



## **Toward the Brink: The Apocalyptic Plague Survival Series Book One**

*Craig A. McDonough*

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## **Book One**

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**Book 1 of the Brink Series.** When an outbreak of walking dead appear throughout the cities and towns of Idaho it sends a shock wave to the highest office in the land. Seemingly a spontaneous event, teenager Elliot Goodwin knew better. His mother, a nurse of many years, told him of a diabolical illness that had swept through Idaho a few years before... not long after the potato growth hormone had been - somewhat mysteriously - approved for general use. The hormone meant larger potatoes which in turn meant more *French Fries* which led to more profit. The greed of one man to control the fast food industry was seen as a catalyst by a decades old clandestine group that secretly controlled world affairs. When the outbreak occurred Elliot is forced to flee with his girlfriend, Cindy and a tough no-nonsense cop Mulhaven. Who bore more than a passing resemblance to Morgan Freeman. Their escape from Twin Falls is accompanied by danger at every turn from green puking zombies to out of control rogue cops and National Guard. They meet up with a tall stranger who is as mysterious as he is knowledgeable and adaptable. Together with gun store owner, rescued by the 'Tall Man' earlier, they make tracks for Canada and a safe haven in the form of Elliot's Aunt Kath. Along the way they discover the un-dead are not as a result of pollution, waste and chemicals in the food supply but a deliberate plan to reduce the world's population by up to ninety percent. That plan, however, soon goes awry and leads the world to the brink of destruction. *Toward the Brink* details the lead up to those events as seen through the eyes of a small group from Twin Falls as they attempt to make good their escape. Book 2 *At the Brink* to be released in June 2015. Sign up for the author's newsletter at [craigamcdonough.com](http://craigamcdonough.com) and keep up to date on this and other new releases.

### **Toward the Brink: The Apocalyptic Plague Survival Series Book One Details**

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# **From Reader Review Toward the Brink: The Apocalyptic Plague Survival Series Book One for online ebook**

## **Kathi Kelley says**

Overall I rated the story 3.5. I thought the story concept was very good but the book initially moved slowly. There were editorial problems, which should be addressed. The book ended abruptly with a cliffhanger, which I did not appreciate at all. That means more books, which are in fact serials. I hate that and I feel that it is a rip off of the customer by the author and wish it would stop. Characters needed more depth and development. As it is, the characters are wooden and not real. Not sure I will continue with this book at this point.

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## **Joan Barstad says**

The start of an interesting and scary topic. When all trust goes out the window..what can you do?

I'm looking forward to reading the rest of Craig McDonough's books

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## **Keith says**

'Toward the Brink' isn't your typical zombie story. The story centres around a teenager named Elliot, who we find out has some survival skills, but isn't a superman-hero. Author Craig A. McDonough includes all the elements of a classic apocalypse theme: suspense, mystery, zombies with one surprise after another. Using this formula, McDonough provides thrilling reading without the need for graphic violence on every page. I think the realness of the story is what hit home the most. It made me want to go out and make myself a survival bunker (with no French Fries)! I thoroughly enjoyed this book so I'm looking forward to the next one in the series.

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## **Tom Leeland says**

My 5 star review of "Towards the Brink" written by Craig McDonough

I'd like to start by saying this book was a beta edition and the first book I've read by this author. The storyline was very interesting and seemed to flow naturally. The character depth was very well done and I found my interest in the main characters to grow deeper as the story progressed. The afflicted were very different in appearance and demeanor and not really like most zombies portrayed that I'm used to reading about. The delivery system used to spread the sickness and how the afflicted in turn spread the virus was just brilliant. Evil characters that came up with the infection were just diabolical and I found myself being genuinely unnerved time and again. This story seemed like a terrorist plot that was carried out against our country through our food distribution system, while at the same time I felt like the author focused on the city he centered on. So this was a book about a terroristic plot, a worldwide attack and most of all horror. I recommend this story to anyone into apocalypse/ pandemic worldwide collapse. Buy this book and be prepared to be fearful about eating certain vegetables.

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### **Tamara says**

Action-packed reading cover to cover! Yes - I am a fan of zombies. This story, however, doesn't "just" take you know a thrillride. It does that. It also gives readers a solid understanding of the "why" and makes us think. TOWARD THE BRINK Book 1 makes the apocalypse seem closer to reality, which is a different kind of scary. I love that! Well done, McDonough. I'll be reading Book 2 in the series soon. •

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### **K Dz says**

Toward the Brink  
Craig McDonough

Fascinating story line. This is an adventure that everyone can relate to. The ground zero event is awesome. You are thrown into the lives of simple people that are only trying to survive and find that their world is catapulted into chaos and mayhem. There is nothing about this that you will not like. I was hooked from the beginning and it only gets better. I booked marked more than a few pages so I could go back and read again. The cherry on top is a conspiracy. Can't get any better than that!!!

One of my favorite reads.

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### **Michelle Bryan says**

If you never want to look at a potato or french fry ever again then I suggest you read this book. Not only does it keep you thoroughly entertained from beginning to end but it's a diet aid as well :) Teenager Elliot has nothing planned for his future other than helping his dad out in their Army/Navy surplus store. That plan soon goes awry when people start getting sick and dying from eating growth hormone injected potatoes. All part of a global plan to decrease the worlds population. That plan soon backfires as the dead begin to rise again becoming vomit oozing zombies and craving the flesh of the living. Elliot changes from your average teen to a reluctant hero as he tries to save his girlfriend and other townsfolk from the walking dead.

Caught your interest yet? It should. Craig A McDonough has created this amazing world filled with zombies, suspense, corporate greed and corrupt government officials. What more could you ask for. The group formed by Elliot, Cindy, the cop Mulhaven and the tall man is an odd one but it works. I also enjoyed the fact that the story is told from the beginning. It explains how this zombie state came to be instead of the reader suddenly finding themselves in the middle of a zombie apocalypse with no backstory. McDonough does a great job with the world building. The action is non stop and I could not put this book down until I read the last page....and then I still wanted more! Five shiny stars for Toward The Brink! I personally cannot wait for book two.

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### **Cliff Deane says**

**Well done**

The author has written a relay turned out zombie book, or perhaps I should say foamer book.

The characters are well-developed and subplots abound.

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### **Vickii Bendit says**

Good storytelling. I'm not a big fan of zombies, but this series is pretty good. The author plays on the current fears of what gmo foods that are currently sweeping social media.

The secret society of billionaires, The Chamber, devised a way to get rid of 90% of the worlds population through a "super potato." The potato causes zombies to be formed; zombies that keep evolving.

Just trying to survive, a group of friends and strangers become aligned in search of a safe harbor. Racing against time, disease, zombies, and napalm, our intrepid group of survivors head of into the sunset.

This author keeps you on your toes. I've had to go back several times to refresh my memory, but it was a trip worth taking.

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### **A. Hunt says**

Toward the Brink, The Apocalyptic Survival Series by Craig McDonough, snatched my attention from the moment I opened the newsletter! If you've been with me a while, you know I'm a sucker for a good looking book cover. This one caught me instantly...

This story was very interesting, but it wasn't implemented well. The story had bits and pieces that appeared to place well together but didn't quite fit; the first being Elliot; the boy hero. Because this is a New Adult novel, I can't beat it too badly; people want to see the kids of today save the world.(just like YA). I get that, but this was just silly! The boy who has to help dad run the surplus store was suddenly an expert, because his mom said she'd seen first-hand proof of what was happening in town. All he ever shared was here-say, but evidently in Twin Falls, that's enough!

Then there were parts like, kissing amidst people being green-foamed to death. Finding romance in the worst of places; it was very foolish to me. Then Cindy, the love interest, was a feeble-minded ninny one minute, and a shotgun blasting maniac the next- how in the world!? Okay, that's the simple stuff. Now

Picture

?to get to the Goo-Shooters. to the rumors and monsters,

Baer Industries (I think that was the name) created a hormone that was used on spuds all over Idaho and possibly nationwide. They had spuds in their pockets and brought about brief illness. But after a scare, the goo came back, with a vengeance. I didn't understand it, due to lack of detailed information, but it did.

First the green, foamy goo was vomited. Anyone near to smell or be touched by it was immediately infected. They in turn, spewed it on to others - instant plague. BUT, then somewhere in there, some people were changed by it. They began to either cry green tears of goo, or attacked people covered in the stuff. Then, out of nowhere, they began to eat. People. I was confused by what McDonough wanted them to be! And since the boy wasn't military, the cover was deceptive. I just got too confused.

? There are two other books to this series; maybe you'll enjoy them, but sadly, I was not. I'm off to the next read!

\*Full Review:<http://www.areneehunt.com/the-reviews...>

Toward the Brink

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### **Craig says**

Quite honestly while *Toward the brink* had a great premise as to the cause of a zombie outbreak, little else of the story brought freshness to this genre. I could not connect with any of the characters. They all felt like archetypes to me. The action sequences felt bland to me. My excitement, interest, pulse rate never changed while reading.

There were elements of the story which made no sense to me. How was one character able to get access to a police shotgun from the vehicle. To my knowledge they are locked securely in place. Secondly, I understand that the police officer was supposed to be bad, but for him to try and sexually assault a young female character in the back of his police vehicle made no sense. I am unaware of door handles being inside the backs of such vehicles. How did the officer intend to get out of the vehicle afterwards?

After this I began noticing typographical errors. These included misspellings, wrong words and words incorrectly ordered within the sentence. Perhaps I become more aware of these types of errors as I get more annoyed at a story in general. I'm not sure but errors like that do not help a story that is lacking in other areas.

I had never experienced his writing before so I decided to give McDonough a chance. After reading this story I can safely say I do not plan to read any more of his stories, nor can I recommend him to anyone.

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### **Camille says**

I'm not going to rate this because I didn't finish it. But I did get about 75% of the way through because I was holding out hope it would improve. The premise is not bad. The writing is though. :( I feel bad saying that but it's true. I've continued reading books with a good story but bad writing. So I guess this time the story telling is not good? Not sure what it is but it's not enjoyable.

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### **Ami says**

Although the book begins with less action than I anticipated, only because the cause of the pandemic is convoluted, I really enjoyed reading. It also made me a little wary of what I eat! This could be become our reality very easily, well maybe not the final stage. Or at least that's what I'm hoping. If you love a good apocalypse tale, as I do, this one is for you. It is a series and I already got book 2 started. It promises to be even better than book 1.

Enjoy!

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**Britta Grissom says**

I received a ARC of this book, and it was Awesome!! I'm a strict vegetarian and now of course I will never look at French fries the same again!! This is was a easy book to fall for, it had everything the description promised and more!!! Can't wait for book 2!!!!!!

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**Kathy Gray says****Reading and reviewing books**

Good..I reallyy enjoy reading books like this. It gets me to thinking about the what ifs...and what people would do in extreme situations

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