

**Title:** *The Getaway*  
**Author:** Lamar Giles  
**Genre:** Sci-Fi, Mystery

Reviewer Name and Grade: Holden C., 8th grade

Date Reviewed: 6/22/23

*The Getaway* by Lamar Giles takes place sometime in the near future. It is set in a dystopian world where Jay Butler, the protagonist, lives and works in an amusement park known as Karloff Country. Outside of this park the world is crumbling. Food is scarce and riots overthrow democracies and all order. Everything is pure chaos. People go to Karloff Country to escape the problems of the outside world. Jay is a worker in the park's most popular area, Enchantia, and Jay resents having to follow the park goers every command. In Karloff Country, the park goers are always right in order to strengthen and support the illusion that everything is fine and that they are of the utmost importance. Jay is friends with others who live in Karloff who include Zeke, an engineer who is ambitious and very passionate in what he believes in, Connie, the daughter of a famous cook, and is caring and compassionate, and finally Seychelle. Seychelle is the granddaughter of Franklin Karloff, a billionaire who created Karloff Country. Seychelle is of mixed race and her mom uses this to connect with non-white residents and the people in the park. This only makes Seychelle resent her mom even more than she already did. Seychelle, being part of the Karloff family, is forced to look and act in certain ways to make sure her family's image remains. Seychelle is strong and brave and values her friends highly. One night Connie and her family suddenly disappear without a trace, including all their possessions and everything in their house. This led to Jay and his friends trying to figure out the mysteries of Karloff Country and its true purpose. This hunt leads deeper than anyone could have imagined and leads to shocking truths and painful lies. Friends become enemies and everything changes.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

Yes, I constantly enjoyed and was interested in the plot.

*What grade level is this book appropriate for?*

6th grade and up.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

I would recommend it to someone who likes action and a bit of a mystery.

*Was the pace of this book too fast, slow, or just right?*

The pacing was pretty good, it started out a bit slow but picked up and was just right.

*What other information would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

Make sure you know whose point of view it is so you don't get lost.

*4.5 stars*

I really enjoyed this story and would highly recommend it as it is filled with non-stop action and you are constantly intrigued by the story. I also enjoyed watching Jay and his friends change and grow throughout the story. The reason why this book isn't rated 5 stars is due to the switching point of views. I felt that it could be confusing at times who was narrating as they all sounded the same and there was little diversity in their beliefs and thoughts. I would sometimes forget who was narrating and whose perspective I was reading as it was similar and redundant.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Jake S., Grade 11

Date Reviewed: 9/12/23

This book is about a society called Karloff Country that is suppose to be like a sanctuary while the rest of the world is crumbling outside its walls. The society is made up of the rich Karloff family, the Trustees, the

Guests who are rich and famous people that vacation there and the Helpers who are the workers in Karloff Country. This book follows four high school aged friends as they interact within this society and later uncover secrets about the society. They then have to try and save their lives and everyone else's in Karloff county from someone within the community that has plans to overtake the Karloffs' and rule the world.

This story takes place in a time much like today with similar technologies, like Sandrina which is much like Alexa. Only it spies on you and can be controlled by the management to do such things as lock you in your house. Also, the workers have to wear special wrist bands that do not come off, which is another way they can be controlled.

Jay (Jermaine), Connie, and Zeke (Ezekiel) are all happy and thankful to be living in Karloff Country where they do not have to worry about such things as food shortages like the rest of the world. Families chosen to live and work in Karloff Country considered themselves lucky to have this one in a million chance live there and escape the turmoil that goes on outside its walls. Jay, Zeke, and Connie are three friends that live in a working class neighborhood, called Jubilee, with their families and other Helpers. They all work different jobs at Karloff Country's most popular theme park called Enchantria (which can be compared to Disney World) 'where guests throw tantrums on daily occurrences.' Their friend Chelle (Seychelle) is a member of the world famous Karloff family. Chelle is the granddaughter of Franklin Karloff, the rich and powerful man that runs Karloff Country, but does he really? Chelle and her mom are the only heirs to the Karloff fortune. Chelle is so happy to have her friends that live in Jubilee because she always felt like an outcast to her grandfather, who belittles her and treats her meanly, because she is bi-racial and he does not seem accepting of that. The four friends consider themselves a crew and much of the story is based on their relationship and interactions and survival in Karloff Country.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

The plot definitely kept me interested. I really enjoyed reading this book and had a hard time putting it down because I kept wanting to see what would happen next. The way the author Lamar Giles writes really keeps one's interest.

*Was the pace of the book fast, too slow, or just right?*

The pace of the book was just right. The story unfolds in a timely manner.

*What grade level(s) is the book appropriate for?*

The grade levels this book is appropriate for would be 6th grade and up.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

The type of reader I would recommend this to is someone that likes stories about friends and mysteries.

*What other information would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

I would like them to know that although one might be put off by the length of the book which is about 382 pages, they should not be because it is a book that captivates your attention and it is so good that it makes you want to read it as quick as you can.

*I rate this book 5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!* The reason I give this rating has a lot to do with everything I have stated above, and in addition I like the cool cover art and the way the book separates different parts with dark pages and sayings that one might hear while at a theme park. It also has pages that are memos, or advertisements that let the reader know more about Karloff Country and its inner workings and perceptions.

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Nitya M., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 22, 2024

*The Getaway* is a young adult and science fiction novel by Lamar Giles, the story can also be characterized as dystopian. The story begins and is set in a place called Karloff County which is a luxurious resort. We are introduced to the protagonist whose name is Jermaine Butler who is also known as Jay Butler. He lives inside the resort with a pretty enjoyable and nice life that people would want to live. He has nice friends, loving parents, and a thrilling after school job at the resort's famous theme park. The theme park is named Enchantria. Although Jay lives this amazing life, he loves this "perfect" life also has a dark side to it. The world outside of this amazing county and theme park is not the greatest and is currently in a state of disarray. The goal of this county and resort is for the wealthy, rich and elite people to stay to avoid the havoc and chaos in a nice place like this. Although the resort is known to be a safe getaway spot for people everything changes one day when Jay's friend Connie and her family go missing mysteriously out of nowhere. Jay starts to doubt where he lives and starts to wonder if Karloff County is really what it seems to be. It is not just this disappearance though; it gets even more strange when more wealthy and rich people come to stay at this resort and seem to never leave. Later Jay discovers that the resort is labeled as an "end of the world sanctuary for privileged folks". He figures out that Jay and his team must serve these same guests without doubting them or questioning their stay at the resort. Although this is the only option Jay and his team join and are determined to reveal the truth to everyone and fight for their freedom from this "perfect place".

***Did the plot keep me interested?***

It was quite interesting to say the least.

***Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?***

It was fast but controllable by the reader.

***What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?***

I think this book is appropriate for anyone who can read it and understand what is happening in the story.

***What type of reader would you recommend this book to?***

I would recommend this book to someone who likes a bit of mystery and science fiction as it covers both topics in one book.

***What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?***

It is great and you should read it in one sitting to avoid forgetting important details that might happen later in the book.

***Rating:*** I will give it 5 stars because the book combines my 2 favorite genres, science fiction and mystery into one which is very nice because books like this are common, but I don't think they are as good as this one.