



## **Public Enemy Zero**

*Andrew Mayne*

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The world is out to kill Mitchell Roberts. The helpless girl who needs help changing her tire. His petty ex-girlfriend and her new mate. An entire mall full of unassuming shoppers. They all want to murder Mitch in a blind rage when he's in their presence.

As Mitch attempts to unravel the mystery around his situation, he learns quickly that rabid strangers and friends aren't his only predators. Police attempt to hunt him down by any means necessary and his every move is tracked by a shadowy government official with a secret to protect.

He'll need to use every resource he has, from the advice of a paranoid late night radio host, to his Twitter account and find out why he's become Public Enemy Zero.

## TOP FIVE HIGH-TECH AMAZON BEST SELLER

"A fast paced thriller that I literally couldn't put down. I will definitely be checking out the other Andrew Mayne titles on Kindle." - Robert Gemienhardt

"I think it's the mark of great sci-fi that despite the imagined elements that drive the plot, the characters and the situations feel real. Public Enemy Zero accomplishes this beautifully." - Jeremy Lusk

## Public Enemy Zero Details

Date : Published May 26th 2011 (first published August 31st 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Andrew Mayne

Format : Kindle Edition 222 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Thriller, Fiction, Horror

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## From Reader Review Public Enemy Zero for online ebook

### **Brad T. says**

I really don't understand the negative reviews for this book. It's not classic literature and as such shouldn't be compared to it, it's a raucous adventure novel. It held my attention much like an episode of 24. For what I paid for this book I was very happy with the editing, the writing and the story line. I have seen and enjoyed far worse.

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### **Brian's Book Blog says**

[ the whole earth mother thing (hide spoiler)]

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### **Katherine says**

I like this different play on a zombie book. It kept me reading and guessing. As always, there are a few problems but nothing that gets in the way of the story. Primary problems are that the main character is supposed to be no-body, with no real skills (ex-girlfriend names him 'D\*\*\*head" but with no real explanation of what happened). However, he is able to skillfully hi-jack a couple of boats, use an underwater propulsion device, and evade a multi-agency ground/water/air manhunt for several days. There are a few characters that are thrown in for no apparent reason except to give the reader insight into the law enforcement side of the manhunt...then they just disappear. Finally, and this is the part that bothers me, is the Earth Mother scene. It was an irritating side chat every few chapters. Frankly, I didn't even care about the "big reveal"...I just wanted to stop hearing about it. Unless the author is setting us up for a future sequel (and we still didn't need that storyline), there was no reason for it. The motive behind the whole issue CAN just be government corruption...we don't need a crazy person to enjoy the story.

Overall a great story. I really did like the main character and even a lot of the side characters. The story keeps going and even his actions are mostly believable. He doesn't do anything superman like. I just would have liked him to be described as a more capable person rather than a loser who doesn't know anything about anything.

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### **Robert says**

Public Enemy Zero is a bit of a paradox for me. I didn't care for the book a great deal, but the author was skilled enough to keep me involved for the entirety of the book. The protagonist, Mitch, I have learned (since I finished and thought about the book for a day) is the reason I was able to stay involved. He is a well-thought-out protagonist with a lot at stake (including his life, or freedom).

My main gripes with the book are that it was very, very repetitive. I thought the story lagged in the middle in a serious way and that the author was reaching for action pieces, but the action pieces were not very original and became boring and predictable.

However, despite the middle of the book being slow, and the middle of the book lagging (I think some serious editing and omitting could have been done in the middle), I give Public Enemy Zero a marginal recommendation, and a slightly higher recommendation for fans of the 28 Days and Weeks Later films. I think they would enjoy this book more than I did. I will definitely check out another Andrew Mayne story in the future.

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### **Justin Kemppainen says**

(I've got a too long, didn't read at the bottom in case the review length is a bit, y'know too long).

Public Enemy Zero is one of those works which more or less defines the notion of pretty good. It's miles from perfect, better than adequate, but just a hair under what I'd call pretty damn good. Andrew Mayne has crafted an entertaining, fast-paced thriller which mashes together and adds a bit of flavor to the oft-used "outbreak" and "zombies" scenarios.

The story follows one Mitchell Roberts, a self-described nice-guy loser with few friends and fewer prospects. One night, as he travels to his unimportant job as a third rate radio host at a second rate station, he comes across a woman with a flat tire. Being the simple, nice guy that dominates this type of protagonist role, he stops to help.

She proceeds to try and tear him apart, zombie style, and thus begins a long journey of running and hiding for poor Mitchell. No matter where he goes, people attack him, and due to considerable damage to personal property and numerous individuals, he becomes the subject of a state-wide manhunt. Not something anyone would want if the police or SWAT reaction moves from capture to evisceration in the span of a heartbeat. Not quite to the zombie apocalypse scenario, people recover after he's gone, and it becomes more of the outbreak mystery.

The plot makes sense and is entertaining for the most part, as long as too much thought is not expended upon certain aspects. There are clear periods of intensity and rest, so it definitely doesn't wear out the reader with a constant, breakneck pace. The general story and goals are the usual for the everyman thrust into peril: stay alive, find out why, stop the problem.

The pseudoscience of the why things are happening is decent enough to avoid drawing attention, which is precisely what the author wants in this situation. The characters are decently formed, but a few lose their place somewhere along the way; established individuals serve as cameras (to the reader) in the brutal aftermath of certain events but never interact with the main character and disappear about halfway through. Their presence seemed to hint at the whole, "Law enforcement individual on the innocent suspect's side," but they never contribute to really anything of the story beside spectating.

There's also a sort of mysterious facet to the story regarding a crazy person/nature worshiper and his hallucination/experience with the spirit of the Earth and some kind of sinister plot. It "resolves" itself in an open-ended fashion, and it's perfectly fine, but feels very much apart from the entire main story. I'm guessing Mayne has a tie-in with other works or maybe even a sequel of some kind, but, if not, these sections unfortunately don't add anything to the story except perhaps the possibility of a predictable twist which still doesn't effect the main plot.

The writing is competent but serves as the weakest portion of Mayne's story. The action is mostly smooth, but a few paragraphs fell into a more procedural style, as in: He ran over there. He picked up the thing. He ran to the next there. He barricaded the door. I only noted it a few times, but a little syntax variety wouldn't hurt.

Editing wise, there were a few general typos throughout, but as an author without an editorial budget, I understand some will slip through. Conversely, there were a number of what I'd describe as intentional grammatical errors, or simply things done incorrectly that the author wasn't aware of, like sentence fragments, comma usage, and so on. Nothing too jarring, but I'd suggest the author brush up on a few standards to make the writing a little more smooth. In addition, the "thought bubbles" for characters had no particular consistency. The usual standards for such are no quotations and thoughts in italics, but a few break that mold. Any particular method is just fine, but it needs to be clear and consistent. Mayne's style was fairly clear, but inconsistent.

Another issue is head-hopping, where the thought and focus shifts within scenes to different individuals. This is one of those big stylistic no-nos because it can be quite confusing to try and determine if the beefy SWAT guy is thinking/talking or if it's the protagonist. Unless the story is written from 3rd person omniscient, where the narrator and thus reader always has full awareness of what all characters are thinking, this is one of those things which should never be done. One scene, one perspective in a 3rd person, individual-focused style is standard for a reason, and an author should always want to eliminate immersion-killing confusion, especially when it only relates to a very fixable writing mechanic.

A few of the metaphors and descriptions are a bit weak, but nothing too serious. The whole work kind of feels like a "first album" sort of thing where Mayne might be ironing out style and tripping into small pitfalls. I'm sure as time goes on, he'll develop his craft and these issues won't be as common.

My biggest criticism comes in the competency of the main character, because he has Corran Horn (Star Wars) and Raul Endymion (Dan Simmons' Hyperion/Endymion series) syndrome. The author spends a considerable amount of time describing the main character as someone not competent, not useful, not confident, and a large number of other 'nots.' Yet, somehow the general knowledge of how one could evade a police manhunt and not get killed seventeen ways to Sunday seems to crop up at very convenient moments.

This is the portion which stretches disbelief the most, and I admit it may more of a personal thing because I feel like I see it fairly often. The logic and how Mitchell continues to escape remains fairly sound, but it just gets a bit stretched towards the end. There's even a hint of a sort of "secondary" personality based upon his radio persona, which could explain why he gets bursts of confidence and ideas, but this is not well-established in concept, and its distinction (the author switching to "Mad Mitch" as the proper noun) is clear but unnecessary as there doesn't seem to be a huge Tyler Durden difference there. Not that there needs to be, keep in mind, but the radio personality taking over when shit hits the fan doesn't quite get there.

Overall, the concept is interesting, the execution of the concept is entertaining, and the writing is solid enough to ferry the reader swiftly through the whole thing. A few hiccups here and there don't detract from what is, simply, a pretty good read.

Overall Score: 3/5

Too long! Didn't Read!

Value for Price: Good

At \$0.99 the reader gets solid entertainment. Nitpicking aside, the book was quite enjoyable.

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### **Linda says**

#### **Four Stars for Effort and Good Entertainment**

As Andrew Mayne noted in the Introduction, this was his first book and was poorly edited, but it was written with passion. I very much enjoyed the story, it was like watching an action thriller. The protagonist Mitchell Roberts was outstanding and vivid. His thoughts and antics were entertaining and sometimes laugh out loud funny. I'm not going to criticize the editing or "the writing polish" of this debut novel. It was simply a fun, well-paced story with lots of excitement. I am a fan of Andrew Mayne's other books. Kudos to this author!

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### **Rolando Gill says**

Horse is not Hoarse. This error occurred early in the book and had me a little distracted until Mitch started moving about. Then I really got into the story and I was running alongside him, cheering for him to get away. The story was creative exciting and suspenseful. I had a hard time putting it down. There were several misspellings and grammatical errors that brought the suspense to a halt as I tried to figure out what the author was going for, such as no versus know. The errors were disappointing. The story was great edge of your seat suspense with interesting twists that kept me turning the pages faster and faster. Fun read.

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### **Sarah Castillo says**

Ever have one of those days where it feels like every one's out to get you? You get called in on your day off, get a ticket on the way to work, and every customer is trying to kill you with their bare hands?

Oh, wait. That last part isn't your day. That's Mitchell Roberts' day.

Andrew Mayne gives us a whole new incarnation of the zombie story with his book *Public Enemy Zero*.

It's so nice to talk about a zombie story that isn't post apocalyptic! With a likable main character! Where the characters actually care that they're killing people who can't help themselves. The action in this book is great, the story is fast paced and the punches keep coming. Mitchell is an easy protagonist to like and the villains are believable, but not complex, so they're easy to hate.

There's a couple problems though. In a lot of spots the writing seems.. off. The perspective shifts oddly sometimes, so you're not sure who's viewpoint you're standing in at that moment. There's a few tiny spelling checks, easily ignored.

It's not as easy to ignore the tree hugger in the room. There's a subplot, or maybe a macro-plot that has to do with a tree and some dude tripping on what must be some awesome shrooms. I'm still not sure what he was doing, I'm only a little sure of who he was, and I know that his subplot added nothing to the plot. Whoever he is, he would have been more entertaining, and made more sense to the story, if he was just another government shill.

All in all, ignoring the weird subplot, it was a great book. At 0.99\$ it's more than worth your time.

Check out my other reviews at my blog

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### **Matthew says**

Holy crap! Sorry, but this book is FUCKING amazing. Normally I don't read a book from start to finish in 2 sittings, but this book had me gripped from Chapter 2 onwards. The entire storyline is just plain gripping, and thankfully not only does it not fall apart in the end, but it manages to feel like a satisfying pay-off.

In the form of Mitch Roberts we have a character anyone can relate to - even if it is just convenient that the guy has been pretty useable skills such as scuba diving and is quite athletic. But that aside, he's a well-crafted character that is likeable enough to ensure you genuinely want him to win at the end.

I seriously cannot recommend this book enough - just buy it, and read it over a weekend. You will not be disappointed.

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### **Jon Handler says**

If you have a persecution complex, this book is for you!

I liked the pace and the settings and I pretty much liked the main character. There was something that kept me turning pages and I did want to come back to Mitch/Mitchell/Mad Mitch.

On the down side, I don't think the book really explored anything deeper than the situations that Mitch moved through. Probably that's fine if you're looking for a light, fun, thriller. Ultimately it left me feeling a little unsatisfied though.

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### **Michael says**

The author does a great job of hooking you into the main character, as well as the dialogue between the characters, and hooking you into the story. I found it ironic in those times where certain scenes in the story have an added "oomph" or stressful situation for the main character, I found that I was getting a little excited, my heartbeat was going a little faster, and I couldn't seem to read it fast enough to click the next page button on my Kindle. I don't know if there is one, but it would be interesting to see if there is a sequel.

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### **Marianne Cook says**

I'm usually generous in my ratings, not everyone is Baldacci, Grisham or Harlan Coben. I love imagination, plot twists and interesting characters. Probably what most readers like. I was so very tempted to give this EBook a 3 star because of the horrible and hideous editing. Maybe if I didn't have to stumble and reread a

sentence (and I'm a fast reader, like a book a day and I'm disabled) I might have given it 5 stars. After highlighting and reporting about ten errors I gave up reporting them to whoever receives such things. I mean extra words in a sentence as though someone had edited then 'left' extraneous words 'left' behind. That last sentence is an intentional example. Kind of an eye stopper while flowing along the words.

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### **Henri Moreaux says**

This was quite the ride, there's a few parts in the book dealing with an earth mother figure which didn't quite gel with me however the rest of it was fantastic - a man on the run after a strange illness results in everyone who comes in contact with him trying to attack and kill him.

I gather the earth mother part is setting something up for a later novel, however as it stands it was a somewhat jarring viewpoint compared to the 'actual' story - Mitch Roberts on the run.

A good page turner as you are draw into the story and wondering what on earth is going on with poor Mitch, quite a unique presentation and plot, really enjoyed it. Hope the story continues with a sequel.

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### **Ed says**

Starkly original sci fi thriller about a young, late night DJ in south Florida who suddenly becomes viciously attacked by - EVERYONE HE MEETS! To survive, he's is forced on the run but not before getting cornered in the food court of a busy mall. How he survives a homicidal mob, the police and the Feds in a major manhunt is what makes this runaway train of a novel so entertaining and thought provoking. It reminded me of another great survival story I read years ago that I still remember; "Vertical Run" by Joseph R. Garber. Both outstanding thrillers have the same furious energy driving the narrative.

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### **Paul says**

a very engrossing quick read which reminded me of steven king. the plot may have a few holes in it but i thought it the explanations were pretty clever even if they were kinda thin. like others have said you can skip the whole earth mother parts. a good editor should have talked him out of that (even if he was setting something up for another book) it was mind groaningly bad and after reading a few reviews about how i could skip it i did.

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