



## Feedback

*Mira Grant*

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**FEEDBACK** is a full-length *Newsflesh* novel which overlaps the events of *New York Times* bestseller Mira Grant's classic *Feed* and follows a group of reporters covering the Democratic side of the Presidential campaign.

*There are two sides to every story...*

Mira Grant creates a chilling portrait of an America paralyzed with fear. No street is safe and entire swaths of the country have been abandoned. And only the brave, the determined, or the very stupid, venture out into the wild.

Step inside a world a half-step from our own in this novel of geeks, zombies, politics and social media.

## Feedback Details

Date : Published October 4th 2016 by Orbit Books

ISBN :

Author : Mira Grant

Format : Kindle Edition 512 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Science Fiction, Fiction, Dystopia

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## From Reader Review Feedback for online ebook

### Figgy says

Anything written by Mira Grant is a must-have for the shelf of this reviewer, and *Feedback* is no exception. Though, while this one did have me teary at one point and was definitely not shy on the action, while it was full of your typical Grant humour, this one was a little harder to get lost in.

It could be that, having read the original *Newsflesh* trilogy, this story wasn't *different* enough, even though it has been a while since reading the first book. And, while this wasn't what you might call a short book, at 470 pages, this felt like a shallower story than that told in *Feed*. Again, this is possibly because so much of the world-building was covered in the first three books, and in this one we are given something of a recap. As with stories set parallel to each other but written a handful of years apart, this one ran into a bit of a problem with events that George and Shaun should have heard about in the duration of *Feed* but which never came up, possibly because the author hadn't thought of them yet.

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

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### Amanda says

3.5 rounded up. Entertaining audio. I love the *Newsflesh* world. I'm just not sure this story needs it's own entire book. Maybe would have been better as a novella in *Rise*. One word of caution the blurb on the book says this is a good alternative jumping off point to the series. It's not. It's full of important spoilers for the other 3 books.

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### Scott Hitchcock says

Book 1: 3.5\*

Book 2: 3.5\*

Book 3: 3.5\*

Book 4: 3\*

The 4th book is a redux from different character perspectives of the events of the main series. While not bad and sticking to the spirit of the main series I didn't feel like it really offered anything new. All in all a good series.

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### Bradley says

I admit to being a fanboy of the series. Gladly, irrationally, wholeheartedly.

I mean, who doesn't like a team of intrepid bloggers in a zombie-blighted wasteland encountering horrible

secrets in the government and having lots to say about election madness while geeking out and stabbing moaners in the head? Better yet, who doesn't like mad conspiracies, killing your loved ones, looking great on camera as you run for your life, or just discovering how nuts the world is?

This definitely isn't for first time readers of the NewsFlesh series, but it does happen to overlap during the presidential campaign trail during Feed, but from the opposite camp.

Ash is great. I really love Ash. Her Irish accent will always get her killed in all the zombie detectors, her bulletproof sundresses are the epitome of fashion, and while she's tiny and skinny, I'd always choose her to be my bruiser any day. She also happens to be really hard to kill when zombie traps keep exploding all around the presidential hopeful.

There's also a ton of interesting things to say about ourselves, too, if you look close enough into the text. I mean, we're courting a zombie wasteland with one or the other of our candidates, and Ash is living through the aftermath of the same. It works. :)

There's a lot of gender and race diversity in this novel, but honestly? Even though I got into all the characters fine, I kinda felt like it ran down a checklist. I tried not to let it annoy me because I got totally pumped by the story and the reversals and the generally nutso disposition of Ash and the world, and that worked fine for me. Maybe not for everyone. And then again, maybe this is perfect. It just felt a bit calculated. That's all.

Still, what a kicker near the end. I didn't really expect that coming, and that's kinda why I worship this series. I got the same kick in the gut with the surprises in the original trilogy, too, so I suppose I should be used to it by now, but it just isn't so.

Death is the constant of life. This zombie plague still remains as one of the most well-thought-out and scientific examples of zombification that I've ever read, and the mix of high-tech and mad bootstrapping ingenuity always gets me running for my duct tape.

I'm so happy to return to this world! It was my first introduction to Mira Grant (Seanan McGuire), but ever since, I've been a truly devoted fan. For good reason. This stuff rocks. :)

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### **karen says**

*"Step outside and I'll show you how an Irish girl defends her honor."*

once more into the fray of the newsflesh world...

FYI - this book features ZERO of your favorite newsflesh characters, except as anecdotal material, but it DOES talk about events that take place in Feed, including favorite character-deaths, so make smart reading choices.

this is a kind of bizarro newsflesh story, in which we are introduced to an all-new team of intrepid journalists: aislinn\* ("ash"), ben, mat, and audrey. and while the mason's crew is off in Feed reporting on senator ryman's presidential campaign trail, our new friends are on the road with a different candidate -

governor susan kilburn.

we have a similar distribution of roles here - ash = irwin, ben = newsie, audrey = fictional, mat = techie and fashion/makeup blogger.\*\*

but their relationships to each other are way more convoluted than team mason. ash is from ireland and married ben to get herself out of a tricky situation and into naturalized u.s. citizenship. however, she's a lesbian and in a long-term relationship with audrey, which situation is presented to the world as a polyamorous agreement so as not to risk that green card, but poor ben is not reaping any romantic fruit.\*\*\*

but this dynamic works for them, and they complement each other in both professionally and in personality:

*...his tone was as calm as mine was not, balancing me out. This was his territory as much as it was mine. I would get angry, and then he'd step in, not to defuse the situation, but to cover it with napalm.*

*"You know what we're capable of. Maybe we're not as fancy as Senator Ryman's pet blog team, but what we lack in prestige, we more than make up for with viciousness."*

*Audrey didn't say anything. Audrey just smiled. She had a way of making a simple, nonaggressive expression look like a threat, and she was using it now. As usual, it made me want to kiss the violence off of her face.*

the story is told by ash, which is great, because she's appealingly cheeky in that particular way that we've come to expect from this author: a little bit crazy in her willingness to put herself in harm's way, but also very funny and loyal and badass with a side of manic homicide under the hood. and the quips. always the quips.

*Violence is not always the best solution to problems, but it's usually a good start. Especially when the problems involve human beings.*

plus, this time she's irish, so you get to read all her lines in an accent in your head, and she's filled with irish bravado with a charmingly colorful tone to her utterances:

*- "You knew I was a scorpion when you picked me up, and I'll always do my best to sting my way back to you."*

*- "If they'd started in on you...I might have punched someone, and you know I have delicate hands."*

*"Like a bundle of yarrow twigs," I said solemnly.*

*- "The only right way to mourn someone is to remember them. The rest is just trappings."*

*... "How do you know so much about mourning?"*

*"My mother was a banshee and my father was the cold North wind," I said.*

but she's more than just a redhead pip of a lass - she's a true irwin - kicking zombie ass in a succession of sundresses. i appreciated seeing the irwin behind the irwin this time - the acknowledgment of how much of it was showmanship - how much was persona constructed in order to cultivate a following.

*Much of my image depended on my seeming too sweet to do or say or think the things I did, weaponized femininity on the prowl.*

but make no mistake, aislinn is genuine badass. her irwin persona is not sexy femme fatale - she's very concerned with modesty and making sure nothing shows through the bullet holes in her (secretly heavily reinforced, zombieproof) dresses. and she's irwin enough to understand how short her shelf life is likely to be, and the importance to morale of leaving a legacy.

*Some people liked to stay on the phone with their friends and loved ones as they fought, thinking it was better to have the company. I had never wanted that. One day, I was going to die in the field. Maybe I was going to die in this one. If that happened, I wanted to be remembered smiling, not screaming. That was why I always ended my videos with a grin and a wink, no matter how tired I was. Every entry could be the one that went up on the Wall. I didn't want the last thing I did to be sad. Dying was sad enough without helping it along.*

it's a fun new zombie adventure story in a world i have come to expect so much from, and this one delivers the goods. it's also a real treat to see shaun and george filtered through another, less flattering, perspective

*"As for the Masons, yes we know them, but we're not friends. We're not even associates. They're..."*

*"Snobs," I supplied.*

*Ben shot me a look, sighed, and said, "They're insular. Neither of them has ever been interested in forming strong outside friendships with other locals. I know they **have** friends, but with a few exceptions, it's always been people who are far enough away that the Masons don't have to worry about being asked to get together and socialize."*

it has all the wit and action you want from a newsflesh book, and while it ends on a note that seems to be a stopping-point, i know mira grant could find a way to give us more.

*"You deserve better than the kind of death that turns you into a footnote in someone else's story."*

don't let these characters just be footnotes in the mason's story, please. newsflesh 4-eva!

miscellaneous things we learn in passing and are not major plot points:

- 1) zombie dog-fighting rings exist
- 2) powell's survived the zombie uprising

\* oddly enough this was the second book in a row i read with a major character named aislinn, reading this one hot on the heels of *The Trespasser*.

\*\*i don't understand how useful a makeup artist is to a team of news bloggers, but that's probably just me being makeup-phobic and bigoted.

\*\*\* another quick note - while i appreciate mira grant's continuing commitment to diversity in her books, this time it just comes across as statistically unlikely, and more like a conscious representation-checklist. you have lesbian (ash) AND bisexual (audrey) AND genderfluid (mat) AND white (ash) AND black (ben) AND

asian (audrey). i appreciate the thoughtfulness, particularly with respect to her treatment of genderfluidity, but it seems too calculated and balanced for vérité. i mean, why not two asians? or two lesbians? and where my latinas at?

\*\*\*\*\*

please don't be done with this world, mira grant... i don't care - new characters, old characters, zombie-raccoon POV, just keep it going foreeeeever

\*\*\*\*\*

i just got a ups package update telling me something is coming for me from hachette tomorrow. could it be THIS????? please tell me it is this!!

IT WAS!!

\*\*\*\*\*

can this be true??? tell me when, and i will be there with a thousand bells and a pie.

WITH LATTICE-TOP!!

come to my blog!

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### **Wendy Darling says**

New Newsflesh novel. NEW NEWFLESH NOVEL! Plus 4 novellas!

I literally tiny-screamed in my house when I heard this, and damn it all if I didn't tear up, too.

<http://ht.ly/xjDOK>

<http://seanan-mcguire.livejournal.com...>

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### **Paige Bookdragon says**

I kinda forgot the feeling of being thoroughly swallowed by a book that you started breathing the same air the main characters were breathing. Thank you Mira Grant for letting me feel that moment again.

Review to come tomorrow. <3

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## **Michelle Morrell says**

I love Seanan McGuire, writing as herself or under the pen name Mira Grant. Laws, she can weave a story. And the *Newsflesh* series is what brought me to her, a world two decades post-zombie apocalypse as civilization learns to survive around, beside and on top of the zombies. Still, as soon as this veered into the political shenanigans before a presidential election, I just Could. Not. Go. There. Right. Now.

Read about 200 pages, did not finish, will read some day.

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## **Sonja Arlow says**

Reading this book was like agreeing to go on a date with an ex-boyfriend. Just because it was great the first-time round does not mean it's a good idea to go back for more.

I really loved the *Newsflesh* trilogy and especially the novellas but this one..... this one should have been well left alone.

The characters were flimsy at best and even Ash the charming Irish narrator started grating on my nerves. Yes I get that she is gay and loves Audrey but other than that there was very little to her. Ben was the token "husband" she married for US citizenship and Matt.... The gender fluid makeup artist / mechanic of the group was just the cherry on the weirdly skewed cake.

I did like the conspiracy theory element and yes I did finish listening to the audio even though I kept on thinking I should really give this back so overall I cannot recommend this.

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## **Greg says**

First off, don't read this novel if you haven't read the original trilogy. It's full of spoilers and even though the jacket copy says it's an excellent alternate jumping in point (or something like that), it's not. Unless if you want pretty much the whole story line of the original novels to be revealed without all the build up.

I have to just sit down and write this. I haven't been in the mood to write a review for oh, about the last year or so. In the past few months I've thought about writing something, sometimes just a throw away review, but then I'd think that review is going to be my 1000th, it should be something more than a couple of lines about the last John D. MacDonald book I've read. I should write something substantial.

So this is my 1000th review, and the first actual review I've written I think since last summer.

In the past month I've read the entire *Newsflesh* saga. All three books, the novellas (well I still have two to go, but I'm almost done with those), and this re-working of the first novel told from the perspective of a different team of bloggers following the Presidential primaries from the other side of the political line.

I might be a little burned out on the world (thus the reason I haven't actually finished the last two novellas yet, but I will soon).

I loved the original trilogy.

When I was reading them Karen kept asking me who my favorite character was, and it was pretty much a no-brainer. It was George. That answer seemed to annoy her every time, and maybe for this series it's the baseball equivalent of saying that Yankees are your favorite team.

Oh, right, don't click any of the spoilers if you haven't read the whole trilogy, no matter where you are in the series, or if you are thinking of every reading the series because I *will* ruin things for you.

(view spoiler)

Personal spoiler that has nothing to do with the books (but still don't click it if you haven't read the original trilogy) but which is placed here to aggravate my best friend (view spoiler)

A review?

Why I didn't love this book as much as the original first novel.

Did I already mention that I've really enjoyed everything that I've read from Mira Grant? I have. And I did enjoy this one, too. My problems with this were pretty minor, and if I read this after not reading the other books right before them I'd probably have overlooked them.

The first is that the first half or so of the book is basically the same exact story as *Feed*. Chapter one opens with the Irwin and Newsie of a blog team getting caught by a horde of zombies in what should be a more routine day. It follows with the Blog team getting chosen for their respective campaign. Similar things happen on the campaign trail (for awhile at least). (view spoiler).... it was all a little too similar.

The second is the problem with their being so much similarity.

It was nice to get to see some of the other Presidential candidates from a different perspective than George's. For example meeting the Stripper presidential candidate in this book made her seem more like a real character instead of just a joke about the spectacle and politics.

But....

Things happen in this book that the Mason's or Mahir would have known about in the original trilogy, and if they had known about them it would have drastically altered the original storyline. Some of the incidents in this book were just too big and would have pointed towards the underlying conspiracies of the original trilogy that they couldn't have helped change the whole later story.

I feel like this is a slightly unfair criticism, as 2010 Mira Grant couldn't have known what was going to be released in 2016, so it's perfectly fair to say that of course these facts couldn't have been in the original books... but at least three incidents were so big that their inclusion into the world would have changed the events of the original.

I'm being nitpicky though, and just giving the reason why I'm rating this one a little lower than the other books in the series.

I have a feeling that it's not the last we've heard from the characters of this series. Hopefully when Mira

Grant decides she has to return to this world again she figures a way to bring the Masons and Foxy back, or maybe just make a stand alone Foxy (ok, she's a much more fun character than George, and if she made her appearance earlier in the series she probably would have been my hands down favorite) kills lots of people novel (with her as the narrator, too, of course)...

And that's my 1000th review.

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### **Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says**

I'll tell you, I was pretty excited when I saw that Mira Grant was going to release a fourth book in the *Newsflesh* series. That series had it all, a perfect balancing of tension, gore, shock and comic relief. The first book, *Feed*, had me hooked on the series. Does it need a fourth book? No, but I couldn't resist the opportunity to go back to that world.

The first thing I'll address is, do you need to read the other three books before you read *Feedback*? The quick answer is no. *Feedback* stands alone, set in the same world as *Feed*, it runs parallel to book one. However, if you read *Feedback* and then want to read *Feed*, some of the shocks and surprises will be spoiled.

*Feedback* reads almost like a mirror image of *Feed*. The Masons of book one had a complete news team. Georgia, the protagonist, was the Newsie and Shawn, her brother, the Irwin. In *Feedback* the roles are reversed. Ash is the daredevil Irwin, while her husband Ben is the hard hitting Newsie. *Feedback* is Ash's story, Ben falls into the background further than Shawn ever did. But then again...Irwins tend to have more "Look at me!" moments. Mira Grant did not neglect the supporting cast; each and every single one was fully developed and played a pivotal role, driving the story forward, providing some comic relief or both.

*Feedback* was a fantastic addition to the *Newsflesh* series. Mira Grant is a master of zombie tension and characters. In the current political climate, it was great to see the fictional campaigns and candidates that she put forward.

Sit back and enjoy!

\* I received a copy of the book from the publisher (via Edelweiss) in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Meg says**

### **Bonnie says**

DNF @ 59%

For the record, I'm a massive Mira Grant fan and most importantly a HUGE *Newsflesh* fan. When I heard that there would be a fourth book coming, there was fully body tingling going on... I was that excited. So in

a nutshell, having to dnf this makes me want to cry a fucking river.

Right off the bat, my first issue that had me cocking my head in confusion was the seemingly apparent duplication of the *Feed* storyline. Sure there were differences but it was the same story for the most part. Politics and conspiracies and of course zombies. There was a brand new set of characters that was meant to spice things up but it was the same sort of crew that consisted of a Newsie, Irwin, and Fictional. And yes, this was quite the diverse group but I even had issues with that. I want to read stories with diversity where it's treated as a non-issue. Making Mat, a genderfluid character, a makeup/fashion blogger that also likes electronics didn't do much for modernizing tyepcasts either. The various forms of diversity are not only not treated as a non-issue but are so incredibly contrived. It all felt like some ginormous lecture and while it may have been intended to be didactic, it was more preachy than anything. Too much focus was placed on characterization and I feel like that was intended to distract from the story itself and the fact that it's a near replica of the *Feed* storyline just with different characters.

There were other random issues that only added to the domino effect that led to me quitting. A comment about Governor Kilburn being a secret Sailor Moon fan and that this could be a "girl-power campaign of celestial proportions." When they visited Congresswoman Kirsten Wagman (an ex-stripper) at a strip club. She called everyone sugar and there was a joke about Ash proposing to her because of her "sexy" security measures. It was an eye-rolling good time. There were also the standard Mira Grant mid-chapter breaks where a quote or blog post is inserted, which those were included, but there were also sections from Audrey's fictional stories that just didn't add that much to the story. Even more so were the pages of makeup tutorials from Mat's blog that really didn't add anything. Sadly, this was just a massive disappointment and I'm sad it had to be that way.

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I'm no longer dancing.

## **Faye says**

Read: June-July 2017

I have three favourite series ever. Three fictional worlds that I love so much that despite all the inherent risks and dangers involved in being a character in the series, I would jump at the chance to visit them IRL if I ever could. The first is Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* which I've loved since I was a child. The second is the *Newsflesh* series. (The third, if anyone is interested, is J.D. Robb's *In Death* series.)

The reason I made such a powerful connection to the *Newsflesh* world that Grant/McGuire created, is the theme I picked up on that runs through the entire series; fear, and what it does to us. What is the cost of living versus simply surviving? This theme struck a chord with me when I first read *Feed* several years ago. The mash-up of zombies, politics, science and internet journalism was also incredibly entertaining and enthralling to read!

All this to say, when I heard Mira Grant was releasing a new novel set in the *Newsflesh* world, but with different characters, I was thrilled and then terrified that it wouldn't live up to the standards of the previous novels and short stories. I should never have doubted Grant.

*Feedback* is a wonderful novel that deals with the same issues of fear, truth and what it means to be alive, as well as introducing some great new characters; Ash, Audrey, Ben and Mat. Cameos from secondary characters in the main series - like Dr Shannon Abbey and her dog, Joe - added an extra layer of authenticity and familiarity to this new addition in the series.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story, and now I want to re-read *Feed* yet again. This book seems to have been written as a stand-alone, but hopefully we'll get some short stories or even another book from Mira Grant in this series in the future.

Rating: 5/5 stars, best of 2017

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### **Suzette says**

Loved the first three. DEFINITELY didn't love this one. I never liked movies that were a vehicle for special effects rather than story. This book feels like a vehicle for a number of things, none of which are story. Hello Kitty earrings and make up tips? It all feels like product placement but for different fandoms. Added to the obvious gay and gender fluid characters and it just feels like someone trying to sell a book rather than writing a story.

The constant kneejerk "want to punch in the throat" reaction to everything wore thin IMMEDIATELY. There was no depth to any of the characters, and it seemed they were assigned back stories rather than being built from life events as the past characters were.

The first 3 books could very easily have included a character that was gay or gender fluid and it still would have been a good story. This story is just a bunch of selling points packed together. The attempt to pack in appeal was so obvious that it actually took away from what little story there was.

There was very little to like about this book and I have enjoyed many books she has written.

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