



BLUE DELTA BOOKS

BEYOND THE DOME

SHANNA SILVA

CHAPTER 1

HIDING

Nighttime brought a chill into the cave. Lena Marcos warmed her hands by the fire. But a small fire was no match for such cool air.

Her twin brother, Rex, tossed his jacket to her. Lena knew it was for show. Rex wanted the other Naturals to be impressed.

Still, Lena put it on. She didn't mind Rex's show if it kept her warm.

The group's food and water supplies were gone. Yet they did not leave the cave. Angus forbade it. He was the leader of the Naturals.

They needed to stay hidden. If not, the group would be hunted.

Living in the cave was hard. There were few resources. The Naturals used their limited supplies to make weapons, clothing, and tools.

Outside, the whine of drones was constant. These aircrafts had sensors. They were always hunting Naturals. The Naturals were people immune to the Green Death. That made them valuable to the Command.

Naturals were lucky to be alive. The last decade had been full of suffering and grief. A waterborne disease had spread. It poisoned the sea, rivers, and even the rain. Many died. But they were slow deaths. The Green Death attacked internal organs. Victims' skin took on a green color. That had led to the disease's name. There was no cure.

Lena and Rex were fortunate to survive. Their parents hadn't been as lucky.

When their father got sick, the twins were left to care for him. It took weeks for him to die. Their mother was away getting help. She never returned. The teens mourned the death of both parents.

When drones first appeared, people thought help was coming. Instead, the Naturals were being targeted and taken. Those caught were brought to the Domed City. The rumor was that Naturals were used for medical experiments there. Captured Naturals never returned. Survivors had gone into hiding.

This still haunted Lena, even in her sleep. Rex watched his sister toss and turn. He rubbed the scar on the back of his hand. It was a raised, gray bump that sometimes itched. Lena had the same marking.

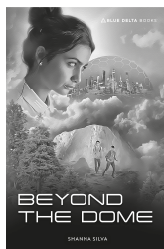
Rex's stomach growled.

We need food, he thought. He looked over at the others. *I can slip out to hunt while everyone is sleeping.*

Rex borrowed Angus's bow and arrows and left the cave. No drones were visible.

Soon he reached the forest. He crouched behind a log and waited for prey. Something fluttered in the trees. Rex readied the bow and arrow. Then he shot and missed. The arrow stuck in a tree's trunk, out of reach. Only two arrows were left.

FICTION



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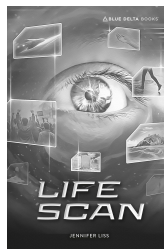
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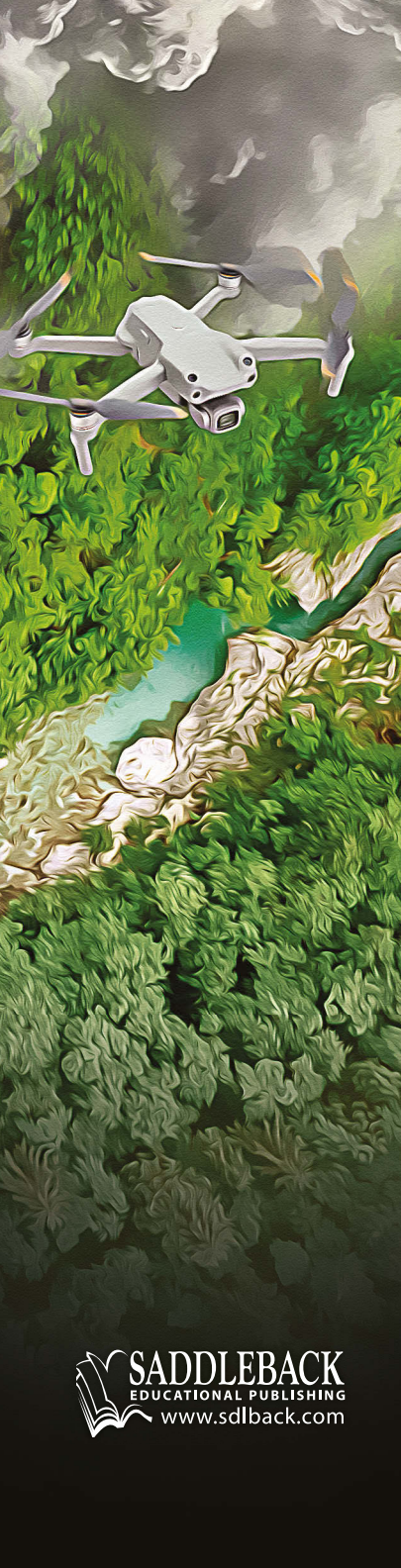
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DYSTOPIAN

BEYOND
THE DOME

In the year 2329, the Green Death has wiped out most of the human race. Those in the Domed City try to control any survivors. Rex and Lena are among the few who are immune to the disease. The twins long to live on their own terms. But what will they do when something from their past causes them to question everything they've known?



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