



Ground Zero

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One year after the Michaluk Virus decimated the southeast, Ethan Bennett and his six companions have become as close as family while facing the trials of living in a drastically changed world. Then a mysterious woman arrives at their safe house in Alabama, pleading for assistance in getting into Atlanta. Despite their suspicions that the woman is hiding important information, Ethan and his friends agree to help. But when they're suddenly forced to flee from the infected, the cohesion the group cultivated is shattered.

As members of the group succumb to the escalating dangers on their path, new alliances form, new loves develop, and old friendships crumble. In the face of unending horror, one man makes the ultimate sacrifice to save his friends, while another reveals secrets that could hold the key to humanity's survival.

Ground Zero Details

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From Reader Review Ground Zero for online ebook

Rhiannon Frater says

This is a 4.5 review.

What can I say? Jessica Meigs can write a kickass zombie story! The second book in her THE BECOMING series picks up about a year after the first book ends. The leap forward threw me off just a little, but she brings the readers up to speed very quickly on the changed dynamic of the characters from the first book. Once the reader has a good handle on just what is going on in the world of the survivors, Jessica upends the whole thing and sends our characters scrambling.

One of the truly terrifying aspects of this story is that once the survivors lose their safe haven, supplies, etc, they are quickly at the mercy of the dangerous world around them. It's *very* difficult for the survivors to regain any sense of security once they lose it.

There is a lot of character development in this novel, maybe more so than the first. You really get a deep look into the psyche of several of the characters. The newest character in the book never becomes a real personality, but her role is more of a plot device. Personally, I kept hoping someone would feed her to the infected.

Also, the death toll in the book was much higher than I anticipated. Death is a constant threat in the book and not just from the infected. I lost a few of my fav characters in this one, which broke my heart.

The action sequences are awesome. The character development is handled with a deft hand. There are some very nice twists and turns in the plot that I thoroughly enjoyed.

At first my only issue with the story was the reasoning behind the group risking their lives to go to Atlanta. But by the end, I realized, they never really did have a good reason at all. Basically, one character decides she's going and everyone else falls into line behind her because they don't want to be alone. They don't want to be the one to stay behind. They don't want to be apart from the person (or persons) they love. They all act ridiculously stupid because they actually care for one another. Which is completely realistic!

The Becoming: Ground Zero is a great followup to Jessica Meigs's debut novel The Becoming. It's an action-packed, heart-wrenching, blood-churning tale of zombie mayhem with a good dose of heart.

Why aren't you reading this series yet?

Elle Chardou says

This is one of the best zombie books I have ever read. I know that says a lot but I love a good horror story. I devour Jack Kilborn, Blake Crouch, and Kealan Patrick Burke like it is going out of style.

Ms. Meigs has created perfection with this novel. After an ending that didn't quite sit well with me in The Becoming, she comes back with perfection. Cade, Brandt, Ethan and Co. are asked by a mysterious stranger to make the journey back to Atlanta but her motives are unclear and they have every reason not to trust this

young woman. However, they have no idea what awaits them in Atlanta but they do know that is where the virus started and they will have to face a whole bunch of hungry zombies on the way.

People will be lost, characters that readers will have bonded with but Ms. Meigs keeps the pace heart-pounding and it kept me turning the virtual pages on my Kindle. This is definitely a keeper. Although this novel does not end on a cliffhanger, it ends at a part where I wanted to know what would happen next. Ms. Meigs pulls something out of her hat no reader would ever expect and that is what makes her such a prolific writer and one of the best young talents out there.

Those who love Ms. Meigs' *Ground Zero* will probably also like her novella *The Becoming: Brothers In Arms, Afraid, Trapped, Endurance (A Novel of Terror)*, and *KIN*. None of these are post-apocalyptic but they sure do seem that way at times and if you love to be scared, you'll enjoy these as much as this one. Plus, they can tide you over until *The Becoming: Revelations* has been released. I, personally, can't wait for that one.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

Ground Zero begins about a year after the first book ends. Readers are immediately swept into a bit of chaos as the seven person group has an unexpected visitor with an outrageous request. Avi wants Ethan, Cade, Brandt and the rest of the group to take her into Atlanta, *Ground Zero* for the Michaluk Virus. Brandt has seldom spoke of what he saw there when he fled. He knows the horrors that wait there first hand. The group has formed a solid bond over the past year. For the most part they have a 'one for all and all for one' mentality. Needless to say all it takes is one member of the group to take Avi to Atlanta and they will all follow, they protect what is theirs and this group is theirs.

There is some amount of inner term oil in the group itself. They may have a solid bond to protect each other and thrive for survival, but they still have some issues with each other when it comes to others actions and attitudes. I felt that these various matters and disputes made the characters actions more realistic to the hellish situation they have found themselves in. One specific characters constant disregard for seemingly everything had me wishing an accident to befall on that person. This was just another characteristic that added to the realism of this group's life in a messed up world.

This messed up world is filled with zombies. This zombie infested world is severely lacking food, fresh water, medical help or supplies, and every modern day convenience that we take for granted is gone. The various members of the group go out into this infected infested world to scrounge up any item that can be of use, most specifically food and weaponry. The hunt often puts them in direct contact with the infected. The fight scenes are intense and plentiful. Ethan and his gang have figured out they must do anything and everything for survival and they have become very resourceful in their survival methods.

The last several chapters absolutely blew me away. Brandt has been hiding something since he was first introduced. This fact was eluded to several times in the previous book. Several members of the group also felt that Avi was not giving them the full truth when it came to her need to get into Atlanta. I'm still shocked, I'm not going to type any spoilers, but I never thought that the series would go in the direction that it is now headed. This is a good thing. I was very pleased. I am also looking forward into the next installment in this series.

Jonathan says

The Becoming: Ground Zero is the follow up to Jessica Meig's The Becoming. It's the continued saga of a group of survivors of a zombie apocalypse. I loved The Becoming (if you haven't read it go and get it now ... you won't regret it) and I have been greatly anticipating the follow up. It doesn't disappoint. The group is recruited to go to Atlanta under a ..hmmm... suspicious premise... at least to me. But as always with any group there are dissenting opinions and they finally agree to go. This story relates their journey there. It's absolutely packed with action and surprises. The character development is fantastic, and you really begin to relate to them. Some shocking developments occur, and the ending was a surprise but awesome. I wish I had the next one right now I would drop everything and sit and read it immediately to find out what happens next. It's a great read that you can't put down! Highly recommend.

Tony says

Just finished my advanced copy (apparently I'm special! lol) of this. Thanks Jessica! I immediately uploaded it to my Nook, only to have my wife steal it away from me so she could read it. I got stuck reading it on my phone any free minute I had the time. We both really enjoyed it, and can't wait for the third book. I don't want to give any spoilers since the book doesn't come out for another month or two but if you liked the first book you'll LOVE this one. A good amount of time has passed since the last book, and the group is holed up in a safe house when they have an unexpected guest. Things quickly go to hell and they hit the road heading to Atlanta and the CDC. Along the way there is all kinds of trouble. If you follow Jessica on twitter she has hinted to some of it. Plenty of in-fighting, a little intimacy, and death. And not just of the infected either! Definitely some shocking moments in there. And of course, the cliffhanger at the end. I've read a ton of zombie/SHTF/post-apocalyptic books over the past couple of years on my Nook and very few have I actually bought a paper copy of. There WILL be paper copies of The Becoming on my book shelves. A spot is reserved right in between J.L. Bourne's Day by Day Armageddon series, and Z.A. Recht's Morningstar series. Thanks again Jessica!

Zee Wyatt says

I must admit that I did not find this one nearly as entertaining as the first.

The main problem for me was that I could not get over the reason they went to Atlanta. To me it just didn't make any sense. Here you have a group of people who survive and try to help other survivors but instead of continuing this mission they decide to travel to what is believed to be the mecca of the apocalypse aka Atlanta for the flimsiest of reasons. The moment they made that decision I withdrew a bit. In fact by the time tragedy struck, I was rolling my eyes. I had no sympathy for the characters and was almost detached.

Now I say ALMOST detached for the same reason why I'm giving this book 3 stars. I couldn't put the darn book down! I couldn't stop reading. At points I wanted to reach into the book deliver Remy to the Zombies myself! But even then I couldn't stop reading.

Martha R. says

This is an overall review of the series thus far. While I appreciate her general creativity and story telling ability, the immaturity in her writing wore on me. The second book was more difficult for me to finish but I will still read the third because not finishing things makes me anxious...AND...i need to know how it ends... Also, there is an overuse of southern phrases and dialect that come across as forced. Yes, I understand she is from Alabama, but it isn't believable that the educated/worldly characters would speak like that. Again, I get the feeling this is more of an experience/maturity problem that the author will move past the next few years. I'll continue to follow her - the imagination is definitely there!

Faye says

I received this ARC for honest review by the author. Wow , where do I start ? This book starts with the diary entry of Avi Geller , including a short synopsis of what had occurred over the past year since the Michaluk virus struck. Avi has been tasked with making contact with our band of survivors and getting them to Atlanta, to the CDC to try and find out what exactly happened.

There is a lot of mistrust and suspicion and high feeling. Half the group want to return, half refuse.

Things come to a head when the Infected find them and they have to move on, so Atlanta it is.

There are some comical lines that made me laugh at the vision in my head.... Reminded me a bit of Alan Rickman's Sheriff in Robin Hood!

Throughout the journey there is plenty of action and heartbreak. One scene drove chills up and down my spine. I will have a few uneasy moments in my job patrolling at night because of this, but congratulations for sending me on a roller coaster of emotion .

When the group finally reach their destination, all hell breaks loose.

Just when you think you have the ending sussed, then Wham..... The rug gets pulled out from under your feet. I DID NOT see that curveball coming onwards me. You can't leave me hanging like that !!!!!!!

This series just keeps getting better, I for one will find it a long time to wait for book 3..... Hurry up :-)

Arshad says

Not as satisfying as the first book, I just didn't believe that this group of survivors would be willing to throw their lives away on a fruitless errand for someone they just met. Otherwise, I liked the development of the character interactions in the wake of the off-screen year that passed between The Becoming and Ground Zero. Looking forward to more context promised in the next book.

Craig says

Much of the problems I noticed in the first book popped out at me again in this book. Too many times I found every character smirking. It is an overdone expression in the series. The author did get a bit better at the blowing out a breath phrase, though it often was replaced by 'huffing out a breath'.

The characters were a bit more developed and the story line filled out a bit more, but I was too reminded of Resident Evil as I read along. The story does drag you along so it is not all bad.

The situation with the knee injury in the first book was reinforced in this one when a different character hopped down from a dumpster and felt a jarring in their knees. Why didn't that happen to the injured character in the first book?

There were times when the characters seemed to be overwhelmed by zombies, but miraculously escaped. I can only assume the zombies stopped moving forward for a bit. Otherwise there would have been no escape.

I would still recommend *The Becoming: Ground Zero* to all fans of the zombie apocalypse genre.

Patrick D'Orazio says

The Becoming: Ground Zero is the sequel to *The Becoming*, which is an apocalyptic zombie novel set in the American south, and introduces us to Ethan, a Memphis cop, Cade, a former sniper for the Israeli military, and Brandt, a marine who was stationed at the CDC, where the initial viral outbreak occurred after an experiment goes wrong, before he managed to escape while the plague is tearing apart the city.

The first novel explores the relationship between these three characters and some other survivors as they cope with the virus, the loss of friends and family members, and the total devastation of the human race. By the end of that book they have settled into a house with a small group of other survivors and have somewhat accepted this new existence of hiding out and doing their best to stay alive.

The second book reintroduces us to these characters about a year later, living in the same house, when Avi, a girl who had been seeking them out after hearing about their successes in saving survivors in the area, comes to them with a request. She would like them to go to Atlanta and get to the CDC, where she believes there is information hidden about the Michaluk virus-the plague that has killed the majority of the human race-that may help craft a cure.

The group is resistant to going to ground zero-where the plague originated-especially Ethan and Brandt, who both have their reasons for not wanting to go on what amounts to a suicide mission. In many ways, making the trip makes little sense-they are safe, alive, and while plagued by zombies, they have been able to make due. But after some tortured debate, with Remy, one of the minor characters from the first book (who comes into her own in this story), adamant about going, they decide to make the trip, and set out from their hiding place and head east to Georgia.

The Becoming: Ground Zero continues to build up the characters we met in the first book as well as some of the lesser characters who came along toward the end of the first tale-Remy is one and Gray and his brother Theo are the others. The dynamics of the survivor's relationships with one another play a major role here, with some of the same frustrations I had with the first book shining through-in particular with Ethan, who is the leader of this band but is the person who seems to let his emotions get the worst of him more than anyone else in the group.

I wouldn't be honest if I didn't admit that I liked the first novel better, but it is often unfair to judge a sequel harshly because, simply put, it has a lot to live up to-especially when it is the middle book of a trilogy. The author faces the challenge of crafting the 'glue' that makes the first book and third stick together instead of crafting a beginning and an end. It starts off where the prior chapter concludes and must typically end with a dramatic flourish that promises a much greater reveal in the final chapter. The audience must be kept interested while they know that the biggest shocks and surprises won't be occurring in this book's pages, more than likely. *The Becoming: Ground Zero* has its moments of adrenaline fueled excitement, but it also has its lulls where the character's interpersonal relationships overshadow the big picture. Not a particularly

major issues, as the author does a solid job of keeping the characters interesting, even if some of them are rather annoying. With that said, whatever state of complacency the reader may fall into, they will get snapped out of it in the last portion of this book, when some very significant action takes place and some surprising things are revealed. It definitely gives me ample reason to want to see how the story ends up in the final chapter of the trilogy.

Jessica Meigs has a talent for creating interesting characters. While I may not be overly fond of how some of her characters act and react all the time, they are definitely human, with human failings (that tend to drive you nuts as you read about them). *The Becoming: Ground Zero* does the job in bridging the gap between the first book and the last in this trilogy. While it lacks the energy and overall excitement of the first book, it left me anxious to find out what is to become of the surviving characters in the third book.

Darren Dillnott says

Huge swaths of violence and extreme language, make this action zombie book an absolute winner in my book. Just brilliant from beginning to end. There are too few female post apocalyptic writers about, and i've been saddened to find, that a lot of the current female writers, contribute absolute rubbish. They have a tendency to write post apocalyptic stories without bad language, which ensures wooden characters, robotic dialogue, and forgettable stories.

Jessica Meigs simply storms this genre, and is not only the finest female PA writer, but in my humble opinion is one of the best PA writers in the world.

I have so much respect for writers who understand people, and their diversity. This is the zombie apocalypse, and everyday is battle to survive. Give me angry, fearful, and desperate characters.

Jessica Meigs does all this and more.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by the awesome Christian Rummel, and this combination is just epic. Deep, and realistic characters and dialogue, along with a massively exciting story, make *Ground Zero* a fantastic book.

Dominique says

I have never written a review but felt I had to after reading this book. The first book was good and I looked forward to reading the second. After reading the second, I can't wait till the third book is published. I finished reading the book about 3 weeks ago and can't get it out of my mind. No matter what book I've picked up since then my anticipation for the third book in the series has not diminished. Please Jessica, keep writing this series, there is nothing out there that compares.

Heather Faville says

You know how sometimes you watch a movie or read a book and then the sequel comes out and you want to see it, yet you don't want because you often get disappointed? Yeah, forget that feeling when you think about reading *The Becoming: Ground Zero* Jessica Meigs' next installment in *The Becoming* series.

As *The Becoming : Ground Zero* begins, we learn that nearly a year has past since the end of book one (*The Becoming*) . While still on edge and always on the lookout for the threat lurking around every corner, the

group has found a bit of peace in a “home” they have fortified to be as safe as possible....considering. Supply runs are still a must and that is essentially where our story begins. The majority of the group is out on a run and a visitor shows up “on the doorstep” Avi is a reporter who wants Ethan and his group to help her get to the CDC in Georgia to get some information on the Michaluk Virus...and that’s about as far as I want to go in explanations.

The characters we have come to know are richer and more fleshed out. We learn more about each of them as we experience their highs and lows and, for some, even their breaking points. One of the issues I had in the first book was with characters acting differently than how one would expect a person to act given their background etc, well, that is not an issue in *The Becoming: Ground Zero*. After a year of dealing in a world where being eaten by your neighbor is a hourly threat the group have their act together and know what they are doing. The dialogue is wonderfully witty at times and at others it is completely heart wrenching. There are so many twists and turns in the plot that I felt like I was on a roller coaster. But just so you know, if you think you have it figured out...you don’t, so don’t even bother.

The Becoming: Ground Zero is a fantastic continuation of the series and, most definitely, worth your time in picking up after reading *The Becoming*. It contains the same awesome elements of book one but with more action, more emotion, more violence, which, of course, leads to more deaths/kills.

The Becoming: Ground Zero coming soon from Permuted Press

Michal Misztal says

Finished yesterday. 3rd installment of the saga (yes, I've read *Brothers in Arms* which is a spin-off, but it counts!). I've approached it with mixed feelings as I do believe in the "continuation syndrome" which usually applies to second book released after great opening.

Jessica's book, *The Becoming*, stole some time of my life. I was positively surprised with great dialog lines and attention to details. Good news for the fans: *Ground Zero* is equally good! Story progresses further and game is on the different level now. Team of survivors assembled in *The Becoming* is approached by a woman who asks them to travel into the lions den, *Ground Zero*. Yes, this sounds like incredible stupid plan. You need to be a really good writer to start a book like that and pull this off. I won't spoil any of the surprises but I can tell you this - worth your time. Big problem of zombie novels are repetitive sequences. You've read a dozen, you can easily determine plot of 13th book. Not this time. Well played and once again with really good narration, descriptions and inside look into the psyche. This is usually the weakest part of many books as characters and their actions are totally not convincing. Here you will see what makes people tick, what makes them break. Some twists and turns along the way including deaths that don't happen in the usual pattern. I can recommend this book to all fans of the genre, even if you won't rate it as high as I you won't regret picking this title. I understand that some of readers may prefer more action and extremely fast dynamic at the cost of going into details, and those will probably choose *Z.A.Recht* for example.

I'm waiting for another part of the story as cliffhanger at the end of this one makes me drool :)
