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# Pines



## Synopsis

Wayward Pines, Idaho, is quintessential small-town America - or so it seems. Secret Service agent Ethan Burke arrives in search of two missing federal agents, yet soon is facing much more than he bargained for. After a violent accident lands him in the hospital, Ethan comes to with no ID and no cell phone. The medical staff seems friendly enough, but something feels...off. As the days pass, Ethan's investigation into his colleagues' disappearance turns up more questions than answers. Why can't he make contact with his family in the outside world? Why doesn't anyone believe he is who he says he is? And what's the purpose of the electrified fences encircling the town? Are they keeping the residents in? Or something else out? Each step toward the truth takes Ethan further from the world he knows, until he must face the horrifying possibility that he may never leave Wayward Pines alive...

## Book Information

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## Customer Reviews

Wow! Was NOT expecting that ending! Talk about blowing your socks off! The Pines is not what you expect in any way, shape or form. A bit of horror, a bit of sci-fi, some action, lots of suspense, some mystery, a bit of intrigue all thrown together that works oh so well together. Don't let the title of the book fool you as this is one heck of a good book and once you get past the first three pages, you are definitely hooked and you can't let go until it is finished and you will not be disappointed. An intricate storyline that doesn't confuse you or lead you astray. Just a hell of a good story with well defined characters. I am a first time reader of Mr. Crouch's and I am really impressed by his writing.

If this is any kind of indication of his type of writing then I will be buying some of his books. Don't pass this one up as it is that good!

A secret service agent wakes up injured in Wayward Pines, Idaho. His partner is missing, and he's on a mission to find two other agents who had previously gone missing. He's been in an auto accident, but the hospital doesn't have his wallet or phone, and neither does the sheriff. Everyone acts just a bit ... off. He can't seem to leave town, and even begins to doubt his own sanity. I can't even tell you the proper genre of this book without it being a spoiler. Suffice to say it isn't quite a straightforward mystery or thriller. It's very well written and suspenseful, and pretty believable right up until the last chapter. Once you find out what's been going on though, it really strains credibility. Four secret service agents go missing in one small Idaho town, and nothing ever came of it? Why was such a confrontational method chosen to introduce newcomers to the town? What is the long term plan? If the ending had tied things up more cleanly and logically, and the core premise been less odd, I would have given this 5-stars. Instead I finished what had been a pretty enjoyable reading experience just shaking my head. Call this one a near miss.

I finished the series. Let me start there. Not only did I give this series a fair chance, I gave it a second chance, and even a third. Pros: -There's eventually some real suspense. Some real anticipation. -You do end up feeling something for some of the characters, but Ethan is never likable. Cons: The Story: -There are some major flaws in the story, which I can't reveal without spoiling the ending, but my goodness does it fall apart quickly. -The total cop-out ending. No spoilers here at all, but imagine every bad horror movie you've seen where a hand pops out of the grave at the end as a cheesy gimmick to make people say, "Whoa. I wonder what happens next!" There's no hand popping out of a grave here, but that's the type of ending you'll get with this series. The epilogue is one sentence. I'm not making that up. -The pacing. Crouch will spend a paragraph describing what type of gun a person is using and then only give us a single sentence of character and plot development. The result is that absolutely nothing gets done. The Characters: -The main character, Ethan, is an idiot. Other reviews elaborate on this much better than I could, so all I'll say is that very few of his decisions make any sense whatsoever. He puts other people in danger to advance his own cause right up to the last few chapters of the series. I think the sudden change of personality at the end is Crouch's attempt at character development. Ethan gets what he wants no matter how he treats people, and his wife's decisions reflect this perfectly. -Ethan's son, Ben, is a 4-year-old in a 12-year-old's body. He whines and cries constantly and still uses the word, "daddy."

Does Crouch know any children in real life?—The women. That's right, the women all get one single category because of how horribly underdeveloped they are, even in a world where no one is very developed. The three important(-ish) females in this story fall into three tired archetypes: The bitch, the loving wife and mother, and the mistress. The bitch is the woman whose sole purpose is to be a shallow antagonist who does nothing good for anyone. The loving wife and mother is the woman who will take abuse from a man and still bow to him out of unconditional love. The mistress is pretty self-explanatory. She's a toy to the main character, and she never becomes anything else throughout the rest of the series.—The villain is one-dimensional. Honestly, I'm struggling to come up with more to say about him because he really is that one dimensional. He's just the stereotypical "man who thinks he's God and wants to control the world" villain. There is nothing interesting about him at all. Blake Crouch's Writing:—Every 10th sentence begins with an -ing verb, and for absolutely no reason. These are actual sentences from the third book (no spoilers): "Stopping at the doors to the gymnasium, he peered through the glass." and "Turning back, he descended the last flight of stairs..." At first, it was mildly annoying. Eventually, I wanted to throw my phone across the room every time I encountered one of these because he doesn't stop. They're everywhere!—Sentence fragments. Like this. Constantly. Everywhere. The result is that everything sounds like an asthmatic is reading it after a jog.—The 14 year old descriptions of sex and sexual things. I'm reluctant to criticize this one because I know that people will think I'm just being prudish. I'm not. I know that sex sells. I understand that people enjoy reading it. But Crouch thrusts it in your face unexpectedly where it's least appropriate. There is one part in the third book where [Evil character] is imagining something malicious, and Crouch decides to randomly tell us that she's "wet." Another time, Ethan, the main character, gets an erection in an extremely inappropriate situation, and it turns into an uncomfortable sex scene that lasts far too long. It was so awkward to read that I had to zone out and skim over it. Then, there's my favorite example: There's a part in the second book (I think) where Ethan has to do something non-sexual (read: gruesome and bloody) for his wife on a chair that they normally use for sex. Ethan becomes aroused, of course, and Crouch delivers the most memorable line of the entire novel: "It was, after all, their f\*\*\* chair." My friend and I still mockingly quote that line whenever we want a good laugh. I have never recommended that someone watch the screen adaptation rather than read the book, but there's a first time for everything, right? Save yourself several hours and watch the TV show if you really want to know what happens in these books. The show has more drama, more character development, better writing (though some dialog was taken straight from the book, which is kind of cool), better suspense, better mystery, and better everything else. I know this seems crazy, because it was hard to believe it myself, but the show is

hands-down better than the novel in every conceivable way.

I read a lot of books in 2012, mostly science fiction, and this was one of the best. The story was fascinating, but I had this nagging feeling that there was no way the author was going to be able to come up with a plausible explanation for all the elements of the story. I was very pleased and a little surprised when I got to the end and found that the author DID pull it all together with an explanation for all the strange things the main character had experienced. I look forward to reading more by Blake Crouch.

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