



Scattered Suns

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The war between the alien hydrogues and the faeros ravages the Ildiran Empire, dividing humanity. New Mage-Imperator Jora'h must quash the rebellion launched by his mad brother before the hydrogues destroy what is left of the empire. He sends his beloved half-human daughter on a desperate mission to make peace with the hydrogues.

Jess Tamblyn seeds worlds with the watery wentals, the mortal enemies of the hydrogues. On the ravaged planet of Theroc, home to a telepathic worldforest, a dead man is resurrected for mysterious new allies. Chairman Basil Wenceslas, in a vendetta against the free-spirited Roamers, ignores the soldier machine backbone of the Hansa fighting force. King Peter has long suspected that the compies, built with the help of the ancient Klikiss robots, cannot be trusted. In the coming war, humans and Ildirans will both face their darkest choices yet.

Scattered Suns Details

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From Reader Review Scattered Suns for online ebook

Julie says

Scattered suns

Another excellent book in the Seven Suns saga. You will not be able to put this book down. Can't wait to read the next book.

Jennifer says

what can i say? yet another awesome book in the saga. i absolutely LOVE this saga! i wish these worlds were real!

D.w. says

More finished then yet to be finished. That is a good thing with this series. This series is too long.

So long that it can put you to sleep.

Technically there are things that make your suspension of disbelief impossible because the author does not dot his eyes and cross his tees. We have the problem of time, over and over again. Some pages you can jump across the galaxy in hours, and on others it takes months.

This is because all of this is done to propel the human story. So much so that the alien races we have been introduced are really also humans. A close reading of the emotions and personalities of the aliens will show you that. Just an alien body with a human inside.

Initially the enemy was alien enough, but the addition of so many additional enemies has made that irrelevant, especially when the logical to their own way of thinking illogical robots prove to be as human as any other member of the story.

Then the illogical leaders of the story who think they can use propaganda so absolutely that they can start and continue to wage a war. A society so far advanced than ours that their is no dissident press. That there are no checks and balances on absolute power. That there no longer is a joint chiefs of staff to ensure that the military has become narrow focused.

Anderson needed to check with Turtledove who is much better at this sort of thing. Turtledove can take history (having taught it) and change the names and places but follow the path so that we can believe what we read. Even when our own world had Hitler, there were dissidents in Germany that looked for ways to remedy that, fled Germany when they saw the rise of the megalomaniacs, and many were rounded up and killed to Germany was weeded out, or knew to turn a blind eye, but knew what was occurring. In the world of Anderson, a much bigger sphere as it has most of human space under the thumb of the stories Dictator, only one or two are aware of the wrongness occurring.

It is a shame, because this could have been a lot better than it really is.

John D'alessio says

The plot lines in this series were very interesting, and it was just enough to keep me reading it through to the end, but I found the writing repetitive, than tiresome and finally flat out boring.

Anderson writes each chapter as if you may have forgotten the setting laid down previously...I get it that the roamers are inventive, I get it that Ildarians can feel each other through some sort of psychic link, and I get it that the Chairman is distrustful of others...you don't need to continually beat me about the head with this information.

peter harmer says

Very good

Very good kept the story fresh and interesting for the length of the book and wanting more
Now for the next book

Nick says

A solid entry that advances all the subplots well, and even brings some satisfying conclusions to a couple. Looking forward to the next one.

Mouldy Squid says

I tried, I really tried. About 3 hours into the audio book I simply couldn't take any more. The flaws are more numerous in this novel than they were in the earlier instalments, and more obvious. At every change of character POV, Anderson insists on reminding us what happened the last time we visited that POV and this becomes tiresome almost immediately. The "twists" are telegraphed and Anderson might as well use a caber to beat the reader when he wants to point out that "something important is about to happen with this character".

I stated in review of the earlier books that there was nothing really wrong with this series, only that it was dull. I was wrong. Looking back, I realize that Anderson is a competent writer, yes, but in no way gifted. The flaws in the novels become more and more obvious as the series continues and upon review of the previous volumes. I will be revising my rating. I also won't be finishing the series. I just can't take the dullness. While there are some interesting questions I would like to find the answers to (such as what really happened in the original war and the motivations of the great powers then), I simply cannot be bothered to wade through the pablum and crushingly pedestrian prose.

Were I a 14 year old geeky kid new to Science Fiction, I would have loved this series. It has a lot to appeal to the reader who is either new to S/F or has not tempered their palate with better works. Anyone well read in the genre will immediately find that Anderson does absolutely nothing new, and those themes he does manage to explore are explored in a completely conventional way; better writers have covered all this ground before and done a better job of it.

If you want simple, easy to read, utterly forgettable American Space Opera, The Saga of the Seven Suns is what you want. If you want something interesting, well written and challenging, look elsewhere; you won't find it with Anderson.

Graeme Wyllie says

Completist in me keeps reading, picked the whole run up cheap in thrift store so it could not be that bad, right? It's the scifi equivalent to cheezwhizz - it claims to be one thing that I love but ultimately has little to no nutritional value. It's space opera at its lightest with so much deus ex machina and the twists are choreographed far in advance. It is however the kind of book that can be read in brief chunks so made good public transport reading as its overuse of internal recaps means you are told again and again what happened.

Will I continue - probably but it's a few months till next volume gets cracked

Bahman Naraghi says

Getting progressively better. More backstory is being provided to the characters and races, more action.

Mihai Dan says

It seems like everything falls apart, then falls back in place, then falls apart again and so on. We start to understand some of the mysteries laid for us and also we meet new ones. With action all along the way, intrigues, love and betrayals, in my opinion, this is the best book of the series so far.

Jennifer Leistikow says

This one took a while. The pace is pretty slow, but once you've read The Wheel of Time series, pace is relative!

Put this down and read several other books before I finished it. I will definitely finish the series, mostly because I have already invested so much time in it.

Laura says

The shizz has started to hit the fan. *Scattered Suns* capitalises on all that set up *Horizon Storms* sets up, and I'm slightly concerned about the fate of some of the characters. I don't seem to have that much trouble identifying the characters anymore - possibly because they have remained fairly consistent over the last few books with only a few additions. An enjoyable read.

Monarch says

Good story. Way better than the third one. The initial few chapters are good. Then the excitement dips for a while before rising to a stunning few final chapters.

Alex says

Because I'm a completist I will keep reading till the end. Yet...

(spoilers beware)

As many have pointed out, the constant re-exposition which is the beginning of every chapter and most of the character thoughts makes this a tiresome read. At first I thought this was just a problem for the pacing and the writing style, but as I keep skipping over these paragraphs I realized that there's a bigger catch: when something does not make sense, and you're beaten with it many times, even someone like me that doesn't usually stop to find flaws or overanalyze starts seeing the glaring plot holes. And at that point the story that's buried below the re-exposition suffers dearly.

Case in point: The Dobro plot, which is kind of a poor's man Kwisatz Haderach, is emphasized time and again as necessary for the salvation of the Ildirans. But: the outcome ("success", as told in the book) of the plan is the interbreeding of an Ildiran not in the breeding camps, and a human also not a product of the breeding program. Hence: could have been achieved in one generation without all the nonsense.

Second major bother: the totally overpowered Hidrogues. Not only are they ultrapowerful (a single big ship could obliterate countless cities), but they're shown to have thousands or more of ships in battles against the Faeros. Also, they know (have visited) the location of both Earth and Ildira. So they could wipe both heads of the main organizations in the book with 0.000001% investment of resources. It's simply unbelievable that they have not done it already.

Corollary: any "epic" battle involving our protagonists and the hidrogues will necessarily end in some deus ex-machina, because otherwise there's no chance they wouldn't be wiped out every time there's an encounter. Frankly, not conducive to suspense.

I keep repeating to me that this is not SF but pulp fantasy, and certainly there's something behind all of it that makes me want to know how it all ends. I only hope there are no loose threads in the end for the characters I care about.

Linda says

I wanted to like it more than I did. He creates an enormous sci FYI universe filled with multiple species, and populates it with dozens of significant characters. How he kept all of them straight while writing the saga is beyond me. Luckily for readers, he includes a list of characters at the end of the book. Read it first. It's. Just. Too. Long. This is the 4th book in the series. Not sure if I will read any more. Trivia Note: As a former Northern Californian, I was tickled by planets and settlements named Yreka, Plumas, and Alturas.
