

Books by the Stack



Bird Box by Josh Malerman

Something terrifying that must not be seen is out there. One glimpse and a person is driven to deadly violence. No one knows what it is or where it came from.

Five years after it began, a handful of scattered survivors remain, including Malorie and her two young children. Living in an abandoned house near the river, she has dreamed of fleeing to a place where they might be safe. Now, that the boy and girl are four, it is time to go. But the journey ahead will be terrifying: twenty miles downriver in a rowboat—blindfolded—with nothing to rely on but her wits and the children's trained ears. One wrong choice and they will die. And something is following them. But is it man, animal, or monster?

Engulfed in darkness, surrounded by sounds both familiar and frightening, Malorie embarks on a harrowing odyssey and confronts the ultimate question: in a world gone mad, who can really be trusted?

Why you'll like it: Suspenseful. Apocalyptic fiction. Disturbing. Monsters.

About the Author: Josh Malerman is the lead singer and songwriter for the rock band the High Strung. He lives in Ferndale, Michigan.

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you think the group would have been able to survive and travel down river to safety as Malorie did, or was Malorie only able to do it after witnessing the entire demise of the house?
2. Are Malorie and her children really any more safe at the fortified school than she was alone?
3. Malorie had been inside the home for 4 years, how long do you think the roommates would have survived together?
4. We start to see the wavering solidarity of the group when Tom and Jules go out to find guide dogs. Do you think this marks the beginning of the end for the roommates?
5. How much does being alone play into the terror of the plot? Does being alone, which is uncomfortable for many, provide safety for Malorie rather than fear?
6. Does the formatting of the book make it more of an interesting read?
7. How much of the unknown dangers of the trip are fed from her terror bred from being locked inside a home with no concrete knowledge of the dangers outside?

8. What do you think about Gary and how his part in the ending played out?
9. What did you think about the ending with the people down the river?
10. How do you feel about the way the creatures were portrayed in the book? And, what are your ideas on what the creatures are and why they cause people to go mad?
11. What didn't you like about the story?

(Questions from the Goodreads, and Reddit)



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