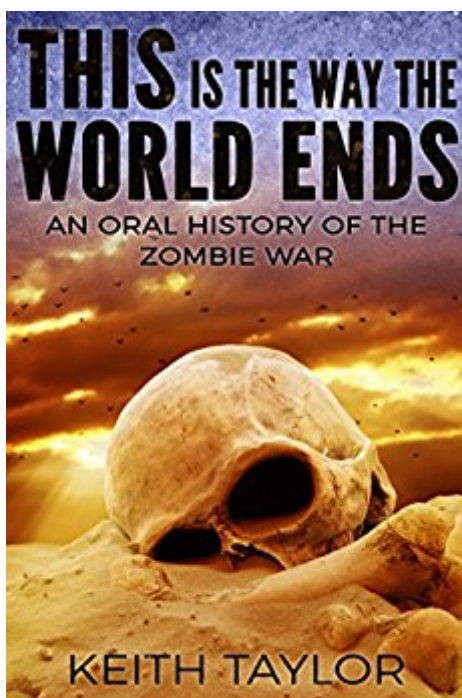


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This Is The Way The World Ends: An Oral History Of The Zombie War



Synopsis

February, 2031: The global population now stands at an estimated 400 million, and every survivor bears the scars of humanity's decade-long struggle to defeat an enemy few believed could exist. Some nations have emerged from the war stronger than ever. Others still struggle to survive. Some no longer exist at all. In the aftermath of the zombie pandemic Keith Taylor, noted pre-war author of apocalyptic fiction, traveled the world to gather the first hand accounts of survivors from every walk of life, culture and strata of society, ranging from American political leaders to British journalists to Mongolian miners to members of India's homeless underclass. Together these chilling interviews describe the course of humanity's most brutal war, leading from the initial emergence of the virus in the Siberian wilderness to the visceral, heart-rending Shibuya footage, through the confusion of the US President's impeachment to the unintended and disastrous consequences of the UN's sweeping refugee amendment, and ending with us battered and broken, diminished but not defeated, in the fragile peace we now enjoy. Together these accounts represent the most illuminating and complete commentary to date of humanity's loss. From these candid interviews emerges an image of early 21st century civilization as it truly was: imperfect, fragmented and wholly unprepared for a disaster on such a scale. This is the Way the World Ends takes an unflinching, uncompromising look at the world we had and lost; a look at the pain we suffered due to our inability to accept a single, simple truth: Zombies are real. Note: Readers who lived through the pandemic may find the interviews contained within this collection distressing. Discretion is advised. ã Æ

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Customer Reviews

For a decade now, I've been asking myself why nobody ever tried to write a book like World War Z, Max Brooks's captivating, world spanning epistolary account of a past zombie war. It blows me away every time I reread it, but no matter how hard I looked I could never find an author willing to take on such an ambitious challenge. It annoyed me, to be honest, because World War Z seemed like a story that had the potential to spawn a whole new sub-genre of post apocalyptic novels, and there's clearly a demand for something with a little more ambition and reach than the usual paint-by-numbers stories that fill the charts. I eventually gave up the hope that I'd ever find what I was craving... until now. "This is the Way the World Ends" is the book I've been searching for all these years. Like World War Z, it's based in a very real and immediate world, told from around a decade in the future in the form of interviews with survivors of the zombie war, and like World War Z, it feels like something that could really happen. Something that already HAS happened. It feels like a novel written by someone with knowledge of a dark and dangerous future, and it hits home all the harder for it, especially the chapters in India, Vietnam and off the coast of Scotland, all of which grabbed me tight and left me with chills. This is a book that I'm sure I'll return to time and again, dipping in and out of random chapters whenever I pick up my Kindle and notice it calling out to me. This thing reached into my brain, and I don't think it will ever let go. Highly recommended.

Cliffhanger: no
Number in series: stand alone
Strong language: yes
Sexual situations: yes; implied rape; mentions of assault; nothing graphic
Editing: excellent
Proofreading: excellent
Suggested age: late teens
A writer of zombie fiction, Keith Taylor, travels the world at the end of the apocalypse, interviewing people from slums to high ranking military, writing down their stories. Mr. Taylor uses a variety of transportation to get to the people listed in this book. This reader has to wonder how he managed to get helicopter rides and speak with sufficiently high ranking people in various countries to arrange his visits, but these are small issues. As noted in the title, the main character travels to

different countries with populations of several thousands to large cities in search of stories from the beginning of the zombie infection to the end. This gives a nice selection of characters without needing to give a lot of back story. Interviewing people of different economic levels gives the impression the writer isn't much interested in the official story and more interested in individual descriptions and impressions. Many of the stories he collects are from America's reaction and the politics used to control the infection. Throughout the stories is a thread of how callous, or money grabbing, or self-serving people in possession of power can be. As conditions continue to deteriorate, governments often sink to the level of self-preservation or the end justifies the means. On the other hand, except for a billionaire, the people interviewed are all survivors who can provide eyewitness information, often of the aforementioned governments. This makes the book seem cynical, with a bent towards governments descending to the lowest levels of humanity and the hearty salt of the earth people working to keep things running, but perhaps the interviewer has his own bias. The vignettes are generally short; heavy on the stories of the interviewee with little input from the interviewer. This works well because no real background or world building needs to be done. Instead, the stories sound like something read from a newspaper, or listened to on the radio. The limited descriptions of each story doesn't detract from the vignette; it allows the story being told to have the emphasis it needs. This is a quick, smooth read. Even when talking about the scientific work done to find a way to destroy the zombies is presented in clear language. The uncomplicated and straightforwardness of the stories heightens the shock of a piece of terrible information dropped into the recitation. This reader would be interested in a follow-up book of similar stories, but concentrating on how the world puts itself back together.

A passable homage to World War Z. There're a lot of obvious parallels between the two books, but the author does enough stuff differently, some of it quite interesting, to make it worth a read nonetheless. Some of it does fall flat, though. One character implies the wartime US President engineered a coup, and another character is injured by an assassination attempt by the current US government. Those plot threads (and other interesting ones like the oil rig workers) are never really elaborated upon again. There could have been some interesting stuff there. ENDING SPOILERS AHOY! also thought the ending was a bit weak. The president one day just orders everybody to effectively go over the trenches and meet the zombies in mindless human wave melee attacks, which somehow works because of how inspirational the prez is. Really? The author goes through all the trouble of giving the zombies a really interesting weakness, and America just seems to ignore it and beat up all the zombies instead. And then the book just ends, with a handful of wrap-ups. I really

think the author would have been better off writing the oral history of some other apocalypse, rather than trying to follow in Max Brooks' footsteps and zombie things up. Like I said, though, it's still fun, interesting, and original enough to give it a read anyway.

It's only once in a blue moon that I pick up a book I genuinely can't put down, maybe once or twice a year if I'm lucky. I suspected this would be one of those books by the time I finished the first chapter, and sure enough I'm sitting here, drained but happy, having just read from cover to cover in one sitting. This is just one of those books; one of those dangerous "just one more page" novels that leave you missing meals and wondering how it reached 2AM when you sat down in the afternoon. Wonderfully conceived and imaginatively written, each chapter sings out with a unique voice that leaves you feeling as if you really live in the world of the story. I'm so glad the cover caught my eye.

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