



## Black Tide Rising

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RESIST THE ZOMBIE PLAGUE!

The news that humanity had been dreading for ages had come true. Zombies are real. Worst of all, we created them. The apocalypse was upon us, and every man, woman and child had to answer a simple question of themselves: “What do we do now?” For a group of neighbors in the Chicago suburbs of Northern Indiana, it was “work together or die”...and figure out how to live on top of oil storage tanks to keep the zombies at bay. For the Biological Emergency Response Teams in New York City, it was “how long can we fight off the infected before it's too late” . . .as well as having to fight other groups all out to claim a dwindling stock of supplies and safety. And for a group of cheerleaders, it was about the end of their world. And about what happens when you get a group of physically fit young women really, *really* angry.

Featuring original stories from some of the brightest stars in the science fiction universe:

“Never Been Kissed” by John Ringo  
“Up on the Roof” by Eric Flint  
“Staying Human” by Jody Lynn Nye  
“On the Wall” by John Scalzi & Dave Klecha  
“Do No Harm” by Sarah A. Hoyt  
“Not in Vain” by Kacey Ezell  
“How Do You Solve a Problem Like Grandpa?” by Michael Z. Williamson  
“Battle of the BERTs” by Mike Massa  
“The Road to Good Intentions” by Tedd Roberts  
“200 Miles to Huntsville” by Christopher Smith  
“Best Laid Plans” by Jason Cordova & Eric S. Brown  
“The Meaning of Freedom” by John Ringo

About *Black Tide Rising*:

“. . . an entertaining batch of . . . action-packed tales. Certainly, fans of Ringo’s particular brand of action-adventure will be pleased.”—*Booklist*

"This anthology broadens Ringo’s Black Tide world, serving up doses of humanity amid the ravenous afflicted. Comedy has a place in this harsh reality, and these stories stir adventure and emotion at a frantic clip throughout. Zombie fiction fans will be thrilled."—*Library Journal*

**About the Black Tide Rising Series:**

“Not only has Ringo found a mostly unexplored corner of the zombie landscape, he's using the zombie frame to tackle a broader theme: the collapse and rebirth of civilization. The zombie scenes are exciting, sure, but it's the human story that keeps us involved. A fine series.”—*Booklist*

**About *Under a Graveyard Sky*:**

“Ringo combines humor and horror in this strong series debut, the thinking reader’s zombie novel.”—*Publishers Weekly*

**About John Ringo:**

“[Ringo’s work is] peopled with three-dimensional characters and spiced with personal drama as well as tactical finesse.”—*Library Journal*

“... Explosive. ... fans. ... will appreciate Ringo’s lively narrative and flavorful characters.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“... practically impossible not to read in one sitting ... exceedingly impressive ... executed with skill, verve, and wit.”—*Booklist*

“Crackerjack storytelling.”—*Starlog*

**BLACK TIDE RISING SERIES:**

*Under a Graveyard Sky*

*To Sail a Darkling Sea*

*Islands of Rage and Hope*

*Strands of Sorrow*

**Black Tide Rising Details**

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John Ringo (Editor) , Gary Poole (Editor) , Mike Massa , Tedd Roberts , Christopher L. Smith ,  
Author : Jason Cordova , Eric S. Brown , Eric Flint , more... Jody Lynn Nye , John Scalzi , Dave Klecha ,  
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Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Science Fiction, Short Stories, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic

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# From Reader Review Black Tide Rising for online ebook

## David Caldwell says

This was an interesting collection. Each story is written by a different author but they take place in the world that was made by John Ringo for his Black Tide Rising series. To be totally honest, I haven't read the series but I saw this book on sale and decided to give it a shot.

The world is interesting. It is one of the better premises for a zombie outbreak that I have read. It seems to take care of a lot of the common problems in zombie stories such as if zombies eat people, why do so many people become zombies? I also like that a lot of the stories revolve around surviving more than fighting zombies.

Of course, like any collection with a bunch of stories by different people, I liked some stories better than others. But I would still recommend the collection. It made me decide to pick up the series to see if it is as good as the collection.

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## Joe says

This is an anthology of some very good Sci-Fi writers each giving their take on "Zombie Apocalypse" stories. Several were good enough that I wanted to read more, and I usually dislike dystopian stories as being too grim. These (most of them anyway) are more showing what the people who are survivors do, the decisions they make in order to NOT become victims or food & most important are the attitudes. Just like in real emergencies, attitude is the difference between winners who make things happen vs the apathetic who have things happen to them...

Of course many stories have veterans or first responders filling critical roles, just as we do in real life. I also suggest that you try the novels by several of these authors, especially John Ringo! The Troy Rising series is great (I just wish book 4 comes soon!) as well as the Legacy of the Aldenata aka Posleen books he's partnered with. I also greatly like the Empire of Man series he did with David Weber (Great author!)

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## Beth says

Many fun stories about people either surviving or getting eaten by zombies. And John Ringo adds a second, final story to the end so he can ring a few more OH JOHN RINGO NO bells (a lot of the zombies turn out to be non-infectious docile morons, ideal for slavery or forced pregnancy, which is lucky because western civilizations breed more slowly than eastern ones so American civilization will fail and the ravaging barbarian hordes will win unless all American women start bearing as many children as possible which requires them to withdraw from all other work and stop wearing shoes. Also, all hunter gatherer societies led lives of violent desperation. All objections to any of this are obviously just concerned about sounding PC).

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## **Kimberly says**

I downloaded this e-arc through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

The Black Tide Rising world that John Ringo created was in no means original. Zombie stories have been written and rewritten for decades. What I appreciate about his version is how character driven it is and that these characters are smart and flawed. I really liked this short story collection because it brought more characters into the world, showed how other regions of the US and the world coped with the apocalypse, expanded on some story lines in the original series, and also gave other science fiction authors a chance to contribute. Some of my favorite stories include the ones written by John Scalzi and Dave Klecha ( On the wall), Michael Z. Williamson ( How do you solve a problem like Grandpa?), and Christopher Smith (200 miles to Huntsville). This collection of stories is a wonderful companion to the Black Tide Rising series.

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## **George Avery says**

This is a fun anthology of short stories set in John Ringo's Zombie Apocalypse setting from "Under A Graveyard Sky," written by a range of authors from John Scalzi to Michael Z. Williamson. Probably the weakest two are the two contributed by Ringo himself, although I quite enjoyed his introductory story, where heroine Faith Smith explains why she named an alligator "Reginald." Ranging from the tale of survivors who set up a fortress on the top of oil tanks in Lake County, Indiana to a high school cheerleading team caught on the road in rural New Mexico, returning from a competition (one of the best stories in the book, IMHO, written by newcomer Kacey Ezell), all offer interesting takes on survivors who were not part of Ringo's "Wolf Squadron." I also liked Michael Z. Williamson's story of a crabby old prepper whose grandsons' become glad that their efforts to force him to divest his firearms collection were unsuccessful.

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## **Debrac2014 says**

I enjoyed some of the stories, others not so much!

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## **Breane Ross says**

Love this book. Wasn't sure I would as it is mostly stories by other authors doing stories in the world of zombies created by John Ringo. Loved the various stories and characters. My only problem, I WANT MORE!!! Of each and every story. Oh well, maybe there will be more. Definitely recommend this book!

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## **Nathaniel says**

This was a really interesting compilation with a mixed-bag of stories.

Couple of things made it interesting. First, it's one of the only anthologies I've read where the writers are all playing in a very specific playground. In other words, it's not a free-ranging anthology like Dangerous

Women or The Mystery Writers of America Presents The Mystery Box where there's one guiding theme but basically everyone does their own thing. Instead, all of the stories were set in John Ringo's particular zombie apocalypse, complete with faithful adherence to the very specific "rules" of his zombies and the historical timeline. I know this has been done before (I'm pretty sure there are some Man-Kzin anthologies and so forth), but I've never read one. I was really interested to see how a cast of authors would handle the challenge. How closely would they adhere to the facts established in the universe? How much would they deviate? How much would they avoid the question by being generic? The answer: although some of the stories could have been set in basically any old zombie apocalypse, most of the stories incorporated a surprising amount of Ringo-specific details and some of the very best (e.g. Battle of the BERTS) relied almost exclusively on those Ringo-specific aspects.

Second, the authors come from across a particularly nasty political schism. I think a lot of folks took notice when social justice champion John Scalzi signed on to a project to write in a John Ringo anthology. (I don't know if John Ringo considers himself part of the alt-right, but he's in that general neck of the woods.) Would politics rear their ugly head? Yes, they did. It was pretty subtle in John Scalzi's story, but definitely present. The entire narrative was basically a whiney character on guard duty whining about not having a gun, which afforded an opportunity to (1) mock firearm-obsession (a common accusation of John Ringo and folks in his political neighborhood like Larry Correia) (2) demonstrate that Scalzi wasn't afraid to write, with a decent measure of technical details, about firearms himself. But Scalzi's politicking was pretty subtle, and I'm reasonably sure most people would have read the story without even noticing the subtext. The story "How Do You Solve a Problem Like Grandpa?" was much, *much* worse. It lacked basically any semblance of a plot and was instead a thinly veiled "I told you so"-fantasy where the arrival of zombies validates a prepper's choices and ensuing events provide opportunities to egregiously mock strawman versions of political liberals. I'm on the right (more or less), and I found it gringe-inducing. Seriously, write a *story*, will ya? Not an obtuse political pamphlet.

Overall, I'd say the anthology survived the politicizing (although some of the stories definitely did not), and that's probably a fair assessment of the state of the genre as a whole. As I write this review, John Scalzi is blogging (for the second time this week) about whether or not he's going to withdraw from the Dragon Awards, which is just an aftershock of the tumultuous fights over the Hugo Awards that have riven the sci-fi community for the past few years.

So... the stories. Some were weak, like "How Do You Solve a Problem Like Grandpa?" Ringo's own submission was weird and felt like something mailed-in to beat a deadline (although there might have been some reference to characters or events from the original series that I didn't remember that would have made it more impactful.)

Others were decent, like "Up on the Roof." That one was all concept, no story, but the concept was really solid and so it worked out alright. Honestly, the concept was cool enough that I would have really liked to have seen a novel-length treatment. I definitely wanted more when it ended.

My favorite--by far--was "Battle of the BERTs." It was also the most reliant on the unique aspects of Ringo's setting, since it was all about private security forces in New York City after the outbreak but prior to the collapse who made a living harvesting brain stems from infected persons for the antidote. All of that setup--the idea of making vaccines, the banks hiring private security and trying to keep things running until the last possible minute, and the BERTs--came straight out of Ringo's writing. The big set-piece scene from his first book in the main series even made an appearance. But the story that was told (sorry, I don't remember author names) using those raw materials was completely original and compelling. And it was the only story in the entire bunch that ended with that hook ending that really makes you feel like you read a *short story*, you

know? Not just a story that happens to be brief, but one that has the particular style and form of a short story. The kind where at the end the story doesn't just wind down and peter out, but actually zings to a conclusion that makes you go "hunh." One way to do that is a twist-ending, of course, but that's not the only way. It just has to have a really, really satisfying ending where you know the story ended, and that it was *about* something. (Ray Bradbury was an absolute master of this. And it's something I'm pretty awful at.)

So, it was definitely an interesting anthology. If you read Ringo's series and liked it: read the books. It doesn't really add to canon, but it does offer some cool insights into the world. And hey, if you're interested in the mechanics of writing in a shared-universe or contemporary politics in the sci-fi community, then hey: added bonus.

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### **Wolfgarr says**

I guess this makes it official. John ringo Has abandoned another yet unfinished book series he has going.

I honestly love the worlds Ringo invents and have read just about everything he has put out. Even though i have come to understand over the many years i have been reading his books that the chances of him ever actually finishing a series is just about Nill.

Shrug .. What can i say ..I love his books. Dislike the fact he can't seem to finish a series with a clear cut ending.

1 star. Why? Because I am interesting in reading the conclusion or continuation of any of his many series. Not something completely unrelated written by others. Even if it is set in one of his alt realities. Harsh? Maybe. But it is what it is.

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### **Alex Shrugged says**

I liked it. I didn't love it. I blame myself. I generally don't like short stories. I will read them for authors like Eric Flint, David Weber or Lois McMaster Bujold. I also don't like zombie books. Nevertheless, I like the Black Tide Rising series, so I read this book.

The book fills out the picture of a world gone mad in a zombie apocalypse. Since the Black Tide series covered what happened at sea (mostly) these short stories handle what happened on the ground to people, here and there. The cover story is about cheerleaders fighting off zombies while looking for vaccine. It was pretty good.

FYI, for those practicing modesty (that is a religious phrase), this is not a modest book. If you are married, then... your choice.

I'd read this book again.

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## **Doug Hufnagel says**

### **Zombies Like Never Before**

This book of short stories kept me intrigued the whole way through. Not a single story was dull. They were however incredibly different from one another, putting us in places in the universe we have never seen before.

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## **Nathan says**

This collection has gems in it...but it also had turds and some in between. Overall it wasn't a great collection which is sad.

Some stories fit the world and back story and had solid attempts to expand the world.

Others, well you could tell the authors read a synopsis somewhere and then tried to write in the world and ended up in mush.

Others were just boring. Overall I struggled to finish about half the stories.

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## **\_ says**

An anthology of stories in the Black Tide Rising universe created by John Ringo. A great mix of well known authors play around in the sandbox of the master of Mil-SF. It's a great adder to the overall universe. Typical mix of good and mediocre found in an anthology, but mostly good. The final Ringo story also might leave you gape-jawed at the potential for things to come in the series.

TLDR: The Flint, Williamson, and last Ringo stories are worth the price of the book. These three get 5 stars. There are other good ones as well in the anthology. My average rating for the book is 3 stars (36 over 12 stories), and I call it a Worthwhile Read.

Individual story ratings below. Beware of spoilers (I try not to, but they are short stories, so...)

### **Never Been Kissed** by John Ringo (2 star)

Very short. Musings of Faith about the fate of all the people she knew.

### **Up on the Roof** by Eric Flint (5 stars)

An excellent story of a group of survivors who make an excellent choice to ride out the apocalypse atop a gasoline tank farm. Really good setup, detailed enough without being boring, and good character development in a short time. I would like to read a full novel about this group.



**Staying Human** by Jody Lynn Nye (1 star)

Missed the mark on several key points about the behavior of the zombies in this universe. Sentiment is all over the place and turns very preachy about being better and not seeking revenge against the 'poor infected'. Waste of my time.

**On the Wall** by John Scalzi & Dave Klecha (2 stars)

Annoying. Some humor, but of the obnoxious variety. The entire story is dialogue, which makes it read like an episode of Gilmore Girls. One of the characters is such a douche that he needed to be thrown to the zombies.

**Do No Harm** by Sarah Hoyt (3 stars)

An ER nurse must come to grips with 'kill or be killed' as the hospital is overrun with zombies. Good story. Great character development for a short story length tale.

**Not in Vain** by Kacey Ezell (3 stars)

A group of cheerleaders and their coach must step up if they want to reach a safe haven in the zombie apocalypse. Excellent character development, but too short. I want more!

**How Do You Solve a Problem Like Grandpa?** by Michael Z. Williamson (5 stars)

Grandpa is a vet, but his grandkids think he's a gun hoarder that needs an intervention... until the zombies hit. Best one in the book. Grandpa was right, and he ain't taking no more of your crap, you little shits!

**Battle of the BERTs** by Mike Massa (3 stars)

Interesting story of the teams sent out to control infected on the streets of New York before everything gets completely out of control. This one ties in directly with events from Book 1 in the series.

**The Road to Good Intentions** by Tedd Roberts (3 stars)

A small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains could be a refuge for some, but only if they can keep outside influences from ruining things. One man struggles with his own religious issues as the local pastor calls his survival of the fever a miracle and sets him off as a beacon of hope. A decent story with good details, but the ending is abrupt and left hanging. The use of religion as a plot device is bothersome.

**200 Miles to Huntsville** by Christopher Smith (2 stars)

A post-war Vet turned cop, his dirty-cop partner, and the prisoner they are escorting find themselves in a cultish Hicksville, Texas as the final shoe begins to drop. I didn't care for this one mainly because of the use of religion as a plot device. The writing and characters were ok, but the blurring of good/bad would not be something I'd want to keep reading for much longer.

**Best Laid Plans** by Jason Cordova & Eric S. Brown (2 stars)

A group of thieves are determined to rob the Louvre despite the zombie apocalypse. Interesting, but too short to get to know the characters well. The humor is quirky and not all that funny to me (others might find it more so).

**The Meaning of Freedom** by John Ringo (5 stars)

An interesting interlude that shows the true nature of the 'beta' zombies that has been hinted at in the main series. It raises a huge moral question, which I won't spoil. This one is a thinker, unlike the 'killing infected' or 'using infected for medicine' questions that I found to be trite in the main series itself. This story is a must read for the series.

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**Dan says**

3.5 stars, it took me a month to work through this collection of short stories in one of my favorite series. For me it suffered from its lack of main stream characters, most of the stories were entirely disconnected from the main thread of the series.

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**mary rankin says**

This is an anthology: a collection of stories by various authors with a common theme. The theme of this is the Dark Tide Rising series by John Ringo. I found it fascinating to read the different angles on the same theme. The last story was the most compelling, how do we manage a "civilization" without what is needed. Read it to understand.

Yes, the zombie apocalypse has been done over and over but I haven't read too many about POST apocalypse and how humanity might survive. It is interesting. I'm afraid that I truly love Faith, Sophia and General Montana!!!

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