



Apocalypse Culture

Adam Parfrey (Editor)

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TWO THOUSAND YEARS have passed since the death of Christ and the world is going mad. Nihilist prophets, born-again pornographers, transcendental schizophrenics and just plain folks are united in their belief in an imminent global catastrophe. What are the forces lurking behind this mass delirium?

APOCALYPSE CULTURE is a startling, absorbing and exhaustive tour through the nether regions of today's psychotic brainscape.

First published in 1987, APOCALYPSE CULTURE immediately touched a nerve. Alternately excoriated and lauded as "epochal", "the most important book of the decade," APOCALYPSE CULTURE had begun to articulate what many inwardly sensed — the fear inspired irrationalism and faith, the clash of irreconcilable forces, and the ever-looming specter of fin de race. In its present incarnation for Feral House, APOCALYPSE CULTURE has significantly increased in size, taking on new perspectives on our current crisis, with pertinent revisions of many articles from the original edition.

Apocalypse Culture Details

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Author : Adam Parfrey (Editor)

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Download and Read Free Online Apocalypse Culture Adam Parfrey (Editor)

From Reader Review *Apocalypse Culture* for online ebook

David says

I don't even know how to categorise this book. I don't hardly even know what to say. It truly earns its title, and it's mind-numbingly and shockingly frank and honest and raw.

I'll say that I've never seen a more sober and genuine look at the psychology and mindset of a necrophiliac as was displayed in one of the early essays -- often it's a taboo, sensationalised topic that only elicits shock and horror. That was one of the big surprises with this book for me.

Even though it was written in 1987, I think it still is very relevant for today, even in these post-millennial times. I'm trying to get my hands on the second volume (*Apocalypse Culture II*, naturally) as I write this.

Mark says

Man, what a weird-ass book.

Apocalypse Culture is a collection of essays about people and ideas on the cultural fringe of the fringe. And everything is more or less presented as is, making it harder to figure out what we're expected to take at face value and how much, if any at all, we're meant to see merely as a cultural expression.

I didn't get the book right away. The first essay is about werewolves, and ties in Charles Manson, some semi-famous incidents of feral people, and the savagery of humanity, or something. It kinda reeked of pseudo-intellectualism (as does a lot of the writing) and didn't really go anywhere, or make any conclusions. But I got it after reading the second essay, which is a sympathetic interview with a necrophile, who had been put on trial in California after getting caught in the act. A-ha, I thought, now I understand what this book is getting at.

The first part, *Apocalypse Theologies*, is by far the most interesting. The essays spotlight all sorts of f'd up people and ideas ranging from the necrophile, to misogynists, masochists, self-mutilating performance artists, religious cults, violence freaks, self-castration, notorious punk rocker GG Allin, and so on. Presenting various extremist lifestyles in a sympathetic light really pushes the limits of "to each his own", which I suspect was meant to challenge the reader into accepting the legitimacy of any lifestyle choice, no matter how crazy, but especially the crazy ones. Many of the subjects have their own version of the age old mantra "I'm normal because I'm comfortable with myself, and it's society that's f'd up because it can't accept that", which always strikes me as a little too defensive to be an honest claim, especially when it's an unvarnished look at these lifestyles, but it's fitting with the overall tone of the pseudo-scholarship. However, there is one article that is genuinely well written and reasoned, which criticizes the state of modern art.

On the other hand, the second part *The Invisible War*, stumbles right from the starting gate. You're know you're into the thick of pseudo-intellectualism with anything called the "invisible war", which is always about the little things hidden in plain sight that the powers-that-be are using to manipulate us all. The first essay is written by none other than the Church of Satan's Anton LaVey and it's a doozy. It sets the tone for the rest of the book. He argues that things such as the weather, three day weekends, white noise, and various other unrelated things are being used to lull us into a false sense of security and make us more susceptible to

indoctrination via devices such as TV, or something. The remaining essays cover a huge variety of topics, mostly having to do with history and cultural criticism, all showing the hallmarks of pseudo-intellectual conspiracy theorist writing, including but not limited to, vague and broad definitions of the big ideas being argued, third-rate and illogical thinking (much of it circular), and casual and frequent connections made between events and ideas established in legitimate scholarship and concepts and theories that are not only unproven but illogical to boot.

The best example being an essay asking if genocide is being conducted on African Americans in the US, which is a sort of dual interview (conducted separately) of two writers; the one who argues against the premise has written about the subject for Time, talks very specifically and deliberately, and dismisses a lot of the questions as irrelevant, but acknowledging the plight of African Americans in this country, while the other who argues for the notion is extremely vague and talks in circles and uses a definition of genocide that is so broad, it could mean anything. The act of pseudo-intellectualism comes from presenting both individuals as equals arguing legitimate, if differing, points-of-view, when one clearly outmatches the other. Just as the first part, the second part has one genuinely interesting essay, this one a collection of letters to the editor that include some fairly bizarre, incoherent, and poorly written grade-A examples of crackpottery, which the writer apparently believes are legitimate cultural expressions that shouldn't be censored, and not merely the ramblings of kooks. It's pretty funny considering that in the intervening years, those kinds of crackpots have found expression on the internet, especially in the comments section of almost every web page.

Overall I'd have to say, *Apocalypse Culture* is more interesting as an expression of American cultural and political extremism and paranoia, and as a tool of how to underline the importance of critical thinking, than a serious look at the subject matter, but still worth a look for the curious.

Chloe A-L says

I skimmed this book, by necessity. A few pieces in this book were genuinely interesting, some were incomprehensible rambling, and most were the sort of boring hateful nazi bullshit that "counterculture" white dudes start espousing with intention to shock (really just hoping it will make them seem interesting)

David says

Hasn't travelled, in time, as well as I would have liked. Either that, or I've not travelled as well. I read this book back in the early '90s and enjoyed it a great deal, but, then, everyone was looking forward to the end of the millennium. Well, it's long since come and gone and the world continues, excepting a few wrinkles, as much as it always has.

The book now reads more as adolescent diatribe than prescient and cogent cassandraing. I'm sure there are readers out there whom will enjoy this work. Mostly, those trapped, psychologically, with the New Left and the Counter-Culture with a post-structural bent. And this will be the perfect book for them.

However, I and the world have moved on.

Interesting but dated.

Mild Recommendation.

Paul Bryant says

Just the usual gang of Satanists, trepanners and folks who like to suspend themselves by hooks from the ceiling. So what else is new?

notvesna says

at times, sections of this collection were incredibly infuriating. in some areas, despite themselves, certain authors took on an almost preachy tone that I found repulsive at worst and irritating at best. outside of those bits, it's an enjoyable read if you're interested in "questionable" subject matter and i definitely enjoyed some bits. however, i can't help feeling that people embraced many of these works more for the shock-value and for the sense of superiority they got from reveling in subject matter that scares others. in terms of the amount of actual substance and insightful ideas, there wasn't much that really blew me away. definitely not for the faint of heart.

No says

You got to love when you read a book, and you come across something sick and twisted, a smirk develops on your face and your eyes get a bit bigger and you think to yourself "what in the fuck!" This happened more than a few times for me in Apocalypse Culture. Not to mention that littered throughout the book are many different quotes, enticing pictures and artwork. I am not a big fan of poetry but "Something As It Really Is" by Mel Lyman was one I was into, it reminded me of lyrics from a Blood for Blood track. Lots of great interviews with all sorts of different types of interesting folks, which is really the most captivating parts of the book. You got a necrophiliac, a mass murdering psychopath, Peter Sotos with his taste for extreme sexual violence, and Fakir Musafar the self mutilating masochist.

Other chapters covering people who break into werewolf like fits with their jaw unhinging and walking on all fours. GG Allen's stage antics, terrorism, schizophrenic writing, demented art, self-castration, robotics, weapons, black power, cult rituals, letters, porn, eugenics, genocide, agriculture, death, the universe, Odin, freemasonry, zionists, secret societies, and nuclear bombs. Covering such a broad spectrum of occult and rare subject matter is what makes this a good read and a must have.

Notes & Quotes:

"Such lycanthropic transformation evidently guided the Viking Berserkers, who wore wolf-skins, spoke in wolf-language and earned a reputation as the most fearsome warriors who ever lived. The Berserkers could reputedly practice mind control, rendering their enemies helpless with fear, and running wild in battle without protection of shield or armor." -Adam Parfey

*There is no law in CA against necrophilia

*Interview with Karen Greenlee a necrophiliac in Sacramento / the vampire killer Richard Trenton chase

also from Sacramento

"Man is a killing organism! He must kill to survive! He must kill to advance! Let us show them who is the natural elite! Who is the world's greatest killer! White Man! Unsheathe your terrible sword! Slay your enemies! Kill! Kill! Kill!" -Dan Burros

"Anyone who undertakes a massacre with less than 500 rounds is limiting himself. Personally, I would take 1,000 rounds. Yes, it will be heavy, especially if you carry it all on your person. But hey, nobody ever said that massacres were easy." -Frank (the Psychopath)

* Peter Sotos arrested for child porn / runs pure magazine

"True subversive terror can only be actualized by turning off the tv sets." -Charles Manson

"I'm attracted to real individuals who have Succeeded in wrenching the most enjoyment out of their lives. Individuals who have reached pinnacles of power and pleasure." -Peter Sotos

*Music: Great White Death (LP)

*Book: Love, Lithium, and the Loot of Lima by James Van Cleve

"It's a free country but where is the free cunt?" -James Van Cleve (Schizophrenic)

Book: Bore Hole (collectors item)

"Brute strength is no longer necessary to fight wars - all is needed is the digital ability to flip toggle-switches and push buttons." -Adam Parfrey

"The German Army adopted the P-38, perfected by Waffenfabrik Carl Walther, as the standard issue pistol beginning in 1938 (hence the pistols name, 1938=P-38)."

"The body of a dead enemy always smells good." -Charles IX

"Cattle die, kinsmen die, and I too shall die. The only thing I know that doesn't die is the fame of dead men's deeds." -Robert Jay Mathews

"This dream of absolute, universal equality is amazing, terrifying, and inhuman. And the moment it captures people's minds, the result is mountains of corpses and rivers of blood..." -Vladimir Bukovsky

"Death and destruction are necessary to the health of the world, and therefore as natural, and lovable, as birth and life. Only priests and born cowards moan and weep over dying. Brave men face it with approving nonchalance." -Ragnar Redbeard

"We believe the black man should be freed in name as well as in fact. By this we mean that he should be freed from the names imposed upon him by his former slave masters. Names which identified him as being the slave masters slave. We believe that if we are free indeed, we should go in our own peoples names - the black peoples of the earth." -Elijah Muhammad

Book: Autobiography of a World Savior by Mel Lyman (mindfuckers)

"The skirmishes take place in the region of one's own mind. The less one is aware of the invisible war, the more receptive one is to its ongoing process of demoralization, for the insensate human is vulnerable, malleable, weak, and ripe for control." -Anton Szandor LaVey

"...If a twentieth part of the cost and pains were spent in measures for the improvement of the human race that is spent on the improvement of the breed of horses and cattle, what a galaxy of genius might we not create." -Sir Francis Galton (1865)

Book: Race or Mongrel? By H A Schultz

"There's no doubt that you could breed for intelligence in humans the way you breed for milk in cows or eggs in chickens. If you were to raise the average I.Q. just one standard deviation, you wouldn't recognize things. Magazines, newspapers, books, and television would have to become more sophisticated. Schools would have to teach differently." -Arthur Jensen

*Tuskegee experiment?

*Oswald Spengler quote (nature as slave) pg.263

*Adolf Hitler quote (eugenics) pg.224

*Shaitan (Hebrew for "The Deceiver" or "The Adversary")

"Pairs of Opposites ... ice and fire, gravity and levity, darkness and light ... all of the possible sets of opposing principles which define the hidden structure of our manifest Universe. No single member of the duality can exist without its partner." -Tim O'Neill

"Santa Claus was actually the 4th Century Saint Nicholas of Turkey, a delegate to the Council of Constantine. (bringer of gifts to small children) -Who Rules Over Earth by Tim O'Neill

Book: The Great Seal by Paul Foster Case (essential details of Masonic symbolism)

"...in the 19th century, an Irishman named John Nelson Darby developed the doctrine that the biblical God holds two distinct plans for two different groups of his chosen: one for His Earthly Kingdom, Israel, another for His Heavenly Kingdom, the Christian church. The two will only converge in the End Times when a New Heaven and a New Earth are created out of the wreckage of the old." -Gregory Krupey

*1967 Arab-Israeli war / capture of Jerusalem by the Israeli army

Book: Late Great Planet Earth by Hal Lindsey (Arab-Soviet attack on Israel of 200 million strong (killing 1/3 of earth's population) but destroyed by nuclear fire, Ezekiel prophecy) world's 2nd best seller next to the bible

*Jerry Falwell / Christian Zionist / a forest in Israel named after him / free trips to Israel / received personal jet from Israel (which, considering the massive amount of US aid to Israel, was paid for by American taxpayers) / only gentile to receive Jabotinsky medal

*It is illegal in Israel to proselytize for any religion other than Judaism

"The Vehm (Vehmgericht) were so powerful by the 15th century that they could order the Holy Roman

Emperor to appear as a common criminal in one of their courts. The Vehm was rumored to exist as late as the 19th century, and reputedly provided a historical model for the S.S. "Werewolves." -Tim O'Neill

*Grand Orient Masonry in France and Italy / own version of the Scottish Rite / Atheistic, Anti-Christian

"While much of Masonic lore is composed of hermetic, alchemical and Jewish elements, much of Jewish mysticism is of Egyptian, Babylonian and gnostic origin."-(The Call To Chaos)

"In ancient Egyptian religion, everything began in chaos, after which order was established, an egg emerged, and the Chaos Goose hatched it. So - which came first, and which is which?" -(The Call To Chaos)

*Zany - professional buffoon or clown; simpleton

Allison Schus says

This book was...interesting to say the least. Apocalypse Culture is composed of articles, letters and stories that have a "relation" to the fall of humanity or will induce the apocalypse.

Some of the stories are vulgar and descriptive. There were times I caught myself riding the bus reading to myself and making the silliest faces of disgust, strangers probably thought I was crazy!

Some of the stories were just plain interesting, things I have never thought about.

Because this book is FULL of disturbing information I had to take a break in the middle, fill my brain with some "decent" literature, and then continue.

I was amazed at how Parfrey ordered the articles, there were times (prior to reading) when I questioned why two articles were placed next to each other when they seemed to have no relation, Parfrey expanded my mind and proved me wrong!

Nanci Svensson says

I recently hastily qrrqrqrqqqqqqqqrrqllooked through my torn copy of this Feral House's anthology of, well, basically what we now call the Internet; tin foil hats ranting, walking DSM V -manuals writing letters, drug proponents and euthanasia advocates who in the 1990s were less than 100 years and still argued with finesse, some sweet and funny and original excerpts from both obscure fanzines (remember those???) and letter found on the street. And GG Allin...

[illegible]

R

[illegible]

P

And by golly, I found qqqqqthese reflections consisting of lament (snobbishly) for the pre-social media era, qqqqqwhen you had r hang out in a bookstore run by a cretin of a deadhead in sandals just to "keep up" with the few topics that interested you. Nowadays (haha!), everybody is, if not a comedianqqqqq and definitely not a coherent writer, at least a conspiracy theorist with a blog (interface; black background, tiny fonts, links to EVERY OTHER SINGLE SITE rqqqqqqqqqqwnons and THOSE persons that weren't voiced in old media but had the ability to excite or disgust you (I appreciate both equally) by monomanically letting you glimpse their world by these persons' often compulsive need to communicate these ideas through DIY publications (or through letters to the Editor of syndicated periodical on a typewriter on fourteen single spaced pages. Whereas now, not only do I via a google search render about a billion pages of "Omg, he really BELIEVES this and omg, he is not using spelling check or any self editing before posting his theory that blind seeing eyes dogs (I know it is a tautology but this is rhetorical) really are trained by ZOG in order to ensure the Rapture by making the Blind lead the Blind, etcetera.

What is mostly compelling about anthologies like Apocalypse culture is the bringing about a broadening of the readers' minds, because ALL opinions, pro et contra, were often replied to by some other PI with the opposite agenda. Now, search google and render either milf
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What is mostly compelling about anthologies like Apocalypse culture is the bringing about a broadening of the readers' minds, because ALL opinions, pro et contra, were often replied to by some other PI with the opposite agenda. Now, search google and render either tailor algorithm'd results that only can result in two sets i
afetches: the data out there strengthen the initial point of writer A, or render a bunch of cute pictures of cats, which helps no one, so I gues my conclusion is that everything was better in the 90s , because you can't non-ironical

P
P

Michael Browne says

Fans of fringe cultural shit look no further. Some of the essays here are poorly written, but the inherent absurdity of the subject matter makes it worthwhile.

I question any person that is able to read this in one sitting. Definitely a work that you need to pace and/or go back to over time. To read this in a single sitting is like being forced to watch a baby slowly burn in an oven, while taking a heavy dose of mescaline, while eating Lean Cuisine.

Michael says

This book was, somewhat inexplicably, a “big deal” in the punk and rebel subcultures of my youth. I suppose that this is because there weren’t a lot of books at the time detailing the extremes of culture in a “Mondo Cane” fashion, and those that did usually had a tone of moralist finger-wagging (which this didn’t). Much of what is in here would be or already had been covered in the RE/Search book releases, but those were somewhat less well-distributed, as I recall. It wasn’t until *Modern Primitives: An Investigation of Contemporary Adornment and Ritual* came out that everyone suddenly knew about RE/Search.

I read the book, and was probably as fascinated as anyone else, but I scarcely remember it now. Looking it over again, what stands out to me is the article on GG Allin, which I’m pretty sure was the first I’d read about him (aside from occasional nastygrams to zines), and the article by Anton Szandor LaVey, “The Invisible War,” which Parfrey used as the title for half of the volume. In “The Invisible War,” LaVey critiques consumer culture in terms of being a war against freedom and personal sovereignty, in a clever satirical fashion. It may be one of the best of his later writings, retrospectively. Again, though, I don’t really recall reading it. Pretty much anything else in here you’re interested in can be found somewhere else.

Tristan Goding says

It's definitely one of the weirdest things I've read in quite some time. I also think that this book's notoriety nullifies much of its power. Many of the concepts, explored in this book, were very shocking for the time that it was published. When you look at it today, in the Internet age, much of it seems rather tame. Still, many of the articles and opinions, expressed in this book, are quite fascinating and bizarre, and it'll give you plenty to chew on and consider after you've finished reading it. Not for those with weak stomachs.

Matt Reese says

A classic in my opinion. What many squares may describe as "out there" I would have to say is just the tip of the depravity iceberg. A book without equal.

Michael Kalb says

The book that changed my life in 1989 at the age of 17 when it was first released by AMOK press. To say this book influenced me is like saying Julius Streicher's *Der Sturm* influenced antisemitism in 1930s/40s Germany. This book had led me onto the various trails that have put me where I am today. Adam Parfrey does not get enough credit for this compendium of chaos. While now days this book is possibly looked at as "mild" you have to understand when it came out there was nothing and I mean NOTHING like it in the world. The subject matter was so varied and perfect it was every young (and old for that matter) deviants bible. Like it said in the revised edition on Mr. Parfrey's re-released through Feral House (his own publishing company, named by Boyd Rice);

"In the first six months or so, writers could not place reviews of *Apocalypse Culture* anywhere; editors were wary of “that book.” Without publicity and only limited shelf space, *Apocalypse Culture* somehow began to

sell, and in its way affected things. I heard of it busting up a couple of marriages, one partner drawing the line over "that book." Reviews began to appear, subjugating the book to vitriolic attack of abject praise."

I for one can attest to people flipping out in a rabid-dog display of reactionary anger. One day a gal I was dating (we will call her 'Jane') stopped over for a visit as I was re-re-re-reading *Apocalypse Culture*. I then sat the book down and told her I am going to get changed so we could go grab a few drinks. When I returned, there Jane was sitting on the couch looking at me as if I had a roll in the hay with her granny backwards uphill over briars, she then threw the book at my head and called me everything from a hate filled crazy to a child molesting pervert. It probably didn't help that I was laughing through the entire debacle.

So there you have it, one man's review of a classic, I cannot suggest this book for all deviants.

S. Wilson says

Apocalypse Culture is a gritty look back at a time before the Internet and the explosion of the Information age when publishing houses like Feral House (and let's be fair, there were and still are very few publishing companies like Feral House) were the reading audience's main window into the more obscure deviant, bizarre, and downright disturbing counter/sub-cultures of the 80s. Much of this anthology is comprised of articles written for obscure counter-culture magazines, as well as hand-made zines and handwritten letters or flyers, and is highly reminiscent of a time when the small press and self publishing were almost a form of revolutionary guerrilla tactics.

Apocalypse Culture, which has seen two upgrades (including a 25th anniversary edition) and a sequel, is chock full of dark side of human nature that was not normally available to the general public, from necrophiliacs and masochists to schizophrenics and conspiracy theorists. Everything from Lycanthropy to Eugenics is touched upon, and there are enough iconic personalities represented - Full Force Frank (confessed psychopath and publisher of how-to mass murder newsletters), Antone LaVey (Founder of the Church of Satan), G.G. Allin (Punk Rock Singer), Joe Coleman (Artist/Performance Artist), Peter Sotos (Controversial Writer), to name just a few.

Some of the work in *Apocalypse Culture* may seem a bit mild compared to what one can scrounge up with a simple Google search these days, but there are still materials to be found that even today are somewhat taboo. But more importantly, this collection of taboo materials is a snapshot of a cultural component that many people are not even aware existed (and to an extent still exists), so for many reading this anthology will be like lifting a rock to see what's been lurking under the surface of the past. Not for the weak of heart, fragile souls, or the easily offended, but highly recommended to those who are unafraid to stare into the abyss.
