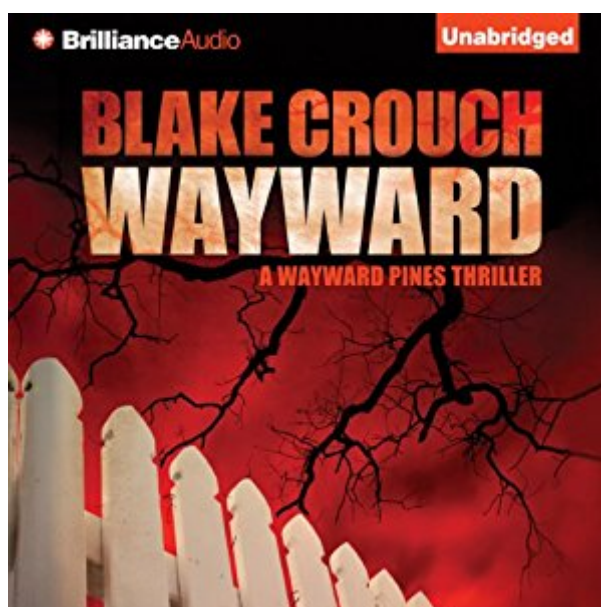


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Wayward: Wayward Pines, Book 2



Synopsis

Welcome to Wayward Pines, population 461. Nestled amid picture-perfect mountains, the idyllic town is a modern-day Eden - except for the electrified fence and razor wire, snipers scoping everything 24/7, and the relentless surveillance tracking each word and gesture. None of the residents know how they got here. They are told where to work, how to live, and who to marry. Some believe they are dead. Others think they're trapped in an unfathomable experiment. Everyone secretly dreams of leaving, but those who dare face a terrifying surprise. Ethan Burke has seen the world beyond. He's sheriff and one of the few who knows the truth: Wayward Pines isn't just a town. And what lies on the other side of the fence is a nightmare beyond anyone's imagining.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After the first book, when most of the major secrets were out in the open, I was worried that the second book would either not have the same larger than life exhilaration, or read like a serial sci-fi/soap opera type book, with new storylines seemingly made up on the fly. I know many a writer, myself included, that do not know where their books are going to take them, which can often times result in cheap tricks being used to keep the reader excited, but I can say that this series does not read as such. Not only does the second book give a much desired deeper look into the puppet master, pawns, and outliers of the whole operation, but maintains and intensifies the madness that I love. I saw one person, in a review, say that we fall deeper into the rabbit hole with this book, but I disagree. I was worried this would turn into a never ending scroll of more and more fantastical

fiction, but the story in the second book actually gets more grounded, without losing intensity. The characters and problems become more real, more human. The town itself is seen as, no longer a science-fiction alien world, but an actual town, on earth, with real people. The scary and awesome thing about this second book is that the story shows just how real it could be. Not in a literal sense, but while uncovering the madness of the town, I began to think about some of the dark secrets and actions of governments past. With technology expanding rapidly, there is room for much greater and profound treachery, but let me not get off track. To put it bluntly, the exciting drama is continued without losing the essence of the first book, while also not seeming like an unbelievable sci-fi serial. One of the few bad reviews given to this book said that it did seem like this was just a series of cliffhangers.

Well, my curiosity was stronger than my judgment. And why not? After all, Crouch had a great idea, his writing is competent and his pacing superb. It's a great story. Except that it's utterly preposterous. And it desperately needs an editor. A real editor, not some imprint editor who smooths the language and spiffs up the sentences. Really, that's the main problem with this series - it hasn't been edited by a real editor. It's the same with Bobby Adair's excellent Slow Burn series. It lacks a real editor. Not some sentence smoother, but an editor who deletes sections, who demands complete re-writes of entire sections, who tells you it's preposterous, who insists on more research, who holds the writer's nose to the grindstone until the thing is done correctly. The action and story are great except that they hinge on such ludicrous characters and such unlikely events that the reader ultimately feels ripped off. Just for starters, Pam, the superwoman/lethal-weapon/tireless-specimen/expert-spy/torture-queen/actress/psychiatrist/strategist is just short of being that bad Terminator that chases Arnie through film 2. It's ridiculous. Pilcher and his \$50 billion cavern and his kidnapped 600 and the agent who helps him, and his rag-tag team of recruits - good lord, just thinking about it makes you shake your head. Another couple of years, some pruning and a lot of editing could have fashioned a semi-believable novel out of it all, but in the age of Internet publishing, anything goes, especially for 's numerous imprints. It's discouraging. It's a fun story, but it's nonetheless discouraging. Books that are thrilling but so full of holes you have to keep reminding yourself to turn off your disgust -- where is this all going to lead us?

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