



The Dead and the Gone (Life As We Knew It)

By Susan Beth Pfeffer

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When life as Alex Morales had known it changed forever, he was working behind the counter at Joey's Pizza. He was worried about getting elected as senior class president and making the grades to land him in a good college. He never expected that an asteroid would hit the moon, knocking it closer in orbit to the earth and catastrophically altering the earth's climate. He never expected to be fighting just to stay alive.

Susan Beth Pfeffer's *Life As We Knew It* enthralled and devastated readers with its look at an apocalyptic event from a small-town perspective. Now this harrowing companion audiobook examines the same events as they unfold in New York City, revealed through the eyes of a seventeen-year-old Puerto Rican New Yorker.

When Alex's parents disappear in the aftermath of tidal waves, he must care for his two younger sisters, even as Manhattan becomes a deadly wasteland. With haunting themes of family, faith, personal change, and courage, this powerful novel explores how a young man takes on unimaginable responsibilities.

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

- Rank: #2404428 in Books
- Published on: 2010-01-12
- Released on: 2010-01-12
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Formats: Audiobook, Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 7
- Dimensions: 5.96" h x 1.15" w x 5.39" l, .50 pounds
- Running time: 531 minutes
- Binding: Audio CD

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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

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From [Booklist](#)

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

Review

"As riveting as *Life as We Knew It* and even grittier, this companion novel returns to the premise of that previous book to show how New York City responds to the global disasters that ensue when an asteroid knocks the moon out of orbit. . . . Once again Pfeffer creates tension not only through her protagonist's day-to-day struggles but also through chilling moral dilemmas: whether to rob the dead, who to save during a food riot, how long to preserve the hope that his parents might return. . . . The powerful images and wrenching tragedies will haunt readers." --*Publishers Weekly* (starred), 5/19/08

Praise for "Life as We Knew It": ""You will read it in one sitting, fighting back tears as you bite your nails." --teenreads.com "[star]" "Absorbing from first page to last . . . Celebrates the fortitude and resourcefulness of human beings during critical times." --"Publishers Weekly" "(starred)"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Warren Matt:

The ability that you get from The Dead and the Gone (Life As We Knew It) will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide into the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Dead and the Gone (Life As We Knew It) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this specific The Dead and the Gone (Life As We Knew It) instantly.

Gary Cornejo:

This book untitled The Dead and the Gone (Life As We Knew It) to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by means of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

David Clark:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book The Dead and the Gone (Life As We Knew It) it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book features high quality.

Latricia Wynkoop:

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