

[Ebook free] Titan

Titan

Von Stephen Baxter

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Von Stephen Baxter : Titan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Titan:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dark, gritty and ... captivating!Von Christopher MarcusIf you like intense, well written and really, really h-a-r-d scifi Titan is definitely worth your attention. There is heavy inspiration from Clarke, but the book is far more than a mere copycat. It has an epic story of its own to tell. Yes, the mood is indeed very pessimistic and Baxter's endless obsession with

technical and scientific detail can at times be extremely annoying; also the main characters are rather 'sketchy' in terms of personality - but those are minor flaws in my humble opinion. Overall Titan is a truly captivating near-future vision of Man's last attempt to reach for the stars. And although Baxter's characters aren't very 'deep' he is conveying their moods and interactions quite convincingly. He is also an ace at describing esp. 'space-moods'. I really felt I was in that damn shuttle for a moment, marveling at the grandeur of our blue planet seen from space! (And that was only the first chapter!) As a reader one also gets some very chilling insights into how hostile an environment space actually is. One almost suspects that fragile humans were never meant to go there in the first place. Some geo-political events (like the political development in the US and China) I don't consider very realistic, but a story - or a future vision - doesn't need to be that in order to work. It just needs to be plausible, and I think Baxter does okay in that department (I mean, after the Cold War it was discovered that the Warsaw Pact had plans to annihilate most of Western Europe with tactical nukes in case of war with NATO. So why couldn't some senile old Chinese -) Ups, better not spoil anything here! ... Go read it yourself!

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The best science-fiction novel I have ever read

Von Ein Kunde Some of your readers found this book extremely dull. Hmmmm... I read it in virtually one sitting and then lent it to a friend who did likewise. Titan is a harrowing read at times, there's no doubt about it. The desperate lonely struggle for survival of the marooned astronauts against the background of social collapse on a dystopic earth makes for grim but powerful reading. I was close to tears in the last 100 pages but then comes an incredibly uplifting ending. Baxter presents us with the unthinkable then takes us beyond it. I thoroughly recommend this wonderful, thought-provoking and deeply moving book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Powerful and moving despite some flaws

Von A Geology Teacher If you've read any of the other customer comments, you can tell that people either love this book or hate it. My copy's getting sufficiently well-thumbed that I guess I fall in the former camp. It's true, the manuscript could use some editing, and there are some difficult suspensions of disbelief. (Why didn't the USAF just shoot down the orbiting ? Also, the ability of a political demagogue to refashion the country, and the Chinese doomsday gambit...) Despite this, I found the bleak portrayal of the astronauts' isolation to be remarkably powerful. I guess it was the theme of loneliness that was so gripping. I wish that the author had cut back on the "society falling to pieces" vignettes and given us more of the astronauts' struggles, and their feelings as they coped with their isolation. Some of the time-delayed dialogue with Houston could have been very effective. For me, certain scenes were worth the flaws, particularly Paula's anguish during the Earth swingby and the Scott-of-the-Antarctic-like treks across Titan. I find that I've gone back and read these scenes over and over again. Admittedly, I've read very little SF, but this is by far my favorite book from this genre. I think that its dark tone makes a nice counterpoint to Voyage.

Kurzbeschreibung Signs of life have been found on Titan, Saturn's largest moon. A group of visionaries led by NASA's Paula Benacerraf plan a daring one-way mission that will cost them everything. Taking nearly a decade, the billion-mile voyage includes a slingshot transit of Venus, a catastrophic solar storm, and a constant struggle to keep the ship and crew functioning. But it is on the icy surface of Titan itself that the true adventure begins. In the orange methane slush the astronauts will discover the secrets of life's origins and reach for a human destiny beyond their wildest dreams.

de Take some archetypal sci-fi characters (ageing moonwalker, several bright young astronauts and a dedicated but reclusive scientist), throw in the near future scenario of a declining space programme following a catastrophic fatal accident, mix well with some unusual plot twists and you have the foundations for Baxter's eighth novel. Baxter novices may be wary of such a clichéd plot, but don't despair--his reputation as one of the UK's best sci-fi writers is well founded. Titan is an enjoyable novel, well-written, with just the right mixture of hard science fiction, strong characters and a believable, if undesirable, vision of the future. Reminiscent of 2001 and its sequel 2010, the plot unfolds against the backdrop of a declining world civilization. America is sinking into the mire of Christian fundamentalism and turning against technology, whilst a desperate NASA expends all its remaining energy and resources on a manned mission to Titan--one-way--with the faint hope of reigniting the public's interest in space exploration. The mission is a technical success, but is ignored by the masses, leaving the astronauts stranded on the outskirts of the solar system with no hope of rescue. But of course, that's not the end of the story --Dave Mutton

Pressestimmen "Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, and Robert Heinlein succeeded . . . and now Stephen Baxter joins their exclusive ranks, writing science fiction in which the science is right. A sheer pleasure to read!"-- "New Scientist" "A major new talent!"-- Arthur C. Clarke