



Human

Milan Bakrania

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Zenith has been 'dead' ever since his Uncle Ryan mysteriously disappeared when he was a child.

Present day - Zenith is now 42 years old. The world is at the mercy of a relentless virus. His friend, Joy Irani, is missing. No one has seen him. It's all too familiar! But Zenith will stop at nothing to find him.

A series of anonymous text messages leads him to a deserted village. Moments later, he finds himself on a boat heading into the open ocean...

HUMAN is a week long account of an irritable cleaner from India as he sets out on a journey of a lifetime. From a bustling city to a place where the stars descend from the sky, it's going to be a week like no other!

Human Details

Date : Published February 28th 2014 by Matador

ISBN : 9781783062539

Author : Milan Bakrania

Format : Paperback 200 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Human for online ebook

Divya Kaushik says

Not quite interesting one. Few times it felt, the descriptions were elongated more than required and hence became a bit boring at times.

Caitlin says

I had a hard time reading this book. It sounded interesting, but then I began reading it. The story didn't make sense most of the time. There wasn't a clear plot, and the story itself is pretty boring. I skimmed over half the book just to see if it got any better. Here's a hint: it didn't.

Caitlynn says

I received this book from good reads first reads but I'm sorry I just can't continue reading this. It's bad, I can't pay attention to it at all. I don't think I could ever make it through all 200 pages of it. What I hear I'm not missing out. I did try and give it a fair chance but after 30 pages I'm not interested in the story at all, I honestly don't get it.

Jennifer says

I just couldn't get into this book. It started with a beautiful flow which encouraged me to read on but I soon lost all feel for this book. I did not connect with the characters and if humanity was about to be wiped out then so what! A book that sadly did not deliver for me.

Laura Greenwood says

<http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

Title: Human

Author: Milan Bakrania

From: Netgalley

Genre: Sci-fi/Dystopia

Release Date: 28th February 2014

Challenges: N/A (due to DNF status, otherwise 2015 Netgalley & Edelweiss Challenge)

Links: Goodreads - Amazon

(From Goodreads) Zenith has been 'dead' ever since his Uncle Ryan mysteriously disappeared when he was a child. Present day - Zenith is now 42 years old. The world is at the mercy of a relentless virus. His friend,

Joy Irani, is missing. No one has seen him. It's all too familiar! But Zenith will stop at nothing to find him. A series of anonymous text messages leads him to a deserted village. Moments later, he finds himself on a boat heading into the open ocean...HUMAN is a week long account of an irritable cleaner from India as he sets out on a journey of a lifetime. From a bustling city to a place where the stars descend from the sky, it's going to be a week like no other!

So to be clear, I didn't finish this book. I did get to about half way through but then decided the book just wasn't holding my attention enough to warrant carrying on. The book isn't bad, and I can see how people would enjoy it, but it wasn't for me. However because I got to half way through I do feel I have enough to say to warrant a review.

The narrative is interesting. Though it doesn't become completely clear until a bit of a way in that the main character, Zenith, is writing in a diary. To begin with I did just think it was some kind of inner monologue aimed at "Uncle Ryan" (though up until the point I got to it was never really made clear who Uncle Ryan was.

From the description, and the way the virus comes across in the book I'd half expected there to be some kind of undead uprising, and though there are hints that maybe the dead wouldn't always stay dead, the virus actually seemed to have very little impact on what was going on.

Then there was the disappearance of Zenith's friend Joy. I thought that it was going to turn out to be some kind of government disappearance or something else exciting, but for me the search just kind of dragged and there was a lot of going to temples to pray and hope for his return.

All in all not for me. The POV style was interesting and what I read was well written though.

Mati says

At this time I would typically leave my disclaimer that I received this book in exchange for an honest review. Well, I did receive it from Netgalley for free, so with that out of the way, here is the honesty:

I am just not a fan.

I went through several stages while reading this book. I gave it the benefit of the doubt first, and I ignored the style differences I didn't like; then I tried to wait for the plot to unravel, and I tried to read around the italics. Eventually, I just felt weighed down. The book felt like a really heavy chain dragging me along. There was too much I didn't like, and I felt like I was forcing myself to read. The longer I read, the faster I wanted to go, and after awhile, I'll be honest, I was just ready for it to be over.

I'm usually not a one-star person. But I just couldn't get past all of the things that made this book feel so unreadable.

The author starts in diary format, but then the writing proceeds in first person, with sporadic italic 'thoughts' written in spontaneous intervals. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to where they go, and I found them distracting and unnecessary. The main character is also impossible for me to relate to. He is an unhappy man with a cynical attitude who spends much of the story mentally insulting everyone around him. He is constantly "thinking" insulting things about people, and after awhile, you find it hard to take his side. And

how come every woman in this story seems to be a whore or a b*****? His attitude towards his wife made me uncomfortable.

Also, who describes their daily poop in their diary? Really?

I thought maybe it was cultural differences for awhile. Maybe it's just because I've never lived in this country and don't understand the social norms. But that doesn't mean I'm okay with them, and I really don't enjoy reading about them. The book felt very crude at points, but not in the "ha ha" funny way I can sometimes get into. This is that old guy hitting on someone twenty years younger than him type crude that just makes you feel a bit uncomfortable. It was hard to get past.

It was disappointing because the author has moments where it seems the book could be promising. Descriptions thrown in here and there create good mental pictures, and had it been in third person, maybe I would have enjoyed it more. Yet the format and the way all those descriptions were put together killed it for me. One moment there is a great description about a skyline, then there is an awkward aside about needing to go to work. All in all, I couldn't get into the plot enough to tell you if even that had promise. I was busy drowning out the narrator.

Oh look, it's time for me to end this review.

Maybe someone will see what I didn't, but this was just not the book for me.

Vilde says

Read through netgalley.com

Leila Hays says

I have read at least a thousand books in my lifetime, and I have no hesitation in saying that this is the absolute worst book I have ever read.

I'll grant that the story had potential; I wouldn't have read it if the blurb didn't look interesting, after all. Humans were once gods; compelling, right? Well, Milan Bakrania failed miserably at delivering on that interesting premise.

Here's why: The writing is atrocious. Strong word, I know, and completely appropriate. And the constant use of italics in the diary format was maddening (isn't the point of a diary format that the entire thing is the writer's thoughts?). The writer of said narrative, Zenith, is completely and utterly unlikable and unsympathetic. He's actually rather pathetic, in a bad way; a cheating and shrewish wife, a crappy job, dying and disappearing friends, a favorite uncle who died when Zenith was a child. I'd say "poor guy" if I didn't dislike him so much.

I think I would have hated the book less if it weren't a book at all, but a short story instead. The most compelling part of the story (still with the terrible writing) is Zenith's final portion of his journey to find his lost friend. The other three-quarters of the book are completely disposable.

I could go on, but I've hit the main reasons for my utter dislike of Human.

An emphatic Leave It!

Note: I received an advance copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

Nathan Mercer says

If you believe in reincarnation, Zen must have done some bad things in his previous life. Why do I say that, since he did return as a human instead of a worm? Well, to start, the guy's wife has an open affair with the housekeeper and he is not allowed to return home until everything is sparkling clean - like around midnight. Next, his dreams of being an engineer is dangled in front of him as he cleans the building engineers work in - with vivid descriptions of bathroom cleanings. One of his friends vanishes, and another dies of the pandemic virus that is dropping people like flies.

Maybe a worm would have been a better choice. That is - until Zen receives a mysterious text with some coordinates and is met by a couple of strangers.

In the course of a week, Zen's entire view of reality will be turned on its head as he discovers that maybe being "just Zen" is really a gift. But is Zen ready to reach out and take hold of his destiny?

"Human" by Milan Bakrania is a work of fantasy that follows the journey of Zen through India and way beyond. This work has ambitious goals, but the journey for the reader is at times almost as difficult as Zen's. The book is written in parts that are to be read like a diary, parts from Zen's point of view with conversation in broken English (with plenty of "cussing" with *'s for vowels), but then sophisticated thoughts and narration in language that one probably wouldn't find from a cleaner working in India. Zen goes from wondering about how badly he smells and talking about bowel movements to reading books on geothermal engineering wondering why he didn't get his big break. Maybe he could start with a shower.....

Bakrania set his goals to be very lofty in this novel, encouraging the reader to pass it on to others who may need help reaching their dreams (or even considering doing physical harm to themselves). For even a seasoned author, trying to motivate someone to change through a fantasy novel while still pulling off the story and characters would be a tough task. For an author just trying to break into the field, it might have been a goal that may have been a little beyond the reach. I think the author would have been better served sticking with the story and allowing the reader to pull out of it the meaning they wanted instead of trying so hard to guide the reader to think a specific way and losing the flow of the story along the way.

For those that like fantasy with a message, however, this author would be a good one to watch as he grows in his craft.

Marjolein says

READ IN ENGLISH

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

I received a free copy via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review, thank you!

In one word: Chaotic

The somewhat longer - and hopefully less chaotic- version: This was a very weird reading experience, I can't really say I liked it. The story is set in India, which I liked because I always like a change of setting and some originality in stories. I haven't been/lived in India, so I can't decide if the writer has portrayed a realistic India or not. But I still liked to see something different.

Then there's this virus, no one has bothered to name it. It is airborne and kills faster than you can say 'Pandemic', however the body count is still below 2000 and people who are with the persons dying of the disease (survival rate +/- 0%) don't seem to get affected by this AIRBORNE virus. At all. And this is supposed to be the end of humanity.

And there's also Joy, Zen's missing friend and what follows is by far the clumsiest investigation I've read in a while. He just starts running like a headless chicken after the police said 'Would it have been a murder or something drug related, we would certainly investigate, but we don't do missing persons...'

So far, so good, although nothing special. And that's where the story takes a turn for weirdness and completely lost me. It turned into one big 'WTH did I just read?'. In the end I couldn't even care about the story any more. I would not recommend it.

Jade - Louise says

Received this by Netgallery in exchange for an honest review

I didn't really enjoy this book. I could tell because between pages i kept going back to my tumblr blog.

It was boring, i have to be blunt. If i was reading this book while trying to sleep, this book would do it. There was very little action and the description made the book appear more interesting than it actually was.

I will not be in a hurry to buy this book in stores.

Jane says

I just got my copy in the mail and cant wait to read it! :D

update: okay, I started it and tried, I really did. But then I left to travel for a year and I didn't bring it along and now I have no motivation to pick it up again.

It's not bad, and I can easily see myself being taken by the book, but for that to happen, I have to be very focused. It does get dry/boring a lot. It's not a story so much as it is a method for the author to relate his philosophy. And for people who want to read philosophy, this might be for you. But sadly, it's not for me. I definitely don't think it deserves the low rating that it has, but because I didn't finish it, I can't bring myself to rate it higher.
