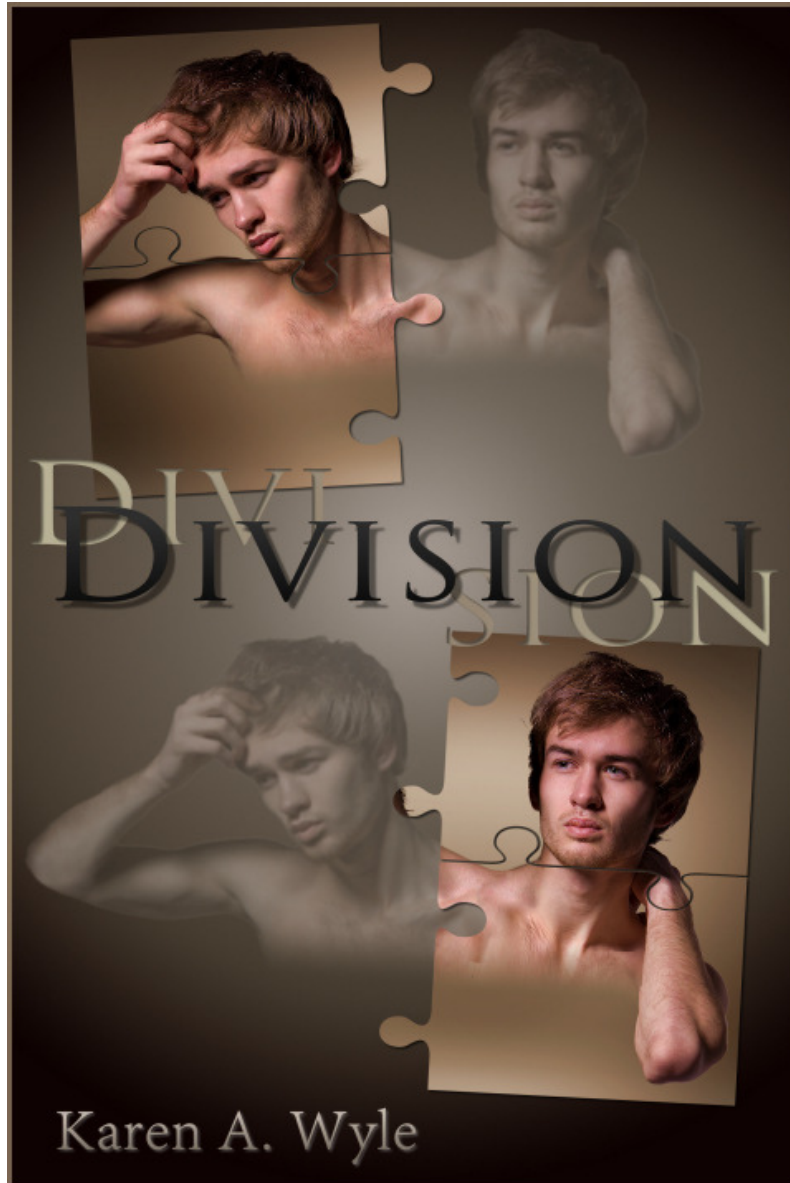


Media Kit



Division

a novel by

Karen A. Wyle



Author Bio

Karen A. Wyle was born a Connecticut Yankee. After college in California, law school in Massachusetts, and a mercifully short stint in a large San Francisco law firm, she moved to Los Angeles, where she met her husband, who hates L.A. They eventually settled in Bloomington, Indiana, home of Indiana University. She now considers herself a Hoosier.

Wyle's childhood ambition was to be the youngest novelist ever published. While writing her first novel at age ten, she was mortified to learn that some British upstart had beaten her to the goal at age nine. She finished that novel nonetheless. After a prolonged detour, she returned to writing novels in 2010. *Division* is her fourth novel. She is also working on a nonfiction guide to law and lawyers, for authors' use.

Karen's voice is the product of many years of reading both literary and genre fiction. It is no doubt also influenced, although she hopes not fatally tainted, by her years of law practice. Her personal history has led her to focus on often-intertwined themes of family, communication, the impossibility of controlling events, and the persistence of unfinished business.

About *Division*

New technology, new choices . . . but who gets to choose?

Conjoined twins Gordon and Johnny have never let their condition keep them from living full and fulfilling lives. Gordon looks forward to many years of closeness and cooperation. Johnny, however, faces their future with increasing restlessness, and even dread.

When the boys are in their teens, the new technologies of accelerated human cloning and brain transplants are combined into a single medical procedure -- Transplant to Clone, or TTC. Someone whose body has suffered such extensive damage as to make normal life impossible may -- with court approval -- be cloned and then given a brain transplant into the clone body. With Gordon's unwitting assistance, Johnny realizes that the TTC procedure provides the chance he had never dared to hope for -- the chance to live in a "normal," separate body.

But Gordon considers their conjoined life a blessing, rather than a curse. He has no intention of accepting separation -- not without a fight . . .

Division, like Wyle's earlier novels, uses original settings and situations to explore universal themes: the complexity and intensity of family relationships, the nature of individual identity, and the far-reaching effects of the choices we make.

Author Q&A

Q. What inspired you to write *Division*?

A. As an attorney and a reader of courtroom dramas, I've occasionally contemplated making use of my legal expertise in some work of fiction. After reading yet another of Jodi Piccoult's absorbing novels, it occurred to me to combine courtroom drama with science fiction. I also have an inexplicable fascination with twins. Throw those elements into the pot, stir -- and you could come up with the plot of *Division*.

I'm an appellate attorney and don't try cases, so *Division* offered me my first opportunity to write opening and closing statements. It was great fun!

Q. What led you to self-publish your novels?

A. Once I finished the rough draft of my first novel, *Twin-Bred*, I began reading every blog and Twitter feed I could find, as well as several books, about the publishing process. At first, I was learning how to query agents and publishers, and how to format a manuscript for submission. But the more I read, the more I realized two things:

--Self-publishing was eminently feasible and would give me much more control over content, marketing and timing.

--In the current unsettled state of the industry, there are serious risks involved in the traditional route. More and more agency and publication contracts include language that can seriously limit an author's future options, and offer relatively little in exchange. Nor can one have great confidence that the publisher who's preparing your book for publication in eighteen months will be in business that long.

Q. Are there any specific authors whose writing styles or subject matter have inspired you?

A. Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow* and *Children of God* are brilliant treatments of the theme of human-alien communication difficulties, the subject of *Twin-Bred* and *Reach*. These books inspire me even as their excellence intimidates me.

I have also tended to gravitate toward novelists who explore themes such as the irrevocable impact of actions and decisions, whether obviously momentous or seemingly trivial -- novelists from the 19th Century author George Eliot to current YA author Caroline Cooney.

Q. What do you like best about being a writer, and what do you dislike most about it?

A. I love it when the story decides to write itself! It's a bit like being a medium and channeling some spirit. I also find it extremely rewarding when readers tell me that one of my novels has moved them or even helped them through a difficult time.

I dislike my ongoing battle to keep carpal tunnel syndrome at bay. When I'm healthy, my greatest gripe is the amount of work involved in trying to increase my visibility in the crowded literary landscape. However, as that difficulty is inextricably connected to the greater opportunities for authors these days, I try to focus on the positive.

Q. What else have you written?

A. My first novel, *Twin-Bred*, asked the question: can interspecies diplomacy begin in the womb? It takes place on the planet Tofarn, and begins seventy years after the establishment of a human colony. While the colonists and the indigenous Tofa can communicate somewhat, fundamental comprehension difficulties lead to frequent and dangerous friction between the two communities. Scientist Mara Cadell conceives of a radical solution: have host mothers carry fraternal twins, one human and one Tofa, in the hope that the bond between twins may bridge the gap between species. Mara herself would have been born a twin, had her brother Levi not died in utero. Mara considers it essential to keep secret the fact that like many "womb twin survivors," she has kept Levi alive in her mind as a companion -- and even a collaborator.

Both the human and Tofa leadership accept Mara's proposal -- but both prove to have their own agendas. . . .

Reach, the sequel to *Twin-Bred*, follows certain key players in the *Twin-Bred* story to new frontiers and new challenges.

Between *Twin-Bred* and *Reach*, I published *Wander Home*, a family drama with mystery and romance elements set in a re-imagined afterlife. This afterlife has features which lend themselves to the confrontation of lingering personal issues and unfinished business. For example, you can relive any memory in perfect detail -- and if someone else who took part in the remembered scene is there with you, you can trade places and remember the events from the other person's perspective. There are other aspects of the afterlife that, while serving this same purpose, are also just plain fun. You can be any age at any time, and visit any place that you remember or that anyone you meet -- from any time in Earth's history -- remembers.

Wander Home concerns a mother who desperately wanted a child, but who left that child in the care of her parents and grandmother for unknown reasons. The child, grandparents, and great-grandmother die in an auto accident four years after the mother's mysterious departure; the mother dies of stress cardiomyopathy ("broken heart syndrome") some time later, and is reunited with the family she left behind.

My short story "The Library" is set in the same afterlife as *Wander Home*, and features one of its central characters. It's meant primarily as either an introduction to, or another chance to explore, the afterlife I created for *Wander Home*.

I have also published a short story called "The Baby" which involves human cloning, although it may or may not be set in the same future as *Division*

And then there's the result of the most recent National Novel Writing Month! I just finished the (very) rough draft of my latest novel, involving the unexpected ramifications of a technology allowing the partial recording and playback of highly emotional human experiences.

Early Reviews of *Division*

"The story's as convincing in its court scenes as in the home, or on the road. The characters are just as human when they're friends as when they're foes. And the future world has no easier answers than the present day after all. But the questions will leave readers pondering possibilities and implications. . . . Beautifully researched and convincingly told, this novel reads like a present day drama with just a touch of the future--just enough to make us question the present more truly."
-- The New Book Review (review by Sheila Deeth)

"Ms. Wyle has again written a very thoughtful and fascinating science fiction book. " -- Mervi's Book Reviews

"[O]ne of those books that will capture your attention, and give you food for thought. . . . A bittersweet story, *Division* is full of many lessons that anyone can relate to. This is definitely one those books you'll want to read time and again. I know I will." -- Lissette E. Manning

"Beautifully written book about a controversial and fascinating subject. . . . [L]ots of fascinating conflict. . . . I've enjoyed everything I've read by this author so far. She has a great knack for world building and story telling." -- Karen Banes

"I took a whole day off writing to read this novel - a time I guard jealously. But I'm glad I did. . . . The two main characters, the brothers, are beautifully observed and developed . . . All in all a great read and one I would recommend to anyone. Well done to the author." -- Gordon Roger Lawrence

"Drama . . . filled with courtroom tension, medical and biological futuristic technology, and most important . . . feelings of the human heart. . . . [U]nique and thought provoking." -- Elisabeth Zguta

"[T]hought-provoking, ethically-challenging and very enjoyable . . . [Wyle] crafts clever, inventive, unique stories peopled with . . . characters that are real and flawed and complex . . . The tale of Johnny and Gordon made me think, rage, cry, blush, and laugh out loud . . . The boys' struggle to live individual lives is guaranteed . . . to make you think about your own concept of what it means to be you and to live your life . . . If you aren't familiar with [Wyle's] books I simply can't encourage you enough to pick them up. They aren't like anything else you're reading -- in the best possible way." -- Jill Elizabeth Franclemont

Reviews of Wyle's Previous Novels

Twin-Bred

"*Twin-Bred* is one of the best science fiction novels I've read in decades. It is literary fiction as well as S-F. . . . *Twin-Bred* is anything but derivative. To the contrary, it is one of the most original stories I've ever read, not an easy thing given the countless variations on human/alien encounters and relations already published [T]he book is beautifully written and riveting. The complex, flawlessly structured plot evolves logically, but continues to surprise to the very end Highly recommended for lovers of both S-F and literary fiction." -- The New Book Review (review by R. Lee Holz)

"An original and beautifully written SciFi story. . . . The Tofa are interesting and well worked out aliens. . . . In a way this story reminded me of Capek's 'War with the Newts', not surprising as both stories shine a light on how humans treat each other and where we go wrong. But where Capek's view is a grim one, Wyle still leaves some hope that we as a species might one day see the light. All in all a beautiful, thought provoking tale. I will keep an eye out for Wyle's next book." -- Carien Ubink (blogging as Sullivan McPig)

"I've been a fan of SciFi for most of my 70 years and find the premise out of the ordinary and quite fascinating. I recommend this to all ages." --Dale Day (author)

"Real science fiction is back! . . . Intelligently conceived and written SF is speculative, challenging the reader to think beyond the norm [T]he story must play out consistently within the parameters of the world the author builds. Aliens should not be thinly disguised humans, but offer the reader a new perspective on sentience and how humans may interface with very different cultures and life forms. This first novel meets all of these criteria admirably, and I eagerly anticipate more books from the author." -- Rosemarie Larkin (reviewer)

Reach: a Twin-Bred novel

"*Reach* is a worthy sequel to *Twin-Bred* The story line of *Twin-Bred* is continued and raised in level of depth and complexity. At the same time, a new and exciting story line is added. There is enough back-story provided that *Reach* can be read as a standalone novel. However, I think readers will benefit greatly from having first read *Twin-Bred* so as to fully understand how and why the *Twin-Bred* came into being and why the concept is so different from the usual human/alien encounter books. I trust and hope we are seeing the beginning of one of the outstanding series of Sci-Fi adventure Although the scope and focus differ greatly, I compare the emerging *Twin-Bred* series with Asimov's great Foundation novels in terms of interest and, particularly, political intrigue. Highly recommended." -- The New Book Review (review by R. Lee Holz)

"*Reach* takes over from where *Twin Bred* left off and although the two need not be read in sequence, the world(s) create by Karen are far too intricate to let go. Following a long running and intrigue-filled experiment, the *Twin Bred* . . . finally leave the planet Tofarn. Their destination is another world where they hope to be happy, or at least discover some peace. Awaiting them on this new planet are yet another race of people. Will they be friendly? Amid the ensuing discoveries none of the problems on the world they left behind are forgotten, and all endow a richness to the plot. The pace accelerates but not so fast as to leave the reader bewildered and, like the first novel, full of intrigue and alternate avenues of thought.

"This is in a different league from most SF adventures. Intelligently written, the pace never slackens. To say much more would be to spoil it for any would-be readers. All I can say is delve in yourselves. You won't be sorry." -- Roger Lawrence (author and blogger)

"*Reach* is a worthy sequel to *Twin-Bred*. The non-human beings are really non-human, with non-human senses, physical characteristics, and reactions. Even though it would be possible to read *Reach* without having read *Twin-Bred*, *Reach* will be richer for the reader who has read *Twin-Bred*." -- Speculative Vision (review by Barbara Matts)

Wander Home

"[Wyle] knows how to tell a great and original story, and I can say with absolute conviction that I will read any- and everything she writes from here on out. . . . *Wander Home*] is a story about the consequences of the choices we make, and the difficulty even we can have in understanding – and living with – the reach of those consequences. Wyle's isn't the first vision of the afterlife that addresses these concepts . . . but it is one of the loveliest. . . . Wyle has a lovely way with language, weaving characters and setting together into a seamless tapestry of an after-life that I personally hope bears more than a passing resemblance to what's really out there. . . . A beautiful story, well-written and smoothly paced with characters you can't help but fall in love with."

--All Things Jill-Elizabeth

"I love the way the concept of an afterlife is made real in [Wyle's] book, and the way the various characters interrelate, relive moments and revisit places in their history *Wander Home* acts like a large, soft comfort blanket. But don't get too comfortable. It is a barbed comfort blanket, charged with emotion. An excellent read, which I heartily recommend."

--The Indie Tribe

"The afterlife that Wyle creates is brimming with memories, places to visit, and amazing people to meet *Wander Home* is a magical story that delves to the depths of the human psyche and is definitely recommended."

--The Coffee Pot

"*Wander Home* amazes with its unique plot, eloquent surprises, and characters that dazzle and run right into the heart. . . . With an astounding ending, *Wander Home* enraptures from the first page until the last. . . . [W]hen you find yourself in a chair, or on the bed reading *Wander Home*, you will want to read it again and again in order to experience the wonder and beauty of truly coming home. Big kudos to Ms. Wyle for a compelling and delicious novel full of mystery and elegant prose. A winner."

--The Review Broads

Where to Purchase *Division*

Division is currently available as an ebook at the following websites:

Amazon (all countries): <http://smarturl.it/Division>

Kobobooks: <http://store.kobobooks.com/en-US/ebook/division-1>

Smashwords: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/362640>

Barnes and Noble (Nook Store): <http://bit.ly/1gaDA7h>

Sony's iBookstore: <http://www.ibookstore.com/products.php?i=B00G82BBQQ>

Learn More about the Author

Author website: <http://www.KarenAWyle.net> (where one can sign up for email alerts about new releases and events)

Author Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/KarenAWyle>

Author on Twitter: @WordsmithWyle

Author's blog: Looking Around, at <http://looking-around.blogspot.com>

Goodreads profile: <http://www.goodreads.com/kawyle>

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