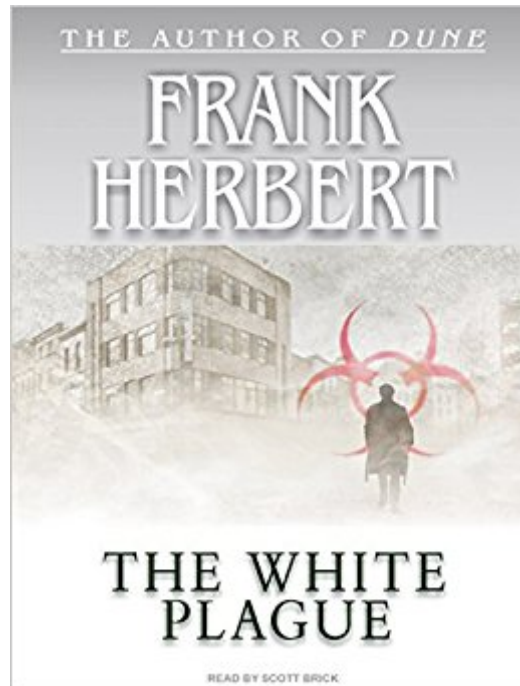




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The White Plague



Synopsis

A warm day in Dublin, a crowded street corner. Suddenly, a car-bomb explodes, killing and injuring scores of innocent people. From the second-floor window of a building across the street, a visiting American watches, helpless, as his beloved wife and children are sacrificed in the heat and fire of someone else's cause. From this shocking beginning, the author of the phenomenal Dune series has created a masterpiece. The White Plague is a marvelous and terrifyingly plausible blend of fiction and visionary theme. It tells of one man's revenge, of the man watching from the window who is pushed over the edge of sanity by the senseless murder of his family and who, reappearing several months later as the so-called Madman, unleashes a terrible vengeance upon the human race. For John Roe O'Neill is a molecular biologist who has the knowledge, and now the motivation, to devise and disseminate a genetically carried plague—a plague to which, like those that scourged mankind centuries ago, there is no antidote, but one that zeros in, unerringly and fatally, on women. As the world slowly recognizes the reality of peril, as its politicians and scientists strive desperately to save themselves and their society from the prospect of human extinction, so does Frank Herbert grapple with one of the great themes of contemporary life: the enormous dangers that lurk at the dark edges of science. The White Plague is a prophetic, believable, and utterly compelling novel.

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Customer Reviews

"A tale of awesome revenge." ---The Cincinnati Enquirer

Frank Herbert's most popular works are the well-known Dune books: Dune, Dune Messiah, Children of Dune, and the extraordinary bestseller God Emperor of Dune. Scott Brick has recorded over five hundred audiobooks, won over forty AudioFile Earphones Awards, and twice received Audie Awards for his work. Scott was chosen as Publishers Weekly's 2007 Narrator of the Year, and he has been named a Golden Voice by AudioFile magazine.

I read the paperback of this book 20 years ago and I have liked this book ever since. I think it is a great book by a great author with a great speculative ending based on potential scientific outcomes! I suspect that since 9-11 books like this are too how-to explicit to make into a movie but I think that if we could go back 40 years and make the movie of the book the movie version would be as valuable a contribution to the SF genre, and society, as the original 'The Day the Earth Stood Still' (the TDTSS remake, in my mind is too apocalyptic and no longer SF!) Buy this book on kindle if you must but, my advice, is to find a hard copy (preferably hardcover) and keep it around for your later enjoyment.

Frank Herbert is one of the finest writers of all time. He is able to address just about any topic and over the course of a highly prolific career has done just about that. He has inspired many another author as well as opened many new ideas in the area of science fiction. All of today's and tomorrows problems have been imagined and played out on his canvas! Reading his stories is food and fun for the most fertile of imaginations!

This is one of those books that you want to re-write so bad that it haunts you. Especially now with all that has happened during the past 6 months. The beginning premise is currently shown at your local theater under the title of "Collateral Damage." However, the White Plague is way beyond that intellect. There are places in the book that drags on and on. This is the area that you want to re-write. I think if you approach the reading with a re-write in mind, you may enjoy it very much. Evolving of mankind does not fare well in this book. Maybe you could give it a little hope.

I've read this book twice and just started reading for the third time! Forgot how it draws you in! Frank Herbert is an excellent writer. In this book he addresses the anger that comes with terrorism and loss. You never know how someone will react to tragedy. I hated the bad guy, but felt sorry for the bad things that brought him to this point!

This is one of my favorites of Herbert's though it's less well-known that his Dune series. His exploration of our world and its designs and dangers is just as poignant as when he delves into fantasy, and just as effectively shows us ourselves, at our best and our worst. I'll be using this in my college course soon, and will update after the semester with student feedback.

I read this book almost thirty years ago. Gave my original copy to a new school when it needed library books. If you like Herbert or end of the world stories with good characters this is a great read. Herbert's best after the original three Dune books.

Although there was some fantasizing about the details of the technology, it is absolutely possible that some genetic plagues are now possible. The only problem is we don't know who controls them.

Its F. Herbert, "nuff said.

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