



The Last Shot

Michael Adams

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I glance at my fellow fugitives in the glow of the fire: black-streaked, white-eyed, faces fearful but fierce. Whoever any of us were a week ago, we've now become people we could never have imagined.

After facing the heartbreaking truth in Shadow Valley, Danby is determined to have her revenge on Jack.

With Jack dead, her little brother Evan and hundreds of other Minions will be free of his control. With Jack dead, she and her friend Nathan will be able to revive thousands more from the millions of catatonic Goners.

But what if she's wrong - about everything?

After Danby confronts Jack on a dying stretch of highway, all of her beliefs are turned inside out. Not only are his feelings for her real, he's working against the clock to save lives and rebuild society. To Danby's horror, it's Nathan who appears to threaten the new order.

With her emotions raging and blood on her hands, Danby has to take a side in a deadly battle that'll decide the future of the world. And as allies become enemies and foes turn into friends, she'll have to embrace methods so dark that the price of survival may be her very soul ...

The Last Shot Details

Date : Published March 2014 by Allen & Unwin

ISBN :

Author : Michael Adams

Format : Paperback 407 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Last Shot for online ebook

Bridgette says

The sequel to the last girl did what no other series has done so far, blew the first one out of the water. It carried on immediately as fast paced as the first and then some.

I found myself racing from the dinner table as politely as I could to carry on reading, talk about reclusive!

Danbys story strengthens as she does with knowledge from what she learns from the intense situation she is in. Her mission to get to her mother and save her brother almost wavers as she gets swayed by Jacks charismatic but manipulative character.

The story twists and turns as she uncovers truths and makes changes to her plan.

Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says

This review appears on Happy Indulgence. Check it out for more reviews!

Actual Rating: 2.5

While The Last Girl explored some interesting concepts of a world connected, The Last Shot ended up being an uninspired and stock standard sequel. Most of the story involves the psychopath Jack and Danby wanting to kill him and then attempting to escape him with some other survivors.

Jack is your typical dictator who is evil and has extreme influence through his insane charisma and leadership. Being a previous stoner and someone who wasn't very respectable, I had no idea what the appeal was for Danby. Witnessing him raise people and manipulate him to do his own deeds was scary. Like a hive mind, he uses all of his minions into gaining knowledge, eating and even sleeping for him.

There wasn't much to the story, I felt like it dragged through most of the 400 page story and ended up skimming the bulk of the book. There's moments where the survivors who are hunted by Jack, try and escape him by travelling through Sydney's rural areas. This mostly involved escaping, sneaking around, locating weapons, pillaging houses and finally locating military weapons, which is something that has been done before. Besides the emotional scenes where they have to put Danby's brother Ethan under, to make sure that Jack doesn't find them through Ethan's mind, the bulk of the book involved a lot of padding and could have been condensed into a more succinct read.

Using medical explanations for the people who didn't get affected by the Snap was an interesting concept, especially when it's set in a relatively present day world. I hope more of this is explored in the last book, especially when it comes to Jack being able to awaken people into a daze that he can control.

Overall, I think The Last Shot was lack lustre and suffered from middle book syndrome. I do hope the final book in the trilogy is more exciting.

Thank you to Allen & Unwin Australia for sending me this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lve2read says

This book left me shocked and terrified long after i'd turned the last page. An epic sequel to the book the Last girl. An amazing, scary, heart pounding apocalypse that takes place and leaves you with your mouth hanging open every time.

Rosalie says

Great sequel to the Last Girl. Look out for the 3rd book in this trilogy in 2015. Another Australian author writing good dystopian YA fiction.

Michelle novelsontherun says

BOOK REVIEW by Michelle 3rd March 2014:

RATING: 4.25 APOCALYPTIC STARS!

Michael Adams really puts the A in apocalypse.

I wrote in my review for The Last Girl that I wanted to read 'more page turning adventure and action' in The Last Shot.

I believe Michael delivered this.

There is shiz going down.

The first hundred plus pages were a more slowed down pace as Michael has us spending time with Danby almost alone, she has Lachie and then Jack enters the picture. Mentally she is spending that time working through her theories. Trying to convince herself of what needs to be done.

Jack became so much more in this book. He is very cleverly written. I had to keep reminding myself of his age because he comes across as such a seasoned villain.

Man, he is manipulative and evil isn't the word because in his mind he truly believes he is doing the right thing. Selecting the right people. He has a bigger picture in his head of the world and how he is going to recreate humanity and who he will allow to participate in it.

He is like a Messiah. A God in a teenagers body.

Quite frightening the influence, power he has over his minions.

Can he be trusted with the words he has for Danby?

“Danby,” he says, “I think you’re the only person who can stop a war that really might finish us all.”

Danby also has an ability to get people to help her with Evan, even though he is slowing them all down, could expose them and he is a type of baggage to be lugged about.

Why would they be invested in Evan?

But they all are. For Danby. So she too has her own influence, but it is for the good of humanity. She doesn’t make the types of decisions Jack does. He is filtering out the remaining humans.

It’s such an unfair playing field with Jack the ultimate puppet master and Danby who has a dwindling motley crew of rebels. I will call them rebels because they are rebelling against Jack.

What saddens me is that the people out there aren’t organized because ego and fear and selfishness and all the other species of silliness are still getting in the way.

My concerns are still that I am not feeling a great loss for the dwindling sub characters. I am still looking for that character connection to the reader that has me feeling emotion for these characters, whether it is anger or sadness.

Jack grabbed me so much more in this book. His villainess side is very well played out. He went from obscurity on the planet to something being bestowed upon him that has immense power and responsibility.

Jack nods. “Right--you’re reading, writing, researching, surfing websites, messaging people, talking on the phone, listening to music and watching videos -- whatever. Point is your brain’s multitasking like a mofo and your fingers and arms and muscles and bones are making it all happen seamlessly. You’re not even aware of them. You hardly thinking about any of it. What I’m doing with my guys is like that. Just bigger. Their brainpower and physical energy accounts for ninety-nine point nine-nine per cent of what needs to be done. The other bit’s me, when it needs to be. Does that make sense?”

Danby is surviving. Just. Her motley crew are putting their lives on the line for this tiny group that want to fight the good fight.

Danby is stronger. In such little time, she has become quite hardened to the life she is living and the lives she must end.

A week ago she wouldn't have been packing a gun.

She has been given no choice.

Kill or be killed.

They are up against an almost impossible to beat villain who has such great resources and mind mojo power.

How do you fight that?

How do you overcome Jack?

Michael really does paint a most vivid picture of an apocalyptic landscape. He won't let you forget the bodies strewn about the place and the decay and rot that comes with it all.

You can almost smell the stench of death. I don't think I have read an apocalyptic read that paints such a vivid image in your mind as you are reading.

This takes work.

But again, I can understand why some authors don't because it slows the story down, but at the same time it feels more real. More in the moment

I am there.

I do like Nathan, but I think I am missing an element from their character's that connect me so I am more invested in their losses and pain. The parts of Nathan I got, I liked. I felt more endeared towards him in this installment.

"I got you a gift." Nathan takes something from his jeans pocket. "Cosmetics."

I laugh when I see he's holding a little round tin of black shoe polish. "seriously?"

"You whiteys will all need it," Nathan says with a laugh.

Nathan had his moments where he said what needed to be said and did what needed to be done, but Danby is the leader. Men twice her age and older are looking to her for answers. Leadership.

"Are you retarded?" Nathan's knuckles are tight around his weapon. My friend is sweet, smart and sensitive but it'd be a mistake to think he's soft. This is the boy I met seconds after he punched a nail through the skull of a maniac attacking me. "Well, are you?"

Alex swallows hard. "No, no, man, it's like --"

"You think we're not scared?" Nathan demands. "That this is something we've done before?"

Michael can paint the destruction of humanity very very well, but those main characters leading us on the adventure, I need to be more invested in them.

I really liked the book part titles.

1. Get Set

2. Ready or Not

3. Here I Come.

This was a great ride with a very clever ending.

O.M.G.

What does this mean?

Creepy. Much.

Michelle

Shaheen says

The Last Shot is the sequel to *The Last Girl*, a brilliant début set in a post-apocalyptic Sydney. *The Last Shot* takes up immediately after the last book, and follows Danby as she makes her way back to Jack, determined to kill him to avenge her mother.

The world as we know it has ended. A week ago, a mysterious event dubbed The Snap instantaneously allowed everyone to read each other's thoughts (inside some radius). People destroyed themselves and each other as their deepest, darkest secrets were broadcast out on the open, and then they became catatonic as their brains shut down, overloaded with information. Danby is one of the rare people who haven't been affected as badly: she can hear other people's thoughts, but doesn't broadcast her own. This gives her a chance of surviving with the help of other survivors such as Nathan, a med-school student, and Jack, a charismatic guy who can bring people back to consciousness, and controls them with his mind.

One of my favourite aspects of the novel is the confusion Danby feels about Jack. She wants to kill him, but proximity to him leads her to second-guess herself and she becomes very conflicted about her decisions. Her hesitancy is sharply contrasted with her attitude in the second half of the book, where she is cold, calculated and ruthless (but also horrified at what life has become for her, and how she's changed). Her character development is astounding, but I think it's also realistic given all the things she's seen and done.

Danby carries this story with her determination to save her brother Ethan and her desire to avenge mother. However, she's not absolutely perfect - she has plenty of selfish thoughts and isn't always proud of her thoughts and actions. What makes Danby awesome is that she pushes through it and doesn't wallow - she embraces all her fears and doubts.

I was very disappointed to leave Nathan behind in the last book - I'd come to love him a little - and I was thrilled that he and Danby are (eventually) reunited in this one. He's also changed since we last saw him, a by-product of the harsh new reality of the world, but all my favourite things about him are still present: he's sweet, gentlemanly, and handles a gun like a boss.

Michael Adams expands his post-apocalyptic world in this book, and we get to see Wiseman's Ferry, the

RAAF base at Richmond, and a few other cool places. I love that I can imagine everything that's happening, because I know all the roads, the landmarks, how things are laid out in relation to everything else.

We also get a few new clues about why Danby, Nathan and a few others don't broadcast their thoughts, and why Jack might have developed the mind-control powers he has. I'm looking forward to finding out more about the science behind the Snap and its aftermath in the next book!

The sophisticated and concise writing style I loved in the last book is used again in *The Last Shot*. It's the perfect way to tell this kind of story because the danger and heart-thumping excitement are ever present, and the emotions of the characters are raw. The story has always focussed on Danby's struggle to simply survive - this isn't a traditional heroic story where the protagonist goes out to save the whole world. Danby's goals are to ensure the safety of her brother and herself, which works because of the first-person narration.

Danby's gripping story continues in *The Last Shot*, and fans of *The Last Girl* shouldn't miss the sequel! I think the story-telling is amazing, the characters awesome, and the plot is great. Here's to the book fairies - I hope I can read the final book in the series soon!

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher for review.
You can read more of my reviews at [Speculating on SpecFic](#) .

Novels On The Run says

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Emily Mead says

PEW PEW PEW. This book is called The Last Shot, but there are many, many shots.

I'm going to be honest: I liked the first one better. It was really different – the world it introduced was unique and something I'd never read about before. In this one, the second book of the series, it got a bit...typical dystopian. There was a lot of hiding, running, darkness and people not turning out to be who they were.

Plus I was kind of confused by the blurb.

Which I know isn't the fault of the author, or the story. But really! I'm not going to go into spoilers, but don't make the blurb so specific if some of it turns out to be wrong later. That's as much as I can say without spoiling it!

Despite those things, I was still really engaged in the story. I wanted Danby to succeed for the sake of her brother, and she's a great lead character still. There's a lot of character development spent on good ol' Danby. She becomes a real leader. I can totally see how she would fall for Jack, and the flaw of being too trusting makes me sad. She has to give up her trust in other people and that to me is the real cause of the apocalypse – everyone turning on each other. I know some reviewers have said that Danby's stupid for trusting Jack, but I see it as a flaw that she overcomes and is stronger for it.

Setting was awesome again. Some of it is set where I live! In the actual place I live! How cool is that??? I could picture everything so much better than usual.

Plus...dat ending. I'd say something more intellectual, but that's all I've got. Really. Mind = blown. Read it just for the ending, I swear.

I would have liked more explanation in this book. There were a few things that seemed really far-fetched, and because they weren't explained, my suspension of disbelief suffered a bit. Although I'm sure more will be explained in the final book.

The writing was, again, superb. Crisp I think is a good word. Sounds weird but it's true! The language was economical and the details were chosen with a lot of care. There wasn't a word that wasn't important to the story. It's not often that I notice the writing rather than the story, but Michael Adams has blown me away with the movie-like precision of his descriptions and incredible storytelling ability.

While this wasn't as good (at least in my opinion) as the first book, I can't wait until the final installment. Often in trilogies the middle book isn't as good as the "bookends," and I hope that's the case for this one! Bring on The Last Place.

Gina - Behind the Pages says

Review: The Last Shot (The Last Trilogy #2) by Michael Adams

See the original review and my interview with Michael Adams on my blog!

Thanks to Allen & Unwin Australia for sending me a copy for review

Completely action packed and leaves you wanting more. This series just keeps getting better.

I really liked this book. The ending literally made this book for me, and I didn't see that coming at all. This whole book was very unexpected for me, I couldn't predict what was going to happen, or what I wanted to happen. Things just changed so quickly that it was hard to keep up. It was a little slow for me and not really gripping me through the beginning and middle. It was only towards the middle of the second part of the book that I really started getting into it, because I kept on thinking that they are going to make it! They're going to really do it! that kept me going.

Danby has really grown up in this book. When we first see her in book one, she was new to this kind of thing, and didn't really know what she was doing. In this second book, the realization from the ending of The Last Girl, has her on a new path and a new goal. She goes from hating Jack, with a passion, then back to loving him again and falling for his tricks, then back to hating him again! She is a bit all over the place for me in this book (especially at the end with Nathan), and it's kinda frustrating. She goes from not knowing how to use a gun properly and shaking and convincing herself that she has to kill Jack, then she turns into some psycho that thinks about the kill first then think later. Yes, she is getting weird. And it was kind of selfish with her about what Alex said about her brother. He's right and I felt frustrated because why is it all about her (other than she is the main character), but she is only thinking about her brother and no one else! Then at the end, when she tells everyone that she is staying behind, she doesn't fight for anyone else safety and just agrees when they said that they are staying. She doesn't even say anything to try to change their

minds, it's like she is looking for the attention and wants everyone to love her. I mean, I love how she has gotten stronger and has grown to suit the circumstances that she is in, but it felt really rushed and made her character seem psychotic (just like Jack wants..... <-- see! he's even convincing us with his mind control mojo)

Anyways..... Jack is a really good character. Even though he is the villain, he is a really really good villain. I haven't seen one like him in a long time that can completely sway peoples emotions (in the book and us readers as well) like he does. He's a character that we literally love to hate, and this series wouldn't be the same without him! and OH!! that ending! I kinda imagined it during the book, but I didn't see that ending coming!!!!!!!! HOLY SHIZ!

I love the setting, mainly because it's close to home for me. I can relate to it so easily and can picture everything in my head. The book is so vivid that there is not one single point that I couldn't visualize what was happening. It kept me going, and made me want to continue reading, even though the book was slow.

From the very beginning of this series, I didn't know what to expect. And even now, finishing the second book and waiting for the finale, I don't know what is going to happen to finish this series. It is so unpredictable, and so refreshing that it completely mixes you up and pulls you through the book. My only faults in this second book, was how slow it was in the beginning-middle and Danby's sudden changes in character. Other than this, this second book is just as good as the first novel in the series, and I can't wait for The Last Place to come out. I have no idea what to think of the ending of this book, as well as what it could lead to, to solve everything and give us a happy ending..... or are we going to get a happy ending? hmmm this book could swing either way and leave us stunned and shocked.

Tanya says

A great series that keeps moving, the story and strength of the characters never wavers. Highly recommend this series, Part 2 of 3 books.

Jade Diamond says

The Last Shot is the sequel to The Last Girl, a brilliant début set in a post-apocalyptic Sydney. The Last Shot takes up immediately after the last book, and follows Danby as she makes her way back to Jack, determined to kill him to avenge her mother.

Set in and around Sydney, Australia, The Last Girl explained how the world ended in a snap and Danby decided to take her little brother, Ethan, and go to her mother's mountain retreat in the nearby Blue Mountains. Along the way she meets Nathan and Jack. Both have plans on how to rebuild the world out of the devastation. Nathan's ideas she agrees with but is not sure how it will work in reality. But Jack's version terrifies her.

[Read Full Review Here](#)

Rachel (The Rest Is Still Unwritten) says

Read in 2014

Thank you to Allen & Unwin for providing me with a copy of this to read and review!

Find this review and more on my blog [The Rest Is Still Unwritten!](#)

The Last Shot is the second book in Michael Adams Last Trilogy and details the next phase in heroine Danby's journey as she continues to battle to survive in the harsh new world formed after The Snap where no one is what they seems and enemies masquerade as friends.

This series is really entertaining to read. Michael Adam's writing is solid and he depicts a powerful dystopian world in turmoil. It's wonderful to find authentic Australian fiction set in our own backyard and featuring genuinely believable and real characters. Fans of John Marsden will appreciate what Adams has done with this story and the authenticity he has put into his story, set in Sydney's west.

Personally I'm impressed with how this story is evolving and Adam's ability to keep me on my toes. Our heroine Danby, for all her good intensions is struggling; struggling to maintain her integrity and some semblance of herself in this harsh and raw world she now finds herself in as she fights for her survival, and of those she loves.

I really liked Michael Adam's ability to keep me questioning things in this book. As Danby goes through the motions of surviving, she also has to question who she can trust and who the enemy really is. After the shocking ending of the first book, The Last Shot starts up with Danby strongly under the impression that Jack is a murderer and the enemy, but throughout the novel there are a number of different events that has her questioning her own paranoia. It was odd seeing things fall into place and appearing to be different than you initially thought; you really began to question things as Danby does.

New and different characters are introduced in this book, as well as ones returning from The Last Girl, both that help and hinder Danby. Friends and allies turn on our heroine as she finds herself on a desperate race to escape her enemy alongside a select group of trusted friends.

Plenty of twists and turns entertain, with it obvious that Michael Adams still has a lot in store for the next book. A shocking, and unexpected ending will leave readers eagerly awaiting the third and final book, The Last Place!

Sally906 says

THE LAST SHOT starts with a gun being aimed and a trigger squeezed. This is not the last shot that the book is named for; but is in fact it is the start of many. If the first book in the series, The Last Girl, was about the horror of the world as we know it ending, then THE LAST SHOT is about the horror of surviving the end of the world. You would think if you were one of a few hundred left alive in the world that you would all work together to survive – but no. As human nature dictates while most people just want to be safe, others want to rule; some will rule wisely and fairly...and then there are the others.

Set in and around Sydney Australia, *The Last Girl* explained how the world ended in a snap and Danby decided to take her little brother, Evan, and go to her mother's mountain retreat in the nearby Blue Mountains. Along the way she meets two very different men, Nathan and Jack. Both have plans on how to rebuild the world out of the devastation. Nathan's ideas she agrees with but is not sure how it will work in reality. But Jack's version terrifies her. *THE LAST SHOT* opens with Danby at her mother's retreat in the Blue Mountains. She thinks that Jack has betrayed her, but her brother's life is under Jack's control to ensure her good behaviour. Danby has no idea where Nathan is but needs to find him, save her brother, and then do something about Jack, not necessarily in that order. For the first couple of chapters Danby spends time thinking through her alternatives, plotting and planning until she decides the answer is to kill Jack. But even that is not straight forward as is she is not sure that he is really as evil, and he does appear to really like her. OK so he is into mind control, in fact what he does is much more than mind control, each person he brings out of the their post-snap vegetative state becomes an extension of him. If one of his 'people' reads a book on how to fly a helicopter – they all know how to fly a helicopter; one learns to plant crops – they all can plant crops. But each is the mind and eyes of Jack; in fact he is the centre of a huge collective mind, a puppet-master if you will, with hundreds of minions that do his bidding without even knowing that they are being controlled. But Jack doesn't believe he is bad, he genuinely believe he is doing the right thing and if he has to slaughter innocent people to achieve his goals then that is what he must sadly do.

'...Jack nods. 'Right--you're reading, writing, researching, surfing websites, messaging people, talking on the phone, listening to music and watching videos -- whatever. Point is your brain's multitasking and your fingers and arms and muscles and bones are making it all happen seamlessly. You're not even aware of them. You're hardly thinking about any of it. What I'm doing with my guys is like that. Just bigger. Their brainpower and physical energy accounts for ninety-nine point nine-nine per cent of what needs to be done. The other bit's me, when it needs to be. Does that make sense?' ..."

THE LAST SHOT follows Danby through the hell that follows once she decides which side to stand on. It has action, drama, horror, anguish and lots and lots of explosions. Michael Adams does not gloss over the horror of apocalyptic scenery. It's there descriptively in your face; there are dead bodies everywhere along with the decay that inevitably follows. Dead decaying people, dead decaying animals, rotting food – BIG Yuk – but so how it would be! After a bloody showdown Danby is on the run with her unconscious brother, the now found Nathan and an ever dwindling posse of escapees. A week ago Danby was a typical teenager, now she and her friends have to be a cold-blooded killers – or be killed.

"...I glance at my fellow fugitives in the glow of the fire: black-streaked, white-eyed, faces fearful but fierce. Whoever any of us were a week ago, we've now become people we could never have imagined..."

The pace starts of slow, as Danby meditates on which course to take then decision made, the pace picks up and then after the showdown the pace just doesn't stop until the very last page; and WOW – what a last page. It is a last page that is a whole year away from being concluded. A last page that has my mind whirling with possible scenarios and wondering what is really going to happen. A wonderful, wonderful cliff hanging ending that had me screaming with the unfairness of it all – one of the best I have ever come across, if there was a literary prize for great endings this would win it hands down! It's only ten months now until 2015 and the release of *The Last Place* the final book in the trilogy. I can't wait, I will wonder, I will ponder and I will have no idea which way Michael Adams is going to jump with the ending of the final book – will there be a happy ending – or not? Will the readers be left stunned, amazed and not a little shocked? I guess all will be revealed. I could not put *THE LAST SHOT* down less than 24 hours after getting my hot little hands on it I had finished it. I laughed, I cried, I gasped in horror, I recoiled in disgust, and jumped in genuine fright. By the time I got to the end I knew that once again I'd been in the hands of a master storyteller and I just did not want to be released.

With thanks to Allen & Unwin and the author for this copy to read and review.

Alice says

Thought this was great - come on 2015 release of book 3! (better be early in the year!)

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

This, is how you create an Australian, young adult, post apocalyptic series. Move over John Marsden, there's a new kid in town.

<http://www.divabooknerd.com/2014/02/t...>

The Last Shot was phenomenal, and most of you would know that I rarely find myself giddy over a book, or a series for that matter. This is the immaculate example of brilliant Australian post apocalyptic, which leads me to draw the comparison with John Marsden's Tomorrow series. But unlike John Marsden, Michael Adams has built on the success of The Last Girl and has produced a brilliant second installment. Danby is the reluctant hero, she isn't a fighter, and up until a week ago, she was simply another teen living with her father, flighty stepmother and half brother Evan. It's incredible what can change in only seven days.

Jack is the ultimate anti villain. He's seemingly warm and sensitive, but simmering just under the surface, he's ruthless and cold. He's the sexy, deranged godly figure that holds humanity in his hands. His influential power drives him to the point of being a madman. Although Jack has the potential to destroy, his feelings for Danby seem genuine. I found myself completely invested in Jack's character, so much more so than Nathan. I can understand how Danby is feeling so torn, I switch between loving his character and loathing him.

The Last Girl was incredible, but this one will blow your socks clean off your feet. Most readers will draw the same comparison to the John Marsden series, but realistically, the two couldn't be more different. The Last Girl series is far superior, and the author has created the ultimate Australian post apocalyptic that will appeal to a far greater audience than simple young adult fans. It's authors such as Michael Adams that have bred new life into Aussie young adult, fresh storylines, brilliantly crafted characters and an epic cliffhanger that completely wiped the smile off my face. This man can write a heart stopping ending like nobody's business.

Well played Mr Adams. Well played.
