



Before & After

Matthew Thomas

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That rare find: comic fantasy that actually makes you laugh. Douglas Adams10;Terry Pratchett, but with more jokes. A dark, deadpan millennial tale. 'The sheep shall be the first sign. Those that frolic and hop will detonate with great concussions, The strongest glues will not hold them, their suffering will go unheeded, Until the Great Triangles depart' From the Lost Centuries of Nostradamus: Quatrain v11.5 So it begins: the end of the world. The Apocalypse is at hand, afoot, in your face -- wherever -- it's going to affect you, mentally and physically. Ask Colin the sheep about it and he'd probably say 'BOOOM!' which isn't very helpful but then he has just exploded. Ask Professor Michael D. Nostrus, history teacher at a redbrick university and formerly the sometimes-vaguely-accurate prophet Nostradamus, and he might give you a piece of advice along the lines of: hole up in a Welsh farmhouse with an attractive young woman and read books like THE SAS SURVIVAL GUIDE: KILL SQUIRRELS THE WAY THE PROFESSIONALS DO. Some people think he's mad...Professor Michael D. Nostrus knows better. After all, he's had 500 years to work out what to do...

Before & After Details

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Author : Matthew Thomas

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Cynthiaj says

To quote the song..."It's the end of the world as we know it..." but I felt the author didn't really tie in the sheep all that well. Otherwise, humorous along the lines of Christopher Moore and Scalzi.

Wielli says

I admit it: I bought Thomas' book for its cover.

I have a weakness for sheep, and this book has it all: a rowdy crowd of love-lorn college students and slimy yellow-press reporters, pan-religious prophets - more often accurate than not - and fire-and-brimstone televangelists, heavy-artillery angels and fire- and other demons, and plenty of exploding sheep.

The prose - and the weirdness of some plot-twists - reminded me strongly of that other great Brit, Terry Pratchett.

What more could you possibly want?!?!

Henna says

It was a struggle from around just after the pages about exploding sheep. There were some interesting characters but the plot wasn't going in a pace that would have kept me going. As it is I only got half way through so this is an incomplete read for me.

heidi says

I bought this book because the back cover promised me humor and exploding sheep. Hmmm... mistake, or perhaps I just do not dig the author's sense of humor? The plot was lost underneath the so-called 'clever writing'. Some of the jokes are not so bad but the puns and word play got old after a couple of chapters...

Barbara says

I have finished this book for the second time and it was a good thing I was in blissfull ignorance what this book was about and why I didn't like it the first time. If I had remembered I don't think I would have reread it even if it was necessary for completing a challenge.

The subjectmatter wasn't that bad but it would have been much better if Tom Holt had written this book. It wouldn't have a joke or play on words every sentence. Which I tell you gets real old real fast. The only reason I give this book 2 stars is that some of the jokes were good and that is about the only positive thing I can say about this book and since my mum taught me that if I don't have nothing nice to say I shouldn't say anything, I am going to leave it there.

Craigb says

A really enjoyable and funny read.

Chris says

As long as you go into this not expecting literary genius or much of a storyline, it's a wonderful read. (Although I felt ripped off that there weren't more sheep.) In general, sheep start exploding; Nostradamus is still alive as a quirky college professor; lots of men deal with out of control hormones; the forces of Darkness and crazy religious types plot the Apocalypse; the Final Battle ensues, lots of people die; everyone (and their sheep) lives happily ever after. And that's the book. What you don't get from this wonderfully adept summary are the funny, quirky little sayings sprinkled throughout the book, which is rife with analogies like things being lost 'like a fart in a jacuzzi.' Some of the references are dated but in the end, its a cute, little quirky book that was worth the read. However, for fellow Grammar Nazis, prepare yourself for quite a few transgressions.

Janice says

Light, musing read but nothing too special. Would be hard pressed to either recommend or not recommend.

Sarah says

An hysterical novel about the Apocalypse, and an old man, a very surprised university student, and a wise cat who are trying desperately to avoid it.

Kevin says

The tagline says: 'A Novel About Exploding Sheep, Nostradamus, And The End Of The World'. Intrigued? So was I.

A really funny book that had me giggling from the start, especially as the very first victim in this book was a sheep called 'Kevin' who spontaneously exploded!

Loved it - will read again soon.

Sudhakar says

Funny, clever and thought provoking.

Isabel (kittiwake) says

"Accursed is he who quotes the bible out of context. And that includes you, Aristo."

The Count of St Germain, 1676

It's 1999 and Nostradamus is alive and well, awaiting the coming Apocalypse while working as a history professor in a London university. Enjoyable, but a bit slow to really get going, and the humour seemed a little strained at times - I didn't get the impression of effortless flights of fancy that you get with Douglas Adams or Terry Pratchett. However by the half-way point it was definitely improving, and I was giggling as I read the last 20 pages this lunchtime. But it is a pity that we never found out what was going on with Colin and his mates in the field.

Jennifer says

Very witty book - laughs from the very start and entertaining through to the very end.

Matt Thomas says

Glad to see some are still enjoying this - it was great fun to write. I was a lot younger when I did it (22/23) and you can really tell that reading it back :)

Question for Barbara: Why re-read a book you didn't enjoy the first time. Can't get my head around that. Do you slam your head in fridge doors for fun?

Thanks for the positive comments. Means a lot to me, as for a long time this was my 'baby'.

Cheers,

Matt

Cody says

this book is a trip.... i added the book onto this website because i couldnt find it on here, i got this book while i was in Thailand it cost someone 150 baht, i traded it with a vampire story book.

