



## **Invasive Species**

*Joseph Wallace*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Invasive Species

*Joseph Wallace*

**Invasive Species** Joseph Wallace

**There can only be one dominant life form on Earth.**

In the remote African wilderness, a rainforest is dying. But something else has come to life: A newly evolved predator that has survived the depredations of mankind, only to emerge from its natural habitat faster, stronger, and deadlier than anything humanity has ever faced.

**And it is no longer man.**

## Invasive Species Details

Date : Published December 3rd 2013 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425269497

Author : Joseph Wallace

Format : Paperback 496 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Horror, Thriller, Fiction, Adventure

 [Download Invasive Species ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Invasive Species ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Invasive Species Joseph Wallace**

---

## From Reader Review Invasive Species for online ebook

### Mogsy (MMOGC) says

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.com/2015/11/27/r...>

Nature is scary. Books that remind us of this fact are always enlightening, and that's what I loved about *Invasive Species*. When your story involves science and ecological elements—and especially when your focus is on nasty, icky bugs—even a novel in the Suspense/Thriller category can easily read like a Horror.

From the book's description alone though, it was hard to tell what it would be about. All we know is that an unknown breed of predator has emerged, and humans are its favorite prey. This new enemy is faster, stronger, and far deadlier than anything we've seen before. Right away, my brain started working on constructing this hypothetical creature, and I couldn't help it—films like *Predator*, *Alien*, and other movies featuring science fiction's most terrifying killing machines immediately sprang to mind. After all, we've seen these types of plots so many times before; it's difficult to imagine that a threat of this nature could be anything other than a malevolent, extraterrestrial monster.

Turns out, I was totally wrong. The “monsters” in *Invasive Species* turn out to be wasps. Sure, they may be wasps on steroids, having evolved to become larger, smarter, and more poisonous than the norm. But still...just wasps. Does it make this book any less scary, though? Nope. Actually, it just made me feel even more creeped out and unsettled. If you've ever been stung by a wasp, you know what I'm talking about. Wasps are pure evil.

Certainly, if you're an entomophobe, you're going to have a really tough time with this book. While it's a science fiction story that also gets a bit far-fetched here and there, the premise has just enough science in it to make you squirm. Our protagonist Trey Gilliard is a modern explorer of sorts, literally taking the road less traveled. His life's work is all about heading into the least known regions of the planet. There are still areas on earth relatively untouched by humanity, and some of these are in the deep jungles of Africa. You don't have to suspend reality too much to believe that a new species could evolve separate in such a place, unknown to the rest of the world. It's here where Trey first encounters his first “thief”, a new kind of parasitoid wasp. The locals call them that because of the way they steal your mind, your body, and your life. They're also referred to as “slavemakers” because of the way adult wasps can attach their stingers to hosts and take over their bodies.

The thieves are deadlier than regular wasps for many reasons, but first and foremost it is because they have developed an intricate hive mind, allowing them to communicate long distances and also to recognize and “remember” those who have done them harm. Primates are also their preferred host, including human beings. They breed by injecting their larvae into the abdomens of their unsuspecting prey, and neurotoxins in their venom also scramble and befuddle their victims' minds, making them unaware that they are pregnant with a baby wasp until it is too late. That's some messed up, creepy stuff.

The thieves are also great at survival. Deforestation and hunting practices have diminished their natural habitat and available hosts, but instead of dying out, they've become even more opportunistic, hitching rides on cars, boats, and planes in order to spread to the rest of the world. In the United States where it's an election year, their presence eventually sparks a political storm.

Remember my review earlier this year of *Bat out of Hell*, a so-called “eco-thriller”? That one didn't work out so well for me. And well, after reading *Invasive Species*, I realized this is how I wished that book had turned out! *Invasive Species* is a far better book because author Joseph Wallace did the right thing and focused on

the disaster at multiple levels. He focused on the individual victims. He also focused on the threat of the thieves themselves. He emphasized the way these insect invaders fueled the fear and panic, ratcheting up the suspense to a fever pitch. The book is also a frightening reminder of just how fragile we are when science and technology fails us, and how quickly a civilization can come apart at the seams without the proper infrastructure and resources to maintain it.

I won't spoil the ending, because you'll just have to read this for yourself to see how the conflict resolves. However, I will say Invasive Species finishes on a bittersweet, melancholy note. After the roller coaster ride this story gave me, I thought it was ominously appropriate. For a book I knew next to nothing about when I first started it, I ended up really enjoying myself. Gripping, suspenseful, and delightfully chilling, this is a novel that will really get under your skin! A fine blend of drama and action for fans of sci-fi thrillers and horror. The follow-up titled Slavemakers is actually on the horizon, due out later this winter, and I'm looking forward to picking it up now more than ever.

---

### **Mike Shoop says**

A world comes to an end as we know it sci-fi thriller. A huge African wasp has developed intelligence and uses mammals as hosts as it spreads across continents, attacking humans and other animals. Never fear, there is a group of people, including scientists, who race against time to find a way to stop the complete takeover of earth. Nonstop action, violence, and general creepiness.

---

### **Kathy says**

While reading this novel (and skimming much of the middle section), I kept thinking that this was a "B" version of books I have enjoyed such as Jurassic Park or Hot Zone. The author made numerous references to movies (Bourne Identity) and short stories (A Sound Of Thunder) and hints of authors (Creighton) and ideas from authors (Vonnegut and free will). This book seemed to be snippets of numerous ideas previously explored and not a unique exploration. There was government conspiracy, traveling around the world, mild romance, social commentary including slave making both in the insect and human world. The heart of the story which was never fully fleshed out is how intelligence- something only humans possess ruins everything. I think there was a little Star Trek in there too "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few". The author did a poor job of pursuing what seems to be the main theme in the book which is "the hive mind". So many ideas in so many directions that it has no true focus. Could have been a better book. Character development was poor. Usually when a story involves a group of strangers coming together for a reason such as trying to prevent the end of the world, the characters should be interesting. Because Invasive Species is going in so many directions, this development did not happen. I can understand how some readers would really enjoy this book. It has some heavy ideas but is written in such a way that it turns out to be a light read not a thoughtful one.

---

### **Brenda says**

**\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*** I won a pre-release copy through First Reads on the Good Reads website. All I can say is that this is a fast, suspenseful, science-based, thriller of a read. I lost lots of sleep because I just couldn't get to a stopping point. I couldn't wait to see what happened next. This is the story of an

unknown species of wasps that begin to travel throughout the world implanting their larvae in animals and humans. Once the larva is ready to leave its host, the host dies. The political, medical, and scientific ramifications unfold as the story gets out. The scary thing is, we're finding new species every year as man goes further into uninhabited territories. It could happen anywhere at anytime. BTW, the cover art is beautiful. Enjoy the ride!

---

### **Jeffrey says**

This book caught me by surprise. Joseph Wallace's last book was a young-adult adventure into baseball in the time of Babe Ruth, featuring a young woman who was a baseball phenom.

Invasive Species couldn't be further away from Diamond Ruby in genre. That said, it is one of the best books I've read this year, and certainly the one I read in the shortest amount of time. I simply couldn't put this one down.

The plot races from beginning to end in what seems like moments, cataloging the rise of an insect species from discovery to the post-apocalyptic conclusion, in which the species, well... you simply have to read this one for yourself to see just where it ends up.

The prose is totally accessible and enjoyable from beginning to end, giving me the sense that Joe Wallace is fully at home writing this genre, which has spawned some of America's best writers, from Poe to King, and Joe seems to relish his place on this list.

This is a wonderful read, indicting government at its bureaucratic worst, finding the best and worst in human nature, and creating in the story's protagonists a sense that a total world-wide cataclysm might actually be a positive thing. Could that be possible?

Read *Invasive Species* for yourself and discover humanity all over again.

Good work, Joe.

---

### **Brenda Mantz says**

Joseph Wallace is a writer's writer. I knew that from the first few pages of Diamond Ruby and it was confirmed as I "chewed into" Invasive Species. The pacing of Joe's latest novel is meticulous. He leads us skillfully through the terrifying events and we go with him willingly -- eagerly. The characters are fascinating and unpredictable - especially the "thieves". Who could stop reading after being stung by this sentence early in the book? "A freakishly thin, black, arched body topped by a pair of crimson wings followed, the wings flickering so quickly they seemed to leave a bloody smear in the air."

---

### **Jeff says**

I read this book in one fell swoop on a flight to London. Ok, I had to catch the last 70 pages or so once I got to my hotel. It's a fast, fun and scary ride, based on the idea that a tiny little piece of our world can take the rest of us down with it if don't watch our step. A timely idea, for sure, but Wallace is really more concerned

with keeping us turning the pages. If you like scary apocalyptic thrillers, this is a good bet. Also worth checking out by the same author: Diamond Ruby. A historical fiction account of a young girl phenom baseball pitcher. Versus Invasive species, it's a deeper, more character-driven tale, but also compulsively readable.

---

### **Jenny Denman says**

I do not consider myself a science fiction fan. But as a reader who loved Diamond Ruby and Joseph Wallace's artful development of characters, I had to give this a try. I was immediately hooked by the suspenseful plot and descriptive setting. Not only is this a tale about a species capable of bringing down civilization, but it is a journey into many desolate parts of the world. This book will not only take you on a thrilling voyage throughout the planet, but it will require you to think about the human being's role in the ecosystem. The struggle of man vs. nature and the response of so many different well-developed characters will make you question where you stand and how you perceive your place on this planet. This apocalyptic story is so relatable because you will wonder if this or something like this could really happen and where you would be in the mix if it did. Though it's fiction, it is very realistic, especially when it brings in politics and the media. We learn very early on that the protagonist Trey believes "that the world was not a pyramid, with humans sitting on top" and much of what occurs stems from that childhood realization. Though I may not consider myself to be a science fiction fan, I think I have to admit that I am one because this genre undoubtedly causes one to consider the bigger picture. I hope there is a sequel!

---

### **Amanda says**

In Invasive species we meet Trey. Trey is a man without roots, more at home observing wildlife and ecosystems in remote places. Better with solitude rather than dealing with people.

A horrific experience in Tanzania leads Trey to hunt down sighting of a wasp. But this is clearly no ordinary wasp. Sightings and encounters start happening all over the globe, but what will this mean for mankind?

Invasive Species makes me think about a conversation I had with an old friend regarding insects. My friend had a particular dislike for insects, proclaiming "Look at them, they look like aliens!". In a way my friend is right, looking closely at insects they do have an alien look to them, it's why they make for great monsters. I'm not particularly fond of wasps, and the wasps in Invasive Species are particularly nasty critters. They make me shudder!

As you can imagine Invasive Species hit some of the cringe buttons for me. As a story however it takes a while for the plot to get going. I think it took me half of the book to get invested in the storyline, mainly due to the pacing of the book. The second half of the book is much better written. It feels like the author actually got into the plot. In fact, the second part of this book is so good that I have given this 3.5 stars, rounded up to 4. Scary wasps? Yep! If a creature feature is your kind of read, then I recommend Invasive Species.

\*\*\*Disclaimer- I purchased this book with my own money. This is my honest review\*\*\*

---

## **Nathaniel says**

Invasive Species has some impressive blurbs and it kept me up reading until 3am, so by one critical metric (for thrillers) it worked. But the ending was very unsatisfying to me and there was a jarring conflict of detailed real-world science and hocus-pocus.

So the problem I had with the ending is that the characters basically assert that it's too late to save the world from the impending threat of killer, parasitic wasps from very early on in the novel and sure enough: it is. This would make for a great setup for an apocalypse story (like World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War) or a post-apocalyptic tale (like Directive 51), but the story takes the format of a fast-paced thriller with the heroes rushing to save the world. Except that, you know, they don't.

That's not such a problem, except that it makes all of the action seem sort of pointless. If the story is about the end of the world: focus on interesting stories about the end of the world. If the story is about building a new world: focus on interesting stories about the building of a new world. But instead we got a story that had all the hallmarks of a thriller (e.g. a team of scientists who uncover a hidden secret and then meet with government officials to try and formulate a plan), but none of it works. And, more importantly, none of it *mattered*.

I get that in some ways it's fun to subvert genre expectations, but the reality is that just doing the exact opposite of whatever the genre calls for isn't necessarily innovative. It can feel just as rote and formulaic as doing exactly what the genre calls for with the added penalty of not providing whatever payoff led to the creation of those expectations in the first place.

Thrillers involve an elite team of misfits thrown together by circumstance bravely risking (and sometimes sacrificing) their lives to save the world, and it works because that's a fun story. If you're going to slavishly reject the conventions at every turn and sacrifice the fun story, you better offer something else in reward. This book didn't. Not for me, anyway.

The heroic team fails at everything except saving their own skin (which is ineptly kept as a non-surprise) and their doom-and-gloom "The world is gonna end" prophecies are inerrantly fulfilled and then there's a weirdly tacked-on epilogue about life after the end of the world that only exacerbates the whole problem by portraying a story that sounds like a lot more fun than then one you actually just read.

I guess as a setup for a set of stories in the post-apocalypse world this book could really work, and I guess that says all you need to know about it. It feels like a prequel to a more interesting book. (Which may or may not ever be written.)

---

## **Tom Tresansky says**

There wasn't much here to like.

The author seems to have an absurdly low opinion of humanity, considering how little of a fight he has them (us) put up. I mean, they're wasps, for fuck's sake. I hate them as much as the next guy, perhaps more, but a shoe is their doom. A shoe. Most of us are wearing two of them. And why does no one ever once think of wearing a bee suit in this entire book?!?

The way to tell a story with a monster like this is not to make each and every insect into a superbug, but to have them being squashed left and right and overwhelm with numbers (there's...too many of them!!!). Not

making every man y waspo encounter into a Mexican standoff with multiple levels of psychological warfare and multiplier bluffing gambits. They're wasps. Even if these are 1000% smarter than most wasps... just no. Their brains are still the size of pebbles.

Also, at some point in the story (despite this purporting to be hard SF) the wasps become telepathic. And it's an interspecies telepathy. And they can understand complex human engineering projects, coordinate simultaneous global assaults and guerrilla warfare, and are physically strong enough to fly up into moving helicopters.

And they have an Achilles heel the size of Texas, which somehow is never revealed or discovered until it's too late, despite the government's Top Men being on the job. Over the course of months no one thinks to just ask the Tanzanians? His Strawman version of people deserves its fate.

The main characters never seem to have any sort of heroic struggle, and honestly not all that much to do. The lone government attempt to fight back is laughable (even as a political stunt). The globetrotting seems to be put in to check a box on the thriller trope checklist. Why do the protagonists, fully aware of the wasps' life cycles, not institute a policy of checking each other for larva every few hours after being in contact with the bugs?

Is every wasp capable of laying an egg? Why doesn't the author ever offer Cliff notes on typical wasp reproduction? I don't know how they usually reproduce (do they have two sexes?) and it's kind of an important detail re: how fast they spread. What do they eat? Is large mammal their typical diet? How do they sustain their numbers while in hiding then, without vast fields of animal corpses appearing to tip off the authorities?

So frustrating, and such a wasted opportunity.

---

## **Curtis Poe says**

I am unsure of why this book is so highly rated by many people. As a light thriller, it was a pleasant read: Wallace's writing stays out of your way and let's you dig into the story, but as a story, it ranks up there with The Da Vinci code in terms of unbelievable plot and poor characterization, though Wallace is better than Brown in the latter's respect.

The story is about a species of very large wasp that has evolved to raise its young inside of mammals, including humans, and a small group of people who are trying to protect humanity from them. After the wasps plant their larva in a host, removing the larva from the host is fatal to the host, even if the larva is "removed" by reaching adulthood and exiting the host. Further, the wasps have a hive-mind intelligence that appears to allow them to plan and the wasps have become an invasive species, spreading across the globe and threatening humanity with extinction.

In short, it's fun story with flat characters and absurd plot devices. Good book for a beach when you don't want to challenge your brain, but if you have a hard time "suspending belief", this may not be the book for you. The writing was clear enough that I'd probably give Wallace another chance — he's got potential — but this was a fun story idea marred by unbelievable plot twists.

(view spoiler)

### **April Castoldi says**

Loved this! It was creepy, exciting, and I didn't want to put it down. I read it with a sense of dread, reminding me of the anxiety and tension of the first Alien movie. It also reminded me of Ender's Game, a favorite for many years.

---

### **Cassie says**

I loved this book! I am a huge fan of Michael Crichton's sci-fi-mystery novels, and this felt very much like Crichton. I had to double check that it wasn't him because the pacing, subject matter, everything was in such a similar vein. Characters were believable (esp. the politicians and their response).

---

### **Charlie Kaufman says**

Ok so first things first, I won a copy of this book from Goodreads. Thanks You!

Now that that is out of the way. Allow me to oh so "thank" the author for all the future freakouts I am going to have every time I get bit by a bug in the future!

I highly enjoyed this book! It is one of those books that you tell yourself that you will just read one chapter before bed and end up at 2am with all the lights on in the house. I am still going to classify this one as action/adventure.. but it leans toward the horror side of things.

Now excuse me, I am going to go invest in a case of bug spray!

---