



After the Cure

Deirdre Gould

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Eight years ago the December Plague swept through the human population of earth. The Infected were driven mad by the disease, becoming violent and cannibalistic, killing even those closest to them without hesitation.

Six years ago, the tiny surviving community of Immune humans found a cure, and the Infected began to wake up and realize what they'd done. And what had been done to them.

Over time, society began to rebuild itself. Now it is ready to judge those responsible for the Plague. Nella Rider, the court psychologist and Frank Courtlen a defense attorney are trying to establish the truth. But more depends on it than they know. They race to find the answers they need before the fragile remains of humanity vanish for good.

The After the Cure Series:

Book 1: After the Cure

Book 2: The Cured

Book 3: Krisis

Book 4: Poveglia releases July 21, 2015

Book 5: The 40th Day coming Fall 2015

After the Cure Details

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From Reader Review After the Cure for online ebook

Amanda--A Scientist Reads says

The idea of seeing the zombie plague cured, and the rabid nom-ing creatures it created returned to humanity, intact with all the memories of what they had done when the infection took over, was a new one for me. The Cured, as they are renamed, also retain the visible and invisible scars of all they did when control was lost. They are often riddled with physical scars, missing limbs, and/or have a distinct appearance of starvation, that even up to 8 years after the plague took them, gives them a gaunt, haunted appearance.

The face I thought the author made every time there was a "surprise"

The contrasting perspectives of an Immune, and a Cured, gives us glimpses as to what it would be like to live for years in fear, and seeing these people as they were and not as they are now. The "social problems" potential for this book was very high. Marking the distinctions of having no control over your actions, and making a constant decision when there were no longer consequences for your actions. The author sort of slams the "Immunes are the monsters" idea into your face so many times, it becomes tiring, but it's an interesting point I wish we saw more of.

THINGS THAT MADE THE TEETH WANT TO GNASH

If the zombie plague could somehow be reduced to a paint by numbers scene, it would be captured in this book. My immediate response is that it wasn't long enough to really build the city, but it was long enough in several places for me to threaten to throw my kindle if the main character didn't actually get a clue soon. Gould had to hit the reader in the face with every clue they would need to put the story together, repeatedly, making the movement of the story painfully slow.

EXHIBIT A: How I felt while reading

Author: Hey this is a really important leaf that I'm obviously trying to get you to focus on without being too obvious, though I totally AM being obvious. I'm also going to repeat the same phrase about said leaf as many times as possible without just having an entire paragraph that is: leaf leaf leaf leaf leaf, and leaf the leaf leaf.

Reader: ... Got it. I know what a leaf is, and you've mentioned the exact same phrase about the leaf at least 10 times, so I think we're good.

Author: [mid conversation about a completely unrelated topic, flashes back to leaf points from earlier]

Author: [five pages or so later] Wow, if only we had something green and flat and that grew on a tree.

Reader:

Author: OMG, it's a leaf! It's such a surprise!!

Reader: You have to be f-ing kidding me.

There are also some poorly researched points, and inconsistency within the story. Our doctor heroine mentions that "she didn't even finish medical school," and that she still had a "few months of residency left." If that's the case, she DID finish med school, and now was finishing the equivalent of on the job training, having already passed her Boards, she's just completing the last step to work independently.

On that note, how the hell did so many lawyers survive!?!?! Because the world building was so poor, I had no idea of the actual scope of the safe zone, so I don't know if it's just that there is such a large population in this area that lawyers, judges, and film makers are suddenly needed and utilized again, or just that the idea of a zombie trial was too irresistible and the only way to save that was to save those who run that dog and pony show. How are they delivering this footage? Characters mention repeatedly that one of the things most missed is a hot shower, but then they have live footage broadcasts. So, even though we know the water system for the major part of the city is functional and safe, they turned off all the electric water heaters and allowed everyone to watch TV? I think this was another sacrifice to poor world building because even a tiny bit more fleshing out of the infrastructure could have made this believable.

I simply don't believe that with an established military government, the military wouldn't be involved in the criminal proceedings. I also think the line between the new world and the old one is blurred, with so much jargon from times that are no longer relevant.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The premise of this book was great, but it neither had enough zombies nor philosophical waxing on social standing and humanity to compel me to continue the series. The next book in the series is from the POV of an infected who was cured, which MIGHT focus on all the things this first novel lacked.

jamie farrow says

Well what can i say about After the Cure? It was a free recommendation on book bub and i thought i'd give it ago. It opens at the end of a pandemic. I want to say zombies but its the wrong word, the illness that swept the world doesnt fit the regular zombie criteria. The effected are more enraged cannibals then reanimated dead. Luckily (or unluckily depending on view point) a cure has been found and administered to the infected! Horah! Nella (cant quiet get over the fact that her name makes me want to have nutella on toast every time i read it but thats the only issue ive had with this book) our resident physcologist is tasked to help the infected readjust after thier illness. She'll be much needed as it turns out the cured, remember everything that they've done. Six years later and Nella is tasked with evaluating the mental health of Dr Pazza and his assitant Ann, two of those responsible for releasing the illness about to stand trial for their crimes. During these meetings with Dr Pazza and his lawyer Frank, Nella discovers things may not be as over as they appear to be. Can she stop it with the help of Frank and her friends?

I have thoughly enjoyed this book. The concept is a fresh take on the apocolyptic wrting genre. The stories that the cured tell about thier actions are moving and haunting at the same time. The budding relationship between Nella and Frank (a cured witha lot of guilt) hits subtly upon social restrictions in relationships still prelevant in todays society.

Gould creates a realistic and believeable post apocolyptic setting with a well thought out plot line. I found it increasingly difficult to put down. My only suggestion when reading this is make sure you have Nutella in the cupboard..... just saying.

Phoenix says

This has potential. The writing and the story line were ok... But it felt... Like a low budget movie. Like, yeah ok, somehow you wrangled a big name actor but there's still no money so the lighting is weird and everyone can tell that car's on a set and not actually moving. The chapter titles... OK, they don't really matter but they were still pretty bargain bin. And the dialogue had a strange aversion to contractions. Always "they are" or "we are" instead of they're or we're. It just sounds stilted and unnatural and jarred me out of the flow numerous times. Also there's a pretty Twilight-esque zombie romance that made me gag. If the weird romance bullshit had been removed, this book might have taken an hour to read.

There were a few loose ends that didn't quite tie up at the end that irritated me.

Overall it was a decent book. Nice plot. I didn't give a shit about the characters. Half of that was because they were too busy sucking face. The other half was just that they weren't really that well developed. "I ate my wife and it haunts me. Also I like boats." That's not really enough for me to get emotionally attached to a character. Dr. Pazzo was probably the deepest (and most interesting) character and he wasn't really there - they just talked about him a lot.

Idk. If this series continues with Nella and Frank I'M OUT. I can't handle any more zombie footsie. (Besides. They'll probably have a baby and name it Franella and it'll try to eat its way out of Nella and they'll try to pass it off as somebody's cousin or something because reasons.) But I've heard that these books are the same story from different perspectives. I could probably get down with that. Just no more suck face. Goddamn.

Jilly says

Imagine if the zombies on the Walking Dead were suddenly cured and then society had to somehow go on. The survivors like Rick (who are the Immune in this book) will know that they killed a bunch of people who could have been cured if given time. The cured "zombies" will know that they killed and ate people - even their loved ones. Talk about an awkward world!

Yes, this awkward.

This is the setting for the book. The zombies were actually people infected with an infection that gave them a cannibalistic form of pica - which some of us remember reading about in our pregnancy books because we were told we might develop a bizarre desire to eat chalk or dirt while pregnant. Kids - I swear - even making us crazy before they even get here. Eating dirt and chalk will seem normal once they get to toddlerdom. By the time you have a few of them, especially boys, you will literally become unshockable. *Oh, the kids painted the dog, ran outside with it while naked except for their cowboy boots, and were throwing Twinkies at passing cars? Yeah, what else is new?*

Dammit! We need to buy new fish again. The fish store is getting suspicious.

Our heroine is Nella, who is a psychiatrist that has been helping the Cured adjust to life again. She has been called in to evaluate the mental health of two former researchers who were partially responsible for releasing this deadly bacteria into the population. They are going to trial for their crimes and let's just say that people aren't exactly in a forgiving mood for the ones who developed the sickness that made them eat their family.

Literally.

Nella becomes friends with Frank, the lawyer for one of the defendants, and there is a very slow-developing love story going on. I liked that part because the world and storyline was a little bit on the depressing side, so I felt like it helped. It was dark material and there was a lot of grossness in the whole eating people thing. Nella and Frank were both likable people with very different experiences during the plague.

He was Homer. She was a hot dog.

During their work with the defendants, Nella and Frank find out that this whole nightmare may NOT be over, as they thought. There is something worse coming. Yes, worse than eating your hamster like a Snickers! Frank and Nella are determined to stop this from happening.

P.S.A.

This book had a really unique take on the Zombie Apocalypse. The ideas in it were great, but it could have used a little bit of tweaking. I thought some things were a little obvious, there were a couple of slow times, and part of the ending was really cheesy. But, it was still a really fresh and fun spin on an old favorite.

Oh, and best part? I got this free for Kindle on Amazon! Go get it!

Molly says

Really loved the premise of the book. Definitely seemed like a new way to look at zombies/outbreaks - a cure? And those cured remember everything they did while zombified?

Book seemed a little tedious, and the romance talk about/between the two main characters felt repetitive at times.

I did enjoy the twist at the end!

There are more books in the series, but I'm not sure I'll read them. Also, it seemed as though the book didn't have a decent editor...

Liana Marie says

Oh wow, what a ride. I'm normally not a huge fan of "zombie fiction"- or horror, or thrillers, or really anything that's creepy or spooky- but this is probably one of the most interesting and gripping books that I've read in a long time. I couldn't put it down! Unlike your typical zombie story, this book focuses on the social, psychological, and legal aftermath of the zombie apocalypse, when what remains of society is separated into the Cured (people who were zombies but have been cured) and the Immunes (people who were not susceptible to the zombie plague).

Things I liked:

-Honest-to-God originality. I never felt that what I was reading was trite or over-done. The premise is such a cool idea, and prompts the reader to examine the concepts of guilt, humanity, and ethics without feeling heavy-handed.

- I loved seeing how the author incorporated actual science. I'm a Biology student, so a lot of it really resonated with me. It felt believable, which only served to make it scarier!
- There are plenty of women in this book, which is (sadly) sometimes hard to find in the sci-fi genre. Not only were there women, but the women were so VITAL and important. Gosh, there were so many women and it made me so happy.
- Main character's best friend is a lesbian and a woman of color who is in a happy relationship. (YES YES YES!!)
- It was chilling and scary without being downright terrifying. There are some very graphic descriptions of violence and a good deal of suspense, but it's not the kind of thing that keeps you up at night. I guess disturbing would be a good word to use.
- There's definitely a romantic element, but it's not the focus of the story at all.

Things that could have been better:

- This book is free on the ibooks app, and I suspect that it's free elsewhere as well. That may account for the overall poor editing. I kept finding mistakes in punctuation and spelling, and sometimes sentences were awkwardly phrased. I dearly wish that whoever edited this book had done a better job.
- I love the story so, so much, but stylistically, the writing wasn't as sophisticated as it could have been. I guess what I'm trying to say is that the author is a great story-teller, but not the best writer.

Overall, I enjoyed the crap out of this book, and I would probably re-read it. HIGHLY recommend to more mature audiences looking for something new and exciting!

Jackie says

The story is good, but the characters are odd. They like taking lunch breaks and going home to take showers every time they uncover really urgent, important information about a deadly virus; "Let's think about this again on Monday. Are you hungry?", they say. They are in hostile territory lurking with dangerous and violent creatures, "I'm going to undress and step into my sleeping bag *blush*, don't peek ok?" IF you can get past all that, it's a good story! I am now on Book 2.

Al says

I've got to stop reading zombie books.
Imagine being a zombie and then being cured. Still remembering all those people you ate.
Like a night on tequila . Shudder !!

Pamellia says

I could not finish this book. It's too much of a romance for my taste

Kelly Fritz says

I've never read a book that examines how society would go about rebuilding itself post-zombie-apocalypse.

It's a fantastic concept, and Gould does a fairly good job fleshing out some of the details. The main problem I had with the story was the seemingly unnecessary romantic element—it seemed incredibly forced, and the neatly tied-up fairy tale ending (at least in the arc of the two characters in question) was a bit annoying.

Mary Jo says

I loved the concept of this book: zombie-like people who are cured and can remember everything they did, and a world trying to recover with both the Cured and the Immunes. But it's like this writer took a great idea and didn't really do anything with it. I liked the characters well enough, but near the end, it's like the writer just had to hurry up and wrap it up with a happy ending, which was cheesy and over the top. Trying to tack on a twist ending was predictable and just made me roll my eyes. I wish a better writer would take this idea and start all over again with it.

sh(e)reader says

This was a free Kindle offering, and the premise sounded very interesting. There IS a cure for the "zombies" ... as you can imagine, physically, many are in horrible shape, even if they can return to humanity. But additionally, they REMEMBER what they did (like eating their family). Tough stuff to live with.

It was a very interesting approach to other zombie reads. I did like it, but it kind of dragged on and on. The writing was fine, but it didn't have the flow that some better books do. It was a bit repetitive at times too. Most of the chapter titles were one of two words that were reflective of the text in the chapter, but one was

Nella woke with a gasp as cool water hit her ...

Which was also then the first sentence of the chapter. I just found that weird.

So while I did like the story, and thought it had specific plot and structure, about halfway in I felt like I was trudging along, just pushing to get through it.

There is another book in this series, but apparently it is a companion book, happening at the same time or before this one. Same setting but completely different characters with no crossover. I probably won't continue on.

Amanda says

So, if a cure was found for Zombies, what would happen after?

I think that is a really good premise for a book. Unfortunately in *After the Cure*, the author decided to concentrate more on the romance side of the story. Now I know that this book is part of a series, so maybe the actual after the cure idea is explored in more detail in the later books. But I do think that by not exploring it more in the first book of the series, the author missed a trick.

An ok book, 6 out of 10. 3 stars.

Katrina says

So here's the thing. I love zombies way more than any normal person should. I get excited any time I find a new zombie book to read or a zombie show to watch. With that being said, this is a plot I haven't seen before. It doesn't focus on the zombies or the zombie apocalypse, but more so on the fact that the zombies could be cured and what happens after. The plot was interesting enough, but the romance in this killed it for me. It just seemed really forced, and distracted me from everything else that was going on. I wish I would have enjoyed this more.

Lucas Darathy says

Okay, so here's the deal. I actually REALLY enjoyed this book. "But, Lucas, you gave it TWO stars?" I know. That's because of the "romance" and Frank. Let's talk about this.

The book is really interesting. The trial, the crazy doctors, the Plague, the Cure. It's all pretty cool. I'd have given this four stars. FOUR.

But then we have Frank. Mr. "Not Beautiful". The guy who keeps pushing our MC to be more social, cause why does she not know her neighbours? It's not like she went through a sorta-zombie apocalypse, in which she saw her old neighbours eating each other and in which she killed many people to survive.

Frank is also the guy who keeps "secrets" from her. Just because. Seriously. Just because. There's never a good reason. Then, he wants her to keep "secrets" from her best friend, who's going to help them. But he has no problem telling HIS friends AND the people involved in the trial about EVERYTHING.

This is also the guy who's too soft, doesn't want to think of carrying a gun and, hey, look at that, thanks to his inability to THINK, Nella ends up getting attacked and bitten.

The romance itself is pathetic. They meet and Nella is blushing already. She turns into a total teenager around him. All the time. In fact, they act like teenagers. It's infuriating.

So, yeah. I liked the book A LOT. But the author's need to keep writing about this "relationship" and Frank just... dragged the story down a lot.

That all said. It is a good book. It really is. I'm just honestly extremely frustrated because it had everything to be AMAZING.
