



Family

Frank Tayell

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The final volume of Bill Wright's journal, from the Bestselling series 'Surviving The Evacuation', (78,000 words)

Billions died.
Civilisation collapsed.
Zombies rule the Earth.

But there is safety, so Bill and Kim are told, in a small village on the Irish coast.

If they can just cross hundreds of miles of undead wasteland, to a rendezvous on a Welsh beach, there is a boat willing to take them there. But first they must travel back into London to rescue Annette and Daisy.

If they can find and rescue the children, and get them somewhere safe, even then Bill's journey will not be over. It can't be, not until he's confronted his past and chosen between his old family and his new one.

Please Note: This final volume of Bill's journey features characters who first appeared in the short story Zombies vs The Living Dead.

Family Details

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Mima says

Kirja jatkaa edelleen Billin päiväkirjamuodossa. Kolmannessa osassa Bill ja Kim jatkavat etsintää pitkin Thamesia ja Lontoon hylättyjä katuja. Etsintä tuntuu epätoivoiselta mutta kun mahdollisuus löytää tytöt ilmenee he tekevät kipeitä päätöksiä ja aloittavat vaarallisen suunnitelman.

Bill saa selville että jossain on turvapaikka, jossa heilläkin olisi mahdollisuus aloittaa uusi elämä tai ainakin tarjota tytöille prempi elämä tässä rikkonaisessa maailmassa. Bill ei kuitenkaan saa rauhaa menneisyydeltä vaan haluaa vastauksia. Hänen omat tekonsa aiheuttavat hänelle syyllisyyttä ja se kaivertaa hänen ja Kimin välejä.

Matka turvapaikkaan on pelottava ja ahdistava, koko tuhon laajuus selviää kun he törmäävät jättimäiseen zombie-laumaan. Löytyykö turvaa mistään ja onko pohjoisessa todella odottamassa laivue joka veisi heidät turvapaikkaan vai onko kaikki vain valetta jonka eräs henkilö heille on syöttänyt. Totuus selviää lopulta ja Bill saa vastauksia kysymyksiinsä. Ei ehkä sellaisia kun hän odotti mutta lopulta hän saa jonkinmoisen rauhan.

Rinny Rainwind says

This series did not disappoint. I stayed up until 3:30 am to finish this book. This is book 3 in the series. The main character, Bill, has been through hell and back. But so has his companions. The burning question in Bill's mind is ,WHY? He goes to great lengths to answer that. Will that answer be enough to allow him to settle down and know he's safe? Would you after 5 months of life and death survival? I wish there were another book. I would love to have seen an epilogue. I would recommend this series to anyone who likes Zombies, Post Apocalyptic and new beginnings.

Brian says

The series continues on in book 3 and the action and events seem to twist and turn to leave a very well woven story in its wake. Well done, Story Teller !

April Parrish says

The first three quarters of this book are fabulous and I couldn't put the book down. The last part (part 3) wasn't as good in my opinion. It felt a little rushed and a bit sloppy. I expected more from Bill's reunion with Jen to be honest but other than that it was a great read. I will definitely continue with the series.

Matthew Atkinson says

Very good

Was more into this third book in the series than the second. I think the involvement of other characters give it a bit more and the inclusion of the government and the government officials makes it a better read. The story is moving onto another part now and it kept me involved. I look forward to the next one, to see where the story is going and if everything comes to light on how the apocalypse started etc.

Brittani (Hope, Faith & Books) says

My review of Family can also be found here: [Review of Family by Frank Tayell](#)

I definitely think this is my favorite out of the series so far! There was so much happening in this book! We got lots of action, both in dealing with the undead and the living alike. We also got to see some interesting story twists and shocking new information. One thing I really liked that was that like Kim in book two, Annette now wants to make sure her story is written down in Bill's journal as well. It's so neat seeing them all want their stories written down in case something were to happen.

So I was incredibly happy Bill, Kim & Sholto went after Daisy and Annette! I have to say, Annette was really crafty in leaving clues for the trio to follow to find them. Leaving a pamphlet to where Barrett was taking them, Daisy's hat at a place they stopped, the subtle towel on the side of the building to signal them they were in there. For a 13 year old girl, she is incredibly smart! We even see just how well she's observed others. She knew how to subtly get rid of supplies in a way Barrett and her group wouldn't notice. Annette knew they weren't paying serious attention to their supplies and used it to her advantage to get them to stop and bail from the boat. In the end, her sabotage, clues and signals really helped in getting them found and saved by Bill, Kim & Sholto. And I really don't feel bad for what happened to Barrett and her slimy little group. From what Annette told everyone when they were rescued, they had planned a lot more of the sleazy actions we saw then realized. I had a bad feeling about them in the last book and it was proven right in this one.

I was surprised by the horde they encountered while escaping the one they helped form saving Annette and Daisy. But it wasn't just a horde like we've seen, a few hundred here, a few thousand there. No, this horde had hundreds of thousands if not millions of undead. It was as if a majority of Britain's population was a part of this horde. It destroyed literally everything in its path, only leaving destruction and barren land behind. The group came across it and had to find some serious shelter to hide from it or they wouldn't have made it. I have to admit, I still wouldn't have had as quick of thinking as Bill did with finding a place strong enough to hold up to the horde. I guess it was good his job took him all over Britain or else he wouldn't know about some of these places to hide out in. You have to wonder if there's more of those huge hordes though.

I have mixed feelings about how the characters in the last third of the book acted. There was so much deceit and lies going around. The first being how the old man got Bill to go up to the other group of survivors, which just happened to have the last few members of government, including Jen. He lied about where the village of survivors on the Irish coast was actually located, how many people were actually there and then got Bill to do his dirty work to protect the place. I really felt had the old man just been honest with Bill, he still would have done it because he wanted to protect the place he was sending Kim and the girls, but also

because he would have wanted to see Jen again. There was absolutely no need for the lies. But I also couldn't hate him since he helped set up some safe-houses. Remember the house with the flags Annette saw in book 2? Yeah, that was one.

Bill does get to Jen's family hall where they built their safe area. He finds Quigley, who he knows was part of causing the outbreak to happen, surrounded by people he brainwashed. The amount of lies he had going and how many people believed them. I was amazed. From claiming terrorists caused the outbreak to claiming he has a new queen for the country and everything in between. Every word out of this mans mouth was a lie. It was also amusing how they claimed they'd rebuild the government and the country, but didn't even venture out far from the hall see what was really going on in the world. These people had no idea some survivors could be immune! I have to say, with how smart Jen was made out to be, she seemed to be pretty easily won over by Quigley's lies. I also thought if/when Bill and Jen got a reunion it would have been much bigger and meaningful than it actually was.

I have to say, I think it was so sweet how Bill really started to look at Kim and the girls like they were his family in this new world. He cared so much about making sure they were ok even if it meant them possibly having to leave him behind at times. I can't wait to pick Bill's story back up in book 8!

Daniel Jobling says

Loved it

If I'm honest I rate these books so highly because I am always wrong usually books with this kind of story are to similar and stale but there is a brilliant story and characters to enjoy sholto being one of my favourite of any book I've read

Carol. says

It would be years before I would connect an Extra Special Vacation Episode of Happy Days with the phenomenon known as 'jumping the shark.'

Actual video of this is viewable on my blog at <https://clsiewert.wordpress.com/2018/...>

Alas; for me, the shark was well and truly jumped in book three of the 'Surviving the Evacuation' series. Book one was about Bill coming to terms with the changes in the world and working out how he could survive. Book two was about discovering other people, throwing in a political wrinkle about how zombies came about. In this, book three, Bill and his tiny band of survivors head toward the coast, following rumors of a large group surviving on an island. They eventually reach a half-way house and discover far more about international apocalypse politics than anyone wanted to know.

The plot continues to be filled with odd plot points--thank you very much; I'm aware I'm talking about a zombie book--that result in *deus ex machina* solutions. In the midst of plain ol' survival issues, Bill decides discovering if he is a 'carrier' of the virus is an important issue. Oh, and maybe we can create a vaccine out of

his immune status if he isn't. As if mere survival wasn't enough, the undead have started to gather into hordes, like wildebeest in the savannah. The discover that competition over nuclear submarines is still a thing. But helpfully, Sholto, Bill's brother, appears to have been trained by Jason Bourne. There's more, of course, but these are the kind of plot points that move an apocalypse book past the exploration of what survival means into a bizarre kind of war movie. Can you even have international politics when we don't know if other nations survived?

Everything that inspired curiosity and appreciation in Book One was well and truly gone by the end of this one. Perhaps I am wrong, and perhaps Bill is essentially the same person from book one, trusting in his childhood friend and responding with remarkable naivete to his situations, hoping for the best. But now having survived in the wider world with months of the zombie apocalypse under his belt, he displays no further planning, analysis, or, as it's euphemistically called, 'situational awareness.' Far from the Girl Scout mentality he first displayed, he waits until he's in a fight before realizing his knife is ineffective: **"The weight was too much, the balance wrong. Without the two fingers from my left hand I couldn't handle the weapon properly."** This was the same person that made his own spear, practicing with it until it became relatively safe. But somehow, Bill pretends he's learned his lesson, if only it wasn't repeated ad nauseum 75% of the way into the story:

"What I said next was cruel, but it was necessary. I was starting to get a measure of this place, and it was dawning on me that I'd made a big mistake going there so unprepared."

I found myself outlining passages, marking a 'TSTL' more than once. I ended up setting the book down for some time and might have left it for good if it weren't for that annoyingly completionist drive I sometimes have.

The first book in the series was fabulous, an 'I Am Legend' type story that captures all the complexities end-of-the-world stories are capable of exploring. The last two books, however, have been steadily sinking. Still, I'd recommend the first book, with the caveat of stopping after. Yes, I know it's hard. Yes, I know there are more stories/episodes/seasons. Yes, Happy Days continued. Just Don't Do It. Save yourself the shark experience, and treasure a perfect memory instead.

One-and-a-half sharks, rounding up because I finished.

Jane Wynne says

A bit of a mixed bag this book, some bits felt a bit rushed as if it was losing it's way, but it pulled together and I look forward to the next.

Dawn McClain says

This series started slow for me but has turned into a great story and now I cannot wait for the next installment. I have read all of the books in the series and admit that the first three books that cover Bill's story were not nearly as interesting to me as books 4-8 which focus on Nilda and her son. However, all of the stories are related and I like bits and pieces of the entire series are weaved together.

Karen says

I started the series yesterday and have finished today.
I have really enjoyed the 3 books and Bills story.

Ann O'Nymos says

This is the final book of Bill's journals. I had the feeling it was a bit rushed. A lot happend very quickly and I felt a bit lost sometimes with all the twists and lies.

I have read book 0.5 with George Tull beforehand and I don't know if it helped or in contrast, got me more confused about his character. As mentioned, the end of the story comes too quickly, after four months of traveling through a wasteland England many things seemed too constructed to fit.

But all in all, I loved these books but I will take a break from it now. Whenever I'll feel the urge for a good apocalyptic zombie story I definitely will pick up the other books (view spoiler)

Terry Tyler says

.... and so it continues. Episode three sees the removal of those who had double-crossed Bill and Kim, and the reunion with those for whom they'd been searching, together with the journey to the beach in Wales where Sholto is sure lies the beginning of their rescue.

This was a mixed one for me. I read the free short story, in which we are introduced to George Tull, the (relatively) young and sprightly resident of an old peoples' home. This story takes place just as the outbreak starts, and is very, very good - go read it! Some of the conspiracy uncovering and resolving stuff I found a little bit too outlandish, coincidental and not in keeping with the realism of the rest of it (if talking about realism when referring to a zombie apocalypse novel doesn't seem too daft), and also a little information-heavy; George didn't seem to bear much relation to the old chap I'd met in the short story. There was too much long conversation which was all there just to impart the background and subsequent cover-ups to the reader, it wasn't that interesting to read.

However! There were also some splendid bits. There's a truly shocking episode around the middle, when the group have come through a fairly zombie-free few miles, only to look over a hill into the abyss - literally millions of them, all on a shambling march to nowhere. I won't say how they hide from them because it'll spoil it if you read it, but the descriptions of this, their escape and how the horde of moving undead turn the countryside into something like the face of the moon were so good I read it twice. There's also a balloon ride that I read twice, too, and I loved some of Bill's thoughts about the world and the situation they were in.

To sum up - some bits were a bit tedious, but I still really liked it, and am still going to start book 4.... now!

Rita says

Towards the end couldn't put it down. Nice wrap up. I need more!

Bruce Jones says**Not reviewed**

This was a good book. I read it fairly fast. I hate reviews, it was a good book yes yes
