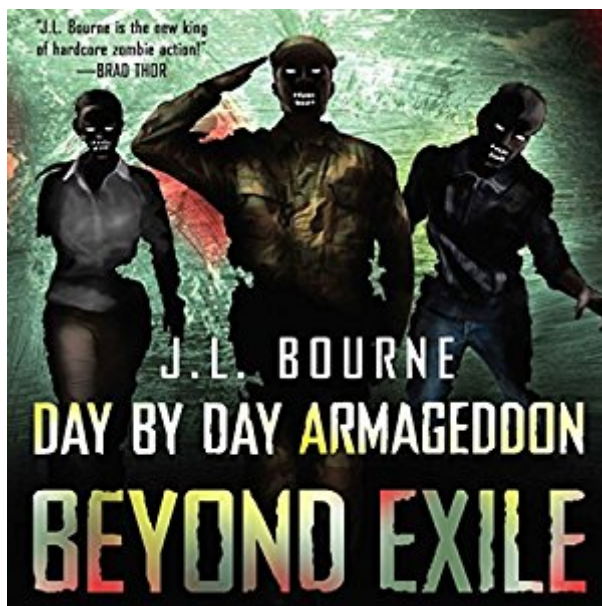


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Beyond Exile: Day By Day Armageddon, Book 2



Synopsis

The first book of Day by Day Armageddon took us deep into the mind of a military officer and survivor as he made a New Year's resolution to start keeping a journal. The man kept his resolution and brought to us the fall of humanity, day by day. We see the man transition from the life that you and I live to the prospect of fighting for his very survival against the overwhelming hordes of the dead. We see him bleed, we see him make mistakes, we witness him evolve. The highly anticipated sequel to the best-selling underground cult classic, Day by Day Armageddon, begins where the first novel left off. BEGIN INTERCEPT Armies of undead have risen up across the U.S. and around the globe; there is no safe haven from the diseased corpses hungering for human flesh. But in the heat of a Texas wasteland, a small band of survivors attempt to counter the millions closing in around them. INTERCEPT COMPLETED Day by day, the handwritten journal entries of one man caught in a worldwide cataclysm capture the desperation--and the will to survive--as he joins forces with a handful of refugees to battle soulless enemies both human and inhuman from inside an abandoned strategic missile facility. But in the world of the undead, is mere survival enough?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book Review by Val Dobbins J. L. Bourne's Day by Day Armageddon, published in 2007, is a zombie horror novel told in a unique diary entry format. J.L. Bourne is an science fiction writer and an active duty Naval Officer adding authenticity protagonists military background. While Major character development and symbolism are used effectively in this book, it lacks minor character development because it is told in the first person. J.L. Bourne effectively communicates that the

meaning of life may only be preserved through our own humanity, and the conflicts the protagonist encounters challenge him to make decisions that reflect his evolving morals. The protagonist is a military pilot who "Starts keeping a journal [for a] New Years Resolution" (Bourne 3). He documents the daily events that unfold even as an outbreak causes the dead to rise. After surviving for weeks, the protagonist becomes desperate for supplies and a simple task to gather food turns into a fight for his life as he is forced away from his home. His journey for a new home introduces him to a handful of interesting characters who together search for a new haven. But as the group grows in size so do the chances of their demise. *Day by Day Armageddon* is told from the first person point of view and it is no surprise the major characters are well developed to make them more relatable. In one instance the protagonist, lying injured on a cot, and being treated by Jan, an ex nurse, says, "I was medically attended to by Jan[,] she thought stitches were a good idea" (Bourne 177). Although this act was carried out by Jan because of her medical training, it was as helpful to the protagonist as it was to her stay mentally stable. By using her professional skills, Jan is keeping herself sane and saving a life is a morale booster and a way to maintain her humanity. John is another character who is emotionally unstable throughout the story and to calm himself down he tries to contact other survivors by radio. The protagonist recalls a time saying, "Whatever keeps his spirits up I suppose" (Bourne 121). With high "spirits" John shows that with faith comes productivity and in this case it leads him to make the humane decision to contact the other survivors. All in all, the development of major characters as ethical, human beings is crucial to understanding the theme in this story and J.L. Bourne effectively accomplishes that goal. Another way J.L. Bourne expresses the need to retain humanity is through his use of symbolism. In order to protect the group the protagonist brings John, who is typically a gentle person, to practice shooting a gun. The protagonist knows this and he tricks William into thinking the gun is loaded and as he pulled the trigger "The rifle] went high and to the right" (Bourne 118). William was not a soldier nor did he have any training with a rifle and his action shows that he is still trying to grip what little humanity he has left. The symbolism shown here creates a conflict for William as he now has to choose between ignorance or losing a little bit of his humanity to hopefully improve his ability to survive. Another example of symbolism is when the protagonist is stuck between a horde of zombies and a 100-foot fall. He says "I almost F***ing lost it" (Bourne 84) In this one instance, Bourne stresses the importance of being sane during a tough decision. In this case it is particularly difficult to not break down because the protagonist's life is at stake, but uses his humanity and air force training to survive the encounter. The way Bourne injects symbolism into the story effectively portrays humanity as a high

issue. “Even in the best of lives, mistakes are made” (Joseph J. Ellis), or in this case, good stories have faults. Despite being an overall excellent novel, minor character development needs improvement. From a first person perspective, it is impossible to learn anything from new characters unless the protagonist talks with them and learns about them. For instance, a group of individuals is attacking the compound at which he is staying and he calls them a “Rogue group [of] marauders” (Bourne 197). The protagonist reputedly calls the intruders “marauders” and goes into little further detail about them. The first person perspective limits the knowledge of the reader to the protagonist’s thoughts alone and in turn, the “Rogue group” is yet another underdeveloped band of characters. Most importantly, this book lacks descriptions of other survivors. For instance, the radio the group uses to communicate to the rest of the world, picks up multiple responses from other survivors but when the protagonist goes to describe them he must use their voice alone for he has never seen them. One time he says, “It was a small human voice coming from the radio” (Bourne 121). The lack of description makes the story less dramatic. In turn, The book is less enjoyable to the readers. In conclusion, the minor character development hinders Bourne’s effectivity at portraying the theme. On the surface *Day by Day Armageddon* is an a suspenseful thriller, but on a deeper level the book conveys an important message about the humanity within oneself. If you are interested in stories with intricate plots and zombies then *Day by Day Armageddon* is for you. Overall this story was intriguing and kept my attention from start to finish and I recommend to all zombie fans.

J.L. Bourne has me captured! His descriptive powers, brought me into a story that is beginning to get more intricately well weaved together. New ppl, more responsibility to the new members. Wait till you find out who they are! A trip becomes a disastrous and I’ll say only 1 person survives, guess who? Not telling LoL. But he has unexplained super technology suddenly at his disposal. But the technology comes, they find out, from unfriendly sources. Book 3 is gonna be in my face in 5 minutes. I liked the story but some times it’s best, to keep characters, not kill em off. But I’m just 1 opinion. And there’s nothing wrong with the good surviving with main character’s too.

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Loved this book. This is one of my first experiences in apocalyptic fiction from maybe half a decade ago? Shame on me for not leaving a review before now...I haven’t read many novels that are written in a journal entry format; in fact, this might have been my first. That being said, it was a unique

experience that allowed me to connect with the lead character in a way that I had not experienced before. The story was well crafted and the journey of the protagonist was well developed. Bourne had me hooked with the first DBDA and then again with his Tomorrow World series. I highly recommend all of his work.

I love zombies. I'm a grown adult and truly believe I was born for the zombie apocalypse (I'm a dork and proud of it). As I have searched for books to read, most of the zombie / end of days books are fan fiction. While this is great, it also usually means that the writers lack an editor. I've found that a lot of zombie books written by independents / amateurs can be boring, cliché'd, or poorly written (grammar, plot mistakes etc.) I couldn't put this, or its sequel, down. I loved this book. This is my second favorite book, WorldWar z being my first. Written from the first person perspective of a military person it was very believable. Minimal grammar errors, a plot that kept me interested. Once in a while you find a book that you end up reading in 2-3 days that normally would take 1-2 weeks; this is that book.

I like the first person day by day close and personal portrayal of this story. Couple critiques though. The first person narrative kind of gets in the way of communication with the other characters. You can easily write dialogue in the first person, but the writer chooses not to because he's following a journaling style. Would have been nice for him to paraphrase at certain points and give these characters more of a voice. Second thing I noticed is the character is obviously a right wing conservative, as I suspect the author is as well. So, there are partisan undertones, referring to the "liberal media" and viewing Fox News as actual news, along with other indicators. It's not heavy handed, but it is noticeable throughout the book. Weak helpless female characters as well, who are sidelined in taking part in most of the action sequences. Would be nice to include a tough female cop to balance that out a little. All of the women in my family, cousins, sisters, aunts, nieces and moms were all taught how to use firearms growing up. This isn't that rare these days. We aren't in the 50's where the menfolk do all of the fighting, and then the womenfolk bandage you up. Outside of these biases, it was a good paced entertaining read.

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