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From the author of *The Living Hunger* comes a pandemic story written in serial form; this is Episode One (40,000 words). Watch for Episode Two (50,000 words), *Rise of the Huskers*, the end of January 2014.

Would-be author, Raven Falconer, is offered an opportunity of a lifetime to write and publish her first novel, *Operation Z-Day*. She retreats to the mountains of beautiful Banff Nation Park in Southern Alberta to complete the work, but finds herself cut off from friends and family when a deadly virus invades Canada, and then spreads worldwide.

Thousands, then millions fall victim to the infection. The elderly and weak succumb, while impacted survivors lose cerebral brain function and ultimately their identities; spiraling into a vegetative state where only carnal instinct prevails.

Raven eventually emerges from a secluded cabin to find marshal law instituted and the world turned upside down, where kill or be killed is rampant. Join Raven, her best friends Mick, Bobi, and Hannah for the ride of their lives. Throw in an Olympic Biathlon competitor, Nathan Edwards, infected with the transforming virus and nowhere is safe.

Episode One traces the roommates' flight from the city and their face-to-face encounters with an emerging, deadly threat, the Huskers: animalistic post-viral humans who will do anything to survive.

Operation Z-Day Details

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Author : Dennis F. Larsen

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From Reader Review Operation Z-Day for online ebook

Holly Larsen says

This book has such a refreshing view of the walking dead phenomenon. I have to say I was getting burned out on all the books and movies about brain eating zombies. What I loved about this book is you get to peek inside the psyche of the zombie-like individuals and have an understanding of why they do the things they do. This made the book unique compared to any of the others I've read in the same genre. The female characters are entertaining and believable and because you are able to see what's going on through the eyes of the heroines and the infected there's excitement throughout the whole episode. Can't wait to see what happens next!

Gerry D Pratt says

NO, NO NO!

I was looking forward to a great story. seeing all the high ratings I thought this would be a good one. The authors descriptions and wordplay is awful. The story was boring with a couple of decent moments mixed in. Not very action packed or well written.

If not for the price of buying the entire trilogy for a couple bucks, I'd really feel ripped off right now. I'm going to try the 2nd book because I already paid for it and I try to finish what I started. I can't imagine it being any worse than what I sat through to finish the 1st book.

Kelsey says

Another great work from Dennis Larsen. I loved the new take on what a devastating virus would do to the human body and to the entire human race. I thought it was a great balance between human relationships, suspense, humour and gore... and if you're like me you might find the gruesome bits to be the best! A great read for any zombie lovers out there!

Joseph says

Informal Review:

Last year I read Dennis F. Larsen's *The Living Hunger* and wrote a very favorable review. It was a post apocalyptic novel and I commented that it was refreshing to read such a book without zombies. After the review was posted, Larsen wrote me and told me he had another post apocalyptic novel if I was interested...and, oh, yeah it did have zombies.

I admit it did take me some time to get to *Operation Z-Day*. I started it last night and finished it this morning. The prologue starts with the typical zombie nightmare, and I thought "Yep, this is why I don't read zombie books anymore. There is nothing new." Well, I was surprised. The prologue is part of a novel the main

character, Raven, is writing. Raven decides her roommates are too much of a distraction to her writing a zombie novel and more importantly her deadline. She heads out to a family cabin well outside of Calgary, Alberta. Her friends three roommates would visit in a week or so.

In the meantime a a flu hits Canada pretty hard. The flu epidemic is much like others, except the virus attacks the cerebrum of the brain essentially neutralizing all higher brain functions. People don't die and come back, they devolve into "walking dead": Alive, hungry, and functioning on very primitive levels.

Wow, this is the most realistic "zombie" scenario I have encountered. I actually enjoyed this book, and I am looking forward to the rest of the series. *Operation Z-Day* is a fun read for a Sunday afternoon. It is fairly short and can be read in a sitting or two. The plot moves along at a good pace and will have you turning the pages at a quick pace. A very good weekend read.

Dennis Larsen says

As the author I must say that I had a great time writing this introductory episode of The Raven Falconer Chronicles. I love a good zombie story but with my medical background I wanted to write something that was somewhat believable and troubling for those that read it. I love Alberta, Canada, therefore, I decided to set the opening sequence of events in Southern Alberta where I once lived and still visit often. To turn such a beautiful place into a scene of horrific circumstances was challenging but entertaining. In my other works I have centered the story around strong, male characters and as a departure for me, as well as the reader, I decided to focus on female leads with an interesting, capable male antagonist.

I hope you find this volume as intriguing to read as I found it rewarding to write. Look for more episodes in the months to come -- each to be priced at the same \$0.99 price point for the digital version. Thanks to Sean Strong of the UK for another eye-catching cover.

Danielle says

A gripping new take on the zombie thriller! With a more realistic explanation for zombie-like behavior than the usual risen from the dead scenario, this book is more unsettling and suspenseful than most of its kind. The female heroines of the story are likable and their friendship relatable. Can't wait to read the next installment to find out what becomes of Raven and her group of girls.

Aubrey Camp says

A really cool take on the idea of a deadly virus gone zombie apocalypse. I was never bored and it left me wanting more! Another great read from Dennis F. Larsen.

Kurt Schuett says

The first bravo I wish to extend to author Dennis Larsen is job well done in the creation of a strong female protagonist, Raven Falconer. I realize the recent trend and popularity in creating female protagonists in the

action-adventure genre, especially in the apocalypse-dystopian sub-genre, but too many of the zombie-apocalypse stories available to readers lack strong female protagonists. And since this particular one happens to be a writer, I really connected well with her. One of my favorite quotes in the novel states, “An author’s ability to create, as well as destroy, had left a lasting impression with the young Raven, and she’d held nothing back in expressing her desires to her father.” The aforementioned quote is a powerful indication of not only the main character’s resilience but also of a thematic link all readers can equally relate to. Consequently, Dr. Larsen has also constructed a strong group of secondary characters that motivate, fortify, and extend the actions of the book’s protagonist, Raven—close friends and roommates to the bitter end, Bobi, Mick, and Hannah.

One of Dr. Larsen’s strengths as a writer is his ability to characterize, as I’m quite certain all of his readers will agree. Personally, I enjoyed the lead-up through Operation Z-Day’s rising action, especially when the reader was able to become more intimate with the thoughts, actions, and dialogue presented from the primary cast’s varying backgrounds and perspectives. One of my favorite introductions was to that of Ziggy, a colorful police officer who will undoubtedly play a more significant role per book two of The Raven Falconer Chronicles.

One aspect I hope readers don’t misinterpret as a caveat is the book’s length. Even though Operation Z-Day is on the shorter side, the story has multiple plots running through it. Yes, the crux may be an unconventional zombie apocalypse due to an airborne virus, but the author underlies the aforesaid with Raven’s internal conflict—a crucible of individualistic proportions. Raven must trade in her selfless optimism for realistic gut-wrenching self-preservation. As author Dennis Larsen personifies her as a “fiercely independent survivor,” Raven Falconer is a force to be reckoned with.

Since this story takes place in real-time Canada, that was another fantastic wrinkle I enjoyed; Mr. Larsen accentuated the experience with quality local color realism, highlighted with dialect and mannerisms that are characteristic of life above the United States’ northern border. Other things most readers should find appealing include Larsen’s creation of cannibalistic “huskers” (readers will have to digest the book in order to truly appreciate this label) who take on the role of uncharacteristic undead, able to hold onto some familiar memories and feelings while capable of methodical and systematic plotting.

Most of the horror element in this book is subtle, but what smash-and-dash violence that is provided is detailed and exciting. Subsequently, Larsen’s pacing is spot-on as he provides enough complications and crises that are not even zombie-related to keep readers on their toes.

The only forewarning I would extend is to readers who hold enmity toward overly-sympathetic threads, as this particular book has a few that border cliché. Even with that said, readers who enjoy this particular genre undoubtedly expect some degree of formula, which may in fact work towards the author’s advantage in terms of book sales.

If you are looking for a solidly written and fast-paced apocalyptic read, look no further than Operation Z-Day. At .99 cents per e-book, this is a solid investment that should hook you into reading its sequel.

H.M. Jones says

Raven and her friends are fun, interesting and well fleshed out. Pun intended (you’ll get it when you read the

books). Their dreadful adventure is fast paced, thrilling and keeps you guessing. This is like no other apocalyptic work. Larsen knows what came before him, and he plays with well known themes while making his own unique story. His first book is a fun take on themes that needed a new, interesting voice. Well paced, interesting read that this reader really enjoyed.

Elite Indie says

Operation Z-Day is unlike any other zombie title. The ways in which Larsen meshes horror and human interest is wonderful. You care about Larsen's characters, and you become attached to them. Raven and her friends are quirky and remarkably normal.

Larsen plays upon old zombie themes and livens them up with a new take on the undead. His huskers are much more complex, compelling and interesting than the stale zombies of other tales. Moreover, Larsen knows the themes he's tackling and writes about them in a self aware manner.

His writing is polished, professional and totally his own. He is proof that self pub. can mean quality. Read this series.

Heartofkenna says

This book started quite strongly from Raven's point of view. Her narrative was strong and realistic. I loved the level of detail that contributed to establishing her as a real three dimensional character. Some instances of this would be the fact she used a paper towel to open a bathroom door, or her inner debate over drinking a soda because the pro of caffeine versus con of having to stop and use a restroom. These things might seem trivial, but that is the point. Raven is a person with trivial but interesting characteristics. The rest of the characters weren't as well established but they were not blatantly lacking and as a reader you do come to care for them. I felt especially attached to the lot of them when in the fray they continued to make logical decisions. Shocking, I know. For example (view spoiler). The characters are not the only example of this. While it tends to be glossed over in most zombie fiction, Larsen dares delve into the science of the zombie infection. He also does a swell job of continuing background events logically. (view spoiler). My largest issue with the book is a tie between two cons. The less personal one would be the pacing of the book. It went by fast but it seemed slow, which is a fancy way of saying not enough was happening. Despite everything going to Hell no one freaks out or flat out mentions the reality of disease turning to cannibalism. While I appreciate rational characters, and more than that rational decisions, there is a fine line that when tread left the mains looking oddly unbothered by reality falling to pieces. I know this is a chronicle but setting the first act needs just as much bang as the last. While this is a big deal it wasn't the Dealbreaker which is really a matter of opinion. I don't know about you but I like my zombies behaving like zombies. I could live with the (view spoiler)

Janice Bonczek says

Between the terrible writing, spelling and grammar mistakes, and length, I really couldn't believe this was an actual published novel. I almost didn't finish it, but it was so short I didn't need to make that decision. Actually, by the time it even got remotely interesting, it was over! (Not interesting enough for me to seek out the 2nd book in this series).

The story is about four girls who are best friends (yay!) and roommates (yay, girl power!) They get caught in the middle of pandemic which turns its victims into zombie-like creatures who only think about eating and sleeping. And when the food runs out, they start eating whatever is in front of them (humans). So our four heroes run to a cabin in the woods owned by one of their families to ride it out. There we learn they are all ace sharpshooters. Not to mention, two of them work in healthcare so they're super knowledgeable about this new disease that was only discovered a few weeks ago! Awesome, right?

The other big problem I had with this book was that the writing was so bad. It literally could not get any emotion across. Possible minor spoiler ahead:

There is a scene where one character is saying goodbye to someone she loves who has caught the illness, and I didn't feel one drop of emotion. And I cry at a good book.

Anyway, I didn't get a chance to decide I didn't want to read anymore, because as soon as I thought I might not want to finish it, the book was over. Go buy the next one in the series! Why? They didn't need a series, the author probably could've fit the entire thing into one novel.

Anne Ferretti says

Zombies, vampires and apocalyptic tales are my favorite, so I looked forward to reading this zombie story. I was not disappointed and now have a new series to follow. The characters are real, the writing is gripping, and the story line takes a road not yet traveled in this genre (not that I have read). Even if you're not into zombies this is a great tale that is about more than just zombies. There were several points in the story where I was on the edge of my seat while reading. I intended to read this over the weekend, in between thousands of other things I had to do, but once I started I couldn't stop until the end. I love when an author's writing has the ability to make time disappear as Mr. Larsen did with Z-Day. Great job Mr Larsen, can't wait for The Huskers.

Brandon says

Rating: 10.0/10.0

Review: One anagram will cover this review: O.M.G. This book is probably one of the best Zombie genre books I've read! The way the author keeps the real world in tact while the deadly virus ravages the world was amazing. As an author of a zombie series, I've got a lot I could learn from this author, and I plan to! I will recommend this to ALL zombie fans, period!

Reviewed by IABookReviews.com

