



# Return

*John O'Brien*

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Safety is the dream.

Nightmare is the reality. A nightmare where danger lurks around every corner.

Jack Walker, journeyed half way around the world and completed his daring rescue. He must now return home, traversing a world filled with endless hordes of night runners; the genetically altered, ferocious species that now inhabit the dark recesses left over from the demise of mankind and now dominate the planet. The only things more dominate are the billions of corpses left to rot where they died.

It is through this world that Jack must use his special forces training to lead a small group of survivors back home to where there is the faint hope of sanctuary. His training is pushed to the limits as he is confronted with situation after situation coming face to face with the night runners. He must walk that delicate, fine edge between action and keeping his kids out of harm's way; between taking risks and turning away as he continues his quest for survival.

Never having walked away from risky situations, Jack must now carefully weigh his decisions as the stakes are much higher. His kids' very safety hangs in the balance, along with the safety of the few remaining survivors. This gripping, action-packed tale tells Jack's story of survival in a post-apocalyptic world filled with peril.

Safety is the dream.

Nightmare is the reality. Those who have survived remember a time when the dream was the reality. But now, the world has moved on.

## Return Details

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Author : John O'Brien

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## From Reader Review Return for online ebook

### Netanella says

First paragraph: *The sound of feet running behind him was constant as he ran through the darkened streets. On this clear, summer night, the moon was out and almost full causing his skin to tingle only slightly from the reflected light. It wasn't as bad as when the other bright light, which caused immediate and intense pain, was in the sky.*

I confess I disliked the first book in this series, which makes my appreciation of this second part of "A New World" that much more surprising and enjoyable, even. In "Return," Jack Walker and his crew must return back home, to McChord AFB, from Kuwait, where he rescued girlfriend Lynn and her mates. The return journey is fraught with danger from the night runners, and rescues of misfortunate souls who have the fortune, actually, of running into Jack Walker.

Jack's got Teflon armor! He's the epitome of military might and common sense and can-do attitude, with a compassion and caring thrown in there. Jack takes on a CDC-building full of night runners and emerges unscathed. He rescues a stray dog. He's MacGuyver. And, he's really grown on me. You can't help but root for the hero.

I also appreciate that the writing in this second book appears more refined towards the story itself. Gone are the long, internal monologues and flashbacks in Jack's head, of endless details on 'how-to-do' something, or a past experience that is recounted ad nauseum. Here, there are a few relevant flashbacks, but they are kept to a minimum. Instead, we get lots of action, more characters introduced, and a more focused emphasis on the night runners themselves.

A very good read. I'm looking forward to the next in the series.

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### Amanda24 says

There were things that annoyed me in the series but as I read, it grew on me. You have to suspend disbelief regarding how well prepared is the protagonist and his children but all in all I like the dynamic of the group of survivors as well as the day to day progression of said survival.

There are also hints that I find very intriguing that keep spicing up the entire thing, like what exactly are the "night runners" and how their condition may change.

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### Cjpines says

A huge drop-off from the first in my opinion. In the first book everything was new. Mistakes should be expected.

Yet in this book the only solution they have for any problem is adding more firepower or sneaking past it not out thinking it and using the assets they have at hand.

I hope book 3 is better or it will be the end of the road for me.

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### **Lexie says**

I really wish I could say that this series is terrible and the writing is horrific, but I can't!! The 2nd book was even better than the first. John O'Brien does a great job of interweaving his past military knowledge with humor and suspense through this book. I found myself laughing at the banter between Jack and Lynn, but even more so when reading Jack's inner dialogue to himself. It sounds just like things I would be saying to myself-minus all the combat/zombie issues.

This really is a great series that is completely different than any "zombie" books I have read. I really like the fact that Jack has his family around him, he has a big heart tempered with a take no bs from anyone attitude, and the story line focuses on a bigger picture than just lots of fight scenes with "night runners" as Jack and his group now call them.

I like the text message that popped up on his open phone lying in his hands, "Are you alive? I need help."

Excellent series. I would highly recommend this to anyone.

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### **Andy Simmons says**

This is a really good series of books. (Well, the first two are.) the settings is good and the author's background knowledge of the military and flying add a level of authenticity it's easy to read and the setting is well presented. It's also a nice approach to the "zombie" (I use this word advisedly) setting.

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### **RJ says**

Captain Jack accomplished the Kuwait rescue of his girlfriend along with two dozen additional surviving soldiers from her company. Book two chronicles the return trip home and the difficulties encountered. They pick up another dozen soldiers from one of their fuel stops and then a few more resulting from a radio distress call. They've amassed a nice little force on their trip which will certainly help in their next development stage. Jack's plan is to build a sanctuary for all the survivors for the foreseeable future, or the long haul as he puts it. Hence the lead in to book three "Sanctuary".

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### **Mary says**

And the adventures continue awesome story. Take your time and enjoy this gem

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## **AudioBookReviewer says**

**ABR's original Return audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.**

In Chaos, the first book in this series, Jack Walker commandeered an aircraft to rescue his wife from a military base in Kuwait. Now in Return, they must all return home.

O'Brien made me really happy by giving the monster creatures a fantastic name, NightRunners, not zombies. Because they are really not your typical zombies. They really only come out at night or occupy dark building and such. They run fast, can open doors, they even go to the bathroom, err, relieve themselves. I love this simple twist on the classic undead that everyone knows.

On their journey home this group winds up getting the bright idea to try to get more information on what has happened and where the nightrunners came from. Now, where would you go to get such details? The CDC (Center for Disease Control) or course. But along the way they must land every so often for supplies. Because of these two factors they run into hordes, maybe the better term would be several infested buildings. Bringing the action level up to a ten.

Return has so much action and tension early on, it made me want to keep listening for more. So much more than Chaos. One of my favorite parts of the story was the ending, and not because it ended, I know some of you thought I was going to go there. But not at all. What I liked about the ending was, no cliffhanger. Sure there was a great setup for the next book but it didn't end making me feel like the story was incomplete.

Even though I did not enjoy the huge role that the groups airplane took in the story. The intricacies of flying and all that. I do understand why it was there. It is the first apocalyptic story where the group can actually fly where ever they want, except for maybe Day by Day Armageddon.

If you want a military-ish, high tension, action packed apocalypse story with not so common ghoulish hordes. Look no further than the New World series. I have a feeling that from here on out the story is going to get much more complex.

In the year between the release on the first book and this one Mark Gagliardi has changed his narration style so dramatically that some of the reviewers on Audible think that it is a different guy. Well it is the same narrator and yes Gagliardi has grown much as a narrator. While I think it will still take some getting used to as he is still a bit rough around the edges, I really hope that he continues to grow! There where however some noticeable production issues. In several spots you could really tell that a recording session ended and another began. Volume levels would switch fairly dramatically.

Audiobook provided for review by the author.

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## **Annie says**

I WANT TO LOVE THIS SERIES! But sadly I am not...I like the narrator a whole lot, and I like Jack...and I like his night zombies...its just a bit technical in parts, and military based...and the character development for the other characters, is really slow....I found myself zoning out quite a bit...and a little bored at times...I do like the story concept...and we get more explanation of the virus and monsters in this one....and let me just

say, these are scary zombies, they think...and they communicate with each other, and are super fast!!! I am moving on to book 3, the reviews say its the best story line yet...so I am willing to give it another shot...I didn't hate this story at all...its pretty good...I just don't love it...and I like to love my books..especially my zombie fiction!

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### **Brett Grossmann says**

Better than the first but we are still stuck learning about flying. I don't need to know details about the plane or read about old flying stories

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### **Sara says**

*Return* continues where *Chaos* left off. Jack was successful in finding his girlfriend and now he is headed home. There are necessary stops along the way and at each one, danger is waiting. As Jack and his group of survivors face these dangers, they learn more about the nature of the Night Runners. They also pick up a few new survivors- some military, some civilians. There is a lot of action in this book, but I like that the author is able to keep the scenes exciting without sacrificing character development. *A New World: Return* has one of those "What the heck?!" endings that makes you want to read the next book immediately. The good news is, there are seven more books after this one and you don't have to wait for them!

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### **Debora Seifert says**

#### **Awesome adventure!!**

Just finished reading both the first and second book in this series. Really fresh look on my favorite genre. Can't put this series down, always looking for this kind of story and you have done a great job of getting a different aspect to think of. Would recommend this series to anyone because it is told so well. Thank you Mr. O'Brien! Sincerely, Debora Seifert

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### **Robert Fabregas says**

1. What did you like and what could of been better?

Just like the last book I loved every second of it, it had me on the edge of my seat every second of the way.

2. What kind of diction/syntax did the author use?

The author used more formal language once more of a military presence was built, but he started to glorify the violence a bit more then the last book.

3. What was the books overall message/ moral dilemma?

Never give up hope no matter how bad things look, and that their is always an answer to every problem, it may be confusing, hard, or inconvenient, it is still an answer.

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## **Geoff says**

3.5 but rated higher than the last in actual visible stars (rounded up to four instead of down to three like I did for the first book).

Better than the first, with more action and less detail (there was way too much detail in the first).

I went straight and bought the third.

That says something.

Something good.

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## **Jett Cat says**

I know it is repetitive to say the same thing, but I really just enjoy these! Keep it coming!

I love this series! Normal people, okay maybe they are far more witty than I am, but I wish I had thier smarmy come-backs!

Anyways, way fun, emotional, sorta zombie infected / omega man type ragers who make life hell for our heros!

I reccomend this series for anyone who likes witty, well written post apocalypse, zombie, or adventure stories!

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