



The Wild Lands

Paul Greci

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In Paul Greci's *The Wild Lands*, Travis and his sister are trapped in a daily race to survive—and there is no second place.

Natural disasters and a breakdown of civilization have cut off Alaska from the world and destroyed its landscape. Now, as food runs out and the few who remain turn on each other, Travis and his younger sister, Jess, must cross hundreds of miles in search of civilization.

The wild lands around them are filled with ravenous animals, desperate survivors pushed to the edge, and people who've learned to shoot first and ask questions never.

Travis and Jess will make a few friends and a lot of enemies on their terrifying journey across the ruins of today's world—and they'll have to fight for what they believe in as they see how far people will go to survive.

The Wild Lands is a pulse-pounding YA thriller full of shocking plot twists. It's the ultimate survival tale of humanity's fight against society's collapse.

An Imprint Book

"This fast-paced book contains all the hallmarks of a classic wilderness survival novel (deadly terrain, vicious predators, literal cliff-hangers) and the best of the postapocalyptic genre ... The author's decades of Alaskan wilderness experience is evident throughout ... A great high-stakes wilderness survival tale."

—*School Library Journal*

"Heart-thumping suspense for readers who liked Rick Yancey's *The 5th Wave*." —Booklist

"This rugged survival story places a group of teens in a dark, burned-out post-apocalyptic nightmare. Your heart will pound for them as they face terrible dangers and impossible odds. Gripping, vivid, and haunting!"

— Emmy Laybourne, international bestselling author of the Monument 14 trilogy

"A compelling story that wouldn't let me stop reading. Greci has created both a frightening landscape and characters you believe in and want to survive it." — Eric Walters, author of the bestselling Rule of Three series

"A brutal vision of things to come. Greci delivers an apocalyptic odyssey that's honest, relentless, and backed by his firsthand knowledge of the wilderness." — Lex Thomas, author of the Quarantine series

"Heart-racing... A rugged wilderness lover's post-disaster survivalist tale." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Raw and accessible. Offering hints of *Hatchet* with markedly more manmade danger." —BCCB

"The themes of teamwork, choice and free will are incredibly well done ... an intense and thrilling ride."

—TeenReads.com

The Wild Lands Details

Date : Published January 29th 2019 by Imprint

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Author : Paul Greci

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From Reader Review The Wild Lands for online ebook

Rachel says

Intense adventure with constant peril and conflict in a rich setting. Leaves little room to breathe and characters don't develop much. Note lots of violence because of the context. I received an advance copy of this book from Macmillan Children's Publishing Group for review.

Beth Mendelsohn says

I received this e-ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This story takes place in the not so distant future when climate change and loss of resources has decimated Alaska to the point where it is no longer a state. Most of the glaciers have melted, earthquakes have wrecked the coastline and interior, fires have destroyed much of what was left, and the annual salmon runs have ceased. Travis (17), Jess (10), and their parents tried to stick it out when most everyone else was evacuated. When Travis's father finally realizes that they cannot survive in what was Fairbanks any longer, the family heads north, hoping to board a ship that will take them across the Arctic Ocean to Maine. Because of the lack of resources, lack of food, and all out lawlessness, Travis and Jess's parents are killed. Following their instructions, the siblings head south. They meet up with some teenage girls to travel with -- safety in numbers. They must always be alert for danger, try to ration their meager provisions, and try to make it to the southern coast.

Travis narrates this YA dystopian novel, describing the emotional toll the travel takes on him and his traveling companions. There are several plot twists, some predictable, some not. The ending leaves the door open for another book, maybe. The book is mostly fast paced and will appeal to boys as well as girls. This is definitely a Young Adult book due to some of the content so I would recommend it for 8th grade and up.

#TheWildLands #NetGalley

Paul says

Greci has developed a world that is altogether too real and possible. Consider a near future without all the modern conveniences, basically, a return to 'basic.' The reader will question the character's motivations and the paranoias simply because of how foreign this near-future world seems to be, yet Greci does a great job answering the questions he continually poses about food, water, and shelter.

Though realistic and very much true to the geography of the land, the narrative does get a bit too focused on the physical challenges such as river crossing at times. I was also happy that the male ego collisions were balanced with some strong female characters.

If you're looking for a good YA survival book that takes a group of teens through a man-made Alaskan disaster, The Wild Lands is for you.

For my full review: <https://paulspicks.blog/2019/01/28/th...>

For all my reviews: <https://paulspicks.blog/>

Karen Reed says

I can see this book being especially appealing to a male audience. That's not to say females won't enjoy it but as a librarian I think I could hand this one to some reluctant readers looking for a gritty, action packed story without a big romance element. This is a strong post-disaster survival book , but with a lot of violence this would be best for high school age students.

Teenreadsdotcom says

In his second novel, Paul Greci moves from middle grade adventures to YA post-apocalyptic survival story. *THE WILD LANDS* is a fast-paced novel that will ensure readers are constantly on the edge of their seats.

The signs were there: Environmental collapse. Government strain. But no one anticipated the United States would actually abandon Alaska. Not until the last bus drives away, leaving the remaining people cut off to fend for themselves. Even though his mom wanted to leave, Travis and his family decided to stay. After a fire swept through the land, ravaging it, they chose to stay. But when the fires came back, destroying everything that remained, they are trapped.

Now, with food running out and the people they encounter becoming more and more dangerous, they decide it's time to try and leave. The question remains: is it too late? With hundreds of miles between them and the hope of civilization, Travis and his sister have to face wild animals, desperate survivors and hazard across a land so dramatically changed from anything they've known before. They must decide not just what they believe in, but how far they're willing to fight for those beliefs in their quest to simply survive.

From the very beginning, I loved how real this book feels. We are immediately thrown into the story, relying on Travis's memories to help us understand what happened. These glimpses into history --- both through Travis and the people he encounters --- give us a wide scope of context, helping us understand the horror in which we find Travis and his sister mired in. Relying on these flashbacks also sets the stage for plot twists to be discovered in shocking and unexpected ways, only adding to the urgency of the plot line.

While on the surface *THE WILD LANDS* may appear to be a novel targeting adolescent boys, the messaging is actually very empowering for girls. We get the narration through the eyes of Travis, but this is far from the hero trope it could be. In fact, the themes of teamwork, choice and free will are incredibly well done. Greci goes further, too, by bringing up outdated gender norms in very realistic ways and allowing us to see Travis confront them while ultimately reaching his own conclusions. This gives the novel an intriguing coming of age feel, because it isn't just his own identity Travis is grappling with, but the broader scope of humanity.

THE WILD LANDS is an intense novel about survival. It's perfect for fans of thrillers, dystopians and post-apocalyptic fiction. To be sure, this is a novel meant for a mature YA reader. The violence depicted isn't graphic in detail, but Greci does not minimize or shy away from depicting the gritty realism of this post-apocalyptic landscape. The plot is urgent, painting a vivid portrait of this nightmare setting, bringing the danger Travis and his sister constantly face to life for the reader in a multi-dimensional experience. Combined with the subjects of forced marriage, many harrowing life-or-death scenarios, hunting and several

scenes involving death, readers should be aware of the very difficult content. However, difficult content aside, the depth and scope of the topics addressed is woven fluidly into a believable plot, which allows for discussion of these very relevant topics to be brought up and examined in relatable ways.

By the end of the novel, our journey with Travis and Jess is tied up well enough to be satisfying, but to also offer a real possibility of future books. This is a story with characters that can easily be expanded and I would love to get a glimpse at the rest of the world. **THE WILD LANDS** is an intense and thrilling ride that will stay with me for a long time.

T.J. Burns says

I received a copy of this book from Macmillan Children's Publishing Group via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Derek Moore says

A look into the future perhaps? I found it very interesting how Travis and his sister Jess had to survive after their parents were killed. It was a little intense and there were some pretty violent parts. I am sure this book will most definitely appeal to high school students who are looking for adventure in a book.
