



The Last Exodus: The Earthborn Trilogy Book 1

Paul Tassi

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The Earth lies in ruins in the aftermath of an extraterrestrial invasion, the land devastated by a desperate war with no winners between mankind and a race of vicious, intelligent creatures. The seas are drying up while the atmosphere corrodes and slowly cooks any life remaining on the now desolate rock. Food is scarce, trust even more so, and the only people left alive all have done horrific things to stay that way.

Among the few survivors is Lucas, an ordinary man hardened by the last few years after the world's end. He's fought off bandits, murderers, and stranded creatures on his long trek across the country in search of his family, the one thing that drives him to outlive his dying planet. What he finds instead is hope, something thought to be lost in the world. There's a ship buried in a crater wall. One of theirs. One that works. To fly it, Lucas must join forces with a traitorous alien scientist and a captured, merciless raider named Asha. But unless they find common ground, all will die, stranded on a ruined Earth.

Combining gritty post-apocalyptic survival and epic space opera, *The Last Exodus* is the beginning of a new action-packed science fiction adventure where the future of the human race depends on its survivors leaving the past behind.

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The Last Exodus: The Earthborn Trilogy Book 1 Details

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From Reader Review The Last Exodus: The Earthborn Trilogy Book 1 for online ebook

Kelly Swapp says

Fantastic!

This book grabs you on the first page and takes you on a thrilling adventure. Alien invasion, post-apocalyptic survival, and space battles! I can't wait to read the next one!

Keith Frazer says

Interesting plot, shallow characters

The story and setting are interesting. The characters felt pretty unrealistic though. There author has a bad habit of telling instead of showing. We don't see the characters bonding, we are told they feel a closer bond to each other and expected to believe it.

Joshua Huber says

Went into it thinking it was going to be hard science fiction. It definitely isn't that but it was a very good space opera. The story was well paced and the characters had enough flaws to make them believable in the setting.

Frederick Danysh says

Aliens have come to Earth and after a nuclear war which no one won, the planet is dying. A handful of survivors strive to live as best they can, some even resorting to eating human flesh. Lucas and a woman he can not trust team up with one of the aliens to escape the dying planet.

Trike says

[The real reason is that they've been in a millennia-long and galaxy-spanning war against humans. Tassi hints t

Jim Lindsay says

It's OK, and I liked it enough to want to see what happened after this book, so I'm reading The Exiled

Earthborn now. I rated it a 3 because it is kind of predictable, and the protagonists are such superheroes, almost gods. They are almost godlike, it is a little much.

Judith Brivulet says

Gelungene Mischung aus Science-Fiction und Dystopie

Das Setting ist nicht neu: Aliens greifen die Erde an. Der Held muss oder kann sie retten. Doch so einfach macht es uns Paul Tassi nicht. Denn: Die Erde ist leider nicht zu retten. Im Kampf Mensch gegen Alien hat unser Planet verloren. Schon zu Beginn zeigt Tassi auf, wie schnell die dünne Schicht der Zivilisation abfällt, wenn es um das nackte Überleben geht. Denn zu Beginn wirft uns der Autor sofort in den erbarmungslosen Kampf um die letzten Ressourcen, der mich sehr gefesselt hat. Doch Lucas, einer der Hauptfiguren, hat Glück und stößt auf ein noch funktionstüchtiges Raumschiff. Doch es gibt noch einen Außerirdischen, der ebenfalls die sterbende Erde verlassen möchte.

Mehr wird nun nicht verraten. Der Schreibstil hat mir sehr gut gefallen, flüssig und anschaulich. Die Spannung wurde konstant gehalten, sodass ich das Buch in nur einer Nacht durchgelesen hatte.

Fazit: Klare Leseempfehlung. Ich habe bereits den zweiten Band bestellt.

Marc Aplin says

I don't read much Science-Fiction, but:

"What would happen if you threw Independence Day, The Walking Dead, and Guardians of the Galaxy into a blender? I can't say for sure, but it'd probably look something like The Last Exodus."

How could I not check it out, right?

Things kick off with a grim view of future Earth. Out of nowhere, aliens appeared (Independence Day) and all but destroyed our beloved planet. Our cities, our culture, our people – there's very little left (The Walking Dead). The few humans who do remain don't bother to hope, they've little to live for – thick red clouds keep survivors in darkness, the planet is heating up rapidly and water is disappearing. With food and water almost impossible to find, people have become so desperate that you can't trust anyone. The vast majority of those who remain have turned to murder and theft as their means to survive. Cannibalism is commonplace and seems to have resulted in some-kind of insanity amongst those who have chosen it as their path.

The protagonist of The Last Exodus is Lucas. Lucas was away working when the aliens unleashed their devastation. With communications down, he was never able to find out what happened to his family. When we meet him, Lucas is heading back home as a means of finding out. You get the impression, however, that our 'hero' already knows what is waiting for him and is ready to end things once he confirms his suspicions. Indeed, once he arrives at his destination, it's not just his family or his home he finds missing, but the whole of Portland: it's little more than a crater.

Before Lucas can make a decision about what to do next, he comes across an alien spaceship. Within it he finds an alien who – rather than kill him where he stands – offers him a way off the Earth. If Lucas can learn to fly his alien ship and trust this alien creature then perhaps he can find a new life... doing something... somewhere. He doesn't really know where he is going and neither do we, and that's a big part of the book's

appeal: what next?

In addition to Lucas, there is a completely unstable female character named Asha. Once Asha boards, she seems just as likely to kill Lucas and the alien-traitor as she is to help them. Despite this, if Lucas's mission is successful, it's likely she will be the only human that he will ever communicate with again. That is until Noah, a baby, is brought onto the ship. So, in addition to dangerous missions to salvage parts required to repair the spaceship, the odd-ball crew (Guardians of the Galaxy) must protect and bring up an infant.

The dynamic between the characters and their changing relationships is the perfect blend of amusing, nail biting and touching. The characters are forced together and their pasts and recent experiences should have seen each kill the other within seconds of meeting. However, the human (and, seemingly, alien) need to communicate, to survive and to support sees them find a way to work and thrive together. It's quite a powerful message and although Paul Tassi doesn't explore human nature as deeply or as directly as other speculative fiction novels do (i.e. it's subtlety done), the characters' journeys and reliance upon each other does hit you at numerous points throughout the novel.

In addition to providing a message, these relationships also help the pace of the novel, which is relentless. One minute we are in the middle of a gunfight, the next we are learning to fly a ship, the next we are learning about alien technology, the next an elite alien seeking vengeance appears to take us out, then... well, I won't spoil it all. But there's plenty more awaiting you. You do sense that there will be a slowing down of things in the second novel. This first novel was an explosion of action, as I've said, but there were some clever ideas and space-opera reminiscent plot-threads that will likely see this series of novels head more in the alien politics and alien warfare direction from the very beginning of book two, *The Exiled Earthborn*.

Now, I said I don't read much Science-Fiction and that's true (I've only really read the popular stuff – Iain Banks, Phillip K. Dick, Alistair Reynolds, and so on). However, I do know that a lot of Science-Fiction readers can be quite picky when it comes to the details and explanations given in terms of how tech was created and how it works, etc. Tassi's explanations never really go beyond: this is an x and it works by the power of y. You won't get a chapter or even page worth of detailed manual-like explanation. I imagine a large part of this comes from Tassi's background as an avid video game player and renowned blogger working within that industry. Certainly, the technology featured feels far more as though it came from *Gears of War*, *Halo* or *Deadspace* than novels like Banks's *Culture*, Robinson's *Red Mars* or Reynold's *Revelation Space*, for example. The upside of this is that nothing is restricted to the author – the alien, Alpha, is forever creating cool weapons, cool armour and cool modifications for the ship. I think those not used to Science-Fiction will appreciate this and those who grew up playing games like *Duke Nukem* and enjoying the absurdity of the BFG-type weapons from that generation of gaming will be in for a treat.

I've tried not to talk too much about the antagonist in *The Last Exodus*, because to do so would ruin quite a few reveals and twists, in addition to the direction of future novels. What I would say is that he is a badass and suits his purpose very well. Just like the very best video game villains, he is pure evil and his tactics for solving a problem are stop it moving with maximum possible brutality. Paul weaves in a good backstory for him and I hope that there is more about his particular breed in future novels.

Evidence suggests – when you combine his blogging/journalism/social media output – that Tassi is a guy who writes 5000-10,000 words a day. Certainly, at no point during this novel do his prose feel amateur. Readers looking for a fast, fun, action-packed novel that offers memorable characters, terrifying and seemingly unbeatable foes, cool tech and a twisting-turning storyline that could head just about anywhere will really enjoy this debut from Tassi and be quick to pick up the sequel to see what trouble our oddball cast of questionable heroes find themselves in next.

Chris devine says

This was a pretty good book, if you like sci fi or end of the world books you'll probably like this. The story is cool, and it kept me hooked, but there were enough spelling or grammatical errors that I noticed that made me wonder how the hell that happened. Also they pretty much ignore the baby they take care of, which is... come on, if you've ever had a baby, you know they can't just occupy themselves for hours at a time. And I just realized typing that last bit ... they had no diapers, and all their water was used for fuel, does the baby just not crap or pee? Maybe because he's inhaling the nutrients? But so were they, so did the aliens just not have a digestive tract? I probably shouldn't dig to deep into a sci fi book. I enjoyed it, bowel movements aside.

Joshua says

Meh. Semi-good characters. Fast-moving story. Buuuuuuut, lots of unsound scientific scenarios. You let them go so the story can be 'fun' but after a while the science stuff gets to you. By the end of the book, you're saying to the author, please give me a break and do a quick interweb search just to figure this scientific situation out. I'll keep reading the series if that says anything about the story. I just wish there was more scientifically valid concepts instead of repeatedly having to overlook some silly sci-fi concept.

I says

I'm annoyed. This book was really good. It is direct and straightforward and interesting. The characters are decent and mostly it is just fast paced and not hoity-toity or complex.

I'm annoyed because it's an easy choice to buy the next book and it costs \$10 for the kindle version.

Definitely worth the read for fans of basic sci-fi.

Matt Mitrovich says

Originally posted: [http://amazingstoriesmag.com/2015/10/...](http://amazingstoriesmag.com/2015/10/)

Being a book blogger means its not unusual to receive unsolicited books in the mail to review. Its actually one of the perks of this job, but it is also a lot like playing Russian Roulette. You just never know if you are going to get a good or bad book until you read it. So when I was mailed The Last Exodus by Paul Tassi, first book in the Earthborn Trilogy, I was intrigued by the story description enough on the back of the book to give it a shot, even though I ran the usual risk of whether or not I would enjoy the experience.

The Last Exodus is set directly after an alien invasion has devastated Earth. All the world's cities have been destroyed, the oceans are receding and the planet is heating up significantly. Its predicted that the Earth will become unlivable in just a few years and for the remaining humans it means every moment is a desperate

state of survival, even for those who have turned to cannibalism. Our tale follows Lucas, who has traveled cross-country to reach his hometown of Portland to reunite with his family. What he discovers instead is that the city is a crater and his wife and son are most likely dead. On the verge of losing hope, he comes upon an alien survivor who is struggling to fix his ship. This alien, who comes to be named Alpha, is actually a traitor to his own race and with the help of Lucas and a woman named Asha (who coincidentally has tried to kill Lucas in the past) thinks he can fix the ship and fly it to his people's enemy who they have been locked in an endless war with. It won't be easy as Alpha may unknowingly have information that could turn the tide of the war against his people and they will do anything to stop him before that can happen.

The Last Exodus is...just okay. It had its moments and I actually thought the ending was very well done and left just enough unanswered to make me interested in what happened next without annoying me with excessive mystery. That being said, the book had its issue. I found the characters to be rather bland and the Lucas/Asha romance could be seen from a mile away. There were also too many instances of magical sci-fi technology that hand-waved away the usual problems of space travel. Take the faster-than-lighter travel Alpha's ship used. Apparently water is an important ingredient and it was one of the reasons Earth was invaded in the first place. Yet we know space is full of water and ice so why invade a primitive, yet nuclear armed, civilization when you could just capture and melt a comet instead? Granted Paul does give an ideological reason for why humanity was attached along with the economical one, which is fine, but it is still a noticeable plot hole.

All the above would usually not be enough for me to dismiss this book entirely and if you want a grimdark SF adventure without much depth, The Last Exodus is probably for you. What ruined the book for me, however, was this text from early on in the story:

"[Lucas] had been a religious man before they arrived. Their appearance broke his faith like it did so many others, but not to the point where it drove him to participate in the mass suicides that happened around the world. Priests, rabbis, clerics, and their congregations had all been driven mad by physical proof that everything they had devoted their lives to was a lie."

Um...what? Is Paul arguing that the existence of aliens prove that human religion is a lie? That seems silly considering that numerous religions have discussed the theological implications of extraterrestrial life and there are numerous believers among the SF community who haven't lost their faith because they read stories about intelligent non-humans. Perhaps Paul is arguing that the belief that God made us in his own image would shatter people's faith if they learned of other intelligent life, but wouldn't that only effect the Abrahamic religions that came out of the Middle East and not the local faiths of Asia, Africa and America? Even if that's the case, would the existence of other people's really change the fact in the eye's of a Jew that he or she is a member of God's chosen people?

Heck, many, if not all, of the Abrahamic religions have ignored or downplayed certain parts of their holy books, even those who take a literal interpretation of them, which means their beliefs are resilient enough to deal with alien life. There is even some precedent in our history for dealing with unexpected people such as the Native Americans, who weren't mentioned in the Christian Bible despite many people at the time taking it as the truth directly from God. Even the legend of Prester John hints at the struggle Christians had to go through when the reality of the world didn't fit exactly with what their priests and books were telling them, and yet they survived and thrived regardless. See also heliocentrism, evolution, the Big Bang, dinosaurs, etc. for other issues that contradict major religions without destroying them entirely.

I may be nitpicking a little, but as you read The Last Exodus you start noticing Paul relies heavily on religious terms and themes (The Last Exodus, Noah, the Ark, depictions of heaven/hell and angels/demons,

etc.) giving you the sense that he is trying to tell a spiritual story about a man who lost his faith following a horrible catastrophe and is now trying to get it back. That would be fine, but the paragraph I criticized above makes me doubt Paul did a lot of research on the subject of religion before writing his book or his editor made a major mistake by keeping that in.

In the end, *The Last Exodus* is not a bad book, but I wouldn't go as far to call it a great, or even a good, book. It has its moments, but the book has too many clichés and struggles to give an realistic depiction of human religion. That is all I can say really. I can't really give a strong recommendation for *The Last Exodus*, but those looking for a story about humanity rising from the ashes of their destroyed world and won't be bothered by the clumsy themes on faith, may find some enjoyment out of it.

Benjamin Thompson says

Intergalactic war and finding common cause

A solid military sci-fi based opener in a trilogy.

Well developed characters finding their way back from PTSD to come together and escape certain doom in order to survive.

Excited to read the next book

reherrma says

Dieses Buch hat mich schwer beeindruckt, war es zu Beginn eine Dystopie vor dem Hintergrund einer sterbenden Erde, wandelte es sich zuletzt zu einer Space Opera, bei der die letzten 3 überlebenden Menschen, in einen Konflikt zwischen 2 galaktischen Großmächte hineingezogen werden.

Der Beginn dieses Romans ist nichts für schwache Gemüter, da wird gemordet und unter den schwierigsten Bedingungen überlebt, wer "The Walking Dead" mag, ist hier genau richtig. Allerdings muss man über Tassis's Debütroman sagen, dass die Figurenbeschreibung und die Story über viele Stereotypen verfügt, die Ideen sind nicht besonders originell und wurden in der SF schon viele mal verwendet, dennoch ist es ein Pageturner, den man nur schwer aus den Händen legen kann. Ich bin jetzt schon sehr gespannt auf die beiden Folgeromane.

Fazit: Spannend und mit viel Gefühl, man wird gut unterhalten, aber ich glaube nicht, dass der Roman mich über längere Zeit im Gedächtnis bleibt....

Paul Cristo says

A lot of action, not a lot of science. The alien is the best character.
