



Take The Long Way Home

Brian Keene

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All across the world, people suddenly vanish in the blink of an eye. From their cars during the rush hour commute. From the shopping malls. Their homes. Their beds. Even from the arms of their loved ones. Airline pilots. World leaders. Teachers. Parents. Children.

Gone.

Steve, Charlie and Frank were just trying to get home when it happened. Now they find themselves left behind, and wishing they'd disappeared, too. Trapped in the ultimate traffic jam, they watch as civilization collapses, claiming the souls of those around them. God has called his faithful home, but the invitations for Steve, Charlie and Frank got lost. Now they must set off on foot through a nightmarish post-apocalyptic landscape in search of answers. In search of God. In search of their loved ones. And in search of home.

Deadite Press is proud to make Brian Keene's long out-of-print critically-acclaimed Take The Long Way Home available to readers once again! Includes an introduction by New York Times-bestselling author John Skipp!

Take The Long Way Home Details

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Author : Brian Keene

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From Reader Review Take The Long Way Home for online ebook

Charlie Morgan says

Ever since I read GHOUL, Brian Keene has been one of my favorite authors. He has always had the ability to hook me within the very first paragraph. I then spend the rest of the day burning through the pages and normally finish the book the same day.

The new edition of TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME from Deadite Press is no exception. A group of friends on their way home from work quickly find themselves in the middle of a horrible accident on the interstate. Upon further inspection they find that there have been multiple accidents going both directions, as well as planes falling from the sky and a massive amount of people suddenly vanish into thin air with no trace. Could it be the work of aliens? Or could it be the rapture?

Keene wastes no time delving into the good and the evil of humanity as the characters journey deeper into the new world that lies before them and pulls it off with ease. There is also elements of Keene's pitch black humor which includes a small, but highly amusing, cameo by bizarro horror author Carlton Mellick III. All in all TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME is classic Keene in all his glory and I highly recommend this and any of his work.

Bill says

Some pretty good writing from Brian Keene here.

At the sound of a trumpet, people vanish and chaos ensues. This is a novella written from the perspective of a man who survives a car crash and just wants to get home to his wife.

It's a very quick read, and I was hooked in quite nicely.

I just wish there was more resolution at the end, because I come to expect that from novellas. This had the behavior of a long short story.

I loved this quote (from Jonathan Swift) from the novel:

"We have enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another."

This is so true, so ironic, and would be so funny if it wasn't destroying us.

Jonathan Echevarria says

What can I say? I'm impressed by this one. I wasn't expecting to like it, especially since I'm not a huge fan of religious based apocalypse stories. But Brian Keene manages to deliver this story without being preachy or obnoxious about the message. This especially becomes clear when you read the author's notes regarding what influenced him to write this short story. I should also add that this is a lot longer than most of his other short stories (Especially when compared to Tequila's Sunrise), however this story really felt like it would

make a good novel.

A testament to how good this book was, was the fact that it made me wish it was longer. By then end I still wanted to see where the main character would end up. I felt like there was still some story that could be told.

The main reason I read this book was because one of the towns takes place in Le Horn's Hollow which is where Dark Hollow takes place. I am a sucker for anything that connects the Labyrinth mythology of Brian Keene's growing universe and canon. And in fact there is a strong mentioning in this short story of the Labyrinth and the level this story takes place in. Hardcore fans of Brian Keene's series should check this one out. You won't regret it.

Four and a half stars out of five.

Frank says

Brian Keene never ceases to amaze. TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME is typical Keene, simple, honest and in your face. It is a story of the Rapture as seen through the eyes of Brian Keene and as you may imagine this is anything but a Christian LEFT BEHIND take on the subject. Fear not, Keene treats the subject with respect and honesty, there are no cheap punches.

What comes out is the snapshot of the Rapture as it happens along a stretch of a Maryland interstate highway. As the protagonist makes his journey along the highway we see snippets of human behavior as the author envisions humanity would act in situations. The best and worst of human nature, and with Keene at the helm it leans toward the worst. Untypical of Keene however is an ending that does lend a certain amount of hope yet still with that signature dismal state of things where it leaves off.

The subject of religion of course can not go untouched in a story of this nature. Keene presents the stated 'facts' of the Rapture trying not to pervert the scripture. You find all the major points are there and maybe even learn about a thing or two you may not have been aware of. Where Keene's own views on the dogmatic nature of the Rapture are presented he does so with fair and balanced arguments. In fact it's safe to say there is no concrete point of view that is argued for.

If your disappointed the rapture didn't come, pick up this book and live it vicariously through the sharp mind of Brian Keene.

William M. says

Author Brian Keene's long out of print novella, Take The Long Way Home, is now available in paperback from Deadite Press. An apocalyptic story that takes place over one long day is chock full of ideas about the end of times. Keene and his characters move from one theory to another, infusing the story with religious-based mythology and fresh new insight into what might happen when the day of reckoning arrives.

I really enjoyed this book and the short journey the characters take along the way. Keene peppers the narrative with little clues as to what is happening, but it is not until later that the full picture becomes clear. My only gripe is that I wish this was a novel instead of a novella in order to stay in the world longer. I hope

someday Keene adds to this tale or delves into this type of material again. Recommended for horror fans and anyone fascinated with apocalyptic stories.

Adam Wilson says

Take *The Long Way Home* is an all to short novella by horror genius Brian Keene. I loved this little book and found it to not only be satisfying in a horror sort of way, but also strongly emotional. The sadness the main character feels is understandable and easy to sympathize with on top of the strangeness of everything that occurs. The sudden vanishing of a lot of the population reminded me a little of King's *the Langoliers* and the trip home through the rapidly unraveling society reminded me of McCarthy's *the Road*. I think that this one is a much better version of *The Road* however. The story is more interesting, the characters actually have names, and the entire thing is written without sentence fragments and abstract thoughts but this will never get the same amount of credit. The ending is especially emotional in a way that compliments dark fiction and shows that Brian Keene can write more than just end of the world books with tons of violence. As with his zombie novel *Dead Sea*, the emotion is in every word and that is what makes so many of his books great reads for me.

Gatorman says

Up to now, I have really liked the Keene books I've read, but this one was a big disappointment. Although well-written, it was not compelling, did not have any characters I cared about and really had no point. The ending was so abrupt I thought I was missing some more pages. Nothing really interesting happens in the story. Not one of his better efforts.

Anita Dalton says

My only problem with this book is that it felt like the first section in a larger work. I hope Keene revisits this book one day and tells us the rest of what happens to the protagonist, a key player in the world coming to an end.

Very good book, and while at times what is happening is broadcast very clearly, I am unsure if there is a way to discuss the beginning of the end of the world based on Biblical texts without what is happening being clear to a large portion of the readers.

An excellent, dark, sad, absorbing book. This is actually a 4.5 star book.

Kevin Lucia says

A must read...

Chris says

Steve Leiberman and three coworkers are carpooling home from work when they get into an accident as a result of an explosion unlike any other. One dies, another vanishes, and Steve and his surviving coworker, Charlie, soon discover that many, many more have inexplicably disappeared, and the world they've known has erupted into violence and death. But Steve desperately wants to get home to his wife...

This lean novella is steeped in Biblical references, such as the Rapture, but unlike the popular Christian fiction series, *Left Behind*, this ain't that. This is Brian Keene, nuff said.

Highly recommended!

Paulo "paper books always" Carvalho says

Brian Keene has done it again.

Yet another story that links to the Labyrinth Mythos. Deadite Press publish this novella that Keene wrote almost a half a dozen years before. And it was without time. It's a shame for the price. 6.99£ for a novella with only 80/90 pages it's kind of too much. I want to read two other novellas Deadite Press published but I don't know if I am going to pay a price for a novella without even 100 pages.

This was an interesting tale (vision) about the Christian myth of Rapture and Keene really knows how to give life to his characters. Unfortunately this novella ended in a cliffhanger in such a way that I thought that this was the first part of a larger story (maybe another novella) but I don't think so. Well I have read most of the stories by him (some novellas excluded and short stories) and none was interlinked unless with small references like far-right movement "Sons of the Constitution" or the reference of the madmen Carlton to the Labyrinth that says that this is level 6. (Carlton as Carlton Mellick III)?

The characters are a sort bunch: Steve the Jew, Charlie the Gay & Frank a Polack.

The story itself is simple. A trumpet roars and most of the people on earth vanish. Of course there are car accidents, fires, plane crashes and such. After that incident the trio start heading to civilization so Steve can find his wife. As they went they meet other people with theories of what happened and people who start behave like people would behave if chaos erupted in our mist. Everyone for themselves and the law of the jungle.

The ending itself it was as expected and as I said before I think a follow up would do nicely because I really wanted to know what happened to him and the world.

In the end it was a nice quick reading. To all who follow Brian Keene you should read it but if you want to read for the first time a Keene novel then try other novel like *The Rising* or *City of the Dead* (Well read them both because they are a duology)

Ken McKinley says

During rush hour traffic, a loud trumpet sound blats across the landscape with ear-deafening volume. Auto accidents, plane crashes, and fires ensue. For a carpooling foursome, they end up as one of the casualties and after the dust settles, they find their driver with half his head missing due to a length of pipe from the truck ahead of them poking through the windshield and shearing off his cranium. Now Steve, Charlie, and Frank are trying to shake off the shock of what happened and make their way home. They discover that, when the trumpet sounded, people all across the world disappeared. Where they went, no one knows, but many different rumors are being circulated. As the trio attempts to stumble home, they learn about the duality of man's behavior during a crisis in an up front and personal way.

Take *The Long Way Home* is Keene's version of a what might happen on Judgement Day. It blends King's *The Long Walk* with the Bible and makes for an enjoyable read. As always with Keene, it's about the characters, and he drafts very personable ones. The journey is worth the price of admission here and the unsettling feeling of nervousness of what is lurking around the next mile marker is thick, making this a real pager turner.

4 Guardian Angels out of 5

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Patricia Kaniasty says

Wow. Was not expecting a religious lesson out of this book. Kind of strange. Gory, scary, apocalyptic,.....and religious. Thank goodness that It was a short read. Don't think I could have taken much more. LOL

Zombette says

Ugh, Rapture stories. Creepastic!

Adam Light says

Over all, this apocalyptic novella is well written (I haven't read any of Brian Keene's books that was poorly written) with an engaging and sympathetic protagonist. There is plenty of gore, some good action scenes. It was interesting to read Keene's interpretation of the Biblical apocalypse. No zombies or earthworms showed

up in this one, however I did notice that a walk-on character spoke of the Labyrinth, which was a concept Keene also wrote about in *The Conqueror Worms*, which I finished reading earlier today. I read *Darkness On The Edge Of Town* a couple months ago. I think the Labyrinth was discussed in that one, too. Regardless, this was entertaining, and the perfect length. I thought it was good, but not great. *The Conqueror Worms* was much better.
