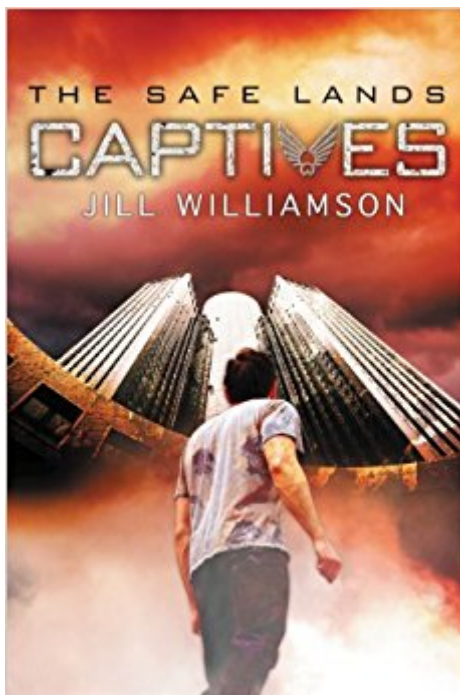


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Captives (The Safe Lands)



Synopsis

In a dystopian future, eighteen-year-old Levi returns from Denver City with his latest scavenged treasures and finds his village of Glenrock decimated, loved ones killed, and many—including his fiancée, Jem—taken captive. Now alone, Levi is determined to rescue what remains of his people, even if it means entering the Safe Lands, a walled city that seems anything but safe. Omar knows he betrayed his brother by sending him away, but helping the enforcers was necessary. Living off the land and clinging to an outdated religion holds his village back. The Safe Lands has protected people since the plague decimated the world generations ago ... and its rulers have promised power and wealth beyond Omar's dreams. Meanwhile, their brother Mason has been granted a position inside the Safe Lands, and may be able to use his captivity to save not only the people of his village, but also possibly find a cure for the virus that threatens everyone within the Safe Lands' walls. Will Mason uncover the truth hidden behind the Safe Lands' façade before it's too late?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The most compelling dystopian novels aren't really about a horrifying possible future; they're about the present, and the dangers we don't see because they're part of the cultural air we breathe. That's clearly the case with Williamson's somewhat moralistic but wonderfully realized antiromance. The term

anti-romance is prompted not by the absence of true love in the novel – in fact, honoring it is a thematic keynote – but because romance is considered corny in the antifamily, libertine Safe Lands, where a pandemic decades earlier has made reproduction problematic. Consequently, the state abducts uninfected young outsiders for breeding purposes. Williamson deftly intercuts between the points of view of characters drawn from the group, which includes a teenage girl living in a harem. Along the way, well-observed details skewer today's materialistic and superficial values. Yes, some plot points are hard to buy (e.g., authorities would be better at keeping the outsiders apart), and the biblical references can be too explicit – but that's not a knock on the message, which is important and worth discussing. Ultimately, the multilayered, futuristic narrative should intrigue fans of sf. Grades 9-12. --Peter Gutierrez

Jill Williamson is a chocolate loving, daydreaming, creator of kingdoms and the award-winning author of several young adult books including *By Darkness Hid*, *Replication*, *The New Recruit*, and *Captives*. She's a Whovian, a Photoshop addict, and a recovering fashion design assistant, who was raised in Alaska. She loves teaching about writing. She lives in Oregon with her husband, two children, and a whole lot of deer. Visit her online at jillwilliamson.com, where adventure comes to life.

I really enjoyed this story but I got mad when I realized it wasn't a stand alone story. I want a warning when a book isn't going to end. Now I have to wait until November to find out what happens. Not the author's fault but I thought I'd complain here anyway. Okay, about the book. It has a lot of characters and each section you're in a different character's head. It took a little bit to get settled into the story but when I did I couldn't put it down. It reminded me a lot of the Hunger Games. It's kind of a futuristic world where some live with really advanced technology while others are stuck without computers watching old VHS tapes or something. I liked to see how that world related to ours. The story world was very intricate. The author made up slang words, customs and traditions for each group of people and I marveled at the details of it all. The characters were distinct and very likeable. It also makes you think hard about what freedom really is. My only gripe was that there was one time, close to the end, when a character acted completely out of character, I'm assuming to move the story where it needed to go. It really threw me and I stopped and said out loud, oh no he didn't. That's not how it happened at all. There were so many characters that I'm going to have to review book 1 before I read book 2 in November. I already pre-ordered it so it should just pop up on my kindle fire one day for me to read. Love our technology. :) All in all it was a

very good start to a new Christian YA book series that I'm excited about. It's a Jill Williamson book, of course it's going to be good. I recommend it to my blog audience. Because of the violence I would say mature teens and up.

I had a hard time in the beginning of this book. The premise behind it was crazy and scary and didn't make sense to me, but I guess that is the point of a dystopian world, it doesn't make sense. There are lots of characters in this one, Mason being my favorite. This is a story about the village of Glenrock and the tribes who live there, way way in the future. There is a place called the Safe Lands, and in this "safe" place, people have a virus and are unable to reproduce. Their brilliant idea? Bring people, kids specifically, in from Glenrock, to be donors and surrogates. The whole Safe Lands is very much in the future and some of the things they have are crazy. Roller paint, vapors, SimTags, etc. The lifestyle of most of the Safe Landers is crazy. Drinking, partying, getting high with their vapor sticks; I don't know it seemed a bit much to me but maybe it's because the world is so different from the Hunger Games and Divergent and the Maze Runner. I did get more into it as the story progressed and I loved all the Princess Bride references sprinkled throughout. The ending was very abrupt! I realize there is a second book and is part of a trilogy but the ending was just weird and it was just done all of a sudden. It did intrigue me enough to read and see what happens next though!

So, finally decided to read Captives since I'm studying Daniel for school. I was expecting it to take longer than that to read...What'd I think? I liked it! Just plain and simple, I liked it. For now the Blood of Kings trilogy is still my favorite, though. For a few technical things: 1. The first thing I noticed was, woaaaaah this is some world. Arranged marriages? Huh. That said, it was interesting and yet...not at the same time. I have no idea how that works, but I guess just parts of it interested me and parts did not. The first few chapters were my slowest reading of the book. 2. The next thing I noticed/decided was that Omar is annoying. Ughhh. He betrayed them all! And then kept making really foolish choices! His POV annoyed me the most of the four. However, I'm not begrudging his existence, because we did need some balance here, right? We needed some contrast. 3. Four POVs was a little hard to keep up with. I did manage to keep them straight, but it was a little disappointing to come to the end of a really good chapter with one POV character and then...have to wait multiple chapters before we could get back to their part of the story. Again, not bad enough to seriously bug me, but just a thought. 4. That said, I felt each POV was necessary. We needed Mason because he's got the insider info, here. (By the way, Mason's was my favorite, though Levi was a close

second.) Levi because he's got the unique perspective of the one who inherited the status of leader of the village. And now he's got to save them. It's his responsibility. We needed Omar for contrast, as mentioned above, and Shaylinn because...well...we need a girl and because she's one of the ones affected in the, um, focus way.5. I was reading along, and...bam! Suddenly it ended! I was surprised at how the story ended. I mean, yeah, there's another book, but...it didn't feel like quite the right place to end somehow. Just that last chapter felt like it could've been omitted or changed. It felt almost stuck on so there'd be a cliffhanger. The second to last chapter was nice, though. ;)Okay, now for the typical things. First of all, plot! Well, this is a long book. The pace didn't drag, exactly, but it didn't fly like certain other books--*glances meaningfully at recently-completed Insurgent*--in fact, I'd say it was just right for this story. Good job, Mrs. Williamson! I'd say things definitely picked up as we were moving along in the book.Characters were good. And there were definitely a lot of them. Kudos to the author that I could actually remember who they all were. That's amazing and I really can't imagine being able to do that so well in my own writing.Overall? Nice book! Interesting to see a modern take on Daniel. Recommended to older teens due to content dealing with things like drugs, reproduction, etc. (Handled well, but better for those already, ah, familiar with such things.)

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