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Frank Herbert's *Dune* ended with Paul Muad'Dib in control of the planet Dune. Herbert's next Dune book, *Dune Messiah*, picked up the story several years later after Paul's armies had conquered the galaxy. But what happened between *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*? How did Paul create his empire and become the Messiah? Following in the footsteps of Frank Herbert, *New York Times* bestselling authors Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson are answering these questions in *Paul of Dune*.

The Muad'Dib's jihad is in full swing. His warrior legions march from victory to victory. But beneath the joy of victory there are dangerous undercurrents. Paul, like nearly every great conqueror, has enemies--those who would betray him to steal the awesome power he commands. . . .

And Paul himself begins to have doubts: Is the jihad getting out of his control? Has he created anarchy? Has he been betrayed by those he loves and trusts the most? And most of all, he wonders: *Am I going mad?*

Paul of Dune is a novel everyone will want to read and no one will be able to forget.

Paul of Dune Details

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From Reader Review Paul of Dune for online ebook

Prester says

When I first read "Dune" in 1983 I was amazed at how Frank Herbert was able to create an entire universe filled with new planets, alien races, politics and of course, religious fanaticism.

I was deeply saddened by the death of one of the greatest Science Fiction writers of all time.

Then to my delight, the team of Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson catapulted the Sci-Fi fan base back into the world of "Dune" with some of the best written and imagined stories from the early days of the Dune legacy.

"Paul of Dune" is no exception.

This serving of the "Dune" history is a fantastic blend of present and past as it forms volume one of the two part link between "Dune" and "Dune Messiah".

I found the characters, the situations and the end results to be very brilliantly designed and satisfying. And I am one who has always found it tough to find good Science Fiction due to the fact that many authors tend to slide too far to the brink of being down right corny.

Although I know there is a butt for every saddle and that my views are purely my own, I would hope that readers of the new "Dune" books would see fit to not only give these great stories a shot, but also realize that they were all masterfully written for one purpose; To complete one of the greatest adventures of all time.

This book served its purpose with abundance.

Claudia says

Utterly, totally, completely disappointed! :(

I very much liked Dune Chronicles #7 & #8; as for the Legends of Dune & Prelude to Dune series, I found them to be awesome. But this one...

The characters are totally different: the way Paul Atreides and the Fremens are depicted looks like the Harkonnens! No, I'm wrong. The Harkonnens were strong characters, despicable, they could make you go through the whole range of bad feelings about them. Here, Paul and Fremens are a bunch of idiots, brainless, selfish mother-f***ers. Not to mention Chani and Irulan: is like seeing a very, very bad TV show with illiterate people. Wth?!

As for the writing style - dull, blasé, has no substance at all.

I quitted at 25% and limited myself to what I had read so far - I don't want to spoil further the image I have on Dune universe and its characters.

Dan Braun says

Hopefully the last of Dune. I have read them all. None were as good as "Dune". But then you can't beat the best.

Eric Lin says

I mean, I didn't finish it, but I'm finished, you know what I mean? Or to quote Bean, from *Shadow of the Hegemon*: "You don't have to eat the whole turd to know it's not crab cake."

Super bad dialogue and poor writing really makes you feel like these aren't the characters we remembered from Dune. Don't we read sequels to get more of what we want? I don't want to read about this imposter Paul, who takes everything too seriously, and alienates everyone he talks to. I know it's supposed to be the story of his journey back to humanity from the ruthless emperor he's become, but I don't think I have the patience to wait around, or the faith to believe that Brian Herbert can deliver.

Avihu says

One of the worse books ever written. It really pains me to see that it was allowed to be released. It really shames the Dune series name.

Yael says

Like millions of other people, I loved Frank Herbert's *Dune* and the five sequels to it that Herbert produced. In general, I've had mixed feelings about the prequels and sequels to Frank Herbert's series of Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson. It's not that they aren't good -- it's that many of them aren't very . . . *Dune*, dammit. The difference is something like that between the earliest versions of great movies, e.g., *The Poseidon Adventure*, and later versions, e.g., *Poseidon* -- the originals grab you and don't let go, the sequels fall flat. To do Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson justice, their writing is a *lot* better than whoever was responsible for the atrocity that *Poseidon* turned out to be. It's just that they're not Frank Herbert, and while their contributions to the series constitute excellent *writing*, and are drawn directly from Frank Herbert's own notes about the novels he had planned to write if he'd lived long enough, they just don't have the *Magick*.

But there are exceptions. All of them are those which, with respect to the internal chronology of the entire series, occur very close to the time of *Dune*, the original, within a few decades, at most. This is true of Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson's *Dune: House Atreides*, *Dune: House Harkonnen*, and *Dune: House Corrino* -- and it's true of their *Paul of Dune*, as well.

Paul of Dune is a recap of Paul Mu'a'Dib's life from 10,187 AG to 10,197 AG, spanning the last part of Paul's effective boyhood to his first years as Emperor. It covers incidents that did not appear either in the original *Dune* novels by Frank Herbert or in any of the prequels written by Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson, and

gives a much richer portrait of the complex, troubled man who was Paul Muad'Dib than was available before from any author. Here is a deeper understanding of the complexities of the Corrino Imperium and the extremely dysfunctional man who led it at the end, of Paul's struggles to come to terms with his prophetic powers and his anguish at not being able to follow a path his father, Duke Leto Atreides, would have approved of, and of the careers of the many characters that have such powerful impacts on Paul, his choices, and the empire that he ultimately created. I think Frank Herbert would have approved heartily.

Byron 'Giggsy' Paul says

Paul of Dune alternates between telling events of Paul-Muad'Dib's jihad 1 year and 4 year after the events of "Dune" and before "Dune Messiah" and background of Paul and what affected the Atreides clan as a 12 year old boy.

The good of this book is simply that the Dune story at this period is so great that any new background and insight is a joy for fans. The bad of this book is that while it attempts to fill-in between Frank's original novels it becomes just that that - boring historical background filler.

True Dune fans will still enjoy this but I'd recommend putting this lower on the reading list if you are looking for an exciting read.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

Sigh. Where do we start? The cardboard characters? The plot inconsistencies? The contradictions with Frank Herbert's books?

Again, another unnecessary addition to the Dune series. If Brian and Kevin had put all their effort into writing Dune 7 than piddling around with two prequel trilogies, then we MIGHT have a worthy read.

But no. They just couldn't stop at Dune 7 and move on to go back to writing their own original series. No. Dune is their cash cow, and they're going to milk it, by gum!

Here, we see an wholly unnecessary novel. 'Dune Messiah' was about the consequences of Paul's Jihad. That was what Frank Herbert was concentrating on. He wanted to show us the consequences of Paul's vision, and not waste time with explaining about all of the battles on various planets and what not. And we were happy with that, because Frank Herbert wrote about what was relevant, and though sometimes it's fun to see how things happened or what happened to make things the way they were in the future, in the Dune series this was not missed because Herbert had a greater message to share with us. (which was completely ignored in Hunters/Sandworms of Dune, BTW)

Here we are presented with a book that spends a good amount of time in the past in Paul's childhood - entirely unnecessary as the House trilogy was - and all you can do is bang your head in frustration. The Harkonnen/Fenrig offspring that was hinted at in the canon Dune books was supposed to be just that - a tempting little rumor that made us think. Here, it's ridiculous. The Fremen are also very out of character, and the editing mistakes in this book are downright laughable. Contradictions are abound - in this book, Paul has been offplanet several times before the family move to Arrakis, yet in the original Dune novels, Frank

Herbert makes it clear that Paul has never been offplanet, and Arrakis was his first trip away from home. This is but one of many mistakes and contradictions that plague this... this... "book".

Many things are told, not shown. Frank Herbert was wonderful at putting in details here and there that add up to the greater picture, without wasting time on useless fluff and filler. But here in Paul of Dune, so much time is wasted on so many things, and the characters of Dune are not quite the same here in Paul of Dune, and there were far too many Brian/Kevin-created characters for my liking.

The classic Dune was like a lovingly prepared homecooked meal by Mom, who clearly cared about what we were eating and put all her effort into making the meal as best as it could, and boy, do we ever remember these meals with love and fondness! The books by Brian and Kevin are like greasy fast food - easily snarfed down when there's nothing else to eat, hunger momentarily sated, and then stomach cramps and other rather unpleasant effects later on. They even admit themselves that they're making Dune more "accessible" to the reading crowd. Meaning, dumbed-down.

Near the end of this book, another disturbing "fact" is revealed to us - that Herbert Sr's works are no longer canon, and are rather an inaccurate history (because Irulan wrote so many books), which is Brian and Kevin's way of saying to us 'We'll retcon whatever we want out of Dune, and you will LIKE IT!'

To do this to someone else's work takes unmitigated gall, but after two poorly-written trilogies and a horribly disappointing Dune 7, should we be THAT surprised?

If you MUST read this book out of curiosity (or out of masochistic urges), then go to the library. Don't waste a single penny.

The six books by Frank Herbert, along with the Dune Encyclopedia, are canon, and nothing but. Brian and Kevin's books are poorly written fanfiction at best, and an utter and complete abomination at worst.

Repeat after me, my fellow Dune fans. This is the litany against the False Dune books.

I must not fear the false Dune books.

The false Dune books is the mind-killer.

The false Dune books is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face the false Dune books.

I will permit it to pass over me.

And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the false Dune books has gone there will be nothing.

Only I will remain.

(Originally, the fifth line was 'permit it to pass over me and through me', but I do not want the false Dune books to pass through me, no way!)

Repeat that Litany, my fellow Dune fans, and do not fear. There are only six (or seven, including the Encyclopedia) Dune books. No more, no less. The books written by Brian and Kevin are nothing but a blasphemy, and I await with bated breath (in disgust) for Jessica of Dune.

Florin Constantinescu says

So "Hunters of Dune" and "Sandworms of Dune" simply HAD to be written, and were VERY good. And I kinda understand why they did the okay-ish "House" trilogy, and then the good "Legends". But for Pete's sake... why did we ever need this "bulge" or "inquel"? Enough had been written about Paul already. I didn't think there were any gaps that needed to be filled around the original Dune novel. The novel is not badly written, and reading about these characters is always fun, but it's reached a point where this is simply **dilution**. Nothing of use is being added, it only makes the Duniverse look like Star Wars now.

Paige says

I don't know how many of the Brian Herbert/Kevin Anderson books I will end up reading. I love the universe, am captivated by Dune and the mythology of Maud'dib, but... as so many others have noted, this just doesn't have the same something as the original(s).

I enjoyed the subplot of the Fenrings' daughter. That part was well done, and raised some interesting questions about human cloning and biological engineering. The rest of the book, though, fell flat for me. While superficially interesting, and yes it does fill in gaps in the timeline, it just didn't go any deeper than that.

Elizabeth says

So far this is one of the most painful books ever written by Brian Herbert (Frank's son) and Mr. Anderson. I read them only because I know they are working from Frank Herbert's notes, and they do fill in useful information. But frankly, I think if they just published his notes, it would be a lot better reading. Their characterization is nearly non-existent and the dialogue is quite poor.

Final comment: Well, I finished it. God it was torture. I couldn't recommend it to anyone, even a diehard fan--I'd send them to read reviews, and they'd get all they needed to know. What a waste of time.

Erik says

My slight obsession with all things Dune began back when I was thirteen when a good buddy of mine recommended to me Frank Herbert's first Dune novel – which I promptly borrowed from my dad, who had a first printing copy – and the David Lynch cinematic adaptation which coincidentally came out mere months later. From there, I was enraptured with this future historical epic – much as I once was with Narnia and Middle-Earth.

What I loved most about Herbert's original six-volume Dune series was how he captured the messianic fervor and fictitious-intellectual underpinnings of a future history in which prophecy is slowly – albeit ambiguously -- revealed. Even subtler, the religiosity of his self-contained universe was never fully explained, with many a plot thread that was left unraveled for the reader to ponder and muse upon – much as the most die-hard Lord of the Ring fans do when they scour his notes and drafts, which are collectively published under the History of Middle-Earth series that are edited by his son Christopher. (I would also argue that this is what I loved about Dan Simmons' audaciously original series, The Hyperion Cantos and his

most recent double-feature, Illium and Olympos.) How and where did the Bene Gesserit, the Guild, the mentats of Bene Theilax originate? What happened to Earth all so long ago? And what is the real history of the Butlerian Jihad that ushered in a new era in which humans forbade themselves from making machines in their image? This is what I loved about the Herbert's work, and it is this that I alternately love and hate about Brian and Kevin's novelizations of Frank's huge accumulation of notes, ideas, and – at least for Hunters and Sandworms of Dune – planned novels after his last, Chapterhouse: Dune.

Although Paul of Dune is to be their last book – according to current-reckoning – Brian and Kevin have published eight other additional Dune books in the last ten years. For the most part, the first in each of their companion trilogies – most notably Dune: House Atreides and The Butlerian Jihad – were the best. Both of these breathed new life into the mysterious world of Arrakis and the coming of the Kwisatz Haderach – the super-being of Bene Gesserit and Fremen prophecy. Jihad, in particular, is probably the best book in the entire prequel/sequel series, as it carefully and theatrically unfolds the dramatic moment in future history – a fulcrum, if you will -- on which the fate of the human race was determined in the moment of one woman's stand and martyrdom against the machines. (Sarah Connor from the Terminator mythos was never so bold, I suggest.) But these are the highest points in an otherwise mediocre series that leaves too little to the imagination. And by that, I mean that Brian and Kevin pull back the curtain too far to show us every single motivation, explain away every previously unrevealed mystery; all while taking away a little of the magic of Frank's awe-inspiring future universe.

The best part of Paul of Dune is the one-half of the book that deals with the years in-between Dune and Dune Messiah, as Paul, Alia, and their allies deal with the near-constant machinations of the disgraced former Emperor and his cronies. The other half, which alternates with the main-plotline, gives us a glimpse back in the not-too-far-distant past when Paul, as a young boy, became involved in the War of Assassins which involved no less than the marriage of his father, the Duke, to a fellow noble's kinswoman. Although this works as a narrative device – both plotlines mirror each other quite effectively in theme and purpose – I can't help but feel that Brian and Kevin are rewriting the Dune legend, and dulling ever-so-slightly my once starry-eyed imagination.

In short: I enjoy the new Dune books, but I loved the originals even better. And like New Coke, sometimes you just can't improve upon the original – no matter how sweet you make it.

Mark Henwick says

Frank Herbert is spinning in his grave. I have read programming manuals that have engaged me more. The *idea* is good, the writing is limp, and I just gave up.

Guillermo says

Not nearly as bad as I thought this book would be based on reviews I had read before. I know this is going to sound blasphemous to some, but although Frank Herbert is a far superior writer, I wish there was a little more of his son Brian and Kevin Anderson in his books. Frank can be a little long winded and confusing at times. Conversely, I wish there was a lot more Frank in these new "McDune" books- there is nothing

profound in this book.

But that's ok. It is what it is, and I enjoyed it as just some light escapism taking place in the Dune universe. It was like eating a bowl of plain rice - nothing offensive or particularly tasty about it.

There were a few cringe worthy moments such as when the writers decided to make the crowd chant a bad pun on a stupidly named character ("Bad Bludd".. ugh, eyes almost rolled right out of my sockets).

The book is divided into 7 parts alternating with sections dealing with the Jihad directly after the events of Dune, and sections flashing back to a 12 year old Paul. I found some of the young Paul sections dealing with the War of Assassination to be interesting, but the sections where he is already Emperor were somewhat weaker up until the strong, action packed ending. It was nice to see Tleilaxu, but ultimately, the whole plot thread with Thallo just felt kind of flat and unnecessary to the overall story.

So to conclude, haters of the McDune universe are going to be geared to hate this, because these books really aren't anything like Frank Herbert's Dune except they exist in the same universe. Those looking for the profound and intricate musings of man and the universe that Frank is beloved for, will be grossly disappointed, but if you have an open mind, and are just looking for some sci fi escapism, its an entertaining light read. Perfect for the pool.

Phillip Lozano says

Only if the taste of puke on shit seems appetizing to you.
