



What Remains

Nicole R. Taylor

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I'd never known true darkness until the lights went out.
I had never known what it was to be hungry.
Everyone I ever knew was dead. If they weren't, then they wished they were.
I know I did.

Prue Ashford has been surviving alone in the Australian bush for the last three years. After an unknown virus wiped out most of the human population, she escaped the chaos and hid. Every town and city was locked down into quarantine, but that only led to the inevitable. Death.

Living off the land, avoiding other survivors turned bad, she's led a lonely life, surviving on the edge of a very narrow cliff. The moment she begins to lose hope is when she meets the handsome and enigmatic, Shaw.

He's the first human being she's seen in three years that hasn't tried to kill her and she doesn't dare to hope. She'd given up finding anyone alive that still had goodness inside of them.

Her only option if she wants to live is to trust Shaw and he takes her to the isolated community he calls home. Being among people again is its own challenge and Prue finds herself tested on every front. Making friends was never easy for her and making them after an apocalypse is even harder.

Hannah, the town's apprentice doctor, becomes the closest thing Prue has to a best friend and Nan fast becomes her surrogate mother. Shaw brings feelings to the surface that she would rather forget and Eva, the mayor's daughter, seems hell bent on making her life a living hell.

In the end, Prue must make a decision. Stay in the town at the end of the world and learn how to love again, or go back into the wasteland of human civilisation and go it alone.

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What Remains is a gritty story of human survival. When society crumbles and chaos reigns, people become desperate. They turn to violence and resort to extreme measures to go on living. Parts of this story may be confronting for some people. It contains violent situations staged by desperate people, the extremes that people go to to show their love and a dose of bad language. It's recommended for readers 18 and up.

What Remains Details

Date : Published October 15th 2013 (first published October 5th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Nicole R. Taylor

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Romance

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From Reader Review What Remains for online ebook

Alma says

3,5 stars

Jennifer Wilson says

This isn't my normal genre, but decided since it was free when I got it, I'd give it a shot. It takes place in a post-apocalyptic world, after sickness takes the lives of almost all of humanity. I loved how physically strong Prue was. She was, and really she had to be mentally strong to survive for three years in the wilderness. I would read a sequel to this book!

Nicole Taylor says

Out now!!!

Amazon

Smashwords

Lauryn says

What remains after a mysterious virus wipes out most of the population? Nicole R. Taylor explores just that, creating a world where those who survive the illness into some kind of mutant-zombies and the rest who escaped infection are left to endure in a greatly altered landscape. What Remains examines the effects of isolation and the emotional impact of having to do horrible things in the name of survival.

Prue Ashford hasn't spoken to another human in three years, at least, not to another human who wasn't trying to kill her. Armed with a samurai sword and a few years of cathartic martial arts training, she's been surviving alone in the Australian bush since narrowly escaping the desperate government quarantine designed to contain the virus (though it ultimately fails). Already having a bad day, having been very seriously wounded by an old hunter's trap, Prue crosses paths with a stranger who takes a shot at her before she gets the upper hand. Passing out from the wound, the stranger carries her to a village community that miraculously escaped the virus and survived, saving her life. Prue struggles to come to terms with what she had to in the name of survival and being around people again, specifically, learning how to trust again.

The novel confronts those themes solidly, if not as subtly as I would have liked. At times, Prue's back and forth can become a little repetitive, but it isn't entirely unrealistic (just a little tedious, bordering on the

melodramatic). She makes brief mention of the difficulties she had growing up and a failed relationship before the virus outbreak that demolished the population. She occasionally flashes back to incidents where she was attacked in the bush or to the events surrounding the quarantine, but she states those are the reason rather than showing any of those incidents. Since much of the novel revolves around the possibility of a romantic connection between Prue and Shaw (the man who brought her to the town), it would help to have more of a picture of that initial relationship that emotionally devastated her.

The timeline of the novel is fuzzy pretty much throughout. There are moments when it seems that Prue is describing several weeks having passed and in the next moment, it turns out its only a day or two later. Some of the supporting cast could have used a bit more character development. Many of them feel a little too 'typed.' There's the bitchy girl interested in the guy the protagonist likes; there's the instant best friend; there's the grandmother figure that everyone in the town loves.

My favorite aspect of the novel and the aspect I wish there was more of, is the virus and its aftermath. Though Prue refuses to view the creatures that survivors of the infection became as zombies, that's the main thing they sound like. Instead, she calls them 'mutants' (which bothered me more than it should but that might be because I've re-watched the X-Men movies recently). If this is indeed a new terrifying monster, I think it should have a name of its own. If Taylor were to follow What Remains with a related (though not necessarily a sequel per se) novel that tells the tale of the outbreak, quarantine, and transition into these mutant-zombies (I guess that would make it a prequel of sorts), I think it would be even better than What Remains.

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Kirstie says

This book blew me away. The story, the plot, the characters, WOW - just WOW!

I was especially proud that the story takes place in this Beautiful Country, Australia. I love the fact that the characters in the story were not stereo typically Australian...though Ms Taylor cleverly played some great colloquialisms into the dialogue!

The main character, Prue, has been a survivor the last few years. She has done it all on her own. Prue has made an agreement with herself that people are too much hard work, and really who can you trust anymore.

Prue never stays in one place too long, there is no way she is going to risk being discovered. Rest. Recuperate if required, don't get comfortable, and the first sign of danger...move on.

This plan of action had worked well for a while, until one day Prue is discovered, but not until after she is dangerously injured by an old makeshift trap.

She is discovered by a young sniper who quickly realises she is hurt and decides to help her.

Is Prue ready for people? Can she change the part of her she had worked so hard to master. Is life worth the hassle?

A story of survival of the fittest after a virus threatens to wipe out humanity. A story of evolution...an

evolution that involves a new species.

A fantastically written story...I am definitely a new fan Ms Taylor. I look forward to reading more of your work!

Robbie says

Is this a real book?

I can't tell who this book is for, there's violence and a post apocalyptic setting...but it's all filled with romance? "I wish there was more making out on the Walking Dead" said nobody ever. I read the whole thing because occasionally the action got good, but overall there are dozens of other books in a setting like this that have better characters and story. There's very little "why" which is always fun with an end of the world book. And not much with any new discoveries of the outback. Idk I feel like I got duped into some sort of self published first novel. I cannot recommend this book, at least not before recommending many others.

Dawnn Fuss says

Great take of End Of Times

There are so many "End of Days" options. This was a pleasant divergence from the norm. Readers want these characters to survive and want to continue their journey with them.

Rachel Tsoumbakos says

Okay, so recently I did a cover reveal for this book and I was blown away by the cover – so much so that I went out and bought the book and pushed all my other review books aside so I could read this one!

Was it worth it?

Mostly.

Parts of this book I found completely captivating and raw. Some parts hurt to read with their clarity of how a person might cope with the life and death decisions that have to be made after a catastrophic world event.

Other parts left me wanting, but not in a great way. I found the first half of this book lacking when it came to character development. I just found I wasn't caring about the characters as much as I should be. The main character, Prue, is very hard to like. She is pointy and surly and tends to stalk off in a huff most of the time. I found myself wondering if maybe all her past relationships had broken down because she just wasn't a very nice person! Normally these are characteristics I LOVE in a female character. I'm not sure what went wrong, so I can't offer any suggestions on how to right it. Oh, and fans of AMC's The Walking Dead, and, in particular, the character Michonne, will probably love this book.

However, this strange thing kept happening. Every time I put the book down, I couldn't wait to pick it up

again! And boy was I glad I persevered. After Prue settles into a town that may or may not be sinister (is the town too good to be true or is the author excellent at portraying the inside of a mind that is near snapping point?), things start to pick up. All of a sudden I found myself turning pages in an effort to see what happens and how the characters will fare in the end.

I found Nicole R. Taylor has a knack for describing action scenes and, surprisingly, romantic ones – a welcome surprise for sure! Her character dialogue is also brilliant and I found her character's voices ringing true as I read.

Overall, I am giving *What Remains* by Nicole R. Taylor 3 out of 5 stars – please persevere, it's a diamond in the rough!

Ceri says

This was a great story but I feel it could have been longer. AS much as I loved the main character Prudence, I feel that I missed something. Pru has been on her own in the bush of Australia since a virus wiped out most of the population 3 years before. She manages to survive, when most of humanity will slit your throat before talking to you. That is until the day Shaw and Pru cross paths. I think my problem is this book could have become so much more. This story could have carried through several books. The author does everything right, great characters, kick ass heroine but just not enough story. What happened to all the people who enforced the quarantine? Was it across the world or just Australia? Did her brother escape?(possible). Nothing worse than enjoying a good book but feel like you just didn't get everything you should have.

Alice says

4.5 Stars

This is one of those books that I would like the author to risk again and write a sequel or another story but with these elements.

No wonder that Nicole R. Taylor is one of Alice's favorite authors. When it came to light this story, I think we were all euphoric by his brother *The Devil's Tattoo* (even we are for the next release of the book 2). I was able to hosting the cover to reveal, is beautiful, very fresh, unlike the dark colors that Nicole has accustomed us to see on their covers. But still had the essence of his style: tattoos.

Who has a tattoo on this story? Prudence Ashford , or only Prue. She is the protagonist of the story, something I love about the protagonists of Nicole's books is that they are independent women, strong character but know how to be subtle and show that side of wanting to be loved with respect and for what they are.

She told the story of what happened on a pandemic, we see first part of his life before and that's what

happened with his family and then change when he meets Shaw.

Who is Shaw? The boy handsome, mysterious and perhaps the little hope for Prue, that there is a light in the midst of chaos.

The story is crude but cute, I like very much the fact is the first book in genre sci-fi dystopia with the writer writes, perhaps in a few leaves still a little note is his first book in this genre and I think She has a great ability to tell a other story of this type. He manages to make the reader put to seriously questioning about what can do to survive and still not lose your consciousness and emotions.

I loved each character was well defined, also that Prue will use Japanese weapons! I have many favorite moments in this book. I highly recommend you read this book, ok, I take two days to read it but it was during my trips to school on the subway. The book lightened my way and kept me in suspense amid the chaos of what could be the subway,

I would like read to much, a different story of this type of Nicole R. Taylor and continue to amaze us with his incredible imagination

Add that it is sci-fi dystopia and romance.

P.S: I am Fan of Nan, She is cool! She should have her story about the time he lived.

P.S1.1: I asked me, what type of songs inspired you to write this book?

J A C I N T A says

WOW this book is certainly different!!!

Nicole game me a chance to read this book for an honest review and I must say I was glad I was given that chance.

When I first started reading this book I found it really hard at the beginning but you wanna keep reading to know what happens. About 20% in it started to get really good and I couldn't put the book down.

The way Nicole has captured the story is really different and in amazing way. I don't usually read books like this but I am glad I really did.

A MUST READ!!!

Ari says

Prue Ashford has spent three years living alone after a disease and the resulting anarchy took away her family and her life. Most of that time she's been living out bush, where the only humans she's come across where thieves, murderers, rapists or literal human monsters. She made a choice, to live and kill rather than lie down and die.

Then she meets Shaw. In contrast to everything she knows about this new world, he saves her life and takes her to a town where there are decent people. The town's people don't know what it's like to live on the outside alone. Protected by a wall they think they are safe; Prue knows differently.

This is a character driven story. Prue spends a lot of time trying to accept the person she's had to become and find out how that person fits into this town. Early on, she considers leaving, but it really isn't an option, she knows she won't survive on her own for much longer. Despite a lack of social skills and what are obviously symptoms of PTSD, Prue makes the best of her situation and finds herself with a home and surrogate family. She eventually realises that the skills that have kept her alive are exactly what's needed to keep her new home safe.

The early chapters of this book needed more work, but once I got past them, I couldn't put this down. It's a beautiful, very human tale.

7/10

Michelle Bacon says

Best part of this book was it ended. I started to stop reading in the beginning, but the reviews looked good so I plugged away. I don't believe the reviews reflect the true ratings this should have gotten. Sorry this one just didn't do it for me at all. I didn't like it at all.

Lydia Jones says

Firstly, I placed this book on my want Christmas list hoping I'd find a new love for a book. I was intrigued by the Dystopian genre that I have grown fondly of. I honestly, can say I actually enjoyed this book. Maybe Prue's discomfort, childish running away from others began to get irritating, however in the perspective of someone left alone in the wild for 3 years without speaking to anyone or having to go through so many challenges created this new unique dangerous protagonist who only minimally needed a male's help. Her lack of vocabulary was irritating but as you grew to come to terms with who Prue is, you understand and believe her character will become more reliant within meeting Shaw.

Every book needs a male and female lead, Prue met Shaw. Shaw was a masculine character who himself was so similar to Prue with death, family and hidden broken past's. They suited from the start.

I really did enjoy Nicole R. Taylor's take to the Dystopian genre, enhancing out creatures and diseases into the wild and creating something more threatening for society, human's becoming violent as well as mutant living creatures.

Marika says

I like this book, I like the story, but I really love Prue.

I think she is strong and determined, someone you can count on, someone that, even though she prefers to stay by herself, will give everything she has to protect the ones she loves. She survived, all by herself, she faced horrible things and situations and she coped the only way she knew how, yet she still has in her to trust others.

Shaw, well, mostly I liked him, but I considered him important only at one end, for Prue's happiness, but I don't think he is that important for the story per se. I actually think that Hannah's relationship with Prue is way more significant, or Nan's for that matter.

Maybe other people will think that there are parts of this story that should have been better developed, but I like it just the way it is, because the whole point of the story is Prue, what she feels and thinks and how she acts when she has to fight for her life.
