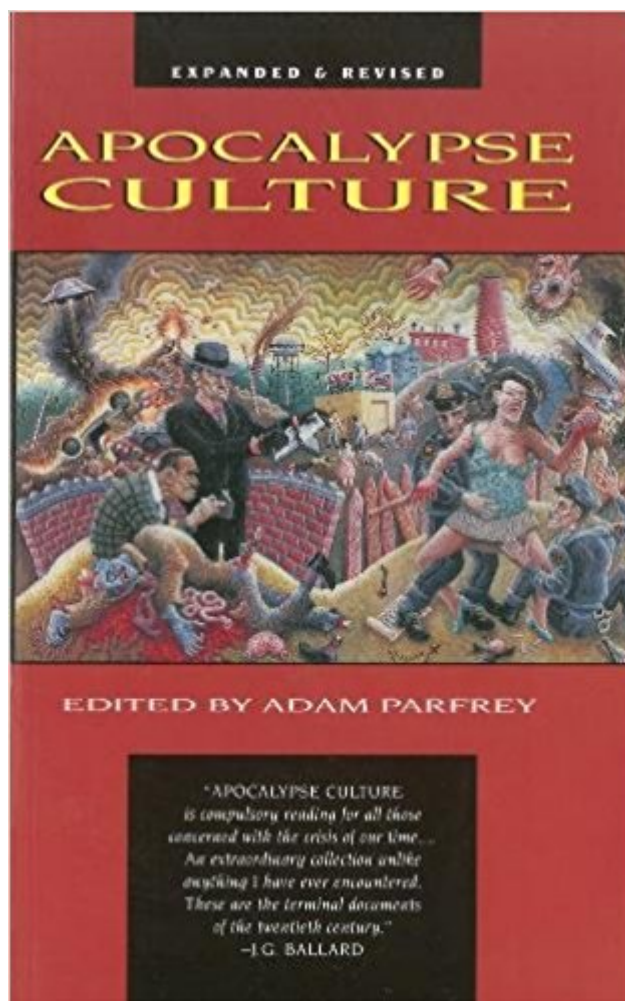


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Apocalypse Culture



Synopsis

"Apocalypse Culture is compulsory reading for all those concerned with the crisis of our times. An extraordinary collection unlike anything I have ever encountered. These are the terminal documents of the twentieth century." — J.G. Ballard

Book Information

Paperback: 362 pages

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Customer Reviews

For years I've been a little leery of this book. First published in 1987, this anthology of doomster essays has become a fixture on the bookshelves of every Tom, Pierced Dick, and Harry. After finally reading it, I have to admit that my prejudice against those who think that being cool means reading lots of ReSearch magazines kept me away from what is actually a fascinating volume, wherein the most absurd, inexcusable positions are defended with calm intelligence and witty rationality. With essays ranging from the sexual liberation of necrophiliacs to strong cases against art and agriculture, editor Adam Parfrey's collection is one that Tristan Tzara would enjoy, if he were to rise from his mouldy grave in search of good bathroom reading.

Since his influential collection, *Apocalypse Culture*, was first released in 1987, the award-winning writer Adam Parfrey has been credited for discovering and revealing the inner workings of cults and unusual pop culture histories. With "Love, Sex, Fear, Death," Parfrey has captured the cooperation of primary players in the most secretive and talked about cult of our time.

I'm still reading it. It's ok. Probably best if read between the angry ages of 17 and 24.

Amazingly I've seen these for sale on the shelves of Borders in the past. Thought "Special Interest" literature wasn't available unless you knew what you were ordering in advance somehow. Still this is a good and dark and disturbing collection of bizarre fringe opinions. Beware this book. It's totally work safe and family friendly, if the workplace is undergoing a post office style job complaint and the family is like that famous "Fifth Beatle" who ruined the song "Helter Skelter".

I remember when this came out. Somewhat like a previous commenter had mentioned, this was on the shelf of every wannabe anti-hero of the 90s. It is very interesting, informative and well compiled. The doom and gloom can be cloying, but like the title says, it's "Apocalypse Culture!" Editing is a different matter. There are some mistakes and it seems that Parfrey sometimes wishes to drive home the fact that he is no dilettante by generously peppering the entire work with sesquipedalian words (like so). I know I am happy to have it again.

I was looking for the First Edition since it contains James Shelby Downard's essay called King Kill 33. I was expecting it to be more rare and thus more expensive, but it just happened to be the cheapest one. The condition is fairly decent and I have yet to read it all. Just be sure to click the link in the product description to the other page that has the first editions if that is the one you want like I did.

Heady book with a profound impact for thinking types. Well worth the read. Shocking, provocative and memorable. Then again, that's to be expected from Feral House.

Wonderful book for those with attention deficit disorder. Great toilet read. Several different contributing essay writers make this a must have for the macabre.

I found a quote from Adam Parfrey on a flier for one of the old school black metal bands I listen to, so I looked him up and decided to give this book a try. I was expecting a cornucopia of alternative thought pieces from the '80s. What I got? Welp, it's trash. I'll be upfront and say I only read 30 pages- I cannot stand to read any more. The book opens with an absolutely jumbled essay on Lycanthropy and the "Wolf-Nature" in man, penned by Parfrey himself. Which might be cool, except

Parfrey never really makes a point with it. He does however do the "Conspiracy Writer Thing" where he takes a bunch of lofty topics like Judeo-Christian behavior suppression, the worship of Sirius (the dog star), Aleister Crowley, etc and strings them all together because apparently that is the key to decoding the secrets of this world. The essay concludes with a sweet picture of a dog biting some guy. The next piece is an interview with a woman who engages in Necrophilia. No gripes here, I was not particularly interested or disinterested. From there it moves on to the "Infernal Texts" section of the book. This includes a poem by Mel Lyman about turning the Earth into an asteroid belt via nuclear apocalypse, an essay by Louis Wolfson which expresses the immorality of allowing mankind to survive, and a paragraph(!!) by Dan Burros which explains the act of killing as a necessity for mankind's advancement. It's at this point I reach the opinion that I am not reading a well-edited collection of alternative media, but rather a pile of shock texts. I can see how this might be interesting in the '80s when you couldn't go on the internet and access unlimited content. But today, you could friend 10 random degenerates on Facebook and get this quality of writing in your news feed. Personally, I enjoy occultism, conspiracies, UFOs, all that fun stuff! But only when it's explored from a critical, scholarly perspective. As the reviewer below me says, this book is basically just full of sick and twisted essays. Apocalypse Culture is juvenile and I don't recommend it.

Apocalypse Culture is a gritty look back at a time before the Internet and the explosion of the Information age when publishing houses like Feral House (and let's be fair, there were and still are very few publishing companies like Feral House) were the reading audience's main window into the more obscure deviant, bizarre, and downright disturbing counter/sub-cultures of the 80's. Much of this anthology is comprised of articles written for obscure counter-culture magazines, as well as hand-made zines and handwritten letters or flyers, and is highly reminiscent of a time when the small press and self publishing were almost a form of revolutionary guerrilla tactics. Apocalypse Culture, which has seen two upgrades (including a 25th anniversary edition) and a sequel, is chock full of dark side of human nature that was not normally available to the general public, from necrophiliacs and masochists to schizophrenics and conspiracy theorists. Everything from Lycanthropy to Eugenics is touched upon, and there are enough iconic personalities represented - Full Force Frank (confessed psychopath and publisher of how-to mass murder newsletters), Antone LaVey (Founder of the Church of Satan), G.G. Allin (Punk Rock Singer), Joe Coleman (Artist/Performance Artist), Peter Sotos (Controversial Writer), to name just a few. Some of the work in Apocalypse Culture may seem a bit mild compared to what one can scrounge up with a simple Google search these days, but there are still materials to be found that even today are somewhat

taboo. But more importantly, this collection of taboo materials is a snapshot of a cultural component that many people are not even aware existed (and to an extent still exists), so for many reading this anthology will be like lifting a rock to see what's been lurking under the surface of the past. Not for the weak of heart, fragile souls, or the easily offended, but highly recommended to those who are unafraid to stare into the abyss.

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