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Jason Gurley

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Greatfall: The Complete Silo Novel is a dark new story set in the world of Wool, Hugh Howey's post-apocalyptic vision of humanity and its struggle to survive. (This is the collected, complete story, including the individually-published Parts 1-3.)
What happens when a silo goes dark? Maya has been sent to Silo 23 to investigate. Disconnected from the grid, the silo appears to be dead, rotted from the inside. But what Maya finds is a silo that is anything but deceased.
Shut off from the outside world and other silos, Silo 23 has evolved into something unexpected, and something more horrifying than Maya could have anticipated.

Greatfall Details

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Author : Jason Gurley

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From Reader Review Greatfall for online ebook

Jill Bonham says

I read this after finishing a really good book and I couldn't figure what to read next. I loved the Wool series and sometimes there is comfort in going back to a world that you know you like. This book did not disappoint. This is what I believe is considered fan fiction. It is written by a different author but the setting is inspired by a series, in this case the "wool" series by Hugh Howey. I was immediately taken back to the world of the silo, but in this case, a silo that had gone black from the control silo so that no one knew what was going on inside. I was worried I wouldn't like the religious overtones, but it was ok, because it was a new religion created by those rulers of the silo. There was a lot of mystery and horror. It was an interesting take on the way humanity goes when put under such strange circumstances over generations. I loved it!

Eamon Ambrose says

Author Jason Gurley (also known to many in the indie publishing world for his wonderful cover art) delves into the world of Hugh Howey's Wool for his own addition to the Silo Saga - Greatfall.

This is only the second piece of Wool fan fiction I've read (the first being Patrice Fitzgerald's excellent Karma Of The Silo) and I am simply bowled over by the quality of the work being produced in this series. Silo 23 has gone "offline", separated from the control of Silo 1 for many years and is now ruled by a mysterious religious leader, the cafeteria replaced with a courtroom, and the wallscreen hidden away where no-one can see. Young children are ritually sacrificed in the name of The One True in a dastardly effort to control the population, but things are about to change when one of these children, Isaac is chosen to be the new leader.

Maya, a worker from Silo one sent to investigate, stumbles on the truth of the silo's existence and discovers even greater horrors as she is drawn into the bizarre events unfolding.

It's a much different take on Hugh Howey's Wool, with the silo running independently and secretly controlled by the malevolent Matthew. He's a truly chilling character, a power-hungry sociopath, seemingly unstoppable, and also keeping a deadly secret. The themes of control and manipulation are still there but this time there are different puppetmasters, even worse than those in Silo 1.

Although there were hints of religion in Wool, it never existed in such an extreme form and was more of an underlying theme and the author uses its influence to create a fascinating study of how easily people can be terrified into submission by dubious religious practices and violent threats.

Quite frankly, I enjoyed Greatfall almost as much as I did Wool. It's a thrilling read from start to finish, expertly paced and shows a huge understanding of the world it has been set in. There are some brilliant plot twists and some positively fiendish reveals throughout, and despite the terrible actions of those in power, shows that the downtrodden population should never be underestimated.

Kevin says

What an impact!

This was an incredible read and anyone that hasn't read any fan-fiction from the Woolverse (created by Hugh Howey) is doing themselves a disservice by not reading this as it explores the role of religion to keep to keep its inhabitants in check. For the record, I'm late to the party in reading the fan fiction that Mr. Howey has created but better late than never!

That said, Greatfall explores the role of religion to keep the people of their silo in order. By religion, I'm talking about the form of god fearing evangelism and it does it brilliantly. Unlike the other silos that use a "mayor" and "sheriff" to keep its inhabitants in check, the idea to use two deities as good and evil is what's used for Silo 23. The explanation to get the people to believe in an omnipotent being that can be malevolent at times is credible.

The writing and characterizations were solid. Based off the predicament and circumstances of Greatfall, you can't help but grow attached to the protagonists and want them to achieve their goals given the plot. But that antagonist!

The antagonist, Matthew, was, to put it bluntly, a big dick. There are plenty of characters that we've read in novels and know that are "bad". "Ok, character X is bad. Got it," and from there, you may just go with the flow without a reaction to his/her actions. It takes great skill to create a character that the reader can love to hate and I think Mr. Gurley nailed it with Matthew. I can recall on several occasions where I've read something he's done to another character and I'll think, "Matthew is such an ass. I hope he gets a good offing in the end." In fact, he pissed me off so much that I had to call him a dick on Facebook. Of course, what happens to him in the end, is for you, the reader, to find out.

Danielle says

[Also, if you had the sole key to run the elevator to a specific floor, and you didn't want anyone else in the silo to know what was on that floor, would yo

Janet says

I'm a great fan of Hugh Howey's SILO world and was excited to read a Jason Gurley's idea for another silo that Howey hadn't written about. GREATFALL kept me reading as often as possible to find out what might happen next.

The idea of a "world" run by a single religion was daunting to me. I couldn't believe that everyone would buy into the concept of having their young children's chance for a life being driven by the judgment given to them based on a single journey up the entire silo, "The Path." Of course the people that have always lived in this kind of a world would have no reason not to believe what they have always been taught to believe.

I was especially amazed that the decisions were normally limited to 3 choices: "worthy" (assigned to apprentice in one of the silo jobs), "unworthy" (assigned to a year in the mines where survival was questionable, only to have to complete "The Path" to judgment again), or "Greatfall" (forced to leap from the top of the silo down to the bottom with certain death awaiting them).

Life seems to progress normally for the residents of this particular silo until one day when a child named

Isaac is given the 4th decision: "Ascension." He is to become the new "Wise Father." At the same time an "Outsider" arrives and threatens to disrupt life in the peaceful silo. The events that follow have a great deal to do with the future of the silo and its people.

While I didn't think that Gurley's writing quite matched up to Howey's original novels, Gurley did an admirable job of continuing the stories now being written by others with Howey's blessings. I highly recommend that you first read all of Hugh Howey's SILO novels and then take a look at Jason Gurley's addition to the Silo World.

John says

Because I missed the world of silos, and had been recently reminded of it while looking for it in the world of Sand, I dug through my to read pile until I found a fan fiction, if that's the right category, recommended by Howey. Greatfall, by Jason Gurley, is set in a silo not visited in Wool or its sequels, and I was interested to see how the world was maintained by other authors. Until I saw Howey's recommendation I did not realize that other authors were venturing through his universe. I think it's quite interesting that Howey is so willing to open his world to others; it's not something I've seen often.

Greatfall takes place in silo twenty three, which has been dark for several hundred years. Silo 1 sends out a scout to determine what has happened to the silo, though why they waited so long is never explained. While they have been cut off, the leaders of silo twenty three have created a religious cult in order to maintain control. A "Great Father" communicates directly with supreme being, and has unquestioned authority. Except of course when his assistant intervenes. Instead of cleaning, the method of population control used in the other silos, Silo Twenty Three sends its children to "Greatfall," a one way trip down central shaft, after making their coming of age pilgrimage from the bottom of the silo to the very top.

Greatfall starts with Issac's pilgrimage to the top of the silo to signify his coming of age and his assignment into the workforce. As Issac rests on his journey the Wise Father is brought into the picture, providing a unique perspective of the man in power. Afterwards, the reader is introduced to Maya, who is journeying outside of the silos, from Silo 1. Greatfall engages the reader immediately, and forces investment into the characters. It doesn't hurt that Issac, the Wise Father, and Maya are interesting characters, and Gurley finds a way to invest the reader in their stories from the beginning.

Gurley sets up a religious cult, complete with psychotic breaks and brainwashing. He brings Issac, the Wise Father, and Maya through interesting arcs, and handles the fallout from their storylines well. Not all of them end the story sane. There are certain aspects of the book which he could have explored more, however. Some of the characters, one in particular that becomes very important to the story, come out of nowhere to save the day, leaving a taste of Deus Ex Machina in the reader's mouth. Gurley also struggles a bit with using the passive voice, and the viewpoints aren't always consistent. Overall the writing is good, if not exceptional, and the story interesting. I plan on reading more books by Gurley as well as other works in the Silo universe.

Hakan says

I love and hate Jason :-)

Love, because Jason was kind enough to send me a copy of the book when I told him that you can't buy it from Germany, and hate, because he cost me a full nights sleep because I could not put the book down

before reading every last word of it.

As others wrote before me, Greatfall takes a somewhat different look at the politics inside a silo, which is a refreshing change after reading the originals and the Maya series. On the other hand, I would have loved if this story somehow worked without including so many elevators. There must have been a reason why Senator Thurman designed only Silo 1 with one.

Also, the worldbuilding in the last third was very much of the "telling" kind and less of the "showing" but Jason manages to integrate this well into the story structure. All in all, a very good story to spend a few hours of your life with.

Scott Hopper says

Fantastic piece of fan fiction for the Silo world series by Hugh Howey!!

Jason Gurley takes the Silo world as Hugh Howey built it and delivers a completely original and utterly engaging new twist to it. He doesn't just take the existing story lines from Hugh Howey and expand on them. He truly wrote an entirely original story, simply set in the same world as the Silo series.

If you loved the Silo series, you should definitely add this to the shelves. Maybe take a break and read something else in between though, just to keep the two story lines distinct. It's everything and nothing like Silo all wrapped up into one. You won't believe what's happening in Silo #23!!!

Well worth the Amazon money and time!!

Martha Jane says

I loved this book. It felt great to dive back into the Silo world, and Jason Gurley's addition to this world was just as good as Howey's himself. I loved the characters, and loved the different perspective on the Silo story. I also automatically think a book is great if it can make me cry.

This book will always be a little extra special to me, because I actually contacted the author one day when I was having a real low in my life and I ended up reading this book (the last remaining book of his I hadn't read at the time). Safe to say Jason Gurley is a wonderful person as well as being a wonderful author, and this book was worth waiting for.

Amanda says

Five stars for readability, pacing, structure, and the fact that I could not put it down.

Three stars for some minor inconsistencies and the huge bundle of questions I was left with at the end.

What a dark, fascinating ride!

I found this to be a fine stand-alone novel. I have not read and am not familiar with the related stories, and yet I could not stop reading once I started. Admittedly, I did not make an emotional connection with any of the characters; they didn't appear to be particularly deep. But, I was fine with that in relation to the violence. This book is not for the squeamish or faint of heart.

There were a few choice moments where I felt like I was reading a Stephen King novel. Overall: well done.

Keith Schincke says

This is a unique story in the Silo universe. This is a silo which went rogue and setup a unique mythology. There are some occasional geography issues and some of the infrastructure has been changed. The story is good and the characters are solid.

Jenna says

Absolutely, 100% **INCREDIBLE!!!** Wow!!! Wow, wow, wow!

Ever since reading Hugh Howey's Wool Omnibus several years ago, I have been hungry for more stories about those silos, yearning to know more about the people who live in them. Never have I been so consumed by a fictitious world as I was by the world of the Silos, and a part of me resides there still. Always wondering, wondering, wondering. Wanting more, more, more.

Jason Gurley is an astounding writer, and his voice, at least in this book, is surprisingly similar to Hugh Howey's. From the very first page, I was transported back into the "Wooliverse", plunged into the dark and ghastly world of Silo 23. I couldn't read it quickly enough, hated to put it down, wished real life didn't beckon me back to the surface, until I could finish this book. Fans of the Wool trilogy absolutely must read this installation. You will not be disappointed.

wanda vahle says

Silo

Great story and very well written. Jason Gurley did a fine job of continuing Hugh Howey's Silo series. A different premise but wonderfully creepy and creative.

Rose says

My personal prejudice comes in here - I struggle with books written in the present tense, so it probably lost at least half a star because of that. I know others don't mind that, tho'.

There was also a fairly major story element, necessary to the plot, that is not part of the silo architecture as described by Hugh Howey. But, as it was integral to this story and the story wouldn't have worked without it,

I gave the author some leeway for artistic licence.

The setting of the story is very interesting - an over-arching religious cult which has overtaken Silo 23 - and it kept me reading to the end (no dull bits), so "I liked it" (3*) but there was something missing - maybe depth of characterisation? - which stops it being "I really liked it" and 4*. Sorry Jason.

Laura Preston-Mobley says

Very good Silo Saga

Very good Silo Saga, a bit brutal but very enjoyable. Be sure to read "Book of Matthew" afterwards. The author has very good writing skills and the story flies by!
