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JONATHAN MABERRY

# ROT & RUIN



NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR  
**JONATHAN MABERRY**  
MULTIPLE BRAM STOKER AWARD WINNER

# ROT & RUIN

## Warrior Smart Part 5: Apocalypse Lullaby



The zombie apocalypse was nearly fifteen years ago. The dead rose, we fell. No one knows why. Everyone who dies, for any reason, rises as a mindless, shambling, flesh-eating ghoul. There are seven billion zombies and thirty thousand humans. The survivors of this apocalypse live in nine small fenced-in towns along the Sierra Nevadas in central California.

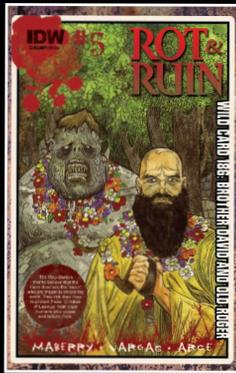
Benny Imura is a fifteen-year-old who was a toddler during "First Night," the beginning of the end. His older half-brother, Tom, was a twenty-year-old police cadet. Tom rescued Benny after their parents were infected and, after many hardships, found other survivors and helped build MountainSide, the first of the nine towns. Everything beyond the fence line is the great Rot and Ruin.

At least, that's what Benny and his friends thought until they saw the Jumbo Jet fly across the sky. Now Benny, his girlfriend, Nix, his best friend, Chong, and the feral girl, Lilah, have set out to find that Jet.

Finding shelter from the zombie hordes at Farmer John's compound, the young teens seem to have found a place for a brief respite in their travels but things aren't all what they seem and the teens once again find themselves trying to make a hasty retreat...



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# JONATHAN MABERRY

is a *New York Times* best-selling and multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author, anthology editor, comic book writer, magazine feature writer, playwright, content creator, and writing teacher/lecturer. He was named one of Today's Top Ten Horror Writers. His books have been sold in more than thirty countries.

He writes in several genres. His young adult fiction includes **ROT & RUIN** (2011; now in development for film; named in BookList's Ten Best Horror Novels for Young Adults, a Bram Stoker and Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading winner; winner of the Cybils Award, the Eva Perry Mock Printz medal, Dead Letter Best Novel Award, and four Melinda Awards); **DUST & DECAY** (winner of the 2011 Bram Stoker Award); **FLESH & BONE** (winner of the 2012 Bram Stoker Award); and **FIRE & ASH** (August 2013). His thrillers include **THE ONE WHOSE CHAIR** from St. Martin's Griffin; **FACTORY ZERO**, 2009, (winner of the Black Quill and a Bram Stoker Award finalist for Best Novel); **THE DRESSMAKERS**, 2010; **THE KING OF FANTASIES**, 2011; **ASSASSIN'S NOSE**, 2011; **EXTINCTION MACHINES**, 2013; **NOSE ZERO**, 2014; and **PRESBYTERIAN DICK**, 2015. His zombie novels, **DEAD OF NIGHT**, 2013, and **FALL OF NIGHT**, 2014, are

also in development for film. Jonathan is also the author of several award-winning nonfiction books on the folklore of vampires and the pop-culture phenomenon of zombies.

Jonathan is the editor and co-author of **V-MYSTER**, a shared-world vampire anthology from IDW, and its forthcoming sequel, **V-MYSTER: STOOD AND FLEE**; and he writes the new **V-MYSTER** ongoing comic book that debuted in May 2014. **V-MYSTER** is now in development for TV.

Jonathan and his wife, **SARAH JO**, to whom he dedicates all of his published works, and their dog, **ROSIE**, live in Del Mar, California.

Visit his website/blog and sign up for his free newsletter at [www.jonathanmaberry.com](http://www.jonathanmaberry.com)

## PRIZES AND AWARDS FOR THE ROT & RUIN SERIES:

Winner, Bram Stoker Award for "Best Young Adult Novel" for **DUST & DECAY**

Winner, Bram Stoker Award for "Best Young Adult Novel" for **FLESH & BONE**

Winner, Bram Stoker Award for "Best Novel" for **ROT & RUIN**

Finalist, Horror Writers Association's Bram Stoker Awards, Superior Achievement in a Novel – **ROT & RUIN**

ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults list – **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Nutmeg Award for **ROT & RUIN**

YARP Teen Choice 2012–2013 runner-up for **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program – for Best YA Novel – **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Cybils Award 2011 for **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Cybils Award, YA Fantasy & Science Fiction – **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Melinda Award – Best Character Development for **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Melinda Award for Best Plot – **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Eva Perry Mock Printz Medal for **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award – **ROT & RUIN**

Winner, Missouri Association of School Librarians Gateway Award – **ROT & RUIN**

Keystone to Reading Secondary High School Book Award (Pennsylvania) – **ROT & RUIN**

AAAAHHH!

BENNY—THAT SCREAM!

I KNOW, IT WAS LILAH.

BUT WE CAN'T HELP HER IF WE'RE DEAD.







DOUBLE-TEAM.  
YOU GO HIGH.

JUST LIKE  
TOM TAUGHT  
US. WARRIOR  
SMART!



GO-  
GO-  
GO!



UM—ARE YOU  
SURE ABOUT  
THIS?

WHAT  
CHOICE DO  
WE HAVE?

OH,  
GEEZ.



LOOKS LIKE  
THE ZOMS WHO  
CHASED US IN  
HERE YESTERDAY  
WANDERED OUT.  
I DON'T SEE ANY  
OF THEM.

LET'S MAKE  
SURE THEY  
DON'T COME  
BACK.

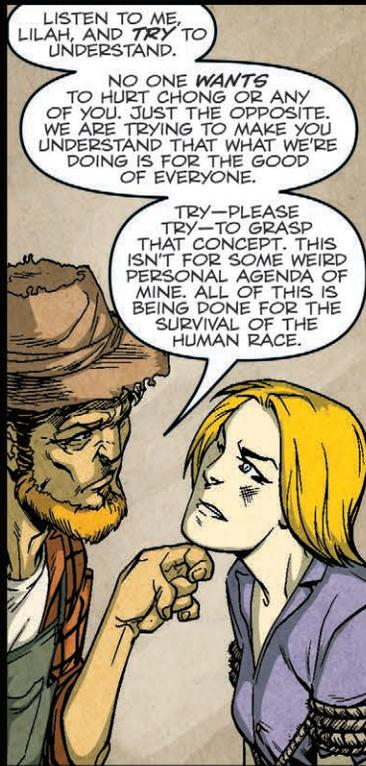


OH,  
MAN...



PUT HIM IN THE SHED. MAKE SURE TO TIE HIS HANDS. TIE GOOD KNOTS, TOO.

LEAVE MY TOWN BOY ALONE!



LISTEN TO ME, LILAH, AND *TRY* TO UNDERSTAND.

NO ONE *WANTS* TO HURT CHONG OR ANY OF YOU. JUST THE OPPOSITE. WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING IS FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE.

TRY—PLEASE TRY—TO GRASP THAT CONCEPT. THIS ISN'T FOR SOME WEIRD PERSONAL AGENDA OF MINE. ALL OF THIS IS BEING DONE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE.



SURELY EVEN A FERAL CHILD LIKE YOU CAN GRASP THAT CONCEPT.

YOU MAKE NICE SPEECHES, OLD MAN. BUT YOU ARE USING LITTLE GIRLS LIKE BABY FACTORIES.

SOME OF YOUR 'COWS' ARE TWELVE OR THIRTEEN.  
WHAT KIND OF WORLD ARE YOU BUILDING WHEN YOU DO THAT TO CHILDREN?

