



Infection

Bryan James

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Mike McKnight was an action movie star, condemned to a lifetime of incarceration in a psychiatric prison for the murder of someone he loves.

At least until the zombies showed up.

From his cell in the asylum, he is suddenly thrust into a nightmare of unbelievable proportions when the dead rise, and rapidly become a horrific plague on the world of the living.

From Long Island to the burbs to the country, Mike fights to stay alive, to recover his memories, and to retrieve a cure for the most threatening disease the world has ever known.

Infection Details

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Author : Bryan James

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Genre : Horror, Zombies, Fiction, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic

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From Reader Review Infection for online ebook

Crystal M. Ecker says

First, it's a zombie apocalypse book. So tons of people die, there are graphic depictions of gore, and a larger-than-life protagonist. If zombie books aren't your thing, then you won't enjoy this book. For those who enjoy a novel full of the undead and some good guys who try to battle and survive their encounters with reanimated while trying to find a cure, then this might be the next book for you. But first, a few warnings:

Mr. James must keep a thesaurus within arm's reach at all times. He also uses very long, detailed sentences that often take away from the plot. While I appreciate descriptive prose, this goes overboard. Way, too far, beyond the pale overboard (this is the kind of description you will find in Infection).

Also, the protagonist, Mike McKnight, was very annoying. He was sarcastic, which is probably a solid defense mechanism when facing the undead, but his sarcasm was predictable. And after a sarcastic remark, McKnight congratulates himself or explains his sarcasm, which brings me to his internal dialogue with himself. This ongoing dialogue is not really made clear until later in the book when the internal voice is explicitly recognized. This internal voice gets old, especially when it/he keeps droning on about either the mental institute or the evening that this wife is killed and how he can't remember most of the events.

Having said that, the plot is actually quite good. There were a few spots throughout the book where I actually found myself surprised or caught off guard. Mr. James would off a character, and I didn't see it coming. The plot moves quite quickly (although it could move faster if the flowery language were kept to a minimum). However, the ending was a bit off. [SPOILER ALERT] The scientist who is discovered in the research facility, after explaining that the vials of blue liquid are a vaccine and not a cure (GASP!) is baited into addressing why in the heavens he would do such a thing. The scientist, seemingly out of the blue, begins to blame liberals, the Hollywood elite, and the gays and explain that he is doing the work of God. This came out of nowhere and, quite frankly, went nowhere. And then a character from earlier in the book returns and, of course, is a bad guy. But why was he a bad guy? There's a brief mention of why McKnight was placed in the mental institute, but we never really learn why this guy was bad.

And finally, the ending. Bad. It just stops. McKnight wakes up in a dirty white room and has no scars or wounds. He feels that the room is familiar but it cannot be [presumably the mental institute where the book began]. He reaches for the door handle. The end. Seriously, the end. Granted there is a sequel, but I am not really inclined to read it, but I kinda want to know where McKnight was. So the ending was quite disappointing.

But to be honest, when you pick up a book like this, especially for free, you know you aren't getting a Pulitzer-worthy book. And, as other reviewers mentioned, there are errors throughout the book (misspellings, punctuation issues, etc.). But they aren't so bad as to take away from the story. 3.5 Stars.

C.S. Wilson says

3.5 stars

The story was interesting enough for me to finish reading despite some errors. For example, waive means "to exempt", while wave is a gesture. Two different words; two different meanings. Errors like that interrupted the flow of the story. However, I liked the storyline enough to keep going. I'm not entirely sure that I'll continue with the series, but it's not completely out of the question.

Liza says

Overall, definitely not the worst zombie apocalypse book I've ever read. The main character being someone well-known and well-off rather than the usual Joe Schmoe that normally accompanies this kind of book was a departure from the normal premise. However: Michael McKnight is annoying as hell (he's one of those guys who doesn't know when to take it down a notch with the sarcasm - and this is coming from someone who speaks said language fluently). I found him irritating quite often, but not quite to the point of wanting him to get eaten alive. I also wasn't a fan of the senseless inner voice. Is he schizophrenic? DID?

~~My LEAST favorite part of this book was how it ended. Abruptly. In some random room. I guess the current story arc was fulfilled enough to end the episode, but that was no season finale, and there are too many questions still left unanswered.~~

Nevermind. The second book is on Amazon for free. Well, okay, no. My irritation at how the first book "ends" still stands, but it's definitely offset by the fact that I'm going to go download and read the second book right now and pretend that it isn't broken up into two different sections. ;D

ETA: I must have gotten a further edited copy of the book from many of the previous reviews, because I didn't see a lot of typos. Maybe two in the entire book, and that's not bad considering that just yesterday I read a book printed on actual paper and bound at a printing press with more typos than that.

Kathryn says

I really considered giving this book only one star. There were so many things about it I just didn't like. The biggest were the spelling and grammar mistakes. One mistake I can forgive but when there's a mistake what seems like every few pages it's too much. There was also a lack of continuity. The character would be sitting one moment and the next he's somehow somewhere else without having moved, or in one paragraph he sits down and the following paragraph he takes a seat. I found the main character himself boring. The idea of him being famous was pushed too hard and brought up too often making it feel forced. I also disliked the constant inner-monologue of the main character that slowed the story down quite a bit. The action was also overdone. It was never one or two zombies posing a threat but always dozens and at one point over a hundred. The beginning was fun and interesting with the main character discovering the outbreak and I enjoyed his flashes trying to remember his wife, but otherwise everything felt very contrived and the plot twists very convenient.

Alondra says

[Was he dreaming the whole thing?? Did someone drug him again?? What happened?? (hide spoiler)]

Faye, la Patata says

Good read :) I like it a lot, and I'm really glad there's going to be another sequel.

Fred says

“Lemme guess,” I said, affecting the appropriate sarcastic tone. “We’re running low on gas?” He nodded curtly, eyes on the road. Despite my intuition, I was incredulous. “What the hell? Doesn’t anyone keep gas in their cars anymore? Why don’t any vehicles in the apocalypse have any goddamn gasoline? It’s like a really bad fucking movie! Jesus!” I couldn’t believe this. Second time in as many vehicles! “OK, I’m just telling you now, if any of you mother-fuckers even think about going outside to check out the noise in the dark, or go to the dark room upstairs to find the virgin after hearing the strange sound, I’m shooting you myself!”

This has been coming up as a recommended book based on my other Zombie reading for some time. It probably wasn't the best Zombie book I've read but it was good enough that I'll still read the second one since I scored the Kindle version for free.

This is the story about a action movie star married to a beautiful bio-engineer working on reanimating the dead and conquering death itself. Nothing could go wrong right? Well, surprise, it does. And action guy ends up only revealing his wife who went all bitey McBiteface on him in the flashbacks he has throughout the rest of this story. In the end we find out that, whatever her faults, she at least smuggled a vaccine out to Jean Claude and managed to inject him, so there's that. Not as if it makes up for the endless suffering inflicted on mankind and all of that.

The writing isn't the best, but it'll work for cheap pulp action flicks and easy reads.

J.R. says

LZR-1143 introduces us to Mike a one-time Hollywood action hero who was a serious box office draw. Mike has been accused of killing his wife but has no memory of doing so. This places him in a mental institution instead of prison but that's not always a good thing. He's essentially remanded to his cell where he's heavily sedated for fear that somehow; he could become violent with possible repressed violent schizophrenic tendencies.

Waking up one morning, he finds himself in the TV room with no supervision, no escorts and no morning dose of anti-psychotics. Not that he needed the medication to begin with but I'll get into that later.

Meanwhile, the world outside the walls of the facility has changed into a land of the walking dead.

It takes some time for Mike to come out of his nightly dose of meds to realize that the dead have been

reanimated and some are inside with him, wandering the halls seeking fresh victims. After initial contact with one, he escapes unbitten and is able to meet up with a few other fellow survivors. These survivors consist of Kate, one of the doctors and a few patients. One particular patient, Fred, is blessed with a one word vocabulary, 'pancake' which adds to some of the dark humor throughout the story.

The story moves on from the asylum as they escape, run into more infected, a bad cop, a Target store night manager and of course, several thousand infected all while dragging along a couple of mental patients.

As the storyline progresses, the reader, as well as the primary character, Mike, are shown flashbacks to Mike's life prior to incarceration. This lends a nice spin to the plot as Mr. James beautifully incorporates it into the current flow of the story instead of sidetracking the reader with paragraphs or chapters that move away from the core of the tale.

Mike slowly and eventually gets his memory back of what happened the night he allegedly killed his wife and the truth is shocking. While I began to suspect there was another reason for the murder and then started to put the pieces together as I read, some of it didn't make too much sense until the ending chapters where it was all explained.

Or was it?

While the cause for the infection was explained and the reason behind his wife's murder which he was wrongly accused of are all laid out, the ending makes the reader sit back and wonder if what they read really happened or was it a hallucinogenic reaction to the medication that was administered to Mike and the entire course of events only occurred in his drug addled mind.

I have to say that Mr. James has written one of the better novels in this genre to come my way in a long time. He successfully combined a murder mystery, political intrigue, industrial espionage and cover-up into a zombie/apocalyptic/horror genre novel and made it work.

I'm very much looking forward to the next book in this series.

Dianne says

Celebrities, always in the spotlight, right? Mike was a popular action movie star, when he claimed he had no memory of his wife's brutal murder, he is convicted of criminal insanity and locked away. But did he do it? How could he remember if they keep him doped up on medications? And then it happened, he began seeing zombies, had he lost his mind for real or was there something horrendous going on? If Mike thought his life had become nightmare before, the world he would escape into would make anything before that pale in comparison.

Governments are collapsing under the gory chaos of the walking dead and the world becomes fodder for the living dead. Will his acting give him an edge in survival? Will the props he used on the big screen be his training ground to survival? With the help of a beautiful psychiatrist, an unlikely band of heroes are born. It is a time for survival of the fittest, or the luckiest and Mike plans on being among them.

LZR-1143:Infection by Bryan James is a zombie aficionado's dream, a little over-the-top, a little terrifying,

and full of gore, close encounters and even humor! Mike is pure Hollywood relying on his glory days in the spotlight and his ego to keep him moving as his ragtag group of survivors fight their way to safety. Prepare for mystery, madness and the sound of tearing flesh as a dark secret begins to unravel amidst the fall of humanity and human decency.

Fast-paced, riddled with blood, humor and lots of action, a fun read that is hard to put down.

Series: LZR-1143 - Book 1

Publication Date: June 25, 2010

Publisher: Bryan James

Genre: Sci-fi

Print Length: 330 pages

Available from: Amazon

For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Olethros says

-Sobre tendencias habituales, un protagonista algo particular.-

Género. Ciencia-Ficción.

Lo que nos cuenta. Mike McKnight ha sido una estrella del cine de acción que ahora está encarcelado en el ala oeste de Kings Park, una institución psiquiátrica de Long Island que da cabida a criminales convictos pero legalmente declarados “locos” para su tratamiento y rehabilitación. Mike ha sido encontrado culpable del asesinato en primer grado de su esposa, empleada en algún tipo de proyecto de investigación gubernamental, pero es totalmente incapaz de recordar muy bien qué ocurrió ese día exáctamente. Cuando empieza a salir del estado de letargo inducido por fármacos, descubre que el mundo que conocía está desapareciendo ya que parece que la sociedad está bajo el ataque de zombis. Primer libro de la serie LZR-1143.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Darke Conteur says

I found this book after I downloaded about seven free zombie books. None of the previous seven kept my attention for longer than the first page, and I was hesitant about reading this one, but after reading the sample, I decided to buy it.

Movie star Mike McKnight, incarcerated in a mental institute, wakes up from a psychotic drug-induced sleep into a world that's gone to hell. Zombies litter the landscape of his hospital, and after a brief fight with the

undead, he meets up with some survivors and head off to find a cure.

I gave this book two stars because, as strong as the writing was (which is why I purchased it), there were still too many things that I couldn't get into. I understand it's a fantasy story, and for this type (zombie) there has to be a certain element of believing in the impossible, but for me, there has to be an thread of logic to keep me in that frame of mine. I can believe almost anything in a story as long as it seems logical, and most of this didn't. The characters found exactly what they needed, when they needed it, and the sarcastic tone throughout the book (and from just about every character) started to weigh the story down.

Rose says

For those of you interested in a zombie story but haven't read many, or preferably any, this is actually a pretty decent story. Unfortunately, I've read lots and found this to be a bit generic and predictable. You really have to go above and beyond these days to wow me with your Z's.

I did really like the beginning when we meet our protagonist Mike McKnight. He's waking up from the drug cocktails they feed him in the asylum. He has no idea where anybody is or what is going on. It left me reminiscing about the first episode of The Walking Dead when Rick wakes up in the hospital. After that, it all gets ho-hum, even the big surprise about the wife wasn't big and it wasn't a surprise. If you can't get one over on me, you won't get anyone.

Recommended for first-time zombie readers only!

Karen says

This was a really good zombie story that has it's own little twist. The main characters are somewhat light in the beginning but get fleshed out nicely by the end, though there is still room for more development. The story is fast paced and brings things to a critical point pretty quickly. There is a bit of a mystery as to how things got started as well as the mystery surrounding the death of the main characters wife, though that seems to have been figured out. The language is straight and conveys the thoughts and actions of the characters perfectly.

The narrator is an ex-action hero and movie star, Michael McKnight, who was convicted of killing his wife and committed to a mental hospital as criminally insane. He does not remember killing her or anything else about that time, and they keep him so doped up he can barely function. When he wakes up and finds all the staff and a number of the patients gone he has no idea what happened until an orderly wanders in and eats the only other patient he has seen.

Michael meets Kate, a psychiatrist and some of her patients as he tries to escape the hospital. They get out together only to be confronted with the reality that the dead are walking and trying to kill them. Michael is having flashbacks and is sure that they are a way to redeem himself by saving the world, or maybe he really is crazy and its all a delusion.

The zombies are gross, the infection is fast, and the world is being devastated quickly. The only thing that

really annoyed me about this was that it seemed to end so abruptly. I know there is another book but it could have given a better lead in for it. Still good though!

Elisa Paige says

As a huge fan of zombie books, there's a lot I liked about this book, including the hero's unique background. I was a bit disappointed by the wife's role and with the ending, since I saw both coming a mile away. But fine, so the story was a little predictable. No biggie. I was still entertained.

That said . . .

What drove Anal Retentive Me twitching-crazy? Spelling errors. Lots and lots of them. And nothing makes me crazier than unwillingly shifting into editing mode when I'm reading for pleasure. Somebody really needs to tell the editor/writer that "its" and "it's" fulfill different purposes. That "waiving" is never a substitute for the gesture of "waving." That . . . oh, never mind. You get the idea.

So. IF you enjoy zombie books and IF you can suspend your inner editor, LZR-1143 is a fun read. If, however, multiple spelling errors have you cringing, this might not be the book for you.

Sara says

Copied from the review I left on Amazon...

As I was trying to decide on the the number of stars to give this book, I found my cursor hovering between four stars and three stars. If I could give it 3.5 stars, I would have. It's a little more than "okay", but I can't enthusiastically say I "liked" it.

Quick Summary:

The main character, Michael McKnight, is an inmate at a facility for the criminally insane. He wakes up one day to discover that he has been left behind at the mental hospital while the United States is becoming overrun with the living dead. During the first few scenes, the reader learns that McKnight is in the facility for supposedly murdering his wife. A crime he doesn't recall committing, but assumes had to be true. McKnight, a former action movie star, finds his way out of the facility with the help of a woman psychiatrist from the hospital wing. From there, the characters face all kinds of horrors. McKnight thinks he may be able to find a way to cure- or stop the spread of- whatever it is that is turning people into zombies. This is because he is starting to remember bits and pieces of his life before his wife's murder. His wife was a doctor at a research facility and had mentioned a project involving reanimation of the dead. As McKnight and his new psychiatrist friend make their way to the research center, they face all the horrors expected in a zombie-filled world. That's all I will write for a summary... I don't like spoilers.

What I Liked:

- 1) The author seems to have a good sense of humor. I liked the many witty comments made by the main character in the story.
- 2) The story-line is an interesting take on the whole zombie apocalypse scenario.
- 3) Bryan James is a good storyteller & keeps the action going strong.

- 4) I like the two main characters- while not entirely believable, they are likable.
- 5) The beginning of the book grabbed my attention.

What I Did Not Like:

- 1) There are way too many "coincidences" that I found irritating after a while. For example, lights going off at just the right time and coming back on at just the right time... televisions that just "happen" to work long enough for the main characters to get just the right information... recorded videos that just "happen" to be cued and ready to watch. Those are just a few examples.
- 2) I liked the main character, but I found him very difficult to relate to.
- 3) There could have been more character development. The story is told in first-person, which I like, but even with being able to be in McKnight's mind, there didn't seem to be much to him... other than he wonders if he truly is crazy.
- 4) Some of the scenes are so unbelievable, it was hard for me to overlook. Yes, it is a story about zombies, so of course it's going to be unbelievable to a large extent. I don't want to create a spoiler, but a certain scene sticks out in my mind where one of the minor characters has her arm hacked off by an ax. Even with this major injury and very little medical help, she is able to continue traveling and evading hundreds of pursuing zombies (for a while, that is). The extent of my medical knowledge is limited to the application of Neosporin and a Band-Aid, but this just doesn't seem right to me.

It's not a bad book, but I was expecting it to be better because of other reviews. This is the first book in the series, so I am holding out hope that they will only improve with time. I will give the sequel to Infection a try after I read some other authors on my list of books I want to read.
