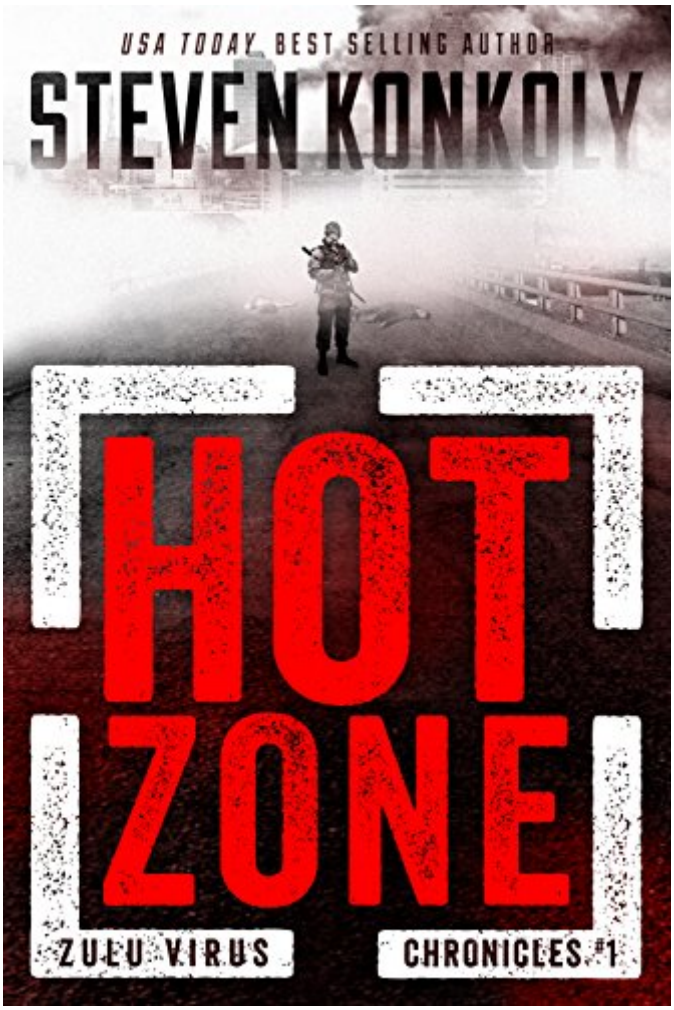
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HOT ZONE: A Post-Apocalyptic Pandemic Thriller (The Zulu Virus Chronicles Book 1)



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Synopsis

"Steven has the research down like Crichton, the action scenes and gun knowledge like Brad Thor, the character development of Clancy and the suck-you-in writing style of Vince Flynn"-- reviewer (2017)"You will lose sleep reading this book...Non-stop action! This book grabs you from the beginning and won't let go."-- reviewer (2017)"I found it amazing and complex...the thrills and action keep on coming-- reviewer (2017)HOT ZONE: Book One in THE ZULU VIRUS CHRONICLESSOMETHING INSIDIOUS HAS ARRIVED--RIGHT IN THE HEARTLAND OF OUR NATION.Dr. Lauren Hale, a new hospital resident, is nearly killed by a raving mad emergency room patient, in a senseless, unprovoked attack.Officer David Olson, veteran cop and former Marine, returns from a father-son camping trip to discover that his ex-wife has vanished under bizarre circumstances, and his police department is on the verge of collapse.Jack and Emma Harper, a young, upwardly mobile couple, find their hip city neighborhood rapidly descending into madness.Dr. Eugene Chang, a research scientist for a major pharmaceutical company makes a shocking discovery that might explain the spreading wave of illness and violence gripping the city.Eric Larsen, leader of a top-secret, rapid-response unit, circles high above the Midwest, in an unmarked military transport. Mission still unknown, his team waits to parachute into the night.WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, complete strangers from different walks of life will be forced to join together to survive the LIVING NIGHTMARE that has been unleashed on their city--AND THEIR COUNTRY.This is their story.WELCOME TO THE HOT ZONE!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

View larger

View larger An inexplicable wave of illness Emergency rooms have been overrun by patients, most showing signs of neurological and cognitive impairmentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •some turning suddenly violent. The symptoms match a rare and lethal disease that affects less than 1 in 500,000 per year. In a single day, city emergency room doctors have seen more suspected cases of this rare disease than the world had seen the previous year.

View larger A city falling apart As infected citizens take to the streets with their erratic and violent behavior, the city's emergency responders are stretched to the breaking point. Ambulance crews and the police can no longer keep up with the never-ending flood of 911 calls. The city teeters of the edge of chaos and madness.

View larger A government quarantine taken too far... Fleeing the city is no longer an easy option for the uninfected. The interstate surrounding the city has been designated a Federal Quarantine Boundary, enforced by local National Guard units. Beyond that, a far less forgiving quarantine line awaits. Escape from the HOT ZONE will become more difficult by the hourÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •until it's all but impossible.

Q&A with USA Today bestselling author, Steven Konkoly Interview conducted by Lee West, author of the bestselling Blue Lives Apocalypse series Q: Having just finished HOT ZONE, IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll start out by saying 'I see what you did there.' A: Is that a good or bad thing? Q: ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a very good thing. For those of you wondering, thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a subtle tie-in to one of Steve's previous series, I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t give it away, but letÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s just say that itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s brilliant, hiding just below the surface. Obviously, you did this on purpose. Can you expand on that?

A: Guilty as charged. When I set out to write another series in the post-apocalyptic/dystopian/disaster genre, I wanted to take it in a different direction than most of the books recently written in the genre. I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have to look very far. I had been sitting on a devastating scenario since 2012, when I wrote Redux: A Black Flagged thriller. I had already created the perfect bioweapon, and put it in the hands of some very nefarious people. They just never got to use it thanks to some skilled and enterprising American operatives. The Zulu Virus Chronicles imagines what might have happened if that virus had been released. Q: So this isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t a Black Flagged book. A: Right. Fans of those books will find a few Easter Eggs, but this is an entirely new story that every thriller reader will enjoy. There'sÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s no homework required to read the ZVC books. Q: That'sÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s good to hear. Nobody likes homework. You obviously enjoy unleashing viruses on the worldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•that sounded kind of odd, didn'tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t it? A: It did, but let'sÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s go with it. Q: IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll rephrase my statement. This isn'tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t the first time you'veÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve fictionally unleashed a virus on an unsuspecting world. Your first novel, The Jakarta Pandemic, imagined what it might take for an everyday family to survive a lethal pandemic and the ensuing societal collapse. In HOT ZONE, I strongly sensed a return to that type of storytelling. A: I can'tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t tell you how happy I am to hear that. I really wanted to return to my roots with the ZULU VIRUS CHRONICLES, and tell the kind of story that launched my career. The Jakarta Pandemic was an intimate, if not claustrophobic, look at a pandemic'sÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s impact on ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“normal people.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• It focused less on the disease itself and more on the unpredictability of the human factor. Q: That'sÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s what made it so fascinating in my opinion. It bucked all previous trends, focusing on regular citizens instead of the usual 'CDC scientist running around the world saving the day.' Your characters barely left their neighborhood, and the neighborhood nearly killed them. A: I take a similar approach in HOT ZONE, but the characters won'tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have the luxury of lingering in one place for very long. Readers will get a taste of several different walks of life, as the disaster unfolds around this diverse group of characters. By the time the outbreak is in full swing, the characters will be doing what they do best in my books. Trying to survive. Moving frequently will be one of the keys to survival in this series. Q: You certainly don'tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t make it easy on your characters in this one. I can attest to that. I do have to call you out on one thing. There'sÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a hint of conspiracy in HOT ZONE, and a scientist who looks like he might be in a position to 'save the day.' He definitely falls into the regular character category for now, but I see some potential. Am I wrong? A: I can neither

confirm nor deny the expansion of his role in future books, but I do like to take characters out of their comfort zones, so weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll see. As for hints of conspiracy in HOT ZONEÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t forget that weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re talking about a suspected, widespread bioweapons release on U.S. soil. A conspiracy lurks. I just havenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t decided how much of it will come into play within the series. Right now, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s in the background, where it might reach out from time to time to hinder or even help the charactersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •the true focus of the story. Q: HOT ZONE is a frighteningly realistic look at a bioweapons attack from several angles on the ground. You obviously put a ton of research and thought into this scenario. SoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|why bioweapons? A: I wrote The Jakarta Pandemic partly because IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve always been obsessed with viruses and biological warfare. I blame Stephen KingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s The Stand, which I read as a teenager. People forget that Captain Trips, the virus in The Stand, originated in a fictional U.S. bioweapons lab. The beginning of that book was brilliant, and stuck with me for years. Still does. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m rambling. After The Jakarta Pandemic, I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t stray far from viruses. No wonder. Right? Q: I see where youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re coming from, now. A: I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like to be predictable. ThatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a bad thing for an author. Q: YouÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re hardly predictable, especially with HOT ZONE. I guarantee readers wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t see where this book is headed. Last question. You claimed to have 'created' the perfect bioweapon. What did you mean by that, fictionally of course. A: I appreciate the disclaimer. I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t need any more black vans on the block. Bioweapons in general are horrifying by nature, designed not only to kill and maim, but to inflict fear. A slow killer that requires the maximum amount of resources to handle. ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s no easy solution when dealing with an effective bioweapons attack. Unlike bullets or bombs, a properly designed bioweapon can cripple everyone, but leave them aliveÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •needing extensive onsite care and support. The impact of a bioweapon canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t be underestimated or overstated. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s more like the 'perfect weapon.' And in the grand scheme of terrorist weapons, they can be relatively inexpensive, flying under the radar in hidden laboratories around the world, or right here in the U.S. Q: Thanks for scaring me to death, Steve. A: Any time. Sleep tight.

This book is intense and has a lot of action. The storyline takes place in Indianapolis, Indiana and that fact caused me to read this book more slowly. The reason was that in my mind I was following every twist and turn that the characters were making in their efforts to escape from the city. I have

lived in the Indianapolis area my entire life and I knew every street, airport, hospital and building they talked about.The Midwest is under attack by an engineered mutant disease that has caused a pandemic of monstrous proportions. Dr. Chang is a scientist working at a major pharmaceutical company and he immediately recognizes the severity of the plague. Using his contacts he soon discovers that the bio-weapons plague has hit 26 major cities all over the United States and it is spreading fast. The plague makes people behave like insane walking zombies caused by a weaponized encephalitis. A few people have banded together in a haphazard way and they are trying to escape the growing violence in the city. Can they escape and get past the military who are trying to block all exodus from the Indianapolis Hot ZoneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|..This book is intense and it is a very good start to a new series. The author had done his homework and has written a great story covering the disease, the city and the military actions that occur. I can hardly wait to read the next book in the series. I am now linked mentally to the characters and I want them all to survive.I have read several books written by Steven Konkoly and I have liked them all. This one it possibly the best book he has written. I rated it at 5 stars!This author has talent and writes good stories that a reader can get involved in and relate to the characters in the book. You feel like you are fighting to survive and running for your life. This type of involvement makes me feel like I am part of the story and it makes it more entertaining.I like that this book is well written and the author has a clear understanding of what will happen in a disaster situation. His story line is well written and contains a lot of detail that I enjoyed reading!The book is intense at times and the world around the main characters is falling apart. They are being forced to do things that they never believed possible. That is what makes this book interesting.I seriously can’t wait until the next book is the series is released!This book is full of suspense an you wonder why the government is dragging its feet in helping the victims and not broadcasting what survivors should be doing to stay safe.This book is so realistic that it may depict and insight into a possible future for our country based on an accidental release of a chemical or biological weapon!

This is the first book I’ve read by this author and all I can say is .. WOW. This was a fantastic read and easily the best book I’ve read this year. There are a lot of characters in this book - but the author makes it so easy to follow each subplot. I don’t want to give anything away - so lets just leave it that I can’t recommend this book enough - wish I could add another star to the review.

If you love The Walking Dead or stories about escaping the beginnings of a virus attack, you’ll love this book. Absolutely awesome characters, super good story line, fast moving, great twist on the

zombie genre... Really, a perfect book... Can NOT wait for book 2!

Action, and then more action. Not just fast paced but frenetic! Read this story as a backdrop for tomorrow. And . . . Wait for the movie version. The plot line is perfect and dodges the societally induced demands that ruin many a great story. Bravo!

You know a book is good when you start yelling at the characters as you're reading! Konkoly sends us headlong into a conspiracy theory, medical mystery, post apocalypse thrill ride with individuals we wish we knew in real life! My only complaint is that I have to wait a few months for my next fix.

Another 5 star read. I remember waiting to read Pandemic lol so been reading Mr Konkoly's stories a long time and this one was just as good as the first one was...I knew you would be a famous writer some day LOL.

Good post-apocalyptic book. Used a little different approach than many of this type novel. Since this is going to be a series, I was a little disappointed in the ending. Looking forward to the next book.

An excellent, well-written, and interesting start to this new series by Steven Konkoly. Really enjoyed the book and highly recommend it. Looking forward to the next book in the series this fall!

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