

Barry Peters

How I Prefer My Doom

My students argue about their favorite episode of the latest dystopian series. I'm fascinated by their apocalyptic fascination: the desire to immerse themselves in annihilated moonscapes; civilizations destroyed by militaristic totalitarians; the few surviving beautiful people on the run in an obliterated world.

I prefer my cinematic cataclysms in the form of two people sitting on a sofa talking about why they're no longer intimate. Who to blame for their son's addictions. How the one treated the other's dying parent. Simple, conversational violence. Ninety minutes of quiet unraveling, the slow pulling of thread from fabric.

Barry Peters lives in Durham and teaches in Raleigh, NC. Publications include *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Best New Poets 2018*, *New Ohio Review*, *Poetry East* and *Rattle*.