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Abaddon's Gate



Synopsis

For generations, the solar system - Mars, the Moon, the Asteroid Belt - was humanity's great frontier. Until now. The alien artifact working through its program under the clouds of Venus has appeared in Uranus's orbit, where it has built a massive gate that leads to a starless dark. Jim Holden and the crew of the Rocinante are part of a vast flotilla of scientific and military ships going out to examine the artifact. But behind the scenes, a complex plot is unfolding, with the destruction of Holden at its core. As the emissaries of the human race try to find whether the gate is an opportunity or a threat, the greatest danger is the one they brought with them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[EDITED TO ADD: This is a review of Abaddon's Gate. For some reason, has mixed together reviews for Caliban's War and reviews for Abaddon's Gate. Customers will find reviews of both books on both pages, which causes needless confusion. Perhaps this resulted from an software glitch, but my requests to remedy the problem have been ignored. If enough customers send an email to , the technical staff might take notice of the problem and fix it.]The protomolecule, once confined to Venus, has managed to launch a self-assembling Ring that sits outside the orbit of Uranus. Anything that tries to fly through the middle of the Ring comes to an immediate stop before it begins a slow motion trip in a different direction, leading to the conclusion that the ring is some sort of gate. Representatives of Earth, Mars, and the Outer Planets all converge on the Ring, as do Jim Holden and his crew. Although Holden would prefer not to investigate the protomolecule's latest

actions, he's given no choice. Of course, from the moment the Ring is introduced, the reader knows that Holden will fly through it. As you would expect, Holden and his crew (Naomi, Alex, and Amos) return in this third novel of *The Expanse*. As you might not expect, so does Josephus Miller, who is back from the dead. Or maybe it's not Miller, but something Miller-like is a key character again. Speaking of the dead, Julie Mao is echoed in her sister Clarissa, now known as Melba Koh. She blames Holden for Julie's death (or transformation) and she's devised a cunning plan to obtain revenge. None of this will make the slightest bit of sense unless you've read

Although I enjoyed both *Leviathan Wakes* (*The Expanse*) and *Caliban's War* (*The Expanse*), I wasn't quite as impressed by *Abaddon's Gate*. The book is very readable and moves along at a decent pace. The problem is that the sense of wonder, awe, and fear from the first two books is completely absent in this outing. In *Leviathan's Wake*, the authors created an interesting setting with mankind spread about the solar system. There was political tension, personal struggles, and an awesomely terrifying protomolecule on the rampage. I was enchanted by Detective Miller's redemptive quest and grew attached to Holden and his crew. The novel built to a horrifying climax but humanity was saved by heroic sacrifice. Epic stuff and massively entertaining. The book was pretty much the epitome of "show, don't tell" as we're given an up close and intimate ride through the plot. In *Caliban's War*, the series lost a bit of focus by expanding the number of viewpoints but the new characters were interesting (especially the caustic Chrisjen Avasarala.) The tension was ratcheted up as once again the corporations attempt to bend the protomolecule to their will and things go spectacularly wrong. Holden and company are right in the thick of things. Add in a shooting war and the sudden appearance of the artifact from Venus and the novel's roller-coaster ride ends on an ominous note. Great stuff and a page turner that I knocked out in two days.

"*Abaddon's Gate*" by the writing team of James S. A. Corey continues the *Expanse* series in page turning fashion with action galore. The book isn't quite as sharp as the first two as the expansion on-the-fly of the series weighs a bit on the plot and structure. Still, a fun summer read. 4 stars. It's hard to find good modern space opera - likely since most people who are capable of writing it probably end up doing screenplays instead as the payoff is far more lucrative - but Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck really brought a breath of fresh air to the genre with *Leviathan Wakes* and *Caliban's War*. Their mix of modern characters, reasonable science along with the fiction, plentiful action, and multiple plot twists resulted in two very good books and the expansion by the publisher of what was supposed to be a trilogy into a six book saga. As "*Abaddon's Gate*" starts, all three major powers are

at a standoff as to how to deal with the events of the cliffhanger ending of Caliban's War, where the original threat of the protomolecule has evolved into something larger - the gate of the book's title. Meanwhile, James Holden is still haunted by another cliffhanger, who turns out to be not just non-corporeal but nonsensical, and is generally enjoying life. However, the political events of the first two books inspire a conspiracy to jolt both the powers and Holden out of their complacency and deal with all the Gate represents, and the book takes off from there.

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