



this I know - Sarah's Confession

Reba Ponder Weiss

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A recluse emerges from the backwoods on the eve of his son's romantic, southern wedding. Dinner spirals into chaos when the self-proclaimed prophet announces he hears spiritual messages straight from God. The voices tell him to prepare the way for the end of the world. His disturbing words find foothold in undeniable facts as disbelief dissolves into terror. Those who gathered to celebrate are suddenly faced with an unthinkable dilemma. They must follow him into a remote, secret sanctuary, prepared exclusively for survival... or they can die. As apocalyptic events begin to unfold, the ancient battle of darkness and light quickly becomes a modern reality.

this I know - Sarah's Confession Details

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Jaden says

This was an interesting read, and I did like it overall... However it had a LOT of spelling and typographic errors which kind of drew away from the content of the novel. I liked the way she explored survival after a catastrophic world event, and the characters were pretty well fleshed out- I was able to keep track of who was who, even though there were over 30 somewhat central characters. I did enjoy most of it. There was a definite religious undertone in the novel, and I found the ending to be a little bit abrupt.

My biggest complaint is the errors. There were multiple places where quotations were misused or placed in the wrong spot, commas being used incorrectly and spelling errors. For a novel to make it to print this way was somewhat shocking.

Tricia says

Wow! I thoroughly enjoyed this book and it's the best thing I've read in awhile. It is technically Christian fiction (not a genre I typically read) but not overtly religious, pushy or cheesy. It's a post-apocalyptic book that involves several families who miss the rapture and unite to take refuge in a cave at the beginning of the end of the world. What follows is touching, amazing and horrific. They become survivalists and form their own government and rules, as well as pecking order. Somewhat hard to explain without spoiling it. It reminds me of the TV shows Lost and Survivor in a sense. Very likable characters and realistic family relationships. It WAS a bit difficult to keep up with all the different characters and who belonged to which family, but a large number of people/characters were necessary in order to keep the Earth's population growing. The diagrams if the family tree were both very helpful and beautiful, and I had everyone straight after a few chapters.

I'm about to start the sequel and find out what awaits this group's descendants outside the cave the originals were trapped in for 75 years. This book is fantastic. Written by a woman from the city I live in (who now lives in NY), she makes mention of Cullman and surrounding landmarks. A great read!

J. Luis Licea says

This book starts with Sarah, who I guessed would be the main character in the story. Everyone in her family is preparing for this wedding. I thought, great, let's meet the family.

I regretted meeting the family. There were a lot, a lot of characters. I've learned from books that I shouldn't focus too much on many of them, since they eventually exit the picture. If the narrator does a good job describing them, they become strong, multidimensional, and finally, those characters that left the story stay in the mind of the reader because they did the job and became memorable.

Not here. Many, many of the characters were introduced with a very unnecessary description, and then the story moved on. It left me asking, "why all the info if it would be no use for them, or for me to know?"

I ignored many of the characters and moved on. The first chapters are about the wedding. But soon everything turns into a chaos. There is this earthquake and they see on TV what is going on around the country. This part I liked and enjoyed to certain extend, because the writer did an awesome job at researching. The information told wasn't full of details, but it sounded genuine and believable.

There is this character, the evil one of the story, Clyde, who takes all the people he can take to this cave, which he knows too well. There, he tells them they will be saved from the fire that is coming their way.

They eventually get to the cave and there is this scene that I truly enjoyed. It wasn't an amazing scene, but it had that tone of apocalypses. The fire coming, the smoke, panic in the air, animals coming and crashing and running everywhere. It was one of those chapters with "moments." My favorite chapter, for sure.

In the cave, Clyde becomes even creepier. He is a very, very interesting character. He isn't a character that is explored, but many of the things he does are well-thought. For example, he has a generation in the cave, and they have light! Obviously, since he had been working on that cave for a long time, preparing it for an even like such.

What began to bother me when they were in the cave was the thinking and race for survival. Great, they're in the cave, now what? Oh, they can't get out. How and why, you must read! But, there were the details of survival that bothered me immensely.

Once in the cave, Nathan, another character, is eating this salad, and suddenly he gets the idea to save the seeds to plant them! Now, I'm thinking, they had been inside the cave for a few days, **WHERE DOES HE GET THE IDEA OF PLANTING SEEDS?** How long is he planning to stay in the cave to think such thing? They find a lake with clean water, and ironically, they stay in the cave for 8 months; the seeds grown.

Food. Guess what? They eat each other. Understandable, the narrator did an amazing job at telling me the reasons why this needed to happen. Clyde was in charge of, well, processing the meat of the dead ones. The problem was that they only ate three people.

I liked the story; there was something going to happen; I wanted to know. Then I was told at the beginning of a new chapter that they had been in the cave for 2 years. Wait, two years? How did? I mean? Two? How? When? Two years? They only ate three humans. Two years is a very, very long time.

Okay, more creepy things began to happen, we finally see more of Sarah, discover her dark secrets, and see a dark side of her. We also begin to wonder what in the world is going on with Clyde. After all, he was the one keeping everyone alive, everything under control, and everyone under his wing. I thought he was plain crazy. There are things he does and thinks about that do not make sense at all, which explains all his evil and cruel. And crazy.

The ending was very amazingly done, but there was no true shock, nothing that could make you gasp and turn the page as you tried to breathe. I liked it, and was everything it needed to be. It left a lot of holes and questions unanswered, but overall it was done well, told well, and planted new hope for the group of people that survived.

(Originally posted on my blog: <http://jllicea.blogspot.com/2013/03/t...>)

Christine says

I'm surprised how much I enjoyed this book. If I had known what it was really about, I probably wouldn't have read it, and that would be my loss.

I download several free books a day, so by the time I get around to reading some, I don't even recall why I downloaded them, and just decide what to read next by the title, cover, etc. Imagine my surprise! LOL

I also LOATHE religious books, but didn't find this one to be "religious" as other reviewers said. Morality, yes, but religious? (Then again, I did skip right over any passages.) Throughout, there was the question of whether or not the direction was truly coming from God.

Anyway, I enjoyed this enough to lift my prior ban on post Apocalyptic novels. I do agree that the writing, especially punctuation, could have been a lot better. The story was captivating enough for me to stop noticing as much, though. Biggest complaint along those lines - if the author is going to overuse a word like "ironically" as much as she did, someone really should explain to her what the word means.

Joseph says

Reba Ponder Weiss
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I really enjoyed reading this wonderfully written book. Reba's descriptive writing style is what brings "Life" to this story. I was immediately drawn in right from the beginning. The strong but fragile mother Nola, sitting around the table in the early morning with her three loving daughters. From this point on, I felt as if I was there. Sitting somewhere in the room with my own cup of coffee...staring out the window at the beautiful picture the author (Reba) had just painted in my mind only a few sentences earlier. Yes, I was there...staring out the window while the conversation continued on.... This is the feeling I had throughout the book. You can relate to the characters and the struggles they faced, some more than others. I have to say that "captain" was definitely one of my favorites. He wasn't a major character, but he WAS a character indeed. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is tired of the same old "cookie cutter" novels that just don't get it done. Job well done!!

Liz Keegans says

Not really my kinda read but I enjoyed most of the book. I was disappointed in the ending.

Deborah says

one of the best books I have read in year!! could not put it down!!!

emily k stephens says

Outstanding. Fabulous. Riveting.

I chose this rating because there were only 5 stars allowed. I have read Ted Decker and many other similar authors. never have I enjoyed the writing as much. I am about to read a sequel. Cannot wait. feel like I am waiting for another thrill ride. this book was free. best money I never spent. I am sure there are those less enthusiastic. To each his own.

try it I believe you will like it. It drops from the clouds like a tornado. It is like a Ferris wheel stalled at intervals. Rises with terror and stalls to take a breather. Shall remember you Reba Ponder Weiss. Thank You.

Gabrielle Poplar says

Exciting Read

A family gathered for a wedding in the South, and like most large families, individuals representing the broad sphere of filial relationships were ably represented in the author's depiction of the events. The vibrant young, the cultured and sophisticated middle aged, and the respectable old. Add to that the inconvenient preacher uncle and the loony relative.

The day of the wedding, the world came to an end, and the loony relative had all the answers and plans for survival.

The book takes one on a journey we all hope never to participate in, but we still wonder in our hearts, **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WORLD ENDS?**

The answer to that question, I found in the pages of this book, and it simply boils down to this, **YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THERE**. If the world comes to an end don't follow a loony relative.

I read it through in a night, I couldn't put it down till I reached the end. In all, it is a well written story.

Wendy says

One of my favorite books!

Sue says

As an avid reader for many years, it is hard for an author to surprise me, even in the plots of many mysteries. I so enjoyed the surprises in this unusual story. This book and the way the author pulled me through the story was well done and the unusual plot unfolded in a compelling manner.

While there were a few moments where I had to suspend my practical nature, I found that many chapters

later, it all made sense. The author unfolded each character as if peeling an orange, and eventually all were explored and revealed as necessary to the story.

Do not let the descriptor keep you away. You will be interested in how the plot unfolds and pulled along in spite of the lack of editing. If you enjoy books that include psychological plots, inter-relationships and the roller coaster they bring with them and community intrigue at its best, you will devour this read. I did.

Jayne says

In the Deep South, a lavish wedding is being prepared, and the family is bracing themselves to be descended upon by their Yankee soon to be in-laws. The most dire thing on anyone's mind is will Clyde, the strange father of the groom, turn up and cause havoc with his claims that he can hear voices from God.

Of course, he does just that, and as he is trying to tell them that they must up-sticks, leave everything and follow him into the mountains to live in a cave, the earthquake happens.

The story is in part about the hazardous journey to the "sanctuary" in the mountains, but also about the dynamics of having 40 people who only know each other vaguely, suddenly having to rely on each other in order to survive. The cave is sealed, and there is no way out. But there is clean water and the means to grow food, and after a while they have to accept they are there for the long term, without any knowledge of what is happening in the outside world. Has a fire consumed everything? Or a tsunami? There is no way of knowing.

This could be a disaster of a story, or a story about a disaster, but in the end it is neither. It is about what it is to be human, and the need to get along, and trust, and faith. Weiss isn't afraid to kill off seemingly main characters, therefore shifting the balance just as you begin to think it all sounds a bit domestic and cosy. And in the end, she offers a satisfying solution to a predicament that seems impossible to solve.

I really enjoyed this book. It was an uneasy mix of family drama, casual horror and desperation, but for me it worked. The dialogue didn't feel stilted, and I really felt a sense of place. It isn't literary fiction, but human fiction that felt unnervingly like real life at times.

I really recommend you check out the video trailer on the author's website. It's stunning.

Rhonda Rae Baker says

I could not get into this at all...too many characters and ramblings...unbelievable and inconsistent. Not sure I'll go back to it, too many other books out there that are written well. Sorry!

Danica Alexander says

The first thing I'd probably like to mention is that it has its good and bad points, just like any book. Let me just say that this book is very much a religious themed one. It begins rather innocuously, but very quickly takes you upon a very dark and twisty path that ends in apocalyptic form. The ending of the book was what I shall call "disturbing" and typically I don't like disturbing books, I'll be honest. I'm a fan of the neat and tidy

all-bows-tied in a knot bit. But it was a thought provoking book. However, the biggest beef i have with this book is that the author obviously did not hire a professional editor. The writing was in very many places, frankly, pretty choppy and repetitive. I found myself paying attention more to the choppiness of the dialogue and movement of the characters while I was reading.... I think this story could have EXCELLED with a certain audience, IF it had been properly copy and content edited. In the beginning, through the end a lot of times, there were commas where i felt there shouldn't be, and no commas where I felt there should be, and often quotes were placed opposite where they should be for instance, "blahblahblah "he said. instead of "blahblahblah," he said. There were quite a few typos and inconsistencies in terms of ways things were spelled (frantically versus franticly). I think much much closer attention could have been paid. There were highlights in terms of the stirring descriptions of some of the processes, things that happened. It was overall inconsistent, sometimes the writing would be great, and I would read through it like I should for a normal book, but other times I found myself playing the "critic" editing as i went, rather than enjoying the story which was sad.

Theme wise, I think this book had very strong opinions from a Christian point of view, and while I am personally a Baptist in faith, I am also very liberal, and pushiness in faith don't normally sit well with me. This book obviously had a very strong message, which became much more obvious towards the end.. I think this book might be suited for a church group to read together to discuss the deeper meanings and perspectives that the characters had, perhaps even the symbolism behind some of the characters, notably Suzanne, Lash, Clyde, Sarah, etc so forth, in relating to the Bible and what it teaches.

There were a lot of deeper messages and honestly some very creepy, disturbing parts involving the roles and power shifts and ultimately what happens in the cave... When I started reading it after the group went into the cave, I was thinking "ugh this is going to turn into a cannibalistic Donner Party type of thing" and yes, it did, but I give the writer commendations on how she handled it, it was very very tastefully done, but still just disturbing enough for the story line as it stood.

I just realized that I've rambled on about the story and technical things, but haven't detailed the story in brief... Basically, the story starts with the idyllic planning of a large family for a wedding and quickly descends into a maelstrom of natural disasters akin to Hurricane Sandy and that like.. I found that part pretty disturbing as well because i thought it went rather too in depth, given the recent storm, but i realize this book was probably written much longer ago than that... But still, it just felt a bit overdone. Anyway, Clyde, the ex-husband of the mother of the groom was there, and for a long time he's been viewed as the "kook" in the family, as he claimed to hear the voice of God. Everyone understandably thinks he's nuts. That is, until the storm comes rolling in, and it becomes quite obvious that they need to take cover, quickly. Then Clyde comes to the rescue, a cave all prepared for the end of the world, and gives some very compelling arguments as to why they should join him. Eventually, they do, and they get there, and there's some very good writing in the scenes up until they enter the cave, including a stampede of animals and some fast thinking on one of the main men's part (a truck rear-ending the entrance to get food out of the truck). Things begin to eventually turn sour as the group devises a constitution of sorts, according to Clyde's voices, which everything he's said, has come true so far... they pick roles for their leaders, so on and so forth... It really becomes very involved... but ultimately, things take a turn for the worse..... Whether they get out or not, is for you to find out. I will say though, while the story was a good one, the writing wasn't that great in places, and the typos really should have been fixed... If the author decides to rerelease, I'd encourage she hire a professional editor, and that would make the book that much WORLDS better. If you enjoy religious and apocalyptic, dark stories about family and deeper messages about good and evil, you'll like this. I honestly still can't decide if I liked it... I liked it enough to where I'll recommend it, provided you prepare yourself.. I know I wasn't, but I still enjoyed it, with the distractions of periods of poor writing and typos, but it was overall decently told.

Monique says

I should have given up two chapters in. The writing was clunky. The story was poorly developed and badly executed. There were too many characters, and I never did figure out how old they all were or how they were all related. Yes, it was explained in the beginning. There was also a family tree in the beginning, but I felt like it could have been made clearer.

Also, this was a religious book. In the description, it does say that one of the characters was hearing voices from God, but that didn't prepare me for the middle third of this book. At first, I thought it was anti-religion because of the way the main character was presented. I soon discovered that the whole book was more like a sermon. It was way too much preaching for me, and if it was designed to make a point about religion, it didn't do a very good job of it.

I also wonder about the way they were able to sustain themselves. I don't think what happened is scientifically possible. Of course, it could have just been a miracle from God. Speaking of miracles from God, some of the things that were brought up by the characters could have been skipped. For example, two characters wonder why the seasons don't change. They discuss it with each other, and then it is never mentioned or made part of the prophecies again. Why mention it at all? Was it just to add to the mystery and mood?

This book needs some serious rewriting. Even if the author wanted to make a point about God and religion, it could have been done so much better.

Edited to add: Just checked out the reviews on amazon. 27 reviews. 26 of them are 5-star reviews and one is a 4-star. Now I understand why people are starting to distrust the reviews of self-published authors.
