



# Wayward

*Blake Crouch*

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Welcome to Wayward Pines, population 461. Nestled amidst picture-perfect mountains, the idyllic town is a modern-day Eden...except for the electrified fence and razor wire, snipers scoping everything 24/7, and the relentless surveillance tracking each word and gesture.

None of the residents know how they got here. They are told where to work, how to live, and who to marry. Some believe they are dead. Others think they're trapped in an unfathomable experiment. Everyone secretly dreams of leaving, but those who dare face a terrifying surprise.

Ethan Burke has seen the world beyond. He's sheriff, and one of the few who knows the truth—Wayward Pines isn't just a town. And what lies on the other side of the fence is a nightmare beyond anyone's imagining.

## Wayward Details

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Author : Blake Crouch

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# From Reader Review *Wayward* for online ebook

**Jeffrey Keeten says**

**"I know what they need. Perfection all the time would drive them mad. For every perfect little town, there's something ugly underneath. No dream without the nightmare."**

We all have secrets we carry around with us. As a species we aren't really good at keeping secrets, even those rattling skeletons that could prove detrimental to our lives. In the end, most of us end up telling somebody. You can swear someone to secrecy, but the same itch, the same need to tell someone that compelled you to tell them, is whispering to them from the corners of their brain. This powerful urge, maybe with some help from some uninhibiting wine or soul exploding sex, will eventually gain the upper hand, and those locked away words will spill. They swear that person to secrecy, and so on and so on until everyone you know...well...knows.

**So the only way to keep a secret is to tell NO ONE.**

Recently appointed Sheriff Ethan Burke is carrying the granddaddy of all secrets. I was trying to think of something in the history of mankind that is a bigger secret. Knowledge of what Brutus has planned for Julius Caesar at the forum?...hmmm...nope. Finding out the Japanese plans for Pearl Harbor on December 6th?...not even close. How about the fact that I travelled back in time and handed Alois Hitler a FREE condom nine months prior to April 20th, 1889? Epic fail! Unfortunately...his appendage was too small to stay covered for the crucial moment (as it turns out that unfortunate disability runs in that family). See, and what did I just do...I told you!!

**Ethan tells his wife, Theresa.**

Guilt is hammering away at him. He has kept secrets (not very well... proving my point) in the past. Big ones like doinking his hot FBI partner Kate, who also is a resident of *Wayward Pines*. She also happens to be running a resistance movement against the powers that be. No one, except Ethan... well and now Theresa, knows exactly who that might be.

The electric fence surrounding the town hums with high voltage electricity. Occasionally, one of the 461 residents uses the fence to kill themselves. Unfortunately, the smell of their charred flesh just makes people hungry for barbecue. Miraculously, new people show up to replace those who have been lost. They are quickly assimilated into the community. Speaking about the past is verboten. If people don't accept the rules by joining the rest of the seemingly ecstatically happy people, they are fêted. Yes, there is a big group. Yes, there is a big party. No, those being fêted are not having a good time.

**What the FRILL is going on?**

As I said when I wrote the review for the first book in the trilogy, *Pines*, my recommendation is to watch the *Wayward Pines* TV series first. I know! Shocking! I feel like frog marching myself out to a stone cliff and throwing myself into the sea. The rule is always read the books first. \*Sigh\* one thing I've learned after decades of life is that flexibility, even as your joints refuse to be so, is important in all things. Rules were maybe not meant to be broken, but certainly, they were meant to be bent.

## Be the tree that sways in the wind.

Watch the series, there are only ten episodes ( I really appreciate it when American TV shows some restraints with the number of episodes), and if you like the series, read the books. The books do differ from the series, but not by a large margin. In for a penny in for a pound, on to book three.

My PINES review, the first book in the trilogy.

If you wish to see more of my most recent book and movie reviews, visit <http://www.jeffreykeeten.com>  
I also have a Facebook blogger page at: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffreyKeeten>

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## ??? 2.? says

★★★??½

Here goes, **Pointless Review #955** (at the time of posting). I actually read this about a month ago, so I suppose it's about time to vomit out a few random thoughts. Now you may be wondering is it specifically this review or any review of *Wayward* that I find pointless? Probably both! The reason being is that I imagine those who've read the first book fall into one of two groups - those who enjoyed it and are intrigued enough to continue, or those who hated it and couldn't care less how the rest of story unfolds. That being the case, I doubt there's anything I could say to sway your opinion. Plus, the first book was shrouded in so much mystery and confusion that I'm not sure it's possible to review this without spoiling that mystery.

Come to think of it, I suppose there's a third category of readers as well - those who felt indifferent to book one and can't decide if it's worth the time and effort it to carry on. The mystery's been revealed, is there's anything left to bother with? I think there is, so that's the group of people I wish to address with my remaining commentary.

First, the good news is that book two, in my opinion, maintains the story quite well. There is no sudden drop in quality, the story doesn't begin to fall apart or suffer from your typical sophomore slump. If you sort of enjoyed book one, by all means, carry on.

*Wayward* picks up right where *Pines* left off. There is no discernible gap, just a continuation of a larger tale. As you may know, there's a new sheriff in town, and we get to ride shotgun. We'll check out all the action behind the scenes, catch a glimpse behind the curtain. Will the new guy like what he sees? That's a good question and one that our sheriff will struggle with throughout. Book two, as per usual, is also a time for backstories. A few of the main players are fleshed out to help us gain a better perspective of some of the underlying motivations driving their actions. I found these sections to be rather insightful.

Now, onto some bad news. One of the biggest selling points for the first book was that crazy wtf factor. That's all gone now, the answers have been revealed, so naturally, some of that luster's worn off. With that mystery element removed, what you're left with here is strictly a sci-fi thriller. Also, this one ends on a major cliffhanger, so there's almost no way to finish this without feeling an immediate urge to jump right into the last book. It really is rather short though, and mostly a page-turner, so I doubt that will be much of a problem.

In conclusion, for all those fence riders, who've found the first story okay, but are unsure as to whether to

continue. I suggest you carry on, old chap. Give it another go. I imagine you'll like what you see. Now for all of those people who've yet to read book one. What the hell are you waiting for? Fun and/or stupid times await.

Well, maybe this review wasn't so pointless after all, but you'll have to be the judge of that.

Pines (Book One): ★★☆☆?½

Wayward (Book Two): ★★☆☆?½ rounded up

I actually liked this one to about the same level as the first.

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## **Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says**

**These books are like thrillers on crack**, and again the story pulled me in from the very first page. **So. Much. Win.**

First of all, what you need to know is \_\_\_\_\_. Indeed, while the ending of Pines offered us some answers, I have to admit that I wasn't completely convinced by \_\_\_\_\_. In that aspect, Wayward turned out to be a **strong and satisfying sequel** because \_\_\_\_\_. As for the **twists and turns** the story takes, didn't you love when \_\_\_\_\_? It was by far my favorite part, because even though I guessed that \_\_\_\_\_ and that \_\_\_\_\_ (yes I did!! Okay! It was obvious! Whatever! Don't give a damn!), I couldn't help but feel stunned by \_\_\_\_\_. Not to mention the \_\_\_\_\_: **incredible** idea, right? As for \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_ was revealed to be even more crazy than I thought it was.

**Haha. You really thought that I was going to review this book?**

**I can't, people, I can't! WHY?!**

**WAIT - is it good then?** Well, let's see...

**If a :**

? A captivating page-turner...

? ... with complex and multi-layered characters...

? ... nobody to be trusted...

? ... hard choices to make...

? ... with the boundaries between right and wrong more and more blurred ...

? ... and a killer ending...

... is a good book for you...

... *Yes it is.*

Sorry, I did say that my review would be without any spoilers. **I never said that it'd be useful, though.**  
*Oops.*

**Ps.** After reading *Wayward*, I can confirm that Pines deserved my 5 stars. (my review)

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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### **Elizabeth Sagan says**

This one is a 4.5!

\*

Almost as good as the first one, but the ending didn't impress me too much. Still - super, super good. I've read it in a day, I couldn't put it down!

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I can't wait to see what's next! Thank God the last one is already out!

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### **?λσα says**

Τι αναγνωστική ηδονή είναι αυτή ;!

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### **Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

*"Will this place ever feel like home?"*

*"I don't know," Pam said as she stood. "That's entirely up to you."*

Me reading *Wayward* . . .

and . . .

Have you guys read these yet? At least tell me you've got the 10 episode television series set to record on your DVR. In case you're one of the five people left on the planet who has yet to hear about these books, here's some bad news . . . I can't really tell you anything that goes down. The not knowing is all the fun.

Here's what I'm willing to share. Book #2 of the *Wayward Pines* series shows us that there is a new sheriff in town . . .

We find out what the townspeople do in their spare time . . .

Then . . .

Seriously. You **have** to read (or watch) for yourself. And right when you think you have it allllllll figured out because . . .

You'll find out you still know diddly squat. Bring on #3! That's where the . . .

*"What. Have. You. Done? And he began to run."*

If you're looking for something that will keep you up reading way past your bedtime or sitting on the edge of your chair from all the not-knowing, I can't think of a better suggestion than this series.

*ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you, NetGalley!*

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**Chelsea ♥Peril Please♥ says**

*"Hell is coming to you."*

I have so much to say....but don't I always??? I want to write an amazing, detailed, long review, but that wouldn't do this series any good, I think. I believe that, while I would LOVE to go on and on and on about all the amazingness that is this series, **it would stunt the curiosity** I piqued in everyone with my first review of the beginning book. So, I'll keep it **short and sweet** with just a few points to make things curiouser and couriouser for everyone that chooses to read this:

*All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts.*

**Ethan:** Ethan grew so much in this story. In book one, we didn't know a lot about him, and we didn't know what kind of guy he really was-What he was made of, if you will. We knew of his tryst, of his adoration for his wife. We knew he was stubborn beyond words...and that his **determination**, if nothing else, would keep him alive. So, essentially, in this one, we begin to see even more of his **cleverness** and quick wit, setting in stone his intelligence and willingness to make things right...and the helplessness....don't forget his reluctance and helplessness. They go hand in hand with this story. **Let's see what he's made of.**

**"Do you hear that?" Ethan asked.**

**"Hear what?"**

**For five seconds, Ethan was silent on the line. "That's the sound of me not giving a fuck."**

**Atmosphere:** The atmosphere, while still eerie, is blown to bits in this one after the big 'reveal' of book one. I can't say it's as creepy as it was in the first installment, but there was still an **underhanded malice** that made you question where things were going and how things could possibly get better for the town's residents. And since I am obsessed with my dear Ethan...this was a big appeal to me, the worrying.

**For every perfect little town, there's something ugly underneath. No dream without the nightmare.**

**The Writing:** Gahd, do I love Crouch's writing. It's virtually impossible not to become wholly immersed in this story with his writing style. In book one, sure, I could understand people not loving or being a bit put off about the *amazing* fragmented sentences (which I loved, if you can't tell), but I never had a problem with them. In this story, I was so sucked in that I didn't even notice it-I even picked up a new book because it was released yesterday (9/1) and thought, 'Wait, this isn't how you write!' So, as you can see, I am in love with his writing.

**A shiv straight into Ethan's gut would've felt better.**

**He lost his breath.**

**Saw the world suddenly through a blur of tears.**

**Imagery:** Beautiful. Vivid. Startling. What more can you ask for?



**A millennium without air or light pollution made for pitch-black skies.  
The stars didn't just appear anymore.  
They exploded.  
Diamonds on black velvet.  
You couldn't tear your eyes away.**

So, as you can see, **I'm obsessed**. So that's how I will end this: Read it, don't read it-that's your call. But I, my friends, am knee deep, up shit creek, whatever phrase you want to use, in love with this series.

**YESTERDAY IS HISTORY.**

Obsessed.

**TOMORROW IS A MYSTERY.**

Obsessed.

**TODAY IS A GIFT.**

Did I mention I'm obsessed?

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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**Emily (Books with Emily Fox) says**

4.5 Need to third one ASAP

Love the atmosphere of a small town where things are strange but you don't know what!

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## **RedemptionDenied says**

This was just as good as the first book in the series, though it didn't move quite as fast, at first. Still, it intrigued me throughout. I learnt my lesson from book 1 - and didn't really bother trying to figure out what was going on or put too much effort into guessing what would happen next; just went along for the crazy ride. And it didn't disappoint.

Ethan is still struggling to control his conflicting emotions - and is trying to fit into his new role in Wayward Pines. There are still a lot of secrets to be uncovered in this supposedly idyllic little town - even after the big reveal at the end of the first book. Interestingly, Theresa seems to have some secrets that she's kept hidden. I wonder how that's going to play out? Just like the first book, this ends with a cliffhanger as well, which is no bad thing - unless you were one of those lucky people that read the books when they were first released and had to wait for the next one in the trilogy. Glad I wasn't one of them. That would have been excruciating.

Anyway, I enjoyed this as much as the first book, despite it's change of pace - and can't wait to start the next one.

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## **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

**Yesterday is history.**

**Tomorrow is a mystery.**

**Today is a gift.**

**That's why it's called the present.**

**Work hard, be happy, and enjoy your life in Wayward Pines.**

*Notice to all residents of Wayward Pines*

*(required to be posted prominently in every residence and place of business)*

Ethan Burke is now sheriff of Wayward Pines. He knows some of the town's secrets but not even close to all of them.

This series of books are very hard to review without giving any secrets away because the whole damn book is secrets. All you can do is buckle up and hope for the best. If the best is not available just plan on running. Ethan's former partner Kate and her husband do come into play again.

You still can't leave town.

You still shake your head that you are enjoying these books as much as you are because they make no sense.

I can't wait for the next one!

*Book source: Gifted from a friend.*

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## Jennifer says

I still haven't watched the TV adaptation of this series. My plan is to read the trilogy in its entirety first, and then instead of watching the screen, watch my husband instead as he looks like this...

It's going to be awesome.

Wayward is the second installment (middle book) in Blake Crouch's multi-genre trilogy titled: Wayward Pines. This ongoing storyline is super secretive which makes it confusing as hell, but despite that, it's imaginative and engaging enough to keep readers happily hanging on. And so far, each book ends on an epic scene that makes resisting the next book near impossible. There's no filler in Wayward. There's glimpses into the past, revelations that concern the present, and significant shifts in group dynamics that will surely impact the future. One more book, then bring on the popcorn! Hubby has no idea lol.

### My favorite quote:

*"For every perfect little town, there's something ugly underneath. No dream without the nightmare."*

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## Mario says

*The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.*

**WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?!** I'm really trying to stay cool while writing this review, but seriously, what the fuck did I just read?! This is no way to finish a book, **how dare you Crouch?!?!?!?** I'm just pleased that I can start book 3 immediately, because waiting, even a day, would be fucking DEVASTATING.

Okay, so now that's out of my system, lets get on with the review.

This book started out a little slow. It didn't have as much mystery and action as the first book had. In *Pines* something big happened in almost every page, where this one wasn't quite like that. But don't get me wrong, I still loved this book just as much as I loved *Pines* and for some reason I read it even faster. They just had different vibes.

Also in the beginning I felt like I kind of knew where the story was heading (where in *Pines* I had no freaking clue 90% of the time). **BUT** then the end happened... And it **blew** my fucking brains out. It actually made me love this book even more than the first one.

Now all that's left is to read the last one, and tell you (if you haven't already) to do yourself a favor and go read this series.

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## Dan Schwent says

When Ethan Burke, sheriff of Wayward Pines, runs across a body, he's tasked with investigating her murder.

But what does the deceased have to do with Burke's ex-partner and former lover? And what will Theresa think about her husband and his old flame spending time together?

### **I got this from Netgalley.**

After the jaw-dropping reveal at the end of Pines, I was pretty sure Wayward would suffer from the sophomore slump. It did not.

Instead of bucking the system, as in the first volume, Wayward sees Ethan trying to keep order in the manufactured reality of Wayward Pines. His investigation leads him to an underground movement of people bent on getting to the bottom of things. It also brings him closer to his wife, Theresa, and son, Ben.

This book had a paranoid tone like the first but the pace wasn't nearly as frantic. I really like how Blake Crouch doesn't maintain the status quo and isn't afraid to shake things up. I also liked that Ethan and Kate didn't get their genitals tangled. Pam and Pilcher both moved a bit higher on the douche bag scale.

I have to say that I didn't quite like this one as much as the first. Trusting Ethan made Pilcher look like an idiot. Mostly, though, I think the first book set the bar a little too high.

3.5 out of 5 stars. Luckily, I have the final volume on deck. Time to poach this pear.

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### **Kaora says**

This series is quickly becoming one of my favorites. From the moment I began with book one, to the end of book two I have been unable to put this series down.

I liked that book one focused on the character of Ethan Burke, while this one gave some depth to the villain of the series, Thomas Pilcher. While I'm not quite sure how he became the way he is, I did like seeing how he created the technology that brought them here, and his family life before all of this went down.

The book is not as action packed as the first, but it has some great new developments that kept me hooked from beginning to end. I often struggle with books that are in the middle of a trilogy as I feel it is sometimes a filler book, simply for money. One that adds very little to the story. Happily that is not the case with this book.

It finishes on a bit of a cliffhanger that has me anxious for book 3.

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°°°.°..°-°.\_. ????? Ροζουλ? Εωσφ?ρος .\_.°-°.°.° .°°° ★.~.~.★ ?????? ???????  
?????? Ταμετο?ρο Αμ says

Εξαιρετικ? πλεον?κτημα το γεγον?ς πως ε?χα και τα τρ?α βιβλ?α της σειρ?ς ?ταν ξεκ?νησα να διαβ?ζω την "Π?λη". Σε ?λλη περ?πτωση δεν μπορ? να φανταστ? πως ειναι να περιμ?νεις τη συν?χεια απ? μια ιστορ?α που σε ?χει κερδ?σει ολοκ?ηρωτικ? και προσπαθε? να κατανο?σεις τις ανατροπ?ς που εξελ?σσονται απ? σελ?δα σε σελ?δα.  
Στο δε?τερο μ?ρος μπα?νεις ακ?μα πιο βαθι? μ?σα στην "Π?λη" που πραγματικ? θα μπορο?σε να

χαρακτηριστε? με τους πιο οξυμωρους προσδιορισμο?ς.  
ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΣΟΣ και ΚΟΛΑΣΗ - ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ και ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ  
ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ και ΨΕΜΜΑΤΑ - ΛΟΓΙΚΗ και ΠΑΡΑΝΟΙΑ -  
ΣΥΜΠΟΝΟΙΑ και ΚΤΗΝΩΔΙΑ.

?πως κι αν το σκεφτε?ς ? το χαρακτηρ?σεις η ουσ?α παραμ?νει στο εξ?ς ερ?τημα : ψε?τικη ζω?; ?  
αληθιν?ς θ?νατος;

Αναστ?λλεται η ανθρ?πινη φ?ση ακ?μη και μπροστ? στον αφανισμ?;;

Χειραγωγε?ται το ελε?θερο πνε?μα ?σων ?χουν βι?σει πολιτισμ? και ανεξαρτησ?α;;

Βολε?εται η ?παρξη μ?σα σε μια ασφαλ? επαν?ληψη ψε?τικης ευδαιμον?ας;;

Ελπ?ζω πως στο τρ?το μ?ρος που ανυπομον? να ξεκιν?σω θα απαντηθο?ν ικανοποιητικ? τα  
ερωτ?ματα μου και θα καταλ?ξω στο πιο λογικ? συμπ?ρασμα που πιστε?ω ?τι αξ?ζει η  
ανθρωπ?τητα.

Καλ?τερα μιας ?ρας ελε?θερη ζω? ...

Καλ? αν?γνωση.

Πολλο?ς ασπασμο?ς!!

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