



# Apocalypstick

*Gregory Carrico*

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## **Apocalypstick** Gregory Carrico

Apocalypstick contains two deliciously dark short stories: Finding Home, a supernatural horror, and Killing Tiffany Hudson, a post-apocalyptic tale of two genetically modified people who must decide the fate of humanity.

### Finding Home

If you have ever glanced at a stranger in the grocery store, and wondered what their life must be like, and then followed them home to peek at them through their windows, and then slipped inside their house at night just to look around, and then stood next to their bed to watch over them while they slept, and thought I could live this life, then please seek help. Weirdo.

But on your way to the hospital (or the police station), walk a few steps in the shoes of a troubled man on a quest for a new home and a new life, while he deals with a few disturbing personal issues. Finding Home is a short paranormal horror story that lets you test-drive the lives of strangers in a perfectly legal, non-creepy way.

### Killing Tiffany Hudson

Is there any line you wouldn't cross to save the life of a loved one? Is there any price you wouldn't pay? A young man battles with the consequences of his answers to these questions, in this Post-apocalyptic short story, where right masquerades as wrong, weakness as strength, and deadly monsters as... camels? Well, sometimes, yes.

## **Apocalypstick Details**

Date : Published January 6th 2012 by Gramico

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Author : Gregory Carrico

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## **From Reader Review Apocalypstick for online ebook**

### **Shelley says**

Author's guest post at my blog:

<http://bookfare.blogspot.com/2014/11/...>

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### **Claire Riley says**

Two dark stories back to back, of other versions of our world.

Tales of gore and aliens, fear and hope, and the desperate need to feel love and survive.

It's safe to say that this book was in no way what I expected it to be, both stories held my curiosity and ran my imagination rampant.

The visuals in the second story were especially brilliant, and I couldn't help but feel sad at the end of the first.

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### **Diana Gioia says**

This one is multiple stories in one. Liked the first one and wasn't fond of the other one.

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### **Xandra James says**

Two very good short reads, but I have to admit, the second was my favourite. If you're looking for a creepy story with a hint of strange, I definitely recommend this book. It was right up my street! (warning: if you read this at night, there's a chance you might have, er, nightmares) ;)

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### **Penelope Bartotto says**

Do you like wild rides? Then get ready to embark on two bullet trains of insanity. The title of the book did not begin to prepare me for what a journey I was about to begin when I started reading.

You are first taken into the mind game that is, "Finding Home" and a mind game it most definitely is. If there is a psychosis missed in this mini drama/psycho-thriller... it would be surprising. The character created here, is so intense, the end is almost torture, simply because you are left wanting more. You may never look at a real estate agent the same way again.

"Killing Tiffany Hudson" is no less a thrill ride, but of the two stories this is hands down my favorite. It's like the perfect holiday gift, everything you could want wrapped into one delightful science fiction, horror

wrapped package. Character development is just there, it is effortless for Carrico, within a matter of pages you become invested in the life of the character. Plot? Bang, it's there, slapping you in the face like rain while riding a motorcycle. Why this was my favorite, it wrapped up with a good ending, though I could see this story being the start of so much more.

So, if you look at this title and envision... an apocalypse at the hands of lipstick wearing zombies, you will be blown away. It has nothing to do with lipstick or zombies, but there is definitely some apocalyptic tones running through this collection. Definitely met my oft morbid fantasy desires, with ease.

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### **Anna Erishkigal says**

This is a collection of two post-apocalyptic short stories that have an unusual slant on the usual feast of rotting flesh and brain-sucking undead. COULD you be merciless if it meant it might save the world? What if you needed to do it to someone you loved? Want to know more ... then read them! I enjoyed the plot twists.

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### **Nexusit says**

The two stories in *Apocalypstick* are gripping; so much that they just don't let go. The characters stayed with me long after finishing, and they are not the types that I want sticking around! This book is like a trailer for a movie you've been anticipating and you still have months to go before its release. I can't wait for more! Great job Greg!

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### **Stacey Netzel says**

Greg Carrico knows how to really creep a person out. *Finding Home* is chilling enough to make you check your closets, under the bed, and sleep with the lights on--not that it'll do you any good. And *Killing Tiffany Hudson* is equally spine-tingling but for different reasons. I'm VERY much looking forward to Carrico's follow up novel to this story.

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### **Lör K. says**

[Written on mobile; my apologies for any mistakes]

I stand very divided when it comes to *Apocalypstick*. Before I go into my review, I rated the first story in this five stars, and the second story two stars which, combined together, means I'm rating this book 3.5 stars.

The first book in this selection is called "*Killing Tiffany Hudson*". This is the story of an apocalyptic world where supernatural creatures known as 'offspring' are taking over the world. I suppose this can be connected to the trope of zombie apocalypse, but it didn't give that vibe at all. I was enamoured by this story with all its different elements. 'Zombies', supernatural telepathic powers, fighting skills. It was a small mix of numerous horror tropes and it was mixed really well. I connected to the main character, Crane; a man weighed down

with the regret of a major life decision. This story flowed amazingly and has a good grasp on the balance between action and story. The action, on a note, is not written badly, either. It serves its purpose and isn't hard to follow as the story goes on. I love this piece of horror/science fiction work. Carrico has an excellent grasp on the English language that just makes this flow like a river to the ocean. I could not tear my eyes away from my phone screen as I read this. I was hooked in the first few pages. I found no flaws within this story, and so I rated it a solid five out of five stars.

Now, the second story, "Finding Home" is a whole new review. This is about a man with what seems to be schizophrenia trying to find a place where he can call home. Throughout the story, he has two voices that talk to him in his head, and I can't help but constantly make parallels to *Deadpool* reading this. This story was hard to get through. It flowed well, just like "Killing Tiffany Hudson", but the story didn't connect. There was no apparent reason as to why our main character was doing the things he was doing with his telepathic powers, there was no firm beginning or ending (in my opinion) and it didn't spook me. This seemed less like a horror and more a poorly written paranormal crime story. The premises of this story is excellent. Within my reading, it's unique, however. I wanted *more*. There was so much that Carrico could have done with this but it left me frustrated, and I just did not like how it worked at all. I couldn't connect to the main character and he felt extremely two dimensional. It was a let down, after such an amazing first story, and so I rated this one two stars.

[5 + 2 = 7 / 2 = 3.5]

I wish I could rate this book higher, and I was tempted to give it four and a half stars, but that just felt like I was giving "Finding Home" more praise than what it's due. *Apocalypstick* starts off so incredibly well and then just hits a brick wall and becomes a mangled wreck. Carrico could have done so much more, and in my opinion, so much better with "Finding Home"; it let down "Killing Tiffany Hudson" and I would have much preferred to have read "Killing Tiffany Hudson" as a sole short story. I think it would have gone much better that way.

This book could have been so much better, but it also could have been so much worse as well. I'm on the fence, but "Killing Tiffany Hudson" definitely saves this book. Truly a shame when the second story in a selection ruins the book, but what can you do?

Definitely give this one a try if you like horror, though! This was free at my time of purchase on the Kindle Store, and "Killing Tiffany Hudson" is definitely worth the read.

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### **Monique says**

I must say, I was totally hooked in the first few lines of the first story. Very well-written and seriously engrossing. However, I was a bit disappointed with the second story; mostly because I'm not crazy about aliens and whatnot. But I'm keeping my eyes open for any new books by Gregory Carrico. He knows how to captivate his reader!

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### **Melissa says**

I won this book during Tonya Kappes FaceBook "A Charming Crime" book release party. I was thrilled to

win a book for my Kindle. This book is well written and quite intriguing. The stories are very interesting and quite creepy. I am not a scifi fan and I usually can't make it through more than 10 pages of scifi reading. This book is definitely my exception to scifi. The plots were interesting and did not drag. The stories were short, but not abrupt. If you are a scifi fan you would definitely like this book.

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### **Adele Symonds says**

This short book that doesn't take long to read contains two short stories. They are very dark but enjoyable none the less. It does make me wonder about the authors state of mind a little though. What sort of person can come up with this type of dark twisted story.

Both stories are written well with good characterisation, plotting and description.

The first story is written from the viewpoint of a person with a dual personality, the inner voice of the person is very derogatory to it's human and lots of violence and strange occurrences happen just by the person thinking of them. He seems to be able to see what is happening in somebody else's life by touching something connected to them but then his thoughts of what happens next actually come true. This was twisted and dark but written very well.

The second story is an apocalyptic story based on earth but with humans taken over by alien life-forms, some totally and some partially. The partial human-aliens become executioners of the completely taken over people. There are still some true humans left but will they all be lost. Read it to find out.

Disclaimer - I received a pdf copy of this book from IndiePendants in return for an opinion on whether it is sound grammatically and if it is edited/formatted well. I have decided to do a review as well as a thank you for having the opportunity to read this book.

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### **Shannon Gambino says**

APOCALYPSTICK is comprised of two short novellas: FINDING HOME and KILLING TIFFANY HUDSON.

Finding Home. Schizophrenia left untreated manifested the Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde character, who was left unnamed, in Finding Home. A third personality slightly hidden away but giving him psychological insight into other people's thoughts/behaviors closes the gap between his own personality and the evil one who feels the need to "clean up" loose ends. Multiple personalities acting against each other wreak havoc when trying to find a place he can honestly call his home.

Killing Tiffany Hudson. When alien monsters use illusory animal and human forms along with mental energy to destroy all of mankind, the exterminators were created to stop and destroy them. The ethical debate of sacrifice for the greater good weighs heavily as Crane battles internally with his own demons. I admit this one was my favorite of the two stories.

Greg Carrico did an excellent job drawing the reader into his grip and not letting go. I agree with other reviewers – the characters leave a haunting impression long after the story ends. I see more good works coming from Mr. Carrico in the future.

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## **chucklethescot says**

When I received a free copy of *Children of the Plague* to review, the author suggested I look at the short story that runs alongside it, which is *Killing Tiffany Hudson*. This was the original story that the novel was based on. It is featured with another short story called *Finding Home* in this book. I downloaded this free from Smashwords and really enjoyed it.

*Killing Tiffany Hudson* was a good story, set during a big battle in a plague ridden world. It shows a couple of human resisters battling alien monsters with the odds stacked against them. Victory of sorts is available at a high price if someone has the guts to set it in motion. This story takes place during the last part of the *Children of the Plague* novel. The main character here is a confident exterminator who finds out that he isn't invincible. We also get to see his view of Diane, someone who is important in *Children of the Plague*, and a few of the monsters that will become so familiar when you pick up the book. It was an exciting all action story that whets your appetite for the longer novel.

*Finding Home* is a story about what seems to be a schizophrenic killer who imagines things happening to people and then acts out the violent fantasies. At the root of his problem is a wish to have a nice happy home life, but his inability to act normal around people causes death to anyone who crosses his path. This was a dark twisted tale which I found entertaining. Maybe that makes me a bit twisted but I love this kind of story! You know he is evil but you can't help being amused as he acts like an idiot and then kills people to cover up his lack of social skills. There is no graphic gorefest—the murders are more implied than described which I liked as a writing style. It kept you in the mind of the killer and what he was thinking, instead of being all about bloody murders.

Two excellent short stories that can be quickly devoured and will appeal to a wide range of readers even if horror and sci-fi are not your usual reads.

Both stories are well written and entertaining. There is enough description to tell the story but not enough to bury you with information. Both tales are quirky in their own ways and of different genres which shows that the author has the ability to write different kinds of novels should he want to. I will certainly be interested in reading more from this author.

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## **Bailey says**

This has since really unique ideas — mostly — but it was maybe a little too much for the short story format, trying to convey such big ideas with so few words. definitely worth a read for free, so long as you have an open mind and you're willing to be a little uncomfortable, both when it comes to content, and with having to work to figure out what's going on.

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