



## The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery

*Michele W. Miller*

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## **The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery** Michele W. Miller

Eight people escape decimated New York. They have only one thing in common: the alcoholic gene. The same genetic quirk that makes alcoholics and addicts susceptible to booze and drugs gives them a mysterious ability to evade detection by the undead. But one gene in common isn't enough to unite them. They're a motley crew: A Botoxed Upper Eastsider; a drug dealer rescued from lockup; a resentful daughter of addicts; an insecure AA guy; a Japanese ex-dope fiend; an addicted Ivy Leaguer; and a Mexican immigrant. Dodging natural and unnatural disasters, drugged lunatics, and the living dead, they struggle to face their personal demons, accept one another, and find a new life. They think they've reached the end of their trek when they encounter a settlement that takes A.A. to fundamentalist extremes. They have to make a choice...one they may not survive.

## **The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery Details**

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Author : Michele W. Miller

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## From Reader Review The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery for online ebook

### Glinda Harrison says

Really enjoyable read! This book has a interesting, unique premise that really sets it apart. Loved the "tipping of the hat" to some zombie classics, too! Also loved the cover for this - it nicely captured the essence of the book!

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### Kari Dennis says

#### 3 1/2 stars

Decent zombie book, with smarter than average characters. Just a little too much of the AA thing. \*\*\*spoiler alert\*\*\* I really liked the part where they join up with a larger group and the difficulties they experience there. I can actually see how the AA rules could be warped and twisted like this by some power-tripping little Jim Jones (I don't think he was bad enough to rank little Hitler status, lol and the group did seem very cult-like) Although it seemed a little anti-climactic when they left there. And a rarity for zombie novels, this book has a happy ending that was satisfying and (relatively) plausible. Another criticism is that it seemed like they didn't have quite as hard a time as I would have thought when travelling. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't a cake-walk, but it was a little smoother than I would have expected. But then again, it could be that they were more prepared and level-headed than the average zombie book characters.

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### Michelle Smith says

4.5 stars from me.

Now, full disclosure: I know Michele, though not personally. She and I are 'virtual' buddies, and we have written back and forth to each other on e-mail, through my blog, on twitter and Facebook. I am an alcoholic (sober nine years today!), and she and I have bonded over this shared experience. As a fellow writer, I encouraged her when she was writing this book, and when she entered it in the Amazon Breakthrough Contest. She sent me an advance copy of this book, and I agreed to review it, if I liked it.

And that's the thing: I do like it. I was intrigued by the premise even while Michele was writing it, and I like the idea that there is an 'alcoholic gene' that gives people an advantage during a Zombie Apocalypse. I really liked the characters, most especially Ana and Patty. But what I really liked was that Michele was not afraid to make some of the characters unlikable, and to show the dark side of addiction.

In a way, for me the best part of the story was when our band of weary survivors ends up at a 'camp', a safe place which has been set up by alcoholics. The place is run like an AA meeting and support group, and in fact, attending AA meetings is mandatory. The sense that our heroes have arrived someplace wonderful and safe is slowly eroded - not by any kind of zombie threat, but by a purely human one. Fear, control, power, greed, domination: the zombie world has not removed any of these things from human nature, and although AA can be a wonderful program, it can be taken too far. In this book, it is taken far too far.

The writing style is pretty consistent all the way through, and the character development is steady and logical - what happens to each person makes sense, even when they are addicted and so do not make sense so much of the time. The tension rises, breaks, releases, rises again. The pacing is good, I thought: not frantic, not boring. Just right.

Overall, I have to say that although I am not a big fan of zombie literature, I found depths and layers to this book which made its 'zombie-ness' one of the least important parts. The relationships between the characters, the development (or lack thereof) of each character, the plot, and of course the alcoholism/addiction influences all combine to make this a satisfying, ambitious and provocative read.

Well done, Michele! I am so happy to know you; thank you for sending me an advance copy, and for the many hours of happy reading.

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### **Patti says**

I expected a lot of humor, decent writing, maybe if I was lucky, some characterization. The title didn't lead to what you would think was a serious book. But it was.

It was a very good read, quick, yet still engaging and interesting. The characters were not cardboard cutouts or stereotypes. They were all well written, from Bill to Patty to Jared and the rest.

Not a lot of zombie killing gore, but it fit in with the tone of the story.

Recommended for zombie fans.

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### **Sarah (A Weebish Book Blog) says**

This review was originally posted on One Curvy Blogger br>

This post contains affiliate links. This audiobook was sent to me free for review in exchange for an honest review.

As many of you know may know, I have a big thing for zombies - they're my kryptonite. Whenever I see a zombie book up for review, I almost always snap it up, even if I think the book is going cheesy. I will admit that I never saw myself actually devouring *The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery*, I just thought the plot was quirky enough that I had to give it a whirl. I figured I'd have a few laughs and move on to the next big thing. That is why I am so surprised to report I can't wait to listen to what Miller has next for me! As soon as I type up this review I will be begging to review more from this author.

I'm not going to lie, I probably wouldn't have enjoyed this book nearly as much if it weren't an audiobook. **Some books are just born to be preformed, and *Zombie Recovery* is one of them.** The narrator, Gabrielle De Cuir, was dealt a diverse cast of character's to play and I enjoyed her performance of every once of them. I could easily distinguish each character she portrayed and thought she really gave each character a unique personality, which has to be hard for such a large group of cultures and age groups. I will be watching out for more audiobooks narrated by De Cuir.

[divider]

In, *The Thirteen Step: Zombie Recovery*, the zombie apocalypse pretty much happened within 24 hours. One person catches the virus, bites another and within a matter of minutes a world-wide pandemic unfolds. **This happens all around the world.** Is it this version of the zombie virus all that plausible? Nah, not really. If a virus is going to wipe out the entire population of 6 billion + people, it's gonna take a lot longer. Still, I enjoyed that this author took a popular troupe and gave it an amusing twist: the alcoholic gene.

In this world, addicts and alcoholics aren't nearly as tempting to zombies - nor are their offspring that are pre-predispose to addiction. This doesn't mean that alcoholics don't get eaten in *Zombie Recovery*, just that this genetic anomaly made the survivors less tempting to the rotting bastards. Don't be disappointed - this gene doesn't mean there wasn't any kick-ass zombie killing to enjoy - there was plenty and it was gory!

I usually don't go for books where a pandemic spreads in such a small timeframe, but it added something more for this particular plot. The character's were forced to infer the ins and outs of the zombie virus because of what they experienced around them. There was no mysterious government or scientists to push facts at them, they had to learn how to survive based on experience and general knowledge of pop culture zombie "facts."

Since finishing this book late last week, I have already re-listened to it and have realized that all eight of the main characters showed growth since their first appearance in the beginning of the book. There was at least one trait about each character that I didn't particularly connect with, but by the end of the book they had matured into someone else. I found this to be one of the best things about this story. It's unrealistic to expect a character to stay exactly the same when they've one through something like the end of the world. **experience changes a person's personality and outlook on life - whether it be positively or negatively, the apocalypse will change you from who you were to who you have become.**

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If you love gore, or apocalypse-themed survival books, give *The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery* a try. It will surprise you in ways you won't expect and you may enjoy it just as much as I did! I hope Miller continues to write more zombie books, I can't wait to see what else she has in store for me.

## Amy says

The zombie apocalypse was the backdrop for this story of survival, camaraderie, recovery from addiction and family. This was a much more thoughtful and deep zombie story than I expected. I'm sure that a reader looking for brain-splattering zombie madness might be disappointed in this character driven tale, but I found it unique and refreshing (and I tend to like brain-splattering zombie madness). A great read!

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### **Crystal Rafuse says**

Good book. Felt like a typical zombie story to me (could it be possible I am outgrowing them? For shame!), but I did like the whole AA tie-in, I felt that it gave it an interesting perspective. What I didn't understand was the whole ancient Mexican race thing? I mean, what? I just wish the author had gone a little more into detail about this than just a mere passing mention of an "isolated gene pool." Was that even really the reason? I didn't get that. And the whole Jim Jones/Tennessee cult thing? Huh? Plus, I think it was really kind of abrupt the way all of a sudden, like out of nowhere, Kai gets his head blown off. I was left scratching my head after that one, that's for sure. The one thing I liked, yet absolutely hated at the same time, was that these guys are going to (presumably) live 'happily ever after.' I mean, seriously? Everyone flies to Mexico and finds a new, zombie-free home, the end? Different, if nothing else.

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### **Eleanor Self says**

I've never really been a fan of the Horror genre so I expected a "Zombie book" to be silly or trivial. I couldn't have been more wrong in my assumptions. This book was absolutely wonderful to read. Michele is my new favorite author and I can't wait to read Lower Power. 13th is an emotional rollercoaster ride through shock, terror, grief, regret, loss, redemption, courage, confidence, love and hope. If you've got any negative stuff you've buried down deep, you're going to cry it out while you read this and then be left with a surprising shot of plausible optimism. And, the characters and settings are so well developed you'll think you are actually there. This is definitely one I will come back to and re-read over and over.

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### **Rebecca Trotter says**

First time ever that being an addict, including an alcoholic, has been a plus!

*The Thirteenth Step* takes the reader on a fast paced ride with a motley crew of addicts (active & in recovery) and children of addicts as they stay alive in a world suddenly overrun with zombies. And then...

the survivors have to worry about AA fundamentalists! I asked my hubby-poo, who is five years sober, if he had ever heard of AA fundamentalists. He told me no and that they sound like a nightmare.

I love where the story starts: at the presentation of the most recent Lotto winners.

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### **Lisa says**

#### **Good read**

I thoroughly enjoyed this rendition of the apocalypse. and I'm happy to read a "free" book that doesn't end with a half told story, enticing you to buy the next episode, and then the next..... This book is definitely worth reading and

paying for!

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### **Megan Tully says**

I read this coming off the back of a thriller and was looking for something with a bit of humour. This delivered. Though not an out and out comedy there are moments of observational humour towards the start of the book. Just enough to draw you in before it takes a more serious turn to the writing later on and circumstances develop.

Ever wondered what a world inhabited by addicts would be like post zombie appocolypse?? If so then read this book? Hell read it anyway because it's a good read.

Some lovely insights into the world and psyche of addicts. Not being an addict myself I can only assume that these are realistic but interesting non the less. The go cold turkey or die aspect brings an interesting view to the story as does the coping mechanisms of the addicts as they desperately try to hold on to some degree of normality from pre Z day by holding their meetings. Interestingly enough is the way that non addicts who survived ( children of addicts) are portrayed as outsiders to some degree even within the survivors group. How can they fully understand???

It draws interesting questions to mind as to how addicts in our non zombie world may feel.

Really enjoyed the book on two levels, firstly as a readable novel and secondly as a springboard to ask other questions about our society.

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### **Joe says**

The zombie apocalypse is not the story; it's the setting. This thought-provoking commentary on 12 Step culture—our pitfalls, majesty and volatility—is the treasure inside this story. I am not a fiction writer or reader. I labor through my own perceived need to frankly discuss our collective culture, our future and the struggles that internal dogma and an ever changing outside world bring to bear on our mortal fellowship. Sometimes it's time to put the text books and clinical studies away and let fiction get to the truth of the matter. As old as "one day at a time," story-telling has persisted as the lifeblood of the recovery community, revealing a truth that blood-tests and fMRI scans cannot.

The Thirteenth Step: Zombie Recovery outwits the best of investigative journalism at revealing some dear and disturbing truths about 12 Step life. Miller confronts the assertions of some of our harshest critics, tells our story, and speculates over our possible future, in a fair-minded and imaginative way.

I cried, I laughed, I winced, just like I do at 12 Step gatherings that have too much cliché, and dogmatic ritual for my liking. Not a member of the Don't-Git-Bit zombie love-fest, I skip the moves and TV shows and judge from a distance. I appreciate the fascination with end-of- the-world stories as bedtime stories around the end of American Empire camp-fire. It's the end of the world as we know it and we want to feel fine. Or if we can't feel fine, let's lose ourselves for a while. I have no interest in World War Z themes; only the 12 Step angle of this story raised my eyebrow. I've spent a lot of time saying that our society isn't entitled to perpetuity and in fact, I see concerning signs of reification and decay in our 12 & 12 world.

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### **Jeff Stockett says**

I received this book for free in exchange for my honest review through the Goodreads First Reads program.

This book wasn't what I expected. I saw the title, and I thought it would be a humor book about a support group for zombies. I thought it would be about the 12 steps that zombies go through to overcome their need for eating people, or something like that.

That's not what this book is about. I'll admit that when I realized that, I was a little disappointed. I shouldn't have been. I think I ended up enjoying this book even more than I would have enjoyed a humorous support group.

This book is fantastic. It's got the initial terror of Z-day, when the dead start rising. It's got your traditional zombie fiction survival story. My favorite was the character who had read all of the zombie books before the apocalypse, and was ready with plenty of zombie advice. That would totally be me.

What made this book interesting was the unique take on the society that existed after Z-day. In this universe, the same gene that makes people susceptible to addiction and alcoholism also makes it so that zombies can't sense them other than through sight.

While I'll admit I was questioning how that gene would work and why those 2 traits would be related, it definitely made for an interesting setting and story. With all of the characters dealing with addiction in various ways, it created an environment where you quit cold turkey or let the new world kill you.

It made for an interesting story about addiction, about twelve step culture, and of course about survival. I thoroughly enjoyed it. If you like zombie fiction, you'll love this.

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### **Teressa says**

ZOMBIES? They're zombies with a taste for....? When I first began this audiobook, I wasn't sure what to expect. Zombies and Alcoholics Anonymous? Really though, from the first word, I was hooked.

This was an entertaining romp through New York City and beyond while dodging zombies? The group thinks that there's something about them being alcoholics or addicts that makes them less interesting to the zombies. Each having had some connection to the drink or drugs in some way. They seem to be immune to zombies.

I found the story to be good in a 'human interest' sort of way. The group of survivors that found each other were all at different stages of recovery or denial working on survival.

About the narrator: Gabrielle de Cuir was amazing at voicing this story. Each character has their own distinct personality and dialect which she pulled off perfectly. I love her style. She has a way of transforming the characters into three-dimensional beings like no one else. This was another excellent performance!

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### **Theresa says**

Great easy moving read. I hope she writes another one. Had a great ending but left room so she can write another one.

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