



# Aftermath

*Tom Lewis*

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**Aftermath** Tom Lewis  
AN ALIEN APOCALYPSE

16-year old Paige O'Connor awakens to find the world in ruins, and humanity under the dominion of a hostile alien race.

And the attacks were only the beginning...

Aftermath is the first in the After the Fall dystopian action series, which follows a young girl's struggle for survival in a post-apocalyptic new world where humans are no longer the dominant species.

## Aftermath Details

Date : Published March 28th 2015

ISBN :

Author : Tom Lewis

Format : Kindle Edition 174 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult, Aliens

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## From Reader Review Aftermath for online ebook

### Courtney Wells says

\*\* I received this book, courtesy of the author, with no expectations beyond an honest review \*\*

My personal opinion - which may differ either way for readers and shouldn't discourage them necessarily - is AFTERMATH is a book that contains a decent story but is executed in a way that doesn't do it adequate justice.

While reading I was reminded of THE HOST - Stephanie Meyer's version of an alien invasion. This comparison isn't in the sense I felt these books had a lot in common but THE HOST was a doorstopper that - for better or worse - fleshed out the impact of an alien invasion while exploring characters and their emotional reactions to this shift and finding a place in it. AFTERMATH, conversely, has a novel's worth of plot confined to a novella's word count.

For that reason the book moves quickly but leaves little to latch onto at times. It's like when someone begins with "It all happened so fast..." and describes a scene - you'll get details and reactions, but not a whole lot of descriptions.

Bottom line - this book would have benefited from about 50 pages devoted to developing characters as well as the scenes. It's also targeting a YA demographic and the premise supports that but it's presentation is closer to Middle Grade in terms of pacing and vocabulary.

If you don't mind a book with a lot going on told in a simple way - consider this book. Otherwise, you might be frustrated or underwhelmed with the telling if you need more emotions applied to a story.

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### Lisa Mandina says

First thanks to Xpresso Book Tours for allowing me to read an e-copy of this title. I was pleasantly surprised with this book, it really had a pretty good story, and even had some very unique parts to it. Parts that definitely kept my interest. I did have a few issue with the story though, and I'll mention those at the end. Definitely a good science fiction story. Reminded me some of the show Falling Skies on TNT. Just a few issues I had with it.

You can read my full review on my blog, [Lisa Loves Literature](#)

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### Nicola says

#### 3.5 Stars

*Aftermath* begins with the destruction of civilisation by an alien race. Paige survives the initial invasion and has to fight hard to continue to survive the violent aliens now controlling the earth.

I think the characters would have benefited from more development. The story is quite short and I definitely think there's room for more depth to be added. I think Paige could definitely be fleshed out a bit more. I

didn't really connect with her as I didn't feel a lot of emotion from her. Saying that, I did appreciate the effort to make her a strong character. She wasn't reliant on the boys around her to save her and in fact came up with most of the plans herself. She was smart, resilient and not afraid to fight back.

I really enjoyed the plot. It's fast paced and has good twists and turns to keep you engaged. There are similarities to some other dystopian novels (such as force fields and disguising yourself in mud à la The Hunger Games and an entire population being controlled via an implant à la Divergent) but as a huge fan of dystopia, this just added to my enjoyment of the story as I like those kinds of elements.

Overall I think it's a well executed story that could probably benefit from a bit of an extension but it reads well and kept me engrossed. I'll definitely be checking out the sequel.

*I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

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You can also find this review on my blog: Nicola Reads YA

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### **Kimberly Vanderbloom says**

Wow!! This is a fast paced adventure about a amazing girl Paige. I couldn't put it down. I was even late to work just to read one more chapter. After it was all done I just want more. I want to know what happens next. I want to know more about all the main characters. I would love to see this on the big screen. I would recommend this to anyone who likes a strong and brave female lead with tons of fast paced action. I want to thank the author for giving me a opportunity to read it.

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### **Miranda Reads says**

4.5 stars

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane!

It's ~~Superman!~~ **Aliens enslaving the human race!**

Paige O'Connor (part-time sarcastic snit, part-time teenage hoodlum) along with her brother are having just about the **worst possible day ever**.

Actually, most of the world is having the **worst day ever**.

*"This isn't the end of humanity, but rather a new beginning. Under our guidance, mankind has been given a second chance...While we mean your species no further harm, any disobedience will be met with your annihilation.*

Paige and her brother know a thing or two about survival and decide to make a break for it...

Only their escape doesn't **nearly go to plan** and soon Paige is forced to do the unthinkable - **infiltrate the aliens** and steal back the person who means the world to her.

I was **thoroughly entertained** throughout this story. It had all the elements of a great YA book - witty banter, common sense and great humor.

Tom Lewis does such an amazing job with the teenagers in his book. When I read Paige's words, it honestly felt like I was reading my own high school conversations (well, if all my conversations were as witty as Paige's):

*"And you, Paige O'Connor, are going to make such a pretty little spinster if you don't get over your whole 'guys suck' thing."*

*"Guys do suck."*

*Shelby just shook her head, and handed the cup back to Paige. "Better start practicing those knitting skills, girl."*

I also wholly appreciated how (nearly) everyone was so grounded - so full of **common sense**.

It was almost disarming to see characters in YA lit **being so darn logical**. No one ran **headlong into danger** (well, at least no one did that without good reason).

Heck, when the invasion began, Paige and her brother made a beeline to the sports store. Why? They decided stock up and to skip town to avoid **death, destruction and dismemberment**.

Honestly, why do the main characters in the YA lit I read never think of this?

I **enjoyed the humor** sprinkled in throughout - especially when there characters had to do something dangerous.

*"Everyone ready?" Drew asked, as he and Randy joined the girls.*

*"I guess," Paige shrugged, throwing her backpack over her shoulder. "But for the record, I think this is a really stupid idea."*

*"Objection noted."*

Overall, I was just absolutely **swept** up in this story. I had **such a fun time** reading this one that I honestly **wish it was longer**. There was so much more that could've happened that I'm sorry it ended so quickly.

*"Did you know you look cute when you're wet."*

*She was too tired for this. "Do you wanna feel how hard I can punch?"*

**Fingers crossed that there will be a sequel!**

*With many, many thanks to the author for a free copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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**Madi (TheBookNerdDiaries) says**

I have also posted this review on my blog -> <https://bookandbastille.wordpress.com...>

Aftermath by Tom Lewis

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

I did not finish this book and I will explain in this post why I did not.

I don't like turning people down and I grant basically all of the requests I get to read someone's book. I especially feel bad when I get one of these and I just can't get through it. This was one of these times. I had a six hour road trip ahead of me and I figured I'd get some NetGalley and author ARC's read. I chose to read this one first because it was about 150 pages long. That way I could knock out a lot of books on the trip. So I got to reading this book. I didn't like the whole teen drinking/disrespect towards adults that happened in the first scene. As I was dealing with the dislike towards those things, BOOM! Birds start falling out of the sky. Okay.... weird. Fast forward through twenty minutes of bike rides and some unimportant to this review dialogue and then people get cannibalistic. Um... ew! Then after that – MORE BIKE RIDING!!!! As far as I could tell, that was the most action in the book besides the fight with the "Crazies" (the cannibals). After all of that, I decided that I just couldn't continue. Believe me, I tried and I felt bad that I couldn't continue on. I have a lot of books to read and I don't want to waste time reading something that I am just glancing at words on a page trying to find something to catch my eye and make me want to finish the book.

Love at last word?: Nope. Stopped reading this book and I feel bad that I couldn't go on but as I stated, I didn't want to just breeze through the book and know nothing because I didn't like the book.

-BookNerd

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## **Emilia says**

### **The generic alien invasion aftermath**

It was okay. I mean I didn't hate this book, but nor did I love it. It brought nothing new to the YA or sci-fi genre. I feel like I've read this story before and I enjoyed it a lot more the first time.

The writing was okay. Nothing crazy to talk about. There was no magic to his words. I didn't really feel like the story came to life. It was just....words. Not that I'm saying it was badly written because it wasn't. It just wasn't phenomenally written like a lot of other books I've read.

The plot was....well...okay. I felt like it had potential to be amazing. The ideas were there but it was just executed poorly. Everything happened too fast. There was no time for anything to really develop. One minute she's riding a bike and then the next her friend's leg gets stabbed. It needed to be fleshed out. In addition, I wished it was deeper that it played with my mind sort of like how *The 5th Wave* did. That book was about a similar concept of aliens attacking Earth, however, that one had you on the edge of your seat, constantly second guessing everything that was happening. I wished this one wasn't so generic. Aliens-bad Humans-good okay...seems too simple for me.

Then, there were the characters. I don't really know how to react to them because we didn't really get to know them. I liked the potential of Paige, but I don't think I would cry if she died. Same with the other characters she met. Trish, Randy, Drew was I supposed to feel attached to them? And how come they trusted

her so easily? They were like okay "you're alive, we're alive let's be friends." Too simple. The works doesn't work like that especially after aliens invade it. Then, there was this whole romance between Drew and Paige. What?? How do you get from thinking he's cute to saying "I love you." No, just no. I didn't see any chemistry between them. Like everything else in this book it needed to be fleshed out a bit. I will say I liked Chad. Yes, he was flat like the other characters, but I did enjoy him. I hope we get to see how the experimentation on him effects him in the future.

Overall, the book was fine. I would recommend it is you are into scifi and quick reads. Enjoy.

\*\*\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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## Angela says

### 2.5

*Aftermath* is a story that surrounds a high school student named Paige after an alien invasion occurs in her town. After the attack Paige and her friend decide to head house since they aren't really sure whats going down. Shortly after arriving home, and talking to her brother and friends, they find out via news report that there are attacks happening all over the world... At first when hearing this I thought "Hellz Yeah! I love me a good alien invasion".... But actually this ended up being kind of a problem for me a littler later on. Further into this book we find out that they are actually stuck inside a dome like state. So this kind of had me a little confused. These attacks are suppose to be happening everywhere yet there are people and military outside of the dome where I guess the aliens aren't. This might sound a little confusing as I'm explaining it, but that's all I can really give you because it's never fully explained to us. I assuming it's more of a contained situation but I don't know. This leads me into my next point, I didn't feel I got enough information. When it came to the aliens and their invasion I have so many unanswered questions. We are given a blush at the reason to why they have come and what they have in mind. We're told that they have come because they have been watching us and see that we are abusing out earth and they want to right the wrong... From what I have gathered from several alien reads this is pretty normal, so again this has be back to being excited. BUT then that's all were really told about them. We only get a very quick description of what they look like, what they arrive in, and really nothing further. This leaving me with even more questions. I wanted to know so much more about these invaders. The thing I did love about these attacks was how they were played out. I really enjoyed The Crazies-I am Legend- meets The Host feel we got for it. I liked that the invaders put a chip in everyone and that when that switch was flipped, everyone went insane.

This gave this book a lot of edge and was a huge highlight. The only part that had me baffled with the implant of chips was that they also received one in their hand that would track where they are, who they talk to, etc. etc. Yet our leading lass Paige is able to sneak around everywhere. Don't you think these wise aliens would have just pulled up her log and tracker where she was and then catch her?!

I thought as far as the world building went that it was definitely stronger towards the middle-end than it was at the start. After the first wave of events we really got to see more of how/what the world was becoming and where things might be headed. I wanted to wait to go over the main character Paige until I started talking about the plot and the pace of this book because I think they go hand-in-hand for me. The pace of *Aftermath* is full steam ahead the whole time. I liked the action scenes and how well written they are, but the amount of action that happened at times overwhelmed me and I think it did the same for the characters as well. We get non-stop action from the first few pages until the very end. Sometimes I just wanted them to stop, regroup,

actually make a solid plan then act. What I got was Paige constantly throwing them into things without thinking thing through. It was so slammed with action that I didn't get the amount of dialogue I wanted or the connections I needed to love Paige. This stopped me from not just connecting with Paige but with the sub-characters too (I'll get to them in a minute). I had such a hard time relating to her... One minute she would start acting like a normal teenage girl and just when I thought I was starting to get a grasp on her she would do something so out there she would slip through my fingers. She has this strong survival instinct rooted into her from an yearly age, but yet I didn't find it believable. Like when we found out she knew how to use a bow and arrow, I could get behind that, but then she would be like Macgyvering weapons out of like nothing and it would have me rolling my eyes. Plus she was always saying "I have an idea" when they got into a pickle and then would come up with some off the wall plan. All that being said I absolutely love action packed books, and this one is definitely full of it and the scenes are amazingly written, but it got too the point where I asked myself "*is this too much action? Is there this much action happening to cover up the lack of dialogue?*"... So I guess I just wanted a little more character development and back-story and a little less running around.

As far as sub characters went we have Trish Drew, and Chad as our main ones. Trish is Paige's new friends and again someone I struggled to connect with. Drew and Chad were both characters I enjoyed, but again wanted more out of. I liked that Drew brought some comic relief to the story. I was secretly hoping for some kind of love triangle, but sadly this didn't happen. When it came to the "romance" aspect between Drew and Paige I just didn't get it. The few moments we have with them are sweet, but still lacking something. I just didn't fall in love with their love.

*Aftermath* was a book with nonstop action and an amazing concept. It was a quick read, one I was able to knock out in an afternoon. Lewis writing is both strong and fun. I feel like this book could have been longer, and that the amount of action, if spread out, wouldn't have felt so overpowering. I think if this book was anywhere from 50-100 pages more we could have gotten so much more out of it and it's characters. I believe this is the first book in a series and I'm very interested to see where it heads and hopefully get some answers too all my questions.

**READ THIS REVIEW AND OTHERS OVER ON OUR BLOG:**

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**Lizzy says**

I was asked by Tom Lewis to read the book and give an honest review. So here it goes: Loved it!!!! What a great debut!!! I could not put it down. It had me from the first page. I just had to know what happened next. It is an easy, thriller, exciting and at times scary read. The characters are strong. Very well done Tom!!! I will recommend this book to everyone who likes YA/dystopian books

Can't wait for the next book!!!

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## Elizabeth says

I was asked by Tom Lewis to read and review his book and I'm so glad that I did, because once I started to read I couldn't stop reading it, it had me sitting on the edge of my bed, as well as cheering for his main character Paige and her friends. It's an exciting read, action-packed, and a little scary at times at least I thought so, the characters are and were strong, and it's a stand out from others in the post-apocalyptic genre. Can't wait for the next one, so last night I was up and I reread it and it's even better a second time around.

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## Sylvia says

**Well now, that was one fast read full of non-stop action from beginning to end. Giving it 3.5 stars.**

First of all, I'd like to thank the author, Tom Lewis for providing me a copy of **Aftermath** in exchange for my honest review. And I'm being completely honest when I say that I really enjoyed this fast-paced, action-packed debut novel.

It has everything you can ask in a sci-fi, alien invasion, post-apocalyptic story about a kick-ass protagonist that takes the end as nothing but a means to survive and revenge those aliens that took everything and everyone away from her. We are introduced from the word go to the destruction of the world as we know it through the eyes of sixteen-year-old, Paige O'Conner. We literally were hurled right into this devastation at the same time that Paige was and through her, we took reigns and fought our way through it all. It actually felt like I was watching the events unfold in front of me on a movie screen. Given the epic theme, stories about the end of the world, often have that affect on me while I read them.

In saying that though, the story did have its flaws. Connection is a really big thing for me. I need to feel connected not only to the story, which I did feel in **Aftermath** but to the characters as well, which lacked a great deal for me. Yes, Paige O'Conner is strong-willed and determined, but I didn't feel any real emotion from her. No feelings or sentiments to what was happening around her and to her. No link to Paige except for the fact that she was on a mission to find out what was going on and to get the hell out of the situation. When she did show the slightest bit of emotion, like finally cry, I just read over it like it was nothing. This bothered me quite a bit and that's why it didn't get 5 stars. Story is there, plot twists are executed, it's not having enough feelings and emotions that let it down. However, I'm definitely hooked to find out what the next instalment to this series is going to be like and I do hope we get more *umf* with character development, especially with connecting to the readers, amongst the action, which I know will be there.

Good debut novel from Tom Lewis and I hope the rest of the series will be great, if not better.

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## Donna says

WOW!!! This is Tom Lewis' first book? WOW Tom, that was incredible!! I became so invested in the characters Paige, Drew and Trish. Paige is a survivor and a great character. I hope as the series continues we learn more about her.

This is an alien invasion, but it's more than that, it is about Paige and her struggle to survive. I feel that she has been introduced to us very well, but there is room for growth and I am looking forward to that in the next book in this series! She is a butt-kickin' heroine and if I were in an alien invasion I would definitely want

Paige around.

I thought the world building was good, the alien city Tom created was awesome, although more detail would have been welcomed. The hybrids were interesting and learning a little about how they were made. I hope we get to learn more about the aliens, where they're from and exactly why they're there. But I do like how the focus is not on the aliens, but on human survival.

If you like a book that is action packed from beginning to end, this is it! If you like a strong-female lead, you'll love Paige! This should definitely be on everyone's to-read list!!

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## **Floryie says**

I received a free copy from the author for an honest and unbiased review.

I can count the number of books I have read in the dystopian genre on one hand. So, for a bit of a change, I got this e-book to break my fantasy streak and try out something different. Was I disappointed? No and yes!

The first impression of a book is always from its cover and this book cover is good and fits the genre and the book plot. From the blurb, I expected a good paced series of events but what I got was the "FAST and FURIOUS" of a dystopian plot. The story kept me on my toes trying to stay abreast of the events unfolding one after the other. The plot was good but it could have been a bit slower and more attention could have been given to the world building. A book is balanced only when equal attention is given to both the plot and the world building.

As for the characters, I liked the determination of the lead, Paige and her friends and I was cheering them every step of their journey in spite of their crazy stunts. But I was expecting more from Paige. I would start thinking that she isn't a normal teenager when she would prove that she does have emotions. She showed the most growth as a character. The levity exhibited by Paige and Drew was okay in the beginning but didn't mesh with the story later on. The Drew situation was so unexpected! I guess I was thinking that their luck would run true till the end. So I got misty eyed towards the end, especially the way it played out. Chad and Trish stood out among the other characters and I would like to read more about them.

So was I totally disappointed? No! Was I a little bit let down? Yes! Would I read it again in hindsight? Yes, I would! I regret that it ended so soon though. In spite of it all, it was a quick read and I am looking forward to the next book in the series.

My one line review : A short and furious Apocalypse page turner!

My rating: 3.5/5

My reread factor: 3.5/5

Floryie

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## **Adita ?The Slumbering Insomniac? says**

I stumbled upon this book on my to-read list and realized with a start that **I have already read it sometime**

**ago.** Does the name Paige O'Connor ring a bell? Yes, yes, yes!

Now that's what I call a **memorable read** . I almost remember Paige saying,

But, did the male lead just die?? No way. Can't wait to have Paige play house with her brother's close friend in the next book! Wait, did her brother also die? Just like that? The horror!

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## **Aj the Ravenous Reader says**

**First off, I would like to thank Tom Lewis for randomly picking me to read and review his book which I honestly enjoyed! Again, thank you so much!^^**

This is a very promising start to what could be an epic dystopian series for young adults and even for children especially for those who love alien invasion- apocalyptic stories.

This has a **fast-paced, suspenseful and action-packed plot** that starts off in a very engaging opening. The opening conversations between Paige and her friend instantly caught my attention. It's funny that zombie apocalypse planning was a favorite topic between the two girls. (Good use of foreshadowing!)

The heroine, Paige, is a smart, pretty, sarcastic but strong-willed 16 year old who finds herself not only surviving the apocalypse as aliens invaded Los Angeles, but also discovering herself and humanity in the midst of complete chaos.

Although I think Paige's characterization could use more depth, I still find it fascinating when a male author creates female characters. It makes me imagine how he tries to put his feet in the shoes of a teenage girl trying to act and talk like one. He probably looks something like this:

The author, I believe, is a fellow inspired and awed by these popular dystopian books and thought about combining them altogether to make a very entertaining dystopian world of his own. Sometimes, it also felt like a spoof of several familiar scenes and elements like those present in Hunger Games, The Host, Divergent, This is Not a Test, etc. especially with the comic tone prevalent throughout the story.

### **Below is a list of such familiar elements:**

1. Aliens
2. People acting like zombies/robots aka crazies
3. This is not a test flashing on the screen
4. Spaceships and drones
5. Implants
6. Insta-deaths ^^
7. Force fields
8. Hosts
9. Mutts/hybrids

10. The mist
11. Cruel, violent guards
12. And of course, somebody really important dies in the end!^^

The writing is **simple but creative with imaginative descriptions and effective use of sensory imagery. I only spotted a few forgivable typos.**^^

**Regardless of the very minor flaws, this is one cool, YA/middle school dystopian novel that fans of this genre will enjoy!**

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