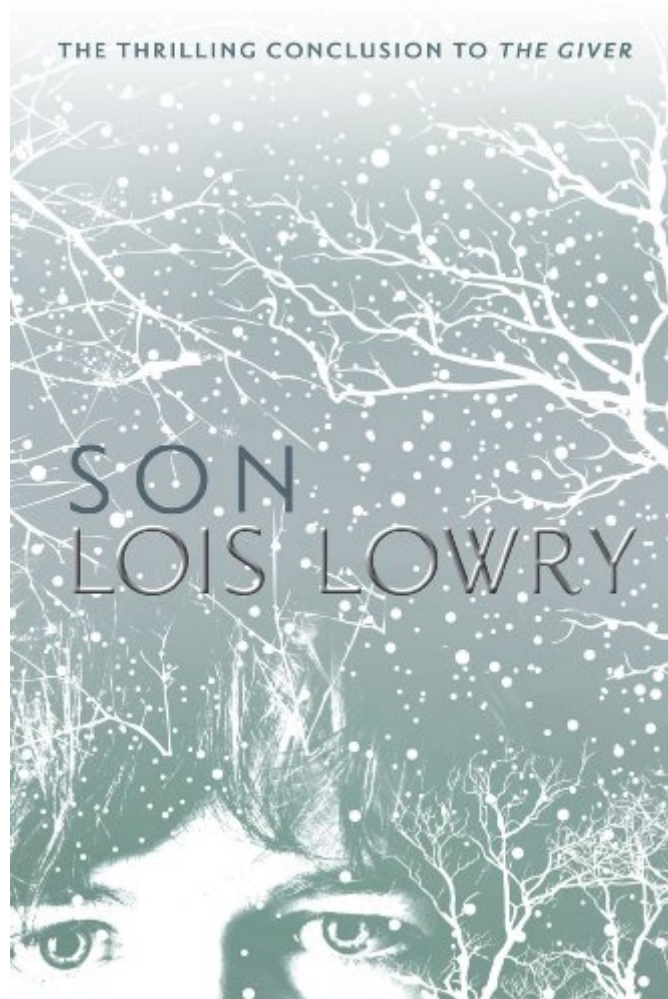




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Son (Giver Quartet, Book 4)



Synopsis

They called her Water Claire. When she washed up on their shore, no one knew that she came from a society where emotions and colors didn't exist. That she had become a Vessel at age thirteen. That she had carried a Product at age fourteen. That it had been stolen from her body. Claire had a son. But what became of him she never knew. What was his name? Was he even alive? She was supposed to forget him, but that was impossible. Now Claire will stop at nothing to find her child, even if it means making an unimaginable sacrifice. Son thrusts readers once again into the chilling world of the Newbery Medal winning book, *The Giver*, as well as *Gathering Blue* and *Messenger* where a new hero emerges. In this thrilling series finale, the startling and long-awaited conclusion to Lois Lowry's epic tale culminates in a final clash between good and evil.

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Customer Reviews

I always like Lois Lowry and this book doesn't fail. If you've read *The Giver*, this definitely should follow. Of course, *Gathering Blue* and *Messenger* are important and incredible books as well, but *The Giver* is most necessary to read before *Son*. That being said, reading this as a standalone would be a great experience as well. Because this book covers conception-kind issues, I would recommend it for teens and adults. It is light and intense at the same time, not too long or brief, and is altogether a well-written read. Highly recommended.

I received "Son" in the mail the same day my daughter-in-law went into labor. As I was getting ready to head out to the hospital to await the birth of my grandson, I decided I should bring a book to read for the potentially long hours of waiting, and grabbed my new book. It wasn't until I opened it up in the LDR room and began reading that the appropriateness of my choice struck me. The first two chapters describe a young girl who, having been selected as a Birthmother for her community, undergoes a difficult delivery by C-section. After the procedure, the "product" of her delivery is taken away to be nurtured and then assigned to a worthy family unit. Claire never overcomes her sense of loss, and becomes determined to find her son and possibly establish a relationship with him. "Son" is divided into three sections, which are set in three different communities. The first part moved quickly, and the reader begins to recognize who the characters are in relation to the prior books in Lowry's series. The middle section dragged a bit, with a little too much tedious detail about Claire's decision and preparation for setting out to find her son, but the third part wraps up the story nicely. In this book, Lowry ties the characters from *The Giver*, *Gathering Blue*, and *Messenger* together in a satisfying way. I do like the strong family ties that Lowry depicts in the last three books, an element which the community in "The Giver" was intentionally lacking. I'm looking forward to the upcoming movie of "The Giver," which is scheduled to hit theaters in August!

Lois Lowry does not disappoint with this conclusion to *The Giver* Quartet. Although it does not live up to my high standards of *The Giver*, it is my second favorite of the four-book series. The style of it is very different than *The Giver*. The book is separated into three sections. Each of these sections could almost be its own contained story. If these had been released as smaller separate books or novellas, they would have worked well. This book is much longer than *The Giver*. The first part introduces us to Claire, a young girl in the community from *The Giver*, who has been chosen to conceive children for the community. She has complications during birth and is not the same after. I really liked being back in this community. The timeline coincides with events in *The Giver*, so it was

fun to remember the original story and see events from a different perspective. I won't go into details of the second and third parts, as to not spoil you. I will say, though, that they each take place in different communities and one of them may be a community from the second or third books. The third part of the book does a good job connecting all four books together. It makes me want to reread all four books in order to have each character fresh in my mind. Some of the gifts that characters possess in the latter three books in this series feel very different than *The Giver*. After reading the first book, I didn't think these characters lived in a world of magic. There is also an unusual personification near the end that didn't feel right to me. Since this book takes place over many years, many interesting characters are introduced. Lowry did an excellent job with making unique characters in all three communities. This book is not *The Giver*, but if you have read the other books in the series you will in no way be disappointed. Don't expect a short, simple story going into this. The story is not simple, nor linear. It's a complex life story of a very interesting character. I give this conclusion to *The Giver Quartet* a 4/5.

The Giver is one of my favorite books of all time. It's complex and beautiful. Each of its sequels, though, have disappointed me. *Son* is no exception. It begins in the same village as *The Giver* and is told through the perspective of Claire, a Birthmother. The first part of the book is promising, but really just retells *Giver* from another angle. And that's as good as it gets. The other 2/3 of the book is an overlong, heavy-handed moral fable. The whys of this series are still never explained and, as in *Messenger*, Evil is "vanquished" in an almost laughable manner. I'm completely unsatisfied and wish I'd never read any of these mediocre sequels.

I'm a huge fan of the first three books in the *Giver* series, so one could imagine how excited I was this morning when this was delivered to my kindle. I don't want to say too much because I don't want to spoil anything, but the ending could have been better. It was a bit cheesy for me, though I'd be lying if I said there weren't parts in the third part of the book that had me a little teary-eyed. The book is written in such a way that you find yourself genuinely caring about the protagonist, Claire. I guess my only main complaint is that the book does leave you with a lot of unanswered questions, especially if you're a big fan of the series. I really wanted to know what happened to the Community after Jonas left, but it's not brought up. Overall, though, I did really enjoy *Son*, and it was indeed worth the wait!

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