



Genesis

Michael Stephen Fuchs

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In the dark heart of the Horn of Africa, our shadow wars rage.
But beneath the violence and terror, a bio-engineered serial killer lurks.
Come back in time with ARISEN and live through the beginning of the end of the world...

The Horn of Africa, place of various madness and horror – home to depraved warlords, Islamist militias, famine, drought... and regular outbreaks of killer viruses.

Tucked away in a high-tech Tactical Operations Center, inside an isolated safehouse in Somalia, sits Agency analyst Zack Altringham. He is Kenyan-born, Princeton-educated, badly burnt-out – and condemned by his language and cultural skills to a lifetime of fighting America's shadow counter-terror wars. But a threat many times worse than any suicide bombing lurks in the corner of Zack's tortured consciousness – just as it lurks out in the lawless bush of Somaliland. And when another mystery epidemic breaks out, Zack must find out if it is connected to a bio-terror plot he believed he thwarted years ago...

But, terrifyingly quickly, the epidemic reaches a tipping point and chaos descends – and Zack and his team (including two former Team Six SEALs) are trapped between the millstones of the sick and the dying on one side, and heavily armed militias on the other. Soon their “safe” house is in flames, and their only remaining option is to get in their up-armored SUV and try to escape the imploding gravity well of the city, to the safety of the American military base in Djibouti. But by then, will there be anywhere safe left on Earth to escape to?

Come back in time with the ARISEN prequel and live through the beginning of the end of the world.
Nothing will ever look the same again.

Genesis Details

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Author : Michael Stephen Fuchs

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From Reader Review Genesis for online ebook

jim combs says

Just read it again

Just read this arisen book again. Just as good as the first time. I'd forgotten how Maximum Bob bought it, and it still sucked when he did. You just want to hope we never run out of the guys that inspired the characters in these books. The Arisen series is really worth your time and money.

Jen Lynn says

This is the prequel to the rest of the Arisen series. I kept going back and forth of how to rate this: 3 or 4 stars? The problem is there is a LOT more military jargon with very little to no explanation of what it all means. So at times it gets way too overwhelming and more irritating to read. However... this is the book that tells us how the zombie apocalypse came to be. With most zombie stories you just hear about how people are dealing after the zombies came to exist, but you never get to see how it all begins. How the first zombie became a zombie or how the disease actually began to spread. This book gives it all. It is for that reason that I'm ignoring my annoyance with the military speak and deciding that I really enjoyed the book. Well worth the read. And, after reading this book plus the first four books of the series, I have an idea of where book 5 of the series is headed. It makes me even more excited for it to come out!

chucklethescot says

CIA analysts Zack and Baxter are working in a protected building in the town of Hargeysa , along with two former Seals Dugan and Maximum Bob, when news of the terror attack on Britain comes through. As Britain closes its borders to all traffic, a new disease is out of control at the hospital and in town which turns people into zombies. Military patrols in the area are going missing or being attacked by undead civilians. Local militia, the remaining US military and the safe house Seals try to take down this new enemy but they are all outgunned by sheer numbers and the safehouse itself is coming under threat. Do the four men stay and hope for help that might never come or hit the road in a deadly journey to a military base and try to save themselves?

This is numbered #3.5 but it focuses on the events before what happens in book #1 Fortress Britain, following different characters who are at ground zero for the virus in Somalia. They will also appear in later books in the Arisen series so it's a good idea to read this book well before you get to the later books. I bought this after I read book #4 but I don't think it matters too much where amongst the early books you actually read it.

This book does get off to a slower start than the books in the main series as we are being introduced to the current military situation in Somalia and the war between the US military and the local terrorist group Al-Shabab. We get the background on Zack, his interest in bioterrorism and the background that leads to him being in the safehouse. Don't expect the breakneck speed of the first few Arisen books as the first third of the book is slower, because it is setting the scene for the outbreak to start spreading. Some of it was probably unnecessary but it gave good depth to the group of four and to the outbreak itself.

The action really starts when our team start seeing the zombies in the street and try to save a woman trapped by them. The local Somali men are also out on the street killing the zombies and advising the team to shoot them in the head. It did seem ironic that the locals adapted quicker to the change of circumstances than the military in both sequels did! Perhaps this says a lot about these men accepting what they saw with their eyes instead of reacting with military instincts as the soldiers would do. Either way, the locals are brave and determined to save their town against incredible odds. From this point, we were back on the rollercoaster action that you expect in the series and the action was pretty much non stop. Just the way I like it!

I liked the main characters in the book which is always important. Zach did everything he could to leave his old life behind him in Somalia and get an education in the US, but ended up back in Africa when he joined the CIA and fears he will probably die here. All he wants is to escape Africa forever. And that was before the zombies attacked...Baxter is the new guy who is trying to become part of the team and prove himself. I really liked the two Seals especially Maximum Bob. I mean how can you not love a guy with such a cool name?

The second half of the book has a lot of action as the group need to escape the safehouse and get on the road to the big military base that they have been in frequent contact with. There are going to be a lot of dangers on the road itself including traffic bottlenecks and dangerous bridges to navigate, panicking drivers and 'shoot first' militia patrols, and of course zombie hordes. It is not a journey they want to make but the safehouse is damaged and the town is overrun so they need to get away before another wave of zombies they are tracking move in and cut off their escape. The journey is full of tension and lots of dramatic moments which keeps you interested all the time. I think my favourite scene was the bridge.

I don't want to go any further into plot but there were a few unexpected twists and I liked the ending. I hadn't seen that coming and it should make for interesting moments later in the series!

AudioBookReviewer says

My full Arisen: Genesis audiobook review can be found at [Audiobook Reviewer](#).

The cover depicts a huge horde of walking dead and a single drone aircraft. This makes me think that there is going to be huge military style action. Lots of zombies terrorizing the soldiers. Meaning, to me, gun fights and remote controlled hellfire everywhere.

I devoured Arisen: Genesis like there was no tomorrow.

But not at first. Not sure what I was expecting the beginning to contain. The first third of the story was the only place where my attention was swayed. Characters have to be built up in the listeners mind for anything to make sense, I get that. Things have to be put into motion for the impending apocalypse to being, I get that too.

But I hung in with it and once the action started it didn't stop and I was all in. Slowly the soldiers began to realize that they were dealing with the undead and not simple civil riots or a rebel invasion. Political and civil unrest surrounded a small CIA outpost in Africa. Strange reports of sicknesses started coming in. Zack Altringham, an analyst, didn't think much of it. Until a horde as at his doorstep.

Suddenly he and a small band of SEALs, thank God for them or he wouldn't have stood a chance, are fight for their lives against zombies and rebels. The thrill ride continues from here on out. Commandeering and armed drone and with all of the supplies and ammo they can carry. They make their way to safety.

Even though I have never been in a battle nor in the military Michael Stephen Fuchs was able to bring me into the band of brothers. Making me feel as if I were there experiencing everything happening around me. He was able to create dynamic military men not the simple minded stereotypical grunts. I was able to connect with them on a level that only a really good writer can create.

I was stunned by the performance of R.C Bray. This is a narrator that I really enjoy listening to. Who, in past audiobooks, wasn't the greatest at pulling off a large character base. Yet in Arisen: Genesis he was able to pull off not only several characters interacting. But other languages, and different African accents. Helping Fuchs develop his characters even faster.

Audiobook provided for review by the publisher.

Thomas says

After listening to 4 out of 14 of the Arisen series, I decided to go back and discover the origin of the virus that has put humanity on the verge of extinction.

Once again Fuchs' work kept me keen right up until the end. The first third focused mostly on protagonist Zack and his background as a CIA analyst, this doesn't last however as a horde breaks upon the outpost and chaos erupts. Given the setting of Somaliland I found this a much darker read than previous 4, especially since this was the earliest days of the virus and humankind didn't know what it was up against

Our protagonists this time besides Zack were his co CIA analyst Baxter, along with two former SEALs Dugan and Maximum Bob, without whom Zack's chances of survival would have been very slim. I didn't feel I connected with them as much as I did regarding the series I have already listened to, but maybe this will change should they coincide with the main cast from books 1 to 4.

I always take interest in prequels, because I am keen to know the origins of the many elements and backstories of the main series. Genesis was no exception and I will happily give it a solid 4 stars, I was particularly satisfied with the twist right at very end of novel.

Brian says

Each book tells the continuing saga of a world upside down where everything has changed due to an infection that turns 7 billion people into raving, human hungry zombies. This goes well beyond the Walking Dead for action as Fortress Britain, the only country left standing, is trying to reset the world to being zombie free.

The missions are many and the action is hot as American and British military conduct missions across the globe trying to find materials and people in a race to stop the extinction of the human race.

There are many characters in this saga and yet the author develops them with depth and reality. The protagonists and the antagonists seem to be so real, as does the action. Reading this saga pulls you in and places you in the middle of the action.

This HAS to be one of the BEST Zombie saga's going !!! Detail, information and realism pervades

throughout the 12 books (books 13 & 14 will arrive) and I can't wait !

Nigel says

I thought this was an excellent start to the series. Even more so when you consider that fact that it was written as prequel as a result I presume of the success of the series. The story focusses on a four guys in Somaliland, two CIA analysts and two tier-1 ex SEALS who are acting as security. Their mission to gather intelligence and generally keep an eye on the various factions and Al-Qaeda sympathisers.

The appearance of a quarantine tent at the front of the hospital is the first indication that things are not all they appear to be. Zack (one of the analysts) is fixated on potential viral outbreak spreading from Africa bringing about the end of the world and the quarantine tent fuels his worries and concerns.

Slowly, at first, the situation outside of their well provisioned safe house begins to deteriorate. Initially it is the sight of few people staggering around as if drunk, but it doesn't take the team long to realise they are sick. From there the escalation is incredible, groups of armed men appear attacking the ever growing groups of sick people. Caught in the crossfire of various groups the safe house catches fire and they are forced to escape and head out in the company SUV and head off towards the nearest US military base.

Can the four men survive the drive across dangerous environment avoiding the sick who are now attacking the population, the various gunmen who are not too particular about their targets, and the traffic jams caused by the panicking masses as they also fly for their freedom? Can they make it to the base and if they do what will they find if and when they get there?

A high octane thriller that hooks you from the get go and doesn't let up until the end. Looking forward to the next book (which was originally the first in the series).

Thomas Knight says

Not a bad read, I thought I was getting a more technical sci-fi than a zombie story. Still, a good run. Might read the series one day.

Geoff Taylor says

I found it hard to get into this book but I will continue with the series. I can't help but think, that even though this book is a prequel, I should have started with book 1.

Goodreads should list this book as book 0.5.

Riayl says

Really enjoyable - there were a few places where I had to call my dad and ask what something was - yes, I could have looked it up online, but it pleases my father when I direct military-type questions his way, gives him something other than farming to talk about, poor guy. That didn't detract from the story, just made me

feel a bit out of touch.

The characters were great, lots of action, horror, and a couple of places where my heart broke. I'm reading the rest of the series now, and while I am really enjoying it, none of those characters have grabbed me as much as the ones from this book, especially Zack.

Lisa Cleveland says

Wow! This was one heck of a great story! I had a really hard time getting into this book. I must have started and stopped reading it at least 3 times. All the Special forces jargon got in the way. To many initials that I hadn't a clue what they meant. Still, I figured that if so many people liked it that there had to be a reason for it! They were right. Once I got past all those things, what I discovered was an excellent story with some of the best written and memorable characters I've read in a while. I loved the whole story and the end was sad, having to say goodbye to my 2 favorite characters, but I also liked the way it finished up. I'd highly recommend this book and author. Now I'm on to book # 2!

Diane says

WHAT A BEGINNING!

Ok, understand first that I have read the first 3 books in this series before I found this book & that this was a prequel to the series. That said, WOW. This book is a great start to the series. Michael does a great job setting the scene & the storyline for the series. He gives awesome details everywhere; in explaining the area they are in, the people & their responsibilities, the agency's capabilities & then the plot of the story itself. I really want to add more, but I'm afraid anything more I say will ruin it for other readers, & I've always hated reading a review only to realize that I just read what I didn't want to read. And now the cat is out of the bag. So I stop here & just say, try & read this book first. I'll also add that reading this story after reading books 1-3 won't ruin anything, at least for me it didn't. Awesome job Michael! !

Panos Panagiotidis says

Damn i love good zombiebooks. I have listened to Arisen 1-3 and Genesis. These book are never boring. Will listen the rest of them.

Lisa says

Fantastic EOTWAWKI

This book is great! I had never heard of it, but it was free so I picked it up. Wow, just wow.

Pauline McDonald says

This was recommended to me and am so glad it was !

Drew me in and I had to continue with the series.

Love the fact it is based in Britain and how we would possibly survive an outbreak of any major pandemic.

The variety in the Zulus was a clever twist that has stopped this from being just another routine story. Also the storyline was varied - to say the least and without giving away spoilers.
