



After The Ending

Lindsey Pogue , Lindsey Fairleigh

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The Virus spread. Billions died. The Ending began. We may have survived the apocalypse, but the Virus changed us.

When people started getting sick, “they” thought it was just the flu. My roommate, my boyfriend, my family...they’re all gone now. I got sick too. I should have died with them—with the rest of the world—but I didn’t. I thought witnessing the human population almost disappear off the face of the earth was the craziest thing I’d ever experience. I was so wrong. My name is Dani O’Connor, and I survived The Ending.

The Virus changed everything. The world I knew is gone, and life is backwards. We’ve all had to start over. I’ve been stripped of my home, my dreams...all that is me. I’m someone else now—broken and changed. Other survivors’ memories and emotions haunt me. They invade my mind until I can no longer separate them from my own. I won’t let them consume me. I can’t. My name is Zoe Cartwright, and I survived The Ending.

We’ve been inseparable for most of our lives, and now our friendship is all we have left. The aftermath of the Virus has stranded us on opposite sides of the United States. Trusting strangers, making sacrifices, killing—we’ll do anything to reach one another. Fear and pain may be unavoidable, but we’re strong...we’re survivors. But to continue surviving in this unfamiliar world plagued by Crazies and strange new abilities, we have to adapt. We have to evolve.

And more than anything, we have to find each other.

After The Ending Details

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From Reader Review After The Ending for online ebook

Maxine says

What I learned about the apocalypse from this book:

1. Your chances of survival will be predicated on the hotness factor ie. how good you look in survival gear. This is more true for women than men. Some less attractive males will survive but only to be cannon fodder because every apocalypse needs Red Shirts
2. Normally intelligent women will become horny teenagers
3. If the guy you are lusting after is sleeping with someone else, no problem, he is only sleeping with her for sex. This does not make him a horndog. It does, however, make her a skank which will be confirmed by your girlfriends. Once you start sleeping with him, you will not be a skank because he isn't sleeping with you for sex. Okay, this rule is a trifle confusing
4. No matter what dangers you encounter, always remember to think how you would best look to the hottest guy in the room
5. If your boyfriend should die, don't despair. He obviously wasn't hot enough. Soon, one of your hotter exes will realize and come to the rescue. After the requisite minute and a half of grieving, you can begin to imagine having hot monkey sex with the ex. However, there is a codicil to this rule. If the ex should try to actually have sex with you, you will develop the ability to read minds and seeing him seeing you having sex with him...ewww. Not ewww because he is seeing you - wow, you are some hot, girl. Look at you, all thin waist and raven black hair and emerald eyes. Damn, you look so good you would want to have sex with your own fine self. No, ewww because he is thinking about having sex with you while he is attempting to have sex with you. Hey, I didn't make up these rules!
6. And this is the most important rule of all. During the apocalypse, no matter where you are, there will be WiFi. This is important so that you can email your girlfriends about all the hot guys you are meeting. Besides, should you mistakenly date a Red Shirt, you may need to update your Facebook relationship status

I'm sure there are more rules to ensure your survival in the event of a teenaged apocalypse but I've decided I'm too old and, besides, night vision goggles make me look fat. So, after the first one hundred pages, I've decided to sit out the rest of this particular apocalypse. I'll catch the next one when it comes around.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

This genre is normally one of my favorites. Lately that seems to be changing though. Cuz there is some crappy books coming out and shaming the whole idea of it. This is one of them. 2 BFF's (gag) email each other as they face the end of the world. Everyone has the flu and is dying off. (Good idea for a book-but this one squashed the life out of it) I mean dang one of them loses her boyfriend and does it bother her? Not. She has to email said BFF and let her know as she drinks wine.

Please save trees and not produce drivel like this.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

****3.5 Ability Stars****

This series is different from the "normal" Zombie Apocalypse books I have been reading. We don't have the dead waking up and wanting to eat brains, instead there are the "crazies" who just like to kill.

Each survivor (which is minimal) has a special ability from mutated genes - this group is full of drama, angst, love and determination.

What didn't work for me?

I grew so frustrated at one of the heroines in this book - Dani - she was immature, annoying and stupid. Where she should have been in her mid twenties, she acted more like a pubescent child.

Honestly, the rest of the characters were the same way - I would have believed this story more if they were aged in their late teens. So, to relate more to the story...that's exactly how I read it.

This book is told in 2 POV - Zoe and Dani ---- best friends who are miles apart and their goal is to get to each other while surviving.

It ends in a major cliffhanger which makes me want to read the second book in this series.

Hopefully the higher ratings on GR means the characters are a bit less frustrating.

J. Bennett says

I have some bad news. The world has ended. Here's some more bad news – statistically speaking, you probably didn't survive. If you did happen to hang on, you might have turned into a violent psychopath. However, on the very small chance that you did survive and didn't turn into a feral sub-human "Crazy", then you are in for quite a ride. Not only is the world a whole new place, but you might be a whole new you. That's right, cool powers!

This is the setup of *After the Ending* by Lindsey Fairleigh and Lindsey Pogue. The story unfolds through the eyes of protagonists Dani O'Connor and Zoe Cartwright. The two best friends are on opposite sides of the country when a mysterious and virulent virus strikes. After a chaotic week of death and despair, Dani and Zoe must face the reality that almost everyone they know is dead. The world is suddenly a much quieter, much more dangerous place.

Fortunately for Dani and Zoe, it isn't a completely lonely place. They manage to connect with each other sporadically through email before the internet goes down and both vow to seek out a colony of survivors in Colorado and reunite. Each girl falls in with a group of other survivors where new friends and enemies lurk. Something else is lurking too – hot, steamy romance.

Yep, you read right, this story contains bands of wandering psychopaths, dystopian survival struggles, cool

powers, and two alpha male love interests dangerously armed with guns, chiseled abs, and hidden emotional wounds.

The Lindseys have crafted a very unique and engaging story that quickly pulls you in. Dani and Zoe's rock solid friendship and their long journey to reunite provide the foundation for a very active and adventurous novel. Dani and Zoe are both an interesting balance between strength and vulnerability. They do require rescue on occasion, but they also hold up extraordinarily well under the intense pressure and great challenges they face.

Romance fans are going to love the two hunky heroes that drive these girls insane. Quiet, conflicted Jake seems both drawn and repelled by Zoe. What does he know that he won't tell her? Jason is handsome, stern, and made to lead. He also beds anything with a pair of boobs. Is he really interested in Dani, or does he see her as just another conquest? Let the misunderstandings, lusty loins, and longing looks commence!

And powers! Yes, people have them now. I won't give away too much except to say that this definitely spiced up the story from my perspective.

I had a few issues with this novel. I'm not a big romance fan, and I felt the misunderstandings between the two women and their respective men stretched to epic eye rolling proportions. Additionally, in a few places the story seemed to fritz out, leaping ahead of a big development at the start of a chapter and then telling it as backstory. Lastly, I felt that several of the side characters were woefully underdeveloped and perhaps could have been left out of the story altogether.

All of these issues were more than forgivable, especially as I greedily read on in the grip of this novel's strong current. Overall this is a great start to a promising series. I can't wait to pick up the second book!

Editing Services by Cynthia Shepp says

I have to start off by saying that I love post-apocalyptic novels and this one sucked me in from the very beginning. This story follows Dani and Zoe as the world as they know it ends. Pretty much 90% of the world's population has died from a weird version of the flu. Only the people that have already had the H1N1 virus seemed to have survived.

The girls are separated, trying their best to meet back up. They correspond with email while the internet is still up, keeping each other up to date on the numerous changes in their lives. The people that survived either turned into "crazies" or developed unique developments, super powers if you will, but much more plausible. Both of the girls notice that they are getting these unique abilities and the ones that they get are so cool.

Dani is in a group of people with Zoe's brother Jason. She has had a crush on him for her whole life. Zoe is with a group of people that she just met up with, part of a military group. Jake is part of her group; he is a mysterious person who saved her life but won't let her get too close. Both of their groups were well-established. I loved the distinction of the characters, how everyone was developed and felt like a friend at the end. The romance was great, not too much, not too little. I was hooked from the first page and it was so hard to put it down. The ending was left wide open for the next book. I could not believe who MG turned out to be! This book had it all, mystery, excitement, sorrow, emotion, happiness, and hope. I cannot wait for the next book!

Kate says

Disclaimer: Got this book from NetGalley for a review.

Where do I start? I'm sorry authors but this is just a clusterf*ck of a book. It's the most Mary Sue story I've read since ~~Twilight~~ I wrote myself into a Harry Potter fanfic when I was 15. (Yeah, that happened).

I don't even... god. Okay, first off, this book is rife with typos and grammar errors, and believe me, if that was all? I would have rated this much higher, I'm not *that* much of a stickler.

Instead we have a story of two unlikely heroines (fantastically beautiful talented ones at that) who are on other sides of the country when a deadly worldwide (US-wide?) virus strikes and kills 90% of the population. Oh no! End of world scenario, I can get on board with. We're okay so far. It's a bit cheesy but I'll press on.

It's all downhill after here, and there's too much to go into detail so I'll summarise with a list.

(view spoiler)

I'm done, I'm sorry. Read the other low-rated reviews for the truth about this book.

Dana says

DNF@37%

There were just way too many issues with this novel for me to continue. I was interested in the overall plot but the execution was just too painful for me to continue. The reasons I could not finish this book are as follows;

- Some parts are very realistic(like making the decision to not help someone/being selfish during the apocalypse) and other parts were bafflingly convenient.(Finding surplus of supplies)

- Also one major gripe...I'm not a techie or anything but how the hell do you have internet access during the apocalypse! These are some seriously hardcore internet providers.

- The narrative is split between first person and emails and for some reason the emails read as if they were

written by an entirely different character(I'm guessing these were written by the second author but still).The two females in this story(both 26) already act like they are fifteen but the emails seemed as though they were written by a ten year old.

- There was also a weird blasé regarding major events. There was never a single moment of disbelief over any of the crazy stuff that went down.

Overall while the premise has promise the writing has too many flaws for the story to flourish.

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

After The Ending is book one in The Ending series by Lindsey Fairleigh and Lindsey Pogue. You know, when I read a book, I want to be entertained, thrilled, romanced, kept on the edge of my seat. This book did all of that...and more. I loved this book. I sort of turned starting this series into a project. First I read all six of the prequel novellas (which are now available in a compilation called the Omnibus Edition.) This was a delicious build up for me to start the actual series. I fell in love with the prequels but would all the build up be worth it? Oh my gosh, it was worth it and so much more.

Dani and Zoe are best friends, have been since the fourth grade. They grew up on the west coast in Bodega Bay, CA and were pretty much inseparable from the first day they met. The girls are adults now, 26 years old. Zoe has decided to move to Salem, MA to pursue a career. Dani stayed a little closer to home moving north to Seattle where she fell in love with Cam.

Dani thought this was it, she had a great boyfriend, a great life and thought nothing of it when what she thought was the flu virus started spreading. But soon, people started dying. It wasn't long until the virus took the life of her boyfriend and roommate and she herself became sick. But she survived. Why?

Zoe was going through life as usual, rushing between her two jobs, always busy. But everyone was getting sick, including her roommate as well. She too became ill and she too survived. Zoe and Dani are keeping in touch via email trying to support each other across the thousands of miles separating them. Zoe's older brother, Jason, is near where Dani lives so Zoe asks him to check on her which happens just in the nick of time to help her recover.

These two girls are immediately thrust into an unknown post apocalyptic world where survival is what you strive for each and every day. The girls know they need to be together, they can't imagine surviving without each other for support. But getting to each other will not be easy.

Dani has Jason and his friends to help her. She has had a crush on him her entire life. But he is a flirt and a

womanizer. Plus she just lost Cam.

Zoe starts out with an ex boyfriend, Dave, but are soon joined by others. Both girls are forced to learn to live a life so different than anything they ever imagined. They have to train, get stronger, learn how to use weapons.

Everyone that survived seems to fall into one of two categories. They are either permanently damaged, slowly losing their minds, dubbed crazies. Or, they develop an ability, a sort of super power. Everyone seems to have one, some are just quicker than others at discovering what they are capable of. Which one of these two groups will our girls and their friends fall into?

And of course, there is romance. I want to say that in both girls situations, we have the slow build up with bushels of anticipation. I was thinking (or yelling) okay, come on already. Just jump each other! Dani is riddled with guilt with her growing attraction to Jason so soon after losing Cam. Plus, with Jason's past, would she ever be able to trust him?

And with Zoe, well, she eventually meets Jake. "sigh" Jake is tough as nails, mysterious, quiet and totally off the charts hot! But at first he seems to not be able to stand Zoe. She can't imagine what she has done to make him dislike her so much. He has saved her life, not once but twice. But still, persists in avoiding her at all costs. I already knew why since I read the prequels. The reason will shock you.

In their journeys to reach each other, both girls experience so much. But not all of it is bad. Dani and her group spend quite a bit of time at an old horse ranch. I was imagining how it would be for them to just stay there, live off the land. But you know that can't happen. I loved that there are a lot of animals in this book. Jake has his amazing dog, Cooper, a husky. Dani has her partner, her german shepherd, Jack. And Dani also has a connection with a horse she names Wings.

Zoe and her group spend quite a lot of time at Fort Knox. They have the place entirely to themselves which they began to wonder if maybe they should just make it permanent. I mean, everything they needed for survival was here. But there is someone that does not want Zoe to survive. Someone that fits the crazies category. And this someone will bring pain, loss and sadness to their little group, eventually forcing them to flee.

Will the two groups ever find each other? This book was truly amazing. I could not put it down. I loved all the characters, was sighing at all the sweet moments and gripping my e-reader at the tense ones. And the ending, I was not prepared for that at all!!! What a crazy ride this book was. I loved every minute of it.

"We all have wants and desires and people we believe in. We have hope, and when we lose it, we might as well lie down and die."

Jilly says

Scars remind us we can live life without fear because no matter what happens, we'll heal. We'll get better.

The wisest character in this book is a dead guy. This isn't his story.

Instead, we have the POV's of two girls; Dani and Zoe. They are 26, going on 15, and they are boy-crazy, diary-writing, slut-shaming, mean-girls.with superpowers...

Every once in a while, I could like them for a few minutes, when they said something funny, or something funny happened to them. Like when all of the animals came running out to Dani.

Great, I'm an apocalyptic Disney princess. Zoe is going to laugh her ass off.

Now, that's an apocalyptic Disney princess!

But, then they act like total dumbasses again and I remember that they are actually supposed to be 26, and I am sad. Sad for womankind.

"Where did you even get the fireworks? Or do you know how to make them?"

"No," he said with a chuckle, "I can't make fireworks.."

"Oh." The disappointment in my voice surprised me.

"You thought I made them?"

"No. Yes. I don't know what I thought."

Really? Really? She freaking thought he *made* the fireworks? How completely stupid do you have to be to think that? And, she is disappointed that he didn't make her some fireworks? Uh, unrealistic much? "yeah, dude, if you want to really impress me, I want you to get a hold of some gun powder and some elemental compounds, mix them together, pack them up with a fuse, getting it all just right, with all of the needed ingredients in this post-apocalyptic world, where we can't even really find food, and make me a firework. Oh, and then make me 50 more and put together a show to music. Then, maybe I'll sleep with you."

Even in spite of the dumbassery, I did enjoy the book. I know, I know. So much dumbassery. But, it was a fun enough read. I am a total sucker for X-men kind of books, and end-of-the-world books, so I will overlook some silliness for the fun of it. If I pretend these girls are teenagers, I really have no problem with it at all. So, that is my recommendation. Just pretend they are 15, and you will enjoy the story.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Lindsey Fairleigh, Lindsey Pogue, L2 Books, Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) Members' Titles, and Netgalley.)

26-year-old Dani and Zoe have been best friends forever, but currently though they're separated – Dani at College and Zoe working in her home town.

A new flu virus is sweeping the country though, and people are getting sicker and sicker, and then they begin to die. Dani and Zoe miraculously survive though, and start off on a mission to travel towards each other and to meet at a safe haven. Dani travels with Zoe's brother Jason who she has always secretly had a crush on, and Zoe travels with her dead roommate's best friend Sarah.

Will both Dani and Zoe survive? Who and what will they encounter on their travels? And what else can they expect after the ending?

This story had so many holes in the plot, and was so repetitive it really irritated me.

Dani and Zoe were both okay characters, but they were just so immature! They acted more like 6-year-olds not 26-year-olds, and the constant gossipy emails that they sent each other were so annoying. Not only was it seriously annoying that they had computers, but every email was just a recap of what had happened in the chapter, so it felt like I was reading everything twice. This book could have been half as long, or it could even have just been made up of the emails and still made sense.

Now, the internet.

The phone lines are down, there's been an apocalypse, but the internet is still working. In fact you can even access the internet using your dead cell phone. How is that possible? What sort of crazy wi-fi do they have that works without phone lines or phone signals? And wouldn't servers be affected by this lack of phone lines? Wouldn't the computers that house the basics of the websites need phone lines? This was annoying. And also, you're fighting for your lives, you're on the run, do you take your laptop with you? When you stop at a store to stock up on essentials, does this include art supplies?

I can see why the laptop might be useful with the internet still working, but wouldn't survival gear be more important? Dani even comments on how clever she is to have taken her laptop because other people didn't, what she doesn't take into account is that the others have all had survival training, and bought useful things like hunting knives and water.

The art supplies are just a joke. Who thinks about painting when the world has ended? So frustrating. How these girls survived is a mystery, it certainly wasn't survival of the fittest.

If all this wasn't annoying enough, one of the blokes puts on a firework display for Zoe. Would you really do this? Would it not be like a big signal saying 'we're here!' wouldn't they want to keep a low profile? Just please! This is so silly!

I'm not going to go into why this annoyed me anymore, needless to say it took me a couple of tries to get all the way through it cause I just kept wanting to hit my head against the wall, and I won't be reading the next one in the series.

Overall; a disappointing post-apocalyptic story.

4 out of 10.

Isa Lavinia says

arc provided by L2 Books through Netgalley

DNF at 20%

What... what was this?
This was published?
How? Why?

Dani and Zoe are bff and they are at opposite sides of the country when a flu-like pandemic strikes and kills almost everyone. Their objective is to reach each other.

Seems like a pretty good set up for a dystopia, right? Girl power! Friendship between two girls who've known each other since they were kids taking precedence over the tired clichés of hunky dudes lusting after the main character.

WRONG.

The book starts off with Dani going on and on and ON about how perfect her boyfriend Cam is. No seriously.

"Cam, my adorable boyfriend"

"Cam's been making soup for Callie...he's so sweet."

"Cam's unfailing support"

"Go to sleep, my Cam. I'll be right here. I love you"

"Cam gave you a bear hug and said, 'I love how much you love her!'"

Then he croaks and she's all "Waaaah! He can't do this to me, he promised we'd grow old together and have kids and our kids would marry my bff's kids and then he could die!"

BUT WAIT, because Jason, her bff's brother shows up to save the day and omg, isn't he dreamy? Cam who? Oh right, Cam, her boyfriend whom she remembers because the disposal of his rotting body caused some sexy contention with the hunk, Jason.

As annoying as Dani's narrative is, (and it really is!) it's not as bad as Zoe's. I don't mean plot wise or their personalities, they're both incredibly annoying people - I mean the writing skill. Dani's POV isn't anything special. It's bad, really, but Zoe's POV is *My Immortal* fanfic bad.

"I unzipped my knee-high, black, calfskin boots and flung them into the corner. The brisk air in the room was a reprieve, cooling my legs which had been fermenting in their leather confines."

"I pulled off my brown pencil skirt and laid it across the bed."

"Pulling my dark hair from its bun, I watched it cascade past my shoulders and settle just above my waist, uncreased despite the twisted knot it had been in all day. I tried to imagine what I'd look like with Dani's wild curls and rolled my eyes. Wondering was pointless. My hair was boring and straight, but contrasted nicely with my light skin and blue-green eyes."

My dad had blue eyes, but not quite the same color as mine. They were paler, and his hair was so much lighter. I must look more like Mom..."

But does it have a strong message? Simply because female characters are annoying, and the story is written poorly, doesn't mean it can't convey a sense of girl power.

Haha, no.

Dani, in particular, is incredibly fond of girl hate. She makes mean comments and hates on other women for so much as looking at Jason - even though she's not even with Jason since what's his name, the love of her life, oh that's right, Cade. No Cam! Cam. As I was saying, since Cam just died and all.

And she complains about it. Endlessly. No, not about Cam's death. lol that dead dude? No. She complains about Jason not wanting to be with her, and choosing to patrol with a girl soldier instead of civilian old Dani. Why isn't he falling at her feet?! That bitch is totally trying to take him from her, even though he's not even hers to begin with! Look at that slut, trying to take her not-her-man!

Welcome to the Apocalypse, where women spend their days crushing over dreamy guys and emailing their bff about what bitches other girls are.

Because throughout this whole thing Dani and Zoe email each. And then they email each other some more. And some more. And some more.

They even email each other using their phones, even though phones were mentioned to be down, but whatever, because everything works for Mary Sues.

So I'm thinking, "Well, at least this can't get any worse..."
And that's when they gain super powers.

Jena says

A-MA-ZING!

Every once in a while, a book or movie comes along, that you don't expect much from, or maybe it's just that you don't know what to expect. More often than not, these pieces of pop culture will be mediocre at best, but then there are the "sleepers", the ones that surprise you in every good way they possibly can.

Dani and Zoe are lifelong best friends, but college, life, and young adulthood find them living far away from each other. Then a virus sweeps through the United States, decimating its population, and leaving the few survivors desperate to connect with each other. "After the Ending" is the start of Dani and Zoe's journey to find each other again. But there are intriguing differences in this new world order. Some survivors have gone insane, and the rest find themselves gifted with new and powerful psychic abilities. The interplay of these abilities is what makes the book so unique.

I loved Dani and Zoe, and the cast of supporting characters was fascinating. Also, Dani's "ability" was basically my secret wish come true, (view spoiler)

I cannot wait til the sequel is released in the fall, as this novel ended with an exciting cliffhanger!

Hayat says

I can't believe this book is free on Amazon!! It is a freebie!!

I'm so happy!!

It looks like a love it or hate it type of book but I'm sure I'm going to love it because it has some of my favourite themes...Dystopia, post-apocalyptic setting with romance and everything else you can think of and expect to encounter in a survival story! I have several books I'm reading but I'm making a space for this one!

Thank you Carol for encouraging me to try it, I can't wait to start this book and enjoy it as much as you did!

To review soon

Andrea ♥Ninja Bunneh♥ says

I love apocalyptic, end of the whole fucking world, what do we do now books. Yet, once in a while a book comes along that makes me just say what the fuck. Here's my synopsis of this book. Virus hits. Virus kills boyfriend. Girlfriend cries for a minute. Hot brother of BFF shows up. Boyfriend who?!? Blah blah blah. Some other shit with the girl's friend trying to find each other. Wham bam everyone who survived the virus suddenly has abilities!!! To read minds! And *gasp* communicate with animals! Huh?!? Well, here's my ability. Speed reading. I've always had it and it didn't come from any virus. Usually I use it when I'm so entranced in a book and I just want to devour the story. In this case, I used my "special powers" so my brain would stop hemorrhaging from reading. I'm sorry. I don't know if it was the fact this book had two cooks in the kitchen but it was the most non-cohesive book I've read in a long long time. I would read Another Little Piece again before subjecting myself more of this series. Now I must go scoop my brain off the floor. >.<

Jenni Lind says

After The Ending by Lindsey Fairleigh and Lindsey Pogue is exactly the type of book I had been wanting to read. I'm a huge fan of dystopian novels but you rarely come across books that begins at the start, or well, *after the ending* of society as we know it - just when it starts to crumble.

This book bounces between two characters, Zoe and Dani, who you really get to understand as they become very well developed in the story. Aside from them, the other characters, major and minor, also feel really thought out even if you only spend a brief amount of time with them.

It doesn't take much to suspend belief that the things happening within the pages of the novel could actually happen - from the happy and normal moments that still arise in chaos, to the sadness of losing those you love, to the grotesque happenings of human nature when given just a bit of control of others - it all seems plausible.

I am very excited to see where these two authors take us as the series continues and this was the perfect book to begin 2014 with.
