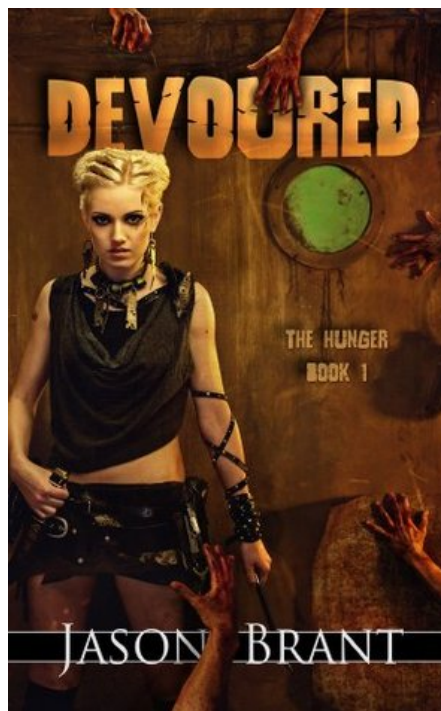




Devoured

Jason Brant

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Devoured

Jason Brant

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An alternate cover edition can be found here .

Day One: A series of terrorist attacks spread a cloud of noxious gas over highly populated areas.

Day Two: Higher brain function erodes in those exposed to the gas. Their bodies begin to distort, faces distending, skin sallowing, teeth elongating.

Day Three: The infected disappear into the shadows, fleeing the harsh daylight which has begun to sear their flesh.

Day Four: The world is DEVoured.

Life isn't kind to Lance York. A full-time job has eluded him for years, his wife loathes the sight of him, his bank accounts are empty, and his wealthy father-in-law revels in his failures.

After he lunges in front of a car to save a sick and disoriented woman, Lance awakens in a quarantined hospital. A devastating plague is spreading worldwide, driving those infected with it insane. Their bodies begin to mutate into horrors that have haunted mankind's nightmares for centuries.

The world descends into chaos as the infected flee to the shadows, emerging at night to devour the remnants of civilization.

With the help of an unlikely ally, Lance must navigate through the collapsing city of Pittsburgh, striving to escape the madness of the apocalypse that unfolds around them.

Devoured Details

Date : Published December 30th 2013 (first published June 28th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Jason Brant

Format : Kindle Edition 350 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic, Fiction, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review Devoured for online ebook

Terri Baldwin says

Lance, by his own admission, was a loser. Stuck in a failed marriage and unable to keep a job, he had succumbed to depression and had pretty much given up. While walking down the street talking to an old coworker that he hadn't seen in years, he noticed an incoherent woman stumbling toward an intersection and certain death. He was struck by a car when he pushed the woman to safety, but the insanity was just beginning. While in the hospital, he learned that the woman was infected with a virus that had turned her into a cannibalistic monster. She wasn't the only infected; it seemed the entire city of Pittsburgh was under attack, and the military closed in to quarantine the hospital. With the help of a doctor and a staff sergeant with a conscience, Lance was able to get his soon-to-be ex wife and her boyfriend (his old coworker), to safety and to escape the hospital. His journey to safety, however, was far from over!

Jason Brant has made me afraid of the dark once again! His rendering of these "Vladdies" was horrifying. They're a terrifying cross between demons, zombies and vampires, and the true stuff of nightmares! Lance and his travelling companion Cass were quite a pair. The banter made me smile even while my heart was pounding and I was struggling to remind myself that it was okay to exhale! These two "failures" came into their own and proved their own opinions of themselves wrong. They managed to be stronger than they thought, while still keeping their insecurities. This made them completely believable characters that I rooted for with a vengeance! I try to imagine myself stuck in a situation like this, and I hope to be 1/10th of the person that Cass was.

This book was so fast paced that there was absolutely never a dull moment. It held my attention from the first page to the last, and I darn-near threw my kindle when the battery died. This is also a book that I thought about even when I wasn't reading it... very few books affect me like that. I am both nervous about and looking forward to the next book in the series. Jason has a way of making even the bizarre terrifyingly real, and this book was no exception. As a Pennsylvania girl, the location of the book hit me a little hard. My home was being invaded! Seriously, five stars doesn't do this book justice. Eleven and a half will have to do!

Mr. Matt says

Lance is having what can only be considered a monumentally bad day. He's unemployed. He bombed his job interview. His wife is leaving him and he's pretty sure she's also sleeping with an obnoxiously successful former co-worker. And he bumps into one of the infected. Oh, and he gets hit by a car. Lance wakes up in the hospital and all hell begins breaking loose. The Xavier virus is on the loose and the infection is spreading alarmingly. Attempts at quarantine fail and in a matter of days the city of Pittsburgh is burning.

This book was not great fiction, it was awesome fiction. I loved every page of it - from Lance's escape from the hospital, to his holing up in his apartment, to the flight to Heinz field and the ultimate cataclysmic collapse. I identified with Lance. As he struggled to survive I found myself thinking, yeah, that's what I would do. He felt real. He worried about other people. He tried to stay out of trouble. He tried to do the right thing. And Cass, wow, she is a little bit of a caricature, but how can you not like a battle-axe wielding blonde built like an Amazon? And she's got a mouth like a sailor. Bonus!

Very impressed with this book (and the author). I thought I was picking up another zombie apocalypse (yawn) and discovered a diamond in the rough. Brant has a knack for building characters, driving an action packed story and making me give a damn. I ripped through this book in pretty much two major binge reading sessions. So much fun.

My only knock against the book is the presence of the crazy "minute men" militia. They are almost a requirement in apocalypse literature. The infected are like the weather - a menace and problem that must be dealt with - but the real foe are other people. I wish that the author had found a different twist to drive the story, but it's fine. The book was just fun.

Five gory, blood-stained stars out of five. I'm pretty sure that my mom would not appreciate it, but it was a complete and total blast to read.

Down graded to four stars on further reflection. I liked the book but is it really five stars. I think it's really 4 outta 5.

carol. says

Fresh off my Vietnam fictional-autobiography *The Things They Carried* and Pulitzer Prize winner *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, I really needed to rest my brain. Actually--let's be honest--I really needed to see humanity *destroyed* a little faster than we seem to be doing it ourselves. Brant--and I might turn into a genuine fan of this non-genuine Bigfoot hunter--serves up almost exactly what I was looking for in an apocalypse-monster novel. For all you who wanted to like *The Passage* and didn't, I'd strongly suggest this little action-fest. Competently written (and I'm not damning it with faint praise), I just could not put it down.

We're set up with a character who is having a bit of a life-crisis but ends up discovering his personal strengths in an external one. He's ill-prepared in physical skill sets but not in mental ones, once he overcomes self-doubt. I thought the characters all behaved rather realistically, from initial rationalization of the 'illness' to depression to attempting to strategize through the disaster, albeit somewhat ineffectively (of course). Focus is tightly on Lance, with important secondary characters. I appreciated that Lance did not overly demonize his soon-to-be-ex-wife, often a tempting crutch to make a character seem more likeable.

Although it goes quickly, the story allows for information-sharing through television and social media, giving the chance to witness some of the societal breakdown as systems and their back-ups gradually fail. I always wish this part was longer in survival stories, but Brant gives me more than many books. Plotting was tension-filled, feeling a great deal like a survival video game. Immediate conflict, re-group/strategize, next conflict. There's a part near the end that sounded scarily prescient with some people's political response to the virus. I found it almost impossible to stop reading.

Beginning paragraph:

"The tie around Lance's neck might as well have been a noose. Yet another job interview went horribly as his career circled the drain. He looped a finger over the knot by his throat and pulled it down, letting out a long, depressed sigh. Fourteen years of hard work, certifications, and experience meant nothing anymore."

What fun foreshadowing! Not only true for Lance's own life, but about to be true for the world.

I have perhaps only two quibbles. One, overall conflict escalated quickly. I don't mind the escalation in terms of human destruction scenario, but in terms of the monster scenario, it straddles the line between believability and pure fiction. I'm a little ambivalent about that, because then I feel the story loses its chance to explore the breakdown, and not head straight into survivalist territory. Two, (mild mid-book character spoiler) (view spoiler)

Dialogue was solid, although I did eyeroll a couple of times at the flirtation-type banter. I suppose it provides some humor. There is a little bit of humor edging into description which I appreciated. Certainly not enough to distract from the seriousness of the situation. **"He considered breaking in to his neighbors' apartments to scrounge for food, but he feared some of them might be hiding inside, armed with shotguns. Getting shot was low on Lance's list of priorities."**

This was a freebie at Amazon when I picked it up. No worries, though--unlike the last self-pub apocalypse I picked up (L.A. Dark), this one had adequate closure, much like an arc in a television series. That said, the reader will undoubtedly want to go on to the next book. I certainly did. I just won't start it tonight, because I need to sleep sometime and I have doubts about putting it down.

This is a straight-forward apocalypse, solidly written with no literary pretensions involved (as opposed to The Reapers are the Angels, The Girl with All the Gifts or Station Eleven). Reminding me a little of Rhiannon Frater's As the World Dies series, I found it much better written. Recommend for people who want an apocalypse-monster fix with likeable heroes and grip-your-seat pacing.

Solid four genre stars

Timothy Ward says

In the mood for a new apocalyptic thriller, this one was a pleasant surprise. I hear great things about Jason Brant, and am glad to feel it was warranted. The story introduces us to a likable hero who is dealing with the end of his marriage, depressed over his career failures and husband failures, when his willingness to stick his neck out for someone in need puts him in the center of a violent outbreak. I enjoyed getting to know him and the heroine who will join his side. The action is strongly written, and the plot kept me surprised. I'm eager to continue the series. There is plenty of ground left to cover!

Michael Loring says

Devoured is the first book in best-selling author Jason Brant's new series, The Hunger. It's based off a short story he wrote titled LOTION, written for Apocalypse: An Anthology by Authors and Readers.

The novel starts off with Lance York – a man who, by his own admission, is a loser. Barely able to hold a job and coming upon an impending divorce, Lance sees no light in sight. Things get even worse for the poor man when, after saving a sickly woman from being hit by a car, he finds himself stuck in a quarantined hospital. Things escalate quickly as the sickly woman makes a return, but as something else. She has begun to mutate, as has many others. Cities begin to fall, the military steps in but proves to be ineffective, and civilization starts its inevitable collapse. All within the span of a day.

Lance now has to survive in this newly ravaged world, coming to terms with the drastic changes to his life and assimilating to the new laws of the new, burnt world. It's kill or be killed now, and Lance, with his new companion Cass who is much more than she appears, decides it's not him who's going down.

This story was brilliantly written, each scene depicted with such detail and care that it was like a true horror movie in my head. There are humorous parts as well, as is Jason Brant's signature, timed well and not out-of-place like some novels tend to do. There's always a good joke to be had when the tension begins to cease, and Jason Brant makes sure the joke is spoken!

The monsters in this novel were unique. They're vampires, sort of. They aren't your average, run-of-the-mill blood suckers. They're mutated monsters who have nothing of their past human lives left inside of them except for a few snippets of intelligence – which only makes them more terrifying. The Vladdies – as Brant has dubbed them – can only come out at night, but that doesn't mean the daytime is safe. Those who were recently infected are still able to roam in the light, and prove to be a threat bigger than you'd expect. No time and nowhere is safe from these creatures, and though things look bleak Lance and Cass trudge on in the hopes of finding salvation.

I sincerely enjoyed this book and positively can't wait for the next one!

Gadget Girl says

This was the first book I've read from Jason Brant and it won't be my last. I had downloaded this for free quite awhile ago but only just got round to reading it. What a fantastic fast paced read, I was hooked and completely sucked into this fast paced storyline from the very first page...why on earth...hadn't I read this earlier...doh!

If you love your zombie dystopian horror and gore you so need to read this next as it's quite different to your normal zombie-esk reads. These monsters are a horrific combination of zombies and vampires similar to those of the Blade trilogy with larger bodies and more grotesque features making these creatures almost impossible to fight and so much more terrifying.

What's great about this book is that most of us can relate to or know someone like Lance who is in a really bad place, with a nagging wife, not enough money and is feeling quite down. Jason has made us as the reader really feel for this guy as he's so realistic and completely believable. I was almost shouting at the screen when I discovered more about his scheming wife...no more spoilers here...grrr.

It's been brilliantly written and I was completely sucked into this storyline and I absolutely loved watching Lance develop naturally throughout the book from this downtrodden guy to a more confident ass-kicking hero which is so convincing. Part of the reason for this new found confidence was Cassie who saved his butt from not just the night and day-walkers but the Militia (it's not just monsters to be scared of out there).

She is a likable, cocky young woman who is confident and strong not scared to kick ass when needed. Girl power at its best...yesss! However her constant use of the word "dumbass" aimed at Lance was actually getting on my nerves as funny, quirky and likable as she is; even though it ends up as a term of endearment.

We watch Lance's confidence grow as the two of them fight together to get to the national safety point and of

course this isn't going to go easy or is it even going to be safe?

I found myself speeding through this book unable to put it down; another 6am finish on this lol! Loved it and I cant wait to read book 2.

Go grab this you've no excuse as its FREE as I type for kindles.

Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

What a great book! Jason Brant has taken a fresh new approach to the PA genre. These monsters have some "zombie" characteristics, but then he turns the whole "normal" apocalypse over on it's head.

The story is driven by the two great characters created by Brant. Lance and Cassie are both so well developed. Lance is down on his luck and is such a nice guy (and we all know nice guys finish last) we are pulling for him to survive. And Cassie, with her battle axe, she is Lance's polar opposite.

This story left me craving more, and luckily it's the first in a trilogy. I will be reading a lot more from Jason Brant.

<http://www.2bookloversreviews.com/dev...>

Jamie says

This was my second Jason Brant novel. I had previously read Gehanna - his West of Hell series book 1 and really enjoyed it. In fact I bought the West of Hell Omnibus edition and fully intended to read it but then I got to looking at the cover of this book: Devoured (The Hunger Volume 1) and it just drew me to it so I thought I'd read the sample to see what it was like and I was immediately sucked into a swirling vortex of pure awesomeness and was unable to put the book down so I ended up buying it and those two seconds waiting for it to fully load on my kindle were pure torture.

Jason Brant doesn't mess around. One of the things I loved about this book is that the action starts up right out of the gate and doesn't let up until the very last harrowing page. Everything you could want from a good post-apocalyptic zombie invasion was here. A mutant zombie horde - check! Lots and lots of action - check! Just enough gore to satisfy you but not enough to make you hurl while eating your lunch - check! The one thing I generally don't like about some action heavy oriented novels is that the characters usually suffer from it but have no fear, Mr Brant has seemingly mastered the fine art of balancing action and character depth. The characters in Devoured are ones that you can not only relate to but also root for and for that this book gets a huge nod from me.

Lance is the main hero of the tale. I love the fact that he's just an ordinary guy. In fact life has been very unkind to Lance York. In the real world he hasn't been able to hold down a job in years, his wife can't stand the sight of him and his marriage is crumbling faster than a zombie can eat your brains. Lance has pretty much lost what self esteem and self respect he once had and as the world begins to go to the zombies he finally starts to come into his own. He's a good guy, the kind of person you'd want on your side if you all of

the sudden found yourself at the bottom of the food chain while zombies and crazy militants ran around killing everyone.

Lance survives the initial destruction of mankind by hiding out in a restaurant for a while and when things quickly turn for the worse and it looks like his brains are going to be eaten after all he is saved by one of the most unlikeliest heroines to ever grace the pages of zombie fiction. Enter Cassie or Cass as she demands to be called. She carries a big axe, is full of attitude, (and I mean that in the most awesome way possible) and has a whacked out sense of fashion, and ho she's the true bada** (self censored) of the tale. Her interactions with Lance are priceless and I love how his self confidence goes way up after meeting her. I also love the fact that the woman is the true action hero of the tale. She's athletic, strong and quick on her feet as well as her mind. Lance on the other hand is a bit out of shape not that he let's that stop him but Cass, well she's something else.

I had such an amazingly fun time reading this book. It's not your average run-of-the-mill zombie book and these are in no way your average zombies and trust me, this makes all the difference in the world. If you are looking for an action-packed read with witty dialogue, colorful characters and a unique take on a genre that already has so many books to choose from then you can hardly do better than Devoured. I've already bought and started reading the second book: Consumed and I happily give this one a very enthusiastic 5 Stars. Heck, I wish I could give this an extra star just for Cass alone. She's freaking awesome! Great read and I highly recommend it!!!

<http://jamiesbookblog.com/devoured-ja...>

Theresa says

Lance York is not a hero. He's jobless. He's in the middle of a divorce and he's feeling worthless. With one act of kindness, rescuing a sick woman from the path of a moving vehicle, Lance puts his life on a path he never expected. A quick moving sickness starts in the hospitals and then spreads. Chaos takes over and Lance finds himself smack dab in the middle of a new Pittsburgh, one that's overrun by daywalkers and Vladdies. But even uninfected people can be enemies and Lance is forced to do what he must to survive while still maintaining his humanity.

Although the beginning is a little slow, once the action started, I couldn't put the book down. Brant has a gritty writing style that really brings life into this story while still injecting it with some great humor. Yes, it gets a little gory at parts, but it is a horror novel, so that's to be expected. I loved that the conflict came not only from running from the infected but also from some opportunistic humans and Lance's desire to do the right thing. Lance was a great character. His "every man" point of view definitely added dimension to the story. My favorite character, however, was Cass. She is Brant's most well-developed female character yet and I found her to be relateable, funny and just the right amount kick ass. The banter between Cass and Lance is some of the best humor in the book.

This is the first book in a series (no big cliffhanger though) and I will be anxiously awaiting the next in the series.

I got the book for free as a beta reader.

Jennifer (Bad Bird Reads) says

At A Glance

Grab this book, it's free and exciting.

The Good

This is not your average zombie book. These creatures are part vampire, part zombie. They aren't dead like zombies but they are mostly mindless, rotting creatures. They have an aversion to sun and superhuman strength like vampires and they eat and drink people like a combo of both. Brant did a good job of reinventing the zombie and vampire genre.

The best part was that the hero and heroine were normal people. Lance is unemployed and getting a divorce. He, his wife, and her boyfriend are stuck in the hospital when shit hits the fan. Terrorist have released this virus gas on the US that turns people into vampire/zombie hybrids that have a violent hunger. Not much to do but run, hide, and survive in a world that is slowly ending.

Lance is not super strong, smart, or intelligent. He's just an average Joe who wants to survive. But he has heart and he's brave even when he doesn't want to be. Cass is a little different. She dresses like a slutty Goth and wields an axe. She's not a real fighter but she plays a good one when it's needed. She has grit and snark, and she's kind of a bitch, which is why I liked her so much. That's why Lance liked her too. She's different and exciting.

Together they stumble their way through the zombie/vampire apocalypse, fighting the creatures and bad humans that seem to pop up in hoards when the world starts to fall apart. There is a lot of action, suspense, and gore to go around. *Devoured* was just plain fun and exciting.

The Bad

The beginning was slow. I liked the story but I am not sure if enough happened for me to continue the series.

The Snuggly

There is a sex scene. Not very sexy or detailed, it just was. What else are two people going to do when they might die tomorrow?

Final Thoughts

I am 50-50 on continuing this series. I really liked *Devoured* and I do want to see what happens next but there are so many other books I still need to read. Decisions, decisions. Still, this book is free so, yes, grab it. It's good. Very recommended.

Quotes

Lance watched as it fed on the three men, moving back and forth between the bodies. It took a bite out of one before going to the next, as if it was trying to decide which to feast upon first.

The sigh stretched Lance's mind to its limit. People weren't meant to see such things. His stomach twisted, wanting to spill its contents. He struggled to keep his emotions in check, knowing that his survival depended on staying as calm as possible.

This review was originally posted on Bad Bird Reads

Mark says

This was a well-crafted 'end of the world' premise novel that kept me hooked from beginning to end. I love

the way by which Brant has created a unique plague-based transformation that begins to appear to turn humans into zombies, which is merely the first phase in a more vampire-esque ultimate transformation.

The ending of what appears to be book 1 in an ongoing series left me satisfied, yet eager for Brant's return to this world so I can see what happens next.

A great writer, an intriguing story and a fun dynamic between the main characters - what more could a reader want?

Lisa says

Gehenna, Tartarus, and Sheol entertained us with zombies in the Old West. The Gate and The Dark made our sleep uneasy with thoughts of horrifying, demonic monsters that had gained access to our world. Now Devoured terrifies us with a new and meaner type of super-vampire that ushers in the Apocalypse.

Lance's life is rather challenging at the moment. The economy is down. He is out of a job. His wife is divorcing him. What else could go wrong? Plenty. Trust me. I don't think you've ever experienced anything as bad as what Lance is about to.

A compassionate fellow, he has pity on a sick young lady he sees stumbling through town. When she heads straight out into traffic, he does the gallant thing and tries to save her. As a reward for his good deed, he gets hit and ends up in the hospital. Then the world falls apart. Literally.

From the confines of his hospital room, he watches through the window as things go completely crazy outside. Things inside the hospital aren't much better. Daywalkers, more people who act just like the woman had, are being brought in. Doctors and nurses are attacked. Soon even the other patients are attacked.

Lance escapes from the hospital, thinking it will be easier to survive outside. If it is any easier, it is only because there are more places to hide from these ravenous creatures. The need for survival takes precedence over the need for food and water.

He teams up with a surprising ally, and together they fight their way through this horde of monsters that only keeps growing meaner and stronger. During the day, they fight off the Daywalkers. At night, they fight off the ones who have advanced to Vladdies.

Lance is just a normal, everyday guy who watches as the unthinkable happens around him. The story is told from his point of view. The characters are very realistic in their dialogue and how they react to such a traumatic situation. If you aren't careful, you might find yourself caught up in the story and so anxious to find out what happens next that you read too fast and skip over something vital.

The action never lets up or slows down. If you want to read a book where you can't wait to see what happens on the next page, then you will enjoy this one. But even in the midst of the terror that is going on, the author manages to sneak in some humor.

Things are not back to normal at the end of the book. I'm not sure that things could ever get back to normal if such events were to really happen. The story isn't over yet though. I wasn't tempted to throw things when I reached the end, but I'm super excited to read the sequel, Consumed.

Remember, this is a horror book so you can expect edge-of-your-seat moments, blood, gore, colorful

language, and a desire to hunt down the author and demand that he tells you what happens next. I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Steven says

Devoured was a competent addition to the canon of zombie stories. I found the book a very fast read, finishing it in one day and part of a night of reading.

There is a very out of shape hero. He is far from an expert in weapons or unarmed fighting techniques. He has watched a lot of television and movies, so he is acquainted, at an intellectual level, with the issues around a zombie apocalypse. This is good preparation because that is what he wakes up to in the hospital near the beginning of the book.

The monsters in the book are not strictly zombies, they are a zombie-vampire hybrid. They have problems with bright lights and the sun when they have undergone full transformation. There are what the hero calls daywalkers, who are on the road to transformation, but are not in the final state. The final monsters are overwhelmingly dangerous and are a challenge to heavily armed military units. Another villain in the story is uninfected humans who descend into barbarism and self-serving evil.

After several days of difficulty with all the villains mentioned, with the addition of stupid bureaucrats and poorly organized military types, our hero finds a great partner in the form of a beautiful, sexy babe with a big axe. Think of Buffy as a yuppy artist. The two fight their way through the city of Pittsburgh in the attempt to survive the end of civilization.

I found the book adequate to mostly hold my attention, but did not notice anything that made me want to read the next one in the series. I have never read any other zombie story, not counting I Am Legend from 1950, so I don't know how fans of the genre would like this story. I suspect aficionados of the genre might find the story routine and predictable, but only they can judge. Again, a very fast read and containing all the points of canon for a zombie/vampire apocalypse.

AudioBookReviewer says

My full Devoured: The Hunger, Book 1 audiobook review can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

Devoured: The Hunger, Book 1 starts off kind of slow. Before the end of society, we meet Lance who is very down and out. A man that has been jobless for an extended period, who is in the midst of a divorce from a cheating wife. Everything soon changes when he takes a chance to save a woman from being hit by a car and knocking himself unconscious. Waking up to find that the hospital he is in has been quarantined by the CDC. The first of many adventures is his escape from the hospital so he can hide in his home. Soon the news channels stop broadcasting and then starts the real horror. Everyone that has been infected has risen into zombie-like creatures that shy away from the sun and ravage at night. My thought was "Zombie vampires?", but it gets worse. This is my favorite part of Jason Brant's brainchild, the creatures and how the infected go from flu-like symptoms, to fearsome zombie-like creatures, to something that lives only in nightmares. Brant was able to create a very unique and refreshing take on a very heavily populated genre. Full of interesting characters, humor, survival, the systematic collapse of society. I will be back for more, I can't wait to find out what Brant has in store for us.

Audiobook provided for review by the author.

Dan Schwent says

After yet another unsuccessful job interview, Lance York shoves a strangely-acting woman out of the path of a speeding car and is struck himself. When he awakes in the hospital, he is shocked to find a plague has struck Pittsburgh, a plague that mutates its victims and turns them into eyeless, savage, flesh-eating horrors! Even with help from some new friends, can Lance escape the abattoir Pittsburgh has become?

After reading his West of Hell trilogy, Jason Brant invited me to give his Hunger series a shot. It took me a while to take the bait but Brant soon had me hooked once again.

Before even opening the book, or whatever the equivalent of opening an e-book is, I kept thinking "Zombies? Aren't we all getting tired of that shit?" Brant puts his spin on the survival horror tale and I Devoured it in two sittings. Besides, his plague victims aren't zombies. They have some virus that makes their eyes fall out and their brain functions go haywire, mutating them into cannibal feral things with fangs and caveman brows.

The protagonist of the tale, Lance York, was a guy I could really get behind. He wasn't a hyper-prepared militant or a survivalist super hero. He's kind of a screw up, he's going through a divorce, and is unemployed. Oh, and he's also infertile. Lance spends the first part of the book escaping the hospital and dealing with his soon to be ex-wife and her boyfriend.

The book kicks into high gear once Lance finally escapes the hospital, deals with militants, and hooks up with Cassandra, an ax-wielding failed artist. The scope ratchets up with every revelation. By the time Lance gets his legs under him, it's pretty apparent that civilization is going down the toilet pretty quickly.

The gore and carnage are the stars of the show here and they spend a lot of time on stage. The Vladdies, as Cassandra calls them, are pretty terrifying. However, the militia assholes were much bigger villains considering they're human and the Vladdies are practically forces of nature.

While this is the first book in a trilogy, it's pretty satisfying on its own with no cliffhanger ending or anything else that might leave a reader feeling cheated.

I can't find anything bad to say about this book. Like Edward Lorn, Jason Brant is self-publishing done right. Four out of five stars.
