



Virus: The Day of Resurrection

Sakyo Komatsu , Daniel Huddleston (translator)

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A mysterious virus wipes out all of humanity, save for researchers in the frigid Antarctic. To save what is left of the world from nuclear destruction, the scientists must find a way to return to America. Reads L to R (Western Style).

In this classic of Japanese SF from 1964, American astronauts on a space mission discover a strange virus and bring it to Earth, where rogue scientists transform it into a fatal version of the flu. After the virulent virus is released, nearly all human life on Earth is wiped out save for fewer than one thousand men and a handful of women living in research stations in Antarctica. Then one of the researchers realizes that a major earthquake in the now-depopulated United States may lead to nuclear Armageddon...

Virus: The Day of Resurrection Details

Date : Published December 4th 2012 by Haikasoru (first published 1964)

ISBN : 9781421549323

Author : Sakyo Komatsu , Daniel Huddleston (translator)

Format : Hardcover 312 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Asian Literature, Japanese Literature, Fiction

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From Reader Review Virus: The Day of Resurrection for online ebook

Paige says

I was not really interested in science fiction books before I read this book. It shows what a small virus can turn into. This Japanese Apocalyptic story was about a virus which ultimately caused people to stop getting influenza shots. It caused panic and death. In the end, the population was low. Scientists, with the low amount of resources that they have. But it would be hard for them. This book was epic and extremely enjoyable. Although it is a very long book, I finished it in one day because I just could not put it down. This book is recommended to everyone by me.

Henrik Rostoft says

Very good, describes the end of the world due to a virus, and even though it was written in 1964 it doesn't feel dated.

Benjamin Larsen says

A good read, especially if you're into fictional virus diseases and such. Though, in my opinion, it's a bit of a slow read, not that it should take away from the story itself.

Falbs says

A true classic. It's hard to believe this book was written in 1964 and so much of it is so relevant. The parts about armageddon coming after the destruction of humankind is a bit hard to swallow, and the treatment of the few remaining women of the race is backwards and disturbing, but I'd still recommend this one to anyone who likes end-of-the-world scenario books as a genre so that you can see where we started from.

Charl says

A decent story, even if the ending did seem just a little convenient, but way, way, WAY too much exposition and literal lecturing! I found myself skimming large sections just to get back to the story. I cannot recommend it.

Nicole says

I won this through a Goodreads giveaway so I felt compelled to push through and finish it. Which tells you that I really didn't want to. What I applaud in this book is the fact that the writing still feels fresh and not

dated though it was written in 1964 - that is no small feat. If the dates had been moved to our speculative future it would have read just the same. But unfortunately, I couldn't get into the author's style and the heavy run-on/expository/yet-allegorical style with long philosophical tangents found me zoning out and skipping long passages. Better than a lot of apocalyptic tales I've read though.

Jen says

3.5 stars. Review to follow

Mollie says

The premise of the book was interesting - a deadly virus is released and decimates the globe's population. However, I couldn't get past the scientific arrogance and blatant chauvinism interlaced in the storytelling. There were pages devoted to what felt like the author showcasing his advanced knowledge of virology and there were absolutely no female characters of import in the book. I was disappointed but not entirely surprised by his depiction of women becoming glorified hookers or 'mamas' in the interest of repopulating the Earth. 1960's Japan was not known for it's advanced treatment of or equity for women. In the end, I actually had to laugh at the preposterous final chapter. If you love sci-fi as I do and want to pick this up for a historic and cultural perspective on the genre, be my guest but there are so many other better options.

????????? ??????????? says

One of the best post-apocalyptic books!!!

Maipon says

I coincidentally read this book right after reading Jaques Cousteau's *The Human, the Orchid and the Octopus*. It was a really lucky choice, since Cousteau's book gave me some really good context for the political climate that is present in *Virus* and the era it was written in (esp. regarding cold war and nuclear weapons). Thematically, the two books were also surprisingly similar. They both have a strong faith in humanity and science, but don't fail to show their darker sides as well. Both books also criticize the way in which most of scientific research is made or used for warfare purposes, and how the secrets that are kept for the sake of "national security" could endanger the whole planet we live on. And both of them are reminders of how small we actually are on a universal scale.

There is something almost soothing to the way *Virus* is written. Pages of scientific jargon here and there might not be the best way to tell a story, but somehow they helped to create a strong effect of immersion. There wasn't a single character that I would have cared that much about, but there was still something very human about the way their inner lives, and the eventual demise of human society, were portrayed. I enjoyed the atmosphere that had hints of bittersweetness and irony, and yet some sort of hope as well.

Too bad the second part of the book wasn't as enjoyable as the first one. Towards the end it started to feel a bit too much like some silly Hollywood action film, but I guess even those scenes had their purpose. The

latter part of the book was also less enjoyable because of the way women were treated in the remaining population, but then again this is a Japanese book written in the 60s, so it could have been a lot worse too. This wasn't a book without flaws, but it was an interesting read with strong and pretty well-executed themes.

Kelsea Dawn Hume says

I rarely break down sobbing while reading, but Komatsu managed to provoke me. I would not recommend reading this classic Japanese science fiction during flu season. The unexpected death of humanity is always a difficult subject, but it's especially hard hitting when you have all the symptoms described within.

The science in this novel, the politics, and the varied musings on the human condition are simply brilliant. My one qualm has to do with Komatsu's treatment of women in the novel -- the surviving women were treated far too much like WWII comfort women for my taste.

READ IF:

- (And only if) you're not a hypochondriac.
- You want your science fiction to punch you in the gut until you cry like a baby.

I won this book through First Reads

Jennifer says

I am left rather speechless. No that's not quite right, I just can't find the right words to say. This was a challenging book to read. At one point I referred to it as very technical and gemy. Logical. That's the word. This book was logical. Like how Vulcans are logical.(yes I know, stop laughing) So logical in fact that there is no doubt that this "story" could play out verbatim in real life. I liked the Japanese point of view. I also liked the....vignettes of other parts of the world. I am left a bit troubled by the ending, but its a book that's well worth the time to read. Although I don 't recommend reading it during an Ebola outbreak. Suddenly the hypothetical becomes very real and you will have a mild panic attack.
