



## Foreverland is Dead

*Tony Bertauski*

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Six teenage girls wake with no memories. One of them is in a brick mansion, her blonde hair as shiny as her shoes. The others are in a cabin, their names tagged to the inside of their pants. Their heads, shaved. Slashes mark the cabin wall like someone has been counting.

Hundreds of them.

There's wilderness all around and one dead adult. The girls discover her body rotting somewhere in the trees. As the weeks pass, they band together to survive the cold, wondering where they are and how they got there. And why.

When an old man arrives with a teenage boy, the girls learn of a faraway island called Foreverland where dreams come true and anything is possible. But Foreverland is dead. In order to escape the wilderness, they'll have to understand where they are.

More importantly, who they are.

## Foreverland is Dead Details

Date : Published January 1st 2013 by DeadPixel Publications

ISBN :

Author : Tony Bertauski

Format : Kindle Edition 277 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review **Foreverland is Dead** for online ebook

### **Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says**

Girls, waking up not knowing who they are, having no past. Learning early that they have been implanted with a device that knocks them unconscious if they wander too far from the hut. Fighting for clothes, and food with the heavy feeling of a never ending struggle to survive. But Miranda is different, she explores the high tech, well stocked house. But without knowing how long they are stuck here, can she risk sharing and how much?

Foreverland is Dead takes a darker turn pretty fast. The stink of rotting flesh and struggling just to live through the day. It's pretty obvious from the beginning there is a leader, calling all the shots. She is not about to let anybody show her up, and she'll fight to maintain her power over the other girls.

First in the series *The Annihilation of Foreverland* we saw a group of boys struggling with their lives, but now it's the girls turn. Each book can be read as a stand alone or any order. They are dark, with twists you won't see coming and engaging characters you want to see win in the end.

The story is very powerful and suspenseful. At times keeping the reader on the edge of their seat to see if the girls will make it out of danger, alive. It's dark and incredibly imaginative, violent and creepy. PG-16

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### **Traci says**

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for a review. It didn't influence my opinion in any way.

To put it simply, this book is freaking awesome. It's the second in a series, and the first was great, but this one leaves the first one in the dust. It does "sequel" right, that's for sure--building on the events of the first book without getting repetitive but also manages to give enough information that the first book isn't something you *have* to read. I think that I could have read this and understood it fairly easily without having read *The Annihilation of Foreverland* first, but I also think that reading the two of them together made this one so much better. More horrifying, in a way, because I had insider information that the girls didn't have.

While I was reading this, I completely lost track of time and got caught up in the story, and I probably missed a lot of detail because I plowed through it like I did, but I'm completely all right with that. It was still shocking. The last 10% or so had me literally on the edge of my seat, and I reread that part twice. The last couple of sentences? Oh my god.

I usually try for some constructive criticism or something. I really don't have any. This is a wonderful book. READ IT. If you don't like sci-fi, read it anyway; you will be pleasantly surprised.

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### **Online Eccentric Librarian says**

*More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealalvi.wordpress.com/>*

After reading *Foreverland is Dead*, I came to realize a few things about this *Foreverland* series. The first is that I really underrated the first book in the series, *The Annihilation of Foreverland*. The second is that I really, really, enjoyed the stories and they stayed with me for quite awhile after I finished the book. As such, I've gone back and upgraded my review of the first book and I give this book a solid 4 star review as well.

**Plot:** The boys were freed in the first book but what about the girls that appeared on the island? For them, it wasn't quite as simple and now six girls are trapped in a rugged mountain area, struggling to survive as cold sets in and their supplies dwindle. Even worse, they have no memories of who they are, scratches on the wall seem to indicate they have been there a long time, and they must deal with their personality conflicts that could tear them apart. Then an old man, Mr. Williams, and a catatonic boy, Sid, appear. Are those two the key to getting out of their prison or will they be the end of all the girls?

A sign of a good book is when I can't put it down - even to go to sleep in the early hours of the night. This was one of those books. Bertauski's stories draw you in quietly, without you realizing it, and then you are hooked and want to see the end to conclusion. He packs in plenty of mystery in the plot but it really is the characters that keep you reading. The style isn't flashy; rather, straightforward and to the point. It does read a bit YA due to giving away plot points quite easily and early. But somehow that also make it a more interesting read when he gives just enough doubt to the plot points.

Those who have read book one don't need to worry about this being a retread of the first book. Although key attributes are there (one bully kid, sacrifice, torment and trauma, one kid centered on reality and logic), the villain is at least not over the top this time and the circumstances of the girls are very different. There is a clever tie in to book one and, of course, the returning character of Mr. Williams and Sid.

In all, I look forward to more books in the series or the next book the author writes. This series has really surprised me at its depth and how invested I became in each story.

**Note:** I listened to the Audible version. Although ok, it was a bit flat.

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### **Stina says**

I want to get something off my chest first, Tony generously allowed me to read this for free to review. In an effort to seem unbiased and fair, I generally try to point out a positive and a negative about the work so that I don't seem pandering.

I've even held back stars because of it. But no longer. Tony's work just won't let me do it anymore.

I deeply enjoyed *The Annihilation of Foreverland* and was anticipating this release. I was worried, given the big reveal in *AoF*, that I might enjoy this installment less. I was gladly proven oh so very wrong.

Tony has remarked multiple times that it is not necessary to have read *Annihilation* to read *Foreverland is Dead*, and that is entirely 100% true. But you know what, you should. Not only because Tony did a great job with it, but because it gives it that extra layer of gravity on top of some already engrossing situations.

To the legit review part:

FiD starts with 6 girls waking up in a dingy cabin and a brick house only one of them has access to. They have no memories, no names until they read labels in their jeans, and no clue where they are or why. Some possess useful everyday life skills that aid in prolonging their survival, but they have no clue where they learned them.

Each girl is to contribute to the group to try to survive the winter, but in typical human fashion, someone never seems to pull their weight. And one girl is different from the rest, but no one knows why.

The conflict gets borderline Lord of the Flies on more than one occasion, and Tony beautifully portrays a group in flux, united, annoyed at each other, united, don't make me kill you, united, etc.

The girls deal with increasingly harsher weather conditions, intra-group turmoil, and the looming mystery of where they are and why they are there. A stranger claims to have the answers, but the girls aren't sure they want them.

While the story is told predominantly from the perspective of two girls. Not only does this show the great diversity in how people perceive and develop different opinions about the same thing, it provides the reader the chance to get at the full mystery of the tiny settlement in the woods.

I want to remain spoiler free, so I'll leave out remarking on some of my favorite bits, suffice to say, the girls are dealing with the direct aftermath of the annihilation of Foreverland.

And those last few lines...holy crap. Holy crap. Holy Crap.

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### **Maryann says**

Book blurb: Six teenage girls wake with no memories. One of them is in a brick mansion, her blonde hair as shiny as her shoes. The others are in a cabin, their names tagged to the inside of their pants. Their heads, shaved. Slashes mark the cabin wall like someone has been counting.

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There's wilderness all around and one dead adult. The girls discover her body rotting somewhere in the trees. As the weeks pass, they band together to survive the cold, wondering where they are and how they got there. And why.

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Review: I enjoy reading sci-fi thrillers so I really enjoyed this book! It was hard to put down because I wanted to keep finding out more information about the story and the girls! I really enjoyed everything about this book, the story, the characters, the ending. Do the girls discover where they are? Can they ever leave? If you like sci-fi, mysteries, you will definitely need to read this one! Foreverland is Dead is the sequel to Foreverland, however you don't have to read the first book to understand the second one. I haven't read

Foreverland yet, but I would like to read it now :)  
Excellent book!

I was given this book by the author in the Goodreads group Shut Up & Read, Read It and Reap program for an honest review.

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### **Eugenia (Genie In A Book) says**

Seriously - any author who can write this well and incorporate so much mystery and suspense into a novel definitely has talent.

So...

Did this book have a really fluent writing style?: YES

Did this book creep me out?: YES

Did this book have a lot of twists/turns and enlightening moments?: YES

*And did I love it so much that I didn't want to stop reading it?*

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### **Review:**

*That's the point. They made it miserable to be here, which made Foreverland even more inviting. You never want to come back once you get a taste.  
Desire. Best drug there is.*

Foreverland is Dead does in a few ways flow on from the previous book The Annihilation of Foreverland, however the smart thing the author has done here is make it so that it could be read as a stand-alone. That being said, it was still very interesting to see what had become of some of the characters from book 1 and the world these six girls were living in. As with the first book, this plot has much more to it than initially meets the eye. In the beginning, we are introduced to these girls who have mysteriously woken up in a place where there is only a dinner-house, bunk-house and a mysteriously normal-looking brick house across the green. This barren new area becomes even more sinister when the girls find that their neck trackers do not allow them to venture past certain invisible 'fences' - one of which surrounds this proper house. It seems the only one not affected by this is Miranda, who seems different from the others (view spoiler).

*Is that what defines reality? Is the human experience in the physical world the gold standard*

*for truth? Do our five senses separate enlightenment from illusion?*

One of the big things I liked about this novel was the fact that the novel went beyond this bleak setting where the girls were living as the story progressed. Although it could have ended in a more simplistic manner, the author went one step further and broadened the scope for the whole plot - which was definitely a smart move. Another thing that caught my attention was that the whole novel was extremely engaging, and as a reader I was never bored. There was always another mystery to solve around the corner or new characters introduced, or another aspect of this world discovered. Each character was well developed and thought out, with their own unique personalities and troubled pasts.

#### **\*THE ENDING\***

Oddly enough, I still haven't quite figured out the last few lines of this novel, and I will continue to ponder what it really means until I figure it out. For now, all I will say is that it does leave room for the imagination. Apart from that, I was relieved to find for the rest of the book that things do indeed make sense and come together, which will be cause many lightbulb and jaw-dropping moments.

#### **Conclusion**

This is now one of my favourite novels, as it offers a unique and eerie insight into the human experience. Where the lines between dreams and reality are struggling to come into focus, *Foreverland is Dead* stands out as a novel that bridges the gap and will keep you thinking long after you turn the last page.

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*I was given a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect how I feel about the book.*

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#### **Nicola Mansfield says**

This was absolutely fantastic! At first, I wasn't feeling the vibe as much as book one in the series, but I was still liking it and then it hit a point of no return for me. And the ending! OMG, the ending! Wonderful dystopia. This book takes place immediately after book one but it switches to the girls' story which is very different and has completely different characters. So it does take a bit to find the groove but it's set in the same "universe" so there is that familiarity. It is really very good. I have bought the final book, plus the freebie prequel) and can't wait to continue reading!!

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#### **Kate says**

Six girls awaken in a dead, cold world. Only one knows her name: Miranda. The rest have shaved heads and find names in their clothes - Cyn, Mad, Kat, Roc, Jen. Only Miranda can pass the fence that activates a probe in their heads, something like an electric fence. Together they try to figure out how they have arrived here, but none trust the others, and Cyn and Roc get violent. As events get out of control, Miranda escapes to the

brick house. Then two strangers arrive, with a crazy explanation for this world.

The premise for this novel drew me in immediately. I love stories involving group dynamics, and the interactions between Miranda, Roc, and Cyn took center stage. The short chapters and tight writing kept up the tension as I raced to discover the mystery of this world. Even after Mr. Williams and Sid showed up, it was all very mysterious with dead bodies in the woods and occasional memories coming back. Every time I thought I was going to get answers, I found another mystery. I only discovered partway through the book that there was a prequel (*The Annihilation of Foreverland*), and though I wished I had read this first, I liked that I had to try to figure things out just like the girls did. The preview of *The Annihilation of Foreverland* at the end certainly made me want to read it just to figure it all out!

This was a gritty dystopian story about a dreamland meant to be a haven that ends up being a prison for these unsuspecting girls.

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### **Tony Bertauski says**

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<http://bertauski.com/>

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### **Julie says**

I don't know what to talk about first. My head is still spinning from this novel and not exactly in a good way. My first thoughts ... sigh. Okay. When I first read the blurb on *Foreverland is Dead*, I was really excited. This sounded like a dystopian novel ... I LOVE dystopian novels lately. And this one sounded like it had some crazy twists ... I do love twists!

Then I started reading. I'm beginning to wonder if I'm expecting too much with books today. Maybe that's what it is, my expectations are too high. I want to pick up a book and be transported. I want to go to another time or place and be swept up in what is going on in these pages. I don't want to think, I want to be overwhelmed. I want to feel something towards these characters ... I want to hate, love, dislike, despise, adore ... I don't care what emotion, really. I just want the characters to come alive.

At the end of the book, there is a MAJOR twist. And if I'm being completely honest, this twist was totally lost on me because I couldn't remember exactly who a certain character was. Really?!? I wanted to throw a massive temper tantrum and go kick someone in the shin. I felt like I was let down. Granted, that may be my own fault. Maybe I didn't pay attention. Maybe it was the beginning of the book that lost me.

At the beginning, I was a little thrown off by the haltingly way that the book was written. It felt like the author was trying to use the least amount of words possible for each sentence. The sentences were cut off, not in a way that left a fragmented sentence, but in a way that I felt I was only getting part of the information. The book read like it wanted to be more ... does that even make sense?!? I have another one of my crazy analogies for you ... the book is like a balloon that was only blown up half-way. The balloon wants to be huge! It has so much potential! When it's only blown up half-way it's a waste.

The short, weird sentences never completely went away. It was hard to get the feeling of the story ... feel what the characters were going through or get a full sense of what was going on around them. Eventually the sentences lengthened but by that time, I had lost a bit of interest. I don't want to work that hard to figure out who characters are and what they are about.

The story wasn't bad. It was actually really good and that is the only reason that this book received 2 stars from me. I wanted to know what was going to happen. I needed to know what was going to happen. And let me tell you, that's a really weird feeling when you only know about half of the characters. I wanted to know but then I would have to go back to the beginning of the book to figure out who it was happening to.

Once again, I'm in the minority with this review score. A lot of people really liked it. You should give it a shot. If nothing else, you'll read a really great story concept.

\*\* <http://littlemissbookmark.blogspot.com/> \*\*

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### **Sheila says**

A girl wakes up, remembering nothing, in a room with slashes on the wall, as if she's been counting days. She walks toward a brick house and collapses unconscious. Other girls help her, and there's a Lord of the Flies feel to these castaway lives; no one really sure of who she is, all seeking their own input to who they will turn out to be. Of course, who you are is always a balance between who you were and where you're going, and this fast-paced novel explores the concept powerfully and mysteriously.

Mysteries abound as food disappears from the kitchen, a dead body lies on the path, and one shy little girl seems to have powers beyond everyone else's. Meanwhile danger rears its head in the choice between starvation and escape. And always those hauntingly missing memories threaten from the gray.

Foreverland is Dead is a sequel to Tony Bertauski's the Annihilation of Foreverland, but it stands alone as a powerfully evocative and disconcerting tale. The teen girl voices are convincing and compelling. And the mystery entralls. The story draws readers in on its own, with no need for preconceptions, and I truly couldn't stop reading; I wanted to know what would happen here and now; I wanted to know why these girls were trapped (and remembered vaguely, there were boys in Annihilation). And I wanted, like the characters, to know which things were real and which were dream—and who could be trusted.

The solution is scary, dark, and pleasingly self-contained by the end of the tale, despite a final line that begs for more. Personally, I hope there will be more—this series has all the classic elements of reality vs imagination, self vs image, the value of life, and fast, intriguing storylines. And these books are really good reads for teens young and old.

Disclosure: I was given a free ecopy and I'm offering my honest review. I honestly loved it.

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### **Yzabel Ginsberg says**

*(I got this book from the author himself, in exchange for a honest review.)*

I read *The Annihilation of Foreverland* about one year ago; as a result, I was easily interested in knowing what happened next, and getting another side of the story. One of the very good sides of this second book is that you don't have to read the first to understand and be pulled into the plot: since the characters wake up with most of their memories missing, the reader gets to discover everything along with them. On the other hand, if you enjoyed the "first volume", you may find yourself wanting to read it again. At least, I did.

A warning, though: *pay attention to details*. No, really. Including names, for starters. This book is packed with little things here and there that aren't so noticeable at first, but completely make sense once you reach the end. It's not the kind of story you can afford to keep one eye on while doing something else on the side, because if you do, you'll miss on something important, sooner or later, and find the plot "confusing".

"Foreverland Is Dead" was quite the page-turner for me. Even though I knew the basics from the first part, I still enjoyed re-discovering the setting from the girls' point of view. The relationships between those characters were interesting in more than one way: while apparently simple (the bad girl, the tentative leader, the one who does the cooking...), they actually go deeper than that, and not everything is what it seems. We're taken into the plot mostly through Cyn's and Miranda's eyes, and as secrets unfold, so does the ugliness of human souls, once confronted to a situation threatening to go on for much longer than expected. The girls know they have to stand united in order to survive, yet they're truly, only human, make mistake, and sometimes their darker side gets the best of them... for some more than for others. However, those who manage to overcome said dark side and face their fears appear the braver for it.

I give *FiD* 4 to 4.5 stars. The one thing I wasn't too sure about was, in fact, the writing style itself, often consisting of short sentences, which in turn sometimes makes it look jumbled in places. Overall, it works for such a story, mirroring the girls' confusion and how the world around them doesn't make much sense; yet it might have the potential to bother readers who favour a more flowery style.

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## Veronika says

*Received a digital copy in exchange of an honest review.*

This book is definitely one of my favorites from this year and one of the most shocking from my past reads. The writing style was a bit annoying at first because it started with a bunch of short sentences but as I kept reading it I completely forgot about my problems.

### The Story-line:

The story is about six girls who wake up with absolutely no memories in an abandoned place. They have no idea how they got there or where they are. One of the girls woke up in a brick house and can easily go in there while the other faint if they try to cross the fence leading to the house. They have to learn how to trust in each other because if they don't work together they will never defeat the obstacles they'll have to face.

It starts a little bit boring because there wasn't a lot of information, the girls had no idea of their surroundings nor of their identities but after a time conflicts rose and strange, sometimes even creepy things were discovered.

I loved how there was a strong relationship between most of the girls by the end, even if they had to do a lot of unpleasant things they still managed to grow close to each other. What I didn't like was how little I know

about Mad, Jen and Kat, they seem like one person if I look back because they were too similar.

This story sucked me in completely, it was so unusual and extraordinary that I won't even mention the few resemblance I found between this book and other dystopians I've read.

*"Memories don't make you who you are."*

A lot of questions arose throughout the novel, one of them was if it's worth to know about your pasts if it was a living hell. Another important question was who are you without those memories? Would you be an entirely different person if you'd had them?

The author didn't leave unanswered questions, he commenced into a lot of mysteries but in the end everything fitted together. Though I hope there will be a sequel because the ending was nerve wrecking.

### The Characters:

I liked most of them well enough but as I said before some weren't put together and they kind of ruined a part of the story but other than that I can't say bad things about them either.

**Cyn:** She was a strong and independent heroine who knew enough not to waste their food and wasn't afraid to stop the mean bully Roc from taking away more of their things. She became this strong after she got back her memories but it was in her all this time and she was one who had to lead the others.

**Miranda:** At first she was more sympathetic than Cyn but as Cyn changed for the better she became very self-esteem and whiny, she never did anything but complain even if she had a far more better situation than the other girls. She quickly jumped on conclusion which wasn't a good thing and she didn't ask just assumed.

**Mr. Williams:** He was by far the most unlikable character in this novel. He was a self-orientated bastard who never cared about others but himself.

**Sid:** He's the one I feel the most sorry for, if you think about it everyone could make their own choices but him, he was nowhere as evil as Mr. Williams, he was the marionette of him and he suffered because of him.

Favorite character: Cyn

Least favorite: Miranda

I'd **recommend** this to those who like thrillers which won't stop shocking you even in the very end.

The story idea: 4/5

The realization of the story: 4/5

The characters: 3/5

The cover: 4/5

All in all: 4/5

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### **Cat says**

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion.

This book is incredibly well crafted, though not my typical genre.

First of all, I did not read book 1. I was told this wouldn't be a problem, as it could be read as a stand-alone. Having now finished book 2, I would agree, however I think the story would definitely be enhanced if you did read #1. Anyhow...

I was puzzled for a lot of the book - though I think that's the point - but due to my lack of patience, I found myself getting frustrated with the slow pace of the book and the characters. I think that was also kind of the point. A total 'meta' feel to this book that made me take a step back and ponder things for a bit.

The story seems to focus a lot on identity. With no memories, the girls need to figure out who they are and what they're doing here. They're quite young, so they kind of blunder around for a bit without any kind of plan. Cyn, one of older girls, takes on the role as leader, though she's largely ineffective. I'm really not sure any progress is made on this front, as by the end of the story, they get their memories back but the reader doesn't get any closure. Then again, Cyn tells the girls their pasts are probably filled with tragedies, so maybe this is better.

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### **Donald Armfield says**

The sequel to what the boys called Foreverland. Where they felt like their dreams came true. But when the girls wake, they are fighting for survival in the dead lands of Foreverland.

The six teenage girls find they all have different traits to work together to what they hope for a way out of this horrible pain.

a dream world where a fight to the end to awake in reality or is it? I am a fan of Tony's work reading the first of the trilogy of "Foreverland" and "Claus The Legend of the Fat Man"

If you like the Matrix then you will love what Tony does with the concept of being plugged into an alternate world. Recommend Reading!!

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