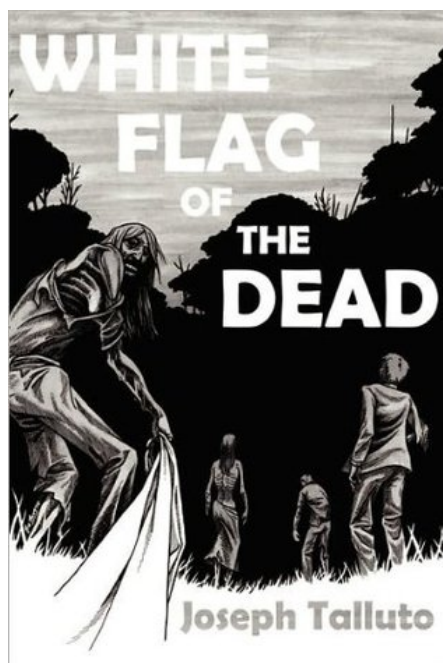




White Flag of The Dead

Joseph Talluto

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White Flag of the Dead: Book 1 Surrender of the Living.

Millions died when the Enillo Virus swept the earth. Millions more were lost when the victims of the plague refused to stay dead, instead rising to slay and feed on those left alive. For survivors like John Talon and his son Jake, they are faced with a choice: Do they submit to the dead, raising the white flag of surrender? Or do they find the will to fight, to try and hang on to the last shreds of humanity?

Surrender of the Living is the first high octane installment in the White Flag of the Dead series.

White Flag of The Dead Details

Date : Published December 23rd 2011 by Severed Press (first published 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Joseph Talluto

Format : Kindle Edition 279 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review White Flag of The Dead for online ebook

Caitlyn says

I came across this book accidentally - well, technically I stumbled across the ninth instalment accidentally which then led me to this one - and I must say, it was the best discovery I've ever made. It ticks so many boxes for me, has everything I want, there are zombies by the butt load - a huge zombie fan couldn't ask for more.

Like almost every other piece of zombie media out there, this novel starts with a virus that very quickly and violently sweeps across the world. Our main man John, and his infant son Jake, are left to fend for themselves in this new found world of the dead.

After his short depressive episode, John quickly realises that every day is a gift and he needs to fight to stay alive - his driving force very quickly becoming his son, because if John isn't there what will happen to Jake in his absence? After fortifying his house, John starts deciding that perhaps it's time he moved on and he up and leaves with Jake with only the bare essentials until he comes across two more survivors and joins forces with them.

Very quickly - and I mean *very* quickly - this trio plus infant of survivors becomes a whole community of just over 100 in the span of a few pages, and John finds himself the leader of all these people. Months pass rapidly within the confines of this minuscule book and we find John leading a group of survivors who are very steadily re-establishing themselves in this undead world.

Whilst I did enjoy the book, there are many things that could have been done better. I - on rare occasions - found that sentences could have been constructed better, and often ended up repeating the same thing before the full stop came around. The other main gripe - there was just so much going on for such a short book. We would suddenly jump weeks or months ahead in time to see where the group got instead of seeing how it is that they managed to establish it in the first place.

Negatives aside, it is the first book in the series and they're no doubt bound to get better as the story progresses. I actually found myself saying "I'm so glad there's more books after this" within the first few chapters. The author definitely got something right because this drew me in from the absolute start.

I very much look forward to reading the rest of the series!
(I may or may not have already started on book two)

Josh says

'White Flag of the Dead' is much like every other zombie novel out there - a virus originating in a densely populated metropolis infects thousands before spreading to suburbia where the numbers turn seven digits before crossing borders and continents to turn the world into one giant meat market. What makes this tired old tale fresh is the sense of community amongst chaos. In the middle of a broken world, one man, John Talon stops surviving and starts living. Delusions of grandeur? Perhaps, but I like the idea of mankind taking a stand and fighting back; a slight deviance to the traditional survival horror genre zombie books so comfortably fit in.

Gory with a cause, White Flag of the Dead's true dread lies with ravenous gangs of survivors trying to

squeeze as much anarchy as they can from a vastly dwindling human populace, making the zombies a welcome adversary. Like other genre books, there's plenty of action, violence, and suspense - add to that, a deeply emotional relationship between John and his baby son Jake and the hard man end of the world persona switches to loving father trying his best to make the world a better place. A nice touch and a theme I hope continues throughout the rest of the series.

In 'White Flag of the Dead', Talluto has built a world on the brink of destruction with a glimmer of hope for revival populated by a strong cast that's far removed from the standard 2d cannon fodder of cheesy b-list zombie novels. These characters mean something and you cant help but want them to succeed. I look forward to reading the second installment. 5 stars.

Felicia A says

A good, thick volume of zombie mayhem and madness. I really did enjoy this book, despite the numerous editing issues. Not enough to take completely away from the story, but definitely in need of editing in a major way.

The writing was good, the story was good and full, and there was actually a conclusion. There is room for - but not necessarily a need for - a sequel. A lot could be done to continue this story, but it was wrapped up well, which I always appreciate.

Fuller than most self published works in this genre, this book is chock full of adventures, growth of characters and the birth of heroes. I don't really buy how John became the absolute boss of everyone and everything, and as others have mentioned, that was the best behaved baby ever in life. I have my own children, and I know for certain that NO baby is ever as good natured as Jacob was. I think he cried, like, twice in the whole book, and not even when he was in his father's arms in the midst of a zombie-killin' spree.

There were a lot of new ideas.....which are needed because, after you read 20 or more of these books, too much of the same thing becomes humdrum. I liked a lot of what Talluto did with his story.

What I liked best about this book was the fact that the people were not always on the run. They were able to hold, take back, and connect communities and towns after the Upheaval, and begin again, recreating a semblance of normal lives, even when surrounded by zombies and worse.

What's worse than zombies, you say? HUMANS.

chucklethescot says

This book got mixed reviews, mainly because of the author's political leanings. The thing is, most characters in these zombies and preppers apocalypse books are likely to be republican, maybe NRA members, prepared to defend themselves and survive. Liberals who are anti-gun are not going to survive long in the books! I expect to have a bit of political bias in most of these books and I just don't get bothered by it mostly, unless it goes too far ie democrat presidents conspiring with terrorists to get guns off normal people. I also expect to see a lot of gun descriptions as this is the way to fight zombies in American set novels.

Anyway, to the book! John Talon has lost his wife to the virus and after a tearful goodbye, he decides to try and take their baby son Jake away from home by bike to seek somewhere safer. His brother Mike is alive but

trapped inside his own house and wants to follow John's example and flee if he can. Despite seeing the worst of human behaviour during a supply run, John joins up with two men also trying to escape-Tommy and Duncan-for safety in numbers. A zombie attack leaves them stranded at a gas station and when they escape, civilians from the nearby houses join them in a run for a school and the chance to survive as a community.

There are two things about this book that I love: lots of action and plenty of zombies and evil survivors! There is a tension in the air through most of the book as we move from one action scene to another. The run to the school and the following battle was very exciting and well written, and the community growing introduces us to more characters like Charlie, moaning faced Frank, Nate, Sarah etc. The big scenes like the school and the supply runs bring plenty zombies to the story which keeps me happy but it was also about the humanity of the survivors and how important it is to work together to stay safe. John also has to juggle the leadership and safety of the group with his duties as a single parent, which adds a new dimension to the plot.

The plot is fast moving and ever changing. There are scenes of zombies chasing people, zombie attacks on cars and buildings, evil men holding hostages and demanding safe passage tolls, tense supply runs...all the things you expect from a fast paced zombie book. There is also the plan to set everyone up in guarded apartment blocks to give everyone space and privacy, and to actually have a more normal life despite the chaos. I liked that idea, instead of just living in a solid school building all the time. John and his friends are looking at building a gated community with safe parks and things to allow everyone a better life. It was ambitious but added something new to the story. I also liked the way the zombies were slowly developing and learning to adapt to the hunt. I'm not going to spoil the book but they were interesting changes and I look forward to seeing what they are going to do in later books.

I also liked that the two weak and moaning characters were both men. Frank whines, complains and tries to get out of pulling his weight, wanting others to do the dirty, messy and dangerous jobs. As for Kevin, the man is a piece of scum and I kept hoping that he would get eaten-I hate him! But despite disliking them both, they also add more interest to the story. I don't get the need to add a romance into these apocalypse books. Seriously, John has lost his wife yet it doesn't seem to take him long to get attracted to Sarah. Still, it doesn't dominate the story the way it does in some zombie books so it wasn't really annoying.

Niggles? Do we need to be told of every darn nappy change that Jake has? I get that he needs frequent changes but I don't need to hear about every one or every feeding he gets! Also at times, it seems that John is the only one who can work things out, as if nobody else has the capacity to think of a plan. This is evident in the first half of the book but does improve as the side characters get more page time later. I love Nate, Charlie, Tommy and Duncan so seeing more of them appeals to me. Having John as less perfect and not being the go to man every time would make the book even better but to be fair, these are very small niggles.

This book is loaded with action and emotion, and it doesn't go stale because the author keeps changing the scenes and the form of the action, which was good. Traditional zombie fans should enjoy this and I look forward to the rest of the series.

Jodi says

Solid 3 stars. This is a decent story about a man, John and his infant son as they try to make their way through the aftermath of a zombie infection. The story is compelling and the characters are worth rooting for, however, there are some serious flaws.

Good:

I cared about the characters and understood their motivation. This is important.

The author was pretty good at showing instead of telling - the exposition was mainly at the beginning of the book.

Action sequences will keep most readers enthralled - entertaining for sure.

I enjoyed reading about a group of survivors working together instead of constantly arguing.

Bad:

The authors politics invade the story too often. In the first page or two, the main character says that he watches Fox News because it has the least bias. For reals?! Fox is the least biased of news organizations? I had a chuckle and huge eye roll at that one and nearly stopped reading right there.

Other signs that the author is a probable Tea Partier - the main character again observes that the government safe areas will be terrible because everything big gov touches it destroys. Also, one of the "bad" guys is a politician's staffer. He's bad because he's in politics. More eye rolling from me.

The biggest issue is the grammar/formatting problems. In the kindle edition there are far too many missing periods and a severe lack of paragraph indentation. This is an easy fix so why not do it?

Some of the cheese was enough to throw me out of the story. Phrases like "thinking outside the box" and "bringing home the bacon" do not belong in a good novel. At all. I could give a few more examples but whatev.

Although there is a strong female lead in the latter part of the book, for the most part females are relegated to being raped or babysitting the lead's kid. {SPOILER} When John is elected as leader of the group, there is nary a women to confirm or deny him.

There are some repetition of sentences. "I personally was curious" was seen twice, as was a phrase involving "Cost Go". There were a few sentences clunky enough to make me blink and go WTF. Editing, seriously, look into it.

The gun issue was addressed in an amazon review and is worth mentioning. I'm not a gun person so when the author goes off on the numbers and letters associated with the different types of firearms I was mostly left in the dark. It read like a big gun orgasm to me. And you know what they say about guys with big guns. If the author had taken the time to explain the fire power and shooting styles of what he was carrying (which, to be fair, he does a little bit of that later on), it wouldn't have read so NRA.

While I liked the main character, John, and wanted him to succeed, there was an element of Rambo to him. John can do no wrong, John never fails, John is the ultimate leader. He needed to screw up a bit for it be believable.

Finally, when you run out of disposable diapers and don't want to leave your stronghold to scavenge more, use your blankets, t-shirts, whatever! Cloth diapers should be the wave of this zombie world. Duh.

All in all, for \$0.99, this was a decent read. Better than some, that's for sure. With a good editor this could become an excellent novel. I'll look forward to reading more from Mr. Talluto.

Rodney Holmes says

It really felt like a grumpy white guy's dream. There was a strong current that modern america was on the wrong path and the only way to set things right was to wipe the slate clean.

These are the things that I liked.

- 1) The characters are well defined and sympathetic.
- 2) The fetishism of guns was kept to a minimum. Guns are useful tools but I get tired of passages talking about guns in the same way teenage boys talk about breasts.
- 3) It was well paced.

Things I didn't like.

- 1) The protagonists were all very homogenous. I would imagine the whole group is white anglo-saxon protestant and straight.
 - 2) The antagonists seemed to be the groups that are normally demonized by the conservative movement in the United States.
 - 3) The only mention of a characters race was pointing out that a villan was black.
-

David says

when you go to your favourite fast food restaurant, and if your anything like me, order the same meal as its what you enjoy, theres sometimes a sense of ... ho hum.... as its not necessarily a new experience, but you know that you are still going to enjoy it.

At first i felt White flag of the dead was going to be another zombie story that i would enjoy but not be impassioned with - but i found myself thankfully surprised that it had enough twists on the formula to make it vibrant, colourful and interesting.

A key thing for me is having read a few zombie apocalyptic stories in the recent past, ive found a lot of them focus on some time after the cataclysmic event in question - where a community has been established and they are fighting to keep that together. but rarely have i read something which describes, with some actual pragmatic thought anyway, how this community actually comes together, hyow its rules get establish and the sacrifices and choices that are made to keep this pocket of humanity from being overwhelmed by a tidal wave of writhing biting dead flesh.

I thought the author went to a perfect amount of detail with the actual mechanics of what the group (and chiefly its leader) is trying to do, which coupled with some deftly handled fast paced action makes for a great tale, and much recommended to those who crave some zombie action. I greatly look forward to continuing with the series.

Steven Simpson says

This is a high paced full action zombie novel full of twists and turns violence zombie slaying mayhem. The characters are great full of personality. The main character is called John and he sets out on his bike with his 4 month old son shortly after the zombie outbreak. No spoilers but let's say it is high paced survival with lots of enjoyable characters and zombies! Not to mention the filth that our world unfortunately saves in the Armageddon only to try and kill rape and torture the living! Great book 5 star will start book 2 tonight!

Tracy says

When I originally purchased this first book of Talluto's White Flag of the Dead Series, I was curious about how the name White Flag came about. The answer was provided in the very beginning, and makes a lot of sense, reminding me this method was used during various times in history during plagues, wars, etc. Here, the method was implemented at the onset of the Zombie Apocalypse with authorities making a declaration stating anyone who was bit and/or most likely infected is to put a white flag on the front of their homes so everyone will have a heads-up, and know to avoid those occupancies and its occupants. The flags were supposed to also be used as indicators to retrieve the dead quickly to aid in disease prevention. Obviously, those good intentions were not gonna be possible in this situation. . .

The storyline is well written, making it easy for me to become invested in the characters. Found most to be believable and relatable. John is a strong, likable lead character, and his adoration for his son is quite endearing. A super cool mix of doting, loving father and bad-a-- zombie slaying, trouble-shooting, rule instilling leader of his newly formed group.

Sarah is also a favorite (so far) for me. . . she is that perfect balance of being an old soul, with good intuition and insight, which is exactly what John needs at this point in his life to stay balanced. On the other side of the coin, Sarah is also a bad-a-- zombie slayer, who always stands up for what she believes, not afraid to say what is on her mind, and seemingly transparent. Interested to see how her character develops independently and with John.

Will be picking up book 2, as I want to see how things continue to transpire.

Abigail says

This was very hard to read for the first quarter of the book. The horror of possibilities because of a man and a baby. I struggled to be through it at first because of that on my. It terrified me.

When more folks entered into the equation things started getting more B movie-ish. the story ... it was not plausible or even enjoyable. I kept expecting Thunder Dome! (Which I sort of got at the end «eye rolling»)...

The middle was dry and all tell tell tell. I got pretty sick of the constant explanation of weapons carried and Rambo-like ninja black ops training he seemed to have. John was believable at the beginning and I like him but it just got the point of me going "really?? Come on!! Give me a break!!" What kept me reading we're these pockets of good story telling. Maybe the need to have the story end with the baby OK. It was No consistent. But I slogged through so something worthwhile was there.

It needed a good edit. There were parts which I would have rated a four. The story grabbed me. I had nightmares so obviously it doesn't suck. It was OK. 2.5 smack average in the middle. I probably won't bother with the rest of this series. The only thing tempting me is to find out more about the intelligent fast paced zombies. Meh. Who knows.

I've owned the book for over a year. I can't remember if I bought it or got it as freebie on a KDP day. I needed some zombie goodness. As you can see it took me awhile to slog through. Would I recommend it. Not to buy an only if you were bored. I don't know. I'm struggling. This just had really good part and others which made me feel like I was on an acid trip. an others whet I wanted to scream and a few times a sigh of relief. 50/50 on a ya or nay

Kym says

I can never resist a Zombie book, it's a great weakness and I'm not ashamed to admit it. Therefore, I've read a veritable shit ton of books in the genre and I know generally what to expect.

This book isn't the worst I've read in the genre but it's not the best either. The problem here is that there's far too much time spent on certain details (the weapons used, the physical description of individual Zombies being fought) and then not nearly enough character development. I just don't really care about the protagonist. Telling me the same two or three things about his motivation and actions over and over and over doesn't provide any depth.

I dunno, the writing overall shows a lack of maturity. I believe there's a lot of books in this series so I'll assume that the writing and the story get better but I'm not particularly intrigued enough to read the rest. Again, it's not a horrible read but there are much better Zombie books out there.

2.5 stars rounded up to 3 stars.

Bernice Mills says

I'm a terrible hypocrite.

Ten minutes ago I slammed a book for grammar, and now I'm going to praise another book which has some linguistic issues of its own.

White Flag of the Dead is not terribly well-written, in the purely mechanical sense. There are some problems with words, and I'm fairly sure that even in America educational types know how to spell 'hors d'oeuvres'. My spell checker certainly does, even if I'm not 100% clear on it. So yeah, not without its problems.

"Then why four stars?" I hear you ask.

Because if you tell me a good enough story, with interesting enough characters, then I don't care. You can make me not care by making your characters interesting enough and your story fun enough.

I devoured all the books in this series over a weekend, and I'm not even sorry.

Seekordsiis says

A gritty man, a baby and a zombie apocalypse. The man is inventive and brave, keeps his wits and morals, and never gives up. The baby is a very well-behaved baby. The zombies are full of not-so-nice surprises -

and so are the humans the man meets (and if I wrote any more I'd spoil it all). It is a story of survival and rebuilding, focus on the second. Could be compared to WWZ in a sense, but is more of a light reading.

Jeremey Brown says

Just awful. I stopped reading it. One main character who is boring. He has a baby. The baby is happy. He feeds the baby. He changes the baby's diaper. Sometimes the baby cries. He meets 2 other boring guys. They try to save a bunch of likely boring people. Guns guns shoot shoot bang bang dead zombies. I stop reading. Boring as shit.

Christina says

White Flag of the Dead starts out interesting with a unique point of view: dad with an infant. Sadly, the book veers into cliché territory about a third in, and doesn't recover. I might consider reading the sequel...except for the couple dozen other zombie books on my Kindle that promise me a better time.
