

Here’s something to which we may not give much thought in our comfortable, modern lives.

As evidenced by the ongoing threat from H1N1, bird flu, Ebola or SARS, viruses are not something that Man has yet brought under control. And with such deadly organisms in our midst, perhaps our "trust" in scientists as both the gatekeepers as well as the ones to solve any problems that arise may be ill-placed.

The pandemic scenario in the 1995 film, "Twelve Monkeys" clearly illustrated this dilemma and was the most plausible, disturbing apocalyptic vision in motion picture history. It may reassure us to dismiss what the solitary antagonist did in that story because it was just a movie. However, nuclear war, terrorism and even natural disasters pale to the human devastation that such a deranged person in a position of secure access, as was "Dr. Peters", could exact on his fellow Man.

Inspired by that marvelous film, I have written a trilogy of sequels that cover a 30-year time span.

Ellen Ripley ("Alien") and Sarah Connor ("Terminator") have gained prominence in motion picture history for their roles as apocalyptic heroines of the highest order.

Add to that list Dr. Kathryn Raily. Although sharing their compassion, dedication and perseverance, this woman’s repertoire does not include gun skills or martial arts. Instead, she brings to the table her academic and scientific background, Hippocratic Oath, and an unyielding faith in how the "system" is supposed to work.

Still, in this story nothing can prepare Kathryn for the unimaginable circumstances she faces. These include her personal quandary -- she meets only disbelief and ridicule as she tries to alert authorities to the madman spreading his heinous virus across the globe.



Even worse, this cruel reality is apparently but an unchangeable "flashback" of the pandemic survivors in the future. Evidently, all of this has "already happened". As the terrible events unfold, does it mean Kathryn can, can't, should or shouldn't act to try to stop them? Does knowledge of the world’s “fate” mean that “free will” -- to try to intervene and stop the holocaust -- is irrelevant and even unnecessary? Or, is the decision to “act” the most important element of all in shaping “fate”?

In "Kathryn Raily", only a dedicated cop who falls in love with Kathryn comes close to believing her and recognizing the threat. She finds herself in a dying world where hope lies with the scientists in the future whom Kathryn, unbeknownst to her, helped to survive the apocalypse in the first place.

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Based on the original screenplay and characters
by Janet & David Peoples, filmed as “Twelve Monkeys” 1995
Inspired by Chris Marker’s short film “La Jetée” 1962

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