



# Rise of the Horde

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## **Rise of the Horde** Devan Sagliani

When 16 year old Xander's older brother Moto left him at Vandenberg Airforce Base he only had one request - don't leave no matter what. But there was no way he could have known that one day zombies would gather into groups big enough to knock down walls and take out entire buildings full of people. That was before the rise of the horde!

Now Xander is on the run, fleeing south to Port Hueneme to locate his brother with nothing but his martial arts training and the katana blade left to him. Along the way he'll have to fight for his life against other survivors, neo-Nazi's, outlaw bikers, gang bangers, cannibals, cult members, and a seemingly endless sea of flesh hungry zombies.

But Xander is far from alone. Traveling with him are Benji, a 12 year old comic book geek, and Felicity Jane, a childhood celebrity with wild mood swings. Will they make it together in one piece to the safe zone or will they become the next meal for a hungry horde of wild zombies?

Zombie Attack! Rise of the Horde is filled with pulse pounding undead action from the very first chapter up until the bitter sweet end. From rock stars and celebrities to false prophets and miracle workers, this book has it all! The story takes off like a bullet and doesn't slow down until the last sentence. You won't be able to put it down!

## **Rise of the Horde Details**

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# From Reader Review Rise of the Horde for online ebook

Merril Anil says

**Oh my god its Zombilicious**

First of all a huge thanks to the author for providing me with a review copy and secondly... OH MY GOD...this was fantastic

Well as the name suggests this is totally a zombie apocalypse book but if you think that this book is going to be all about zombie and running from them, then you are wrong because while zombie are running in the background craving for brains, **the story line has much more to offer and have so many other twists and turns that keeps it spicy and completely going roller coaster on you.** while the central characters keep ending up in troubles one after another making them run for their lives, for the readers it is downright fun and entertaining.

*(more like those people from gladiator times who sat on the sidelines watching a tiger ripping some gladiator's throat, while munching popcorn and saying " wow the tiger has got some moves..... wait!! is that a tattoo on his paws?" )*

**The brilliance and effectiveness of the book comes from the fact that the author did not keep the story hovering around running from a zombie army but had incorporated various other sidelines to the overall plot that you can't blink your eyes for one moment. For me the story graph keeps elevating and elevating until it settles down peacefully towards the end, giving you your breath back.**

Thank fully the author does not leave huge cliff hangers but still makes you want to read the sequel so badly

**The language and storytelling is absolutely weaving its magic so you can pick up this book without having to worry that you will be left stranded in the zombie land for too long.** The narration skill is fantastic and the simplicity and the flowing language keeps you glued to the book and in any case i believe this book was a fantastic opening to the series.

**The book in its short span, takes you from interesting to the level were your blood is threatening to come out of your veins with excitement. The best part is that the story line keeps reinventing itself with each increasing chapters and before you know it jumps into places that you lest expected. You never know what is coming up next and this twists and turns in the story makes this book an exciting ride. The language and narration skill only adds to the overall charm.**

If you think that this book is going to be all zombies and zombies.. think again and for all those who love zombies then.... what are you waiting for... DIG IN.....

how was it?

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## **Frederick Brooke says**

With a title like this and a cover like this book has you would expect an ordinary, everyday zombie story for the YA crowd. The zombies have wiped out most of humanity; a small band of survivors battles to the uncertain finish. You would be right about the fact that this book does not stray far from the storyline we've become accustomed to from many othe zombie stories. That's where the similarity ends.

Friends, author Devan Sagliani can write. This book is populated with some characters I really grow to like, soon after I meet them, and who I like better and better as their courage is tested. There's our hero, Xander, a sixteen-year-old with a special Samurai sword, and Xander is both stronger and wiser than his years. He takes 12-year-old Benji under his wing, protecting him from bullies, zombies, cannibals and Jesus freaks and putting his own life at risk each time. The relationship between these two boys turns out to be a highlight of the book.

Xander is on a quest to find his own older brother, and he knows where he'll find him; it's just getting there that's turning out to be a problem. The story moves smoothly from one impossible, pulled-from-the-snapping-jaws-of-the-zombie scene to the next with professional alacrity. Told in the first person, we are in Xander's head, and we couldn't have gotten thrown into this mess with a nicer guy. Yet the relationship stuff doesn't get in the way of the fast-moving story, either. It's just good.

This book is suitable for the same YA readers who would be reading Lord of the Rings or Eragon. There is a commonality on many levels between the zombie apocalypse and the evil reign of Mordor. The ending of *Zombie Attack!* leads me to believe a sequel is planned, and I can assure you I'll be first in line to read it.

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## **Ms. Nikki says**

Xander was to wait for his brother Moto to return for him when zombies attack. Now Xander has to fend for himself against gangs, cannibals, religious zealots, and more on his quest to find his brother. Along the way he meets a young boy and an on-screen idol, Felicity. Their journey may no longer be a lonely one, but it is no less dangerous.

To be fair, I'm not necessarily a fan of a lot of teen reads. The book flowed at a decent pace, but I didn't connect with the characters. I understood their motivation and angst, there was just nothing bonding me to them. The writing was clean. This is a Devan Sagliani tale after all. It was the content of the story that I wasn't very excited about. I like it, it just didn't have that "umph" of a more mature read.

If you liked Jonathan Maberry's *Rot and Ruin*, you'll like this.

\*I was given a copy of this in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Books says**

"*Zombie Attack: Rise of the Horde*" is everything the blurb promises it to be, and much, much more! When the current world order collapses into chaos under the shuffling feet of flesh-eating zombies, and law and

order can no longer be maintained; those who thrive in a lawless world get together to create even more chaos. Gangsters and those who oppose them, Neo-Nazi's and cannibals, are just some of the dangers Xander, Benji and Felicity have to face on their journey to the safe zone at Port Hueneme. Along the way they even run into a religious cult who tends to use strangers as sacrifices and as food for their caged zombies.

With bloody, gory action, and nail-biting suspense from the start, which does not let up until the last sentence, I finished this book in one day. Of all the post-apocalyptic books I have read, this one actually scared me the most, as it projects a truly frightening end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it scenario. The main character, Xander, is one of the best crafted characters I have ever encountered. Not only is his personality absolutely realistic but his sarcastic, smart-mouth comments will make you laugh out loud - that is when he's not getting into some trouble because of said mouth. Where Xander is slightly aggressive, bitter, and jaded at times, his young friend Benji is a kind boy who wins the hearts of people with his sweet disposition. The third member of their group, Felicity Jane, mood swings and all, proves to be a diplomatic asset when it really counts. Amidst the seriousness, suspense and heartbreak of their journey, the trio still find time for fun and relaxation and, yes, even for a few gentle romantic moments.

A tale of despair and sacrifice, small precious victories, farewells and reunions, and subtle spirituality, "Zombie Attack: Rise of the Horde" is a book I would highly recommend to readers looking for an enormously thrilling story with a degree of depth to it. As the book ends with a bit of a cliff hanger, I sincerely hope that we'll soon see more books from this brilliant author. (Ellen Fritz)

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## **Blair says**

"Zombie Attack!" pulls off the rare feat, in the zombie genre, of delivering both finely-drawn characters and truly unpredictable plot turns. Unlike most books in the zombie genre -- and I've read a lot -- the characters in "Zombie Attack!" aren't two-dimensional cartoon figures who are tossed into the narrative merely to serve as zombie lunch. Rather, they're flesh-and-blood humans whose complex inner lives drive their actions to their inexorable, bloody ends.

Yes, these's stomach-churning blood-splatter galore ... but the novel derives its real narrative thrust from the psychological insight that author Devan Sagliani gives us into protagonists Xander and Benji -- who prove themselves all too human as they fight their way through a post-apocalyptic landscape pock-marked with biker cannibals, white supremacists and brainwashed cult members.

This Zombie book has earned a prominent spot on my shelf. I'll be loaning it out frequently.

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## **Patricia says**

This book, *Zombie Attack! Rise of the Horde*, takes you on a non-stop ride with Xander, a 16-yr old searching for his brother, Moto, while battling zombies and gaining friends along the way. You see it all from Xander's point of view and the details are all there! The relationships are believable, the battles seem real, the surprises do not disappoint! There is simply no let-down as the action continues to build throughout the book. I know this book was written for teenagers or young adults but as an older adult I chose this book

anyway and have read it twice--the first time was fast, just to get the feel of the book; the second read was for the detail--and I wasn't disappointed. The author, Devan Sagliani, actively leads us in and out of one imaginative adventure after another, all the while keeping us fully engrossed in the lives of his characters. It's this character involvement that intrigues me most. I admire the author's strong writing talent and imagination! I love his use of detail that he weaves into the lives of Xander and everyone he meets--he knows how to flesh out his characters and really make them come to life! I highly recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a bit of horror to take you out of your everyday world! In fact, I'll bet you'll read it more than once!

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### **Chris Everheart says**

A smash-bang post-apocalypse zombie-nightmare romp. The story follows teen Xander and the various kids he encounters - and some he feels responsible for - on a journey of necessity and survival. It has lots of mythical-type characters brought down to earth and set in Xander's way. The situations the group encounters are one-after-another obstacles and rites of passage through a world of walking dead. There's lots of action, violence and heart to keep even a reluctant reader turning the pages. I really enjoyed this book and recommend it for young readers who have a stomach for blood and guts.

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### **Sharon Stevenson says**

Sagliani smashes it again! *Zombie Attack: Rise of the Horde* was top quality YA horror, with easily relatable characters you will find yourself caring about very quickly.

The standard apocalyptic setting for a zombie novel was enhanced by Sagliani's world building skills. The different attitudes towards the zombie threat by the groups of people he has created made for a page turning read. One group leader in particular made it seem there might be worse things than zombie hordes for the main characters to worry about!

This book is fast paced, action packed, suspenseful, tense and creepy. There's some good humour in there too and even a little romance. Recommended reading!

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### **Deborah says**

16 year old Xander is left at Vandenberg Airforce Base by his older brother Moto, who tells him not to leave-but that was before the horde of zombies attacked! Xander manages to escape, fleeing south to Port Hueneme to locate his brother with nothing but his martial arts training and the katana blade left to him. Along the way he meets up with others as they struggle to survive. This is a great *Zombie* story that is rich in characters and plot. A *Zombie* story without the bad language, sex, and senseless gore. The action was nonstop that left me wanting more. I can't wait for the next sequel. Thanks for such a great *Zombie* story.

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## Heartofkenna says

I am a bit torn between two and three stars here, I keep reaching up and changing the rating. Let me type up why I feel this way, then I'll see what I'll do about the rating.

The beginning of the book started off strong. You could see the action coming and realized once the book got its pacing that there would not be much standing around. In the pro column the book did a swell job of that, it was brimming with plot and kept moving. When I started the book I was convinced it was going to be fantastic, and this was with serious reservations - I start most books with reservations. Some of my favorite things in the dawn of the book with the descriptions and occasional introspection.

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

There seemed some promise in the characterization, they gave some back-story for Benji and he was relatable. Felicity while not entirely relatable was likable.

Unfortunately, for whatever reason, this seemed to stop completely or hedged down to the bare minimal. The main character, Xander, ceased to develop or evolve into much of a character. The physical descriptions seemed to drop down dramatically leaving you wondering what was going on. And what was going on? Really, not much in the background. Many of the explored places were empty besides a singleton zombie to move the plot along, or a very non-threatening horde. Where were all the zombies? Entire neighborhoods were empty. That aside, Xander seemed to be the only one to ever do anything in combat situations, and the things he did seemed very unrealistic. (view spoiler)

What bothered me more than that though was Xander just behaved like no one ever would. He was a simple character, and impossible to get into the head of. I have heard a lot of books that are written in first person tend to struggle with this.

There was no sense of urgency and the periods of grief were almost laughable. I thought this was limited to Xander but it became apparent quite quickly that it was not just him. For example, (view spoiler).

Some more examples of them behaving like no actual person would-  
(view spoiler)

Don't even get me started on the soldier speaking in riddles at the end. (view spoiler) What is that? That's the same as "It's neither here nor there." That's nothing. A space filler. That's what 60% of the book was.

I feel like this book started with an idea in mind, somewhere to go, and then before it even got halfway through it turned into a mad dash to The End.

Also there was a point where a zombie breathed. The narrator writes about their cold breath hitting his face. That pretty much sums it up. I'm going to go with two stars.

\*I am thankful for the free copy of the book and the opportunity to review it. I hope my feedback is helpful.

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## **Lori says**

Whoa! This book is a super exciting fast paced trip! I enjoyed it greatly. From page one you know what we are getting into. The author instantly tells the reader "Hey listen, this is a zombie book and this is the kind of zombies we have in these pages." What kind of zombies are they? Uhh the awesome kind duh. We all know that the teeny bopper zombie love intrest novel no longer hold any interest for me. I want my zombies scary as hell! The zombies in this book can be scary as hell. To be honest though the people that Xander, Felicity and Benji meet are scarier. Their flight is filled with nefarious peeps. It really is one of those action packed rides that you can't put down. Xander and gang flee creeps and zombies.

The writing itself was great. It held my attention and for a debut novel there were surprisingly very few typos. I can't comment on grammer because, well, umm my grammer is shitty. But I think it was good too. There were no parts that tripped me up because of clunky sentence structure.

Benji and Xander are great. They have banter. They have depth. With all three main characters at times it is hard to gauge their real age. Which the author tells us. Sometimes both Benji and Xander seem a lot younger than their real ages. Felicity Jane seems a lot older. Poor girl has seen her share of hardships though.

If you're looking for lots of gruesome zombie slaying, well, there are moments in this book that do have zom slaughter in them. It's not the central theme. It's more or less the overreaching arc of the story line. It didn't make the story any less enjoyable for me.

So why only 4 stars? Well I just wanted more. I didn't connect deeply with Xander and there we a few huh? parts. Don't think that means that the story is confusing and clustered. It's not. It's just that this is part of a series. Devan can't give away all of the goods in this book! So will I be buying the next book? Hell yes I will. Without a doubt!

\*\*Personal note. Devan seems like a totally super awesome guy. He wrote the first draft listening to G'NR's Appetite for Destruction!!! The second pass through included some Metallica! Random Lori factoid: My first concert at the age of 13 was Metallica. Yep. My parents are cool. My second concert was Ja Rule (LOL).

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## **Phrynne says**

Zombies are not high on my list of things I want to read about but this was for a challenge so read it anyway.

It turned out to be a pretty good book too. There were lots of Zombies (hordes of them as it says in the title) and although they were killing every human in sight of course our trio of teenagers traveled a very long way without a bite, armed only with a sword.

The ending was good as it tied up loose ends from this book and set it up big time for the next. As I am not a zombie fan I will probably not go for the next book. However if you are such a fan, based on this book, I would recommend this series:)

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## **Steven Simpson says**

This book is very entertaining with lots of action from both zombies, baddies, religious cults and cannibals the main characters are a 16 year old boy a 16 year old TV celebrity and a 12 year old comic nerd! They get them selves I. All kinds of trouble on there way to find xanders brother at a military base. I love the way the characters react to situations in childish adolescent manor and usually make there predicaments worse by childish behaviour! Great book for young adults and above. 5 \*\*\*\*\* highly recommend this book.

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## **Honey says**

Wow, if you are a big zombie fan like I am, then you will definitely enjoy this book from the minute you open it up until the end. Devan as done an exceptional job in writing this book and creating this wonderful, crazy and adventurous story. I truly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a great zombie experience.

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## **DeAnna Kinney says**

OH MY DOUBLE M G!! This was the best zombie book I've ever read! Move over Hunger Games, I think this is gonna be the next big thing! The writing was excellent. It was very appropriate for the teenage audience it is geared toward. It was nice to read a zombie book without the bad language, sex, and senseless gore. This was a zombie book with class, and one parents will easily approve. The characters were rich and the action was nonstop. I never knew what was coming next; an edge-of-your-seat read that left me wanting more. I am anxiously awaiting the sequel. Great job, Mr. Sagliani.

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