

DeadWorld

A girl who has just moved to a new area and is meeting new people goes to the beach one night and enters a black pool gateway to another world: a parallel Earth that has become completely dark, desolate, poisoned, and lifeless. It has since become a place that some people have found themselves stuck in, after jumping into the black pool, with no clear way back to Earth.

It usually takes a suicide attempt to end up in the gateway to DeadWorld. Once here, nobody knows how to get back to Earth. A group of five humans, including the main character, are stuck here, traveling through the post-apocalyptic world, where they will encounter many monsters. What used to be humans have become “ludges” - mindless remains of humans with pink skin, exaggerated animal-like physical features, and attitudes like wolves out to attack. The ludges come at the people from all sides, but they are pulled to safety by a fellow human being that has found herself stuck in DeadWorld.

A group of flying black gargoyle creatures with red eyes flies about. They are impossible to kill, for it is said that they cannot die. They must run away from the creatures if they hope to survive. The six humans run for as long as they can, while the black gargoyle creatures fly seamlessly. They cannot seem to find anything beyond the endless valleys without water. They still can't find their way back to Earth.

They want to go back to Earth. But they'll never get there, the gargoyles say. Earth is the past now. They must let go of Earth. DeadWorld is all they've got now. Sooner or later, they will stop caring about Earth, realizing that they don't need Earth and Earth doesn't need them, and they will then remain in DeadWorld, to live as ludges. Ludges are what happen when people stop resisting and accept their place in this world.

People with pale white skin walk about. It looks as if they're wearing black and white makeup. But this is how their skin and lips actually work, they learn. The goths are not dressing up deliberately - this is simply their native life in DeadWorld. After being surrounded by the goths, the youths try to run away, but they learn that one girl in their group is trying to help the others by telling them about the local rumors of the entrances to Earth. Maybe that can help them get back home.

It's been said that a map of DeadWorld exists that marks the locations of all the gateways to Earth. The goth girl tells the group the alleged location of the map. The group of people embark on the journey to find the map, not knowing whether or not it's really even out there. At last, they track down the location of the map, and find that it indeed does exist, but is guarded closely by two monsters who look like large sea horses. The people manage to steal the map and run away, being chased down by the monsters, who capture and drag away one of the people. The rest run on, still alive.

Now they have a map of all the empty valleys of DeadWorld. The gateway is permanently open, but they will have to climb uphill a long ways to get there. Many kinds of monsters - luges, gargoyles, Tremicons, and more - attempt to stop them as they make their way uphill. Finally, they find a black pool, which will transport them all back to Earth.

Everyone finds themselves back in Earth, back at the exact same black pool that they had first entered from. So the rumors and stories of the other world, which can be found through a black pool - the stories that everyone was laughing at, earlier - are true after all. Now the survivors know the truth, that nobody should try to enter that black pool.

One month later, one person in the group goes back to the black pool, to see if it's still there. He alerts the rest of the group to come check it out. The gateway has shrunken down to half its earlier size. It's continuing to shrink down, until it finally dries up to nothing. The entire black pool that once existed has now become nothing. Dead plant life surrounds the former site of the black pool. Now, certainly, it looks like the stories of gateways to other worlds are false. The youths are all glad the gateways have been closed to nothing. Now they are just glad to be back in Earth.