

1: I Am Legend (ebook) by Richard Matheson |

I Am Legend is a science fiction horror novel by American writer Richard Matheson. It was influential in the development of the zombie-vampire genre and in popularizing the concept of a worldwide apocalypse due to disease.

Plot summary[edit] Robert Neville is the apparent sole survivor of a pandemic whose symptoms resemble vampirism. It is said that the pandemic was caused by a war, and that it was spread by dust storms in the cities and an explosion in the mosquito population. Before he killed her, Neville says he did try to keep her with him but gives no details about this. Neville survives by barricading himself inside his house after sunset, and he is further protected by garlic, mirrors, and crucifixes. During the day, he scavenges for supplies and searches out the inactive vampires, driving stakes into their hearts to kill them. He finds brief solace in a stray dog that finds its way to his house. Despite his efforts, the dog proves to be infected and dies a week later. After bouts of depression and alcoholism , Neville decides to find out the scientific cause of the pandemic. He obtains books and other research materials from a library, and through painstaking research discovers the root of the disease in a strain of bacteria capable of infecting both deceased and living hosts. His experiments also reveals that the infection creates an allergic reaction to garlic in the host. He further discovers that the vampires are affected by mirrors and crosses because of " hysterical blindness ", the result of previous psychological conditioning of the infected. Driven insane by the disease, the infected now react as they believe they should when confronted with these items. Even then, their reaction is constrained to the beliefs of the particular person; for example, a Christian vampire would fear the cross, but a Jewish vampire would not. Neville also discovers more efficient means of killing the vampires, other than just driving a stake into their hearts. This includes exposing them to direct sunlight which kills the bacteria or inflicting deep wounds on their bodies so that the bacteria switch from being anaerobic symbionts to aerobic parasites , rapidly consuming their hosts when exposed to air. He is now killing such large numbers of vampires in his daily forays that his nightly visitors have diminished significantly. After three years, Neville sees an apparently uninfected woman, Ruth, in broad daylight, and captures her. After some convincing, Ruth tells him her story of how she and her husband survived the pandemic though her husband was killed two weeks earlier. Neville is puzzled by the fact that she is upset when he speaks of killing vampires; he thinks that if her story of survival was true, she would have become hardened to the act. He attempts to test whether she is a vampire by exposing her to garlic, which causes her to recoil violently. At night Neville is startled awake and finds Ruth fully clothed at the front door of the house. Suspicious, he questions her motives, but relates the trauma of his past, whereupon they comfort each other. Ruth reluctantly allows him to take a blood sample but knocks him unconscious when the sample reveals that she is infected. Ruth admits that she was sent to spy on him. It turns out that only the infected created from reanimated corpses are utterly feral, but not those who were alive when they were infected. The living-infected have slowly overcome their disease until they can spend short periods of time in sunlight, and are attempting to build a new society. They have developed medication which helps them to overcome the most severe symptoms of the infection. Ruth warns Neville that her people will attempt to capture him, and that he should leave his house and escape to the mountains. Neville cannot bring himself to leave his house, however, and assumes that he will be captured and treated fairly by the new society. Infected members of the new society eventually attack the house. During the attack, the members of the new society violently dispatch the other feral vampires outside the house, and Neville becomes alarmed at the grim enjoyment they appear to take from this task. Realising that the intention of the attackers may be to kill him rather than to capture him he tries to defend himself with a pistol, leading to one of the infected shooting and badly injuring him. Neville wakes in a barred cell where he is visited by Ruth, who informs him that she is a ranking member of the new society but, unlike the others, does not resent him. Fatally injured, Neville accepts his fate and asks Ruth not to let this society become heartless. Ruth kisses him and leaves. Neville goes to his prison window and sees the infected waiting for his execution. He now sees that the infected view him with the same hatred and fear that he once felt for the vampires; he realizes that he, a remnant of old humanity, is

now a legend to the new race born of the infection: Just as vampires are monsters that hunt humans during the time of day they are not active at night, he is a feared monster that hunts the vampires during the daylight hours when they are asleep. He recognizes that their desire to kill him is not something he can condemn. As the pills take effect, he thinks: Galaxy reviewer Groff Conklin described Legend as "a weird [and] rather slow-moving first novel Book Review wrote in Instead, it is perhaps the greatest novel written on human loneliness. Its insights into what it is to be human go far beyond genre, and is all the more surprising because, having read his short stories--which range from competent but simplistic, to having classic Twilight Zone twists he was a major contributor to the original TV series --there is nothing within those short stories that suggests the supreme majesty of the existential masterpiece I Am Legend was aborning. In I Am Legend, the "vampires" share more similarities with zombies, and the novel influenced the zombie genre and popularized the concept of a worldwide zombie apocalypse. Matheson goes to great lengths to rationalize or naturalize the vampire myth, transplanting the monster from the otherworldly realms of folklore and Victorian supernaturalism to the test tube of medical inquiry and rational causation. With I Am Legend, Matheson instituted the germ theory of vampirism, a take on the old archetype which has since been tackled by other writers notably, Dan Simmons in Children of the Night though referred to as "the first modern vampire novel", [10] it is as a novel of social theme that I Am Legend made a lasting impression on the cinematic zombie genre, by way of director George A. Romero, who acknowledged its influence and that of its adaptation, The Last Man on Earth, upon his seminal film Night of the Living Dead. This book was how a [sic] individual would handle thinking that he was the last survivor on Earth. You are the only person out here on the Wasteland who is, quote, "a normal person", and we wanted you to feel, like, special in that way. Films[edit] I Am Legend has been adapted to a feature-length film four times one of which does not credit Matheson as the source. Differing from the book, each of them portrays the Neville character as an accomplished scientist. The first three adaptations show him finding a remedy and passing it on. The Last Man on Earth[edit] Main article: Matheson wrote the original screenplay for this adaptation, but due to later rewrites did not wish his name to appear in the credits; as a result, Matheson is credited under the pseudonym "Logan Swanson". In this version, the infected are portrayed as nocturnal, black-robed, albino mutants, known as The Family. I Am Legend[edit] Main article: In this version, the infection is caused by a virus originally intended to cure cancer. Some vampiric elements are retained, such as sensitivity to UV light and attraction to blood. The infected are portrayed as nocturnal, feral creatures of limited intelligence who hunt the uninfected with berserker-like rage. Other creatures, such as dogs, are also infected by the virus. The ending of the film was also altered to portray Neville as sacrificing his life to save humanity, rather than being executed for crimes against the surviving vampiric humans, although a deleted ending for the film was closer in spirit to the book. I Am Omega[edit] Main article: The film takes place in a post-apocalyptic Los Angeles, which is overrun by savage, cannibalistic humans who have degenerated into a feral subspecies as the result of a genetic virus. Once again, the adaptation deviates from the novel and does not credit Matheson. In this adaptation, "Renchard" has been forced to live in a daily struggle for survival against the mutants. Renchard is contacted via webcam by Brianna Jennifer Lee Wiggins, another survivor who was stranded in Los Angeles while trying to find Antioch, a community of survivors. Renchard is forced to aid her and two others escape the city in which he has strategically placed time bombs, set to go off in 24 hours. This film was rushed into production by The Asylum and released a month prior to the bigger budget Francis Lawrence project.

2: I Am Legend Themes from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Richard Matheson () was The New York Times bestselling author of I Am Legend, Hell House, Somewhere in Time, The Incredible Shrinking Man, Now You See It, and What Dreams May Come, among others.

Robert Neville is checking his house to make sure it is ready for nightfall because that is when the vampires attack. He mends broken or vulnerable sections of the house and harvests garlic from his hothouse to use as a weapon against the vampires, then starts making stakes so he can kill them. That night they attack, which is a regular pattern. When he is not preparing for an attack or responding to one, Robert Neville is playing his music loud enough to drown out the sound of the massive crowd of vampires outside his walls, or drinking to deaden the pain of being the only living human in a world of vampires. Each day he has a regular routine of maintenance and vampire killing. As he gets supplies and gas, Neville occasionally sees things that remind him of how things were before the vampire plague hit. More often, though, he spends his time and energy trying to stay alive, trying to figure out why the vampire plague works as it does, and why wooden stakes work against them. In his despair, Neville drinks heavily, sometimes getting drunk and at least once smashing a glass and cutting himself. After a while, Neville begins more active testing of the vampires he finds inactive during the day. He drags them into the sun to see how and why sunlight affects them, and he takes one home to experiment on. However, as he is doing so, Neville realizes his watch has stopped, and he has to race home, hoping to beat the vampire mob to his house. He fights his way to his house and collapses inside. It takes Neville awhile to repair the damage done to his house. As he does so, he remembers key moments in the past that led to the current situation. The first of these is when his wife, Virginia, first got sick with the plague that was sweeping the nation, and how she lost her appetite for food. By the time she died, the government had laws requiring that the dead be burned so that they could not return to life as vampires. However, Robert could not bring himself to burn his wife, so he tried sewing her into a sheet and burying her. She came back for him, and he had to dispose of her. Further research in the public library gives Neville the idea that the plague could be bacteriological, so he gets a microscope and begins comparing his blood to that of vampires and researching historical plagues. He eventually discovers a bacillus responsible for vampirism. Just after he does, Neville sees a living dog moving around in the daylight—a shocking sight because he had thought the vampires had killed all dogs. He is almost overcome with happiness, because he has been so desperately lonely, and spends several days feeding the dog, trying to calm it enough to take it inside, and watching it to see how it survived. Eventually Neville grabs the dog and carries it inside. The dog is scared, but the fear becomes pure panic when night falls and it cannot get underground to where it would be safe from the vampires. Eventually, the dog dies, leaving Neville all the more alone. In his subsequent depression, Neville remembers a time after his wife, Virginia, had died, when a preacher at a religious revival meeting claimed that the vampire plague was punishment for human sinfulness. However little weight he wants to give that belief, Neville has to face the fact that crosses do have power over vampires. Despite his loneliness, Neville is becoming used to his hermit life and even develops something like a hobby: Neville has even adjusted to being hunted and is not really stressed by it anymore. However, everything changes when Neville sees a woman walking in the daylight. He calls out to her, but she runs away. He runs after her, and she flees. Eventually, he catches up to her and drags her into his house. Neville is highly suspicious of the woman, whose name is Ruth. She seems to be as human as he is, which rekindles his hopes about restarting the human race and not being alone, but he cannot understand how she has survived all this time. He quizzes her and tests her with the smell of garlic. Along the way, Neville explains what he has learned about the infection. Eventually he insists on testing her blood to see if she carries the infection. When he does, Ruth clubs him on the head and escapes. However, she leaves behind a letter explaining that she is part of a new race that is slowly forming a new society, a race that has found ways to limit the vampire infection with daily medication. She warns him that the new society is organizing, and that as they do, they will be exterminating both the true vampires and the other few remnants of humanity. She urges him to leave his house and hide in the mountains. Robert Neville, however, does not leave his home. Eventually, the new hybrid race comes to

capture him, wounding him in the process. He has one final conversation with Ruth, who slips him pills that would let Neville kill himself so that he can avoid being executed. As his life seeps away, Neville realizes that he is part of an era that has passed and that he has no place in the new world or the society that fills it. What used to be normal is now a legend.

3: Richard Matheson - IMDb

I AM LEGEND, by Richard Matheson is one of his "longer" stories, that I hadn't previously read. This is a vampire tale, but one very unique to this genre. The last survivor in a plague that left humanity dead--or, undead--Richard Neville has spent the past three years learning everything he can about what caused this change.

The plot follows the mutation of a virus and the end of the world as we know it but also the deterioration of the psyche of a man. The most common theme of this novel is an emphasis on human emotion and how we interact with others. Matheson demonstrates the importance of human contact and relationships by eliminating all other companions to Robert Neville. Thus Matheson poses the question, can a man survive on his own? Apparently, the answer is no. Another undertone of the text is the prejudice symbolism of the vampires. Written in , at the height of many racial tensions, the vampire creatures have been seen as various groups. Though Matheson never defines who they actually symbolize, literary analysts have widely suggested African-American. The parallels are made of the creatures overrunning large urban areas and spreading their ideas. Can one man ultimately make a difference and put an end to these vampire creatures? Below, I have constructed included a couple excerpts from the critique. This particular essay is available through many databases as well as in print. And finally, I locate both the biography and the cultural context within the larger context of our evolved human nature. Matheson portrays the struggles of a man completely cut off from fellow human beings and trapped in a severely threatening environment. In this way, Matheson taps into an intuitive understanding of human nature - an evolved folk psychology - to make his tale believable and interesting. It is striking fact of human anxiety that the things we fear are non-randomly distributed: So what was the young Richard Matheson afraid of? Insofar as *I Am Legend* is a window into his psyche, he was afraid of nuclear war, of predation, of being all alone in a dangerous world. While the first fear is a highly context-dependent one, the second two generalize across cultures and times. We do learn, however, that the vampires are cold and that they have white fangs and bad breath IAL, p. The vampires play an integral role in the narrative, but they share the stage with a host of other, more abstract monsters. We depend on other people not just for reproduction and survival, but for psychological and emotional growth and fulfillment. This is the common-sense observation that is conveyed by *I Am Legend*; imaginatively and more powerfully than any psychology textbook could ever hope to accomplish. It is striking that in the face of fierce attacks from the walking undead, Neville listens to music, puts works of art on his walls, and watches motion pictures on his home projector. As an author, Matheson no doubt intuitively understands the deep psychological need for art that probably everybody experiences: After a particularly violent attack on his house, Neville sets about fixing the broken generator and, significantly, putting up a mural on his living room wall, and then, when the work is done, sits down to listen to Mozart IAL, p. The paradoxical motif of being alone among others is one that finds currency in a paranoid Cold War cultural climate. Narrative is, by its very nature, more engaging than any theoretical text. Book Review wrote in Instead, it is perhaps the greatest novel written on human loneliness. Its insights into what it is to be human go far beyond genre, and is all the more surprising because, having read his short stories - which range from competent but simplistic, to having classic *Twilight Zone* twists he was a major contributor to the original TV series there is nothing within those short stories that suggests the supreme majesty of the existential masterpiece *I Am Legend* was aborning.

4: I Am Legend Study Guide from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Later he forced himself into the kitchen to grind up the five-day accumulation of garbage in the sink. He knew he should burn up the paper plates and utensils too, and dust the furniture and.

Three of his short stories were filmed together as Trilogy of Terror , including "Prey" initially published in the April issue of Playboy magazine with its famous Zuni warrior fetish doll. The Zuni fetish doll reappeared in the final segment of the belated sequel to the first movie, Trilogy of Terror II. In the s Matheson published the novel Earthbound , wrote several screenplays for the TV series Amazing Stories, and continued to publish short fiction. He also wrote several movies—the offbeat comedy and box-office flop Loose Cannons, the biopic The Dreamer of Oz about L. Short stories continued to flow from his pen, and he saw the adaptations by other hands of two more of his novels for the big screen— What Dreams May Come and A Stir of Echoes as Stir of Echoes. In , Matheson published a non-fiction work The Path, inspired by his interest in psychic phenomena. He also wrote new works, such as the suspense novel Hunted Past Reason Sources of inspiration[edit] Matheson cited specific inspirations for many of his works. Duel was derived from an incident in which he and a friend, Jerry Sohl , were dangerously tailgated by a large truck on the same day as the assassination of John F. They had four children. Richard Christian , Chris and Ali became writers of fiction and screenplays. Matheson died on June 23, at his home in Los Angeles, California, aged The Science Fiction Hall of Fame inducted him in Collected Stories as the best collection of As a tribute, the ceremony was dedicated to him and the award was presented posthumously. Other writers[edit] Stephen King has listed Matheson as a creative influence and his novel Cell is dedicated to Matheson, along with filmmaker George A. Director Steven Spielberg said: His Twilight Zones were among my favorites, and he recently worked with us on Real Steel. For me, he is in the same category as Bradbury and Asimov. I always shot his first draft. I will miss him.

5: Richard Matheson (Author of I Am Legend and Other Stories)

Richard Matheson. Richard Matheson () was The New York Times bestselling author of I Am Legend, Hell House, Somewhere in Time, The Incredible Shrinking Man, Now You See It, and What Dreams May Come, among others.

6: I Am Legend by Richard Matheson

Richard Matheson's novel I Am Legend blends science fiction and horror into a pulp classic. The premise is simple: after a nuclear war, a mutation sweeps across the globe.

7: Read I Am Legend online free by Richard Matheson

About Richard Matheson: Born in Allendale, New Jersey to Norwegian immigrant parents, Matheson was raised in Brooklyn and graduated from Brooklyn Technic.

8: Giveaway: I AM LEGEND by Richard Matheson

Writer Richard Matheson wrote several popular and influential science fiction novels, including I am Legend () and The Shrinking Man (). Synopsis Author Richard Matheson was born in

9: Richard Matheson obituary | Books | The Guardian

Richard Burton Matheson (February 20, - June 23,) was an American author and screenwriter, primarily in the fantasy, horror, and science fiction genres. He is best known as the author of I Am Legend, a science fiction horror vampire novel

that has been adapted for the screen four times, as well as the film Somewhere In Time for which he wrote the screenplay based on his novel.

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