



2017

They Both Die at the End

Bethany Stevens

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Stevens, Bethany (2017) "They Both Die at the End," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 9 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss9/8>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Book Review

Title: They Both Die at the End

Author: Adam Silvera

Reviewer: Bethany Stevens

Publisher: HarperTeen

Publication Year: 2017

ISBN: 9780062688514

Number of Pages: 384

Interest Level: Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding



Review

Mateo and Rufus are two ordinary teenagers and total strangers with nothing in common . . . except that they're both destined to die in the next twenty-four hours. *They Both Die at the End* is set in an alternate version of our world where science has cracked the code to predict death. A company called Death-Cast calls individuals destined to die within the next twenty-four hours so that they have time to set their affairs in order, say your goodbyes, and fully live out your End Day. Death-Cast is never wrong and no one has ever lived after receiving the call. Mateo is quiet and a bit of a shut-in, always afraid of venturing outside his comfort zone. Rufus is a bold and sometimes reckless orphan with a tight-knit group of foster brothers. When circumstances conspire to leave both boys completely alone on their End Day, they download the Last Friend app. The two boys meet, sparking an unlikely relationship and an End Day full of introspection and adventure.

The point of view alternates between Mateo and Rufus, with the occasional inserted perspective from other supporting characters. Chapters from the perspectives of strangers, seemingly unrelated to the main plot, cleverly expose the ways in which we are all unexpectedly connected to one another. The different perspectives are well handled; Mateo and Rufus each carry a distinct voice, adding depth to the story without muddying or interrupting the flow of the narrative. This novel showcases the power of love and friendship and the ability of one person to completely change your life when you open yourself to the possibilities. Though life often feels tragic and too short, it's also brimming with joy and beauty; it's never too late to live life to the fullest and become the person you want to be. Readers will learn how to be brave, how to open themselves to change and vulnerability, and how to find redemption from past mistakes rather than being defined by them. Although this novel unfolds within a twenty-four hour period, the flourishing relationship between the two main characters feels organic and their character development genuine. Even as readers hurtle toward the ending of the novel with the prophetic title etched firmly in mind, they can't help but hope for a miracle.

*Contains mild violence, moderate sexual content, and severe language.