

Book: *What We Harvest*
Author: Ann Fraistat
Genre: Thriller and Supernatural Mystery

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

Date Reviewed: 7/13/23

What We Harvest by Ann Fraistat takes place around present time and is set in a typical rural town in America with farms scattered throughout, but they are not normal farms. Each farm has a specialty and a strange power. Some of these include ghost melons that glow and taste exceptionally good, another one produces incredible animals that are obedient and strong, and many other unique things. Wren is a sixteen year old girl who lives on a farm where wheat is rainbow colored and has a unique taste. Tourists come from far and wide to see this and the rest of the town, but as of late, a strange sludge called the blight has come from the ground and has been killing crops. What started with one farm led to an infection that killed almost all the crops, but that's not it. If something living touches the sludge, they are turned into a zombie-like creature that attacks and spreads the infection. When Wren's parents leave one night to help preserve a neighbor's farm, they don't return and leave Wren scared of what could have happened. With no one else to call, Wren turns to her ex-boyfriend Derek who lives on a farm with glowing melons. Derek is a childhood friend of Wren, but after they broke up they had been on bad terms. Derek is a kind and strong person. Wren is resilient and determined but often unsure of what to do. When Wren makes it back to Derek's farm later that night as he parents still haven't returned she sees Derek's older sister Claudette who is very tough but has a sweet side and her girlfriend Angie. Angie is caring and kind and goes to the same university as Claudette. The next day, Wren sets out to look with her parents with Derek, Claudette, and Angie which then sets them off on a journey that reveals the town's past, the truth to the town's fortune, and the cause of the blight.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes. The book kept me interested throughout.

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 a good mystery and the supernatural.

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

The pacing was just right.

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

Read this book like it is real so you can feel more enveloped in the story.

4.5 stars

Overall, I thought the book was really good. The pacing was perfect and the characters were incredibly interesting. The only reason I don't give this book 5 stars is because of the fact that I didn't like the ending. I felt the ending was too convenient and forced.