



Blackout

Ryan Casey

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A determined father. An impossible journey...

Will Stuartson is having the worst month of his life. His wife is leaving him, he can't see his daughter anymore, and he has been kicked out of the family home. He sees no better opportunity to take a trip into the Scottish wilderness with his trusty dog, Bouncer. And a bottle or two of whisky.

But Will's retreat is interrupted when a devastating series of EMP strikes hit the country. All electrical and battery power, from cars to watches, is down. Will is cut off from society and forced into a world where survivalism is required to stay alive, and where the sudden lack of communication is driving the country to destruction.

Now, forced into a dangerous, primal world where the elements and other people all pose a threat, Will must make the long trek back down to Preston in order to find and save his wife and daughter.

But even with a basic knowledge of survivalism, surviving is anything but simple in this harrowing new world...

Blackout is the first book in the After the Storm post apocalyptic series by Ryan Casey, author of Dead Days and Infection Z. It is sure to delight fans of the author's trademark complex characters, rapid pacing, and unexpected twists and turns.

Blackout Details

Date : Published October 26th 2016 by Higher Bank Books

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Author : Ryan Casey

Format : Kindle Edition 238 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Blackout for online ebook

Wancket Enterprises says

Really different

When I saw this book was about an EMP I expected the usual and I was surprised. This story has an unusual twist and turn in most every chapter. Engrossing and well worth reading.

patricia bayfield says

Realistic and believable

Like most 'post apocalyptical fiction you expect the story to spin into an unrealistic storyline however this is certainly a believable portrayal of what you could face should the lights go out! We all have a inner desire to survive and protect those most important to us and Ryan certainly hits that mark! A really good read.

Dorien Wijers says

Teleurstelling

Slecht geschreven, oppervlakkig en simpel taalgebruik en zinsconstructies, weinig diepgang. Geschreven met een soort van haast om door het verhaal te komen, met een opeenstapeling van vechtschènes die niet geloofwaardig over komen. Een van de minst interessant boeken uit dit genre. Ik ben niet snel negatief maar dit boek was echt een teleurstelling

Pam Shelton-Anderson says

I rather liked that this occurs in Britain instead of the USA and also that everyone isn't armed to the teeth with the latest in assault weapons. This guy had a survivalist father and even a bug out bag but seemed to lack a lot of essentials and had poor situational awareness. At the start of the event, there should still be a lot of people out there, even in Scotland, but seemed to only be a few (mostly baddies) here and there. Some of the survival "tips" were interesting. After the big battle to free the captives and his family, the end of the book suddenly jumps to a year for the cliff hanger? What about getting back to Kesha's group?

Sharon Carreras says

Not great.

Too much junk writing. For someone who wrote books on the apocalypse, the guy didn't know much. I don't

think I will read part two.

Charlie ☆ WLTB Blog ☆ says

Really enjoyed the story my first book by this author but will not be my last on to book 2

Jeanette says

No zombies...

I like a good apocalypse book. And with Ryan that is what you get. This is the story of a man with a broken family who when asked to leave by his wife, takes his dog and retreats to Scotland in the boonies where there are no people.

Of course, an EMP happens and he's not sure what's wrong until his car won't start, his phone won't work, yeah, we get the picture.

He starts a long journey back to find his wife and daughter. But within a few days the world has changed. Only the strong will survive. Will he?

This was a really good read. I am anxiously awaiting for the next...thanks ..

Amy Fairchild says

A different view

It was interesting to read a British take on this. One obvious example, almost no one has guns. His characters seem realistic in their ineptness. One minor complaint-if your going to explain the traps in such detail, include a diagram. Otherwise, just keep it brief. It disrupts the story and the description didn't really work. Otherwise, I enjoyed this story and look forward to the next book.

Susan says

Really engrossing.

Here we have a regular guy instead of a super prepared prepper. As the story moves along at a fast pace our hero, Will, grows and changes as real people would in this situation. I read it in one afternoon. I really liked that it was set in UK where everyone is not armed to the teeth. People have to be creative when it comes to defense.

The Talented Miss Ripley says

Ryan Casey!

That's the only one I know that can take a man and a dog and make them into a dynamic duo! I loved every minute of this gritty and dark story! The scenes just come alive and before you know it you're dropped into this world you want desperately to be apart of. Each page threatens to take you to a place that you dread to be but you can't turn away from!

Great storyline! I recommend this book and can't wait to read the next!

James Harper says

Needed better editing.

I expect an author to know when to use "I" or "me" properly. That he doesn't was a turn off from the start. And if the protagonist's father was so good at survival, why wasn't there a weapon and ammunition in the bug out bag? And where did the crossbow come from to save the whole story? Too many holes.

Howard Niepold says

Missing Millions

I enjoyed his spiral into savagery to survive and the beer can cooker but where were the millions of survivors, did they just disappear. perhaps I might find out in his follow-up. a little bit corny but it was fun. only three stars though for effort

Claire says

Read as part of the Goodreads Summer Reading Challenge. Check out how I'm doing — <https://lovethevillain.wordpress.com/...>

This was a very disappointing book.

I love the post-apocalypse novel craze and this seemed like it would be another good one. Unfortunately, it turned out to be one over used cliché followed by another, with a healthy dose of unbelievable events.

Let's start at the beginning. The premise of the book is simple — a whole bunch of EMPs have been detonated all over the world and all technology has gone down. Nothing works. It sort of happened slowly, with certain areas going down before others and we never actually find out who or what was responsible. Fine. Great nameless apocalyptic event. Great. I'm used to these. They can be pretty good if done right.

Our main character, Will, just happens to be a post-apocalypse book writer, which is a wonderfully coincidental cliché, but whatever. You'd think knowing all this stuff for a living that he'd be pretty good in the end times, but nope. He's useless, although somehow he knows exactly what's going on immediately. Seriously, his cabin in the woods loses power and his watch stops working and this guy is already going on about world wide catastrophes. Oh, and weirdly he has a survivalist kit ready to go. It doesn't have a compass, of course, but yeah....

Then we get a plane fall from the sky. It's a pretty dramatic scene. Can you imagine it? This huge cylinder and screaming people careening downwards towards you? But, we don't get a picture like that created for us at all. Will escapes without harm and we just move on. It seems like a total waste of a good dark scene right here. Where are the burning bodies? Where are the subsequent explosions? Does the fire spread into the woods? Nope. Nothing. Let's just move on.

Now, let's imagine that you arrive at the first town with a shop. You grab a few survival foods and then try to leave. A group of Scottish teenage punks hold you up outside the store and demand you hand over your supplies. Let's also remember that this is only the second day of the 'event' and you don't even know what's going on here. What would you do? Would you ask them if they've heard anything about what's going on? Offer to share your spoils with them? Run? Stand your ground? I'll tell you what you wouldn't do. You wouldn't jump on one of these kids and stab him to death, would you? Well, guess what Will-the-mild-mannered-author does...

Then two days after this, he's still lamenting about having this kids blood on his hands. I know that sounds metaphorical, but believe me, it wasn't. Gross. Find a stream and wash yourself, Will.

And a final note on this section, the author repeatedly states that these boys were Scottish, but doesn't even give them an accent. They all speak perfect English. Up your game, Casey!

We're kept in a constant state of peril about the fact that his bloody dog keeps running off and going missing. In fact, the author uses this for pretty much every encounter in the book. Dog runs off, Will follows, dog is being threatened, Will defends dog. It's literally how we meet everyone. I can't help but think a lot of heartache could have been avoided if he'd just kept the damn thing on a leash. Even a bit of rope would have done.

Then we go in for a bit of lighthearted Korean racism. All Koreans eat dogs, right? Seriously? You're going to use a joke like this in your book? It was offensive and completely unfunny. Not cool.

Everyone Will meets seems to find it insane that he wants to get back to his family. Surely, lots of people are trying to do the same thing, right? Everyone wants to be with their family if the worst happens. How is this insane? Isn't it crazier to be instantly settling down and killing strangers?

In fact, while we're on the point, where the fuck is everyone?

There was no disease. No zombie virus. No terrible death causing cataclysm, except that the tech went down, but we're in a world that seems to only house a handful of survivors. What the hell happened? There should be thousands of people milling around and travelling. Where are they all?

I know a lot of people died in accidents and hospitals and such, but what about all the healthy folks? I'm not Ray Mears, but I'm pretty sure I'd survive longer than a week if the tech went down.

In 2012 a power outage hit Long Island and the power was down for 14 days. Guess who went on a murderous rampage killing kids? That's right, nobody.

We'd be fine for a lot longer than that, I think.

There are a lot of boring explanations for animal traps which aren't technical enough to follow to the letter, but last long enough that you wish they weren't included at all. The first time he sees one of these traps in action he cries over a caught deer. This is a guy who's just killed a kid for God's sake! Then, later on in the book, these traps come back into play. Twice, while Will is running away from people that are trying to kill him, he finds the time to set up some pretty large scale and difficult traps, including moving a pile of dead bodies around at one point. This literally happens while he's running away. It's like this trap can be set up in a few seconds. Even Ray Mears couldn't handle that, I warrant.

Then, in this anti-tech world, we find an old car that works. Why? Because the author got bored of him

travelling on foot. That's the only reason I can think of for why this car works. No tech works anymore. Not cars, not planes, not watches, not phones, but this one particular car does. Yippee! How, fucking wonderful for him. I'm trying not to cry as he rides Herbie the magic car off into the distance.

Now things take a turn for the weird. He and this chick he's just met, but who falls instantly in love with him, take out a group of ten hardened criminals that escaped from a nearby prison with his magic traps, and then they do it again in the climax with a gang of psycho kids! Get this, towards the end of the book, he kills this guy and then says, 'What I did to him doesn't matter...' — only it really does! If you don't tell the reader what's happening, how are we supposed to follow the fucking story?

Before the climax though, he manages to rip out a mans Adam's apple with his bare teeth. Okay. Why not? The dog gets shot, but it's only a graze, insta-girlfriend gets shot, but it's just a graze, too. Crazy lucky! This guy is like the God of luck right here, I'm gonna start calling him Lady Fortuna!

Throughout the book there is a distinct lack of urgency over food and water. He always seems to have enough, despite never actually stopping to stock up on supplies. He lugs his Mary Poppin's bottomless backpack around with him and always has just what he needs inside. Sac magique!

Then there's the intense chapter cliffhangers. Seriously, every chapter had a cliffhanger tagged onto the end — 'If only we knew what was waiting for us' was actually used more than once. Not every chapter needs a cliffhanger. Stop trying to force them in there.

Oh, and every other chapter has a section about the power of love, and the driving force of love, and isn't love just the strongest thing in the long run? It actually made my eyes roll.

Here's a line I loved. We're learning about this teen yob and his lifestyle and the omni-present narrator says, 'He'd call it nihilism, if he knew what that meant.' — Well, then he clearly wouldn't call it nihilism, would he? Don't try to speak for your characters, let them have their own voice. If they don't know a word, don't bloody use it!

The whole story was predictable, with an extremely predictable ending. Honestly, finding Will's kid, but learning that his ex has been killed so he can happily get with his new insta-girlfriend. That is just one more cliché to add to this burning pile of codswallop. The final chapter of the book should have been cut, too. It was more effective without it.

I missed out some other things that annoyed me, like the lack of rotting bodies in hospitals, the lack of overgrown shrubbery everywhere, the fact that the baddies explain their nefarious plots in grating detail, and the fact that the dog was hilariously likened to a White Mage when it was told, 'Bouncer, heal!' in one memorable instance.

I know, I know, I've been unreservedly cruel on this book, but it's one of my favourite genres and it was butchered completely. Please, pass this one up as a bad job and find yourself something more gritty to read. Try King's 'The Stand', or B. D. Messick's 'Sojourn' series.

Domonique says

Very bare bones survivalist story

This book gave information about how to create traps, cook stuff on open fires and tips for navigation. The information just like the rest of the book was all very technical in nature and at times made my eyes glaze over. My problem was that he did describe things in a way that would paint a picture. I didn't see this post apocalyptic world we were in because there just wasn't enough description.

Danhoover says

Could not finish book

Foreign slang and writing style that I couldn't get past. Could not get into the book, much less finish it.
