



Poet Anderson...Of Nightmares

Tom DeLonge

Suzanne Young

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In this exciting fantasy, a teen must navigate a gritty dream world in order to save his brother.

Poet Anderson...Of Nightmares is an engaging and innovative story about a young man with a unique gift—lucid dreaming. Though high schooler Jonas Anderson can control his dreams, he is lost in the real world. His parents are dead, his brother is in a coma, and he has no home and no one to help him. As he travels between the waking and dreaming worlds, Jonas must face his fears and embrace the tragic reality of his life if he is to save his brother and himself.

When Jonas and his brother, Alan, are in a car accident that leaves his brother comatose, Jonas is left to navigate life on his own. As if the challenges of his waking life are not enough, Jonas must also navigate the dream world where, he believes, Alan is stuck. In the dream world, Jonas is known as Poet Anderson, one of the rare few who can move freely through realities. As Jonas travels deeper into this dangerous dream world in search of Alan, he learns a great deal about his past, his own power, and his place in the world.

Poet Anderson...Of Nightmares balances the harsh reality of a young man struggling to survive on his own with the surreal, often confusing world of dreams. Authors Tom DeLonge and Suzanne Young navigate this potentially confusing landscape beautifully, creating a world that is darkly atmospheric and gritty.

Though much of the plot centers on Jonas's supernatural ability, he is in essence just a boy, frightened and alone, and trying to grow into his potential. These are characteristics that most young people can relate to on some level, and it makes the character deeply compelling. The fantasy element in the story creates a world that is limited only by dreams, and so anything truly can happen, from fighting monsters to racing gravity-defying motorbikes to visiting a quiet childhood memory. This makes the story exciting and highly entertaining.

Poet Anderson...Of Nightmares is the first in a planned trilogy. The ending of this first story sets up the plot for the next installment nicely. Those who reach the last page will be waiting with great anticipation to find out what comes next.

CATHERINE THURESON (Winter 2016)

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