



Erebus

Steven C. Bird

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Erebus – A science fiction, apocalyptic thrill-ride like no other.

WINNER of the 2018 audiobookreviewer.com listener awards THRILLER OF THE YEAR!

"Totally unique apocalypse: an unintended release sets the apocalypse in motion..."

"Erebus pushed all my right buttons; an Antarctic, foreboding setting, unearthing a biologic disaster hidden for millennia and a race to save humanity from it..."

"This is a captivating thriller..."

"Sci-Fi fans beware! Honestly, I was a bit surprised by the thrill and intensity of this story..."

After lying in wait for millions of years, deep within the Earth beneath Mount Erebus on the frozen continent of Antarctica, an unforeseen threat emerges, leaving a scientific research team to face the horrors that await them at the bottom of the world, alone.

Steven Bird is also the author of The New Homefront Series, as well as the Society Lost Series. His work can also be found in several Kindle Worlds novellas, including The Edge of Civility and JET: Dangerous Prey.

Erebus Details

Date : Published August 27th 2017

ISBN :

Author : Steven C. Bird

Format : Kindle Edition 276 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic, Fiction

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From Reader Review Erebus for online ebook

Al Burke says

Erebus is a zombie/not a zombie novel. It also plays a little homage to The Thing (above and beyond the Antarctic setting). So not quite zombies and not quite The Thing, so how about Thimbies?

Okay, enough of that. I had an audiobook version of this and I enjoyed the narrator's reading of it, although I can't attest to any grammatical booboos.

The story is good, but not particularly original. The characters are standard, and they can be a little preachy at times, and waffle a little too much at others. While there are some moments when characters act appropriately (i.e. poo their pants), at least in my opinion, they're too calm and collected at others. There are too many McGuffins too. I liked the characters, but every time Vasily mentioned Soviet Russia, I wanted to punch him. Too Family Guy for my liking.

Still, worth a read/listen. Nothing out of this world, but decent entertainment all the same.

Jay says

I really enjoyed most of this book. I got the audio version and really the only part I didn't fully enjoy was the portrayal of Federov by Kevin Pierce. I enjoyed the interesting take on the apocalypse and really enjoyed the way it ended. Nobody is safe and there is some real emotion in the losses.

I have read a lot of "end of world" fiction. Mostly zombies and the like. I loved the rationalization for how the infected came to be that way, how it spread, and how the spread had multiple stages in the big picture. If you over-think a book like this you will never enjoy it. It was well-written and that enabled me to fall into the story and put aside the logistical issues. I appreciated the end of the book mostly for the fact that it is not a series and can be enjoyed for what it is. So many stories are serialized these days, drawing out a tale that could be great until it is so thin that it just snaps apart.

This book was given to me for free at my request for my voluntary and unbiased review.

Rick Charles says

I picked up Erebus shortly after reading a true story about adventures in the Antarctic. As I started reading I was immediately impressed by the author's background knowledge of the setting. There were mentions of several real people and places. It was a good way to kick off the story.

However, the intrigue stopped there. As the plot progressed, the good setup quickly crumbled and all that was left was a pretty narrow and shallow storyline with characters that I didn't even get a chance to know before they got killed off. More often than not I found myself getting confused as to what had just happened, who had died, who was still alive, and where all the characters were at, because it all happened too quickly with too little descriptive wording to help my brain keep up.

The major hinge of the story itself, the monster, was somewhat of a disappointment as well. It was plagued

with tropes common to the creature feature subgenre that resulted in a monster I feel like I've seen before in plenty of movies, and although a pretty good attempt was made at grounding the monster in scientific plausibility--which admittedly was pretty interesting--it wasn't enough to salvage what was simply just a boring monster.

My favorite part of the story was one character I actually got to know well enough to like. For some reason his development was more rounded than anyone else's in the story, and overall he was just a far more interesting character.

Finally, aside from the writing style simply being too quick-paced for my taste, I also feel the audiobook narrator's narration style did not compliment the writing style well either.

Netanella says

Mount Erebus is the most active volcano on Antarctica, and the setting of Bird's biological thriller that kept me turning pages on my kindle and huddling under my blankies. Not that I was terrified, mind you, but the descriptions of the icy, frozen conditions and the desolation of the research stations just got to me.

Plus, there was this whole John Carpenter's *The Thing* vibe going on, which was way cool in my book. Carpenter is the shit, and *The Thing* is one of my all-time, hands-down favorite movies. If it were playing right now, I'd be watching it again.

So the whole frozen-Antarctic-research-station feel is going on. As is the deadly bug that infects you and makes you aggressively homicidal. Not that I'm complaining. Nope. I enjoyed every frozen minute.

No aliens from outer space, however. Here, we have a home-grown local bug, a eukaryotic organism that has survived on the rim of Mt. Erebus for countless centuries until it is carried back to the station and infects the researchers. In its quest to reproduce, however, the bug does exhibit some Alien-like tendencies, particularly the cocooning of human bodies with grey webbing goo everywhere. So, of course, my overactive imagination immediately went to the Ridley Scott classic, *Alien*. Again, no complaints.

The book is replete with a dozen PhD researchers, a handful of graduate research assistants, and a barkeep or two. The interactions between the characters were fun, but all the Dr's started to blend after a while. However, my personal favorite character was the Russian mechanic, Vasily Fedorov, a man with a seemingly ordinary job who is actually hiding many secrets. He's a former Soviet special ops guy, knows about secret bunkers and hidden fuel stashes, and is an overall we-can't-survive-without-him kinda dude. Plus, the Russian accent is cool. (No nods to Putin here, just love a sexy accent.)

And of course, I'm reminded of the awesomeness that is Fet, from Guillermo del Toro's television production of *The Strain*.

Overall, I enjoyed this book, and will look for more by the author. Nicely done!

Randy Harmelink says

Well written and a good story, but ultimately I just never got that spark of a connection to the characters. Other than two, maybe three, main characters, the others were just background noise for me and never really got developed.

Bon Tom says

First I was thinking 4 stars, then I wondered, why exactly? Because it's "just another zombie book"? Figured, that's exactly an asshole move and shitty reasoning that makes me want to strangle (or worse) some other reviewers on GR.

The truth is, I have exactly zero complaints about this book. The writing is top notch, characters are interesting, atmosphere is of a kind... that can hardly be beat. Ever since *The Thing*, any sort of crisis happening on the poles is going to have my attention, deservedly. What ever is happening up (or down) there, there's also killing cold to deal with or even one of those periods of perpetual night.

Cant't get any better than that.

Yes. *The Thing* had me primed for the locale. I suspect I'm not the only one.

Also, the story is one-off kind, not one of those that's being milked through 17 sequels for all it's worth (or lack of it). That's rare quality and one more plus for the momma of this author to be proud of.

Chessy The Cat says

Dr. Linda Graves, a forty-four-year-old astrobiology researcher with the University of Washington, falls down a previously undiscovered fumarole on Mt. Erebus. Mt. Erebus is an active volcano in Antarctica. Her research partner, Brett Thompson, a Homer, Alaska native and the team's mountaineer and safety specialist, repels down to her. While at the bottom of the fumarole Dr. Graves collects eukaryote specimens to ship back to the university. At the shipping dock, there is an accident and the container with the eukaryotes is ruptured. And, that is when the horror begins.

It is the end of the season and winter is fast approaching. The researchers are packing up to go back home leaving only a skeleton crew remaining at McMurdo Station, also known as Mac-Town. When the transport never arrives to take those remaining at the Lower Erebus Hut, part of the Mount Erebus Volcano Observatory (MEVO), to Mac-Town Dr. Nathan Hunter, the Principle Investigator for the expedition and a professor of geochemistry at NMT, has Brett lead them via snow machine down the mountain. Upon arriving they come onto a scene that can only be described as straight out of a horror movie. There are dead bodies everywhere and a person running at them with a crazed look in their eyes.

Once they realize that there is no one there to help them leave they seek refuge anywhere they can. But, each noise they make brings out more crazed people intent on killing them. These people resemble zombies even though they are still alive and are easily killed. The group stumbles upon Dr. Graves who has been in hiding

since the epidemic broke out. She fills them in on what has happened and they conclude that they are alone in fighting this. No one is coming to help.

Bird's novel, *Erebus*, is a frightening look at being left alone with a killer at the bottom of the world. He has done quite a bit of research to make the characters and the location as realistic as possible. The suspense is palatable. The horror is unimaginable. Bird has done an excellent job of telling this story.

I am not a horror fan and I hate zombie stories. This book is so well written that I forgot all about that and thoroughly enjoyed it. Bravo, Steven Bird, bravo.

5 out of 5 stars.

Sue says

An entertaining read about a group of scientists based near the titular Erebus, a (real) active Antarctic volcano, who are nearing the end of the summer, such as it is. While packing up and preparing samples ready to be transported back home an accident causes a worker to become exposed to a ice sample containing unknown microbes, and that's where the fun and games begin.

I would describe this as a 'zombie' novel, because although the victims are not dead they are transformed and have the zombie-like indiscriminate urge to kill and eat.

Although the book is well written in terms of plot, location and action, I found the characters a bit difficult to tell apart, especially as Dr, first name and last name were used interchangeably. Consistency would have been better. As for dialogue, everyone spoke the same (except for the Russian character) and the English characters said 'gotten' which would never happen. The author may have researched living in Antarctica very well but he's clearly no scientist and this is the book's downfall for me. I think he misunderstood the meaning of eukaryote (prokaryote would have made more sense) and what little scientific explanation was given was glossed over, dumbed down or simply wrong.

3.5 stars but I'll be generous because it was certainly entertaining.

Brian's Book Blog says

Great Story, Missing Character Building

3.75 out of 5 stars

Imagine being at the edge of the world when the apocalypse breaks out. That's what happened to the researchers and doctors on Antarctica when they happen to accidentally bring to life an age-old organism that is bound to taking over.

I think my favorite thing about this book was the setting. I love when a book is set somewhere that feels out of the ordinary. An outbreak among researchers in Antarctica is something that no one would know about unless they either brought it home with them or they all died and never made it back. That fascinates me and I thought that the setting of the book really played a character, too.

The characters weren't explained too well and that made loving or losing them a little easier. I was a little worried since Bird didn't go into a ton of detail about anyone that we were going to have a horror-like story where no one makes it out alive.

If I could change anything about the book I would just spend a little more time introducing some of the characters and giving the reader a reason to like them (and in turn, root for them to make it.) The only character that I found myself rooting for was the Russian and it was because he gave a lot more of his backstory than any other character.

The organism/infection/disease was pretty good and reminded me a bit of The Genius Plague that I just finished. I can't really get into much detail about it without ruining the story but it felt unique compared to most "zombie-like" stories.

Overall, I thought that Erebus had a nice plot but was missing some character development. A solid 3.5 to 4 book that I did enjoy reading.

Elena Alvarez Dosil says

Review originally published at: <http://www.lomeraniel.com/audiobookre...>

A team of scientists are working at Mount Erebus, in Antarctica, and are ready to leave for the season, but strange events will make this difficult.

Erebus is a zombie novel with a different setting than the typical zombie stories. Probably this is why I had troubles enjoying it, since I expected something a little bit different.

There are many characters in this story but none of them are fully developed, which cause me not to really care for them. The dialogs sounded forced and I was not convinced by the characters' interactions. There is plenty of action though, and many stressful and gore moments for these characters, so it is still quite entertaining.

What I enjoyed most was the narration. Kevin Pierce delivered excellent characters' interpretations and kept me interested in the story, even though it was not my cup of tea.

I received a copy of this book in audio format from the narrator in exchange for an honest review.

Christian says

(This review is for Audible's audiobook format.)

I have a casual fascination with Antarctica and its research stations. I love creepy fictional TV shows like 'Fortitude' and 'Trapped', and documentaries featuring people in any Arctic-like atmosphere. So of course Erebus was right up my alley.

Science researchers working in and around McMurdo Station discover an organism that has lain dormant deep within an Antarctic volcano. Samples of the microbe are brought to the surface for later study, but an accident leads to a leak, swiftly transforming into an outbreak among the inhabitants of McMurdo, its

surrounding bases, and beyond. The scientists must take drastic action to survive and prevent further spread of the organism, which seems to become more intelligent by the hour. Will they succeed or fall victim to the seemingly alien microbe?

Author Steven Bird has crafted an intense apocalyptic sci-fi feast for the imagination. Kevin Pierce's narration is fantastic as always with chill-inducing drama and suspense. Marvelous job all around! I recommend it for all who crave an exciting listen.

I was provided a free copy of this audiobook in exchange for my unbiased review. Many thanks for this opportunity!

Laura Thomas says

Antarctica. A desolate, frigid place at the bottom of the world. The scientists and students do their research and take their samples, unaware that something that appears so innocent will soon threaten all of humanity.

It's almost the end of the season. Winter is coming and only the most dedicated stay at the station. The others head for warmer places. The rush is on to get their research and samples on the planes before they hightail it out of there. An accident happens. Something is unleashed, and people are turned into raging lunatics. I know this sounds like a zombie story. It's not. Bear with me here.

Once the contagion begins a small group of people try to hide while coming up with a way out. They have no idea how many have been turned. There's no help coming. And this is one of my favorite parts of the plot. The group dynamics. Who steps up? How many sacrifice themselves? Who is the dissenter, the one who always takes the negative view and causes conflict? And who surprises me and steps up to wear the hero's shoes?

The fight for survival is nail biting. They have to find ways stay alive in freezing temps. And now the infected are changing. They're not like zombies. Instead of rotting away, they're getting stronger. From mindless rabid beings, they're now starting to act as a team. To strategize. Could the organism actually be sentient? It takes over the host and now it appears able to control them too. The more they discovered about the infection, the more horrifying it gets. What if the organism can cross the species barrier. Could it infect animals? The cold and lack of life in Antarctica kept it contained under the frozen tundra. Once it reaches warmer climates, what's to stop it.

You have to expect some deaths will happen to the group. At first I wasn't too worried about it. I hadn't really developed a strong bond with any of them. It was after the action really got going that I found a favorite. Vasily Fedorov, Russian ex-military but now a blue collar guy. He can make weapons out of anything. He's super resourceful, haunted by horrors from his past and also a really good guy. I sure want him to survive! I love his quote – "No room for feelings in struggle to survive. Survival important, not pride."

As the group is pursued from one station to the next., their food supply runs low and their options dwindle. It's anyone's guess who will survive, if any. And if they do, will there be a world to get back to? I couldn't see how this would end. It seemed so bleak and hopeless. This excerpt explains how bad it is.

"And here we are, in our very own horror movie. Only, in the movies, I can usually guess where the ending is going. Here, though, I have no clue. I just can't see it. It's not like there is safety on the outskirts of town. There is nothing on the outskirts of town here but a cold, frozen death. And beyond that – more cold." Sums

it up.

I grabbed this as a free download on Amazon. I'd seen it on another blog and the cover caught my eye. I crossed my fingers and started reading it. I read it straight through and I'm so happy I can give it a high recommendation. I'll be checking out what else the author has to offer now.

Bettie? says

Read by: Kevin Pierce 06:57:18

Description: *Isolated on the frozen continent of Antarctica, Mount Erebus, an active volcano named after the Greek God of primordial darkness, acts as a doorway from the underworld of Earth to the hellish, lifeless world around it.*

Despite the extreme conditions around the crater of Mount Erebus, life exists. Life does not travel to Erebus by way of birds or other plants or animals, but from deep within the Earth itself. Ascending from the dark world beneath Antarctica, microbial life arrives at the surface, only to find itself trapped within the volcano, confined by the icy, lifeless prison that surrounds it.

Today, on the steep and icy slopes of Mount Erebus, can be found a rugged team of scientists, researchers, and mountaineers carrying out their work in one of the harshest and most remote parts of the planet, at a facility known as the Mount Erebus Volcano Observatory, or simply MEVO. These professionals, tough enough to brave the extreme climate of Mount Erebus, include experts in the fields of gravity and magnetotellurics, volcanology, geophysics, and even astrobiology.

These doctorate-level professionals travel each year from several major universities such as Cambridge, Missouri State, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and the University of Washington to study Erebus, as well as the unique environment it has created for itself in one of the most remote places on Earth. They are assisted by a professional mountaineer, as well as graduate students from their respective institutions who study under them.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Erebus

By: Steven Bird

Narrated by: Kevin Pierce

This is an audible book I requested and the review is voluntary.

This book is very cool, not just because it is based in Antarctica! A team of scientist were trying to contact there pick up to get to the station and no one answers. They wait and wait then decide to travel by their snow vehicles to the station. They make the dangerous trek there and when they get there, the danger really begins! They find there is more life forms than expected on this frozen continent. Suspense, adventure, the elements, the life form -not telling :) - , and so much more is in this story. Great characters, and plot.

The narrator is awesome and perfect for this book. Keeps the suspense up and is able to do a variety of voices and stayed consistent throughout the story. I think he really added to the story and made me like it more than if I read it myself. I certainly would give it at least a star or more with the audible version than just reading it. He adds so much to the story. Awesome job.

Sweetpea says

A microbe is unknowingly unleashed from the Mount Erebus volcano in Antarctica. As the organisms seek out new hosts, they think that humans will do just fine. When the sh*t hits the fan, an unlikely hero will rise - and he doesn't even have a PhD.

Oh my, this story was a lot of fun to listen to! The suspense and nonstop action overcame the fact that there really wasn't much intrigue to speak of. I had kind of hoped that someone would turn out to be a bad guy and throw a monkey wrench in their plans for escape but that didn't materialize. The story was exciting and had lots of tense moments to hold my interest throughout. I just love a story with a body count! Kevin Pierce gave a very good performance as narrator, both with the characters and the pacing of the book. Erebus was a great listen and I would recommend it.

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review. This review is my honest opinion.
