



Apocalypse

Brannan Black

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Life as we knew it pretty much ended with the lightning fast spread of the plague. The media called it Werewolf Syndrome. Women got sick, many died. They were the lucky ones. Men got sick, too, but those who didn't die... changed. A few immune men, like myself, joined the bands of refugees, scrounging for survival in the post-apocalyptic devastation.

I lived in a fortified compound with a couple dozen women, a bunch of kids and two asshole straight guys. Sounds like a man's wet dream -- unless you happen to be the last gay man standing. At the time, risking my life scavenging in the city sounded like a fucking vacation.

I went out hunting supplies and found something else. Not a quick death, or even a slow, painful one at the hands of the beasts -- no such luck. Instead I find myself captive to the largest, most well organized gang of beast men ever. Their leader, Mace, wants more than just a generator -- he wants my body. Oddly, a certain part of me likes that idea. The other part -- the part with working survival instincts -- insists I get the hell out of Dodge before my smart mouth gets the shit kicked out of me. Again. Tradeoffs...

Apocalypse Details

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Straysod says

I made it through a whole 75% of this book before I gave up. It kills me to quit on a book, especially when I'm this far in, but I just couldn't take anymore. I read for fun, to relax, to meet new characters. When I realized I had spent more than an hour just furious and pissed off, I had to give up. Maybe the author somehow comes up with some miraculous redeeming save at the end of the book, but I am not willing to read one more infuriating victim-blaming sentence just to get there.

I wanted to like this book, I really did. I love an MC that can't keep his mouth shut even when he knows he should. The dark world and post-apocalyptic setting had so much potential. And I don't typically have too much trouble with a little submission in a shifter story.

But damn, this book was just so damn rape-y! The entire theme seemed to be "if you say yes, then it must not have been rape." Bullshit. If the mind says no, I don't care what the body is doing, it's still rape. If you submit and say yes because your only other option is being beaten to death, it's still rape. This book takes victim-blaming to a whole new level. Every time the MC gets hurt, it's his fault for 'resisting'. I can't stand that kind of bullshit attitude.

Even with an interesting world, and decent writing, the victim-blaming and "it's not rape, it's a way of life" attitude has pissed me off to the point that not only will I never finish this book, I will probably never even look at another book by this author.

Lexi Ander says

Daniel lives in a world that has been changed when some kind of virus broke out changing only men. The men who were affected by the virus and did not die, grew claws and fangs and a brutal disposition. They destroyed and ravaged everything in their path, becoming something to fear and loath. After the collapse of civilization, the men who were resistant to the virus along with women and the surviving children lived in fortified homesteads. On a scavenging mission Daniel is caught by a pack of these beasts and expects to be killed and ate alive. Only...they don't.

What can I say? This story, which I thought was going to be a typical shifter romance, totally wigged me out. I was just as afraid of the beasts as Daniel was and if it had been me, I would have died trying to run for the hills. They weren't fluffy shifters screaming "my mate I love you!" They are everything that the term beast implies. And then just to mess with your head, they would do something kind and human. I struggled with whether or not I thought Daniel should stay or go.

I found this to be brutal and full of suspense. I cringed and held my breath. And maybe, just a little blood thirsty for revenge. When I finished, I turned right around and read it again. Boy, I hope that this is a series because I freaking loved it!

Lyn says

Like the blurb states, there's a plague called the Werewolf Syndrome that caused sickness and death. The men who didn't die changed. They became wolf-like. Many of the changed men are rabid and dangerous. They function only on instinct. Others, somehow managed to keep some of their humanity and can live civilly. Even so, their mannerisms and appearance are animalistic.

Some men who survived proved to be immune and didn't change. Daniel is one of those men. When he goes out to look for supplies, he is captured by a pack of wolfmen. Their leader, Mace, wants him for sex and to help improve their living conditions.

So far in book 1 Daniel seems to either be getting beaten up or having sex. I found myself cringing and skimming sex scenes. The ending showed promise of a better relationship between Mace and Daniel, so I'm not ready to give up on this series.

I'm also hoping to for Mace's pov. So far, only Daniel's is given.

?♥? Michaelle ♥? says

3.4 Stars

Hmm...the set up for this is hella interesting, and I'm intrigued by why *these* particular men are able to control their beastly natures (when any other male infected goes feral). The dominance headgames & violence was a bit much, but I get where the author was going with it; Daniel is immune to the virus but he's still a man, and as such the other beasts expect him to rise to their level...to fight, submit, etc. when he's actually more like the women - which, yeah, thinking like that would irritate me as well, so he still fights and has to tamp down his more dominant urges (because there's no way he'd win in any physical challenge).

Looking forward to see how this is handled...so I might get the rest.

Bark says

Werewolves, an apocalypse and m/m love. Come on, how could I resist this one?

2 1/2 stars. I like weird and thought this book about a werewolf apocalypse featuring some m/m loving was written especially for me. All of those things appeal to me separately but when mashed together? Not so much. The problem for me was the wishy-washy narrator. He acquiesces to his kidnapper and protests too little for my liking and strained the limits of my believability. The kidnapper has yellow slitted eyes and is a big and burly werewolf. The narrator is still a puny little man. He is turned on immediately by his much bigger, wolfish captor.

Em says

Well, what an absolute shocker, this book was fantastic and just what I needed! It's animalistic and really brutal at times but there is also a really loving and tender relationship between Mace and Daniel starting to develop. Moving swiftly on to Revelations.

Didi says

I think this is my first dystopian book. A short one, phew! ;-)
This is the first installment of a series and despite the D/s, violence and force shown here, I like it!

When human had to butt head with beast, I - off course - cheer for the human side. And so I applaud Daniel for his courage, smart mouth, and strength. Not to go dissing the pack side though, with such mighty Alpha like Mace. Their dynamics were unusual too, I wouldn't think a bigger, stronger beast like him allow a *little human* to top him, but top Mace Daniel did. That alone was promising despite the circumstances they were in.

I had a hunch as the series went, past personalities would reveal. That's why I plan to read further books in this series (being a late reader to this, I've the advantage of next books' availability *g*).

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

When I picked this book up, I was in the mood for something gritty. Something violent and gory with no fluff or sweetness to its name. And this book delivered. Absolutely under no circumstances think this book is going to be a light, give-me-a-smile read because it's not. It's violent because that's how the new world is. The werewolves are more primal animal than man and they live by their primal instincts. They are cruel beings.

I happen to love this book. This apocalyptic world was extremely fascinating to me and how Dan got suckered into living with the sane (if you can even call them that) werewolves was just the icing on the cake for me because he was essentially being held hostage. 'Give us electricity or be raped, mutilated and die', that was Dan's options. I lied, there's a bit of sweetness to this book especially when Mace is gentle with Dan but there's not much and you have to actually read between the lines to see it. Either way, I loved both Dan and Mace (view spoiler)

Overall, I really enjoyed it. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series (sans girlie parts!) but I can only recommend this to people who are looking for something brutal and gritty. Otherwise, stay away, kids.

Don Bradshaw says

Daniel is one of the few men unaffected when what is being called The Werewolf Syndrome hit and

decimated humanity. He wanders accidentally into a powerful pack's territory and is quickly captured. The pack leader, Mace, takes a liking to the small man and tries to protect him while teaching Daniel how to live in a pack. This is a fast paced book with violent relationships and rough sex. This book is a good change of pace from the typical romance story and a good read.

Valentina Heart says

Such a wicked book! I kept checking the pages because I didn't want it to end. But end it did. It's pretty rough and different, a combination that instantly grips me and stubbornly won't let go. If you like a little bite and a few blows with your furry lovers this just might be the thing.

Laura says

3.5 Stars

"You can't look at me like that, little human, and claim you don't want me."

Well, well, well....what do we have here? An end of the world as we know it apocalypse, werewolves, and sexy pack loving. What's not to love? :)

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A virus devastates the population. Women and children nearly wiped out and men transformed into "rabids"—aggressive, sexed up beasts. Some immunes huddled together to survive and wait it out. But Daniel, an immune, is not sure how lucky he is to survive. Locked away, hiding, and so lonely. All that changes in a flash though when he discovers a new breed of men and way of life. Found and taken by a pack determined to live and adapt to their anger and primal needs. Can Daniel learn to submit and change in this new world of wolves and beasts? Can he live with Mace?

whistles Mace, Mace, Mace—what a sexy beast! I was drooling over this man at first growl. Oh, gods--I do love it when he growls! Muscles, power, grace, and tenderness. Mace is the leader of the pack, so what he wants he gets. And he wants Daniel! Every deep, sultry rumble, moan, lick, and touch has Daniel revved up and on his knees. These two are very hot together.

"I'd heard the phrase *heated gaze*. His burned, the odd glow burning brighter in his eyes. They scrambled my brain, leaving me unable to think, only to feel the need to touch him, be touched by him."

One point really has my heart and head pinging with interest though. Submission vs. resistance. Can we truly learn to go against everything we are to survive? Dominate or submit. Run or fight. Live or die. How can we live if we have to sacrifice who we are? Daniel is a strong, smart-mouthed, stand up and fight type of guy, but the pack and Mace need him to submit—give in. A dangerous and sexy battle in the bedroom and out. A battle that could get Daniel killed.

Mace's oolala possessive, animalistic presence combined with Daniel's wicked mouth *waggles eyebrows* make one hell of an addictive read. Can't wait for more.

Em—Thanks for introducing me to the pack! :)

KV Taylor says

Probably 3.5, but there was enough to love that I feel perfectly comfortable rounding up instead of down.

I bought this one because I read an interview with Brannan Black and an excerpt, and Daniel's voice smacked me in the face and said, "You will love me, f#%ker." What do you know, it was absolutely right. From the second I started I was hooked by the guy. He's hilarious, smart-mouthed, savvy, temperamental, proud, and utterly charming.

This is a first novel in a series, so I really liked the way the worldbuilding went: our discoveries about the pack types were dropped in smoothly as Daniel acclimated to his new, er, home, and finds out that a lot of his assumptions about people infected with the post-apocalyptic wolfman thing weren't totally accurate. (A favorite trope of mine with post-apoc, often used well with zombies.) It didn't feel info-dumpy at all, but I still feel like I had a grip on it. I dig the way they're not shifters, but more what comic book readers like me would think of as feral mutants like Wolverine, Sabertooth, etc.

I also liked that all the action happens within a small camp space, and was limited to a very closeknit pack of characters. It set things up for a larger world by letting us dip our toes in a little, first. Nicely done.

But for all my rambling about worldbuilding, this is a really light, fun read -- mostly about sex, which has been set up very cleverly as integral to pack bonding and life. I'm never sure what I'm going to get out of human-sex-with-monsters books. I love the idea, but oftentimes it's just an excuse for unsexy power plays -- as in, real life abuse of power and position for dubcon purposes, which squicks me real hard. Not so in this case; I was super impressed with the balance Black struck between the physical dominance of the pack and Daniel's human pride and relative inner strength. The bedroom scenes were absolutely integral to our understanding of that balance and why it works, which to me is the point of erotic romance.

What can I say, I like it violent, but responsibly so. (As in, "Unless there's a safeword, the safeword is no.")

There were some editing issues that bugged me, and a couple of spots where I got annoyed with Daniel just telling me how to feel instead of making me feel it with him -- but hell, his voice is so strong and infectious, I really couldn't complain. Glad I bought the second one already!

Bookwatcher says

What happened in this book?

Hummmmm let me try to write the blurb:

someone beat the crap of the main character (Daniel)...

he had sex with Mace, the werewolf...

someone beat the crap of the main character, again...

sex, with the werewolf...

another beating, and now also bleeding to death...

guess what he did when he stop bleeding: yep, sex with the werewolf.

And all the circle of beating and sex was a little annoying in my view.

I ADORE the sci-fi theme (post apocalyptic future), all the pack members, the characters... but I think there is little or nothing do say about the plot.

there is beating... and sex... and it's all that happened.

It's one of the few times I think a book should had less sex, and more story

3 stars I lost interest in this serie.

Steph says

This was a great surprise. I don't usually read shorts like this, but I really enjoyed this one.

I still have only rated three stars because it doesn't really compare to my favourite full length novels. However I still enjoyed this super-sexy and dark story. I will definitely be reading the next in the series. Thanks to Em for the fab recommendation :D

Ms. Nikki says

This read is jacked-up. Lots of violence and the characters constantly contradict themselves. The kidnaped dude is constantly getting beat up then gets aroused by Mace, the leader who is constantly choking him and telling him to obey and submit. A doctor who is Idiotic, looking out for the experiments, and a supposedly not rabid pack that seem to like torture and doesn't frown upon potential rape/non-consent, orgy-like scenes, and utter ridiculousness, made this a fail. A WTF moment happened (among many others) when the beast, Mace, with claws was fingering his chosen. Seriously? I think I lost some brain cells reading this. This is a LSD induced fantasy that someone may wish on their worst enemy. Not worth the money, not worth the time, and definitely not recommended.
