

Hello!

Thanks again for your interest in my AUTUMN artwork project. I wanted to give you a little more information and some details. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

As I've mentioned previously, I will shortly be launching a new website dedicated to my AUTUMN series of Zombie novels, which are being re-released by St Martin's Griffin in the US and Gollancz in the UK (parts of the series are already available in Germany and Spain, and other countries will follow). As an accompaniment to the series, I'll be making more than 120,000 words of additional zombie fiction available free online (most of which was originally released as AUTUMN: THE HUMAN CONDITION through Infected Books in 2005). There will be around 40 short stories and novellas which will enhance and expand the 5 main novels in the series. It's my hope that all of these stories will be accompanied by illustrations submitted by artists such as yourself.

At this stage in the project, as I've stated previously, I'm not able to offer payment. Your artwork remains your property at all times, and if you want me to remove it from the site, I'll do so immediately. But I do hope that you'll see this as a mutually beneficial way of increasing online exposure for everyone involved in the project. By way of a thank you, however, I will be sending everyone who contributes a rare copy of the original edition of AUTUMN: THE HUMAN CONDITION.

It's my hope that the website will be a success and, if it is, it's my intention to pursue the possibility of producing a limited edition, hardback book containing all the free stories and associated artwork. There has already been some interest in making this happen. If this happens, it would be on a formal basis (i.e. it will involve a contract and payment for your art), and it will, of course, be entirely up to you whether your artwork is included or not.

Finally, a brief word about formats etc.

Basically, anything goes! You can submit as many pieces as you like, and I'm happy for submissions to be made in any style and any format you want: traditional paintings or drawings, video, photo manipulation, music . . . it's up to you! Please provide your piece in the highest possible quality, however, so we can get it looking as good as we can on screen.

In terms of timescales, the sooner the better. The website will be launched in early October and stories will be presented gradually and in chronological order so ideally I'd like to get the pictures from the first few days locked down first (see the following pages for more information). If you'd like to 'claim' a particular scene to work on, please let me know as soon as you can. In due course I'll post a list of completed (and claimed) scenes online to avoid any duplication.

Once again, thanks for your interest in the project. I look forward to working with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then loops back under the main text.

AUTUMN artwork

Illustrations will be required for:

- the 5 individual novels in the series
- Amy Steadman (series of 6 illustrations)
- 22 character images (with potentially several more to follow)
- at least 6 novellas

The story takes place over a specific timescale. It's important to note where each character is seen chronologically, particularly in view of the state of the bodies and the overall decay of the surroundings.

Please note: I do not have copyright approval to use any likenesses from the AUTUMN movie (so if you're illustrating Philip Evans, please don't make him look like David Carradine as his estate will sue me!)

The novels

AUTUMN

An isolated farmhouse in the middle of a wood. It is night, and lights are on in the windows. By moonlight we see crowds of bodies approaching through the trees.

AUTUMN: THE CITY

In the middle of a once busy city centre is a long office block which runs along a wide main road. The road is filled with thousands of bodies, all of them surging towards the offices.

AUTUMN: PURIFICATION

A helicopter hovers just above the heads of a crowd of thousands of dead bodies.

AUTUMN: DISINTEGRATION

A group of survivors are trapped up high in a dilapidated apartment block. There are tens of thousands of bodies around them.

BOOK 5

To be announced.

Amy Steadman

Is a character used to illustrate the ongoing decay of the thousands of dead bodies. She is an attractive graduate in her early twenties when we first meet her. She's at work (she's a manager in a clothing store) when she's killed along with everyone else. Amy's story is in 6 parts. I'm looking for either a series of portraits showing how her face decays over time or, alternatively, 6 scenes which can effectively illustrate her rapid physical decline.

Day 1 Amy dies in the clothes store.

Day 3 Still in the store, she gets up and begins to move.

"There has already been a marked change in Amy's external physical appearance. Her skin is now discoloured with her once healthy pink hue having darkened to a dull, dirty grey. Her veins are now considerably darker and more prominent and, in places, her

skin has taken on a greasy translucency. Amy died lying on her back, with her body arched across the feet of a metal display unit. The parts of her body which are lowest to the ground – her feet, legs and backside and her left arm – now appear swollen and bruised. Blood, no longer being pumped around her circulatory system, has pooled and coagulated in these areas.

The first outward signs of the chemical reactions occurring inside the corpse are now also becoming apparent. Fluid-filled blisters have begun to form on Amy's skin, and around some areas of her body skin slippage has also occurred. Her face now appears drawn and hollowed."

Day 5 Amy's corpse emerges from the store.

"Although animated, the cadaver remains otherwise lifeless and oblivious to its surroundings. It is ignorant to its physical limitations. The body is continuing to decay and the lack of a functioning circulatory system is beginning to cause movement problems. Gravity has steadily pulled the body's internal contents downwards. Blood has swollen its already clumsy hands and feet. It's bowels are slowly and involuntarily evacuating. The face, already tinged with the blue-green hue of decay, is otherwise drained of colour."

Day 7 Along with countless other corpses, Amy surrounds a survivor trapped in a phone box.

"The physical effort of the distance travelled has caused the condition of the body to deteriorate further whilst the process of decay has also continued unabated. Its skin is now extremely discoloured. The chemical reactions continuing to occur throughout the cadaver have manifested themselves as numerous weeping sores and lesions. In the fall down the embankment the corpse sustained a number of cuts and lacerations to its right hand, its arm, its upper torso and its face. Thick, congealed blood has slowly seeped (rather than poured) from these cuts. The body's circulatory and respiratory systems no longer operate, blood is no longer being pumped around the body."

Day 17 Amy's corpse is part of a crowd gathering in a used car lot.

"Time has taken its toll on the millions of cadavers still walking the streets. Their flesh is disintegrating and countless internal and external chemical reactions are affecting the composition and strength of the remaining skin, muscle and other bodily components. Steadman's corpse is no different. Its flesh has darkened and dried out in places as bodily fluids have steadily drained away. As a result of these changes the body has also become breeding grounds for huge numbers of insects. Amy Steadman's corpse is a melting pot of insect activity. It is riddled with maggots."

Day 23 Amy's corpse approaches an airfield and fights its way through the crowds to the wire-mesh fence.

"It is now more than three weeks since infection. Amy Steadman's body has been moving away from the site of its death for more than two weeks. It is now little more than a rotten and featureless shadow of what it once was. Its face, once fresh, clear and attractive, is now skeletal and heavily decayed. Its skin is discoloured and waxy. Its once bright eyes are dull, dark and dry. Because of its increasing physical limitation the creature moves slowly and forcefully. Movements which had previously been random and uncoordinated, however, now have an ominous underlying purpose and determination."

Other Characters / Novellas

The following list contains brief descriptions of scenes which illustrate key moments in the short stories and characters sketches which will be available online. Character / story names are included for ease of reference, as is the day on which the scene occurs.

Name	Day	Description
Brigid Culthorpe	1	A police officer, called to a domestic incident in a small and squalid house, finds herself alone with several corpses, including one of her colleagues.
Gary 'Tuggie' Keele	1	The pilot of a small tug plane takes evasive action as gliders start falling out of the skies around him.
Harry Stayt	1	A male runner comes across a car crashed into a lake OR he watches a plane crash into the water.
Jackie Soames	1	An overweight, half-drunk landlady emerges from her pub and finds the streets filled with corpses.
Jacob Flynn	1	A prisoner is trapped in his cell with two corpses.
	3	A prisoner reaches through the bars of his cell and grabs the staggering corpse of a guard.
Jim Harper	1	A male in his mid-twenties stands over the naked corpse of his female lover.
Juliet Appleby	1	A young woman buries the corpses of her parents in two shallow graves in her back garden.
Karen Chase	1	A waitress stands in the middle of a cafe, surrounded by her dying customers and unable to help any of them.
Peter Guest	1	A middle-aged man climbs over the roofs of hundreds of crashed cars which are blocking a tunnel.
Philip Evans	1	A scrawny, bewildered looking man cycles into the centre of a small village filled with corpses.
	3	He tries to persuade his dead mother to lie down.
Sheri Newton	1	A female CCTV operator watches the world fall apart on a bank of TV screens.
Sonya Farley	1	A tall, athletic-looking, heavily pregnant woman walks towards a city along a motorway strewn with a never-ending mass of crashed cars.
Webb	1	A car thief hides in a burger bar, feeding his face and staring out through the window as the rest of the world dies.
Dean McFarlane	3	An 8 year old boy is alone in his house. His parents are dead and he's scared. By torchlight he peers out from under a table.
Duck and Cover	1	An overweight city councillor takes cover in the dark basement of city hall.
	3	The councillor barricades his dead (but still moving) wife in the bathroom of their home.
	5	The councillor, now appearing terrified and streaked with dirt, stands on a freezer in the middle of a supermarket, surrounded by corpses.
Penelope Street	5	A paralysed woman sits helpless in her wheelchair as the living dead swarm around her. Outside, the world is burning.
Office Politics	7	A bank worker goes about his daily routine, a week after the rest of the world has died. He opens his branch for business and the dead swarm inside.
The Human Condition	7	A coach drives along a city street, crashing through wreckage and

		churning corpses up into the air.
	17	A group of survivors fight their way out through an apartment block lobby filled with surging corpses.
Jackson	7	A single survivor, wearing full protective gear and carrying a rucksack filled with supplies, watches the dead from inside an empty building.
Kate James	9	A middle-aged woman sits alone in a children's playground at dusk. All around her, the dead are approaching through the mist.
Robert Woolgrave	9	A lone survivor is trapped in an office at the centre of the car lot where he used to work. The building is surrounded by cars and corpses.
The Garden Shed	9	An elderly, white-haired man tries to fortify his modest home.
Home	23	A sole survivor creeps through a housing estate filled with corpses.
Kilgore	23	Soldiers wearing full protective gear attempt to stem the flow of walking corpses from an office building they've just broken into.
Skin	23	A disaffected youth traps the corpses of everyone he hates in his old school gym.
Annie Nelson	38	An old lady hides in the cellar of her house as corpses fill the rooms above.