



Dead Water Zone

By Kenneth Oppel

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For as long as he can remember, Paul has looked after his younger, weaker brother Sam. But when Sam leaves home to work as a research assistant in Watertown, he disappears into the dark folds of the city's noxious slum. When Paul goes looking for Sam in Watertown, he learns a dark secret: something in the water is changing the residents of Watertown, transforming them into something inhuman. But can Paul reach Sam before the dark waters get to him first?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Plenty of action, a pinch of romance and such up-to-date topics as pollution and computer-hacking speed along this futuristic thriller. In search of his runaway younger brother, athletic Paul leaves his tidy suburban home to plunge into the murky slum called Watertown. Various events lead Paul to believe that his missing brother is caught in something very strange indeed, something that has to do with the potent waters surrounding the shantytown. Watertown proves a magnificently eerie setting--so much so that it tends to upstage the novel's plot and its characters, both of which seem rather thin and unoriginal in comparison. Although it does not offer readers challenges on a level with those found in, say, Peter Dickinson's *Eva*, this fast-paced adventure contains plenty to enjoy. Ages 12-up.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A well-realized world of rotting docks and ramshackle buildings on the shore of a polluted lake forms the setting for this haunting character study. Summoned by his brilliant but frail brother Sam, Paul leaves his comfortable suburban neighborhood for unsavory Watertown--and finds that both he and his brother are being hunted by the quasi-legal Cityweb: Sam has discovered a mutated microorganism in the lake that, though eventually toxic, greatly enhances physical ability. But despite plenty of danger, narrow scrapes, and a lurid, violent climax, outward events seem almost incidental compared to Paul's inner struggles. Once complacent in his role as protective older brother, he's angry to see Sam growing up and away from him and racked by guilt to feel so; his turmoil increases when he meets a new Sam--preternaturally fast and strong, exultantly freed from his former metabolic disorder. Oppel explores the brothers' dependent love-hate relationship with some sensitivity, though the confessional tone gets heavy at times. Glamorous but deadly, the microorganism is like a drug, so the story can be read on that level, too; indeed, Oppel adds a subplot involving a streetwise young Watertowner searching for her lake water-addicted mother. A thoughtful story with an unusual combination of ingredients. (Fiction. 12+) -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

About the Author

KENNETH OPPEL is the Governor General's Award-winning author of the *Airborn* series and the *Silverwing Saga*, which has sold over a million copies worldwide. His most recent novels are *The Boundless* and *The Nest*. Twice nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, he lives in Toronto with his wife and three children.

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Users Review

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Roy Stoudt:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with close friends is a thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why don't you try a thing that is really opposite from that. Just one activity that makes you not feel tired but still relaxing, thrilling like on a roller coaster you already been ride on and with additional details. Even you love Dead Water Zone, you may enjoy both. It is a great combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Marvin Davidson:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this Dead Water Zone publication written by a well-known writer we are excited for well how to make a book that could be understood by anyone who has read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaving every idea and producing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still doubt Dead Water Zone as a good book not merely by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't ascertain a book by its cover, so do you still need yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why do you have to listen to yet another sixth sense.

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