

THE ZOMBIE RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Positive Role Models in the Media

It is hard to find positive depictions of the undead in our often anti-zombie society, so we here at the Zombie Rights Campaign have compiled a list of some of our favorite works of art and entertainment showing the differently animated in a more positive light. Enjoy!

Books:

Many Works By Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett has proven to be a pioneer in the Zombie Rights Movement, writing many stories exploring the complicated and yes, **human** world of the differently animated. Best known perhaps for the seminal work 'Reaper Man', Pratchett has continued to shed valuable light on the plight of the undead in his Discworld novels.

In particular, the ZRC recommends:

Reaper Man – A true classic of zombie literature, *Reaper Man* poses the living an interesting question: what if *you* became a zombie...what if, in fact, everyone started rising from the dead... and it wasn't so bad after all? As a bonus the book features the development and activities of a (fictional) pro-undead civil rights organization, somewhat like our own!

Subsequent books in the Discworld Universe to *Reaper Man* sometimes feature further adventures of Reg Shoe the civic minded zombie (particularly in the Watch series of novels), as he pursues a rewarding career in civil service and becomes a well-liked and respected member of the larger community.

(Some other Discworld books featuring positive zombie portrayals include *Jingo*, *Monstrous Regiment* and *Night Watch*.)

The Discworld novels also occasionally feature zombies, such as Mr. Slant, the longtime head of the Guild of Lawyers (and sometimes antagonist of Samuel Vimes), who, while not wholly positive role models, are nonetheless complicated and human characters rather than undead stereotypes. (see *The Truth*)

Webcomics:

[*Skin Horse*](#) by Shaenon Garrity and Jeffrey Channing Wells – This comic, set in the same universe as the earlier Narbonic series, features an artificially created undead bioweapon named U.N.I.T.Y. as a member of a comically understaffed and underfunded government black operation. Though UNITY occasionally struggles with her cravings for brains, she is a valued team member and friend, and the comic reflects the complexity of undead-living relationships with a lighter, humorous tone.

Overcompensating by Jeffrey Rowland – Fan-favorite character Joanna the zombie cat isn't what you'd call a go-getter. She's lazy, self-absorbed, and spends most of her time sitting around like a lump.

In other words, she's just like any other cat. We here at the Zombie Rights Campaign applaud this even-handed portrayal of zombiism in the feline community.

Comics and Manga:

Princess Resurrection (Adults Only) This hyperviolent romp of sequential art takes traditional tropes about the undead and the supernatural as a starting point for a story of mayhem, carnage and black comedy. The main character Hiro is a sort of specialized undead, a zombie-like person who needs small infusions of the blood of fellow protagonist Princess Hime to survive. Combining drama, comedy, excessive gore and subversion of traditional tropes and prejudices against the undead, *Princess Resurrection* is a fine choice for our older readers. (Not you, Tim!)

Artwork:

Zombie Baby by Ursula Vernon

<http://ursulav.deviantart.com/art/Where-Zombie-Babies-Come-From-6979550>

An adorable depiction of a happy zombie baby being brought by a vulture instead of a stork.

The Zombie Rights Campaign will continue to update this list as it becomes aware of more positive or even-handed depictions of zombies in media. Thank you for your interest in Zombie-Friendly entertainment!