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The Fall: Book Two Of The Strain Trilogy



Synopsis

A cross between *The Hot Zone* and *Salem's Lot*. "Entertainment Weekly" cannot wait to see where Del Toro and Hogan take us next. "James Rollins, New York Times bestselling author of *Bloodline* The wait is over! Guillermo del Toro, one of Hollywood's most popular and imaginative storytellers (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *Hellboy*) and Hammett Award-winning thriller writer Chuck Hogan (*Prince of Thieves*) return with *The Fall* the second blood-chilling volume in their critically acclaimed, New York Times bestselling *Strain* Trilogy. *The Fall* picks up where *The Strain* left off with a vampiric infection spreading like wildfire across America as a small band of heroes struggles to save the dwindling human race from the vampire plague. Horror fiction and dark fantasy fans will be swept up in this epic story that bestselling author Nelson DeMille describes as "Bram Stoker meets Stephen King meets Michael Crichton."

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Customer Reviews

After unleashing a vampire plague on New York City in *The Strain* (*The Strain Trilogy*), filmmaker Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *Hellboy*) and Chuck Hogan (*The Town: A Novel*) are back to finish off humanity in the appropriately-titled sequel *The Fall*. While *The Strain* spent a great deal of

time on vampire biology and the spread of the virus, *The Fall* gets right to the struggle against the scourge. With the city (and soon the world) falling all around them, vampire hunter and Holocaust survivor Abraham Setrakian and his allies (which now include gang leaders, CDC researchers, an exterminator and an aging Mexican wrestler!) mount a fierce resistance to the vampire strain. Their struggle against the vampire overlord known as the Master brings them in contact with the very first vampires, who want the Master stopped for their own reasons. If *The Empire Strikes Back* taught us anything, it's that middle volumes in trilogies are downers. *The Fall* is no exception. Our heroes get battered and beaten, and the ending is so far from happy that you wonder if there will be anything left to save in book 3. The fight goes on though, and the story is so very compelling.

Being a huge Guillermo Del Toro fan ("*Pan's Labyrinth*" was easily my favorite film of the year it was released), I was so stoked to hear he was partnering to author a modern vampire epic. It is not an exaggeration to say that "*The Strain*" was something I was super excited to read. But, probably unlike many other reviewers here, I actually did not like "*The Strain*." While its early chapters were creepily ominous and the creature conception was strong and unique, I just felt like that novel lacked a bit of heart. More concerned with staging battles and set-up, I didn't particularly care about the characters. The authors introduced a massive cast but, for some reason, I was disconnected from the humanity of the tale. It's hard to appreciate an epic battle when you're somewhat ambivalent about its participants. That said, I feel that "*The Fall*" has more than made up for what I felt was cold about "*The Strain*"--and I'm pleased to look forward to the final chapter! Picking up immediately after the disappointing encounter with the Master, we are quickly reintroduced to the primary cast. The story remains the same, but a secret agenda for the fate of the Earth is uncovered throughout the pages. Vampire hunter Abraham Setrakian is still one of the story's most compelling characters. If anyone steps to the forefront in this chapter--it is him. He is the glue that holds the disparate members of a ragtag band together--including a CDC official, an exterminator, a street tough and a retired wrestler (my personal favorite). While the Master is still pure evil, I actually preferred the human antagonist Eldritch Palmer who uses his power and money to secure a place in the final plan.

Although I had long intended to read Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan's *Strain* novels, getting the opportunity to read and review the concluding novel in the trilogy is what finally spurred me to do so, checking the first two novels out on audiobook from my local library. Over the years I've tried to read most of the major vampire novels and I can confidently state that this is one of the very best

ever written in the genre. It is also a marvelous antidote to the rather awful string of vampire depictions of recent years. The romanticizing of vampires that took place in the novels of Anne Rice and Laurell K. Hamilton and reached its nadir in the Twilight series has led to a vast increase in the volume of vampire literature, if not its quality. Del Toro and Hogan in these wonderful books want to return the genre to its origins, in which vampires are terrifying monsters, not romanticized potential lovers for innocent young girls. THE FALL and THE NIGHT ETERNAL continue the story begun in THE STRAIN, as The Master, the youngest of The Ancients, a group of vampires whose history extend back to Biblical times, implements his plan to enslave the human race. In these two books the group of heroes established in the first novel, Setrakian, Eph, Fet, Nora, Gus, and the mysterious Mr. Quinlan continue their struggle against the Master and his minions. In no series of vampire novels has the plight of the human race ever been so extreme or so dire. Three things stand out in the Strain Trilogy. First, the plot is far more satisfying and complex than any of the romanticized vampire series. Second, the characters are far more believably developed than in other novels in the series.

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