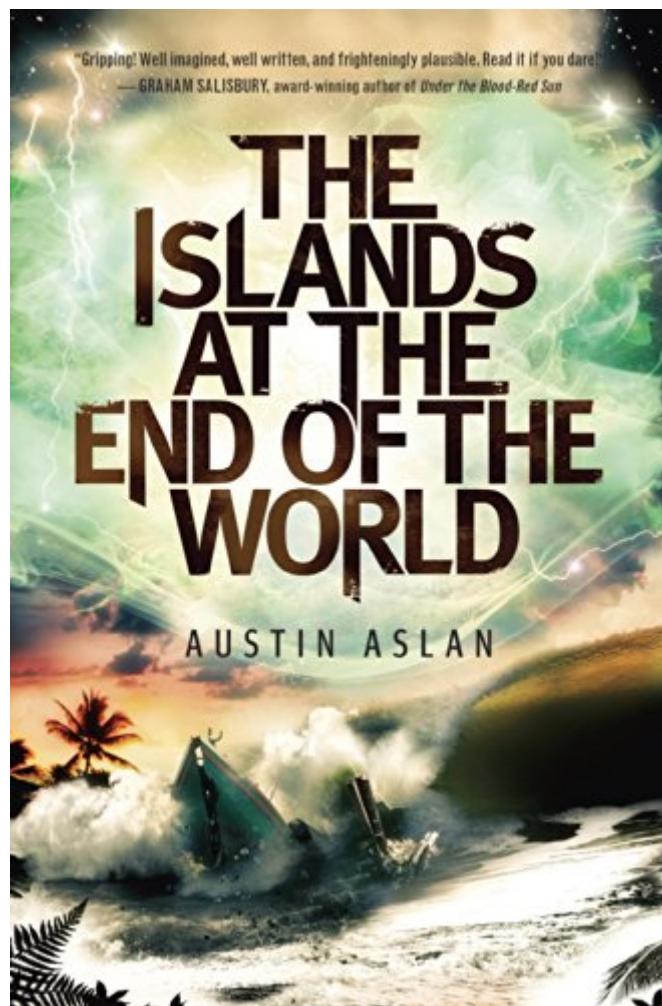


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# The Islands At The End Of The World



## Synopsis

In this fast-paced survival story set in Hawaii, electronics fail worldwide, the islands become completely isolated, and a strange starscape fills the sky. Leilani and her father embark on a nightmare odyssey from Oahu to their home on the Big Island. Leilani's epilepsy holds a clue to the disaster, if only they can survive as the islands revert to earlier ways. A powerful story enriched by fascinating elements of Hawaiian ecology, culture, and warfare, this captivating and dramatic debut from Austin Aslan is the first of two novels. The author has a master's degree in tropical conservation biology from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Praise for Islands at the End of the World: "Aslan's debut honors Hawaii's unique cultural strengths--family ties and love of home, amplified by geography and history--while remaining true to a genre that affirms the mysterious grandeur of the universe waiting to be discovered."--Kirkus Reviews, STARRED "Debut author Aslan shows off his promise as a writer, delivering afresh, of-the-moment take on apocalyptic fiction. The ecology of Hawaii and its mythology glow vividly as Lei awakens to her special connection to the Emerald Orchid and its purpose. First in a planned two-book series, it's an exceptional adventure and survival story that's intimately tied to its setting."--Publishers Weekly, STARRED "Aslan's debut is a riveting tale of belonging, family, overcoming perceived limitations, and finding a home."--School Library Journal, STARRED From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Full disclaimer - I knew Austin as a kid, so when I saw he posted on FB he wrote a book I decided to download and give it a chance. I'm not a huge fan of YA; I usually get through the book too quickly and know exactly where the story line is going. I must say, while I did get through this book in 2 days, it was only because I couldn't put it down! I didn't know where the story line was going and I had to keep reading to find out! Great pace, great characters, and a unique storyline. I thoroughly enjoyed and will be sending it along to my little cousins because they will love the main character. Great read - highly recommend!

Leilani has epilepsy, and lives in Hawaii. She is scheduled to participate in an experimental trial that might cure her, so she travels to Honolulu with her dad. Then things get weird. There are reports of a global meteor shower. The president mysteriously disappears. Electronics start failing. A mysterious green cloud appears in the sky. Society falls apart pretty quickly in typical apocalyptic fashion - looting, roving gangs of barbarians, militarization - all the usual stuff. But I will say, I enjoyed the way the author took his time setting it up, rather than just starting us off in a world that's already post-apocalyptic. Leilani and her dad stick around Honolulu for a little while hoping for the best, but eventually decide they need to make their way home. (The author includes maps of all the Hawaiian Islands, which is really helpful for understanding their journey.) Along the way, they have numerous close calls, get help from unexpected strangers and make some interesting discoveries about the mysterious cloud (the "orchid") and its connections to Leilani and Hawaii. The writing is superb - more than a few times it reminded me of The Road (Cormac McCarthy) both in terms of their circumstances and how they were described. I loved this book. At the same time, I can totally understand why some people really didn't enjoy it. Everyone has their own personal preference for the source of the apocalypse, and this one won't be everyone's cup of tea. Sometimes you never find out what happened (sometimes I do find out and wish I hadn't.) But even if you didn't like that, there are so many other things to love about this book. There's no major love interest distracting you from the story. The author blends her knowledge of Hawaii beautifully into the book. Leilani and her dad have actual weaknesses. Their journey is incredibly difficult but still realistic. I've loved a lot of

Book Ones. Most of the time I've hated the stories end of the series (looking at you, Hunger Games, and you, Divergent...) so I'll be very curious to see how Leilani's story plays out

o, so good. Wait. I need to add one more "so" to that. Let's make that "so, so, so good!" Loved the setting, the realness of the predicament they're in, the careful incorporation of science and Hawaiian lore. All of it. Most of all I loved Leilani's voice. It was spot on, and you can't help but love and root for this girl. Also, I can't think of many -- or any, really -- YA books that feature such a fantastic relationship between parent and child. I really can't wait to read the sequel. I may have to put the author in a headlock and demand it NOW, in fact. A winning, touching original story about not just the quest to survive but the search for identity and home.

Don't let the YA category scare you off as an adult! This book is dynamic and thought provoking, perfect to keep your attention and pull you into the story. As with all great books, I found myself reading it slower and slower as I got to the end to it would last longer. Luckily we can all now read The Girl at the Center of the World right after!

A very impressive and enjoyable book. I enjoyed and was truly amazed at what a great job the author did of writing the book from the perspective of a teenage girl, particularly since he has never been one himself. The relationship that is painted between the father and daughter two main characters was very moving and very realistic, and nearly brought tears to my eyes several times - being a parent myself. I look forward to sequel.

Surprisingly good. I didn't even realize that it was a Young Adults book until I was half way through. An interesting apocalyptic story in a locale that I never thought of, and obviously, a locale well known to the author. I'd recommend it.

This is a terrific father/daughter struggle as they journey back to their home on the Big Island after being caught on Oahu during the disaster. I love being surprised when I read. Loved learning some Hawaiian culture and mythology, too.

A fabulous father-daughter story set in the beautiful Hawaiian islands. I have been to the islands but learned so much about the people, place, & culture. I ordered the book (and later the sequel) for all my grand daughters.

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