



In the Dead: Volume 1

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When the Zombie Apocalypse began in Seattle and spread within days to almost the entire western half the country, the survivors had to figure out how to deal with the plague and live one day at a time. These are their stories.

If you liked Jesse Petersen's zombie comedies *Married With Zombies*, *Flip This Zombie* and *Eat Slay Love*, these nine stories are set in the same world, but from the perspective of other survivors.

In the Dead: Volume 1 Details

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From Reader Review In the Dead: Volume 1 for online ebook

Irma rosales says

Sucks

Not work the one dollar they should of just let us read it for free. Not a good read. Would not recommend

Yolanda Sfetsos says

This is a spin-off anthology of short stories set in the same (zombie-infested) world as the Living with the Dead Trilogy, so I was eager to read it...

These are the stories:

BONEWRECKER 2: Zander is so busy playing his brand new game that the zombie apocalypse hits and he doesn't even realise it. Actually, the only reason he notices is because he can't log online to play against other gamers. LMAO. I love the concept!

Yeah, this was a fun, little story about a trio of unlikely survivors trying to get out of their apartment block before the bad things that happens to most characters in zombie games and movies, doesn't happen to them. Cool.

COMPANY'S HERE: Wow. This was an interesting and heartbreaking story about a couple who are on the run from real life problems and are living in a holiday cottage by the sea. Except, the day someone decides to drop in, it happens to be a zombie.

I really enjoyed Nadia and Randy's story, even though it's very sad. :(

THE TREEHOUSE: Brings two unlikely companions together and on the road, travelling through the US. Though when Robin and Carl find a feral child, they pick up another travelling companion.

PROPERTY LINES: OMG. This story cracked me up! Two neighbours who are constantly fighting over their property lines wind up having to work together in order to survive the sudden zombie apocalypse. This was a good one.

'TIL DEATH: This turned out to be a really cute story.

I CALL IT LOST WAGES: What a clever title! Two unlikely companions are travelling the country in search of a safe place to live, instead they wind up finding a bunch of kids with no real instincts in survival.

THEY'RE THE LIONS NOW: This one's a bit of a futuristic tale because it actually takes place after the Outbreak has been contained and a pair of zombies are the latest exhibit in the zoo. Two brothers go along to check them out, and instead wind up running for their lives.

What I loved about this story was the human stupidity of it all. It's just like humans to think they can spend a fortune acquiring two zombies to make money off them, and not think there'll ever be any danger of infection. Unbelievably stupid, yet I could see it happening. People can be so stupid, sometimes.

MR. McGYVER: Nice story about two very young, but brave sisters surviving in the new landscape of a post-apocalyptic world. The day they cross paths with '*Mr. McGyver*', their life changes a lot more than they thought it would.

REALITY BITES: This is an effed up story about a zombie-style reality show. It captures all the worst bits of reality TV, that's for sure. :/

Overall, they were a great bunch of short stories. Some were better than others, but they were all a lot of fun and expanded on the frightening zombie world that Jesse Petersen introduced us to in the *Living with the Dead Trilogy*.

Though I have to admit that there was one thing missing... no, *two* things: Sarah and David. ;)

(It did have a few typos here and there, but it certainly didn't distract me from any of the stories.)

Sasha Knight says

If I had read this story collection before reading the *Living with the Dead* series, well, I wouldn't have read the series, and that would've been a shame.

The stories themselves ranged from forgettable, to okay, to good, fun romps. There were a couple memorable ones that on their own I would've rated 3-4 stars.

What really brings this collection down is the lack of editing. The number of spelling errors, misuse of words, extra words, missing words, and incorrect or missing punctuation was appalling. This represents the biggest flaw of this collection. I simply can't in good conscience recommend a book that is so messy.

Instead, I recommend you check out this author's *Living with the Dead* series for fun zombie action.

Jade Wilson says

I loved this collection of mini stories. some of them if like to read more of

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

This is a great novella. It consists of 9 short stories of life before, during and after the Outbreak. It is an account of where people were, what they were doing, who they were with, who they were hiding from and the readers get to see how all these people were affected differently by the same event. This book can be read as a stand-alone. It takes place in the same world as Petersen's Living with the Dead series. You need not read one to understand the other although; I highly recommend reading the Living with the Dead series. This is the same Zombie Apocalypse Sarah and David has been living through. This is just various peoples experience at different places and times. In the Dead: Volume 1 is filled with the post-apocalyptic humor and logic that has made reading Petersen so entertaining.

The characters range from teenage siblings, gamer hermit, couple hiding from the authorities, bridezilla, feuding neighbors, and reality show participants to MacGyver. I loved the serial feel to the book. I liked the fact that some stories were a few days after the Outbreak while others take place months after. Locations range from apartment complex, beach house, survivor camps, suburbs, Vegas and the zoo. I love reading zombie apocalypse books. The thing that really sets this apart from the rest is the humor. This book is laugh out loud funny, full of wit, snark and a logic people have been forced to use to survive.

Brett Grossmann says

Why bother to write the same stuff that has been written before? Zero newness. Am I supposed to follow these characters from book to book? Why?

Candace Wynell McHann says

You know, I love a good set of zombie survivor tales.

Jesse Petersen wrote an amazing compilation of zombie survivor stories. Each story was different from the next. They were more funny, sad and disturbing as the book progressed. I have to say I have read two out of three of Ms. Petersen's main zombie books series, Living with the Dead, and they are amazing, but I found that these stories more fun to read. The end of each story left me frustrated for more. Not a bad frustrated, but a good one where I was left saying "really?! No more?!" Petersen did an amazing job leaving us, her readers begging for more, without getting pissed off. But there's nothing I hate more than a book that just seems to peter out and end with a whimper instead of a bang.

My favorite story was the wedding one. It seemed to be the most satisfying read of them all while I felt that the TV show one felt a little forced. But the one that seemed frighteningly true to human nature was the zoo short story. Can you imagine the government and/or the Private Sector, after the hulabaloo of the zombie apocalypse, capturing a couple zombies and then putting them on display for the entire world to see? And then some kid who is being poorly supervised goes and starts what could be the second wave of zombie apocalypse? I totally can!

Jesse Petersen captures all that is good and bad about society and shows us that even though the world comes to an end, people really don't change that much: we are either the survivors, or those that take advantage of the survivors. Man, I can't wait to read Eat Slay Love and Shambling with the Stars!

Ashley Reading Stewardess says

Jesse Petersen's "In the Dead: Volume 1" is a series of vignettes in the "Married with Zombies" universe which deal with different people in different situations and circumstances following the zombie outbreak in Seattle.

Of the various short stories in the collection, I think my two favorites were the first short story, 'Bonewrecker 2' about Zander, a video gamer living in Seattle who misses the initial outbreak and mayhem of the zombie apocalypse because he's busy being cooped up in his apartment playing a brand new video game, which ironically enough, deals with killing zombies. Upon his completion of the game Zander tries to connect to the internet in order to play it online only to discover that he is unable to connect. Venturing out into the hall of his apartment complex, Zander attempts to take the elevator downstairs to speak to the super about the lack of an internet connection. When this plan fails he knocks on his next door neighbour's door, Mrs. Floyd. Mrs. Floyd and her daughter Carrie let him into the apartment where they inform him of what he has missed over the past week while he's been locked away playing his video game. The three survivors eventually come to the conclusion that they must find a way to escape the building in order to increase their chances of survival in this new world. The thing I liked about this particular short story was that I found the character of Zander to be realistic. With the various documentaries which have been done about people who are so addicted to gaming that they leave their homes to purchase the new game only to then return home and play it from start to finish without leaving the house until it's over. The idea that a person would be so obsessed with gaming that they would miss a cataclysmic event, such as a zombie virus outbreak, I found I was completely able to buy.

My other favorite story of the collection was 'Til Death' about bridesmaid Donna and usher Carson, having to deal with a zombie attack in the middle of Donna's sister's wedding. I couldn't help but laugh when Donna's bridezilla of a sister ignores the fact that the minister is being attacked by a zombified cop and that her wedding guests are either running in panic or being eaten themselves and instead is more concerned with the fact that they're ruining her "special day" and that they got blood on her dress. As much as I would hate to have my wedding ruined by attacking zombies, I would be much more concerned with getting my butt out of there and to relative safety where I would hopefully find some weapons and other supplies.

Over all, "In the Dead: Volume 1" was just as fun of a read as the "Married with Zombies" books were to read. I really like that Jesse Petersen has continued writing in this universe by introducing new characters and providing an idea of the everyday type of situations people found themselves in during the outbreak, as well as the types of situations people go on to experience following the outbreak throughout the country. Hopefully Petersen comes out with a second volume of zombie stories soon.

Overall rating: 4.5 stars

Kristjan Wager says

I bought this book based upon reviews, and I must admit I was greatly disappointed. The book was well-written, and each story in the book would have stood well as a chapter in a much larger story - unfortunately they instead left you hanging. I think the author might have been going for something in the style of 'World

War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War', but if so, it didn't work, as the overall arch of the stories just wasn't there.

It might be that the stories would have worked better if I had read other books based in this world, but as it stands I can only recommend that you buy something else.

Amy at bookgoonie says

This is a collection of about 10 short stories varying from the day the zombie outbreak starts to a few months in. I don't think this novella collection has any connection to Jesse's Living With The Dead series. It was a fun read with so many short stories that were so different from each other.

The stories I liked the most included couples being thrown together in the throngs of the zombie advance. A maid of honor questions why her knight in shining honor gets the shotgun. This story definitely ends with an "ahhh" and a *head tilt*. An ex-teacher and her motorcycle companion lure a feral child out of a tree and escape the zombie advance with the help of a grenade. See what is not to love.

I will never look at a zoo the same again. I don't really like reality shows and In the Dead definitely reminds me why. Zombieland meets evil corporate TV world. It left me questions, like...Where do you think a zombie apocalypse begin? Where would the safe place be located? I am trying to work out my Plan A & B just in case.

The many different scenarios got me thinking, but I wanted more. I got invested in a few of the stories and I wanted to see where they led. I can't wait to read one of her complete novels and hope a few of these stories get "fleshed" out.

Alicia (is beyond tired of your *ish) says

3.5 stars. This is another situation where I *really* need to be able to give half stars. I can't decide if I should give this three to represent the 3.5 or four. I knocked it down from a solid four because of the spelling errors throughout the book. Even if it's not going through a publisher it needs to be edited. If I'm paying to read something, I deserve that consideration. Reading the word "shutter" instead of "shudder" is unacceptable under any circumstance but especially when I've paid for the story (and, yes, it's 99 cents, but that's still money).

All of the individual stories were really good. Though I wish it hadn't ended with that last story. Humanity is depressing/enraging enough as it is. The book is obviously written in the same style as the Living with the Dead series. The biggest problem is that they were each too short. In fact, with most of them (some more than others) I really wanted to read their stories further and see what happens to them. So it was kind of like being viciously teased. Do Sam and Troy find a safe place? Do Zander, Carrie and Mrs. Floyd survive? Do Robin, Jude and Carl? What do Meghan, Ashley and Vern find when they get to Colorado, if they get to Colorado (and how does Vern deal when he gets his first taste of the real world)? Do Carson and Donna stick together, maybe fall in love? THESE ARE THINGS I MUST KNOW!!

If you are a fan of the Living with the Dead series, I definitely recommend this short. Just understand that it's like being dangled off nine different cliffs.

Carien says

I have been doubting if I should start on the Living With The Dead series by Petersen, so when the chance to read and review this collection of short zombie stories by Petersen came along I jumped on the opportunity.

If Petersen's other books are anything like these short stories I've been a fool to hold off reading them!

These stories are fun, scary, touching, gross and have the proper ravenous kind of zombies. Some of the stories are perfect as they are: a short moment in time, telling you more than a complete novel could. Others are begging to be taken on a ride and shaped into a series. But each and every story in this collection is a gem which I'll be rereading often.

I really hope Petersen will write many more of these shorts and her Living With The Dead series just bumped its way to a leading position on my wishlist.

Author says

I love zombies stories and have enjoyed Jesse Petersen's other books, and this one was no different. It was a fun, fast read with a lot of short glimpses of people reacting to the zombie outbreak either at the moment of or some point after. It was really well done with the variation of the moments. I only had two complaints when I finished. 1. The book needed more editing since I found quite a few mistakes while reading. and 2. I wanted more. The stories were so short, and we don't get to see what happens to any of the characters really beyond that one segment. They were fun to read, and I know they were supposed to be that way, but I wanted more. Which, I suppose, is a good thing. I definitely recommend to anyone who enjoys a good zombie story.

Destiny says

In The Dead: Volume 1 is a collection of short stories all centered around the zombie apocalypse. Each story contains new characters, new scenarios, and new locations, as the Outbreak spreads across the United States.

Each set of characters couldn't be less different, but Petersen weaves each story together with her unique brand of wit, snark, and humor. Her descriptions of the zombies are so vivid that you can actually imagine yourself running from the zombies in the stories!

Some stories were more detailed than others and I was partial to those as the endings had more "closure", while others had the type of ending that had each reader use their imagination to decide the character's fate.

One thing that stood out to me was that the premise of every story had the potential to be fleshed out more, so I truly hope Petersen decides to revisit some of these characters again in the future because to me, some of them are just begging to have a full-length book of their own!!

Fans of zombie books will most definitely enjoy *In The Dead: Volume 1* - and will equally be left wanting more!

Sylvie says

While the other books in Petersen's series *Living With the Dead* focused primarily on Dave and Sarah, *In the Dead* is a volume of short stories that shows us how other people both in and around Seattle and elsewhere in the country have coped with the Zombie Apocalypse and the aftermath.

The tone of the stories runs from humorous (in *Bonewrecker 2*, a slacker who has spent the last several days playing a zombie video game is shocked to learn that the apocalypse has happened for real) to poignant (in *Treehouse*, a man and woman traveling together rescue a traumatized boy) to downright terrifying (in *Reality Bites*, a small group in the "safe" zone becomes part of a twisted reality show - yes, even after a zombie apocalypse, there's no escaping the scourge of Reality TV.)

The stories in this set are more like slices of life. After the story ends, there is no certainty of a happy end for any of the characters. Any of them could be dead five minutes after the story ends. In the story *Company's Here*, a wife flees from her husband at his urging after a bite from a zombie begins the process of turning him into one of them. But even after she leaves, it's obvious that the odds of her survival are practically nil.

I really enjoyed these stories, but I recommend reading the *Living With the Dead* series first, otherwise some of the stories may be confusing, especially those which take place in the safe zone on the other side of the Midwest Wall.
