



## The Edge of Everything

*Jeff Giles*

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## **The Edge of Everything** Jeff Giles

*For the perfect love, what would you be willing to lose?*

It's been a shattering year for seventeen-year-old Zoe, who's still reeling from her father's shockingly sudden death in a caving accident and her neighbors' mysterious disappearance from their own home. Then on a terrifying sub-zero, blizzly night in Montana, she and her brother are brutally attacked in a cabin in the woods—only to be rescued by a mysterious bounty hunter they call X.

X is no ordinary bounty hunter. He is from a hell called the Lowlands, sent to claim the soul of Zoe's evil attacker and others like him. X is forbidden from revealing himself to anyone other than his prey, but he casts aside the Lowlands' rules for Zoe. As they learn more about their colliding worlds, they begin to question the past, their fate, and their future.

## **The Edge of Everything Details**

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Author : Jeff Giles

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Paranormal, Did Not Finish

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## From Reader Review The Edge of Everything for online ebook

### Christine Riccio says

I finished the Edge of Everything! There were a lot of things I really enjoyed about this book: the characters, the family dynamic, the sense of humor! I laughed a bunch. I wasn't a giant fan of the paranormal aspects, I much preferred the parts of the book that took place in our world. I'll go into more detail in video discussions to come (our booksplosion liveshow is march 2nd at 7:30 est) ! But it was a heartwarming read with unique lovable characters. I'd say it's a 3.8 for me!

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### Liza Wiemer says

Jeff Giles has created a seamless, unique blend of fantasy, contemporary, romance with fairy tale qualities into a compelling tale that will leave you craving more. Take a journey with our heroine Zoe and the mysterious X as they face spine-chilling challenges, moral dilemmas in a plot filled with unpredictable twists and turns.

There's murder and quests:

There's romance!

THE EDGE OF EVERYTHING pops off the page with its brilliant characters, edge-of-your-seat plot, and easy-to-visualize settings. Travel to Montana and experience snowstorms, bitter cold, murder, scary forests, and dangerous caves. Travel to the dark Lowlands to experience hell and the characters who reside there. This novel will stay with you long after you finish it. I can't rave enough. Definitely put this on your must-read list!

Thank you so much to the publisher for the ARC.

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### Rachel Reads Ravenously says

3 stars!

*"If you kill him, you're as bad as he is," Zoe said. "It's not our job to punish people."*  
*X lowered his head.*  
*"Perhaps it is not yours."*

The Edge of Everything is one of the more gruesome young adult novels I've ever come across. One of the more unique ones too. It's the story of a creature named X who is a sort of supernatural bounty hunter who encounters a family one night when he is sent to claim a soul. X becomes attached to them and the teenage Zoe and it changes everything about the world he knows.

First off, I enjoyed this book, but it was a little bit too grim and dark for me. I do think it will be a gigantic hit amongst many of those who read in the YA genre. It's very unique and very descriptive, Giles has a very cunning mind. There were moments when I actually felt nauseous from the descriptions and that's the mark of a fantastic writer!

I loved the character of X and his story, the creepy and harsh world he was raised in. X was the best part about this book for me. Zoe, well. She's a teenage girl and she was written like one, which means she grated my nerves a bit, but ultimately she was a very realistic teen character. I would have liked to see more growth from her throughout the progression of the story.

My other favorite parts were the characters Ripper and Banger, they were so much fun to read about and I kind of hope they get their own novellas and/or novels.

I do think a lot of people will love and embrace this book.

*An ARC was provided*

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### **Alja (alyaofwinterfell) says**

#### **1 star**

Nope. Nope, nope, nope and *no hell, no*.

I can't believe that this was published, and I feel sorry for any unfortunate tree that had to die just to be turned into this book.

To say that I disliked it is to put it mildly.

There is instalove on page one, it's full of cliches, the characters are behaving completely irrationally and the plot and the world building are severely underdeveloped. Also, did I mention INSTALOVE??

I don't like to dnf books, but I had to admit to myself that I just can't do it this time around, so I stopped reading about halfway through.

Now, it might be absolutely amazing in the last 100 pages (which I highly doubt), but I'm not sticking around to find out. I just can't do this to myself, especially with so many other books waiting on my tbr pile to be read and loved.

#### So what exactly was so bad about this?

Well... how about *everything*. Let me explain.

The story begins when a blizzard hits the mountain on which Zoe lives with her mom and her ADHD

younger brother. Her brother gets lost in the blizzard while playing with the dogs and Zoe goes out into the storm to find him. Enter an unlikely scenario with a killer on the loose, a frozen lake and a stranger who appears out of nowhere, trying to kill the killer (ironic much?).

The stranger, who Zoe calls X, is a bounty hunter from Lowlands (aka Hell), a prisoner sent on Earth to retrieve the soul of previously mentioned killer. X seems to be badly hurt, so Zoe and her family take him in and help him out despite his warnings that helping him would be dangerous for them.

→ Now this is where the real trouble begins.

First of all, what kind of a mother (who is described as being very protective of her kids) would let a random stranger into her house, especially after he himself warns them multiple times that by doing so, they are putting themselves in danger?

Also, the guy tells them that he is from Hell and they just roll with it?

Sorry, but when a person tells you that they are a bounty hunter from Hell, you don't believe them and fall in love with them, you put them into a freaking mental institution!

As for the **romance** in this story, I scoffed out loud and rolled my eyes so many times that it was becoming dangerous for my health.

As soon as X sees Zoe he's in luuurve, he "*has feelings about her that he never felt before and never even knew existed*" (excuse me while I go throw up)

They kiss and fall in lurve in 2 days, and the mom knows it and does nothing.

Please find me a **sane** mother who would approve of her 17 year old daughter getting involved with a weird stranger who claims that he is an emissary from Hell.

**The characters** are completely bland, with no real thoughts or desires of their own, they are just there to do what the author wants them to do, which in turn feels forced and unrealistic.

The author always *tells* instead of *shows*, and that made me feel completely detached from the plot and the characters.

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In conclusion, I would not recommend this book to anyone and I want those 3 hours of my life back.

**?Brithanie Faith? says**

**2.75-3/5 stars ???**

"Silence, her mother liked to say, could heal you or it could make you crazy. It all depended on how you listened to it."

Pros:

-This series has a lot of potential. I really liked what I read, it just needed to be more fleshed out in certain areas, and perhaps, slowed down a bit in others.

-The writing was good.

-The characters were likeable. I enjoyed reading from Zoe and X's point of view alike. There were also some really cool side characters. Just sayin' ?

Cons:

-Without going into too much detail, certain things in this book progressed a lot quicker than I would have liked. ~~\*Cough there's insta love cough\*~~ ?

-There were also times where I felt certain things were dragged out, that really didn't need to be.

Overall:

I definitely think, when the time comes, I'll be open to continuing this series. As I've said, it could use some work, but I look forward to seeing what will happen with these characters, and if things will improve from the first book.

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**may ☺ says**

Full review up:

First off, let me say that I was shook and a half when I got my hands on the book and saw that ONE MORE SOUL was written across the pages like HOW COOL IS THAT

(not my pic)

Anyways, so from my rating you can see that I didn't PARTICULARILY enjoy the book all that much.

Now it definitely HAD potential, but like damn, that instalove was creeping in every crevice and corner, setting any semblance of plot and character development and slow burn on FIRE. For the first 100 pages, I was actually REALLY invested in everything that I was OVERLOOKING the instalove but bro, I can only overlook so much.

So the basic outline of the story is that Zoe, a normal girl, meets with X, a bounty hunter from the 'lowlands' who is very secretive about his himself. But he gets to know her and he pulls the whole 'I'll-risk-my-life-and-everything-i-know-for-you'

But the problem is that he's willing to do that AFTER KNOWING THE GIRL FOR 25 MINUTES THAT'S NOT HOW LOVE WORKS AAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Listen, im not all stone hearted okay, in actuality, im a really big sap and im always the one crying at the end of cheesy movies okay I just have a really big heart. BUT (and there's a big BUT here) I gotta get that slowburn man, we wanna see the relationship grow and develop and blossom, NOT COME INTO EXISTENCE WITH ONE GLANCE

Let. Me. Become. Invested. In. Them.

Basically, I just felt like this the whole time

I mean there were good points. Jonah is the sweetest most perfect little brother ever. Zoe is a pretty good mc, apart from the fact that she falls in love with lover boy here in 0.37 seconds. Her friendship with that-girl-whos-name-i-forgot-because-she-didn't-get-as-much-page-time-as-she-deserved was really cute and funny too.

SO YOU SEE, THERE WAS POTENTIAL.

Even the sub-plot concerning her dad was good. It was tied together really well and I like how all the event connected to each other. Even the ending was relatively great.

BUT THAT DAMN INSTALOVE WAS SUFFOCATING EVERYTHING. WHYYYYY D:

*If I do not return, it is only because not one but two worlds conspired to stop me.*

2 stars!!

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**Joshee Kun (???) says**

*If I do not return, it is only because not one but two worlds conspired to stop me. —X*

*The Edge of Everything* is one of the most emotionally shocking novels I've read this year. It was like reading *Heartless* and *It Ends with Us* all over again. Trust me, booknerds; Please do not let the cute and fluffy cover fool you. I heartily applaud Jeff Giles (and the publisher) for thinking of such a deceptive cover.

I approached this novel thinking that it was going to be a typical YA contemporary, so my expectations were low at worst and realistic at best. Now that I've finally finished it, I feel utterly foolish. In contrast to its light and beautiful cover, *The Edge of Everything* features a very dark, fantastical story. In fact, it could even be described as a thriller because it is one of those books that keep you on the edge of your seat as you constantly worry about the safety of the characters.

From the get-go, I want you to know that *The Edge of Everything* has a love story reminiscent of *Romeo and Juliet*. Most of the plot revolves around how Zoe and X desperately struggle to be together. However, their story is actually unique because X happens to be a paranormal bounty hunter, which in this context is tantamount to our modern Grim Reaper. X comes from a hellish place called the Lowlands, and he is tasked

to collect the souls of unpunished criminals. For years, X has been resigned to his fate as a "killer," but everything changes when he falls in love with Zoe. Sadly, the melody of their relationship is anything but perfect because it has a harmony of deadly repercussions. In totality, I enjoyed the plot of this book because it was delightfully suspenseful.

I found *The Edge of Everything* to be very intriguing because its characters were almost deliberately flawed. For instance, Zoe and X were aware of the dangers of their relationship, but they were too stubborn and selfish to break up. Also, both of them had a distinct distaste for obeying figures of authority. I felt so bad for Zoe's mother and brother, whose lives were shattered as collateral damage. Gleaning upon this, there were both character development and "character reduction" in this book. Zoe and X's romance made them braver and compassionate, but it simultaneously made them more apathetic towards the needs of others. Consequently, I did not have any favorite character in this book.

Nevertheless, I must say that I admired Zoe's relationship with her brother Jonah, who had ADHD. Jonah had a very eccentric, naughty, and clingy personality, and I liked how Zoe was openly affectionate with him. She was usually sensitive to his needs, doing her best to meet them although it required her to go out of her comfort zone. I especially loved how she endearingly called him "bug." Overall, I am glad that Jeff Giles was able to delicately explore such a unique connection between siblings.

The second issue/problem I had with this book was the instalove. Ugh, I honestly could not fathom the speed of Zoe and X's relationship. Or better yet, I cannot comprehend the idea of love at first sight. Even though it was eventually explained why Zoe and X fell for each other, I could not help but feel skeptical and disappointed. I lack experience in romance, yet I certainly would not immediately fall in love with someone who saved my life or made me realize my personal worth.

In the end, I assure you that *The Edge of Everything* is thankfully not overhyped. I'm excited for others to read it next year because I desperately need someone with whom I could share my feels. This book was mildly heartbreakingly. I actually expected it to be a stand-alone novel, but the cliffhanger of an ending suggests otherwise. Also, an article on Entertainment Weekly says that Jeff Giles sold his work as a series. Thus, I am a very happy fanboy. ^\_^\n

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### **abby says**

Zoe has had a tough year. Her father died in a caving accident, and her elderly neighbors who were like grandparents to her were murdered in their home by an unknown assailant. Difficult as this has all been for Zoe, it's been even more so for her younger brother, Jonah. So when Jonah disappears during a blizzard, Zoe panics. She's able to rescue out of the snow and get him to the safety of shelter. But safety is a fleeting concept. Soon, she and Jonah find themselves face to face with the madman who murdered their beloved neighbors, and there's no telling what he'll do to them next.

Zoe and Jonah are saved by a mysterious young man who can turn a frozen lake into fire. X is from the Lowlands, or what humans might call hell. He is a bounty hunter who is tasked with capturing souls who escape human justice. X is not supposed to allow people to see him do his dirty work, but there's something about Zoe that makes him break all the rules, including showing mercy to the damned. The punishment for failing to capture his target might keep X from Zoe forever. If it doesn't get them killed first.

The insta-love in this book is too much for me, and I'm not usually bothered by it. Zoe just isn't anything

special, and it's never explained why X would be willing to throw away everything he knows upon first glance of her. They are madly in love after spending five minutes together but had no genuine chemistry. As a character, Zoe oscillated between boring and annoying. She acted reckless and selfish more times than I could forgive. There were some pacing problems early in the book, and the big plot twist is obvious. I did enjoy several of the side characters, from the chainsaw sculpture artist to Zoe's ex-brofriend who lives for his job at an imitation Benihanas, but it wasn't enough to save this book for me. At times, the story really just *dragged*, and the second half felt like a chore to read. I was most interested in X's story, but that was left unresolved and half-explored. I would have to assume this book will be expanded into a series. I'll pass.

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### **Korrina (OwlCrate) says**

Really solid book with an extremely unique plot. Super dark and somewhat scary at times. I was hooked from page one. And I really loved Zoe as a main character. She seemed like a very realistic and snarky teen and I loved her spirit. Also really adored the side characters too, her family, her school friends, X's friends in the Lowlands...they were all super interesting and fleshed out. Really good book, guys! It releases January 2017 and I highly suggest you add it to your TBR!

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### **Lauren says**

#### ***DNF at page 92***

There are many reasons as to why I could no longer read this book with the first being I absolutely hated it from the beginning. I didn't get pretty far in the book so I can't judge it completely and for all I know, it could have gotten much better but aren't books supposed to draw you in from the beginning? To be honest I began this book with the lowest expectations ever. I predicted it was going to be terrible so I did not get my hopes up. Despite my expectations being very low they still were not met. The writing was so horrific that I think I could have written better and I am awful at creative writing. Right now I can't even say I'm disappointed it because it wasn't like I was expected much anyway.

I have no idea why I even picked this up. It was on my to-read list but other than that I had no idea what this book was about. I like going into books blind so I only read the synopsis at the back of the book and didn't read the one on Goodreads and mind you the synopsis at the back of the book was so brief. The only reason I bought it was because of the cover and the fact that the edges of the book were orange. Now I know despite how beautiful a book may look that does not mean it is good. I was so confused while reading it and I refused to read what it was about and *tried* to carry on reading. I had no idea where the plot was going and now that I think about it I still don't know what the book is about because I still haven't read what Goodreads says, which I will do so now.

Sooo I just read the summary on Goodreads and now I'm thinking to myself 'why the hell did I want to read this'. Normally if I DNF something I try to pick it back up later but I will not be doing that with this book.

Now on to the dreadful writing. The writing really irritated me and I'm not sure if I'm the only person who felt this way. In school, I was getting drilled with this idea of 'showing not telling' and I had to analyze past exam creative writing papers to see if people did that. They kept telling us to me implicit and not directly tell the reader what is going on. Because of that now when I read I keep thinking about showing not telling so

throughout this book I was thinking about how I was just getting dumped with information. I was being told everything and nothing was being shown. The writing felt so basic and I just didn't like it AT ALL. There also were many flashbacks that were confusing the hell out of me. I could never decipher whether it was a flashback or the present.

From the very beginning, I did not like the protagonist, Zoe, for reasons I am unaware of. I just did not like her and what made it worse was her stupidity. She sees the guy who she calls X and he's fighting with another guy and the entire place is all magical. Like the lake is lighting up and all this weird stuff is going on and there was a video thing playing on X's back so what does she do... she takes a picture and posts it on Instagram. Now you might think what's wrong with that well she just allowed everyone to see some guy who clearly isn't human and the police even saw it. Then she tries to convince them that he's not human as if people let alone the police would believe her.

There also was animal abuse in this book and Zoe shows no emotion towards it and barely even cares. And because I didn't finish this book I still don't know why the animals had to be hurt.

I also heard that there's insta-love in this book which for me is something that I find irritating. I didn't read about the insta-love because I don't think I got too far in but I still could see it forming and that adds to the endless reasons to why I didn't like this book.

This book was not for me and I know I didn't get too far into critic it completely. I could have ended up loving it but I feel like there's a very low chance that could have happened because I don't think the writing style is going to suddenly change halfway through and I didn't like the plot either. I did not want to get into a reading slump and that usually happens when I force myself to read a book I really don't like. Read this book if you want because you may like it but I definitely didn't.

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### **Jesse (JesseTheReader) says**

I'm going to talk more about this in a video review, but I really enjoyed this! It's a unique urban fantasy story full of heart wrenching & heart breaking moments!

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### **Kat O'Keeffe says**

Wooo, what a ride! The middle was a bit dragging at times, but the beginning and end were FULL of action and thrills! This story hooked me in right away, and even during the slow parts I was still so invested in finding out how this would all weave together and conclude.

I didn't totally love the romance aspect (it happened a bit too fast for me) but I did really like both Zoe and X separately, and they did have some great moments together. And I LOVED that they each had their own motivations and storylines completely separate from the romance (Zoe's caving hobby is badass! X's underworld politics are fascinating! IT'S JUST ALL SO COOL.) I also adored the secondary characters, they were all very distinct and well drawn (my faves were Ripper and Val!)

I'll be sharing more of my thoughts in my next BOOK REVIEWS video and in the Bookspllosion liveshow on March 2nd, but overall, I thought this was a great first book in a series and I'm definitely looking forward

to reading more!

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### **Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

This book was so disappointing it made me want to kick a kitten! Okay, that's not true. It actually made me want to go adopt a few since it was "kitten weekend" at the local shelter . . . .

But I'm married to Mr. Poopy Butthole and he ixnayed that suggestion pronto.

*The Edge of Everything* got put on my radar due to my friend Rachel's review which stated in the first line that it was "one of the more gruesome young adult novels I've ever come across" – a fairly accurate assessment, but unfortunately that didn't help increase my enjoyment.

Other than reading the aforementioned review, I went in to this blind. The book opened up right before a blizzard was getting ready to set in with our female lead Zoe trapped at home with her little brother. When the snow really starts coming down and little brother is nowhere to be seen, Zoe is forced to venture out to find him. What she doesn't expect is to run across a former "friend" of her father. At this point in the story I was like . . . .

And when the character "X" appeared stating he was there to take the bad man's soul back to the Lowlands for eternity???????

A bounty hunter from hell? Double yes to that please. I also wasn't sure what kind of world this was going to be. But then . . . .

***"She took a photo to put on Instagram later."***

Soooooo, it's apparently **not** a different world and I am stupid. No biggie. I can make an adjustment. Until . . . .

***"What did she even know apart from the fact that he radiated loneliness? And that she'd been drawn to him."***

At which point I started to ask myself . . . .

Low and behold my suspicions were confirmed when X stated . . . .

***“He knew then that he loved her.”***

After A MOTHEREFFING DAY. And then . . .

I wish. Noooooooo, I'm a glutton for punishment so I eyerolled my way through the entire thing wishing I would be granted a quick death in order to end my misery since I was forced to acknowledge that it is official . . . .

As Zoe would say in all of her infinite wisdom, at this point in time I have no more evens to can't when it comes to instalove and barfable bullshit when a REALLY SOLID STORY IS TAKING THE BACKBURNER AND BEGGING TO BE TOLD. Seriously. Zoe wasn't even **needed** in this godblasted thing. X's backstory was plenty on its own and he had **THE BEST** sidekicks in the form of Ripper . . . .

***“Unfortunately, one’s children grow distant after they’ve seen one bash a servant’s skull with a teakettle.”***

As well as Banger . . . .

***“Were you always this disgusting?” she asked him. “Oh, much, much more so.”***

Two stars rather than one simply for those two characters. And **of course** this is the first in a series . . . .

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**ambsreads says**

**DNF @ 10%**

I don't mind a good useless information dump, if it'll add to the plot later on. However, there were around **four** info dump in just the first chapter. I was so excited to read this after the prologue, but that first chapter killed me. It took me around *eight hours* to finish.

For me, this book simply had too much telling and not enough showing through the writing. Then there was the fact I already hated the name of our main character - which is said frequently due to third person narrative - due to a girl named Zoe being a bitch to one of my favourite people (aka Caitlin, do I have any other friends?).

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## **Lola says**

I cannot believe that I expected this to be a contemporary romance novel. That's what I get for only reading part of the synopsis. (It's totally the cover's fault.)

But that's okay, because I was still impressed (and surprised!) with "The Edge of Everything."

It's not your typical fantasy story exactly, unless you read many stories featuring bounty hunters.

You know, one of my favourite romance-y tropes is when the two characters are not supposed to meet, but then they do, and it's a coincidence that leads to something great.

That's exactly what happens between Zoe and bounty hunter X with supernatural powers. You see, fortunately enough, he was sent to kill someone who was terrorizing Zoe and her brother.

I do admit that I'm a bit tired of the "saviour" element which seems to be everywhere and all the time, but at least Zoe is a strong character herself and very much capable of defending herself. And even if she fails, she'll still keep trying, which is what matters most in a way.

I liked the idea of "Lowlands," some kind of hidden world that acts very much as a Hell with Lords and prisoners and assassins AKA bounty hunters (the equivalent of rippers!).

There is a lot of action and even some mystery. It's a thrilling read, while still being romantic and emotional. The ending felt relatively conclusive, so I'm not sure if this will get a sequel, but it's a great standalone nonetheless.

Romance is definitely one of the main themes. I mean, without the main characters falling in love, we would have no story. In a way, this is unfortunate, because it's not as much of a slow-burn as I would have wished, but the romance rang true to my ears, and I must say I fell quite hard for X. Charming fellow.

Zoe is a character impossible to dislike. She is the big sister, taking good care of her brother, and even acts as a mother to him when need be. She's adventurous, courageous, has a strong sense of family and will brave mountains to save the people she cares for.

A must read! Truly captivating! I'd like to see this world-building expand.

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