



Afterage

Yvonne Navarro

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In the bestselling tradition of Salem's Lot, here is an impressive debut novel by an acclaimed author of short horror fiction. A vampire eons old has spread her touch throughout the human population, leaving the streets full of the undead. The survivors band together to fight back in this riveting tale.

Afterage Details

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Author : Yvonne Navarro

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From Reader Review Afterage for online ebook

Martin says

Yvonne Navarro's 1993 debut novel AFTERAGE is a well-crafted...

<http://sleaze-factor.blogspot.ca/2016...>

Genesis Blue says

It took a little bit to get into the story because there are a LOT of different characters. Each has their own storyline in the beginning of the book, which is a little confusing. Fortunately, the names were easy to remember (unlike some books that do the same jumping around thing) and once I'd read a ways, it was not hard to keep them separate. Later, the storylines start to pull together as survivors meet each other and band together or separate.

Basically, the world is overrun by vampires and they've all but eliminated their food supply. The story focuses on Chicago, but the rest of the world is the same. Little pockets of survivors, one or two at a time, huddle together in the cold buildings, trying to stay alive until dawn. There are two types of vampires here, the regular ones and the Outcasts. The regular or more elite vampires, have themselves a food source . . . a stable of humans that they feed from in cycles and are attempting to breed to create more stock. The Outcasts are unable to find food, except from rats and sucking second hand blood from other vampires.

Each of the survivors has his or her story. Some are just trying to stay alive on their own. Dr. Perlman is alone, but he's working hard to find a cure for vampires . . . or at least a way to destroy them. Another group of survivors keeps to themselves in an apartment building, waiting for the vampires to starve to death.

As the characters begin to come together, driven by a common cause, the story picks up speed and is more interesting. It's definitely worth reading. The one thing I didn't like at first was the fact that there are a couple of people with supernatural powers, but then again, it IS about vampires, so I guess that fits!

Michael says

Scariest vampire novel that I ever read!

Carol Collett says

Apocalyptic Vampires Done Right

Hands down the best post apocalyptic vampire story ever. Second only to Bram Stoker's Dracula as my favorite vampire novel ever. If you're a writer, this book is a workshop in building suspense and characterization.

Elke says

I came across this book by accident, browsing the horror shelves of a great little genre bookstore in SF while on vacation. I did not like the flashy cover, though considered up close it really should have appealed to me, being scary and a little gory and all. But the summary had me convinced immediately to buy the novel. At home, I put the book away and did not touch it for some years, always glimpsing the cover and thinking "nah, not now, it's not time yet". So when I was looking for new reading stuff some days ago I found Afterage, and despite the cover (yeah I know, I really have a thing with that picture) I decided now was the time to give it a try.

I was sucked into the story right away and I couldn't believe I shunned this great piece of writing for such a long time just because of its exterior shell...shame on me!

Of course, Afterage reminded me of I am Legend and other post-apocalyptic stories where a bunch of humans tries to survive the overpowering threat of some or other undead and always hungry things.

I liked that the author did not follow just one stereotype where all vampires are pure evil, where mankind survives because of some miracle performed by some spiritual savior, or because of a scientific genius inventing that special serum. Instead, the author manages to put in all of these varieties, and in such a brilliant way that it really works without seeming undecisive or "crowded" with differing ideas.

Also, you have to face several losses regarding characters you came to like, but imho that's just another example why it works so well - it's not just a comfortable little story, but something with substance which surprises and entertains and keeps you turning the pages at rocket speed.

Highly recommended not only to fan(g)s of the genre.

Somer Canon says

I can get grumpy with books that feature huge casts of characters, but this story did such a good job of playing with the diminishing orbits of the cast...you knew they were going to crash into each other eventually. Even the ending was satisfying!

Char says

AFTERAGE was a whole lot of freaking fun!

The vampire apocalypse has already occurred and entire cities have been decimated. With isolated survivors cut off even from each other-how could a premise this good go wrong? The good news is, it didn't.

What I liked most was the...I guess I'll put it as...different *levels* of vampire. They have differing levels of energy and power. I won't even get into the Queen. (That's what I'm calling her.)

I also liked how the story of each survivor, (or surviving group), was introduced. I think it takes a special

skill and confidence to jump into a story with a large cast and Yvonne Navarro did it deftly and with panache. I never felt that the story was lost or unwieldy. It all came together in a most satisfying way.

With a lot of strong female characters populating the landscape of vampire-ridden Chicago, how could I not enjoy this book? I especially liked Louise and her little dog, Beau, and of course, I had a fondness for Jo as well. (Though I could not help being reminded of Swan, a character in another GREAT post apocalyptic tale. Bonus points if you know what character and/or book I'm talking about.)

AFTERAGE was written in the 90's but it doesn't feel dated. I think that's because there's no electricity in this world, so phones and the internet would be out of the picture anyway. Even though decades have passed since this was written, the characters and themes involved are timeless. They still worked their way into my heart, and perhaps if you let them, they'll work their way into your heart as well.

Highly recommended!

You can get your copy here, (but read my 2nd note below first!): <https://www.amazon.com/AfterAge-Yvonn...>

*I read this book because of THE HORROR SHOW WITH BRIAN KEENE podcast. (They're doing an online book group and this is the second book they're reading.) I probably wouldn't have made time to read it otherwise, so thanks to the HORROR SHOW crew for bringing it to my attention. *

**This is not the edition I read. I read the copy included in A Haunting of Horrors: A Twenty-Novel eBook Bundle of Horror and the Occult. The individual novels therein do NOT come up in a search of one's Kindle library, but luckily I pulled up the book and happily discovered AFTERAGE was in there. I only mention this in case you have this volume as well. **

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WendyB says

Good vampire tale with characters you care about.

Al says

A plague of vampirism has taken over, reducing cities to ghost towns. Chicago, scattered survivors hide, raiding deserted stores for dwindling supplies. A hungry vampire population also struggles for survival as their prey grows scarce, forcing them to capture alive the last remaining humans as breeding stock for the blood farms that will ensure their future. Now a small band of humans makes a desperate last stand against their vampire masters, fighting back with the only weapon that can kill the dead.

Chris says

The vampire apocalypse has wreaked havoc across the globe and handfuls of survivors hide out in various locations in an effort to avoid being killed for food...or worse. Set entirely in Chicago, this epic novel follows a group of survivors, who ultimately are brought together and given a chance to hopefully end the vampiric horror that has befallen the world. While the author left a few things for the reader to decide (what was Jo really? and how did Anyelet become what she was?), Navarro's brisk pacing and short chapters made for an engaging read.

Highly recommended.

Johann says

Great Story Done Right

This is the end of the world thanks to a vampire named Anyelet who has drank her fill. Groups of humans are scattered around waiting to scrounge for resources when the vamps are asleep. But everything changes when a strange 15 year old girl walks around without fear both at night and day. And the vampires are getting as desperate as the humans. Will the earth belong to the vampires that are starving from a dwindling food supply or will the humans find a way to stay at the top of the food chain?

Great story and a brilliant vision within the vampire universe...highly recommend!

Weston Ochse says

This book begins with the conceit that the world has already been destroyed by vampires. Sounds like Daybreakers? A little bit, although Afterage was written seventeen years before the movie came out. Although a decent movie, where it fails, Afterage wins, detailing the hard scrabble life of human survivors with aching portrayal. This book was a finalist for the Bram Stoker Award and it's clear why.

Bark says

This is a book I had kicking around since the 90's but just got around to reading when my horror loving friend Char created a buddy read at Goodreads.

A vampire apocalypse has occurred. Navarro starts things off after it has happened. The few remaining humans must struggle to survive in a wasteland ravaged by monsters both vampiric and human. And, as usual, the human monsters are always the worst! Only the suicidal dare venture out after dark because the vampires are fast, ravenous and deadly.

The book follows a rather large cast of survivors, most of them eking out a life by themselves but eventually they come together to save a group of humans being kept hostage by a vampire called Anyelet for reasons that are gross, disturbing and so, so awful

I loved the fact that the Big Bad was a woman! She was vicious and selfish and so perfectly evil and so much better a villain than Anne Rice's whiny creatures. I don't think she had even one "poor me" moment. She was lonely so she changed her situation. It created an apocalypse but thems the breaks! Her human henchman was a vile man and she surrounded herself with lesser vampires that she could easily boss around. There's some nasty stuff insinuated within these pages!

The survivors are all pretty well fleshed out and, despite the high number of them, I miraculously didn't find myself terribly confused which is usually the case. I think it's because the chapters were short and I tried to read big chunks of the book at each sitting so it was easier to remember who was who and what they had done a few chapters earlier.

This reads like old school horror because, well, it is! It reminds me of those long lost days when I was able to spend an entire day under a tree reading King and McCammon until the sun went down. It's not quite at the emotional level of those two but it comes close at times and it isn't overly wordy as some books of that time were. These characters were in peril from start to finish but they find time to love and help each other. The baddies are BAD but there are a few who haven't totally lost their humanity and I appreciated that.

If you're into nasty vampires that aren't romanticized you should give this one a try.

Latasha says

Best vampire book I've read in a while.

I really enjoyed this one! There is a lot of characters to keep up with and I did forget who was who at times but it's worth sticking with it. The story is well written and the characters are great and likable. Around 80/90% the intensity ramps wayyy up. Once you get to that point, plan on finishing it cause you won't be able to put it down.
