

(Get free) The Fungus

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Harry Adam KNIGHT

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Harry Adam KNIGHT : The Fungus before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fungus:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Enjoyable ReadBy Fish T. AsterBritish SF writers are well known for their novels of disaster overtaking the island. To such works as John Wyndham's DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS, J.G. Ballard's THE DROWNED WORLD, and John Christopher's NO BLADE OF GRASS, we can now add Harry Adam Knight's THE FUNGUS, back in print thanks to the folks at Bruin Asylum. Harry Adam Knight was a pseudonym used by Australian (resident in London) SF author and film critic John Brosnan, sometimes in collaboration with Leroy Kettle. THE FUNGUS is one of the HAK collaborations and the initials of the pseudonym give an indication of what Brosnan and Kettle thought of the work published under the name. Despite that, however, THE FUNGUS is typical of British disaster novels in which the institutions of the state are quickly overwhelmed by a swift change in the ecological balance. Since one of the authors was a senior civil servant we can assume that there is an understanding of the limits of government power and competence. THE FUNGUS wastes no time introducing the disastrous scenario; in part one of the novel we are treated to several different scenes of fungicidal mayhem as different species of mushroom run rampant either enveloping, attacking, or infiltrating unsuspecting human hosts. For some the result is like an especially bad case of athletes foot, covering the entire body with raw, bleeding, cracked, and pustulant flesh. And they are the lucky few! Part 2 introduces a new set of characters based in Ireland. London has been overrun and abandoned and all of the mainland UK is quarantined. It's an expository section meant to introduce the characters, mostly an unpleasant bunch - a drunken sergeant, a whiny writer, and a mysterious, but beautiful, South African scientist. This trio is tasked with getting through section 3 - visiting mainland Britain, tracking down the

source of the fungal infection, and sending any acquired knowledge back to the military in Ireland. It is generally acknowledged to be a suicide mission. Part 3 details the journey into and across mainland Britain. One can't help but think of Hell Tanner's journey in Roger Zelazny's DAMNATION ALLEY. Or perhaps Marlow's journey up the Congo into THE HEART OF DARKNESS. A different author, writing a different book, might have spent inordinate amounts of time detailing the rapidly expanding breakdown of society as paranoia and the fungal infection inexorably expand. A Ballard may have focused intensely on the psychedelic aspects of London encased in fungal growths, or the nascent tribal communities being formed by those who were infected by a symbiotic form of fungus, but Knight recognizes that we, his readers, see these as obstacles to be overcome, preferably violently and gorily. He certainly delivers. Overall I enjoyed THE FUNGUS quite a lot. It's a fast read, perfect for a long plane or train journey, or for a lazy spring or summer weekend. If no new ground is broken in the classic British disaster SF novel oeuvre, THE FUNGUS at least fits well within it. It would probably make a good movie. There are definitely worse ways to spend your time than enjoying this novel. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. New Edition of The Fungus By Darrin Venticinque A book I never thought would see reprinting gets an A+ effort from new publisher BRUIN ASYLUM. Nice production values, bonus introduction by Roy Kettle, photos of Roy with John Brosnan and loads of bonus HAK Letters after the conclusion of the novel. Nice oversized softback format with original cover art looks great on the shelf. Let's hope that BRUIN revisits the "SIC HAK" library again soon! 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wouldn't buy. By Jacquelyn Johnson This is a very strange book. It doesn't explain how the situation happened nor is the ending satisfactory.

Pseudonym of Australian author John Brosnan. This book is a great read!