

The Dead and The Gone (Life As We Knew It Series Book 2)

By Susan Beth Pfeffer



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Susan Beth Pfeffer's *Life as We Knew It* enthralled and devastated readers with its brutal but hopeful look at an apocalyptic event—an asteroid hitting the moon, setting off a tailspin of horrific climate changes. Now this harrowing companion novel examines the same events as they unfold in New York City, revealed through the eyes of seventeen-year-old Puerto Rican Alex Morales. When Alex's parents disappear in the aftermath of tidal waves, he must care for his two younger sisters, even as Manhattan becomes a deadly wasteland, and food and aid dwindle.

With haunting themes of family, faith, personal change, and courage, this powerful novel explores how a young man takes on unimaginable responsibilities.



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The Dead and The Gone (Life As We Knew It Series Book 2) By Susan Beth Pfeffer Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #96980 in eBooks • Published on: 2009-11-03 • Released on: 2010-01-18 • Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up—An asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, and every conceivable natural disaster occurs. Seventeen-year-old Alex Morales's parents are missing and presumed drowned by tsunamis. Left alone, he struggles to care for his sisters Bri, 14, and Julie, 12. Things look up as Central Park is turned into farmland and food begins to grow. Then worldwide volcanic eruptions coat the sky with ash and the land freezes permanently. People starve, freeze, or die of the flu. Only the poor are left in New York—a doomed island—while the rich light out for safe towns inland and south. The wooden, expository dialogue and obvious setup of the first pages quickly give way to the well-wrought action of the snowballing tragedy. The mood of the narrative is appropriately frenetic, somber, and hopeful by turns. Pfeffer's writing grows legs as the terrifying plot picks up speed, and conversations among the siblings are realistically fluid and sharpedged. The Moraleses are devout Catholics, and though the church represents the moral center of the novel, Pfeffer doesn't proselytize. The characters evolve as the city decomposes, and the author succeeds in showing their heroism without making them caricatures of virtue. She accurately and knowingly depicts New York City from bodegas to boardrooms, and even the far-fetched science upon which the novel hinges seems well researched. This fast-paced, thoughtful story is a good pick for melodrama fiends and reluctant readers alike.—Johanna Lewis, New York Public Library

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From **Booklist**

Starred Review In Life as We Knew It (2005), veteran writer Pfeffer painted a terrifying picture of what happened in a rural Pennsylvania town after an asteroid hit the moon and cataclysmic changes on land and sea caused familiar life to grind to a halt. For readers who wondered if things were any better in a bustling city, here is the horrifying answer. On the night the moon tilts, 17-year-old Alex and his younger sisters are alone; their mother is at work, and their father is visiting Puerto Rico. No matter how the kids wish, hope, and pray, their parents don't return. It's up to Alex to do what's best. At first that means bartering for food and batteries and avoiding fighting with the rambunctious Julie—especially after sickly Bri is sent to live at a rural convent. Later it means rescuing Julie from rapists and steering her away from the corpses that litter the street, providing food for rats. Religion is one of the strong threads running through the novel. It would have been interesting to see Alex wrestle more with his staunch Catholicism, but in many ways, the Church anchors the plot. The story's power, as in the companion book, comes from readers' ability to picture themselves in a similiar situation; everything Pfeffer writes about seems wrenchingly plausible. Grades 8-12.

--Ilene Cooper

Review

"As riveting as Life as We Knew It and even grittier, this companion novel returns to the premise of that previous book to show how New York City responds to the global disasters that ensue when an asteroid knocks the moon out of orbit. . . . Once again Pfeffer creates tension not only through her protagonist"s day-to-day struggles but also through chilling moral dilemmas: whether to rob the dead, who to save during a food riot, how long to preserve the hope that his parents might return. . . . The powerful images and wrenching tragedies will haunt readers."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Slawson:

As people who live in often the modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This The Dead and The Gone (Life As We Knew It Series Book 2) is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Craig Chivers:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some research before they write to the book. One of them is this The Dead and The Gone (Life As We Knew It Series Book 2).

Beverly Hummell:

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