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Review of The Blind Light

Michael F. Russo

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, mrusso1@lsu.edu

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Doom Town, Stuart Evers' imagined simulation of the aftermath of a nuclear attack, is both fiction and metaphor. It is a training ground for British soldiers in this novel of steadfast friendship, where conscripts become acclimated to man-wrought obliteration. It is where Carter, a son of privilege, and Drummond, a child of the working class, become comrades, friends, and ultimately inseparable. It is where their mutual obsession with surviving a nuclear attack begins.

Nuclear annihilation is a blinding symbol of foreboding, of impending disaster, a theoretical analogy to the unforeseen disasters that actually occur to the two families. At times, the reader will hear the forlorn echo of Nevil Shute's On the Beach, but Evers (Your Father Sends His Love) unfailingly reminds us there is hope, always hope, even in the truly moving death scene near the end.

The Blind Light follows Carter, Drummond, and their families over a span of sixty years, during which lives intertwine, children are born, and personalities evolve. The many tragedies and triumphs of each family evoke the same epic feel of generational change of Edna Ferber's Giant.

VERDICT: Unpredictable character arcs will keep readers wondering what will happen next..