

## WHY WE LOVE *The Temps*

Dear Reader,

Our latest book club selection, *The Temps* by Andrew DeYoung, transcends any typical classification. Part satirical office drama, part locked-room mystery, part zombie apocalypse—it blends several genres into a wholly original narrative.

*The Temps* chronicles the lives of the temporary workers of Delphi Enterprises, a mysterious mega-corporation with cryptic intentions. There's a big meeting with Delphi's almost-mythical founder in the outdoor amphitheater, but temps aren't allowed. During the meeting, a yellow gas descends and the employees erupt into frenzied violence, killing each other or themselves. Only a few hundred temps are left standing, all of whom are trapped inside the sealed office complex.

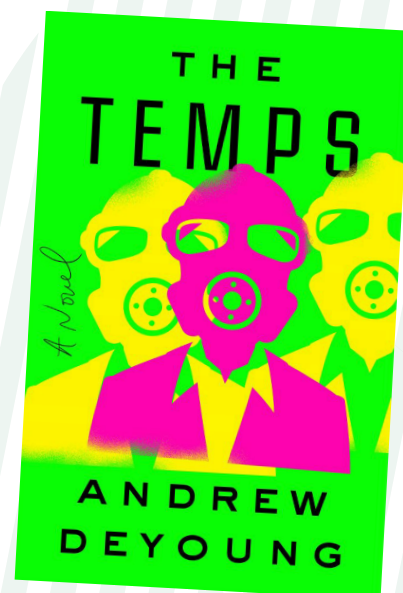
As they struggle to survive, they start to question everything. What does Delphi really do? And did they have something to do with the gas? Is the apocalypse even real or just an experiment?

DeYoung's novel tackles many timely themes—capitalism, hustle work culture, conspiracy theories, white privilege, and the failed promises of the American dream—with a dry wit that keeps the horrific digestible, the repetitive laughable, and the pages turning. In the end, *The Temps* isn't so much a story about the apocalypse as it is a smart, searing exposé on the perils of capitalism, over-reliance upon technology, and millennial disillusionment.

As you read along with us, let us know what you think about *The Temps* on social @hoopladigital and find fellow readers using #hooplabookclub.

Happy reading!

Andi Paris, hoopla digital



## About the Author

Andrew DeYoung is an author and editor living in St. Paul with his wife and two children. His debut novel, *The Exo Project*, was the winner of a Minnesota Book Award.



## Selected Praise for *The Temps*

### A Tor Nightfire Most Exciting Horror Book of 2022

"This boiling-pot of a novel is a vivid experiment in millennial disillusionment...Simultaneously a dark dystopic and a hilarious tale of bureaucratic absurdity, *The Temps* is bizarre—and unexpectedly fun." —**Booklist, starred review**

"A smart critique of modern life." —**Publishers Weekly**

"DeYoung has taken a familiar end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it theme and made it something uniquely his own. Readers won't soon forget it." —**New York Journal of Books**

"Andrew DeYoung is a sage storyteller with the incredibly rare gift of being able to write with both poignancy and wit. *The Temps* is both terrifying and hilarious—it absolutely deserves a highpaying full-time job with excellent benefits." —**John Jodzio, author of Knockout and If You Lived Here You'd Already Be Home**

"Andrew DeYoung's *The Temps* is a comic adventure for our uncertain times, a mashup of *Then We Came to the End* and *World War Z*. The result is a surprisingly funny and heartfelt satire of modern employment that should please fans of literary and speculative fiction alike." —**Adam O'Fallon Price, author of The Hotel Neversink**

"*The Temps* is equal parts dark satire, probing character study, and fast-paced thriller. DeYoung's mesmerizing writing is by turns wry, muscular, and probing. This is an apocalyptic page-turner that asks profound questions about human nature, about who we are and who we have the potential to become. DeYoung's vision is both vibrant and prophetic; I couldn't put this novel down."

—**Kaethe Schwehn, author of The Rending and The Nest**

"Part Great American Office Novel and part apocalyptic thriller, *The Temps* taps into the search for meaning post-college and combines it with the sharp urgency of the best dystopian fiction. With wry observations about corporate life and careful attention to the delicate intricacies of human relationships, DeYoung reminds us that the only thing worse than a meaningless temp job is a meaningless temp job during the end of the world." —**Bryan Bliss, National Book Award Longlisted author of We'll Fly Away**

"What *The Temps* profoundly illustrates is that the most gripping science fiction doesn't emerge from the unknown, but from what we know all too well and choose to look away from. That we choose to look away at our own peril is what makes *The Temps* impossible to put down." —**Ben Tanzer, author of Orphans, UPSTATE, and Lost in Space**