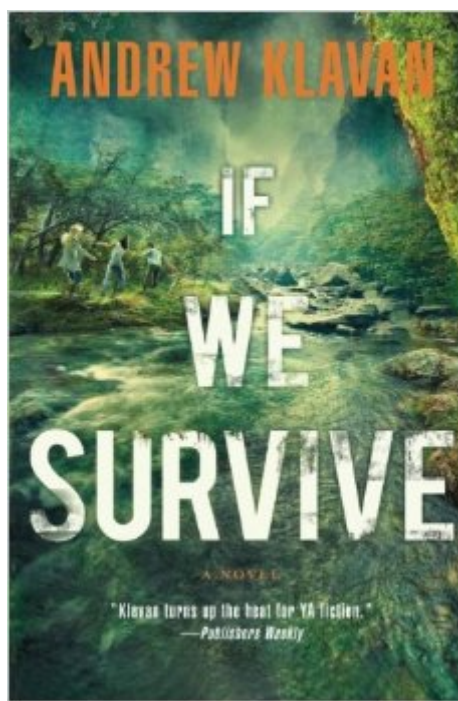


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# If We Survive



## Synopsis

They came on a mission of mercy, but now they're in a fight for their lives. High schooler Will Peterson and three friends journeyed to Central America to help rebuild a school. In a poor, secluded mountain village, they won the hearts of the local people with their energy and kindness. But in one sudden moment, everything went horribly wrong. A revolution swept the country. Now, guns and terror are everywhere and Americans are being targeted as the first to die. Will and his friends have got to get out fast. But streets full of killers . . . hills patrolled by armies . . . and a jungle rife with danger stand between them and the border. Their one hope of escape lies with a veteran warrior who has lost his faith and may betray them at any moment. Their one dream is to reach freedom and safety and home. If they can just survive.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (101 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

If We Survive is the third book I've read by Andrew Klavan (the first two being The Last Thing I Remember and The Long Way Home) and definitely my favorite so far! It was a thrilling ride and held my attention throughout! I loved how realistic the characters were - one in particular was very dramatic and got upset a lot (to the point of being annoying), but given the circumstances, I understood why she'd be that way. My favorite character was definitely Palmer! I just loved so much about him (his courage, how he acted, things he said, etc.). The story was great and I don't think there was ever a time I was bored while reading If We Survive... there was just so much action! If We Survive was a wonderful read that I loved! I think teens (and adults!) who like action books with

some pulse-pounding moments will enjoy this book. I definitely recommend it. I look forward to reading more of Andrew Klavan's books in the future.\*I borrowed a print copy of this book from the library; I also received a complimentary eBook copy via Netgalley for my review. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.\*

This was my first Andrew Klavan book. I now look forward to reading others. I'm not a young adult, in fact I'm 66, a long way from the 16-year-old who tells this story, but it held my interest. The central character, Will, sees himself as a typical teenager, no hero, not that religious, just checking off his high school's service requirement. As the book unfolds he displays courage and decency in a variety of hair-raising situations, and still manages to sound and react in ways that are age-appropriate, to these old ears at least. The book is not only about what happens to Will and how he steps up, but about the pilot sent to retrieve Will and his small youth group after a week-long mission trip in a central American country ripe for yet another revolution. The pilot says he is an ex-Marine, never mind the saying, "once a Marine, always a Marine." The man has lost faith in pretty much everything, seemingly, but a young woman accompanying the teens isn't willing to accept that. Church groups take trips like this all the time, and that part of the book is believable. The story opens in a cantina where the group and their youth pastor are waiting to be picked up to go home. The illusion of safety and security evaporates when their waiter is shot dead before their eyes on the first or second page, right after Klavan makes you start to like the guy. Be prepared for things to get a lot worse before they get better, but along the way Klavan tells a great story, manages to keep the suspense going, shows much about human nature, the nature of faith, and of what's still good about America.

I'm 29 and nonreligious, so I recognize that I am pretty far removed from the designated audience. But since and I enjoyed the hell out of the Harry Potter series I figured I could give this one a shot. This review will be written for the grown ups. I got the audiobook version. The main character, Will, is pretty relatable. I could see myself thinking many of the same things he did were I 16 and in a similar situation. The other characters, however, were pretty thin. We have the tough, reluctant former-soldier hero, struggling to find the man he used to be, Palmer Dun. The sweet, ditzy, valley-girl Nikki. The I'm-not-afraid-of-anything (except snakes) heroine, Meredith. And the everything-American-is-wrong disgruntled teen, Jon. For the YA audience, these stereotypes won't be a problem because they don't have the years to make the character's transparency apparent. But

for us grown ups, Meredith will seem as "alive" as the statues she is likened to. Nikki is deadweight for 3/4 the story and I only wanted her to die just so the audio book reader could stop doing the "valley girl" voice. Palmer's constant, never ending, dry sarcasm and "tough guy marine" character got on my nerves. And every time Jon opened his mouth he would say the same thing "Prez Kobar is a great man...blah blah blah". The main problem I have with the group of heroes is that they all stay the same from beginning to end. Jon never shuts up about American atrocities (of which there are actually many but the author did not give the reader anything to give this argument weight and seemed to only want to make it a straw-man). Will repeats the same platitude about prayer constantly. Meredith never gets upset about anything. Nikki, in a war zone, won't shut up about shopping and other such teen diversions. And Palmer never experiences any doubts about anything he does or says, ever. Oh, and he has more escape tricks than a ninja. At the end of the book I was left with a "meh" feeling and I am sure I will forget all about this novel a year from now. So what is the book good for? Give this book to your son or nephew as long as he is under 17, even if you are not religious. He won't see the glaring holes (like how the whole country was overthrown in 15 minutes right at the start of the book), and he will at least be able to enjoy the book's quick pace. Want a better story about teens fighting against the military with an Aussie twist? Try *Tomorrow, When the War Began*

I received an advance copy from booksneeze.com. Although I am not required to write a positive review, but that is what I am going to do. The book was fantastic!! The action starts in the prologue and does not let up till the last chapter. The book may be listed for juvenile readers, but every age will love it. Amazing growth of the main and secondary characters. No foul language. *If We Survive* is a book you can feel good about recommending and sharing. Klavan draws you in with a well written first person narrative. The action is intense with just a dab of humor here and there to make the whole story more realistic. Buy this book!

Captured! Fighting the fear of the unknown this group has to work together to thwart their captors. When they escape relief washes over them, but flees quickly when they realize they must navigate the thick dark jungle. If that wasn't enough their former captors are on their trail and gaining. Overcoming obstacles and pitfalls the group must work together and find help in the most unlikely places in order to get out alive. 5 Stars, Klavan is a master story teller.

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