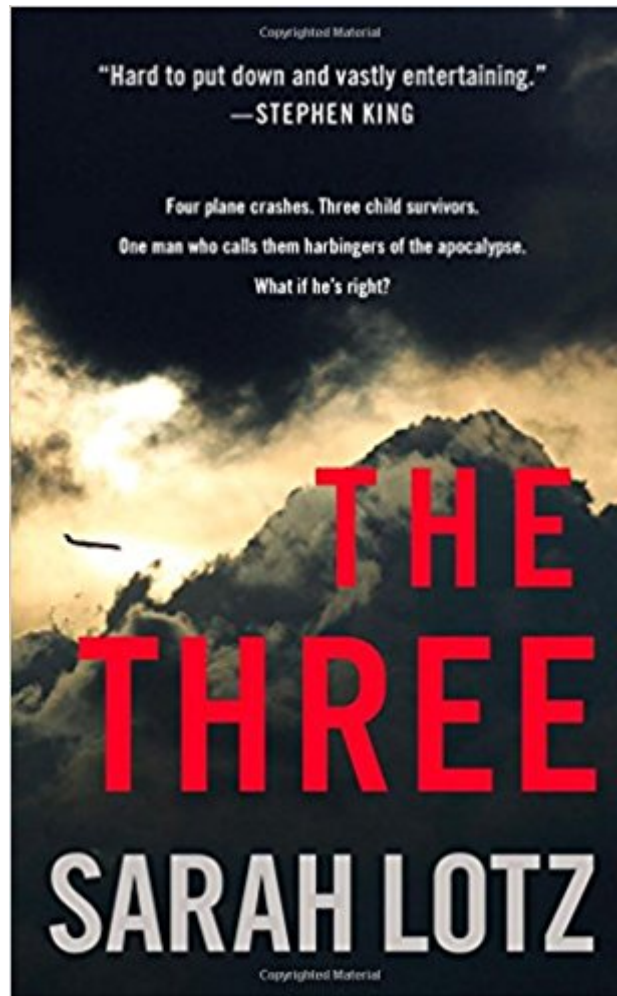




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The Three: A Novel



Synopsis

Four simultaneous plane crashes. Three child survivors. A religious fanatic who insists "The Three" are harbingers of the apocalypse. What if he's right? The world is stunned when four planes crash within hours of each other on different continents. There doesn't seem to be a correlation between the crashes, except that in three of the four air disasters, a single child is the sole survivor. Dubbed "the three" by the press, these "miracle children" achieve international celebrity. Things take a dark turn when a fanatical preacher starts insisting that the young survivors are three of the four harbingers of the apocalypse. As the children's behavior grows increasingly disturbing, even their loved ones start to suspect there could be some truth behind the conspiracy theory. And when a survivor from the fourth accident is found, deadly alliances are formed and it becomes ever more difficult- and dangerous -to decipher the truth. Combining the complexity of *Lost* and the thrills of Stephen King, *THE THREE* is an enormously ambitious thriller from a blazingly talented storyteller.

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, May 2014: The "facts" are these: four planes crash almost simultaneously in different parts of the world; three children survive, against all reason. When one victim's ominous final voicemail message makes headlines, the religious and out-of-this-world conspiracy theories are abound. Sarah Lotz masters a chorus of distinct character voices as she tells a thrilling, disturbing story in the guise of a nonfiction oral history. The "author" is a character herself, presenting interviews, chat transcripts, book excerpts, and news stories. Lotz commits so

fully to each character's perspective that we can never quite determine which is the telling the truth--if any. Prepare to be surprised, mesmerized, frustrated, spooked, and utterly entertained. Remind yourself occasionally that it's not real, but maybe play it safe and avoid reading this book on a plane.--Robin A. Rothman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Around the world, at almost the same time, four passenger airplanes plummet to the earth. There are no survivors, apart from three children (on three separate planes) and a woman who soon dies but not before leaving a recorded message that warns listeners to "watch the dead people." The young survivors, soon dubbed The Three by the press, become worldwide sensations, even as some begin to suspect something is not quite right about them. Theories about The Three start to spread: they're harbingers of doom, says one theory, the embodiments of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse; no, says another, they were chosen for survival by our reptilian alien overlords. As it turns out, no one has any real notion of just how important and dangerous these children really are. The author's use of the oral-history format, with its shifting voices and points of view, is a stroke of genius: the reader is in a state of near-constant confusion at the beginning, which is slowly replaced by unease and then dread as the various commentators start to see the bigger picture. A very creepy, very effective novel. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I just finished this last night and I must say that I enjoyed it. That's my first impression. I don't write about the specifics of books that I review - so you'll not find any spoilers here. You'll find that the book is written differently than most. You learn about the story and the characters via news articles and interviews pretty much. At first this was hard for me to get a handle on because I didn't have any idea what this book was about. Nobody had recommended it to me or told me about it. So I was in the dark for a bit; however slowly I started getting a clue as to what was happening. In a way I enjoyed that. It was like putting together a puzzle. Some may like it, some may not. Also, I'm sure there are those out there who didn't mind the way the story was put together and figured it out way faster than I did. That's fine. One of my problems was that I read this for a little bit each evening. When I do that then it's hard to pick up and remember the names, dates, places right off and it takes a while to get back into it. For me it would have been better if I could have read the book longer when I started it, so that I was well into it and knew what was going on. I recommend that to others. Allow yourself to read this book in a quiet place with no distractions when you first begin. Read it until you get a sense of the plot or some of the main characters. That makes it much easier to pick it up and start again. Basically the book is a mystery. Events happen in the world that cause an

international concern. Various people's around the world view the events in different ways. It has political, religious, economic & ethical ramifications all around. We get to see how certain individuals react to these events and how it changes them for the better or worse. There is nothing in the book that keeps you from making your own judgements on what you think happened. Which is kind of nice. Nobody is trying to ram their opinion down your throat. You may even come up with something else that was not mentioned. For me, this was a book that I wanted to read all the way through. I wanted to learn more and see what happened at the end. It was a story that I hadn't heard - therefore I feel it was very creative and fresh. I do wonder if there will be a sequel though. There could be I think. But maybe not. I was left wanting more. And I think that's where an author wins or loses. If you leave your audience wanting more..then you have accomplished your goal. That's how I look at it. Others may disagree. The only reason that I don't give it a 5 star review is that I reserve 5 stars only for the books that are just so over the top wonderful that I can't stand it when it's over. Same for movies. Thanks for reading my review - now go try the book! PS - after I wrote this I went and read some of the other reviews and was surprised to find that some people felt the author was prejudiced against Christians. I don't really agree with that. I think she portrayed various people in the book the way we all think (sometimes only in our inner mind). There were comments in there about fat people, gay people, radical people and more. Almost all ethnic groups were represented here. In many instances you see all these people acting prejudiced against each other which is rather comical or sad (depending on how you see it). I feel the author used prejudices as part of the whole story and not as a representation of her own personal beliefs. That's JMHO.

#1 The plot summary for this book has a pretty good hook and it is a very interesting premise however none of the theories suggested in the plot summary are fully explored. #2 build suspense only to have it dissipate. You get about 2/3 of the way through this book and you realize that it really isn't going anywhere and you just want it to be over. #3 write a lot of pages that don't advance the plot. Many of the chapters would end with another hook and you finally think you are getting to the meat of the story.....you're not, there is no meat in this story. I gave it two stars because it was at least an original idea and writing style but too bad it was a flop.

This book was so interesting and even riveting for the first half. I couldn't put it down. Then, towards the end I felt disappointed. It was an amazing premise, telling the story from different perspectives was well done, but the ending sort of fizzled.

Though I truly was offended to the depths of my "Bible Belt" core, I couldn't put down Sarah Lotz's THE THREE: A NOVEL. While in the book she seems to again and again poke fun at my religion, I read it in one sitting. Her characters were well written, entirely believable, and provoked feelings of empathy I don't usually find often in today's novelists. While I wish she had chosen another topic to poke fun at as I do believe Christ is going to rapture His Church, and I feel that THE LEFT BEHIND series of books by LeHaye and Jenkins which Lotz's failed to credit in her "acknowledgements" are much worthier reads than this book, I will still recommend this book as a science fic book worth time invested in it.

Ugh! Awful book. I was really looking forward to reading this book....after all, Stephen King liked it, but aside from a little bit of creepiness and mystery in the first few pages, it was a long and terribly boring book. Page after endless page of dull interviews, opinions, commentary, and messaging from various people who sometimes didn't have anything to do with the story. The ending was a big flop. Will not be reading anything else by this author..very disappointing waste of time

Like many other reviews wrote, it had a great plot idea and the format (interview style) was pretty cool, but it just never went anywhere. I read about 60% of the book- hoping it would get exciting again (like the first chapter- so creepy and intriguing!)... But it never did. I love mystery with a tad bit of supernatural but more than half way through it just barely touched it. If it had more of that in the book, it would have been WAY better. I'm sad more than anything because I had high hopes for this one... Should have just listened to the reviews...

The Three is a very disturbing book - not just because it features four horrible air crashes as its launching point, but also because one could see how everything that happens in the book is pretty believable. Imagine the media circus, religious fanaticism, and cult followings that would develop in the wake of three children being the only survivors of a plane crash and you will essentially have the plot of The Three. The story is told in the style of a writer who has access to all sorts of people connected to the crashes, and there is good use of transcripts, news articles, chat-room recordings, none of which seemed forced or out-of-place to me. The only thing that I didn't like so much was that many of the characters are either superficially drawn. It was hard to really "connect" with any of the main players in the book. For those with a weak stomach, I did not think The Three was overly gory. This would be a perfect book to give you a little scare at the beach.

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