



No Place Like Home

Katherine Applegate

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The best-selling author of ANIMORPHS and EVERWORLD presents a fresh, exciting, and gritty new science-fiction series that combines a little 2001, a little Armageddon, and a whole lot of action!

The Remnants are on a mission to promote peace but the Blue Meanies have created a horrifying weapon, and the peacemakers are in grave danger. Yago's plan to rule has finally taken form, and promises death and destruction to everyone in the Zone. How does this all tie into the disturbing appearance of a stranger? Who is he? Can he be trusted? And what about Violet? The secret she hides may be a clue to the 'evolution' of the human race.

Secrets will be revealed as devious plots unfold. The future of the Remnants hangs in the balance . Can Billy save them...can Billy save himself?

No Place Like Home Details

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Wendy says

Another wonderful chapter in the life of the Remnants. In this book, the Remnants have decided to head towards Earth, even though they are not sure what they will find when they get there, and it means breaking the Treaty with the other ship's tenants.

We meet a new Remnant, friend or foe, we don't find out till the end of the book. We also learn about some new mutations that our original Remnants have been hiding.

Looking forward to the rest of the series.

Caitlin says

Coming to the review game late this time, mostly because I'm going on hiatus after this installment--I'm borrowing these from a friend and have yet to get the next (and last) batch.

This one felt in some ways like a continuation of #8: tensions continue to rise in the wake of Billy changing the ship's course, culminating in a dramatic collapse of the truce and both Meanies and Riders invading the Zone.

Yago is still acting like the Messiah, but this time his Meanie followers break with the rest in the beginnings of civil war. We get some VERY interesting glimpses into Meanie culture and biology--apparently they reproduce by budding in a manner that kills the parent; KA seems fond of this speculative reproduction strategy, as it also showed up in the Yearks.

Really, I just wanted more here: more alien POV chapters, more insights into their origins and culture. A persistent weakness of this series is I just...don't care about the human characters that much? They're fine, but in some ways they're about as interesting as a random group of people shoehorned onto a space shuttle right before the apocalypse could be expected to be, which is to say, some are, some aren't.

Notable exceptions: Billy and 2Face develop an interesting dynamic in this installment, as she goes from his adversary to something like his chief adviser.

Violet has a secret that I won't divulge because it's worth discovering; I will just say there's a strong element of body horror and it's an unexpected surprise this late in the series.

Loose ends round up: This book makes a valiant effort to correct the discrepancy in the previous volume regarding the Missing Eight, but it's pretty transparent.

What the heck is Billy? This series is never going to explain him, is it?

Paul says

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Why I read it: Still reading *Remnants*.

Rating: 3/5

What I thought: I barely remember this book at all, but looking at Wikipedia, it's still more offputting oddness and a sense that this whole thing is just marking time. Which is kind of a shame because I'm pretty sure I did like this book when I read it.

Stephanie says

I'm going to guess that is Jobs on the cover at last, gazing at the remains of Earth. Even though Earth is supposed to look like two celestial bodies crushed together, not like it has an entire chunk missing and empty.

After our three month time jump, stuff is still hitting the fan, even more so now that the Remnants have voted that there is "No place like home" – for better, or for worse. Billy is more or less at the helm, a Big Compromise had kept the humans, Meanies, and Riders at peace, and yet no one is completely satisfied with the situation. Not to mention that strange things are once again afoot, things which have been hinted at existing, but not necessarily well-known that they will *increase* in frequency. Everything has changed since the power-switch up from Isolation and then the revelation about the Missing Eight from Mother, May I?, not to mention the Remnants' decision to change course literally and figuratively ... all of these things mean that once again war is on the horizon. As well as general upheaval in the lives of the Remnants – but then, isn't that the new normal?

Any tenuous peace the humans had with the Riders and Meanies is about as tenuous, if not less so, than the peace the humans have with each other. Yago is still recruiting followers to his "True Path" with him as "the One" (my gosh are the names they adopt ridiculous and very in keeping with Yago's egotistical maniacal tendencies...), 2Face is still working her own angle (at least she is actively standing beside someone other than herself now), Mo'Steel and Jobs are still working together (they come across as the "greater good with solid morals" group ringleaders), hardly anyone has seen Billy much up to this point, and as for the rest of the Remnants, well, they have their own bubbles of privacy and interaction which they move between.

I'm finding that everything is such a blur lately that I'm having a more than usual difficult time clearly delineating what happens in one book versus another book. Maybe I'm just trying to read them too fast, despite my conscious efforts to read them slowly...?

(view spoiler)

Quotes:

"You'd think weapons would be given priority over the lyrics from *Rent*." – page 27 – Another *Rent* reference, hm? April in Everworld was playing in a production of *Rent* during the course of the series.

Kubrick didn't deserve 2Face's friendship, but he needed it. It was the only thing in this awful place worth surviving for. – page 33

[Jobs remembering] Kubrick, his father, and three more people still in their hibernation berths. Another eight mysteriously disappeared before the worms attacked. – page 61 – Ah, some attempts at belatedly correcting the whole Missing Eight discrepancy.

Violet had done it willingly, as a penitence. – page 78 – I had wondered what she could possibly be penitent for...well, by the end we pretty well know.

(view spoiler)

Mary says

OMG. Everything. Worms. All of it.

Dexter says

While it's still not as good as the earlier books in the series, the ending still managed to be dramatic and intense enough to grab my attention.

The problem is that the characters are getting old. I'm tired of reading about 2Face being a jerk, tired of Yago being insane. I really wish Jobs, Mo'Steel, Edward, Billy, and Olga would go off and do something else, but I supposed their choices are limited.

But I understand why the plot of this book exists. It's necessary because of the world K.A. Applegate built, but it just makes me angry that the characters can't be better people.

Julie says

Wow wow wow wow wow. Others had a pretty trepid reception to this book, but I think this may be my favourite so far? Because once again, the authors lob some grenades into the narrative and take it places I didn't expect. A mere 11 pages in, I basically screeched "WHAT THE FUCK???" and my jaw hit the floor. Which is really impressive for a book not even 200 pages long to evoke such strong shock and surprise in me!

War is brewing, with the repercussions of their Terrible Decisions in the previous book. Our heroes redeem themselves to me a little, because Jobs realises what a bad call they've made, and 2Face has sided *with* Billy rather than against him (their changed dynamic is rly cute in this one imo). Like, above all I just wanted to hug Kubrick, Billy, and 2Face. And Noyze and Angelique, I guess. And Mo'. And the poor kids!

EVERYONE IN THIS BAR, REALLY.

And holy jesus christ, the superpowers! There are some interesting new players entering the game -- I'm remaining vague because this is a relatively late book in the series and I don't want to give it away to anyone who hasn't read it yet, but I really want to see where & how this storyline plays out.

Yago and his faction continue to grow, and though his characterisation is still shot and will probably literally never recover, his arc now has me officially cracking me up with his aliens' naming conventions. Yago's Razor-Sharp Wit, Yago's Buff Biceps: it's like Fight Club (*I am Jack's Smirking Revenge*), but like... with aliens. And way funnier because Yago is a delusional megalomaniac.

Also, that ending, man, THAT ENDING, that had me pawing at my face and *needing to find out what happens next*. It's horrific, the absolute stuff of which nightmares are made -- read that description in the last few pages and explain to me how this is still middle-grade. I ask you.

Also, re: what I thought was a SNAFU about the Missing Eight in the previous book, I think KAA explicitly tried to backpedal and correct her goof now:

(view spoiler)

I still think she's just trying to cover her tracks, though. I'm pretty convinced that Kubrick/Alberto/Noyze/Angelique should have counted as part of the Missing Eight, because people didn't go missing until after the others had already done their checks.

Julie Decker says

Yago and his army of worshipful Meanies are getting dangerous. Because Jobs was able to convince Billy to move the ship and return to whatever the shell of the Earth might be now, the Meanies are angry, and Yago's megalomaniacal tendencies are fueled by his alien followers. And yet another previously missing person appears, with revelations popping up about some Mayflower survivors hiding their mutated abilities. If they get to Earth at all, will they still be alive? Will they still be themselves?

This book had a very weird ending, and the way it's going felt more like it was spreading apart instead of coming together. Frayed edges of plot lines and personal stories are getting further split instead of tying up with others, which makes it tough to follow and tougher to get invested. The storytelling is, as usual, very tight, though, and if you've developed attachment to the characters in previous books, you'll want to find out what happens to them.

Sarah says

It's starting to get good again, I mean, I wonder what will happen with the Earth!

Z says

A problem I'm beginning to realize is that I don't know how old most of the characters are. I default to thinking that they're adults if they weren't among the first few introduced, but I don't think that they actually are. Also, I'm not sure how I feel about having adults included at all. I've said this before, but I really think it messes with the dynamic a bit.
