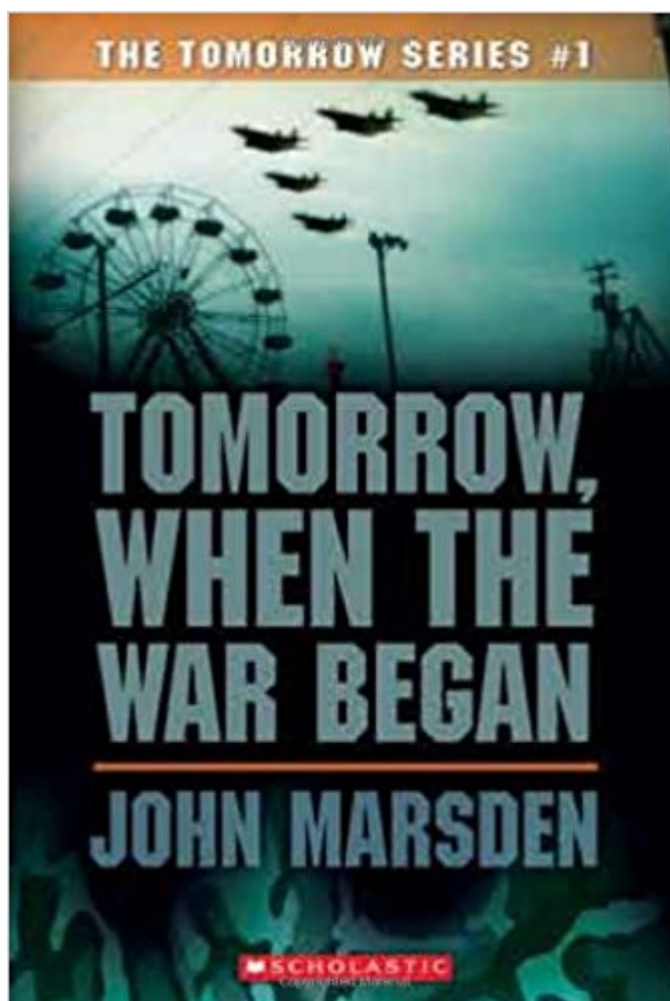


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# Tomorrow, When The War Began (The Tomorrow Series #1)



## Synopsis

World War III becomes an unstoppable reality in the action-packed first installment of the Tomorrow series--an international bestseller in an eye-catching new paperback. When Ellie and her friends go camping, they have no idea they're leaving their old lives behind forever. Despite a less-than-tragic food shortage and a secret crush or two, everything goes as planned. But a week later, they return home to find their houses empty and their pets starving. Something has gone wrong--horribly wrong. Before long, they realize the country has been invaded, and the entire town has been captured--including their families and all their friends. Ellie and the other survivors face an impossible decision: They can flee for the mountains or surrender. Or they can fight.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint edition (June 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439829100

ISBN-13: 978-0439829106

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 332 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #134,277 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Australia & Oceania](#) #472 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship](#) #2046 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Australian friends return from a camping trip in the outback to discover that enemy forces have invaded the country and imprisoned everyone in town. A gripping tale, told with Marsden's customary incisiveness. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Grade 8 Up? Australian teenager Ellie and six of her friends return from a winter break camping trip

to find their homes burned or deserted, their families imprisoned, and their country occupied by a foreign military force in league with a band of disaffected Australians. As their shock wears off, the seven decide they must stick together if they are to survive. After a life-threatening skirmish with the occupiers, the teens retreat to their isolated campsite in the bush country and make plans to fight a guerilla war against the invaders. Writing in a distinct voice and showing rare intelligence and sensitivity, Ellie recounts their courageous battles against the Goliath in control of their land. She also records her feelings and observations about the romantic partnerships that develop within her small circle of friends, and shows how they mature and blossom during this time of crisis. Though readers are left wondering whether these heroes and heroines will survive (one is severely wounded at the end of the novel), Ellie's uncommonly honest and clear narration makes this coming-of-age adventure a story they won't forget. Fast-paced and provocative, it's a natural for book talking. ?Jack Forman, Mesa College Library, San Diego Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Personally, one of the scariest reading experiences is going back as an adult to read a book I loved as a teenager. What if my 'growing up' has changed my opinion of the book - will I ruin a good memory, or reinforce just why I loved that book so much that the paperback I had eventually fell apart from so many re-reads? These were exactly the worries I had when I started listening to the audio of *Tomorrow, When the War Began*. I read the first book a few years after it was first published, when I was 8 or so (ok ok! So when I was about 14.....whatever) and I read all the available books one after the other. Each time a new one was released, I re-read the whole series again and then the new one - so I've read *Tomorrow* at least 5 or 6 times over the years. I've also own the movie adaptation on DVD, and although it does cut out some parts of the story, it's actually very well done. Now I'm done with reminiscing, down to the serious business of reviewing a beloved teen favourite. The setting of *Tomorrow, When the War Began* is infinitely familiar to me - it literally smacks of Australia in a way that few other books I've read does. It evokes feelings of being a teenager, trying to be independent, first loves, the whole nine yards. It has always amazed me, and has done so again, how John Marsden can write books that resonate with both the teenage and adult audiences. The plot is pretty straightforward - a bunch of teenagers go camping in an isolated part of the outback/forest and emerge to find that their country has been invaded, their parents and friends taken captive and suddenly they are thrust into a very adult situation, with very real, and scary consequences. Despite the fact they could quite easily hole up and hope for the best, they decide to take matters into their own hands and fight back. All the characters are so well known to

me, it's a little difficult for me to take a step back and see how they would come across to a new reader, but I'm certain they could definitely stand up. Ellie will always be one of my favourite teen characters - outwardly tough and brave, inwardly kind, caring and fiercely loyal. Homer, Fi, Robyn, Lee, Chris, Corrie and Kevin are all unique and lovable in their own ways, and together they make a strong, almost unified team. (I didn't even have to look all those names up, I remember them so well!). Everything about *Tomorrow, When the War Began* is plausible, imaginable and well-considered. There's no sudden appearance of weapons and unexplained natural ability to kick arse, it's just simple, believable situations and reactions, both positive and negative. I loved this book on audio - the narrator is a fantastic voice for Ellie, and the whole story holds up just as I remembered it. This is YA as it should be - it has the appeal for any reader of any age and despite the fact that next year it is 20 years old, it's not at all dated.

"*Tomorrow, When the War Began*" is a great book for teens and adults. I am a teen who is really picky when it comes to finding a book to read and reading is definitely not one of my hobbies, however this was a book I actually enjoyed. Overall this book was great with a good amount of action, a little romance and it has you on the edge of your seat at times, full of anticipation. I did not give this five stars because it only has one setting throughout the whole book, downtown Wirrawee. I prefer books that move around a bit more and have less romance but like I said, I'm picky. I recommend this book to any teens and adults whether you like to read or not.

I was introduced to the story when I watched the movie on Netflix. I was surprised at the depth of these characters. The movie left off with obviously much more story to tell. I have completed all six books and was satisfied with where it left off. No, spoilers in this review. First thing you should know is that the prices of the other books are greater than the first. I got #1 for \$1.99, the others were all 7 to 9 bucks a pop. This would be fine with me but there are copious typographical errors in the kindle versions. I find this very distracting and unacceptable when paying this amount of money. I really should give it three stars because of this. They are relatively quick reads, I think 250 pages was about the average. Ultimately, the content is what matters most. The action is sparse, but when it does happen it can be shocking. The real story is what happens before the action and violence ensues. From the comfort of home we get to see the kids learn, mostly on their own, how to think, act, and plan like soldiers. After every action they deal with the consequences as well as they can. The consequences being reactions from the enemy, as well as the emotional and psychological costs of what they face. Marsden goes further than just the violence of the conflict and gives us great

views of the kid's day to day lives as they hide in the bush, go on food and information raids, and interact in their limited social circle. I did grow to care about all the characters, and my one wish was that we could have seen the story from the perspective of the other kids sometimes. This was not a complaint however as we learn a lot about Ellie, not just from the story she tells, but the way in which she tells it. Hopefully the weird typos will be corrected soon. I suspect it must have been a problem with the transfer to digital, not because John Marsden forgot to proofread.

This story was unusual, gripping and a story I could not put down. Although in one sense it was fantastical in the other, it could happen. An invasion of one's country, in this case Australia, is a thought in everyone's mind with the present terror wars and volatile relationships between countries. It was great to read about the main characters, their feelings, fears and worries as well as their courage under invasion and to know that they are teenagers. Adults in this story at times, are a mystery to teenagers and the reader with decision making about action and guerilla tactics that are not always successful. The main character, Ellie and her peer group are loyal as a group and yet still show their weaknesses as well as bravery in the face of daunting odds which was intriguing. The setting in Australia about young Australians having lost contact with their families, surviving in 'the bush' and planning activities against invaders is extremely appealing. The author writes in an almost conversational style, clever writing, which encourages the reader to read on.

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