



On The Third Day

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Society is on the brink of collapse. The Old World is vanishing, the New World is taking over. There are no rules. Not now that a deadly disease is spreading that causes its victims to turn violent. Previously loving people become murderous. No-one can tell who will turn and who will not.

On The Third Day Details

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Author : Rhys Thomas

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From Reader Review On The Third Day for online ebook

Wilson Six says

So I got this book on a sale by MPH, for about a couple of (SGD)bucks (Think it was 5 or something).

First glance:

The book is thick! Well, it was an instant turnoff I must say, since I left it in my shelf for a couple of weeks before opening it up.

Overall comment (NO SPOILER):

The book itself has a very dark feel to it. It talks about the dead. But compared to saying its a book about supernatural, it is more of a book about our human realm right here right now. Anyone can easily finish this book, but it depends on your thinking that will bring about the true meaning behind this book. Think deeper and you will understand it better.

Cons:

This is a book you shouldn't take if you're not patient.

Pros:

Suitable for anyone with a rational mind. I would not suggest it to 13 and below though.

Lauren says

I actually feel a little bit mean giving this book such a low rating, mainly because I wanted to like it and felt that there was something half way redeemable under the surface. The authors previous book 'The Suicide Club' kicked my butt and I've read it more than once.

My main thing against the book is the characters. It was a big, huge, enormous mistake in making Miriam the main character. She was everything I hate in a woman and I sincerely wanted someone to just kill her off straight away so we could get on with the story, rather than having to watch her constantly mess up, throw typical 'girls=emotional' fits and basically be the irritating character pointing out how no one around her has morals or sense of humanity. She was not only mind numbingly stupid, she was selfish and, with her penchant for trying to be the do-gooder and helping everyone, thought nothing of putting herself and others in danger. She did bizarre, completely idiotic things with little to no logical explanation. I understand this could be put down to realism, since most people probably would react irrationally if any type of apocalyptic situation were to occur, but not every woman would descend into complete idiocy and have to be looked after all the time. Most women would eventually toughen the hell up and focus on surviving. And, if we ARE trying to be realistic, someone as stupid and emotional as Miriam wouldn't last 5 minutes.

Not only only that, she knew that some of the 'infected' turned violent. She saw it with her own eyes. And yet she has no qualms about leaving her children with their grandfather, an old man who probably wouldn't do much good against any sort of attack. I don't even remember her thinking about them, she just wanted to point out how horrible Joseph was for giving shit about living and for not stumbling towards the nearest death trap in order to 'help people'. Why did she not concentrate on at least staying alive long enough to get back to them?

One part that irks me is near the beginning of the book. Joseph mentions getting supplies, she wakes up to find him gone, gets all self righteous because, damn it, she's a grown woman and why the hell shouldn't she walk around the middle of a city full of carnage, chaos and dead people. Miriam doesn't for one second think getting food or water to take back to the children is as important as asserting herself, sticking it to Joseph and wandering outside, armed with nothing more than half a brain cell and a vague plan to see her mother. Sure enough, she nearly gets killed, arrives back with a random stranger she decided to attach herself to and gets offended when Joseph points out what an idiot she is. That's pretty much Miriam. When I read a book with a female protagonist, as a girl myself, I want her to at least reflect some strong, hard qualities. I don't want a warrior woman, I just don't want stupid idiots flailing around getting themselves into trouble either. The only character who had my sympathies was Joseph, mainly because he was the only character with a brain (and because he had to put up with Miriam).

The actual writing itself was overly descriptive in a way that bogged the story down and the style of writing fell flat, doing nothing more than relaying the events happening, rather than flowing and giving you a sense of 'being there'. You weren't experiencing it, you were simply being told a story. Which isn't good. It went with the mood of the book, but did nothing to enhance it.

Another of my problems is the lack of any sort of solution to most of the problems. Everything that is hinted at (ie, where the disease came from, why did some turn violent, what the hell was going on in Russia etc) is never cleared up and left to wither while we're given boring, monotonous descriptions day to day life in the countryside with the occasional conversations about Good Vs Evil.

All in all it was kind of disappointing. I have no real idea of what Rhys Thomas wanted to get across, no idea of the situation and no idea of the philosophy behind it. In all honesty, it wasn't bad, I'm not saying it's a waste of time or a bad book, since others obviously liked it and it's all subjective. There are a lot of books I genuinely dislike and this isn't necessarily one of them, I just felt it could have been better and for everything one thing I liked, there were a handful of others that let the side down.

Amory says

On and on it goes page after page the weak characters must surely be embarrassed at being in such a thin plot. Then there is the 'Miriam' chapter which must be the result of mind altering medications.

Fiona says

Yes I love this type of story and I quite enjoyed this...

However it was not that believable to me - everyone was a bit "too" good or bad...

Would definately read more from this author... But for me it needed to be a bit more gritty!!

If you like this sort of thing - take a look at "Bringing the Forth the End of Days" by S Law.

Jenna Denny says

I could not put this book down! yes in parts it's slightly unbelievable but the whole point in a book for me is that you get dragged in and that's what it did from the very start. the only criticism I could give is that the ending let it down slightly. still a 5 star in my opinion

Sharon says

Not what I was expecting at all !

I envisaged another zombie novel but it was nothing of the sort. Had a great sense of tension-atmosphere and very bleak despair. It certainly made me think and review my nature towards good and bad and how I would respond in certain circumstances. I particularly enjoyed the part of one of the main characters decent into 'the sadness'. I will go no further here as I do not want to give anything away.

Took me a long while to get to this one. Glad I got there.

Chris Pratt says

This book is one of a small number of novels that I've abandoned. Sluggish, cozy catastrophe writing and characters that are impossible to identify with, much less like.

Jus says

I really enjoyed reading this book. It's story about survival, family and loss. A disease which affects people two ways, you either go down the sad looking, depressed and die quietly or go crazy, angry and violent. A woman trying to save her family, joins up with her strange awkward brother in law, as he's the only family relative left. If you enjoy watching movies like 28 days later, 28 weeks later, Walking Dead, you'll definitely enjoy this!

Nicci B says

I couldn't finish this book, I really didn't like it.

Maybe I'm a bit OD'd on Apocalypse fic but I didn't get anything new or original from it Worst of all, I really didn't like any of the characters. In fact I loathed them. The woman was a simpering wreck (it was when she screamed "He needs love" about a man robbing her house that I wanted to kill her) and the man was a gruff

jerk - practical with a gun and reigned in emotions, because every apocalypse should have one. Indeed, every apocalypse story DOES have one.

The man swears to protect the women and children, the brother vows to protect the sister, the man offers to teach the boy hunting while the women get upset at bad language a mere few weeks after society has collapsed.

This book really had nothing to offer me, it's just a case of, 'Middle Class Terror - when the Daily Mail doesn't get delivered'.

But I do love the fact that the author gave himself a 5-Star rating, because, why shouldn't he?

Sabrina says

I really like the idea of this book, and the first few chapters were great and full of promise, and then the whole thing kind of collapsed. The characters annoyed me, Miriam's utter naivety to begin with, but I also didn't really care for the others, including Charlie. They just didn't make any sense to me. And the plot, well in the end it was perhaps slightly predictable. It's not a terrible book, but it's much less than I expected it to be. If you're looking for an action-filled, dark apocalyptic book than you should definitely find something else to read.

Rating: 3 / 5

Andy Phillips says

This book is pretty long and is split into 3 large sections and a 4th short one. The first two sections were very enjoyable as we follow a family during an outbreak of a mysterious condition. Most people that contract the condition become very depressed, while a small proportion become violent. There are no 'zombies' as such, but this aspect of the book reminded me of David Moody's 'Hater' series or Simon Clark's 'Blood Crazy', where people drastically change their behaviour almost instantaneously, leading to a collapse of society.

However, I thought the third large section was pretty average and uses a style that felt at odds with the first two thirds of the book. A lot of new characters are added and the focus of the book changes significantly. This section is much more action based than the first two, but the atmosphere that is established up to this point is somewhat lost.

Additionally, there are a few odd features to the writing style, but nothing that ruins the book. For example, despite having their own names, why are two of the main characters constantly referred to as Henry's father and Miriam's mother?

I thought that the 4th section was terrible, but I can't say much more without ruining the story. At least it was short (around 20 pages out of around 520).

Not a terrible book by any means, but not brilliant either. Worth a read if you're interested in apocalyptic fiction and/or zombie novels.

Ralph says

I'm amazed these characters survive tying their shoes.

Rhys Thomas says

I wrote this book, and I also wrote a blog about some of the themes and ideas, that I've copied and pasted below.

On The Third Day is an Old Testament style disaster story that has no basis in science, set in the modern world. Nowadays all disaster stories feature an asteroid or a tsunami or some other natural hazard that can be explained by the turning of the Earth or the wheeling of the galaxies. Even vampires and zombies are explained by new viruses or toxic spills. But in the olden times the modus operandi of an apocalypse was much more interesting – rivers of blood, the sky falling down, a flood that covers the whole world; impossible things sent by a vengeful God. I wanted to bring something like this back, kind of a “God’s back, and this time he’s angry!” scenario.

On a story-telling level I tried to write something with a large scope because stories of this kind usually focus on either the disaster itself, or a dystopian future following such a disaster. I’d never read a book that looked at the space in between these two things so I’ve tried to bridge the gap. I thought that a story showing the disaster, the fall of civilisation, and the re-ordering would be something new. So this book starts on day one and goes through a time period of just under a year. I’ve always had a macabre fascination with the frailty of civilisation, of how easily it could collapse, the logistics of such a thing, and how power becomes inherently violent when there is no such thing as law. I’ve always been obsessed with the end of the world as well, and this has elements of all this stuff.

Of course, there were a thousand things I wanted to cram into the book, the most important of which is the nature of hope. The “disease” (it’s not a disease), some of the characters think, is the flame of hope being extinguished in its victims. With this in mind I asked many, many people what they thought would happen to them if their hope suddenly died (completely died, I mean) and many of the answers found their way into the narrative. It’s really interesting how people see hope – would its loss make you sad? Paralysed? Satisfied, even? Maybe it was because I was thinking about it for too long, but it seems to me that hope is the most important thing that we humans have. I guess its main contender is love or maybe even morality but actually, I now think, both love and morality grow from hope first. Hope seems to be the bedrock on top of which everything else sits. And this is explored in the book. Not sure if I pulled it off, but I did my best!

Ultimately though, I just wanted to write a big, sprawling, exciting story that people can get lost in. There are things to think about, but I was determined not to let them overshadow the story. Story is everything. “Plot and character are your meat and potatoes,” as David Mitchell says. It gets dark at times but that just means that when lighter parts arrive they come out brighter – you have to go there to come back, as they say.

It’s been a really long slog but the journey is at its end. Lots of people have helped to bring this book about and now that it’s here I really can’t wait for people to read it. For better or worse I think this book is what I set out to write and I am happy with it, which is a rare thing for me. I hope now that others will read it and

enjoy it. So if you do have a gap in the bookshelf, or are looking for something to take on your summer holiday, maybe you could give it a go.

Craig DiLouie says

Rhys Thomas' **ON THE THIRD DAY** is a philosophical meditation on death wrapped in a viral apocalypse in which the victims suffer from existential dementia and often become violent, attacking others. I really enjoyed this one; it goes way beyond the standard formula for an end of the world novel. The people inhabiting the book are interesting and real, the book has a lived-in feel, the ruminations on death are engaging (although kind of depressing), the action is interesting, and the apocalypse is realistically portrayed in stages, with most people trying to cooperate instead of instantly forming raging biker gangs. My only complaint was the narrative loses its way at the end—there is an intentional effort by the author here (to what I can't say to avoid a spoiler), but it didn't work for me. That is a small complaint, however, that otherwise did not dampen my enjoyment of this rich, imaginative novel.

Procrastinador Diletante says

Quem vir a capa e o resumo, pensa que este livro é mais uma obra sobre zombies, mas não. Trata-se uma epidemia que faz com que as pessoas pura e simplesmente desistam da vida - uma espécie de hiper-depressão - e, ao fim de 3 dias, morram. A epidemia surge e espalha-se misteriosamente pelo Mundo, sem nunca se conseguir perceber qual a causa. Alguns dos infectados reagem de outra maneira e tornam-se extremamente violentos, mas o livro mostra-nos que as pessoas ditas "normais" conseguem ser bastante mais perigosas que as infectadas. Aviso que o livro é muito descriptivo e dado a grandes discussões filosóficas - há um jantar memorável, em que se discute a questão da Fé Vs Ciência - mas o escritor consegue cativar o leitor o suficiente para o manter interessado. Só fiquei desapontado pelo final, mas infelizmente não o posso revelar.
