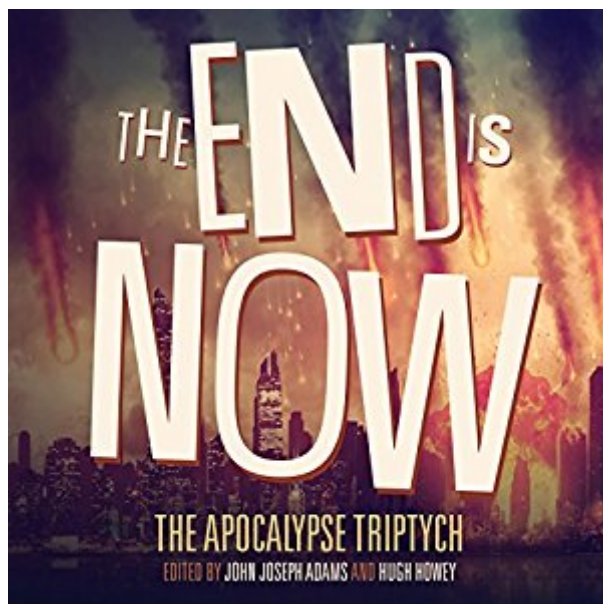


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The End Is Now: The Apocalypse Triptych



Synopsis

Famine. Death. War. Pestilence. These are the harbingers of the biblical apocalypse, of the End of the World. In science fiction, the end is triggered by less figurative means: nuclear holocaust, biological warfare/pandemic, ecological disaster, or cosmological cataclysm. But before any catastrophe, there are people who see it coming. During, there are heroes who fight against it. And after, there are the survivors who persevere and try to rebuild. "The Apocalypse Triptych" will tell their stories. Edited by acclaimed anthologist John Joseph Adams and best-selling author Hugh Howey, The Apocalypse Triptych is a series of three anthologies of apocalyptic fiction. The End is Nigh focuses on life before the apocalypse. The End Is Now turns its attention to life during the apocalypse. And The End Has Come explores life after the apocalypse. The End Is Nigh is about the match. The End Has Come is about what will rise from the ashes. The End Is Now is about the conflagration. Featuring stories by: Tananarive Due, Scott Sigler, Annie Bellet, Charlie Jane Anders, Seanan McGuire, Sarah Langan, Nancy Kress, David Wellington, Ken Liu, Elizabeth Bear, Ben H. Winters, Megan Arkenberg, Jonathan Maberry, Jake Kerr, Daniel H. Wilson, Will McIntosh, Jamie Ford, Desirina Boskovich, Hugh Howey, and Robin Wasserman. Narrated by: Stefan Rudnicki, Mur Lafferty, Kate Baker, Lex Wilson, Anaea Lay, Tina Connolly, Norm Sherman, Stephanie Grossman, Folly Blaine, Rajan Khanna, Windy Bowsby, Scott Sigler, Laurice White.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book Two in the Apocalypse Triptych contains stories that are happening during their apocalypse.

For reference, Book One (The End is Nigh (The Apocalypse Triptych) (Volume 1)) was chock full of

stories that happen just before the apocalypse, and Book Three (The End Has Come (The Apocalypse Triptych) (Volume 3)) contains stories that happen after the apocalypse. The best of these stories are those that continue the thread from Book One. Not all stories follow the same characters, but are recognizable by their apocalypse and references or relation to characters from Book One. There are a few standalone stories that are very good, like Avtomat, by Daniel H. Wilson, and some that come to a conclusion too soon, like Seanan McGuire's Spores story (though I'm hopeful that her story written as Mira Grant in book three actually IS a continuation of the story). The types of apocalypsi (?) are wonderfully varied, and some are introductory material to more lengthy works, like David Wellington's prequel stories that lead up to his book, *Positive: A Novel*, and Daniel H. Wilson's, Avtomat. And with all great anthologies, there are so many intriguing storytelling methods and writers that I find myself endlessly intrigued by new authors that I don't know much about. Book Two keeps a great thing going, and though there is slight deviation from the central theme with a few stories, it is really not very noticeable. Specifically, some of the stories seem to be "during the apocalypse" only by virtue of their story being after the first in the series, rather than truly happening in the middle of their apocalypse. And that's really the only reason I didn't give it 5 stars.

In the introduction, it's claimed that you don't need to read the first book in order to enjoy this one, and that is probably true...but having read the first book led to a much higher enjoyment factor for this second volume. It has been a while since I read the first volume, so it took me a little ways into each story to remember what came before for each individual story, but once I did it was great to connect the dots. I really enjoyed how there is a large variety of doomsday scenarios in this book, rather than just one thing. There are extinction events, diseases, invasions, and yes, even zombie outbreaks. Most of the stories can be read in a single sitting, so this is a great book to pick up and read and then to leave off for a while if you like. I highly recommend picking up a copy of both this one and the first book, and I'm looking forward to reading the third book.

The End is Now picks up, in many of the stories, where The End is Nigh left off. Like its predecessor, the stories here are mostly entertaining and well done, with some standouts and some fails - like any anthology. The difference here, is that several stories just flat out don't stand alone. I felt this more prominently in this volume than in the first one. And I also felt, just overall, that the stories were weaker in this volume. Negativity aside, I still absolutely love this concept, and really like what the authors here are doing. And overall, I really enjoyed reading the book. Standouts for me include Sarah Langan's 'Black Monday'. It is extremely creepy and weird and serves as an

excellent companion piece to 'Love Perverts' from the last volume. Ben H. Winters' 'Bring Them Down' is the perfect sequel to 'Bring Her to Me'. Rather than just continuing with the story, he takes some crazily exciting turns, I can't wait to see where his story in The End Has Come goes. I also really liked 'Agent Isolated' by David Wellington. The rest are more than acceptable and often thought provoking, with only Jonathan Maberry's and Elizabeth Bear's tales falling flat for me. I've already purchased and begun the third volume, and I've purchased the full set for some friends as gifts. If you like apocalyptic fiction, this triptych is without a doubt a must have. John Joseph Adams and Hugh Howey have really put something special together here.

Volume 2 of the three volume trilogy of Apocalyptic Science Fiction Stories takes place during the apocalypse. As with the first volume I liked the majority of the stories, however unlike the first volume in which I was left wanting more (which led me to purchase this volume), the stories in this volume did not leave me with that same feeling and purchasing Volume 3 (which comes out in 2015) is a 50-50 proposition at this point. Of the 20 authors in this volume, 18 of them had stories in Volume 1. One thing that surprised me was that most of the follow up stories contained a different set of characters and told a different story rather than an immediate continuation from the previous story by that author. Therefore, most of the stories from either volume can be read as stand-alones. I liked 11 of the 20 stories so I consider this a good collection, especially if you like apocalyptic science fiction.

A good collection of stories. However, it states that this collection of short stories can stand alone. I do not agree. It has been a while since I have read the first book and I had a rough time recalling how the story began when I first read through this one the first time. This led to confusion on several of the stories since it completely lacked a good backdrop and character identification. I ended up going back and reading both books in a row. Wow! It made the second book come to life. I would highly recommend reading this trilogy in order

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