

GIBSON HOUSE

P R E S S

Reading Group Guide

Conclusion by Peter Robertson

About *Conclusion*

In a heart-pounding literary thriller set in an alternate world where perfect health is guaranteed and the effects of aging suspended, Colin Tugdale is the unlikely sleuth who stumbles into a conspiracy to manipulate the system and crosses paths with a killer.

Colin is scheduled to die. His wife already has. He took the government money and enjoyed his last twenty years in perfect health, never aging a day. With one year left and little to lose, Colin begins a race against time. Can he find out why some people are still alive when they shouldn't be, and how the woman who enters his life has saved herself from an incurable disease? Colin goes looking for answers and in this tense and thought-provoking tale.

Conclusion by Peter Robertson is published by Gibson House Press, October 2019. 240 pages. Original trade paperback, \$16.99 ISBN-13: 978-1-948721-04-2. Ebook formats, \$9.99

Reviews

“[I]n essence a mystery, . . . its SF trappings give it . . . genre-blending appeal. The novel delivers a fascinating exploration of an intriguing question: When death becomes not only inevitable, but something we can plan for years in advance, does it lose its power to terrify, or, alternately, does the known end date carry its own kind of terror? A smart and expertly written story.” — David Pitt, *BOOKLIST*

“A gripping psychological thriller with intriguing science fiction elements . . . Sometimes moody and atmospheric, at other times pulse-pounding, *Conclusion* is a slim title that packs an emotional punch.” — Angela McQuay, *FOREWORD REVIEWS*

“[U]nique thinking mystery/detective book that lets readers ponder what it means to play God with the hope that those in charge know what they're doing. [G]reat . . . for those who like their mystery with a tinge of sci-fi.” — Andrienne Cruz, librarian at the Azusa City Library, Azusa, California, and member of the LibraryReads board

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About the author

Peter Robertson is the author of the mystery series *Permafrost*, *Mission*, and *Colorblind*. He lives in Chicago.

Conversation starters

1. Would you take the bargain of perfect health for a specific period, knowing almost exactly when your life would end?
2. How would you feel about knowing that timeline? About knowing the timeline for loved ones? What aspects would you find comforting or distressing? Why?
3. What do you think about the concept of a governmentally mandated time to die? Is it fair? Ethical? What are the effects on the way medicine is practiced and aging is managed?
4. Are Justin's parents justified in their efforts to game the system, and the resources they expend? Is Angela?
5. How do the settings contribute to a sense of safety or threat?