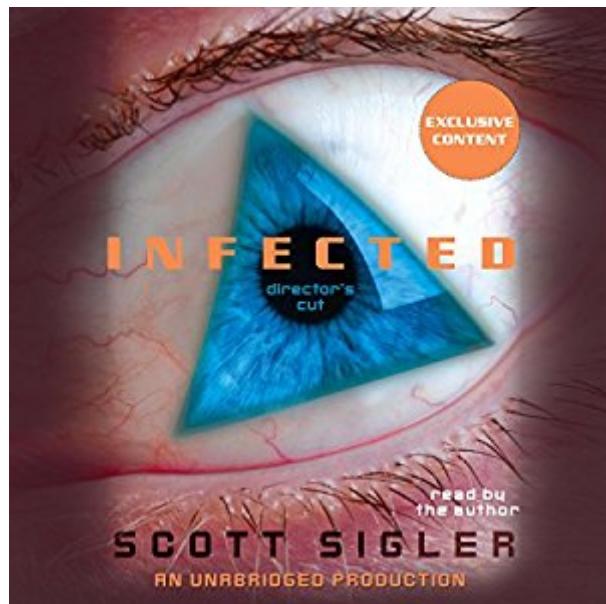


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Infected: A Novel



Synopsis

A terrifying thriller that will crawl beneath your skin . . . and leave fresh blood on every page. A mysterious disease is turning thousands of ordinary Americans into raving, paranoid murderers who inflict brutal horrors on strangers, their own families, and even themselves. And one morning, ex-football star Perry Dawsey awakens to find mysterious welts growing all over his body. Soon Perry finds himself acting and thinking strangely, hearing voices, fighting uncontrollable rage . . . he is infected. Worse, the disease wants something from him, something that could alter the fate of the human race. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 25 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Customer Reviews

The first time I read this book was when I picked it randomly from the shelf at the library. I intended to just read the first few pages to get a feel for it, and the next thing I knew I was sitting on the floor next to the shelf utterly engrossed. I'd been on a sci-fi/end of the human race via plague kick for awhile, so the title and cover art caught my attention. But this, this made the last handful of 'oh no, the government/bad guys made a virus and now the fbi/cia/random dude with no medical background has to cure it' novels I'd read seem dull and wholly unoriginal. (They were, but that's beside the point.) The premise of the story (alien spores infect people and make them do horrible things) is terrifyingly clever. I've read alien invasion stories, I've read plague stories, I've read people who murder each other because voices in their head told them to stories, and Infected is by far, the best combination of those three I've read to date. Horror books don't scare me, and neither did this one. It did one better. It unsettled me. The notion that you could wake up one day, and have to live

through what the protagonist does is chilling; it's not 'aliens come from the sky and shoot lasers', it's Earth just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time (which is explored further in the next two novels.) You can't see it coming, and by the time you realize, it's too late. If you're iffy on whether or not you want to spend the money, pick it up at the library. Give it a read. Seriously. I don't care if you buy it, but I highly suggest you read it. It's a quick read, and I promise even if you're not squeamish, if you think you've read it all, there's at least one point in the story that will probably make you cringe. And if you are squeamish. Well. Pick it up and try anyway. You never know, right?

This novel fits into the "plague" genre of fiction with a slight twist. Instead of the infectious agent being a germ, virus or bacteria, the infectious agent in this case is an alien construct which uses human bodies as a host. The warning I would have for a potential reader of this novel is that it is incredibly violent, graphic and many times disgusting in its description of the process by which the "aliens" take charge of their hosts and the resulting behavior of those "infected". I've probably never read a more descriptive account of biological processes and responses than I encountered in this book, and while I was okay with it, I assure you that many readers will not finish this novel as a result. This is the first of a trilogy and as a result, no ultimate resolution is found by the end of book one. It is a relatively short and easily read novel, so no great time commitment is required to read all three. As I write this review, I am about 50 pages into the sequel and can recommend it to those that are on the fence after having read this novel.

I have read "Infected" before but wanted to reacquaint myself before reading the next two books in the series - "Contagious" and the just released "Pandemic". As I reread this tale, I remembered the gut wrenching first go round with this book. This book is NOT for the weak of stomach or the those who go all namby pamby when reading about guts and gore. Triangular growths are showing up on people around the country - nasty little sentient growths that seem to have a PURPOSE for what they are doing. Not a bacteria and not a virus but then what are they? But these growths don't count on the determination and willpower of "Scary" Perry Dawsey, ex-football player who had his values beat into him by an over zealous father. Also in the picture, trying to track down carriers of these "triangles" are members of the CIA and the CDC - by executive order. Great horror/sci fi tale but be prepared to control your gag reflex! Oh, and I love the cover art - excellent.

Infected was the first book by Scott Sigler that I listened to a few years ago. Since then, Scott Sigler is my go-to author for anything horror related. I was so addicted to his audiobooks, I knew I had to have hardcopies as well of his books. Infected is the first book in the series and each following book falls perfectly in step with it. He's also great at weaving each of his books together, you'll find characters from this book in other books, cities are the same and you can kind of timeline it and know who was where and what happened. Absolutely amazing author.

Simply an amazing story. Sigler takes a basic concept such as sickness paranoia and turns it into a truly horrifying yet captivating story. There is definitely a twist from the standard virus pandemic genre and it works here. The book was well-written, the plot was intriguing and the characters were interesting enough for me to want to know more with every page. With Perry, you truly get a front seat to his descent into madness, and despite everything he does, you still root for him (even though you are completely terrified of him at the same time!). I just think about the phrase "chicken scissors" and I get creeped out! Even though the book is fairly long, it kept my interest throughout until the very end and that is what you want from a book. The book is also a little pricey and I previously stayed away from purchasing because of that, leaning more towards independent authors charging less than \$5. but I definitely found the price well worth it. With cheaper books, you are honestly getting what you pay for and most of the time (not all of the time), the quality is completely lacking. Here, definitely not the case. It was nice for a change, to see what a real author can do with this type of genre. I will definitely read more of his work.

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