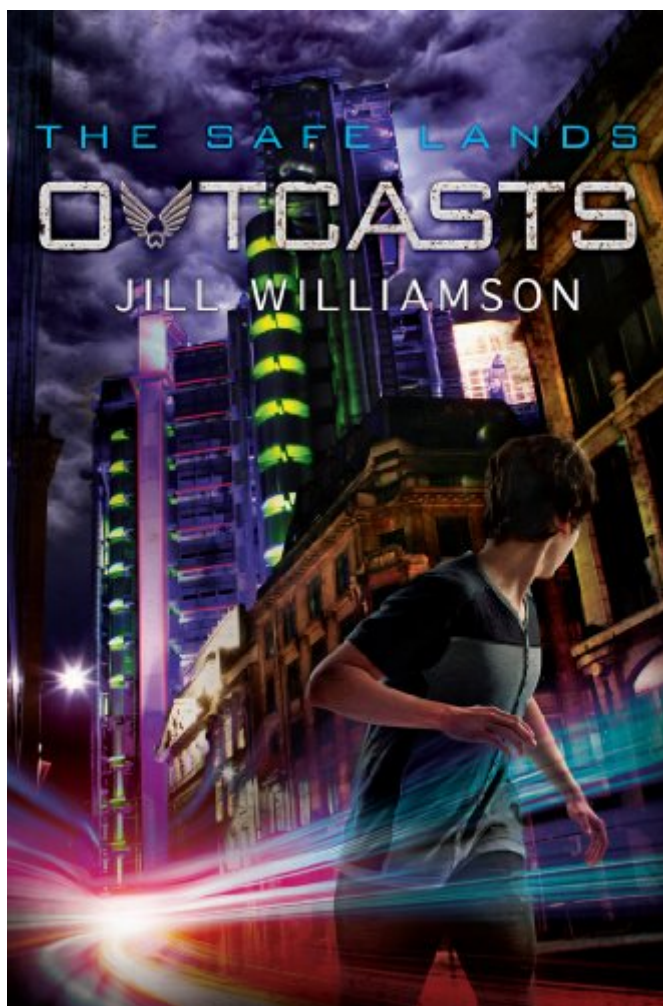


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Outcasts (The Safe Lands Book 2)



Synopsis

In *Outcasts*, the second book in Jill Williamson's *Safe Lands* series, Levi finds himself not only the leader of Glenrock's remaining people but also the head of a new rebel force called the Messengers, intent on unmasking the Safe Lands' lies. At the same time, Mason uncovers secrets that may be more dangerous than he ever imagined. Meanwhile, Omar decides to take matters into his own hands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the second book of the *Safe Lands* Trilogy, *Outcasts*, the remnant of Glenrock are still trying to get out of the Safe Lands, along with some friends and allies they've picked up along the way. The brothers (Levi, Mason, & Omar) are trying to find their way to becoming "real men." I think, in the back of their minds, what they all really want is to be men who Papa Eli would be proud to call his grandsons. However, they all continue to face problems: problems that impact not only themselves but the others. Levi wants to be a great leader and elder. Mason wants to be a healer and find the

truth about the thin plague. And Omar: he wants the truth, too, but mostly he wants to be a hero to someone so that he can be free of the ever-nagging guilt he feels. So much happens in OUTCASTS, not only with the main characters, but with the secondary characters as well. It was absolutely action packed from beginning to end, and kept me on the edge of my seat. I may have liked it even better than Captives. I got to know the characters so much better in this one, especially the femmes. Shaylinn has a depth in this book that she didn't show in the first book, and Naomi seemed more "real" as well. OUTCASTS is definitely worth every one of its five stars. It is a MUST READ!

Jill, not fair!!! How long till the next one comes out? Okay. Maybe I should backtrack. The people of Glenrock are still trapped in the Safe Lands. The next priority on their list is rescuing their children from the boarding school, but there's plenty else to distract them from that. Ciddah the medic is taking Mason's heart for a roller coaster ride and making him question everything. Will he trust her one time too many? Levi struggles to lead his little flock well. Omar longs for purpose and honor, but seems to take two steps back for every step forward. And 14 year old Shaylinn, medically impregnated in the Safe Land harem, finally knows who the father is. Can the people of Glenrock ever escape from the Safe Lands, or will they have to change the Safe Lands from the inside out? I'll blame this book on getting nothing done yesterday. Hey, it's true! Once I started reading, I couldn't stop. This isn't a book I'd recommend to younger readers or readers who are picky about romance, though. Personally, the romance didn't bother me too much, but Mason is falling in love with a safe lander who doesn't share his beliefs and, while they don't go beyond kissing, Ciddah tries for more a few times. Intimacy is mentioned a few times as well, but mostly in a "you didn't, did you?" manner, or the bad guys trying to go after the Glenrock folks. What I love most about the Safe Lands books is the intensity of the characters and the reality of their struggles. These books are the author's idea of what the story of Daniel (Bible Daniel) would look like in a dystopian world. So, these people basically just got dumped into futuristic Babylon. Some have fallen into the evil ways of their captors, some have fallen but are trying to get back up, some are ready to fall, and some are pressing on. Jill makes you feel for all of them (well, I not Mia...). I loved Omar's character arc in this one. Routing for him all the way. I'm off to check the publication date for book three.

Outcasts is the second book in the Safe Lands series and is the best of the three. It manages to take a breather from the action throughout most of the book to really give some rich characterization. Because the characters of Levi, Mason, Omar, and Shaylinn are all in the same place, the four character narration really works better here as while we're changing point of views

we're in the same story. Also Williamson delves deeper into the people of the Safelands. In *Captives*, we got a picture of Safelanders being a brainwashed bunch of hedonists trying to find the way to "find pleasure in life" except for a few rebels who want to fight the man. Here, we begin to see more shades of gray with Ciddah and her parents being revealed to be different. She brings home a reality that not every non-Christian is evil or an enemy. It all raises important questions of how Christians relate to the world around them. While Levi and the survivors of Glenrock are being helped by the Rebels, he has no interest in helping the rebellion as he just wants to go back to Glenrock. Of course, this is absurd because as a neighboring village has also been taken into custody, the Safelands Guild would simply bring them back. Unless, the Safelands government changes, his hopes of Glenrock are pointless. Other characters were similarly well-crafted. In the first book, Omar was an arrogant short-sighted character who sold out Glenrock to the Safelands guild in exchange for a commission in the Enforcers and money. In this book, he's haunted by regrets over that decision and trying to make up for it and do the right thing even while being caught in the holds of drug addiction and a cycle of casual sex. He really is a lost soul and his older brother Levi doesn't really know how to bring home. Williamson does a great job drawing this character and I can't help but feel that the reality of Omar must have been drawn from her background as a youth pastor's wife. The character's struggle is so real and so beautifully portrayed. I also have to give credit for the character of both Mason and also Shaylinn, a virgin teenage girl who finds herself artificially pregnant with twins thanks to the Safe Lands harem. The book does feature some great action and the introduction of a nifty new bit of Safe Lands technology, but that's all saved for the final act, as most of the book develops rich and interesting characters to their full potential so we care about the action that follows.

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