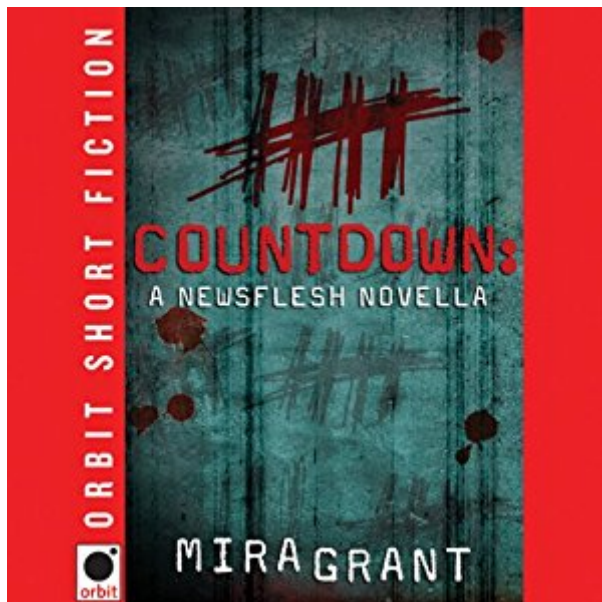


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Countdown: A Newsflesh Novella



Synopsis

The year is 2014, the year everything changed. We cured cancer. We cured the common cold. We died. This is the story of how we rose. When will you rise? Countdown is a novella set in the world of Feed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An "intro" of sorts to the entire Newsflesh series, Countdown is a great start. This can be read in any order with the other novels and novellas. Giving a deeper and darker look at how this transformation from humanity started. I'm a bio-thriller nerd. I absolutely love when an author can get me into the BSL-4 labs in my head or make me think about viruses and diseases in a new and interesting light. The virus that takes hold throughout the Newsflesh series was pretty well explained in the three novels, but Grant goes into much more detail in Countdown. Seriously, I already enjoyed the first two books of the Newsflesh series, but I never thought I'd want something to be longer in my whole life. This is the intro that all of us wish was written into Feed, but was so much better. It gives all of the details that you wanted and covers a few bases that had you scratching your head after Feed. If Mira wrote a longer version of this novella, I would buy it again in a heartbeat. Yes, it's a novella, which means that it's short. Do yourself a favor and check this out. If you haven't picked up Feed and were wondering what all the fuss was about, this could help change your mind. Or if you did read Feed and wanted to know more like I did -- Countdown will help answer some of your unanswered questions about the Newsflesh world.

Mira Grant aka Seanan McGuire has become one of my favorite authors - and the zombie genre has NEVER been at the top of my reading list. But Grant is such a stunning writer that the first two books in her Newsflesh trilogy - *Feed* and *Deadline* - have become two of my favorite books EVER any genre. And I can hardly wait until "Blackout," the final book in the trilogy is out in May 2012. "Countdown" was just what I thought it was going to be - a prequel to the first two books. It goes into much more detail on the WHYS and HOWS of the pandemic that started the zombie apocalypse. It takes place in the year 2014, so no, Georgia and/or Shaun Mason, the protagonists of the trilogy do not play a role in it (the trilogy starts in the year 2039). The writing was top notch. Grant really has a gift for making the science understandable. While you could read this novella first, it is probably a good idea to read it after "Feed" and "Deadline" so you get the full impact.

This was an ok novella... A bit of a let down after reading the Newsflesh Trilogy. What worked:-- I liked seeing the doctors who created the virus and the jerk who set it free as far as understanding how it all began.-- And despite the peeks at the Mason family before Shaun and Georgia became a part of it, the POV of Marigold was most effective at explaining how innocent lives were being affected.-- I liked at the end of each "chapter" they showed the news reports. What didn't work:-- The writing was frantic and vague; I know it was supposed to be a short story, but if a prequel is going to be invented it should add to the story somehow; it needed a little development.-- I wish the cause and effect had been built upon a little more; the Mason's are lovely before the infection and despite the devastating loss of their son I don't really see how they transformed into rating-hungry villains.

So Mira Grant is pretty much the boss of zombie fiction right now, and rightfully so. She doesn't just write about nasty zombie attacks, she writes about nasty zombie attacks WITH a super-creative and intensely indepth backstory and multidimensional characters. This little e-book novella answered a lot of my questions about the series. The Alexander Kellis storyline broke my heart! I can't wait to read "Blackout", and this satisfied my craving for more Grant zombies. I wish this was expanded into an entire prequel novel- I'm just greedy, I want more! I know the focus is on the aftermath and the rising, but the story about how it all began is so interesting as well, and Grant has enough writing talent to expand her universe even more.

A prequel to the Newsflesh trilogy that counts down to the impending rise of zombies across America and beyond. Grant chronicles the cure for the common cold and the cure for cancer by

geneticists and virologists. These countdowns become more rapid as the novella progresses, until the inevitable occurs. It is harrowing to think how the most optimistic doctors and scientists' experiments could turn so ugly so quickly. Wonderful addition to the trilogy.

Countdown is a short prequel to the Newsflesh series. I have previously reviewed the first two books in the series: Feed and Deadline. I read the Kindle version of Countdown so it didn't have page numbers but I think it probably has only about 65 pages. It's a detailed account of the days in 2014 leading up to The Rising. Mira Grant is an excellent world builder. Adding more details to the story of how the Kellis-Amberlee virus was created and spread only made the possibility that something like that could really happen seem even more believable to me. There wasn't any brand new information in this book but it was a nice dose of the Newsflesh world to help tide me over until the final book, Blackout, is released this summer. I highly recommend Countdown for fans of the Newsflesh series.

This was a great read. Any fan of the feed trilogy will love this and for those who haven't, if you enjoy excellent writing and zombies you can't go wrong with this. As others have said, I would recommend reading the trilogy first, if only to better appreciate all the information and the story itself. I have read the others and this was so awesome. I read a ton of books and have found myself disappointed a lot lately with the quality of books out there. Not the series, they were and are the best books I've read in a long time and this is no exception. I could read about this world everyday, it's so realistic.

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