



Taken

Zia Marie

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"Lately, I think you've forgotten which side you're on," he says to me. Instead of responding, I smile. I know exactly which side I'm on. Whichever one gets me the hell out of this place.

* * * *

All Jackson Smith wanted to do was take his little sister Aubrey to a county fair, but they ended up in the town of Wicker Farm, a place that doesn't even exist on Earth as he knows it. Run by the ambitious and diabolical Governor Richards, Wicker Farm is in the process of rebuilding following a disease that wiped out most of the population of the state. Anyone who ends up there is expected to stay forever.

With the governor's forces everywhere, escape seems impossible-- not that Jackson can even begin to figure out how to escape. That is, until he forms an uneasy alliance with Russell Tremell, the young leader of The Resistance, the rebel group that opposes the governor.

If Jackson can lead two lives, moving up the ranks as the perfect Wicker Farm resident while working for The Resistance, he may be the key to getting everyone out. This means bringing the danger even closer, from Richards' security officers and from the temptations that Wicker Farm offers: the type of life he never would have had access to in his world.

But after finding himself torn between Charlie, the Resistance wild child, and Sasha, Governor Richards' daughter, the real danger could come from the unlikeliest source-- from falling in love.

The first book in the YA sci-fi/dystopian adventure, The Taken Trilogy. "Lost," the second book, is scheduled for a December 2011 release.

Taken Details

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From Reader Review Taken for online ebook

Holly says

5 stars

Synopsis

While taking his little sister Aubrey to a fair in a nearby town, 17 yr old Jackson finds himself lost. He stumbles into a town that at first seems deserted, and then suddenly bristling with life. And the people of the strange town soon make it clear that leaving is not an option.

Thoughts

After winning a copy of this book through LibraryThing.com, I had initially sat down to read the first chapter or two just to get a feel for the story. The next thing I knew, it was 2 hours later, and I hadn't moved or looked away from the book once in that time.

This book completely blew me away. The story line was fast paced, the characters were well developed and relateable. The entire book felt like a really awesome episode of The Twilight Zone...which in my world is a **very** good thing.

Bottom Line

Hands down the best dystopian novel I have ever read. I can't wait to get my hands on the 2nd book in the series, *Lost*.

My YT Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Bookgasmic>

My blog: <http://ravingbookaddict.blogspot.com/>

Stephanie Miles says

I liked the plot of this book. There were quite a few grammatical and spelling errors, things like that, but if you can look past them this books okay. It's engaging and the characters are likeable. So if you're someone who's going to cringe every time something grammatical comes up, I'd run far away from this book. But if you can look past that, and like the whole dystopian thing (I can't lie, I totally dig the Dystopia books) then this book is definitely worth giving a shot. It's a fun, easy, read and I look forward to the next book.

Selma says

i want to read this book !! omg ;)

Amy says

Meh...

Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says

I liked the idea behind the story, that there is this mysterious town that Jackson and his sister Aubrey end up in accidentally when going for a drive one day, but they get trapped there. There is this whole idea behind the story is that this is a better place than their home or a dangerous town that they must get out of as soon as possible. The only thing is..how? They seem to have traveled through a portal into another world. There has been a recent loss of several of the townspeople and they have opened the portal to repopulate. Once you cross over, you cannot go back. There is also a resistance group of rebels in the town that Jackson forms an alliance with, but ends up falling for the Governor's daughter and torn on what to do.

I had a friend recommend this book to me, she referred to it as a Twilight Zone feel to it, and I couldn't agree more. That is exactly the feel you get from this book.

There were a few times that the pacing of the story and the unraveling of mystery dropped in intensity. I kept wanting to see huge fight scenes, escaping and running for your life kind of stuff, but it was more of a slower unraveling and getting to know several characters in the town on more personal levels than a high paced story. Jackson is an intelligent guy and I loved his sister as well. I am not a big fan of romance, sometimes it takes away from the story and the pacing in my opinion. But in this story the romantic aspect is a big part of the plot, will Jackson choose to get him and Aubrey back home or will he choose to stay?

Andrea says

When I started Taken, I wasn't quite sure what I was diving into. Yes, I read the synopsis. But, I just wasn't sure what the book was. YA? YA Science Fiction? Psychological Thriller? Love Story? The answer. Yes, to all the above. Taken is a YA novel with some sci-fi, a lot of psychological thrills and a whole lot of love.

Taken opens in Wynn, USA, with Jackson and Aubrey. Jackson is a teenage boy who is more of a parent to little sister Aubrey than his needy, neglectful mom can ever be. When Jackson and Aubrey end up in Wicker Farm due to a portal to another dimension (hence, the sci-fi twist), the psychological aspect of the story begins. Children are being brought into Wicker Farm to repopulate after disease decimates most of the population. Imagine, just try to imagine, being taken away from your life. Not only your life, your Earth. The terror Jackson experiences at that realization is petrifying. And although he remains calm on the outside, the panic inside is chilling.

Once inside Wicker Farm, Jackson is torn by Russell, a Resistance leader, and Sasha, daughter of the head of Wicker Farm. Russell wants to bring down Wicker Farm, and enlists Jackson's help. Jackson is also drawn to Sasha, whom he wants to hate but can't help admiring because of her kindness to his sister. Once he gets to know her, Sasha becomes someone he can't resist. How can he be with her while trying to bring down her father behind her back? Will he use her for his own gain?

Although I initially had reservations about him, Jackson became a character I adore. The narrative, entirely from his perspective, almost seemed like that of a detached observer. But, and I might be reading entirely too

much into this, I felt as if the seeming aloofness was a smart move by the author. I thought that she used that to make Jackson seem as if he were trying to spare himself from the pain of being too close to the events unfolding. The moments where Jackson seems to feel what he's relaying are more striking because of the detachment he has shown at other times. Because as the story moves along, and Jackson opens himself to Sasha, and when you see the love he feels for Aubrey, the rawness of his emotions is beautiful. And if this was the strategy, it was brilliant. Like I said, maybe I delved too deep into this thought...

The ironic thing about Taken is, Jackson and Aubrey's lives are much better at Wicker Farm than on Earth. They have a guardian who seems to genuinely care for them. Jackson has a career he would never have otherwise. Aubrey is a happier, more well-adjusted girl. And they have Sasha. But can you be truly happy with a life you didn't choose? Will he give up his true home for true love?

I won't answer that question. What I will say, the ending was fantastic. I didn't see the twist coming. At all. I can't wait to read the next book in the series, Lost.

Faye says

Really enjoyed this book, a definite touch of the Twilight Zone at the start. An interesting twist to a sci-fi storyline. Can't wait for Lost

Tona says

This book was a new style for me. I loved it and I hope the story continues on.

Jackson and Aubs are brother and sister. When Jackson takes Aubs on a trip to the fair they end up in a parallel universe. One that was ravaged of its people due to disease. So the survivors of this universe decide to build a machine that would bring people to them to rebuild their population. Jackson has spent the last year trying to get Aubs and their family back together. With a selfish mother, an absent father and a new lazy stepfather, Aubs is thriving in this new universe. She is happy and is making friends, Jackson is torn between Aubs happiness and the wanting to go home. Eventually Jackson becomes more torn when he meets Sasha. The woman from this new universe and the reason to stay.

I would love to know what happened to Aubs and Sasha. Also of course what happens now with Jackson. I can't wait.

Kerri says

"Taken" grabbed my attention right from the first page. With a very unique and imaginative story-line, this book was a very pleasant surprise. I am not crazy about the cover. It does not do this psychological, Sci-fi

justice.

Jackson is a mature 17-year-old boy who decides to drive his younger sister Aubrey to a fair three hours away in Brock County. But somehow they wind up lost and find themselves in a little town called Wicker Farm. The strange thing is that when they try to leave Wicker Farm, they can't find a way out. They come to realize that they have been brought through some sort of complicated portal into another dimension in order to repopulate the town of Wicker Farm which had been previously decimated by a killer disease. Jackson learns that he is not the only one who wants to find his way back home - there is a large group of rebels, known as the Resistance who refuse to follow the rules.

I liked that the narrator was a strong male character for a change. Too often it is the females that get the strong lead. Of course there is the usual love triangle, as Jackson is fascinated by bad girl Charlie who is part of the Resistance and is instantly repelled by good girl Sasha who is the mayor of Wicker Farm's daughter.

I liked the mystery and suspense but at times it felt like Jackson accomplished his spying a little too easily. I did enjoy the twisty ending though and look forward to the next book in the series which will be called "Lost" and should be out soon.

Andi says

It started out promising, but then just became a jumbled mess toward the end. Also, there were so many type-o's and grammatical errors, it became distracting.
