

Apocalypse Cow by O.R Sorrel

Discussion Questions

- Could you relate to the protagonist's perspective? (Mel)
Whose perspective would you like to have read?
- Which moment in the story do you think is the most pivotal for Mel?
- Which part of the story shocked you the most?
- Which lines from the book are the most tweetable?
- What would be the soundtrack to the story?
Suggest a playlist with tracks for each part of the novel.
- *Nev and I sort of fell together as the only obvious queers in the school.*
Do you think queer people are drawn to one another?
Why might this be?
- *I've been the only out lesbian in our school, and quite possibly the surrounding thousand miles, since Year Eight. Janis and Ella have always been determined to make it a problem, even though it's 2031, and no one else cares.*
Does it surprise you that Mel is the only 'out' lesbian in her school in 2031?
Or that Janis and Ella have a problem with it?
- *Being in love with my best friend is such an exhausting cliché.*
What key insights about romantic relationships and close friendships do you glean from reading Apocalypse Cow?
- If you had access to a bunker, built to withstand an apocalypse, what items would you place in it?



The end of the world just got awkward . . .

- Mel believes the animals are angry about the way humans have treated the planet. *And that's why they are trying to kill us.*

What is your interpretation of the behaviour of the animals?

What message do you think the writer is trying to convey about the natural world?

- Some of the mutated animals in the story are harmless to humans, or even helpful (e.g. mice and rabbits). Others are terrifying and destructive (e.g. ravens, badgers, squirrels). How do you think the writer decided upon which animals should be the most dangerous?

Some animals are barely mentioned (e.g. dogs, cats, sheep).

Which other animals do you think would be harmless?

Which do you think would be dangerous?

- How does the writer use comedy when dealing with some of the darker events in the story (e.g. death and mutilation)?

Why do you think apocalyptic stories often have comedic elements?

- Dorian is obsessed with keeping fit during the apocalypse. He also comes from a very privileged background and his family's mansion has been prepped for an apocalypse.

Which if these ideas do you consider to be the most accurate?

- 'Survival of the fittest'
- 'Survival of the richest'

How is Dorian's eventual fate ironic?



- Which theme do you think is the most significant in the story – friendship, identity, LGBTQ+ issues, social class, humanity or environmental issues?
- What would you most like to find out about in a sequel to the story?

