



## The Burning World

*Isaac Marion*

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## **The Burning World** Isaac Marion

R is recovering from death.

He's learning how to breathe, how to speak, how to be human, one clumsy step at a time. He doesn't remember his old life and he doesn't want to. He's building a new one with Julie.

But his old life remembers him. The plague has another host far more dangerous than the Dead. It's coming to return the world to the good old days of stability and control and the strong eating the weak, and stopping it will require a frightening journey into the surreal wastelands of America—and the shadowy basement of R's mind.

## **The Burning World Details**

Date : Published February 7th 2017 by Atria/EEmily Bestler Books (first published February 2nd 2017)

ISBN : 9781476799711

Author : Isaac Marion

Format : Hardcover 512 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review The Burning World for online ebook

### Darkshadow says

A sequel? I don't know what to feel. I looove Warm Bodies, but a sequel? Ooo-kay. Just okay. I'm waiting.

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### Lizz says

Rating: 3.5-4 stars. I'm waffling, so I rounded up. Keep reading if you have any interest in my scattered, vaguely coherent, and confusing thoughts about this book.

This is going to be less of a review and more my rambling thoughts about because... I don't really know what I thought of it. I didn't dislike it - I actually found it engaging and interesting and I'm always a fan of world-building - but something just felt off to me. There were times when I was reading when I would think "this is too long," but I also don't know that I would say anything specific was extraneous. I was surprised to learn that there would be a third book, because I assumed this was going to be the only sequel so I did find myself rather frustrated when I was about fifty pages out from the end and wondered how the hell Marion was going to cram an ending in that short span of time. Knowing that there will a third book (when???), I can obviously forgive the lack of certain answers, but it did make me a little cranky when I was in the midst of reading.

I think what keeps me from loving this book - I'll say I enjoyed it - is that is all felt... unnecessary. Of course, one could argue, that there are plenty of sequels that are unnecessary. Being unnecessary does not automatically make something bad, or even less-than. Sometimes, however unnecessary a sequel might be, it can still delight and inform and carry on a story in ways you never expected. While this story went in directions I never really expected - and Marion leaked backstory expertly throughout the 500 page book - it still... I hate to say unnecessary yet once again, because I'm bordering on using it so much it becomes useless, but there you go. I think what I mean by "unnecessary" is that when I read Warm Bodies - a book which I absolutely, unreservedly adore - I didn't need the backstory. I never wondered what R's name was, or what he did before he Died. I never wondered what happened to the world or what was going on outside of Citi Stadium. Warm Bodies was complete in an of itself. Yes, the ending left itself open, but I never saw that openness as an invitation for a sequel. Like some of my favorite TV series finales - Eureka and Smallville come immediately to mind - Warm Bodies' ending was the closing of a chapter that simultaneously opened the next: I didn't need to know HOW the world kept going, I just took joy in the fact that I knew it was going to keep going.

But I never felt like I needed to see where R and Julie kept going. Their story was complete. Well, okay, obviously not because we have this sequel, and another on the way. See, this is why I said this was going to be rambling thoughts and not a review. I just always saw Warm Bodies as a single, contained thing: we witness their story, the most important part, and that was all we needed. The Burning World is like what I imagine Pacific Rim: Uprising and Stranger Things Season 2 will be: I liked the original so I'm happy for more... but I also can't figure out where they're going to go because the originals were self-contained, complete stories.

I don't resent knowing where The Burning World took us. I don't feel robbed or cheated out of some

imagined happy, easy life I conjured up for R and Julie. It does make sense that the world would not be instantly cured by their love, that things would still be difficult with an apocalypse of that size. But when I think about some point in the future when I reread Warm Bodies again (which will absolutely happen since I love Warm Bodies so much), I doubt that I will be thinking about The Burning World as I go through, looking for places in WB to insert things I know now from Burning World. I won't contemplate R's backstory, or call him by his real name, when I'm reading WB. It's not ultimately important or useful to the specific story that is being told in WB; in the larger world of that universe, sure, but not to the specifics of WB.

Does this make any sense? Eh, whatever. I'll give it 4 stars for the writing, beautiful as always, but I'll say 3.5 for the story just because it left me so confused for being interesting and engaging but still somehow... not... right.

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### **Joy (joyous reads) says**

**Question:** Did you read Warm Bodies? If so, do you remember how it ends? How about the movie? Did you see it? Yes? No?

Well, let me spoil it all for you with this little scenario: most of the zombies slowly gained back a semblance of their humanity. Gone are the instincts to devour human flesh, replaced by a pause that gives them a chance to hold back the monster that hungers for the living. So much so that they're able to cohabit with the humans inside the wall. The last scene had Julie and R watching as the walls were blown to bits. The sun is setting; they were holding hands...fade to black. Really hopeful shit, right? Makes you think that a peaceful coexistence between zombies and humans are entirely possible.

Well, sorry to burst your bubble but The Burning World did not start right where Warm Bodies left off. At least, the atmosphere was not the same. If you're expecting much of the same lighthearted and somewhat funny shtick of the undead in this novel, you'll be disappointed. Because these zombies are just a sad caricature of the rabid monsters we've come to fear and love. They're stuck in between the beast that craves for warm flesh, and the humans inside of them clamoring to be born again. It was dark, nostalgic, and terrible in the sense that they'll break your heart (R's zombie wife and kids. \*Sobs\*) It was depressing, and it made me wish they were the terrifying stuff of nightmares we've all read about our lives. Because then I won't feel so heartbroken.

This is a changed world; one that you won't recognize from the first book. There's a new villain in town whose primary goal is to convert the changing zombies into an army of drones possessing some robot-like consciousness. The last vestige of humanity left are being hunted and "phased out". And this includes the tiny population inside the wall. They especially want R and Julie for their ability to speak to the evolving zombies. In short, this sequel had become the action-packed, pulse-pounding, scary-as-shit thriller that Warm Bodies never were. I'd even go as far as to say, it echoes the atmospheric dread of Justin Cronin's The Passage. Yeah. I can't believe it either. But reading The Burning World brought out the exact feelings when I binge-read Cronin's vampire series last year.

By the by, R slowly gains his memory as a human – and from what he can remember, he was not a good person at all. He is miles remove from the sweet zombie we've come to know. We also see Julie in a different light. Driven by her sense of familial loyalty, she becomes a completely different person. She's angry, compulsive, and even a little selfish. She'll make you mad. She'll make you cry but eventually, she'll

gain your sympathy albeit, tentatively.

We're introduced to new characters and new plot lines that converge with the old ones. There are far more nuances explored; surprising and thrilling revelations. If I were to keep it simple, I say *Warm Bodies* was stripped of everything that was cute to show its true form. It had me on edge at all times because at the back of my mind, I keep waiting for the "awaken" zombies to revert back to their monstrosity – most especially R. Over all, *The Burning World* opens the series to a whole new set of possibilities. And with that ending, I say Marion has a lot more dark days in store for his ardent readers.

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### **Sierralynn says**

I love the first book and it was a little open-ended but the book could have stood on its own. I love that there is going to be a second one. I love R and Julie and all of the other characters. I am so excited to read the next book.

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### **Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says**

3.5 stars. Final review, first posted on Fantasy Literature. Some spoilers for the first book in this series, *Warm Bodies*:

When we left R, the recovering zombie, and his human love Julie at the end of *Warm Bodies*, things were looking hopeful. But not so fast: becoming fully human again after years of zombie-hood isn't as quick or easy as R hoped. His body is still stiff and clumsy, and his memory of his prior life is still a blank to him (in fact, he's not at all sure he wants to remember his prior life). The recovery of the other zombies that have taken over America is equally tentative, one small step at a time, with many zombies not recovering at all, and others backsliding. It's a spectrum: Living, Nearly Living, Mostly Dead, All Dead, with unsettlingly fluidity between them. R has no idea what to do next.

If this weren't difficult enough, a new group, Axiom Corporation, shows up in force at the stadium where R and Julie live. Axiom has weapons, helicopters and lots of very disturbing minions with plastic smiles, ready to take control and restore order. In fact, the Axiom people are insistent on it, smiling all the while, and willing to do almost anything to get their way. When R, Julie and their friends end up on the wrong side of Axiom, they go on the run with the somewhat reluctant help of Abram Kelvin, a renegade Axiom employee who is the older brother of Perry ? Julie's old boyfriend who was eaten by R at the beginning of *Warm Bodies*. But are they escaping to a new life somewhere else, or running into the jaws of more trouble, or going on the attack against the forces of evil? And let's not forget the innumerable zombies.

*The Burning World* (2017), Isaac Marion's sequel to his 2011 Romeo-and-Juliet inspired zombie tale, left me with mixed feelings. On the one hand, *Warm Bodies* felt like a stand-alone story. I didn't feel like it needed a sequel and I'm not certain that Marion originally planned for one at the time he wrote *Warm Bodies*; it feels a bit like an afterthought. On the other hand, *The Burning World* doesn't simply rehash the same story and issues raised in the first book. Marion expands this world dramatically, both in setting and thematically.

*The Burning World* fleshes out the characters from the first book, but takes them and the plot in a wholly different direction that opens up all sorts of interesting possibilities. It's an on-the-road adventure ... with

zombies ... and a truly horrific, power-hungry corporate entity that exhibits a dog-eat-dog mentality taken to extremes. The reader is left with the indelible and uncomfortable impression that humans can be, and often are, worse than zombies. As R begins to recover some of the memories from his human past, his “first life,” the horror that men can sink to begins to take on added meaning for him, and for us. Julie’s human flaws become more apparent as well, as she endangers those around her in her single-minded quest to find and save her mother.

There are several interlude “We” chapters that are told from the viewpoint of an unspecified, omniscient group who watch the world and the people and creatures in it. They float through the earth and the sky like a collective consciousness, watching us with concern. It’s interesting to speculate on who this nameless, intangible “We” is ... though I’m not certain there’s a single, specific answer.

The adventures of the characters are gripping, but *The Burning World* is largely a grim book with only brief glimpses of hope and joy. It exhibits much less of the underlying sweetness that imbued *Warm Bodies*, while upping the ante on grittiness and violence, and exploring the darkness in men’s souls.

*The Burning World* is part of a novel that grew too large and was broken into two separate books for publication. As a result, it ends inconclusively, leaving most of the plot threads hanging, along with the fates of our characters. The second part of this story, *The Living*, is due to be released later in 2017.

Content advisory: Isaac Marion writes well, but this is a gritty and frequently gruesome story, with violence, torture and hard-R language.

*I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a review.*

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### **Lauren says**

THERE WILL BE A SEQUEL.

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### **MK~ Picky Girl says**

**There is a sequel to this amazing story?**

### **More R!!!!**

**Can't flippen wait!!!**

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**Nat says**

OH MY GODDDD YESSSSSSSSSS!!!!!!

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**April (Aprilius Maximus) says**

OMG WE HAVE A TITLE, A RELEASE DATE AND A SYNOPSIS! AND IT'S GOING TO BE OVER 600 PAGES? YES YES YEEESSSSSS!

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**Leea says**

Wait... book 2... Hot damn this is awesome!!

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**Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

*“I don’t know how you’re planning to save the world from ten thousand years of human decline, but good luck.”*

**THIS** is why I don’t read past the first book in a series. I should not make exceptions. Ever. Why can’t I learn this? I must be only a “*Nearly*” rather than completely human. The only excuse I can make for myself is that I adored everything about *Warm Bodies* and I figured since so much time had passed between the first and second book **surely** there was a reason for writing it. Now that I see a **THIRD** friggin’ story is in the works I’m pretty sure I can confirm the reason was . . . . a moneygrab. Not that there’s anything wrong with that, but when you are an author who kind of makes the magic happen with a teenage zombie romance/modernized Romeo and Juliette hybrid you are **really** taking a chance at lightning striking twice. And boy it sure didn’t – for me at least.

I also didn’t realize that this little nugget I saw on the Faceplace one day . . . .

(Many thanks to my girl Kristin for pointing out this was a joke/marketing tactic because it seemed 100%

legit. Also mad props to Mr. Marion for birthing that brainchild because I'm sure it got your new book plenty of attention.)

Anywho, I was not aware that the above was less of a joke and more of a foreshadowing of what I was about to read. And while I would like to tell myself that . . . .

Let's get real. I don't except maybe two times a year. I want to get lost in fiction, not have reality shoved up my butthole any further than the "fake news" already has it crammed in there. If you aren't like me and simply can't get enough talk of building walls for our safety and vetting everyone to make sure no ~~refugees~~ zombies sneak in and discovering maybe the man in charge is ~~Steve Bannon~~ a complete psychopath then this will surely be a winner for you. If you are like me you'll be quick to realize *The Burning World* suffers from typical Book 2 in a series syndrome: it's pretty much just . . . .

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It's building the world that wasn't really bothered to be built in Book 1 and introducing a couple of new characters that will (hopefully) bring forth the action come Book 3. I'll never know, however, because . . . .

**Sheyla ✌ says**

**I have been dying to read this book. I love The New Hunger and Warm Bodies and I NEEDED to read The Burning World.** I had some trepidation about reading the sequel in case it was lacking the same greatness of its predecessors. Thankfully, I had no reason to worry.

Isaac Marion dwells into his zombie world without apology. He combines desolation, humor, romance and a desire to fight for life all bundled up together in a perfect blend.

At times, it's gruesome. At others, it's beautiful.

The Burning World follows Julie, "R", M and Nora in this new world where some of the Dead are not dead anymore. It also introduces a multitude of new characters. We get R's half-zombie kids, Abram and his daughter "Sprout" joining forces with them. A new threat has developed and they will have to find a way to defend themselves.

On top of this, R has other things on his mind too:

First, R is having problems adjusting to being alive and how to deal with the prejudice surrounding him and the zombies who have changed too.

"Forget what?  
That there used to be more than this.  
And that maybe there can be again. "

Second, R is concerned about his relationship with Julie. He loves her and doesn't want to lose what they have together. He wants to be able to move forward with her.

"Julie is a floodlight and I am a candle. She blazes, I flicker."

Lastly, he's remembering his past life. He has tried to avoid it just wanting to keep a clean slate with Julie. Yet, the memories are coming.

Isaac Marion delivers a great tale. There is no way you don't end up forming an attachment towards these characters and what they have gone through. Rooting for them was easy.

There's nothing left but to wait for the conclusion of this series. I'm dying to know how everything is going to play out. It won't be easy. There will be pain but I'm hoping the reward is significant too.

4.5/5 Fangs

A complimentary copy was provided by Atria in exchange for an honest review.

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MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

### **Aa'Ishah says**

I was so excited to see there was going to be a sequel.

And then I saw the publication date.

\*dies\*

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### **Bobby O'Rinn says**

I don't really understand why people are torn about a sequel. I felt the ending of warm bodies wasn't right. There was so much left unanswered. I'm really happy there's gonna be a second book. :)

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### **Trina (Between Chapters) says**

I really loved Warm Bodies so I tentatively wanted to check out this sequel. For those curious, this does follow the same characters from book 1 (those who survived) plus a few new characters, and it is much less a "zombie romance" and much more of your typical zombie survival story. As usual, the dead aren't the biggest threat in this world, it's the groups of other survivors.

I opted for the audiobook and the narrator, Jacques Roy, was great. His voice and acting really suited the main character, his voices for the other characters were also very fitting and natural sounding. He was great, and I really enjoyed the narration.

However, where this book lost me was in the multiple flashback scenes and the addition of a second POV following a character we don't know. They were hard to navigate via audio. I often found myself confused because I hadn't realized a flashback was happening, or that the POV had switched. The narrator did alter his voice a little with the different POV, but there was no break or pause between the switches, so it was hard to catch via audio. I do think you'd be able to keep up with these things better if you opt for the print version.

As for the story itself, I feel kind of meh about it. I definitely liked the first book better because it was so unique for a zombie story. This definitely didn't offer any sort of a conclusion and felt like filler, especially for being such a long book. I didn't realize there would be another sequel, so I was left feeling confused and unfulfilled. I'm pretty unclear on a few things. At this point, I'm not sure if I will continue the series. It wasn't bad, but just not as good as I wanted.

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### **Elena says**

A sequel?

Why a sequel?

R is human, he'll live happily ever after. This was supposed to be the end.

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### **Samadrita says**

A sequel? YES! YES! YES! This is perhaps the first time in a long time that my prayers have been answered by the Gods of Good Reading. Warm Bodies ended on such an ambiguous and unsatisfactory note, that a sequel is not only justified but thoroughly deserved. Can't wait. 2014 come fast.  
And this *better* not be a fake out.

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### **Madeleine Knutsson says**

I only read 20% and I did not hate but I did not love it. All I was thinking Warm Bodies ended so good why

is there a sequel? I might read this book when the last book in the series is out and people saying they enjoy the ending but right now I will DNF this book.

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### **Wendy Darling says**

Excited to read this! And hoping that there will be no further unnecessary complaints about how the book is marketed.

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### **Mel says**

GUYS UMM ANYONE KNOW IF THIS IS LEGIT OR?!?!?!

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