



I Zombie

Jo Michaels

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It's the end of the world as we know it.

Trixie Collins is a normal teen making her way through high school. One night at a party, a boy comes on to her and won't take no for an answer. As she jerks her arm away, his fingernails cut into her skin.

When she finds her dog's mutilated body and realizes she's to blame, she starts to think maybe the zombie apocalypse they've been screaming about on the news isn't a hoax after all. Worse, she begins to think maybe she's one of the infected.

Now it's a fight for life as she joins together with her brethren to stop the humans intent on destroying them. Are zombies all bad, or is it just a huge misunderstanding?

I Zombie Details

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Author : Jo Michaels

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From Reader Review I Zombie for online ebook

Tina says

I wish I could give this book more than five stars because this book was AMAZING! I love zombies and as soon as I seen the cover and the title I had to read it. Once I began reading I Zombie, I knew that this was not going to be your typical zombie story. This book comes from the zombie's perspective, showing their feelings, thoughts and even heartache. I loved that aspect of the book the most. Trixie and Jack stole my heart from the start and honestly I couldn't stop reading until I finished their story. I laughed my butt off, ugly cried and even threatened one of the fictional characters. (I know, but I couldn't help myself) I am impressed with the unique storyline and the author's ability to moved me to tears once again. If you haven't read any of Jo Michaels' work, then you really need to check it out. I highly recommend this book to zombie lovers and to anyone who wants something a little different. I Zombie will knock your socks off.

Crystal w says

This is a different type of zombie book. It is from the aspect of the infected. There is a wide spread disease going around and everyone starts panicking and killing people that are infected. The people who are infected find out the disease and work with the cdc to come up with a cure. They end up finding a cure. The the main character is responsible for saving a bunch of lives. A different type of book and it was very interesting and I did really like it.

Tia Bach says

Imagine waking up one morning after a typical teenage party, where one boy gets a little too fresh, and finding yourself the center of what appears to be a zombie apocalypse. Trixie Collins watches in horror at the news coverage showing friends and family attack their loved ones--people everywhere freaking out that zombies are multiplying and on the prowl.

Worse, she's exhibiting symptoms. Scared and wanting to protect her family, she and her best guy friend, who also has symptoms, take off to figure things out. Along the way, Trixie realizes she has a gift that might be able to save them all. That, and some information about what is happening.

First let me say, this is my kind of zombie book. At its heart, it's a story about humans and how we react to and treat things we don't understand. But it's also told from the zombie's perspective--a refreshing and intriguing twist. Readers get to see the emotions and turmoil of what is happening from the zombie's point of view, through their fight to survive. And what better ambassador than a teen girl who believes she can help make things right?

This book rocks! You will fall in love with Trixie and several other characters. From page one, it's a constant thrill ride. But, more importantly, it's a story with heart and soul--a great read for action-seekers as well as those who want to connect with characters. I expected to have some cringe-worthy moments and scares, but I didn't expect to cry. And I did. Hard.

Don't miss this one! Jo Michaels has yet to disappoint, but Trixie and this story really touched me (while also keeping me on the edge of my seat).

Note: I served as editor on this book. Still, a positive review was not requested or guaranteed; the opinions expressed are my own.

Erin says

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads.

I thought the idea of the story was really clever. I have not read a lot of zombie stories but the ones I have read is usually the same old plot. *I Zombie* gives a different approach by not making the virus turn people into the brainless walking dead whose only goal is to eat the living but keeps them still somewhat human and all they want is to find a cure to what they have. The one thing that threw me off was the dialogue, in some places it took me out of the story. Beyond that I would recommend it to anyone who wants to read a fresh and different take on the zombie genre.

Heather Wood says

Books about zombies always give me a lot to think about and *I, Zombie* continued this trend for me. I'm always impressed with zombie novels that aren't simply gore fests, but instead make me think about the human condition. The author created a thought-provoking read by having the narrator not only be a zombie, but starting the novel before Trixie becomes infected.

Trixie was a main character that needed to grow on me. She came across as a little self-righteous as a human so I thought it was awesome when she became infected. As a zombie, I found her much more likable and was glad to see the author continue her theme of featuring strong women. I really liked her best friend Jack and found him my favorite character of the novel. One character I didn't care for was Trixie's mom. Her reactions to certain situations seemed a little unbelievable. For instance, Trixie comes home with scratches on her arms and says one of the boys at the party got too touchy-feely. Her mom's response is to tell her daughter to be more careful. Huh?

The writing was good and the novel is well edited. It moved along at a nice clip and I never found myself bored with the plot. There's plenty of action as Jack and Trixie run for their lives while the zombie outbreak becomes a showdown between the infected and the non-infected. I could tell the author did her research while writing the novel and found it interesting that she tied the disease to kuru. There were a lot of fun touches too like the creative chapter titles.

I did go through a lot of emotions while reading. I was angry at times and crying at other points. There were a few deaths that were surprises and I liked that there were twists up until the end. It is a zombie novel, so a

few out there concepts are expected, but the teens Googling diseases and helping the CDC figure out a cure probably could have been left out. Trixie became a hero in so many other ways I don't think it was necessary.

All in all, I enjoyed the book and I'd recommend the novel to fans of YA horror novels. There is some violence but I didn't think it was graphic enough that younger teens couldn't enjoy the book. I think the author's recommendation of 13+ is a good guideline.

Rating: 4/5 Stars

Heidi Angell says

This was a fun and creative twist on the Zombie stories of late, coming at it from the perspective of people infected with a weird virus that mimics zombie behavior. I appreciated that the author obviously did some research to come up with a plausible explanation for Zombieism beyond "random unexplained viral outbreak/ voodoo/ witchcraft". That was pretty cool, and the fact that she based it on a mutation of an actual real virus, the Kuru virus, that comes from cannibalism was even cooler! But don't research the disease until after you finish the book. It will take you down a rabbit hole!

I enjoyed this more than *Warm Bodies*, despite the eww factor of zombie romance, but there was this niggling in my brain that it felt a bit familiar. I consume way too much Zombie entertainment, so it took me a minute to figure it out...

The TV show, *iZombie*... Not sure if it is a zeitgeist thing (the first season of *iZombie* came out in 2014, and this book was released in 2014. Before the TV series, I had not heard of the comics, and I am not sure most people had either.) But creepy, the similarities. Both girls are infected at a party that they should probably not have been at. One is on a house boat on a lake, the other is a hurricane party. Both are infected by a scratch from a guy who is putting on the moves and they are not interested! Both don't realize that they are turning into Zombies...

Fortunately, that is the end of the similarities (unless you count the delightful spunk the writers imbue upon the main characters, but each has her own unique flavor, so I won't count it!)

In a lot of ways, I enjoyed Ms. Michaels' *I, Zombie* more than *iZombie*. There was a lot of thought put into not only how one would contract such a virus, but also how that virus would affect humanity.

Was it perfect? Naw, there is no such thing. There were a few Deus Ex Machina moments, and a couple of points where I felt the story could have gone a less cliché route and been so much better, but on the whole it was a pretty good read that is quite thought-provoking for YA readers.

Totally passing this off to my teen boys, as I think it will curb their zombie-fervor end of the world hopes and dreams. Really makes one think if "Smash 'em til their all dead" is the best approach in the Zombie Apocalypse.

Elyse Schramm says

(4.5 stars!) I received this book for free from in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Trixie and her best friend Jack are your typical teenagers just trying to survive High School. But when the news of a flu outbreak start circulating the more their symptoms seem less and less like the flu. Then the chaos started.

Michaels' book really takes a look at the human condition. When things in our society start to change, go wrong, and especially when illness strikes on such a large scale we start to panic. Act now, ask questions later.

I really loved that this book was from the perspective of the zombies in question since we always see the other side of the story. The first chapter was one of my favorites, at first I believed Michaels was starting the book off like every other zombie novel. The zombies trying to break in to eat the humans. WRONG. The tables were turned, and the humans were trying to break in to kill the zombies.

This novel was a quick and easy read that kept me turning pages – With quirky banter between best friends, classmates hunting each other down, zombie themed chapter names, and of course a little bit of love. The characters were easy to connect with and easy to get attached to.

There was only one point in this book that had me scratching my head and saying 'no way' which is what stopped me from giving this 5 stars. I had a hard time believing that some high school kids got on Google and were able to find information about a disease to help with the cure that the doctors at the CDC didn't have. But since this is a YA book, I think only adults would let that bother them.

This was definitely a solid read for me!

If the news started showing pictures of your friends and neighbors with color-less eyes, decaying flesh, and eating the family dog how would you react?

Amber Garr says

What an interesting take on a zombie novel. Typically we don't get to see the world from the perspective of the zombies, and I have to say that I really enjoyed this aspect of the story. Trixie and Jack don't get much time together in the beginning of the book before the infection starts to spread. Jo did a wonderful job making me feel the pain and misery of having your body fail when your mind is still thoroughly intact. I mean, really, how awful would that be? And then to have friends and family hunt you down on top of that? No thanks. But I think it is a realistic scenario of how humans would respond to something like this. While I had a hard time believing that Trixie's brief Internet research would lead to a cure the CDC couldn't figure out on their own, I was able to look beyond that and enjoy the fast-paced action. Trixie, aside from eating her dog and leading the infected, also had a little "gift" of her own (won't spoil it), however, I didn't think that was flushed out as well as it could have been. Mostly I thought people were way too accepting of her abilities and not as freaked out as I would expect. Perhaps there is another book coming? I certainly hope so because the ending had me a little confused (and sad). But in all, this was an enjoyable read and I think

anyone who enjoys zombies, post-apocalyptic, or action novels will certainly enjoy I. Zombie.

The Good: Likable characters and very intriguing storyline.

The Issue: I felt like there were some unanswered questions (like Trixie's "gift") and reaching plotlines (like two teenagers solving something the CDC couldn't).

The Rating: 4 stars. A different kind of zombie book with lots of action and gore! Just my cup of tea!

Originally appeared at: www.ambergarr.com

Casey Bond says

My review of I, Zombie by Jo Michaels

I was fortunate enough to beta-read I, Zombie for Jo Michaels and I absolutely fell in love with this book!

The Cover: Perfection. Showcasing a young girl with long dark hair, beautiful full lips and scabby skin! I love the cover. She fits the main character, Trixie, perfectly.

The Characters: Though there are many interesting support characters, this story is about Jack and Trixie. It's about their friendship and ultimately, their realized feelings for one another. Trixie is funny, a bit sassy and a wonderfully vivid teenage girl. Jack is her best friend, who happens to be of the male species. He complements her in every way. He is funny, quick to apologize and loves Trixie unconditionally. He is a protector and I just loved him. Their banter was light and fun. I enjoyed seeing their love change from friendship to so much more.

The Plot: A brilliant, unique twist on the typical Zombie story told from the perspective of humans running and fleeing from the infected. I, Zombie is told from the perspective of a newly-infected Zombie, Trixie. Readers can relate to her, feel her sickness and pain, the revulsion from losing hair and skin. Teenage girls have enough body image issues. Add turning into a zombie into the mix and it's easy to empathize with her.

Trixie, Jack and some friends and other zombies they help along the way, hide out, come up with a theory about how a cure might be a real possibility and with help from a human with high connections, they find a way out.

Not one to ruin the story, I won't tell you how it ends. But, I will say that it was brilliantly-written, beautiful, funny and heartbreaking. I rarely cry when I read, but this one made me laugh out loud and tear up.

Rating: 5 Stars! Well done, Jo Michaels! I would recommend this book to anyone, any age. It is a fun and beautiful story. An emotional read, with words painted to beautiful perfection. Unique and Intriguing. I loved every minute of it. Oh, and the chapter names alone, are a stroke of brilliance!

Justine says

I received an ARC of this book free from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Okay, so obviously I jumped at the chance to read and review this novel because I LOVE ZOMBIES!! With saying that, *I Zombie* was definitely not your typical zombie story at all. I want to say it reminded me a little bit of *Warm Bodies* only in that it is told from the zombies point of view instead of the survivors point of view. I just found this to be completely original because it followed these characters on their "turning" journey from start to finish and everything in between. I also found this read to be very "realistic" (well as realistic as a zombie apocalypse can be) because the author wasn't afraid to kill off characters, both good and bad. So you know what that's means: UGLY CRYING! I do have a small complaint and that is that I found the story to be a bit rushed, everything happened very fast or seemed like it. I liked that it was a stand alone but maybe two novels would have been more helpful to explain things further.

Overall this was a creative read and I really enjoyed getting lost in the story. I look forward to more books by Jo Michaels. I would recommend this novel to zombie lovers and zombie sympathizers lol.

Pauline Creeden says

I've been on a zombie kick lately (since finishing my own Z-poc novel) and have to say that this one has a thread of originality running through it that kept things interesting. Seeing things from the infected's point of view? Different. This one pulls at the heartstrings, too - needed some tissues. I appreciate the author keeping the book fairly clean - although there were a few gory details, nothing was revolting or overdone. I'd be perfectly comfortable letting my 13 year old read it.

L.K. Evans says

What an enjoyable read. I sat down this morning thinking to give this a few chapters before I started on my list of things to do today. Before I knew it, I'd finished the book.

First of all, let me say that YA is not a genre I've ever found myself enjoying. The relationships always feel too committed to me, like they can't live without one another nor do they know how to become their own person. It's usually why I steer clear of YA. With that said, obviously this book fit differently for me. For one, I finished it in one sitting which means it held my interests. The story moved at a quick pace that didn't allow me to grow bored and look for something else to do. Nicely done, Ms. Michaels. Two, is that the characters were very separate in their identities. Sure, there were close relationships, but the main character was a strong girl on her own. She didn't need them to survive. I enjoyed that very much. She wasn't all co-depend on the male lead. Refreshing.

Second of all, since I don't read zombie books, I don't know if the view point of this novel was original. It struck *me* as original, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading this from the zombie point of view. The effects of zombieness were very creatively described.

The writing was clean and smooth and pulled me right into the story. There's hardly any description which is a bonus for me since I usually skim over excessively descriptive passages.

While I didn't latch on to any one character, I did tear up which surprised me. I guess I was more invested

than I thought I was when reading. Or it could have been how well those sad scenes were written. Not sure, but, either way, it pulled at my heart.

I'd recommend this to any lover of YA and zombie books.

Ethan Gregory says

Full review and more available at: <http://oneguysguidetogoodreads.blogspot...>

My Thoughts:

While I have read collaborative works from Michaels in the past, *I, Zombie* marks my first full-length read from her. I've heard incredible words of praise from her fans, so I was more than pumped to check out this read from Jo. As many of my readers will well-remember, zombies are one of my least favorite genres. I've read two series that to this day remain two of my all-time favorites (Nazarea Andrews' *The World Without End* and Rachel Aukes *Deadland Saga*), but I have been hard pressed to find any other novels in this specific genre that have held my attention as they have.

I am proud to say that through a truly original and unique plot and an elegant writing style that left me hanging onto every word, Jo Michaels has definitely earned her spot on my list of favorites in the zombie genre.

I, Zombie was everything I wanted, and more!

I'm not going to lie to you guys, this was a super quick read for me and I can't say too terribly much about the plot without giving away massive spoilers. Like other zombie-poc novels, this one follows the story of the supposed end of days, but this time, with a twist. It's told from the point of view of the infected through their decline and fight with the virus that cripples their lives and civilization. Truly imaginative storytelling on Michaels part. It's a fast-paced tale that I devoured in just a couple of sittings. Michaels formatting on this one really was reflective of the plot. Each of the novels 26 chapters are appropriately titled with a letter of the alphabet corresponding to the appropriate theme, tone, or feelings expressed in that chapter. It was so exciting to see that literary device utilized to such perfection. The plot is full of twists and turns and features an ending that will leave you begging for more. You won't see this one coming, promise!

One of the more interesting aspects of this novel were the characters Michaels crafted. While the story has a relatively large cast Michaels was able to fully evolve each character and provide full story arcs for each member of her cast while still fitting the story into a shorter format. There was no need for excessive character description or subplots, as all characters involved were working towards a similar goal: survival. I'll touch on this more later, but this was definitely one read that left my mind reeling, long after finishing the final chapter. Of all the characters I really only want to touch on our main heroine, Trixie. Trixie grew on me massively over the course of the novel. Admittedly, I couldn't really relate to her for the longest time and at first she kind of got on my nerves ever so slightly. By the end of the novel I really saw Michaels make huge strides with Trixie's character and I was thoroughly impressed with the level of development we saw and the maturity her character gained. One extremely heart-wrenching moment truly captured Trixie's transition from girl to woman and it was one of the most powerful passages I've read in some time. Definitely an incredible twist on the 'coming-of-age' portion of the story.

A Southern girl herself, Michaels crafted the setting to *I, Zombie* to perfection. The feel of the bayou, the sounds of the wildlife, the thick humid air: Michaels nailed it with this one. I have never read a novel such as this one set in the Louisiana bayou. Over the years and many other novels, this has proven to be one of my favorite settings for novels, but few have conquered the tone the way Michaels has in this novel. It's beyond fitting to the story line and really pushes the plot further in many occasions.

I have to say I was more than a little overtaken with emotions at times during my reading of *I, Zombie*. I was forewarned that tissues may be needed, but I truly didn't expect hardcore emotion in a novel about zombies. In my experience reading zombie novels (admittedly I've read fewer than I can count on both hands), strong emotion is one of the last things I feel. Often gritty tales of survival, Michaels turns the genre on its head with *I, Zombie*. Reading the transition from human to 'zombie' through the eyes of our protagonist Trixie made for an extremely touching tale that led to many important themes being tackled along the way. Family, love, forgiveness, strength, mortality, and the declination of society are all themes that Michaels really hits home with in the pages of this novel. I don't expect there will be many dry eyes after devouring this read. It is definite a novel giving cause for reflection.

Truly one of the most unique reads I have read in this genre, Jo Michaels blew me away with *I, Zombie*. Never would I have imagined I would have felt the emotional pull of my heartstrings like Michaels achieved with this incredible novel. It was truly a pleasure to devour and will forever hold a special place on my shelf of unique reads. It should come as no surprise that I am granting *I, Zombie* a near-perfect 5-star review. I couldn't get enough of this story and I know I'll come back to this one again and again! I perfect read for all fans of horror or paranormal novels as well as anyone looking to add a new twist on an old favorite to their TBRs! This read is not to be missed!

Thaddeus White says

I, Zombie is a bit unusual, for me. It is, as the title suggests, about zombies and is aimed at a young adult audience.

The story is split into 26 (or so, I forget if the author managed to find a Q chapter heading) chapters based on the alphabet. It begins with a scene from halfway through the story, which paints the main character as a zombie. After this we shift back to the beginning and go through the plot in chronological order.

This approach works very well. It took me a short time to work out that the protagonist was actually a zombie, and having the story told from the perspective of the undead was a nice change of pace. Moving from that back to when she was a healthy human also works well, as we see her descend into decay and the impact of zombiefication on her friends, family and self.

The writing style's nice and easy to read. The tone generally is relatively light. There are moments of slightly grim physical descriptions as bodies fester away, but nothing too bad. I must admit that at times I would've preferred a grimmer approach. This isn't a criticism of the book, as it's clearly written for and labelled as young adult, but my own preference is for a darker slant.

One aspect I wasn't too fond of was the main character's special ability. I feel that would've made more sense just as an unusual development of the disease. The world generally is painted realistically, so having

something supernatural before the zombies arise felt a shade off.

Going by the Amazon approximation of pages, it's a little bit shorter than Journey to Altmortis (95,000 words), but it felt shorter, in a good way. Whenever I sat down to read it I'd take a fair chunk out of it, and it didn't take me long at all from start to finish.

So, if you like zombies and/or young adult books I would recommend I, Zombie.

Paula says

This will be a short review because after finishing "I Zombie" by Jo Michaels it would be an understatement to say that I'm not very impressed.

The premise of the story was brilliant and that's what had me intrigued after reading the blurb. But the execution of it was definitely not my cup of tea.

Each and every single character lacked depth and personality. They were generic ideas of how teenagers or adults are, with no originality or personality. Though the teenagers were high school age, their conversations, interactions and thoughts were kindergarten level. If humanity ever depended on those kids in real life, we'd be screwed.

I couldn't find a simple redeeming quality about them and it didn't help that their interactions felt unnatural, staged and stilted.

That ruined the flow of the story, which was even more emphasized by the narration that felt choppy to me. It kept me from getting into the story and I ended up skimming the last 30%, while still managing to roll my eyes every other page.

Everything about this book felt simplified, which hindered me getting emotionally invested in the story. Even in real tragic moments I wasn't touched or bothered. I simply didn't care.

1.5 no-emotional-impact stars.
