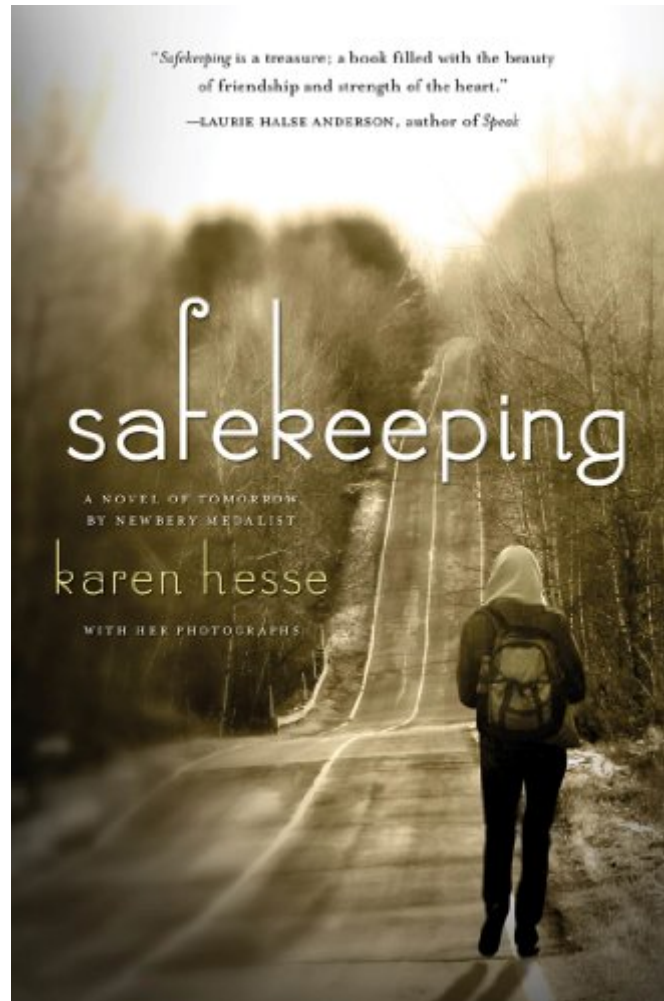




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# Safekeeping: A Novel Of Tomorrow



## Synopsis

Radley's parents had warned her that all hell would break loose if the American People's Party took power. And now, with the president assassinated and the government cracking down on citizens, the news is filled with images of vigilante groups, frenzied looting, and police raids. It seems as if all hell has broken loose. Coming back from volunteering abroad, Radley just wants to get home to Vermont, and the comfort and safety of her parents. Travel restrictions and delays are worse than ever, and by the time Radley's plane lands in New Hampshire, she's been traveling for over twenty-four hours. Exhausted, she heads outside to find her parents—who always come, day or night, no matter when or where she lands—are not there. Her cell phone is dead, her credit cards are worthless, and she doesn't have the proper travel papers to cross state lines. Out of money and options, Radley starts walking. . . . Illustrated with 50 of her own haunting and beautiful photographs, this is a vision of a future America that only Karen Hesse could write: real, gripping, and deeply personal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well, poufff! That was an awesome simplistic, short read! It is really geared at teenagers and all but as an adult it did not prevent me from appreciating it. I can totally identified with Radley...I know too well what it is to have things you loved taken away from you brutally. You really start realising that you should have appreciated it the blessings that God's provided you with. I was a bit disappointed and was expecting more between Julian and Radley...as both were marked by tragedy, it would have been nice to know more about Julian experience in Africa instead the author shy him away. Julian was not given a fair narration compared to Radley and Celia...I did appreciate Madame Seville wisdom a great deal. Was a 5 star read for me.

This book was great. I loved the detail and it was so interesting I just couldn't take my eyes of it! I would definitely recommend this book to anyone.

Unrealistic and too many distractions. Needed to be more focused. Interesting in some parts though. Story was disjointed. Its Okay only.

I enjoyed this story. The writing was very good,characters excellent, but what I think I enjoyed most were two things. One,it went in a very different direction as far as a "end of the world as we know it " novel. I like this to get new thoughts and ideas rattling around my brain. Two, the author started and ended it wonderfully. Wrapped it up so beautifully!

This book was not what I was expecting. The premise is that the United States has gone crazy after an extremist party has come to power and the president has been assassinated, leaving one girl to set out on her own in a search for her parents and safety. This led me to expect more action and more politics, explaining how we got from our current world to the broken world of the future. Neither of those things was really present, though. Radley doesn't have a lot of encounters with the looters and vigilantes who are roaming the country, and the course of events leading up to the current state of affairs is never fully explained. We don't learn any details about how the American People's Party gained power in a political system that doesn't exactly favour third parties, for example.None of that turned out to matter, though. What this book mainly is, is a quietly introspective look at the things that we value. And it works very well. Radley reflects on how her parents gave her everything she needed, and wishes deeply that she had shown more appreciation. She wonders how she can make a contribution to society. And she cautiously develops new relationships in a dangerous and

unfamiliar world. Looking at the themes that are developed, and how Hesse manages to do it in a way that doesn't feel heavy-handed, I can understand why she's won a Newbery medal for her previous work. This book also includes an element that I personally always love: setting up a home in an isolated place with minimal supplies, and developing it from a basic shelter where one struggles to survive to a comfortable place that really is a home. It reminds me of stories about homesteading, and the Boxcar Children, and people shipwrecked on desert islands. Again, the survival element is done quietly, without a lot of intense struggle, but I found it very satisfying all the same. This is a powerful book in its understated way.

Karen Hesse has once again delivered a creative theme for her book. This time, the President of the United States has been assassinated, and the ruling political party, the American Peoples' Party, has taken total control of the nation, and instituted ultra-conservative laws and restrictions. The story's narrator, Radley, was in Haiti working at an orphanage when the disaster occurred. Her first instinct is to return to her parents' home in Brattleboro, Vermont. Despite advice from an older - and wiser - individual, Radley secures a seat on one of the last planes allowed into USA airspace. From the time her plane sets down, Radley's world is turned upside down. Hesse, an award-winning talented author, has written a novel about one pampered child's ability to survive in a hostile environment where she neither knows nor understand the new rules. The only thing she is sure of is that she is alone in the world - and that she needs to find her parents. Like other reviewers, I found the 50 photographs more of a distraction than a helpful addition to the book. Many of the photographs seemed to have been randomly dropped into the book as they had nothing to do with what was going on in the book. I'm not sure whether Hesse's intended audience will enjoy this book, I doubt it. If there were more action, less introspection, and fewer black and white photographs, they might.

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