

The Rapture by Liz Jensen.

Bloomsbury 2009.

The Rapture is my first book by Liz Jensen and I shall be reading her seven previous novels as soon as time permits!

The Rapture is set against the background of environmental turmoil and a planet turning increasingly hostile to its human inhabitants. A wheelchair bound psychologist, Gabrielle Fox, is called to work with a girl called Bethany who has been incarcerated following her murder of her mother.

Bethany is a deeply disturbed, extremely dangerous young woman from an evangelical background, and she begins to make predictions about environmental catastrophes which then occur precisely as she has said they will.

As the story unfolds, Gabrielle becomes increasingly involved with Bethany, and faces the professional challenge of colleagues who doubt her capacity for dispassion; in this latter situation she is supported by a physicist, Frazer Melville, with whom she falls in love and together they investigate the greatest and most terrible prediction of all, one which promises global catastrophe.

Liz Jensen grabs her readers and takes them on a seductive but immensely frightening journey which ends in a shattering way. This is a wonderful book told by someone at the top of their form and I would defy anyone who reads it not to wish to read more of her work thereafter.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh