

## Joseph D'Lacey on how he came to write *The Veil*...

The Veil contains two linked novellas, both previously published and now collected for the first time in a single volume by the good people at Horrific Tales Publishing.

The first story – *The Kill Crew* – initially appeared in 2009 as a POD paperback published by Stonegarden.net and was later translated into Spanish (La Brigada de la Muerte, Alianza Editorial, 2014). It's been well-received by most readers and the only complaint I seem to get is that it isn't long enough.

Having been commissioned by an Australian publisher called Dark Prints Press, I came up with another tale set during the same cataclysm but in a different part of the world. It was called *The Failing Flesh* and was published as part of an anthology titled *Surviving the End* in 2012. Very few people have read this antho, as far as I can tell, so I can't really say with any confidence what readers thought of the second novella.

However, I can tell you that I had a blast writing it and that my editor thinks it's even darker than *The Kill Crew*.

\*grins\*

I've always intended to write at least two more stories to complete the series but no one I approached liked the idea of four (or more!) linked novellas.

Trying a different tack, I pitched the idea of a complete novel set in the world of *The Kill Crew* to my then agent and she said 'Go for it!'

Two weeks later she emailed telling me not to bother. A fellow agent had shown her a soon-to-be-published manuscript that explored similar territory. I didn't start the novel. The mysterious manuscript was *The Girl with all the Gifts* by M. R. Carey.

By another coincidence, I later met M.R. Carey at Westminster – where we both gave presentations on the future of democracy! – and told him what had happened. He thought my take on the subject matter was different enough that I could write my version. I never did.

And then, one day, Graeme Reynolds took a look and wanted to put *The Kill Crew* and *The Failing Flesh* together in one beautiful volume. So, here we all are.

If you like it – if enough of you like it – perhaps the time will finally have arrived for me to write the rest of the story.