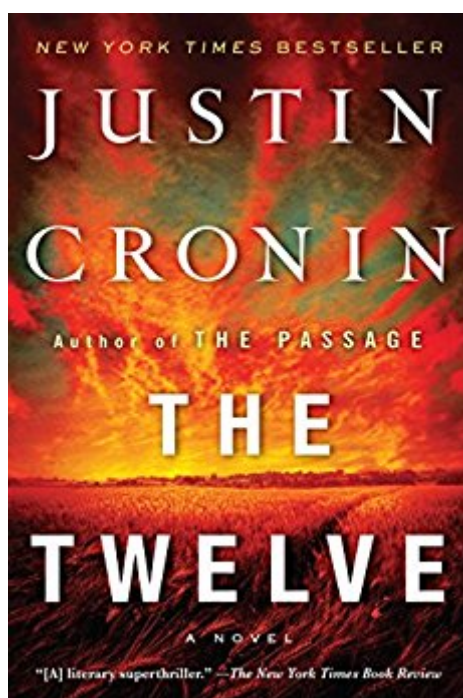


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The Twelve (Book Two Of The Passage Trilogy): A Novel (Book Two Of The Passage Trilogy)



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Look for a special preview of Justin Cronin's *The City of Mirrors* in the back of the book. The end of the world was only the beginning. In his internationally bestselling and critically acclaimed novel *The Passage*, Justin Cronin constructed an unforgettable world transformed by a government experiment gone horribly wrong. Now the scope widens and the intensity deepens as the epic story surges forward with . . . **THE TWELVE** In the present day, as the man-made apocalypse unfolds, three strangers navigate the chaos. Lila, a doctor and an expectant mother, is so shattered by the spread of violence and infection that she continues to plan for her child's arrival even as society dissolves around her. Kittridge, known to the world as "Last Stand in Denver," has been forced to flee his stronghold and is now on the road, dodging the infected, armed but alone and well aware that a tank of gas will get him only so far. April is a teenager fighting to guide her little brother safely through a landscape of death and ruin. These three will learn that they have not been fully abandoned—and that in connection lies hope, even on the darkest of nights. One hundred years in the future, Amy and the others fight on for humankind's salvation . . . unaware that the rules have changed. The enemy has evolved, and a dark new order has arisen with a vision of the future infinitely more horrifying than man's extinction. If the Twelve are to fall, one of those united to vanquish them will have to pay the ultimate price. A heart-stopping thriller rendered with masterful literary skill, *The Twelve* is a grand and gripping tale of sacrifice and survival. Praise for *The Twelve* • "[A] literary superthriller." • "The New York Times Book Review" • "An undeniable and compelling epic . . . a complex narrative of flight and forgiveness, of great suffering and staggering loss, of terrible betrayals and incredible hope." • "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" • "The Twelve is even better than *The Passage*." • "The Plain Dealer" • "A compulsive read." • "San Francisco Chronicle" • "Gripping . . . Cronin [introduces] eerie new elements to his masterful mythology. . . . Enthralling, emotional and entertaining." • "The San Diego Union-Tribune" • "Fine storytelling." • "Associated Press" • "Cronin is one of those rare authors who works on two different levels, blending elegantly crafted literary fiction with cliff-hanging thrills." • "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

What can I say about this incredible sprawling masterpiece of storytelling?! It's as good if not better than first book, but different. Left off almost done but not quite. Our favorite characters are here fighting basically to retain some semblance of humanity along with just plain physically surviving. Plot is complex engaging and at times heartbreaking. Through it all though you continue to feel hope which is amazing considering the level of destruction. I had already purchased the third book while halfway through second installment, that's how much this story has grabbed me. Oh and I go to bed with hesitation because I just want to continue to read! One of best books I've read in very long time.

The biggest surprise you're going to read in this book is how it starts. You'll be back in ground zero, day one of the outbreak. And what you read will be gut wrenching. As the reader you only want the best for two of the characters but you know that their paths can only end in death and destruction. The book is great in that it shows how the characters have grown, gone are the days when they were just kids in California. Their adventures have hardened them into warriors. Maybe that is why this book isn't as hauntingly scary as the first, the characters themselves just are scared.

They're prepared. The shortcomings of the book can be overlooked, you'll read about two hundred pages of a story line that has no effect on the main plot and it almost feels as if it's just a filler for the book to make it longer than 300 pages. Considering this book is almost 200 pages less than the first. Hopefully the third will offer an explanation. That being said, there are also some unexplained instances in the book yet again. Characters knowing who they are, looking them in the eye is only used one, and the classic line is never even mentioned, sadly... "vampires say ah"

The Twelve is a fabulously written tale. It's suspenseful, lots of action, touching scenes, and most of all, a wonderful style of writing with many passages that are difficult to forget because of their almost poetic style. Although this series is about vampires (which is not something I would typically read about), this book is a twist on the creation of this standard vampire plot. What I found most interesting in this read is how the characters come across with their feelings and their desires. It's a difficult story to put down. Like the author's first book in this series, The Passage, I loved this book. But unlike The Passage, which I rated five stars, I'm giving this a four star. I felt it just misses for a few reasons. Several times at the start of a new section of the book, I had trouble understanding where it was taking place and what was the timeframe. He moves back and forth from present to the past, which is fine, but it was disorienting to try and figure out where in the timeline I was reading. I had a little trouble understanding some of the characters and whether they had been in earlier scenes. A few times after reading several hundred pages, the plot would then reference a character who may have been in earlier scenes, but I was often unsure. I felt this created some confusion. The few critical issues won't prevent me from reading the final book in the series. I'm happily hooked on this series.

Previously, I had read the author's book "The Summer Guest" and enjoyed Cronin's writing style, which prompted me to order "The Passage" without knowing anything about it. I didn't even know that it was the first of a trilogy. I finished the first book in about three days and immediately ordered "The Twelve" for my iPad, because I couldn't wait to read more (finished this one in about two days). I should note I'm not generally a fan of vampire stories - the last time I enjoyed one was Anne Rice's "Interview with a Vampire" when I was in high school...but by the time I'd read a few pages into Cronin's trilogy and finally realized what it was about, I was already hooked and couldn't put it down. The reason I think this trilogy appeals to me so much is that Cronin's lyrical writing style still comes through. It's neither obtuse nor exaggerated - not a word is wasted. His characters are fully fleshed out - it's as if you know each one of them. They're real people, with faults and flaws - even

the so-called heroes aren't perfect. The women are especially powerful, which is fairly unusual and great to see. This is a fun, relatively easy (albeit long) read that compels you to turn the pages as quickly as possible, to see what happens next. Whenever I had to stop reading (to eat, sleep, work), I couldn't stop thinking about it. The length can be daunting (though I'll admit, I tend to enjoy longer reads - as long as they're well-written), but this one is well worth the time spent. I've seen the trilogy compared to Stephen King's "The Stand" (which I also enjoyed) and would agree there are plenty of similarities...though this one feels more hopeful, more positive, to me. Admittedly, there are myriad strands of the story stitched together throughout the book, so if my attention wandered, I sometimes struggled to keep the storyline or search my memory for certain characters. But in time, it all came together (like a great novel should, in my opinion) and I was left wanting more. I can't wait for the third to be released in 2014!

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