# Doomsday Wonderland: Hyperthermal hell

*This is the keyword-rich,
attention-grabbing subtitle*

N. Heller

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TITLE

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Book and Cover design by Designer

ISBN: 123456789

First Edition: Month 2013

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# CONTENTS

[CHAPTER1 1](#_Toc427617968)

[CHAPTER2 13](#_Toc427617969)

[CHAPTER3 21](#_Toc427617970)

[CHAPTER4 29](#_Toc427617971)

[CHAPTER 5 37](#_Toc427617973)

[Acknowledgments 46](#_Toc427617974)

PS) Novels don’t have to have a table of contents, and if you do use one, you can right click and hit “update fields” after you add your content. You should probably remove this TOC before you convert to ebook though – ereaders will use the chapter headings instead to make a table of contents.

FONTS USED:

[Libre Baskerville](http://www.fontsquirrel.com/fonts/libre-baskerville)

[Open Sans](http://www.fontsquirrel.com/fonts/open-sans)

[Aleo](http://www.fontsquirrel.com/fonts/aleo)

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# CHAPTER ONE

How To Use This Template

FIRSTLY, MAKE SURE YOU READ the free guide and watch some of the videos on [www.diybookcovers.com](http://www.diybookcovers.com). You’ll also need to download the fonts used in this template (Baskerville Libre, Open Sans and Aleo). They are free and I put links to them on the “Contents” page. Once you’ve installed them, the Word doc should look like the PDF file.

If you go to “view” and make sure the “Navigation Pane” is selected, you’ll see the chapter headings and can navigate quickly. Take a look at each chapter: I’ve styled them all differently. Pick a style you like and want to use. Then tweak the other chapters so they match. You can also create new styles to make it go faster.

In the “Home” >> “Styles” section, I’ve already added some common styles you can use. You can play with the style, change the font, size, spacing, etc. and then right click and “update style.” Then it will be easy to go through and highlight an element and pick the style for that element.

Remember to use the “Heading 1” style for chapter headings so that they show up on the navigation plane (did you know you can use the navigation plane to drag and drop whole sections of your book around? Sweet, right?)

You can also change the fonts: my favorite **free** body fonts for book design are LibreBaskerville, LinexLibertine, Junicode, Free Serif and Crimson. But keep in mind it may be better to pay for a pro font. My favorites are Minion Pro, Adobe Caslon Pro, Adobe Garamond Pro and ITC New Baskerville.

You’ll also want to change the chapter header font to match your book cover title. The rookie mistake is to go big and get distracted by all the cool fonts and decorations. Simple but beautiful serif and sans serif fonts will look good for just about any genre. You don't want interior fonts that clash with your book cover design, but it's OK if your fonts don't match as long as you keep things simple on the inside. It’s usually better to find a simple font with a slight style indicative of the genre, rather than something crazy artistic and wild. I’ve played with a lot of different designs to show you what’s possible, but special fonts, headings, dropcaps and graphics are more common in YA fiction, and may look “childish” for standard adult fiction. You don’t want it to be totally plain, but you don’t want to go overboard with special effects either.

Also keep in mind, if you’re looking at your document in 100% view, the letters might seem unclear or squished together – if you zoom into 200% you should see how the fonts will really look.

Once you’ve figured out your design preferences (don’t worry, by using *styles* it’s easy to make whole manuscript changes on the fly), you can start adding in your content. You could paste it chapter by chapter, but you’ll still need to make new chapters. The easiest way to do that is to select 3 chapters and past them at the end of this document, then do it again with 6, 12… until you have enough chapters.

Or, just delete everything but chapter one, paste in your whole book, then start using the styles to format the first paragraphs and chapter headings. You’ll also need to add a page break at the end of every chapter and section, so that there are no headers and footers showing on title pages.

This book is set for 6”x9”, if you need to change it just go up to “page layout” and set the new size for the whole document. You can leave everything else the same.

Making Ebooks

These templates will convert easily to ebook formats; you can use the free conversion tool I added to [www.publishxpress.com](http://www.publishxpress.com). Almost everything will look the same; images should be at least 1200px wide so they display on high-res ebook devices. Dropcaps won’t convert well, you’ll have to redo them in code (I added some videos to DIY Book Formats on that).

Also the fonts won’t be embedded, you would need to open the epub in Sigil (free software for ebook editing), and add the fonts in manually. There are videos about that on DIY Book Formats as well. However, you want to keep the ebook super slim and simple, so I’d actually recommend getting rid of your drop caps first, styling the first paragraph with no indent and the first few words all-capped, and then just upload the file and use the resulting ebooks as is. Most mainstream publishers use ultra-minimal ebooks, because they want to make sure they will display properly on all devices, and special stuff like fonts, dropcaps or extra decorations can break or have display issues on some older devices.

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For section breaks, it’s usually best to stick with three asterixes. You can experiment with different fonts and sizes to get them to look good. Then start the next paragraph with a no-indent using the “First Paragraph” style. If you want something fancier, look for a font of webdings/glyphs that has an image you want, or find a little graphic to use. But again, I tend to find those more distracting than enjoyable. You want to get out of the reader’s way so they can stay in the story, not pull them out to look at your clever decorations.

Regarding fonts, you can generally get away with one serif, one sans-serif for contrast, and one speciality font that fits your genre and establishes the mood. I think drop caps and fancy headings are pretty, but for most books it’s safer and often more professional to use understated design, with lots of white spaced and smaller fonts with more spacing between letters. A non-indent on the first paragraph and all caps for the first few words is usually the best way to start a new chapter.

Finally, the average page should have between 250 and 300 words on it; and your total book should be around 300~400 pages (a nice length for most fiction – not too thick or thin). You can play with font size, line height and margins to try to stay within those guidelines.

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For blockquotes like this, use the blockquote style. You can mix up serif and **sans-serif** fonts to great effect, just be consistent.

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CHAPTER TWO

*Another lovely heading…*

You want your body text to start halfway down the page on the first page of each chapter. To make sure the spacing is right, go up and highlight that “Chapter Two” text, then go to “Line Spacing Options” and edit the spacing before the paragraph for that style. You could also do that for the spacing before the first paragraph, or subtitles, so make sure the chapter pages are all identical.

Also, your chapter pages shouldn’t have a header or footer on them; at the end of each chapter, hit Page Layout>> Breaks>> Next Page. The the first page of the next chapter will start a new section. Now if you click in the header or footer boxes at the top/bottom of the page, you’ll see these options.

If you check “Different First Page” then you’ll be able to remove the header and footer from that first page of each chapter, without it removing all the headers and footers in the chapter.

If you want to center an image, highlight it and select the **first paragraph** style first to get rid of the indent, then center—otherwise the indent will make it offer-centered.

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# 2

Blistering Hot Night with a Steak

W

hat was the difference between the temperature from midnight to 1 am?

If things continued on as usual, no one would probably feel it.

However, tonight was vastly different. The sun had long been set, but the temperature of the sweltering heat in the air seemed to rise gradually with each passing minute. And to make matters worse, it had been days since there was even a little wind. The surrounding air outside the windows was no longer just air, but suffocating, scalding hot air that was waiting to rush towards you.

As if someone had given an order, the small number of families in the city who, for various reasons, did not switch on their air conditioners, now also switched them on. Whereas the people without air conditioners simply could not tolerate it any longer. Pubs, 24-hour convenience stores, offices... Wherever there was a trace of cool air, they would go.

After 30 minutes, with a "Ke Da" sound, a few night lights in the 38th-floor apartment were extinguished. The room was plunged into absolute darkness. The constant soft buzzing sound in the bedroom had also unknowingly stopped at some point.

The central air conditioning had stopped.

After the air conditioner had stopped, Lin Sanjiu tossed frustratedly whilst asleep. Without the maintained temperature of a comfortable 26°C, her body was quickly covered in a layer of sweat. This layer of sweat was like an unbreathable blanket, and before long, she woke up due to the heat.

Ughh. The remote control seems to be on the bedside cabinet. A thought flashed past her hazy mind. Just as she was about to stretch out her hand to reach for it, she suddenly felt that something was wrong. She immediately stopped moving her hand. After remaining motionless for a while, she squinted slightly and peeked upward.

A snowy white face hung directly above her own. Two black, cavernous eyes stared straight at her.

Again! It's happened again! A loud screech exploded in Lin Sanjiu's mind; however, her throat was so dry, she couldn't even make a sound. Her heartbeat became faster and faster, louder and louder, and that white face leaned in close with his ear to listen. With swiftness, it came near Lin Sanjiu.

Two weeks before, she had once woken up in the middle of the night because she was thirsty. As she got up, she knocked into that face. At the time, she was so shocked that she yelped and scrambled to switch on the lights, only to find that it was Ren Nan.

She didn't know when Ren Nan had sat beside her with an expressionless face in the dark, how long he had been staring at her in this manner — just like tonight.

He explained to her that since he was young, he often sleepwalked.

If it weren't for her doubts, she would have believed him. She now forced down her fears and acted like she had just woken up. She rubbed her eyes and asked casually, "Ren Nan, are you sleepwalking again?"

In the dark, a smile cracked on Ren Nan's face. "Yes, it seems that I've done it again. I didn't scare you, did I?" He spoke totally articulately.

"A… a little…" Lin Sanjiu got out of the bed, almost as if escaping. She stood by the door, which gave her the false impression that she could escape anytime, so she calmed down a little. Only then did she feel the steamer-like temperature of the room. "Why is it so hot? Did you switch off the air conditioner?"

Ren Nan didn't say a thing. He pulled open the thick, heavy curtains, revealing the set of full-length windows. Normally, Lin Sanjiu could see the dazzling night scene of half the city through these windows. On this night, however, the city had lost its everlasting illumination. Even the starlight was blocked by the clouds, leaving only a dead darkness.

In the apartment with closed doors and closed windows, it was so stuffy that it was even hard to breath.

"The electrical load must be too high. It seems like there is a power outage throughout the city." There was still a cheerfulness in Ren Nan's voice that showed his composure. While he spoke, he slowly stood up, walked past the end of the bed and headed toward the door, step by step.

Suddenly, the alarm bells in Lin Sanjiu's mind rang. Without waiting for him to approach, she rushed towards the living room. She finally got some benefit from all the decorating and cleaning of this penthouse over these three months—in this pitch-black darkness, she succeeded in reaching the living room entrance. Without stopping to take a breath, she stretched out her hand and smashed the elevator button with a "bash".

Unexpectedly, it didn't light up red. There wasn't a backup power supply system in such an expensive condo?

"The backup power supply is only for the lights in the stairways. They couldn't care less for the lifts — even more so for personal ones." The voice came from behind her, a voice she had known for half a year. Ren Nan was just as gentle as before, but as he enunciated his words, Lin Sanjiu heard a wetness in his tone. It was as if… Ren Nan could not control the saliva secreting in his mouth.

In the dark, the shadowy, blurry outline that represented Ren Nan crept towards her, finally stopping in the middle of the living room.

Lin Sanjiu felt giddy. Her sixth sense had been right. A sense of regret welled up in her heart. "What… what are you going to do to me?"

"Your senses are quite keen." Ren Nan swallowed a mouthful of saliva. "You must have already felt it, right? But you really should have listened more closely to your intuition. Otherwise, you wouldn't have followed me back here. These past few days, you must have felt conflicted. I really should thank you for your trust."

Lin Sanjiu did not realize it herself, but her clenched fists were now trembling uncontrollably.

"Xiao Jiu, in such hot weather, have you been sweating a lot?" Ren Nan suddenly asked such a random question with concern.

Lin Sanjiu was stunned. She touched her arm subconsciously, finding that she only had a thin layer of perspiration on her skin. She started wondering why he would ask about this now.

Ren Nan nodded his head in a satisfied manner. "Xiao Jiu, you're great! I didn't groom you for half a year in vain…"

What the hell was he talking about? She did not understand a single thing he was saying. Lin Sanjiu wanted to open her mouth to say something, but she realized that her jaw was quivering. The thought that had been in her head these past few days made her say something she never thought she would say. "Are you going to… to eat me?"

"Your intuition is really sharp!" the black figure praised.

Lin Sanjiu was infuriated by his attitude. A complex mixture of fear, indignation, and bewilderment arose, and she did not feel as helpless as before. "Stop bullshitting! Who are you? Why did you choose me? Don't you dare try anything! All my friends know that I am staying at your place..." The words flowed out like a tidal wave.

She purposely raised her voice, secretly hoping that someone would be able to hear her as she felt her way to the open-concept kitchen at the side of the living room.

Ren Nan sighed. "On account of the fact that you have accompanied me for six months, I will explain things to you before you die." He raised his hands and snapped his fingers.

With a sudden "boom", one of the glass walls in the living room shattered into a thousand pieces. A wave of heat unlike anything Lin Sanjiu had ever felt before rushed passed the glass pieces and engulfed the room. This was accompanied by a muffled scream from a distance. The last bit of leftover cool air from the air-conditioner was swallowed in an instant.

"Why… why is it so hot?" It was as if someone had taken the entire city and roasted it over a barbecue pit! Before Lin Sanjiu could react, Ren Nan spoke in his gentle voice again. "From tonight onwards, this world is no longer the world that you people are familiar with. In this apocalypse world, according to your metric system, it is… oh… 56°C."

Lin Sanjiu was dumbfounded. At 56°C, normal humans would die a few times over due to acute hyperthermia and severe dehydration. With this sudden thought, she quickly touched the back of her neck. Unexpectedly, Lin Sanjiu did not really sweat much more.

"See! I only nurtured you for a few months, yet you already evolved and gained the 'Heat Resistance Adaptation' and 'Keen Senses' traits. Two traits... As expected of a potential seed I spotted right after I first saw you. Too bad, this apocalypse world came too early. Otherwise, I would have preferred to nurture you for two years before consuming..."

After the glass wall shattered, a dim light flooded the living room. With the aid of that bit of light, Lin Sanjiu could see Ren Nan's face clearly.

His usual handsome, model-like features gradually gave way to his large mouth, which kept getting wider and wider. Clear, bright saliva poured from the corners of his mouth without restraint, and at this time, Lin Sanjiu was already forced to the corner of the kitchen.

"I... I still don't understand! What sort of creature are you? Why do you want to eat me? I don't know what evolution or powers you are talking about. Didn't you say you would explain it to me? Then, tell me!"

Even if she could only delay him for one minute, it would give her a shred of opportunity! Lin Sanjiu shouted as she secretly stretched out her hand towards the knife holder on the countertop behind her.

His large mouth stopped for a while and then shrunk a little, revealing Ren Nan's original facial features again. "Sigh. Why are you so stupid? Of course, I am a human and Ren Nan is my name. However, I am not like your kind of "backward". I come from another "apocalypse world." Anyone who survives an apocalypse world will evolve and gain different abilities. I have abilities that you would never even dream of."

Ren Nan wiped his clammy chin. "You better put that knife down. I am warning you, my eyesight is really good. Just let me eat you obediently. I promise that it won't even hurt a bit."

"No way!" she shouted furiously. He barely even finished his sentence before Lin Sanjiu, filled with fear and anger, rushed towards him with a sharp knife in her hand.

The gleaming silver boning knife moved extremely quickly as it drew a bright light in the darkness. Just as the tip of the knife was about to pierce into Ren Nan's chest, he shifted a step silently. Lin Sanjiu missed her target. She staggered forward and slipped on a piece of glass. Unable to keep her balance, she fell heavily to the ground.

His large mouth, which almost tore his cheeks apart, lunged forward to attack Lin Sanjiu. He did not even give her the chance to stand up. In panic, she only managed to turn aside and fling out the boning knife. Ren Nan dodged quickly but still received a shallow cut from the knife.

With a crash, the knife fell some distance away.

Feeling angry and humiliated, Ren Nan pinned Lin Sanjiu to the ground and stared at her black pupils, which had shrunk to the size of a pinhead. "A steak should act like a steak!"

In the dim light, Lin Sanjiu watched in despair as the black figure closed in on her throat.Cras a dui at quam fringilla conse- quat. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Duis at ornare libero. Nunc rutrum volutpat tortor, a faucibus augue congue non. Integer ultricies et magna nec iaculis. Sed tincidunt quis felis vel euismod. Nam pretium elit elementum est ullamcorper dic- tum. Praesent dapibus dolor ut lorem hendrerit volutpat. Curabitur vulputate placerat turpis at luctus. Suspendisse vel aliquam nulla. Nam tristique sed ipsum eget cursus. Aliquam in adipiscing magna. In quis elit nisi. Donec eu lorem ut nisl adipiscing suscipit eget eu libero.

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# *CHAPTER 5*

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