

From the back jacket

My Thoughts so far – Set after an apocalyptic event, the story follows Shawn Mogensen, a character originally part of a ‘suicide squad’ of soldiers.

Overall: Honestly I had a hard time understanding what was going on most of the time. Things occurred without proper introduction or time to filter into the reader’s mind before something else would take over, leading to the feeling of continuously playing catch up. The main character starts the story as a male, before inexplicably ending up in a female body hundreds of miles away with a glossed over explanation, which it seems like other than a rare mention of something furry, this could be a human novel and you’d never know. There are numerous references to ‘man’ and ‘human’ but it is never established clearly if this is just a human/furry world or if it is just a colloquial expression. The main character does not ever seem to establish their own personality besides someone moving from place to place like a rail shooter, and doing things because the plot needs them to. The supporting cast is not strong enough or described in sufficient detail that I can recall much more other than a name and that one of them was a robot. If the title is meant to reference anything in particular, I’m not certain I picked up what it was meant to discuss.

Characters: Other than the main character, I can’t say that I recall any of the others, beyond their name. I also have a hard time describing the main character, with an unnecessary gender change that does not affect the story at all. The main character does not seem to do anything that establishes their own personality, instead being thrown from setpiece to setpiece without any idea why or a character with a reason to take their journey with them. I was not able to determine why the main character after being thrown into a near death sentence would be so concerned with someone else’s agenda, which makes little sense in a post apocalyptic setting.

Analysis: The story world is set in a post apocalyptic universe, which is one of my interests. Though the cover suggests it is a ‘furry’ novel, there is little indication of anything furry until chapter 4. There are several mentions of humans, and being a first person novel lacking any significant secondary character interaction in the first few chapters, the reader is left without enough information to sufficiently recall the character’s name or any major details. Events are placed too close together in some cases, with the main character being pushed from set piece to set piece sometimes without any explanation to the reader how they got there. In chapter 1, a battle with a ‘dragon’ occurs leaving the main character with severe wounds. Allowed a request for his payment before the mission, it is then mentioned this request is illegal, and it seems he is killed. It is not

explained why this character would make a request that logically he should've been informed of its impossibility and possibly have already been aware of that at the time he made it. In the next chapter he is awoken in a female body, which is not described and seems to affect the main character as little more than a change in facebook status. The character has also moved to Texas from California with little indication as of how, and quickly becomes embroiled with a second character who seems to want his services in exchange for using the 'body' he now inhabits. It should also be noted that in the seventh chapter a line is virtually repeated between the first and second page.

Story Structure: The story is somewhat confusing, often resorting to dreams or sleeping as methods of changing from one scene to another. Several events occur too closely together or seem to feature awkward pacing that confused me as I read. On occasion, it seems as if the author contradicts themselves, such as the description of The Collapse, where one moment they refer to the television reporters reacting to the chaos, and a moment later indicate even the TV is silent, suggesting all forms of transmitters don't seem to work when the television is mentioned after their radio has already gone dead. At a certain point later in the book, the main character is enjoying ice cream though this seems extremely unlikely in post Collapse Texas.

Dialogue: The dialogue is natural sounding and establishes the main character well.

Introduction

The book provides a prologue that provides the flavor of 'cozy up to the bar, son, let me tell you a tale', as it describes a setting in the style of an experienced hand offering a newbie some advice.

Plot

Chapter one features a battlefield setting. The suicide squad is dropped down onto what is referred to as a 'dragon', to which most of the team is killed. Suffering serious injury, the main character thinks back to his 'payment', a request for the ability to travel. He is informed the request is illegal, and appears to be shot in the head. Chapter two sees him awakening apparently in Texas, within a female form. In exchange for its use he is asked to complete a task.

Chapter three the main character arrives in a garage, and after an event not seen by the reader, a previously unIntroduced mechanic is killed and the protagonist is asked to remove his head and carry it with him. Chapter five features the protagonist in the doctor's office getting checked out along with his grisly cargo acquired in the previous chapter. After an analysis in which something is jacked into his head and his condition analyzed, he is given a pistol to which he claims to have never loaded a weapon before, despite his earlier indicated military experience with the suicide squad. He is taught how

to use the weapon as they travel to a new location. Upon arrival, after a short time in the atrium a battle breaks out with creatures to which I was not able to form a clear picture of in my mind, nor was I entirely certain where they came from or what purpose this served to the story.