

Gone Book Review by Sienna

Imagine a world with no adults. Sounds pretty fun for a little while, right? Now imagine having no farmers, doctors, firefighters, cops, or babysitters. Surely, pandemonium will break out. And that is exactly the situation Sam Temple and the other children of Perdido Beach are in.

During a normal day in school, every teacher and student over 15 suddenly disappears. If that isn't enough, an indestructible dome is trapping all of them in their town. Panic rises as everyone realizes that the adults are truly gone. Most kids don't know what to do with themselves. Some pets, toddlers, and babies are even forgotten. But soon, bullies and thugs take over, which only leads to more chaos. The kids need a true leader.

Sam, with the encouragement of some friends, discovers that everyone wants him to take control. They already view him as superior. But he doesn't think he has the right leadership qualities to step up. The responsibility of the whole city burdens him, and he ends up taking too long.

Caine Soren, a student from an academy just outside Perdido Beach, is looking to become a king. While Sam is still stuck, he swoops in and gains the respect and admiration of the kids in Perdido Beach. With help from other students from his school, he declares himself mayor. All of the kids, who are looking for someone to lead them, immediately trust him. But, there's something suspicious hiding behind his kind facade.

Meanwhile, some people begin to gain superpowers while others stay the same. Getting a cool ability like telepathy and teleportation sounds pretty awesome. But the kids without powers see them as mutants, a threat. The citizens of Perdido Beach divide between "freaks" and "normal" people. There's so much going on, so much to be worried about, but everyone is still afraid of the differences and unquities between them more than anything else.

Their world is different now. The kids who used to be nobodies find their place. Popularity comes to whoever decides to take action, not who looks the best. But while the kids are focused on everything else, a rumor surfaces that something sinister lurks in the darkness.

I liked how the author incorporated real-life problems into this dystopian, paranormal thriller. Issues like racism are dealt with realistically. I also like how complex and realistic the characters are. Their choices and characteristics were consistent throughout the book. I felt like I could truly relate to them despite the amount of sci-fi elements. The setting, Perdido Beach, is also familiar as it's supposed to be in southern California. It was also fun for me to imagine what it would be like if I were in their situation.

If you continue to read this series, it can get a little violent, so I wouldn't recommend it for the faint of heart. But that is really the only problem I had with this book.

This book also conveys a deeper message that people will stand up for what they believe in when they need to. An example is when Sam steps up against Caine because he doesn't agree with the cold-blooded way he rules things. Another message is that people are scared of differences. Simple unquities repulsed them when they could have been used to an advantage. These undertones make the story more meaningful.

For these reasons, I truly recommend this book!