



# Encyclopedia of the Zombie: The Walking Dead in Popular Culture and Myth

By June Pulliam, Anthony J. Fonseca

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A fascinating read for anyone from general readers to hardcore fans and scholars, this encyclopedia covers virtually every aspect of the zombie as cultural phenomenon, including film, literature, folklore, music, video games, and events.

- Provides comprehensive coverage of topics about or relating to zombies in film, literature, folklore, and popular culture
- Features work from contributors who are dedicated scholars, authors, or fans in the zombie genre of work
- Supplies dates with all names and works to give readers a sense of the historical context and evolution of zombie lore
- Includes concept entries?for example, comedy, free will, and weapons?that place works in a logical, thematic context

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- Sales Rank: #2409752 in Books
- Published on: 2014-06-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x .88" w x 7.01" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 381 pages



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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Blending familiar icons with lesser-known but equally fascinating items, this comprehensive collection documents 225 notable representations of zombies in popular culture. Arranged alphabetically, each entry, ranging from several hundred to several thousand words, offers well-researched background information and specific details that will undoubtedly keep both casual readers and fans of the subject engaged; "see also" cross-references at the end of each entry further enhance the reading experience. Thorough yet concise examples from television (*The Walking Dead*, *Dead Set*), film (*Night of the Living Dead*, *Zombieland*), literature (Richard Matheson's *I Am Legend*), and folklore (Mesopotamian epic "Gilgamesh"), and cultural phenomena, such as zombie walks and video games, illustrate how pervasive zombie culture continues to be. Although heavy on text, the volume includes numerous black-and-white photos that break up the dense passages, but the lack of color is noticeable, and those expecting vibrant images of gore will be sadly disappointed. The book's purpose, however, is not to titillate but rather to examine and explore the subject's cultural and historical significance from a scholar's perspective. Two appendices—one chronicling zombie films from 1920 to 2014, the other listing academic books and articles on the subject—as well as a "Further Reading" section present additional research opportunities while simultaneously providing credibility and validity to the growing interdisciplinary field of zombie studies. VERDICT Strong in content but lacking eye-catching visual appeal, the resource will be best appreciated by serious zombie connoisseurs.—Audrey Sumser, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Mayfield, OH

### Review

"Given the popularity and paucity of reference materials currently available on this topic, this book is a welcome addition." - **ARBA**

"This encyclopedia possesses wide appeal and is appropriate for general audiences. Researchers interested in monsters, anthropology, politics, and film history are also well-served by its contents. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through researchers/faculty; general readers." - **Choice**

"This encyclopedia is appropriate for academic libraries because of its inclusion of relevant scholarly works. It will also serve public libraries well because of the zombie's prevalence in popular culture." - **Reference Reviews**

### About the Author

**June Michele Pulliam** teaches courses on horror fiction at Louisiana State University.

**Anthony J. Fonseca** is the director of Alumnae Library at Elms College, Chicopee, MA.

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