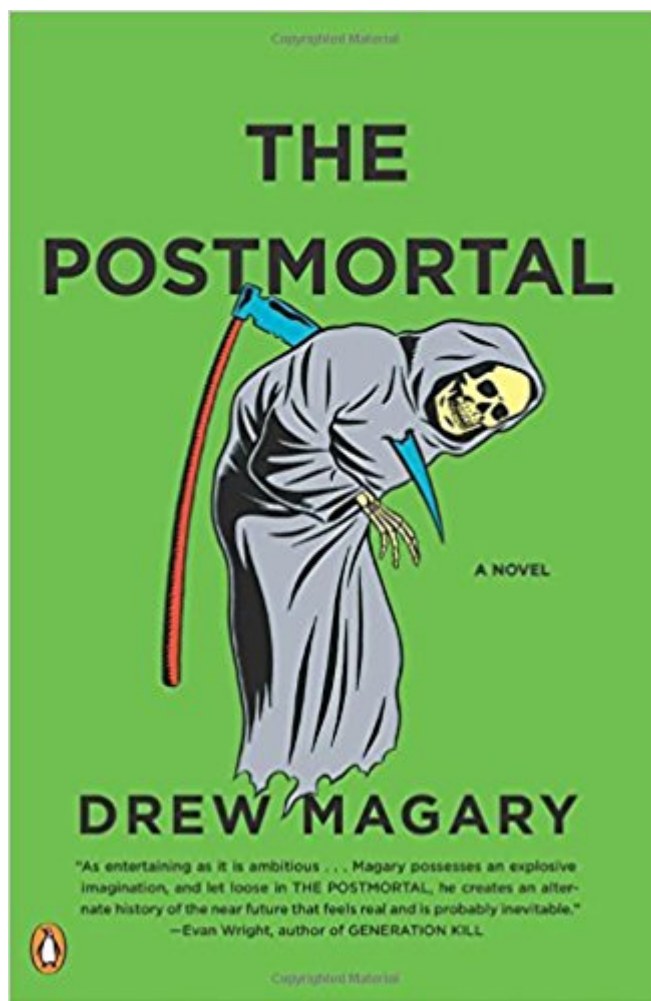




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The Postmortal



Synopsis

—A Finalist for the Philip K. Dick and Arthur C. Clarke Awards— The gripping first novel by Drew Magary, Deadspin columnist, GQ correspondent, and author of The Hike "An exciting page turner. . . . Drew Magary is an excellent writer." The Postmortal is . . . even more terrifying than zombie apocalypse." —Mark Frauenfelder, Boing Boing John Farrell is about to get "The Cure." Old age can never kill him now. The only problem is, everything else still can . . . Imagine a near future where a cure for aging is discovered and—after much political and moral debate—made available to people worldwide. Immortality, however, comes with its own unique problems—including evil green people, government euthanasia programs, a disturbing new religious cult, and other horrors. Witty, eerie, and full of humanity, The Postmortal is an unforgettable thriller that envisions a pre-apocalyptic world so real that it is completely terrifying.

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Customer Reviews

—“Unnerving. . . . An absorbing picture of dawning apocalypse. . . . A disturbing portrait of a society convinced it’s close to utopia when a cure for aging is invented. Unsurprisingly, it doesn’t take long for that seeming utopia to dissolve into a planet-overstressed from overpopulation, food and fuel shortages, and general lawlessness—going into systemic failure. . . . The Postmortal is a suitably chilling entry into the ‘it’s-the-end-of-the-world’ canon.” —The Austin Chronicle “Magary’s vision of future technology

and science is eerily realistic. . . . By the time you finish, you'll want to hold your loved ones close and stockpile bottles of water. If all else fails, you could potentially make a living selling them a few decades from now.

•The New York Press

“An exciting page turner. . . . Drew Magary is an excellent writer. This is his first novel but he tells the story masterfully. . . . The most frightening thing about *The Postmortal* is that this could really happen—it's not a supernatural story, but it's even more terrifying than zombie apocalypse.

•Mark Frauenfelder, BoingBoing

“The first novel from a popular sports blogger and humorist puts a darkly comic spin on a science fiction premise and hits the sweet spot between Margaret Atwood and Kurt Vonnegut. . . . [Magary] understands that satire is most effective when it gives the real world a gently absurd nudge, then lets its characters react much as we ourselves might under the same circumstances.

•Ron Hogan, Shelf Awareness

“Immortality has figured in a number of sf novels prior to this one, but never, to my experience, in this way. . . . A very clear-eyed picture, one I don't think has been drawn before. . . . The *Postmortal* surprised me in a good way.

•Michelle West, Fantasy & Science Fiction magazine

“The *Postmortal* is a punchy, fast-paced and endearing story. . . . As the novel progresses, it turns from a snappy morality tale, to a noir-ish revenge fable, to an action movie; complete with guns, rogue religious cults and government-sanctioned hit men. The narrative comes to us through John's blog entries and collections of news bytes and pundit commentary. Through his sixty years as a 29-year-old, he experiences all the love, pain, grief, and terror of a standard lifetime and is still in good enough shape to kick some ass at the end. Like much good dystopian fiction, *The Postmortal* is an at-times unflattering commentary on human beings, present, past and future, that hits the mark in many ways. . . . For anyone intrigued with Life Extension science, it's a fun examination of our fears and expectations.

•The Nervous Breakdown

“A darkly comic, totally gonzo, and effectively frightening population-bomb dystopia in the spirit of *Logan's Run*, *Soylent Green*, and the best episodes of *The Twilight Zone*.

•Neal Pollack, author of *Alternadad* and *Stretch*

“As insanely entertaining as it is ambitious, *The Postmortal* takes us into an America set in the next few years and coming apart under the onslaught of a dreadful new plague—that of human immortality. Magary possesses an explosive imagination and let loose in *The Postmortal*, he creates an alternate history of the near future that feels real and is probably inevitable. Read *The Postmortal* if you want to find out what happened to the human race in our last violent and absurd few years in New York.

•Evan Wright, author of *Generation Kill*

“I suppose you could wait for the inevitable *Postmortal* movie. But then you might miss Magary's

rendering, his word play, his singular sense of humor. A book that is, at once bracingly funny and •get this, Deadspin Nation• unmistakably poignant. •L. Jon Wertheim, coauthor of Scorecasting• “As someone who is totally freaked out by the thought of dying, The Postmortal really stood on top of me and peed on my face. Its depiction of the future isn’t filled with crappy robots fighting Will Smith. Its filled with eerily realistic portrayals of what the future could look like and does it all in an incredibly entertaining story. • Justin Halpern, author of Sh*t My Dad Says

Drew Magary is a correspondent for GQ and a columnist for Deadspin. He is the author of two novels, The Hike and The Postmortal, and the memoir Someone Could Get Hurt. His writing has appeared in Maxim, New York, The Atlantic, Bon Appétit, The Huffington Post, the Awl, Gawker, Penthouse, Playboy, Rolling Stone, and on Comedy Central, NPR, NBC, Yahoo!, ESPN, and more. He’s been featured on Good Morning America and has been interviewed by the AV Club, the New York Observer, USA Today, U.S. News & World Report, and many others. He lives in Maryland with his wife and three kids, and is a Chopped champion.

Pretty good for a first novel. Postmortal is an endgame of over-population and world collapse via the elimination of aging. The book does a good job of pointing out the intriguingly small and large consequences of never getting older. People still die due to sickness and disease but in the beginning aging is ended. Farther on in the story, the extension of lifespan leads to the development of a nanite-based miracle cure, really ending sickness and death. Long ago, stories would see the elimination of aging and sickness as the dawn of utopia. Today, we take a much darker view. Mothers who keep their baby as a baby forever, toddlers who will never grow up and farm animals who never get old. Externally managed metabolism turns people into roving crowds that strip fields of plants, eat animals and even other humans in a never-ending search for more calories. As over-population sets in, the rapid decline of the worth of an individual is made all the more chilling by the obvious extension of present and past cultural reactions to over-population. Sometimes a journal, sometimes a traditional story, sometimes a collection of media releases. This seems to detract at times from the flow. This is not a happy story. The book wavers between what could be dark humor and just plain tragic. One thing that is done well is the gradual build-up of tension throughout the book to the final end. As others have noted, Soylent Green would be a good comparison. As I visit the area often, I liked seeing how the story has Eden Center, 7 Corners and

the Four Sisters restaurant turn out. Sadly, I think Four Sisters has closed.

I enjoyed reading this book. Lots of ways of looking at problems that would arise if people were immortal. Actually, they only stopped aging, there are lots of other ways to die and the novel explores many of those. But what would be the social, environmental, and political repercussions of a cure for aging? One problem is that the book's premise for the cure is very, very weak. Also, the explanation for how and why the cure was dispensed was not really explored and that would have been an interesting topic. What happened in the third world countries? Why is there an infinite supply of this stuff? The book gets weaker and weaker as you progress through it. By the time you get to the end, there is no justification for anything. Major developments simply have no explanation. I debated between giving this three or four stars.

The first half of the book made you think about how society would respond if there was no more aging. The second half? It was like reading an unfinished, very long and drawn out description of Suicide Bunnies. Well no, at least Suicide Bunnies has some (morbid) humor to it. On top of that, the book could be 100 pages LESS, and still get a solid point across. About 152 pages into the book I kept wondering where the story was going. Apparently the author didn't have a clue either, since the book ends without any clear ending whatsoever—be prepared to sigh in disgust at the last ten pages, to put the book down with a look of disgust, and be happy you are done reading it. So, I give the book three stars for making me think in the first half, but I could just as easily give it two stars for being scattered, and not able to pull itself together in the middle and end.

Loved this book. One of my favorites. Highly recommend. A fun, yet dark book. It was tough to put down. Everyone's always wishing for a cure for aging, but man does this book make you think differently. It was a well thought out and all too realistic depiction of the aftermath of an aging cure. Another favorite of mine is *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood. This book was somewhat relatable I thought, in that they both offer a dark futuristic warning to scientific methods we strive to attain today.

This book is easily the best depiction of a sci-fi world. I think Drew was able to figure out the mindset of vampires and other beings that are immortals. The book is basically a look into a possible future where everyone has stopped aging, everyone can die but you can't die of old age you're stuck 28 for example.

A good combination of page-turner suspense and thought-provoking high concept, with some comic elements thrown in as well. The urge for immortality is shown to be very similar to "I want to be a rockstar" (an idea explicitly referenced near the end) or "I want to win the lottery." The ideas sound good and may even be worth striving for, but the reality ends up being pretty terrible. Magary carefully and thoughtfully looks at the consequences of immortality, both societally and for the protagonist, interwoven with terrorist explosions and romantic drama to pull in the reader. The last 1/5 of the book disappointed me, though. I don't think I'm giving much away to say that the expected outcome of overpopulation would be something apocalyptic. In fact, a particularly dark later chapter was called "This is the next logical step." Apocalypse (including zombie elements) has been done many times before, though, and the predictable elements of the final chapters are a letdown after the innovation of the early ones.

Fairly angsty self-centered narrator ultimately put me off of the story...protagonist couldn't generate enough perspective to create what great sci-fi does...provide a window onto a possible future to illuminate the present....so-fun story, just not enough ideas for me...

This is one of favorite reads of the last few years. Without giving too much away, the "cure" for aging is found. What problems will this create in the long run when people don't die of old age? What if you change your mind? Will "til death do us part" be a bit much to commit to in marriages now? What about the people that opposed it to begin with? Lots of interesting questions and interesting scenarios. It is a great read. It was the kind of book I would stay up way too late reading because I would read "just one more chapter" a few too many times.

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