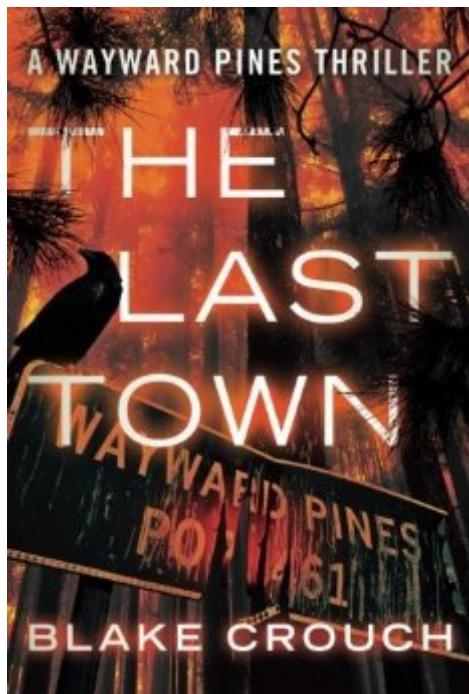


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The Last Town (The Wayward Pines Trilogy, Book 3)



Synopsis

The third book in the international runaway bestseller series that inspired the most watched summer show of 2015. From executive producer M. Night Shyamalan, Wayward Pines returns May 25th, 2016 and airs Wednesdays at 9/8c on FOX. Welcome to Wayward Pines, the last town. Secret Service agent Ethan Burke arrived in Wayward Pines, Idaho, three weeks ago. In this town, people are told who to marry, where to live, where to work. Their children are taught that David Pilcher, the town's creator, is god. No one is allowed to leave; even asking questions can get you killed. But Ethan has discovered the astonishing secret of what lies beyond the electrified fence that surrounds Wayward Pines and protects it from the terrifying world beyond. It is a secret that has the entire population completely under the control of a madman and his army of followers, a secret that is about to come storming through the fence to wipe out this last, fragile remnant of humanity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

SPOILERS AHEAD. Well, I read all three, because the idea behind it was engaging. But by the end, I felt like I'd wasted my time. First of all, I think the trilogy, with some significant editing, should have been just one book. There just wasn't enough story development or character development.

Secondly, the overall premise is so far-fetched, and while I'm a fan of the far-fetched sci-fi tale, I think they key is to have some sort of explanation for it. "The human genome is getting corrupted" (which, by the way, wasn't that similar to the premise behind the "Divergent" trilogy?) isn't quite enough. Why? How? A reason that's it's happening so rapidly? which brings us to my third point: the time scale for this change is 1800 years. Think about it: 1800 years. In 1800 years we've had human beings evolve into something almost unrecognizable (did anyone else think of Eloi and Morlocks when they read this, by the way?). In 1800 years, nearly every sign of civilization is completely gone. Well, think about it: the Great Pyramid of Egypt dates back to around 3200 BC. The Great Sphinx is probably that old, too. You can still find evidence of roads in Rome that pre-date Christ. So the premise that almost everything is completely gone in 1800 years (there are a few artifacts mentioned in the book) is just too much--UNLESS we're given some kind of explanation. Signs of a great war? Some great cataclysm? Cemetery headstones would not be completely unrecognizable after 1800 years to people who'd seen a cemetery before unless something happened--acid rain that apparently fell for years? I just wanted something. Fourth: the guy is saving humanity by kidnapping apparently completely random people who happen to wander into a specific town.

Obviously, if you have not read Pines and Wayward you should most definitely not read this book (or this review) because major spoilers will follow FOR THOSE BOOKS. Okay, that said, this is something of a very bitter-sweet ending to the series ... for a whole slew of reasons, not all of which I can go into because, duh, spoilers. What I can say is that, in general ... a lot of people die in this book. If you read all the way to the end of Wayward (Book 2), then you probably expected this in some fashion. Not going to beat around the bush on this, the abbies get into Wayward Pines and all hell breaks loose. First, the pluses: this book is pretty intense. Pines (Book 1) was awesome because of the mind-blowing twist ending. Wayward (Book 2) was something of a slow oddity, sort of the Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom in this trilogy. The Last Town doesn't exactly revist what made Pines good (how could it? That's kind of a one-trick pony literary ploy), but it does go in a new and, frankly, stomach-churningly horrific direction. Word of warning: this book is graphic. People die ... VIOLENTLY. In this regard, this book is something of a stark departure from the more temporal topsy-turvy mystery of the previous two books, and instead, has gone more to a visceral slasher fest. Still, the book manages to convey the elements of absolute hopelessness and despair and horror that this kind of a situation would entail, and do it quite well. And in general Blake Crouch manages to skillfully weave together excellent pacing, descriptions, characterizations, and emotion

in quick, easy to read but thrilling story of survival at any cost against impossible odds. There are downsides to this book.

Damn you, Mr. Crouch! You sucked me in with "The Pines", kept me intrigued with "Wayward", and then slapped me in the face with "The Last Town". Don't get me wrong. I didn't hate the book. I actually thought it was okay. And on its own it probably deserves a 3-star rating. The reason it gets a 2, however, is because of its potential. This book should have been awesome. It should have been a kick-ass finale to the Wayward Pines trilogy, but it wasn't. Mr. Crouch could have ended the saga with a bang and instead ended it with a whimper, and it's a damn shame. Let's go back to "The Pines". I loved it. It was a fast-paced, entertaining, violent mystery with a few awesome scenes (the fetes and introduction to the abbies come to mind) and an explosive ending that I never saw coming. I thought it was a great book that didn't need a sequel. And then "Wayward" came out. And I loved it. It advanced the story, let us see Ethan struggle with concealing the truth, introduced us to Adam Hassler (a man actually surviving outside of the fence? WHAT?!), and hinted at a second love triangle (between Adam, Ethan and Teresa, in addition to the one between Ethan, Teresa, and Kate) then, again, blew me away with a killer cliffhanger ending that forced me to read part 3. It was as if Mr. Crouch literally grabbed me by the throat and said, "You're going to buy book 3!" and I gladly said, "Yes, Sir!" Then "The Last Town" came out, and it underwhelmed. The problems with this book are numerous, and I suspect they all stem from a single source. It's clear to me Mr. Crouch was given a deadline that he simply could not meet without sacrificing the integrity of his novel, and sacrifice it he did. Just look at its length compared to books 1 and 2.

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