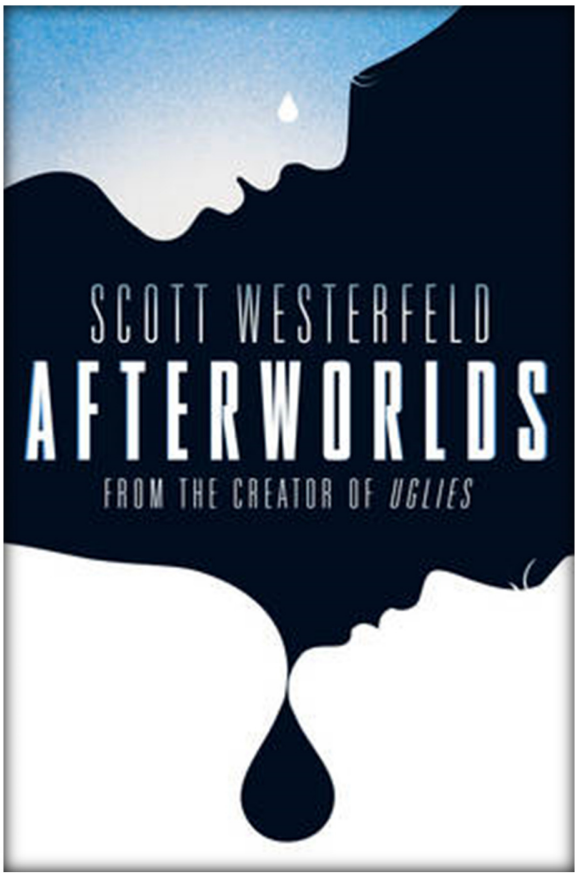
Lovereading Reader reviews of Afterworlds by Scott Westerfeld

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Delilah Acworth, age 15



'Afterworlds', written by the wonderful and imaginatively pungent writer Scott Westerfeld was ***a creative clash of emotion that ensnared ones every breath in its strong grip.*** *Rarely is a book written in such a way; the writer and her book both told in utmost detail that can only be described as insanely human. Westerfeld's book is so human that it sometimes hurts to read, which is why it was so brilliant.*

Emily Kinder, age 14

This amazing book mixes genres flawlessly. It's half dark, pacey thriller and half bildungsroman, as Darcy pens a mythic romance, and while doing so meets her first love.

I actually found this novel quite inspirational - it made me realise that it would be possible for anyone to write a book; even me! Darcy's story is alternated by 'Afterworlds', which is her début novel. At only seventeen she cinches a publishing deal which leads her to becoming part of the writing crowd in New York.

I particularly enjoyed the chapters of 'Afterworlds' - the suspense and tension created a perfect atmosphere for such a dark story, and I loved the way the whole world seemed so real. Everything was thought out in detail, and the whole idea of it (particularly the underworld) was clever enough to keep me permanently hooked.

It took a while to really get into Darcy's story though, and at first I just wanted to get back to the 'Afterworld' chapters. However, after a while I got involved in it; I wanted Darcy to succeed and finding out if she did was suddenly important.

I really hope that there will be more of the book written by 'one of Darcy's friends' as that was one of my favourite parts

Overall I really enjoyed the book and thought it worked really well. I would definitely read any sequels that may follow - I want to know what happens to Darcy, and her main character too.

Sarah Murray, age 16 - www everyoneneedsabooknook.blogspot.com

The only thing better than one great book is one great book inside a fantastic book!!!

This was so original and exciting. *The book never really slowed down as when Darcy's story line was not very exciting Lizzie's story was enticing and vice-versa.*

I thought Darcy was such a refreshing protagonist. I loved how she noticeably matured throughout the book, however, I still think she has more growing up to do - Seriously Darcy, be more careful with money!

It is incredibly difficult for me to pick a favourite story line within the book but if I absolutely had to choose it would be Darcy's as it was her point of view that help me become invested in Lizzie's story.

I could go on all day about this book it was utterly fantastic! I highly recommend this book to anyone and everyone!

Lauren Coffman, age 14

I really loved this book. It was really captivating and exciting throughout and I honestly couldn't put it down. I would highly recommend it!

'Afterworlds' was a great read. It is about a girl who moves to New York to publish a book, even though she is very young. We find out about her new life in NYC, in split chapters with the story of the book she is writing. I really loved how the chapters were split between real life, and the book the main character was writing, though it did get a little bit confusing at times. I also loved hearing about the different relationships in both real life and the story. Overall an

amazing book.

Jenny Duffy, age 21 - http://thebookstheartandme.wordpress.com

Teenage author Darcy Patel has just signed a two-book deal, and is moving to New York. Her new life there is exciting and different, living by herself and becoming part of the YA scene. But it is also challenging, she feels young and inexperienced, and is struggling with writing and edits. Lizzie, the main character in Darcy's novel, crosses into the afterworld during a terrorist attack. This brush with death leaves her with strange new powers, and a strong connection to Yama, a death lord.

Told in alternating chapters, this book is a strange mix between contemporary and a paranormal thriller. At first I found Darcy's chapters more compelling, it took me a while to get into Lizzie's story, but I liked the balance between the two. I found Darcy's character frustrating at times, I wanted her to be less passive and to take more initiative. However, I do feel her character grew throughout the book and I really enjoyed reading about her experiences in the world of publishing. I was also annoyed at how Lizzie's story was left off, and felt the way it was told made it harder to connect with.

Overall I felt this was an enjoyable read, and would recommend it for people interested in getting an insight into the writing and publishing of YA.