

# Bio Terror Bible

## EXPOSING THE COMING BIO-TERROR PANDEMIC

**BIO TERROR BIBLE.COM:** [Starting in 1957](#), there have been [18 mainstream movies and documentaries](#) dealing specifically with bio-terror and pandemics. Although these films have been sporadic over the last 55 years, they have intensified over the last 10 and appear to be peaking in 2012 or 2013.

**Title:** [The Last Man On Earth](#)

**Date:** 2012

**Source:** [Wikipedia](#)

**Abstract:** The Last Man on Earth ([Italian](#): L'ultimo uomo della Terra) is a [1964 science fiction horror film](#) based upon the [Richard Matheson](#) 1954 novel [I Am Legend](#). The film was directed by [Ubaldo Ragona](#) and [Sidney Salkow](#), and stars [Vincent Price](#). The script was written in part by Matheson, but he was dissatisfied with the result and chose to be credited as "Logan Swanson". [William Leicester](#), Furio M. Monetti, and Ubaldo Ragona were the other writers.

The Last Man on Earth was filmed in [Rome, Italy](#), with some location shots taken at [Esposizione Universale Roma](#). It was released theatrically in the [United States](#) by [American International Pictures](#), and has since fallen into the [public domain](#). [MGM Home Video](#), the current owners of the [AIP](#) film catalog, released a digitally remastered [widescreen](#) print on [DVD](#) in September 2005.

### Plot Summary

In the year 1968, every day is the same for Dr. Robert Morgan (Price): he wakes up, gathers his weapons and then goes hunting for [vampires](#). Morgan lives in a world where everyone else has been infected by a [plague](#) that has turned them into [undead](#), [vampiric](#) creatures that cannot stand sunlight, fear mirrors, and are repelled by [garlic](#). They would kill Morgan if they could, but fortunately, they are weak and unintelligent. At night, Morgan locks himself inside his house; during the day, he kills as many vampires as he can, burning the bodies.

A [flashback](#) sequence explains that, three years before, Morgan's wife and daughter had succumbed to the plague, before it was widely known by the public that the dead would return to life. Instead of taking his wife to the same public burn pit used to dispose of his daughter's corpse, Morgan buried her without the knowledge of the authorities. When his wife returned to his home and attacked him, Morgan became aware of the need to kill the plague victims with a wooden stake. Morgan hypothesizes that he is [immune](#) to the [bacteria](#) because he was bitten by an infected [vampire bat](#) when he was stationed in [Panama](#), which introduced a diluted form of the plague into his blood.

One day, a dog appears in the neighborhood. Morgan chases after the dog but does not catch it. Some time later, the dog appears, wounded, at Morgan's doorstep. He takes the dog into his home and treats its wounds, looking forward to having company for the first time in three years. He quickly discovers, however, that it too has become infected with the plague. Morgan is later seen burying the dog, which he has impaled with a wooden stake.

While out on his daily rounds, Morgan spots a woman in the distance. The woman, Ruth, is terrified of Morgan at first sight, and runs from him. Morgan convinces her to return to his home, but is suspicious of her true nature. Ruth becomes ill when Morgan waves garlic in her face, but claims that she has a weak stomach.

Morgan's suspicion that Ruth is infected is confirmed when he discovers her attempting to inject herself with a combination of blood and [vaccine](#) that holds the disease at bay. Ruth initially draws a

gun on Morgan, but surrenders it to him. Ruth then tells him that she is part of a group of people like her — infected but under treatment — and was sent to spy on Morgan. The vaccine allows the people to function normally with the drug in the bloodstream, but once it wears off, the infection takes over the body again. Ruth explains that her people are planning to rebuild society as they destroy the remaining vampires, and that many of the vampires Morgan killed were technically still alive.

While Ruth is asleep, Morgan transfuses his own blood into her. She is immediately cured, and Morgan sees hope that, together, they can cure the rest of her people. Moments later, however, Ruth's people attack. Morgan takes the gun and flees his home while the attackers kill the vampires gathered around Morgan's home.

Ruth's people spot Morgan and chase him. He exchanges gunfire with them, and picks up [tear gas](#) grenades from a police station armory along the way. While the tear gas delays his pursuers somewhat, Morgan is wounded by gunfire and retreats into a church. Despite Ruth's protests to let Morgan live, his pursuers finally impale him on the [altar](#) with a spear. With his dying breaths, Morgan denounces his pursuers as "freaks," and declares that he is the last true man on earth.

### Critical Reaction and Legacy

Although *The Last Man on Earth* was not considered a success upon its release, the film later gained a more favorable reputation as a classic of the genre. As of November 2011, *The Last Man on Earth* holds a 73% rating on [Rotten Tomatoes](#).<sup>[2]</sup> [Phil Hall](#) of [Film Threat](#) called *The Last Man on Earth* "the best Vincent Price movie ever made." Awarding the film three and a half stars out of four, Danél Griffin of *Film as Art* said, "Directors Sidney Salkow and Ubaldo Ragona and star Vincent Price (giving a poignant, straightforward performance) are able to conjure up some genuine chills here, mainly in the use of stark, black-and-white images and the underlining mood of the piece."

Among the less favorable reviews, Steve Biodrowski of [Cinefantastique](#) felt the film was "hampered by an obviously low budget and some poorly recorded post-production dubbing that creates an amateurish feel, undermining the power of its story", while [Jonathan Rosenbaum](#) of the [Chicago Reader](#) remarked, "Some would consider this version better than the 1971 remake with [Charlton Heston](#), [The Omega Man](#), but that isn't much of an achievement."

Among the film's creators, Price "had a certain fondness for the film" and felt it was better than *The Omega Man*.<sup>[4]</sup> [Richard Matheson](#) co-wrote the film's screenplay, but was unhappy with the results. In order to keep receiving residual income from the film, though, he had to be credited, and so used the name "Logan Swanson" - a combination of his wife's mother's maiden name and his mother's maiden name. Matheson remarked, "I was disappointed in *The Last Man on Earth*, even though they more or less followed my story. I think Vincent Price, whom I love in every one of his pictures that I wrote, was miscast. I also felt the direction was kind of poor. I just didn't care for it."

[George A. Romero](#) has acknowledged the source material of *The Last Man on Earth* as an influence on his film [Night of the Living Dead](#), remarking that he "basically had ripped [it] off from a Richard Matheson novel called *I Am Legend*." Numerous critics have suggested *The Last Man on Earth* film itself was also a source of inspiration for *Night of the Living Dead*.

### Differences from the Novel

The [protagonist](#) of [the novel](#) is named Robert Neville, not Robert Morgan. The movie also changed the protagonist's profession from plant worker to scientist. The film's vampires are almost [zombie](#)-like, whereas in the book, they are fast, capable of running and climbing. The dog that shows up on Neville's doorstep is timid in the novel, and comes and goes as it pleases. The relationship with Ruth also slightly differs from the novel, and no transfusion takes place; a cure seems implausible, even as Neville hopes he will find one. Ruth escapes after Neville discovers that she is infected. He is not captured until many months later, and even then he barely fights. The book ends shortly before Neville is to be [executed](#): Ruth returns to give him [suicide](#) pills, and finds it ironic that he has become as much of a legend to the new society as vampires once were to his (hence the title). The novel implies that the vampire plague resulted from a biological disease. The origin of the disease is not explained in *The Last Man on Earth*, and is altered in the subsequent adaptations ([Wikipedia, 2012](#)).