

TYPES OF APOCALYPSES

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In apocalyptic fiction the world is in the process of ending, in post-apocalyptic fiction, the world has already ended and what is left of humanity is trying to survive and often rebuild (Seisser, 2014).

Within these genres, the world-ending apocalypses take many different forms the most common of which include those outlined below.



PANDEMICS/VIRAL OUTBREAKS

This form of apocalypse typically involves a highly contagious pathogen/disease wreaking havoc on humanity.

Examples in Popular Fiction:

- Contagion (movie)
- Death Struck Year by Makiia Lucier (novel)
- Tom Clancy's The Division 2 (video game)



ZOMBIES

This form of apocalypse is often connected to pandemics and outbreaks as it typically involves the outbreak of a disease or pathogen that leads to either the dead coming to life or the living turning into mindless monsters.

Examples in Popular Fiction:

- Dread Nation by Justina Ireland (novel)
- The Walking Dead (TV show)
- The Last of Us (video game)



ENVIRONMENTAL

This form of apocalypse occurs when climate change or natural disasters either make the planet inhospitable to human life or bring about societal collapse.

Examples in Popular Fiction:

- The Day After Tomorrow (movie)
- Solstice by P.J. Hoover (novel)
- The Road by Cormac McCarthy (novel)



NUCLEAR

This form of apocalypse arises when nuclear warfare or any other type of nuclear breakdown renders the planet largely inhabitable due to high levels of radiation.

Examples in Popular Fiction:

- Fallout (video game series)
- War Girls by Tochi Onyebuchi (novel)
- The 100 (TV Show)



EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

This form of apocalypse arises when a threat from space threatens the life of humans on earth. This threat can take many forms from asteroids, gamma radiation, and solar flares to life from other planets invading earth.

Examples in Popular Fiction:

- The Sound of Stars by Alechia Dow (novel)
- The Last 8 by Laura Pohl (novel)



TECHNOLOGICAL

This form of apocalypse is typically one of two extremes. Either AI and other manmade technology becomes sentient and turns against humanity or the sudden loss of technology causes humans to turn on each other.

Examples in Popular Fiction:

- The Matrix (movie series)
- Partials by Dan Wells (novel)
- Horizon Zero Dawn (video game)