



Wounded Tongue

Garrett Dennert

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The world went dark months ago.

Most chased the light as it went out. Those that stayed now live in fear of their unforgiving world – of the depletion of resources; of the blackout's effects on the environment; of the masked tribes warring over pockets of the new world.

It's only in the aftermath of sudden events that Vitri, a middle-aged scavenger from Waco, Texas, finds himself thrust in motion, eastward, towards family with whom he has no intention of resuming life.

Circumstances force Vitri to cross paths with Reyn, a hearing-impaired orphan also journeying alone. Head and heart tell each to ally, to navigate the obstacles before them and travel east together. But what they discover lies between them soon becomes the largest obstacle of all.

Wounded Tongue Details

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Author : Garrett Dennert

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From Reader Review Wounded Tongue for online ebook

Kioko says

Depressing and hopeless

It took me a very long time to get through this book. I appreciated the writing style. It was very good, even though I'm not a fan of changing perspectives. However, it had a very hopeless quality. That may have been what the author intended, but I prefer a book that has more levels of emotion. This only seemed to have negative and more negative. I don't need a book to have a happy ending--I'm a big fan of Toni Morrison and her books always end badly--I just needed more high points so that I could appreciate the low points.

Dixie Petersen says

Excellent and well written story about a world vastly different after disaster strikes!

The premise was unique, the writing descriptive and the dialogue moved the story along very well. The two main characters, had to constantly adapt to endure this new world of anarchy, chaos and violence. We learn how they have survived and what they have had to do to still be alive! One cannot speak, she cannot scream when accosted, cannot hear anything. The man we meet, despite his flaws, met her when he saw she was being attacked and he fought off her attackers. When he realized how badly injured she was, he found a place for her to recover but had to remain ever vigilant to defend their hiding place. He didn't intend to hang around, though when he learned of her lack of hearing, he felt he could not leave her to continue by herself.

It was truly a unique journey to see how these two people learned to communicate and find a way to work together. They had to constantly be vigilant to respond to new situation at every turn, as the world around them, well, de-evolved, for lack of a better word, into warring factions. Cruelty and violence were at every turn! Definitely, not a world I would like to join -- yet it makes for an excellent read!!!

Lindsay says

I just finished reading this book for the second time, and I probably loved it even more this time around, which is saying A LOT! There were so many things I caught-- subtleties I knew to look for after already having gotten to know the characters-- that I didn't see upon my first read. Exploring the nooks and crannies of Reyn and Vitri was exciting, heartbreaking, and ended up being one of my favorite parts of reading Wounded Tongue.

One of the author's greatest strengths is in writing characters that are truly complex. He never does exactly what you'd expect, and for me, that's what makes them so human and Dennert so good at what he does. Reyn and Vitri are predictable in the way most people can be, but totally unpredictable in a way that provides nuance and speaks to the insanity of their situation.

Dennert is relentless in sticking to the truth of his characters and how they're responding to the world around them. They're both deeply flawed people, who often make mistakes that are honest and often relatable. What

makes the story so compelling is the way in which these two unlikely companions grow and come to understand themselves and their place in the world as their actions and desires begin to become clearer to themselves— often coming as a surprise, as they are in stark contrast to the people they believe themselves to be.

The plot is dark, as you would expect with a post-apocalyptic novel, but Dennert's talent shines in his ability to offer beautiful sections of prose that illustrate the frailty and need in these characters and their relationships with others. Further, he explores traditional coming of age themes, communication (or lack thereof), and what it means to be human and flawed in ways that are unique, subtle, and incredibly moving.

Sarah says

I don't really know where to begin with this one. It just wasn't for me. I'm not sure what the point was. Why were we following Reyn and Vitri around all over the Southern US for so long? Where were they going? What was the plan? *What was the point?*

There is no plot! The two main characters are supposedly going to Florida in this post apocalyptic US with no power. Why are they going there? You'll never know. I think Vitri wanted to kill Carmen but he never even gets close enough to care. Reyn is following Vitri around because she is TSTL. There is nothing redeeming about any of the characters in this book. Everyone is a rapist, and apparently that's OK with Reyn because Vitri is a nicer rapist than most. Gross.

The world building was not good. It's hinted that an asteroid destroyed the world? I think? Or maybe just the US? You're never told if the whole world has gone dark or if it's just the US. You're never told how. Or when. There are just too many questions that go unanswered. The whole book feels half finished.

I gave it two stars because the writing itself wasn't bad. There are sentences in here that are not sentences, but it's a stylistic choice I guess and it worked for this theme. Maybe I missed the point of the rest of it.

Brittney Carmichael says

I enjoyed this book

Chantelle Dixon says

I haven't read much apocalyptic fiction, and what I have read has been mostly YA. (This is definitely not a YA novel!) Wounded Tongue is unabashedly stark and animalistic and grim, and I read it with an increasing sense of *what-the-f**** and intermittent jolts of hope. By the end of the first chapter, I knew there was going to be nothing typical or cookie-cutter about this book. The book centers on a very small period of time after America's collapse, and hyper-focuses on two people trying to travel to a different parts of the country for different motives, and includes flashbacks to their pasts. There are two main characters -- a father in his 30s out for a revenge (Vitri) and a young girl about 14 who is deaf-mute (Reyn) -- and their paths eventually cross. (Who in the heck would've thought to write an apocolyptic novel about a girl who can't hear or speak!? It adds a crazy level of tension knowing that she can't hear any danger (or help) approaching.)

Throwing together a widowed man and a girl just starting to mature on a journey seems like an odd mix at first, because when an unrelated male and female are two main characters, you sort of search for an underlying romance -- but the age gap is so big between them that as you read, you're inherently hoping against it. Is he going to be a father figure? Will she get a crush? And man do things get all twisty.

This book is gritty. Anything and everything is currency, no one can be trusted, and even the best of men can be loathsome. But then, there's that liiiiiittle bit of hope that clings on...
