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Foreverland Boxed: A Science Fiction Thriller



Synopsis

All of Foreverland in one box... save 33%. THE ANNIHILATION OF FOREVERLAND When kids awake on an island, they're told there was an accident. Before they can go home, they will visit Foreverland, an alternate reality that will heal their minds. FOREVERLAND IS DEAD Six teenage girls wake with no memories. One of them is in a brick mansion, her blonde hair as shiny as her shoes. The others are in a cabin, their names tagged to the inside of their pants. Their heads, shaved. Slashes mark the cabin wall like someone has been counting. Hundreds of them. ASHES OF FOREVERLAND Tyler Ballard was in prison when his son created a dreamworld called Foreverland, a place so boundless and spellbinding that no one ever wanted to leave. Or did. Now his son is dead, his wife is comatose and Tyler is still imprisoned. But he planned it that way. INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR HOW IMPORTANT ARE NAMES TO YOU IN THIS BOOK. DID YOU CHOOSE THEM BASED ON SOUND OR MEANING? Almost all of my books have names with special meaning, some foreshadowing a big twist. In The Annihilation of Foreverland, Reed's name was symbolic of his ability to tolerate suffering, bending in the face of gale forces but never breaking. WHERE DOES YOUR TOMORROW SPRING FROM? IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE CRAZY WORLD? Sometimes, I can't remember how the story started by the time I get to the end. The Annihilation of Foreverland started with the premise of identity. I wanted to write it as a YA book in the science fiction dystopia genre in a way that slowly unfolded as well as questioned who we are and explore our fear of death, and what we're willing to do to avoid it. Like all of my stories, it does have a romantic angle mixed into the action. Because it should. GIVE YOUR BOOK THE BECHDEL TEST. IT HAS TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO (NAMED) WOMEN IN IT WHO TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT SOMETHING BESIDES A MAN. I failed because there's only one female in The Annihilation of Foreverland. However, the young adult sequel (Foreverland is Dead) passes with flying colors since its mostly female characters that rarely talk about men. WHAT SORT OF BODY COUNT ARE WE TALKING HERE? The bodies die, but not necessarily the characters. Chew on that a second. DO YOU WANT YOUR TOMORROW TO MAKE IT BIG, AS IN JK ROWLING'S-BIG? WHY OR WHY NOT? Believe it or not, no. Don't get me wrong, I'd like to make enough cash to pay off this house and send my kids to college, but I'll pass on fame and fortune. Anonymity is a blessing. YOU CAST YOUR CHARACTERS FOR A MOVIE. WHO MAKES IT? In The Annihilation of Foreverland, I only casted two characters in my head while I was writing it. The Director is Jeff Bridges and Mr. Jones is Anthony Hopkins. It was like watching a movie as I wrote. HAVE YOU WRITTEN IN ANY OTHER GENRES BESIDES YA DYSTOPIAN? WHAT DREW YOU TO YOU THIS GENRE? I've been fascinated by

consciousness, identity and what this all means since I was young. I would read my grandfather's science fiction books with elements of artificial intelligence and alternate realities and wonder what happened when they died? I suppose that's why all of my writing deals with the big mysteries of life in one way or another. In a way, I write for my own exploration, in a sort of thought experiment approach, pulling apart our identities, exploring what makes us who we are. If I lost my memories, would I still be me? If I had my body parts replaced with synthetic replications, at what point would I not be me? Do I even need a body? What am I? A few years ago, I figured I'd write a romance novel. Since all of my books have a romantic element, I thought it would be fun. Halfway through the novel, I found myself thinking more and more about the next project—a dystopian idea. So 40,000 words in, I scrapped the romance novel and got back to what I love. Science fiction.

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Customer Reviews

It's not often that you can buy 3 great books in a boxed set for such a small price. I had already bought the first book when I saw the trilogy. I wasn't aware that it was just the first of three books in

the same story. Same but different. It's a continuation of the Virtual Reality created in ForeverLand, and continued in ForeverLand is Dead and finally completed in Ashes. Of the three books, Ashes is my favorite. I had a lot of questions after each of the first two books. Who were the kids that lived and what happened to the ones who didn't. Ashes tied up loose ends for me. I found the bad guys and the good guys and how, sometimes, it was hard to tell the difference. Maybe Science was the bad guy. And the good guy. Would it be better to control Science? Who gets to be the controller? Who watches the Watchman? These are questions that you will have to answer after you read the books. The answers don't come easy. But we wouldn't want it any other way. Is life in Virtual Reality real? If it feels real, it must be real. Maybe. Another great read by Bertauski. Not my first and hopefully, never my last.

I am not a young adult by any means, but I liked the books very much. Some critics say it was predictable but I would beg to differ. The second book really took me off guard with its final twist. I thought the characters could have been fleshed out just a tad more. Very different storyline. Kind of reminded me of the Matrix but yet it was very different. I have recommended these books to my friends and I hope they will take the time to read them. Get the book, give it a chance for a couple of hours, if it doesn't captivate your attention, bid it farewell and good a future.

I purchased all these books separately and read them one at a time. It was agonizing to wait between each book! Frankly, I'm kind of jealous that folks today can just pick them all up and read them all in a row. Mark some days off your calendar because this story will suck you in. This is one of those incredibly unique science fiction stories that is loaded with twists and turns that you won't see coming. I won't write a full synopsis because I couldn't do it without revealing spoilers, so instead I will just say that book one is about the boys island, book two is about the girls island, and book three merges the two story lines into one wickedly devious finale. Pick up this box, clear your schedule, and settle into your most comfortable chair. You will love this series of books.

Foreverland is a psychic roller coaster. I read the first one and then bought the trilogy. I am sure I will read it again. Each book is enjoyable on its own, but they all directly tie together. Imagine a world where you can get everything you ever wanted but you have to give up your body. This novel examines the ethics of good and evil and is thick with surprises. This is one of the best reads for me this year. It held my attention completely. At some times it was confusing but the prose was amazing. I can't wait to read Bertauski's next novel.

The Foreverland series is a smartly written near-future thriller/dystopian. In the first two books, we have a different set of protagonists (the boys in the first book, the girls in the second) and by the third book, it all comes together beautifully. The writing is consistent throughout the series and there are enough twists, turns, and developments to keep readers invested through each book. Unlike so many YA dystopian, the story doesn't fall apart by the end and we aren't tortured with soppy romances. This is a lean action/thriller/sci fi with very relevant topics and one I highly recommend.

When I began reading the first book in my "Foreverland Boxed" set, "Annihilation," I caught the experiment-island vibe right away. Something nasty is happening in this beautiful setting. The boys on the island, recently joined by Danny Boy, are kept focused on pleasure: playing video games and sports, eating plenty of healthy delicious food, enjoying an easy bonhomie (underlain by hints of bullying) from their comrades, and ducking the obsessive (if mostly hands-off) interest of their elderly sponsors. Periodically, though, the boys undergo ritualistic torture to free their minds for "Foreverland," where undisciplined revelry is expected, and the boys can acquire any superpower their imagination can conceive. These boys would gladly go to Foreverland without it; why is the torture necessary? Who is the red-haired girl living only in Foreverland? Who are the sponsors, and why is each paired with a boy in such a creepy and unwholesome way? And what lives in the sinister gray fog that seems to form the boundary of Foreverland? In showing the boys' focus on pleasure and undisciplined power, this story reminded me strongly of another fictional island you may remember. In the Italian novel, Pinocchio is lured to the *Land of Toys* by the promise of endless fun. The Disney film renamed it "Pleasure Island," making its island nature more obvious. I recall being appalled as a child by the vicious naughtiness of the boys who were choosing to become beasts of burden on Pleasure Island, and caught that allusion to a "Lord of the Flies" degeneracy of young boys unleashed from any adult discipline in Bertauski's Annihilation. Interesting in this context, a later Italian film renames Pinocchio's island yet again: *Fun Forever Land*. Perhaps Bertauski has seen that movie.

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