



# The 5th Wave

*Rick Yancey*

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## **The 5th Wave** Rick Yancey

After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the *unlucky* survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one.

Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker.

Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother—or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up.

## **The 5th Wave Details**

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Author : Rick Yancey

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# From Reader Review The 5th Wave for online ebook

Mitch says

"...bastardized sci-fi for the Twilight crowd..."

Well this is awkward. Everything about The 5th Wave - an award winning male young adult author, a high octane alien invasion plot, the comparisons to Ender's Game and The Passage - made it seem like it'd exactly my kind of book. But now that I've finished, I'm just so pissed with the whole thing I have nothing nice to say and really just want to punch something, and in fact, I dislike The 5th Wave so much I've somehow written not one but *three* angry rants - yeah, be warned, this is going to be brutal(ly honest).

## **Rant Number 1: The Alien Invasion is Beyond Disappointing**

The 5th Wave is not Ender's Game. The 5th Wave is not The Passage. The 5th Wave shouldn't even qualify as science fiction unless it's being mentioned in the same breath as Jennifer Armentrout's Lux series (even Stephenie Meyer's The Host is too good for this comparison).

Why? Because there's just nothing here but a collection of alien invasion tropes leading to an actual plot that's all over the place, part cringe worthy young adult 'romance' (which I never would have expected outside of the usual suspects... but that's the topic of the next rant), part bizarre military training sequence (hence the unfounded comparisons to Ender's Game... see rant number three), all leading to a nonsensical alien conspiracy by a group of 'Others', who, if they'd really been studying us and planning our demise for as long as they claim, rather than the harebrained scheme they've concocted to 'break' humanity, should've just taken their cues from this awesome game:

In fact, I've seen my share of memorable alien invasion plots. Independence Day. Animorphs. V. Between Falling Skies, War of the Worlds, and Invasion America, Steven Spielberg has even done it three times. So at this point, count me unsurprised by the basic premise of The 5th Wave, but even so I still wasn't prepared for how derivative this book actually is \*cough\*infestation with obvious red herring\*cough\*.

But don't get me wrong, I'm not exactly looking for new and original - I just wanted something that, I don't know, isn't a clichéfest? Any serious, well done treatment would have sufficed... and yet, I'm wracking my head trying to think of anything else remotely this bad... and I just can't. There just isn't anything interesting about The 5th Wave that made me want to invest in the story - it's great that Rick Yancey seems to have latched on to Stephen Hawking's idea that if aliens ever visited, we'd all be like the Native Americans during the colonial era, but the Waves themselves are just so generic compared to every other (imagined) alien attack that Cassie Sullivan's descriptions of the 'Other's' invasion come across more like the melodramatic whining of someone too clueless and naive to appreciate the power of an alien invasion than the gritty recollections of a hardened survivor who's experienced the horrors of the attacks firsthand.

Besides, there are only so many ways of describing how to squash a bug. Orbital bombardment. Biological warfare. A Fifth Column. Not only is The 5th Wave unoriginal, but it's excessive. I got it, humanity's beaten, there's really no need for all of Cassie's theatrics. Sure, she can pretend to be such a big expert on alien invasions, tell me how unprepared we are, how many people the 'Others' have killed, but she's so keen on sounding like the big expert she thinks she is she ends up being just so repetitive and ridiculously genre unsavvy. They can kill us? Yeah I know... I've seen them blow up the White House. Seriously, mope around

too much bitching about it like she does, and it becomes a case of been there, done that, got boring, seriously stop telling me how terrible it is when I can imagine hundreds of worse scenarios. Face huggers anyone?

Anyway, Earth being invaded by hostile, advanced aliens isn't new by any stretch of the imagination. But not only is The 5th Wave completely derivative of the many, many alien invasion plots of years past, it just has a terrible protagonist in Cassie Sullivan who forcefully shoves the same old regurgitated crap down my throat in the most inane way possible. Ugh.

## **Rant Number 2: The 'Romance' is Beyond Terrible**

"That's my big problem. That's it! Before the Arrival, guys like Evan Walker never looked twice at me, much less shot wild game for me and washed my hair. They never grabbed me by the back of the neck like the airbrushed model on his mother's paperback, abs a-clenching, pecs a-popping. My eyes have never been looked deeply into, or my chin raised to bring my lips within an inch of theirs."

That, if you couldn't tell, is an actual quote from the book. In fact, I don't think I've ever read anything as romantically challenged as The 5th Wave, and this is including Twilight here (did I just compare Twilight favorably to another book?!).

Basically, I really really REALLY didn't like Cassie Sullivan as a character (again, and for completely different reasons than from rant number one). For one, I'd be seriously concerned for any girl who responds to an impending alien invasion like this:

It's the end of the world! OMG Ben Parish is hot!

WTF? And as if that wasn't enough, Ben Parish isn't even the love interest. The real love interest is a poor guy named Evan Walker, who may or may not be one of *them*. Who, I'm not kidding, tries to kill Cassie before growing a conscience and falling in love with her. And Cassie, of course, is the girl who's never been in a relationship before, so she immediately loses all sense of self preservation and melts into his warm brown eyes and dimple. What is this? The Host? Did Stephenie Meyer write this?

And if that wasn't bad enough, even if I weren't inwardly cringing every time Cassie and Evan appear together, Rick Yancey really should be banned from writing female points of view. This, again, is an actual Cassie quote:

Time for the angrily-storming-out-of-the-room part of the argument, while the guy folds his arms over his manly chest and pouts.

WTF? Should I believe what I think Yancey's saying about what girls think of guys?

In fact, I would be laughing at how bad Cassie's point of view is if I weren't still smarting over the insipid alien invasion plot that made me want to fling my copy of the book across the room (not that I can, don't want to pay for repairs to the drywall). Double ugh.

## **Rant Number 3: The Comparisons to the Sci-fi Classics are Completely Unfounded**

The days when alien invasion plots could stand solely on the invasion ended right around the time of H.G. Wells's War of the Worlds. Somebody, unfortunately, didn't get the memo. Since then, alien invasions have

been pushing the boundaries of speculative fiction by exploring the paranoia surrounding sleeper agents (Invasion of the Body Snatchers), adult authority and its limits (Ender's Game), and discovering the truth in the face of a complex government cover-up (The X Files), but although The 5th Wave borrows elements from all of these other alien invasion plots, I can't for the life of me point to one alien invasion theme that this book does well. Evan being a human-alien hybrid struggling to reconcile his alien soul with his humanity? Shallow even in comparison to The Host. The conspiracy surrounding the 'Other's infiltration of the US military? So transparent I wouldn't even call it a conspiracy. Ben's military training to take out the infested? Is that a joke? They even killed (an expendable character named) Kenny! Cassie's struggle to survive the Waves, eventually learning to become a tougher person? Ok, that one's done well, I'll admit, until she runs into Evan and becomes a quivering mess of a character. Then, yuck!

Look, I'm not against borrowing plot elements from other sources. But when those elements mean something, when there's a theme behind them, I don't want to see a shallow treatment that does neither the source nor the adaptation any favors. And for The 5th Wave, that's unfortunately the case. Triple ugh.

Basically, The 5th Wave is, in every way, an embarrassment to science fiction. Rick Yancey tried to work too many different concepts into this book, jumping all over the place, that the end result is not one of them is done well. I'm muy disappointed.

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## Jessie says

*Warning: This rant will contain lots of swearing, and massive anger. This is a rant, so I'm sorry if there's weird grammar or bad writing. I'm really not caring that much at this point. So, please, bear with me. And please know that by no means do I intend to offend anyone, including the author.*

### DNF- Sammy's POV.

I HATED THIS BOOK!

Best thing to describe it? Boring as fuck.

This book was my most anticipated book of the year. I was expecting so much after all the hype. But guess what? This turned out to be the **WORST. BOOK. EVER.** Even worse than *Evermore*. Huh. What an irony. This is such a massive disappointment. Seriously, I've never hated a book so much.

Out of everything I've read( which is like half of the book), the only part I liked was the prologue, which is sad, 'cause it's only 1 page long on my ebook. After that, it all went downhill.

The characters. I did NOT care about any of the characters. Cassie's basically this really annoying girl who talks and thinks weird. I think Yancey tried too hard to make her seem like a tough girl. But in truth, she has no depth at all. Sammy, her brother is just a 5 year old kid who, really, knows nothing about the world. So I really don't get the point of writing from his POV. Evan, the love interest, is also a character with no depth, but a lot worse than Cassie. Basically he's just your average "nice" guy with no personality. AT ALL. He has no emotion. Nothing. It's like he's some kind of robot...(view spoiler) Ben, another future love interest(?), is such a boring character that he's as bad as Cassie. Maybe that's why Cassie likes him? They're both boring as fuck?

I don't get the point of the romance. It's just so random...Cassie's like "I hate you" one minute and the next, they're kissing each other!! **What the fuck is this?!** It's soo pointless and I'd rather not read a long and awful chapter about them living together and this shitty romance.

My biggest problem is the writing. The writing is **awful**. I've never read any book with such shitty writing. It's like a really awkward toned down version of *This is Not a Test*. Seriously. The writing is what made me hate this book so much. It's like Yancey's trying to imitate the intense writing of *This is Not a Test* and failed. Badly. The writing bored me from the beginning, it's just so..bland and frustrating, I really wanted to throw this book out of the window (which is impossible, 'cause it means my phone will break with it and I wouldn't want that.).

*"I brought Sammy inside and put him to bed. Said his prayer with him. "Now I lay me down to sleep..." To me, just random noise. Gibberish. I wasn't sure exactly what it was, but I felt that, when it came to God, there was a broken promise in there somewhere."*

**What the fuck is that?!**

*"After feeding me, he changes the dressing on my leg. I ask if I want to look. He says no, I most definitely do not want to look. I want to get out of bed, take a real bath. He says it's too soon...he sets a kitchen chair in the middle of the claw-foot tub in the little bathroom down the hall with its peeling flowery wallpaper and carries me to it, plops me down, leaves, and comes back with a big metal tub filled with steaming water."*

Get my point?

The plot. I can hereby tell you that nothing happens in this book till the point I've read (which is around halfway). (view spoiler) Plus, it's pretty much a rip-off of *The Host*. And even me, someone who only watched the movie, can tell.

The change of POV. Gosh, this frustrated me soo much, it's as bad as the writing. So basically, the book never tells you whose POV you're reading from. There was this part named "Wonderland" and in the beginning he says something like "My name is Zombie" or whatever. AND THEN, at the end of "Wonderland" he just kind of mentioned that he was actually "Benjamin Thomas Parish" and I was like WTF?! So this whole time I'm supposedly reading a POV from Cassie's crush? This is soo confusing! Oh and this is the beginning of Sam's POV:

*"Cassie, through the smudged window, shrinking.  
Cassie, on the road, holding Bear."  
blah blah blah*

Get what I'm saying? We have to figure out whose POV we're reading by ourselves. Huh. Bad idea, Yancey.

So, this is my mini rant and the things I hated about this book. It didn't turn out as angry as I thought it would. I really don't want to waste my time typing out a review 'cause it's really not worth it and finals is coming up, so this is like a tiny version of it. Just know that I'm not reading any book of Yancey's EVER AGAIN.

No star for you, you awful book.

By the way, if you really want to read a proper review, there are loads of well-written ones out there. :)

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## Giselle says

Now THIS is how you write a book, ladies and gentleman! With the slew of dystopian and post apocalyptic novels coming out you can only imagine how refreshing it is to stumble upon a truly refreshing, incredibly well created novel about an alien apocalypse. And don't let this term fool you, aliens may not be running rampant on our planet (yet), but Yancey has succeeded in making this event just as realistic as any other world disaster. Plus, in my opinion I think it's a little naive to believe we're the only life form with intelligence in the universe. Could this happen to us? Absolutely! I believe it!

Told via multiple perspectives, this novel begins with the introduction of our main character; Cassie. With a lot of luck, sure, but bravery and purpose is what keeps her alive when it really matters. And truly, what are we without purpose? This girl is one I would want by my side if a future like this ever came to fruition. She's one of those heroines that you positively want to root for, with a fierce determination mirroring the likes of Katniss (THG) and Katsa (Graceling). The first part of the novel explores her time with her family--or what's left of it. There is some powerful writing that went into this story, and not just with creating the plot which I'll go into in a bit, but in the emotional consequences of this situation, as well. Families have been literally torn apart in some of the cruelest of ways, Cassie is lucky to have what she has and this bond is so powerfully gripping it had me longing for a little brother I never even had. The other POVs are just as distinct with just as much emotional investment; I was found easily hooked into to their every word brought about through a seamless transition. As I enjoyed being surprised by who the other perspectives were I won't spoil it for you, I will just say that I found the choices to be a great way to direct the story.

These aliens have not gone easy on humans. As the book title conveys, there have been 4 waves of shock and terror thrown our way, each one rousing up your fear for what the 5th wave is going to be. There is one primal fear that is investigated throughout this novel which is the fear of being truly alone. When the enemy takes the face of should-be allies, how can you trust anyone at all? How does humanity survive? A poor guy with a gunshot wound who only wants help might just be a trap. Anyone you could ask for help yourself might be the last person you'll ever see. Together, humans can fight back, separated by mistrust, humans become their own enemy. This is one of the most crucial aspects of this book, it's what makes it so upsetting and desperate. Like Cassie, the reader is not able to let themselves trust anybody at all, not to mention garner any hope. Yes it's a very dark, very despairing read. Together with this apprehension, the harsh realness of the plot makes it such an intensely compelling read. The creation of the alien invitation is done without fail. If there is a plot hole in here I did not perceive it. Yancey imagined every leg of this race and he ran with it. I am wholly impressed with its complexity, one that didn't feel complex, really, just elaborated, or sensical.

I have not read a book in this genre that had me so thoroughly--and I mean *entirely*--caught up in it since The Hunger Games and Ashfall--and I do not say this lightly. I'm in no way comparing the books themselves, just their engrossing factor; they're all consuming from head to foot and every single pounding heart beat and every clenched muscle, and that is so very rare--at least for me. This book, it's a ticking time bomb, and you feel it with each fiber of your being! Then we come to the ending, and this time bomb of a book counts down into a frenzy until you can hardly stand it. I devoured it. Every single page I devoured greedily and if I had to pick a book to re-read for ever and always this one would be in the top running (with a very fair chance)!

This book... this book = love, guys!

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*An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.*

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## **Wendy Darling says**

If you could buy just one book this year, this one should be at the top of your list. I'm just going to say it: this book could very well be the next *The Hunger Games*! I've never seen a book more likely to be a crowd-pleaser, nor one with more potential to sweep away a legion of fans. This book was so crazily addictive that I read it in literally half a day, and several months afterwards I am still jazzed over its edge-of-your-seat action.

What makes this story awesome, and what elevates it above many other action-oriented novels, is really the writing--taut plotting, a strong narrative voice, snarky humor, and a masterful feeling of grim tension that can only be relieved if you turn the pages fast enough.

*The full text of this review appears in *The Midnight Garden*. An advance copy was provided by the publisher.*

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## **karen says**

i am not the kind of person who gets off on hating the things everyone loves - i don't really see the value in reading books just to be snarky and contrary and "ohhhh, the plebs are eating this up, but iiii am the internet's arbiter of taste and i only read underappreciated, obscure books and thumb my nose at what is popular."

i do both. i have read *Twilight*, i have read *Fifty Shades of Grey*. i like to know what all the hype is about as much as i like to read bunches of underknown stuff. and both those books were fine, for what they were. i don't see the five-star hype, but i also don't see the one-star backlash. they are not terribly well-written, but they fulfill what they set out to do.

so, this isn't me trying to be a wet blanket on what seems to be universal glee. i just 100% do not understand why everyone is raving. and i wish i did.

the book is fine. it, too, does what it sets out to do. i am not really interested in aliens, but i am grateful that this book takes the tired old YA aftermath premise and gives it a new kick by adding aliens. i appreciate the novelty, because most of the books i have read that are similar portray human-ruined worlds, and this one changes that game nicely.

i like that the heroine hates birds. they have a role in the destruction of the world; they are used as a tool by the aliens to help spread the disease that constitutes the third wave in alien domination, and there is the added detail of the owls that watch over the sleeping forms of people in the pre-invasion days. it's creepy, and feeds my quite-sensible "birds are dinosaurs and now they want to make *us* extinct" concern.

there are some great psychological dimensions in this: who can we trust when the enemy looks just like us?



is the only way to stay alive to stay alone? yancey introduces this nicely, and does a good job carrying and developing this theme throughout the book.

and that's about all i can praise.

the love-story elements were particularly baffling. again, this might be my own personal blind-spot. i never really pay much attention to these portions of books, especially in YA novels. they rarely strike me as interesting or realistic - i usually just write them off as something that YA books seem to be contractually obligated to include, because it is expected of them - you need a love triangle, because you need something to set off the tension in the other parts of the story. i usually kind of gloss them as i am reading, with the exceptions of Graceling, On the Jellicoe Road, and pretty much anything Laini Taylor has written. those examples, i feel, successfully incorporated the romance angle into the larger work. but usually, they just seem like perfect-people wish-fulfillment, and are either too melodramatic and silly or too contrived.

this one was something else. this one was a little creepy, and i don't understand why it warms the hearts of others. evan is a weird stalker type, hovering behind closed doors while cassie is sleeping, reading her diary, undressing her while she is unconscious, washing her hair like that dude in that x-files episode. and obviously he has his reasons, but the fact that she keeps catching him in his various lies and is conflicted between not trusting him but still needing him, and genuinely having feelings for him, for me, creates the wrong kind of tension and doesn't ring true, not from someone who supposedly already has trust issues and has killed men for less. i do understand the "any port in a storm" mentality, so i am willing to give this a pass, but since it makes up so much of the story, it kind of casts its shadow wide over my appreciation for the book.

moving onto secrets, twists and turns. again, genuine bafflement that people are praising these in the book, which practically broadcasts its surprises every single time. in a book that frequently mentions chess, you would think it would mask its moves a little better. 1) consider POV, just for one second, and the (view spoiler) 2) never, ever trust a milgram test. you see that, and the jig is up for your twist. 3) in a book that so frequently tells you "trust no one," the reader is going to trust no one. so any twist that comes outta that loses its impact.

the only good moment that comes in the form of a twist is the scene with ringer and zombie in the war zone. you know which one i mean. or maybe you don't. not the part where (view spoiler) that scene was very well-done.

children and teens being trained as soldiers to fight the enemy, no matter who that enemy is, makes no sense except within the confines of a YA novel, where the audience is presumably the same age as the characters, so it becomes an empathetic experience. there is no convincing reason to not use adults in this capacity. seven-year-olds are not going to win your war for you.

there is also too much repetition in this book. there was a passage i liked:

*I might be - no, I probably am - doomed.*

*But if I'm it, the last of my kind, the last page of human history, like hell I'm going to let the story end this way.*

*I may be the last one, but I am the one still standing. I am the one turning to face the faceless hunter in the woods on an abandoned highway. I am the one not running, not staying, but facing.*

*Because if I am the last one, then I am humanity.*

*And if this is humanity's last war, then I am the battlefield.*

which is pretty cool. i like that as a battle cry.

but then, in the very next chapter, the coolness is undermined by the repetition of this mantra, in the contrast with another character:

*"You are the human clay," Vosch whispers fiercely in my ear. "And I am Michelangelo. I am the master builder, and you will be my masterpiece." Pale blue fire in his eyes, burning to the bottom of my soul. "God doesn't call the equipped, son. God equips the called. And you have been called."*

*He leaves me with a promise. The words burn so hot in my mind, the promise follows me into the deepest hours of the night and into the days that follow.*

***I will teach you to love death. I will empty you of grief and guilt and self-pity and fill you up with hate and cunning and the spirit of vengeance. I will make my final stand here, Benjamin Thomas Parrish.***

*Slapping my chest over and over until my skin burns, my heart on fire. And you will be my battlefield.*

which is probably something that people like - the turning of the one situation on the other, but there are just too many instances like this in the book - too many convenient echoes and repetitions and breathless realizations of what the fifth wave is. it made the characters less like humans and more like symbols. or chess pieces, to extend the metaphor.

and this was a problem, for me. i never felt like the characters were realistic, or made believable choices. if this was supposed to be a representation of what remains of humanity, it kind of stinks to know that this is what we are left with. the frustrating part is that both cassie and ben have moments of interesting insight, but then continue to act like cardboard people the rest of the time. and ringer is complete hot tough-girl fantasy material. which is a real letdown, because that character could have been so freaking cool.

and i was really looking forward to this, and it genuinely makes me sad to have such a lukewarm reaction. it is the same reaction i had to his book *The Monstrumologist*, which again, everyone seems to like.

this is me and magic eye puzzles all over again. i wish i could see what you all see.

come to my blog!

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## **Tatiana says**

I am actually embarrassed for Mr. Yancey here, he is a Printz winner after all. All the money invested to hype this *The Host Redux* mumbo-jumbo, which makes so little sense if you just think about the plot and the role the children play in this 5th wave, why go into so much trouble, dear aliens? I can only explain the popularity of this book by the same *sci-fi for those who don't read/like sci-fi* effect *The Host* rode on, because

this novel is nothing but a huge cliché with a nauseating romance of the variety we've seen a million times before (chocolate-smelling breaths and lopsided smiles, for the ladies, I presume). In fact this whole thing is so much of a cliché, that I was compelled to check the copyright page of the book to make sure it wasn't some packaged deal thrown together by a group of people to hit every popular plot point (like *Partials* and *Unraveling*), but no, Yancey wrote it all by himself, apparently, and it's not good. In my opinion, of course. I don't want to disregard the feelings of all my friends who did like it. I might have read a bit too much SF and YA to enjoy this.

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### **Sasha Alsberg says**

one of the best books ive had the honor to read! A MUST READ!!

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### **Christine Riccio says**

SO GOOD. Loved the writing style, loved the lead characters, full of twists, and wonderfully paced. Here's my full blown review/discussion <http://youtu.be/ZvFFjazW930> =D

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### **Rachel E. Carter says**

**1/24/16 Movie Update:** I finally saw it... Mixed feelings. Like many of you commented, I think the weakest parts were the romance. I hated how the last 1/4 of movie seemed rushed compared to the book -and my big pet peeve was that Ben recognized her and knew who her brother was (soooooo not how it happened in the book) and that when Ben and Evan finally met it was not awkward & hilarious (because of Cassie's lies and obsessions) like the book. To me, one of the greatest things about the book was the running joke with her obsessions & lies about Ben and the movie did not play those up. Also, the eye. They made it look so easy for her to escape, grrrr! The whole last 1/4 of the movie was ridiculous. But I did love who they casted for Ben and Cassie (it's not her fault they kept making her fall in the script) and Nugget and Ringer... wow, flash backs to Johanna (sp? Hunger Games). I remember rooting a bit for Ringer-Ben in the books but since Cassie was the MC I wanted it to be her with Ben more. The movie Evan was way hotter than the alien in my head, thank gawd, and his acting was good, but I still cannot root for them at all. My overall movie vs. book impression? Book kicks ass, but the movie was not terrible like how I felt about *City of Bones* (and how they ruined Jace & Clary's script). Watching the movie reminded me I need to read the second book soon. It was okay, I guess like everyone said it just played up the romance that made me cringe in the books. Overall though? Not bad.

Buddy read with Nenia whose lovely review you can read [HERE](#), she and I both had a very different take on this book but her portrayal of Cassie/Evan is freaking PERFECT (and hilarious) ^-^

My review in few words: I loved this book but not Evan. Freaking loved everything else to death -the action, the POV's, the narrative, and especially *Zombie/Ben*. The book went downhill a bit when Cassie/Evan got all *Twilight-y* (you know what scenes I'm talking about if you've read this) but towards the end I did like them together, only I want Cassie to end up with Ben (come on! all the priceless jokes about her childhood infatuation, it would be so good!) but I know that won't happen:/

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## Emily May says

*"If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the Native Americans."* - **Stephen Hawking**

Sometimes, I am lucky enough to get my hands on an ARC of a book and go into it with as close to no expectations as possible. I haven't read any reviews before, so the first experience is entirely my own, as I find it.

And sometimes I love these books. Sometimes I give them 4 or 5 star reviews, rated purely based on the emotional high I experienced. I am an emotional reader and an emotional rater after all. Sometimes these books get read by a few people and disappear, and sometimes they take off and become huge, gaining ever more praise and criticism. It is this latter experience that always has a strange effect on me.

Because, when I read *The 5th Wave*, I enjoyed it immensely. Enough, even, to write a song, with my sister, inspired by it. I thought it was atmospheric and perfectly creepy. I could sense the distrust and fear in the air. But later, after time had passed and the immediate emotional effect had waned, I was reading the negative reviews and felt somewhat... *embarrassed* by my part in the hype.

Was it really *that good*? To deserve all this hype? Is any book ever *that good*? Should I have been more critical? Should I be embarrassed by my gushy, bright-eyed emotional response? I feel this way about so many books that I rave about early and that become huge later. *An Ember in the Ashes* is another good example.

People say they don't understand the hype, that *The 5th Wave* doesn't even deserve to be classed as science-fiction, that it is - literally - "the worst book I have ever read". And I find myself, post-emotional response, agreeing to many things said.

Is *The 5th Wave* really that original? I guess not. Is it so mind-blowing that it deserved all that gushy praise I gave it? Maybe it wasn't. Look at it for what it is and can you honestly say it's *that good*? Probably not.

And yet, I read it again, knowing what I did not know the first time around. I read it and I once again felt that atmosphere of loneliness, sadness and distrust. It's not a logical thing and it might not make sense to a lot of people, but it pulls me so entirely inside this book.

Maybe emotional responses don't hold up under a critical eye. Maybe this book doesn't objectively deserve the praise I heap upon it. All I know is that for a little while, this book took me completely out of this world and affected me enough that I wanted to gush and praise and write a song.

I won't offer promises of originality or great science-fiction. I'll just stand as an example of someone who read this book in 2013 and again now and, for whatever reason, loved it.

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## Scarlet says

I have successfully survived all 5 waves.

**The 1st Wave : Confusion** (Not as good as I thought)

**The 2nd Wave : Hope** (Maybe it gets better)

**The 3rd Wave : Boredom** (zzzzz....)

**The 4th Wave : Disappointment** (This is not getting any better)

**The 5th Wave : Annoyance** (Just end already)

Then why am I even giving it 2 stars?? Because my hatred for this book does not translate into this being a bad book. Some of the best reviewers on GR have loved *The Fifth Wave* and I totally respect their opinions. I guess this was simply not for me.

I'll start with the thing that annoyed me the most: **The Writing**

This is probably a me-thing, but I found the writing extremely irritating. Not necessarily terrible, just...irritating. There were 2 aspects that especially got on my nerves.

### #1: Unnecessary details

*"This could be it," Lizbeth whispered. She rubbed her nose nervously. Dug her lacquered nails into her dyed blond hair. Tapped her foot. Rolled the pad of her finger over her eyelid: She had just started wearing contacts and they bugged her constantly."*

Seriously?? Pray tell me, *WHY* are we talking about lacquered nails and contacts when there are bigger things to talk about?? like *aliens*?? And you know, this Lizbeth girl, she's not even *there* in the book. Her collective appearance spans 3 measly pages so I don't know what purpose that paragraph serves :-/

### #2: Unnecessary Repetition

I hate it when writers keep repeating words in a sentence, or clauses in a paragraph. It may work in poetry but otherwise, it's just plain annoying.

*"So of course he did the most reasonable thing. He was a responsible adult, and that's what responsible adults do. The reasonable thing."*

*"The stars above, bright and cold, and the dark road below, and the humming of the wheels on the dark road beneath the cold stars."*

*"There are the stars, the pinpricks of light stabbing down. There is the empty road beneath the light stabbing down and the girl on the road with the smudged face and twigs and dead leaves entangled in her short, curly hair, clutching a battered old teddy bear, on the empty road, beneath the stars stabbing down."*

Now the **love-story** - it was a massive fail. Stupid Cassie falls for Creepy Evan - and then things quickly turn into a retelling of *The Host*. I didn't find anything remotely romantic about the whole Evan thing. (view spoiler)

The writing makes sure that we're constantly reminded of Evan's *chocolate-brown puppy-dog eyes* and *hands soft like clouds* (barf).

The final thing that made me lose it - **the cliches**.

The alien apocalypse happens and the human race is nearly wiped out. There are hardly any families left BUT Cassie survives, and so does her brother and her father (view spoiler). And of course, her high-school crush also survives - how else will you have a love triangle in the sequel?? (view spoiler) So what if he never noticed Cassie before?? Now he can, since the competition is dead.

**You wanna know the saddest part??**

This was my first book about aliens.

And there weren't any aliens.

At least not the kind I was looking forward too :(

There was some action towards the end but I was way past the point of caring by then.

Verdict: **MASSIVE LETDOWN**.

I need some uplifting chocolate therapy.

(I do not intend to offend anyone with this review.)

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**Lola says**

*Maybe the last human being on Earth won't die of starvation or exposure or as a meal for wild animals.*

*Maybe the last one to die will be killed by the last one alive.*

The 5th Wave is exhilarating.

The story is so thrilling and suspenseful that it'll draw you in before you even get the chance to finish reading the first sentence. And it will truly seal your interest when you will get acquainted with all the adventurous, intrepid and bracing characters. Cassie. Sammy. Evan. Zombie. Ringer. **It will be hard for you to pick your favourite, because they'll all be worth your attention.**

What's wonderful is that this book really does have a little bit of everything. First, it's science fiction, which you probably already know, but it doesn't only touch on the subject of aliens invading the Earth. No. The characters have their own conflict above the war for territorial acquisition happening. They've lost their family. They fell in love with the wrong person. They became someone else: they lost themselves. They try to keep on living when there's nothing to live for. I liked the deepness of themes and how it challenged us as readers.

*How do you rid the Earth of Humans? Rid the humans of their humanity.*

Cassie, Evan, Zombie and all the other characters are trying to find solace in something. Thus, it is to be expected and definitely normal for there to be a lot of rumination going on in their minds. Yes, there's enough action to satisfy you but please don't expect a ubiquitous amount of it, for you'll find this book rather slow and will be deeply disappointed by it. The pacing varies; it'll be slow for fifty pages and then pick up in speed, and vice versa. I truly didn't mind it, because the characters' voices are so present and distinguishable; it never made me fall into boredom.

One more thing: everything is not what it seems.

*I may be the last one, but I am the last one still standing. I am the one turning to face the faceless hunter in the woods or an abandoned highway. I am the one not running, not staying, but facing.*

*Because if I am the last one, then I am humanity.*

*And if this is humanity's last war, then I am the battlefield.*

---

**Nick says**

**5 FREAKY ALIEN STARS!**

The first 4 waves were okay but the 5th wave... **MIND BLOWING.** I seriously didn't expect it at all. And the ending was perfect. Actually one of the best book endings of all time.

You can find the full review and more about this book on my blog

I can't describe how much I enjoyed this book. One of the best alien books I have ever read. This is probably going to be on my top ten favorite books on 2014. The style of writing, the characters everything was beyond perfect. I read the book in about 3 days and it was a great read.

What I really liked about this book was the style of writing. It was unique and very well planned. I must say I was lost on some parts because the book is written in a lot of points of views. There were some moments that I didn't know who was narrating but I got used to it after I learned more about the characters.

The story is what kept me reading this book more and more. It never gets boring. Believe me I was thrilled and excited in every single paragraph.

**It's so well written.**

### ***The story :***

The book is about a girl called Cassie who survived 4 waves of aliens. The first wave shut down the electricity and killed about half million people. The second wave "The red Tsunami" killed more and more. The third one killed 97% of humans and the 4th wave whipped the trust out of people. Now Cassie is alone in a journey to save her little brother. In her adventure she meets a boy called Evan who mixes her thoughts and now she has to decide if she can trust him or not. If she breaks or not the first rule of surviving "TO SURVIVE YOU HAVE TO STAND ALONE"

### ***The characters :***

#### **Cassie**

Cassie is one of those characters you can't help but like. She is determined to do what she thinks is right. She is also selfless. Not for a second she thinks about her safety. She is also caring and good at heart. What I really liked about her was her kickass mood. She is trained in karate and she doesn't hesitate to show her skills.



**Evan :**

I must admit the bro got moves.Seriously he is like a lady master and I want him to give me lesson on that area.He is also calm all the time and I don't remember a single panic word slip from him.

**Ben :**

Ben is one of those characters we are used to.He is a much of a soldier.Smart,tactics,strong,and the most important he keeps promises that he makes.

***Me while reading the book ( favorite sentences ) :***

“But if I'm it, the last of my kind, the last page of human history, like hell I'm going to let the story end this way. I may be the last one, but I am the one still standing. I am the one turning to face the faceless hunter in the woods on an abandoned highway. I am the one not running but facing. Because if I am the last one, then I am humanity. And if this is humanity's last war, then I am the battlefield.”

“I had it all wrong," he says. "Before I found you, I thought the only way to hold on was to find something to live for. It isn't. To hold on, you have to find something you're willing to die for.”

“Sarcasm doesn't appear to work on him. If that's true, I'm in trouble: It's my normal mode of communication.”

“I am a shark, Cassie," he says slowly, drawing the words out, as if he might be speaking to me for the last time. Looking into my eyes with tears in his, as if he's seeing me for the last time. "A shark who dreamed he was a man.”

“What were they thinking? 'It's an alien apocalypse! Quick, grab the beer!’”

“I took one look at it and demanded that he name three things he isn't good at.

"Roller skating, singing, and talking to girls."

"You left out stalking," I told him as he helped me out of the bed. "I can always tell when you're lurking around corners."

"You only asked for three.”

“Is this how humanity waves good-bye?

Hell no.”

I **highly recommend** this book to those who like aliens/paranormal stuff.It's a great fun read.

I want to thank the author for this incredible book.One of my all time favorites.

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**Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says**

*Pss! Pss!* **I have a theory.**

Want to hear it? I'm starting to think that Rick Yancey is a genius. What does a genius do, you're asking? **He makes people think they *are* the genius, by creating a story so predictable that every reader will feel so fucking clever.** No, no, this is not sarcasm (not entirely, anyway). See, I was here bitching about how I guessed everything - every fucking thing apart from the ear teddy bear rumped (come on, I'm not that great) - when I realized that there was *no way* I wasn't meant to. NO WAY. The clues are EVERYWHERE. All along. So what does it leave us? If the shock factor is close to none, what does it freaking leave us?

? That leaves us with characters that confused the hell out of me - not because of what they do (yet don't think I forgot you, Evan. You became more interesting but you're still a creeeeeeeep) - but more because of *my* reactions to them. I can't decide if I didn't care about them or liked them or was annoyed by them. All of the above, probably. **Except Nugget. I'll always love you, Nugget. I'll even forgive you for not really sounding like a 5 years old. I'm Team Nugget.** Woot! Anyway - what was I saying - oh, yes, my complete inability to know what I thought of the characters when I was reading. Here's my little opinion, in the end :

✕ **Cassie** - Likeable and relatable. I don't care about her flaws, her mistakes - **I get her.**

✕ **Zombie** - This is true what they say about first impression. Don't trust them (or is it the opposite? I can never remember) - The fact is, I lost my interest in its parts pretty fast. One word : bland. And ruffles. Way too much ruffles. Okay, okay, I'm not fair. I just don't like him. He bores me. Booh. Also, (view spoiler)

✕ **Ringer** - Who?

✕ **Evan** - Awww, here's our little creeper! Everybody waves to Evan! *Helloooooo Evan!!* No, but really guy. This is not okay to lurk. This is not okay to kiss someone who tells no (even if *\*because it's a book\** she changes her mind in a heartbeat. **I HATE THAT SHIT. PLEASE DON'T**). You sure don't blow the candle and kiss her anyway. Who does that?! Oh, yes. A fucking psycho. Yes, even if you're in looooooove. By the way, don't act all righteous about it. It's called instalove and that's pretty common over there. *\*waves to Edward\** I'll give you this, though, your last parts were pretty great. You still stay an obsessive psycho to me. Here's me slapping you behind the head *\*ow! That shit hurts!\**

? What was my biggest problem? Well, that would be the **boredom**. Looking back, I think that Rick Yancey's writing didn't do it for me. Oh, yeah, some parts were amazing and I have tons of quotes because the guy is pretty quotable. There's that. **Yet I can't count how many times I felt bored to death only to end thinking after, hey, that was pretty cool. That's why I think I liked more the idea of the book than the book itself.** I love how the story makes us think about what it really means to be human. Is that what we do? Is that how we look? Would we be able to decipher whether we're right or wrong? I don't think so. *That* woke up my interest. Too bad it was drowned into my boredom. I should point, though, that some parts engrossed me - mostly Nugget's POV, but also Cassie-pre Evan POV.

What a rambling girl I am. Sigh. I'll organize my review better. I PROMISE. (well except if aliens come and all, in that case I don't promise. Sometimes we just can't, remember?)

Oh, now that I think about it, I'm pretty sure that I'm safe in France. I mean, who the hell cares about France? Aliens always go to the US anyway. Sorry guys. I loved talking with you all. *\*blows kiss\**

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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## PRE-REVIEW

**Let's be honest one second. I'm sort of kind of immensely freaked-out worried because :**

- Everybody on Earth and their Alien cousins have already read it, like, a million years ago.
- This book seems to cause such different reactions - I mean, really, my friends' reviews go from hate to meh to good to wow. Hey, confusing much? (I still love you)
- I didn't like Rick Yancey's *The Monstrumologist* (yep. I'm one of those)
- I don't really like aliens? In books? Strangely? (because I love them in movies and videogames. Go figure)

**But I can't ignore the hype anymore. Let's do this.** (also, this book has been given to me more than a year ago by my adorable partner in crime, Chelsea, and really, what an awful friend I am to not read it sooner? I need to work on my stubbornness. Someday)

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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## **Kat Kennedy says**

Attention Mister Rick Yancey,

I have kidnapped your review. Your review is not harmed and shall be released as soon as you meet my demands.

In exchange for giving you back your review, which I am prepared to do, you will first need to provide for me:

1 copy of The 5th Wave #2 – undamaged, complete, unmarked (except for your signature or a stylized message to me).

This copy of The 5th Wave #2 must also contain certain characters unharmed and ready for me to snuggle them in my imagination.

Characters include:

Cassie – Because she's badass

Zombie – Because he's adorable.

Nugget – Don't ever even think about hurting him.

Ringer – She is my hero.

The Silencer (I won't mention its real name here so as not to spoil) – This character is essential. Failure to provide this character will result in immediate disposal of your review. I'm not even kidding.

Please leave my requested item in my PO Box. Do not call the police – they can't help you for I am no longer human at this point but a starved, ghost-like creature dependent on my next hit of The 5th Wave lest I waste away. If I see that you have called the police (or the next best thing, your publisher) then you will leave me with no choice but to kill the review.

I'm sorry it had to come to this, Mister Yancey. I had hoped that we could come to some kind of reasonable arrangement. But you had to go and write a wonderful book and the next one is not due for publication until August 2014. August 2014? Now do you see how you have pushed me into a corner here? I'm an everyday hero, doing what I must to survive.

Once my demands are met, I will upload the review as promised. Think about this, Yancey. Nobody needs to get hurt here. We can all win.

Sincerely,

Kat Kennedy

*An ARC was supplied to me by the publisher for the purpose of greater understanding American line dancing. Alas, all I used it for were review purposes that I was in no way paid for. Bummer.*

This review can also be found on my blog, Cuddlebuggery Book Blog.

FYI, Yancey has responded to my demands:

I'm afraid this is war, Mister Yancey. We will do what we have the heart to do, in order to get this book. You've been warned.

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