



# Aftermath

*D.J. Molles*

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Nothing has gone according to plan.

To Captain Lee Harden, Project Hometown feels like a distant dream and the completion of his mission seems unattainable.

Wounded and weaponless, he has stumbled upon a group of survivors that seems willing to help. But a tragedy in the group causes a deep rift to come to light and forces him into action. In the chaos of the world outside, Lee is pursued by a new threat: someone who will stop at nothing to get what he has.

"The Remaining: Aftermath" is the second book in the popular "The Remaining" series. The third book is on the way.

## Aftermath Details

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Author : D.J. Molles

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## From Reader Review Aftermath for online ebook

### Carolyn F. says

Ugh! This is the wimpiest soldier that is supposed to save mankind that I have every read. I can't take it! Done!!

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### Brittany Kuehn says

So I read this because I really liked the first of the series; I still enjoyed this book but it definitely went down hill. All the things I found somewhat annoying in the first book were much more ridiculous in the second. The book lacked direction and the main character made absurd choices! He was a really unbelievable, a hard core military man would not just decide to detour and look in on an infected city because someone was curious when 50 lives are depending on your current mission.. sorry, nope, make second trip and come back later. I am obviously going to continue to read these books, even though it looks like they are going down hill fast.. but hey, Ill do anything to avoid studying for finals.

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### Bradley says

So yeah, zombies, right? Lots of survival among zombies, right?

Well, no, not so much. This is very much like The Walking Dead, where we have long stretches of dealing with live people and the crap they bring to the table rather than stocking up on tons of ammunition and going to work on all the living dead.

Well, yeah, this is very much like the Walking Dead. Perhaps a better, faster version where tons of supplies ARE to be had, big bads are closer to the fore, and we have all the locations we have grown to love and hate from the comics (or tv show, for you non-purists) written large, fast, and big.

And did I mention fast? It's the zombie apocalypse, yo! Let's follow Lee and his Mil-SF trope all the way through the wasteland and see if he brings civilization back to the poor folk here! :)

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### Kolby Kappes says

This book was better than the last (which was still quite good). The story stays compact in terms of scope and timeline. The action is intense. The story wraps up nicely. Can't wait for the next book!

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### 11811 (Eleven) says

About a 3.5. Good enough that the third in the series is already on my list.

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## **John says**

This series remains very solid with the second installment -- it's a roller-coaster ride with a very credible storyline and not much unnecessary fat to go with it. The characters are engaging, and the overall tone makes for a very compelling story.

With the popularity of The Walking Dead TV series, I find myself wondering why someone such as HBO or TNT or SyFy hasn't looked into picking up this series for TV. It plays on the same zombie themes that make The Walking Dead so popular, and the characters are easily as engaging as those in The Walking Dead, but the premise and storyline is more purposeful, lending itself to have more of a post-apocalyptic/societal collapse/rebuilding themes, somewhat along the lines of other shows like Revolution, Under The Dome, or Jericho.

As with the first book, there is some clunky editing in a couple of spots but nothing too egregious -- just a few obvious examples of where automatic spell checking was relied upon more than an actual copy editor or alpha readers with an editorial eye.

All in all, one of the most engaging series I've read in quite some time.

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## **Pablo Padilla says**

From start to finish, this book is such a fun and action packed, well written, amazing-imagery, great descriptions book. After reading DJ Molles' first book, The Remaining, I had to continue, I could not stop reading, literally. Well, the moments when I wasn't reading I was thinking about the character development, about Doc or Miller, Harper or Lee, just wondering what would ever become of them in such a morphed world where shit hit the fan and rubble, chaos, and FURY infected feral creatures are roaming the land, combing the woods in search of prey--or haunting a church--.

As I mentioned it on my previous review, DJ Molles does a fantastic job in describing the moment, in capturing its essence and giving it to you, the reader, in such a simple yet compelling way that you are immediately transported. Character development is one of this author's strengths and of course, the use of artillery is just fascinating. Can't wait to get to book 3.

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## **Yara says**

While this is not the best book in the world, I would recommend it for when you don't have the energy to think and need some brainless reading. On the negative side, it's not the best written, and it's clear the author thinks women are fragile creatures incapable of protecting themselves. On the plus side, it's pure action from one moment to the next, so it's a quick read that won't bore you. Just don't expect much intelligence.

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## **Thomas Sabo says**

This series starts as a little kindling fire and quickly ignites into a full blown blaze. Don't concern yourself with the small price of these books, they are amazingly well written works and continually ratchet up the pressure on the reader.

As someone familiar with military and law enforcement gear and tactics it is an interesting and accurate portrayal of the mission, if "Operation Homeland" really existed. Who knows, maybe it does...

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## **Derek says**

I'm a big fan of the post apocalyptic genre. I'm also a big fan of zombies. Not all zombie books are post apocalyptic, but this series seems to be what I would consider the best of both worlds.

I really like the characters, and the pace of the books is excellent. Truly masterfully told.

Dialogue is something that I tend to notice as being weak, or unnecessary filler in a lot of books. Certainly not this series. It seems very well done.

The plot kept me interested the whole time. Always wondering what the next chapter had in store.

And I dare say, as far as zombies go, this series does it better than anything I've seen so far. Zombies don't live on endlessly, crawling around with half a body. They're people. They lose enough blood, they die. It's so much more realistic than most of what you see out there.

I love how the zombies (never actually referred to as zombies, which I like) function. I love how terrifying they are compared to anything else I've read. They truly are the most horrifying zombies I've ever seen, and I love it.

I consider The Remaining series among my top 3 favorite reads of all time, right up there with WOOL and Ready Player One.

I hope this series never ends. I'm very impressed by D.J. Molles incredible ability to create and tell a truly unique, captivating, and gripping story.

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## **ambimb says**

Review: The Remaining: Aftermath

This is a strong follow-up to the first book, and if you liked the first book you'll like this. All the mayhem and zombie apocalypse continues, with a serious dose of trouble from the redneck warlord faction to make it all that much more dramatic and ratchet up the stakes and the danger.

This gets only two stars from me, though, because of two things: It seriously needed an editor, and it's just so rah-rah soldier and testosterone.

First, the editor: There are so many places where words are spelled incorrectly or simply the wrong word is used that I lost count. Molles frequently writes "bare" when it should be "bear," for example, "staid" instead of "stayed," "pale" instead of "pail," "stare" instead of "stair," etc. Sure, these homophones will make it through a spell checker, but a spell check is completely different from a meaning check, and that's why a good writer needs a good editor.

The plot also has some serious problems which an editor could have pointed out and given the author a chance to address. The biggest plot hole is Lee's side trip to Smithfield. It makes no sense that Lee would finally make it to his bunker, finally get a load of supplies for the people at Camp Ryder who are on the verge of starvation, and instead of going back there w/the supplies immediately would instead head off into the middle of an infected city on a completely different mission that might very well get him killed. No. I don't buy it. It's just dumb. If he's as smart and savvy as he's otherwise portrayed, he would have made sure the supplies got back to the people who needed them, and \*then\* gone on his mission. If he'd done that, Camp Ryder would have loved him and would have given him many more men and resources so he would have been much better able to accomplish the goal of checking on Maria's sister/looking for other survivors in Smithfield.

And even if we believe he's going to go off on this fool's errand before he makes sure the supplies get to Camp Ryder, it goes completely against his mission not to at least take some steps to ensure that the supplies get there w/o him. He wouldn't take the supply truck and all of his little team into the infected area. That was just stupid. Sure, it ended up making for some good drama, but stupid.

And the whole Doc subplot was also implausible. I can buy that this Doc guy was a spy for Milo and was trying to deliver Lee to Milo all in order to save his girlfriend, Nicole. Fine. But if that's what he was doing, then why, when Lee said he was not going back to Camp Ryder but was instead going into Smithfield, why would Doc say "I'm going with you?" How would that have helped Doc's plan to get Lee to Milo? Are we to believe Doc thought he might capture Lee and drag him to Milo somehow on his own? Again, makes no sense. Not plausible.

So while it all comes together in the end, how we get there needed more thought, and a good editor would have helped encourage Molles to think about this plot a little more and smooth it out before it went to press.

Finally, on the rah-rah: If Molles is not former military himself, he's done a great job on research because the details of the weapons and the gear and tactics and terminology of a special forces military operator seem very realistic and convincing. This is great, but it comes along with a sort of military boosterism that just bugs me. It could be worse, so it probably won't bother most readers. It's just not for me.

The fact that I'm already reading the third installment in this series shows that I'm enjoying it and have become engaged enough with the characters and the situation that I want to find out what happens to them. That, alone, is no small achievement and reason enough to consider giving these books a read.

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## **Timothy Mayer says**

The Remaining: Aftermath continues where the previous Aftermath novel ended. Capt. Lee Harden, US Army, has finally rendezvoused with a group of survivors. Known as "Camp Ryder", from the truck plant they occupy, they are few in number and led by an older man named Bus. But there is division in the ranks, notably from a faction allied with Jerry, who had been a successful businessman before The End Of The

World As We Know It.

While Harden is recuperating, there is a massive attack on the compound from the Infected. Using his tactical knowledge, Capt. Harden is able to repel the invaders and save the camp. But a young woman loses her life in the attack. Furthermore, an examination of the perimeter fence shows it had been cut. The Infected were lured to the breach with a CD player quietly reading from Moby Dick.

As a newcomer, Harden is the source of suspicion. The only way he can regain the trust of the camp is to venture outside and find supplies. The novel revs into gear as Harden and a few volunteers go forth in search of food, medicine and whatever before the camp residents begin starving to death. The Infected are everywhere. As is the local meth-head warlord, Milo. And Milo may have a traitor on the inside of Camp Ryder.

As in the first novel, *The Remaining: Aftermath* is one action scene after another. Capt. Harden is either rescuing people or trying to escape from a trap. The feel of the book is relentless again: you can't catch your breath in one scene because another attack is imminent. And, like the previous novel, there is plenty of technical detail about military hardware.

There's some new characters. Notably, Father Jim, a gun-toting priest who takes care of the remains of his flock. Father Jim looks on Capt. Harden as some sort of divine avenger. He's an interesting character and I hope we'll see more of him as the series progresses.

Amongst all the explosions and bullets flying can be found this bit of insight:

"This is a concept drilled into any soldier, from day one as a recruit. It is reinforced mentally and physically, officially and unofficially, through indoctrination and through the military subculture. Nothing you do as a recruit is right, even if you're right. The instructors are always striving to achieve the sensation of failure, because it is imminent and inevitable that every soldier, every warrior will someday find themselves in a position where even their best efforts were not enough, and the greatest plan in the world still didn't work out. That failure can bring out two things in a man: forfeit or fight.

A normal man forfeits, where a warrior fights."

And the Infected are starting to evolve. toward the beginning of the book, Harden is nearly trapped by a group of Infected working together. The Infected are starting to exhibit pack animal characteristics.

This is an intense series and I'm curious to see where the author will be taking it.

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## **Kellie says**

I had mixed feelings while reading this book, but now that I've finished, I definitely enjoyed it.

Let's start with what I enjoyed about this book: 1. It keeps you on the edge of your seat the entire time, never a dull moment. 2. The infected use objects as weapons to kill people. I've read a fair share of post-apocalypse books and not once did an infected/zombie/whatever pick up a shovel to try and bash someones brains in. Now that's fucking scary.

The two things that bugged me about this book were: 1. NOTHING ever went right. Seriously, not a damn

thing. You couldn't so much as pick up a graham cracker crumb without having a horde of 500 crazies find you and tear you apart, and if you did end up getting away, you'd end up running into Milo and having him torture you to death (this didn't really happen, but you get what I'm saying). But I guess that's also what kept me so into the book, it was one crazy situation leading into an even crazier situation. 2. Some of the decisions that were made that were completely illogical ::this will contain a spoiler, heads up:: So Lee and a few of the guys from Camp Ryder get hold of a bunch of supplies (food, water, medical equipment, etc) from one of the bunkers and are about to bring them back to the camp. Keep in mind, Camp Ryder has completely used up all their food, so not getting these supplies back will be detrimental. But Lee made a promise that he would check to see if he could find any survivors, specifically the sister of one of the girls at Camp Ryder. So before going back to camp with all the supplies, they go on a possible suicide mission to the big city (filled with the infected) for the possibility of maybe finding this sister, risking everyones lives and the supplies that people are relying on. ARE YOU FUCKING SERIOUS?!?! Just take the supplies back FIRST then go another day for fucks sake. That was annoying.

Ok even though I just wrote much more about what I didn't like about the book, I want to reiterate that I did enjoy this book. I just got frustrated with some of the characters.

I highly recommend this for anyone who reads post-apocalyptic books.

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### **James Somahkawahho says**

The action picks up where it left off from the last one. This is a complete rush from start to finish. To be honest, it's pace is so fast that you feel like you are running a marathon, no, a balls out sprint and cannot catch your breath just reading it. Outstanding writing, word-smithing, takes you on a better journey than the first one and leaves you, despite the fact you probably would not survive it, wanting you to go on another one. Read this series of novels if you love post-apocalyptic military stories. This one and the one before is well worth the cash.

James S.

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### **Samuel Tyler says**

A week is a long time in politics, but it feels infinitely longer in a zombie apocalypse. D J Molle's 'The Remaining' started a new series of books that followed trained military expert Captain Lee Harden and his mission to rebuild America should the undead hit the fan. As an introduction, 'The Remaining' did a great job in creating the world and exploring Harden's tenacity to stick to the mission, but it ended so abruptly. 'The Remaining: The Aftermath' picks up moments later and continues the tale, but does it still deliver a week into his mission?

If Harden is not being chased by virus infected crazies, he is being shot at by unfriendly humans. Either way, it appears he is always out of luck, until 'The Aftermath'. Harden has now found a stable community that he can build upon to realise his mission of restoring the ideas behind what makes America great. With limited resources, Harden and some of the other survivors set out to find a hidden military bunker full of supplies. All that is in the way is an army of the undead and a few military nutcases – easy.



‘The Aftermath’ continues in the tone and style of ‘The Remaining’ in both a positive and negative way. The pace remains high and the action even seems to hot up in book two as the mindless threat of the undead begins to evolve. This is coupled with a larger and more threatening human presence. Not only must Harden combat the violent groups outside of his own, but factions from within that plan to use old-fashioned politics to usurp power.

Where the series falls down once more is in the episodic style. To say that ‘The Remaining’ owes a lot to ‘The Walking Dead’ is an understatement – they are two similar worlds that are built on similar character and episodic development. Where ‘The Aftermath’ is able to improve on ‘The Walking Dead’ is the fact that the undead are not actually zombies, but infected. This opens up far more potential for Molles to explore his creations as they begin to think in a pack mentality that alters the way the humans must survive.

There is a larger universe to ‘The Remaining’ books that is very interesting, but feels just out of reach. Molles is more interested in telling a snapshot of the story and filling it with action, a reader will have to go through the entire set to get a better understanding of how the world of ‘The Remaining’ came to be. Thankfully, if the action remains as entertaining as in ‘The Aftermath’ this will not be problem as getting the overview will be a joy. Some of the sequences are electric – a struggle for petrol on a quiet road, or the hospital stand-off. I also liked the introduction of a human threat and the way that Molles concludes this book in a way you may not suspect.

All of Molles’ ‘The Remaining’ books should be read in order if you can as although each is a great action science fiction horror, the main series narrative does add to the fun. At times ‘The Aftermath’ just feels like an empty-headed action book, but knowing that it is part of a larger vision really fleshes it out.

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