



It's Better This Way

Travis Hill

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

It's Better This Way

Travis Hill

It's Better This Way Travis Hill

Twenty-three years ago, the 'bulls' appeared in orbit and destroyed Earth's infrastructure in less than ten seconds. These days, the alien invaders aren't as much of a problem as the surviving humans are.

Evan Greggs learns that things aren't always as bad as they seem, but sometimes the choices to be made are as murky as they are difficult when it comes to living on The Farm, a community of survivors near the Cascade Mountains in central Oregon.

When a detachment of the old United States Army arrives with new information about the invaders, the citizens of The Farm are tasked with making another hard choice.

24,000 word novella
LGBTQ Friendly
Adult language / situations

It's Better This Way Details

Date : Published May 20th 2013 by Travis Hill (first published April 7th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Travis Hill

Format : ebook 73 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic, Romance, M M Romance, Aliens, Fiction

 [Download It's Better This Way ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online It's Better This Way ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online It's Better This Way Travis Hill

From Reader Review It's Better This Way for online ebook

Mandapanda says

2.5 stars. Interesting post-apocalyptic/horror short story. I was enjoying it for the first 3/4 but it took an unappealing turn when the commune was confronted by some ex-military men wanting to fight back at the bulls. I thought the reactions of the commune members was bizarre, callous and inhumane. They put their green agenda above the lives of others. The hero Evan was cold and his affection for the young girl Ellie seemed more about his needs than hers considering the dismissive way he treated her mother. And the ending when he got the greenlight for a relationship with 'Mother'... Weird! Has a few LGBT characters but it's not an m/m romance.

Wendy says

Well that was a quick read!! I didn't realize it was only 73 pages. I love the premise but I think there's a lot of reference to sexual preferences that may or may not be necessary. It didn't detract but I'm not sure it added either. I'm looking forward to the next segment. Bring it on, Travis!!

Travis Hill says

I am the author of this book. It is bad karma to rate your own work!

Nikki "The Crazie Betty" V. says

I thoroughly enjoyed this read and actually found it quite plausible. Although there are aliens in this book (not always realistic in dystopian fiction), they are not the focus of the story. But rather how humans adapt, or don't adapt to change being the real focus. I thought the characters were real and believable and I was honestly interested in their thoughts and actions. Especially since there were so many different groups of people being represented in the story. I think the author did a great service by representing so many different demographics who are all going through the same thing in this story. Judging others on their differences no longer seems to be that important when the entire human race is at stake.

At one point in this story the military show up after 20+ years of non-existence and expect everyone to just fall in line the way they did before the fall of humanity. I found this to be a very interesting commentary on us as a people and how for so long the government has treated us like cattle because, well, we act like cattle. There is real hope in the human race at the end of the story and although it would be interesting to see what happens, I'm perfectly happy without a sequel. I mean, after all, It's Better This Way.

Tammy K. says

At the end of this book, the author makes a plea for a review regardless of the rating so that he can understand how his work comes off. OK, I will bite.

I love Science Fiction - Alien stories. The fact that you included members of the LGBT community guaranteed that I would pick it up to sample.

Kudos for including the LGBT members within your cast of characters.

The alien invaders and their method of conquering earth (leaving humans to kill themselves off first) was good as it showed the darker side of mankind.

Most all apocalypse stories come equipped with the authors political and personal world views of the woes of society. Yet, I thought you got a bit heavy on that. Commentaries on society are best when they are implied or spoken in passing, leaving the reader the option to buy what you are selling or not. If the author (through the MC narration) hammers too hard on their own personal spin, it takes away from the characters and the action of the plot (story).

This reader got caught up in wanting to knock the main character on the head for his inconsistencies and double standards, so much so that I almost stopped reading altogether. And so it took me 3 days to finish what should have taken me one, because I kept grumbling at his "logic". In short: dial it back buddy.

Next, This again goes to me as a reader, I can not get into a story if the characters in the story are inconsistent, stereotypical and or not redeemable (I need to know that they are seeing their flaws and on their way to change). I found no redeemable qualities in several of your characters. Your protagonist is hardly a good guy and your antagonist (the military guys) are whom I would be cheering for. Your heroes are just as savage as your villains, in fact more so because we do not "know" the military characters back stories only that the "farm" council (who as I have already said have questionable morals) do not like them. I want a hero, even if it is a flawed hero. I want to see the good vs. bad and your hero and for that matter the entire council hold no hope for saving society. They are self absorbed, morally questionable and frankly most of them are stereotypical, flat characters.

So does that mean I hated the story? No. It was an "OK" read.

I liked the world building that you did. I thought the aliens and the method of battling them was original.

Yet in the end, I do not know that I would pick up another episode in this series as I am not emotionally invested in your cast of characters enough to see what happens.

Yet having stated all that, I think that readers of the Science Fiction genre may enjoy this title.

Dick says

I understand that this is possibly going to be written as a full book and when it is, I am sure that my rating will be higher. The story was just getting to the point where I could figure out what was going on and then it was over.

So Travis, please start your engines and let us know when the full book will be available through Kindle.b

Olethros says

-Postapocalipsis con rumbos inesperados o al menos diferentes a lo típico y típico.-

Género. Novela corta.

Lo que nos cuenta. Hace algo más de un par de décadas que la Tierra fue invadida por unos alienígenas con aspecto de minotauros, intenciones poco claras y comportamiento algo extraño. Evan es uno de los supervivientes que ahora reside en un asentamiento conocido como La Granja y que ejerce labores de explorador. El hallazgo de una nave extraña accidentada amerita su vuelta a La Granja para informar.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

[http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...](http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/)

Sandra says

FREE at Amazon!

Whitney says

In a world left from the attack of an alien invader, Evan Greggs has a lot more to worry about than the aliens; it's the people. Things become more difficult in his peaceful life on The Farm, a large self-sustained community in Oregon, when what's left of the United States Army comes calling with a proposition for the people of The Farm.

Plot

It's Better This Way is set twenty-three years after an alien race human's call "Bulls" came to Earth and basically destroyed humanity. This seems a pretty standard post-apocalyptic novel that takes place after the events of an alien invasion. Except the characters are fine with a murderous alien race staying on their planet because it's "greener". *It's Better This Way* is a very short novel, but it tries to take on a lot in one sitting. I really can't describe what the plot is. Nothing really happens in the book besides building the world the author, Travis Hill, has created. There's no climax either, so the book feels more like a "part one" than an actual book.

Writing

The writing was a bit wordy at times, and in need of an editor equipped with a fine-tooth comb, but it wasn't all that terrible. I question the choice of putting the book in first person, as Evan, the protagonist, isn't especially likeable. There were concepts that were introduced but weren't described until a chapter later, and the reader doesn't even learn Evan's name in-text until about a third of the way through the book. Character's personalities came out of nowhere during the end of the book, and things didn't seem all that planned; the writing enhanced this.

Characters

There's Evan, Troy, Mom, and a bunch of other characters that I can't be bothered to remember. Nobody had any personalities that stuck or, or much of a personality at all. The only character I can think of that had a personality that stuck out was Kim So, but that probably had a lot to do with the fact that she was a bit of a Dragon Lady (East Asian stereotype, look it up). Two-thirds through the novel Evan's personality changes, where he starts out as a sort of relaxed guy that's gone through a lot to a man who takes charge and takes authority put upon him like a fish takes to water. It would have been character development if he had actually developed instead switching to Evan Personality B.

Things I Liked

I... didn't like anything, really. Pity.

Things I Didn't Like

The rape. Oh, my god, the rape talked about in this book. It's never explicitly described, but literally one week after the Bulls invaded, men collectively picked up guns and started raping all the women they could. This automatically knocked one star off my final review for this book. Rape in post-apocalyptic books are used for one purpose only, to show how dark people are without society, or something along those lines. Rape is basically used as a literary device, same as how similes and metaphors are used. It has no other purpose, and it's insulting to rape victims and women reading these types of books. The funny thing is, the book claims to be "LGBTQ-friendly" but it is not very woman-friendly.

Without all of the rape, my rating would have been two stars.

I also couldn't stand the whole message at the end of the book. Yes, the Earth is better pollution-wise, and that's wonderful, but it came at the cost of billions of deaths, and the characters are all okay with this. There are so many conflicting attitudes in this book it's not even funny. One example of this is when Mom criticizes the militaries of the world for killing millions, yet at the same time says it was better for the Earth to be cured of its "overpopulation" problem when the Bulls killed billions of innocents. How is one acceptable but not the other?

Diversity

As I mentioned above, the book claims to be "LGBTQ-friendly", but it's more "LG-friendly". There are no confirmed bisexual characters or transgender characters. Women in the book get the crap end of the stick with the rampant raping going on in this world, and there are maybe three characters of color. And one of them, an East Asian woman, is a Dragon Lady stereotype.

Overall

I don't think there was any possible way for me to like this book. The plot was dull and barely there, the characters weren't very relatable at the best of times, and terrible people at the worst. There isn't any real climax, and the book ends in more of a fizzle than anything. There's non-descriptive rape galore in this world, and I don't think any woman could like this world. This book could have been a lot better, but it fell prey to cliché's and very weird character attitudes in the end.

I can't recommend this book.

Here is a link to my notes.

Evan Rail says

Good. Rough-hewn and not perfect, but also fun and entertaining.

J says

Read in a day and definitely want more of the story.

Hikes in Rain says

A Different View of a Post Apocalyptic World. A couple of decades after aliens move in and knock Earth's civilization back darn near the stone age and start making wholesale changes to the atmosphere and landscape. Chaos reigned for a long time as people turned on one another to take what they needed to survive, or just from sheer masochism. Now a sort of peace and order has been established, although the hold on it is tenuous. A faction of the new Government enters the scene, showing ways to finally attack and kill aliens, but is that necessarily a good thing?

Ann says

I enjoyed this book. It appealed to my love for dystopian and sci-fi novels. Looking forward to the next book! I found it well-written, the characters interesting and the plot line was realistically adapted.

Rebecca Besser says

Evan lives in a world that has been destroyed by alien "bulls" that have destroyed and harvested minerals from major cities. He, and his partner Tony, scavenge things that are useful from the areas around them. On a trip, they come across a downed alien craft and a dead bull – it's the closest they've ever come to one of the aliens and it spooks them.

They travel back to "The Farm," where they live, and tell the leaders about what they've found. They decided how to handle the situation.

Meanwhile, they get a visit from someone who claims to be military, trying to recruit people for their cause: taking down the bulls.

When I started reading this story, I thought it had strong promise. I was quickly disappointed. There were large plot holes (just one example: at one point it was night time and then all of a sudden they're getting ready to leave in the morning).

Next, the author explains at length that the people at The Farm, and general society, have no use for last names, and then almost every character after that point has a last name. That was a waste of words and completely inconsistent.

Then there were more inconsistencies in grammar and editing. Sometimes it was correct, and in the next paragraph it would be the wrong way (mainly in and around dialogue with dialogue tags).

The end was a total and complete disappointment with more huge plot holes. This story also suffers from telling not showing, which is another major breach in good storytelling.

Nancy Carbajal says

This book reminds me of "The Passage." I really liked it. Evan now lives in a world that has been invaded by aliens that look like bulls. He finds himself part of a community that calls itself "The Farm." Military men come to The Farm to recruit people for their army to defeat what they call, the enemy. What they encounter are people who have settled into a way of life that they have adapted to. No electricity, no government and none of the "things" that made life easier. Short read.
