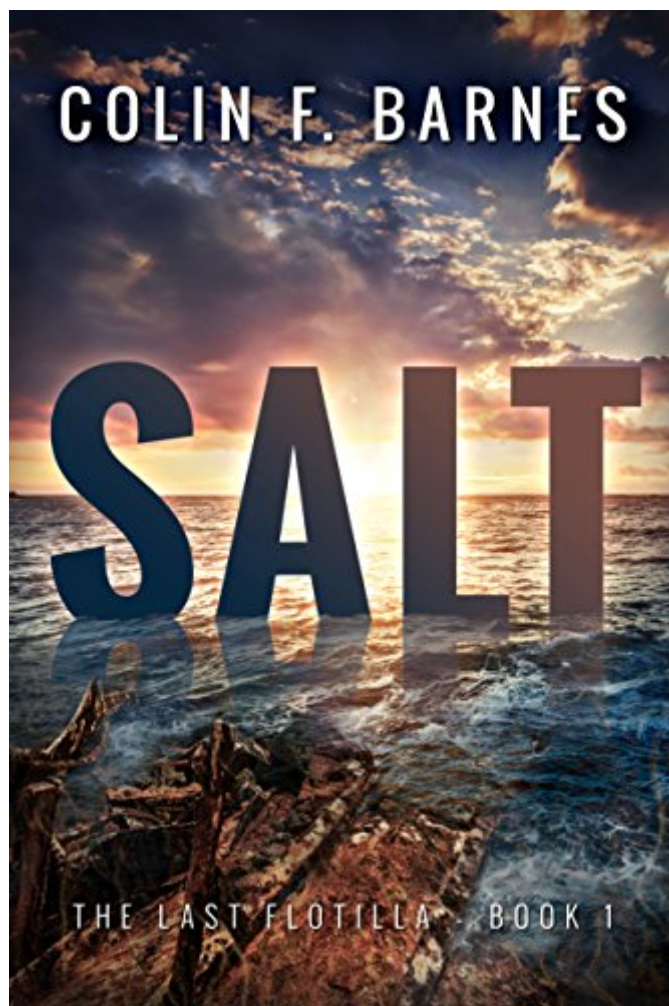


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# Salt (The Last Flotilla Book 1)



## Synopsis

In the near future, the effects of a catastrophic solar flare have left the earth almost entirely submerged, with only the tops of the very tallest mountains remaining above water. Moored to one of these peaks is a flotilla of ships and boats containing all of the planet's known survivors. One hundred and twenty-five souls remain, but not for long—a mysterious infection is turning the air they breathe and the water they drink into deadly hazards. Twelve volunteers have been sent out to look for help—or even any signs of life—and none have returned. It now falls to Eva, a former cop, and Jim, the flotilla's elected leader, to keep the fragile peace among the inhabitants. Humanity is depending on them for its survival—together, can they find the answers in time? Revised edition: This edition of Salt includes editorial revisions.

## Book Information

File Size: 3022 KB

Print Length: 338 pages

Publisher: 47North (October 13, 2015)

Publication Date: October 13, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00XCAOXNU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,507 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #20 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers #49 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Post-Apocalyptic

## Customer Reviews

The Summary: This book ended up being a lot more of a mystery / thriller than a post-apocalyptic novel (as many other reviewers have mentioned). How exactly did all the post-apocalyptic (is that a word? Say that three times fast) happen? I found it a little weak in this aspect but don't get me

wrong, it doesn't make it a bad book; quite far from it, as I enjoyed it quite thoroughly. It brought back some good memories of me watching the movie *Waterworld* (when I was a kid). The Book: The starting was a little slow for me but this did get better as the characters were slowly revealed, and their stories told. I enjoyed the suspense, the character build up (/ break-down), and the action. I genuinely felt dislike for Faust and couldn't decide where I fell on the emotional scale with Graves. It led to a deeper question of how even when facing the end of humanity / civilization, people will still be people and find something to fight about. The Author: This is the first book written by Mr. Barnes that I read, and I especially enjoyed the ending (no spoilers). Usually when I find new authors these days, I am left unsatisfied at the end of the book. I feel the trend to end with cliffhangers, not completing the story, and making / forcing you to buy the second book, is something that grates on me personally. I can't mention how many books I have read, where I'm at 90% completed (what a world we live in "digital books eh?) and wonder how is the author possibly going to wrap this book up. This book did not do this, and for that I was satisfied (and grateful) at the end. I like the author's writing style and will add more of his books to the reading queue. I look forward to the second book in this series. Keep up the good work Mr. Barnes!!

This is a pretty good story. The world has drowned. Solar flares have released water tied up in the earth's crust and sea levels have risen to the point where only a few mountaintops are above. This was an interesting spin on the End of the World (ETOW) genre. The main character Eve, is an ex-cop who lives on a flotilla of vessels tied together who discovers a murder has been committed and starts to track the killer down. Other plotlines include a mutated form of bacteria that is deadly and only held in check by salinity. Hence the title of the book. There is also a government conspiracy subplot that never really goes anywhere except to set up the next book in the series. Could have used a little more here. This sub-plot handling is what got this book a four instead of a five from me. Most of the book concerns tracking down the murderer as opposed to how a second, secret flotilla of scientists is attempting to find a cure for this bacterial infection. Had this been the main storyline, I think it would have been a much stronger book. That said, it is an interesting and engaging story and well worth your time. highly recommended.

While billed as an apocalyptic thriller, I'd say it's more thriller than apocalyptic. The central story is more about a murder mystery than how these people survive in a wasteland of water. Knowing that, it's a fun read and certainly kept me guessing for quite a while. I would have liked to have more detail on how these people have adapted, the politics, economics, etc. of this new society they are

creating. Most of the description of such things in the book are brief and only serve to advance the murder mystery. I enjoyed it though and would be interested in reading more from this author.

I liked the book. I will read other books by this author. The story was interesting, and I looked forward to my reading sessions to find out what would happen next. The main characters are well-developed, with their backgrounds described in just enough detail without bogging down the here-and-now action. The storyline was somewhat frayed, at times hard to follow. Some parts were repetitive. I thought Faust and her followers were props in some ways. The author could have given them some depth and a side to them that is not all bad, just as we saw with others who were "the bad guys" at the beginning. The end was satisfying as far as how fitting it was for the characters I cared most about. But, I would have liked to see all loose ends tied up. I think the author could have provided all the details to readers and still have us interested in the next book. Overall, the book was a good read.

Salt is a simple description for the courage exhibited by the folks on the flotilla captained by Jim. Duncan and Eva showed their incredible strengths throughout this venture. Danny displayed the love and trust that only a young boy who has seemingly lost everything can muster when he realizes some adults are worse than very bad children themselves and other adults are strong in their abilities to understand a child's deep need to be loved and trusted no matter what else is going on around him.

I have read short stories by Colin F. Barnes and he has always taken my breath away with his interesting blend of normal troupes twisted into genres they don't usually fit or expect them to be in. SALT is no exception. A normal procedural thriller/mystery stuck into a very real and intense post-apocalyptic world of deceit and microcosms of societal conflict with a floating city. In the midst of this flotilla with the world having drowned and literally having been flooded, they are the seemingly the last survivors. With a virus which is infecting folks and having their filtration systems breaking down they are forced to try to find out if there is anywhere they can get resources.. what they did not and are not equipped to handle is murder and deceit. This book is AMAZING! And I recommend it to ANYONE who likes both genres or even just one or the other! WHAT a treat to read!

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