

leave the world behind analysis

Leave the World Behind Analysis: A Deep Dive into Rumaan Alam's Psychological Thriller

Are you captivated by psychological thrillers that explore the anxieties of modern life? Then Rumaan Alam's *Leave the World Behind* likely left you breathless and pondering its profound implications long after you turned the final page. This post offers a comprehensive analysis of *Leave the World Behind*, delving into its themes, symbolism, character development, and its unsettling relevance to our increasingly precarious world. We'll dissect the narrative, explore its ambiguous ending, and uncover the subtle nuances that make this novel such a compelling and thought-provoking read. Prepare to embark on a journey into the heart of this unsettling yet captivating masterpiece.

I. The Unsettling Premise and Atmosphere of Isolation

Leave the World Behind masterfully establishes a sense of unease from its opening pages. The seemingly idyllic Long Island vacation home becomes a microcosm of the larger anxieties surrounding climate change, societal collapse, and the fragility of human connection. The abrupt arrival of the mysterious Gilder family disrupts the carefully constructed peace of the vacationing parents, Amanda and Clay, and their teenage children. This initial disruption sets the stage for a narrative built on escalating tension and escalating uncertainty. The ambiguity surrounding the power outage and the increasingly unsettling news reports contributes to the overall atmosphere of dread and impending doom. Alam skillfully uses the isolation of the house and the encroaching darkness to amplify the psychological pressure on the characters.

II. Character Development and Inter-Generational Conflict

The novel's strength lies not only in its chilling premise but also in the complex character dynamics. Amanda and Clay, representing a certain privileged demographic, grapple with their own anxieties and shortcomings as they navigate an increasingly unpredictable situation. Their interactions with the Gilders, who embody a different socioeconomic background and possess a different approach to survival, highlight the complexities of human relationships under pressure. The children, too, play crucial roles, representing the anxieties of the next generation facing an uncertain future. Their differing responses to the unfolding events further illustrate the diverse ways individuals cope with trauma and uncertainty. The lack of clear-cut "good" or "bad" characters forces the reader to confront the moral ambiguities inherent in such extreme circumstances.

III. Symbolism and Allegory in *Leave the World Behind*

Alam masterfully employs symbolism throughout the novel. The secluded vacation home represents the illusion of safety and control in an increasingly chaotic world. The power outage symbolizes the fragility of modern infrastructure and the vulnerability of humanity to unforeseen events. The ambiguous nature of the "event" – be it a natural disaster, a societal collapse, or something else entirely – enhances the novel's allegorical power. The lack of concrete answers forces the reader to

confront their own anxieties and uncertainties about the future, mirroring the characters' own struggles.

IV. Exploring Themes of Race, Class, and Privilege

Beyond the immediate survival narrative, *Leave the World Behind* subtly yet powerfully explores themes of race and class. The contrasting experiences and responses of Amanda and Clay versus the Gilders reveal the underlying inequalities inherent in societal structures. The Gilders' preparedness and resilience highlight the disparities in resources and opportunities available to different communities. While the novel doesn't explicitly address these themes, the subtext powerfully suggests the systemic issues that exacerbate vulnerability in the face of crises.

V. The Ambiguous Ending and Its Interpretations

The ending of *Leave the World Behind* is deliberately ambiguous, leaving much to the reader's interpretation. Did a catastrophic event occur? Or was it a psychological breakdown? This ambiguity is a key component of the novel's strength. It forces the reader to confront their own anxieties and to actively participate in constructing meaning. Multiple interpretations are valid, reflecting the multifaceted nature of fear and the uncertainty inherent in the human condition.

VI. The Novel's Relevance to Contemporary Concerns

Leave the World Behind resonates deeply with contemporary anxieties surrounding climate change, political unrest, and the fragility of societal systems. The novel serves as a cautionary tale, urging readers to confront the potential consequences of inaction and to consider the ethical implications of inequality in the face of crisis. Its allegorical nature allows it to transcend specific events and tap into universal human fears about the unknown.

VII. A Narrative Framework Analysis of *Leave the World Behind*

Title: A Framework Analysis of Rumaan Alam's *Leave the World Behind*

Outline:

Introduction: Brief overview of the novel and the significance of narrative framework analysis.

Chapter 1: Exploring the dual narrative structure and its impact on the reader. (Focus on the alternating perspectives of Amanda and George)

Chapter 2: Analysis of the use of foreshadowing, flashback, and suspense to build tension.

Chapter 3: Examination of the unreliable narration and its contribution to the ambiguity.

Chapter 4: Discussion of the impact of the limited point of view on the reader's understanding of the events.

Chapter 5: Conclusion: summarizing the findings and the significance of the chosen narrative framework.

VIII. Detailed Explanation of Framework Points (Sections from VII):

Introduction: *Leave the World Behind* is not simply a story; it is a carefully crafted narrative experience designed to elicit specific emotional responses and interpretations from the reader. This analysis will focus on the novel's narrative framework, exploring its structural choices and their impact on the overall meaning and effect of the story.

Chapter 1: The Dual Narrative Structure: Alam cleverly utilizes a dual narrative perspective, primarily through the voices of Amanda and George. This shifting focus allows the reader to experience the events from two distinct vantage points, highlighting the differences in their perceptions, assumptions, and reactions to the unfolding crisis. This creates both tension and ambiguity, forcing the reader to synthesize their experiences to construct a cohesive understanding of the story.

Chapter 2: Building Tension Through Narrative Techniques: Alam masterfully employs various narrative techniques to cultivate suspense and anticipation. Foreshadowing creates a sense of impending doom; flashbacks reveal crucial information about the characters' pasts that informs their present actions. These methods effectively manipulate the reader's emotional state, creating a constant sense of uncertainty and fear.

Chapter 3: Unreliable Narration and Ambiguity: The novel utilizes unreliable narrators, particularly noticeable in the initial reactions and assumptions made by both families. Each character's perspective is incomplete and potentially biased, leading to a lack of absolute certainty about the details of the "event" and the characters' motivations. This unreliable narration is central to the novel's ambiguous and open-ended nature.

Chapter 4: The Impact of Limited Point of View: The limited point of view prevents the reader from having access to all the information, mirroring the characters' own limited understanding of the unfolding events. This limitation further enhances the feeling of uncertainty and reinforces the novel's themes of vulnerability and unpredictability.

Chapter 5: Conclusion: Alam's deliberate choices regarding the narrative framework significantly contribute to the novel's overall impact. The dual perspective, combined with the use of suspense, ambiguity, and unreliable narration, creates a rich and multi-layered experience that engages the reader on both an emotional and intellectual level. The ambiguity of the narrative reflects the uncertainties of modern life and leaves a lasting impression long after the book is finished.

IX. FAQs

1. What is the central theme of *Leave the World Behind*? The central theme is the fragility of human civilization and societal systems in the face of both natural and societal upheavals, explored through the lens of family dynamics and human relationships under extreme pressure.

1. Is there a clear resolution to the events in the novel? No, the ending is deliberately ambiguous, leaving the reader to interpret the nature of the unfolding events and their ultimate outcome.
1. What is the significance of the setting in *Leave the World Behind*? The secluded vacation home symbolizes the illusion of safety and control in an increasingly uncertain world, while the isolation heightens the psychological tension.
1. How do the characters' relationships develop throughout the novel? Initially strained by differences in background and personality, the relationships between the families evolve, reflecting the pressures of shared survival and the complexities of human connection under stress.
1. What role does symbolism play in *Leave the World Behind*? Symbolism is pervasive, with the power outage, the darkness, and the ambiguity of the "event" all representing larger anxieties and uncertainties about the future.
1. Does the novel offer a clear-cut message or moral? No, it encourages reflection on the human condition, the anxieties of modern life, and the potential consequences of societal inequalities and inaction.
1. What are the critical interpretations of the novel's ending? Multiple interpretations exist, ranging from a literal catastrophic event to a psychological breakdown or a combination of both, all valid considering the novel's ambiguity.
1. How does *Leave the World Behind* relate to contemporary concerns? The novel resonates with present anxieties regarding climate change, social unrest, and the fragility of modern systems.
1. Who is the intended audience for *Leave the World Behind*? While accessible to a wide readership, the novel's complex themes and ambiguous ending will particularly appeal to readers of literary fiction and psychological thrillers.

X. Related Articles:

1. The Psychological Impact of Isolation in *Leave the World Behind*: Examines how isolation affects the characters' mental states and interactions.
2. Symbolism and Allegory in Rumaan Alam's Works: Broader analysis of Alam's use of symbolic language across his body of work.
3. A Comparative Analysis of *Leave the World Behind* and Other Post-Apocalyptic Novels: Compares Alam's novel with other works in the genre.
4. The Role of Race and Class in *Leave the World Behind*: A focused examination of the socio-economic tensions in the novel.
5. Rumaan Alam's Writing Style and Narrative Techniques: Analysis of Alam's distinctive writing voice and techniques.
6. The Ambiguous Ending of *Leave the World Behind*: Multiple Interpretations: Explores different interpretations of the ending and their validity.
7. Climate Change Anxiety and the Narrative of *Leave the World Behind*: Focuses on how the novel reflects anxieties related to climate change.
8. Character Development and Moral Ambiguity in *Leave the World Behind*: Examines the complex character portrayals and their moral dimensions.
9. Review of *Leave the World Behind*: A Critical Assessment: Provides a comprehensive critical review of the novel's strengths and weaknesses.

leave the world behind analysis: *Leave the World Behind* Rumaan Alam, 2020-10-06 Now a Netflix film starring Julia Roberts, Mahershala Ali, Ethan Hawke, Myha'la, Farrah Mackenzie, Charlie Evans and Kevin Bacon. Written for the Screen and Directed by Sam Esmail. Executive Producers Barack and Michelle Obama, Tonia Davis, Daniel M. Stillman, Nick Krishnamurthy, Rumaan Alam A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick! Finalist for the 2020 National Book Award in Fiction One of Barack Obama's Summer Reads A Best Book of the Year From: The Washington Post * Time * NPR * Elle * Esquire * Kirkus * Library Journal * The Chicago Public Library * The New York Public Library * BookPage * The Globe and Mail * EW.com * The LA Times * USA Today * InStyle * The New Yorker * AARP * Publisher's Lunch * LitHub * Book Marks * Electric Literature * Brooklyn Based * The Boston Globe A magnetic novel about two families, strangers to each other, who are forced together on a long weekend gone terribly wrong. From the bestselling author of *Rich and Pretty* comes a suspenseful and provocative novel keenly attuned to the complexities of parenthood, race, and class. *Leave the World Behind* explores how our closest bonds are reshaped—and unexpected new ones are forged—in moments of crisis. Amanda and Clay head out to a remote corner of Long Island expecting a vacation: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, quality time with their teenage son and daughter, and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But a late-night knock on the door breaks the spell. Ruth and G.

H. are an older couple—it's their house, and they've arrived in a panic. They bring the news that a sudden blackout has swept the city. But in this rural area—with the TV and internet now down, and no cell phone service—it's hard to know what to believe. Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple—and vice versa? What happened back in New York? Is the vacation home, isolated from civilization, a truly safe place for their families? And are they safe from one other?

leave the world behind analysis: *Leave the World Behind* Rumaan Alam, 2020-10-06 SOON TO BE A MAJOR GLOBAL NETFLIX ADAPTATION STARRING JULIA ROBERTS, KEVIN BACON, ETHAN HAWKE AND MAHERSHALA ALI *A THE TIMES #1 BESTSELLER* *THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* *A BARACK OBAMA SUMMER READING PICK 2021* 'Easily the best thing I have read all year' KILEY REID, AUTHOR OF SUCH A FUN AGE 'Intense, incisive, I loved this and have still not quite shaken off the unease' DAVID NICHOLLS 'I was hooked from the opening pages' CLARE MACKINTOSH 'Simply breathtaking . . . An extraordinary book, at once smart, gripping and hallucinatory' OBSERVER _____ A magnetic novel about two families, strangers to each other, who are forced together on a long weekend gone terribly wrong Amanda and Clay head to a remote corner of Long Island expecting a holiday: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, quality time with their teenage son and daughter and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But with a late-night knock on the door, the spell is broken. Ruth and G. H., an older couple who claim to own the home, have arrived there in a panic. These strangers say that a sudden power outage has swept the city, and - with nowhere else to turn - they have come to the country in search of shelter. But with the TV and internet down, and no phone service, the facts are unknowable. Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple - and vice versa? What has happened back in New York? Is the holiday home, isolated from civilisation, a truly safe place for their families? And are they safe from one another? _____ FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD 2020 FINALIST FOR THE ORWELL PRIZE 2021 A DAILY TELEGRAPH, GUARDIAN, OBSERVER, IRISH TIMES AND TIME BOOK OF THE YEAR Everyone is talking about LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND 'You will probably need to read it in as close to one sitting as possible' Sunday Times 'A page-turner taking in themes of isolation, race and class' Guardian 'A book that could have been tailor-made for our times' The Times 'A literary page-turner that will keep you awake even after it ends' Mail on Sunday 'An exceptional examination of race and class and what the world looks like when it's ending' Roxane Gay 'A thrilling book - one that will speak to readers who have felt the terror of isolation in these recent months and one that will simultaneously, as great books do, lift them out of it' Vogue 'Explores complex ideas about privilege and fate with miraculous wit and grace' Jenny Offill 'For the reader, the invisible terror outside in *Leave the World Behind* echoes the sense of disquiet today in a world convulsed by the pandemic' Financial Times 'Alam's achievement is to see that his genre's traditional arc, which relies on the idea of aftermath, no longer makes sense. Today, disaster novels call for something different' New Yorker 'Read it with the lights on' Jenna Bush Hager, October Book Club pick

leave the world behind analysis: *House of Leaves* Mark Z. Danielewski, 2000-03-07 "A novelistic mosaic that simultaneously reads like a thriller and like a strange, dreamlike excursion into the subconscious." —The New York Times Years ago, when *House of Leaves* was first being passed around, it was nothing more than a badly bundled heap of paper, parts of which would occasionally surface on the Internet. No one could have anticipated the small but devoted following this terrifying story would soon command. Starting with an odd assortment of marginalized youth -- musicians, tattoo artists, programmers, strippers, environmentalists, and adrenaline junkies -- the book eventually made its way into the hands of older generations, who not only found themselves in those strangely arranged pages but also discovered a way back into the lives of their estranged children. Now this astonishing novel is made available in book form, complete with the original colored words, vertical footnotes, and second and third appendices. The story remains unchanged, focusing on a young family that moves into a small home on Ash Tree Lane where they discover something is terribly wrong: their house is bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. Of course, neither Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Will Navidson nor his companion Karen Green was

prepared to face the consequences of that impossibility, until the day their two little children wandered off and their voices eerily began to return another story -- of creature darkness, of an ever-growing abyss behind a closet door, and of that unholy growl which soon enough would tear through their walls and consume all their dreams.

leave the world behind analysis: *Look Both Ways* Jason Reynolds, 2020-10-27 A collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school--

leave the world behind analysis: The Sense of an Ending Julian Barnes, 2011-10-05
BOOKER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A novel that follows a middle-aged man as he contends with a past he never much thought about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. A novel so compelling that it begs to be read in a single sitting, *The Sense of an Ending* has the psychological and emotional depth and sophistication of Henry James at his best, and is a stunning achievement in Julian Barnes's oeuvre. Tony Webster thought he left his past behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

leave the world behind analysis: Voices of the Lost Margarete Lincoln, 2021 Winner of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, this novel weaves together a series of devastating confessions about life in contemporary Arab society “Barakat isn't writing about ‘the immigrant.’ She's writing about the human.”—Rumaan Alam, 4columns “Spare and deep, *Voices of the Lost* captivates. Hoda Barakat is one of Lebanon's greatest gifts to literature, and Booth allows her English audience to explore this painful and irresistible present.”—Amy Bloom, author of *White Houses* In an unnamed country torn apart by war, six strangers are compelled to share their darkest secrets. Taking pen to paper, each character attempts to put in writing what they can't bring themselves to say to the person they love—mother, father, brother, lost love. Their words form a chain of dark confessions, none of which reaches the intended recipient. Profound, troubling, and deeply human, *Voices of the Lost* tells the moving story of characters living on the periphery, battling with displacement, devastating poverty, and the demons within themselves. From one of today's most talented Arabic writers, *Voices of the Lost* is an urgent story of lives intimately woven together in a society that is tearing itself apart.

leave the world behind analysis: Long Way Down Jason Reynolds, 2017-10-24 “An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger.” —Booklist (starred review) “Astonishing.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) “A tour de force.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) A Newbery Honor Book A Coretta Scott King Honor Book A Printz Honor Book A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner An Entertainment Weekly Best YA Book of 2017 A Vulture Best YA Book of 2017 A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of 2017 An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A

teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

leave the world behind analysis: Outline Rachel Cusk, 2015-01-13 A Finalist for the Folio Prize, the Goldsmiths Prize, the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction. One of The New York Times' Top Ten Books of the Year. Named a A New York Times Book Review Notable Book and a Best Book of the Year by The New Yorker, Vogue, NPR, The Guardian, The Independent, Glamour, and The Globe and Mail A luminous, powerful novel that establishes Rachel Cusk as one of the finest writers in the English language A man and a woman are seated next to each other on a plane. They get to talking—about their destination, their careers, their families. Grievances are aired, family tragedies discussed, marriages and divorces analyzed. An intimacy is established as two strangers contrast their own fictions about their lives. Rachel Cusk's *Outline* is a novel in ten conversations. Spare and stark, it follows a novelist teaching a course in creative writing during one oppressively hot summer in Athens. She leads her students in storytelling exercises. She meets other visiting writers for dinner and discourse. She goes swimming in the Ionian Sea with her neighbor from the plane. The people she encounters speak volubly about themselves: their fantasies, anxieties, pet theories, regrets, and longings. And through these disclosures, a portrait of the narrator is drawn by contrast, a portrait of a woman learning to face a great loss. *Outline* takes a hard look at the things that are hardest to speak about. It brilliantly captures conversations, investigates people's motivations for storytelling, and questions their ability to ever do so honestly or unselfishly. In doing so it bares the deepest impulses behind the craft of fiction writing. This is Rachel Cusk's finest work yet, and one of the most startling, brilliant, original novels of recent years.

leave the world behind analysis: The Buried Giant Kazuo Ishiguro, 2015-03-03 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of *Never Let Me Go* and the Booker Prize-winning novel *The Remains of the Day* comes a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory. In post-Arthurian Britain, the wars that once raged between the Saxons and the Britons have finally ceased. Axl and Beatrice, an elderly British couple, set off to visit their son, whom they haven't seen in years. And, because a strange mist has caused mass amnesia throughout the land, they can scarcely remember anything about him. As they are joined on their journey by a Saxon warrior, his orphan charge, and an illustrious knight, Axl and Beatrice slowly begin to remember the dark and troubled past they all share. By turns savage, suspenseful, and intensely moving, *The Buried Giant* is a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory.

leave the world behind analysis: Klara and the Sun Kazuo Ishiguro, 2021-03-02 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Once in a great while, a book comes along that changes our view of the world. This magnificent novel from the Nobel laureate and author of *Never Let Me Go* is “an intriguing take on how artificial intelligence might play a role in our futures ... a poignant meditation on love and loneliness” (The Associated Press). • A GOOD MORNING AMERICA Book Club Pick! Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

leave the world behind analysis: Sometimes I Lie Alice Feeney, 2018-03-13 ALICE FEENEYS NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER “Boldly plotted, tightly knotted—a

provocative true-or-false thriller that deepens and darkens to its ink-black finale. Marvelous.” —AJ Finn, author of *The Woman in the Window* My name is Amber Reynolds. There are three things you should know about me: 1. I’m in a coma. 2. My husband doesn’t love me anymore. 3. Sometimes I lie. Amber wakes up in a hospital. She can’t move. She can’t speak. She can’t open her eyes. She can hear everyone around her, but they have no idea. Amber doesn’t remember what happened, but she has a suspicion her husband had something to do with it. Alternating between her paralyzed present, the week before her accident, and a series of childhood diaries from twenty years ago, this brilliant psychological thriller asks: Is something really a lie if you believe it's the truth?

leave the world behind analysis: *The Memory Police* Yoko Ogawa, 2019-08-13 Finalist for the International Booker Prize and the National Book Award A haunting Orwellian novel about the terrors of state surveillance, from the acclaimed author of *The Housekeeper and the Professor*. On an unnamed island, objects are disappearing: first hats, then ribbons, birds, roses. . . . Most of the inhabitants are oblivious to these changes, while those few able to recall the lost objects live in fear of the draconian Memory Police, who are committed to ensuring that what has disappeared remains forgotten. When a young writer discovers that her editor is in danger, she concocts a plan to hide him beneath her floorboards, and together they cling to her writing as the last way of preserving the past. Powerful and provocative, *The Memory Police* is a stunning novel about the trauma of loss. ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR THE NEW YORK TIMES * THE WASHINGTON POST * TIME * CHICAGO TRIBUNE * THE GUARDIAN * ESQUIRE * THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS * FINANCIAL TIMES * LIBRARY JOURNAL * THE A.V. CLUB * KIRKUS REVIEWS * LITERARY HUB American Book Award winner

leave the world behind analysis: *Left Behind* Tim LaHaye, Jerry B. Jenkins, 2011 Donated by Pam Strauss.

leave the world behind analysis: *Verity* Colleen Hoover, 2021-10-05 Whose truth is the lie? Stay up all night reading the sensational psychological thriller that has readers obsessed, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Late* and *It Ends With Us*. #1 New York Times Bestseller · USA Today Bestseller · Globe and Mail Bestseller · Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish. Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity’s notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn’t expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity’s recollection of the night her family was forever altered. Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents could devastate the already grieving father. But as Lowen’s feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife’s words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue loving her.

leave the world behind analysis: *The Midnight Library* Matt Haig, 2021-01-27 Good morning America book club--Jacket.

leave the world behind analysis: *FKA USA* Reed King, 2019-06-18 “Mr. King looks at all our upcoming problems, and imagines a local reaction to each one. The result is often funny, usually sardonic, and always imaginative, what with all the mole rats, flesh drones, dimeheads, and especially ‘The Grifter’s Guide to the Territories FKA USA,’ a notable addition to the line of imaginary authorities.” —The Wall Street Journal Indie Next Pick for July Best of June: io9, AV Club, Amazing Stories, The Verge Reed King’s amazingly audacious novel is something of a cross between L. Frank Baum’s *The Wizard of Oz*, Douglas Adams’s *A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*, and Ernest Cline’s *Ready Player One*. In Reed King’s wildly imaginative and possibly prescient debut, the United States has dissolved in the wake of environmental disasters and the catastrophic policies of its final president. It is 2085, and Truckee Wallace, a factory worker in Crunchtown 407 (formerly Little Rock, Arkansas, before the secessions), has no grand ambitions

besides maybe, possibly, losing his virginity someday. But when Truckee is thrust unexpectedly into the spotlight he is tapped by the President for a sensitive political mission: to deliver a talking goat across the continent. The fate of the world depends upon it. The problem is—Truckee's not sure it's worth it. Joined on the road by an android who wants to be human and a former convict lobotomized in Texas, Truckee will navigate an environmentally depleted and lawless continent with devastating—and hilarious—parallels to our own, dodging body pickers and Elvis-worshippers and logo girls, body subbers, and VR addicts. Elvis-willing, he may even lose his virginity. FKA USA is the epic novel we've all been waiting for about the American end of times, with its unavoidable sense of being on the wrong end of the roller coaster ride. It is a masterwork of ambition, humor, and satire with the power to make us cry, despair, and laugh out loud all at once. It is a tour de force unlike anything else you will read this year.

leave the world behind analysis: *The Book of Two Ways* Jodi Picoult, 2020-09-22 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the author of *Small Great Things* and *A Spark of Light* comes a “powerful” (The Washington Post) novel about the choices that alter the course of our lives. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY MARIE CLAIRE Everything changes in a single moment for Dawn Edelstein. She's on a plane when the flight attendant makes an announcement: Prepare for a crash landing. She braces herself as thoughts flash through her mind. The shocking thing is, the thoughts are not of her husband but of a man she last saw fifteen years ago: Wyatt Armstrong. Dawn, miraculously, survives the crash, but so do all the doubts that have suddenly been raised. She has led a good life. Back in Boston, there is her husband, Brian, their beloved daughter, and her work as a death doula, in which she helps ease the transition between life and death for her clients. But somewhere in Egypt is Wyatt Armstrong, who works as an archaeologist unearthing ancient burial sites, a career Dawn once studied for but was forced to abandon when life suddenly intervened. And now, when it seems that fate is offering her second chances, she is not as sure of the choice she once made. After the crash landing, the airline ensures that the survivors are seen by a doctor, then offers transportation to wherever they want to go. The obvious destination is to fly home, but she could take another path: return to the archaeological site she left years before, reconnect with Wyatt and their unresolved history, and maybe even complete her research on *The Book of Two Ways*—the first known map of the afterlife. As the story unfolds, Dawn's two possible futures unspool side by side, as do the secrets and doubts long buried with them. Dawn must confront the questions she's never truly asked: What does a life well lived look like? When we leave this earth, what do we leave behind? Do we make choices . . . or do our choices make us? And who would you be if you hadn't turned out to be the person you are right now?

leave the world behind analysis: *The Resisters* Gish Jen, 2020 *The Resisters* is palpably loving, smart, funny, and desperately unsettling. The novel should be required reading for the country both as a cautionary tale and because it is a stone-cold masterpiece. This is Gish Jen's moment. She has pitched a perfect game. --Ann Patchett The time: not so long from now. The place: AutoAmerica. The land: half under water. The Internet: one part artificial intelligence, one part surveillance technology, and oddly human--even funny. The people: Divided. The angel-fair Netted have jobs, and literally occupy the high ground. The Surplus live on swampland if they're lucky, on water if they're not. The story: To a Surplus couple--he once a professor, she still a lawyer--is born a Blasian girl with a golden arm. At two, Gwen is hurling her stuffed animals from the crib; by ten, she can hit whatever target she likes. Her teens find her happily playing in an underground baseball league. When AutoAmerica rejoins the Olympics, though--with a special eye on beating ChinRussia--Gwen attracts interest. Soon she finds herself playing ball with the Netted even as her mother challenges the very foundations of this divided society. A moving and important story of an America that seems ever more possible, *The Resisters* is also the story of one family struggling to maintain its humanity and normalcy in circumstances that threaten their every value--as well as their very existence. Extraordinary and ordinary, charming and electrifying, this is Gish Jen at her most irresistible.

leave the world behind analysis: *Winter Garden* Kristin Hannah, 2010-02-02 Can a woman

ever really know herself if she doesn't know her mother? From the author of the smash-hit bestseller *Firefly Lane* and *True Colors* comes Kristin Hannah's powerful, heartbreaking novel that illuminates the intricate mother-daughter bond and explores the enduring links between the present and the past. Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard; the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. As children, the only connection between them was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told the girls at night. On his deathbed, their father extracts a promise from the women in his life: the fairy tale will be told one last time—and all the way to the end. Thus begins an unexpected journey into the truth of Anya's life in war-torn Leningrad, more than five decades ago. Alternating between the past and present, Meredith and Nina will finally hear the singular, harrowing story of their mother's life, and what they learn is a secret so terrible and terrifying that it will shake the very foundation of their family and change who they believe they are.

leave the world behind analysis: *Norwegian Wood* Haruki Murakami, 2010-08-11 From the bestselling author of *Kafka on the Shore*: A magnificent coming-of-age story steeped in nostalgia, “a masterly novel” (The New York Times Book Review) blending the music, the mood, and the ethos that were the sixties with a young man’s hopeless and heroic first love. Now with a new introduction by the author. Toru, a serious young college student in Tokyo, is devoted to Naoko, a beautiful and introspective young woman, but their mutual passion is marked by the tragic death of their best friend years before. As Naoko retreats further into her own world, Toru finds himself drawn to a fiercely independent and sexually liberated young woman. Stunning and elegiac, *Norwegian Wood* first propelled Haruki Murakami into the forefront of the literary scene.

leave the world behind analysis: *These Precious Days* Ann Patchett, 2021-11-23 The beloved New York Times bestselling author reflects on home, family, friendships and writing in this deeply personal collection of essays. The elegance of Patchett’s prose is seductive and inviting: with Patchett as a guide, readers will really get to grips with the power of struggles, failures, and triumphs alike. —Publisher's Weekly “Any story that starts will also end.” As a writer, Ann Patchett knows what the outcome of her fiction will be. Life, however, often takes turns we do not see coming. Patchett ponders this truth in these wise essays that afford a fresh and intimate look into her mind and heart. At the center of *These Precious Days* is the title essay, a surprising and moving meditation on an unexpected friendship that explores “what it means to be seen, to find someone with whom you can be your best and most complete self.” When Patchett chose an early galley of actor and producer Tom Hanks’ short story collection to read one night before bed, she had no idea that this single choice would be life changing. It would introduce her to a remarkable woman—Tom’s brilliant assistant Sooki—with whom she would form a profound bond that held monumental consequences for them both. A literary alchemist, Patchett plumbs the depths of her experiences to create gold: engaging and moving pieces that are both self-portrait and landscape, each vibrant with emotion and rich in insight. Turning her writer’s eye on her own experiences, she transforms the private into the universal, providing us all a way to look at our own worlds anew, and reminds how fleeting and enigmatic life can be. From the enchantments of Kate DiCamillo’s children’s books (author of *The Beatryce Prophecy*) to youthful memories of Paris; the cherished life gifts given by her three fathers to the unexpected influence of Charles Schultz’s Snoopy; the expansive vision of Eudora Welty to the importance of knitting, Patchett connects life and art as she illuminates what matters most. Infused with the author’s grace, wit, and warmth, the pieces in *These Precious Days* resonate deep in the soul, leaving an indelible mark—and demonstrate why Ann Patchett is one of the most celebrated writers of our time.

leave the world behind analysis: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* V. E. Schwab, 2020-10-06 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER USA TODAY BESTSELLER NATIONAL INDIE BESTSELLER THE WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, NPR, Slate, and Oprah Magazine #1 Library Reads Pick—October 2020 #1 Indie Next

Pick—October 2020 BOOK OF THE YEAR (2020) FINALIST—Book of The Month Club A “Best Of” Book From: Oprah Mag * CNN * Amazon * Amazon Editors * NPR * Goodreads * Bustle * PopSugar * BuzzFeed * Barnes & Noble * Kirkus Reviews * Lambda Literary * Nerdette * The Nerd Daily * Polygon * Library Reads * io9 * Smart Bitches Trashy Books * LiteraryHub * Medium * BookBub * The Mary Sue * Chicago Tribune * NY Daily News * SyFy Wire * Powells.com * Bookish * Book Riot * Library Reads Voter Favorite * In the vein of *The Time Traveler’s Wife* and *Life After Life*, *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is New York Times bestselling author V. E. Schwab’s genre-defying tour de force. A Life No One Will Remember. A Story You Will Never Forget. France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. Also by V. E. Schwab *Shades of Magic* *A Darker Shade of Magic* *A Gathering of Shadows* *A Conjuring of Light* *Villains Vicious Vengeful* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

leave the world behind analysis: Dark Matter Blake Crouch, 2016-07-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • COMING SOON TO APPLE TV+ • A “mind-blowing” (Entertainment Weekly) speculative thriller about an ordinary man who awakens in a world inexplicably different from the reality he thought he knew—from the author of *Upgrade*, *Recursion*, and the *Wayward Pines* trilogy “Are you happy with your life?” Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before the kidnapper knocks him unconscious. Before he awakens to find himself strapped to a gurney, surrounded by strangers in hazmat suits. Before a man he’s never met smiles down at him and says, “Welcome back, my friend.” In this world he’s woken up to, Jason’s life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college professor but a celebrated genius who has achieved something remarkable. Something impossible. Is it this life or the other that’s the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how will Jason make it back to the family he loves? From the bestselling author Blake Crouch, *Dark Matter* is a mind-bending thriller about choices, paths not taken, and how far we’ll go to claim the lives we dream of.

leave the world behind analysis: *All That's Left in the World* Erik J. Brown, 2022-03-08 What If It's Us meets *Life as We Knew It* in this postapocalyptic, queer YA adventure romance from debut author Erik J. Brown. Perfect for fans of Adam Silvera and Alex London. When Andrew stumbles upon Jamie’s house, he’s injured, starved, and has nothing left to lose. A deadly pathogen has killed off most of the world’s population, including everyone both boys have ever loved. And if this new world has taught them anything, it’s to be scared of what other desperate people will do . . . so why does it seem so easy for them to trust each other? After danger breaches their shelter, they flee south in search of civilization. But something isn’t adding up about Andrew’s story, and it could cost them everything. And Jamie has a secret, too. He’s starting to feel something more than friendship for Andrew, adding another layer of fear and confusion to an already tumultuous journey. The road ahead of them is long, and to survive, they’ll have to shed their secrets, face the consequences of their actions, and find the courage to fight for the future they desire, together. Only one thing feels certain: all that’s left in their world is the undeniable pull they have toward each other.

leave the world behind analysis: It Ends with Us Colleen Hoover, 2020-07-28 In this “brave and heartbreaking novel that digs its claws into you and doesn’t let go, long after you’ve finished it” (Anna Todd, New York Times bestselling author) from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *All Your Perfects*, a workaholic with a too-good-to-be-true romance can’t stop thinking about her first love. Lily hasn’t always had it easy, but that’s never stopped her from working hard for the life she wants. She’s come a long way from the small town where she grew up—she graduated from college, moved to Boston, and started her own business. And when she feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid, everything in Lily’s life seems too good to be true. Ryle is assertive, stubborn, maybe even a little arrogant. He’s also sensitive, brilliant, and has a total soft

spot for Lily. And the way he looks in scrubs certainly doesn't hurt. Lily can't get him out of her head. But Ryle's complete aversion to relationships is disturbing. Even as Lily finds herself becoming the exception to his "no dating" rule, she can't help but wonder what made him that way in the first place. As questions about her new relationship overwhelm her, so do thoughts of Atlas Corrigan—her first love and a link to the past she left behind. He was her kindred spirit, her protector. When Atlas suddenly reappears, everything Lily has built with Ryle is threatened. An honest, evocative, and tender novel, *It Ends with Us* is "a glorious and touching read, a forever keeper. The kind of book that gets handed down" (USA TODAY).

leave the world behind analysis: *Everything I Never Told You* Celeste Ng, 2015-05-12 A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year • A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • Winner of the Alex Award and the Massachusetts Book Award • Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, San Francisco Chronicle, Entertainment Weekly, The Huffington Post, BuzzFeed, Grantland Booklist, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Shelf Awareness, Book Riot, School Library Journal, Bustle, and Time Our New York The acclaimed debut novel by the author of *Little Fires Everywhere* and *Our Missing Hearts* "A taut tale of ever deepening and quickening suspense." —O, the Oprah Magazine "Explosive . . . Both a propulsive mystery and a profound examination of a mixed-race family." —Entertainment Weekly "Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet." So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos. A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, *Everything I Never Told You* is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.

leave the world behind analysis: *The Plot Against America* Philip Roth, 2004-10-05 Philip Roth's bestselling alternate history—the chilling story of what happens to one family when America elects a charismatic, isolationist president—is soon to be an HBO limited series. In an extraordinary feat of narrative invention, Philip Roth imagines an alternate history where Franklin D. Roosevelt loses the 1940 presidential election to heroic aviator and rabid isolationist Charles A. Lindbergh. Shortly thereafter, Lindbergh negotiates a cordial "understanding" with Adolf Hitler, while the new government embarks on a program of folksy anti-Semitism. For one boy growing up in Newark, Lindbergh's election is the first in a series of ruptures that threaten to destroy his small, safe corner of America—and with it, his mother, his father, and his older brother. A terrific political novel . . . Sinister, vivid, dreamlike . . . creepily plausible. . . You turn the pages, astonished and frightened." — The New York Times Book Review

leave the world behind analysis: *Exit West* Mohsin Hamid, 2017-03-07 FINALIST FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE & WINNER OF THE L.A. TIMES BOOK PRIZE FOR FICTION and THE ASPEN WORDS LITERARY PRIZE "It was as if Hamid knew what was going to happen to America and the world, and gave us a road map to our future... At once terrifying and ... oddly hopeful." —Ayelet Waldman, The New York Times Book Review "Moving, audacious, and indelibly human." —Entertainment Weekly, "A" rating The New York Times bestselling novel: an astonishingly visionary love story that imagines the forces that drive ordinary people from their homes into the uncertain embrace of new lands, from the author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and the forthcoming *The Last White Man*. In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet—sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors—doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through. . . . *Exit West* follows these

remarkable characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. Profoundly intimate and powerfully inventive, it tells an unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage that is both completely of our time and for all time.

leave the world behind analysis: If We Were Villains M. L. Rio, 2017-04-11 "Much like Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, M. L. Rio's sparkling debut is a richly layered story of love, friendship, and obsession...will keep you riveted through its final, electrifying moments." —Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, New York Times bestselling author of *The Nest Nerdily* (and winningly) in love with Shakespeare...Readable, smart." —New York Times Book Review On the day Oliver Marks is released from jail, the man who put him there is waiting at the door. Detective Colborne wants to know the truth, and after ten years, Oliver is finally ready to tell it. A decade ago: Oliver is one of seven young Shakespearean actors at Dellecher Classical Conservatory, a place of keen ambition and fierce competition. In this secluded world of firelight and leather-bound books, Oliver and his friends play the same roles onstage and off: hero, villain, tyrant, temptress, ingénue, extras. But in their fourth and final year, good-natured rivalries turn ugly, and on opening night real violence invades the students' world of make-believe. In the morning, the fourth-years find themselves facing their very own tragedy, and their greatest acting challenge yet: convincing the police, each other, and themselves that they are innocent. *If We Were Villains* was named one of *Bustle's* Best Thriller Novels of the Year, and *Mystery Scene* says, A well-written and gripping ode to the stage...A fascinating, unorthodox take on rivalry, friendship, and truth.

leave the world behind analysis: A Gentleman in Moscow Amor Towles, 2017-01-09 The mega-bestseller with more than 2 million readers Soon to be a Showtime/Paramount+ series starring Ewan McGregor as Count Alexander Rostov From the number one New York Times bestselling author of *The Lincoln Highway* and *Rules of Civility*, a beautifully transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel 'A wonderful book' - Tana French 'This novel is astonishing, uplifting and wise. Don't miss it' - Chris Cleave 'No historical novel this year was more witty, insightful or original' - Sunday Times, Books of the Year '[A] supremely uplifting novel ... It's elegant, witty and delightful - much like the Count himself.' - Mail on Sunday, Books of the Year 'Charming ... shows that not all books about Russian aristocrats have to be full of doom and nihilism' - The Times, Books of the Year On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov - recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt - is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol. Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval. Can a life without luxury be the richest of all? A BOOK OF THE DECADE, 2010-2020 (INDEPENDENT) THE TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A MAIL ON SUNDAY BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A DAILY EXPRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 AN IRISH TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S BEST BOOKS OF 2017 ONE OF BILL GATES'S SUMMER READS OF 2019 NOMINATED FOR THE 2018 INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS WEEK AWARD

leave the world behind analysis: A Land of Permanent Goodbyes Atia Abawi, 2018-01-23 A powerful novel of refugees escaping from war-torn Syria, masterfully told by a journalist who witnessed the crisis firsthand. In a country ripped apart by war, Tareq lives with his big and loving family . . . until the bombs strike. His city is in ruins. His life is destroyed. And those who have survived are left to figure out their uncertain future. Tareq's family knows that to continue to stay alive, they must leave. As they travel as refugees from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn, Tareq must find the resilience and courage to complete his harrowing journey. While this is one family's story, it is also the timeless tale of the heartbreaking consequences of all wars, all tragedy, narrated by Destiny itself. When you are a refugee, success is outliving your loss. An award-winning author and journalist—and a refugee herself—Atia Abawi captures the hope that spurs people forward against all odds and the love that makes that hope grow. Praise for *A Land of*

Permanent Goodbyes: Featured on NPR's Morning Edition! Featured by Dana Perino's on The Five! Featured as a most-anticipated book of 2018 on The Huffington Post! "[A] heartbreaking and to-the-minute timely story of the Syrian refugee crisis. Abawi gives even more humanity, depth, and understanding to the headlines."—Bustle □ "From award-winning journalist Abawi comes an unforgettable novel that brings readers face to face with the global refugee crisis . . . A heartbreaking, haunting, and necessary story that offers hope while laying bare the bleakness of the world."—Kirkus Reviews, starred review □ Abawi skillfully places humanity enmeshed in war into two sides: the 'hunters' who feed on the suffering and the 'helpers' who lend a hand. An inspiring, timely, and must-have account about the Syrian refugee disaster and the perils of all wars.—School Library Journal, starred review □ [A] gripping and heartrending novel . . . [and an] upsetting yet beautifully rendered portrayal of an ongoing humanitarian crisis.—Publishers Weekly, starred review As author Atia Abawi artfully illustrates, refugees are created by circumstances that can happen anywhere. A perfect companion novel to Alan Gratz's *Refugee*, this humanizing, often harrowing and sometimes transcendent novel fosters compassion and understanding.—BookPage, Top Teen Pick "[T]his could be paired with Sepetys' book . . . *Salt to the Sea*, for a multi-era look at the casualties of war."—The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "This is a harrowing and vitally important novel about an ongoing crisis. Tareq's story will linger with readers long after they've turned the final page."—Bookish A Land of Permanent Goodbyes is an engrossing, heartbreaking story of survival, giving readers an authentic glimpse of the suffering and destruction in Syria.—Voice of Youth Advocates A well-written, well-researched book.—School Library Connection This touching read will stir empathy and compassion about the harrowing plight of refugees. Abawi . . . helps give perspective on how religion can be used to help create a world where the most basic human rights are violated.—Booklist

leave the world behind analysis: *As Good as Dead* Holly Jackson, 2021-09-28 THE MUST-READ MULTIMILLION BESTSELLING MYSTERY SERIES • The final book in the A Good Girl's Guide to Murder series that reads like your favorite true crime podcast or show. By the end, you'll never think of good girls the same way again... Pip is about to head to college, but she is still haunted by the way her last investigation ended. She's used to online death threats in the wake of her viral true-crime podcast, but she can't help noticing an anonymous person who keeps asking her: Who will look for you when you're the one who disappears? Soon the threats escalate and Pip realizes that someone is following her in real life. When she starts to find connections between her stalker and a local serial killer caught six years ago, she wonders if maybe the wrong man is behind bars. Police refuse to act, so Pip has only one choice: find the suspect herself—or be the next victim. As the deadly game plays out, Pip discovers that everything in her small town is coming full circle . . . and if she doesn't find the answers, this time she will be the one who disappears. . . And don't miss Holly Jackson's next thriller, *Five Survive*!

leave the world behind analysis: *Dreamers* Yuyi Morales, 2018-09-04 We are resilience. We are hope. We are dreamers. Yuyi Morales brought her hopes, her passion, her strength, and her stories with her, when she came to the United States in 1994 with her infant son. She left behind nearly everything she owned, but she didn't come empty-handed. From the author-illustrator of *Bright Star*, *Dreamers* is a celebration of making your home with the things you always carry: your resilience, your dreams, your hopes and history. It's the story of finding your way in a new place, of navigating an unfamiliar world and finding the best parts of it. In dark times, it's a promise that you can make better tomorrows. This lovingly-illustrated picture book memoir looks at the myriad gifts migrantes bring with them when they leave their homes. It's a story about family. And it's a story to remind us that we are all dreamers, bringing our own strengths wherever we roam. Beautiful and powerful at any time but given particular urgency as the status of our own Dreamers becomes uncertain, this is a story that is both topical and timeless. The lyrical text is complemented by sumptuously detailed illustrations, rich in symbolism. Also included are a brief autobiographical essay about Yuyi's own experience, a list of books that inspired her (and still do), and a description of the beautiful images, textures, and mementos she used to create this book. A parallel

Spanish-language edition, *Soñadores*, is also available. Winner of the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award! A New York Times / New York Public Library Best Illustrated Book A New York Times Bestseller Recipient of the Flora Stieglitz Strauss Award A 2019 Boston Globe - Horn Book Honor Recipient An Anna Dewdney Read Together Honor Book Named a Best Book of 2018 by Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Shelf Awareness, NPR, the Boston Globe, the Chicago Tribune, Salon.com-- and many more! A Junior Library Guild selection A Eureka! Nonfiction Honoree A Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon title A Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year A CLA Notable Children's Book in Language Arts Selected for the CBC Champions of Change Showcase

leave the world behind analysis: *Piranesi* Susanna Clarke, 2021 Piranesi lives in the House. Perhaps he always has. In his notebooks, day after day, he makes a clear and careful record of its wonders: the labyrinth of halls, the thousands upon thousands of statues, the tides that thunder up staircases, the clouds that move in slow procession through the upper halls. On Tuesdays and Fridays Piranesi sees his friend, the Other. At other times he brings tributes of food and waterlilies to the Dead. But mostly, he is alone. Messages begin to appear, scratched out in chalk on the pavements. There is someone new in the House. But who are they and what do they want? Are they a friend or do they bring destruction and madness as the Other claims? Lost texts must be found; secrets must be uncovered. The world that Piranesi thought he knew is becoming strange and dangerous

leave the world behind analysis: *The Giver* Lois Lowry, 2014 The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. This movie tie-in edition features cover art from the movie and exclusive Q&A with members of the cast, including Taylor Swift, Brenton Thwaites and Cameron Monaghan.

leave the world behind analysis: *California* Edan Lepucki, 2014-07-08 The world Cal and Frida have always known is gone, and they've left the crumbling city of Los Angeles far behind them. They now live in a shack in the wilderness, working side-by-side to make their days tolerable in the face of hardship and isolation. Mourning a past they can't reclaim, they seek solace in each other. But the tentative existence they've built for themselves is thrown into doubt when Frida finds out she's pregnant. Terrified of the unknown and unsure of their ability to raise a child alone, Cal and Frida set out for the nearest settlement, a guarded and paranoid community with dark secrets. These people can offer them security, but Cal and Frida soon realize this community poses dangers of its own. In this unfamiliar world, where everything and everyone can be perceived as a threat, the couple must quickly decide whom to trust. A gripping and provocative debut novel by a stunning new talent, *California* imagines a frighteningly realistic near future, in which clashes between mankind's dark nature and deep-seated resilience force us to question how far we will go to protect the ones we love. In her arresting debut novel, Edan Lepucki conjures a lush, intricate, deeply disturbing vision of the future, then masterfully exploits its dramatic possibilities.-Jennifer Egan, author of *A Visit from the Goon Squad*

leave the world behind analysis: *The Nightingale* Kristin Hannah, 2015-02-03 In love we find out who we want to be. In war we find out who we are. FRANCE, 1939 In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France...but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive. Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old girl, searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth. While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets G  tan, a partisan

who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can...completely. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others. With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

leave the world behind analysis: Behind Closed Doors B.A. Paris, 2016-08-09 First published in Great Britain by MIRA/Harlequin, HarperCollins UK--Title page verso.

leave the world behind analysis: Brave New World Aldous Huxley, 2011-07-01 This classic novel of a perfectly engineered society is "one of the most prophetic dystopian works of the twentieth century" (The Wall Street Journal). Half a millennium from now, in the World State, the watchword is that every one belongs to every one else. No matter what class of human you are bred to be—from the intellectual Alphas to the Epsilons who provide the manual labor—you are a part of the efficient, well-oiled whole. You are nourished, secure, and blissfully serene thanks to the freely distributed drug called soma. And while sex is strongly encouraged, the old way of procreation is forbidden, eliminating even the pains of childbirth. But when a man and woman journey beyond these confines to where the "savages" reside, and bring back two outsiders, the cracks begin to show. Named as one of the 100 best English-language novels of the twentieth century by the Modern Library, Brave New World is one of the first truly dystopian novels. Influenced by the historic events of Huxley's era yet as relevant today as ever, it is a remarkable depiction of the conflict between progress and the human spirit. "Chilling. . . . That he gave us the dark side of genetic engineering in 1932 is amazing." —Providence Journal-Bulletin "It is a frightening experience, indeed, to discover how much of his satirical prediction of a distant future became reality in so short a time." —The New York Times Book Review

leave the world behind analysis: O Beautiful Jung Yun, 2021-11-09 A New York Times Editors' Choice Book From the critically-acclaimed author of Shelter, an unflinching portrayal of a woman trying to come to terms with the ghosts of her past and the tortured realities of a deeply divided America. Elinor Hanson, a forty-something former model, is struggling to reinvent herself as a freelance writer when she receives an unexpected assignment. Her mentor from grad school offers her a chance to write for a prestigious magazine about the Bakken oil boom in North Dakota. Elinor grew up near the Bakken, raised by an overbearing father and a distant Korean mother who met and married when he was stationed overseas. After decades away from home, Elinor returns to a landscape she hardly recognizes, overrun by tens of thousands of newcomers. Surrounded by roughnecks seeking their fortunes in oil and long-time residents worried about their changing community, Elinor experiences a profound sense of alienation and grief. She rages at the unrelenting male gaze, the locals who still see her as a foreigner, and the memories of her family's estrangement after her mother decided to escape her unhappy marriage, leaving Elinor and her sister behind. The longer she pursues this potentially career-altering assignment, the more her past intertwines with the story she's trying to tell, revealing disturbing new realities that will forever change her and the way she looks at the world. With spare and graceful prose, Jung Yun's O Beautiful presents an immersive portrait of a community rife with tensions and competing interests, and one woman's attempts to reconcile her anger with her love of a beautiful, but troubled land.

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