a perfect book but still an interesting one . This voluntary take is of a copy I requested from Netgalley and my thoughts and comments are honest and I believe fair

Kate~Bibliophile Book Club says

I had been dying to read this book as soon as I heard about it from Bookouture, and it's safe to say it was worth the wait! Once I picked it up, I couldn't stop reading it.

I'm a sucker for all things YA/dystopian lately, so The Rising Storm was right up my alley. It's a cracking opening to a series, setting up the characters nicely, and with some really interesting story arcs.

I really enjoyed the pace of The Rising Storm. Nothing is out of sync in terms of how the narrative jumps between characters and their experiences in the past and present. I liked how the author was able to weave it all together, and although I was left with some questions, I'm glad to know that there is more to come with this series.

Clever, engaging and with excellent character development, I raced through The Rising Storm. Bring on the next one! ?

Highly recommended!

booksofallkinds says

Opening with a bang, THE RISING STORM by Ceri A. Lowe keeps up the energetic pace with this compelling dystopian novel.

After abnormal storms change the world as we know it, Alice is needed to rebuild civilisation but things are not always as they seem and soon Alice is not sure which world she wants to inhabit - the old or the new. While at the same time Carter is being trained to be a future leader and he is determined to be the best that this world has ever seen but when he witnesses how harsh and secretive the Industry truly is, he begins to question everything that he has been taught, and when secrets from the past come to the surface, it will begin a new journey for everyone ...

I'm always a little weary when books are compared to The Hunger Games as I feel they are being set up to fail by comparison but THE RISING STORM really doesn't disappoint. Gripping, well-paced, with plenty of grit, strength, and danger throughout, this novel is unique and fresh and I became fully immersed in the drama. And that ending will leave you wanting the next instalment!!

?THE RISING STORM by Ceri A. Lowe is a cracking story and perfect for dystopian fiction fans.

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from Netgalley

Hannah Quinn says

What would you create after the end of the world? Cleverly winding together two compelling characters' story lines as they approach this question from very different view points, Paradigm is an exciting and wonderfully written debut novel. For fans of dystopian fiction who are looking for something much less formulaic and a little more grown up than a lot of its competition. The world of the Industry is an eerily plausible and seductively logical background to a great story, beautiful details and big questions. Read it!

Milo (BOK) says

The Review: [http://thefoundingfields.com/2014/07/...](http://thefoundingfields.com/2014/07/)

"This book is proof that you shouldn't judge things just by what they're billed as. What could have been a cheap ripoff and cash-in attempt on the popularity of The Hunger Games and Divergent instead is something that shines, and is full of its own originality. The Dystopian Young Adult genre may be overcrowded right now – but Paradigm is something that's worth checking out." ~Bane of Kings, The Founding Fields

What if the end of the world was just the beginning?

Alice Davenport awakens from a fever to find her mother gone and the city she lives in ravaged by storms – with few survivors.

When Alice is finally rescued, she is taken to a huge underground bunker owned by the mysterious Paradigm Industries. As the storms worsen, the hatches close.

87 years later, amidst the ruins of London, the survivors of the Storms have reinvented society. The Model maintains a perfect balance – with inhabitants routinely frozen until they are needed by the Industry.

Fifteen-year-old Carter Warren knows his time has come. Awoken from the catacombs as a contender for the role of Controller General, it is his destiny to succeed – where his parents failed.

But Carter soon discovers that the world has changed, in ways that make him begin to question everything that he believes in. As Carter is forced to fight for those he loves and even for his life, it seems that the key to the future lies in the secrets of the past...

As the quote above suggests, I was initially put off by Paradigm. It looked a bit too much like familiar territory for me and quite frankly it's annoying to see yet another young adult dystopian fiction title when there's so much more to the science fiction genre than just post-apocalyptic scenarios in a world screwed up. I for one, would kill to see a fully blown Space Opera young adult book – think the upcoming Guardians of the Galaxy movie for where I'm getting my thoughts from. I'd take space opera as a trend anyday over well, this.

However, as is proven in the case of The Hunger Games, there are some titles worth reading from this subgenre, and Paradigm is a great example, with a plot that isn't exactly your standard dystopian fare, and for a refreshing change, it's actually set in London – or at least, in part – and that pretty much gains points from me right there because I will read pretty much any SciFi/Fantasy that has some version of London as its origin, purely because I'm an ex-Londoner myself.

The book isn't just set in London though. It deals with an interesting scenario where the narrative actually has an 87 year split. The book tells the story of how the world went to hell, and what happened in the future. It's smart, compelling, and Ceri A. Lowe has found a good way to bridge the gap and keep both stories relevant.

The main characters are interesting and compelling. Alice Davenport is essentially the main character from the present, where we get to see London destroyed by storms that leave little survivors. She's lost her mother, and it's interesting to see how Lowe handles Alice's character in the aftermath and as she develops over the course of the book. However, what makes a refreshing change from the likes of Divergent and The Hunger Games is that there's actually a shift in narrator – rather than sticking with Alice throughout the whole book, we also meet Carter Warren, who's a fifteen year old 87 years into the future, who has his own problems.

What also makes this book stand out from the crowd is that we get to see the dystopian setting not only from the perspective of the rebels but we also get the reasoning behind its creation. Why was a strict Government necessary? It's an interesting addition and the time-split in the narratives helps Lowe illustrate how much things have changed. It's handled well and that's not just the only thing that feels fresh about the dystopian setting in this novel.

For a start, there's virtually no romance. Paradigm doesn't fall into the trap of other books by overloading on love triangles and making the romance become the main focus of the plot. Like the refreshing changes and additions to the book, it really helps make it stand out. This isn't just your average cheap cash in novel, folks. It proves there's still good things to be found in the young adult dystopian genre, even if I'd rather that we moved on from this craze.

There are a few problems however, and for a start, I'd like to talk about the cover. It just feels so same-y and as though we've been there, and done that. The addition of the London skyline is good but more change should have been made to make this book standout more. It doesn't detract from the main experience of the storyline but it probably should have been improved.

Carter's development is unfortunately inconsistent, and happens too quickly and too fast. The change should have happened at a slower pace and he shouldn't have been influenced as easy as he did, and as a result his story comes across as weaker than Alice's.

On the whole then, Paradigm is a mostly successful read. It's compelling, engaging and a refreshing dystopian Young Adult novel that can come recommended despite its flaws.

VERDICT: 7.8/10

Renita D'Silva says

Love this amazingly well written, lucid book about what is to come for all of us if we are not careful. It deals with the end of the world as it is now, and it sounds all too real. The two main protagonists, Alice and Carter are beautifully realized. Carter's determination is admirable, he believes in the Industry, he trusts that he is meant to be Controller General and he never loses sight of that vision. Alice's bravery, her toughness and her vulnerability, her fierce loyalty to Jonah and her inner strength, are beautifully portrayed. I loved how it all comes together, full circle at the end. And not only is the story brilliant, the characterization to die for, but Ceri A Lowe's writing sparkles, each sentence a perfectly honed jewel. Sparse, beautiful prose that gives the book depth and substance. Some books make you think, they question the way you live, the choices you make. This is one of them. And the good news: that there are more books in the series! Cannot wait.

Kayla says

I got sent this book in exchange for a honest review, all my opinions are my own and thank you so much to the publishers for sending me this book!

The world in this book was so beautifully crafted and the setting was so intriguing and I wanted to learn more about this place.

The book was such a good read and was a very plot driven book and that's why I think I couldn't really connect with any of the characters which was a real shame because I would have loved to give this a higher rating
