

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK REVIEWS

## LINQ 2014

The choice of an apocalypse-themed issue may seem a little mournful but in reality it reflects the fluid nature of the journal as we progress through periods of change and renewal. After all, apocalypse novels are, in reality, always survival and rebirth stories.

In the case of *MaddAddam* (2013) and *The End of the World Running Club* (2014) the end has come and gone and the issues that present themselves are those same issues that consume much of pre-bedlam life: family, identity and consequence.

The characters of *Doomed* (2013) and *The Ace of Skulls* (2013) find themselves trapped within vast and catastrophic systems where they try to comprehend the consequences of their roles, and while the end seems imminent, human life continues in its own trivial and endearing way.

This theme of survival and transformation continues with *Transgressive Fiction: The New Satiric Tradition* (2013), which analyses stories famous for their depictions of transformative bodies, explorative violence and Sadean paralogy.

Each of the reviewed works examines the flawed and yet appealing nature of the human animal with its talent for adaption and stupidity, traits that have maintained relevance and offered catharsis throughout the centuries.

As Madison, the protagonist of *Doomed*, says, "What makes the earth feel like hell is our expectation that it ought to feel like heaven. Earth is earth. Hell is hell. Now, stop with the whining and caterwauling."

Molly Hoey

