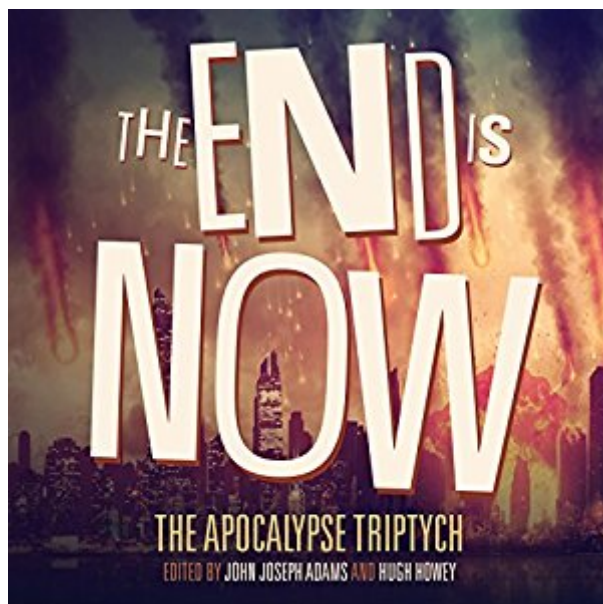


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# The End Is Now: The Apocalypse Triptych



## Synopsis

Famine. Death. War. Pestilence. These are the harbingers of the biblical apocalypse, of the End of the World. In science fiction, the end is triggered by less figurative means: nuclear holocaust, biological warfare/pandemic, ecological disaster, or cosmological cataclysm. But before any catastrophe, there are people who see it coming. During, there are heroes who fight against it. And after, there are the survivors who persevere and try to rebuild. "The Apocalypse Triptych" will tell their stories. Edited by acclaimed anthologist John Joseph Adams and best-selling author Hugh Howey, The Apocalypse Triptych is a series of three anthologies of apocalyptic fiction. The End is Nigh focuses on life before the apocalypse. The End Is Now turns its attention to life during the apocalypse. And The End Has Come explores life after the apocalypse. The End Is Nigh is about the match. The End Has Come is about what will rise from the ashes. The End Is Now is about the conflagration. Featuring stories by: Tananarive Due, Scott Sigler, Annie Bellet, Charlie Jane Anders, Seanan McGuire, Sarah Langan, Nancy Kress, David Wellington, Ken Liu, Elizabeth Bear, Ben H. Winters, Megan Arkenberg, Jonathan Maberry, Jake Kerr, Daniel H. Wilson, Will McIntosh, Jamie Ford, Desirina Boskovich, Hugh Howey, and Robin Wasserman. Narrated by: Stefan Rudnicki, Mur Lafferty, Kate Baker, Lex Wilson, Anaea Lay, Tina Connolly, Norm Sherman, Stephanie Grossman, Folly Blaine, Rajan Khanna, Windy Bowlsby, Scott Sigler, Laurice White.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just finished the last story on my kindle app and I loved it. This is the second set of short stories and

all but two continued stories began in "The End is Nigh". For anyone reading this review and not familiar with the format the triptych is a set of three volumes of short stories by different authors that have a beginning, middle, and end story spread over the three volumes and are tied together by a common theme, the theme here being the end of the world. Almost all of the books from the first volume have follow ups here and this volume deals with the actual apocalyptic event happening. I highly recommend reading the first volume first. In the forward Hugh Howey claims you don't have to read the first volume to enjoy this one. He is probably right but I think reading the first book would definitely enhance the reading experience of most of the stories while a good half, although they take place in the same world have different protagonists so as not to ultimately matter. There were also a couple of totally new stories, one I really liked and the other was another zombie story that I found unnecessary. All my favorite stories from the first book received sequels here so I was pretty happy about that and the only one I actually hated did not so double happy. Still a couple of stories that were just okay and the two zombie stories left me a little bored, not badly written just unoriginal. Will McIntosh's story was my favorite in this book just as his other story was in the last. Really enjoyed Hugh Howey's new short story and I'm really anxious to see how he wraps his story arc up. The feel of this novel was surprisingly different. The first book was the whole finding out the disaster and watching as the world begins to crumble. You're learning about the people and seeing the first glints of understanding and fear. This book's emotional feel was more horror and resignation. There is also a lack of any resolution of course so be prepared for cliffhangers. The world is destroyed. Nuclear War, disease, mold, zombies, Hailey's Comet, asteroid shower, or alien invasion. Pick your poison, sit back, and enjoy. The end is now. Can't wait for the final book "The End has Come". And one last thing. Yay Kindle Matchbook. If you aren't familiar with this program it is where if you buy the physical copy of the book you get a discounted price for the kindle version. I ordered the book for my wife and paid .99 to get the kindle version for myself and finished it just minutes before my wife texted me saying she had received the book. The program is great. It makes sense for everyone involved. The publisher and author receive a little more money for nothing, there is honestly no real cost at all for the digital copy once it has been converted, and you the reader get a digital backup and the chance to enjoy your purchase immediately. More authors and publishers need to take advantage of this amazing offer.

I was so excited to finally have The End Is Now to read after reading The End is Nigh. I was really happy that many of the authors have returned to continue their stories. While many of the stories pick up right where they left off while others are occurring further along their timeline. If you are

someone who loves tales of the apocalypse and horror I highly recommend reading this series. There are many great writers with a wide range of end of the world scenarios. The writing is top notch and continues to hold you captive while you see where it all leads. The book leads off with the story *Herd Immunity* by Tananarive Due who tells us a frightening story of 90% of the population that is wiped out from a 72 hour virus. This is a frightening story of a lonely girl looking for anyone she can find companionship with while she is traveling along a road following a solitary man. The stranger is apprehensive to have any contact for fear of contamination. In *The Sixth Day of Deer Camp* is a continuation of *The Fifth Day of Deer Camp* with the action picking up right where it left off. Our group has the terrifying decision to make after an alien craft has crashed close their cabin in the middle of nowhere during a very cold winter. The suspense that Scott Sigler throws in our face is fantastic as is his twist which was completely unseen. *Goodnight Stars* is another great continuation, that continues the story *Goodbye Moon*, and Annie Bellet steps up the suspense in a big way. The moon is now destroyed and now communications have become hit and miss. Her daughter now struggles to understand and except her loss. Seanan mcguire's story continues to be more terrifying than her first. With the spores now everywhere there is no place of safety. A mother and her daughter live day to day in search of 'safe' food and water while desperately trying to avoid becoming contaminated with the spores. After losing her partner she wants nothing more than to keep her daughter safe from the mold she unknowingly is responsible creating. *Agent Isolated* by David Wellington is a fantastic action packed end of the world Zombie tale. A group of people are desperate to get out of the city and reach the harbor where they believe a boat will take them to safety. After long and dangerous travel thru the city they arrive at the shore. What they find isn't at all expected and is more terrifying than the mystery of why people are turning into Zombies. Ken Liu's story *The Gods Will Not Be Slain* is so creative and such different way to have the end of the world arrive. Instead of virus, zombies or out of control weather we have people's minds uploaded to the net where they battle to control the world. With all the latest computer technology we have to help us in our world, this story takes it to a new level of concern. One of the more intriguing stories is *Bring them Down* by Ben Winters. The population 'hears' God telling them to cross over, but one girl doesn't hear anything and doesn't believe. She doesn't believe and refuses to accept that she should follow the majority. After everyone is gone she is left with just one friend remaining and trying to survive. Will McIntosh again frightens the heck out of me with *Dancing with Batgirl in the Land of Nod*. The image of seeing people getting sick and nodding to only end up paralyzed is completely terrifying. This is one of those stories that really sticks with you and can make you never want to leave your home for fear of contracting an illness. In *The Mountain* by Hugh Howey is a great follow

up to In the Air. The people are hold up in a mountain with a small group while the rest of humanity left to die from a nuclear apocalypse. Being safe isn't all its cracked up to be as they soon discover, in the mountain quickly takes a turn for the worse making them wonder if a quick death wouldn't have been better. These are only a few of the great stories contained in this book. There are many more awaiting you, ready to give you a disturbing outlook on the end of the world. I'm now again wanting the next and final piece to this literary puzzle. John Joseph Adams really knows how to pick his writers and the authors really know how to tell a great story. This is a must read trilogy, with so many great stories you can't lose.

A good collection of stories. However, it states that this collection of short stories can stand alone. I do not agree. It has been a while since I have read the first book and I had a rough time recalling how the story began when I first read through this one the first time. This led to confusion on several of the stories since it completely lacked a good backdrop and character identification. I ended up going back and reading both books in a row. Wow! It made the second book come to life. I would highly recommend reading this trilogy in order

Volume 2 of the three volume trilogy of Apocalyptic Science Fiction Stories takes place during the apocalypse. As with the first volume I liked the majority of the stories, however unlike the first volume in which I was left wanting more (which led me to purchase this volume), the stories in this volume did not did leave me with that same feeling and purchasing Volume 3 (which comes out in 2015) is a 50-50 proposition at this point. Of the 20 authors in this volume, 18 of them had stories in Volume 1. One thing that surprised me was that most of the follow up stories contained a different set of characters and told a different story rather than an immediate continuation from the previous story by that author. Therefore, most of the stories from either volume can be read as stand-alones. I liked 11 of the 20 stories so I consider this a good collection, especially if you like apocalyptic science fiction.

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