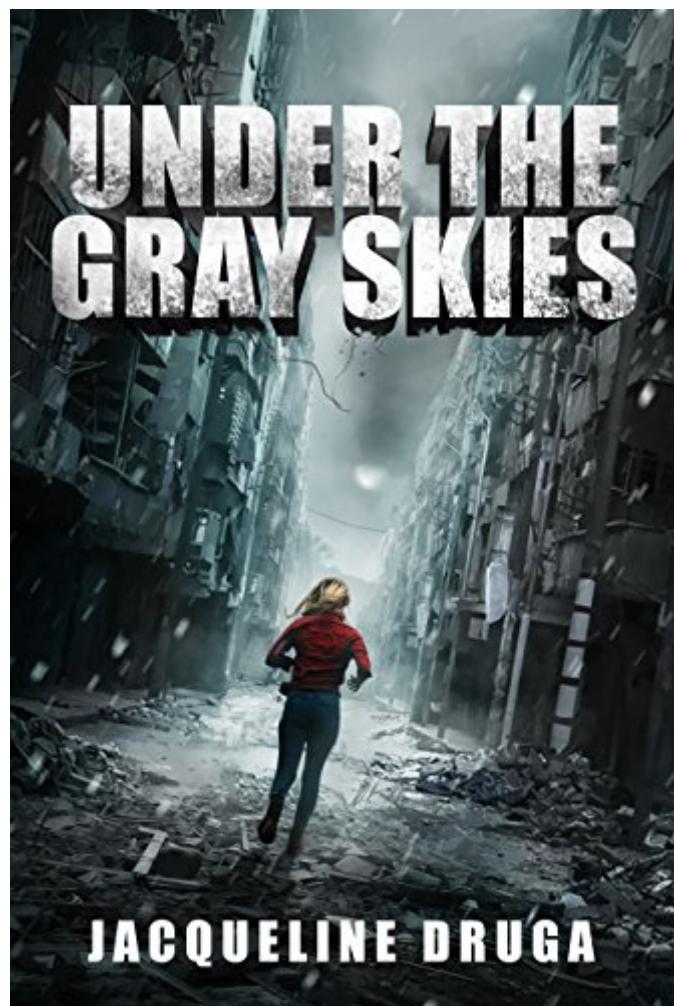


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# Under The Gray Skies



## **Synopsis**

A long awaited sisters vacation hits a slight bump in the road when a series of tremors instantly cause the cancellation of all flights. Believing the airport is not the safest place, Lacey and her sister hurry from the terminal and board a crowded tram. Then it happens. No one knows why, how or what occurs. Cities are decimated, oceans rise and people drop dead from the cataclysmic event. The world becomes a dark place on a fast track to the next ice age. Lacey somehow survives and finds herself in a city of rubble. Unaware that it was a global event, she treks from the destruction in an attempt to find help. Along the way she meets Madison. Both women are far from home and together they embark on a mission to find their families thousands of miles away. The country is in chaos and is fast becoming uninhabitable. It is a race against the clock as the world grows colder and more dangerous by the day. Lacey and Madison vow not to give up until they know what has happened to those they love.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This was a pretty good read. It's a different take on the whole end of the world stories. I like that the

main character doesn't know everything. That said it does have a feel good quality about it. I'm happy that I read it.

Finding an apocalypse story that is truly original is challenging. At the end of the day an author has a limited pallet to choose from for plausible end of the world scenarios. The author does a good job of telling this story without it devolving into a "prepper-roid" narration on firearms and post-apocalyptic combat. Kudos to her. However, I was hoping for a little more depth in the plot and a little less predictability so only 3 stars.

I liked this book. No zombies no war with another country. But a natural occurring catastrophe. I was intrigued. Also the US government actually steps up and tries to save people in this book which I've only seen in one other post apocalyptic story. That series is The Journal by Deborah Moore. Excellent series about a prepper. I just would like a little more depth in this book. I loved the beginning. There was more detail about what was happening to Lace. But later the story seemed to skate over time like in one chapter months would pass. I don't know how to explain it but I want more details on how she's surviving day to day.

Jacqueline Druga is an amazing author when writing some pretty deep and heavy stuff. I've previously read her work "The Woman" and was curious about something a little more grounded in reality. While the woman touched a lot on issues like abuse . . And a lot of stuff much darker that I don't want to touch on, here we have a story about loss and family and moving forward. At least that's what I took from it. In my reviews I will attempt to explain my reasoning and feelings behind stuff so you can grasp if it is for you or not based on your own taste, rather than taking my word for it. Under Gray Skies is a disaster story like few others. I've found plenty of post apocalypse tales, but few seemed to capture things in this real of a sense. How would countries react, people? They're serious questions that are often times downplayed for other aspects. Like your meteor tale that focuses more on heroics, or something that wants to tell about society completely collapsing. Without having lived through anything so dramatic I cannot say what would happen, but this book certainly feels very plausible from start to finish and in a lot of ways that is part of what makes it so scary. Besides the horrific events themselves, the story is about people and their family and their attempting to move forward. The emotions they are going through are usually very vivid, though I would say shock and numbness are quite prevalent. A lot of the trauma happens very fast and it is difficult to take in, perhaps my not actually being one of the people or having experienced the kinds

of losses they do makes it hard for me to fully empathize, but even so I didn't for a second question the characters feelings, motivations or hardships. They say you should write what you know, but I would suggest in a way you also read what you know. A character you can relate to is more compelling and a pain you can understand is more heart breaking. A true triumph of this book is that while I cannot truly relate I was still able to experience the story and get a sense for how the characters felt. This is far and away not a traditional tale, but to be honest in a lot of ways it also is. There is a lot of standard invisible ink you can see if you pay attention (invisible ink is the structures and methods used to tell a story that makes an audience feel certain things without outright telling them what you're doing... in a nutshell). Clearly the author knows what she is doing, but you're not going to find action heros or some sort of moral lesson. The people in this story are largely just people trying to find their loved ones and or survive. The antagonist is only loss and time and the suspense is potential heart ache. There didn't need to be zombies to make this situation feel dire or scary and frankly everything seemed pretty grounded in reason. There wasn't a moment of this story I didn't imagine could actually happen and that is terrifying. I wasn't sure if I should give this five stars or not and I settled on four because while I think it was a great disaster story and a great emotional tale, I also didn't find it particularly riveting. It might just be my background, but my biggest complaint about this book is there were plenty of times when I just kind of found it boring. As I said before, there really isn't action, or romance, or any of the other things that makes a tale suspenseful or compelling and while it was still a great read, I'm not sure I fully understand what the hooks were supposed to be or how the characters were changing (or not changing). Perhaps the story was just a touch too emotional or subtle for me, but in the end I found it the tiniest bit boring. Mind you that is nit picking to the extreme, I still found it immensely enjoyable and a very compelling read. If you want to be frightened by a very real thing that could happen to the human race and how it might affect you and your family well.. I suppose you could give this a try, if you're looking for some campy action and zombies then you might consider something else. Jacqueline Druga has a lot of work and I'm sure she's written something you'll love.

Master storyteller! I feel like I was right there with Lacey from the start. Not to give too much away... I had actual tears in my eyes towards the end.

I have complained time and time again, Ms. Druga, please do yourself a favor and get a new editor. Or get some volunteer beta readers who would be happy to do it for free. The mistakes are completely distracting! Speaking of which...there are only 365 days in one year, so 9,000 days

would be closer to 24 years, not 3.

I was quite pleasantly surprised by this book. It was a story of woman vs nature, a struggle to survive, help others, and understand what had happened. I appreciated that it was told from the character's perspective and it was unclear what happened, the focus was on getting home. It was soooo wonderful to read a human story instead of one endlessly talking about guns and violence. What had happened to the planet was challenging enough and rightfully the focus. At first I was a little annoyed with the characters and what I thought was silly sentimentality but by the end I really appreciated it and yes, it totally choked me up at the end. Very, very well written. A real page-turner. Buy the paperback version and take it to the beach, you'll lose yourself in the story and want to know what happens next.

I must have scrolled by this book synopsis four or five times before I took it seriously and bought it. Don't make the same mistake I did. You won't be sorry. This is a well written first person work of fiction that grabs you by the end of the first page and holds onto you till the very last word. More than once I found myself staying awake well past midnight to read 'just one more chapter'. The characters are believable and riveting, the plot interesting and keeps you guessing as to what happened to put the heroine and the people she encountered in the situation they were in. The only criticism I have is that I wish this book was fleshed out a little more and a little longer. Then again, maybe not. I really need my sleep.

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