



## Outbreak

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It was the start of another ordinary day at the office for Max, he was emailing a friend when one of his other early morning co-workers called for his help, someone was having a heart attack. Rushing to the aid of his fallen co-worker Max knew one thing, it wasn't a heart attack. Heart attack victims didn't bleed and didn't start chewing on anyone they could catch either. Once the victims died they came back to life with only one goal; to consume the living. Now Max was stuck in a rapidly deteriorating situation thirty miles from home, where his wife and two kids were sleeping away the warm mid summer morning. He had to get back to his family and get them to a safe place, if he could find one. Forming a group made up of his coworkers Steve and Tom and a police officer called 'Stewart' they make their way into the city to save the ones they love. The newly returned, however, were not all mindless shamblers and some of them had a plan...

## Outbreak Details

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## From Reader Review Outbreak for online ebook

### **Freedom says**

I hate to start ANY Book and not finish it, but I just could not force myself to continue reading past 25%. I like the idea of the story and I like seeing the Zombies from a more internal perspective but this...it was just too much. I felt like the writing didn't flow at all. I found myself having to reread several parts, which was almost like torture since the dialogue in this book is more than a little annoying. I only read a quarter of the book and the spelling errors were too much to ignore.

I read some of the reviews for this series and I was excited, thinking I would have stuff to read for awhile. Now I feel like I was tricked. I will not be reading any more of this book or this series.

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### **Nigel says**

I really wanted to like this book as I think it had promise, but in the end it just disappointed. I was really looking forward to the author's different taken on the traditional 'brain dead' zombie. Unfortunately I think he tried to do many things in one go. Not only were we to experience the situation from the zombies point of view but we had them evolving a kind of heat sensitive eye sight, talking, plotting /planning and the healing and entralling capabilities usually ascribed to vampires.

If the story had been limited to one of these new aspects I think it may well have worked as a zombie novel, but introducing them all resulted in something that wasn't a zombie novel, but more a story about cannibalistic super humans.

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### **Midu Hadi says**

I liked this book.

Yeah, I kept wincing every time anybody got chomped upon but then that's what I do whenever I watch a zombie flick or even serial killer movies.

I get that zombies able to use reason may put off some zombie fans but I found the idea scary as hell and interesting.

Jimbo was really really smart and he was the one to watch out for, instead of Nancy.

Hope like hell that Nancy's "dead" for good and can't wait to read the next book in the series.

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### **Shelley says**

I greatly enjoyed this zombie book. The play between zombie and human is an interesting twist. I'm looking forward to reading the next two books.

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### **Sarah Jentzen says**

They already have a name for intelligent zombies who are really fast, can regenerate when hurt, and communicate with their thoughts, they are called vampires.

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### **Grep says**

DISCLAIMER - I am pretty much a Romero Zombie Purist. I have also read a lot of uninspired, paint by the numbers Zombie books and stories in the past 3 years, so if you are going to switch it up - it better be damn good and create a world with characters I want to visit over and over again.

Mr Clodi succeeds where many have failed. I enjoy the company of many of these characters and care about where the groups of survivors end up.

His writing and stories improve with each book, trust me, the training wheels come off after this novel and you can tell he wholeheartedly believes in the world that he creates.

#### **SPOILERS BELOW:**

There are walking talking Zombies, some run, and a few have telepathic powers and are able to control those that they have "turned".

They have the ability to see "Predator" style - the colors/life-force of the living, and are actually eating the lifeforce of the living along with the meat.

Some of the Zombies do not like being controlled by their masters who have turned them - so there are some unique story arcs that I really appreciated.

So if you need a change of pace Zombie book with some supernatural mixed in, take a chance here - I guarantee you will at least like the characters if you don't agree with the premise.

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### **Caleb Mcquade says**

the book, Outbreak by Mark Clodi is a great book. This Book is very good with a lot of meaning. This book is a good moral check for what kind of position you would be in if something like a natural disaster or a zombie outbreak like in this book. This book was very enjoyable for numerous reasons involving the vast amount of details that are in the book explaining the current situations. the plot of the book was also very good, Max, the main character, is trying to return home from his office job when the office clears and he does not know that there are zombies taking over the lower levels in the building. along the way he meets a police officer and some other people which help him on his journey. Just from that little excerpt from the previous sentence, you can tell that the plot will be really good.

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## Elaine Wong says

I bought this book for \$1.02 off of Chapters. It is worth every penny.

Let's start with the flaws. Oh, the flaws.

The writing is terrible. The author swaps between past and present tense randomly. The characters have stilted, unnatural-sounding speech. Punctuation and odd paragraphing feels like I'm editing a sixth grader's first story. Contractions are rare, which honestly makes people sound robotic. Mark Clodi consistently makes the same spelling mistakes: cubicle instead of cubical, conscience instead of conscious, etc. etc.

Pretty much every character irritated me. It didn't help that nobody could talk like a normal human/zombie. But every third sentence there was swearing at each other, the comments they made were irritating, and I just generally found it hard to like anyone. Every time I wanted to, they'd make some random comment or action that made me start hating them again.

Case in point: zombie boy captures human boy. Zombie boy sits on human boy to keep him still, then pulls out his PSP to play Silent Hill. Human boy asks to watch, and for 45 minutes they curl up together to play before zombie boy passes over the PSP for human boy to pass a difficult level. After *that*, they decide to go together to the nearby electronics store to get human boy his own PSP so they can play together.

Couple actions like that with the really random asides the author makes...that bear little to no importance to the story. Normally I like those little side comments, as long as they're humourous and vaguely useful to the story (Terry Pratchett). But there's something weird when a woman and kid decide to go shoe shopping and several pages are devoted to them shopping for flip flops - the *worst possible choice of footwear for a zombie apocalypse*.

And the zombies. Wow.

I swallowed the zombie that thinks. I swallowed the zombie that sees and feeds on human energy to live. I swallowed the zombie that regenerates. I even swallowed the zombie that looks human and is smart enough to trick humans and decide it needs new clothes to better camouflage itself among the living.

I just gawked when the zombie decided to do laundry, though.

Speaking of zombies, there seem to be not a lot of them. Aside from Team Girl Gang and Team Psychic Schism, we don't see a lot of zombies. This is a major city! Shouldn't the dead be swarming every bright light and careless whisper? There's a surprising lack of chance combat with regular zombies (it's assumed that not all of them are smart); it's way too easy for the characters to move around.

I showed this book to a friend - one with an LD that makes books hard to read - and even he could see the errors that litter the first chapter. But he made an observation I liked: "He tried to do too much."

The author has an idea and a plot. He wants to get from point A to point B. The thing is, he doesn't know how to do it well. If the characters need to know something, or to get moving somewhere, or establish a relationship, the author gives them the most ridiculous pretexts to get going. Characters will spout off ridiculous comments just to get the appropriate reaction. Characters will see something and jump to the most 'obvious' conclusions. A chapter is devoted to two guys approaching the main group and explaining how

zombies work. Long, meaty paragraphs that accurately describe how the zombies started, how they work and why. How did these two figure it out? An armchair discussion over beer while they were holed up.

What distresses me the most, however, is the afterword, where Mark Clodi admits that this book took *years* to self-edit. It doesn't show, and it's a bit depressing to know that he gave his best effort, and you're looking at it.

If you plan to self-publish, I'd honestly recommend getting this book for free or at a severe discount, then going through it and finding all the errors the author made *and not doing them*. Have a plan. Do your research. *Get someone else to edit the work for you if English is not your strong suit*. It's so much better for that one person to tell you that something's wrong before you publish, rather than get an irate review like this done up.

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### **Chrystal Roe says**

#### **Wow**

This is a really exciting read! It has tons of action, loads of danger, and great characters. The zombies are some of the scariest out there too.

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### **April says**

When the undead begin to think on their own and become almost invisible. The way this book unfolded was truly believable. This book was a new twist to the old stories but the twists were even believable. You take a million people attacked all at once by an unknown and see who lives and who dies, then you take the ones who die and give them a brain to think with and change their demeanor to act like they should when they are dead and wow you got this book. Yes there were a lot of typos and grammar errors. The author needs an editor or proofreader. All in all if you are not some sort of grammar freak you will like this book.

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### **Justine says**

An interesting find on the free books list in my iPhone iBooks bookstore. The zombies in this story differ from the "normal" stereotypical zombies we know of: mindless, slow, shuffling, rotting corpses intent only on devouring the living. There are some zombies like this in the book, but there are also "smart" zombies: ones who can talk and look normal, and ones who are fast and have super strength. The zombies are also able to regenerate after receiving wounds; they can grow appendages back and heal fast. Some remember their lives prior to dying.

On the other hand, there are still some of the basics: virus spreads through bites, they can be killed by destroying the brain, that sort of thing.

Also, when these zombies bite and turn a person, they gain control of that person and can command them.

Max and his coworkers, and a female police officer are trying to make it through the city to each persons

home to rescue family and retrieve things they need. They pick up some new people along the way and lose some too. The story ends with them completing the task of getting to the last house and getting the last of the family members who are still alive and around. They have a few epic battles of course, and make a deal with a "smart" zombie to go their respective ways and leave each other alone. It ends with the bunch of them having to leave, but where will they go?

I think I will definitely read the next book in the series since it was a decent story, but I'm not chomping at the bit to get it. It's more of one of those books you'll read when nothing else is around. Definitely not bad, but not fantastic either.

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### **Helena Sheibler says**

Surprisingly clever.

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### **John L says**

May not be the "popular" zombie idea, but its a fresh twist, and makes them scarier! I enjoyed it immensely!

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### **Kirk Allmond says**

I love this book. I love the entire series. I've read countless zombie novels, my kindle is full of them. This book is one of the very few that takes the idea of zombies and makes it his own. If you're one of those "Zombies have to be slow and stupid" people, this probably isn't the book for you. If you like genuine characters, and a unique twist on zombies that makes them even scarier, then you should give this a shot.

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### **Amanda T says**

I have a love/hate relationship with self-publication right now. Publishing your own novel gives a voice to authors who might normally never be heard, but I can't help thinking that there might be a reason why they aren't published. It's also my opinion that if one is asked to pay for a self-published book, it better be good.

I bought this one for my Sony Reader because I thought it sounded promising.

This would have been a two star rating except for the following:

- it's unintentionally funny (page 127 - I would hope the building has an outside entrance; this is one example of many);
- a lot of editing errors (the author claims to have fixed these after re-reading his book 11 times);
- it's sexist (near the end - a comment about good thing his wife didn't gain any weight after they were married..... grrr....)
- some of it just didn't make any sense and is just there to prolong the story - in the middle of a zombie infestation in which most of the city is affected, do you really think that 1. the power would still be on and 2.

you'd be concerned about your laptop or hand-held video game?

However, the idea is still good - intelligent zombies who feed on humans for energy. Too bad the zombies sound like they come from a trailer park though.

Please for the sake of everyone else who might read this book, get yourself a better editor.

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