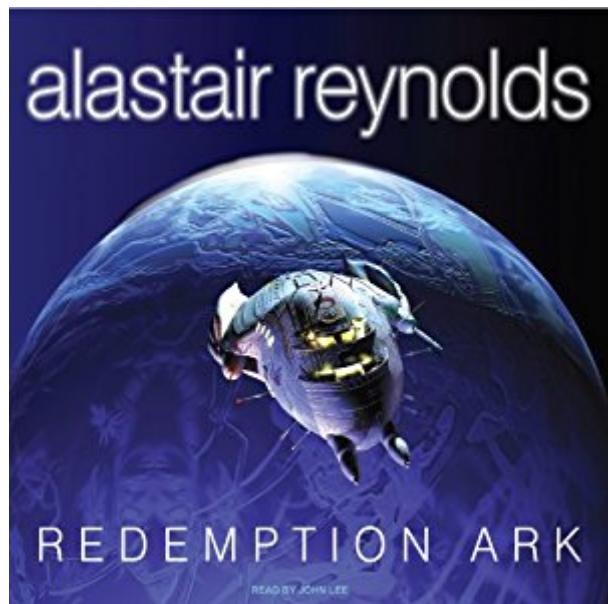


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Redemption Ark



Synopsis

Late in the twenty-sixth century, the human race has advanced enough to accidentally trigger the Inhibitors-alien-killing machines designed to detect intelligent life and destroy it. The only hope for humanity lies in the recovery of a secret cache of doomsday weapons-and a renegade named Clavain who is determined to find them. But other factions want the weapons for their own purposes-and the weapons themselves have another agenda altogether. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This will be quick and spoiler free. Revelation Space established Reynolds's take on a possible future, grounded in his knowledge of science. It was a great piece of world building, and I enjoyed it quite a lot. This one, on the other hand. Oh, dear. About half way through I got the distinct impression he had exactly one book in him. This one is riddled with endless exposition and some of the worst dialog I can remember having read. It needed several editorial passes, at least 20% pruning of content, and some serious reworking of the dialog and interpersonal relationships. The world building is still there, the science fiction is still really good, but I found the actual storytelling to be sorely lacking. There was a place in the book where it seems he ran out of steam on a story thread, and rather violently jerked the characters onto a different thread. It was a move akin to deus ex machina to collect the necessary characters in the same place. I almost gave up on it, but after a month of persevering I finally finished. It was my second, and last, Reynolds book.

Good but even better having read Galactic North first. That was the advice of someone who took note of my complaint about trying Revelation Space three times and discarding it each time. So I read Galactic North and it was about the best sci-fi I've ever read, more new ideas in a few pages than entire series by other authors, even Alastair Reynolds himself. Everything revealed in the 2000 pages of the RS series is introduced in short stories in Galactic North, and the medium forces Reynolds to get right to the action in each story. Then I started Revelation Space again a couple weeks ago, and just now finished the series finale, Absolution Gap, which suffers from many 1 and 2-star reviews. Those reviewers would have benefited from reading Galactic North first as the ending which they all hated made perfect sense to me. Too late for them but not for new readers. Seriously, not only is Galactic North better than any book in the series, it also clues you in to what's going on as you read.

I don't usually give complete story reviews, and I won't change my habits here. I will just say that Alistair Reynolds has earned a spot on my bookshelf. His stories are complex, but not overly so, with good character development and plot turns. Of the three main books (to date) in the Revelation Space series, I like Redemption Ark the most. Some of the reviewers have scored it lower than the other two books, or Chasm City, but I personally found this book to be more entertaining for me as a reader. I don't read to critique, I read for enjoyment, and I really enjoyed Redemption Ark. I would score the three books in the series from highest to lowest thus: Redemption Ark, Absolution Gap, Revelation Space. They are all within a hair of each other, however. All good books and worth a read for anyone interested in science fiction at any level.

I really like Alastair Reynolds writing! I've read one book of his before (Century Rain), and decided to seek out another one. I grabbed this one off the shelf at the library and ended up buying the ebook to carry it along on a trip (in my iPad). Unfortunately, I didn't realize this was book 2 in a series, but I'm not sure if I'd want to go back to read book 1 at this point. I think I'll just continue forward with the series. I'm giving it 4 stars only because Mr. Reynolds gets a little too techy with techno-babble sometimes. Like.... Reading about the technical details of how the Inhibitors could "sing" a hole into a star to reach the core, and then douse a nearby inhabited planet with a jet of that core material and rid it of its lifeforms, was interesting... but just a TAD overboard on details. Some readers might really like this, though. Overall I'd probably give it more like 4.5 stars.

The Cojoiners and Demarchists are slugging their way to the conclusion of a long war when the Cojoiners learn of a threat to all humanity. Machines called the Inhibitors are approaching from the dark reaches of space, intent on wiping out space-faring life. The Cojoiners make plans to protect themselves by launching a mission to retrieve a long-lost cache of hellish weapons. But one of their military experts, Clavain, believes that all of humanity deserves to know about the threat. Clavain launches his own operation to retrieve the weapons and is soon in a desperate race against his former allies. But it's not going to be a simple race - the weapons are being held in the Delta Pavonis system by the damaged ship Nostalgia for Infinity. The dread machines are already there and are in the process of taking apart the entire system. The much-reduced crew of the ship is working on a plan to evacuate the planet before the Inhibitors can complete their work, a plan that includes their own use of the powerful weapons. Although it's not immediately obvious, *Redemption Ark* is a sequel to Reynolds's first novel, *Revelation Space*. A dark space opera with a grand scale and realistic science, the book has an interesting film-noir feel. None of the characters are entirely sympathetic and this future is definitely not a shiny feel-good place. However, it is full of fascinating technology and interesting people. The characterization is fairly good - definitely more than one-dimensional, although sometimes the motivations seem a little off. *Redemption Ark* suffers a bit from middle-book malady. While it's action packed and chock full of challenging concepts, the ending is disappointing - it feels rushed, nothing is really resolved, and you're stuck waiting for the next book. There are also several points where the book builds up to what should be frenzied action sequences and then instead of the actual action, you get a passive recap that throws a wrench into the pacing. However, I do like the universe that Reynolds has created and I'm looking forward to the sequel.

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