



The Release

Shelbi Wescott

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Lucy King is only an hour away from embarking on the most incredible vacation of her life: White sandy beaches in a tropical paradise, snorkeling and sunbathing in peaceful tranquility. But as Lucy looks forward to her trip, a sinister plot is unfolding that will demolish the world as she knows it. An unknown bio-terrorist group unleashes a virus that virtually wipes out the earth's population—leaving Lucy, and a small faction of survivors, trapped inside her high school to wait out the apocalypse.

As war, looting, and death wreak havoc outside, inside, the students must contend with a tyrannical and paranoid principal and their own struggles of being orphaned, frightened, and unsure of what the future will bring.

What begins as a basic fight for survival turns into a search for answers that will challenge everything Lucy has ever known about her life and her family.

The Release Details

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From Reader Review The Release for online ebook

Christy Thomas says

Loved this book! And each book in the series gets better! What a great book for students who like the Hunger Games or Divergent. I'm always looking for engaging books and I have one student who cannot put this down! I'm excited to continue reading more from this author!

Mello ♥ Illium ★Harry★ ?Myrnin? Torin Ichimaru says

Synopsis:

Lucy King is only an hour away from embarking on the most incredible vacation of her life: White sandy beaches in a tropical paradise, snorkeling and sunbathing in peaceful tranquility. But as Lucy looks forward to her trip, a sinister plot is unfolding that will demolish the world as she knows it. An unknown bioterrorist group unleashes a virus that virtually wipes out the earth's population—leaving Lucy, and a small faction of survivors, trapped inside her high school to wait out the apocalypse.

As war, looting, and death wreak havoc outside, inside, the students must contend with a tyrannical and paranoid principal and their own struggles of being orphaned, frightened, and unsure of what the future will bring.

What begins as a basic fight for survival turns into a search for answers that will challenge everything Lucy has ever known about her life and her family.

My Thoughts:

I enjoyed reading this although it didn't draw me in completely. It kept me curious and wondering, though and that was one of the things I appreciated most about the book. The other thing I appreciated was that Lucy wasn't overly whiny. I think she reacted pretty well considering what all was going on. She freaked out and she got upset, but not in a way that annoyed me. She actually handled it pretty well. I'm not sure how I would have handled everything. Maybe not as well as Lucy did. Some of her decisions did make me want to shake her. I'm not sure what she could have done had she decided differently about staying in the school with that crazy principal, but I still think that was nuts. That man obviously couldn't handle the situation and that was just dangerous. I guess she's just lucky that Grant and Salem were with her.

Speaking of Salem, I wanted to smack her around a little. Being upset was certainly her right, but I don't like the way she came on to Grant. For his part, Grant handled things pretty well, too. He stuck around with Lucy when he didn't have to. He didn't fall apart, but he had his moments when he just needed to grieve as well. Really, these kids actually took pretty decent care of themselves. It was when Darla showed up to trade Lucy for whatever she had that things started to get more interesting. As soon as Darla mentioned a vaccine, I had an idea about some of what was going on. That creepy prologue definitely came back into play. At first, I thought Lucy's father was someone else, but then I figured he must have been someone else. Lucy isn't ready to accept his role in things, but soon enough she won't be able to ignore it, I'm sure.

She and Grant are on their way to try to find her family now, but I'm sure it won't be that easy. Even if she does find them, how will she let Ethan and Darla know? Even if she can let them know, what then? I wonder if the engineers of the virus will finally come forward and do whatever it is they put all of this in motion for.

Why did they do it? That's what I want to know most and it's why I'll be reading book 2.

Maisie Topping says

[even so, what the heck Shelbi? Killing off one of the main characters? (hide spoiler)]

Bridgette says

I had a terrible dream one night. In my nightmare, the entire human population died due to an illness except me. The day after I had this dream, I discovered **VIRULENT: THE RELEASE** by Shelbi Wescott. I took it as a sign. Not really, but it was good enough for me to one-click the book.

In **VIRULENT: THE RELEASE**, high school student Lucy King is about to leave for vacation in the Seychelles with her family. A terrible, fatal virus hits quickly while she is at school and people die left and right. In the chaos, Lucy becomes trapped at the school with her best friend, Salem, and a boy named Grant. The rest of the book chronicles Lucy, Salem, and Grant's quest to get out of the school and reunite with their families (if there is anyone left outside the school).

I am a sucker for YA post-apocalyptic/dystopian novels. This is definitely one of the good ones. The action starts pretty early on in the novel and doesn't let up. The author doesn't shy away from the gory details when the virus takes its toll, nor does she shy away from the emotional impact it has on the main character and other survivors. I recommend this book to any fan of YA post-apocalyptic/dystopian fiction.

Stefanie says

I am an English teacher and I had by 9th grade students read this book and they loved it. These are kids who HATE to read, but they begged me everyday to continue reading. They loved the characters and the foreshadowing; it kept them hooked. The only thing that they are annoyed about is that the next book in the series isn't out yet.

Brett Gerig says

I've started reading this book a few times during the last year, and every time I never got further than the first chapter. It seemed every time I started, a new book from one of the many ongoing series I'm reading came out. So I'd set it aside and forget about it. Fortunately for me, I read through all the books I'd brought with me on a long road trip, so I pulled out my iPhone, re-downloaded the kindle app, and started reading "The Release" at ten last night. I finished it by nine this morning, and would have finished it even sooner had it not been for this thing called "sleep", something I didn't get a lot of because I couldn't put the book (phone) down.

The plot is suspenseful and keeps you guessing to the end. There's plenty of action, but not so much it becomes redundant and boring. I really appreciated the character development, and actually found myself emotionally attached to some of them, unlike some of these other Young Adult books. (The Maze Runner, to

name one)

I liked how the book takes place during the crisis, not several years after. It was a nice change of pace.

All together, I'd say it's definitely one of the better books I've read in a while, somewhere near "The Hunger Games", and "Divergent".

So if you're weary about starting another Young Adult Post-Apocalyptic trilogy, worry no more; Unless you hate good writing and an excellent plot, you won't be disappointed!

Nicole Berneice says

I really enjoyed this book. It was nice to finally be able to read something different than the stereotypical YA books that seem to be covering every shelf. There wasn't any vampires, or epic love story, it was realistic and original. One of my favorite things about this book is the development of the school and Ms. Johnston (who happens to be my English teacher) it was fun being able to actually see everything as it happened. The character development is great and I ended up loving all of them, even the ones who were only in it for a short time- like her mom. The ending was fantastic, I really didn't see it coming. The last few chapters set up the next book and left me wanting to know what happens. I will definitely be reading the next one!

Jacquelyn says

I am not one to normally read Post- Apocalyptic Novels or really even partake in any actual discussions on the theories that arise from people's minds. When I first heard about the book, I was hesitant, but after the third page I was automatically hooked. Lucy is just a typical teenager in high school, who is planning on taking a vacation, but unfortunately never gets that far. An accidental forget homework assignment along with her mom's persistence that it be completed upon return home leaves Lucy trapped inside her school, unknowing of the outside world. A virus has been released that is rapidly killing of the earth's population. People are feeling the impact all over the world. Connections are unavailable, news stations only remain in existence until their in no one left to give the news, not that there is anyone left to hear about it, and the internet quickly becomes a thing of the past. The crazy principal Spencer claims that he wants to protect his remaining students and teachers from the harm going on, but doesn't live up to the promises in his actions. As more and more die off Lucy, her best friend Salem, and a boy Grant, who Lucy didn't even know that she knew her name, were the only ones left locked alone in the school with Spencer. Spencer wanted the safety of the school all to him-self and made sure that was clear. The students were locked in a small area of the school, Salem in mourning of her family and Lucy still hopefully awaiting her brother's arrival. The three of them fight through their own problems and each other's through the disaster, but remain together nevertheless. This book tells of a world ending disaster that does not involve some typical answer that anyone could come up with. And it seems real. The fear and the sadness in the book carries to the reader, as a good book should, it makes the reader wonder what they would do and feel if this situation were to ever happen.

Esmeralda says

My name is Esmeralda and am currently a freshman. In my English class we read Virulent: The Release and this is what I have to say about it .In the book Virulent by Shelby Westcott, Virulent is a realist fiction book.

Shelbi Westcott did a really good job on putting lots of details and really good imagery. In my opinion at first when I started to read virulent I thought It was really boring , but then in chapter 3 it started to get really interesting , like when they find out about the virus that's killing everyone and also when one of the main characters dies .

I got to say I didn't think Salem would be the first one to die. My favorite character in Virulent is Lucy, there just something about her that makes her character in the story so good. For example when Salem tells Lucy that she's outside the school Lucy says, "I'm coming! Okay Okay I'm coming" (38). This shows Lucy is really caring, because she's going to find a way to get Salem inside the school and keep her in a safe place. Another of my favorite quotes is when Lucy is being really impatient "She gulped okay, what? Just tell me what you know tell me everything." (124). this shows Lucy being impatient because she wants to know where her mom is and what's happening to everyone?

My least favorite character was principle Spencer .For example when everyone was trapped in the cafeteria Principal Spencer says "I want everyone out of this building. Do you hear me?" (50). this shows principle Spencer is being really dramatic about everything, and his talking his anger out at everyone.

This whole story is just so good it has so many surprises that you will be like did that really just happen. Trust me you won't regret reading Virulent: The Release. I recommend all English teachers to read this book to their class. The kids will have fun with it and so will the teachers. That's how good the book is. I also hope there's another book coming out because Shelby Westcott can just finish the book like that. I hope that her other books are amazing as Virulent.

Dorothy Mcmillen says

Very much enjoyed. Now I'm ready for the next book in this series!!! Please hurry.

Nick Rath says

This book consisted of heavy emotion which was brought out primarily through the character's dialogue. This was the interesting part because most books appeal to emotions through actions but where the actions were fairly basic in this book (collecting food, making plans, etc.), it was made up completely with the emotion in the dialogue of Lucy and her friends. This book still does deliver with some action and high intensity moments. It is interesting to imagine what the situation would be like if it actually happened, and the story taking place close to head gives that idea a head start. The ending of this book was interesting to say the least and I am intrigued to see what the sequels have to offer.

Toni says

Browse the YA section of any bookstore, and post-apocalyptic novels seem to be a dime a dozen. If you're looking for a story with well-developed characters, a compelling premise and a page-turning plot, Virulent has it all. The author's experience as a high school teacher is apparent in her realistic portrayal of teenagers and school life. (Though I certainly hope there aren't any principals out there like Spencer!) Too often, YA characters are one-dimensional or stereotypes stolen from The Breakfast Club. Virulent is a refreshing break from the mold and deserves to rise to the top of reading lists for both young adults and adults. It's a fun read, and I can't wait to find out what the next book has in store for Lucy, Grant and the future for society.

Meagan says

Wescott! I loved this book so much!! It was really great, I couldn't put it down. I don't think that I will ever be able to look at the high school the same way after reading this book. Seriously Wescott, this was awesome. I can't wait to read the rest of the series!! :D

Autumn says

I'll be posting a review over at Dragonfly Reads, but I will say it was a decent book and if you like this genre, you will enjoy the simplistic take.

Kaitlyn says

If you like realistic fiction books, that are suspenseful and leave you guessing, then you will enjoy this; *Virulent: The Release*, by Shelbi Wescott. It reveals many secrets you couldn't imagine. She has some good settings, and very interesting characters. Shelbi Wescott includes very descriptive writing, most of which are gruesome (this is a warning); "Many of these victims had thrown-up prior to collapse. They bled from their eyes, noses, and mouths; under the bright florescent lights of the high school, their skin took a green tint". Didn't I say she was descriptive? Although what I admire about her wording is the mood Shelbi Creates. In the book, there's a character that just takes away all the tension, and gives you a heartwarming feeling. In other word this character is cheerful. For example they could be talking about negative things and this character will come in saying, "Pancake time," and imagine him with a bright cheery smile. For Shelbi to put this character in, this shows that she was trying to even out the mood, and she succeeded. This is also showing that for a small character, without him you would have no relieving moments. As a result giving this character a part gives a time to get rid of all the tension in the story, only for an instant. So like I said before, if enjoy this type of book then I recommend *Virulent: The Release*.
