



Nowhere Land

Katherine Applegate

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Jobs, Mo'Steel, 2Face, and a handful of others are the last of the human race. They are all that remain of what we knew as the planet Earth. And they've traveled millions of miles and five hundred years to find a place to begin again.

But the ship that now sustains them nearly destroys the survivors. Its computer feeds them images that are incredibly beautiful, intensely horrifying, and very, very dangerous. In order to stay alive, the Remnants have to find a way to work together in an environment that wants to tear them apart. And so far the environment -- this strange new place they have to call home -- is winning...

Nowhere Land Details

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Author : Katherine Applegate

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From Reader Review Nowhere Land for online ebook

Z says

I'm actually still enjoying this series. It surprises me a bit, but I'm learning to deal with the weird artificial environments and the weird names and just go with the flow. The in-fighting and the fractioning of the group is very interesting to see. Plus, the Blue Meanies and the Riders are starting to make a bit more sense. (And I like naval battles.) We'll see what the next book holds....

Sarah says

It was really good.

Andy Huber says

it sound to me like the book about
the girl which is inside cyber

There is a audiobook about .nowheres land.
It is horrible!

Some time after i listened to the
audiobook i draw a picture with a flower which is over the city. To get another view for the book!
Argh...only a few different.... things and the book would become so great....

ty

Jackie Krasuski says

The idea behind these books really got my attention because it is life after the end of the world, however after the Animorphs series and Everworld this was quite a letdown. Besides that, the whole end of the world thing is becoming a real redundant theme lately.

Trihaly says

This series gets more and more intriguing! I've been a fan of Applegate's for a long time, and I just love the worlds she creates. I can't wait to read more :) Onward to the next one to find out what else happens to the last surviving remnants of the human race!

Julie says

I can't shelve this as "non-white main character" because it's an ensemble, but I *am* so pleased that 2Face finally gets a cover, and that she's unambiguously Asian. So, accordingly, I'm going to go back and retroactively create a "POC on cover" shelf now!

We're nearing the point in *Remnants* where I can't really remember what happens; a couple things rang bells in this book, but it's getting fainter and fainter. I think #5 or #6 may be the last books I read, so I can soon no longer refer to these as rereads! It's exciting and a bit of a treat, being able to be so surprised by a KAA series.

Standout points about this one:

- 2Face seems less and less heroic by the day, and more of a callous survivalist. I love this. It makes her an ambiguous, nuanced figure, rather than a by-the-book heroine.
- The body count also remains nuts. The stakes are so high here -- I'd say higher even than Michael Grant's later series, *Gone*. Characters in *Everworld* were necessarily safe because there were so few of them, but Applegrant are ruthless about their large ensemble cast here.
- As always, there are interesting worlds and original alien species; the authors are really good at their worldbuilding in general, and I always welcome more. I want to know more about the Blue Meanies! (My lowkey favourite chapter, probably, is the one from a Rider's POV -- it was a great little surprise.)
- Also, Billy finally wakes up! I love that this series was so patient to have a main character in a coma for 2 entire books.

In summary, it doesn't really advance any personal plots or characterisations all that much this time around, but it's exciting. I'll round up to 4 this time, though I can't really put my finger on why. I think it's having the two groups reunited that made the whole thing feel a bit more cohesive and directed?

A couple favourite quotes:

(view spoiler)

Paul says

Review written: sometime before September 16, 2015

Nowhere Land by Katherine Applegate

Why I read it: More *Remnants*!

Rating: 3/5

What I thought: Yep, again I just don't have a whole lot to say about this one. I really wish I did. It's not like I don't like the books though, because I do! Just not as much as I'd like to, and not enough to find them all that memorable at all. It's just a jumble of oddness and people being grumpy at each other. Again, a shame.

Anthony says

Its been years since i have read this book, probably when i was like 12 years old. But i do know that this book was amazing. My sister has the whole series(had the whole series) Great reading material for anyone who is really in to si-fi.

Krystl Louwagie says

I feel like this installment didn't have quite as much of interest packed into it-more just "action-fighting for your life" sequences. Although, I'm very glad to have Billy Weir with us again, and the intro at the end makes me think the next book'll be very interesting!

Swankivy says

I like the character of 2Face even though she's pretty dang evil. And the feeling of alien-ness about everything that's going on and how human everyone still acts toward each other (I mean that in both good and bad ways).

Wendy says

Well this was another interesting chapter in the *Remnants* series. The survivors are exploring the ship that they have found themselves on. They encounter a nightmare world full of horrors that only a sick mind could create. They befriend one of the Blue Meanies and get more of an understanding of what is happening in the battle between these aliens and the Riders who are trying to kill the survivors.

I am sad that this is the last book in the series that I currently have. I am going to go on a hunt for the rest of the series and I have really enjoyed it so far.

Mike says

Rating: 4.5/5

I friggin love these books.

I do. I'm finding that the more of them I read, the more invested in the story I get. And there are another *ten* of them, so I get a lot of it. Applegrant has an amazing, almost unequaled ability to create characters that I can connect to. Like 2Face. 2Face is one of my very favorite characters in all of fiction. And Yago. He's purposely a dick, but he's a dick in the same way that Caine from *Gone* is; a well-rendered, interesting, human dick. It's been a while since I've seen a card-carrying villain done so well. And we can't forget Violet. God, Applegrant is so brave not to shy away from gender issues and feminism just because they're writing for kids. It really is admirable; instead of presenting a cleaner, politics-free version of the world, Applegrant presents the world as it is, even for kids. It's messy, it's complex, and it's the kind of thing that kids need to see.

Oh, and then there's Tate. I know what Scholastic does to her later on in the series, so I kind of just want to give her a big hug.

That said, the book lacked focus, character-wise. Nobody's character arc really progressed, except Yago's, and even then, it was slight. I guess it's a symptom of how damn short these books are. I just feel like now that the characters are established, Applegrant doesn't know quite where to take them; their character arcs seem to be put on hold for the moment. But they're still so enjoyable.

And the plot. It was fucking bizarre! This is one of the most original and unconventional plots I've ever seen. Bug aliens with hoverboards in a world created of human arts in which the last twenty humans in the world are fighting elephants with tentacles inside a crazy ship projecting an image of the world? Name one other work where you can find that. I FUCKING DARE YOU. The dramatic structure was also effective, and the pacing fast. The experience of reading this is unique and immersive, in a way that books rarely are.

And the writing was good too, of course. When is Applegrant's writing ever not good? It's simple enough to be comprehensible for kids - it doesn't read too old, like it did in the last book - but it still gets its ideas across effectively. The only thing I would've asked for is a bit more description; I didn't know what all of the statues looked like, and a reminder of what the Riders and the Blue Meanies look like would've been nice.

But it's still wonderful. The book is immersive, unique, and creepy. If this review seems unusually childish and informal for me, it's because this book makes me want to think in a more creative and loose manner. (That, and all of these books pretty much all have the same strengths and weaknesses, so a formal review each time would get repetitive.) It's just interesting to read, scary and intense, the kind of thing I'd recommend to anyone. It's an effective kids' book, and an effective book for anyone.

And now, of course, for some statistics:

Body count: 2 ((view spoiler), and (view spoiler).)

Horror count: You know? There wasn't actually very much explicit horror in this one. The deaths weren't particularly violent, no one went through much pain... I think this one is a 0.

Plot hole count: 1 (How the hell could Mo'Steel breathe underwater? This is barely even presented as a mystery!)

'Marry me and live on a hosueboat' character of the day: Like I said, no one got too much development in this one, but I'll give it to Yago, since we saw an interesting new dimension to him. And 2Face, because she's still 2Face.

Thistle says

Spoilers

While the plot is great, the number of non-story issues are growing. As I said in my last reviews of the books in this series, these books are darned short. They very very much feel like chapters, not whole books. Related to that: It's getting annoying how much recapping the author has to do, when it feels like we just read about it in the last chapter.

Unfortunately there's an even bigger issue: I'm afraid poor Mrs. Applegate's editor might have died. The first book was near-perfect in editing, then in the second and third books more and more errors were slipping in. Book four crossed the line into an unacceptable amount of errors, and book five was so bad I nearly stopped reading it. Each page had a number of errors -- it wasn't uncommon for 2-3 periods to be missing per page. Major spacing issues. Typos. Misspellings. It read like a draft instead of a published book. The current book I'm reading, #6, is quite a bit better, so maybe the publisher brought in a new editor. (Book 6 is far from perfect though. This amusing thing appeared in a sentence. "slight[l]y" -- someone's mark to fix the spelling, I guess?)

I've always thought that the Holodeck (of Star Trek) would make a great setting for a book or TV series, since your group of characters could go anywhere, anytime, meet any people. That's essentially what this book has featured, at least thus far. Book 6 is going more into the ship's AI and the aliens though, which I'm enjoying.

Other than the shortness of the books and the editing issues, I'm really enjoying this series a lot. It's so creative, and it avoids all the things I usually hate about YA books (the kids being perfect at everything/adults being useless or just plain evil, stupid romance/love triangles, etc).

Stephanie says

July 12, 2016:

Finished it last night, review and rating to come as soon as I can figure out how to be remotely eloquent about it :)

July 13, 2016:

Cover is comparatively accurate once again... though based on 2Face's stance, I expected something more...supernatural to occur with her? After all, they were all soaking in space radiation for 500 years... and we've already seen some of how Billy, Tamara, and Edward have "changed"... Though her stance does fit

the empowerment she portrays more and more as this series goes on.

Most of this book is spent with the Remnants still on the move, running from one horrible situation to another, and getting creative with their solutions/escapes along the way. It's still a wild ride, with new locales and twists around every corner. It is pretty much Survivor meets Water World in a truly alien environment (practically Matrix-level!), with a dash of Madam Secretary and any creepy old-school horror movie for good measure. Now the Remnants are back to being a full group, if not exactly unified. 2Face is really stepping up, really getting into the politics game with Yago and the rest of the adults – she is starting to show a ruthlessness that previously was only hinted at by her owning her half-burned face instead of hiding it.

We also get a tiny little glimpse into the minds/views of the Riders, at last, which makes for some interesting food for thought, and I really loved seeing through their eyes even if only briefly. We get clued into their viewpoint which defines their interactions with the Remnants, but it also brings up some very different cultural/religious/societal differences between the Riders and what is left of humanity. Their view of Mother, I could argue, is one which parallels to an extent the intended political system of the US (less the fear part) – wherein one person is at the top, but balanced by others top-tierers near them; and when those people betray the masses of people “below” them, then it is up to the people to take matters into their own hands.

Basically, there are some really good, if relatively brief, Big Things dropped which make for excellent conversation points between kids reading it, kids and their parents, or just in any conversation in general. The only thing is, because so far these “drops” have been so brief and so haphazardly scattered between frantic action sequences, they can get dwarfed and slip between the cracks of what one remembers happening in this book. The drops are not quite as *powerful* because they are not given a good amount of time to get develop. 2Face's little speech is a step up, laying out the way things are for everyone, readers and Remnants alike, and I am really intrigued to see how her speech is going to play out not only for her future, but how it may or may not affect how openly the other Remnants deal with all of their internal fractures and fragile alliances.

(view spoiler)

Quotes and commentary:

Mother was a Great God, but the Gods were to be feared, not obeyed. A warrior stood strong against the Gods when the Gods turned against the clan. – page 23

(view spoiler)

“You have to take it minute by minute,” Mo’Steel answered [Tate]. “People mess it up extending too far forward or back. You go far enough back, far enough forward, you’re always going to find something to feel bad about. But if you keep it all on local time, stay present tense, hey, ninety percent of right now is good.” – page 75

(view spoiler)

Like when [Jobs had] gone under general anesthetic to have his pancreas replaced. – page 100 – This had me take pause – this would imply he had a serious pancreatic disease or something as a kid, likely diabetes. Yet, it was quick and only required *general anesthesia* to give him a replacement. It’s such a throw-away line, but I wonder if it will come back because of the implications? I mean, between him and Mo’Steel alone, I have to wonder if their bodies need an immune system suppressant or anything to continue accepting the replacements they have had. Though I assume (and hope) probably not, since if technology is so advanced as to give Mo’Steel all those artificial parts, and insert cat-eye DNA into Yago’s eyes in the first place, then I guess forcing the body to accept an alien material/organ is child’s play...

Jobs didn’t argue. He seemed to accept his friend’s judgment. *They had an interesting relationship*, Violet thought. In anything intellectual Mo’Steel deferred happily to Jobs, and in anything physically challenging Jobs did the same in reverse. Instead of a friendship based on shared interests they had a friendship based on entirely separate territories. The only thing they had in common was that they liked each other. – page 110

[Jobs said,] “The wind is picking up again.”

“Another metaphor for life,” Violet said dryly. “We can steer, but only a little, and only until a storm blows. We’re in partial control of a ship that is, itself, inside of a much larger ship over which we have no control. I wonder if Mother is some sort of philosophy teacher.” – page 126 – Hm, so Violet is waxing poetic to Jobs. I wonder...

Typo:

“By the way, it’s called a tampion, I think,” [2Face’s] father offered. The plug in the end of the cannon [...]” – page 148 – missing opening quotes: offered. “The plug...

Julie Decker says

On the creepy Mother ship, the humans have destroyed what threatened them before and now face a different kind of threat. As the previously divided groups find each other again (which is not to say they're getting along), they struggle to survive in an ocean environment that is what the place was before the humans got there with their artwork influencing everything. The Riders and the Meanies are still a threat, and Yago is still obsessed with being the group's leader. But physical battles aren't the only ones happening here. Billy's awake. And we're about to learn a lot more about the Baby.

Yago's megalomaniac tendencies are screaming all over the place in the book, and Jobs and Mo'Steel fighting the Riders was exciting, but weird and sometimes difficult to follow. You kind of float through this book unsure of who's on whose side, and that's fine because sometimes they don't know either. The exhaustion, terror, and absurdity appears to be getting to everyone--it shows--and the remaining humans are

shrinking as a group book by book.

Shell Hunt says

Nowhere Land is definitely not my favorite of the series. It was way more corny and childish than the other books.

The strangeness is multiplied and the characters' growth is magnified in this book. I have no idea where this is going. What is going on?! Who are these people? What's happening to everyone.

It's like "Lost" with kids.
