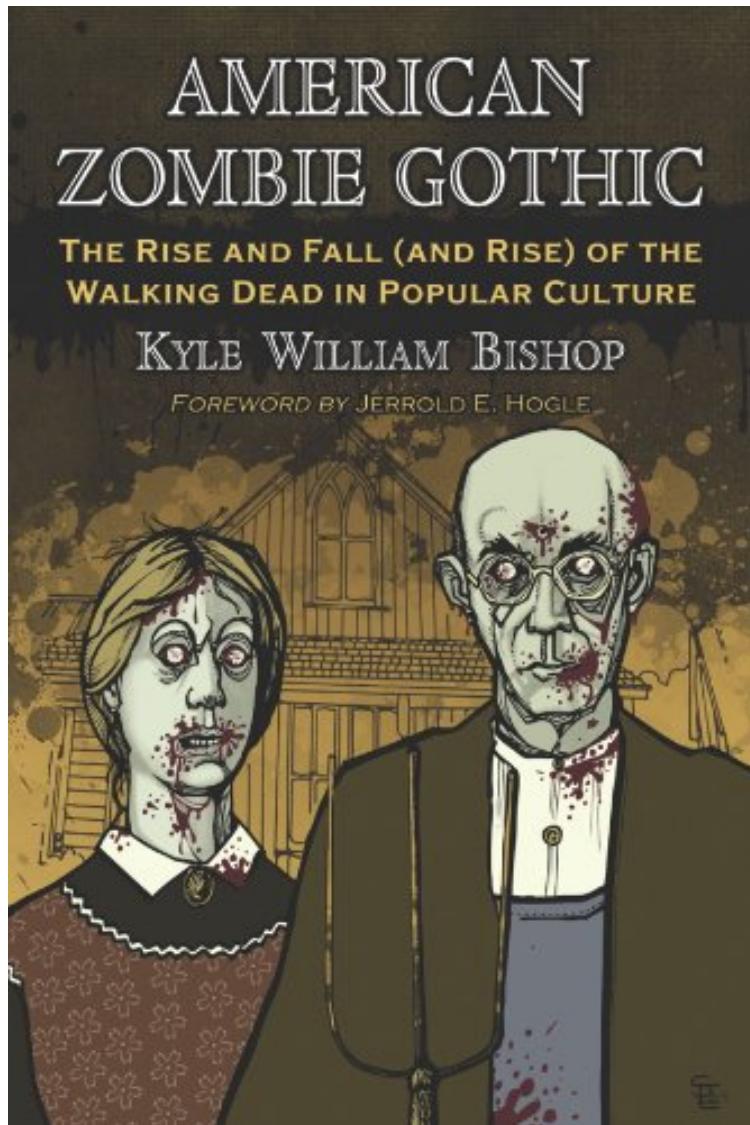


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# American Zombie Gothic: The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the Walking Dead in Popular Culture (Contributions to Zombie Studies)

*Kyle William Bishop*  
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Kyle William Bishop : American Zombie Gothic: The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the Walking Dead in Popular Culture (Contributions to Zombie Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Zombie Gothic: The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the Walking Dead in Popular Culture (Contributions to Zombie Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Customerinteresting, if needlessly wordy book. It will spoil films for you.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Understanding the Rhetoric of Pop CultureBy Matthew D. BartonI've been using this book as a text in a course on the Rhetoric of Popular Culture, which I've themed around The Walking Dead series. What I like about Bishop's book is that it provides a critical history of the zombie in pop culture in a provocative, yet approachable style for students. The takeaways from this book are enormous--students come to see pop culture in a whole new light, and Bishop's writing exemplifies how these topics can be analyzed and written about cogently and clearly. Thus, the book serves not just as a useful text for understanding the subject, but also as a model for students struggling to learn good academic writing. I highly recommend it.7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Brains...By Shannon PeaseAmerican Zombie Gothic: The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the Walking Dead in Popular Culture... by Kyle William BishopThis review was written for LibraryThing Early Reviewers.As a fan of the horror sub-genre of zombies I found this book both interesting and enlightening. First of all, Mr. Bishop's sources are well documented and from what I found, reliable. As a zombie fan they were also helpful. I was able to add other books and movies that I haven't read or watched or some I would like to revisit. Not many people that I know will watch a zombie movie and wonder why the fictional creature was invented or the deeper meaning behind zombies. Mr. Bishop takes the reader on a historical voyage of the zombies chronological existence beginning in the folklore of Haiti to modern day apocalyptic fears. This book goes deeper into zombies and their meaning to us than I expected. I found myself saying "oh okay" a lot and agreeing with his points. I recommend this book to anyone who likes zombie stories or even to someone with a zombie fear (looking at it from Mr. Bishop's point of view might just make you a fan.) review by shayrp

Zombie stories are peculiarly American, as the creature was born in the New World and functions as a reminder of the atrocities of colonialism and slavery. The voodoo-based zombie films of the 1930s and '40s reveal deep-seated racist attitudes and imperialist paranoia, but the contagious, cannibalistic zombie horde invasion narrative established by George A. Romero has even greater singularity. This book provides a cultural and critical analysis of the cinematic zombie tradition, starting with its origins in Haitian folklore and tracking the development of the subgenre into the twenty-first century. Closely examining such influential works as Victor Halperin's *White Zombie*, Jacques Tourneur's *I Walked with a Zombie*, Lucio Fulci's *Zombi 2*, Dan O'Bannon's *The Return of the Living Dead*, Danny Boyle's *28 Days Later*, and, of course, Romero's entire *The Living Dead* series, it establishes the place of zombies in the Gothic tradition. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

"In this seminal study, Bishop navigates well the oil and water-like mix of serious analysis and zombie cinema. It isn't often that one comes across Marxian dialectics and graphic descriptions of cannibalism in the same paragraph, but Bishop's understated style makes it work." --Library JournalAbout the AuthorKyle William Bishop is an assistant professor at Southern Utah University, where he teaches American literature and culture, film studies, fantasy literature, and English composition. He has presented and published a variety of papers on popular culture and cinematic adaptation.