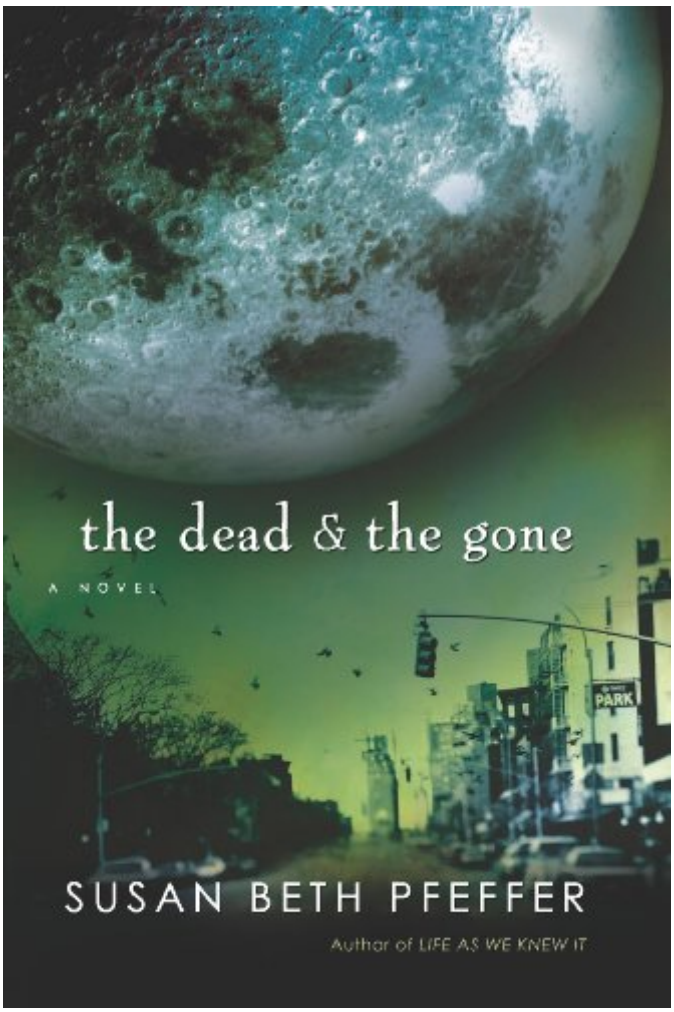
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The Dead And The Gone (Life As We Knew It Series Book 2)



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Synopsis

Susan Beth PfefferÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Life as We Knew It enthralled and devastated readers with its brutal but hopeful look at an apocalyptic eventÃ¢â ¬â •an asteroidÃ Â hitting the moon, setting off a tailspin of horrific climate changes. Now this harrowing companion novel examines the same events as theyÃ Â 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. Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â With haunting themes of family, faith, personal change, and courage, this powerful novel explores how a young man takes on unimaginable responsibilities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is well-written, and I again enjoyed the overall story. I say ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“again,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• however, because this book is very similar to its predecessor, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Life As We Knew It.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• I knew nothing about

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Dead & The GoneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• other than that it is the second book in the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Last SurvivorsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• series. When I began reading, I was surprised to discover that this book didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t pick up where ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Life As We Knew ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• left off, but instead went back to the beginning and followed a completely different family in New York as they experienced the same struggles that occurred from the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœeshifting ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ of the moon. I will openly admit that I was a bit disappointed that I wouldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t be continuing on with MirandaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s story. I enjoyed reading her thoughts and experiencing what she experienced along with her. When everything ended as well as it could (all things considered) I was hopeful that her journey would continue and things would just keep getting better. Or, at the very least, that things would continue to be difficult, but that weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d still be able to experience that journey along with her.So imagine my shock when the narrative changed and I was suddenly hearing about Alex Morales. It was a challenge to adjust to an entire new family, as I had felt like I was part of MirandaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family, having been with them from the start. Even more, it was challenging to start at the very beginning, right after the moon had been struck, knowing all the terrible things that were to come. DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t get me wrong, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Dead & The GoneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• was still very good. It was interesting to experience everything from a different perspective, in a different location, with different people and be able to compare their individual journeys. But I will admit (SPOILER ALERT) that the MoralesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ journey was even more trying and heartbreaking, in the end. Nevertheless, the entire concept upon which this series resides is extremely interesting, and I will most definitely continue reading the remaining books.On to the next one!

"The Dead and the Gone" is book 2 in a 4-book (so far) series by Susan Beth Pfeffer which she has named "The Last Survivors." I knew from book 1 that the other books in this series would be a treat but I didn’t expect Book 2 to be even better than the first. Miranda, the heroine of "Life as We Knew It," is revealed to be very lucky. She comes from a family of four (a mother and three children) all of whom are able to survive in a village in northeast Pennsylvania for ten months. Alex Morales, the hero of "The Dead and the Gone," is part of a family of six (he is the second of four children) living on the Upper West Side in Manhattan of which only three members are alive at the end of the book. The parents drown on the first night, as a result of the very high tides that result from the moon being closer, and the death of one of Alex’s siblings (I won’t say which one) represents the climax of the book.New York goes to hell in a handbasket; death rises around the protagonists like one of the

super-tides pulled by the moon. The collision that pushes the moon closer to the earth takes place in mid-May. By mid-July bodies are being left on the street in the Upper West Side. The last delivery of emergency rations to that part of Manhattan takes place on December 9. The last day chronicled is December 29, by which time New York is almost completely abandoned, as opposed to Howell, Pennsylvania, which still had between a quarter and a sixth of its pre-collision population the following March. Things are worse for Alex than for Miranda because while her family had an enormous stockpile of food, his must leave the house constantly to get food.I thought both the role of both violence and religion during a period of social breakdown were depicted more realistically in this book than in the first, which is the reason I give this book a full five stars. Alex's family is deeply religious and their faith sustains them both literally (they are fed at the parochial school they attend) and spiritually. God and His representatives on earth become the only people Alex can talk to about what he is going through, as he tries to protect his sisters from the full implications of what is happening. Alex's first sister rarely leaves the house after an ill-fated attempt to join a convent, but his second sister becomes a target of men with base desires and nothing to lose by fulfilling them. You know society hasn't completely broken down, however, because social class becomes even more important than it previously was, with the rich and well-connected not having to creep past dead bodies all the time in their part of New York (apparently Midtown), foreshadowing the fourth book, in which (the reviews tell us) a rigid caste system has set in in Tennessee.Book 3, "This World we Live In," brings together the surviving characters from Book 1 and Book 2 and I can't wait to read it. Fortunately, I ordered all of the last three books in the series at the same time from , so I don't have to. Five stars.

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