

# Life as We Knew It

By Susan Beth Pfeffer

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*I guess I always felt even if the world came to an end, McDonald's still would be open.*

High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like "one marble hits another." The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun? As August turns dark and wintery in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.

Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. An extraordinary series debut!

Susan Beth Pfeffer has written several companion novels to *Life As We Knew It*, including *The Dead and the Gone*, *This World We Live In*, and *The Shade of the Moon*.

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## Life as We Knew It By Susan Beth Pfeffer Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

It's almost the end of Miranda's sophomore year in high school, and her journal reflects the busy life of a typical teenager: conversations with friends, fights with mom, and fervent hopes for a driver's license. When Miranda first begins hearing the reports of a meteor on a collision course with the moon, it hardly seems worth a mention in her diary. But after the meteor hits, pushing the moon off its axis and causing worldwide earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, all the things Miranda used to take for granted begin to disappear. Food and gas shortages, along with extreme weather changes, come to her small Pennsylvania town; and Miranda's voice is by turns petulant, angry, and finally resigned, as her family is forced to make tough choices while they consider their increasingly limited options. Yet even as suspicious neighbors stockpile food in anticipation of a looming winter without heat or electricity, Miranda knows that that her future is still hers to decide even if life as she knew it is over.

Veteran author Susan Beth Pfeffer, who penned the young adult classic *The Year Without Michael* over twenty years ago, makes a stunning comeback with this haunting book that documents one adolescent's journey from self-absorbed child to selfless young woman. Teen readers won't soon forget this intimate story of survival and its subtle message about the treasuring the things that matter most—family, friendship, and hope.--*Jennifer Hubert*

### From School Library Journal

Grade 6-8—Pfeffer tones down the terror, but otherwise crafts a frighteningly plausible account of the local effects of a near-future worldwide catastrophe. The prospect of an asteroid hitting the Moon is just a mildly interesting news item to Pennsylvania teenager Miranda, for whom a date for the prom and the personality changes in her born-again friend, Megan, are more immediate concerns. Her priorities undergo a radical change, however, when that collision shifts the Moon into a closer orbit, causing violent earthquakes, massive tsunamis, millions of deaths, and an upsurge in volcanism. Thanks to frantic preparations by her quick-thinking mother, Miranda's family is in better shape than many as utilities and public services break down in stages, wild storms bring extremes of temperature, and outbreaks of disease turn the hospital into a dead zone. In Miranda's day-by-day journal entries, however, Pfeffer keeps nearly all of the death and explicit violence offstage, focusing instead on the stresses of spending months huddled in increasingly confined quarters, watching supplies dwindle, and wondering whether there will be any future to make the effort worthwhile. The author provides a glimmer of hope at the end, but readers will still be left stunned and thoughtful.—*John Peters, New York Public Library*

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### From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** A meteor is going to hit the moon, and 16-year-old Miranda, like the rest of her family and neighbors in rural Pennsylvania, intends to watch it from the comfort of a lawn chair in her yard. But the event is not the benign impact predicted. The moon is knocked closer to Earth, setting off a chain of horrific occurrences: tsunamis, earthquakes, and, later, volcanic eruptions that disrupt life across the planet. Written in the form of Miranda's diary, this disquieting and involving story depicts one family's struggle to survive in a world where food, warmth, and well-being disappear in the blink of an eye. As life goes from bad to worse, Miranda struggles to find a way to survive both mentally and physically, discovering strength in her family members and herself. This novel will inevitably be compared to Meg Rosoff's Printz Award Book, *How I Live Now* (2004). Pfeffer doesn't write with Rosoff's startling eloquence, and her setup is not as smooth (Why don't scientists predict the possibility of this outcome?). But Miranda and her family are much more

familiar than Rosoff's characters, and readers will respond to the authenticity and immediacy of their plight. Each page is filled with events both wearying and terrifying and infused with honest emotions. Pfeffer brings cataclysmic tragedy very close. *Ilene Cooper*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Victor Banister:**

Do you one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Life as We Knew It book is readable by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer connected with Life as We Knew It content conveys objective easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different as it. So , do you even now thinking Life as We Knew It is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

#### **Tonya Deschamps:**

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#### **Jennifer Tomasini:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for your requirements is Life as We Knew It this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some study when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book ideal all of you.

#### **Richard Mason:**

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