



Tiamat's Wrath

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Thirteen hundred gates have opened to solar systems around the galaxy. But as humanity builds its interstellar empire in the alien ruins, the mysteries and threats grow deeper.

In the dead systems where gates lead to stranger things than alien planets, Elvi Okoye begins a desperate search to discover the nature of a genocide that happened before the first human beings existed, and to find weapons to fight a war against forces at the edge of the imaginable. But the price of that knowledge may be higher than she can pay.

At the heart of the empire, Teresa Duarte prepares to take on the burden of her father's godlike ambition. The sociopathic scientist Paolo Cortázar and the Mephistophelian prisoner James Holden are only two of the dangers in a palace thick with intrigue, but Teresa has a mind of her own and secrets even her father the emperor doesn't guess.

And throughout the wide human empire, the scattered crew of the Rocinante fights a brave rear-guard action against Duarte's authoritarian regime. Memory of the old order falls away, and a future under Laconia's eternal rule -- and with it, a battle that humanity can only lose - seems more and more certain. Because against the terrors that lie between worlds, courage and ambition will not be enough...

Tiamat's Wrath Details

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From Reader Review Tiamat's Wrath for online ebook

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

Tiamat's Wrath destroyed me. How the heck am I supposed to review it? And without spoilers??? It's a nigh impossible task, but I'll give it my best go.

Before diving into the nitty-gritty, I need to note that Tiamat's Wrath is book eight in a nine book series. **YOU MUST READ THE SERIES IN ORDER.** If you're not up-to-date on the Expanse series, stop reading this review now. If you're like, "what's the Expanse series?", it's one of the best space operas I've ever read and the first book is Leviathan Wakes. Go read it now.

Spoilers for previous books in the series will follow from here on out.

Ever since Nemesis Game this series has gone from strong to mindbendingly brilliant. Fast forward to book seven, Persepolis Rises which dealt one huge emotional punch. Clarissa's death still breaks my heart. And then that ending! Duarte essentially won, conquering the rest of humanity with an iron fist. Holden was captured and shipped back as a prisoner. The rest of the crew are fugitives on the run, often separated from each other. There's little hope of retrieving Holden.

The beginning of Tiamat's Wrath isn't much sunnier. Naomi's a resistance leader, gone through a transformation that actually kind of reminds me of Leia becoming General Organa. Actually, "the Rebellion from Star Wars but filtered through a gritty, Battlestar Galactica type lense" is a great way to describe Tiamat's Wrath. Naomi's mostly on her own, hiding in shipping containers to be smuggled across the known universe. Bobbie and Alex lead up the resistance fleet, which is basically just one ship that mostly hides. Amos was sent off on a secret mission to rescue Holden and hasn't been heard from in like ten years. Holden's still a prisoner with little to no power. And get this: for the first time, Holden's not a major POV character. He's the prologue and the epilogue. Maybe an interlude too? But that's basically it. He's been our anchor for the entire series, and now Duarte has not just taken him from his crew/family but from us too.

Tiamat's Wrath has four principle POV characters. Naomi, obviously. She's building networks of resistance with the desperate hope of undermining the empire. Alex, whose sections also give us a view onto Bobbie. Teresa Duarte is a new character, the daughter of the dictator. While her father plans to make himself immortal, he's grooming Teresa as his heir, just in case he needs a backup plan. Elvi, the scientist first seen in Cibula Burn, makes a return. She's reluctantly become a high ranking scientist of the empire, studying the civilization that made the proto-molecule... and whatever it was that destroyed them.

Mysterious alien artifacts and presences have always underlined the Expanse series, although the conflict largely stems from humans being awful to each other (not particularly surprising). But for ages now, the books have been building up this question: what destroyed the civilization that built the proto-molecule? And will they return to destroy humanity?

Unfortunately, Duarte is in power and he's decided that the best course of action is to attack the all-powerful, unfathomable alien beings. I can't really talk about anything else relating to this, but I literally gasped out loud at some of the plot twists here. It's incredibly thrilling and I get chills just thinking about it. It kind of feels like humans are busy throwing rocks at each other and meanwhile, the godlike aliens who already destroyed one incredibly advanced civilization are like, "Oh shit, I've got a pest problem, better call the exterminator." How the hell book nine is going to resolve this, I have no freaking idea.

Moving on from how intense this book was, the Expanse series has always been driven by its characters who captured my heart in a way I never would have predicted. The first sentence of Tiamat's Wrath is a character death. I got so upset and worried about my beloved characters that I read the first half of the book pretty slowly! I was scared about more deaths, okay?

Holden's never been my favorite of the cast, but he's grown on me, and I missed him here. That said, it was interesting to see him through Teresa's perspective. Teresa reminds me a bit of Filip (parallels of being raised by wannabe dictator fathers) but I like her more. She's less violent, more thoughtful. She feels trapped by the life she's in. She's constantly watched and while she has more power than say, Holden, she's still largely powerless, at the mercy of the adults around her. Over the course of Tiamat's Wrath she begins to discover her own strength as well as her own anger.

I liked Elvi Okoye a lot more this time around. I think she's matured since Cibola Burn. Also we don't get the weird subplot about her emotional problems being solved with sex. Anyway, here she's worried that she's complicit in the ills of Duarte's empire. And let's be real, she sort of is. She keeps thinking that if it wasn't her, it'd be someone else... but she sort of knows she is complicit and just doesn't have any way to deal with it. If she protests too much, they'll flat out murder her. So she's basically stuck lodging the occasional formal protests that everyone above her handwaves away while she's also looking at things that have the power to destroy all of humanity. Good luck with that Elvi.

Tiamat's Wrath is an amazingly intense read in a series that moves from strength to strength. While it's only been about a year since I started reading it, I've put an audiobook of Leviathan Wakes on hold because I need to experience it all over again. I don't know how I'll deal with this series ending, and there's no way I will ever be prepared for what the final book has in store.

I received an ARC with the expectation of a free and honest review.

Review from The Illustrated Page.

Reader from PT says

Yaaaaah....

Aoife says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review from Orbit.

Tiamat's Wrath is the long-awaited eighth book in James SA Corey's The Expanse series, which follows a range of different characters in a space system that has been colonised by humans. The emergence of a protomolecule that can destroy humanity in seconds tears planets apart and eventually bring them together as they attempt to fight an alien technology far beyond anyone's understanding.

Tiamat's Wrath was, like its predecessors full of action-packed drama and high stake schemes that honestly left me breathing fast with anxiety for all of my favourite characters. This book for some reason, more than

the others, helped me understand some of the characters we've been following since the start better than ever before. For the first time, I really understood how sensitive Alex was, and how much he above the others seemed to hold on to the idea of a normal family life (with his failed attempt at normal with Giselle and Kit), and how much he was affected by what the others were doing and his family's life being in danger pretty much all the time. I appreciated Holden's chapters a lot in this book (possibly because there were fewer of them than normal) and I really liked seeing wholesome Holden be a little bit more scheme-y and manipulative than ever before - he definitely learned valuable life lessons from Avasarala.

I really liked the amount of scenes we received on Laconia, and the inner workings of the government (cough, dictatorship, cough) and how everything could fall apart in an instant. Teresa as a character was a great choice to follow, and the way she thinking - more so the evolving way of her thinking and how she began to see the truth of those around her - was rather fascinating to watch, and even though I didn't really like her, I rooted for her. Muskrat was also a fantastic addition, and I would like LOTS of her in the next book. I think I would have liked more about the start of the friendship between Teresa and Timothy (who, the moment he called her Tiny I was delighted to realise was Amos), and how she learned to trust him but also keep him a bit secret.

The scenes with the time disappearance, and the destruction of the Falcon, and Medina Station, honestly left me a bit shocked and speechless. It's hard to imagine anything that in a blink of eye can wipe so much life away as if it never existed. There have been times reading some of the books in this series, I wonder how there's anyone left when everyone can really just be obliterated just like that. It's honestly, terrifying.

I loved seeing Naomi become Captain officially - it's about time she realised she was the real leader of the group, and I can't even talk about Bobbie yet, it's still painful. I have been waiting for it to happen, and I really wanted her to go out in a blaze of glory if it was the way she was to exit, and by god she did.

The prologue was particularly good this time round, and I enjoyed the conversation between Amos and Holden. Not only am I very intrigued to see the new and improved Amos and how the repair drones changed him, truly, I also love the massive forewarning on what's to come in the next book. Major chaos. I'm SO ready for it.

Basically, the main takeaway from this book and all the rest of them, is don't mess with alien shit. Lock it up, leave it be.

Stephen Richter says

Excellent plot and pacing. The duo that form James S.A. Corey nailed it again.

Orundi Jones says

"Release the Kraken!"

imyrl says

OH.

MY.

Corey has mastered the art of pushing me to the raggedy edge. Every book has become a gruelling emotional marathon: high stakes, high tension, highly personal. Tiamat's Wrath doesn't share Nemesis's relentless book-long escalation of terror - Corey took pity this time; the tension ebbs and flows - but it never pulls its punches.

And I am bruised, people.

Tiamat's Wrath doesn't disappoint. Expect one of those all-consuming reads where you don't want to pause to take care of bodily functions (but DO. It's LONG. You need to eat, sleep and pee, okay? Okay); and keep your hanky handy. My beloved remains deeply amused to have walked in to find me sobbing into my breakfast (yes, I get very emotionally involved in my reading) only to respond to his immediate concern with a helpless whimper of "book".

Perhaps the thing that impresses me most is that in amongst all this humanity-threatening action, Corey is still giving us character development - even of long-known, well-loved principals - and nuance.

My new joint favourite with Nemesis Games.

Full review to follow when I figure out how to write it coherently.

I received a free copy from the publisher (thanks Nazia!) in exchange for an honest review.

Kate says

I've just finished this and I'm speechless - it is superb! One senses that the end is near but Tiamat's Wrath is every bit as good as the very best of The Expanse. Completely engrossing, disturbing and troubling, full of heart and sacrifice, packed with action, and with an alien threat that is as thoroughly terrifying as it is mysterious. Bravo! Review to follow imminently on For Winter Nights.

Merric Blackman says

This was good. Really good. The sort of writing that grabs me from the beginning and doesn't let go until the end.

It's not what I was expecting; there's not as many action scenes as I thought might occur, but there are some major revelations, as our heroes grapple with their new places in the world.

There's one new viewpoint character, a fourteen year-old girl, who was an absolute delight. I wanted to read more about her, but I guess I'll have to wait until the next volume. With luck, her story will be a major part of

that tale.

Lots of things I didn't expect, and it was written brilliantly. Highly recommended!

Powerschnute says

Ich versuche, diese Besprechung so spoilerfrei wie möglich zu halten. Nachdem der 7. Band auf einen ziemlich heftigen Cliffhanger endete, der meine Erwartungen extrem in die Höhe schraubte, geht *Tiamat's Wrath* eher gemächlich weiter. Soviel sei gesagt, wir sind jetzt an einem Punkt in der Reihe angelangt, an dem Verluste ein Teil der Geschichte sind. Es wundert also nicht, dass wir mit einer Beerdigung beginnen. Wie bereits im vorherigen Band ist die Crew der Rocinante getrennt unterwegs und wir folgen Bobbie, Naomi und Alex in einzelnen Kapiteln. Elvi Okoye, der wir bereits in *Cibola brennt* begegnet sind, bekommt hier ebenfalls eigene Kapitel. Wir begleiten sie bei ihrer Forschung und Suche nach dem Schicksal der Erbauer des Protomoleküls und jenen, die sie damals ausgerottet haben. Dabei wünschte ich mir jedoch wesentlich mehr Antworten, als ich tatsächlich bekam. Die Autoren genießen es offenbar, ihre Leser zu quälen. Die letzte Perspektive im Buch bekommt Teresa Duarte, vierzehnjährige Tochter von Winston Duarte.

Ich muss gestehen, dass Winston Duarte in diesem Band einiges von seiner beeindruckenden Persönlichkeit verliert. Bereits in *Persepolis erhebt sich* war klar, dass er zu Größenwahn neigt. Während Jim Holden davon überzeugt war, dass Duarte seine Tochter liebte, so war mein Eindruck ein ganz anderer. Von echter Liebe habe ich hier nichts gespürt. Eher hatte ich das Gefühl, Teresa war nur Duartes langfristiges Ziel, eine ‚Thronerbin‘ zu erschaffen, die ihm folgte, sollte ihm was passieren. Dass Duartes Experimente mit dem Protomolekül sich dann schlussendlich gegen ihn wandten, fand ich eher unspektakulär, auch wenn ich neugierig bin, wie sich das in Band 9 auflösen wird. Für Teresa selbst hatte ich eher sehr viel Mitleid, weil ihr Leben einfach so anders war als das eines normalen Teeanglers. Ihre Einsamkeit war deutlich spürbar, aber auch ihre Wut über die späteren Ereignisse. Es wird sicherlich interessant sein, ob sie im nächsten Band noch eine Rolle spielen wird und wenn ja, welche.

Die Kapitel von Naomi, Alex und Bobbie gingen mir extrem nahe. Diese Figuren sind mir ans Herz gewachsen. Ihre Einsamkeit, ihre Ängste, Verluste und Trauer, sind meine Gefühlen gewesen beim Lesen.

Eines ist ziemlich klar, die Autoren haben keinerlei Probleme damit, nach dem Motto ‚kill your darlings‘ zu schreiben. In *Tiamat's Wrath* muss der Leser sich von einigen verabschieden. Aber auch ganze Stationen und Schiffe fallen dem Motto zum Opfer.

Viele neue Figuren werden eingeführt, nur um kurz darauf wieder zu verschwinden. Eine Erfahrung, die der Leser mit Alex, Bobbie und Naomi im Untergrund teilt.

Fazit:

Das Buch hat mich sehr melancholisch zurückgelassen. Ich bin mir noch nicht sicher, ob es daran liegt, dass ich schon wieder fertig bin mit lesen oder daran, dass der nächste Band der letzte sein wird, worauf ich noch nicht vorbereitet bin. Während der Cliffhanger von Band 7 noch nicht aufgelöst wurde, endet auch *Tiamat's Wrath* auf eine ähnliche Aussage wie *Persepolis erhebt sich*. Und da es der letzte Band sein wird, wird es wohl ziemlich episch werden. Alles in allem jedoch fühlt sich *Tiamat's Wrath* wie ein Lückenfüller an, der zwischen Band 7 und 9 eingeschoben wurde. Er wirft mehr Fragen auf als er beantwortet und lässt den Leser wie auch die gesamte Menschheit des Expanse-Universum im Ungewissen darüber, wie es nun weitergehen

wird. Band 9 verspricht einen großen Showdown. Lassen wir uns überraschen, ob er kommen wird. Trotz allem bin ich noch nicht bereit für einen Abschied aus diesem Universum.

Durham Jones says

Giving it one star because it isn't released yet

M. says

I hate you, book.
I hate you,
I hate you,
I hate you.

Alex says

[A lot of pre-release hype has readers wondering "how many people will die," given that this is book 8 of 9, and frankly I think the answer was one too few. I'm not a fan of the cheap way Amos was killed and revived so easily, eve

Devin says

How can I review a book that doesn't exist yet.

Ashley says

I had to Google Tiamat. Babylonian goddess of creation, but also represents "primordial chaos".

These last two books are going to be so fun! I wonder how many people will die.

Rachel (TheShadesofOrange) says

4.0 Stars

I just can't get enough of this epic space series and this latest installment did not disappoint!

As always, I loved getting to spend more time with the returning characters. I missed certain perspectives in

this book, including few fan-favourites, but, by the end of the book, I understood why those choices were made.

As in previous installments, this book introduced new characters with their own POV chapters. Elvi's chapters were among my favourites, because she provided the reader with more understanding of the protomolecule. While there is not much hard science in this series, I appreciated finally having a more detailed look at this fascinating alien technology. I did not enjoy Theresa's chapters quite as much because I personally dislike space princesses and court politics in my SFF stories. However, I did like the progression of Theresa's storyline towards the end of the book.

Tiamat's Wrath had a similar tone and narrative to the later books in the series and would appeal most to the readers who enjoyed the later books in the series. Like in Babylon's Ashes and Persepolis Rising, there continued to be a lot of galactic politics between the warring entities and less emphasis on the ancient aliens.

The ending of this novel set up the series for an epic conclusion, moving back to the initial mysteries of the story. I cannot wait to read the ninth and final book in this epic space opera series. I highly recommend this entire series to any science fiction reader.

I requested a review copy from the publisher, Orbit Books.
