



The Rise of Endymion

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The time of reckoning has arrived. As a final genocidal Crusade threatens to enslave humanity forever, a new messiah has come of age. She is Aenea and she has undergone a strange apprenticeship to those known as the Others. Now her protector, Raul Endymion, one-time shepherd and convicted murderer, must help her deliver her startling message to her growing army of disciples.

But first they must embark on a final spectacular mission to discover the underlying meaning of the universe itself. They have been followed on their journey by the mysterious Shrike--monster, angel, killing machine--who is about to reveal the long-held secret of its origin and purpose. And on the planet of Hyperion, where the story first began, the final revelation will be delivered--an apocalyptic message that unlocks the secrets of existence and the fate of humankind in the galaxy.

The Rise of Endymion Details

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Author : Dan Simmons

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From Reader Review The Rise of Endymion for online ebook

Nate says

Simmons dropped the ball on this one. He contradicts himself where he's not blatantly spamming retcons in an attempt to steer his narrative onto a logical course before it concludes. He kills the wonderful momentum he's built about halfway through the book by indulging himself in an orgy of mountain-climbing minutiae and introducing sixty fucking new characters who have a questionable reason for existing and contribution to the plot. He wraps up loose ends and provides explanations that are, if not head-scratch-inducing, at the very least unsatisfying. So why did I give this book five stars, you ask?

BECAUSE IT HAS A SCENE WHERE TWO CHARACTERS TOTALLY 69 IN ZERO G.

Just kidding. I give it five stars because despite all of these problems and disappointments, this series is one of the most awe-and-terror-inspiring things I've ever read. I will always cherish it and hold it close to my heart. The pure ambition and humanity the author poured into the pages are undeniable. This is clearly a man who's fucking just *going for it* and if in the end it's a failure, it's a glorious failure that deserves to stand next to brilliant successes. There's not an interesting idea that you can explore in science fiction that's not examined here and in a way that's captivatingly entertaining, moving, and well-written.

I can't recommend this series enough to people who haven't tried it. This is glorious stuff. I really struggle to think of another one that was such an emotional roller coaster. I veered from being terrified to laughing out loud (this usually involved scenes with the wonderful Martin Silenus) to being completely awe-struck by the concepts and settings Simmons spins out at a ridiculous rate to feeling like I wanted to fucking cry like a baby. It combines heady, high-concept stuff like time travel and paradoxes or the possible fates and evolutions of humanity with just pure fun stuff like ridiculous potty-mouthed humor and pant-shittingly gnarly space battles. It's a cliche, but it really does have something for everyone and has cemented my idolization of Simmons as a writer.

David Katzman says

This review is for both *Endymion*, book 3 in the *Hyperion Cantos* tetralogy and *Rise of Endymion*, which is book 4. If you have not read Books 1 and 2, take a look at my review here first. I was a big fan of Books 1 and 2, but I'm split right down the middle on Books 3 and 4. Book 3 was a thrilling sci fi adventure ride, but Book 4 drove me up a wall. Different kind of ride. The following review probably won't make much sense, or be worth reading, unless you are familiar with Books 1 and 2 or my previous review. And I will advise you to stop here if you have any interest in Books 1 & 2 because, while I will avoid spoilers for 3 & 4, I can't help including spoilers from 1 & 2 entirely.

We arrive in Book 3 almost 300 years after the end of Book 2. The story begins on the world of Hyperion but has very little to do with that planet thereafter. By the end of Book 4, we know bits and pieces of the fates of the various characters from Books 1 and 2. Some more than others, but by the end we get enough to feel like their stories are relatively closed. The story primarily centers around two new characters. One is the daughter of Brawne Lamia and the cybrid John Keats, who we've been told is "The One Who Teaches" or...the new messiah. The second character is her protector (when she is young) and then lover (when she is older...she

ages faster than him due to some faster-than-light travel sleight of hand), Raul Endymion. They also have an android sidekick named A. Bettick.

In this leap forward in time, the human galaxy is no longer dependent on the Technocore and has rejected the advantages provided by this A.I. community (which had been manipulating human civilization for its own purposes in Books 1 & 2), but as such have lost their ability to essentially "teleport" via farcasters as well as FTL communication systems. We learn that human civilization has now fallen under control of a theocratic dictatorship run by the reinvigorated Catholic Church. The church controls a sprawling military force as well as mercantile corporations. Their control was established by finding a way to provide "eternal life" to all who accept the church--the "cruciform" from Books 1 and 2. Once accepted, the cruciform will rebuild the brain and body even after death. This power to bestow resurrection or take it away, has given the church control of the empire. In Books 1 and 2, the cruciform causes decreased mental acuity with each rebirth until one is barely a living automaton, but the church somehow figured out how to fix that issue so that the rebirth bestows full personality and mind back again.

Aenea, Raul and Bettick are essentially on a mission to break this control over human society and convince humanity to reject the cruciform. They are on the run from the church and its military as well as other sinister forces within the church. There are numerous competing agendas and motives going on behind the scenes to which we are not initially privy.

Book 3 keeps up the frenetic pace of Books 1 & 2. It's a thrilling, suspenseful race to survive and keep moving to the next planet in their journey. Each setting is distinct and provides new challenges. Simmons does a great job keeping up the tension and the reader's fear for the characters' lives.

Book 4 is where it fell apart for me. The forward momentum dies and the story becomes excessively maudlin and self-indulgent. Props for tying together most, if not all, of the loose ends. Yes, bravo on the brilliant plot twists that Simmons has worked in to the narrative and then resolved in Book 4. However, boo for the editing, weak characters and maudlin emotions.

First of all, despite the fact that we have spent roughly 1200 pages with Raul and Aenea, and reveled in Raul's obsession with her hair (light brown with blond highlights if you care to know), I never really saw the connection that made them fall in love. They were together a lot and they were both stubborn and strong willed, but other than that it was basically just appearance and proximity that seemed to bring them together. His mindless devotion to her, certainly, contributed, but they really didn't seem to connect. Simmons just didn't have the writing chops to create the believable illusion of two people falling in love. But that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to my issues with Book 4.

Some of the qualities that nagged at me in the earlier books became more prominent in the finale and some other annoying aspects grew to really frustrate me. I *hated* how longwinded his scenic descriptions became. Pages and pages of self-indulgent set dressing. He was in love with his world-building. And worse than the "not quite there" artificiality of the central relationship, there was a kind of sappy quality to the main romance that really drove me off the cliff. How many times can I stand to read "my Beloved?" Ugh. Combined with the sex scenes...which I had disliked in the early books, too. It's extremely difficult to write a sex scene and not come across as pornographic. A writer needs to have a unique voice and a strong, original point of view to pull them off. The weightless sex scene in Book 4...just dreadful. Also, the main character was so obtuse and the delay of communication between him and Aenea drove me nuts. Simmons clearly and intentionally made Raul oblivious and obtuse and, further, invented reasons why Aenea had to withhold information from him to postpone the big reveals until the end. It was incredibly frustrating, especially because several of the big secrets were obvious. I found myself speed-reading through much of the text just

to get to the plot points. Not good.

In the end, I'm glad that I read Book 4 in order to find out how the entire story came together. But Simmons really needed an editor to crack the whip on this last installment of an otherwise epic science fiction narrative. 4 out of 5 stars for Book 3, 2 out of 5 stars for Book 4.

Cip says

Very disappointed with the conclusion of the series. Halfway through the book I paused and checked to make sure I wasn't reading Twilight. The evolution into a love story was forced and I felt absolutely none of the chemistry and undying love and loyalty that was supposed to have grown between Raul and Aenea. On top of that, her repeated response of "I'll explain later" to a lot of the plot-hole seeming sections were never actually explained! The sex scenes were unnecessary and just seemed like padding, and I found myself rolling my eyes and skipping as much of them as I could. Perhaps I missed some whispered explanations in the middle of their zero-g lovefests, but I'd rather miss them than have to read some stupid bs like that. I've been holding on to this since Endymion, but Raul does not rhyme with Tall. Should have just named the guy Paul if that's the sound you were going for. And "Aenea" doesn't look like it should sound like Ah-nea. Both of those names made me pause almost every time they cropped up because of the weird pronunciations (and since he took the time to point it out it stuck in my brain). Lucky me, they are the two main characters and the awkward and incorrect pronunciations jolted me out of the book over and over.

I don't care what Dan Simmons says, having a love affair with a younger person that you were responsible for as a child is CREEPY. And the forced "I'd do anything for her", "she's my beloved" etc sections were so nauseating. I wish I hadn't finished the series and had just stopped with The Fall of Hyperion.

Stephen says

6.0 stars. On my list of All Time Favorites (along with the other three books of the Hyperion Cantos). In my opinion, along with the Dune series, the Hyperion Cantos is the best SF space opera series ever written and Dan Simmons is one of the best writers working today. Hyperion is a recognized classic in SF, but I believe that the other three books in the Cantos, The Fall of Hyperion, Endymion and this novel are equally superb and I think readers are really missing out if they stop at the first novel. SF does not get any better than this. HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION.

Winner: Locus Award Best SF Novel

Nominee: Hugo Award Best Novel

Nominee: British SF Award

Gavin says

This proved to be a satisfying conclusion to the Endymion duology and the Hyperion Cantos series as a whole. The quality of the series remained consistent throughout and Dan Simmons did a fantastic job of wrapping up all the ongoing story arcs and mysteries.

Much like the first Endymion book this one mainly focused on telling the tale of Raul Endymion and his lover, the new Messiah, Aenea as they sought to expose the corruption of the Pax Church and to fight against the corruption of the Void That Binds medium by the TechnoCore. As expected we also had a few other POV scenes from characters such as Father De Soya, Grand Inquisitor Mustafa, and Kenzo Isozaki and their stories helped to add depth to the world and to the story.

The strengths of the Hyperion Cantos series is the complexity of the plot, the depth of the well imagined sci-fi universe, and the quality of Simmon's writing. If the series has a weakness it is that sometimes Simmon's can get a bit too carried away by describing and fleshing out some of his creations and that can slow the pace of the story. My other slight criticism is that although there is a large cast of well realized characters none of them ever managed to fully resonate with me on an emotional level for any consistent period of time.

All in all I enjoyed this final book in the Hyperion Cantos. I did not love every single development or revelation, but I was happy in a general sense with how things concluded and will happily read more of Dan Simmons books in the future.

Rating: 3.5 stars.

Audio Note: Victor Bevine is a steady performer and again I had no reason to fault his narration.

Markus says

*Aye on the shores of darkness there is light,
And precipices show untrodden green;
There is a budding morrow in midnight;
There's a triple sight in blindness keen...*

I don't think I'll be able to review this one properly, and as it's the fourth and last book, I hardly think I'll be able to influence anyone to read the series or not either way.

So all I have to say is that I've really enjoyed this journey Dan Simmons has allowed me to go on, in the countless worlds of his *Hyperion Cantos*. This book had its downsides, but it was a worthy conclusion to what is now one of my favourite sci-fi series.

Ashley says

Holy shitballs. I'm finally done with this book. With this series!

So this shit right here is exactly why I read science fiction. It's got EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT. Well, these last two books have been lacking the humor of the first two, mostly because the foul-mouthed poet Martin Silenus was relegated to a background role, but he was there a little bit at the beginning of the last book and the beginning and end of this one, so there was a little bit of humor there. But seriously EVERYTHING ELSE is here.

You've got your hard science to satisfy the deep nerds; you've got your mystically enhanced science to satisfy the spiritual mumbo-jumboists like myself; you've got fuckin' giant flying squids and telepathic amoeboids on a planet made entirely of gas; you've got religion (both in support of and deconstructing); you've got your humanism and socialism and Buddhism and classism (ALL THE ISMS); you've got an epic time and space defying romance; you've got a fuckin' SPACE POPE.

I can keep listing things.

Time travel, homages to classic literature and poetry, epic bloody and disgusting fights between men and fearsome artificially intelligent creatures, a biosphere the size of a fuckin' solar system curated by hard vacuum adapted humans, messiahs, daring escapes, discussions of philosophy and economics, teleportation, planets of all shapes and sizes (water planets, gas planets, mountain planets where everyone travels on ziplines, planets where the trees are made of lightning), devices that can bring back people from the dead, nanotech up the wazoo.

THE MOTHERFUCKING SHRIKE!

I will stop listing things now.

Dudes. I'm just so glad I read this series. In all, it's pretty much a science fiction/space opera masterpiece. That's not to say it doesn't have its flaws, particularly in the last two volumes—which take place 300 years after the first two, and feature Raul Endymion as their first person narrator as he fights to complete his mission: to keep Aenea "The One Who Teaches" safe, to end the threat of the Pax (the Roman Catholic church run amok and crazed on power—it's complicated), to find Old Earth and return it to its former home, and to insure the future of humanity. The way all of it shakes out, on both a story and character level, was really really satisfying. In places, Simmons' writing creaks and groans under the weight of its own cheese (particularly in his love scenes—and I don't mean sex here necessarily, although that's part of it, but seriously when the two main characters talk about or exhibit love it's generally cheesy as hell). Some of the exposition scenes are deliberately obtuse, but it all works out in the end.

Probably the biggest leap you have to make is that the first two books were so deliberately chock full of characters and criss-crossing storylines, that to have such a simplified narrative arc (relatively, I should say—your average reader will by no means think this book is simple) is a bit of a letdown at first. Raul is a good enough narrator, but as he admits himself, he's not the brightest guy. In the first book especially, we had six different main characters, six different stories, and the fact that it was a deliberate homage to *The Canterbury Tales* was an immediate hook. The first two books also had the advantage of presenting us with a galactically sized mystery, which was very alluring. These two books had the task of solving the mystery, which is always a dangerous thing in these kinds of books.

As I wrote about recently in my review of the last Unwritten book, when you solve a mystery as a storyteller, the ideal is to trade in that mystery for enlightenment, for a denouement that should make your readers feel as if a light bulb has gone off over their heads. They should hit that moment and FEEL something. And if you fail at that, the whole story can end up feeling ruined. (This is why so many people hate the *Lost* finale, because the enlightenment route that show went only works for about half of the people who watched the show—the other half wanted concrete answers.) Luckily, Simmons absolutely nails it. (My only quibble with the "ending" is that he totally telegraphs a major plot point of the ending a little too hard, and I predicted it very early on. I wish it would have been more of a surprise for me.)

So in summation, if you like science fiction READ THIS SERIES. If you are curious about what science

fiction can do and it doesn't sound too intimidating, READ THIS SERIES.

I am already looking forward to my inevitable re-read several years down the road.

[4.5 stars]

Kemper says

I survived!

As I've reported in my previous reviews of this series there were times where it seemed as if my gray matter was going to be permanently fried by this epic sci-fi story. I finally got through to the end with most of my marbles still in the bag they came in.

It's almost impossible to give a summary of this without spoiling the previous book so I'll just say that Aenea and Raul Endymion continue their interstellar journey to fulfill her ultimate destiny as the powerful forces of a corrupted Catholic Church and the artificial intelligences of the TechnoCore try to stop them by increasingly desperate means. Oh, and the mysterious and deadly time-traveling Shrike continues to pop up.

This isn't just your standard sci-fi space opera about a chosen one saving the galaxy from the Death Star. What Simmons has done here is create a tale that spans time and space in which even Jesus was a player and the ultimate stakes are the fate of evolution of life in the entire universe. As with the other books, he's done an incredible job of building multiple stories and fusing them all together into a rich and diverse whole. Any one of his concepts could have been the basis for an entire book or series like a planet where the cities have been built high onto the tops of mountain peaks due an acidic ocean at lower altitudes. That's just one stop along the way for Aenea and Raul.

So how did I live through it? Dan Simmons finally revealed himself to be human and somewhat fallible here in the last book. Don't get me wrong. It's still an excellent series and one of the most ambitious sci-fi stories I've read. But there were a few things that irked me in this one that took it down from five stars to four and that probably kept my brain pan from overheating.

First is that Simmons goes back and alters some of what we're previously told in the earlier books. I'm not sure if he originally planned to end it after two books but carried it to four and had to do some changing to fit an ending he came up with later, or if he just discarded some ideas late in the game, but I didn't like that what we thought happened in the first two books turned out to be untrue. Simmons didn't commit any crimes against his fans on a George Lucas scale, but it bothered me, particularly the revisions to the Shrike's origin and ultimate fate.

I also don't think that Simmons knew when to turn off the creative mode and shift into resolution mode. He kept adding elaborate new settings and characters and events right up until the end game, and it started reminding me of how *Lost* just kept piling new characters and mysteries into its final season and didn't do nearly enough wrapping up. Simmons still managed to provide a mostly satisfy ending, but when he added yet another mind blowing new setting in the last quarter of the book, I found myself getting a little impatient.

Still, these are minor quibbles about a sci-fi story that swung for the fences and managed to deliver on almost all of it's potential.

Brian says

The scene where Corporal Bassin Kee is undergoing torture at the hands of the Grand Inquisitor , who uses a machine that simulates "crushed testicles" and "hot wire behind right eye" in the victim's brain ... that's a good approximation of the experience I had reading this book. There's Dan Simmons sitting at his desk, finger poised over a computer keyboard. In the place of letters, each key has a different literary torture: "moldy info dump forced down throat", "insufferable protagonist buzzes on face but can't be swatted", "new ideas generate excitement, but take off masks to reveal tired concepts from three books ago", and of course "sex scenes that cause genitals to shrivel". If offered my choice of two options: rereading this garbage or getting impaled of the Tree of Pain, I'd give the Shrike a big bear hug and ask for his sharpest thorn.

Despite all the pain the book itself caused, it was my own mind that broke me in the end. I have to live with the knowledge that my torturer was none other than Dan Simmons, the same man who wrote *Hyperion*, one of the top sci-fi novels of the last three decades and a personal favorite. Oh, the agony!

Dan Schwent says

After four years on Old Earth, Raul Endymion resumes the voyage on the river Tethys to find the Consul's ship. Meanwhile, Aenea leaves Old Earth behind to find her destiny. In addition to hunting for the One Who Teaches, The Pax launches a Crusade to wipe out the Ouster menace once and for all. Will Aenea fulfill her destiny and end the Pax's reign once and for all?

I have to admit, I was skeptical for the first half of this book. It wasn't urination-inducing good like the first two and I actually liked it less than *Endymion* for at least half of it. Then Raul incurred the time debt and things really kicked into high gear. The plot came together and by the end, it surpassed *Endymion*. Everything ran its course, from Aenea to the cruciforms to farcasting.

Like the other books, there's not a whole lot of the plot I can divulge without spoiling things. However, I will say that I enjoyed the tale's conclusion and loved learning more about the Ousters and their habitat. De Soya continued his development into one of my favorite characters in the *Cantos*. (view spoiler)

While I was bored for a portion of the book and thought it felt padded, the second half more than made up for it. I got a little emotional when Aenea and Raul said their goodbyes to their friends. I saw the ending coming but I still liked it quite a bit.

It's not as great as the first two books of the *Cantos* but *The Rise of Endymion* is quite the satisfactory conclusion to the saga.

Apatt says

Finally I have finished the entire *Hyperion Cantos*, the series than began with the all-time sci-fi classic *Hyperion*, almost concluded in *The Fall of Hyperion*, launched a second arc in *Endymion* and ends here with *The Rise of Endymion*.

These last two books read more like a duology than the third and fourth installations of a series. The Cantos is often discussed in PrintSF, my sci-fi books discussions online community. The second half of the series tend to be quite polarizing. Some people love it, some say it is disappointing, one reader even calls it a bad fan fiction of the first two books. The Goodreads average rating for these last two books, however, indicate that they are quite well liked by the majority. In my opinion, they are well worth reading if you like *Hyperion* and *The Fall of Hyperion*, but they are not *sf classics* like these earlier books.

This is not one of those series that can be read out of sequence, in fact *The Rise of Endymion* continues directly from the previous volume *Endymion*. After narrowly escaping capture by the Pax church state and their secret partner the insidious and malevolent mega AI entity the TechnoCore, our heroes the messianic Aenea and Raul Endymion have settled down on “Old Earth” (just Earth to us) for a few years. That is until one day Aenea instructs Raul to go on an interminable mission to pick up their spaceship which they left on another planet in the previous book and bring it to her at a preprogrammed destination. After finally reuniting with great difficulty they travel to the planet where the Pax run Vatican is located and confront the Pax and the evil AI.

There are quite a few edge of the seat thrilling scenes in this book, especially those involving the killer super cyborgs (T-1000-like) Nemes, Scylla (and the other one). The equally formidable Shrike from all the previous books is also present to challenge these whippersnapper cyborgs. However, the book is not a thrill ride all the way as Raul’s solo adventure to reclaim their “Consul’s Ship” drags at time, though he did get to meet some wonderful characters and cultures on the way. The climax is suitably epic and mystical, and the events that follow wrap up the entire Cantos nicely. I did see the twist at the end from miles away though (if you have read this book I’d love to know if did the same).

Awesome Russian cover. “I have had it with this motherfuckin’ Shrike on this motherfuckin’ raft!”

Dan Simmons’ prose is always great to read, slipping into lyrical mode from time to time, with the odd (and very odd) poems. The characterization is the main strength of this book, the protagonists and antagonists are all very well drawn. The sci-fi aspect of it is not so mind boggling now as they were mostly featured in the previous books. Some of the new sci-fi elements border on fantasy, such as FTL traveling by foot, through a sort of hyperspace shortcut. Not to mention all the “chosen one” and messianic tropes. In fact, Aenea reminds me a lot of Paul Muad’Dib from *Dune*. All of the mysteries from the previous books (including the origin and nature of the Shrike) are explained (to the displeasure of some fans who prefer them to be left unexplained). The book is also very romantic, optimistic and yet kind of tragic.

I am glad I have finished the entire series, but the first two books classic *Hyperion* and *The Fall of Hyperion* remain two of my all-time favorites which I would like to reread some day. I enjoyed *Endymion* and *The Rise of Endymion* but I am not likely to reread them.

Christopher says

THE RISE OF ENDYMION is the fourth and final volume of Dan Simmons' Hyperion saga and the conclusion of the storyline begun in ENDYMION. I only plodded through that book because I wanted to reach the end, and with THE RISE OF ENDYMION even that motivation almost dried up.

The problems are legion. The book is overlong, with huge sections that just serve no legitimate purpose, such as Raul's time in the Temple Hanging in Air. Simmons' extends his work as much as he can to give it an

"epic" feel, but it ends up seeming boring and goofy.

Raul's love for Aenea continues to border on pedophilia for the first few hundred pages of the work, and then it graduates to simple obsession, if only because she's grown up. This whole piece of the story, which is in fact a huge chunk of the story, is utterly unconvincing. If Aenea is the messiah, one would think Raul would have better things to do than get jealous over her past and feel all squishy inside whenever she's around.

The resolution of the conflict is given a few scant pages, probably because Simmons spent too much time on high-faultin' philosophy and Raul's sexual tension. The book's structure is simply awful. Plus, Simmons causes the reader to have wasted reading the first two books in the series by dismissing the words of Ummon in **THE FALL OF HYPERION** as "a lie."

Argh. This book is simply awful. I'd recommend the first two books in the Hyperion saga, but stay well away from **ENDYMION** and **THE RISE OF ENDYMION**.

Rachel says

This book could have been half the length and I would have been thrilled.

Too much philosophizing. Too much useless description, too much exposition of the "science" behind why the characters were able to do what they did. The plot "twist," if it was meant to be one, was pretty damned obvious immediately.

Again, de Soya was much more compelling than any of the major characters, and he's relegated to an even less important role in this book. **SO DISAPPOINTING.** He may be one of my favorite characters encountered in my recent reading adventures.

I am glad I read this just so I could learn how the story ended (**Endymion** did leave a decent number of loose ends) but again, I would have been so happy if it had been shorter.

If you don't want to waste your time reading this (and parts of it *are* good, really, but you have to wade through a lot of garbage to get to those parts) but you read **Endymion** and want to know how it ends, I will gladly spoil the plot for you. Seriously.

Edit 12/20/11: I had to come back and remove another star simply because I remembered how ridiculous the whole (view spoiler) thing was. Seriously? I am lucky enough to have never suffered that myself, but you want me to believe that (view spoiler)

Conor says

Not sure how to rate this one. Combined with the previous book in the series it was one of the longest, slowest, least eventful reads of my life. If I hadn't loved the first 2 books so much I would have gladly cut and run. With that being said I've found that the books in this series are the type of book that grow in my estimation after I've finished reading them. Some books I read are fast-paced and enjoyable but when trying

to think of things to talk about in a review a few weeks later I find I've forgotten everything about them (and yet I manage to expertly bluff my way through the review in order to harvest those sweet, sweet likes). However after finishing these books (even the slow third one) I find myself thinking fondly of the characters and setting and contemplating the philosophical and literary themes that play such a major part in this series.

Full review to come....

Henry Avila says

In a galaxy far, far away, (the Large Magellanic Cloud, 160,000 light years from Sol) and over 1,000 years in the future, there lived two fugitives, devoted lovers, Raul Endymion of Hyperion, and the new messiah, Aenea, a product of human and nonhuman parents. The strange thing is they reside on Old Earth, somehow our planet has been poached there, by AI, artificial intelligence (some are immensely evil). Still the couple is happy, a quiet, peaceful existence after a titanic struggle for survival, but this hiatus of four years, will not last, an unknown destiny awaits them...Earthlings have long built stupendous spaceships, that can surpass light speed, and have scattered throughout the Milky Way, inhabiting hundreds of planets, the starry heavens shine down on the bright , exotic structures, and newly erected modern cities, roads and oceans full of vehicles and boats, people transforming dead worlds into lively lands, bringing animals and plants from home. Yet human nature remains the same, greed, the quest for power , glory, wealth, can never be completely extinguished, but the good, will always try to change this...Raul, goes away, alone, on a puzzling mission, at Aenea's request, via the Farcaster portal, and with just a few detours, one, a giant gas planet he falls literally into, mile after mile, he descends, in an endless atmosphere, with only his entirely unsuitable kayak and parachute, growing hungry and thirsty, this chilling, interminable drop, continues, days pass, the air becoming not breathable, unwanted clouds, a constant companion, curious, weird, menacing, transparent creatures, appear...no land is observed underneath... He awakes, to the mountain world of T'ien Shan, his destination, a planet resembling Tibet, Buddhist monks , pagodas, and a new Dalai Lama, (a boy of eight) Aenea arrived earlier, and the angry, tortured man, soon calms , his great love for Aenea will never stop. She, an amateur architect, is building a structure for the monks, high above, in a mountain peak, the poisonous clouds lurk below, but they can never stay , the brutal Pax rulers of the galaxy will pursue the two wherever they travel, she is dangerous to them, Nemes, the machine made to destroy her is here, the fierce, unstoppable robot, has brought two siblings, nobody can defeat them, a miracle occurs, the mighty Shrike monster, a mysterious friend, comes, and battles these things, a short opportunity to flee, arises, as the tumultuous brawl goes on. Stepping off the ledge, Raul and Aenea, glide in the air with their artificial wings, high above the never seen ground, many miles under, any mistake will plunge them into the deadly, nearby gas clouds, or treacherous mountain cliffs, but the thrill of flying like birds, soaring and diving , seeing new sights , that are indescribably beautiful and intoxicating , pure ecstasy , in fact, as long as it is possible, to remain there, but they need to reach a distant village soon, in order to escape, time is running out...The last of the enchanting, entertaining , and electrifying , series, for any sci-fi fan... they will enjoy it, I did.
