

The Waking Dark

Robin Wasserman

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The residents of Oleander, a small, quaint town in Kansas, lived normal lives until the Killing Day. That very day, a series of gruesome murders occurred, killing twelve innocents. From that point on, something awakens within the town of Oleander and it's not something good. A storm hits, blocking the entire town off from the outside world. And soon enough, the town spirals into endless slaughter and dark madness. The only ones who can do anything to stop it are the five survivors of the Killing Day. All of them have seen the darkness inside of everyone they know, even their own selves. The Killing Day was only the beginning of many horrors and secrets to come. Cass, Daniel, West, Ellie, and Jule must come together to dispel the town's dark plight of madness.

Wasserman's book is hauntingly captivating early on. The story immediately delves into the murders and Wasserman does not spare any details. She sets up the grounds for a frighteningly enthralling tone and atmosphere that continues throughout the book. Wasserman does an amazing job creating in-depth characters, with alternating narratives each chapter. In fact, her descriptive writing style is somewhat reminiscent of Stephen King's. Wasserman's characters and writing make for a great duo within *The Waking Dark* as she explores the darkness in human nature.

That being said, Wasserman's descriptive writing style made it very difficult for me to finish reading this book. The story dragged on for far too long in my opinion, diving into every single aspect of the story. The description and details bogged down much of writing, making for a rather poor reading experience. Readers may also find trouble with the strong language, drugs/alcohol, very graphic violence, and the portrayal of religion. For these reasons, I would suggest this book to anyone 16 years or older. *The Waking Dark* would make a great gift for fans of horror.

Recommended Titles:

The Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

The Giver by Lois Lowry