

SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

Vol. XXVI, No. 10; October, 2014

Don't miss the annual ICON Fest 12-14 Oct: <http://2014.iconfestival.org.il/about-icon/>

חדשות האגודה – אוקטובר 2014 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

פרס עינת

פרס לכתיבה ישראלית מקורית, בז'אנר הספרות הספקולטיבית: השנה העוסק בנושא "סודות".
109!! סיפורים כבר פורסמו [באתר הפרס](#). עשו לייק [לעמוד הפרס בפייסבוק](#).

פרס גפן

נפתחה ההצבעה בשלב הסופי של פרס גפן לשנת 2014! חברי אגודה יכולים להצביע כבר עכשיו [בטופס המקוון](#)!
 הציבור הרחב יוכל להצביע **בפסטיבל "אייקון 2014", ב-12-14 באוקטובר**.

מועדון הקריאה של החודש יעסוק בספרו של אייזיק אסימוב [האלים עצמם](#) כמחווה לנושא אייקון "סודות".
כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים ב**לוח האירועים** (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)
 לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף ל**רשימת התפוצה** או ל**דף האגודה**

בפייסבוק. <http://www.sf-f.org.il> More Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site:

The BAD News (☹):

NO ONE has contributed any Book or Film review this month.

Anyone volunteers for next month? ...

The BETTER News (👍) (or for some, the WORST News (👎)):

Zombie article part IV... buried at the bottom of this issue.

The BEST News (😊):

Leybl Botwinik will be at the Tel Aviv ICON festival

(<http://2014.iconfestival.org.il/about-icon/>) during Khol Hamoed Sukkot (October 12, 13, 14) and **WILL BE VERY GLAD TO MEET CYBERCOZEN**

READERS. Not sure exactly which days or which hours, but he will be mostly hovering around his son Nathaniel's stand – who will be promoting and selling (at discount) his Hebrew SF novel "*Anshey Hamaagal: Hizdamnut Shniya*" (see March 2014 Cybercozen issue for a review).

– Feel free to contact Leybl by phone or e-mail.

Quick Two line BIO: Leybl is the youngest (possibly the ONLY) living Yiddish SF writer this side of Jupiter (and CyberCozen assistant editor).

But first a word from our Zombies:

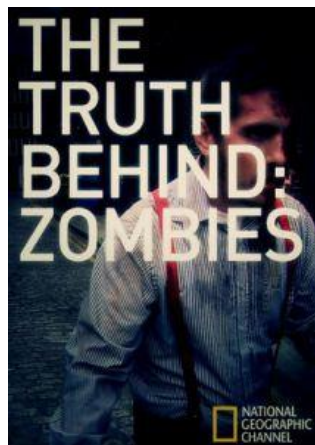
It seems that CyberCozen is not the only one writing about Zombies. Here's a very interesting review of a **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** documentary about Zombies! – Yes, believe it or not, even they've joined the bandwagon.

The review starts as follows:

Documentary Review: The Truth Behind: Zombies

by [Ashley D](#) • January 12, 2013

Think you know everything about Zombies? I bet you don't. Check out my review of the documentary. Seriously, read this NOW.



So I suffer from ridiculous insomnia and search Netflix nightly for stuff to watch. I decided not to watch my usual dramatic teenage TV shows (don't judge!) and stumbled upon a National Geographic documentary called THE TRUTH BEHIND: ZOMBIES. What I thought was a recap documentary about stuff I already knew turned into a whole new perspective on Zombies and its Apocalypse. So here goes my recap of this pretty kick-ass Nat Geo documentary... Read more here:

<http://www.trulydisturbing.com/2013/01/12/documentary-review-truth-behind-zombies/>

See the NG website: <http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/the-truth-behind-zombies>

Also, see the Discovery channel documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdAe18Xvs4Q>

UNDEAD Reborn – About Zombies – PART IV

by Leybl Botwinik

A note before: Some people have argued with me that Zombies have nothing to do with the real world and in particular Science Fiction. Unfortunately, the fact that experiments are being conducted in such areas as biological warfare and genetic mutations – it is not beyond the scope of CyberCozen to cover speculation of nasty things that we or others may need to contend with one day – and let's hope that day never arrives. [L.B.]

5.0 Humour and Love in Zombie Movies

The following movies all have a light tone within the otherwise dark story – whether with humor or romance. Again, the type of Zombie-ism is plague related, and each movie has Zombies with differing levels of 'intelligence'. Note that most have to do with Army experiments...

The advantage of seeing this set of movies, is that if you ever want to see a Zombie movie but are frightened by the more serious blood and gore, at least here everything is seen from a humorous or romantic perspective. For example, if a hand is cut off, it will 'run around', or a body cut in two, will have the legs part run off zig-zag-like.

Return of the Living Dead (1985)

This is just another permutation of the "Living Dead" series of movies, only with a lot of tongue-in-cheek humour.

The story begins with a store-room containing canisters from a past military experiment that have somehow gone AWOL (in this case, lost to the US Army) in a Kentucky medical supply warehouse. The

person in charge of the store-room is breaking in a junior worker. He proudly shows him the 'secret' canisters, and refers to a 'movie' from the late 60s – ***Night of the Living Dead*** – saying that it was based on a true story, only that the government/military changed it to make it look fictional. The store-room manager accidentally unleashes the gas and one undead body from one of the canisters. The gas spreads into the cold storage area where a corpse is kept for medical experiments. It then becomes animated and escapes, but is soon captured and cremated.

The cremated ashes flow up the chimney and are dispersed into the air. It starts raining, and the ashes mix with the rain and spread over a nearby cemetery. All the dead soon "come alive".

Typically, the undead here have relatively normal strength, but by virtue of their great number they can overpower humans. In contrast to other Zombie movies, these can also talk (for example they say: "...more brains..." – their favorite food). In addition they have a certain basic level of human intelligence, and in one instance, a Zombie calls the police dispatch from a police patrol car (after killing and feeding on the cops who came to investigate) and tells them to send more men ("...more brains...").

One captured undead half-skeletal corpse is interrogated by the survivors, and it says that they need to eat brain matter to alleviate the pain of being dead and rotting (they can 'feel' themselves deteriorating).

There's lots more fun and feasting in the movie, with elements of teen fright movies, since most of the 'stars' are teenagers out for a good time.

Dead Alive [aka Braindead] (1992)

Takes place in 1950s in a small town in New Zealand. A young man's very dominating mother is bitten by an infected Sumatran rat-monkey. She gets sick and dies. The son, who wanted to free himself from his domineering mother and date a Mexican girl from the town shop, is initially relieved to be free. However, she soon reappears as an undead Zombie, killing and eating dogs, nurses, friends, and neighbors. He is thus

burdened again by her and other undead he has captured and is hiding and feeding in his cellar – and must break up with the love of his life. It is a romantic comedy, with lots of blood spurting all over the place.

Wikipedia has a nice review:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braindead_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braindead_(film))

Shaun of the Dead (2004)

A man decides to turn his life around by winning back his ex-girlfriend, reconciling his relationship with his mother, and dealing with an entire community that has returned from the dead to eat the living. There is some good British humor here, starting with the premise – shown with subtle examples throughout the movie – of how some of us live a 'Zombie-like' existence as normal human beings: stumbling around and unaware of our surroundings, absorbed in our Smartphones, etc.

Corpse Bride (2005)

This is not a Zombie movie, but an intelligently scripted and highly enjoyable animation (for those who like dark humour) about the undead/dead. It tells the story of a shy groom who goes to the cemetery to practice his wedding vows. Inadvertently, he does so in the presence of a deceased young woman, who rises from the grave, assuming he has just married her. She then pulls him below (more than 6 feet under) – ignoring his protests of 'innocence', to meet her friends and family in the underworld.

Wasting Away (2007)

Army doctors trying to perfect a 'super-soldier' serum fail miserably. The biological chemicals are then sent away to be disposed of. One canister of the bio-chemicals falls off the army truck transporting them to be dumped. It rolls over to a bowling alley where it mixes with a container for the ice-cream making machine.

Four unwary teenagers eat the ice-cream that is now mixed with the fluid, plus an added factor of alcohol that one of the teenagers has added to it. They all die and become slow moving Zombies with

different parts of them falling off or being cut off.

So far, it would seem like a typical Zombie horror flic. However, there is an interesting twist to the movie. Because of the unexpected mixing of alcohol and ice cream (a dairy product), the Zombies “wake up” with a feeling of discomfiture, but thinking that they are totally normal. When they converse and move about – and look at each other, they are almost exactly the way they were previously. When the viewer or someone outside their circle views them, they are seen exactly as they are: staggering, malformed Zombies.

The Zombies are soon joined by a fifth person (a military person who knows all about the experiments and the lost canister) who also acts ‘normal’ like them, but who – in reality - is also dead.

The camera switches us back and forth between the group’s world view and the normal world looking at them. For example, when they are conversing they all look absolutely normal, even though one of them had to duct-tape his hand back on, and another has extensive shotgun wounds in his chest and his scalp keeps peeling off. They soon realize and are further reminded by the military person, that something is “wrong”. However, when they ‘look at’ and listen to normal people running away from them and talking at an accelerated rate, they are convinced that those are the ones who are in fact ‘infected’.

A second commendable and imaginative twist has them talking absolutely normally – and being seen to be absolutely normal – by certain people. It works out, that people who are very drunk and probably slowed down in speech and body movement – seem to see them and talk to them as if they were normal (same applies to the drunk who seems absolutely sober).

I enjoyed this one, mostly due to the subtle humor and good camera effects.

Dance of the Dead (2008)

This story is about some nerd guys who don’t go to the high-school prom (because they can’t get dates – or are too shy to try), but end up saving a group of survivors of a

Zombie attack. The plot is so completely obvious, and chock full of teenage/high school movie stereotypes – that if you switched the Zombies for witches/ ghosts/ aliens/ rat infestation/ etc., you wouldn’t need to change the script very much.

The movie begins with a scene in the local cemetery where the gravedigger is seen occasionally chopping off a hand or other part of the body of undead that periodically stick out from their graves. Apparently, the local nuclear power station has been leaking irradiated water into the ground – such that by prom night, all of the dead rise from their graves – in fact you see them actually popping out, jumping out, and seem to sometimes shoot out into the air. This and other scenes are quite funny, with some added romance between the ‘normal’ student girls and the nerd boys.

One interesting note is, that the Zombies stop their rampaging/feasting/etc. when a guitar-playing rock trio plays them music.

Doghouse (2009)

This is a very chauvinistic male-oriented movie, where a group of buddies accompany their recently divorced friend to a small town in England to ‘recuperate’ and re-energize (despite the fact that their wives/girl friends don’t want them to go). When they arrive, they find all the men dead and mangled, and the women in a ‘Zombie-like state’ killing all the males with axes, swords, butcher cleavers, etc. The women have some sort of intelligence level – and unfortunately for the men, most of **them** don’t.

The reason that all of this is happening, is that the military unleashed something (drug or virus?) affecting only females. This was to test a future weapon. The fail-safe (a high-frequency sound that only woman can hear) would have stopped the women in their tracks before they went on the killing spree – but there was a glitch in the system, and the military personnel could not turn on the signal – and were subsequently wiped out by all the women in the town, and probably also by any female military personnel.

Zombieland (2009)

This is a very interesting story, told mostly from one Teenager's perspective. He is, or believes to be, the sole survivor in a particular region (and maybe in the entire US or even the world) – and hopes to stay alive any which way. In order to do so, he has set a series of rules for himself regarding how to deal with Zombies and survive – even if he meets up with other survivors. His main rule is to stay alive by staying alone, and not getting involved with others. Eventually he does meet up with a few survivors, including two sisters. Being a semi-romantic film, he falls in love with one of them.

One of the special effects in the movie was that often his thoughts would appear as floating sentences on screen, as if he or someone had typed them as he thought them. Thus, as he rechecks his "rules" we would see them numbered and 'printed' on screen.

Cockneys vs Zombies (2012)

This story is about a group of inept youngsters who decide to rob a bank so they can use the money to save their grandfather's retirement home from being demolished by developers. Meanwhile at a building site, some workers dig up an old graveyard and they get bitten by the "undead" who were 'stored' there and inadvertently released. This sets off a chain reaction of more and more people getting bitten and reverting to Zombies.

As the bank robbery unfolds, the inept gang is cornered by the police. However, when they exit the building, expecting to be apprehended by the authorities, they find that the policemen that came to arrest them are all dead as a result of the horde of Zombies.

They then realize that something is very wrong in London, and that they have to get to the retirement home before the Zombies do! In the meantime, the old-timers have organized themselves to beat off the Zombies and try to survive.

Warm Bodies (2013)

This is a more positive view on Man-vs-Zombie relations, and includes several interesting elements: Zombies that begin to think and feel, and act more normally than what we are used to seeing in Zombie movies, as well as what seems to be a unique love affair between a normal teenage girl and a Zombie boy – our two heroes in the story (quite heartwarming in my opinion). Our undead hero also has an off-camera voice that talks to the film audience, explaining what he feels and thinks, and why he does things.

The film offers hope for humanity in first showing us that there is a fairly large and organized group of survivors in a fortified city, who are in constant war with the Zombie population. The surviving humans send out a group of several young people to scavenge for food, medicines and other supplies, only to be attacked by our hero and his buddies.

The sole survivor of the humans is a young girl. After eating the brain of her boyfriend, our hero takes her under his wing to an abandoned airplane where he 'lives' and where he stores a vast amount of mementoes. Due to his eating the boyfriend's brain, he begins to have flashes of that boy's memories, including feelings for the girl. In an attempt to sneak her out to get her to safety – to her fortified home – he protects her from the other Zombies. In fact, he even manages to organize those that – like him – have some minor intellect and feeling left in them. Not only do these Zombies have to contend with the humans hunting them, but also with other Zombies called "Bonies" that have lost all elements of humanity and have devolved into remorseless and vicious killing machines. Being a romantic movie with positive elements, of course the good guys win. In this film – to paraphrase a well-known expression – not all Zombies are dead the same.

Next time: *Zombies in comics, books, and in the popular culture.*

