



The Z Word

Bella Street

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The Z Word follows Seffy Carter and her longtime friends Gareth, Addison and Lani. The four besties share a past dysfunctional and dark enough to keep them bound together under do-over identities. But rends develop in their relationships from the flesh-eating pressures of ending up in 1980, in a Montana desert, surrounded by zombies wearing dated disco duds.

The Z Word Details

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Author : Bella Street

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From Reader Review The Z Word for online ebook

Emily says

I must admit that I never read the description for this book. However, I figured the title was more than enough because I do appreciate a good novel about zombies. Although, I do have to say that there could have been more details delivered to the readers considering, it left me asking questions all which have not been answered. I presume that is the why this is also a series. Still, I did not envision continuing with the series as I was trying desperately to make it through the first few chapters. Nevertheless, the book eventually picked up the pace and the ending left me wondering about what is going to occur next. I intend to complete this series as soon as I can acquire the next ones.

Rosemary says

I won a copy of this through GoodRead's first reads. I liked this story so much more than I originally thought I would. It's like Sex and the City meets The Walking Dead. There are so many books coming out about zombies lately and this one was a fun and interesting take on the genre. I had a bit of an ongoing love/hate relationship with the main character, Seffy, but by the end I was firmly invested in her story. I am looking forward to reading future books in this series.

Cassandra says

This is the first STRAIGHT ZOMBIE book I have ever read... And I enjoyed it... It starts out like this: Seffy and her friends are in L.A. 2006 one minute, and after an explosion, are in the Montana desert, with pink skies and glittery sand. They are confused and there isn't anyone else around to fill in the blanks. They soon realize that they aren't the only ones around, there are dead people walking trying to take a bite out of them--ZOMBIES. Seffy believes she's dreaming, Lani is singing songs, Addison is making jokes (at a time like this?) and Gareth is using his zombie movie knowledge to try to get them through this strange world alive. Seffy and her friends are scared but are soon rescued by a man named Malone. The bunch are mistrustful of him, but what can they do? They don't know what's going on... and he seems to know what he is doing. He feeds them and takes them from safehouse to safehouse... You'll have to read the book to find out what happens. I recommend reading this book. As the story ended, I was left screaming What? What's gonna happen now?

Philip McClimon says

Normally I would see a cover like the one on this book and judge it by that cover... and say no thanks. It looks like a book full of angst and kissing. There is plenty of that but there is also Zombies and a pretty good mystery that kept me interested. When part one ended and I wanted to know what was going to happen next I knew I was onboard for the next installment. If you're a guy and can be patient through the "he loves me/he loves me not" stuff then you'll find a pretty good story.

Joan Reeves says

Want a good example of the importance of a good book title or a series title? This is it. Bella Street created one of the best series titles I've seen in a while when she dubbed her 6 book series *Apocalypse Babes*.

I bought the first book, *The Z Word*, simply because of the series title. I figured any author witty enough to label a series with that moniker had to be an equally clever writer. I'm happy to say I was correct.

My Take On The Book

Take 3 valley girls and their longtime guy friend that 2 of the 3 are crushing on, toss them into a worm hole and send them back to a world without cell phones, the Internet, Starbucks, and satellite TV, and you have the clever premise of *The Z Word*. Yes, Z for zombies, but how the zombies were created is one of the many twists offered in this mixed genre novel.

Part science fiction, part romance, part mystery, part fantasy, *The Z Word* is all entertainment. From the out-of-the-box zombies to the creepy mind control, heroine Seffy Carter grows from vacuous airhead with a serious case of denial to savvy survivor unwilling to drink the KoolAid.

If you were alive in the 1980's--whether you rocked the decade or you were a baby being rocked in a cradle--you'll love the song references and cultural allusions. Though one might think this book is for young adults since they are the protagonists, that's not the case. This will keep you turning the pages late into the night. Warning: if you finish at 2 AM, you might find yourself visiting the Kindle Store for Book 2: *The X Factor*.

The best thing about this series is that the heroine Seffy grows--in all ways. In the beginning, you feel like slapping her and telling her to grow up and quit whining. By the end of the book, you're rooting for her because she's changed. When you get to the second book, you're totally in her corner, and you're wishing she'd see that Trent is not just a babe, but a babe who loves her--just as she is. And that's priceless.

If you like books that are different--books that can't be easily pigeon-holed--this book, and this series, is for you.

Lyndi W. says

[image error]

Clare Havens says

I love Bella Street's writing - my favorite line from 'The Z Word' is 'Seffy's brows went up. "You're going to sing? God, all we need now is a herd of unicorns."'" This CRACKED me up! It's a great book, loads of humor and very compelling!

Pat aka Tygyr says

It's 2006 in West Hollywood. Seffy and several of her friends are out on the town doing different things in different places. There is a blinding light and they find themselves somewhere other than West Hollywood. They spend the night in an abandoned car and wake up to a Zombie attack. A man named Malone finds them and takes them from safe house to safe house, but he is so weird they don't feel safe. Another group - 2 guys and 2 girls end up joining their group. None of the young people believe Malone when he says it is 1980 and they are in Montana. Drunk, Seffy makes out with one of the new guys. He turns Zombie and they keep expecting her to turn next. They end up at a former prison/psych hospital where they are safe from the Zombie's and they have a medical facility. Good thing. Seffy has a high fever. Even after she is better they keep her in a separate room at night while the others have to share. They want to leave, but the Zombies are a threat outside the compound. But the workers fear the new comers, convinced they bring the Z virus with them and will contaminate everyone. Seffy likes Gareth from their West Hollywood group and he seems to run hot and cold. Trent from the 2nd group at first hates her, does he blame her for his friend turning Zombie and having to be killed? Or is there another reason. Addison, one of Seffy's friends is not very friendly to her since their time travel adventure. When mutinies occur Seffy is the one they want dead. Trent takes her one night to a basement facility where people are being injected. She's told it's to turn more into Zombie's. It ends with Seffy being captured after being injected. Her friends and people who were trying to stop the experiments in the basement are all locked up. The end.

Seffy was not a particularly likable character. She was a wannabe actress. She was very self absorbed. She didn't like something she expected everyone else to dislike it too. The more I learned about her the less I liked her and the more appropriate it seemed for her to be in a room alone with an observation window. As a main character she just didn't appeal to me, so that made the story less interesting to me as well. This is part of a Series called Apocalypse Babes. I don't care enough to read the next book. Seffy either turns Zombie or somehow she is immune. Don't care.

Louis Singley says

While not the worst thing I've ever read, this is one that I'm really glad was a freebie so I didn't feel ripped off. I hated the main character from page one, couldn't help it, she was just annoying. I actually decided to try this first because it was free, and second because not having read any zombie apocalypse type books before, I figured the extra sci-fi time travel twist would help grab my interest and ease me into the genre of zombie fiction. I love zombie movies so figured the books could only be better, well it sure wasn't in this instance. The zombies don't play all that big a role in the story despite being continually mentioned, even then they seem to be glossed over and just a bit of background trivia. The book is mostly a testament to the main character's ability to feel sorry for herself no matter what life throws her way. I had to force myself to keep reading for the first few chapters, though after that there were enough questions I wanted to see if ever got answered that it wasn't hard to finish reading. Overall not a great experience.

Gi-Gi says

I'm usually not that into zombie books but this was right on the top. I loved every minute. Not only did the author give a zombie environment but also included along with it a few bumps in friendships and

relationships. It also was pretty funny with the disco zombies. I can't wait to get my hands on the next book.

Shanon says

My reviews can also be found at: <http://escapingwithfiction.blogspot.com/>

First I would like to thank the author, Bella Street, for giving me the opportunity to read and review her book. I truly enjoyed it!

This book is seriously wicked awesome! I'm a huge zombie fan, so when I read the description for The Z Word I knew I had to read it. I mean, it's about a group of friends from the year 2006 being transported to the year 1980 and encountering zombies--how can you not want to read this?! How can you not like zombies, or the 80s?! Just saying! I will admit that I was a bit stunned when I started this book because nothing was as I thought it would be, but that just made the experience all the more enjoyable. The story always kept me guessing and continued to pick up and intensify throughout. The plot confused, entertained and intrigued me all at once! Bella Street has truly won me over with her magnificent imagination and story-telling abilities.

Seffy Carter and her friends are just going about their business one day in California when all of a sudden something strange happens and they are transported to Montana, and the year is 1980. If that wasn't confusing enough, they are attacked by zombies wearing disco clothes. Now, I know this information may sound silly, but trust me when I say that it's just plain fantastic! These zombies are a combination of frightening, deadly, grotesque, silly and surprising. There was a particular part in the book when I was completely caught off guard by the alarming and hilarious bit of information that was collected about the zombies involving disco music. One minute I was on the edge of my seat, fearing for the well-being of the characters during their fight sequence, and the next minute I was laughing hysterically!

Zombies aside, the characters are pretty interesting all on their own. At first I wasn't sure how to take Seffy because she initially comes off as a little artificial. She's an aspiring actress and she's changed several things about herself to fit the molds of what she thinks others want her to be. But throughout the story her layers are slightly peeled back to reveal a girl who doesn't even know what she wants, and it seems that she was just trying to be a "better" version of herself, instead of just being genuine. I think her insecurities made her more likable and relatable. Although her friends and her group as a whole go through some stressful times, Seffy experiences the worst of it. Her flaws and all that she goes through just make me like her more. Plus, there's obviously more to her background and childhood than the reader is let in on, so I'm very curious to find out more.

Seffy's longtime friends, as well as some other strangers, are there with her in this perplexing situation, and they are quite an eclectic group. Gareth is pretty awesome, and the connection between him and Seffy is a bit confusing but also entertaining and sweet. Lani won me over instantly with her free-spirited/hippie and somewhat ditzy personality; whereas I have a love/hate relationship with Addison--the bitchy redhead. The other group of twenty-somethings they meet up with in the desert are a little iffy, and I'm still trying to make sense of Trent, who acts like a jerk one second and then a decent guy the next. But overall there's something I like about him, so I'm excited to see what happens between him and Seffy. Also, as a side note, I totally dig Malone! He started off assuming the role of protector and he sort of reminded me of an apocalyptic tour guide at times. He's kind of a creeper and a hardass that may or may not be trustworthy, but he's amusing. I want to see more of him!

The end of this book had me gasping out loud, and I'm eager to start the second book in this series. There's obviously more to learn about the Compound that Seffy and her friends have been brought to; and this goes for the scientists and other characters within the Compound as well. Plus, I'm dying to know how the heck time-travel fits into all of this! All I know is that I'm sure the rest of this series will continue to blow me away.

Katya says

The feeling this book left me with? Frustration. On one hand, it had unique zombies, total airhead characters, and good writing, but after reading 400 pages of mysterious allusions to the main characters' pasts, *nothing* was revealed. I cared enough about the book to want to know... but am left with this feeling that it's just an insidiously clever plot device to justify buying the next one. For me the characters were all rather unlovable but the author is sooooo good at drawing the reader into her weird web! Argh! I may have to break down and get the next one!

Michelle (In Libris Veritas) says

If the blurb doesn't clue you in as to how odd this book is then take it from me...it's odd. I didn't like it enough to find myself raving over it and I don't hate it enough to completely dismiss it. So 3 stars it is. The concept is kind of new to me. I'm use to zombies but I'm not use to having them dressed up as disco fever enthusiasts, nor I'm I use to time travel playing a part. I have to admit I was skeptical, and I think I still kind of skeptical even though I'm finished with it.

I can honestly say I hate Seffy, the main character. She's on her whining, complaining, self-pitying A-game for the entire book. If there were ever a person I'd want to slap or trip during a zombie apocalypse...it would be her. That being said, she's kind of entertaining at times and I almost care what happens to her. I'm also not on the fan list for Addison or Trent. I can't stand characters who are jerks and creeps just for the sake of being one. It just felt pointlessly antagonistic, which is probably due to the fact that there is a lot of drama going on and you have no idea why it started to begin with. Lani is fun, and I kind of picture her as an older Luna Lovegood. I really think the characters could use to some fleshing out, and maybe include some of their background so you can understand why they are constantly whining at each other. The writing is pretty good though, and despite some of the holes or other lacking areas it's actually pretty easy to get caught up in.

The zombies don't really seem to be the main focus in the plot really. They are there and they are important enough that you keep it in your mind, but the time travel lunacy takes the forefront. I was more concerned with why the crap they time traveled and why it seems like a conspiracy was happening then I was with the poorly dressed zombies. Also tons of pop culture references that nearly made me scream at one point. A few at a time can be humorous, a lot can be irritating. There are also times when I raised my eyebrows and just kind of stared at the book, I mean some of it is just kind of...stupid. I will admit though that I am interested and the ending definitely has me wanting to read the second book, The X Factor.

I suppose I would recommend this to women who enjoy zombie stories with some humor involved, I can't see very many guys enjoying it. Just be aware of the pop culture references, some songs, and some fashion talk.

LovesAllThingsBooks Book Reviews says

This is the first zombie book I have ever read. I wasn't sure exactly what I was getting into but was thoroughly impressed at what I discovered.

Sef is in LA until a blast sends her to a strange desert with weird sand and a pink sky. If that wasn't weird enough, she and her friends discover strange disco looking zombies hungry for a taste of their flesh.

I personally can't wait to read the next book and find out how things play out. Will her lifelong crush finally return her feelings? Will they escape the refuge? Will they walk away without getting the freaky zombie virus?

~Tich~

Kendra says

Full review posted at Reader's Edyn. For excerpts and dialogue highlights, please visit:
<http://bit.ly/ACGDMt>

Review:

SPOILERS So I downloaded this book while it was free on Amazon because Z stand for Zombie. I have many friends into zombies and the apocalypse and so forth. Initially I wasn't really into the whole zombie/end of the world thing. I never really got it. I probably still don't really get most of it. But then I got into shows like The Walking Dead and started reading zombie and/or apocalypse stories and I was hooked. I mean who wouldn't want to read about the nasty undead with necrosis and slime and bleck-type stuff all over them that eat people and walk around as if in a trance? Right? And that is just the beginning! But I do not know how to classify this book in genre. It's like YA certainly tame enough for it), sci-fi (yeah – the zombies), romance (sort of but not really), fantasy (kind of because the girls live in their own fantasy of what life is all about prior to the – err, end of the world), contemporary (despite the 70s/80s references) – basically it is a clusterpluck of a whole lotta genres with nothing specific.

So I read The Z Word to try and experience more of life after the end. At first I was completely lost. Seffy wants Gareth and Gareth has Verity and Verity and Seffy hate each other but fake like they're friends on the outside and then BOOM! The world is like, gone, I guess. Seffy remains, Gareth remains, Verity is nowhere to be found, and a couple others end up joining up with them that they know. They spend the night in an old abandoned car and wake up to a zombie intent on killing them. But things are not adding up. First, they have no idea where they ended up after the end of the world. They don't even know it is the end of the world. Then there is the obvious – there are zombies, HELLO! And these are not your normal Zombies. They are all dressed from the seventies; paisley shirts, bell bottoms, platform shoes, etc. And somewhere along the way they discover that these flesh eaters love to dance to music that matches their era of dress. And in fact, it is the only way to side track the undead.

Eventually they meet up with this other group of kids who, in some odd way, kind of resemble their group.

Seffy ends up getting it on with this guy from the group who reminds her of Gareth. Turns out he's been infected by the zombies and through his contact with Seffy, he infects her too. Then everyone wants to kill Seffy, afraid she will turn into a zombie and infect them all. But Seffy apparently has some sort of awesomesauce immunity to the zombie virus because she doesn't turn. And during this time, some whackado named Malone has given them shelter, food, and information about the surrounding area – kind of. It's information, but it's not information. You know? So dude dies, Seffy doesn't, and both groups travel with Malone to another supposed safe house. But it is not what it seems and they all end up with another guy named Popov. He takes them to a compound which is also not as it seems.

And in the midst of all of this is the Gareth/Seffy romance/non-romance thing going on. I really have no idea what the heck the deal is with them. Seffy wants him, but knows he is with Verity – or was. Gareth says he cares for Verity and that he cares about Seffy, but not the same way. Then he goes all jealous-mode when she hooks up with the infected guy. It is just a jumble of craziness. Oh! And despite Gareth's "guy you'd love to be seen with" exterior, he is one heck of a sci-fi buff.

I am still not entirely sure the purpose of some of the characters in the story. Though the series is called *Apocalypse Babes*, so perhaps they will play a role later on down the road. They are all pretty much self-centered, shallow brats that think the outerwear and lifestyle (or façade) make the person. And at odd times each demonstrates a moment of intelligence. Mind you I said moment. And that could well be stretching it. The craziest of it all was when the book ended, which is a craptastic cliffhanger, I wanted to read the next book. I have no idea why. I just need to know what happens next. What does that even mean? Am I losing my mind? Or is Ms. Street more brilliant than I originally gave her credit? I really don't know at this point. My only next option is to read book 2 and see what I think after that one. Everything must have been set up the way it was for a reason – perhaps the answers I seek will be addressed in the next installment. So I am on the fence. I think I might be hooked in a sadistic kind of way, but I kind of hated the lack of information provided and the city girl trendy attitudes. UGH! I am going with a rating of 2 for now because my feelings are as much of a jumble of craziness as this book was.

(Digital book purchased for personal library)
