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Run: A Thriller



Synopsis

Five days ago a rash of bizarre murders swept the country. Senseless. Brutal. Seemingly unconnected.... A cop walked into a nursing home and unloaded his weapons on elderly and staff alike. A mass of school shootings. Prison riots of unprecedented brutality. Mind-boggling acts of violence in every state. Four Days Ago the murders increased ten-fold.... Three days ago the President addressed the nation and begged for calm and peace.... Two days ago the killers began to mobilize.... Yesterday all the power went out.... Tonight they're reading the names of those to be killed on the Emergency Broadcast System. You are listening over the battery-powered radio on your kitchen table, and they've just read yours. Your name is Jack Colclough. You have a wife, a daughter, and a young son. You live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. People are coming to your house to kill you and your family. You don't know why, but you don't have time to think about that any more. You only have time to run!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A neo-dystopian survival story would probably be the best way to characterize this work by noted Wayward Pines author Blake Crouch. This earlier stand-alone epic, though, still has much to offer to both the thrill seeker and the literary crowd...first we get edge of your seat episodic writing in which our heroes, the Jack Colclough family (wife Dee and children Naomi and son Cole) race just ahead of mysterious gangs of killers and marauders, intent on wiping out and slaughtering all in their path while, secondly, we get to experience the literary prowess of the very capable Blake Crouch. So as

the family escapes from their home in New Mexico and heads north, Crouch becomes very adept at describing the beautiful mountain backdrop and the scenic forestry that the family beholds in their desperate run for survival. This experience, coupled with Crouch's ability for empathy with the Colcloughs, makes for a genuine page-turner...there were many times that I had difficulty putting this down. The plot here though is fairly straight forward...something wildly baffling has occurred to mankind that has caused a seemingly large portion to start killing others who have, somehow, been unaffected. With no sense or logic, these vigilante groups and their killing sprees grow and spread to the extent that "normal" people must now run, to escape these growing gangs before they and their cities become torched wastelands. With power out nation-wide and cell phone coverage discontinued, it only becomes by sparse communication and chance encounters with others that the Colclough's learn that there is a safe haven just over the Montana border into Canada. Reaching there, however, becomes a nightmare of survival hell...exhaustion, near death injuries and starvation are but a few of the obstacles that Crouch expertly integrates into our family's plight. We feel the horror, frustration and anger right along with them as they seemingly find safety, only to have it thwarted again. If there is any criticism here, and it is criticism that has been pointed out rather viciously by other reviewers I must say, there are points in the book where the narrative does tend to drag a little...I myself found a few of them an actual place to catch my breath but admittedly there were many others that could have been edited down. I will say to the critics who chastise this work for "repetition," yes our guys do escape some rather harrowing episodes but each of these episodes are explicitly different...there is no repetition here at all, just more that adds to the angst of the story. So if you're looking for a fast, thrilling and page turning work that also doesn't disappoint on the literary end, I'd highly recommend "Run" by Blake Crouch. [Comment](#) [Comment](#) | [Permalink](#)

This was my first experience with the author, and I came away impressed. Crouch has a compelling writing style, very efficient. To say the story moved is an understatement. After plowing through so many novels which bog themselves down, this was a nice change. I fell in with the frantic pace and strapped myself in for a wild ride, not expecting to see much character development or internal conflict. And then the author sneaked up on me and made me care about Jack, Dee, Na, and Cole. Suddenly I wanted to see how Jack and Dee could repair their relationship. In the most extreme circumstances a person's true character emerges. These were good people caught in a nightmare situation. I couldn't stop reading to find out what happened next. This type of story isn't for everyone. The violence is graphic and relentless. But the story isn't about the violence. It's about how far a man (or woman) will go to protect their family. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

There is nothing easy about running from the zombie apocalypse. Although the zombie-types (ZT) are not exactly zombies, hence the rather surprising ending, they are close enough to keep the heroes on the run in this wild tale of America-gone-mad, SHTF overnight, with no help from abroad, except in southern Canada. The setting of the book was especially fun to me because I live in Colorado and the action passes through Western Colorado, my favorite place on the planet. What I like about the story is that if you had to collect your family with little or no time to plan and get out of Dodge fast, this could easily be what happens to you. You try to get your SUV packed with as much food, water and camping gear that you can in spite of confused children who act just like children, in spite of a wife who prefers denial rather than action, not knowing where the heck you are going to go, and not even knowing what the ZTs are up to, and all you encounter is bad news everywhere. I can sure see it panning out the way Blake Crouch imagined it. The heroes have to leave Albuquerque with whatever they can quickly stuff in the back of their Range Rover because roving gangs of ZT are killing people on a list that they are announcing over the radio and the heroes discover they are on the list, too. Woefully under-prepared, the family sets out northbound, heading for the Canadian border. On the way, they must kill or be killed, hide, travel by night, avoid small groups and long caravans of ZT who immediately pursue them if they are spotted, scavenge for food and supplies, abandon the SUV and go overland by foot, and encounter good guys and guys who are not ZT but are not all that good either. It is fast-paced, breathless, even. Crouch writes very well. The story flows and it is hard to put down, except that I had to so I could catch my own breath once in a while. My only little issue is that adventure stories like these so often have the characters performing at such super-human levels of endurance that it pushes past the boundaries of credulity. I prefer stories where the characters are actually real people, not supermen. I know that will-to-survive heroics make for good reading, but this reviewer prefers realism in these kinds of stories. People who have not had a drink of water in three days are really not going to perform such feats against the enemy when, in reality, they would be unable to even move much. But that is my only problem. Otherwise, it was a great read.

Some books take a little while to get started. Not this one! The action begins after a short prologue and does not let up until the short epilogue ties it all together. It can be exhausting to read; and sometimes the action does seem a bit far-fetched. That does not get in the way of the enjoying this book. It's not great literature. It doesn't pretend to be. It's just good fun.

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