



# The Leftovers

By Tom Perrotta

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A *New York Times* Notable Book for 2011

A *Washington Post* Notable Fiction Book for 2011

A *USA Today* 10 Books We Loved Reading in 2011 Title

One of NPR's 10 Best Novels of 2011

What if—whoosh, right now, with no explanation—a number of us simply vanished? Would some of us collapse? Would others of us go on, one foot in front of the other, as we did before the world turned upside down?

That's what the bewildered citizens of Mapleton, who lost many of their neighbors, friends and lovers in the event known as the Sudden Departure, have to figure out. Because nothing has been the same since it happened—not marriages, not friendships, not even the relationships between parents and children.

Kevin Garvey, Mapleton's new mayor, wants to speed up the healing process, to bring a sense of renewed hope and purpose to his traumatized community. Kevin's own family has fallen apart in the wake of the disaster: his wife, Laurie, has left to join the Guilty Remnant, a homegrown cult whose members take a vow of silence; his son, Tom, is gone, too, dropping out of college to follow a sketchy prophet named Holy Wayne. Only Kevin's teenaged daughter, Jill, remains, and she's definitely not the sweet "A" student she used to be. Kevin wants to help her, but he's distracted by his growing relationship with Nora Durst, a woman who lost her entire family on October 14th and is still reeling from the tragedy, even as she struggles to move beyond it and make a new start. With heart, intelligence and a rare ability to illuminate the struggles inherent in ordinary lives, Tom Perrotta has written a startling, thought-provoking novel about love, connection and loss.

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## The Leftovers By Tom Perrotta Bibliography

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- Published on: 2011-08-30
- Released on: 2011-08-30
- Format: Kindle eBook

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2011:** Author Tom Perrotta is a master at exposing the quiet desperation behind America's suburban sheen. In *The Leftovers* he explores what would happen if The Rapture actually took place and millions of people just disappeared from the earth. How would normal people respond? Perrotta's characters show a variety of coping techniques, including indifference, avoidance, depression, freaking out, and the joining of cults. Despite the exceptional circumstances, it's really not unlike how people respond to more minor incidents in their lives (excepting cults). The result is a novel that's a slow burn yet strangely compelling, one that leaves the reader pondering the story long after it's over. In vivid and occasionally satiric prose, he takes a bizarre and abnormal event--the Rapture--and imagines how normal people would deal with being left behind. --*Chris Schluep*

### Review

"Dennis Boutsikaris is the ideal audio jack-of-all trades for Perrotta's darkly comic novel of American life after the rapture. Boutsikaris captures the tender longing of Perrotta's prose as it harks back to a lost happiness now entirely destroyed by the unexplained disappearance of millions of people, both believers and nonbelievers. Utilizing the mellow timbre of his voice and effective moments of silence, Boutsikaris highlights the disconnection and dissatisfaction at the heart of Perrotta's novel. Proving to be a superb narrator for Perrotta's work, Boutsikaris's quiet excellence is akin to that of the author." *?Publishers Weekly, starred review*

"Dennis Boutsikaris executes this production with a matter-of-fact tone that works to emphasize the surrealism that permeates Perrotta's novel...Boutsikaris does well providing a straight vocal rendering of the details of Perrotta's world while amply delivering emotional resonance and energy when portraying the characters' states of mind. He keeps his voices and tones straight despite the shifting of perspective from chapter to chapter." *?AudioFile Magazine*

"It's quite an imaginative tale, and rather deep, with bits of lightness thrown in for good measure. Good for those who don't mind a trip to the dark side." *?The Mercury*

"A bonus interview with the author enhances this dramatic and enthralling story. Highly recommended." *?The Midwest Book Review*

"The great character actor, Dennis Boutsikaris, shows his skill once again in reading this novel, complementing the narrative...I enjoyed *The Leftovers* in the overall experience it delivers, but I especially appreciated the unique, imaginative, and human perspectives that Perrotta created for out listening/reading pleasure." *?New World Review*

"Perrotta makes this subdued world come vividly alive, and the reading by actor Dennis Boutsikaris has just the right tone." *?The Winston-Salem Journal*

"A balanced presentation of this story of those left behind after the biblical Rapture – or something closely resembling it – takes place." *?The Los Angeles Times*

"*The Leftovers* is, simply put, the best *Twilight Zone* episode you never saw." ?Stephen King, *New York Times Book Review*

"[Perrotta's] most mature, absorbing novel, one that confirms his development from a funnyman to a daring chronicler of our most profound anxieties and human desires...Leavened with humor and tinged with creepiness, this insightful novel draws us into some very dark corners of the human psyche." ?*Washington Post*

"[Perrotta's] most ambitious book to date....The premise is as simple as it is startling (certainly for the characters involved). The novel is filled with those who have changed their lives radically or discovered something crucial about themselves, as radical upheaval generates a variety of coping mechanisms. Though the tone is more comic than tragic, it is mainly empathic, never drawing a distinction between "good" and "bad" characters, but recognizing all as merely human--ordinary people dealing with an extraordinary situation." ?*Kirkus Reviews (starred)*

"Ever since *Little Children*, Tom Perrotta has been a master chronicler of suburban ennui, but he takes things to a new level with his wry, insightful, unputdownable novel *The Leftovers*...Profoundly entertaining...*The Leftovers* brims with joy, hilarity, tenderness and hope." ?*Marie Claire*

"An engrossing read." ?*People*

"*The Leftovers* is sort of an "Our Town" for End Times. Tom Perrotta, our Balzac of the burbs, has come up with a wild premise for his engaging, entertaining new novel. Suddenly, a huge number of people vanish from this earth. The only explanation is that The Rapture has occurred...He narrows his affectionate and gently satiric focus to the middle-American village of Mapleton and shows us a bunch of folks trying to get on with their lives...The novel intertwines these stories at a graceful pace in prose so affable that the pages keep turning without hesitation. With Perrotta at the controls, you buy the set-up and sit back as he takes off." ?*Chicago Sun Times*

"Perrotta combines absurd circumstance and authentic characters to wondrous effect, turning his story into a vivid exploration of what we believe, what matters most, and how, if untethered, we move on...Perrotta treats his characters with sympathy and invites the reader to do the same." ?*Seattle Times*

"In his provocative new novel Tom Perrotta dives straight into our unease...it's a gentle, Perrotta-esque go at sci-fi, without any mangled bodies or bombed-out buildings; it's a realistic novel built on a supernatural foundation." ?*Boston Globe*

"Perrotta's gift is his ability to infuse satire with warmth, to find significance in the absurd. It's easy to mock extreme forms of religious expression. It's harder to find their meaning and application. Perrotta does both in this rich and oddly reassuring read." ?*More Magazine*

"The best book about the Rapture since the New Testament." ?"*The Bullseye*" in *Entertainment Weekly*

"Start with what the author calls a Rapture-like phenomenon, mix in some suburban angst, and poof: All other apocalyptic fiction gets blown away." ?*O, The Oprah Magazine (selected as one of the Best Fiction titles of 2011)*

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*Times Book Review*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Marvin Gamez:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Leftovers can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **Jennifer Garza:**

Does one one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Aim to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't assess book by its cover may doesn't work the following is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not because fantastic as in the outside look likes. Maybe you answer is usually The Leftovers why because the excellent cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

#### **Vanessa Gibson:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside together with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, think reading a book can actually hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like The Leftovers which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's observe.

#### **Sue Randall:**

Don't be worry if you are afraid that this book will probably filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book means, more simple and reachable. This particular The Leftovers can give you a lot of pals because by you considering this one book you have issue that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This guide offer you information that possibly your friend doesn't realize, by knowing more than different make you to be great folks. So , why hesitate? Let us have The Leftovers.

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