



The Z Chronicles

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Z. Among the most monstrous creations of our imaginations, the zombie terrifies with its capacity to pursue its prey unrelentingly, to run it down, exhaust it to surrender.

In this title in the acclaimed Future Chronicles series of speculative fiction anthologies, fourteen authors confront that nightmare, that horrific mirror of ourselves turned base, soulless, and hungry.

The Z Chronicles Details

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Author : Ellen Campbell (Editor) , Samuel Peralta , Hugh Howey , Jennifer Foehner Wells , Christopher Boore , Angela Cavanaugh , Peter Cawdron , Ann Christy , more... Stacy Ericson , Deirdre Gould , Kris Holt , Theresa Kay , Lesley Smith , Will Swardstrom , Geoffrey Wakeling , David Adams ...less

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From Reader Review The Z Chronicles for online ebook

Katy says

I loved it. This will be the first anthology I've read actually, so it's a pretty great day! If you like zombies, end-of-the-world scenarios, gore, and action then please pick up this anthology today! Ann Christy, author of the In-Between series starts the anthology with a story set in the same world as her zombie series.

I loved how different everyone's stories were. Even though I hadn't read anything from the other authors before, for the most part I felt a connection to the story and characters, even in such a short amount of time. There were a few stories that left my brain hurting a little bit, but I am not very science minded so some of that probably just went over my head.

I also love the cover! The colors are awesome and subtle. I can read all of the author's names and the title of the anthology easily. Awesome work.

Chew on this, zombie fans.

booknerd_dork says

Foreword by Samuel Peralta

"We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones." – Stephen King

Starting with that quote and describing this phrase in few pages with a story was awesome! Loved it! Comparison between fear and zombie. Describing how fear is kind of zombie, Awesome!
Fear is the zombie that pursues you, mindless, unrelenting, hungry.

Vindica by Ann Christy

Woaw, that was cool! My first zombie read! I love zombie movie and have wanted to read the books. My interest piqued by Ann's The in-between book, when I read it's excerpt but haven't read it yet but as soon as I finish this book, I'm going for it. This short story is related to that series, so a win win. I liked it a lot. I was holding my breath when they were leaving Vindicia. And there plan woaw I don't know what to say. It was short life for Vindicia.

Six Days by Theresa Kay

Damn and woaw. I loved it. It had bittersweet ending. Sarah has Six Days before she turns into a zombie but she have to try to be human as long as her son Benjamin is in right hands and safe. But will she able to find the safe for little Benny. Read to find out.

Kamika-Z by Christopher Boore

It was okay, in the beginning I didn't like it but after POV of other characters and knowing their views, I started getting in the story. Well after that shit hit the fan. I liked the idea there being of cyborg zombies.

The Fall of the Percedus by Jennifer Foehner Wells

Freako! This was horrifying! Doomed! Loved it!! How science could go wrong and it's horrifying consequences. Even though you trying to do good and save the world it could lead to something terrible without bad intentions.

Z Ball by Will Swardstrom

The concept was freaking cool!! I loved it. It was a mix with dystopian genre. Football with a mix of zombies. I enjoyed out-of-the-box take on the zombie genre.

But I think I shouldn't have expected a HEA or close when I started the chronicles.

Gloria by Hugh Howey

Cool, liked it. Gloria is a zombie, the story is from her POV. She has conscience but can't control her hunger. What would you do if you was her and couldn't stop the instincts.

Her by David Adams

Nice liked it. Comparison of life of Diane how she was treated before and after being a zombie. Her sexuality didn't matter when she became a zombie. As the people hate what she have become not who she was.

The Soulless: A History of Zombieism in Chiitai and Mihari Culture by Lesley Smith

Well it was interesting, liked it. It was sci-fi and mild horror mix for me. I liked 873e! Like the story, have to re-read sometimes as I jumbled up the names lol.

Hybrid by Geoffrey Wakeling

WoaW, speechless don't know what to say. I can imagine a type a dystopian era after the story finished. Freya well could be said was a survivor and will survive at any cost!

Free Fall by Peter Cawdron

I loved it! This is my fav story. A cool possibility not the apocalypse but an astronaut coming to earth finding a zombie apocalypse has taken place.

Girl, Running by Kris Holt

Really good, got to know everything in just a short story. Loved it!

The Sin Eater by Stacy Ericson

Well I didn't understand the meaning behind the story until I read what is sin eater and how it could be related to zombie in A word from author's section. We could perceive it like that.

The World After by Angela Cavanaugh

WoaW, this was really cool!! Loved it! Ella is strong minded. I loved how everything panned out. I just love the stories even with a little bit of dystopia, it is my go to genre.

Curing Khang Yeo by Deirdre Gould

This story has rendered me speechless. Wow, just think about getting cured after being a zombie, sound good? But what if you remember everything; the people you have killed, maybe your loved ones. Will you be able to live with yourselves, forgive yourselves when you could hear their scream, their faces etched with terror seeing you as the monster. Will being will be the blessing then or death sounds more of a blessing. I loved this and it was nice how it is place in the end as it is a perfect book to be in the end to go with a bang and this is my most fav in The Z Chronicles.

Really cool zombie reads in one place.

Got ARC of the book in exchange of an honest review.

Colby says

I have read many of the Future Chronicles series, and though they are all great collections, this may be the best one yet. Z-Chronicles is solid from front to back, and filled with fantastic writing. This one is a must read if you are into zombie fiction. Five stars almost seems too little for this truly spectacular collection. I am beyond impressed!

Vindica by Ann Christy: A cool little story about what happens when privilege is taken too far. I love Ann's

work, and this story was no exception. Great read!

Six Days by Theresa Kay: A different kind of take on the "Zombie Virus" style of apocalypse. This was a fun read, and I really felt myself pulling for Sarah.

Kamika-Z by Christopher Boore: Finally, a clever new take on zombies. This was really a fun short, but it has the potential to be a fantastic full-length novel. This is the best of the bunch so far!

The Fall of the Percedus by Jennifer Foehner Wells: a cautionary tale of what can happen when the scientific method is rushed. This story was a little hard to follow. It would probably make more sense if I had read Fluency, her first novel, before reading this. Not a bad story, but it needed a little more explanation.

Z-Ball by Will Swardstrom: Another unique and fun take on zombies unlike anything I've read before. This collection continues to impress with each story. Will's story will definitely end up in my top 5 though. A fun combo of sports and murder!

Gloria (from I Zombie) by Hugh Howey: I have read this book in its entirety, and it is a fantastic read. Gloria was an excellent selection for this collection, and remains one of my favorite chapters from I Zombie.

Her- by David Adams: A sort of fan-fic tribute to Hugh Howey's I Zombie, Her raises some seriously thought provoking issues as well as the hair on the back of your neck. Very well written.

The Soulless by Lesley Smith: Another new take on zombies. This is another story that did a great job of making me want to read more by this author.

Hybrid by Geoffrey Wakeling: Hybrid was interesting. The zombies are not entirely traditional, and it was cool to see another unique take on them. This one was more fast-paced and action/adventure feeling than some of the other stories in this collection.

Free Fall by Peter Cawdron: Ah, wow! A zombie apocalypse tale that begins in space and ends like the Walking Dead. This was an excellent little short, which I would like to see a whole lot more of. Thanks for a great read, Peter!

Girl Running by Kris Holt: A love story in the final days, this was another great short. It's also another one I wouldn't have minded seeing more of.

Sin Eater by Stacy Ericson: I'm not too sure of the relevance of this story to the overall collection. There were no zombies of any kind, and it was basically just a very short story about a wake.

The World After by Angela Cavanaugh: This read like the Walking Dead with a few major twists. It was great fun to read and was very well written. Definitely in my top five in the collection so far.

Curing Khang Yeo by Deidre Gould: A very poignant and sad tale of what it might be like if the cure for the zombie apocalypse was ever discovered. Very good!

Andrea Luhman says

Reading most of the short stories in this anthology twists and tears apart the standard zombie troupe's. The

range of places, emotions, and the various takes each story had, based on zombie mythology impressed me. The following were my favorite's:

*Vindica by Ann Christy had vivid characters and I was quickly drawn into the post apocalyptic crisis. I liked how Christy's exploration into social hierarchy in a small community and lengths some will go to stabilize or change their position.

*Six Day's by Therea Kay was horror done in a heart-wrenching manner. It was easy to relate to the protagonists dilemma and root for her success.

*The Fall of Percedus by: Jennifer Foehner Wells was a suspenseful nail biter. I was into the story very quickly and could not read it fast enough. I loved the inception of the zombie transition in this story.

*Z-Ball by: Will Swardson. Be prepared, to be amazed by this short story. It takes talent to make the protagonist, antagonist, and two supporting characters come to life in so few words; a feat many authors can't pull off in a full-blown novel. You need to buy this anthology just so you can read this short. I really enjoyed the layering of political intrigue, money, fame, fortune, and what is tolerated in sports franchising verses the rest of the modern world.

*Gloria by: Hugh Howey. Horrifying, and I left the read feeling very disturbed.

*Hybrid by: Geoffrey Wakeling. I was hooked instantly by the action and the need to know what was happening in the story. This was a page-turner with lots of scary moments watching the protagonist trying to get down dark hallways where a zombie could be waiting. I also liked the suspense of waiting to see if the cure was really a cure or an impetus to spark something else.

*Free Fall by Peter Cawdron-I'm going to buy his novel after reading this short. This story had everything I love about the science of traveling to and from space. I really loved how Cawdron explored some of the emotions and human needs that might connect us or breaks us a part during conflict and stress.

*The World After by: Angela Cavanaugh. You want to buy this anthology so you can read this short story. Cavanaugh has a beautifully balanced narrative style that relates complex cultural information while still pressing the action of the story forward. All the things that took place in this short amazed me: there were surprise discoveries, love lost, betrayal, battles, new allegiances formed, a rescue mission, lovers reunited, and a heroic escape. It left me wanting to read more.

Stefan Bolz says

Great collection of short stories. Loved them from A to Z.

Seamus says

An amazing continuation of The Future Chronicles and perhaps the best one since The Robot Chronicles, which was the beginning of this adventure!

Amazing new takes on the Zombi Formula. My favs were Ann Christy, Huge Howey, Christopher Boore &

Peter Cawdron - but they are all excellent & come highly recommend!

FanFiAddict says

The Z Chronicles is another wonderful addition to The Future Chronicles series. With some of today's top indie authors like Hugh Howey (Wool, Sand), Jennifer Foehner Wells (Fluency), Peter Cawdron (Anomaly, Xenophobia) and many many more, this anthology grabs you by the leg and starts ripping you apart... Wait, I think I got a little off track. There are several stories about zombies here, obviously, but each story gives the reader something new and refreshing, a genre palate cleanser if you will. There are a few stories from a zombie's perspective, allowing you to see what is really going through a flesh-eating walker's mind during the downfall of mankind. Maybe they aren't all mindless like we are lead to believe? There is a story about zombie terminators because, why not? Zombies all seem like pretty easy targets when you think about it, but what if they have machine-like arms and legs? No thanks. Another story is from the eyes of an astronaut who is returning to Earth. He is unable to get in touch with Houston and, upon his return into Earth's atmosphere, realizes that something has gone horribly wrong. His only radio communication is with a young girl that he is determined to save.

If you have read any of the other Future Chronicles anthologies or if you are enthralled with zombies, The Z Chronicles is a must own. I mean, just look at that author lineup! Grab a copy and don't look back. You may get eaten alive.

Kathleen says

I am not a huge fan of zombies, but this book was full of unique well written stories that twisted the theme into awesomeness. Each story had a different take, offering a new perspective on a time-worn classic. As with all anthologies I liked some stories more than others, but I can't say that any of them really let me down. This book has stories for everyone. Fun stories. Stories that make you think. Stories that make you feel. And I loved the bits written by the authors after each story, allowing us to hear about their inspiration.

Michael Hicks says

[Note: I received an advanced copy of this title for review.]

The Z Chronicles is the latest in Samuel Peralta's ever-growing series of The Future Chronicles anthologies. While I've only read a couple of the previous collections, this zombie-themed antho is far and away my favorite of the bunch and represents one the strongest over-all anthologies that I've ever read.

There is a mighty fine assemblage of authors here, and a number of superb stories that, on their own, more than make the price of entry completely worthwhile. And, as with any good anthology, this has given me a nice starting point to delve deeper into the works of authors that are new to me. In fact, after reading several of the stories included here, I immediately hopped onto Amazon and bought a couple titles from writers like Ann Christy and Deirdre Gould. Following here, then, are a few thoughts on my favorites – consider this a LIGHT SPOILER WARNING and feel free to skip down to the bottom if you want to be completely blind going in.

Christy's story, VINDICA, kicks off The Z Chronicles in grand style with a story of insurrection in an underground habitat built for the rich. It's a strong stand-alone story, but also provides a great taste of the author's Between series.

KAMIKA-Z by Christopher Boore, and Will Swardstron's Z BALL are also very strong efforts, with the former featuring cyborg zombies unleashed upon the US during a war with China. This one is told across three viewpoints of a single family struggling to survive. It's dark, but the characters are richly developed and their own unique voices are allowed to shine across each chapter. My only complaint is that I really wanted to see more of these cyborg zombie things! It's such a cool concept, and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Boore expands on it in a larger work soon.

Z BALL casts the zombie uprising through the bright lights of American sports. This one is a wonderful outside-of-the-box approach to the zombie apocalypse and the way society responds and adapts to changing circumstances. And, just for good measure, it's all wrapped up in a nice shell of conspiracy and paranoia.

Hugh Howey and David Adams play around a bit in Howey's own I, Zombie world. GLORIA is a story of a woman coming to grips with her own zombification, while Adams presents a similar story of a transgender individual who has been zombified. Both of these showcase a great bit of internal character development as they grapple with their post-death existence that finds their healthy mental states locked inside bodies they can no longer control thanks to the ravages of the plague.

Peter Cawdron's FREE FALL is another excellent piece that begins with a bit of a sci-fi bent as an astronaut returns to a decimated Earth. The opening bit of this story is a terrific slow-burn as the spaceman attempts to establish contact with Houston Ground Control only to slowly realize things are not quite right. It slowly morphs into a more traditional zombie-survival story, one that is really well done. Fans of the comics Y: The Last Man and The Walking Dead should find quite a lot to appreciate here.

CURING KHANG YEO finished off the anthology with a stunningly rich character piece that finds the title character cured after several years as a zombie. Reclaimed by a very different world than the one he left, Yeo discovers that there are worse things than being a zombie – namely, living with yourself in the wake of all that you've done and those you've killed. His sense of guilt is supremely palpable, with the struggle between his own desires and the wishes of his medical saviors (if you can really call them that) is effectively striking. Author Deirdre Gould scores a huge, huge win with this story and I loved it so much that I immediately grabbed a copy of the first installment in her After The Cure series. While YEO is set in that same series, it is certainly effective as a stand-alone, but I suspect readers discovering Gould for the first time will find it difficult to ignore her novel-length works after reading this one. I, for one, absolutely need to know more about the world she's constructed and the psychological and societal aftermath of this cure.

As with any anthology, there were a couple stories that didn't strike a strong chord with me, but those that did, particularly those outlined above, were just incredibly top-notch efforts. Overall, this is a wickedly strong anthology and zombie fans should be devouring this one ASAP. If you're going through withdrawal's of AMC's The Walking Dead, or looking for something to fill the gap left by Jonathan Maberry's ROT & RUIN series, this fix is now in. Highly recommended!

Heaven is a bookstore says

If you have followed my blog you know I am a HUGE FANGIRL of Ann Christy and I was so lucky to meet and speak with her in person at the recent UtopyaCon (now Utopia). She is an amazing writer and I just love reading her books like Strikers. So knowing she was one of the authors on this anthology of zombie stories, I

knew I would love them

Ann Christy's short story in Z Chronicles starts out like a normal end of the world story. There are people who have survived the zombie apocalypse as they have paid to get into a very prestigious biosphere-like arena. She explains the established criterion and how the classes are maintained within the walls. She goes on to say that some people have gotten a better deal than other. The ending is so sick and twisted that I actually found myself laughing and thinking, "good job Ann Christy!" I did not expect her to take the story in the direction that she did. Really fun.

Patricia Gilliam says

I like the action and the variety of original universes in this set. I'm an avid watcher of The Walking Dead and have seen/read a few other zombie books and movies. This one is really good.

Niyaz says

I'm not crazy about zombies in general, but I really liked some of these stories and the backstories behind the infections, which is my usual gripe about zombies in general.

Victoria Zigler says

This is an excellent collection of well-written zombie themed stories. I enjoyed reading them all, though naturally enjoyed some more than others, as is often the case in these anthologies. I think they all deserve 5 stars though, so the whole collection gets a 5 star rating from me. "6 Days" and "Free Fall" were my favourite stories, with "Hybrid" joining them to make my top three.

*Note: I was given an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, but this has in no way influenced the contents of this review, and the opinions expressed in it are entirely my own.

Karen says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. I love Zombies and this anthology delivered some amazing stories. I especially enjoyed Vindica by Ann Christy. Having read her Between Life and Death trilogy I loved being able to have another peak at the world she created. Curing Khang Yeo by Deirdre Gould was a very touching entry into her After The Cure series. Z Ball by Will Swardston was a imaginative and unique take on the zombie genre. I really enjoyed reading stories by authors i already love and finding stories by talented new authors like Her by David Adams and Girl Running by Kris Holt. These stories will bring the highs of revenge and the sadness of loss and every emotion in between. I highly recommend this book to any Zombie fan.

Ernie Luis says

Zawesome

I've never really gotten into the Zombie genre before, only in films really. This book gave me a new appreciate for it. Where movies and TV shows can get the spectacle and horror of the zombie genre, these stories captured their intimacy. Some of these stories actually made me care about zombies. And others made me care more deeply for the ones fighting them off. An awesome Chronicles, as usual.

Oh, and someone really needs to make a short film out of Z Ball.
