

The Bookish* Newsletter!

VOL. 2 Issue No.11 | JANUARY 2026

Check out updates on my good reads progress, upcoming titles, lists, and reviews.

[ARC Review] This is Not A Test

Courtney Summers [YA, ZOMBIE, DYSTOPIA, HORROR]

THANK YOU to NetGalley and Binary Books for the advanced copy of this title.

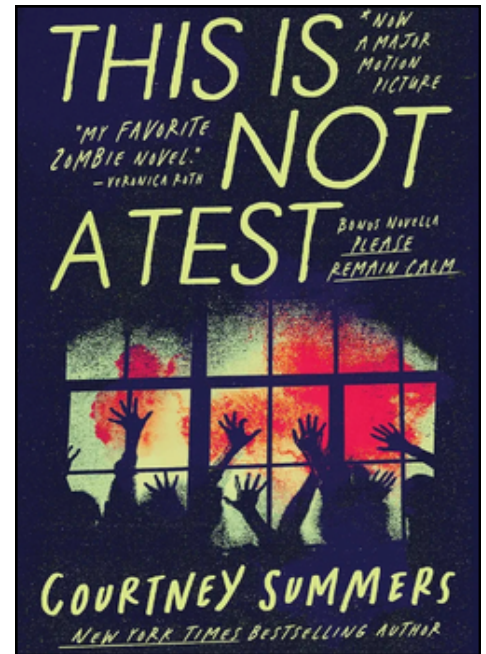
Who doesn't love a good YA zombie story? This one leans less into how the outbreak began and more into the emotional trauma people face during it—and I really appreciated that focus.

The story centers on a small group of teens who band together more by luck and circumstance than by any real plan. They take shelter in a school, hoping to wait out the outbreak until help arrives. Along the way, we learn how each of them ended up there—whom they lost, whom they left behind, and the heavy guilt that comes with survival. Some mourn loved ones they couldn't save, while others were already escaping abusive situations before the world fell apart. All of them are suddenly forced into one space, trying to survive the unthinkable.

The author explains that the story explores uncertainty and how people respond to it differently. This Is Not a Test is tragic, but it also shows how these teens learn to adapt and push forward during a time with no clear ending and very little hope.

The ending completely took me by surprise—and not in an easy way. It's bleak, emotional, and lingers long after the final page. I'm always amazed by YA novels like this, which prove they aren't limited to a specific age group. When the storytelling is compelling, it's for anyone willing to sit with it and take something away.

Life comes with disappointment, uncertainty, growth, and understanding, and I loved how this story moved through all of those emotions with honesty and heart.

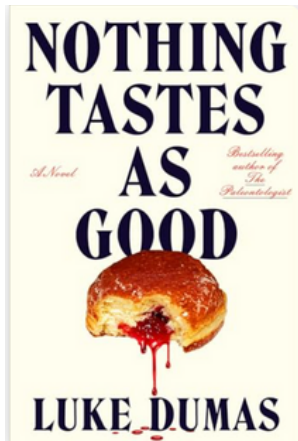


4.0 ★★★★★



More Updates & Reading Progress!

Upcoming Horror



The acclaimed author of the “disorienting, creepy, paranoia-inducing” *A History of Fear* returns with a spine-tingling new thriller about a weight loss treatment with potentially murderous side effects.

Retail worker Emmett Truesdale has never fit the Southern California mold of six-pack, suntanned masculinity. Over three hundred pounds, he carries the weight of his childhood trauma and millennial ennui around his waist and in his soul. After trying every diet under the sun, he remains stuck-in his dead-end job, in love, and in his body.

Desperate for help, he enrolls in a clinical trial for a new weight loss product called Obexity. The treatment is as horrifying as the results are miraculous and as Emmett sheds pounds at superhuman speed, every part of his life improves overnight.

✦ Currently Reading ✦

- 📖 Wretch, Eric LaRocca
- 📖 Dearest, Jacquie Walters

January Purchases

I tried to make this my no purchase month but I can't help myself but I did restrain from all the things.

The Godsend, Bernard Taylor

Schrader's Chord: A Novel, Scott Leeds

Wish List

Honey, Imani Thompson

The Unknown, Riley Sager

The Secret Lives of Murderous Wives, Elizabeth Arnott

Molka, Monika Kim

It Could Have Been Her, Lisa Jewell

Odessa, Gabrielle Sher

COMPLETED TILES FOR JANUARY

Hell Bent, Leigh Bardugo,

Head Cleaner, David James Keaton

Book Sources

BookTrib [\[https://booktrib.com/\]](https://booktrib.com/)

Good Reads [\[https://www.goodreads.com/\]](https://www.goodreads.com/)

Book Riot [\[https://bookriot.com/\]](https://bookriot.com/)

NPR [\[https://www.npr.org/books/\]](https://www.npr.org/books/)


Literary Hub [\[https://lithub.com/\]](https://lithub.com/)

Booktrovert [\[https://booktrovert.com/\]](https://booktrovert.com/)

Fable [\[https://fable.co/\]](https://fable.co/)

February Reading Challenge!

“A book that's less than 250 pages.”

If you'd like me to add a new feature,
send me a note  at

lifebywyetha@gmail.com. Subscribe to get
the latest edition in your inbox!

