



Mercury's Bane

Nick Webb

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They're all gone. We remember them like yesterday: pieces of our stolen heritage. Things like NASA. Football. Parades and pies. Good things, comfortable things. We remember a time when we were alone in the universe, safe and oblivious.

But it's all gone now.

We called them the Telestines, and in the face of their ruthless invasion we were powerless. By 2040, all the world's governments and militaries had fallen, and the remnants of humanity exiled to the solar system. We looked down on our blue planet, so close to our birthplace, so close to our home. But the miles may as well have been lightyears.

Our anger smoldered in the darkness of space. On Mars. On Ganymede. In the dank crowded filth of the asteroids. We swore: we will take our planet back.

And today, it begins. Our fleet is ready. Our soldiers determined.

Earth will be ours again.

Mercury's Bane Details

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Author : Nick Webb

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From Reader Review Mercury's Bane for online ebook

David P. Duffy says

Quick, Simple, Entertaining SciFi Read

"Mercury's Bane," is the first book of a new series, authored by Mr. Nick Webb. It is a quick, simple, entertaining SciFi read. There are no great highs, nor any great lows-it's a basic, no frills, humans against the conquering aliens themed story.

In the near future, Earth has been conquered by a highly advanced, refugee, humanoid alien race. The victors are potentially genocidal, having either enslaved and genetically altered some of surviving humanity, or dispersed in a Sol System diaspora at a barely subsistence level, other remnants of humanity. There remain pockets of humanity Earth-side, trying to survive in the shadows, a "Vichy" UN Secretariat, which eagerly surrendered Earth and humanity to the aliens, protecting the rich and elites, at the expense of all others, and finally, a group of humans, the "Rebellion," members who crew the "Exile Fleet."

Mr. Webb has basic writing skills, the story moves, though many of his attempts at plot twists are pedestrian, unsurprising, and simplistic. With a little more talent, imagination, and frankly effort, the story would be a much better one. Having read a number of the author's SciFi books, this is a systematic trait-he is almost always there, but falls short. The glimpses of potential are there, yet Mr. Webb doesn't seem to want to take a story to the next level.

The book is recommended and was fully read via Kindle Unlimited.

Graeme Tindale says

This is the first book in a new series by this author. It has an interesting scenario with an alien race taking over the earth and relegating mankind to the planets and asteroids. The story revolves around humans efforts to rebuild and take back our planet. It has an interesting storyline that flows easily and has several sub-plots. The characters are well developed and I found myself wondering how things will evolve. I am interested in seeing the next book in the series.

Eric Murray says

He's done better

Parts of the book I had a hard time following.

The author has done a better job writing than this.

A little disappointed.

Mark says

Belated looked up Nick Webb in my reading history and saw that I thought the other two books of his I read were not to my liking.

Though this one started out with promise, it soon became clear that it was going to play out in strange, unfathomable ways, and chringingly unrealistic ways.

No more of that!

Darlene says

Mercury's Bane

This book was slow going for most the way through. It didn't pick up til almost three-quarters the way through and I almost gave up on it. Which surprised me because I admire Nick Webb's writing. The way it ended, though, gives me hope that the second book will be much better. And, yes, I will give it a chance. Hopefully, now that we know what may happen, things will pick up.

Kenneth Legnon says

Did not finish the book. Could not get intrested in it.

Kyle says

This story by *Nick Webb* was one of desperation and hope. The human species is at the end of its limits; displaced from the earth by an alien race that is superior in technology. The whole story revolves around taking back our home planet and our solar system. I will start by saying I enjoyed the book. Other reviews talk about unnecessary or unbelievable characters. Seeing humanity has never been displaced by aliens, I do not see where they can draw their "experience" for what would be unbelievable.

Mercury's Bane centers around a man, William Pike, who lost his family as a boy on earth. Though hating the resistance, he blames them for the death of his sister and mother; when the resistance has a mission that will send him back to earth he jumps at the chance to return home. This sparks the storyline for the rest of the book and series. I feel that the author did a great job at representing the doubt, worry, suffering, and pain that would be felt by humans that were actually in these situations. The double guessing of choices made and worried confusion about what that might mean to the future of humanity was well done. There is no right answer just make the best choice possible and keep moving forward. I enjoyed this book and look forward to the rest of the series.

(view spoiler)

Theo says

While the overall story and universe are interesting and fun, one of the primary characters, Pike, seems awfully dense considering his mission, the events which happen related to that mission, and how long it takes to accept facts he should have already known, instead of having them told to him. Also, the story needs editing in terms of basic sentences missing words, using incorrect pronouns, and being incomplete. Seems like there was one of those in every chapter.

Positives - cool bad guys, nice political twist with the bad guys, fun space battles - you know. The stuff Nick always puts in his stories.

Will definitely read the next one, because the heavy-handed handling of the one main plot event can only really happen once and that's already done.

Ernie says

Not my favorite of Nick Webb's. I really have enjoyed some of his other books but this doesn't seem to have the same excitement as the others.

Thankfully the second half got a lot better but not sure I would have made it if I wasn't someone to pretty much finish any book I start (unless its a 1 star).

Would love to have learned more about the aliens ect. The book ended well enough where I don't feel the need to continue the series unless I am more desperate for something to read. I would skip this and read some of this other things first!

Jason says

Nick Webb has provided us with some of the best Military Sci-Fi series out there in the form of The Legacy Fleet Trilogy, The Pax Humana Saga, and most recently, his sequel to Legacy Fleet, 'Independence', the start of The Legacy Ship Trilogy.

Mercury's Bane though, surpasses even his own previous work for outstanding storylines, exceptional characters and a slightly different writing style that is grittier than his past works, making this book not only edge of your seat brilliant, but also gives it a realistic edge in the desperation of the characters as they fight for their survival.

Humanity has been taken over by the Telestines, an alien race that has conquered Earth, and basically removed us from Earth, either via extermination, or the survivors fled. What remains of the human race is scattered amongst the solar system, eking out an existence on the moons of the bigger planets, or hiding amongst the storms of the less hospitable smaller ones.

As usual, Webb has done a beautiful job of creating this particular timeline to play in, providing us with rich well researched environments that are so well described, you can close your eyes and imagine you are there. The big difference with this book is the feel of the story. I remember the re-imagined Battlestar Galatica coming out, and how much darker it was, the grittier nature of it, how intense and believable the characters

were. How desperate the characters were to win at any cost, to save humanity from a foe with more firepower, greater numbers and better technology. That's how this book feels – humanity is fighting a war against such ridiculous odds, but they are fighting for survival, for Earth, and Webb has really drawn on this in each of his characters.

Without giving too much away (this is too good a story for spoilers!!), we are initially introduced to Admiral Walker, who is leading the rag tag fleet, all that remains of Humanity's hope to rescue Earth. She is determined, and will do anything necessary. The other main character introduced early on (there are multiple ancillary characters as well as other major characters as the story moves along – but again – No Spoilers!) is William Pike or just Pike. He is an Earther, or Native, who was on Earth for several years before he was rescued after an attack. One of only a few who used to live on the planet, he is now called on to help them due to his knowledge. He doesn't believe so much in the Rebellion, but is now helping them with a mission of the utmost importance, something that could turn the occupation entirely.

This is true Military Sci-Fi at its absolute best, gripping and captivating, with combat scenes that are so incredibly detailed, so well written, that you feel you are plunged into the middle of it, feeling the raw emotions of those involved, the conviction of those sacrificing everything to win their homes back. Whilst some Authors might write this as a heroic last act, Webb has given us a more stark reality, a more realistic, gritty point of view, making this seem so much more lifelike and the characters so much more believable. Mercury's Bane is absolutely brilliant and should be the Sci-Fi book everyone reads in 2017, it is just too good to miss.

Patrick Barnes says

Light fun

The premise was interesting and the reactions of the human characters covered the entire emotional range from collaboration to bloody minded resistance. It was a fun fast read with a goodly number of space battles.

The human characters are stock characters that you expect and the aliens aren't more than props. The battle scenes are a little confusing but not so much that you can't just sit back and enjoy the ride. A little better editing would be nice.

The human fleet suffers big losses and that's adds to a more realistic feel. The humans still hiding on Earth are almost powerless and that makes a lot of sense. The plot is not particularly unpredictable, so the story zips along pleasantly. There are a few plot holes and there is one problem with the character cast.

First the design and creation of a rebel fleet. The maintenance, support and training of these forces. The ability to hide these forces, since there is a little confusion in my mind about how good the alien sensor tech is and how thorough the information about human settlements is. Secretly building a shipyard in Mercury is a fun idea but again how, when the whole human race is starving and under observation.

None of this detracts from the peppiness of the story. It's a romp, not high literature but serviceable. There is the question of a building a hidden fleet of carriers and the carrier as battleship is weird but common. The other common use is that of an all American fleet out of billions of surviving humans (less than 5% of the human race guys). The insistence on a limited name pool should make any American without an English surname wince but sadly the three non-English named characters is three characters more than a lot of these novels.

I'm going to read the next volume and hope it's as peppy as this was.

Jason says

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Jed says

Mediocre writing but good plot

I enjoyed the book enough that it was hard to put down. It definitely glossed over a lot of things such as point

defense systems. None of the highly advanced alien ships have them so that humans are able to easily board highly advanced ships with crappy shuttles.

Outside of a variety of believability issues The writing itself uses many unnecessary words, frequent passive voice, small things that take away from the story.

It's still an enjoyable read, there's just some things that could be changed to make it a five star book.

Todd Gutschow says

I really wanted to like this book... and subsequently the rest of the series. However, I've found that I'm not really into this. The premise is good, but I haven't enjoyed the execution. Without using spoilers...I find the back story is vague, characters pop in and out without too much meaning, and the storyline is constantly interrupted by meaningless interactions. Characters and events are not quite believable. After 50% through I'm giving up on this one.

Tracy says

A Very Solid Start!

Following the finish of another series, I wanted to change things up a little; and Alan Webb's Earth Dawning series attracted me with what looked like an interesting plot in a bit tighter setting. It became a clearer choice as I continued to look at the various suggestions; and so I downloaded Mercury's Bane, first in the series. That choice has borne out admirably.

No element of this book disappointed me - which was a pleasant discovery, as I tend to be more critical with the first in a series. Everything it promised to offer, it followed through on. The story's setting - from the Exile (rag tag?) fleet and ramshackle survivor orbital settlements to the surface of a conquered Earth to the more refined and high tech Venusian (and alien Telestine) ships and facilities - was solidly varied and detailed enough without being burdensome. Character development was mostly similar - the sole exception being the aforementioned aliens - with reasonable depth to each that was readily understandable in most cases, and some few little surprises to keep it fresh and interesting.

I look forward to seeing how author Nick Webb continues to develop these varied strands in book two. I'm hopeful for a bit more detail on the technology he's showing us, for the aliens to receive a bit more depth and even some more individuals to help us better understand them, and to narrow focus on our primary characters to allow them to deepen and grow. That journey starts shortly.

Meanwhile, Earth's Dawning looks to be an excellent series pick-up, and I'm happy to add an enthusiastic start-up recommendation to fellow SF fans!
