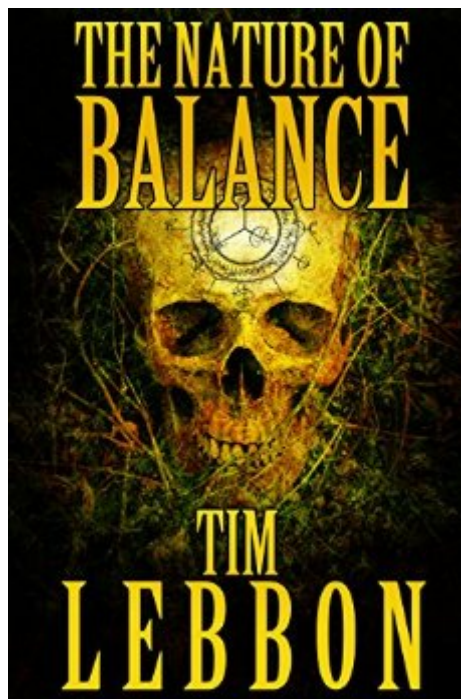


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The Nature Of Balance



Synopsis

One morning, the world does not wake up. People lie dead in their beds, killed by their own nightmares. For the few remaining survivors, the new world is a confusing, terrifying place. The balance of nature has shifted — Mankind is no longer the dominant species. Blane is a man on his own in this world gone mad. He has no distant memories, only the vague certainty that something momentous has happened in his past. Fay is enigmatic, dangerous, a dark witch and a player of gruesome games. What roles will they play in nature's new era? And will they be able to survive long enough to find out? *The Nature of Balance* is a thrilling dystopian horror-mystery from master of the genre, Tim Lebbon. Praise for Tim Lebbon's works: "Beautifully written and mysterious." • "Richard Laymon" "Tim Lebbon displays the sort of cool irony and uncanny mood-making that drive the best Twilight Zone stories." • "New York Times Book Review" "At the end, you are left with an impression of a nightmare from which you have awakened and cannot totally shake." • "Dark Echo" "One of the most powerful new voices to come along in the genre" | Lebbon's work is infused with the contemporary realism of Stephen King and the lyricism of Ray Bradbury. • "Fangoria" "Lebbon is a genuinely masterful writer with fresh ideas, shimmering prose, and often terrifying scenarios." • "Rue Morgue" "A masterpiece of traditional horror, graced with nuggets of sex and splatter. I really can't praise it enough. It shot me to pieces." • "D.F. Lewis" "a terrific, very scary novella." • "Ellen Datlow" "With *The Reach of Children*, Lebbon has exceeded even his former astounding works." • "Horror World" "Lebbon has written one of the best and most emotionally convincing stories about death that I have ever read." • "Michael Marshall Smith" "Even if you haven't lost a parent, or anyone truly close to you, *REACH* will give you a true sense of the kind of deep, unyielding sadness such an event brings. It's a powerful book, and one that deserves to be read." • "Bookgasm" "For those who have not yet sampled Lebbon's doom-laden tales of cosmic consequence, this is a fine place to start." • "Peter Crowther" "striking and innovative" • "Nick Gevers, SF Site" **TIM LEBBON** is a New York Times bestselling writer from South Wales. He's had over thirty novels published to date, as well as hundreds of novellas and short stories. His latest novel is the thriller *The Hunt*, and other recent releases include *The Silence* and *Alien: Out of the Shadows*. He has won four British Fantasy Awards, a Bram Stoker Award, and a Scribe Award, and has been a finalist for World Fantasy, International Horror Guild and Shirley Jackson Awards. Future books include *The Rage War* (an Alien/Predator trilogy), and the *Relics* trilogy from Titan. The movie of his story *Pay the Ghost*, starring Nicolas Cage, was released September 2015, and other projects in development include *Playtime* (an original script with Stephen Volk), *My Haunted House with Gravy*

Media, The Hunt, Exorcising Angels (based on a novella with Simon Clark), and a TV Series proposal of The Silence.

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Customer Reviews

A world dreams of falling and does not wake up. People everywhere lie broken and bloody in their beds, as if assaulted by some unseen, deadly force. A handful of survivors find themselves fighting against a wild world whose mutations have ceased to follow any kind of normal evolutionary path. At the center of it all is Blane, a man with no memory of his past, a man who has always felt most at home in the forest but now finds it has rejected him; and Fay, a mad force of nature bound in human form and bent on hideous revenge. It may seem like just another end-of-the-world story (or is it a beginning?) at first but Lebbon looks at the situations on a deeply personal level and takes them in surprising directions. It is very much a character driven story. You will care about these people -- even the bad ones.

I enjoyed this book, my first experience with Tim Lebbon. It took a while to get into the story, but it was interesting enough for me to finish it. The big problems were the lack of character development

and the overwritten style of his descriptions. He takes a full page to describe what should be only be a paragraph. By doing this, I constantly got pulled out of the story. What brought me back? The villain. I love a powerful antagonist that seems on track to conquer our hero, and this novel made up a few points in that area. Those two complaints aside, I had a fun time with it and I look forward to Mr. Lebbon's new book, "Face".

Now, Nature is about to strike back. It happens in the form of horrible nightmares--hideous "falling" dreams, which kill off most of humanity in a single night. Those who survived were either asleep, managed to wake themselves up in time, or landed on a snowbank. But the survivors now find themselves stranded in a new, dangerous world. Blane, a man always in tune with Nature, feels he holds a secret to what happened...Holly, a hard and rugged woman, is determined to survive...Paul, a Nature lover all his life, finds himself bewildered by the sudden change of plans...Peer, a young woman with an inner strength, knows that she too has a large role in this new future...Mary, once a victim, now rises up to power through violence...and Fay, a striking woman with a hideous secret, is the very embodiment of evil itself...Tim Lebbon has woven an incredible thriller. Eccentric and macabre, yes, but it is still a great horror/sci-fi thriller. "The Nature of Balance" is a fun, thrilling read about humanity's mistreatment of Nature, and what would happen if Nature tired of it...

I have to admit that I've grown tired of post-apocalyptic novels. They all started feeling the same after a while. Too many authors have tried to imitate the classics, like King's *The Stand*, McCammon's *Swan Song* or the undervalued *Earth Abides*. But here comes *Nature of Balance*, an original, terrifying and brilliantly written novel that delivers everything a good horror novel should, and more. When the greater part of the earth's population dies in one single night (dying through their dreams), the small group of survivors have to try and find a way to live in this changing new world. Not only has everyone died, but the nature and the animals themselves are evolving into something more terrifying. And who exactly is that mysterious woman that keeps showing her face whenever trouble occurs? You have a group of very distinct and very original characters, something that is quite rare in this genre. You have Blane, an elderly man who has always loved nature, the father figure of sorts. You have Peer, a young woman who might just have a greater part to play in all of this than she first thought possible. You have Holly and Paul, two strangers who will find something comfort in each other's presence. And you have Mary, a wild girl who has finally found her purpose in a world that has always turned its back on her. When all these characters meet and mingle, bad things abound. The novel itself is a wild ride that never seems to stop. There is a slight

part in the middle of the book that feels a little long, but besides this, the rest is a greatly written novel that never disappoints. And the finale is imaginative and completely unpredictable. Many things are revealed in the end and every piece of the puzzle falls in place. *The Nature of Balance* is a novel by Tim Lebbon, whose writing is skilled and very confident. This is one author to watch for. There are great things awaiting him in the future!

The Nature of Balance by Tim Lebbon was received direct from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Tim Lebbon is one of the true masters of modern horror. This book, as others have stated, has its moments of horror and those moments are good, but far between. The reader is then pulled down in minutiae about the characters, what they are thinking, blah blah. Some love this in novels, though I don't know. I was detracted from the story, hoping it would quickly return to the book of horror. Overall the book lost me and I found myself skimming a lot. If you like "thinking mans" horror stories this is for you, if you haven't read this author, perhaps you should start with another one of his newer works.

THE NATURE OF BALANCE starts out strong-- very strong. Lebbon's writing vividly conveys a world turned upside-down by deadly apocalyptic dreams and nature gone berserk. Unfortunately, the explanation for all these mysterious events is rather weak and mundane, and I was able to guess a good part of the ending 150 pages before it was explained. It was like seeing the movie 2001, with the original ending replaced by the ending to 2010. Still, I would recommend this novel for the vivid writing.

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