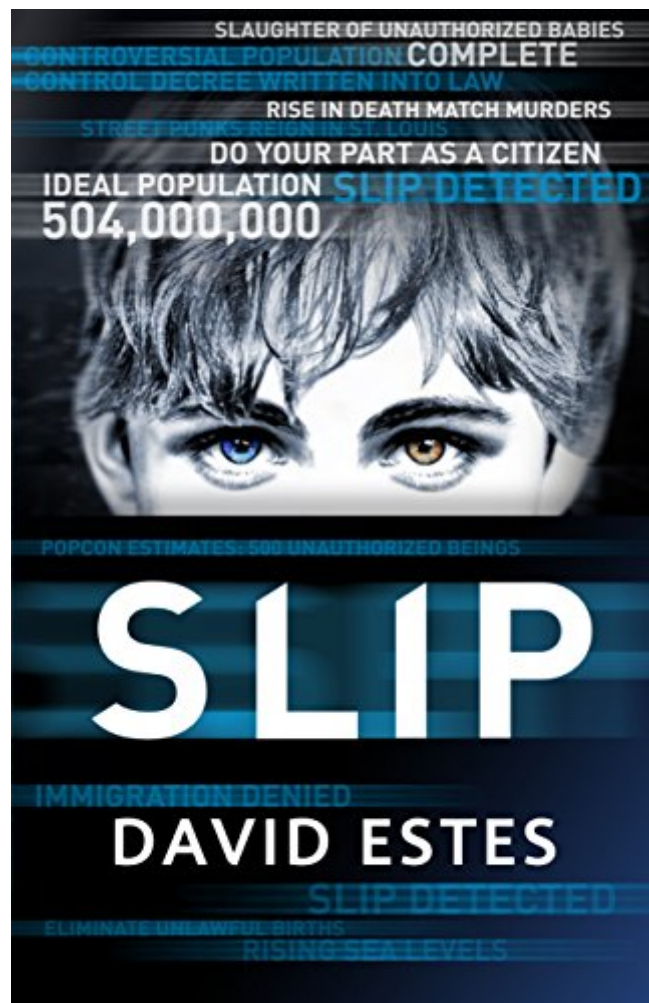


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Slip: A SciFi Dystopian Thriller (The Slip Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

Someone must die before another can be born...As sea levels rise and livable landmasses shrink, the Reorganized United States of America has instituted population control measures to ensure there are sufficient resources and food to sustain the growing population. Birth authorization must be paid for and obtained prior to having a child. Someone must die before another can be born, keeping the country in a population neutral position at what experts consider to be the optimal population. The new laws are enforced by a ruthless government organization known as Pop Con, responsible for terminating any children resulting from unauthorized births, and any illegals who manage to survive past their second birthday, at which point they are designated a national security threat and given the name Slip. But what if one orphan slipped through the cracks? What if someone knew all the loopholes and how to exploit them? Would it change anything? Would the delicate resource balance be thrown into a tailspin, threatening the lives of everyone? And how far would the government go to find and terminate the Slip? In a gripping story of a family torn apart by a single choice, Slip is a reminder of the sanctity of a single life and the value of the lives we so often take for granted.

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Customer Reviews

What happens when the government has the authority to choose who can have children? What happens to the value of human life? Welcome to the future United States of America, now called RUSA (Reorganized United States of America). Rising sea levels have shrunk down our land mass, and there is now a finite number of resources for its citizens. The government solves this problem by controlling the population. To get pregnant (legally), each couple receives what's called a "Death Match", and when that aging or sick person dies, they are allowed to procreate. To enforce this law, a new government agency called Population Control (Pop Con) was created to round up any UnBees (unregistered children under the age of 2) and Slips (unregistered children over the age of 2) and their parents and terminate them. While this book is about a futuristic society that values population and government control as its priority, it's also mainly a story about a torn apart family. Michael Kelly is the head of Pop Con. He and his wife have a secret: their son, Benson is actually a Slip. He's been raised separate from his legal brother, Harrison, and neither boy knows about the other. Michael does everything he can to protect Benson, but he knows time is running out. Before long, he must send Benson out on his own or risk him getting caught and killed. The first part of the book is mainly told from 5 to 8 year old Benson's POV. It does jump around a little to include two other children's POV who become very important to the story: Harrison and Domino Destovan. This part of the book leaves you more questions than answers, but it also provides a much needed understanding of Michael Kelly. I also love how well we get into Benson's head. His descriptions are right in line with a little boy who doesn't understand his world, but trying so hard to make sense of things. Then we jump ahead eight years later, and the story really takes off! This story was an amazing read! I read it straight through in one day. I was totally sucked in from beginning to end! Things I loved about Slip:--Benson and Lucy. The main love interests in this story are so cute together, but also very real and relatable, too. I can't wait to read more about their budding relationship in the next book!--Check, Rod, and Gonzo. Benson's best friends and gang for survival, along with Lucy and her younger brother. These three characters were loyal friends, but also a much needed comic relief at times.--Janice. What can I say about Benson and Harrison's eccentric (okay, crazy) mother? I loved her! She provided quite a bit of comic relief, but at the same time, it was a kind of sad feeling, watching her struggle through their family's situation. It really

brought to life some of the horrors of this kind of society.--The Ads and new articles that ended each chapter. These usually related directly to what was currently going on in the story, and were filled with irony and sarcastic dark humor. Some examples: Ready to start a family? Apply for an instant Death Match today! Simply speak "Yeah Baby" into your holo-screen to get started. Do pregnancy the right way, the legal way. Now available, reserve a Death Match up to ten years in advance! Simply speak "early Death Match" into your holo-screen, and prepare for your future. This advertisement paid for by U-Bank, where it "lets YOU that matters."--The World Building. The futuristic technology is awesome, and completely believable. This whole future is easy to believe as being our own. Chilling.--The Writing Itself. Really beautiful writing. It paints a picture and makes the story come alive. One quote I especially loved: "...her lips like an artist's brush on canvas as they caress his own."--The Terminology The words "Life" and "Death" are used quite a bit. "Death Match" is the legal procedure for procreating, while "Lifecard" is what you use to pay with (like a debit card). All the terminology made sense, while poking fun at itself at the same time.--Well fleshed out characters. With so many characters, this was pulled off really well. Mostly. I'll explain more below.--The Pacing. This was a very INTENSE read. There was always something going on, with not much time to breathe. A real page-turner!--The Twist. Totally did not see it coming. I'm betting you won't either!--The Feels. This book was constantly bringing out some kind of reaction in me, whether it was heart pounding suspense, laughter, chills, and tears. A very emotional read, something that's hard to pull off in a sci-fi dystopian! The only thing that I found lacking was the character development of two very important characters: Michael Kelly and Harrison Kelly. It was really hard to like Harrison, although I wanted to! It's easier to like Benson in the story, because he's the one who got shafted, and at times you almost feel like telling Harrison, "Oh, grow up!" But that isn't fair, as he's almost completely in the dark to what's really going on. Michael Kelly was just plain elusive at times. I was glad we get a view of him from Benson in the beginning of the book, which really helped that along. I'm hoping we get more in the sequel. This did not affect the enjoyment of the read at all for me, though. And I can understand the choices the author made, as too much character development on such complex characters may have bogged things down and slowed down the pacing quite a bit. And I really like the pacing the way it is! Slip is a complete full novel, but there is plenty of story left for its sequel. I can't wait to read it! The very last scene in this book gave me major goosebumps and chills! This was a 5 star read for me, and anyone who is into dystopians and sci-fi thrillers will love this one! One last quote to leave you with: "This life is too hard," he (Benson) says. Harrison would normally laugh at a comment like that, but he can't manage it because of

everything they've been through in the last day and a half. "And made harder because of all the damn idiots running around with guns," he says.

Wow! This was a great story about government trying to control population when resources are scarce. I couldn't put the book down as I had to know what would happen next as Michael tries to protect ALL members of his family... and the friends Benson, a nameless Slip, makes along the way to survive. While I had read the book within a couple of days, I spent a few days pondering the book and its message before writing this. It made me wonder how it was for the Chinese government to enforce the one child policy... how it was for the families facing this. David Estes really made this type of future world come to life with his writing, He painted a landscape where people of different economic levels even use different forms of transportation... and some eat real food, others get food pills.. From there he really fleshes out his characters so that we feel sympathy for the Kelly family - and even the Slips Michael Kelly is in charge of finding... and... "punishing". This story is very well written to draw you into this world and to hope for escape from the government. Again, going back to the characters, he really has characters who you care about because of their moral compass... and then, there are others where you totally abhor them as you wonder how could they be so... despicable? You wonder about those who seem to really enjoy their job in Population Control. As I said, it's a story that makes you think. I recommend this book because of how the story develops and the different types of people come out of this system. It's a good read with fast paced action once the father decides he must do something to protect his family. If you like a story that seems so real a possibility for the future, you will like this story.

Slip was a fun read! In this world population control is the law of the land to make sure there are enough resources for everyone. The government has to give authorization BEFORE any child can be born. Over time several different programs are set up for people to get authorization, but as we all know nothing works 100% of the time. If a child is born without authorization there are... consequences. I haven't made my mind up on how I feel about multiple points of view in general but I really like how it was used in Slip. One character I didn't like reading their POV but that was because the character was written well enough that at times reading what they were thinking made my skin crawl. I liked getting to see what it was like to live in the world that David Estes has created. One thing I've had a hard time finding in new dystopian stories lately is seeing the day to day life in these dystopian worlds where resistance is still mostly a minor nuisance, and don't involve zombies, some sort of rampant disease, etc., and I have found what I've been looking for with Slip. The

characters are well written, and believable for this world, whether I like them or not. I found that the characters provoked more emotion from me than I realized was there until I was ranting to myself about what was happening or I had to stop reading because I just didn't feel like reading a certain character's POV right then because of the feelings of disgust and rage at that character's thoughts. Another thing I have a hard time finding is very little to no romance. I often find romance to be unnecessary, gratuitous, and uninteresting. I loved that there was very little romance in this book, and what romance there is more of a side plot to the main story and I actually thought that it has a sweetness and innocence that I found a bit endearing instead of it irritating me. I absolutely LOVED reading Slip, and look forward to reading the rest of this series.

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