



The Prey

Andrew Fukuda

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For Gene and the remaining humans—or hepers—death is just a heartbeat away. On the run and hunted by society, they must find a way to survive in The Vast... and avoid the hungry predators tracking them in the dark. But they're not the only things following Gene. He's haunted by the girl he left behind and his burgeoning feelings for Sissy, the human girl at his side.

When they discover a refuge of exiled humans living high in the mountains, Gene and his friends think they're finally safe. Led by a group of intensely secretive elders, the civilisation begins to raise more questions than answers. A strict code of behaviour is the rule, harsh punishments are meted out, young men are nowhere to be found—and Gene begins to wonder if the world they've entered is just as evil as the one they left behind. As life at the refuge grows more perilous, he and Sissy only grow closer. In an increasingly violent world, all they have is each other... if they can only stay alive.

The Prey Details

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From Reader Review The Prey for online ebook

Bonnie McDaniel says

This book is a sequel to *The Hunt*, which I read a few months ago. *The Prey* definitely improved on its predecessor; in fact, it is one of the best books I have read so far this year.

The previous book introduced a dark, bloody, dystopian world, where humans are seemingly all but extinct, subsumed by a new breed: a superstrong, superfast cannibalistic "people" who will literally tear you limb from limb, eating your flesh and drinking your blood. The hero, Gene, survives by the use of a brazenly clever "Purloined Human" (or "Heper," what humans are called in this book) technique: he hides in the midst of the monsters, pretending to be one of them (helped along by excessive showering, use of deodorant, and razors, to hide the body hair the monsters apparently do not grow). He has thought like one of them, as a matter of survival, for so long that it is very hard for him to remember that he is, in fact, human, which was one of the first book's major plot points.

This book ups the stakes exponentially, and answers a great many questions. The "duskers," as we learn they are called, are actually genetically engineered supersoldiers gone wrong. They were bred to fight humanity's wars centuries ago and ended up turning on their creators. There is supposedly a cure for this called the "Origin," which the group from the first book spends a great deal of time searching for (and finds in the Very. Last. Sentence. of this book--seriously, I've never seen cliffhangers like Andrew Fukuda writes). Gene and his pals, still being pursued by the duskers, stumble upon a hidden city of humans that is not quite right, to say the least. Either they're watching the desert city where the duskers, still five million strong, are confined, or they're humanity's last stand, products of a devil's bargain with the duskers. That point is not resolved; I trust it will be addressed in the last book of the trilogy.

The hallmarks of the first book remain: the almost unbearable tension and the gripping action scenes that all but explode off the page. If this story ever makes it to the movie screen, it would take a trilogy of films, a la *The Hunger Games*, to do it justice.

(Edited to add 9/11/13: After thinking about it, I changed my rating to five stars. It was silly to give the first book in the series five and this one only four [the original rating]. I want to be stingy with five-star reviews, but this book definitely deserves it.)

Wolf (Alpha) says

I liked this book pretty well. I like how Sissy trusts Gene even more now, and how they become closer to each other. I like how Gene is smart and knows how to escape. I like how they get to the one place. I hate how Sissy is tortured and branded. I like how they escape and how Sissy and Gene come closer together.

Vaso says

The second installment was more fast paced and with more action. There were a lot of twists in the plot that kept me hooked. Can't wait to see how this is going to end...

Sam says

I liked this a lot more than the first! I don't know if it's because I listened on Audiobook instead of reading it this time, or maybe it simply was better.

I knew there was something weird going on with 'The Mission' but was still horrified to know the truth in the end. As with the first, this was so fast-paced! The first part of the book is the survivors journey to the promised land, even though it was a lot of traveling it was still exciting.

I liked how we got more background about Gene's dad and the "Duskers". This was a big step up from the first book. I have high hopes for the last one, I want everything to be tied up in a nice bow in the end.

Mitch says

The Prey is everything I expected from the sequel to *The Hunt*. I know that sounds like a positive reaction and I could talk about how all my expectations were met, but that's just my problem - I anticipated everything. Thinking back, I really liked *The Hunt* because it's a survival story centered around a guy in a tough situation where one wrong move meant instant death at the fangs of the vampires around him, I wasn't so concerned with the dystopian backstory, and that's why I'm mildly disappointed by this sequel - *The Prey* isn't so much about Gene's struggle to survive as much as it's an exploration of how the vampire society came about.

One of my favorite parts of the first book is the vampires being so different from humans and the lengths Gene goes to survive. I know it's not realistic, but sleeping on ceilings, eating raw meats, shoving elbows into armpits, craving for Hepers, the stuff Gene has to do to escape detection and the constant threat of being discovered and devoured added a layer of suspense to *The Hunt* that *The Prey* really couldn't replicate. There are a few flashback scenes, including one of Gene losing his tooth and living in fear of the tooth being discovered by the vampires, but it's just not the same when I know Gene's alive, so I never got the same feeling of imminent doom that really carried the first half of *The Hunt*. Instead, Gene, Sissy, and the boys' escape from the Heper Institute and their search for the promised land of milk and honey is really like another other journey slash escape where the heroes are chased by monsters, it's not boring, there are certainly plenty of action scenes and moments when all of them could die in an instant, but it just lacks that extra psychological element that made *The Hunt* so truly compelling.

Once Gene arrives at the Mission, the refuge for humans, the story degenerated into a typical dystopian plot for me. There are hints of some bigger conspiracy at work with the treatment of the girls, the excessive resource use of the village, and the stuff with Gene's father, all written with Fukuda's at this point trademark weirdness (foot binding like it's written by a foot fetishist!!), but the story isn't any different than any other dystopian where the protagonist knows something is wrong with the society he encounters, loudly barges around trying to get to the bottom of things, and ultimately gets nowhere. Gene can openly air his suspicions with Sissy, yell at the people in charge, and rant all he wants about not getting anywhere, but it doesn't change the fact that all Fukuda is doing is concealing a backstory and reveals that are entirely predictable based on the information from *The Hunt*. Everything Gene learns, I could've told him based on his cursory observations of how things worked and what I learned from the previous book, so the intentional concealing of the obvious just left me extremely frustrated as Gene hits brick wall after brick wall after brick wall even though the answers are right there as even Gene knows in his gut.

Only a few things keep *The Prey* from falling into the completely predictable category for me. I took what happened to Gene's father in *The Hunt* at face value, which in retrospect was a mistake on my part, because I

did not expect Gene's father to play as large of a role here as he did. Didn't expect to see Ashley June again either, although her appearance makes me wonder why she wasn't just eaten outright. Although most of my predictions about how the vampire society came about are pretty much confirmed by this book, I have to say Gene's role in humanity's future, while I easily saw it coming from what I figured out about how vampires took over the world, is actually pretty good for setting up the third book. I'm not sure if I like how Fukuda pretty much reveals exactly what I expected the Mission's true purpose to be and then at the very end says something to the effect of 'it might not be as you think!' because adding another layer of doubt much earlier would've really helped to tap down the predictability, but now I really don't know what to think about what will happen next.

So I made a few predictions after reading *The Hunt*, and I'm disappointed that *The Prey* pretty much confirms all of them without being as character driven as the first book was - Gene as the tough survivor in particular is sorely missed. Sure, I enjoyed the ravenous vampire attacks as usual, but I wanted to see more, although the hints towards the end make me think the third book will surprise me.

Chicca Palmentieri says

4 stelle e mezzo

Esther Jackson says

I did not appreciate this book very much. There was an immense plot and a couple shocking plot twists that I liked, but I just didn't relate. Even though the story line was good, the writing was not something I would want to read again. I was very disappointed since I really enjoyed the first book of this series. I would not recommend unless you otherwise see fit. Anyhow, I think you should read the first book of the series, *The Hunt*, it was very good. Even though I did not particularly enjoy this book, I am still planning on reading the third and final book.

Lex says

I know! I am so weird. Cause I like the book. It really is a bit fascinating reading a different kind of vampires. Where they are not sparkly and totally ran out of humanity. Incapable of love and reason.

What I don't like was that it was not based on the first book *The Hunt*. Where they are in a Dome and all that crap. Well of course, from the last page of first book we know that Gene managed to escape the Heper Institute. But one might think it'll be lead back in that Institute. That's what I keep thinking. That he'll come back for Ashley June.

The second book revolves on how and what happened to Gene and the rest of the Dome people (Sissy, Epap, David, Jacob, Ben) try to survive. And finally some bit of the truth. The history. Finally. But still got some questions going on.

Remember the Amazing Spiderman movie last year? Where this evil guy who experimented on himself? It reminds me of the story someone told in this book. LOL. :P

Regardless of that, I am looking forward for the last book of this series and excited to know what is the real deal. I wonder how it will all be explained to us by Fukuda. It is a good read. Although... the ending is like "how many months do I have to wait for the last book?" thing. It's not the violent reaction though. :p

Amanda says

3.5

The Prey by Andrew Fukuda is the sequel to The Hunt, a book I hadn't planned on reading but once I did I was happy because it was thrilling and involved a unique and creepy world. I have been waiting on this sequel since then and it was just as good.

The Prey starts up where The Hunt left off. Gene, Sissy, Ben, David, Jacob, and Epap have escaped from the Dome and are now in the wild, trying to follow vague instructions left for them by The Scientist, Gene's father. Each night Hunters arrive on the river banks, trailing their boat, eager to catch and kill them. Eventually they arrive at The Mission, a small village nestled in some mountains and they discover humans living there, seemingly peaceful, well fed and cared for. But life there is not as it seems and Gene must figure out how to find The Origin.

I like Gene, he's quite a serious guy and I find that his narration has a no-nonsense approach. He does feel emotions but I never feel like he's being dramatic, so when he does panic, I feel it too. I felt his guilt at leaving behind Ashley June, it sounds like my worst nightmare, but I also enjoyed the relationship between him and Sissy. I like that it wasn't too forced, it never felt like a romance, instead they share an intense bond and a need to look out for each other, and the boys.

The pacing was well done, from the beginning I was hooked and my heart was racing as their boat was attacked early on. As I've mentioned before, the vampires in this world are the scary kind (at least they are to me, I scare easy!) In addition to the pacing, the story is moved along by the discoveries made at The Mission and the explanation given to them by one of the Elders. I didn't know whether to believe his story about what had happened to the world, and how vampires came to be, as he didn't seem trustworthy. The explanation seemed a little vague, but more is revealed towards the end. Gene also has a few flashbacks giving us more insight into his previous life when his father was still with him.

My issues with this book are slight and they didn't spoil the read for me. Firstly, The Mission felt creepy and weird from the moment that Gene and his gang arrived and it was clear something was not right. It takes them a while to figure it out, especially the younger boys who are besotted with the place. Sissy is the smartest of the bunch, but even then I wanted them to leave immediately yet they stayed, even when things got worse. It was so obvious what the purpose of The Mission was, but I suppose I can cut the characters some slack as they have never lived in a human world.

My only other issue was that a lot of the story is left up to chance. It's clear that the Scientist had a plan involving the kids and Gene, but if one little thing had gone wrong, then they probably wouldn't have escaped or survived the trip to The Mission and his plan would have been ruined.

The Prey is a solid follow up to The Hunt – I enjoyed the focus on the human interactions in this book and am keen for book three, The Trap, which is due out at the end of the year.

Thank you to the lovely people at Simon and Schuster Aus for my review copy.

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

I always hope that, where I've enjoyed the first book in a series, the rest will prove to be at least as good. Andrew Fukuda's debut novel, *The Hunt*, while not a favorite was an enjoyable action read, a nice change of pace from my more contemplative reads. In reading *The Prey*, I really hoped to find more of the same, but instead it alternated between wtfery and completely predictable plot twists.

Since I like to give credit where credit is due, there are two things that I did like about *The Prey*. First, Fukuda writes well, doing a much better job with his syntax and diction than is typical in more action-based stories. Second, he does give the world an origin story in this installment. Where *The Hunt* suffered from a lack of world building, Fukuda attempts to explain how the creatures came to rule the earth. While I'm not exactly sold on the reasoning and it could have been better done than in a villain's infodumping speech, I appreciate that Fukuda did put thought into this, and I'd like to see more dystopian/post-apocalyptic novels that tackle this aspect.

As I mentioned previously, the most solid aspect of *The Hunt*, what kept me flipping pages despite the nonsensical world building, was the non-stop action. *The Prey* starts off slowly and continues to chug along at that slow pace most of the novel. The hepers (aka humans) have escaped down the river on a boat, searching for the promised land, The Land of Milk and Honey. (Insert eyeroll here.) There's a brief interlude of excitement with an attack by the creatures, duskers as they're called in this book, but otherwise the first half is to set up some new romantic tension, which I will get back to later.

Mostly, this slow portion gave me time to really focus on the little details, like the character names. These poor characters have some of the very worst names I have ever encountered. To be fair, there is a reason behind the names, though some of it is unfortunate and Epap (the most nonsensical name) never is explained. What really bothers me is that both female love interests, easily the strongest characters in the series, have been saddled with the most absurdly weak sounding names: Ashley June and Sissy. Why couldn't she just be Ashley or June? Why Ashley June, a name which makes her sound like a country western singer or a girl getting ready for her Super Sweet Sixteen? Of course, if she does start some sort of country western show, Sissy and the Hepers can open for her.

After sailing down the river, crashing down a waterfall, and climbing up a cave, they find a village of humans. Le shock! They're not the only ones still alive! (Insert my incredibly-surprised face right here.) They're immediately served up a feast of delicious food by beautiful girls, albeit ones with funny walks. Clearly this is is The Land of Milk and Honey! But, oh no! It turns out that all is not well in Creepytown! (Insert gasp here.)

Let's just talk about this town, shall we? This town consists of nubile young women, many of them pregnant, and middle-aged, obese men who call themselves elders. That's about it. The fact that it takes the characters any amount of time to determine that something's amiss boggles my mind. Anyway, not only is this town evil, because, hey, that's how things roll in dystopian novels, but it's freaking crazy pants. For example, these young women all have such tiny, fucked up feet that they walk in a really weird gait. Yup, this town practices footbinding. Why, you might ask? Well, here are some quotes from the townspeople on women's feet:

"See, that's the thing with girls with big man-sized feet,' Krugman says from behind us, his voice a slithering coo. 'When their feet haven't been beautified, when the foot glands haven't been broken. Left undestroyed, these glands secrete male hormones into a girl. Turn her from a princess into an opinionated ox. One who fails to understand her place in society, who mistakenly thinks she can walk like a male, talk like a male,

have opinions like a male. Say no to a male. "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a girl with big feet." (165) "They made me a gopher. I'd go down two times a week with medicine, supplies. That's why they didn't bind my feet but let them grow into man feet—so I'd be able to walk the many miles, climb the cabled ladder. I hated it, in the beginning, mostly because of how my feet got so big and ugly. The other girls were merciless with their taunts. Man feet, man feet, man feet,' she grimaces from the memory." (224)

In case you're wondering, yes, that did just really happen. What really bothers me about this is that it seems to solely be a device to make the book more dramatic and terrifying. Having the women around as breeders for disgusting old fat men isn't enough? They have to have their feet bound too? REALLY?

It gets better, though. Not only do they get their feet bound and be impregnated by these men, but they also are issued either merits or rewards based on how obedient they are. A merit can be earned by doing good things, like birthing a baby. A demerit is earned any time a woman steps out of line, like by doing something alone. Each time a woman earns one or the other, the skin of her arm is marked: a branded X for a demerit and a smiley face tattoo for good behavior. I really, really wish I were joking. Apparently this society was created by a demented child.

Running through this absurd landscape of offensive horrors is a cast of flat characters. Gene has all the girls wanting him, and all of the guys jealous of him. The good guys are all obviously good, and the bad guys obviously bad. Women, with the exception of Sissy and Ashley June, are weak. Gene is the most important person, intended to be saved from harm, even at the loss of everyone else's life, which turns out to be incredibly laughable and illogical after you learn the final plot twist.

The romance, though thankfully kept to the backburner, is saccharine and unconvincing, perhaps because of the entire lack of development in the characters. Days after leaving Ashley June to a certain horrible fate with the duskers, Gene and Sissy are having special moments of staring, complete with added tension due to Epap's jealousy. Gene and Sissy have not a bit of sexual tension, nor do they have any sort of real bond. They're good at helping each other survive, so hanging together and hooking up is cool (not that they do), but that does not excuse all the syrupy language used for their every interaction.

The two of them pretty much made me want to throw up whenever they looked at one another, especially when he nearly drowns, she gives him mouth to mouth, and he thinks this: "Then velvet lips on mine, dewy and sweet. Soft on soft, the lips alive and encompassing. Then becoming fiercer, the grip ironclad" (249). Ugh, dude, this is not the freaking Sandlot. You have no oxygen in your lungs; you are dying. Now is not the time to rhapsodize about the softness of her lips. Now, I haven't ever experienced mouth to mouth resuscitation, but I'm pretty sure that the only thing I would be thinking about would be BREATHING. If you're feeling horny while your lungs are full of water, you really should sort out your damn priorities.

This book is nothing like The Hunger Games, though the first one had some elements thereof, so please do not get sucked into that marketing. What it comes down to is, if you're curious or think those things won't bother you, then read it. Other people have read The Prey and enjoyed it. All I can say is that I really, really did not, and that I will not be reading any more of this series.

Katy says

I admit part of the reason why I liked The Hunt so much was because it was ~~bizarre~~-different (I know, I'm weird like that). The hepers were the minority living among the duskers, and the bizarreness - like the sticking their elbows into each others' armpits or the wrist scratching - made it unique, and I'm a bit disappointed there wasn't any weirdness in this book.

Taking those things out of the book made The Prey much a like any other dystopian - one that follows the general storyline of a world that exists a certain way, and the inhabitants learned that they have been lied to all their lives. However, much of the world-building took place in the first book, so this one was able to take off from the start. It was full of action and excitement, and even though it was predictable, it was more than enough to suck me in - particularly with the puzzles that the Scientist left behind.

I was left with questions however, mostly from something that was explained in the first book. (view spoiler) I guess either way, it may be explained in the next book as they reach their destination.

Overall, I enjoyed this book very much, though for different reasons than the rest. I'm looking forward to see how Fukuda plans to explain what's really going on with the heper population.

Rani Simpson says

Um...I'm want to see ashley June get rescued! How can he fall for another girl when Ashley June risked her life for him in a huge way, and is left rotting in a hole!! Idk, I want to read this sequel, but the first book was quit a bit laborious in the middle!! I more than likely will read it, but I will be highly upset of he just let's Ashley June die or something.

Siobhan says

I wasn't crazy about The Hunt, but as I brought the entire trilogy whilst on offer I decided to dive into The Prey with crossed fingers. My big issue with The Hunt was that it never quite reached the full potential, with things constantly remaining just out of reach, and I was hoping the continuation of the story would finally push us towards the good stuff.

If I'm being completely honest, I had a bit of a debate as to whether I would round this rating up or down. As it was a stronger read than the first book, I decided to round it up. It wasn't the mind blowing second book it could have been, but it certainly packed more of a punch than the first book.

With The Prey, the world really started to open up. We were introduced to a number of new elements, we got to see beyond the small snippet of the world we were given, and it was this insight into something bigger than had me rounding my rating up. A lot of what came to light was predictable, there were moments where I wanted to shake the main characters for remaining oblivious to what was before them, but as a whole I enjoyed watching the way things developed in this second book.

It does, however, leave you eager to see how things come together in the final book. There is plenty of action towards the end of the book, with there being countless questions you need answers to. Although I would not label The Hunt as one of my favourite series, it certainly leaves you curious to see how things come together.

If nothing else, The Prey leaves you questioning how The Trap will bring everything together.

Natalie says

Στο δε?τερο μ?ρος της τριλογ?ας κλιμακ?νεται η αγων?α και η δρ?ση! ?να βιβλ?ο που σε

"γραπ?νει" και δε σε αφ?νει να ηρεμ?σεις μ?χρι να φτ?σεις στο τ?λος!

Kristy says

Read along with BBP, March 2013.

I'm afraid a lot of people will read and think it is just too weird, resulting in them not giving this one a chance. This Second book was much more story-oriented, a lot of the oddities sort of take a back seat (they are still there, but maybe just not as much of a major player). I very much so enjoyed this one.

There were a few predictable moments, but for the most part I was constantly being suprised. This was fast-paced and action packed, a real adventure book!

.....Spoilers from this point on.....

So, the first part of this book sort of stressed me out. I was afraid they were going to be on the run for the whole book. Serious heart palpatations going on. So, even though the village wasn't exactly a perfect stop, I was glad for just that.... a stop. I sort of figured out about it being a baby-producing-farm right off, since there was pretty much no young guys and a ton of pregnant girls running around. The whole small feet thing was so strange, but I guess conformity happens in lots of ways....

I figured Ashley June would either die or get turned, but that ending with her...Hmmmmm. I am curious, because she did show some humanity toward Gene. I wonder how that will play out. Are we going to have to deal with a love triangle between Gene, Ashley June and Sissy?!?!?!? Will Ashley June get cured?

I am a little worried about Gene's Father, the scientist. Is he going to live up to all his promises? Is he even going to be alive at all??(He better be) What exactly is it about Gene and Sissy that is the cure?

The new addition of Clair makes me have another hmmmmm? moment. Is she to be trusted?

As you see, I have lots of unanswered questions and I'm an super excited to see where the next book will take us!!!!

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! 4 stars!

Fukuda strikes again!

Sidenote: These names drove me crazy (and I know I'm not alone on this), so for them to wind up being such a critical part of the story is Crazy! Fukuda might just be an evil genius!
