



## **This Shattered Land**

*James N. Cook*

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Eric Riordan doesn't look for trouble, but trouble has a way of finding him.

Two years have passed since the Outbreak. After joining forces with his friend Gabriel he has managed to stay alive by fleeing to the peaks of the Appalachian mountains. With supplies running low, and enemies gathering, the two survivors are forced to begin their journey west to Colorado.

Along the way they will find unexpected allies, reunite with old friends, and make deadly new enemies. As difficult as life has been, the most dangerous times lie ahead.

Nothing is ever easy at the end of the world.

## This Shattered Land Details

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# From Reader Review This Shattered Land for online ebook

## Rachael Ashak-Benson says

### Another great extension to the series...

The series marches on... This book, like the others, supports the storyline much like the first. Always kept fresh with new characters, environments, and novel situations.

As I believe I've said before..... I did give this book/series five stars because it is one of the better series within the genre. Well thought out. Well written. Fantastic character development. Etc. Believable world.... for a zombie apocalypse lol. ;)

But — it is NOT the best in the genre. No. This book/series kind of drags on. Plenty of “downtime” where there is zero of action. So it reads boring at times. Note: there does not need to be constant action scenes, but tension can be built in. That “omgosh what/where/to whom will something happen?!” feeling. That’s very interesting and keeps the pages turning.

Ok! On to the next in the series!.....

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## Katherine says

Can't wait for the third one!!!

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## Mike says

4.5 stars. I really enjoyed this book and will definitely look for other titles by the author.

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## John Podlaski says

"This Shattered Land" by James Cook is the second book in the trilogy of "Surviving the Dead". I downloaded the first book in the series for free and soon discovered that this unknown author had a talent for writing. I thoroughly enjoyed the first book, finding it engaging and entertaining. Mr. Cook had me hooked and I quickly purchased and downloaded the next two books, confident that I would enjoy them as much. I was not disappointed.

In book two, we learn that after two years from the outbreak, the zombies are less of a threat to the living because they've learned how to distract and kill them. As a result, survivors are grouping together and developing small communities. Crops are grown, specialty stores open, limited manufacturing begins - money doesn't exist anymore, bartering is now a way of life with caravans and trading between communities growing. The U.S. government survived and is trying to regroup the country from deep within the Colorado mountains. Unfortunately, not everyone in the country remains loyal to them, splinter groups and outlaws have joined forces and roam the country in search of these caravans and small communities; once locating them, inhabitants are murdered and their supplies confiscated.

Eric and Gabe come upon a family of three prior to leaving their fortress in the Appalachians, then band together for the trek to Colorado. En route, they continue to battle zombies and outlaws. Once in Tennessee, they are ambushed by one of these outlaw groups - intent on taking the lone female and all their supplies for themselves. Outnumbered three to one, the small team hold their own and kill many of the attackers. However, three in their group are wounded - Eric is the worst and need immediate medical attention. Suddenly, a lone sniper comes to their aid, an acquaintance of Eric's from the first book, taking them to a nearby safe community with a medical doctor and supplies. Their totals number less than a hundred souls, and already have an elected mayor and sheriff; all pitch in to defend the perimeter against the undead and outlaws; both wanting and needed what they are defending.

Eric recovers from his wounds and finds a love interest within the small community. Both he and Gabe decide to stay on for a while, accepting the challenge to develop and train a militia group to destroy the outlaw forces that now have the community surrounded.

Once starting, you don't want to put the book down. The benefit today is that book 3 is already available and I jumped right into it before even writing this review. The first two books in the series are highly recommended...I remain confident that book number 3 will be just as good! Great job Mr. Cook!

John Podlaski, author  
Cherries : A Vietnam War Novel

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### **Marie Bayer says**

Decent enough for a light read. If zombie "end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it" books can be considered light reading.

This built on the first book well enough. The narratives for continuity were kept brief and to a minimum.

This one switches point of view between the two main characters. It makes for some interesting differences in perceptions of the same situation.

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### **Mark says**

Eric and Gabe make friends with a family of 3 and together start their journey to Colorado. They run into trouble, manage to get through it without getting killed and fall in with a decent group of people with a somewhat stable (post-apocalyptic) community. This community has a looming danger from a nearby militaristic group and they'd like Gabe to stay and help them with that. Will Gabe and Eric remain to help this community with this battle or will they continue on to Colorado? We'll find out in the next book.

Good series which I will continue.

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## **Betty says**

The editing of the second book in this series was better than the first, but that's really not saying much as it was virtually nonexistent in the first. And again, this is a book in desperate need of a proofreader. It is obvious that whoever is doing the proofing, if anyone, is someone who has read previous drafts of the manuscript. How else to explain words that are missing or out of order other than a proofer who is "seeing" the words on the page as they should be and not as they actually are?

The gross misogyny of the first book has been toned down a bit, as has the frat-boy dialogue. And losing those distractions from the first book has resulted in the story being far more entertaining.

Pacing was a huge problem in this book though. To say the first half of the book was many pages of not much action understates the problem. Up to the 48% mark the book consisted of Eric and Gabe introducing three new characters to their cabin, some weapons and fighting training, cooking meals, organizing supplies, and killing zombies. Yawn. This couldn't have been covered in half of that length? Yes, it could have, but only with a good editor who thinks editing involves making the story and the writing better, not just reading a manuscript.

I did like the humanizing of Gabe. He's still too much of a super-soldier, but at least he's getting some nuance to his character.

My other big complaint is the ending, which read like the author realized what his page count was and just stopped. I know it's a series, but it might have been nice to have a resolution of at least a plot line or two. Readers are either going to stick with the series or not, and leaving everything dangling isn't going to get those in the latter category to change their minds (and it might piss off some of those in the former group enough that they walk away).

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## **Michael D. Hansen says**

**Damn, this is a great series!!!!**

The characters are described and written about so well that one would think that they are real!!! The storyline and ACTION is out of this world!!!! I can't wait to start book three!!!! Mike Hansen, Nuneaton, England

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## **Alex Bobl says**

As somebody with a military background, I could really appreciate this book. There've been too many zombie books just lately - the market is over over oversaturated - and quite a few are written by people who don't know the difference between a gun and their own backside. The author's remarkable attention to detail makes the story spring to life - this is a mature, intelligent take on the zombie apocalypse theme that makes it sound too real -prophetic, even (touch wood!). Overall, an excellent novel worth every minute of your time.

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## **Megan says**

### **Wonderful book**

The two protagonists become old friends with the reader in this book. You cannot help but feel a connection with them and wonder what comes next as they work hard to survive the dead.

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## **Emma Williams says**

This was a great follow up. Only problem not long Enough and the ending was kind of sudden and annoying. But this is a great series. Focusing more on the people than the gore - although there is a lot of that. Cannot wait for next one! Come on James get on with it! ;-)

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## **Richard says**

All these survivalist/apocalypse series are similar but this series is well written and entertaining with accessible characters.

A good read.

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## **Tammy says**

Read the first one later. I can't wait to read the rest. Great books.

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## **Bobby Cooper says**

After reading No Easy Hope, I thought going in to this that there was no way James Cook could top the first one. I stand corrected!! The characters are well developed,his writing to me just flows like poetry,but not at the stories expense. It had plenty of action and heart. You get to know the characters on a much deeper level,and new characters are introduced. You will really love the direction this story goes and I just wish the next one was already out!!

THIS GUY CAN WRITE!! YOU WILL GET LOST IN THIS TERRIFYING WORLD COOK HAS CREATED!!

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## **J.L Perrigo says**

**Another interesting look at the apocalypse**

James Cook delivers yet again with his ability to balance more than one character and still not lose momentum with his story telling. The Introduction of Gabriel's own story into this book gave an in depth revelation of the character's humanity and fears. This story is a must read for any fans of the series or any reader who enjoys a good zombie tale.

J.L Perrigo author

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