



Twilight World

Poul Anderson

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"The time is shortly after the great nuclear spasm: in all the world there is nothing but ruin, famine, barbarism. Worst of all, residual radiation is causing an ever increasing rate of abnormal births. The human race is doomed to slow extinction, but among the ever increasing number of mutants a few are not less but more than what came before." And these. "An apocalyptic science fiction novel of post-World War Three and 'Tomorrow's Children' surviving on a planet devastated by nuclear bombs, and where the number of mutant children caused by radiation is constantly increasing."

"Post-holocaust story. By an accident of genetics, the mutants became the precursors of a new master race."

Twilight World Details

Date : Published by Tor Books (first published 1961)

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Author : Poul Anderson

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From Reader Review Twilight World for online ebook

Johann says

One of my favorite books. Read it when I was young as part of a stack of books I got from my dads collection. Something about picturing him reading sci-fi at night under the covers with a flashlight may have made me love this book.

It's a quick read and something about it speaks to me. Brilliant.

Andrew Post says

A bit disjointed, but an intriguing tale about the aftermath of a nuclear war, a world filled with (realistic) mutants, and post-nuclear geopolitics. I'd really like to see this get turned into a high-production TV series.

Howard Brazee says

The novel is based upon ideas about mutations that were out of date when it was written when I was a school kid.

Charles says

A post-apocalyptic novel, with mutations. I've always been a sucker for these.

Arthur says

This book was remarkable. Especially on how Poul Anderson (the author) managed to explain details and expression. Sure, granted the ideas are badly outdated or much of it was insignificant then. At times it felt encrypted and at times it felt clear. However it's a fantasy about human civilization surviving a nuclear fall out and this particular book was published in 1961. What that means is that most of the ideas are from the 50's of what the world would look like if it survived a nuclear Holocaust. It's about war and humanity and mutant survivors. It's about bringing back humanity into civilization and helping those lucky enough to be alive. It's about coming up with alternatives using what means they would have had in the 50's or the epoch of the changeableness of the decade after. It's also funny to see how easy the story moved along without much technology or computers and communications we take for granted today even though this is a sci-fi fantasy book.

Scythian says

Shallow/unrealistic characters, uninspired plot, predictable. The writing itself was fine, though.

Manuel Alfonseca says

ENGLISH: Post-apocalyptic vision of the Earth after an atomic war, with a biosphere sunk under the weight of the multiple mutations caused by radioactivity. The first of the three stories, which coincidentally is the first story ever published by Poul Anderson, is the best of all. The second is a bit simple, and the third, with the terrestrial war, now between mutants, moved to the planet Mars is a bit hopeless (we will never learn, seems to be the moral).

"A canticle for Leibowitz" seems to me a much more credible post-apocalyptic novel than this book. Here the survivors recover too fast, as in 30 years they are ready to send a spacecraft to Mars.

ESPAÑOL: La traducción española del título de este libro es incorrecta, debería ser "El mundo crepuscular", no "El crepúsculo del mundo".

Visión post-apocalíptica de la Tierra después de una guerra atómica, con la biosfera hundida bajo el peso de las mutaciones provocadas por la radiactividad. El primero de los tres cuentos, que casualmente es el primer cuento que publicó Poul Anderson, es el mejor de todos. El segundo es un poco simple, y el tercero, con la guerra terrestre trasplantada entre mutantes al planeta Marte es un tanto desesperanzado (no aprenderemos nunca, parece ser la moraleja).

"Cántico a San Leibowitz" me parece una novela post-apocalíptica mucho más verosímil que este libro. Aquí los supervivientes se recuperan demasiado aprisa, pues en 30 años están ya en condiciones de enviar naves espaciales a Marte.

Ismael Julio says

Empieza muy muy bien pero la última parte es un poco más floja, con un argumento cogido con pinzas y un poco alejado de la que esperaba de la línea argumental planteada al principio

Denis says

First published in 1961 as a book club hardcover, it is actually a 'fix-up' novel composed of earlier stories with new material added:

"Tomorrow's Children" (1947) with F. N. Waldrop

"Chain of Logic" (1947)

"Children of Fortune" (1961)

"Epilogue" (1961)

The whole is built upon two 'base' post atom bomb apocalyptic stories (published only two years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki). It is a story of life after a global-wide event, where there are few survivors and many are born physically mutated. Inevitably, a new sort of class prejudice arises: that of the mutated and the non-mutated.

A jet pilot has been sent out by the U.S. government to survey the state of the populous and discovers that things are worse than expected: famine and near barbarism and, as mentioned, mutations. Some of these mutated however, could actually be classed as supermen.

Poul Anderson is sometimes compared to Heinlein, but I found this one was written more from the school of van Vogt, save maybe the extreme weirdness.
