



Dead New World

Ryan Hill

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Zombies aren't mindless anymore.

Before the world fell into chaos, the undead existed only in the imagination. Now, more of them walk the earth than living. Zombies move about freely, while humans entomb themselves inside concrete barricades to stay alive.

All that, while the leader of a powerful cult - known only as Reverend - becomes the next threat to the rebuilding United States. Believing zombies to be God's latest creation, making humanity obsolete, he wants to give every man, woman, and child the chance to become one. With his combined army of humans and zombies, he may well get his wish.

Best friends Holt and Ambrose went up against the Reverend once. Holt lost a foot and a zombie bit Ambrose...though he survived the virus, only to become a human-zombie hybrid, reviled by the living and unwelcome among the dead. When the Reverend kidnaps the woman Holt loves, the race is on to save her from a fate worse than death.

Dead New World Details

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Author : Ryan Hill

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From Reader Review Dead New World for online ebook

Heather says

I wouldn't say I'm a fan of the zombie genre in particular, I would say I'm more a horror fan in general. When I saw the cover for Dead New World I was all over it. It's different and a bit creepy. (To be honest, even though I had seen it small, when I accidentally opened the book on my computer, and the cover popped up huge, I was a bit freaked out. Closed that sucker out fast. :))

Then I read the blurb and thought this is going to be a different kind of zombie story. I must read.

So I did.

The book starts off with action, the guys (Holt, Ambrose, the rest of their platoon) are on patrol when they are attacked by the Reverend's troops/people/zombies/etc. It was a very intense scene that kicked off the book and set the pace for the rest of the novel. Holt and Ambrose made it out of that round alive but in need of medical care, seeing as Holt lost his foot and Ambrose could lose his human state shortly.

And so the story goes.

Dead New World is full of so much action at one point I was saying will these boys ever get a break in their favor? I started this yesterday and was finished by last night, it flew by with everything that was happening throughout the book. While it wasn't scary like I thought it would be, it was a crazy ride full of twists and turns, ups and downs, and zombie brains flying.

It definitely had a different twist on zombies, with the Reverend and his Horsemen working with the zombies to create a new world. It amazes me (and not in a good way) how one person can manage to bring a whole group of people under them, a cult to follow them, to listen to them, to do their bidding. We know this happens out of books. There's something in some people that gives them this need to believe someone who feels like they have authority over them, to follow them, and to please them, when logic would dictate that what that person is preaching isn't good. I assume that when something like the Tribulation (as it is called in Dead New World) happens, that kind of mass chaos, fear, and strife pushes even more people, who normally would behave within the constraints of society, to want to cling to some kind of belief, even if it is a dangerous man preaching his own agenda.

Absolutely amazing book full of heart stopping action that I am so glad I saw and read. This is definitely a stand alone, but one can hope that there might be a sequel? One that might revolve around Adam? *fingers crossed*

Thank you so much for my copy of Dead New World (I've had the song Mad World going through my head all morning because of this book), it gets 5 stars from me!

Michelle Leah Olson says

Our Review, by LITERAL ADDICTION's Pack Alpha - Chelle:

*Copy gifted in exchange for an honest review

--Actual rating 3.5 skulls

Dead New World was pitched to me as Black Hawk Down meets The Walking Dead so I was really excited to give it a try.

In a world overrun by the walking dead, humanity is trying to get back to a sense of normal, but normal isn't possible when not only are there are infinitely multiplying zombies afoot, but a religious zealot who can mysteriously control the dead doing what he believes is 'God's work', as well.

There were several engaging and unique things about Dead New World that I thoroughly enjoyed. The wounded warrior/hybrid angle was unique and satisfying. It upped the conflict of the tale and made Ambrose's character more endearing. The zealot angle was interesting, as well, and the Reverend is a thoroughly deplorable antagonist.

There was plenty of action, a hint of romance, and a dark edge that fostered the intrigue.

If you're a zombie literature fan looking for a New Adult story of discovery in a post apocalyptic world with military undertones I think you'll enjoy Dead New World. It's not a super deep story. Aside from the obvious issues of dealing with change, loss, and human bias, there isn't a whole lot of human psyche conflict like The Walking Dead and the action isn't quite on par with Blackhawk Down, but it was an enjoyable read nonetheless and I think most readers will really enjoy it.

**It should be noted that there were some editing issues with the manuscript but I was reading an early release eCopy.

Krystal Wade says

I'm not usually a fan of zombie novels. I can count on one finger the amount of books I've enjoyed that involve zombies... Warm Bodies. So when I was offered a complimentary review copy of Dead New World, my first instinct was to run and pretend like I was ill so I wouldn't have to read it. But, whatever, I gave it a shot.

So glad I did. Now I need two fingers to count the amount of zombie books I like.

Dead New World is an action-packed, intense novel that follows the life of two teens as they work their way through a zombie-ridden world. They are young and don't have much of a future ahead of them, but they fight for it, and they fight hard. When we first meet them, they're new to battle and almost instantly become casualties of war.

Ambrose, whom I love more than the main character, now carries around the mark of the zombies for the rest of his life. Holt, whose weakness was a hot nurse, is forced to traverse this world with a prosthetic leg, as his real limb was blown off in his first fight.

You would think that what these two have been through would earn them a couple Purple Hearts and a nice

vacation, but nope. They get promoted! And on the heels of that, the leader of the undead, a man who thinks the world is going to be recreated in HIS image, compliments of God's blessing of course, leads an attack on all the military bases, abducts Holt's favorite nurse, and draws the badass duo away from their home and out on a wild goose chase.

Yep. Holt's going to get his girl, even if he has to manipulate orders to make it seem legit. And Ambrose is going with him.

So, the nitty gritty. What I really enjoyed about Dead New World was its exploration of humanity. Yes, there are zombies, and they eat brains and kill people, but there are some who survive zombie bites. And if the world knew about those precious few, we all know what would happen. People constantly treat Ambrose like a *thing* rather than a person. They spit at him, threaten to kill him, even though he's on their side, fights for them, and has never hurt anyone. They don't accept him for who he is. Well, Holt does. And Holt, who wants to go guns blazing, balls to the wall (whatever that means) after his girl, people give him crap for that. They say he's crazy, out of line, lost his mind, all because he wants to SAVE someone he loves. And then there are the zombies themselves. Ambrose can tell them what to do, and they listen, and yet here's a military trying to murder them all.

If they can listen and respond and have some sort of thought process, who's really the monster?

I love that question! Because it honestly has no answer, and that's what makes the novel so gripping.

If you enjoy zombies, military, action, friendships, and just an all around good read... pick up Dead New World!

Andrea ♥Ninja Bunneh♥ says

I don't even know where to begin with this one.

First off, cue in insta-love.

Dude gets his leg blown off fighting the undead and falls for his nurse. Dude and nurse get separated after dude dumps her ass in a martyr kind of way. Nurse gets kidnapped by evil dude and hero dude runs off to save her.

Dude is all of about 16 years old, an officer in the military, has a zombie/human hybrid as his bestie and blah blah blah. Nursie is the only one of a large group of people to not be killed by evil dude. How convenient.

Nursie had told dude not to contact her anymore and yet he goes off to save her ass. Stalker, much?

Dude and dude zombhuman friend traipse around killing zombehs, meeting random people, facing hybrid human/zombie discrimination and yadda yadda. All the while heading to kill off evil dude and save the

nursie.

Zombeh bus rider says it best.

no bunnehs

Declarations of a Fangirl says

4.5 Stars

I was given a copy from the author in exchange for my honest opinion.

Zombies aren't mindless anymore.

Ryan Hill is a freaking zombie genius.

Another reviewer said that this story was pitched to them as The Walking Dead meets Black Hawk Down. I can totally see it! Dead New World had me hooked from the very beginning. The story follows two best friends, Holt and Ambrose. There is a war being waged between what is left of humanity and a religious madman known as The Reverend who can control the zombies. The humans are on the losing end of this war and as a result have started enlisting 16 year old boys for a nine-year term. The boys rarely make it through the end of their first year.

The story opens with Holt and Ambrose going out on their very first patrol, which ends in their entire group being killed. Holt loses his leg and while saving him, Ambrose suffers an even worse fate. He is bitten but doesn't fully change. He's sort of a hybrid...half human, half zombie. He becomes an outcast and everyone treats him like a social pariah.

I don't want to give too much away for fear of spoiling the story line. Even posting that Ambrose becomes half zombie feels like a spoiler to me since I went into reading this book completely blinded. All I knew was that it was about zombies, and being that I am a zombie fanatic, I didn't need anymore coercion to read this book.

This is my first book read by Ryan Hill and I have to say, his writing style is great. He doesn't get over-wordy with his descriptions. I'm not sure why, but my guess is so that the reader can create their own visual in their mind. I still don't know what Holt looks like, but while reading I pictured this.

As for Ambrose, I pictured him like this, only with patchy grey skin.

And even though I didn't mention her in my story description, here is how I pictured Nancy (even though she is supposed to have blue eyes).

I seriously CAN NOT wait for book 2 to come out. I was a little over 1/3 of the way into the book and was already emailing Mr. Hill asking for book 2. If you love zombies, lots of action (we're talking almost non-stop), just a touch of romance, & military references, then this book is definitely for you.

Yodamom says

The world has changed zombies have eaten their way through much of it. Small military fractions try to fight. One young solider tells his story as he battles, watching friends dies, nearly loses his life and has a love moment. He goes back and forth over the land search for zombies to kill or this Reverend who is somehow leading the dead into different camps. His friend is half zombie who seem to have some special skills.

I really wanted to like this I was struggling to keep on track with what was going on. I thought story is week, with many moments of confusion. They would be fighting for their lives and stop to trash talk each other or blow out some testosterone babble that just didn't fit the situation. There are so many useless conversations jumping into the story breaking the flow. This went from telling me everything, to telling us too much of everything. Example, there of them took turn watching at night, he explains the schedule then he goes off on how everyone uses his rifle because of the scope, he loves the scope, he got it off some dead guy...I didn't need to know that, it doesn't matter. The language used, it was so over the top military sometimes I was just shaking my head. Time switches happen without any notice, all the sudden it switches to another time and I'm left wondering what the heck is going on for a few paragraphs.

I didn't like the book. I could see a military person relating to it more, and perhaps that was who it was written for.

Anne says

2.5 stars

I really enjoyed Hill's novel The Book of Bart, but this one just didn't do it for me. It's not that it was badly written, it was just missing all of the humor and irreverence that was tossed around in the other book. And maybe it's only because I expected the same sort of tongue-in-cheek romp that I got from TBoB, that I was so disappointed?

I'm not sure.

This, to me, was just...*depressing*. And not in the '*I had a good cry after reading this*' kind of way. More like the '*why did I bother reading this*' way.

I felt blah afterwards.

The undead hoards overran the world, but everybody was so busy trying to not get eaten, that nobody bothered to find out what started it all.

Or so the story goes...

A cult leader called Reverend (who can control zombies) is out to destroy what's left of humanity.

Hot & his BFF Ambrose (who gets turned into a zombie hybrid in the 1st few pages) are the two heroes who aim to stop him!

They're both in the military, and end up going on a looooong road trip into enemy territory to rescue Holt's true love, Nancy.

Helicopters blow up, kids get dead, Ambrose gets superpowers, traitors are revealed, and Holt learns that people are fairly unscrupulous.

This makes him disappointed and sad...

The ending didn't feel a stand-alone, however, I'm unaware if this is a series. But it doesn't matter, because I won't be coming back for more. It's not bad, it's just not my cuppa. I'm still planning on keeping Hill on my Authors-To-Watch list, though. I know he has talent, because I would definitely read another book like his first one.

Dead New World may be more of a case of it's not you, it's me.

So, if you aren't burned out on zombies yet, perhaps this will be right up your alley.

Sarah-Jayne Briggs says

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a review).

(This review may contain spoilers).

I've noticed that zombies are becoming the 'new' thing... not over-used in the same way as vampires, demons and werewolves, but they're certainly becoming more common than they used to be.

I did find this book a really well-written, easy read. I liked the fact that the book started after the whole zombie apocalypse, so I was able to see how humans were dealing with the infection. The issue with that, of course, was that I didn't know how the whole infection had started.

I was glad to see just one person used as the first person perspective character. Holt was a really easy character to get behind. I really liked his friendship with Ambrose. I felt it made a lot of sense and it was probably one of the strongest things about this book.

I have to be honest... by the end of the book, I really didn't like Nancy. She seemed nice at first, but when I reached the end, I was really disappointed in her, especially considering the fact that she was supposed to be a nurse.

I have to say, I did spend a lot of this book really disappointed in humanity in general. I wasn't surprised by the fact that so many people viewed Ambrose as a monster... but in a way, I found myself rooting for the Reverend. I didn't like him as a character... but I preferred him to the so-called 'human' soldiers who

refused to look past what Ambrose looked like.

This book was really easy to read and I found Holt and Ambrose really engaging, interesting characters. I did find myself wanting to slap various characters at certain points, but apart from that, this was really well-written. I would definitely be interested in reading a sequel to this book if one existed.

Shawna The Crazy Bookseller says

This was a different take on the whole zombie genre and I enjoyed it. I've only read a few books where there is someone who can control the zombie masses. That takes the book in a new direction then what you probably know. There is still all the zombie genre regulars that you have grown to love, with a slightly different twist.

But there were a couple times where I was getting mad at the characters. Like one time when they had to leave their cars behind and didn't bring the machete. Why would you leave that behind? Bullets run out, come on. But that happens in any zombie book or movie, little things that have you shaking your head.

For the first book in a new series I say it started off good and I can't wait for the next installment.

Pippa Jay says

I was given an ARC for my honest and unbiased review.

What I liked.

I have to start by saying I have limited experience with zombies of any kind. I'm not a fan of the traditional Hollywood-type zombie apocalypses, so a twist on that had more appeal for me and certainly worked in giving the story that extra edge. Ambrose fascinated me - the whole idea of a human-zombie hybrid. I loved the idea of the Reverend and the quasi-religious fanaticism. It's also rare to have a handicapped hero, and I felt this was done well (though not always entirely believable). However, in this scenario not even military can afford to turn down someone who can handle a gun despite the artificial limb proving the occasional setback, so it allowed the possibility). While part of the world building was fairly standard post apocalyptic, the idea of the zombie colony (like a leper colony) was interesting, and the idea of tying in the apocalypse with zombies in a more SF type end of the world than a paranormal rising of the dead kind. I did feel the author had the voice right for YA.

What I didn't like.

I didn't much like or empathize with Holt, and emotionally speaking the story fell a little flat...until near the end. Then *spoilers* wham! Prepare to have your heart ripped out and stomped on! In my mind, Ambrose was more of the hero than Holt, and I would rather have seen it told at least partially from his POV (but maybe I'm biased toward a zombie hero after Warm Bodies). The story did drag a bit between action scenes - a little more trimming down on wordage or being more visceral would have picked up the pace somewhat.

In conclusion.

If you like the traditional zombie shoot-em-up but want extra and/or a different twist on it, this will satisfy you on both levels, and hopefully appeal to traditional zombie fans and those who might not normally pick

up a zombie book. Those who like more emotional impact might find this a bit lacking. Although the story was complete, it left an opening for a sequel (which I would love to read).

Wart Hill says

I received a free ARC via NetGalley

Dnf. When I'm bored during a Zombie attack, it's not a good thing.

Summer says

Dead New World is a cool mash-up of military action, zombie horror, and evolution. It's a fresh premise rooted in an easily visualized world where bio-engineered zombies have taken over and survivors must join military efforts to fight against them. I love the twist where the villain known as the Reverend has a connection with the walking dead that allows him to communicate and control them. And that's not all, there are certain survivors who are strong enough to fight the infection from a zombie bite and in turn become a human-zombie hybrid, survival of the fittest at its best. Overall I really enjoyed this read. The writing is tight and flows quickly. Hill keeps the story moving with exciting encounters, smart dialogue, and even a touch of romance! I'm really looking forward to the next installment of this series and highly recommend it to fans of the zombie genre!

Content: Some strong language and typical zombie-killing gore

Kami says

After the Tribulation, the dead got up and walked the Earth. Stanley Holt is a 16-year-old new recruit fighting zombies. This is a good zombie book. It is scary, exciting and well-written. There is a madman who can control the zombies, which is different and interesting. And also a half-human, half-zombie hybrid which is also different than the usual zombie books that I've read. 4 stars.

Meigan says

I normally shy away from the young adult genre because, well, I find young adults annoying. The immaturity level is often sky high, the way they speak grates on my nerves and their ideas of problems, when compared to things of importance, really aren't problems at all. When I started reading Dead New World, I was immediately intrigued by these men, these soldiers fighting against an army of zombies. Imagine my surprise to learn that these "men" are actually 16/17 year old boys.

In Hill's Dead New World, an event called the Tribulation occurred out of seemingly nowhere, turning most of the world's population into zombies. No one knows why, it just kind of happened. In the fight against the "dead meat", the military lowered the age of recruitment to 16 and anyone who is recruited has to serve for a

mandatory 10 years. It's no wonder these boys come across as men in their actions, they've been forced to grow up rather quickly in the aftermath of the zombie apocalypse. Despite their maturity level when it comes to anything militaristic, they still retained the banter I expect from a pack of teenage boys, and I really enjoyed that aspect. In fact, the only thing missing was a few "yo momma" jokes :)

Hill threw a few surprising twists into what could have otherwise been a been-there-done-that zombie book. His zombies are centered around a very frightening man called the Reverend, who is able to control zombies. His ultimate goal is to have the dead run this new world, under God's direction, His will. The Rev was fanaticism at its finest, and that was really one of my favorite parts. I love me a good fanatic. Religious zealots scare the pants off me and to be honest, if I had the choice of having a zombie versus a bible thumper knock on my door, I'd pick the zombie every time. Heck, I'd probably even invite the zombie in for coffee.

The only thing I wasn't particularly fond of was the small little bit of romance thrown in. While I do appreciate that that element added a bit of hope, a little brightness to an otherwise bleak and depressing environment, I just didn't much care for it. I do like that it added a bit of softness to Stanley Holt's character, and everyone knows I'm a sucker for a love story, but it just didn't do anything for me. Maybe it's because Nancy wasn't really that interesting. From all accounts, she seemed quite ordinary. Brown hair, blue-eyed Nancy, nothing special, nothing really stands out.

All in all, Ryan Hill managed to deliver something unique and different in the overpopulated zombie category with *Dead New World*. I recommend this for lovers of zombie fiction looking for something fresh and new (and did I mention the religious zealot?! Much scarier than any zombie.).

**Review copy provided by the publisher, Curiosity Quills Press, in exchange for my honest opinion.

Tina (As Told By Tina) says

I received a copy from author/publisher in exchange for my honest opinion. The following review is my own and will not be affected by this.

When I was first approached to review *Dead New World*, I was immediately drawn to the cover. Isn't it spooky? It had me wondering just what on earth is going on in this *Dead New World*. I have to say, I am not a zombie kind of person at all but I went ahead and decided to read a *Dead New World* just to see if maybe zombies will finally win me over.

The New World

Dead New World introduces us to a United States after The Tribulation. It doesn't give much detail as to when or how the Tribulation began because the main characters Ambrose and Holt are young and do not remember a world before the Tribulation. At least that the theory I came up with, personally I would have liked to have seen some history of the Tribulation so that I could understand the history better. However, you know one thing zombies are everywhere and they are a threat to the human race. Humans are slowly dying out and zombies are taking over thanks to their leader The Reverend. Sixteen year olds are now drafted into the military to serve a tour of about seven years once their time is up (if they survive) they move on with their lives. It is truly a darker United States, one where you have to fight every single day to make sure you survive.

I thought the world building was decent. I got the feeling that the United States was in a dark gloomy place

after the Tribulation had taken place. The only issues I had with it were there was no clear explanation of The Tribulation, there were instances where older members of the military would mention something and the character wouldn't know what they were talking about because they were too young to remember. However, I think a little bit more background would've been nice to really push the story for me. I had some questions that I wish would have been answered such as who is in charge of the United States, there was no mention of the president but the military was still in place, so whose in charge? One thing I found a bit too much for someone who doesn't know much about weapons I would get lost when the mentioned of different weapons were mentioned several times. I thought it was bit much for someone who doesn't know anything about weapons but if you do know a lot about them then it is absolutely perfect for you.

Characters

Dead New World is told through Holt's point of view, he is a young soldier stationed at Fort Braggs. The other main character is Ambrose, I would have loved to have seen his point of view of things, I think it would have made the story so much better for me. Anyway when we first meet Ambrose and Holt they are on a mission to search and destroy but the mission doesn't go as planned resulting in something that changes both their lives forever. Holt has part of his leg blown off which results in him having to use a prosthetic leg in order to return to duty. When Holt wakes up he is in a hospital at Fort Simmons and has been out of it for about four days that's when he learns about Ambrose.

Ambrose was bitten by a zombie which meant he should've had turned into a zombie a couple hours if not minutes after the bite. He however, doesn't and four days later he still hasn't completely turned. He is half zombie and half human. Is that possible? After further studies, the doctors come to a conclusion that since Ambrose hasn't completely turned days after being bitten then he may not turn completely zombie. He is then cleared and sent back to Fort Braggs to return to duty.

At Fort Simmons, we meet another important character but we don't get much of her towards the ends of the story her name is Nancy. She is the nurse that helped both Holt and Ambrose back to recovery. However, her and Holt began a relationship while he was recovering but broke it off soon after because he knew he would have to return to Fort Braggs. Nancy is always on Holt's mind no matter what, he can never truly stop thinking about her or caring about her. And that just might get him killed.

Twists and Turns with a little bit of War

The Reverend and his horsemen have complete control over the zombies, the military has tried to capture him but he is always one step ahead of them. Then one night an attack on Fort Braggs occurs, zombies destroy and kill everyone in their path or try to. Leaving very few survivors, Holt, Ambrose and Private Bart go on a mission to make sure Fort Simmons wasn't attacked. Only to find out that Fort Simmons was also attacked and there is hardly any survivors. Gabriel (the man who was involved with Nancy after Holt) is one of the only survivors in Fort Simmons where he informs Holt and Ambrose that Nancy was kidnap by the horsemen.

This event sets the tone of the story; Holt and Ambrose must rescue Nancy from the awful fate of turning into a zombie. On their mission to save her they discover the Reverend's true plan along with other surprising details that play out in the story. There were many twists and turns I did not see coming. I really enjoyed how the author tied together every twist and turn in the story. I did not see many of them occurring and I loved that. I felt like the story got a lot stronger once we got to the rescue mission, the world building turning this part of the story was well executed and I was able to envision the story much better.

I thought the author also did an excellent job of including details of things that have occurred right now into

a futuristic story. For instance, he includes comic books and relates Ambrose to Spider-man. He also drops other hints of things occurring now into the story which I found really helped me see just how much had change throughout this new world.

Overall

Dead New World in the beginning was not my cup of tea but the second part of the story really redeems itself for me. I enjoyed it a lot more then I expected, I did have some issues like I mentioned before the lack of information of the Tribulation and I would have liked better world building and not so much description when it came to the weapons being used. But other then that I thought the story was well written. If there is a sequel I may just pick it up. If you are into zombies and the idea of a zombie apocalypse then this book is perfect for you!
