

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

Subject Spotlight: Zombies

Good news! If you're reading this you are not a zombie! Zombies have infiltrated our culture: you hear about zombies on the news, read about them in books and magazines, and watch them on TV. Zombies are everywhere; even the library. Take some time this summer to enjoy the zombie invasion.

Author Dr. Bob Curran explores the myths, legends, and folklore of zombies across cultures in his book, "Zombies: A Field Guide to the Walking Dead." From Biblical accounts of resurrections to Frankenstein's monster, Curran takes the reader through the history of bodily return from the grave. He describes the beliefs held by people from Eastern Europe to Central America, from legends to present practice. The book contains a wealth of well researched information.

Zombies have even reached the newsroom. The Columbus Public Library subscribes to a database of newspapers and news magazines called America's Newspapers. To access go to our website, www.columbusne.us/library, click E-Materials, then select America's Newspapers and log in with your library card number. On this database, you can search by topic or search within a newspaper. Just one of thousands in the America's News database, the article "Could Scientists Really Create a 'Zombie Apocalypse' Virus?" was published in Popular Science on March 1, 2011. The author, Ryan Bradley, answers a reader's question and explains that it might be possible to create a zombie virus, but it would be very difficult. Read the article for the details.

If you're more interested in the humorous side of the zombie craze, then "So Now You're a Zombie" by John Austin might be a better choice for you. Austin speaks to the reader as if they are already a zombie and explains their new 'life' to them. The book starts with how they became a zombie, how their life will change, and a history of zombies. Later the reader will learn how to use their new body, hunt for brains, attack, and infect victims. Since getting a jump start learning about your future life as a zombie before your 'zombification' is always recommended, try reading "Zombies for Zombies" by David P. Murphy.

Zombie enthusiasts can not only learn how to survive the coming apocalypse, in Max Brook's "The Zombie Survival Guide," but also celebrate it having not yet arrived. If you're looking to have a zombie themed party, or just want to make your desserts undead, check out "Zombie Cupcakes" by Zilly Rosen. Recipes, more like instructions, for 16 cupcakes are printed alongside tidbits about the zombie cultural reference that inspired them. If your zombie sweet tooth doesn't get satisfied with those 16 cupcakes, look to Lily Vanilli in "A Zombie Ate My Cupcake!" These 25 recipes aren't just inspired from zombies, but from insects, roadkill, and monsters as well. The author's idea was to save cupcakes from "the land of pretty and identical" and to enjoy the delicious taste of something that looks truly awful. From mummies to bleeding hearts, these cupcakes don't look appetizing, but with a base of red velvet, lime, or pecan cake, they're sure to taste amazing.

Whether you're sure the zombies are coming and want to survive the takeover or just enjoy the current zombie craze, stop by Columbus Public Library to check out some books or visit our website to access our databases, and immerse yourself in the zombie culture.