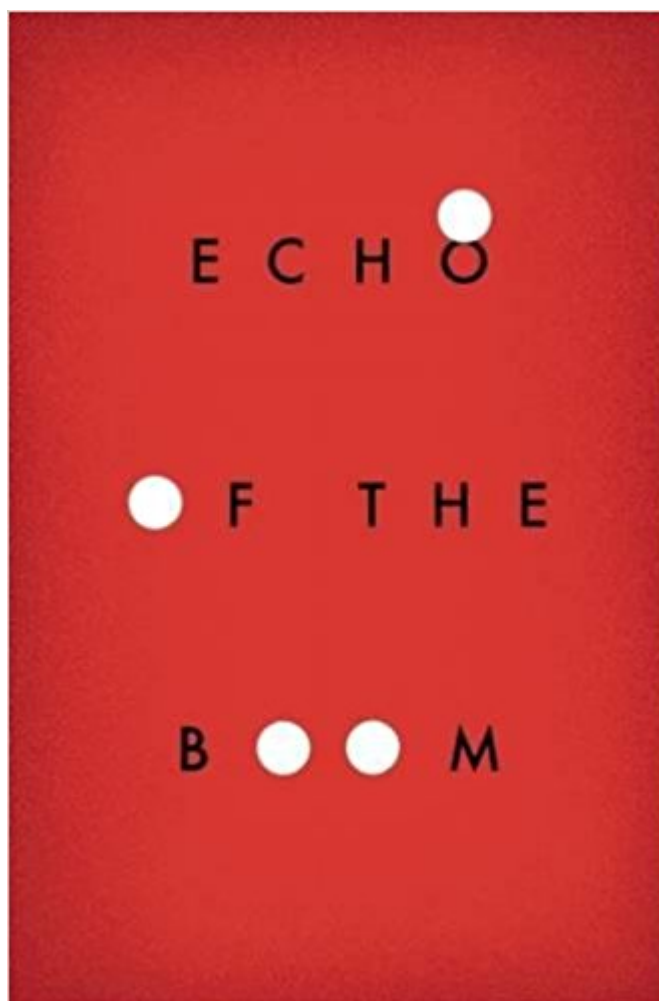


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Echo Of The Boom



Synopsis

Efram gets kicked out of every school in the known universe. Molly is raised in total isolation by survivalists. Steven grows up globetrotting with his ex-spy father. Chloe rules three thousand students with an iron fist. A frenetic journey through contemporary youth culture, *Echo of the Boom* follows the lives of these four characters as their narratives orbit and intertwine. They wage personal wars, grapple for power, and attempt to understand their roles in the future of society--or their destiny in hastening its destruction. The result is a mesmerizing collection of triumphs and calamities, a chronicle brimming with the language of music, social networking, and video games. Equal parts *Gossip Girl* and *Gravity's Rainbow*, *Echo of the Boom* represents a new kind of literature explicitly suited to twenty-first century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

They were all born after the fall of the wall but before the fall of the towers, the author writes about the four main characters in his ambitious first novel: Chloe, the mean queen of her high school who has nuclear nightmares; Molly, whose father is a paranoid survivalist; wealthy Efram, a genius of disorder who makes a habit of being expelled from pricey private schools; and Steven, whose philandering father is a shady international entrepreneur always looking for the main chance. What do these four teens have in common? They're all waiting, in their respective ways, for the end of days. Clearly intended to be adolescent Horsemen of the Apocalypse (each of the book's seven sections is introduced with a quotation from the biblical book of Revelation), the four lead lives overshadowed by intimations of disorder, deprivation, destruction, and death. Set

largely in Washington, DC, the novel offers a disturbing vision of an unapologetically violent, pre-apocalyptic America in the unfolding lives of the four teens. Though there is enough material here for four novels, the often discursive content coheres nicely at its end. --Michael Cart

Editorial Reviews From Publishers Weekly In this debut novel, Neely-Cohen's four teenage protagonists are superlatives—coldest, strongest, most clever, and most popular in turn. In a contemporary Washington, D.C., and under the shadow of impending doom, the story unfolds in increments of time—“before the end.” Technology is now an extension of self, and so naturally teens use it to bully, hack, and spy. Chloe is a queen bee whose powers of manipulation have left her jaded and haunted by night terrors. Efram is a teenage Gatsby. Molly is a gun-toting apocalypse prepster. Steven travels the globe on shady ventures with his father, a consultant, and where Steven goes, death follows. In a world of genre-mashing garage deejays, and a text message to replace every utterance, adults are as squawking and clueless as the adults in Peanuts. But beneath the labored pop culture references, the novel conveys a simple message: yes, the world is miserable, but technology can't take all of the blame. These young adults are of the generation “born after the fall of the wall but before the fall of the towers.” In such chaotic times, they understand full well that a trigger can't pull itself. (Apr.) From Booklist “They were all born after the fall of the wall but before the fall of the towers,” the author writes about the four main characters in his ambitious first novel: Chloe, the mean queen of her high school who has nuclear nightmares; Molly, whose father is a paranoid survivalist; wealthy Efram, a genius of disorder who makes a habit of being expelled from pricey private schools; and Steven, whose philandering father is a shady international entrepreneur always looking for the main chance. Clearly intended to be adolescent Horsemen of the Apocalypse (each of the book's seven sections is introduced with a quotation from the biblical book of Revelation), the four lead lives overshadowed by intimations of disorder, deprivation, destruction, and death. Set largely in Washington, DC, the novel offers a disturbing vision of an unapologetically violent, pre-apocalyptic America. Though there is enough material here for four novels, the often discursive content coheres nicely at its end. [An] emotionally engaging look at the prospective end of days. •Michael Cart Reviews “A brave, funny, articulate new voice.” •Bethanne Patrick, Washingtonian Magazine, “Top 10 Books for April 2014” “Neely-Cohen's first novel, which kicks off with epigraphs quoting both the Book of Revelation and Spoon, is definitely the real thing.” •Jason Diamond, Flavorwire, “10 Must-Read Books for April”

“Striking” a coming-of-age story about finding meaning in our technologically advanced world as the end grows near a character-driven tale of the apocalypse.

•Sonya Lovy, Foreword Review "A book that's hard to put down... The online world plays a big part here, and there are elements that will please readers of William Gibson."

•Tobias Carroll, Vol. 1 Brooklyn From the Back Cover Praise for Echo of the Boom: "The four teen survivors and survivalists at the core of Maxwell Neely-Cohen's debut novel are at once terrifyingly wise and authentically self-absorbed. Steeped in both the pop milieu of this minute and the prophecies of 2,000 years ago, Echo of the Boom the spiritual prequel to The Road that we never thought to ask for."

•Gabe Durham, author of Fun Camp "A brilliant dissection of American youth culture, Echo of the Boom tears apart the stereotypical depictions of young people and instead offers a searing, poignant, and achingly real alternative. Do not mistake it for fantasy, the result is a disturbing yet accurate description of how many young people navigate the world today."

•Rosalind Wiseman, author of Queen Bees and Wannabes "Echo of the Boom is one of the strangest and most exciting novels I've come across in a long time. It reads like Mean Girls seen through a fever dream, treating of the ecstasies and agonies of being young with apocalyptic anxieties flaming on the horizon."

•Benjamin Hale, author of The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore

Echo of the Boom is a fun, interesting, provocative, and quick read. I would recommend this book to literally anyone! It is simultaneously thought provoking and totally entertaining, PLUS a complete page-turner. It sneakily left me thinking for days afterward. While reading I was reminded of many dystopia novels (although whether this is a dystopia is left ambiguous - maybe this book is actually just about our modern youth culture). I would also definitely recommend this to anyone who like books like Super Sad True Love Story. Echo of the Boom is similarly insightful, timely, and an excellent reflection on many of the trends in our culture today. This is a must-read for 2014!

I have not read a novel like this in a long time.. the kind you say you will put down after the next chapter, but can't. This book is pure genius and I would recommend it to anyone seeking a new book unlike anything they have ever read. I cannot wait for another book by this author!! I would highly recommend buying a hard copy and an electronic version so you can get some reading in on the subway or whenever you have some free time and don't want to lug around the hard copy.. Trust me.

Neely-Cohen's bordering-apocalyptic tale is one that starts out with the whims of adolescents, but crashes along, building speed, needling you, then ripping into you, and ending with echoes, which are so much more damaging than the boom. The storyline follows four youths, navigating a world of anxiety and neurosis, in a sense, what it means to be a teenager in modern times.

A searing vision of millennial-age fatalism combines with the impossible agony of adolescence to create a novel that is equal parts pleasure and heartbreak. Thought-provoking and impossible to put down, I cannot recommend it enough.

I got an email from that this was being released and the blurbs looked cool. I am very happy I went ahead and bought it. It's going to sound pretentious, but this book has a wonderful feel that I can only describe as visceral. It describes both the fury and the odd detachment of the world today (and the world of the fast-approaching, apocalyptic future). The characters, caught in little representative moments of their lives (the chapters never overstay their welcome), are vivid, odd, screwed-up but totally unflinchingly relatable. The book manages to evoke the somehow simultaneous jadedness and innocence of the children of the new millennium. The four viewpoint characters each hold your interest as you move from one to the other, and though their connection is not immediately clear you have the sense that something big is coming that these kids will be inexorably involved in. Strange, disturbing, funny, affecting. Tore through it. Loved it.

debut novel. fresh new voice. apocalypse. teenage coming of age. couldn't put the book down. so yes. if you're thinking about it. yes.

This book lacks both focus and a plot an adult can take seriously.

THIS BOOK WAS RECEIVED FROM A GOODREADS GIVEAWAY From the title of this book, I would have expected it to be about the aftermath of an apocalypse-inducing event. If anything Echo of the Boom is a misnomer and the book should be titled Prelude of the Boom. The cover also doesn't give much into what it's about, other than the four different points of view which are followed throughout the narrative. While I did eventually like the book, it took too long to get there (some of the occasional typos didn't help me get into it either). With the characters' motivations unclear from the start, it becomes obvious about 150 pages in that nothing is really going to happen in this book. Instead of having any

driving force propelling the characters forward, it's more accurate to describe this book as a nearly 500 page rap battle. Each character has their own track, living their lives the way many teenagers today might (which in itself is a scary thought), but occasionally the tracks mix together albeit briefly and with little perturbation to the individual characters. At least the words the author uses are artistic and articulate, making it fun to read. Honestly, the very last sentences of this book made me want to read what happens next much more than what had already been written, since it sounded like it was going to be much more interesting than the origin stories of these characters. If the author's opinions and worldviews weren't so blatantly obvious through this book, it might have been interesting as a "slice of life" novel, but at least he has something to say (even if it's regularly redundant). If anything, this book should give parents the motivation to be more actively involved in their teenagers' lives, lest they end up with the motivation to destroy all systems of authority if for no other reason than pure anarchy. A rewarding read that takes some getting used to; I give Echo of the Boom 4.0 stars out of 5.

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