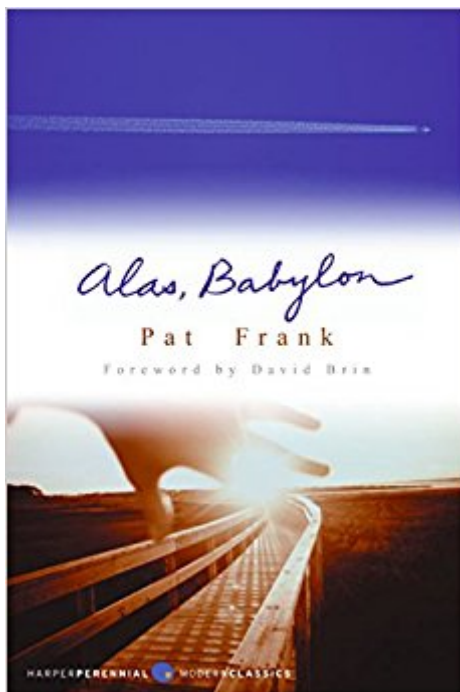


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# Alas, Babylon



## Synopsis

"Alas, Babylon." Those fateful words heralded the end. When a nuclear holocaust ravages the United States, a thousand years of civilization are stripped away overnight, and tens of millions of people are killed instantly. But for one small town in Florida, miraculously spared, the struggle is just beginning, as men and women of all backgrounds join together to confront the darkness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Ingenious...Provocative." -- "New York Times""Frighteningly credible and exciting reading." -- "Library Journal""An extraordinary real picture of human beings numbed by catastrophe but still driven by the unconquerable determination of living creatures to keep on being alive." -- "The New Yorker""A warm, continuously interesting story of what can happen to a group of ordinary people in a perilous situation." -- "New York Herald Tribune""An enthralling and vivid story of the follies and failures of people, their courage and cruelty, their treachery and triumphs. Mr. Frank is a magnificent writer." -- "Chicago Sunday Tribune""Frank is successful enough in making us believe it could indeed happen here to send a small, fearful chill along our backbone." -- "Saturday Review" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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In 1959 we were still just beginning to understand the breadth of devastation that nuclear war could

bring. There was concern that nuclear tests had already caused enough harm. This story explores the possibility of survival in a remote area not fully destroyed by a nuclear attack. How can we survive when everything we now take for granted is gone? Post apocalyptic stories are no longer new, but this one deals with it on a very practical level. A town regroups and finds a way to survive the collapse of civilization. Dated from a cultural perspective, but still a solid story. This is worth a read as we once again contemplate rebuilding a nuclear arsenal.

Alas, Babylon is like a primer for how to survive nuclear war. For a kid raised during the Cold War it was very scary read in middle school. For a soldier with a family during the Cold War it became our family's code for the balloon going up and now it's become my reminder of the dangerous times we on be in. Frankly, this edition seems edited, or maybe there is a similar book we had to read, but this will always be one of my favorites.

I first read Alas Babylon forty-some years ago as a teenager growing up in the middle of the Cold War, but many of the dangers and threats it portrays so well are still relevant today! I have an early hardbound copy of the book, but I was very glad to see it re-released electronically so I won't wear out my original copy. That said, to do the author's work justice this electronic version BADLY requires better proofreading. I have no doubt that an original copy was scanned to produce this file, but even the best OCR programme is not perfect and this one introduced errors not found in the original. For instance, in one place the phrase "bowl of flowers" is mangled into "bowl of Mowers" which made the whole scene unintelligible. This is far from the only such error. Please treat Mr. Frank's writings with more respect!

This e-book badly needed a copy editor or proofreader. Given its publication in 1959, it seems likely that the Kindle edition is the result of Optical Character Recognition (OCR). I am glad to have the e-book edition, but needs to issue a corrected edition ASAP. This one is a mess.

First read this book in 1960 when I was 14 & have reread it several times. I consider it to be a commonsense approach to the futility of war in general & specifically nuclear war. Although dated, it is also a good layman's handbook of ideas on surviving a post-apocalyptic scenario. The characters, with all their strengths & weaknesses are a microcosm of our country. They are likable (for the most part) & most readers can identify with one or more of them. My recommendation for age range is 13 & up & be accessible in all of today's formats. My only criticism is that the book is full

of spelling, punctuation & grammatical errors which need to be corrected. A good proofreader could handle that. J. Steven Howard

I read the print version of this novel many years ago in my late teens/early 20s. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and to a certain extent the ebook I just purchased as well. My main complaint is with the ebook conversion. It appears the conversion was done by someone scanning a print copy to a digital file and then basically leaving it in that form. There doesn't appear to have been any proofreading of what was scanned. The result is that various words and phrases are misspelled or totally trashed...leaving some sentences and paragraphs jumbled or nonsensical. If all you have available is the ebook, go ahead and read it...the story still comes through strongly. If you have access to the print edition you're better off reading it. At least the publisher did a good job proofing it.

I found this book 38 years ago in high school and I have read it so many times that when I told the instructor at my high school that used it for his Futuristics class, he did not believe that a student would read a book more than once (I was not in the class) he pulled out his final exam and started asking me questions that I answered with no issues. He was amazed !! Please be aware that this book was written in the late 50's or early 60's at the beginning of the "Cold War" and I guess some consider it a classic. I think it is a great read, why I bought the Kindle version. Some items are dated but I think any people that read survival or end of the world genre will enjoy this story set in North Florida on the St John's River after a Russian and US exchange of H bombs and nuclear missiles. It is a interesting study of people and how they react to the new world. To read some of the news reports or the description of events by the characters is bone chilling, especially since I live in Florida. Enjoy a great read !!!!

This is the predecessor of the "End of the World" novel. Written in 1959 during the Cold War period, the story focuses on the fears of people at that time. As part of the generation that grew up in that period, I really appreciate the fear and stupidity that we exhibited while living through it all. The reality of a nuclear holocaust most fortunately did not come true, but if it had...???? What would it have been like? This is the first story about what it may have been like had the threat of nuclear attack become a reality. The characters in the story certainly were not ready to deal with the aftermath and neither were we, in my humble opinion. We still aren't ready, even though we have moved into a new century. Everyone should read this book so you might know how difficult it would be to continue living in the world after a few nukes were dropped. But, some people survive and

actually make a new life rise from the ashes. That too is good study for anyone living in a world where nuclear weapons exist. Just incase.....

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