



## In the Drift

*Michael Swanwick*

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## **In the Drift** Michael Swanwick

The meltdown at Three Mile Island created the death zone known as the Drift, where the sky burned dark blue and pink, and where boneseekers destroyed bodies within. Two-headed monsters, dog-faced boys, mutated vampires and other undesirables were thrown into the Drift. Now, they're coming out.

## **In the Drift Details**

Date :

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Author : Michael Swanwick

Format :

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic

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## From Reader Review In the Drift for online ebook

### Chrissy says

#### 2 stars are a generous thing.

I got this book for free on Kindle Unlimited, just saying. But it was in the horror section, so...I can handle a little sci- find. Not a big fan of it. All sci- fi. It was a pretty good concept, post apocalyptic world, but he doesn't really explain why. He has a bunch of characters that you want to like, but the development is hap- hazard at best. There is no explanation, his characters appear and disappear with not really a basic timeline, and his conflict ( one of many ) that could have been explored is just confusing. I read alot, and I was disappointed, even after I trudged through it, hoping it would get better.....it didn't.

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### John says

2001 grade C+

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### Psychophant says

This is Swanwick's first novel, but we can already see both his strengths and weaknesses. His strength in making unforgettable characters and settings in a few paragraphs, and his weakness in weaving the story through more than a few pages. So we get a episodic novel, more like three short stories with connecting chapters than a true novel.

Atomic catastrophes are now a past fad, but I am old enough to remember how worrying it was at the time. The story reads as a precursor to the Fallout series of computer games, even if here the catastrophe is an accident and is quite limited in area. Very well done, without the excess of other post-apocalyptical works, mainly because here the apocalypse was limited.

Maybe it is because it reminds me of my youth, but it has aged quite well. The future world has lost some of its technology, so the fact that they lack some advances does not grate much.

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### Justin Smith says

Enjoyable blend of alternate history and SF. Three Mile Island went into meltdown 100 years before and changed The US forever. Now nothing more than a 3rd world country, The US has been broken into separate states surrounding The Drift. A radioactive wasteland that was formerly Pennsylvania, is now a haven for mutants and outcasts.

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### Robin Edman says

Highly imaginative world-building in a post-apocalyptic setting, but the story turned out to be a good bit

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more formless than is usually expected.

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### **Jessica D Kaufman says**

**Ok.**

This was ok. It was interesting though didn't completely engross me. The idea of massive radiation causing the results in this book are clearly not accurate given what we know of how nature responds to radiation events (chernobyl). I feel like that is obvious but the author didn't bother to understand it.

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### **Yupa says**

L'opera prima di Michael Swanwick.

Romanzo di fantascienza post-catastrofe (nucleare), onesto ma non strepitoso.

Dettaglio realistico affiancato a speculazioni visionarie e soprannaturali, malinconia di fondo, umanità dolente e molto cinica, poco interesse per una trama compatta.

Caratteristiche che l'autore metterà al servizio, in maniera assai più efficace e originale (a tratti un po' esasperata), nella bilogia dei Draghi del Ferro e del Fuoco: *La figlia del drago di ferro* (1993) e *I draghi di babele* (2009).

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### **Kevin Brown says**

I agree with the critique that Swanwick doesn't tell very coherent stories - his works end up being much more episodic than one expects from a novel. However, I still rate this book highly because it, like his other works, is so literary. His writing is simply far better than most SF writers.

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### **Gerard says**

The beginning of the story shows much promise, but in the second half the tension decreases. That's why I find the end of the story a bit of a disappointment.

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### **Andi says**

As usual, Swanwick pulls no punches. I found the changing POV characters difficult to stay emotionally attached to (especially the reporter. Why would Victoria love him? He's so boring! Was it just the psychic link?) but as usual his writing overcomes most of the plot and character shortcomings. I really wish Fitzgibbon had a chance to tell his story, too. The ending was frankly unexpected but necessary.

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## **Elliott says**

What began as an interesting premise was then diluted into a very dull fix-up of interrelated stories all taking place in a world where the crisis at Three Mile Island was not averted and the plant melted down taking out a good chunk of Pennsylvania with it. The uninhabitable zone is the aforementioned "Drift" of the title. Swanwick sets his story approximately 100 years from the meltdown and his cast of characters include mutants, city workers, and regular citizens dealing with a world changed by the meltdown. The changes are at times inexplicable: Quebec has separated from Canada, and the North Eastern states too have left the United States. Aside from a few brief mentions of the former U.S. states being an independent nation this is largely unnecessary to the plot, as is Quebec leaving Canada, which is really mentioned only in this beginning map, and never again. The mutant plot line was overdone to the extreme and so lost much of its appeal by the end of the work while the writing was sub-par at best.

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## **colleen says**

read 06.15.87

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## **M. says**

Moved this to my Might Never Finish pile. I only wanted to read this because it's set in Philadelphia and after nuclear fallout, the Mummies have become a citywide gang/crime syndicate that controls all the territory in the 215.

So there's that for you.

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## **Oedipuss Wrecks says**

Dang it. I abandoned the book after about 100 pages. I skimmed the remainder of the book.

The novel starts very strong with a compelling scenario and thriller pacing. This is abandoned in Chapter 3 as the story jumps to a future in which the previous protagonist is now in a place of power. The story begins to slog as the action re-focuses around balances of power while a new subplot is introduced about mutant powers and the development of a cult around these powers.

Early on, I knew that I was only hanging on for the ride. Once the ride slowed down, I took the chance and hopped off.

Eh, I still love Michael Swanwick!

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## **Eric N. says**

I gave up started well,lost interest.

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