



The Gap Into Ruin: This Day All Gods Die

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From the bestselling author of *Chaos and Order* comes the conclusion of the *Gap* series. As the crew attempts to pursue the pirate ship *Soar* and her captain, their hopes turn to *Angus Thermopyle*. *Angus, Morn Hyland, and her son, Davies, race home, unaware that Warden Dios and The Dragon are locked in a final confrontation that may alter the fate of humankind forever.* HC: Bantam.

The Gap Into Ruin: This Day All Gods Die Details

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Author : Stephen R. Donaldson

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Leeanne says

One of my favorite series! It's kind of amazing that I made it to the last book since I really did not enjoy the first two. And in fact, I didn't enjoy ANY of his Thomas Covenant series. But for some reason I continued to read. And books 3-5 were well worth it! Some of the best SF writing I have read.

Troy G says

The Gap series is something that only Stephen R. Donaldson could write. Most of the characters have redeeming virtues. Twists and turns recasting the Hero as the Villain, the Villain as the Slave, the Slave as the Hero. In this book we learn why these people have been tormented by themselves and others through the last 4 books.

We see higher level political implications of the plights of the characters. The higher level ramifications are both more and less satisfying than the close up portraits. More satisfying because the torments of these poor yet awful souls is all for a greater cause. Less satisfying because that cause isn't altruistic. It isn't for the greater good, nor is it for the greater evil.

I found myself eye-rolling as it turned out that the most minor choices of each of the characters were either controlled or predicted to a ridiculous level of precision. The greatest of all Xanatos Gambit. A trillion ways that it could fail, and yet one character bets the farm on its success.

It was good that everything was wrapped up, but like the stories of the rest of the novels, the way it was wrapped up was surprising, but unsatisfying.

Thomas Stacey says

And so ends the finest sci fi series I've ever had the pleasure of reading.

This beats Red Rising.

It's even more epic than Dune :O

I seriously want to give this guy a standing ovation.

Over 5 books Donaldson has weaved together a dark, unpredictable and incredibly compelling story with unforgettable characters that grabs you by the scruff of your neck and doesn't let go until you've made that final inevitable Gap jump into Ruin.

Not much else to say except if you haven't read this yet you are in for one hell of a treat. Highly recommended.

Kate says

A wonderful, gripping and devastating finish to this series. Despite Angus being the biggest badass in the history of SF (especially in the first book), you can't help cheering him on in this one.

I have to admit to feeling very emotional at the end of the story. Warden Dios's message to Morn was a fitting ending to this emotional rollercoaster of a series. His ultimate sacrifice was worthwhile to ensure that all was set right but devastating in the same way that Covenant's loss was.

All in all, this is SUCH a powerful series. The first two books are incredibly difficult to read because of the harrowing nature of the abuse that takes place. However the abuse is very much set into context by books 3-5 which gradually unfurl WHY it happened and in the end that the wrong done to Morn, Davies and Angus needed to take place to prevent a worse wrong engulfing humanity.

There's a brilliant and insightful review of the series here:

<http://www.reviewsbygavrielle.com/gap...> which is definitely worth a read.

KostasAt says

9/10

'This Day All Gods Die' closes the series with an epic finale with Donaldson bringing all that he was building from the previous books in a story with full with intrigues, politics, battles, suspense and with some very unexpected twists.

The story in this book focuses, mostly, in only one place: Suka Bator, the center of the Council of GCES, and also the UMCP's Headquarters which, together - and with unexpected alliances, they will have to find a solution of the UMCP's corruption and schemes that will only bring them against with, perhaps, an even greater threat; they have never seen before.

On the other side though, Angus and his "team" will have to face their own adventures as they will try to free themselves from the UMCP schemes, but what that will bring them might somewhere worse than they expected.

Although in this book Donaldson keeps the story focused, almost throughout the book, very straight-forward, he manages to make some very strong and lovable characters - even the bad ones; which, personally, I believe is also and the best part of the whole book. And that because Donaldson keeps playing with their psychology, something he always does, putting them all the time in the most extreme situations through all the plots, schemes and twists.

While, his writing, despite the book's size, is extremely good till it very end - as he doesn't let you get bored, or lose your interest, at all and if the book has some flaws they are very little to affect the story in itself.

Overall, the series closes with the most amazing ending as Donaldson has done a, truly, grand finale! Definitely a series that I would like to recommend to those who want something different; something more dark in the Science Fiction genre that will the upside down.

Emily says

Stephen Donaldson's "Gap" series is one my favorite series.

My father handed me the first one, saying, "This is full of violence and rape and you'll probably hate all the characters in this first book, but the story just keeps getting better."

He was right. The story begins with a space pirate attack on a police ship and the "rescue" of the last survivor on the police ship and concludes with the human race fighting the Amnion, an alien species capable of extreme genetic manipulation. Despite the ever-increasing complexity of the plot (which starts with a three main characters and ends with inter-galactic political intrigue) the characterization is what really makes these stories worth reading. It is a masterful study of hero and anti-hero.

Devbear says

I love this book -- a truly spectacular ending to a series that addresses interesting questions of what makes us human and what makes us do the things we do.

Lynne says

Describe any Donaldson novel/series in a paragraph. I dare you. I'm not going to review each book; it was too long ago that I read them. However: If you like your sci-fi straight up, no water or ice, this series will satisfy like 21-year-old Glenlivet single-malt.

Donaldson is an opera enthusiast, Wagner a particular favorite, and the Ring cycle is the inspiration for the story in this five-book series. As usual, the story hasn't been culled from other sci-fi and hasn't been imitated by others. Donaldson remains true to his personal artistic vision and watches lesser authors rake up the bucks.

I appreciate Donaldson's realistic treatment of the human condition. We're here, we do our best, we screw up, we have to redeem ourselves, life leaves scars. Sometimes the only triumph is personal, sometimes you save the world. The personal triumph, in Donaldson's worlds, never takes a backseat to the world-saving.

The entire series is raw and unflinching. Rape, child abuse, politics, corruption. The payoff is worth it. The first book was the most difficult. Donaldson doesn't make his characters easy to like.

Also, read Donaldson's intro at the beginning of the first book. He does a fantastic job explaining his process.

16s says

This series is just awesome. Just read it!!

Bingo says

Rich, tense, alive. What an incredible experience!

The final installment of the Gap Series plays its own part in the well composed structure of this five piece novel. It doesn't just contain the ending, rather, from the first to the last page, it is the ending. The events of the previous volumes have set up the circumstances for The Gap into Ruin, now everything is in place as it begins. The route toward the end is well over 600 pages, and the beauty of it all is that Donaldson used the space to pump the novel full of possibilities.

I have to say that Donaldson is skilled at bringing the reader so very close to understanding his own intentions. At least in this vol., he realized them well, and I think I saw them clearly. From the early pages of vol. 5 I was getting a thrill losing count of the author's clues and the many ways I thought this book might end. Later, I smiled as I read the last sentence of one of the final chapters which reads "The situation was full of possibilities." It was. Also, early on, I was appreciating the story, and it suddenly struck me how "alive" this whole novel feels. That might be the best word for it. Then, today, I opened "The Real Story" to read the afterword for the first time. In it, he describes his desire to write something that was "alive". He did.

Steven Ackerley says

I've just re-read The Gap Series (I'm lending them to a friend) and I am still in love with this sequence of books. As usual, Donaldson puts his characters through the wringer, every action has a consequence and the decisions made are always too expensive. He makes heroes out of seemingly ordinary people, the line between good and bad is always a blur and he'll even make you see hope in the most terrible of situations.

It's also a very believable future story, as much as I desire The Culture, I think we're going to get Donaldson's vision.

Pamela says

I find it humorous the so many "one starers" made it through five volumes only to keep bitching (oops) about the profanity, and the vulgarity, and the very sordid nature of the characters , the situations, and I guess the writer. Hey, he came up with it after all. I don't know. It would be easy to attack those people and sooo tempting but.... Life isn't always pretty. And tough situations force people to make tough choices. Sometimes they are left with no choice at all. Sound a bit like Angus Thermopyle? Min Donner, Morn Hyland or

Warden Dios? That is what Donaldson does with these characters. He lays them out in all their ugliness and beauty, their vulnerability and strength, their hope and lack of hope and he lets us see what makes them tick. This is what I loved about the Thomas Covenant books. Donaldson's ability to get inside a character's head and, love 'em or hate 'em, make us understand why they are what they are and make that hate fade (or the love) as we see how they respond to situations beyond their control. And it's just extra icing on the cake that we got the killer science fiction backdrop for this saga.

Adam says

Awesome conclusion to my favourite 'mature' sci fi saga. If you like some sci in your fi, enjoy real characterisations, and want to be enthralled, start with book one and get in.

Jon says

A stolid (as SRD might use it) conclusion to a really ambitious and mostly successful series. I find it hard to evaluate any but the first book without referencing the others. In that light, there was too much redundancy; it's effective in the first book because of the perspective shifts, but in the latter books, we're really only getting "the real story". So why retell it dozens (literally) of times?

I was also never fully invested in Fasner's villainy, nor did the overall governmental structure ever quite make sense. The Romantic view of the human universe is just too unbelievable, but without it, the motivations don't quite add up.

Nevertheless, a series I'm glad I returned to. If you can suffer through the first (and you will suffer; if you don't, I really have to wonder), it's a compelling read.

Thomas Panzarello says

One of my favorite series!

Jack says

If you can't stand violence, horrible people and or anything unpleasant do not even think of touching these books. They will utterly repulse you, and probably scar you for life.

But they are fantastic.

The Gap series, spanning five novels is a saga of abhorrent charters, deep space and political backstabbing and intrigue. By the time the third novel starts it's moving at a breakneck pace, leaping between multiple viewpoints, (about ten characters) all moving against one another, judging motivations, planning, scheming, lying, cheating and trying to maneuver people like pieces on a board. By the time the novel reaches its climax in book five it's impossible not to be impressed by how Donaldson draws his cast together in a

believable, compelling and satisfying way. It's really something very special.

The first book in the series is poor - originally intended as a stand alone novella that examines the shifting of roles it is a brutal book with few redeeming features. However, from book two onwards a remarkable degree of maturity sets in and characters really begin to come to life. Two-hundred pages in you really begin to understand Donaldson's remarkable vision, and it's hard not to be curious as to where it will go.

The cast is the most impressive thing about *The Gap*, it's rare to see an author realize one fully rounded character, let alone the expansive cast that fills the Gap. You'll move between antagonists and protagonists and understand and sympathies with most of them, love some, hate others, make improper judgements to based on one character's assumptions of another. It really is impressive the way Donaldson toys with perspective to manipulate his readers, keeping them on their toes - allowing for the plot to twist in turn in realistic ways.

Admittedly, there are flaws as with any work of such scope, the first novel and the initial political scenes in the third book may bore some readers, but these things are negligible when you look at the series as a whole. Epic, well written, poignant and extremely moving this is a series that will firmly hold its position as a cult classic for a long time to come.

Richard says

OMG!!!! TO SAY THE THRILLING CONCLUSION IS TO UNDER-RATE IT!!!! This is an amazing end to a full and complex story of political intrigue, tragedy (both personal and interstellar), corruption (see last parentheses), and the final fight for the fate of our race!

John Dow says

Absolutely magnificent in every way. It's been at least two and a half decades since I read this series last and it really has matured with the years.

Sumanth says

There are many reasons for me not liking the concluding book in *Gap series*, I am going to try listing few of them below.

1. Poorly edited.

This is one of the biggest reasons because I don't know what the editor was thinking when reviewing this book. This book is 500 pages long but the story could have been told in just 300 pages.

2. Predictable plot.

This book is predictable from page 50, you know what is going to happen from that page, and *Donaldson* does not surprise you a bit when you reach page 500, because whatever you have thought exactly those

things happen exactly in that sequence.

3. Repetitive bordering on insulting.

Donaldson repeats traits of each of the pov character when you encounter them each time, so when you encounter *Warden Dios* he tells you he is sacrificing himself, when you encounter *Morn* he tells you that she has been through a great ordeal.

And this pattern goes on till the end of the book, and for me it is insulting as a reader, because I am not that dumb to remember traits of each of the pov characters after reading last four books in the series.

What happened to the crisp plot which were part of last four books, everything just goes for a toss in this book.

4. Unbelievable plot.

From the book I know that *Angus Thermoplae* is on redemption spree, but suddenly he develops a conscience and starts taking orders from the person he has abused previously, this just borders on insane and unbelievable for me.

I really got so tired with this book that after reaching 80% mark I straight way skimmed the end and was not all surprised with the end.

Poorly written end for me, which has ruined such a good series for me. 2/5 stars.

Poetic Justice says

Stephen R. Donaldson was an apocalypse for me. I've known this pentalogy for years, but lacking *inside* information on its intricately spun plot and expert lexical needlecraft, took me a long time to get up close and personal with it.

It takes a rare kind of intelligence to be able to juggle between hundreds of different threads without losing the beat of the general story. The abysmal darkness of the human psyche and its hardwired longing for redemption especially when all bets are off, coupled with a no-soul-left-behind ideology that surreptitiously makes hope shine up even in the gutter, are brilliantly and mercilessly painted in this pentalogy. Throw in some of the most exquisite character development you've ever seen in a fictional story, plots and intertwined sub-plots to keep you on your toes well into the wee hours, some skillful handling of technological facts and scientific theories, and towards the end you're gasping for release...
