



# Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of)

*Fiona J.R. Titchenell*

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## **Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of)** Fiona J.R. Titchenell

The world is Cassie Fremont's playground. Her face is on the cover of every newspaper. She has no homework, no curfew, and no credit limit, and she spends her days traveling the country with her friends, including a boy who would do the chicken dance with death to make her smile. Life is just about perfect—except that those newspaper headlines are about her bludgeoning her crush to death with a paintball gun, she has to fight ravenous walking corpses every time she steps outside, and one of her friends is still missing, trapped somewhere in the distant, practically impassable wreckage of Manhattan.

Still, Cassie's an optimist, more prone to hysterical laughter than hysterical tears, and she'd rather fight a corpse than be one. She'll never leave a friend stranded when she can simply take her road trip to impossible new places, even if getting there means admitting to that boy that she might love him as more than her personal jester. Skillfully blending effective horror with unexpected humor, this diary-style novel is a fast-paced and heartwarming read.

“Heartbreak, humor, a very large number of crushed skulls and even romance ensue . . . Readers who don't mind a little brain spatter on the windshield will be happy they took this particular trip.” —Kirkus Reviews.

“You know when you read a book about teens and you think the author just didn't get it? Well, F.J.R. Titchenell gets video gaming, paintballing, Vespa riding, teenage tomboy angst, true love, the uses of theater paint—oh, and killing zombies.” —Lehua Parker, author of the Nene Award-nominated Niuhi Shark Saga.

“The story is fast, filled with dark humor, and lots of blood and guts.” —All Things Urban Fantasy.

## **Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of) Details**

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## **From Reader Review Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of) for online ebook**

### **Beckie says**

I really wanted to like this book but atlast I did not. I was bored and turned off by the writing style. I felt the author just added to much useless info. I am 99 pages in and just read anymore. Sorry.

Thank you to Jollyfish and the author for the chance to read this book but sadly it's just not my cup of tea.

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### **Reads & Reels says**

Can a zombie book be cute? Hell, why not? This one was as funny as it was gory and I had a lot of fun reading it. The protagonist, Cassie, is cute, quirky, and a serious bad ass! A girl after my own heart. She's always been "one of the guys" until one of said guys, tries to take a bite out of her. Oh the trials of first love lol.

After, a freak paintball accident kills one of her best friends and crush, Cassie needs to use the skill set she's learned from being an atypical girl to survive the apocalypse. Her and a group of survivors set off on suicidal mission across the country to save one of their nearest and dearest. Along the way, they meet all kinds of survivors (friends and foe) and of course, slays hundreds of zombies. They also face down dangers they could never have imagined and as a result become a close-knit group with Cassie leading the way.

A well-written novel full of humor, thrills, and horror, Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer... dispels some of the usual zombie tropes and delivers something a little different. The characters are compelling and the story is as funny as it is scary. I had a great time with this one and I will definitely continue reading the series.

Rating... B

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### **Dee says**

Wow. This book is utterly fantastic! I'm usually a fast reader, but I completely devoured it. It's witty and hilarious, and actually fun to read! I absolutely loved the plot, and Cassie, the main character was completely identifiable. The fact that it actually had intense, serious moments while still managing to be absolutely hilarious was fantastic, and it stuck with me, afterwards, too. I only have one complaint - I NEED more!

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Rating... B

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### **Kara says**

I literally cannot. I had an immediate visceral reaction the the writing style. I DESPISE it. I made it through 46 pages of sheer torture. I don't know how I did it, but this book is totally not for me. It's wordy, it's snarky to the point of feeling forced, the author is giving me every single detail that I don't need (I'm not stupid, I know you are not using your cell phone to play Angry Birds in a zombie apocalypse), and I just wanted to yell, "Get to the point already!!"

I can't do it. Nope, nope, nope. DNF. Do not want.

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### **Boundless Book Reviews says**

Confessions of The Very First Zombie Slayer is an enjoyable zombirific read (I made that word up)

Cassie is one of the first people to kill a zombie (that she knows of). And she's writing about it, so others know her story. I liked that it was written in Cassie's perspective, as a journal. I'm a zombie lover. Anyone who knows me knows this. So when this came around. I took a chance on it. I mean the title and the awesome cover, why not?

Titchenell really took the world of Zombies and made a story of her very own. It had all the normal, zombies and evil humans. It was action packed and zombie filled. Unfortunately, I didn't connect with Cassie on an emotional level. But it was different and I highly enjoyed it.

Overall, I give this Four Boundless Stars.

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

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## Mikayla Gray says

Quick disclaimer - I was provided with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, however this has in no way influenced my write-up. Also, this review contains spoilers. I tried to avoid them, but there were some plot points that I couldn't not mention to get my points across.

Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (that I know of) - or just Confessions, which is what I'll be calling the book from here on out, because I'll be damned if I'm typing that title out again! - is a good idea on paper. Basically, teens inherit the earth after a zombie outbreak, one that seems to kill off most responsible adults for much of the book, and make off on a cross country roadtrip to rescue their stranded friend. The execution however, is a bit fumbled, which unfortunately strips much of the tension and excitement from the story. If you'll pardon the pun, it lacks bite. I don't necessarily want the characters to be showing fear, but I do want to feel that there's genuine peril.

Whether the characters are fleeing a zombie horde that's cornered them in an abandoned store, are discussing the logistics of driving through gridlocked roads, meeting other survivors or happily (a little too happily for me to be comfortable with) smashing in undead skulls, everything reads exactly the same. Cassie accidentally kills her crush. Cassie is locked up pre-outbreak on suspicion of murder. Cassie stumbles upon her zombified parents. And we don't see one iota of emotion. When one character is killed on the road, another deals with it by abandoning the group and shacking up with the first hot guy they stumble across. Another's best friend is killed, and after locking himself in a room for a bit of sulk, he abruptly appears to get over it and never mentions him again. Everyone acts like their parents have gone away for the weekend and left them in the house alone, not that everyone they loved is dead and the world's gone to hell around them.

The author's writing style was good, but it could have done with a tighter edit to make the actual action it was conveying a little clearer. The tone was clearly going for a Buffy-esque narrator and characters loaded with sarcasm, quick-wit and an irreverent tone, and it certainly succeeded, but that meant it was hard to get all that invested in the story. Cassie, and every single one of the supporting characters, joked about, mocked and downplayed any threat that the story should have carried. Even Buffy got serious when things were bad! It's hard to feel much investment in the story when it's told by someone who's so detached at all times.

The action was kind of hard to follow a lot of the time too. Because we're in the main character's head, and she thinks in the same chatty, colloquial style that she speaks, it's not always easy to work out exactly what's happening. There's a scene where one of the supporting characters gets bitten by a zombie and has to be quickly killed, but I had to read the scene four times (I'm not kidding) to figure out A. that he'd been bitten, B. that he'd subsequently been killed before he could turn and C. which other character it was that performed his coup de grace. I not averse to a writer leaving some things to the imagination, in fact I love author's trusting their readers to fill in the blanks, but I shouldn't have to read a scene multiple times just to work out what I'm being presented with because it's buried in a character's train of thought and an endless stream of references to other events.

The ending was a bit out of left field, when the story suddenly veered into Mad Max territory, with Cassie and the other survivors holed up in a convenience store fending off an armed group. But the dramatic climax fell pretty flat thanks to a hastily tacked-on epilogue, which essentially undoes a tragically poignant death (I'm sorry, but no one takes a gunshot to the stomach in a world without hospitals and sterilised medical equipment and then turns up alive in the next chapter with just a gravelier voice to show for it). I'm not a big fan of books - or movies, or comics, or anything else for that matter - that try and have their cake and eat it by going for a big emotional death, only to then backtrack and have the character turn up alive.

There were some inspired moments - the group's trip to Elvis's mansion was pure *Zombieland!* - and the book certainly delivered on its promise of a kick-ass protagonist. If you like first person narrative and diary style storytelling, you'll probably love most of the elements I couldn't get on board with. *Confessions* was a pretty standard post-apocalyptic zombie, with a contemporary YA twist that sparked it to life. Unfortunately that same twist made the plot a little hard to follow and made the characters too hard to empathise or identify with.

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## **Lissa Rice says**

**\*\*Four Boundless Stars\*\*** Full Review and Rating will be up on Boundless Book Reviews

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## **Jennifer says**

I liked the plot. It was a good storyline, and I liked the ending. However, there were a few things I was a little iffy on. For example, it was written in first person, but I really didn't feel like I got to know her. I never saw her emotions--not really. There did tend to be a lot of telling, and not much showing, as well, which isn't my favorite style. Some parts were hard to visualize, which made it a little harder to keep up in certain areas. But I think what really bugged me was her serious lack of emotion even when she has to kill, or sees people killed/die, whom she loves. Like that should illicit emotion, and feel like it didn't.

But, over all, I really did like the story line. Even if it was a little out there in believability. Oh yeah, one more thing, I really would have liked to know how the whole zombie thing started.

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## **Rae says**

Cassie's just a girl going on a camping trip with her best friends when she accidentally shoots her crush in the head with a paintball gun. Then, when he dies and comes back as a zombie, she kills him again. Of course, nobody believes her when she says she just killed the first zombie, and she winds up locked up in her local jail while the world ends outside. She makes it back to a small group of surviving friends, finds out the twin sister of one of them is trapped in New York (they live in CA, you do the math of how easy that'll be), they all go on a cross-country road trip to make what's left of their group whole again.

And there's zombies, tornadoes, sugar-snap peas, a guy who enjoys dressing like a clown, and a zoo along the way.

The voice of this novel was fantastic. The basic gist is that this novel is actually a journal of sorts that chronicles Cassie's journey from California to New York, though it's written in the "future" of Cassie's world (the novel itself being written three years after the events happen, although the narrative hints that the "current" date in that world is much later). So it's a diary, of sorts, told simply as a novel in a fantastic first-person; Cassie's voice is real, humorous, serious, and matter-of-fact, constantly reminding the reader that she could lie if she wanted, but she won't, and not being overly bleak, overly hopeful, or overly sarcastic. It's simply a no-nonsense attitude that says, "Here's what happened. Yup, it sucked, but you can't get everything you want."

And I found it very easy to read, and very relatable.

The characters, too, are just that: characters. Not caricatures, which some survival novels tend to fall back on. There's Cassie, the awkward narrator, sure; there's also Rory, "the pretty one"; and Norman, the "nerd"; and a good few other strong personality types that generally clash and that occasionally get taken to extremes. In *CONFESSIONS*, though, all of these personality types were written as if they were real people, without falling on general stereotypes and extremes. And the romance? Extremely well done; it's not cheesy or the kind of teenage romance that you know will never happen in real life (well, besides the zombie bit, but that's still not out of the realm of possibility). It's simply...well, realistic, and believable, and nearly awkward, and nothing over-the-top.

There's also a fair amount of internal reconstruction. Meaning: while the novel is organized around this zombie apocalypse, the majority of the focus is on the characters and their adaptation, including making hard decisions in a logical fashion, realizing what they're made of and what they can really do, coming to terms with the fact that their old life will never come back, and realizing they need to get along to survive, regardless of how they felt about each other in the "old world."

Which leads me also to my sole disappointment:

This book didn't quite have the action I was looking for, and it wasn't gory enough. Weird, right? I mean, the most blood I got was probably from the very beginning, with the first zombie that Cassie kills, and it only goes as far as to talk about brain matter on her jeans. After that...I don't know, I felt like every prime opportunity to go into detail about a zombie run-in was sorely missed, the run-ins and necessary battles of human versus zombie kind of skipped or summarized over. Now, I'm a fond and dedicated watcher of *The Walking Dead*, and while zombies are one of the only things that scare the daylights out of me I've always loved the opportunity to really pull some great scenes out of confrontations with the walking undead, and I was honestly very sad when the majority of them in this book were nonexistent. Not much blood or gore or even scene-age of Cassie's run-ins with her prime enemy.

Which isn't to say that there wasn't action. There was, particularly toward the end when it became human versus human. I think I just felt a little lied to and/or led astray by the back-cover blurb up there. When I read about zombies, I tend to go more for the blood and gore and a bit more apocalypse-related drama. Personal preference.

And if that doesn't tell you anything about me, I don't know what will.

What I'll say, though: this is the perfect book for those who enjoy action without the blood, and even those who typically prefer a gen. fic./contemporary novel might enjoy it. In fact, it's got a little bit of everything, all centered around one tell-it-like-it is narrator who has a way with words. So yes, overall I enjoyed it enough to read it in about 2-ish days.

Final Answer: 4 / 5

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### **Nancy (The Avid Reader) says**

Cassie Fremont and a group of her friends are on a camping trip and one day when they are out playing with their paintball guns Cassie shoots a guy that she just happens to have a major crush on. But he doesn't stay



dead long before she has to kill him a second time by bashing his brains in with said paintball gun. She tries to explain to everyone that he turned into a zombie but no one listens to her and so she is thrown in jail. Of course it doesn't take people long to realize what is that Cassie may have been right all along when everyone starts turning into zombies.

Cassie escapes jail and soon learns that one of their friends is trapped in New York so they all set out on a road trip from California to New York to rescue this girl who happens to be the twin sister of a girl that is in their group.

Along the way they run into lots of zombies of which they bash their brains in. They all have their own weapon of choice; Cassie's weapon of choice just happens to be a baseball bat. She is very good with it too she can take out a zombie one handed if the need arises. The undead are not the only things to fear no you have to fear the living more and I think Cassie and her friends learn that real quick like when they meet up with a group of people who want to take their heads off like they would the zombies.

I have always been a fan of the undead and I guess I will be a fan until the day I die. I am a diehard fan of The Walking Dead. I am one of those fans that gets real upset if you miss with me while The Walking Dead is on. So with saying it leads me to this point of where I will read anything I can get my hands on that has zombies, walkers, undead ect... in it.

So when I saw the summary of Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of) I knew I had to read it and I am so glad that I got to read Cassie's story and her amazing journey across the country fighting zombies. I loved hearing her confessions of bashing in zombie brains with her bat. Cassie is a straight up kind of girl who will tell you like it is. I would like to know more about Cassie and zombie killing days.

If you have not read Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of) and you love zombies then let me suggest that you pick up your copy today and get started on an amazing zombie killing journey.

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### **Louisa says**

Oh, this book was hilarious and awesome, and I loved reading about Cassie and her friends and their journey across a zombie-torn country!

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### **Kimberly says**

I was expecting something different and simply more from this book. The synopsis makes it sound like it's Cassie's idea to go across the country to save her friend, but it's not. And they aren't even close friends anymore. They had a falling out and the only reason Cassie chose to go is because of Rory.

I felt like the ending was rushed. Norman got shot and miraculously the one doctor is able to save him; even though, he was a psychiatrist. The synopsis set it up to be a different book. It's not a bad book; just not what I expected.

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## Michael Araujo says

This review will contain some spoilers, and may start off a bit negative, but just read to the end. I also read an ARC copy so some things may have been changed.

Before I started reading this book, I looked up some reviews and found some pretty negative ones. I shouldn't have done that. It influenced the way I looked at things without making my own judgment.

The story follows a girl, Cassie, who kills the guy she likes by accident, and then again on purpose when he becomes a zombie. Forwarding a bit, she finds some of her survivor friends who plan a mission to go to NYC to find someone. This is where I start getting a bit critical.

The book starts at the beginning of the zombie apocalypse and ends a week after it began. Within that week it seems that the majority of humanity is dead. What felt unrealistic was the fact that there weren't more survivors around. There weren't more people fighting for their lives. Yes, we see a group here and there, but for a disaster that's only been a week, there should've been way more people. And if the people are gone, we don't get a sense of how many zombies there were. We see groups but it never really gives a general sense of how many. I also felt that perhaps things weren't destroyed as they should have been.

When humans panic, they screw things up. Buildings are destroyed, cars are set on fire from accidents, houses are looted. Yet everything seems to be as if humans just disappeared and were replaced with the zombies. Not to mention, that within a day or two of it starting, cellphones no longer worked. And I'm not an expert on technology, but I'm sure it would take a lot longer for them to stop working.

The group also decides to travel from California to New York to look for a girl. They don't know if she's dead or alive, and it just seemed like a pretty stupid thing to do when zombies are trying to kill you. And it's not like they could've called it because there were no phones.

The characters also seemed a bit blended together. That or they were too much over the top and again unrealistic. One of the characters, Norman, decided to dress up as a clown in the middle of the apocalypse, because he believed there should be a clown zombie when he died. So for the whole book, he would reapply his makeup and even make costume changes. Which seemed a bit comical, but not in a good way. I found myself not caring for some of the characters, until after. Which I'll talk about later. Perhaps a bit more of them before the zombies started attacking, would make me connect with them and see who they were more and better.

As I read it I felt like some of their reactions weren't realistic either. For example, when Cassie finds her mother and father as zombies and hits them with her car. There was the mention of that but then she didn't think of it further. We didn't see her pain or panic or her being afraid. It just lacked emotion. As I read I've come to the conclusion that she blocked it all out, but I'm just reaching for reasons. A lot of the time, the characters are very head on and all about killing the zombies without having basic human emotions. I wanted them to be in shock.

But with the mess that they were, I actually found myself caring about the characters. When they died, I honestly felt a little sad and that I would miss them. The lack of emotions though, made my sadness pass very quickly, and I wish the author would showcase it a bit more. Make them a bit more human. There was

also a very weird part with a human loving, but zombie hating Cheetah that I found to be way too convenient and weird, but let's not get into that.

In the beginning of the book I would find that time would jump around with no transitioning at all. One second they would be out on a farm picking vegetables, and the following sentence they would be in a different state in their car. It seemed a bit confusing at times, with my eyes starting to glaze over, and I had to go back a few times to make sure I didn't skip over anything. A lot of the sentences were also a tad bit long, some of them forming a whole paragraph with no breaks or pauses. But as the novel went on, it seemed to fix itself. Especially when they got to NYC and stuck to the single setting, becoming easier to follow. The description and emotions also became more.

All in all, although I'm rating this 3 stars, I found myself liking it far more than I thought I would, especially with the beginning. The beginning is the only reason it's not 4 stars. I started caring for the characters and what happened to them. Not all of them, but a few of them. I just wish it were a bit longer with more character development, better writing, and more description.

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### **Kristin (Blood,Sweat and Books) says**

Zombie books these days don't usually follow likable teenage protagonists, when they do they seem to be filled with either Warrior Princesses channeling the likes of Xena, Broody boys whose every decision is decided by which girls pants he is trying to get into, or my favorite (note the sarcasm) the characters act ambivalent to the carnage going on around them because they have problems (often petty) of their own to sort out. Whatever the issue I've read it and most likely harped on those characters for it. Then I read *Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer* and my world was rocked. Cassie Fremont wasn't like those characters mentioned above. She wasn't self centered, she didn't have mad ninja reflexes that made her untouchable, she wasn't even as spoiled as I thought she'd be. Instead Cassie was kind, smart, witty, selfless even and best of all a Survivor. Which leads me into confession # 1 of why I liked this book so much. Cassie rocked! Really no complaints.

Another thing, I really enjoyed about *Confessions* is the balance of humor and horror. While the journey the group takes is obviously Zombie filled and scary the characters never give in to the terror. Instead they try to make the best out of their situation and if that means laughing every now and then at the absurdity of Zombies even existing in their world in the first place so be it. These characters knew things were bad they knew the death toll was huge, they didn't however need to spend the entire book mourning those they lost and I'm sort of grateful for that.

Lastly, my favorite part of the story was the way the Author built up the story. Generally I like to know how exactly the Zombies start to rise before the main arch begins but in this particular story the kids are tucked away at a Scouting retreat cut off from the world at large. The very first indication of Zombies happens by pure accident and even then nobody takes Cassie's claims seriously because the concept of the dead rising is so absurd. Of course by days ends we know she's right but by then it's too late and before you know it a full blown apocalypse has started. The beginning might have been slowly built up but once the Action truly starts it's a non-stop thrill ride of Zombie slaying goodness.

Now even though I really enjoyed *Confessions* I did have a few small annoyances with the story that kept me from rating it higher.

First off, while I loved the lightheartedness of the novel it at times felt a bit too safe for the characters. I get they stuck to low population centers most of the time but surely even they would've had a bit more than shown even if they were just trapped in cars or in stores along the way.

Secondly, I wish more survivors were encountered. We meet small pockets across the country but none of them choose to leave with the group and instead stay in the area where they were found. I think the kids having new personalities and ideas infused into the group would've been nice. This could've also been a nice way to pair up other characters romantically instead of just the main couple.

Lastly, perhaps my biggest issue with the story was the inaccurate representation of the Tulsa Zoo. I get that the story is fiction but if you're going to use a real world location the details better be right. I know the Tulsa Zoo you can't see the Cheetah from the lions or tiger enclosures. Also the Cheetah is kept in electronically. Yes the Zoo has a tall fence surrounding it but it isn't one you can wall on or even fall into the enclosure off of. It's chain link for christ sakes. Actually once that electricity went down the cheetah would've probably just jumped onto the observation deck and went hunting down the Zebras or the annoying ostrich who likes to tease it next door. Yes, this bugged me and probably more than it should but it took me completely out of the story as my mind tried to place exactly where the characters were

#### Final Thoughts

Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer might not of turned out exactly as I expected but in the end that doesn't matter. Confessions from its very first to very last page was a highly enjoyable, humor filled, well written, Zombie book. I really hope the Author decides to write either a sequel following up with these characters or even a companion would be cool following some of the people they met along the way. With that being said, I'll be rating Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of) by F.J.R. Titchenell ★★★★★.

\*Copy provided by Author. All opinions are my own and I was not compensated in an which way for providing them.

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