



Mayfly

Jeff Sweat

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Jemma has spent her life scavenging tools and supplies for her tribe in the their small enclave outside what used to be a big city. Now she's a teen, and old enough to become a Mama. Making babies is how her people survive—in Jemma's world, life ends at age seventeen.

Survival has eclipsed love ever since the Parents died of a mysterious plague. But Jemma's connection to a boy named Apple is stronger than her duty as a Mama. Forced to leave, Jemma and Apple are joined in exile by a mysterious boy who claims to know what is causing them to die. The world is crumbling around them, and their time is running out. Is this truly the End?

Mayfly Details

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Author : Jeff Sweat

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Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Mayfly for online ebook

Rachel Branwen says

I was lucky enough to get an advanced copy of this book and WOW. Couldn't put it down. Loved the characters from the outset and was immediately captivated by their world and worried about what would happen to them. This is the kind of book that will keep you up reading past your bedtime.

Full of unexpected twists and an epic journey through the future post-apocalyptic wasteland that once was LA, you'll love these characters and be sad when you finally do come to the end of the book. Luckily, I hear there are a few sequels in the works, and I am anxiously looking forward to them!

Chrysula Winegar says

A dystopian LA where no one lives past age 17. It's a complex world set in the ruins of one of the world's most iconic cities. I read an early advance and was compelled from the get go. The characters are vivid, with complex social hierarchies that quickly draw you in. I am already anxiously waiting for the next installment. Sweat is a good writer, and has the makings of a masterful storyteller.

Shelley says

Source Publisher

Genre Young Adult / Post-Apocalyptic

Rating 3.5

Thoughts

Mayfly, by debut author Jeff Sweat, is the first installment in what is believed to be the Mayfly series. The author has created a curious post-apocalyptic world where the Parents are gone thanks to an unknown plague which kills almost everyone once they become an adult. 15-year old Jemma lives in a place that the author is calling Holy Wood. In Holy Wood, when you turn 15, you are supposed to become a Mama until the End comes. Jemma has no desire to become a Mama. She wants to live her life the way she wants to live it. She also wants to enjoy her time with Apple, the boy she has known most of her life. She isn't the best gatherer, but she does her best. She could be a farmer, but she's too impatient. She could even be one of the Muscle which normally goes to boys only, but she can't handle the blood.

Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Lauren says

I stayed up way too late reading this thing. I received an advanced copy of this book and immediately found myself sucked in. The world of Mayfly is dangerous and exciting. One girl, Jemma, wants so badly to have a

life—and she wants it with Apple, a boy she's known all her life. But time is running out for her love Apple, and Jemma knows that if they don't find answers fast she and Apple will lose everything—their lives, their friends, and worst of all each other.

I don't know what is the most memorable part about this book—the characters, the world that's like ours but not ours anymore, the fight scenes, or what. So much happens, and like the lead characters' lives, it happens fast!

You can read it on its surface, but if you dig, there's more. Read it if you like big stories of love, adventure, sci-fi and figuring out the meaning of life. Reminds me of The 100 series meets Battlestar Galactica.

Steven G. Loertscher says

I received an advance copy of this book, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

What would happen if all of the adults suddenly died, and kids were left to fend for themselves before they also perish as they reach adulthood? Mayfly sets forth Jeff Sweat's vision of how this scenario might play out. Young adult post-apocalyptic fiction has become a popular genre in recent years, but I found the this take refreshingly different. Mayfly is sort of like Lord of the Flies meets Divergent, although that doesn't quite do it justice. When life becomes so short, the kids have to get down to the business of life, including the creation of the next generation, on a very compressed timeline. It's a compelling account of how a few brave souls that confront this messy, chaotic situation and try to fix it.

It's a great read in many ways, but what I enjoyed most was seeing the traces of the world we know in the one the author has created. Many of Southern California's prominent landmarks are there, where they have found a new, ominous notoriety. Remnants of the culture are also present here, found in the Spanglish spoken by these abandoned kids, and in the institutions they have created as they try to ensure the survival of the human race. All in all, it's a fascinating story, thoughtfully developed and skillfully brought to life.

My only gripe is that the ending seems a little abrupt. While you eventually discover why the calamity happened in general terms, there are still a lot of unanswered questions. Answers will come to light in the next installment in the series, but I would have liked a little more for now. But that's a minor quibble, and the good news is that there is a lot more for us to discover in subsequent books. It's definitely worth picking up.

Kelly says

Unfortunately, this book wasn't for me and I had to dnf it.

I really couldn't get into the story and to be honest, I'm not curious enough to find out more about this weird society. Only the children survived somehow and since the characters are young, I felt like they didn't know much about what happened and therefore, I was a little confused. In Mayfly, the boys and girls are not equals and girls have to be "mamas" at 15 even if they don't want to. It's probably what I'm going to remember from what I've read.

I have questions, sure, but I really don't care enough for this world and the characters to read more, I'm sorry!

Carrie says

Set in a somewhat sexist sounding society Mayfly by Jeff Sweat is a young adult dystopian scifi thriller. At some point the world has mostly died off leaving children raising children to carry on the human race. Seventeen has become old age in this society so the kids need to grow up fast to begin having their babies before they go.

Jemma knows nothing other than trying to survive but now that she's at the age to become a Mama she's not sure that is what she wants. Generally in Jemma's world the boys become the Muscle and the girls become Mamas with little other options. But Jemma and her best friend Apple have decided to set out away from Holy Wood, the place they've known as home, to find out what is causing them to die off before the chance to even live.

Now when it comes to the idea that society has pretty much ended and those left can't live past seventeen you can definitely say I'm going to be curious as to why and pick up the book. The world that has been created in here is really somewhat offensive to today's standards pretty much taking a step back to the caveman era with woman only good for making babies but truth be told that made my curiosity shoot up even more to the hows and whys. But I have to question at the back of my mind who thought it was such a good idea to spend an astonishing long amount of time in the book with the characters repeatedly discussing "rolling" around with one another? This is still YA and we all get how babies are made and whether it's graphic or not it kind of got a bit irritating to keep dwelling even with their cutesy made up words.

So anyway, now that the "rolling" rant is over let's get on with the rest of the review for this one. To me the pacing was rather slow for the first half of the book but to be honest a lot of that time was the establishing the baby making society to it could have just been my own irritation with not progressing beyond that part. Once you get going past that and the adventure to finding answers starts the story picked up for me and saved itself from an even lower rating. At this point I actually began enjoying the book and the action going on and anxiously awaited what drew me in to begin with which was the cause for society to crumble.

There are moments in here that remind me of something like The Maze Runner with the age of the characters and as I've mentioned some of the words and how they talk. Jemma's idea of not conforming to what is expected of her could remind some of things like Divergent too where everyone is expected to fit into a certain box and not be different from others. So if if these types of books appeal I'd say you might want to give this one a go.

I received a copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more review please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Matthew Luis Rodriguez says

A Page-Turning Work of Brilliance!

Mayfly is an fast-paced dystopic thriller that begins perched atop the Hollywood Hills, and much like a roller coaster, descends rapidly into dizzying adventure.

Jeff Sweat, has masterfully chronicled the landscape of Los Angeles through the eyes of someone who has a deep knowledge and love for the City of Angels. His insight into human nature and its tendencies craft a palpably possible future where adolescents and teens struggle to survive, gather resources, propagate their existence and even to find and hold on to love.

The books protagonist, Jemma, courses across the interwoven streets of Southern California uncovering one dangerous scene after another, all in search of a cure to The End. Character and tribe after next, Mayfly continues to introduce new adventures, new threats and new hopes down to the last page.

Lelah says

I read an advance copy and this book is thoroughly enjoyable! Being in LA, I loved seeing the city through the eyes of these kids who are trying to fight for their survival. But the author's descriptions are so fun and he's created such an interesting world that I believe a y.a. reader from anywhere will like this story. I loved that it kept me guessing in trying to figure out why no one in this world survives into adulthood. Highly recommended for a new take on dystopia!

Z. Core says

I read an advance copy of this book and it's just terrific. Well-paced, and delivers well on the premise. The Mad Max-meets-Hunger Games is a unique twist on the genre. Fans of dystopia fiction won't be disappointed.

Barbara Howell says

I wasn't sure if I really wanted to read this book, but I am so glad I did. In fact, I've read it three times! The characters are well written and defined; I could see the action taking place in my mind and I came to care about what happened.

Jeff Sweat really made it come to life. Now, as I go around the SoCal area, many landmarks from the book remind me of what the characters were doing.

It has stayed with me for a long time. I plan to give this to friends.

Julia Edits says

Wowie, I loved this book. Sweat does a masterful job of imagining a world so similar to ours...yet after the total breakdown of society as we know it. The book is gripping, scary, adventure-filled, tremendously moving and even funny at times. A great read, whether or not you're a young adult yourself.

(I received an advance copy; this is an honest review.)

Fanna says

Actual rating: 4.5/5

Mayfly has almost all the components that a good science fiction, dystopian needs. Right from the completely wrecked, no-hope-can-be-seen world to curious protagonists who want to find a solution, and an excellent writing, research, and plotting accompanying it, Mayfly impressed me.

Let's start with what I admired the most--the immense world building. The dystopian cliché was torn away in this book when the future world didn't consist of just one set of survivors; the world has survivors belonging to different areas or groups who stay away from one another's boundaries in order to save themselves from any unwanted violence. You'll find a particular group of people who believe in things that the other groups won't. ***Basically, there are cultures and traditions incorporated into this dystopian world and the best surprise is: all these are inspired from this present world.*** For instance, the characters believe that there was once a time when men and women (known as the *Parents* in this book) dressed up "*to meet with the gods, on the red carpets as long as the entire streets.*" And the kids reached this conclusion from magazines they found in this destructed world.

Speaking of the destruction, the story is set in Los Angeles with vivid references to Hollywood and other landmarks. This gave a more realistic approach to this story. The main conflict of the story is the unknown reason why everyone dies at the age of seventeen, if not before. Due to this life limit, there are some rules that the *Olders* (the older kids) have set, like a girl needs to be a Mama at fifteen, "*roll with a guy*" for the same purpose, and supervise the society they've set up in all these years after the destruction.

Here, women are in-charge and men are not given all the rights--they're primarily for producing babies and using strength to fight against other tribes (a reason why they're also called *Muscle*). It's like a completely opposite take on today's world but an unfair world nonetheless. ***Not only this, the language spoken by the characters isn't the most perfect and it's a great take on what a dystopian struggle would be***; plus, those who can read are considered *bruja* or witches. Overall, the world built is stunning with the details, both new and old, that are incorporated into the dystopian Los Angeles.

The characters are really well created and developed. Jemma and Apple are curious about this world but smart too. Their romance is a swiftly constructed matter and I would agree I found myself attached to them both. The side characters are just as much precious and it would be fun if you found them out yourself because they all give something to the bigger picture.

The thrill in this ride is epic! The pacing, plot, and revelations are woven into a mixture of exhilaration. Something's at stake every minute and the readers are hooked to the book because what's going to happen next? The only thing that slightly affected me was the scientific explanations or the lack of them. When the ending was explained, it left a lot of vague ideas and while that excited me for the sequel, it also deflated me

a little for I need closures sometimes.

Overall, it's a read I definitely recommend if you're a lover of young adult dystopias and a world building that would pull you right through.

Trigger Warnings: sexual assault, rape scene, infectious death, bullet shot, graphic violence, inequality, misogyny, misandry.

Disclaimer: I received a digital copy of this via Netgalley but that, in no way, influences my rating and/or opinions about it. Thank you Jeff Sweat and Fiewel & Friends!

Blog | Twitter | Tumblr | Instagram

KarenJo Custodio says

4.5 - Wonderfully Unique, Weirdly Fascinating, and Thrilling Edge of Your Seat Story

Mayfly by Jeff Sweat is a wonderfully unique, weirdly fascinating, and thrilling edge of your seat post apocalyptic adventure. It's fast-paced, well-written, and dangerously exciting from start to finish.

This book's a masterpiece, but I did have some minor issues in the beginning. After reading a few chapters, I actually wasn't sure I would like the story. I did think the concept was interesting, but there were a few scenes that just didn't sit well with me. Having said that, I surprisingly could not stop reading. There was something about the story that just pulled me in and I was so intrigued by the characters and their way of life. I'm definitely glad I pushed through with this because it was simply amazing.

Jeff Sweat brilliantly created a terrifying, but utterly unique and fascinating dystopian world. I really enjoyed exploring Los Angeles in this reality and figuring out why no one ever made it into adulthood. The plot had action, mystery, romance, awesome friendships, a bit of humor and twists that kept me guessing until the end. The characters were realistic, engaging and full of surprises. I had a blast seeing the world through their eyes and ached when I witnessed them make difficult choices to survive. From one danger to the next, I was holding my breath and hoping for the best...for the characters and for the rest of the world.

This story was a phenomenally creative, positively insightful and incredibly compelling read. Jeff Sweat crafted a unique and addictive post apocalyptic adventure that will leave you wanting more. I do hope that ending is just the beginning because there are so many more questions I need to be answered.

If you loved Hunger Games, Maze Runner, or any other dystopian books, then I think you'd really enjoy this book.

I received an advanced reader copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for a fair and honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Joy says

I read an advance copy. Talk about a great read!

In Mayfly, for some reason, nobody lives past age 17. In a tough but beautiful world, Jemma, the main character, and her group of friends are determined to survive. Mayfly's the kind of hero's journey that will keep you flipping pages, working along side them as they try to figure out this life-or-death mystery. These characters just want to grow up and see what will happen to them next—and you'll want to find out, too.
