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Max Brallier, Douglas Holgate (Illustrator)

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Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hoards of Zombies and Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and *especially* not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as *Blarg*. So Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and Jack's crush, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer! **Can he do it?**

The Last Kids on Earth Details

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Author : Max Brallier , Douglas Holgate (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Last Kids on Earth for online ebook

Mehsi says

I saw this Graphic Novel pop up (not even sure where any more), but I knew instantly this was a book I was going to love. And after reading it? Yes, yes, I love it a lot. I even went ahead and pre-ordered the sequel. Yes, this one is getting a sequel, something I didn't know until I finished, scrolled through the last pages and came upon a page that gave the hint that our characters would be back. :D

Now for this book. What would you do if the world you know, the world you well, kind of, like, suddenly is overrun by monsters and zombies! If you are the main character that means you ran home and went to hide in your foster brother's treehouse and totally upgraded the hell out of it. Also, for sake of sanity, made up feats and challenges to complete (yes, the things people do in an apocalypse).

I really liked the main character, though I did find him a bit cocky, and at times over the top. He was quite awkward at times, luckily he isn't alone on the awkward front, his best friend is also quite, um, awkward. But the main character is also really great and tough. Many a kid would just hide out in a closet, try to live for a day longer, but our main character? He actually goes and kicks some butt.

Not always for the good reasons, but I guess love can be a good enough reason. :)

My favourite character however would be the pet they gain. I won't say anything about what kind, monster or normal, big or small. I just needed to mention it as the pet really made me laugh, and also go awww. <3

There was only one thing I would have liked to see. Where the monsters/zombies came from. We do get a flashback to the day everything went to hell, but I am still quite curious. Monsters/zombies just don't magically appear, there must be a reason, either magical or chemical, and I really want to know about it. But I was at least delighted they showed a quick flashback to how everything went to hell.

The Blargh, that was an interesting antagonist, and a deadly one as well, since you won't be safe anywhere with him around. Reminder: Do not stabbie stab big monsters unless you want to be followed *cough* stalked everywhere!

The illustrations are fantastic, there are a lot of them, and they really power up the story and make it even more of a fun ride. I really love the art, it fits the book perfectly (the style), and the character is exactly as I would have pictured it had I only read the story. This is something that doesn't happen often, quite a few times my image for a character is totally different from what the illustrator gives us.

All in all though, this is one kick-ass book. You will also just laugh your butt out, cheer for the characters, and will be flying through this book. Before you know it the book is over. So be warned! You are in for a ride.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Lea says

My youngest daughter has kind of fallen out of reading, so for this past Christmas I bought her a bunch of

books in the hopes of getting her excited about reading again. Well . . . No dice. She still hasn't picked any of them up. So I thought maybe if I gave them a try she'd be a little more interested? Not sure yet how that's going to work out overall, but I really enjoyed this one, even if she never reads it.

Jack is an orphan in foster care who has FINALLY made a friend at his most recent school when, wouldn't you know it, the end of the world comes. Pretty much all of the adults and people in positions of authority are gone. Most of the other kids are gone. Jack spends his days fixing up a treehouse into the ultimate monster fighter lair and searching for his friend, Quint, and his crush, June.

This book is so cute, with perfectly integrated artwork. This isn't what I would necessarily consider a graphic novel, but I'm pretty new to the genre -- it's primarily writing, with the artwork adding to the story.

The story is completely from a male point of view, even down to Jack's determination to "rescue" June, whom he calls a "damsel in distress". Fortunately, the author turns some of these expectations on their head, making for a much richer story.

I would definitely recommend this for kids or adults, and I think it might be a good one for reluctant readers. It says in the author bio that he has worked on shows like "Steven Universe" and "Adventure Time" -- I'm using that info in my next plan of attack to get my kid to crack open a book. I suspect that might do the trick!

Ruth Ferguson says

Received a copy at BEA 2015 - now is this the kind of book I would usually pick up? No, and if it were straight text I would have skipped it but the graphics broke up the story put a clever pace on the end of the world story that I found it entertaining and engaging.

The YA crowd should love this rag tag bunch who manage to stay alive on their own --- barely.

Ms. Yingling says

Copy from public library

Jack Sullivan's life as a foster child could be tough, but it was nothing compared to his life after the monster/zombie apocalypse. He's taken over a tree house and fortified it as best he can against the zombified humans as well as the violent monsters. He feels that he might as well make the best of a bad situation, and has a series of goals for himself. One is to find his best friend, Quint, so that the two can fight zombies together. Quint loves inventions and is very creative, so once Jack does find him, they make improvements to the tree house and also have a vehicle to use. Jack also wants to find and rescue his crush, June. There are monsters to fight, as well as the tame monster, Rover, who serves as back up transportation and turns out to be useful at fighting other monsters as well. The friends don't plan on adding Dirk, the school bully, to their group, but he's not a bad addition either. When Jack finally finds June hanging out in their school, she makes it quite clear that she does not need to be rescued, but eventually joins their band of monster fighters. I can't wait for August 2016 to find out how their adventures continue in *The Last Kids on Earth and the Zombie Parade!*

Since *The Walking Dead* is still a graphic novel and show that middle grade readers know about, this is an excellent, more age-appropriate alternative to that violent franchise. Yes, monsters are killed, and zombies are targets of tennis ball throwing, but the vast majority of it is done in the name of keeping the main (non zombie!) characters safe. I love how they work together to develop weapons, have a safe home base, and obtain food, even if their diet is largely junk food. It's the zombie apocalypse-- why eat broccoli?

Really, the book recommends itself: "He flings four razor Frisbees through the air, then unloads with the explosive football launcher." (page 216) This is the perfect blend of goofy and explosive, and it's so hard to find things like this for middle grade readers! Holgate's illustrations are perfect, and it's nice to see diversity of characters on the cover.

While very different from Kloepfer's *Zombie Chasers*, this is an essential book for fans of that series! Heavily illustrated, with lots of zombie gore and more of a dystopian feel, readers who were sad to see the zombie apocalypse concluded will be glad to see that there is another problem-- and this time, there are monsters!

Jean-Marie says

As part of our homeschool day I require my 8-year-old to read to me 1 - 3 chapters a day from a book of his choice. After he read one chapter of *The Last Kids On Earth*, he decided he wanted to read another. And after that one, he decided he wanted to read another. This went on for a couple more chapters until he decided he wanted to read the whole book today. I was given a lunch break and a few potty breaks, however, my son gleefully read the whole 225 pages of this book to me in one sitting. This was a first for him. And when he was done he wanted to know when he could get *The Last Kids on Earth* and the *Zombie Parade*. So I am gladly giving this book 5 stars because my 8-year-old son for the first time could not put down a book and had to read it in its entirety in one sitting. And if that's not a good enough review then I will add that *The Last Kids on Earth* is a very creative, funny and sometimes sweet read for older elementary/middle grade readers who enjoy zombies, monsters and lots of action. Also, the fun black-and-white illustrations on at least every other page are a perfect complement to the story. Perfect for comic book and graphic novel readers. My kid loved it!

Cain G says

It was a great book lots of monsters and some friends alive

Matthew says

This book is heavily flawed - but Brallier's enthusiastically out-there writing, the illustrations and how enveloping and easy *The Last Kids on Earth* is to read should definitely encourage you to try this out for yourself. At times, the unrealistic and episodic handling of these kids' emotions (their nerves should be shot to hell in a practical warzone where parents are nowhere to be seen) bogs down the quality of this otherwise marvelous kids' book, but I highly doubt both the target audience and anyone over the age limit willing to go on a rip-roaring adventure with four extremely likable young 'uns, is looking for realism. It's about freaking

monsters and zombies, after all. But, yeah, recommended. *The Walking Dead* meets *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is a fair comparison to make; and just as entertaining. :D

Andrew T says

I read The Last Kids on Earth By Max Brallier. This book is about a post apocalyptic world where only the fit survive, then there is the unfit that some how survive. For instance Jack Sullivan a normal middle school student who became a monster slayer. Jack needed to get a repair kit for a walk i.e. Talkie so he could talk to his friend Quint who might be alive. So he went to CVS to get a repair kit for the walk i.e. Talkie when he ran in Blarg a giant monster that is the persistent thing you'll ever see in your zombified life. To make things blunt you really should read this book because you might find bullies may be your best ally in an apocalyptic world.

This book kind of reminds me of diary of a wimpy kid a little bit
I recommend this book to my mom because she would like it very much

Kailyn Kausen says

I bought this book for one of my little sisters this past Christmas and she didn't read it, so I was like, fine. I'll read it. Apocalypse is big right now and so are sassy male leads like Percy Jackson. Jack Sullivan is a sassy male lead and this book is about an apocalypse. The thing that makes this series different is that it is illustrated, not like most kids books where there is a picture that goes along with the text - in The Last Kids on Earth, the pictures are a part of the story, maybe a comic book/ novel crossover? I can't imagine how much planning it took to get the text and images to line up correctly so the image could be an appropriate size and fit in the right spot of the story so the words in the picture continue it.

As an adult reading this, I could predict most of what was going to happen and the plot didn't get my heart racing, but I think as a kid, I would have enjoyed this a lot more.

Krista says

This rating is based on my 12 year old son's thoughts. He really enjoyed this book and is currently reading book 2! Thanks to his awesome penpal buddy for sending them!

Katka Lady says

Sexist

I was put off by how sexist this book is. I understand it is from the point of view of a 12 year old boy, but really, come on. We need to do a better job of teaching boys what girls are like if this is how they really

think.

First of all, the (only) girl character in the book doesn't even make her entrance until page 156 of a 225 page book. Good grief.

Secondly, the main character, Jack, spends the entire time questing for her. His ultimate feat is to rescue June, because in his mind she is a damsel in distress and if he saves her she will instantly fall for his heroic charms. As damsels do right. Doesn't matter that she barely knew him before the monster apocalypse, or that all interactions with him, she made it known how annoying she found him. All that does not matter because he is the hero and she is damsel.

Thirdly, when she finally does come into the picture, she tells him that she doesn't want saving and he should go away. His response is "this does not jibe. I need more time to convince her." His tactic is to ignore her wishes, and (figuratively) twist her arm until she agrees to go with him.

Oh and lets not forget, he also gets into a fight with his best friend and ends up calling dibs on her. When his friend protests and says "That is not how girls work" Jack's response is "That is how dibs work". His best friend agrees that she is Jack's girl and is not trying to steal her. So now she is reduced to an object that you can call dibs on. Not a person with feelings, thoughts, and opinions that matter. What the deuce?

Lastly, when all of them, Jack, June, and two other boys, get into a big monster battle at the end, they all must fight for their lives. I say all of them, because all of the kids were involved in some way. After all was said and done, Jack thinks to himself "the most important thing is... I did it." He is not referring to killing the monster, he is referring to saving June, the damsel. He says "she wasn't a damsel, and didn't need rescuing, but I managed kinda do it anyway and that is cool". So in his mind, the only really really important thing is that he rescued his crush from a situation he himself created so now he is the hero who deserves the affections of said girl.

This is so wrong.

I can see many boys enjoying this book because of the monsters, guts, action, and adventure. However, if your boys are reading this book, make sure to talk to them about how to treat, respect, and think about girls as people not objects. Please.

Figgy says

I remember thinking, 'UM... THIS CAN'T BE REAL. IT MUST BE A PRANK. A JOKE. A REALITY SHOW. RIGHT?!?'

So I said to Quint, 'UM... THIS CAN'T BE REAL. IT MUST BE A PRANK. A JOKE. A REALITY SHOW. RIGHT?!?'

But it wasn't.

Meet Jack Sullivan. Zombie hunter, monster slayer, late-blooming, slow-developing 13-year-old. He's riding out the monster apocalypse from his tree house, and is doing his best to keep busy.

He's set himself achievements, like:

- Mad Hatter!** – Steal the hats off five zombies.
- Outrun!** – Beat a zombie in a footrace.
- Say Cheese!** – Take a photo with someone you knew before they got zombified.
- House Hunter** – Explore 50 different abandoned houses.

And, most importantly:

- Damsel in Distress** – Find and rescue love interest, June Del Toro.

Of course, he needs to get back in touch with his best (only) friend Quint, and avoid being eaten by Blarg – the giant, intelligent monster that is hunting him down – but those are just details.

He's Jack Sullivan, Post-Apocalyptic Action Hero. He's got this.

The rest of this review can be found [here!](#)

Kevin Kuehn says

The graphics were really well done, and the writing was solid. I wasn't a huge fan of present tense being used throughout the book, but it worked. It definitely has a *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* feel, but I found it to be more interesting.

Samantha says

An interesting new start to a series that focuses on an orphan, Jack, who is trying to stay alive and slay monsters in post-apocalyptic Wakefield. There are zombies and monsters but surprisingly few adults in this town but don't worry--these kids have no problems creating ingenious ways of protecting themselves.

Kathryn says

LOVE. THIS. BOOK.

A sort of **chapter book-graphic novel hybrid**, similar to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* in format, featuring **ZOMBIES**, and a hilarious protagonist. **It's like the trifecta of kid-lit AWESOME.**

After a monster attack destroys the town of Wakefield and transforms most of its citizens into zombies, one of the last survivors is 13-year-old, Jack Sullivan, self-proclaimed “zombie-fighting, monster slaying, *tornado of cool.*” **When Jack's not battling the undead, he hangs in one of literature's BEST settings: a treehouse complete with a crossbow, rocket launcher & flatscreen TV. My 9-year-old self is screaming**

with jealousy (fuckit, my 30-something self is envious).

During one of his daily fights for survival, which includes hand-to-hand combat with a **ROLLING BALL OF ZOMBIE** (yes, you read that right rolling. ball. of. zombie.) Jack manages to locate two of his fellow classmates. His scientist best friend.....and the School Bully. Yipes. Given this is the apocalypse and all, school tensions are thrown aside and the three join forces to rescue a fourth classmate who's trapped in their decimated school. Problem is: it's surrounded by a **MASSIVE. ZOMBIE. HOARDE.**

I'm not kidding when I say this book is funny. **It's LOL, side-splittingly hilarious the entire time. The scare-potential of the monsters is reduced by the humor and reluctant readers will find this book both compelling and accessible.** This installment is the first in a series. The follow-up, *The Last Kids on Earth and the Zombie Parade*, has been released and a third book is headed our way in September. I book-talked it when I visited six local elementary schools in June and it's been FLYING off our shelves. Kids LOVE it.
