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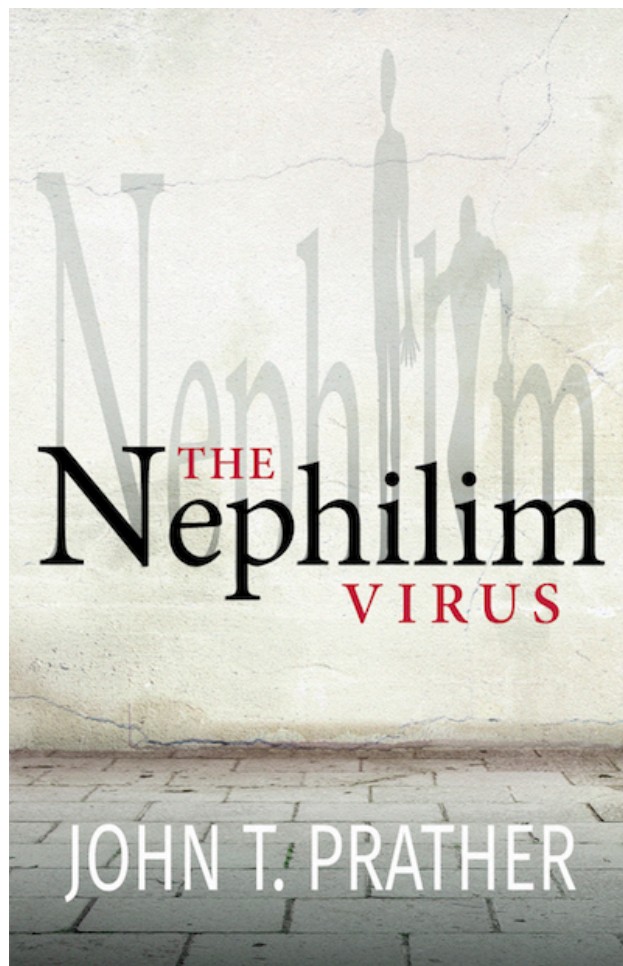
THE NEPHILIM VIRUS

JOHN T. PRATHER

Nick Reese wakes from a three-year coma to find the world he once knew is gone. An ancient virus has infected two-thirds of the world's population, turning humans into either incredibly intelligent super-humans or large and

indestructible animalistic creatures. For the survivors, there is no government, no antidote, and no safety. With the help of a beautiful hematologist named Faith and a man they call the Commander, Nick must survive long enough to discover the origin of the virus and learn how his blood could hold the key to a cure. But he has to do it while being hunted by the infected. And failure means the extinction of the human race.

Author and Hollywood actor John Prather intertwines history, science, and the Bible to create a plausible post-apocalyptic tale. *The Nephilim Virus* is a nonstop race against time from beginning to end.



For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

Deep River
B O O K S



About the Author John T. Prather

John Prather grew up with seven siblings in the bluff city of Memphis, Tennessee, on a steady diet of BBQ and southern values. After graduating from the University of Memphis, he moved to the City of Angels to try his hand at the entertainment industry. He took his southern values with him, and now, other than the lack of quality BBQ, Los Angeles

feels like home. John got his love of storytelling from his grandfather, who taught him the art of capturing the imagination. John has spent the last several years perfecting the finer points of telling a story while making his living telling them in front of the camera as an actor and model. John and his wife can usually be found at home with a couple of dogs named Chico and Cherri and an occasional foster child.

Connect with the Author

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What Others Are Saying About **The Nephilim Virus**

This book would make a great movie! It's a cohesive, fun ride through some of my most beloved topics—science, the supernatural, and the apocalypse.

—Megan Fox, actress—*Transformers, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Jennifer's Body, This Is 40*

Get ready to wake up and find yourself in a nightmare of epic proportions. Each page is an adrenaline-infused adventure that will leave you breathless, as each paragraph is another jolt moving you toward the heart-pounding conclusion.

Blending biblical history with modern high-tech thrills, John Prather emerges as a master storyteller with a tale that you won't be able to read fast enough. The Nephilim Virus is infectious and the only cure is to read this amazing story.

—Jeff Dixon, bestselling author of the Dixon on Disney series

This story isn't for the faint of heart. It's a blood-pumping thriller sure to make your heart rate spike. The Nephilim Virus has villains that will make your palms sweat and a plot so real you'll be looking over your shoulder for Nephilim while asking your doctor to test you for the virus. This is an amazing book!

— Kenny Schwartz, Emmy-nominated film and television writer—*American Housewife; Modern Family; American Dad!; Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place*

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Suggested Interview Questions

For John T. Prather, author of *The Nephilim Virus*

Q: Give us a brief preview of *The Nephilim Virus* and tell us what makes your novel unique and interesting.

A: *The Nephilim Virus* is about a man who wakes from a three-year coma to find out the world has been infected with a virus that turns people into either incredibly intelligent super-humans or indestructible animalistic creatures with only the most basic instincts. He joins a beautiful doctor and a military man to try to find a cure and discover the origin of the virus, but they have to do it while being hunted by the infected.

The story is unique because *The Nephilim Virus* intertwines history, science, and the Bible to create a post-apocalyptic tale of vampires and zombie-like creatures. It's written for an adult audience and the material is plausible and believable while at the same time being action packed and fast paced.

Q: How did you come up with the idea for your book?

A: I had this idea for a long time of a world where two-thirds of all people were infected with some type of disease but I never had a story to go with it. Then one evening I was out with my wife at a Bible study and an idea popped into my head, so I mentioned it to her and thought that would be the end of it. But it kept rattling around in my head and I knew I had to get this idea out or it wouldn't leave me alone. So I decided to write this story about a guy waking up to this infected world as a short story to get it out of my head and move on. But as I kept writing the story kept coming. Four months later I had a full-length manuscript.

Q: Your story centers on the Nephilim, who are known mostly from an obscure couple of verses in the Bible. Tell me about your decision to write a novel about Nephilim.

A: I've been fascinated with the passage in Genesis 6 since I was young. Books have been written about the Nephilim, and there are lots of theories about them, but it's interesting to me how little we actually know about these beings. As a novelist it was fun to be able to use my imagination to fill in some of the blanks and create a story about this obscure race. I really enjoyed reading and researching what we do know about them and then tracing them through history and weaving them into a present-day story. It really was a lot of fun for me to imagine a world where they still exist. And who knows, maybe they do.

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Q: Your book is a Christian novel, but there aren't any of the usual plot points or characters traditionally found in Christian books. There are no conversion stories, and none of your characters are described as "born-again Christians." Why is that?

A: My all-time favorite author is C.S. Lewis and he said something that has always stuck with me. He said, "The world does not need more Christian literature. What it needs is more Christians writing good literature."

I love that thought. So with *The Nephilim Virus* I set out to write a novel that would appeal to a wider audience than just the traditional Christian market. I tried to write an entertaining book that uses subtle symbolism and themes to get my points across without losing the core message.

I don't think "Christian books" have to be only for Christians, and I wanted my book to share truth with people who might be simply looking for an exciting story to read. In fact, Jesus himself spoke to audiences that were sometimes religious and other times secular and he used stories that fit into both worlds to convey whatever truth he was trying to reveal.

Q: What was the most fun scene to write?

A: One of my favorite characters to write was the dog, Blue. I really enjoyed writing every scene Blue is in. I love dogs and I've had dogs all my life and each one of them has amazingly different personality traits, so writing a strong canine character was a lot of fun for me. I loved the process of making Blue into a full character with a personality and background as full and real as any of the humans in the book.

But you asked me for the most fun scene to write . . . so if you forced me to pick only one, it might be the scene where Nick and Blue meet. I got a blast out of introducing those two characters and discovering the rocky beginning of their relationship.

Q: You said "discovering" the rocky beginning. What do you mean by that? How do you discover a scene?

A: This whole book was sort of a discovery for me. Writing this story was a bit different than others I have written because I had no idea where the plot was going when I started. I began with an idea but I didn't have any clue who the characters were or where the story would take them. I didn't have a structured outline so I got to be surprised by my characters.

Sometimes I would set out to write a character one way and they would turn out to be something completely different. With this book I feel like I just followed my characters around and wrote down what they showed me. It was exciting because I was discovering things about my characters as I wrote.

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In fact, there is one character that was supposed to be a minor character but as I wrote his part I “discovered” that he was an integral part of the story. I wrote his first scene and tried to leave him there but he wouldn’t go away. He ended up having a major part to play in the end. That wasn’t a unique thing either. I often discovered things about the characters as I wrote their stories.

Q: What was the most difficult scene to write?

A: I think the most difficult thing for me to do was to write from the main female character’s point of view. She has an interesting background and some strong internal motivations that made it more difficult to write her story than it was to write Nick’s story.

I won’t tell you the specific scene that was the hardest to write because I don’t want to spoil the book, but there is one scene near the end where everything comes to a point with her and that was especially difficult to write. I tried to give the reader the feeling of being inside her skin during a major life-changing moment and that was tricky. I worked hard to convey her feelings correctly and I trust that will come through to the reader.

Q: In addition to being an author, you are also an actor and model. How does that affect your work as a writer?

A: Getting to work in the entertainment industry allows me to continually learn about people. Being an actor is a great way for me to be in touch with my own emotions and internal motivations and also to see and feel my fellow performers’ emotions and motivations. Everyone has tics and mannerisms that are specific to them and I feel being aware of these individual characteristics helps me create strong characters for my stories. It has also helps me hone the art of storytelling to see how other artists tell their own stories, whether they are writers, photographers, actors, directors, or whatever.

Q: When a reader picks *The Nephilim Virus* up and reads it, what’s the one thing you want them to feel?

A: Excitement. I want anyone who reads my book to enjoy being caught up into the world of *The Nephilim Virus*. That’s why I wrote this book with such a fast pace. In fact, I had one mantra in my head to guide me as I worked on this project: push the pace. The characters are always moving forward and the chapters are short and almost always end with a cliffhanger. I want the reader to be forced to turn the page and continue the story, sometimes even against their will. Basically I want readers to have as much fun getting lost in the world of *The Nephilim Virus* as I enjoyed getting lost in its writing.

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