



The nth Day

Jonathan Huls

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Justin is an immaculately conceived deity who roams the earth wreaking havoc as an adolescent. As his supernatural powers become catastrophic for the whole world, Cassie and Theodore must learn how to cope with the changes he has inflicted. Living as a vagrant on the streets, attempting to avoid the problems that come with millions of dollars sitting in his bank account, Theodore is suddenly thrust into a new-world leadership role, even after botching his own life early on. Abused by her drug addict mother then tossed from one foster home to the next, Cassie has been able to survive in a world that gobbles up little girls with a side of ranch dressing – but barely, and only after being miraculously revived after dying the first time.

The nth Day Details

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Author : Jonathan Huls

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From Reader Review The nth Day for online ebook

Cissa says

I was intrigued by the idea: God is reborn in human form in modern times. However, in this novel that premise is more an excuse for a really dark, gory superhero fantasy than something thoughtfully considered. To the point that when I finished it, my take-away reaction was "Huh?" because it really did not make sense in any way.

The writing was a problem. Huls does not have a good ear- if he read his sentences out loud, he'd likely abandon much of the awkward and muddled phrasing. Also, he engages in thesaurus abuse: a recurring example is his use of "in awe" when more appropriate words would be "surprised" or "baffled". "In awe" at witnessing a really gory accident? REALLY? Similarly, in one of the very many bloody scenes, he uses "hemoglobin" as a synonym for blood- and in the context, it's jarring. Writers need to read. That's the only way to get a tuned sense of rhythm and nuance.

The plot is dark. Very, very dark, and I think I mentioned gory. Unfortunately, it does not seem to make any sense. Towards the end it's rather a page-turner... but the result is disappointing. "God" i.e. Justin has destroyed modern society as a response to a fairly minor incident, leading to untold suffering to which he is indifferent unless it's his buds. Over-react much?

I did enjoy the block party where baby Justin re-created the miracle of the loaves and fishes with beer, soda, and chips&dip.

There's also a goodly amount of casual misogyny, explicit and implicit. And Justin has a tornado off his parents because they annoyed him.

Not recommended, though based on a premise that deserves a more thoughtful approach rather than turning into a splatter horror novel.

I received this book in exchange for writing an honest review.

John Wheelles says

Do you like bizarre stories? If so, this is the book for you. God is born, again, as a petulant child. He is instantly charismatic, until he doesn't get his way. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, but it could be disturbing to some people. If you are extremely religious, you might be not only offended but consider it blasphemous. None the less, it's a work of fiction, well written, and quite entertaining. If you think you can handle it... pick up a copy and have yourself a good read!

Kathy says

I really enjoyed The nth Day, but it is a strange story to get your head around. The story centres around the lives of Justin (a vengeful God with an unclear, apocalyptic agenda and a temper suited to the young child he

embodies), Cassie (a highly likable girl who has a real shit time of life), and Theodore (a multi-billionaire with a challenging relationship with money). The opening chapter reads like a dark comedy, and make no mistake, this book is dark. The copy I had didn't have a blurb, so I went along for the ride not knowing what to expect. I've seen this book listed as Young Adult - while I think that young adults should be exposed to different and challenging themes in life, be aware that this novel includes graphic discussions of drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and child abuse, as well as a dose of gore. Overall, this novel has suburb characters and highly engaging, intertwining character plot lines, set against an oncoming apocalypse. I did find the ending a little unsatisfying as there were some things left unexplained, but overall I thoroughly enjoyed this - to the point I could not put it down. Definitely worth a read!

I received this book as a Goodreads First Read in exchange for honest feedback.

David Gee says

Jonathan Huls is clearly a "disciple" of the King of Horror. **The Nth Day** is pretty original in its conception, although Stephen King's mighty epic **The Stand** may have provided some of his inspiration and it's likely that the **Omen** movies also filtered through the creative process.

There are three main protagonists: Justin, a boy with miraculous powers of both healing and destruction; Cassie, a fostered runaway who suffers many kinds of abuse; and Theodore, an oddball black billionaire who lives like a tramp. In a near-future world where apocalyptic events have begun to occur, this trio are clearly destined to meet, and indeed their stories finally converge in a near-Armageddon scenario in Atlanta.

The Stephen King influence, a beneficial one, is that Mr Huls gives even walk-on characters little chunks of vivid back-story to bring them to life. He uses more profanity than seems strictly necessary, and some of the gross-out scenes may be a bit too gross for squeamish readers. The print version of his book is handicapped by clunky formatting. I'm guessing this is a debut offering; like so many self-published books it would have benefited from some independent editing, but the author gets high marks for effort and originality.

Posted by David Gee at 02:14 No comments:

Grady says

‘Wrong hole!’

California author Jonathan Huls lives in San Diego but travels extensively – perhaps soaking up ideas for novels such as this spectacularly hilarious, story, Jonathan is an author who sneaks up on you and blasts you with language that would make a sailor blush and situations that will likely become fodder for conversations among those souls fortunate enough to read his debut blockbuster. He may be new to the neighborhood of authors but he is a splendid surprise.

In what appears to be a story about the birth of God in the biblical manner is a tale of an immaculate conception by a couple – Julie and Dave Lockhart – who promised the holy roller mother they would abstain from intercourse until their marriage. But ‘somehow’ (we later learn how – immaculate conception) Julie becomes pregnant, changes her language and behavior, and gives birth to Justin, a very ‘different’ progeny. ‘It wasn’t even that Justin did anything resembling acts of godliness, because he rarely did. Julie and Dave

just felt, or even knew, that Justin was different somehow. The calm, as Dave liked to call it, always surrounded Justin. People were just more relaxed around baby Justin.

But we get ahead of the plot: 'Justin is an immaculately conceived deity who roams the earth wreaking havoc as an adolescent. As his supernatural powers become catastrophic for the whole world, Cassie and Theodore must learn how to cope with the changes he has inflicted. Living as a vagrant on the streets, attempting to avoid the problems that come with millions of dollars sitting in his bank account, Theodore is suddenly thrust into a new-world leadership role, even after botching his own life early on. Abused by her drug addict mother then tossed from one foster home to the next, Cassie has been able to survive in a world that gobbles up little girls with a side of ranch dressing – but barely, and only after being miraculously revived after dying the first time.'

Get the feeling? You just think you have, because in Jonathan's hands this story has more food for thought and guffaws and 'oh mys' and raised eyebrows and anger etc. than almost any new book this year. Jonathan Huls has a gift – one that is very worth following.

Stéphanie says

When I first read the synopsis of the book, I was really intrigued. I liked the idea of God, or a version of God being reborn in our present world and time. Despite the original ideas, I had a really hard time getting through the whole book. For the most part, the story was captivating, and I always wanted to know what happened next. However, despite the fascinating scenes, it was too difficult to overlook certain things.

First off, let me say I'm usually ok with a certain amounts of gore and horror. In this book, however, it was it was too vulgar and gory for my tastes. A character getting stabbed in a testicle? I really don't need to read that. Another character getting emasculated after an accident? I see a pattern forming here. And it's not just the gore. I thought it was tasteless to include a scene where a little girl is almost raped by a foster parent. I had to skip over most of the scene. I can understand if it needs to happen in order to further the story, but please don't make me read through it like any other regular scene.

Justin is by far the most interesting character that I've read in while, I'll give you that. I like that it's never really clear whether he's simply a supernatural deity or if he's actually God with a capital "G". I also like that he was born from immaculate conception. I'm not a religious person so I really don't care whether it's blasphemous or not. Then again, the joke about getting it in the "wrong hole" was another tasteless matter. It's quite interesting to see Justin go from a very serene and beautiful baby, to a trouble-making pre-adolescent. However, as a god, when Justin throws a tantrum, bad things happen which sometimes extends to the entire world. The repercussions can be minor, such as changing most of the population's eyes to brilliant emerald green, or catastrophic, like the disappearance of all money and currency.

The timeline is a little confusing. One moment Justin is a toddler, the next he's a little bit older. How old isn't very clear so it's hard to judge the passage of time. Cassie's timeline is as confusing. She survives an atrocious upbringing as a toddler and then she's thrown into foster care. Her amount of time in foster care isn't very clear and her age only guessed by another character towards the end of the book. As Justin's journey converges with Theodore and Cassie's storylines, I really thought things were going to escalate and lead to something meaningful. However, when the story ended, I was confused and left searching for the point. It feels like there wasn't really any meaning to the story, except destruction and chaos.

Also, the actual writing felt a little clumsy. Like I mentioned, it was difficult to follow the timelines, and the passage of time. The story could have used a little bit more editing and a little less thesaurus use. If you want to say blood, simply use the word blood. Don't describe it as hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is a protein in your red blood cells, which is a composition of blood itself. Another grammar error that I couldn't ignore was "genetically disposed" instead of "genetically predisposed." Whether that error was done purposely or not, I'm not sure, but I just couldn't overlook it. My spelling and grammar is far from perfect but I expect a little better from published books.

Overall, the ideas in the novel were interesting but could have used a little bit more finesse and a little bit more editing. If gore isn't for you, I would stay clear of this book. Honestly, I can't think of any books to compare it to. It's definitely original, but in this case, that's not necessarily a good thing.

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This book has also been reviewed on Tynga's Reviews.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Book says

'The nth Day' written by Jonathan Huls is an interesting literary venture, an intriguing and ambitious piece of (apocalyptic) science fiction with few drops of religious motives - a debut work that can be highly recommended because of theme and style this author used while leading us through his story.

The novel follows the three main characters – a boy named Justin who in same time has powers to create and destruct; Theodore, a man who though extremely rich lives like a bum and Cassie, a runaway who went through numerous pains. In time that is not very much different from our own, where cataclysmic events started to happen their destinies are going to merge in one story that will change their lives. And the whole world...

Jonathan Huls with his book managed to write combination of science fiction, apocalyptical, religious and philosophical novel, and yet in his words those that seek for some good entertainment will be able to fully enjoy, while following an exciting story of hard times that are in front of our world.

Reading this story, I wasn't able to get rid of thinking how much it reminds me of Stephen King's writing, therefore King's fans would probably love this one, too. Jonathan Huls with his well-made fiction succeeds to keep the reader's attention to the very end, and through his literary debut does not hesitate to use even provocative elements that make his story interesting and the outcome somewhat unexpected.

Therefore, fans of SF and fiction in general will not make mistake deciding to spend some time reading this interesting book - look no further, cause 'The nth Day' written by Jonathan Huls is a novel certainly worth the attention.

I was given a copy of this book by the author for the purpose of unbiased review, while all the presented information is based on my impressions.

Mythili says

The synopsis of the book sets up an intriguing premise: a child, who may or may not be God but does have supernatural abilities, is born which causes certain events to be set into motion. Despite the seemingly original idea of this book, I had a very difficult time reading it and gave up halfway through it.

The main problem was the language. It was too crass and crude for my taste. I normally have a good stomach for violence and gore but the kind of language used in this book made it an unpleasant read for me. The throwaway violence felt unnecessary and the descriptions of sex were cringeworthy.

Another aspect that bothered me was the scene where a little girl is almost raped by her foster father. I can understand if it adds more depth to her character further in the story. But I still don't want to read a little girl being raped in sadistic detail.

The timeline was confusing since the age of the characters was never explicitly mentioned. But from what I understood, Cassie should be nearly as old as Justin or maybe slightly older. Which was odd considering the sort of perception and thoughts she had.

The writing felt a little flat and some of the sentences were poorly structured. At times, the paragraphs were too long, sometimes as long as two pages. There were a few grammatical errors, and some of the phrases and metaphors made no sense.

If you don't mind gore, violence, and can overlook the language, you can definitely give this book a shot. It's simply not my cup of tea.

Read the original review at [The Reading Bud](#)

Marian Thorpe says

A new virgin birth, and the son of God is reborn into the USA in all its early twenty-first century dysfunctional glory. A premise worth exploring, and a book with quite interesting characters: Justin, the newest regeneration of the Messiah; Cassie, a neglected, abused child on the run; Theodore, a rich-beyond-belief man who lives on the streets; Nick, a drug dealer who has suffered through flames.

My scoring rubric gave this book 3 stars. For once, I'll give the breakdown. These are my scoring criteria: writing style, dialogue quality, plot development and believability, character depth and development, world-building, spelling and grammar, and production quality. The Nth Day scored well in some of these, and badly in others. Let me explain.

I found the character depth and development the strongest quality of the book. The major characters were than outlines, more than stereotypes. I liked them, and I cared about most of them. The world they inhabited – twenty-first century America, after some rather world-shaking changes – was for the reasonably believable, although I found the effect of the changes perhaps somewhat understated.

Where the book failed for me was in the actual writing. Poorly structured sentences, extremely long paragraphs (which should have been broken up into multiple paragraphs in most cases), and too many word

errors – either plain mis-spellings or homophones which spell-check didn't catch – were a large part of the problem. But along with those issues, some of the content of some of those long paragraphs was gratuitous descriptions of bodily functions in excruciating detail. I'm not turned off by these sort of descriptions when there is a valid, plot or setting driven reason for them – but in *The Nth Day*, I could never quite work out what the purpose was. Unfortunately, to me, they came across more like the foul-mouth bluster of an adolescent trying to impress or rebel than descriptive detail with a purpose in this narrative.

The author reinterpreted biblical events and stories into the setting and story quite effectively. The major characters were appealing, or at least held my attention (I can't say Nick was appealing), the premise interesting and the conclusion suitably enigmatic. Further editing would have benefited the novel greatly, in my opinion.

Review by Goodreads Author Marian Thorpe Empire's Daughter

The author provided me with a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Jamie Barringer (Ravenmount) says

I won a free copy of this rather bizarre novel through a Goodreads giveaway.

This book reads like a B-movie or a bad anime film. A boy is born and turns out to be a godling, supposedly God himself, though the theology behind this claim is very weak. The novel alludes to various well-known miracles and episodes from the Old Testament, and the boy brings a girl back from the dead, in a scene a bit like the Dorcas/Tabitha story. This miracle leads to disaster as the child's mother tries to kill her daughter, claiming the girl is a zombie. This leaves both mother and daughter hospitalized and several people dead when the ambulance transporting the girl to the hospital crashes while the mother is trying to kill her the girl.

The rest of the book is just as random, absurd and violent, as the boy, Justin, grows up and wanders off toward Atlanta, Georgia. There is nothing really biblical or holy about the kid, or about what goes on around him, nor is he unusually wise or god-like most of the time. Eventually Justin, the girl he saved, and a man who was helping the girl all end up at a park in Atlanta, and are hunted by a scared and misguided army. After a grand, gruesome scene that seems very much like what I'd expect from a classic black & white B-movie, the army is destroyed and the heroic trio vanishes.

While not a particularly great novel, this book was more entertaining and readable than the last Koontz book I slogged my way through, so it could be a lot worse. I was reminded a bit of books by Tom Robbins and Terry Pratchett, though both of those authors tend to have much better organization and pacing and better internal logic to hold their wild stories together and keep them moving at a steady pace. I got the sense that a lot of the gratuitous violence and long descriptions of gross scenes were in part meant to make up for a lack of depth and logic in the underlying story, since the shock value of sex, violence and gross body functions distract from the weak plot and awkward theological problems. If you like the scatological and violent bits of Robbins' and Pratchett's books, and the violence of classics like the Conan series, you might like this book.
