



## Cataclysm

*Tim Washburn*

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**Cataclysm** Tim Washburn

“Washburn brings a new kind of terror.”—Marc Cameron

## FIRST THE GROUND SHAKES . . .

At Yellowstone National Park, earthquake tremors are common. But today, park scientist Tucker Mayfield detects something different: a disturbing new increase in activity—and intensity . . .

## THEN THE LAVA RISES . . .

Lurking beneath the park’s natural wonders, earth’s largest supervolcano begins to awaken after 640,000 years. If—or when—it blows, two-thirds of the North American continent will be destroyed . . .

## NOW THE WHOLE WORLD TREMBLES . . . IN FEAR

Racing against time, Tucker Mayfield mobilizes a team to evacuate all visitors from the park—including his family at the Old Faithful Inn. But when the earthquakes intensify, and the death toll rises, a shockwave of panic spreads across the nation. Troops are deployed, emergency plans activated. But nothing can stop a natural disaster of this magnitude. When the volcano erupts, doomsday begins—and no one gets out alive . . .

“Apocalypse has come...unsettling...Washburn shows formidable storytelling skills....You find yourself wishing it were longer.”—*Mystery Scene* on *Powerless*

“Leaves you breathless.”—Marc Cameron, bestselling author of *National Security* and *Day Zero*

“Like a nuclear reactor, this story heats up fast!”—Anderson Harp, author of *Retribution* and *Born of War* (on *Powerless*)

## Cataclysm Details

Date : Published October 25th 2016 by Pinnacle

ISBN :

Author : Tim Washburn

Format : Kindle Edition 488 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Apocalyptic

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## From Reader Review Cataclysm for online ebook

### Pam Shelton-anderson says

I used to live in Salt Lake City and have been to Yellowstone many times so found this very interesting. There have also been a numerous of TV shows on the possibilities of the super volcano erupting again and what the impact would be to the planet. This book portrays this well with a lot of the science involved in monitoring and assessing this event. I'm not too sure about the fracking side story since there is very little chance it could have affected the super volcano in any way. It just seemed to pander to that non-relevant (to this story) environmental issue. Several characters seemed to get distracted by emotional and romantic feelings when time was very critical and survival not a sure thing. Overall, I very much enjoyed this book.

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### Juli says

\*\*I received a copy of this book from Kensington Books via NetGalley in exchange for a fair, honest review\*\*

The supervolcano lurking beneath Yellowstone National Park is the largest caldera in the world. The caldera, measuring 25 x 37 miles, last erupted about 640,000 years ago, scientists estimate. In recent years, the ground surrounding the caldera has been surging, or rising up, sometimes as much as 2.8 inches. Is that a sign that the supervolcano is headed for another eruption?

If so, it could be a climate-changing, world-shattering.....cataclysm.

Tim Washburn spins an awesome disaster story! Cataclysm tells the tale of what might happen before, during and after an eruption of the largest supervolcano on the planet.

The story is well-paced and the suspense starts building almost from the very beginning. The characters are well-developed and believable. I'm not sure about the science as I'm not an expert on volcanoes, but it seemed believable to me. Not so sure fracking could set off a supervolcano, but it seemed plausible enough to me.

All in all, an enjoyable read. For readers who are fascinated by volcanoes, or who enjoy disaster stories, this would be a perfect read! Cataclysm releases October 25th from Kensington Press.

Tim Washburn has written one other disaster novel, Powerless. Find out more about the author and his books on his website: [www.timwashburnbooks.com](http://www.timwashburnbooks.com)

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### Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

When you really think about it, it's a wonder we are still here. We all live on this tiny rock that is hurtling through space at over 66 000 miles per hour without anyone at the helm; this space that happens to be filled with thousands of other rocks. Add this to the fact that this rock is not solid, it is covered with these plates

that are in constant motion, banging into one another, pulling apart; and just under these plates – molten rock that is hot enough to incinerate the balls off a nanny goat. I think that this is the appeal of any good disaster book, these factors that are completely out of our control, but that we can potentially overcome.

Tim Washburn has given us a great disaster book. It is fast paced and exciting, always having another kick in the crotch from Mother Nature right around the corner. I have to be honest, I didn't even know that there was a super volcano right under Yellowstone Park. His disaster realistically shows how we take things for granted; the age old "It won't happen to me" concept.

*Cataclysm* has a good mix of characters, from scientists that work at the park, vacationers, politicians and park rangers. Some of these characters were better developed, while others were simply cannon...I mean, volcano fodder.

In the end, *Cataclysm* was a fun book to read. It really did come alive in my mind. I could picture *Cataclysm* making a great action movie.

\* I received a copy of the book from the publisher (via NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Paul Anderson says**

*Cataclysm* by Tim Washburn (Pinnacle Books, November 2016) is the real deal. You know all hell is about to break loose in Yellowstone National Park when underground magma begins to shift in the caldera, causing earthquakes. Yellowstone is home to one of the world's largest underground volcanoes. As the caldera rises, hydrothermal vents erupt as a precursor to a cataclysmic volcanic eruption that could threaten all life on earth.

What would you do if your own family were staying at the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone? Is there any way you can get them, and the tens of thousands of others in or near the park, out of harm's way before the volcano erupts? Doctor Tucker Mayfield is the staff geologist monitoring on-site activity at Yellowstone. His entire family — brother Matt, sister-in-law Jessica, and a young niece and nephew — are vacationing in Yellowstone when the caldera threatens to erupt. The park is filled with families, and Tucker realizes evacuating them all before the volcano blows will be impossible.

First come the earthquakes, minor tremors that escalate into full-scale quakes. Then the geysers erratically spew boiling water high into the air, scalding hundreds of people and inundating acres of land. Volcanic ash from newly-opened fissures clogs automobile engines and brings down aircraft. If the volcano blows its lid, the entire Midwest and west coast of America could be buried beneath millions of tons of hot ash that will make the soil sterile for generations to come.

Without food, water, electricity, or transportation, how will the country survive?

President Drummond, the first female POTUS, declares a national emergency too late to save millions of lives. None of her learned advisers knew when or even if the volcano would erupt after being dormant for 640,000 years.

Author Washburn adds sexual tension to the mix as Rachel and April vie for Tucker's attention. I wanted to shake or strangle several of the characters for being so selfish or dense that they put loved ones at risk. When pyroclastic flows containing boiling lava and hot acidic ash incinerate thousands of people, I wanted to shout "I told you so" to those who got their comeuppance.

But most of the dead are ordinary people who simply happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. The

true horror is that this could actually happen to you or me tomorrow, and there's nothing we can do to prevent it. The only thing we can do is be aware it could possibly happen and be prepared to run for our lives if it does.

Great story, competently told, with believable characters. Highly recommended.

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### **Lorraine Southern says**

A literary classic this is not, but I loved this book! Thoroughly enjoyed it, read it every chance I could and was gutted it wasn't the first in a series :D

It's an 'end of the world as we know it' disaster novel that lends itself super well to the prospect of a conversion into a great disaster movie! It's extremely fast paced, a la Matthew Reilly, full of action, suspense and looming doom on a global scale. It grabs you by the throat before you even get to the end of the first chapter and doesn't let go again til the end.

If you want a book that is mucho fun, then ignore the literary-snobs reviews and grab yourself a copy of this :)

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### **Hilary says**

Moves along nicely with a slightly different plot from the usual volcano-doom, but it suffers a little from appearing more like a novelization of a TV movie than an original novel. It's written in the present tense, which strengthens this impression, as do the later interviews interspersed like TV clips, but a few inconsistencies (people who don't know what happened when they just watched it, for instance, or forget what they just bought) distracted me from the whole "they're all going to die" part. And yes, there was that really annoying character everyone just wants to die, and people just getting it on, and some typical political rhetoric.

In short, I think this would be a *great* Asylum movie. It just didn't work for me in book form. (I'll hope to watch it later though!)

Disclaimer: I received a free copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Byron Wright says**

I didn't know that Yellowstone park had a volcano underneath it. All of the science stuff around volcanoes is what made this book interesting to me. The way the disaster developed made it a book that was hard to put down. I enjoyed this book overall.

The part of this book that I didn't enjoy was the character interactions. Whenever they moved away from dealing directly with the disaster I found the character interactions awkward and unrealistic. There was: a love story at the end that seemed totally unnecessary and poorly developed, a family with two small kids that refused to leave the park as it started to explode because their brother (who worked there) wasn't leaving, and finally a super rich character comes in at the end with no lead-in and is magically buddies with some of the

characters.

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### **Randal White says**

Wow! It's been quite a while since I have found a book that I just couldn't put down. This was the case with Cataclysm. Washburn has created an incredible adventure ride in this one. Basically, to not give too much away, the book deals with the events leading up to and of a major eruption of the Yellowstone caldera. The author will have you on the edge of your seat as you are put in the shoes of varying people, from people in the immediate area, rangers on the ground at the Park, geologists/scientists at Yellowstone and other locations, and in the White House. And with the survivors in camps after the fact. The characters are interesting (although the physical descriptions of each one does tend to bog down the story). The science seems plausible enough to a layman like me. The flow is non-stop. Maybe it's because I am living in the Pacific Northwest, and love to visit the Yellowstone area for fly fishing, but this book managed to scare the c\*\*\*p out of me! I think that my next visit will be one with me looking over my shoulder for signs of an eruption. Highly recommend this book to anyone who can dedicate a day to reading it, because you won't be able to put it down!

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### **Olivia "Don't Blame Me I Voted for Hillary" says**

This is a fascinating novel about what would happen if the Yellowstone supervolcano erupts. It would throw enough ash into the air to cause global temperatures to go down by 10 degrees Farenheit. I learned a lot from this book.

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### **Lori L (She Treads Softly) says**

Cataclysm by Tim Washburn is a recommended disaster novel that would make a great action movie.

There is an earthquake swarm happening at Yellowstone National Park. While small tremors and earthquakes are a common occurrence, these aren't so small and are increasing in magnitude. All the data coming in indicates that the super volcano underneath the park may be heading toward an eruption. The normal geothermal features in the park are growing in intensity. The magma chamber underneath Yellowstone seems to be pushing the park's landmass up at an alarmingly increasing pace. Since the magma chamber is 18 miles wide and almost 55 miles long, an eruption would not only be devastating for the USA, it would negatively impact the entire planet.

Washburn does have several recurring main characters in his book that we follow and a whole cast of doomed extras. To be honest, and my reviews always are, I'm not reading a book called Cataclysm for the well-developed characters or the poetic language (no offense to Washburn). And, admittedly, there were parts of Cataclysm I skimmed through quickly, especially all the White House scenes. I'm reading it for the action, the suspense, the looming disaster, the scrambling scientists and buff park rangers, the panic, the doomed tourists, and the challenge of escaping alive. Cataclysm provided me with a terrific impending disaster of huge proportions and gave me some characters to follow through it.

There were also some flaws in Cataclysm. (I kept switching my rating between 3 and 4 stars because of the

flaws.) Without detailing a list of them, most notable was the effort to be as incredibly P.C. as possible. For example, while I can appreciate a diverse cast of characters, in this case I didn't really need a detailed physical description, including the skin tone, of every character in a disaster book. I can usually provide plenty of diversity in my mind's eye... while picturing the mad scramble for survival when death is an expected outcome. It is also possible to have your diversity without making a huge point of describing people. Other characters can always do the job for you. There are also several other examples (anti-fracking) where the effort to be P.C. got in the way of what should be the real focus: **THE YELLOWSTONE VOLCANO IS GOING TO ERUPT!**

Disclosure: My advanced reading copy was courtesy of the publisher/author.

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### **Jody says**

I enjoyed this book, although it did take me a bit to get attached to any particular characters. I liked the little blurbs from survivors at the various camps. I found it unrealistic that (\*spoiler) Tucker & Rachael could survive the pyroclastic flow in the root cellar and even more unrealistic that they could survive walking in the ash with just a piece of cloth over their nose and mouth. The implied love triangle between Tucker, Jess, and Matt didn't really exist, and the detailed race/sexual preference of some of the characters seemed overboard since it had nothing to do with the plotline. For instance Jess is, "half Cherokee with deep bronze colored skin, and dark cascading hair.....she has the high forehead and broad nose of her ancestors." The Presidential Chief of Staff is a, "gay man in a committed relationship." General Jose Cardenas is a "fourth-generation Hispanic whose ancestors emigrated from central Mexico." OK, I get it, the author is inclusive with his characters. It was a little much for me that Rachael is so desperate to be with Tucker. I mean the Yellowstone volcano is literally exploding, and she's brushing up against his leg, his arm, trying to get him to talk about why he's not into her. Ugh. Outside of all that, the pace moves pretty good and it has a fairly satisfying conclusion. Like his book *Powerless*, at the end, it jumps ahead from the immediate catastrophe to later in time.

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### **Elizabeth says**

#### **FIRST THE GROUND SHAKES . . .**

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What did I think of it:

I still had to DNF it 100% because I couldn't read it, all the way through it there was worlds that look like this Jessica and so on, every page there was words like that, and it just took away from what might have been a really good story, so I'm just going to wait and buy it when I can and then see what I think. With that said I would like to say thanks to NetGalley for giving me a chance to read what might have been a great book ,

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### **Franklin Hummel says**

This novel deals with the development of and finally the explosion of the super-volcano that makes up Yellowstone National Park and how the various characters react to it. There is also some post-eruption story in the last part of the story.

Overall I liked this book. The main problem I had with it is the lead up to the explosion (along with the deaths of a number of "red shirts") became far too long for me. It seemed to just go on and on. I ended up skipping about, oh, 20% of this because for me it was dragging down the story.

I picked up the story again several chapters before the actual explosion and enjoyed the rest of the book. What I especially like is how, when the consequences to civilization worldwide began to happen, it was somewhat underplayed at first, becoming far, far more serious as the impact showed its long-term effects. It became very clear at the end that almost all of Humanity would not survive this.

The characters' relationships throughout seem believable and realistic and this did involve me more in the greater story.

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### **Cindy McBride says**

Good grief. Could this book be any more politically correct?? We have a female president (who graduated first in her class at Yale Law, no less, and who sounds physically a lot like Hillary to boot) -- box checked; a chairman of the Joint Chiefs who's a 4th generation Hispanic from Mexico -- box checked; another female who's Secretary of Defense -- box checked; a thinly-veiled anti-fracking sentiment throughout (suggesting it's the reason for the volcanic eruption) -- box checked; and -- wait for it... -- yes, a presidential Chief of Staff who's gay (though all reliable polls cite the gay population at 2.3%, meaning you'd need at least 50 main characters in a book for there to be 1 gay person) -- box checked! If all of these oh-so-PC elements added ANYTHING of consequence to the storyline, I could overlook them. I'm not a hater of any of the above. I do, however, strongly resent their inclusion for no discernible reason other than to make clear the author's obvious political sentiments that have no place in a fictional novel, at least not one about the catastrophic eruption of Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone. And, as a final post script, all of the above were introduced into the story by the 25% mark... which is where I stopped reading. If this is Mr. Washburn's idea of the elements that make for a spell-binding novel, it'll be the last of his books I'll read.

\*\*\* This book was provided to me at no charge by the author and/or publisher, via NetGalley, as an ARC in return for my honest review. \*\*\*

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## Wendy says

In Tim Washburn's imaginative and thrilling new science fiction novel "Cataclysm" earthquake swarms are intensifying at Yellowstone National Park alerting geologist Tucker Mayfield and scientists at Yellowstone Volcano Observatory to movement in the underground lava flow that could trigger a massive eruption of the caldera.

In a race against time as earthquakes shake the park, a hydrothermal explosion rocks a nearby lake, a tidal wave washes a town away, and the death toll rises, Tucker Mayfield the park's chief scientist warns Park Superintendent Ralph Barlow who mobilizes an evacuation of park visitors including his brother, sister-in - law and their two children. Assured that his family is headed north to safety Tucker returns to his office in Mammoth to track the flow of magma only to discover that panic and breakdowns have bottle-necked the stream of traffic out of Yellowstone. Divided between loyalty to his job and love of his family Tucker enlists the aid of Park Ranger Walt Stringer to find and get his family to safety. In a life and death struggle as the government prepares an emergency plan to protect, house and feed thousands of refugees fleeing the clouds of ash and smoke, the worst happens.

Intertwined in the main plot are interviews of survivors, insight into some of the fatalities, and the President's struggle to glean enough information to develop a workable plan for dealing with the survivors and any military concerns; all of which underscore the horror of this apocalyptic event. This is a roller-coaster ride that keeps you breathless and on the edge of your seat as the world waits for a terrifying event that could have far-reaching implications. Skilfully Tim Washburn escalates intensity and suspense when Tucker has to choose between escaping north with others in his office or searching for his family and the Park Ranger he sent to help them escape. Fast-paced and action-packed there are twists in the story that keep you captivated until the very end.

Tim Washburn provides a well-rounded mix of characters who get caught up in a terrifying nightmare no one expected. Among them is Dr. Tucker Mayfield a highly intelligent, perceptive and resourceful geologist; his friend Walt Stringer a dedicated and self-sacrificing Park Ranger; as well as the selfless Park Superintendent Ralph Barlow who's a logical thinker and problem solver. Rachael Rollins is the independent but very defensive geologist working with Tucker. Like a game of cat and mouse she chases him, but there is little sexual tension although during a pyroclastic event he succumbs to her advances while they're hiding in a root cellar. Similarly I couldn't understand how patient, amiable and quick-witted Andy Barlow could end up with self-indulgent and dim-witted Michelle. Yet, although I had difficulty connecting with either of these romantic entanglements, all the characters add to the excitement and drama; none more so than J. John Jackson the smooth-talking billionaire with a heart of gold.

I thoroughly enjoyed "Cataclysm" an addictive apocalyptic thriller that I couldn't put down until I was finished.

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