



## **Voyage of the Dead**

*David P. Forsyth*

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*Voyage of the Dead* is the first book of the Sovereign Spirit Saga detailing the adventures of several groups of survivors of the Zombie Apocalypse. Most of them are aboard a ship that is well equipped to survive the end of civilization, while others struggle to survive in a world suddenly overrun by undead cannibals. This is a science fiction adventure set within a horror genre, full of blood, guts, violence and the human emotions that fuel our survival instincts.

This is the first novel by David P. Forsyth. At least two more books in the Sovereign Spirit Saga will be released this year.

## **Voyage of the Dead Details**

Date : Published January 15th 2012 by David P. Forsyth

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Author : David P. Forsyth

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Genre : Horror, Zombies, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic, Science Fiction

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## From Reader Review Voyage of the Dead for online ebook

### **Felicia A says**

I do not like Scott Allen, the main character. I think I am SUPPOSED to like him, being that he is all prepared and rich and perfect and knows everything and does everything right and always makes the right decisions and can save the whole entire world and smile while doing it. I, however, think he is insufferably arrogant. I don't think he is supposed to come across that way, but he does. That's not to say he is a bad guy - he's not, and his intentions are good...it's just that I hate him.

He has E V E R Y T H I N G and it's all his and any single solitary thing a community, even a floating one, could possibly ever need to survive the zombpocalypse, well Scott has it. He's willing to share, of course, even with strangers, but it's HIS stuff and he doles it out in an insufferably arrogant way....like his personality. Insufferably arrogant. And even, at a point, high ranking Marine and Coast Guard officers are put under SCOTT'S CIVILIAN command (not believable at all) in the middle of a WORLD APOCALYPSE (even less believable).

But enough about Scott, who I may have mentioned that I hate.

The rest of the book is outstanding. Great story, plot, arc, characters, situation, and I have already decided that I am going to purchase and retrofit my very own cruise ship to live on NOW so that when the zombpocalypse comes, I'm already set.

EDITED JULY 18, 2013:

So...based on this review, particularly the parts about the book's main character, Scott, who I may have mentioned that I hate, the author hired me to edit this book, and the two following it.

Since I had a chance to get my hands on Scott and tone him down some (Did I tell you he was insufferably arrogant? If not, I meant to.), I hate him less now. And actually, in subsequent books, things happen to Scott that may even make you have sympathy for him, because he is brought down to earth in a pretty mean way.

Having now read the three books in the series, I can heartily recommend that if you are a zombie/horror/PA fan, you hie thee to your nearest online or brick and mortar bookstore, get them all, and commence to readin'.

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### **Michelle says**

How does one describe this book effectively? You have a rich white dude who just happens to be on his mega yacht when the zombie apocalypse occurs. He has all the bells and whistles and access to anything and everything he needs. This also includes marines and all sorts of military toys at his disposal. Then you have another rich white dude who escapes from the airport and just happens to get super ass lucky and manages to escape all attacks. Hen then finds a safe haven at an oil refinery with a bunch of other lucky stiffs and together they all build these really cool zombie slaying cars.

What this book has: Several descriptions of uber rich guys mega yacht along with all his cool toys and amenities. If you miss the description in one chapter, don't worry you will get it several times more

throughout the book. Occasionally you get some zombie action, but don't worry the zombies don't win. You can also read how the military kisses rich guys ass and treats him like he's the best thing since sliced bread since Homeland Security, FEMA, and the CDC have entrusted rich dude with rescuing a scientist. Some more zombie action pops up, but they get their heads exploded and all fall down or they run away because they are afraid of water. After a paragraph of that we are back to how really cool and awesome uber rich guy is and how his mega yacht is going to save civilization.

What this book doesn't have: No strong female characters. Not even one that might have some potential. Most of them are all damsels in distress. They either sit in their stateroom on the super yacht painting or they are giving booty calls to the big bad men who save them. There's a plot somewhere in this story, but I think it's hidden behind the bowling alley that they are turning into a shooting range for the other rich peeps to train on.

I will not be finishing the series.

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### **Barry James says**

Welcome to the Zombie Apocalypse! Unlike some ZA authors, this one clearly has not been bitten yet and still has the ability to form plot lines. I loved how the story alternated between the "average Joe" (who loses everything that's important to him in the first couple of pages and has to think on his feet and appropriate whatever resources he can find to survive) and the lottery winner with the massive tricked-out yacht (who has the ability to figure out the "big picture" and plan more audacious rescue efforts from his position of relative safety). The explanation for the source and nature of the infection is original, too, and I suspect we will learn a lot more about it in the sequel.

Must-read material for the coming apocalypse, along with *The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection From The Living Dead* and *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War!*

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### **Martin Belcher says**

What an incredible read! This is a lot different from the usual Zombie formula and is set aboard the Sovereign Spirit an old North Sea roll on roll off ferry that has been turned into a mega luxury ship by billionaire Scott Allen and his family. The boat has every luxury you can name from bowling alley to cinema to casino and Internet cafe all on board. Scott has also fitted out the Sovereign Spirit with its own helicopter, mini-sub, SUV, stacks of weaponry and even a marine laboratory. Scott's idea is to spend his fortune sailing the oceans and taking his friends and paying passengers on exclusive round-the-world cruises with all manner of excursions included. Everything is well in Scott's world until almost simultaneously in big cities around the globe people start to turn into flesh eating zombies attacking others and quickly spreading the infection across the planet. From the safety of his ship in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Northern Mexico, Scott has a ring side seat as he watches the TV news networks show what could be the end of society as we know it. Can Scott and his passengers find survivors on the coast? I absolutely loved this first book in the Sovereign Spirit saga, many other reviewers have said it is like *The Walking Dead* meets *Battlestar Galactica*... All I can say is I LOVED IT and I have already bought the next book *Flotilla of the Dead* on Kindle.

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### **John Walsh says**

This is one of those books that starts with a bang and I read waiting for the pace to slacken, except it doesn't. Too often, books of this kind start out with an action scene, and then we get chapters of backfill and descriptions of the soap opera-like travails of our characters. While Forsyth indeed fills in the characterizations, the key quality of this book is that most valuable in any kind of thriller--PACING.

After so many weary replays of Romero situations, it's rewarding to read something that really does something different with this material. Imagine an action-movie situation, now throw in zombies. That's easy to imagine, but difficult to pull off. The author also has a droll sense of humor I found enjoyable without falling into the foolishness of so many books and films which dilute the horror with jokes. (I laughed out loud at this line: "What is the nature of your emergency, Three Two Foxtrot?" was the immediate reply. "Zombies," replied Mick before Scott could stop him.) The humor seems to pop out of the mouths of people caught unawares by their situations and seems natural, not forced, and thus keeps the proceedings from getting depressing.

I am very, very hard on action stories, and almost as hard on horror stories, so I was surprised to find this combination of both to be so engrossing and enjoyable. I'm looking forward to the next volume, which surprises me even more, since I can't tell you how many multi-volume sagas I've abandoned. Very enjoyable.

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### **Beth Oliver says**

I had to stop reading. Everything was just too convenient for the people and there was no drama. I also really didn't care at all about any of the characters, other than they all annoyed me. Everyone was perfect. The wives were perfect and expected to be making everyone dinner. I thought the book idea was a good one, but extremely poorly executed.

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### **Shawn Looker says**

So I enjoyed this book, but it kind of felt like the main character didn't ever really have any serious obstacles. He had a few minor speed bumps, but that's really all they were. He was literally in the best possible situation EVER for a zombie apocalypse. It made for an entertaining book, but it would have been a lot better if he actually had some real obstacles to over come.

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### **Nick Cole says**

The game many people are playing these days is the name your friends, tools, weapons and plans for survival in case of Zombocalypse game. This book takes that intellectual exercise and runs with it. Or should I say

'sets sail with it'? Imagine there are no rules, no limits to spending, no preparation that can't be made if the world is going to go down in a mass of crawling, staggering, shambling, gnashing corpses tomorrow. Well that's what the author does and he does it well combining technical and tactical knowledge with a sense of drama and urgency that depart from the standard zombie epic in a high powered speedboat loaded with guns pushing Eighty over open water. The fall of Baja and Southern California are depicted with a fresh practicality that draws the reader into this boat cruise through hell as the Everyman hero who hit the lottery just before the end of everything cobbles together a flotilla of marines, survivors and hotheads to survive just one more day against a world gone corpse-raving mad. Buy the ticket and take this ride!

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### **Travis Mohrman says**

This book was a very enjoyable read. I haven't read zombie books for awhile after I binged on them several years ago and grew bored -quickly by the same old plot. This book is very unique in that it takes place, mostly, on a very fancy, well-equipped yacht. The author explores many different aspects of a zombie apocalypse that I hadn't encountered in the genre previously. I recommend reading it! I am excited to read the other ones as well and see where this story goes. The only reason for 4 stars instead of 5 was a slightly slow start. The second half of the book was 5 stars all the way.

\*\*possible light spoilers below, but not really\*\*

Now, I want to address a running theme in all the 1 star reviews. Having read some of those reviews before reading the book, I expected this thing to have a bunch of gun crazy, 'Murica!, Don't Tread On Me kind of junk in it. It didn't. I didn't notice anything that was overtly political at all. Yes, a rich man has a very well-equipped yacht and when the military finds out about it, they want to take it. I agree with that. In a collapse of society situation, the gov't has a duty to take certain things that will help everyone. It has been done in the past and it will be done again. I'm okay with that. What I really thought was unique about this book was the fact that when the gov't finds out the man who owns the yacht actually has his head on straight and is handling things well, they let him keep it because he's doing a fine job. (yeah yeah, scuttling charges, whatever).

Seriously, I don't think this is any kind of liberal bashing, big gov't thing. It's a very good story of the country going to hell in a handbasket and several groups of people all trying to do what they think is right and good.

If those reviews mentioning a bunch of political stuff are holding you back, don't let them. People will fault Bush or Obama for the expired milk in their fridge just because they look for political conflict in everything. Read this if you like zombie books or good stories about good people. You won't be let down.

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### **Amy says**

hmmmm, let's pretend we're casting the parts in this book for a film version. The following MALE parts are up for grabs. All parts will involve kicking Zombie ass...

- Rich Annoying Hero
- Kick ass Cool Hero
- Ship Skipper #1
- Ship Skipper #2
- Military Commander #1

- Military commander #2
- Marine Sergeant
- Marine #1
- Marine #2
- Marine #3
- Marine #4
- Marine #5
- Helicopter Pilot
- Coastguard
- Coastguard Pilot
- Army Buddy #1
- Army Buddy #2
- Rich Hero's child
- Worldsaving Scientist
- Refinery Worker #1
- Refinery Worker #2
- Refinery Worker #3
- Wifebeater
- Rich Rescuee

The following parts are auditioning for FEMALES. No Zombie ass kicking required, you can even stay in your heels...

- Pathetic Wife #1
- Pathetic Wife #2
- Pathetic Wife #3
- Pathetic girlfriend #1
- Pathetic girlfriend #2
- Pathetic mother
- Pathetic daughter
- Temptress nympho
- Worldsaving Scientist's Assistant

This is possibly *the* most sexist book i have ever read. So how come it still gets 3 stars? Because Carl kicks Zombie ass! If the whole book had had more Carls on normal boats, no rich annoying 'hero' and some women who perhaps decided it was best to act like they were in a goddamn Zombie Apocolypse, (doh hello?.....) then this might have got 5 stars.

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### **haikumoment says**

It's about a millionaire that happens to be on a cruise ship with friends and family when the zombie apocalypse hits. It's loaded with just about every conceivable thing you'd need to survive. Because of this, there is a lack of conflict that you see in most other books of this genre. There is really no suspense, as the protagonist has already bought his way out of every challenge they might encounter before the book even starts. I could not immerse myself in this book because the situations, characters and dialogue are so contrived. There is a subplot about a character named Carl that is much more interesting, but unfortunately doesn't get as much attention.

Very disappointing because I thought the book had potential.

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### **Russ says**

I really like the idea behind this book. While I've read a few zombie novels and a lot of apocalyptic books, I've never read one centered on boat based survival. The reason I read through the book was to see how the author built that world up. That said, the writing really needs some work.

The author needs to put some more work into developing conflict, character development, dialog, and pacing. Other than the zombie thing, most of his conflicts are very short lived and he really tilts the world in favor of his main character. With the odds so skewed in the hero's favor even the long-term apocalypse conflict just isn't as compelling. Many of the characters are one-dimensional which I understand with minor players, but even the main ones just don't have much depth. This leads to dialog problems in that once you understand what that character's singular motivation is, the conversations will be obvious. The author does have some good scenes in the book but most of the time the pacing of the writing stops you from really sinking into the scene.

If you are into survival or zombie apocalypse novels I recommend reading the sample. If you don't mind the writing style then you will probably get something from the book. However, if you have difficulties with the writing in the sample, let this one go as it won't improve.

Additionally, don't count the author out for future books. Some of the ideas are novel and there are definitely glimmers of potential here. As he gains experience and maybe gets some editing help I think he could get some good writing done.

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### **Alisha says**

Voyage of the Dead is a zombie apocalypse book with two main characters, Carl and Scott. Scott won the lottery a few years back, and was on his private cruise ship with his closest family and friends when the outbreak happens. Carl is not so lucky, as he's stuck in LAX airport when the first incidents in town happen. Carl has to work for his survival, using strong instincts and keen observation to get him through the first hours, then finding an oil refinery with strong fencing around it to take refuge in.

Honestly, Scott's story was a bit ridiculous and bothered me. I don't understand why a normal man would have a floating arsenal with all those amphibious vehicles. Yes, I understand he's rich, but I know a lot of rich people and they're boats don't hold those sorts of things. It seems really outrageous, and almost like the author was writing a personal fantasy come to life with the whole concept. I think this weak element of the story could have been easier thought out by making the ship smaller, the passengers fewer (how many of his close family and friends could really afford to not work for a year?) or making it the ship of a paranoid prepper who used it as his bug out location. The way it played out the way it was just wasn't realistic at all. Yes, zombies aren't realistic either, but you have to make any story seem as real to the reader as possible.

The things with the government asking them for help and them rescuing all the survivors was also a little far fetched. It just feels as if there are too many survivors. Understandably this is the beginning of the apocalypse, but many of the people they rescue don't seem at all prepared for this sort of harsh environment.

I think most of them would have been zombie meat in a realistic world. I'm also disappointed that Scott just seems SO lucky. It's like you know nothing is going to happen to him or anyone that he loves, there is no danger with his story, it was almost boring. Might as well have written a romance novel at that point. Most people would not be able to survive in their homes, and I don't understand why the zombies are so tame they aren't even able to break through RV doors. Seems like these sort of zombies would have easily been able to have been controlled by our government and police forces. Fast, strong, undead is what gives zombies the advantage in most stories, something slow, stupid, and weak would quickly be overwhelmed by us without apocalyptic loses.

Now Carl's story is a lot more interesting, he's had to fight on the front lines more, and it seems like his brain is what's giving him the advantage. I like some of the modifications he makes to the vehicles, they sound like they would be real assets. He seems like the sort of person that would survive a situation like this. However, the story never really focuses on him as it seems like he's being set up to a provider of oil to the flotilla of ships later on. It's really sad that he's probably going to be so easily dismissed since he's the more interesting character.

Overall I think the story is just a little to silly to be considered interesting. The characters are just a little to lucky, and of course there are always lucky people in horrible situations, but nobody really wants to hear that story. We want to know about the people who struggle, who lose loved ones, and who are fighting the hard and gritty fight with the rest of the peons. Scott is exactly where I would want to be in an apocalypse, but when reading fiction, it's not that interesting to hear his story of rescue and posh living. Honestly though, it's not a bad read, it's just not a very good one either. The dialogue is a little silly, but the descriptions are decent. It brings up some interesting points, and creates a couple new ideas in the way of zombies. I did like the fairly unique idea that the zombies naturally moved downhill because it was the force of least resistance.

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### **mountainmama says**

I don't normally read zombie stories, but I'd heard so many people talk about this one that I had to try. And I'm glad I did! Voyage of the Dead tells the story of a zombie apocalypse from two perspectives – from aboard a private luxury cruise ship equipped with every possible convenience, to an average Joe who's caught in the middle of the mayhem with only his wits to survive.

Scott, who has outfitted his floating palace thanks to winning the lottery (although I'm not sure even the largest lottery windfall would buy all the bells and whistles he's got), is on a rescue mission. Carl is just trying to survive. Both stories have some hair-raising moments as they fight their way thru hordes of the undead. Although Scott has all the expensive toys, Carl comes up with some pretty cool weapons. Graphic and gruesome at times, the story is nevertheless compelling and convincing and keeps you turning the pages. I'm looking forward to the second installment! Good job, Mr. Forsyth.

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### **Jennifer says**

I have decided that I am--at least for now--giving up any attempt to find good free zombie fiction.

This book was...well, at first I thought it was going to be good. The prologue is very exciting, as it features Carl and his wife, Priscilla, at the airport just as the zombie apocalypse breaks out. We witness Carl losing his wife and his frantic attempts to stay alive.

And then it just switches gears. The main character is not Carl, and is actually a man actually named Scott Allen, He's a handsome multi-gajillionaire (having won the lottery) who's in his late 40's, has a beautiful, talented wife (former model, artist, gourmet cook, etc.), and an awesome son. He also happens to find himself on his fully tricked out, fully stocked ocean liner when the zombie apocalypse happens. He's so perfect, and always right, and is so good at everything, and has no discernible flaws, that, if you ask me, his name should have been Gary (as in Stu). He acts like he's better than everyone else, and he just...UGH irritated me to no end. And what's worse, everyone, and I mean EVERYONE deferred to him like he was lord on high. The military, marines, what have you...EVERY. ONE.

There was also very little threat to the survivors, due to the fact that the ship had everything, literally everything that one would need to survive the end of the world in the lap of luxury. The ship had: weapons, cars, food, a helicopter, internet, sat phones, a bowling alley, movies, hot water, you name it, it was on that damn ship. Any threats they did come across (whether from zombies or other humans) were easily overcome.

(And the ad nauseam descriptions of the various types of guns/weapons/military vehicles/whatever, really was not my cuppa, and I skimmed a lot of that.)

Now...we have to discuss the female 'characters' for a moment. Is there a distinction that's even less than 'one dimensional'? Because that's what the women were in this book. I'm not even sure you can call them characters, actually. Their only contributions to the story were to: cry/panic/wring their hands/be rescued/offer sexual favors for said rescuing. Not one of them had any agency of their own or were characters in their own right.

The only saving grace of this book were the 'Interludes in Hell' that occurred at the end of every chapter, and featured the previously mentioned mentioned Carl of the prologue. As he was in the middle of the zombie apocalypse, his situation felt much more precarious, but again, there was a distinct lack of threat and convenient solutions to problems--though, not nearly as much as with the survivors on the ship.

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