



## Frail

*Joan Frances Turner*

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# **Frail**

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**Being human is a disadvantage in post-apocalyptic America...**Now that the Feeding Plague has swept through human and zombie societies, it seems like everyone is an "ex" these days. Ex-human. Ex- zombie. Except for Amy, that is. She's the only human survivor from her town-a frail. And if the feral dogs, the flesh-eating exes, and the elements don't get her, she just may discover how this all began. Because in this America, life is what you make it...

## **Frail Details**

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Author : Joan Frances Turner

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## From Reader Review Frail for online ebook

### **Chloe says**

Not going to lie, I have no idea what I just read...

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### **Cherish says**

Ms. Turner took what could have been a great apocalyptic zombie thriller and made it into a book about a teenage girl with a sad story. The mental health problems one would encounter after having gone through what the protagonist, Amy has gone through seemed logical and flowed well within the confines of this story. Where the author fell short was making us care, creating any kind of real danger, or even characters that made sense to the story. The ending was abrupt and rife with mystery. I do not care to know more, and that is the main problem with this book.

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### **Gina says**

I'm so disappointed! I loved the first book, Dust. It was so unique and interesting and I couldn't wait to read the further adventures of our dear zombies. Right away, I could see that this new book doesn't follow the protagonist of Dust, although a few characters from the first book do resurface. The new protagonist seemed plucky enough and I was right along for the ride for the first half of the book or so, and then everything fell off a cliff.

I have literally no idea what happened in the second half of the book. All of a sudden everything got abstract and psychological and she's seeing ghosts and hearing voices and it's all a metaphor and **WHAT THE HELL AM I READING?** Are you allowed to say "hell" on goodreads? Well, there it is.

I could barely finish this book. I went from super excited about this trilogy to probably going to pass on the third book. We'll see. But this one was not good. Just re-read the first one and pretend she stopped there.

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### **karen says**

**warning:** this is totally going to be phoned in. school has me by the balls right now, so i am pretty distracted. i suppose if i cared more about this book, i would make the effort, but it was only just okay, so it gets an only just okay book report.

this is part 2 to the book Dust. i imagine there will be more written after this, as it ends on an action-ellipsis. the main character is a human, a "frail", one of the few remaining after the action in the first book where zombies took over, then zombies and most humans fell victim to a different contagion that left zombies near-indestructible and humans like zombies. but there are different ranks of zombies: those who were already dead and became zombified in the grave, zombies becoming so after dying from a zombie attack, zombies who were just humans succumbing to the other contagion... but none of them eat people. which takes the fun

out of the zombie book, you ask me. it's a new kind of monster, but they are more like gods on earth than flesh-eating monsters who will attack you at the mall.

and as such they are less interesting.

so this frail meets up with the sister of the protagonist in the first book, who was the first human-turned-zombie-through-(view spoiler), and they end up getting captured and kept in this town where zombies are basically the jailers-town council and humans are their pets/worker ants/mistresses. but there is still tension. and seeecrets.

*stony mayhall* featured zombies who were not in attack-mode, either. in that world, the infection leaves its victims in attack-living-human mode for a time, and then subsides into a more socially-acceptable undead state. and that book is great - it doesn't need to be all bloody-mawed and reaching. this book is trying to be a horror novel still, but with defanged zombies. oh, there is still violence, there is still bloodshed. in fact - that is what this author is particularly good at: the gross-out. in both books, there was all kinds of bodily fluids and stenches and detailed descriptions of the breakdown of the body and how bugs contribute to that etc etc. she's got a great sense of that. but the rest of it is just muddled.

i know i still have questions about things that happened in the book, but already, it is quickly fading from my mind. maybe as a result of my preoccupation with school, or maybe because this was just a passing entertainment, nothing that is going to revolutionize the zombie genre (although it is certainly trying). it's october - read a zombie book or two, but maybe read a different one first.

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### **Keith In Ky says**

I have to say after reading the first book in this series (Dust), that I enjoyed this one more. The different story arc was refreshing since the end of the first book was just plain strange. Now, I am not saying that this one didn't have a lot of strangeness to it, it did, but the writing improved. This book flowed much better, I didn't have to reread somethings to try to understand what was happening. I just let the words go by and didn't question things that probably should have been. But, all in all, it is a fair book at best. Creativity alone doesn't make a great book. And sometimes being "out there" seemingly for the heck of it doesn't keep the story glued together. I got really annoyed at the end of the book with the same questions being asked about being human over and over and over and over and....you see, it is annoying. One way that I could tell the story sometimes lacked is that I felt the need to stop in the middle and read 2 other books. When I picked it back up it wasn't a chore to finish, but I am not waiting by the library to pick up the next one in the series (if there is one) when it is released. I will read the next one by the author, if it is about zombies or exes or what ever the frak because I am invested in the storyline. I am also interested if the author continues to get better and better as the next books get released. So, not a glowing review, as I have said before, but interesting enough to read and enjoy at some level. Just not a high level.

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### **Al says**

In a post-zombie world, life is what you make it . . .

Since a devastating, morphing plague swept through human and zombie populations, almost everyone who

survived is an “ex” these days. Ex-human. Ex-zombie. Both creatures crave flesh, have the strength and speed of predators—and are seemingly immortal. Pierced skin and broken bones mend, but their all-consuming hunger never dies . . .

Amy is the only purely human survivor from her town: a frail. For a girl used to going it alone, trusting anyone isn’t easy, but Amy will have to. She has secrets from her past she can’t afford to face by herself, and secrets in her future that will cost her just about everything—including her humanity . . .

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### **Katie says**

I really liked this book. I don't know why many of the reviews are so negative. I didn't find it confusing like many people seem to have (and I didn't even read the first book in the series!)

This is the first zombie genre book I've read, so I'm not really familiar with how those books are "supposed" to be, but I thought this was an interesting take on zombies. The author wasn't hyper-original, but the characters were likeable, believeable, and unique. This author has an incredible gift for description. All of her descriptive passages, from the beautiful to the grotesque, from describing food to describing death and insanity, were vivid and very real feeling.

It's not a spectacular book, but I finished it in a day, and I am interested enough that I want to read the first one, and I will be excited when the third one debuts.

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### **Kevin says**

I just didn't care.

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### **Hannah (The Irish Banana Review) says**

I really just didn't think anything could shock me more than *Dust* (Book 1 in the trilogy), but I was clearly wrong. While *Dust* was told from a zombie's point of view, *Frail* ups the ante on the horror by showing how humans have fared in Joan Frances Turner's post zombie-apocalyptic world.

The story follows Amy, a frail (or regular human) as she tries to survive after an illness created a new breed of super humans/zombies that seem almost immortal. She bonds with Lisa, an ex who is struggling to hold onto her humanity. Their friendship is anything but simple and easy, and it was fascinating to see them working together.

My biggest issue with this book was that I just didn't connect with Amy, the narrator, the way I did with Jessie (narrator of *Dust*). Kind of odd since Jessie was a zombie, but I digress. I think the reason I connected more in book 1 is because the idea of a novel told entirely from the POV of a zombie was just so fresh and radical, I couldn't help but love it. The perspective of a human seemed somewhat dull in comparison.

This series is unique and fresh, and I'm thoroughly enjoying it. I recommend you check it out if you love horror, can stomach some unpleasant imagery ('cause there's a whole lot of that!), and are looking for a break in the storybook romances the YA genre is drowning in. This book is about fight and survival, and I cannot wait to see what Turner brings in book 3!

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### **Holly says**

I loved this book when I began reading; the combination of lyrical prose and zombie dystopia appealed to me on every level. Unfortunately before I was a hundred pages in the style changed, the language became more common. There was a period in the middle of the story where there were so many characters, all with suburban names (Amy, Lisa, Billy...really? An evil overlord named Billy?) Some character names began with the same first letter, adding to my confusion. I made notes to tell them apart. The style then took yet another turn, and it seemed as though the author was channeling Dean Koontz during his Christopher Snow period, which might have been a good thing except the tale became somewhat surreal and even more difficult to follow. Also the odd combinations of simile and metaphor became distracting.

I give this book two Ds--one for Disjointed and one for Disappointing.

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### **Alissa (Lissamakesmagick) says**

The second book in the Dust series follows Amy, one of the last surviving humans, in a journey to find her disappeared mother and surviving in a world ravaged by the feeding plague. Amy finds herself with a few members of Jessie's old gang all now exs, ex humans or ex zombies, along with humans much like herself that are deemed "special" unlike the other humans. She has no idea why they're so special but has a bad feeling and needs to escape after one of the special humans, or frails, disappear. Shes joined by her ex human friend Lisa, a human "pet", a crazy frail, and a special human boy as they set out to escape. The escape leads them to answers and even more questions leaving them on a journey to find Jessie and solve the mystery of the plague, the labs, the sands of Lake Michigan, and death himself.

Joan Frances turner has done it again! her writing style always delivers in detail and setting you at the speed of the characters journey. When they're struggling, tired, and hungry the reading pace is slow and when they're running and scared you fly through pages. I like that this book is a new perspective but ties in perfectly to the first book leading into the final installment. I could see the streets, village, forests, etc perfectly. I felt connected and invested in the characters as well. Loved this book but did take a star off for the slow start which i feel was more drawn out than it needed to be. Very excited to pick up the final installment, Grave, and finish this series.

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### **Katie(babs) says**

Frail is the second book in Joan Frances Turner's Dust series. I heard great things about the first book Dust, which gives a different spin on the zombie apocalypse much like Isaac Marion's Warm Bodies. Dust and Warm Bodies are both from the POV of a zombie character. The difference with Dust is that it's more horror while Warm Bodies is more of a dark comedy. I thought Frail would introduce me to a unique and different perspective on the world during and after the zombie apocalypse, much like Mira Grant has done with her

Newsflesh series. *Frail* is such a book that repels the reader. Why? Because it's so badly written and extremely unclear with the characters and their action and thoughts.

The zombie apocalypse has hit the world. Humans are barely surviving. Fifteen year old Amy lives with her mother, who's on the front lines, more like a security officer to keep the zombies out of their town and destroy them if they attack. One day her mother leaves without any warning and Amy is left to fend for herself. Around this time a new plague has started. People became sick with a disease that can't be diagnosed. The ones who become ill have an intense hunger and eat anything and everything. Even the undead have the same symptoms and soon no one can tell the living and zombies apart. Amy hides from these insane creatures along with a few grownups from her town, but then they die or fall victim to the disease. With no plan, Amy strikes out on her own, knowing she may not survive. Her one goal is to find her mother, who she hopes is still alive.

Along her travels she meets Lisa, who is known as an Ex. Lisa is a zombie, but is still human in her thoughts and feelings. She doesn't have an insane hunger and doesn't want to eat human flesh. Plus if she's hurt, she recovers, as Amy learns when Lisa cuts herself and there's no scarring or bruising. Amy doesn't trust Lisa, but since she's all alone and there's also feral dogs running around with an extreme appetite for meat, she goes with her.

Mother Nature isn't on their side either because a tornado rips through their shelter and destroys all their food and items. And then a man and woman in a car drive by. They're both Exs and force Amy and Lisa to come with them to a compound run by Exs where they make the humans, known as Frails, work the land, cook for them and keep everything running. Amy wants to escape in the hopes of locating her mother and because both the Exs and the Frails, who are slowly going crazy (mostly likely because their brains are rotting) may end up destroying themselves and anyone else around them.

*Frail* is a convoluted mess. I wish I could tell you what was going as I read. I couldn't figure out what the characters are saying and really have no idea what happens as the story moves along. There's a massive amount of nonsense, major lack of world building and the purpose for things are just thrown out there as if the reader will be fine with it and take it at face value. There's no reason given why this plague has happened and why it affects everyone, even the dead. There's no plausible explanation for anything and the writing lacks an overall sense of cohesiveness.

I couldn't figure out who Amy is and what her motivation was. She comes across emotionally stilted, which I guess is understandable because of all she had been through, but she's so unresponsive to the world around her, as if she has become one of the mindless undead.

*Frail* really has me wondering how it got published. There's nothing about it that's promising, original or thought-provoking. It became a challenge to read and when I got to the point where I had to read a page three times because my brain couldn't connect with the material, I decided to DNF it.

*Frail* is what I call a train wreck and will mostly like be one of my worst reads this year.

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### **Becky says**

Amy is one of the last living humans from Lepingville (same town Jessie is from in *Dust*) and she's decided it's time to move on. Traveling through the wasteland of neighboring towns on her way anywhere, she meets

Lisa, an ex -- Lisa was human before the outbreak that turned everyone, human and zombie, into something other. Then Lisa and Amy are taken to a small town where exes are masters and frails have become all but slaves.

It's hard to tell at this point just where the trilogy is headed. As zombie reads (and reads in general) go, this series is original and well thought out. It'll be interesting to see who will return in book three and where the story will end.

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## **Book Sp(l)ot says**

Frail is Joan Frances Turner's second zombie novel, after Dust. Now that the Feeding Plague has made its way through the country - both human and zombie societies alike - the country is full of 'ex's. Everyone is either an ex-human or ex-zombie. Everyone that is except for Amy. She's the only human survivor in her town, a frail.

With exes - flesh eating ones - everywhere and ghost dogs only she can see - survival in this new America is all Amy has on her mind.

And the ex-human Lisa she meets on her journey, she may or may not be able to trust is the only one she can turn to when things get even more dangerous.

Frail is an amazingly well developed, well thought out zombie novel - or just novel period. I did not read Dust so I don't know how much, if at all, the two stories build on each other or overlap or how much knowing that novel and its events would help a reader be drawn into the events of Frail.

There was trouble (for me) getting into the first half or so of this book. It was still good enough to keep me reading, it just read incredibly slow for me. (I put it down and picked it back up a few times.)

The last third to half of Frail is what really draws a reader in, though. It's when the novel really gets more action, suspense and things about the society start to get explained. It's when you really cannot put the book down.

The world Turner has developed for Frail is unbelievably well developed and all encompassing. While some books are ones that seem like they would transfer well to film (and ones readers would love to see made into movies), Frail is one that would make a great television show. While it would have to be on cable - if not a premium cable channel - there is so much story there and the society is so completely developed that it would be a joy to see it unveiled over multiple episodes.

There is not a lot of gore in this novel - a fair bit of violence and some disturbing things, but not that much gore. The language/swearing (along with some of the events) pull it up to an older YA/adult range.

thank you to the publisher for my copy of the book for review

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### **Trish says**

Was an interesting enough book but I'm curious on the direction it took.

The first book was told from a Zombies perspective, which could've been great, and now this one from a completely different angle.

The series, so far, does leave you asking questions. But, I'm just confuzzled by it.

Not saying I didn't like the book, I did. Just don't know why she changed perspectives.

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