



The Hunted

Matt de la Peña

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When the Big One hit, Shy was at sea in style. The Paradise Cruise luxury liner he worked on was a hulking specimen of the best money could buy. And now it's at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, along with almost all of its passengers.

Shy wasn't the only one to survive, though. Addie, the rich blond daughter of a mysterious businessman, was on the dinghy he pulled himself into. But as soon as they found the rest of the survivors, she disappeared.

The only thing that filled the strange void of losing her was finding Carmen, his hot coworker, and discovering a way to get back home. But Shy's luck hasn't turned. Not yet.

Back on the dinghy, Addie told him a secret. It's a secret that people would kill for-have killed for-and she has the piece that could turn everything on its ear. The problem? Shy has no idea where Addie is. Back home in California seems logical, but there are more ways to die back home than Shy could ever have guessed.

And thanks to what Shy now knows, he's a moving target.

The Hunted Details

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From Reader Review The Hunted for online ebook

A.J. Howells says

Why do I love Matt de la Pena? The biggest factor is that he gets my students to read and he does so especially well with post-apocalyptic yarns that examine the socioeconomic implications of natural disasters. While I do not typically go for YA fare, I burned through *The Living* in couple of days and could not wait to do the same with *The Hunted*. Unfortunately (well, perhaps not) I'd wait quite a while while this one got tossed around my classroom. Worth the wait?

Not entirely.

Firstly, I know it's popular, but post-apocalyptic tales have been wearing me a little thin since Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* to the point that I refuse to consider watching *The Walking Dead* within the next decade.

However, dystopian fiction seems to be the more annoying current trend in YA fiction, so I was willing to go along with de la Pena as he led me down a highly entertaining path. The action scenes have been exquisitely detailed throughout the whole tale and while one might complain that he simply lists a bunch of horrible happenings to get accomplish this detail, isn't that kind of the point? Los Angeles is pretty much obliterated in the blink of an eye, so what do you expect?

Shy and the gang arrive at the coast to find the devastation to be nearly as bad I they thought it would be, but the social barriers that have quickly been constructed are another issue entirely. A biker gang has hastily risen to power, ensuring that people stay where they are, killing anyone leaving their assigned sections of the city. This is done to avoid the spreading of the Romero disease which has left the blackened cities riddled with bloated corpses.

The beauty in this YA novel is that it continues the trend of not shying teenagers away from horror. Shy and the gang are forced to camp out in one of the only places the biker gang won't mess with them: an abandoned trailer painted with a sign of the plague. They have to clear out the family, which includes children, that was living there before and give them proper burial before sleeping in the disease-ridden cabin.

So that happened.

Shy's background is fleshed out a bit more with the introduction of his deadbeat father as the group's savior from the biker gang because he is--you guessed it--a member himself. Dear old dad just wants to do right by his son after realizing the mistakes he has made over the years. While this sounds like pretty typical family drama fare, it didn't feel like it would end well.

Perhaps it does, perhaps it doesn't

To be honest, I am really not sure what to make of the ending. I know what literally happens during the final seconds of this novel, and no it does not look like this will become a trilogy, but the ending was lackluster to say the best. It simply kind of ends without much direction for the characters, outside of Shy. While he is the main character, the others have been there long enough to deserve a little bit better. I am all for an open

ending, but they are left entirely in the dust.

Speaking of the others, Addie makes her return (like you know she will throughout the entire story) but for being such a key character in *The Living*, she is not a major character and her inclusion seems to serve mainly as a means for Shy to get to her mad scientist father.

There is also a strange quasi-supernatural occurrence that bridges us into the final act but ultimately falls flat. Its inclusion seems like it is going to have major *LOST*-like implications, but then nothing becomes of it. Shy mentions it a few times, but it remains dead in the water where it occurs. (I realize I am employing circumlocution, but to mention it would spoil a major plot point. You'll know it when you read it.)

Perhaps I am missing something due to the fact that I read an Advance Reader's Copy, but I am fairly confident based on other reviews that I am not. *The Hunted* is certainly needed and certainly fitting in a lot of ways, but in others it really misses the mark. I almost hope there is a sequel just to figure out what kind of new adventure some of these "loose ends" might spark, but perhaps it really is time to close the book on these characters.

Coco says

The sequel was still good!! This book is all about the trip to deliver a letter to Arizona. Lots of new characters that work, and favorites that we love. A+.

Ethan Skye says

The Hunted was honestly one of the best books I have ever read. That's exactly what I said after reading the first book in this series *The Living*. In this novel De La Pena answers ALL of your questions the *The Living* left you off with. This book even leaves you off with a few more. *The Hunted* is filled with action and violence and anything that would make a book a million times more interesting. Also it has lots of suspense and mystery because we as the reader just don't know where Shy is ending up on his journey. Throughout this book my mind was just going crazy because I just wanted to find out whether he would live or die, make it or not make it, or even kill or be killed. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys action with a lot of mystery. I'd definitely rate this book a solid 10/10.

Kyle Craig says

"*The Hunted*" is an excellent action mystery book that continually leaves the reader wonder what will happen next. The book created a well-developed story that questions society and the psychology of people. The book was published in 2015 by Matt de la Peña as a sequel to "*The Living*". His style of writing is a continuation of the first book as it constantly rises in action. The book is about how Shy and his friends must survive the catastrophic remains of western civilization to deliver a cure for an epidemic. The characters developed more in this book as Shy became more heroic. Marcus was characterized well despite him have a minor role in the last book, and Shoeshine became increasingly mysterious and resourceful. Carmen, however, became more annoying in this book for small reasons. The plot is similar to other dystopian books but it had a unique flair to it. The story takes place from California to Arizona. The book was a true sequel to "*The Living*" as it was the same style. This book did not remind me of anything else I have read or watched

despite the first one reminded me of many other stories. This book does tackle racism and power of big businesses.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has read the first one. I would recommend it specifically to teens and young adults as it is targeted mostly to them. "The Hunted" is an exceptional book that people should read.

Naudia says

***UPDATE!* Release date is May 12, 2015! Can't wait!!**

Houston, we have a cover.

And it is awesome.

Carolina GO says

Mucho mejor que el primero. Me ha gustado.

Haley Shaffer says

Ugh! The ending.

Emily Scott says

Truly amazing. Though, the ending confused me a little.

Chester Dean says

Ésta es la segunda y última parte de la bilogía de "Los Vivientes" el cual tuve la oportunidad de leer el año pasado, y que tuve la suerte de disfrutar muchísimo. Pero debido a que tengo una memoria de teflón a la que nada se le pega, tenía mucho miedo de haber olvidado cosas importantes de la historia, y que eso me arruinara la experiencia de leer la segunda parte, así que estaba un poco indecisa de comenzar a leerlo. Pero qué bueno que al final me animé.

Seguimos a Sky, Carmen, Marcus y Limpiabotas después de que dejaron la isla y llegaron a la costa de California, donde todo era caos y destrucción. El caos digno de un terremoto que destruyó todo a su paso, y además, la muerte de miles de personas de una forma horrible debido a una epidemia que se contagiaba con el más mínimo contacto. Es por eso, que las pocas personas que quedaban sanas, estaban tomando sus propias precauciones para que la enfermedad dejara de propagarse, así que había mucha gente acribillada y dejada pudriendo por las calles. La ciudad se había dividido en zonas y cada zona tenía sus propias reglas, y muchos de ellos no tenían piedad alguna, y preferían disparar primero y preguntar después.

Sky, Carmen, Marcus y Limpiabotas tienen una misión muy importante que cumplir y tendrán que pasar por muchos inconvenientes para lograrlo.

Si el primer libro me gustó, éste me ENCANTÓ. Ya que todo el libro estuvo lleno de acción y sucesos completamente inesperados. Es normal que los primeros libros sean un poco lentos por la introducción a los personajes y a la historia, y que en los segundos todo sea mucho más rápido porque toda esa explicación ya no existe, es por eso que desde las primeras páginas podemos verlos pasar por el primer problema y su esfuerzo por sobrevivir.

Es un libro post-apocalíptico que nos pinta un escenario precario y triste, con gente muerta al rededor, muy al estilo The Walking Dead, pero sin los zombies (sólo una enfermedad flotando por los aires que te puede matar de una forma brutal y dolorosa) y toda esa combinación me gustó muchísimo. Creo me gusta éste género literario (o de cine y televisión, siempre disfruto mucho ver ciudades en pedazos jajaja).

Recomiendo mucho ambos libros, que aunque se pueden tomar como juveniles porque los protagonistas son adolescentes, pero siento que la temática y la trama no es sólo para adolescentes, ya que cualquier aficionado a la acción y a lo apocalíptico podrían encontrar ésta historia muy divertida.

A mi en lo personal me gustaron ambos, pero éste siento lo leí más rápido porque como ya dije, siempre está pasando algo y cuesta mucho esfuerzo dejarlo a un lado, porque el lector se queda con la intriga de cómo acabarán las cosas. Además que los capítulos son bastante cortos, y eso le da aún más agilidad a la historia.

Le dí 4 estrellas por el hecho de que en muchas ocasiones las cosas resultaban muy convenientes para los personajes. Como que no importaba que tan complicadas estuvieran las cosas, pasaba algo que las arreglaba, y eso a veces me irritaba un poco. Pero nada más, es mi única queja con respecto al libro. De resto, altamente recomendable.

Ricky Pinney says

the ending was awful
rest of the book was great

Rich in Color says

Review copy: ARC from publisher

Sometimes series books can be read out of order. I would not recommend that in this case. A reader would likely understand most of the book, but there would be way too much backstory missing without the first book. If you haven't read The Living yet, it's probably best you stop reading this review and go do that first.

It was one of my favorite books of 2013 (review [here](#)).

This second book picks up right where the first left off. Shy and his companions are on the run. They're trying to get away from some people, but they are also running for another purpose. Because of the intrigue, it's difficult to talk about plot without giving things away, but there are many life-threatening events and stressful circumstances that have to be faced as they move closer and closer to their intended destination.

The Hunted moves at an even faster pace than The Living. Chase scenes and violence are sprinkled throughout. This is definitely an action book, but the characters begin to gain more depth too. We find out that Shy's friend Marcus isn't what he seemed to be back on the cruise ship. Shy learns about himself and sees he's capable of more than he expected. The characters also get a small glimpse into Shoeshine's past.

Shoeshine is an interesting part of both books. He is inscrutable and also has amazing strength, wisdom and prescience. Even in seemingly impossible situations, he is likely to save the day often at great risk to himself. The phrase magical negro kept popping into my mind. Usually that trope has the character subordinate to a white person, but here Shoeshine is saving and guiding a Latino protagonist so it's not exactly the same.

Lest you think it is all seriousness, there are still moments of lightness. Shy, Marcus and Carmen joke and jab at each other once in a while and there is good news on occasion. Readers get to smile sometimes. I especially liked the scenes with a young brother and sister they meet along the way. The playful wrestling and teasing were a lot of fun.

I enjoyed both of the books in this series, but they had quite different textures. This first book was more about the intrigue and the second felt like a race. Thankfully, the second one wasn't just a revamping of the first. It was something new. I don't know when the next book is scheduled to be published, but I'm eager to get it into my hands.

Recommendation: Buy it soon if you enjoyed the first installment. This second book is another wild ride. If you haven't read The Living, get it now.

Ben says

The Hunted by Matt de la Pena is the sequel of The Living. After surviving the tsunami that sank their cruise ship in the first book and, escaping an island with deadly secret and servicing 36 days at sea, three teens and an adult reach what's left of California a quarantined, anarchic region devastated by earthquakes and a lethal pandemic. Gangs control most of the country and have zones that you can not pass. The teens Shy, Carmen and Marcus suspect their families to be dead. The adult Shoeshine who has been guiding the teens since day one. Shy and Carmen's mutual attraction grows, but she's engaged to someone who is missing. There does not seem to be a clear plot to the book, just killing, and devastation everywhere. Goals are lost without resolution like author, lost interest in his story midway. I believe that it is an entertaining story and a lot of action, but does not seem that there is a point to the story, the author just has to end it. I would recommend this book to teens that just want a entertaining story and are not looking for a well writing plot and point to the characters actions.

Liviana says

I have wanted to read THE HUNTED since the moment I finished THE LIVING, and hearing Matt de la

Peña read the first chapter at a book signing only whetted my appetite. THE HUNTED starts about a month later, when Shy, Carmen, Marcus, and Shoeshine finally make it to California.

In THE LIVING, they had to mainly survive a fight against nature. Now, they have to mainly escape people. A biker gang is killing travelers to keep them from spreading the Romero virus. And a certain entity wants to kill Shy and his friends because they know too much about the virus. Their only hope is to hike across a picked-over post-apocalyptic California to Arizona. It is a brutal journey.

I don't think THE HUNTED can truly be enjoyed without THE LIVING. De la Peña recaps the bare minimum, particularly when it comes to character relationships. I certainly don't think the passages involving Addie have much meaning if you haven't read the first book. Fortunately, both books in the duology are quick reads. The chapters are short of full of action, which keeps the pages turning.

I felt that Shoeshine was more of a plot mechanism than a character in THE LIVING, so I like that he's a little more fleshed out in THE HUNTED. A former soldier is still an incredibly lucky person to have by your side in a survival situation, but THE HUNTED gives hints of his hobbies and of his past.

I'm also truly thankful that rape isn't used as a threat in THE HUNTED. It is overplayed in dystopian/post-apocalyptic books, like everybody - not just rapists - couldn't resist the urge if civilization collapsed. People are too busy being awful to each other in other ways. (To be fair, a virus with a 100% death rate is scary.)

THE HUNTED is a great survival against the odds story. The protagonist, Shy, is hugely likeable. I could read many more books featuring him. I'm happy to leave it at two, although there are some unanswered questions that de la Peña could answer in a third book. Be sure to read THE LIVING and THE HUNTED if you like quick books about intense journeys and noble causes featuring diverse casts.

Brittany says

I'm not sure what I just read and I'm glad to be moving on with this series.

Jordan says

<http://wandering-world.skyrock.com/32...>

LES PROIES est une excellente suite au roman LES VIVANTS. J'ai pris un énorme plaisir à voir Shy, Carmen, Marcus et Cireur évoluer dans un environnement hyper hostile à la fois ultra oppressant et terriblement saisissant. Le rythme de cet opus est encore plus haletant et palpitant que celui de son prédécesseur, chose qui me paraissait tout simplement impossible. L'auteur nous livre ici de nombreuses révélations et retournements de situation qui confèrent à l'histoire une ambiance bien particulière et extrêmement addictive. Je me suis surpris à dévorer 300 pages de cette histoire d'une traite sans m'en apercevoir tant j'avais été happé par les mots et l'imagination de Matt de la Peña. Néanmoins, si j'ai apprécié la majeure partie de l'histoire, la conclusion reste un énorme point d'interrogation à mes yeux. Je suis hyper confus et je reste sur ma faim. Si LES PROIES est officiellement le dernier tome de la série, alors ma déception n'en est que plus grande. A l'inverse, si une suite est annoncée, mon jugement sur les dernières pages est à prendre avec des pincettes. Je suis donc divisé concernant les ultimes chapitres alors que tout le reste du récit m'a absolument transporté.

Je n'avais qu'une idée en tête depuis que j'avais terminé LES VIVANTS : pouvoir mettre la main sur le tome 2 et découvrir la suite des aventures de Shy. Au cœur de ce monde post-catastrophe, la petite bande avec laquelle nous avons précédemment fait connaissance se retrouve livrée à elle-même et fait l'objet de diverses agressions. On sent bien que, cette fois, les enjeux sont encore plus élevés et que les risques à prendre se paieront très chers. Cependant, Shy, Carmen, Marcus et Cireur ne se laissent pas abattre et font preuve d'un courage à toute épreuve qui m'a absolument fasciné. Les héros sont époustouflants et extrêmement touchants. On les sent à la fois déterminés, braves et solides mais également sur le point de s'effondrer et de se briser. Il y a quelque chose d'énormément bouleversant dans cette dualité qui émane de chacun d'entre eux. J'ai vraiment passé un merveilleux moment à leurs côtés.

De plus, Matt de la Peña leur en fait voir d'absolument toutes les couleurs de par les multiples retournements de situation qui prennent place au cours de cette histoire. En effet, si le tempo était déjà rapide et déchaîné à la fin du premier opus, ici il en devient pratiquement insoutenable. LES PROIES nous rappelle bien que l'auteur ne se focalise pas seulement sur l'aspect chaotique du monde et l'impact du tremblement sur les États-Unis mais également sur tout un tas d'autres plans. A l'aspect catastrophique du phénomène naturel s'ajoute le côté course-poursuite mortelle que nous avons déjà expérimenté lors de notre lecture du premier volet. En effet, Shy et ses amis se retrouvent confrontés à de nombreux dilemmes et situations dangereuses à cause de leurs connaissances. Leur survie ne tient véritablement qu'à un fil et on sent bien la pression aller crescendo de la première à la dernière page. Les chapitres – très courts – s'enchaînent brillamment et rendent notre lecture hyper effrénée. On veut toujours en savoir plus et découvrir comment Shy, Carmen, Marcus et Cireur vont s'en sortir. Les coups de théâtre sont si nombreux et inquiétants qu'on se retient sans cesse de respirer. LES PROIES possède véritablement un caractère anxiogène qui m'a énormément plu. J'avais toujours envie d'aller plus loin, d'avoir plus de réponses et de connaître – finalement – le dénouement de cette intrigue totalement inédite et captivante.

La conclusion, justement, comme je le disais plus haut, me laisse, elle, un drôle de goût dans la bouche. Tout d'abord, je la trouve beaucoup trop rapide. Elle nous tombe dessus comme un cheveu sur la soupe. C'est trop abrupt, trop imprévisible et trop soudain pour être totalement crédible. J'ai eu l'impression que l'auteur voulait juste en terminer avec son roman sans trop s'affoler de savoir si nous avions toutes les réponses à nos questions. Certaines d'entre elles restent extrêmement ouvertes, chose qui, pour une fois, ne m'a pas nécessairement déplu dans le sens où cela colle à l'atmosphère du roman. Il y a quelque chose de mystérieux et d'étrange qui enveloppe cette histoire et j'ai beaucoup aimé que cette idée soit menée à son paroxysme en nous laissant certaines options pour imaginer tel ou tel scénario. Néanmoins, les toutes dernières lignes me laissent hyper confus et complètement déstabilisé. Je ne suis même pas sûr d'en avoir saisi tout le sens, même après plusieurs relectures. Les derniers mots m'ont laissé bouche bée et le regard vide. Il me manque vraiment certaines explications pour comprendre ce choix de l'auteur. A mes yeux, une suite est obligatoire. J'ai clairement besoin d'un troisième tome pour vraiment saisir tous les enjeux de cette conclusion, de l'intrigue globale de la saga mais également comprendre le point de vue de Matt de la Peña et de ce qu'il espérait nous transmettre avec cette fin. Si aucun tome 3 n'est annoncé, alors je suis hyper perplexe et vraiment déçu. Cette conclusion est bien trop ouverte et trop peu explicite pour que je puisse m'en contenter.

En résumé, LES PROIES est une lecture renversante et enivrante dotée d'un rythme enflammé et passionnant. J'ai adoré l'univers hostile et chaotique dans lequel l'auteur nous embarque et retrouver Shy et ses amis a été un véritable bonheur. Les coups de théâtre s'entremêlent à une vitesse folle et nous coupent le souffle d'un bout à l'autre de l'histoire. S'ajoute à cela des révélations explosives et des enjeux importants qui nous prennent tout simplement aux tripes. Néanmoins, je reste frustré et abasourdi par la conclusion de cette histoire et j'espère de tout cœur avoir des explications à l'avenir. Un roman saisissant et bouleversant malgré une fin décevante à mes yeux.