



Carnage Road

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BOONE AND WALKER Boone and Walker are the last members of the Floating Dragons motorcycle gang. When the zombie apocalypse turns the world upside down, they hit the open road to discover America. No responsibilities, no rules, no system. Like Frank and Jesse James, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, all they need are steeds and sidearms. **THE ROAD TO HELL** But this bloodstained road is paved with the walking dead: shambling corpses starved for living flesh. The few humans left are no less hungry, and Boone and Walker encounter remnants of civilization desperate to survive. In some cases, the living are even more dangerous than the dead. **RAW CARNAGE** First west to Hollywood to gaze at the stars, then southeast to the badlands of Texas, Boone and Walker make a last stand on behalf of humanity. Along the way guns blaze, rotting flesh bakes on the asphalt, and friendship and loyalty are tested to their limits. **CARNAGE ROAD** **CARNAGE ROAD** is Gregory Lamberson 's unforgettable ode to westerns, biker pictures, and the cinema of the living dead. **PRINT IS DEAD** is a new line of top-quality zombie novels brought to you by the critically acclaimed indie publisher, Creeping Hemlock Press. Each title is available in both paperback and e-book format. www.printisdead.com **GEORGE A. ROMERO ON PRINT IS DEAD:** "These guys know more about the undead than I do. and that's saying something, because I've been hanging out with zombies for as long as I can remember."

Carnage Road Details

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From Reader Review Carnage Road for online ebook

Jim Morey says

[Parts reposted from The Mortuary Book of the Month Club, May 2012]

After how much I enjoyed JOHNNY GRUESOME, I should have known better than to start this. I was barely able to set it aside, and snuck off while everyone was finishing dinner tonight to read the last few chapters.

Definite 5 star material once again!

Lamberson is one of only a handful of authors I can name who has the ability to convey his settings in three dimensions without having to resort to pages and pages of description. I suspect in his case his screenplay experience proves very helpful here. There is any number of good authors who can make you feel what the characters are feeling, but seemingly few that can actually put you there, on the street, in the building, not just observing but being part of the surroundings.

As a general comment, I thought the descending chapter numbers were a nice touch.

Getting close to zero, and I still had 25% of the book to go. I kept wondering what was going to happen when I hit zero. Simple, the book ended. The remainder was samples from other books. Ordinarily that would have set me off, but in this case it inadvertently caused the end of the story to have an even greater impact than it already did.

The zombies in the story were a bit more than just mouldering sacks of skin waiting to devour. At times they showed a hint of retained intelligence. Take, for example, the scene at the theater.

Perhaps they are operating on autopilot, like in the original DAWN OF THE DEAD, "Some kind of instinct, memory, this was an important place in their lives." First Walker and Boone find them sitting all around, watching the movie, then they find them actually lined up to enter the theater. Priceless!

Mike says

Carnage Road is a zombie novella that follows the exploits of two bikers in their trek across the country from Buffalo to Hollywood after their gang is decimated in the aftermath of the zombie crisis overtaking the country.

There are a few things that I liked about this book right away. One is that it turns the zombie story convention - bikers as expendable human fodder for the story to let the heroes waste a few non-zombie bad guys that has been in place ever since Dawn of the Dead - on its head. Here the bikers are heroes of sorts or at least protagonists, ala Damnation Alley (the novel, not the movie) and Cannibal Corpse M/C. Furthermore, the characters are mean enough to be convincing biker archetypes without falling into the trap of making them evil. To do so would have made them into lead characters that few readers would want to see survive, and also it would have thrust them back into the post-zombie outbreak mold of bikers as psychos.

The characters are just rouge-ish enough to be convincing, but not so much that they become wantonly sociopathic or otherwise dangerous to the extent that they would have been killed off by their fellow bikers as a liability early in the collapse of society.

Two further things that I enjoyed was the treatment of the Western New York region. As a native of the area (the author lives in Buffalo from what I can gather) it was enjoyable to see the region fleshed out beyond the typical treatment of the area by authors not from the region as one giant forest. Secondly, I enjoyed the atypical time frame. Most books of this genre begin pre-zombie onslaught and move through those early stages or begin after the majority of the chaos has occurred. This one begins at a time when the zombies have gained a good, but incomplete hold on the country and there are a legion of events still occurring from plane crashes to roving gangs of armed men duking it out over supplies. This is an area often left quite hazy or simply ignored by a lot of novels which tend to focus more on small groups of people eeking out an existence in the deep wilderness without much attention paid to the goings on in the cities.

That is not to say that the book is not without a few issues. Firstly, there are some typos/errors, though really these are not anywhere near prevalent enough to impact the reader's experience. Secondly, the length of the novella is a bit on the short side. I would have liked to see the characters spend a bit more time in some of the places that they end up, as the story stands now they tend to leave places before interesting characters are fully explored or perilous situations really have a chance to build tension as effectively as they could. Lastly, the zombies are fairly typical, but inconsistent (as much as one can speak of consistency in a fictional creature). Sometimes they may work as a team, operate simple devices such as doors, and even retreat, while other times they seem to be a typical zombie. I don't know if this was intentional on the author's part, but it was a bit confusing to read.

Overall, an entertaining diversion that you can easily finish in an afternoon. I'd love to see a lengthier rewrite of this at some point.

L_manning says

When the zombie apocalypse happens, it's every man for himself. American quickly falls apart as the ghouls take over cities everywhere. Boone and Walker are some of those living who are trying to survive. After their biker gang falls apart, Boone and Walker set out to see what's left of the United States. Their trip takes them from East Coast to West, and along the way they see some of the good and bad parts of people trying to survive. At the end of the day, Boone and Walker can really only rely on each other, but that may not be enough to keep them from being zombie food.

Carnage Road is a novella, so it's a quick read. It packs a lot into the limited number of pages though. You get a clear view of the desperation and horror of the zombie apocalypse that has taken place. You also get a real sense of the difficulty of surviving a situation like this. This book had enough horror to give you a sense of the terror they were facing, but it wasn't so awful that it kept me from sleeping or anything. I like that though. I feel like it was graphic enough without being too graphic (for a zombie book anyway).

In the end though, this ended up being a great story about friendship. Here are two guys trying to survive something horrific, and yet they are still able to keep a good sense of humor and perspective about things. There are a few stops along the way that are pretty hilarious. The description of zombie Hollywood was amazing and funny at the same time. The end of the story leaves you with sadness but also a bit of happiness knowing these two friends are going into this together. Fans of horror and zombies should definitely check

this story out.

Book provided for review.

Bandit says

Quick and fun zombie read. Nothing new here, no original twists on the genre, just a standard fare but done well. Two dudes on motorcycles driving across country in an ultimate bromance adventure. Can't you just picture a movie...tagline something like Sons of Anarchy meets Dawn of the Dead. Great introduction to a new author. Also impressive is the publishing house Print Is Dead, specializing exclusively in zombie genre. Good way to spend about an hour and a half. Recommended for fans of zombie genre.

Wendy Hines says

Carnage Road is a very slim novel, 81 pages, but it packs quite the punch. Boone and Walker are living in the zombie apocalypse. The food isn't plentiful and the beer is almost obsolete. Driven to find more beer, more food and more humans, Boone and Walker get on their bikes and decide to hit the open road. But doing so, they go right into zombie territory.

With chilling and blood chaos, two friends try to rediscover America when there is no government and just zombies and those trying to survive. A quick and dark read that zombie fans won't want to miss!

Queenie Thayer-Tirone says

Carnage Road is a short, visceral little book that is all meat and teeth. Right from the start we are thrown into a world ravaged by "ghouls". These creatures are pretty much zombies, even if they are never outright called such. Using the word ghouls dresses up creatures that devour the dead, not creatures that devour the living, but I wouldn't put it past these shambling corpses to get desperate enough to eat their own kind. They are zombies, no matter what they are called, and they are descendants of such creatures we've seen before in a George A. Romero flick.

Which is actually part of the charm of this book. It doesn't pretend to be anything but what it is, a book about a couple of bikers trying to survive the aftermath of a zombie apocalypse. The real beauty, or should I say horror, of this story doesn't come from the setting. It's a well-crafted setting though, along with everything else in this tale, but the real power comes from the characters Lamberson creates. I love the two Bikers, Boone and Walker. They are bad people, and yet somehow I love them more for that.

Boone and Walker are the last of a Biker club. When I say Biker club, I'm talking along the lines of *Sons of Anarchy*. They are hard, brutal men who have done terrible things in the name of brotherhood. They aren't a suffering father looking for his son, or a man waking up in a hospital after doomsday. They are cold, brutal killers. It's kind of refreshing to follow survivors who fall under a grey category. They aren't good or evil per se. They don't become good or evil either through the course of the story. If anything, they are just exactly as they always were, even when they lose their fellow club members and go off on their own. They are complicated, interesting, and in the end, just hard men who've done and continue to do hard things.

Because of Boone's desire to see America, they give us a good snapshot of what has become of it. Through their travels, they fall into some very scary situations, as Walker tries to get Boone to Hollywood. They do make it to Hollywood, but along the way their friendship is tested when they find out how terrible things are in other places. Sometimes it's what humans do to each other that remind us that we are no worse than the "ghouls" beside us. Topics such as fame, racism and more are touched upon in this little novella.

The ending was a very surprising one as well, and I enjoyed it quite a bit. Heck, I loved this book. It was a great little zombie tale, with true horror and dread laced throughout. It was all very human too, very painfully real. Lamberson doesn't hold back.

So if you are looking for something that is a cross between *Sons of Anarchy* and *The Walking Dead*, here it is. Condensed into 81 pages of brutal awesome. You won't be disappointed.

Nick Cato says

Every time I say I'm tired of zombie stories, I seem to read one that proves the subgenre is simply here to stay. CARNAGE ROAD is a fine example of why: part EASY RIDER, part DAWN OF THE DEAD, this quick novella features two biker buddies, Boone and Walker, who decide to take a cross-country trek when the rest of their gang, the Floating Dragons, abandon their Buffalo, NY compound when a gang of rogue cops kill half their members. Boone always wanted to see Hollywood, and convinces Walker to go with him—Walker had recommended trying Canada, but the cold weather didn't appeal to Boone.

The story wastes NO time getting to the undead action. Along the way our anti-heroes encounter both sane and insane religious zealots, manage to take in a movie at an abandoned Indiana theater, are arrested in Kansas by racist political extremists, all the while battling hordes of cannibalistic cadavers and burning rubber on their hogs. The boys also come across the most imaginative group of zombies I've read in some time at the foot of a twelve-story building. When they finally reach Hollywood there's a hysterical scene where undead celebrities are spotted. When they realizing there's just too many zombies around, they decide to head to Texas, where they join a group of survivors at the Alamo.

CARNAGE ROAD may be brief but it's packed to the gills with brain-splattering zombie goodness, social commentary, a bleak apocalyptic ending, and good old-fashioned b-movie-style fun. Zombie fans will love it.

Sensitivemuse says

This was a quick read (more or less 100 pages) but it was a good one. It's almost like a very dark violent version of The Walking Dead. There's plenty of blood and gore, and it's brutal. Much more brutal, it makes the zombie books I've read in the past seem like 'zombie fluff'. That being said, I really enjoyed reading this.

Boone and Walker are a classic friendship duo. Walker seems to be the more serious one of the two but their banter is fun to read - typical language and thinking you'd see in a motorcycle gang. (So, no. No swoon worthy guys here. But that's the least of your worries when the zombies are coming, isn't it?). They're

likable and made the book interesting and enjoyable.

I'd also have to say, it's pretty realistic as well. It paints a grisly but possibly realistic picture as to what would happen in a situation like this. There were some parts where other people were just as dangerous (even more so) than the zombies themselves. The Hollywood part was fun to read though it made me giggle. Just a bit. :D

I'm not sure what to think of the ending. In one sense I liked it because it's realistic, it's what I expected but, there was this small little voice inside of me wanting to crave more and was sad at the outcome. So I could go both ways on this. Nevertheless I really did enjoy this novella and I urge everyone who likes zombie lit to pick this one up. It's a quick read and can be finished in a day.

Heidi says

The Zombie genera has become very popular and with that there are the good and bad. I found this book to be a good combinations of Dead of The Dead and Mad Max. The author doesn't waste anytime with background of how the apocalypse happened instead he puts the reader right into the action.

The anti-heroes Boone and Walker are the only ones left from their infamous biker gang. With the world falling to pieces and their leader dead neither one knows what to do so Boone decides he wants to take a road trip to Hollywood. He wants to see the USA before he is eaten. As the boys bike across the US they come in contact with your typical brain eating zombies, along with religious nuts, and unlikeable gangs. I felt the author had a chances to bring something knew to the Zombie genre but instead left it alone.

There were some fun parts in the books dealing with a movie theater and hoping to see the last film ever made and running into religious zealots. This is where I felt the book started to get way to political for my taste. The author started to put his own political views out there but in ways that made it annoying and painful to read. At this point in the book I almost stopped reading because it was feeling more like a political statement than a Zombie book. I decided to keep reading and enjoyed the book once they reached Hollywood and the hysterical scene where the zombie celebrities still wanted to be admired and can't leave there star on the walk of fame.

After they arrive in Hollywood they decided to head back east to Florida but end up living there last hours, days or weeks at the Alamo in Texas.

The Author give Walker and Boone a heart right before the book just ends and make you wonder what happened?

I wish the author would have left a bit more social commentary out of his novella and stayed with the fun zombie killing.

Carnage Road is short but it packs a punch with boot stomping bikers and a bleak ending of the world.

Being a typical Zombie book there is a lot of swearing, gore and sex but if you like Dawn of the dead or the TV show Walking Dead then you will enjoy this short novella.

Mike Dougherty says

From the very first pages of the book the carnage begins. There is never a dull moment in this book. Boone and walker are the last of the motor cycle crew the floating Dragons on an adventure to find a safe place to

live to escape the billions of zombies that now over run the world. Knowing the world is done for they set out for one last road trip on the way meeting billions of zombies and crazy people trying to start the world off with different rules and lifestyles. As the book goes on you can feel yourself getting closer to Boone and Walker and hoping nothing bad happens to them. This book is filled with blood, guts and brains and is a must read for all horror fans.

Andrea Blythe says

What the FREAKING FRACK! I was definitely into this story about two former members of a biker gang, Walker and Boone, who decide to take a post apocalyptic across a zombie infested America. The characters were interesting, the world as presented was cool, and the writing was good (except for a few and far between spattering of really bad grammar mistakes). I liked seeing the different people and groups they met along the way, most blaming others for the apocalypse (some blaming the liberals, some blaming the conservatives, etc.). It was all great and fun, right up until the freaking ending.

Look, I'm all for open ended endings. If an author wants to leave some questions unanswered, that's fine by me. Heck, more often than not, I tend to enjoy it. BUT there is a huge difference between "open ended" and "cliffhanger," which is exactly what this story ended on. And again, I don't have a problem with cliffhangers, providing they are part of a series or trilogy, and therefore, I know the story will continue at some point. But NO, this is meant to be a stand alone novella, and the writer MIGHT at some point tell more Walker and Boone stories. Un-bleeping-believable. Gah!!

I give this one three stars, because despite how much the ending annoyed the frak out of me, it was a really good story right up until that point. *sigh*

Meli says

I think the author Gregory Lamberson made this comparison, but it is most apt; CARNAGE ROAD is Easy Rider meets Dawn of the Dead. You'll burn through this in just a few hours. Charming lead characters, biting commentary (wink wink), and some sick, frightening imagery. The most zombie-weary reader can enjoy CARNAGE ROAD. If you don't, you're already dead!

Michelle (True Book Addict) Miller says

This is more of a short story or a novella than a novel, but it packs a lot of punch. Anyone who loves zombies will enjoy this little book. I'm a big fan of the AMC television series, The Walking Dead, and this book reminded me of it in some ways. However, Lamberson cleverly added some elements to the story that make it even more frightening.

After our heroes, Walker and Boone, lose their crew, they set off on their own. They decide to head to Hollywood because Boone, "wants to see America." The idea is against Walker's judgement, who would much rather go to Canada. Along the way, they meet a preacher who is still tending to his flock...of ghouls. Oh yeah, their called ghouls in this story, not zombies. They are warned that the left over police forces have probably formed militia or something to that effect and that they should avoid them, if at all possible. It turns

out that they're not so easy to avoid. They find themselves in the midst of the Founding Fathers' Order lead by a woman that evokes thoughts of Sarah Palin (yikes!). Some of her new world order consists of making abortion illegal and rewriting textbooks to eliminate evolution in favor of creationism. Yikes again! As Walker reflects later on, "With the human race the minority group among biped, we needed to stick together, but the same old differences kept us apart: sexual politics and politics of power. It must have been November already." Frankly, I find this element of the story even more scary than the (zombies) ghouls.

Carnage Road is a quick, entertaining read. I really recommend it to anyone who likes zombie stories and especially to anyone who might be afraid of what our world would be like if there was a zombie apocalypse.

Patti says

[in Pittsburgh. (hide spoiler)]

John Long says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Carnage Road is a really good book. Gregory Lamberson has the uncanny ability to make two pages seem like twenty. It is a very short book (81 pages), but it feels like I read a book 300+ pages long. And the writing style is very cinematic. I felt at times like I was watching a movie, not reading a book.

The story is about the last two members of an outlaw biker gang. After the zombie apocalypse, they have no more responsibilities and take off on a road trip to see America. The thing I liked about the characters is that there is no angst over how to fix society, who to save or what will life be like in the future. These are just two buddies in a horrible situation taking things day by day.

The only thing keeping this from being a five star rating is the oversimplification of some of the groups. While the main characters seem real, some of the people they encounter on the way are more caricatures. But, it was still a very enjoyable story and I look forward to reading other books by the author.
