



### **Crossing Bedlam by Charles E. Yallowitz**

“This is the worst day of my life!” Lloyd screams as they race down the abandoned streets of Mobile. Wearing a medical mask, he has trouble breathing and nearly trips over a heavily chewed femur. “What exactly did we drive into? It’s like a horror author’s wet dream. Pretty sure I know which one too.”

“Shut up and focus on running,” Cassidy gasps, wiping sweat from her brow. The summer heat makes her muscles ache, but she knows stopping will get her killed. “This is why I told you to keep driving and not stop to give that puppy a snow-cone. Didn’t you see that it was acting funny?”

“That explains the title,” he replies, glancing over his shoulder. Not seeing any of their pursuers, he is about to relax until his friend smacks him in the arm. “I know, I know. Have to keep running and find a place to hide. Why don’t we dive into the nearest building before they show up?”

“Because they can still follow our scent and I’ve yet to see a place without a broken window,” the mercenary says, skidding to a stop. At the sight of a stray dog in the distance, she leads the way down an alley and climbs up a fire escape. “Inside might be bad, but the roof could give us a breather. Not to mention a better look at the place. Always thought Mobile was one of the few cities to avoid destruction.”

At the sound of a hissing cat, Lloyd moves quicker and nearly shoves his partner onto the rooftop. “Considering the guard towers and wall, I’m surprised this place went down. What do you think happened?”

Walking to the edge of the building, Cassidy waves for him to join her. Billowing smoke from fires can be seen in every direction and the only sounds are those of animals that remain out of sight. There are no birds in the sky even though there are feathers and droppings on the concrete eaves. Several buildings have been crashed into by vehicles, the facades threatening to crumble even more. The cars and trucks that remained on the road have been abandoned, some with their doors left open and drag marks leading to the alleys. When the wind shifts, the travelers catch the scent of rotting garbage and rancid meat that have been made infinitely worse by heat exposure.

A howl drifts from the south before a pack of stray dogs wander into an intersection, their sounds met by the territorial snarls of cats. Using her binoculars, Cassidy gets her first good look at the animals that have been

chasing them for the last two hours. A few of them are missing patches of fur from recent fights, but they move like any normal canine. The only difference is that they appear to be highly aggressive and on the verge of rampaging like they did when the ice cream truck's music went off. Catching sight of a sleeping cat on a dumpster, she finds it hard to believe that these beasts forced them to abandon their vehicle and run for their lives.

"I remember running into this problem in Maine with my mom," Cassidy explains, lowering her binoculars. She walks around the rooftop to check for any animals that may be approaching from another side. "They're called carrier beasts or, to be more colorful, the pets of Typhoid Mary. Nobody is sure where they come from, but they are very aggressive toward humans. Even if you get away alive, a single bite can infect you with a disease that rarely has a cure. The virus or bacteria or whatever tends to differ by location too. Some may have a new type of flu while others are carrying an enhanced version of Ebola. As you can see, cities can get wiped out by a pack if they don't react fast enough."

"I vote government conspiracy. Not sure which government though," Lloyd says while keeping an eye on the pack. More cats are appearing on the street, the felines surrounding the dogs while staying out of reach. "Be nice if they fight and give us a chance to escape. Are they typically dogs and cats?"

"From the stories I've heard, urban areas get them as pet species and the more rural regions have wild animals like wolves and deer," the mercenary answers, waving for Lloyd to join her at the far end of the roof. She points at the other building, which is only a narrow alley away. "If we had a river to wade through then we could lose them that way. Since we don't, I suggest jumping across and climbing down the other fire escape. We go to the opposite street and take a car that still has gas. There can't be more than what we've already seen, so crossing the bridge over there should take us away from the worst."

"As long as the dogs and cats don't work together."

"Please tell me you're referencing a movie."

"Never saw that one, so no."

"Jump and don't look back."

## **Book Description**

The United States of America has been crippled. Violently contained by a global military force and left without its leaders, the country has become shattered and chaotic. A decade has passed since the first strike and a new landscape has emerged where survival is more important than anything else. Who will uncover the truth behind the attack and revive this once great nation?

It certainly won't be Cassidy and Lloyd since they couldn't care less about that stuff. She is a young woman on a mission to honor her mother's dying wish, which is to toss her ashes off the Golden Gate Bridge. He is an infamous serial killer she broke out of Rikers Island since hiring a bodyguard wasn't working out. Not the perfect plan, but having an insane, oddly charming murder-junkie on your side is a plus in the Shattered States.

Bullets and swear words are going to fly as Cassidy and Lloyd travel coast to coast, facing one challenge after another . . . including Nebraska.

Genre: Rate R, Action & Adventure, Apocalyptic Action, Comedy Adventure

### **Cold Coffee/BMGN 5 Star Review**

Author Charles E. Yallowitz moves away from his usual epic fantasy novels to write this Apocalyptic Action Comedy Adventure. The Cover Design & Illustration is the creation of Jon Hunsinger.

Sixteen chapters of adventure where the characters are raw, rough and tough in a world where the United States is now under the control of a global military force where the borders are defined by a new meaning and the States are on their own.

Main character Cassidy is a young woman on a personal mission “tempted to draw her gun and make a stand, but she knows the prison guards are only doing their job.” She is among the escapees from Rikers’ Island. Even though they are all “Sadistic murderers and traitorous thieves though they may be, she broke them out for a reason.” “There is an air of tension and aggression that is growing stronger by the hour even though nobody has spoken since escaping Rikers Island.”

I quote Cassidy here, “Then you’re not going to like being out in the real world,” the young woman replies, her fingers tracing random designs on her mug’s condensation. Seeing the question on the tip of the man’s tongue, she runs her hands through her hair and taps at her forehead scar. “Money is useless in most of the Shattered States. That’s what the country is called now because every place has its own laws and systems. One of the few things that carries over the borders is bartering. For example, this meal is being paid for by a full set of silverware and two packages of pre-sliced pepperoni. It’s why we’re eating a full pie and can get another for the road. You’ll either figure things out or become a violent scavenger to survive. Everyone picks one way or the other at some point.”

Follow Cassidy and the others in this new world where law, order and survival take on a new meaning. “Standing at the street corner, Cassidy stares at the lakeshore building that is on the other side of a concrete clearing. A garden is in the center of the circular area, half of it an attempt at nurturing vegetables and the other an array of flowers. The distant structure is like nothing she has ever seen before with the more visible part a glass pyramid and a square tower on its backside. Blocky additions are on the right-hand side of the building, which has been covered in vivid pictures that make Cassidy think the residents keep changing their minds about the decorations. Coming off the left and sitting on Lake Erie is a circular structure that is adorned with a patchwork of old concert posters. With the warm and calm weather, there are people fishing along the shore and in small boats, which are meticulously tethered to pylons to avoid floating away. Far in the distance, the outlines of military vessels can be seen waiting to stop anyone from trying to escape into Canada. Not wanting to dwell on darker times and how the rest of the world is going on without her, Cassidy turns her gaze back to their destination.”

If you like reading action adventure and epic fantasy tales, please read Crossing Bedlim and all the novels in Charles E. Yallowitz’s Legends Of Windemere series.

I endorse Crossing Bedlam by Charles E. Yallowitz as a new Apocalyptic Action Comedy Adventure where violence and language create an adult reading experience. Review by Cold Coffee/Book Marketing Global Network.

**Kindle:**

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01BRE7UDC/ref=as\\_li\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B01BRE7UDC&linkCode=as2&tag=colcofpre-20&linkId=5D6XU72QNZGXL4EB](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01BRE7UDC/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B01BRE7UDC&linkCode=as2&tag=colcofpre-20&linkId=5D6XU72QNZGXL4EB)

### **About The Author**

**Charles E. Yallowitz was born, raised, and educated in New York. Then he spent a few years in Florida, realized his fear of alligators, and moved back to the Empire State. When he isn't working hard on his epic fantasy stories, Charles can be found cooking or going on whatever adventure his son has planned for the day. 'Legends of Windemere' is his first series, but it certainly won't be his last. Interview:**

**Start Reading The 'Legends of Windemere' Today!**

**Author Charles E. Yallowitz's Published Books:**

- Legends Of Windemere: Beginning Of A Hero (Book 1)
- Legends Of Windemere: Prodigy Of Rainbow Tower (Book 2)
- Allure Of The Gypsies (Legends Of Windemere Book 3)
- Legends Of Windemere: Family Of The Tri-Rune (Book 4)
- The Compass Key (Legends Of Windemere Book 5)
- Curse Of The Dark Wind (Legends Of Windemere Book 6)
- Sleeper Of The Wildwood Fugue (Legends Of Windemere Book 7)
- The Merchant of Nevra Coil (Legends of Windemere Book 8)
- The Mercenary Prince (Legends of Windemere Book 9)
- Tribe of the Snow Tiger (Legends of Windemere Book 10)
- Charms of the Feykin (Legends of Windemere Book 11)
- The Spirit Well (Legends of Windemere Book 12)
- Ritual of the Lost Lamb (Legends of Windemere Book 13)
- Path Of The Traitors (Legends of Windemere Book 14)
- Warlord of the Forgotten Age (Legends of Windemere Book 15)

**Stand Alone Books**

- Bestiary Of Blatherhorn Vale
- Catalysts
- The Hopeteller
- The Life & Times of Ichabod Brooks

**Amazon Author's Page:**

[http://www.amazon.com/Charles-E.-Yallowitz/e/B00AX1MSQA/ref=dp\\_byline\\_cont\\_ebooks\\_1](http://www.amazon.com/Charles-E.-Yallowitz/e/B00AX1MSQA/ref=dp_byline_cont_ebooks_1)

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