



Dust: Before and After

S.E. Smith

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Dust wakes to discover the world as he knew it is gone after fragments of a comet hit the Earth. It isn't the only thing that has changed, though, so has Dust. He now possesses powers that continue to grow, but also come with a price. A deadly encounter after he leaves his home leads to a new discovery, – other survivors.

Dust soon learns that another creature has risen from the ashes, one that is determined to possess the powers that he has. On a journey filled with danger, it will take the skills of not just Dust, but those of his friends, if they are to survive.

This time the race is not to the swift, but to the deadliest in a world where a changed human boy and an odd assortment of friends must face their worst nightmares, and accept that life on Earth will never be the same again.

Join Dust and his friends as they fight to overcome an evil force determined to create a new species unlike anything the world has ever known.

Genre: Teen/Young Adult (No sex, No profanity)

Dust: Before and After Details

Date : Published March 29th 2016 by Montana Publishing

ISBN :

Author : S.E. Smith

Format : Kindle Edition 271 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Audiobook, Teen

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From Reader Review Dust: Before and After for online ebook

Dorkthropology says

The reader was solid, though I think his saying certain things in the same tone highlighted what I might've glossed over on a physical book. I felt like I needed to start a drinking game for every instance of "in a husky voice" with "in a quiet/soft voice" close second.

Apocalypse happened, some things got superpowers as a result, which is handy for the people but shitty for everyone who has to deal with super-powered animals. Super powers means eating a lot, which isn't easy in a wasteland. Said powers must also extend to great teeth, as sugar is extolled as awesome for powers and downed in quantity with nary a toothbrush in sight.

Intrepid teens meet survivalist tropes and there's some dick-waving and posturing, which is bleh, but eventually leads to an examination of the emotional messiness of a shitty family, which is more interesting.

Some bits felt like the made no sense in a post-apocalypse scenario--like trying to hide dead bodies from a kid who'd been surviving over a year; wouldn't they have run into enough corpses to be desensitized by then? I was ok with the instant love as two isolated teens meeting a viable love interest for the 1st time in a year made sense it'd accelerate feelings. Glad it narrowly avoided a love triangle.

Having a violent female incarnation of evil was interesting, until (view spoiler)

The ending is anticlimatic and hokey. (view spoiler)

For all its faults it was a decent read, but not one I'll follow up.

Billy Buttons says

This book was entered and was a GOLD MEDAL WINNER in the 2016 Wishing Shelf Book Awards. This is what our readers thought:

Title: Dust: Before and After

Author: S E Smith

Star Rating: 5 Stars

Number of Readers: 28

Stats

Editing: 10/10

Writing Style: 10/10

Content: 10/10

Cover: 10/10

Of the 28 readers:

28 would read another book by this author.

28 thought the cover was good or excellent.

28 felt it was easy to follow.

28 would recommend this story to another reader to try.

18 felt the author's strongest skill was 'plotting a story'.

10 felt the author's strongest skill was 'developing the characters'.

28 felt the pacing was good or excellent.

28 thought the author understood the readership and what they wanted.

Readers' Comments

'Simply the best book in The Wishing Shelf Book Awards this year.' Male reader, aged 14

'This is such an interesting novel. The hero is amazing, and the plot is addictive. I also loved the cover. A wonderful start to a set of books. I hope there will be more.' Female reader, aged 16

'A really fascinating YA paranormal novel. This is very pacey with tons happening all the way through to the end. The dialogue is realistic, and the plot kept me guessing till the last page. Amazing cover too.' Male reader, aged 15

'When I finished this, all I wanted to do was to read the next book.' Female reader, aged 13

'A high-class, fast-paced paranormal adventure. Winner of the 2016 GOLD MEDAL!' The Wishing Shelf Book Awards

Ryan Austin says

This book was given to me by S.E Smith at FYM 2017. I was there with my wife and not being a reader I never expected to walk away with a book. But she insisted that I would like it. I started reading it yesterday, I have just finished it now. I have never in my life been so drawn in by a book. I could not put it down. It was a great story that drags you in right from the first few pages. Fast paced and action packed, which I believe makes it a great book for those like me who are not big on reading. Thank You S.E Smith for convincing me take a copy, and signing it for me. Apparently I wasn't "just there for the After Party" after all.

Frances Law says

Meteor strike!

I have noticed that Susan Smith's YA novels are totally different to her other works. This post apocalyptic story follows a young teenager who comes through a meteor strike which kills his family and all his neighbours but leaves him changed. Unfortunately the adults that he meets are not good people. There are also mutated species that have to be dealt with. The picture of a country devoid of population is confronting but I have to wonder exactly how many people survived as all the stores appear to have been stripped of food. In this story it is the adults who become dependent on the teens who are the ones who have mutated to one degree or another.

This book is supposedly book one. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a book two. A pity as there are a lot of unanswered questions.

M.A. Kropp says

The Earth is devastated by a comet strike, and survivors are few. One is Dust, a sixteen-year-old boy, who finds himself alone in a ruined land. He starts out to find out if there are other survivors and he meets several- some human, some not, and some, like Dust, somewhere in between. His exposure to the comet strike left Dust with some extraordinary powers that attract the attention of one of the not-human survivors,

who intends to use Dust and his new abilities to create a new species to rule the Earth. Among the human survivors he meets, Dust teams up with seventeen-year-old Sammi and her little brother, and Joise, the daughter of the leader of a survivalist group who also has enhanced powers. The four band together to cross the barren United States in the effort to outrun the beast chasing Dust, and perhaps find other survivors.

It wasn't a bad story. The post-apocalyptic world portrayed is grim and unfriendly, which is logical given the devastation of the comet strike. The main characters are decently developed, while some of the secondary ones are a bit stereotypical. The idea of some people and animals being changed by the comet (radiation? comet dust?) is interesting, but in the end it devolves into vampires versus werewolves which is the set-up for the second book, but also leaves the final battle a bit lacking. It's also been done before, a lot.

Despite some flaws, this is a decent story in the post-apocalyptic type. It moves along pretty quickly which is good. There are few info dumps, although I might have liked some more explanation on some points. To be fair, some of them were things that the characters themselves shouldn't know, so not a big problem. The narration was good. Overall, it was a decent story and I would recommend it if you like YA dystopia.

Tana says

Dust, Sammy & Todd. Family.

The storyline is unique and truly grabbed my attention. Just finished reading this book, and the connection between the characters and me, as the reader, is so strong. I need to read the next book. I need to know how the big fight ends, I need to know if boy gets girl. I need to know if there are other survivors!

Please don't keep me waiting for long, Ms. Smith!

Tina Williams-cox says

(SPOILER ALERT) Not into YA but I LOVE THIS BOOK! (SPOILER ALERT)

Normally I like adult, sexy, steamy, erotic books. Anything to do with vampires is a must read for me. Young Adult books are pretty tame and boring to me. HOWEVER, this story is exceptional. I was very surprised how the author drew me into the story. It is engaging and surprisingly different. I loved the main male and female characters. This is a very different take on Vampires and Lycans. How the author came up with this idea is truly amazing. The way the characters and the story develop is amazing and deeply surprising. The ending is unexpected and hang on to your seats exciting. I would recommend this book to everyone who loves to explore different and unique story lines. I have read all the series by this author and while I love all her books, this one is the BEST out of them all. I am very impatiently waiting on Dust 2.

Mary Hartshorn says

This was quite an interesting book based upon, a teenage boy who wakes up after a disaster and discovers he has powers. Not too bad, the ending was a surprise.

Cathy says

I love reading this authors books. I do have to say I felt it was unfinished, or at least left a whole lot of questions unanswered. I will give it a 3.8, not quite a 4 star.

Michelle says

I really enjoyed this book. the ending was interesting. Can't wait to read book 2 coming. out in a few months.

Sarah says

A World in Ruin and the Fight to Survive the Change

This was a great book. The action started right at the beginning and didn't let up. The characters were wonderful.

The protagonist, Dust, is an almost 16 year old who has survived an event that has devastated Earth. This event has also imparted him with power. He runs into various characters including Sammy and her brother Todd. Sammy is a strong steadfast survivor who has spent the last two year keeping her little brother and herself alive. She and Dust have a budding romance which is really cute. They, along with Todd, end up carving out a new family from the survivors they meet. However, not everyone has good intentions in this new world. And not everyone with power uses it for good.

Read this book if you are looking for fast paced post-apocalyptic action with a side of humanity.

Lara Giesbers says

S.E. Smith is a very interesting person and a very prolific writer. She's warm and friendly, and easy to talk to, and there's no surprise that her books have that same feel. A story you can pick up, get wrapped in and forget what time it is, until the story is over. Overall, the story is imaginative, and for a YA dystopian novel, it has quite a lot going on. The story is fast paced, for me, I was looking for a little more depth in the characters, but it was still an interesting story that moved me to the end.

Rick says

Enjoyed the story build but was surprised by its ending. Fairly good character build, especially between Dust and Sammy. The other characters seemed a little one dimensional, the She-Devil was really the best character evolution far better then the two main characters, she was in control the whole way.

Melinda says

Dust Before and After by SE Smith was a little slow to start. The storyline has great potential and the characters will eventually pull you into the world. I feel the pace could be a little faster in the beginning. Once the action really starts toward the middle of the book, you will catch yourself not wanting to put it down until the end.

Mithrim says

Predictable story line and stupid decisions by the characters in order to keep things going.
