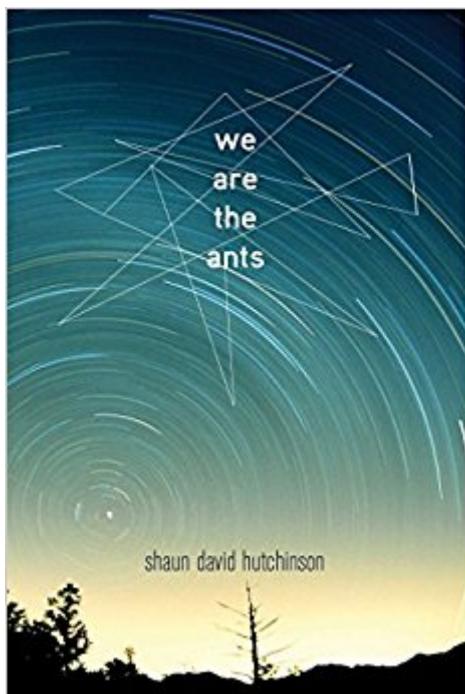


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# We Are The Ants



## Synopsis

From the [“author to watch”](#) (Kirkus Reviews) of *The Five Stages of Andrew Brawley* comes an [“equal parts sarcastic and profound”](#) (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) novel about a teenage boy who must decide whether or not the world is worth saving. Henry Denton has spent years being periodically abducted by aliens. Then the aliens give him an ultimatum: The world will end in 144 days, and all Henry has to do to stop it is push a big red button. Only he isn’t sure he wants to. After all, life hasn’t been great for Henry. His mom is a struggling waitress held together by a thin layer of cigarette smoke. His brother is a jobless dropout who just knocked someone up. His grandmother is slowly losing herself to Alzheimer’s. And Henry is still dealing with the grief of his boyfriend’s suicide last year. Wiping the slate clean sounds like a pretty good choice to him. But Henry is a scientist first, and facing the question thoroughly and logically, he begins to look for pros and cons: in the bully who is his perpetual one-night stand, in the best friend who betrayed him, in the brilliant and mysterious boy who walked into the wrong class. Weighing the pain and the joy that surrounds him, Henry is left with the ultimate choice: push the button and save the planet and everyone on it—or let the world—and his pain—be destroyed forever.

## Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Simon Pulse; Reprint edition (May 16, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481449648

ISBN-13: 978-1481449649

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 117 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #54,494 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Magical Realism #41 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness #46 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying

## Customer Reviews

“[Henry’s] journey is subtle and hard-won, with meditations on the past, the present, and the future that are equal parts sarcastic and profound. Bitterly funny, with a ray of hope

amid bleakness. (Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW) Hutchinson's excellent novel of ideas invites readers to wonder about their place in a world that often seems uncaring and meaningless. The novel is never didactic; on the contrary, it is unfailingly dramatic and crackling with characters who become real upon the page. Will Henry press the button? We all await his decision. (Booklist, STARRED REVIEW) "Hutchinson has crafted an unflinching portrait of the pain and confusion of young love and loss, thoughtfully exploring topics like dementia, abuse, sexuality, and suicide as they entwine with the messy work of growing up." (Publishers Weekly, STARRED REVIEW) "Effectively combines the best of elements of Nick Burd's *The Vast Fields of Ordinary* (Dial, 2009) with hints of Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*. Highly recommended." (School Library Journal, STARRED REVIEW) "We Are the Ants is a very complex story about serious subjects. The voices of each character are strong and unique, [and] their language and actions match the situations in which they find themselves." (VOYA)

Shaun David Hutchinson is the author of numerous books for young adults, including *The Five Stages of Andrew Brawley*, which won the Florida Book Awards Gold Medal in the Young Adult category and was named to the ALA's 2015 Rainbow Book List; the anthology *Violent Ends*, which received a starred review from VOYA; and *We Are the Ants*, which received five starred reviews and was named a best book of January 2016 by .com, Kobo.com, Publishers Weekly, and iBooks. He lives in South Florida with his adorably chubby dog, and enjoys Doctor Who, comic books, and yelling at the TV. Visit him at [ShaunDavidHutchinson.com](http://ShaunDavidHutchinson.com).

Came in perfect condition and is such an amazing read! Touches on subjects that many young people face: discovering sexuality, existentialism, relationships and more. I recommend it to anyone who wants a unique and interesting story that has never been told before!

This was an amazing book. When I read the description in the store I honestly thought the book was taking itself a little ironically but when I started reading it definitely took itself seriously, or, the main character took himself seriously about the aliens and everything else. It quickly became a heartbreakingly beautiful expose on suicide, life choices, love, and the meaning of life. It was gorgeous and kept me interested with un-expected turns. The plot never did what I was guessing or even hoping for sometimes but it was overall an amazing read and I will certainly cherish and re-read this one! So glad I took a chance on it!

I am approaching 50, but I loved this story of a teenage boy struggling to decide if the world was worth saving. I admit I have wondered the same thing myself at times. The characters are beautifully crafted, having just read two books by Benjamin Alire Saenz I'm amazed at how well these authors write their adolescent boys and how moved I was by their stories. Definitely worth reading if you are the kind for whom a story can bring you to tears.

I LOVE this book. It was rough at times, but wonderful and somehow Hutchinson managed to handle the heavy issues without suffocating the book in them. I didn't feel overwhelmed with grief, but I still "Felt" it and the characters were real to me...so much so that I had to physically put the book down sometimes, yell into the room, hit the book against my pillows and then opened it back up immediately because I needed MORE. I would recommend this 100%!

Probably the best book I've ever read. This book tore me up and almost made me break down multiple times. \*All\* of the characters in the story undergo major, and well written, development; and virtually all of them are better for it. Must read for anyone. Triggers: suicide, mental illness, bullying, LGBT, abuse (physical and sexual), disillusionment, familial abandonment, and nihilism (a LOT).

It felt like the author had an idea and hadn't really finished it. Unless you have a lot of time to kill there are better books to read.

Amazing! This is by far the best book I have read in my life. It brought tears to my eyes more times than I can count throughout my time reading it. It was so good I <sup>had</sup> to read it back to back multiple times, each time getting a little shorter because I just can't put it down. If I were to only read one book for the rest of my life, it would be this one. Keep it up Shaun David Hutchinson.

I. Love. This. Book. I found it hard to put down, even as a college student reading a book about high schoolers. Super powerful messages are engrained.

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