



Burn the Dead

Steven Jenkins

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Steven Jenkins' BURN THE DEAD uniquely takes the modern day pop culture zombie phenomenon and spins a fresh, exciting, chilling tale unlike any other of its kind, sure to impress readers from the most hardcore zombie enthusiasts to the casual horror/thriller fan hungry for a suspenseful and totally engaging ride. It focuses on an everyday man who burns zombies for a living. His life is turned upside down when he finds his own wife infected, and his four-year old son trapped inside a quarantined area.

Burn the Dead Details

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Author : Steven Jenkins

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From Reader Review Burn the Dead for online ebook

Cheryl says

* This is a 3.5 star read.

First of all peoples, look at that cover! If that's not enough to give you the screaming heebie-jeebies, I don't know what is. It's the best zombie cover I've seen so far, truly exemplifying the malevolence of the turned.

This was a captivating and very different type of zombie novel in that there is no apocalypse - just outbreaks of a deadly virus that are quickly contained by the government and licensed "cleaners". The world still goes on as normal, albeit with some totally new forms of employment, and although there is real fear attached to the fact of zombies it's mainly pushed to the back of their minds.

But what happens when there's a breakout and the original containment fails? What if your very young child was caught in the infection zone, all by himself? And how can you really deal with the death of your spouse at the hands of an infection? Lots of questions that are admirably dealt with - you'll just have to read the book to find out the conclusion!

I have the following two books in the series on my Kindle (I'm getting a real zombie fix at the moment) and I look forward to reading about the virus from different viewpoints.

Peter Last says

This was exactly what I would expect of a typical zombie story which is too bad because it could have been so much more. The premise was unique and interesting and the character (the whole story focuses on just one) was complex and different. Then the story began and succumbed to every zombie stereotype ever. Below are a list of pros and cons to the book and why I gave it 2 stars (would have been 2.5 if that rating were possible)

Pros:

- As stated above the situation and character were unique. They seemed to be the setup for something great and then...
- This book never forgot what it was. It sets out to tell a small-scale, personal story and it does exactly that, never falling victim to the temptation of being too "epic"
- The scenery and situations in this book are realistic and something I could visualize and get into

Cons:

- Choppy story line. This book just jumps around from situation to situation without any good reasons why. It's like the author decided on what he considered to be 8-10 cool scenarios and contrived the story to get his character there without any regard for what the character himself was likely to do. This led to a somewhat disjointed story.
- Far too much swearing. I'm not one who refuses to read books or watch movies with swearing in them but this was excessive. more often than not, the cursing made no sense and in spots detracted from my ability to understand what was going on and what the character was thinking. (i.e. how does "for f***'s sake" make any sense at all?)

-Pet peeve of zombies not being called zombies. You may not care too much about this and if so, disregard, but it really grinds my gears when people in stories take what is clearly a zombie and call it something else (walkers, biters, geeks, or in this case necros). If real life, people would be itching to call them zombies!

SPOILER ALERT!!!!!! (sort of)

-Flat, predictable secondary characters. We all know that some people would take a zombie apocalypse hard, but how many are there out there who would actually kill and feed other living people to their zombie-ish family? It's been done far too many times before.

-Predictable Ending. If you've seen/read any zombie stories, you know how this one will end. Build up of the situation until the author has written himself into a corner with the scale of it. Then the government comes in and fixes everything and kills all the zombies. It's been done before. A lot.

Peter says

A truly great read!!!! couldn't put it down!!! Excellent writing with unexpected twists in the story, even if your not a true zombie fan you'll find this an absorbing read!!!!

Melissa Borsey says

Yesterday I received a copy of this book from the author. I opened it to get some idea as to what it was like and didn't stop reading until the end! This is a highly addicting story about a man named Rob whose job it is to burn the "dead" once they have become infected and turn into zombies. One day at work he discovers that his wife Anna has become one of the infected and has to burn her body and then immediately goes on the search to find his son. This was a highly suspenseful read that kept my attention from beginning to end. Highly recommend!

Karen says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. I enjoyed the concept of a world where Zombies were now commonplace & were dealt with in an institutionalized manor. The protagonist is a man who burns the dead for a living & his battle to protect his loved one. I recommend this book to any Zombie fan as a quick enjoyable read with character development & a unique twist on the genre.

Curtis says

I bought 'Burn the Dead' because i am a really big horror fan and especially zombie books. i instantly got drawn into the plot which was so well written and tense. i found myself reading too fast sometimes because i wanted to see what would happen around the corner and i was not disappointed. Burn the Dead is genuinely unpredictable with twists and turns of a terrifying journey through a zombie riddled quarantined area. Read this book you definitely wont be disappointed!

Joel Bain says

After recently getting overtaken by The Walking Dead, I decided to delve into some zombie lit and stumbled across this number. The premise was intriguing enough to stand out from the other options. It took awhile to get into this book though, as you can probably tell by the fact that it took over 2 months for me to get around to reading it. Honestly, the first 1/3 of the book was a little slow and somewhat repetitive with Rob (MC) continually talking to himself mentally about how he has to save his kid. I was rooting for him to save his kid, but for much of the beginning of his pursuit, it just seems like an aimless wild goose chase.

Burn The Dead finally gets interesting once Rob comes in contact with other human beings behind the containment zone. I would say the second-third of the book is actually quite engaging and engrossing. It was easier to power through these pages, and I was eager to pick it up again as soon as I could. However, the third act of the book, though possessing great potential, it felt like a let down in pace, tension, and resolution. Without going into any spoilers, I just found the resolution to have been too....easy?....for everything that Rob had endured. I checked ahead to see if the next book continues with Rob, but it doesn't. This is disappointing because I spent all this time getting to know Rob and the ending didn't really satisfy me.

Nevertheless, this book did have points that were quite entertaining and engaging. I wouldn't want anyone to think that I thought the book was bad. A few elements could've been altered for being a more satisfying read to me. Perhaps most concerningly is that the book took too damn long to get interesting. Maybe if Rob was more likable in the beginning, it'd be easier to slug through the slowness of the first-third of the book, but I really had to decide I was going to power through. Otherwise, I probably wouldn't have made it to the redeeming second act.

We'll see if I read Book 2. Not sure yet. =)

chucklesthescot says

Rob is a normal man who loves his wife Anna and young son Sammy, who he doesn't see enough of. You see, Rob is the man at the morgue who burns the zombies when they are captured and restrained. He doesn't mind the work, but it means late finishes and early starts as a mini outbreak can occur at any time. But one day, Rob is shattered to see that Anna is one of the zombies. Where is Sammy? Is he alive? He can't help Anna now but he can save his son-if he is brave enough to break into the quarantine zone that his neighbourhood is in and brave the zombie hordes...

I really enjoyed this book. Finally we have a hero in a zombie book that I like and can relate to! Rob could be the guy next door to you. He likes his job, hates his boss, works too hard for too little money and loves his family. He's a good normal guy who is faced with trying to find his son in a cordoned off area teaming with zombies. He doesn't have a stack of weapons in his car. He's not the superfit guy with tactical awareness and a great plan. He's just a guy who gets tired and make mistakes and won't give up until he finds Sammy. The other characters in the book are fascinating. Janet's story was really well written and had me on the edge of my seat as I waited to see what happened. I also liked the plot with Rob's neighbour but I'm saying no more as I don't want to spoil it for anyone.

The plot is very good. It's hard to be original in a zombie outbreak novel but I think the author did bring something different to it. It is not a full on end of the world outbreak. Society in this book has obviously survived zombie outbreaks in the past and has learned to deal with them. When an outbreak occurs, quarantine is set up and then cleaning teams are sent in to catch and restrain the zombies who are then sent to the morgue to be burned by Rob. However something has gone wrong and the cleaners have been attacked by the zombies as Rob discovers when he gets into the quarantine area.

Rob encounters zombies and a cleaner who tells him what has been going wrong, as well as his neighbours both alive and undead. The author manages to transport you there, to the safe streets around your home that have become a war zone and I found myself thinking about an outbreak in my local area and how I would get to my house. There are a lot of tense moments in the book as Rob encounters a lot of danger and grief. I thought it was all really well written and there were a few surprising twists as well.

I can't say there was anything I didn't like about it. Plot and characters were excellent, writing style was good, and it kept me wanting to turn the pages and rooting for Rob. I read an e-copy and went out and bought the paperback straight after. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the series and I recommend this to all zombie fans.

Kelly Chuckles says

Bought this novel after a recommendation and even though I take ages to read a book, this was so enthralling I completed it within three days of purchasing!

The story is a fast read and compelling, about life choices that we could not really dream of but if we had to choose what would we do.

Never been a lover of zombie books, but this one has enough of a story line to make you forget that this is the main line.

All in all a brilliant read, really enjoyed it with loads of twists and turns.

Can't wait for the next one from the author!

Lucy Law says

I have a new favourite zombie book! And it's BURN THE DEAD!!!!

Loved it, from start to finish. So many twists and turns. It kept me guessing all the way to the last thrilling chapter.

I think this is one of his first novels.

MORE PLEASE!!!!!!

Eric James-Olson says

Burn the Dead is a pastiche or Genre parody imitating and critiquing the common tropes and motifs of "zombie" fiction.

Rob, the protagonist and professional Necs burner (Necs is short for Necro-Morbus Sufferer - Rob elects to use this term because it is more "humane" than the term "zombie"), tells the story in its entirety addressing the reader directly. There aren't any fancy, modern narrative techniques in this one, just good ol' fashion storytelling. And done well too. Rob has a unique voice that comes off as both believable and witty. At the beginning, he's just an average guy working a shitty job. He has the sense of irony typical of a gravedigger, and the complacency of a plumber.

Without warning, this all changes when Rob finds himself personally affected by the "zombie" disease. No, he wasn't bit, but someone close to him was.

From here, the narrative takes on a completely different tone. There is a sense of urgency and suspense typical of the genre. It starts to read like a real zombie story even though the author maintains a polemical distance, subtly commenting on the inhumanity of zombie culture. I was impressed by this. While it would be easy to write a "zombie" farce such as *Shawn of the Dead*, it is a much more difficult endeavor to write subtle, clever parody.

Overall, I'd say this book would be enjoyable to anyone with a taste for humor, suspense, and clever writing. And it's an absolute treat for the fan of "zombie" fiction.

Highly Recommended

Netanella says

I'm really picky about my zombie books, because I read quite a lot of them. This one was quite astonishing in its unusual concept - a society where zombiism (my word) is a fairly common and even accepted occurrence - a medical infection with a 100% mortality rate, and classifications of workers to address the need. There are Cleaners who go in to an infected area, and well, they 'bag and tag' the infected, and then cart them off to a crematorium, where Burners dispose of the still wiggling undead in a giant furnace.

Rob is an everyman, a husband and daddy, a common blue collar worker whose job it is to burn the dead. Every day, though, he unzips the body bag to look at the face of the infected whom he is about to incinerate. From the story's beginning you know that Rob is different, and when one morning he unzips a body bag and gazes upon the undead face of his wife Anna, his world is turned upside down. His neighborhood has now become a quarantine zone and his young 4 year old son is lost somewhere inside. After being refused entry into the zone, Rob breaks in to his neighborhood to locate his son and discovers that the zombies have overwhelmed the Cleaners. Apparently, budget cuts and reduced staffing have lead to an ill prepared and ill equipped team. And Rob realizes very quickly that finding his young son is going to be tougher than he originally expected.

And the crazy next door neighbor with the hatchet ax doesn't help.

This is an amazing book, and one that I would highly recommend to readers of zombie books. Good times!

Gary Price says

Great Zombie Story! The author took a fresh look at what might happen to a family trying to survive the outbreak of a virus which turns people into zombies. There were a couple of angles the story was written around. First there is a woman who is trying to keep her zombie riddled family in some sort of life. I found myself feeling sympathy for her. Then there was the neighbor who was trying to keep his family alive as well. There is a constant struggle to see who would prevail. I was entertained by this short story and couldn't put it down.

Steven Jenkins says

If you don't love your own work, surely no one else will...

Brodie James says

I was given the novel Burn the Dead by Steven Jenkins in exchange for an honest review. Steven has a real knack for writing horror. While I love zombie books it troubles me that they are all alike in one way or another. Steven has done a wonderful job writing a truly unique zombie novel.

Rob is your everyday hard working man, struggling to put food on the table for his wife Anna and four year old son Sammy. While at work he unzips the body-bag of one of the nec's he is supposed to burn, only to find it's Anna and she is no longer the woman he loves she's a flesh eating monster. After burning her in the furnace he rushes home to find Sammy but can't make it through the barricade as his whole neighbourhood is quarantined. Rob will stop at nothing to find Sammy dead or alive, so he finds a way into the quarantine zone. Will he like what he finds? Are the dead the only thing he should be afraid of?

Steven has done a brilliant job on this novel it is original in every way. I love Rob and his Determination to find Sammy. I also love the way every detail could be a clue, it is a well thought out novel and joins together perfectly. I give it 5 stars, you can find it at amazon for under \$5.
