

FIVE DAYS DEAD



The End of Everything is About to Begin

JAMES L. DAVIS

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Five Days Dead has been updated, expanded and published digitally and in paperback as The Rages (Book of the Shepherds 1).

Five Days Dead Details

Date : Published August 7th 2014 by Grayland Books

ISBN : 9780692268681

Author : James L. Davis

Format : Paperback 360 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review Five Days Dead for online ebook

Ally says

I won this book through goodread's giveaway program. All in all the book was entertaining and a realistic take on an apocalyptic future world. I liked the idea of mother nature and animals taking on a roll of saving Earth from further destruction by us. The "rage" was an interesting concept I have not seen in other books on the topic that I have read. The first half I read through pretty quickly and it got my attention, however about halfway it lost my attention. Though it was a good read I think somethings got jumbled between the old man with supposed powers, the "Wrynd" king Orrin, and the Gray Walker. I do look forward to reading the rest of the series and hoping for more involvement of the Hubs. Overall a good book I'd say about 4 stars worth. And I give it credit for broadening my horizons in the future with post apocalyptic books. And my last comment would be that the writer has a really good flow with words and descriptions of the world the book is set in, I could really picture this story in my mind which is always a good thing for a book.

Captain Doomsday says

Please note that this is a modified version of the review that appears on my blog After The Last Day.

THE PREMISE

With the Rages upon mankind - the Earth itself rebelling against the presence of mankind in the shape of unpredictable storms and almost all of the animal kingdom hunting and killing humans, you'd have to be a crazy person to leave the Hubs where humanity is safe.

Come and meet a few of them.

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT IT?

Not every book features a cow ambush before you're ten pages in, and for that Five Days Dead had me hooked in early. Having read many efforts at the genre in my time writing this blog, none have stood out so clearly so soon after beginning to read.

I hesitate to say that it's unlike anything that I've read before, because usually someone points out some contradicting evidence, but the original ideas in Five Days Dead are not only fresh, they make logical sense and perfectly suit the universe in which they're written. Probably this comes with the author's statement about the long gestation of the storyline, but it comes with the kind of self-assured writing on display here too. It's a testament to the author's story-telling that I never once failed to do anything but believe in the reality of his created world even when the most ludicrous events were occurring.

The pacing of the novel works very well, and while there does seem to be a little bit of concept-cramming in Five Days Dead that can be blamed on being a prelude to a much larger series. This is the reader's foundation and it serves that function very well. It never fails to captivate and aside from the opening chapter, the exposition is handled extremely well.

The characters are well-drawn and fit well within the world created here. There are no good guys here - good guys stay home or they lose - but the characters within the pages of the book remain sympathetic all the same, and true to character (though some are far too enigmatic to tell).

WHAT'S NOT SO GREAT ABOUT IT?

The magic and outright adventure of the novel do start to wane about half-way through, where it starts to become more of a fairy-tale than gritty survivalism, though it doesn't jar the story too much. There are plenty of signposts that the story is headed in this direction. The good writing never lets up.

Also I was disappointed with the ending. For obvious reasons I can't tell what the ending is, but I feel that the author softened some of the impact - particularly from the revelations in the final act - by ending *Five Days Dead* in the way he chose to end the story. It moves the story thematically in the right direction but doesn't have the impact and stay-with-you-ness that I had hoped for during the buildup to the climax.

RECOMMENDED BY CAPTAIN DOOMSDAY

There are a multitude of novels focused on the Apocalypse and what comes after; seldom is there a novel written before the Apocalypse that reads like it is set after. *Five Days Dead* brings new concepts and some very different ideas to the genre and should be lauded for doing so.

This and the remainder of the series should be something to watch out for and should appeal to those who like their apocalypse different and written in a style that draws a reader in - and keeps them in.

Linda Branham Greenwell says

This is really not my kind of book. It has the flavor of The Dark Towers series. I believe if you like the Dark Towers series you would like this book.

The main character is an interesting character - who sometimes bad ... and sometime not. It is set in a future time when earth is tired of humans. An interesting concept

Ant says

I received the book in a goodreads giveaway. It would be difficult to give a review which did not reveal some pretty major parts of the plot. Would it entice a reader if I was to write that the book features the undead? No surprise there - but the book manages to breathe some new life into the old undead tropes. It is a post-apocalypse that manages to give a genuine sense of making the familiar unfamiliar. I am reminded of the early stories of Tim Lebbon by the quality of the writing and the strange, threatening quality of this work causes it to rise well above run-of-the-mill horror story and the 'mainstream' end-of-the-world scenario.

Would I recommend it? Definitely. It is unsettling, atmospheric and well crafted. As often the case with this sort of publishing, a final objective edit would have eliminated some of the more leaden prose, but this does not detract from what is a rattling good story, well told. Have a look!

Jeff says

I received my copy of *Five Days Dead* as a winner of a Goodreads Apocalypse Whenever book giveaway.

Short version of my review: I liked this book. It's a different kind of apocalypse in which the world is

spinning to pieces just as humanity is achieving its utopian dream (albeit a socialist utopia). The story is about Harley Nearwater and his navigating through this increasingly controlled and chaotic world. The apocalypse is the complicating factor in Harley's struggle to define himself, to decide which path he will follow.

The world in *Five Days Dead* is bizarre and dangerous outside the utopian urban centers known as "the hubs". Most people live in the hubs, where they can spend their government-paid RTI (right-to-income) money on whatever they want, order it up via "the link", and have it delivered by "stork" drones in a matter of minutes. They can escape reality in Matrix-like alternate realities, or have new body parts "printed" and augmented.

However, the world outside the hubs isn't so tame. Nature has gone berserk. Animals and the weather have turned homicidal in a freak phenomenon called "the Rages." Drug-crazed cannibal mobs prowl the wilds, attacking the "neands" who refuse to move to the hubs and join the technological utopia. I won't give too much away about the book, except to say that after reading *Five Days Dead*, I was glad that it was only fiction. I closed the book, relieved that I didn't live in a world in which most people are absorbed by electronic entertainment and altered reality; a phony, government-controlled war-on-drugs is being waged, and government-controlled faux terrorism is being employed to drive the resistant into the arms of a socialist "utopia". Thank goodness it was only a novel, because living in a world like that would be terrible.

Tina Vincent says

Five Days Dead - James L Davis

I enjoyed this book and it stayed in my mind when I had finished. It was an intriguing opener to what will apparently be a long series. I liked the disturbing vision of the future and also the more mysterious 'characters' whose nature is gradually being revealed. I want to know what happens next so that is a good sign. Not one for the squeamish or fearful I guess but I like a good dystopian tale with zombies and mystic elements :)

Keith says

Part dystopian, part futuristic, part post apocalyptic, part supernatural. This book was an absolute treat and I want more!!!

The world set up by the author was unique and imaginative. The notion that the apocalypse was an event deliberately driven by "Mother Nature" against humanity was an interesting twist. The supernatural element shows up in the latter half of the book and was an unexpected surprise.

The book is written in plain, simple language but the story never gets dull. There is immediate excitement to pull you in right away, and the story was consistently interesting from start to finish.

Five Days Dead is supposed to be a prelude to a nine part series. I certainly hope so!

Anthony Petruccelli says

Wow. Fast paced book. Very imaginative and different. I really enjoyed it.

Daniel says

I received this book through Goodreads' First Reads program and am glad I did. I usually stick to authors I've already read or have come recommended from friends.

Five Days Dead has an imaginative setting that is a very believable amalgamation of existing futuristic ideas. I believe the book description sells the story short. It is an original, imaginative, and memorable story. There is a lot of story crammed into the book, but it is designated as a prelude so its understandable. The story takes a big detour about halfway through, but it's not a bad change.

All in all, a good story. Don't be put off by the description, thinking it is going to be another zombie book (it's not).
