



Dead Water Zone

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For as long as he can remember, Paul has looked after his younger, weaker brother Sam. But when Sam leaves home to work as a research assistant in Watertown, he disappears into the dark folds of the city's noxious slum. When Paul goes looking for Sam in Watertown, he learns a dark secret: something in the water is changing the residents of Watertown, transforming them into something inhuman. But can Paul reach Sam before the dark waters get to him first?

Dead Water Zone Details

Date : Published August 21st 2007 by HarperCollins (first published 1992)

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Author : Kenneth Oppel

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Young Adult, Dystopia, Mystery, Childrens, Juvenile

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From Reader Review Dead Water Zone for online ebook

Beth says

I like this author. The story was not as compelling as his Airborn books.

Kumar Kutliev says

I love Kenneth Oppel usually, but this is a dull story with half a climax at the end and an uninteresting set of characters going through a setting that can be cool, but comes off dull. I suggest you skip this one.

Becca says

Oppel puts scientific themes and ethical questions at the center of a lot of his books. Didn't think this one was particularly engaging. Likely a bit dated as they talk about the diskette containing incriminating evidence of the properties of the contaminated water. I wonder if that aspect of the book was changed with the re-publishing in 2007.

Aaron House says

This book is a great short read for anyone. The book is about a brother who goes to the bad side of town to look for his brother, along the way he learns about the water in water town. Through this he learned that his brother might be doing something with the water.

Paul receives a phone call from his Brother Sam asking for help in water town. When Paul arrives he meets Monica and her brother, they agree to help Paul track down Sam. They find Sam's research on the water; they realize he is trying to purify it. Paul finds Sam helping the one responsible for the drinking of the water; when they confront each other things go south.

This book is a great fiction book. A short read, great for anyone who can't find a book to read. This will keep you asking questions until the end of the book.

Lily says

i got half way through it in english class. it was ok, but a junk-store special.

Sjtiedje says

20 Word Summary

This story is about when a boy named Paul went to Watertown in an attempt to find his sick brother.

Passage page 23 paragraph 6

"The call came five days ago, his brother's voice breathed in payphone static. They had talked awkwardly about everyday things. Then, in a sudden rush, Sam had told him he was in Watertown. He'd found something unusual in the water samples. No one else knew about it. He'd gone down himself to find out more. It was the only way and then he said, "something wonderful is going to happen."

Why I chose this passage

I chose this passage because it is the whole reason that Paul is going down to Watertown.

Librariann says

Ages 10+

Freak the Mighty goes sci-fi in this tale of two brothers, one a weakling genius with limited life expectancy, the other a teenager with a strong muscled physique a la Da Vinci's Perfect Man. A little too dated, (has 90's ideas of the future - sigh, I have been spoiled by MT Anderson's "Feed") a little too convoluted. Though Oppel has proven himself to be a talented and successful author, won't purchase the reprint of this early work.

Aaron says

The book Dead Water Zone is about a buff teenager named Paul looking for his smarter, younger, and more sophisticated brother, Sam, in a poverty inflicted town next to a polluted canal. While looking for Sam, Paul comes across a strange looking girl named Monica who was "so pale, there was something almost vampiric about her" (pg 13) and her similar brother named Armitage. Monica takes Paul in and joins in on looking for Sam. They ask a friend named Decks who said that "men had came around over a week ago with a picture and asked if I'd seen him." (pg 66) Later they get jumped by a small group of people asking about Sam. They uncover information about Sam doing tests on the polluted canal and how the water can change you like making you stronger and lighter. He also mentions a place that he went called Rat Castle where "the dead water is more potent." (pg 100) The team goes to Rat Castle to find that Sam is not who he used to be.

I thought this was a good book, but didn't have a very solid ending as loose ends weren't completely tied up with Sam, but other than that it is a good short book that I would recommend to people who like fictional mystery with a little bit of action. You might not want to read this due to its short length as in number of pages and that it has no sequel. The book is pretty straight forward and doesn't require a very high reading level.

Craig Chapman says

Dead Water Zone by Kenneth Oppel is a science fiction story that takes place called Watertown. It focuses on two brothers one is very big and strong and the other is weak and nerdy. The weak ones name is Sam and strong one is Paul. Paul spends most of his life sticking up for Sam.

Sam and Paul are brothers they have grown up in a rich neighborhood called Governors Hill all their lives. Sam has a disorder which causes him to be extremely skinny and weak. He goes to the doctor regularly to get medication and treatment. His brother on the other hand is very strong popular and handsome kid. They live a very counseled life style. This all changes when Sam says he's going to collage but he really goes to a place called water town it is a very poor neighborhood and is known for superstition. I won't say why Sam went there because it would give away the key purpose of book. When Paul receives an urgent phone call from his brother to come to water town he goes a.s.a.p. When he arrives he experiences some pretty creepy stuff and encounters some interesting people. He meets a brother and sister. The sister is Monica and brother name is Armatige. They are in many stick situations, fights and chases while trying to find Sam.

I enjoyed reading this book because it was full of action and suspense. I could almost feel the worries Paul experienced when he was looking for his brother but could not find him. It was also very interesting it caught my attention in many ways it had no boring parts past page fifty. I did also enjoy the flashback which helps enlighten the story and feel more connected to the character. If you like suspense full science fiction nail biting thrillers I HIGHLY recommend this book. I personal hate reading but I could not stop reading this one. I give this 4 out of 5 stars because the ending was happy but it could have ended better.

Hannah Givens says

This book has stuck with me for more than ten years. Re-reading, I was slightly alarmed at the writing style -- it's really not very good at all. This was one of Oppel's earliest books, and it definitely shows. The characters are somewhere in their teens, and often act younger, but then talk like roles in a play. They each have a single motivation, and occasionally reveal things about that motivation in brief speeches that are meant to sound emotional.

That said, I can definitely see why the imagery stuck with me so long. That part is really, really good. The key images seemed just the same the second time, bodies changed by the water, terrible and yet strangely glorified. The water as something with a compelling aura even to the reader. Some of the themes are clunky and obvious, but there are also threads of a strange sibling relationship based on adolescents' fascination with their own bodies. Rivalry, codependence, the strange way people blame a sick person for being sick. I can't say if I'd like the book as much if I was discovering it as an adult, but I'm glad to have re-read it.

Deborah says

One of Kenneth Oppel's first novels published (and not up to the par of Airborn or Skybreaker) this is interesting science fiction that reluctant readers might like.

Reminds me of Chris Wooding's Storm Thief (who I highly recommend).

Matt Schinsky says

I thought that this was a pretty good science fiction novel. It was based around a boy, Sam, that ran away to research the water in watertown which is believed to be toxic. Paul is the main character of the story who

runs away from home to find his brother Sam. Sam was born with a disease which makes it hard for him to put on weight and muscle. Paul has made it his goal in life to protect his brother from being bullied. The story goes through Paul's struggles to find Sam and ensure his safety. I thought that this was a good book and a quick read and you should definitely check it out!

Holly says

If you're a Kenneth Oppel fan, you'll find this an interesting read. It's definitely not on the caliber of his other books, and I wouldn't make this the first book of his to read. However, it was a solid story and the writing was fine. It's obviously one of his earlier books. A good way to pass the time on a summer afternoon. Also, it's short, so it moves quickly. Best for the 13+ age group.

Jacob Ponce says

This book starts off with Paul going through a deserted part of his hometown trying to look for his brother Sam. Paul is there because Sam told him to meet him at the pier of Watertown. Sam is Paul's genius younger brother who was studying the disgusting town's water when he alerted Paul. The only thing is Sam is disabled and he only has 15 years left of life. Paul and Sam have an odd relationship but it is clear they would support each other no matter what. Paul is lost but is found by a local named Monica. She is a pick pocket and her brother runs an illegal computer business. Monica and Armitage try to help Paul find his brother. But a couple days later they are annoyed at Paul for bringing them into this. A secret organization is uncovered to be looking for Sam. At the same time Paul finds elaborate clues left by Sam especially for him. Paul learns Sam has been drinking the water making him become stronger and also realizes Sam is doing this in order to live a full life. Paul kind of knows how the water works because Monica and Armitage have the water in them because of their water-drinking mother. Paul and the other two siblings eventually find Sam but also find the leader of the organization looking for Sam. Sam is interviewed and the organization comes to a conclusion that he is very dangerous. The organization really wants to use his power as a weapon. Then Sam and the organization fight off with the help of Paul, Monica, and Armitage. At the end they come on top and the organization is defeated for now. Although Sam decides to part ways with Paul for a while as he needs to learn to control his abilities and should not be shown to the rest of the world.

Tyler [HOMY] The says

This is my book review on the book "Dead Water Zone". This book is a drama/adventure book but many action parts can be found in this amazing book. The author of this book is the commonly known Kenneth Oppel which has also written many other great books like, Airborne and Silverwing. This book was published by schoolastics in 1992. The book was a good choice for me because I have read many books by the same author.

There are three main characters in this boook. Paul, a self centered muscular teenager, Monica a mutated water drinker that lives in watertown and is very self consious about her body image. And finnally who the whole story is about, Sam, Paul's brother. he's a runaway teen with an urge to do what he pleases and has an uncurable disease, he is also very smart and can be compared to his brother if he was the complete opposite.

The plot of this story is Paul the older and more muscular trying to save his brother from an unknown bad guy. Monica also plays a big role in this story guiding Paul through Watertown looking for Sam. This book is filled with multiple encounters with enemys. Paul has to escape many bad situations that could cause him bad injury or even death.

If you think this book review was good maybe you will pick it up and try reading it.
