

Those That Wake

By Jesse Karp



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New York City's spirit has been crushed. People walk the streets with their heads down, withdrawing from one another and into the cold comfort of technology. Teenagers Mal and Laura have grown up in this reality. They've never met. Seemingly, they never will.

But on the same day Mal learns his brother has disappeared, Laura discovers her parents have forgotten her. Both begin a search for their families that leads them to the same truth: someone or something has wiped the teens from the memories of every person they have ever known. Thrown together, Mal and Laura must find common ground as they attempt to reclaim their pasts.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A Note from the Author



Dear Amazon Readers,

They tell me that *Those That Wake* is science fiction. I can certainly live with that; I have a great love for that genre and whole-heartedly embrace its possibilities. But the truth is, that's not really what I set out to write. I was trying to tell a scary story, something eerie and uncomfortable. Horror, if you will. Not horror in the classical sense, because I've got to admit that classic horror doesn't scare me that much. While a madman with a knife would, I am sure, terrify me if I ever actually encountered one, I have experienced them so many times in books and films that they have somewhat lost their sense of threat. Vampires have become so iconic that their lurking menace feels all but gone for me. I guess what I'm saying is that horror standards just don't appeal to my sense of fear.

Here's what does scare me: that the world doesn't work the way you think it does; that the terrible thing you always thought was impossible turns out to be true; that dark forces you can never see or name actually control your life; that the people you count on the most cannot, or *will* not, help you. That's the book I set out to write.

This certainly has precedent in science fiction. Philp K. Dick leaps immediately to mind. William Sleator's *House of Stairs*, a powerful book in that style, was pivotal in my reading life. Movies like *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and the lesser known but also incredible *Seconds* are ideal examples. So if you want to call it science fiction, that's okay by me. Like good science fiction, my wish would be that you find its subtext worth considering, too.

But I do hope it scares you, at least a little.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeremy Reed:

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