



## Slag Attack

*Andersen Prunty*

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A slag is what survivors are calling the slug-like maggots raining from the sky, burrowing inside people, and hollowing out their flesh and their sanity. Slag Attack features four visceral, noir stories about the living, crawling apocalypse. The Devastated Insides of Hollow City - Hack detective Shell joins in the insane search for a girl named Pearl, who just might hold the key to restoring order. Vincent Severity - A woman is taken hostage by a very severe man in a sleazy El Camino. Corpse Mountain - Two guys named Cobra and Commando chug gasoline and help build grotesque robots to save the world. All Alone at the End of the World - Re-introduces Shell in a radically different light, building to a ferocious conclusion.

## **Slag Attack Details**

Date : Published July 19th 2010 by Eraserhead Press

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Author : Andersen Prunty

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## From Reader Review Slag Attack for online ebook

### Donald Armfield says

#### RUN THE SLAGS ARE COMING!

4 stories from the hollow city where people are extinct due to these maggot looking slugs. People who are infected may show signs of vomiting, bleeding from the eyes and things crawling outta of there crevices. Anderson ties together. Gasoline drinking, kidnapping, action and just plain out gross that will make you quiver. Kinda like a movie straight outta of Tromaville.

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### Matthew Vaughn says

I got a copy of Slag Attack not knowing anything about this book. All I knew was it's written by Andersen Prunty and I haven't read anything from him that I didn't like. It turns out this worked in my favor since this book was cool as hell. I've said it before, Prunty is a master of the dark and depressing. He puts his characters through some serious crap, and he does it like the expert he is.

The Slag's fell from the sky, they look like a cross between slugs and maggots, and they basically feed on people. The first story, The Devastated insides of Hollow City, we have Shell, a detective hired to find Pearl who is either eight years old or eighty years old depending on who you ask. It's very noir, but bizarre and twisted like we expect from Prunty. This may be my favorite story of the book.

The second story, Vincent Severity, we have a man who is very severe, who kidnaps a woman with a problem, if she can't yell out the names of male singers the world may end. It's a twisted tale of the beginning of the Slag Attack from one woman's viewpoint.

Corpse Mountain, the third story, focuses on three survivors. One believes he has been given instructions to build robots, and drink gasoline, that this is how the Slag's will be defeated.

The final story, All alone at the end of the world is the longest of the bunch. Here we have Darren slowly withering away in his house all alone. He thinks he may be the last person alive. At the end of his wits and in desperation Darren leaves his house and stumbles into what may be humanity's last stand against the Slag's. The book itself is pretty short, I would have liked to continue to read more of this wasteland that the Slag's created. Prunty has a real handle on his characters. He knows how to craft interesting and believable people, and I've said it before, he's at his best when he's putting them through hell. There is so much about this collection that I liked, and I am sure that any fans of Prunty's or post apocalyptic stories, or just plain good fiction would enjoy it as much as I did.

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### R.A. Harris says

It starts off as a strange noir-ish tale and then expands into a post apocalyptic tale involving maggot slugs or slug maggots coming down and turning the insides of people into goo, a junkyard owner who believes robots will be immune, a house of Mike's, a biker deux ex machina and slugs for arms.

Constantly absurd and surreal, I found it enjoyable the whole way through.

Andersen Prunty writes good books, and this is one of them.

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## **Lea says**

I have to give this one 4 stars on the writing alone -- Prunty is just an amazing writer. Did I like it? I'm not sure. But I have to give credit where it's due.

From the back cover:

Four interconnected tales set in a darkly surreal post-apocalyptic world.

A slag is what survivors are calling the slug-like maggots raining from the sky, burrowing inside people, and hollowing out their flesh and their sanity. SLAG ATTACK features four visceral, noir stories about the living, crawling apocalypse.

"The Devastated Insides of Hollow City" -- Hack detective Shell joins in the insane search for a girl named Pearl, who just might hold the key to restoring order.

"Vincent Severity" -- A woman is taken hostage by a very severe man in a sleazy El Camino.

"Corpse Mountain" -- Two guys named Cobra and Commando chug gasoline and help build grotesque robots to save the world.

"All Alone at the End of the World" -- Re-introduces Shell in a radically different light, building to a ferocious conclusion.

Okay, first I have to comment on the copy from the back -- in "Corpse Mountain", the two guys are actually Cobra and Rambo, although Commando IS also in the story; and "All Alone at the End of the World" is titled "All Alone at the EDGE of the World" inside the book.

Now, I know this is a little nitpicky, and I didn't actually notice this until I started writing the review, but I'm a little disappointed to see the differences (not quite errors).

It's a tossup over which of these stories is my favorite -- I really liked the first story, "The Devastated Insides of Hollow City". It's funny, with a cheeky humour to it, despite the fact that the slag apocalypse has already begun. (If you were going to put these stories in order chronologically, I think they would go "Vincent Severity", "The Devastated Insides of Hollow City", "Corpse Mountain", then "All Alone at the Edge of the World".) In this story, private detective (kind of), Shell, is searching -- along with everyone else in Hollow City -- for the mysterious Pearl. Shell has a lot of the wise-cracking noir gumshoe to him, which is always fun to read. That doesn't necessarily mean this story doesn't have its dark moments -- it does -- but this is probably the lightest of the four.

"Corpse Mountain" is the other contender -- Commando is hard at work on a project he believes will save the world. Rambo and Cobra drive aimlessly around town, drinking gasoline, while another group of survivors works on their own plan for salvation. I think the appeal for me here was the characters. I really liked Commando, although I'm not sure he's necessarily meant to be a likable character. Rambo and Cobra also had a certain sweetness to them -- there's a poignancy to their struggle to remain human, despite circumstances and their own deterioration. This story also has a few humorous moments.

I really was uncomfortable reading "Vincent Severity", and I suspect many other women would be as well. Set slightly before the beginning of the slag plague, Amber Toulouse is abducted by the brutal Vincent Severity. He has a very disturbing plan for Amber, and when he finally reveals why he chose her it is honestly horrifying. Vincent is disgusting, and it was very difficult to read about the trials Amber endures. This one left me feeling very very sad.

The book closes with "All Alone At the Edge of the World", which revisits Shell from the first story. Written from the perspective of Darren Welch, a survivor of the second (and more devastating) wave of slag infestation. Darren has lost his wife and children, which is even more wrenching since the author tells us that the family had survived the first wave (and probably expected things to improve). The world is a frightening and desperate place at this point in the book's timeline -- the slags (originally the size of maggots) are now the size of buildings, and there are very few humans left. Darren struggles through each day -- mostly waiting for the right time to kill himself, it seems. How he meets Shell, and what happens next, is interesting, but I just didn't like Shell in this story. Prunty (IMO) explains the change in Shell adequately, but I missed the Shell from the first story. I also didn't like the bleakness of this final world -- although the author offers a bit of hope at the end, re-introducing another earlier character in an unexpected way.

I would definitely recommend this for fans of bizarro -- anything of Prunty's is a must-read. Just don't expect the lightness (I'm tempted to say whimsy, but that isn't quite right for his work) of some of his other stories. He's very much exploring the darker side of life here.

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### **Karl Elliott says**

This is a great book. It's very well written, characters are good. One of the best bizarro books I've read.

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### **Brian Smith says**

Surreal horror with some vivid and difficult to read sections but extremely memorable.

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### **Andersen Prunty says**

I'm not actually reading this book. I wrote this book, which means I have read this book. Several times. It's good. You'd like it. It has 4 longish apocalyptic stories in it. Three of them are previously unpublished. One was previously published in the blue Bizarro Starter Kit. I'm giving it four stars because there are four stories. It's really like a seven star book.

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### **Tommy Smith says**

The book contains four stories. The first of these, I had originally read in an alternate collection and enjoyed, so I purchased the book for the full effect of what Andersen Prunty's Slag Attack was really all about. Four interconnected stories span the book, and for a review's sake, I thought it best to rate each individually.

The Devastated Insides of Hollow City was the story which first attracted me to the book. It paints quite an entertaining and original setting in Hollow City and even the post-apocalyptic world outside of Hollow City, and is very well written, entertaining, and the best story here. Five stars.

The next story, Vincent Severity, brings it down a notch. I enjoyed parts of this tale of an unusual woman kidnapped by a curious (and severe) character in an El Camino, but found it to be much less consistent than the previous story. While feeling a bit underwhelmed, I still found some appreciation for it. Three stars.

Corpse Mountain is an interesting, high-octane wad of story about men who drink gasoline and plan to exact a grand master plan which even they don't fully understand. Four stars.

The final story, All Alone at the End of the World, brings back some of the characters from the first story, but what could have been a grand finish seems to stagnate, and my interest waned over the course of it. Two stars.

3.5 stars overall, rounded up, brings the book to an overall four stars. There is some excellent material here, but not all of it was my cup of java. Still, fans of horror, science fiction, and bizarro should all find something of interest here.

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### **Chris Bowsman says**

Finally, an apocalypse story devoid of any religious messages. No Satan vs god nonsense, just a bunch of slags and people forced to deal with them.

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### **Bandit says**

Apocalypse has seldom been grosser. Prunty's end of the world is told through four interconnected stories taking place around the eponymous attack. This must be bizarro, sometimes the plots are odd enough to tell immediately, sometimes they are too close to horror to discern. This one was odd enough to qualify. My first read by Prunty and I must say he's a good writer, but most of it gets buried under the repulsiveness of the context. It's like looking for jewels in giant piles of steaming fecal matter, almost exactly like it, considering the amount of it this one featured. I'm not reading horror as much as I used to and this one requires maximum gore/guts tolerance. Solid writing, but too disgusting and bleak to entertain. Acquired taste sort of thing, definitely.

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### **Belinda says**

So I will not sit here and pretend I know anything about bizarro fiction. I certainly know of it, and am familiar with the authors etc but I am no expert.

I loved this book. 4 short stories interconnected (a concept I really like) that deal with life during and after the apocalypse created by the raining down of creatures from the sky called "slags", a cross between a maggot and a slug (that got me right away as I hate both..lol..) so the creepiness factor was amped up for me. I loved the way Andersen used classic noir riffs but managed to make something completely original,

horrible and beautiful at the same time. There is no sense of being weird just for the sake of it here--I dislike that--it comes off pretentious to me--but that is not the case here--weird? yes--very much so. But the language often strays into the beautiful--"He becomes aware of life's grim march. Onward. Forever onward. Meeting whatever cruel fate awaits but it is through this cruel fate that true beauty can shine. No death is a good death but all death is inevitable." Gorgeous. Combine this with some revolting visuals, (people both eating and smoking the slags), a chaotic but connected storyline and you have something truly amazing. I also did not see the end coming.

2 bonuses for me--I am now using the term "fuckmunch" as much as I can and I adore that 3 of the characters share names with Stallone and Schwarzenegger's characters (Cobra, Rambo and Commando). Highly recommend.

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### **Neil says**

Strange book very very weird but highly enjoyable interconnected stories about creatures called slags that infest human beings turning them into jibbering wretches. 4 stars.

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### **Kat says**

Technically, I would have rated this book 3.5 stars...

This book is comprised of four short stories all linked to one topic...the world has been attacked by slags, sluggy worm-like creatures who devour anything they can wrap their mouths around. In the first story, "The Devastated Insides of Hollow City," we meet Shell. He is new to Hollow City and is on the search for Pearl, the Queen of Town. One little problem, everyone else in Hollow City is looking for her too, and oh yeah...she supposedly so small, she could hide in your pocket. In "Vincent Severity," we find Amber being kidnapped by Vincent, who strips her and keeps her locked up in a room, crawling with slags and other dead goodies. Rambo, Cobra, and Commando are trying to make it in the new apocalyptic world by drinking gasoline, driving around aimlessly, and building robots in "Corpse Mountain." And last, but certainly not least, Prunty gives us "All Alone at the Edge of the World." Darren believes he is the last man on earth as he dwindles away in a home on the ocean, awaiting his imminent death by the house-size slags. To his surprise, he is met by Shell and Pearl (from the first story), along with an ultimatum where he has to give up a certain body part.

All of the stories were interesting, but I found the last story to be the most interesting. This is the second Prunty book I have read, and I really like his work. The different perspectives and experiences in this book was a great approach to the topic at hand. Not perfect but definitely worth reading.

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### **Nevertaken says**

I can't believe I won this with just two being given away, and I can't wait for it to show up. I also bought Jack and Mr. Grin, and Morning is Dead that I've been meaning to read, so I'll likely be reading all three within the next 3 weeks or so and getting real reviews up for them all. The first two I got were on the Kindle, so it's awesome I'm getting a signed paperback for free.

Big thank you to Andersen Prunty, Goodreads, Eraserhead Press, and anyone else involved.

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### **Nick Cato says**

Prunty's latest is a 4-story "mini-epic" centered around an apocalypse that's brought on by slug-like creatures raining from the sky. These nasty critters (known as Slags) like to eat their way inside people and before turning their insides to mush, wreak havoc with their minds.

In 'The Devastated Insides of Hollow City,' Prunty delivers a bizarro, noir-ish introduction to detective Shell, who's on the hunt for a woman named Pearl; it seems she might have some info on what's causing the slags to take over the earth. Along with The Rotting Man, the stage is set for the tales to follow. In 'Vincent Severity,' we see what was happening just before the slag invasion through the eyes of Amber, a kidnap victim who's convinced she's keeping the apocalypse at bay by randomly shouting out the names of male vocalists. This one's as hysterical as it is strange, and leads nicely into 'Corpse Mountain,' where two buddies turn themselves into junkyard robots in an attempt to survive the slag attack. Easily the strangest and most satisfying of the group, this one delivers the goods Prunty's growing legion of fans have come to expect.

Detective Shell returns in the finale, 'All Alone at the End of the World,' about a man named Darren who thinks he (and his Bic lighter named Luke) are the last two "people" alive. He eventually meets up with Shell, who is now (literally) living underground with Pearl and a band of survivors: but what they make him do to join their ranks eventually reveals Pearl's true agenda.

SLAG ATTACK is a quick, enjoyable collection of common-themed apocalypse stories that'll thrill bizarro fans and (probably) give some readers an even greater fear of maggots and machinery (not to mention beaches). What's not to like?

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