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In this concluding novel of Dan Abnett's sensational trilogy, a dark figure from the past returns to exact a cruel vengeance upon Inquisitor Gregor Eisenhorn.

Hereticus Details

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Author : Dan Abnett

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From Reader Review *Hereticus* for online ebook

Tal says

Pure addictive popcorn. This stuff is dangerous.

Kam says

As I have mentioned before, in my review of *Rapture*, the last book of Kameron Hurley's incredible *Bel Dame Apocrypha* trilogy, I have a hard time staying away from the last book in a trilogy. Under normal circumstances I would space out my reading, but when I'm so close to the conclusion of a series I can practically taste it, this self-imposed rule tends to get broken for the sake of finding out, once and for all, just what happened to the characters in the book I just finished.

And this is the case with *Hereticus*, the last book in the *Eisenhorn* Trilogy by Dan Abnett, which is set in the immense *Warhammer 40,000* shared universe. In many ways, it is an excellent conclusion, but at the same time, one that was entirely expected - and "entirely expected" is not something I like all the time, particularly in a genre like science fiction. I suspect that Abnett took some lessons from George R. R. Martin, because although Abnett can't top Martin's ability to utterly depress a reader when it comes to things taking a turn for the worse, Abnett does a pretty fine job of it in *Hereticus*.

Hereticus takes place after the events of *Malleus* - immediately after, it might be said, (view spoiler)

What the reader may notice about this book is that it feels rather short in comparison to *Xenos* and *Malleus*, and that is indeed the case, as the plot itself is strung tightly together and does not relent in its rapid pace until the very end. For some readers, this might be a blessing, but for my part I found myself occasionally wishing that the whole thing would slow down a little bit, give the reader a bit more time to get used to what has happened to Eisenhorn and where his decisions are taking him. I know this seems silly, since the outcome of this novel was clearly telegraphed in *Malleus*, but I suppose that optimistic side of myself was hoping that, if Eisenhorn had just been given enough time to breathe, to think things through, things might have gone differently.

I suppose that is also a testament to Abnett's skill as a writer, that he can make me wish that Eisenhorn had been given more time to change, even if it's quite clear there is no way he can make that change anymore. It's also a testament to Abnett's skill that he can make Eisenhorn a sympathetic character, (view spoiler). Abnett's characterization of Eisenhorn makes it clear that though Eisenhorn has irrevocably crossed a line in doing what he has done, and though the reader would like nothing more than to loathe him for his actions, it is also impossible to truly hate him. If there is any one thing Eisenhorn has held onto, and continues to hold onto at the end of the trilogy, it is that he does all he does in the service of the Imperium.

Something that some readers may have difficulty with is the unrelenting darkness of the trilogy, which comes to a head in *Hereticus*, particularly if they are more accustomed to more optimistic sci-fi. This is

something I had difficulty with initially, as well, but Steven, the friend who got me into the *Warhammer 40K* books in the first place, told me that the entire shared universe is dark, and that any hint of optimism the reader feels ought to be put away and not accessed at all. The tagline of the shared universe is: "In the grim darkness of space, there is nothing but war," Steven told me, and therefore there is very little, often no, room for the bright optimism that pervades a lot of other sci-fi. He had assumed that, since I had read *A Song of Ice and Fire*, I would be accustomed to that sort of thing, and while I am (view spoiler), there is still something very painful about reading the events of *Hereticus* go down. The only light at the end of the tunnel is that there is an entire trilogy dedicated to Ravenor (who, Steven has hinted, fares a bit better than Eisenhorn), and another book that details the final confrontation between the two.

Overall, *Hereticus* goes down more or less as the reader expects, based on the events of *Malleus*: it has been a while since I last read a more clearly-telegraphed outcome. However, unlike in other books, where knowing the outcome completely ruins the experience of reading the book, *Hereticus* acts rather like an emotional punch to the gut: one keeps on hoping that Eisenhorn does not do what one knows he will do, and yet when he does so anyway one simultaneously deplores his actions, and forgives him. Readers who are used to reading more optimistic sci-fi may derive little pleasure from this conclusion, but other readers may find the bittersweet (more bitter than sweet, really) ending appropriate, justified, and enjoyable, in its own way.

Jiří Pavlovský says

Finále Eisenhornovy trilogie, ve kterém autor pozabíjí všechny postavy, které nestihl zabít v prvních dvou knihách. Eisenhorn tady čím dál víc míří na temnou stranu síly (podle zmínky v Gauntov? sérii na ní nakonec opravdu dorazí - a to s plnou parádou) a vrací se mu všechny ty ústupky, které v minulosti udělal. Je to v podstatě dost depresivní čtení... možná ještě depresivnější než Abnettova neochota vnovat finálnímu stětu víc než pár stran, daleko méně, než jakékoliv jiné akci v průběhu knihy. Tady ale i docela funguje, ani tak nevdí, že je to krátké a úderné.

Ano, je to čistě konzumní čtivo - ale Abnett psát umí, má cit pro rytmus, střídání klidných pasáží s apokalyptickými masakry... a i pro měňáčky prostě. Je taky zajímavé, že celá trilogie se odehrává v rozmezí nějakých pár set let. To je jediné, co vás při čtení uklidňuje. I když Abnettovi hrdinové mají životnost obzvláště rachitických jepic, díky těmhle mezerám, kdy se jim autor nevnucuje, mají vlastně docela dlouhý a šťastný život plný války, hrůz a utrpení.

Michael Dodd says

The third instalment of Dan Abnett's classic Eisenhorn trilogy, *Hereticus* shows us Inquisitor Gregor Eisenhorn in his darkest moments. Tasked with conducting a tedious series of hearings, Eisenhorn envisages endless weeks of boredom, but when evidence arises that an old enemy is nearby he drops everything and races off to a confrontation that will have horrifying consequences. Thus begins a journey that sees Eisenhorn and a handful of companions reeling and on the back foot, desperately calling on a few remaining contacts and all their determination in order to get back on track and seek out the culprit behind all their woes.

If there's a criticism to be levelled it's perhaps that the epic finale of the book, though full of bombast and drama, is over a little too soon. It's a fine balance, as you don't want an ending to overstay its welcome, but

this time it would maybe have benefited from a bit more time and detail, at the end of a story that for the most part is paced beautifully. That's a minor blemish, however, in an otherwise gripping and hugely entertaining book, which manages that Abnett trademark of being both an easy, unputdownable read and an insightful, character-led story.

Read the full review at <https://www.trackofwords.com/2018/08/...>

Pinkerton says

English (but not so good) / Italiano

The story is very fascinating, especially as regards the relationship with Godwyn Fischig, with Cherubael, and the slow but steady approach of the protagonist to radicalism – a dangerous dance with heresy. The clashes are surprising, and I'm not talking about those against Vessor janissaries, where – despite the notorious name – it's enough Eisenhorn alone to defeat them (although I admit that the one on the Trans-Atenate Express was nice... it also has "recycled" the corpse of the enemy).

Unfortunately, however, there is a serious defect that is repeated on every page in this book: the heaviness. A multitude of invented names regarding the carthean Ewl Wyla Scryi combat style, places, means of transport, and their descriptions; they confuse me and more than once pushed me to peek how many pages were missing at the end of the chapter. This slows not only the fluency but also the pleasure of reading, a bit like the artificial legs of our Inquisitor. And then, yes, we are in the 41st millennium of Warhammer, but some of the author's outputs, few fortunately, are exaggerated in this context as well. Ex. the size of the demon king's tomb: *"The tomb was a salon where could stay comfortably a continent."* -_-

At plot level is a volume worthy to conclude the Inquisitor Gregor Eisenhorn's trilogy, which here pay the debt with the decisions taken, but about its realization, well, it could be done better. Certainly, his path marked the character indelibly.

Italiano

La storia è molto avvincente, soprattutto per quanto riguarda il rapporto con Godwyn Fischig, con Cherubael, ed il lento ma costante avvicinarsi del protagonista al radicalismo – una pericolosa danza con l'eresia. Gli scontri sono sorprendenti, e non mi riferisco a quelli contro i giannizzeri di Vessor, dove – nonostante la famigerata nomea – basta il solo Eisenhorn a sgominarli (anche se ammetto che quello sul Trans-Atenate Express è stato bello... ha pure "riciclato" il cadavere del nemico).

Purtroppo però c'è un grave difetto che si ripete in ogni pagina di questo libro: la pesantezza. Una moltitudine di nomi inventati riguardo allo stile di lotta cartheano Ewl Wyla Scryi, a luoghi, mezzi di trasporto, e le loro descrizioni; mandano in confusione e più di una volta mi hanno spinto a sbirciare quante pagine mancassero alla fine del capitolo. Questo rallenta non solo la scorrevolezza ma anche il piacere della lettura, un po' come fanno le gambe artificiali con il nostro Inquisitore. E poi, vabbè che siamo nel 41esimo millennio di Warhammer, ma certe uscite dell'autore, poche fortunatamente, sono esagerate pure in questo contesto. Es. le dimensioni della tomba del re dei demoni: *"Il sepolcro era un salone nel quale poteva starci comodo un continente."* -_-

A livello di trama è un volume più che degno di concludere la trilogia dell'Inquisitore Gregor Eisenhorn che qui salda il debito con le decisioni prese, ma per quanto riguarda la sua realizzazione, beh, si poteva fare di meglio. Certo è che il suo percorso ha segnato indelebilmente il personaggio.

johan _5179 says

Usually when we read a series, its quality goes down. The cliches appear, the setting gets stale, and the story is taken for a ride. Eisenhorn, I am very happy to say, breaks that trend.

Hereticus is a book of great sadness, a tome which brings the career of a celebrated Inquisitor and a great character to a close. The book is a good way to actually understand just how much you care for these characters. Abnett plays with the readers in a masterful way, making us hang on to every word, and he does so by virtue of story. He does embellish his stories with beautiful descriptions of the landscape and the world which his characters inhabit, but one has to say that the thing which makes Hereticus the stand-out book of the series is its story. Abnett mixes and matches the ways in which he deals with everyone, and the result is very satisfying, even if it leaves us with some questions.

Also its narration though. I have praised the first-person narration in my previous reviews for the insight it presents us with w.r.t. Eisenhorn's mind, and this continues to be a strong point. But again, Hereticus is a step ahead of the others in the way the style imposes a certain helplessness on Eisenhorn and by extension the readers as well. The Warhammer universe is huge but it is with certain events in this book that you realise how small Eisenhorn and his band is. And that in turn makes their acts even more heroic.

There are a few cliches in this book, but I sure enjoyed the hell out of it. I'll read more of Abnett. And I'll read more of Warhammer 40K.

The Emperor Protects.

Ramanan Sivarankan says

This struck me as the weakest of the 3 stories. It seemed at times rushed and at others oddly paced. Characters are introduced just to be killed a few pages later. The writing didn't seem as strong. It's still an entertaining and compelling read, though. There are some exciting action sequences, plot twists, and deaths.

Emily says

[
What happened to Cherubael? How did Eisenhorn explain himself so he avoided the heresy charges?

Another nit-

Martin says

If 'Malleus' was about choices then 'Hereticus' is about consequences.

It's said that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, in which case 'Hereticus' details the reaction to the choices that the main character, Gregor Eisenhorn, has made up to the start of this novel. The

choices that he made during his career as an Imperial Inquisitor have not always been easy. They have been hard, controversial, and some damn right blasphemous but they were all made in service to the Emperor and the Imperium of Mankind. But not even those good intentions will save him.

‘Hereticus’ is the final novel in the Eisenhorn trilogy and culminates the themes that have been progressing throughout its pages, the slow corruption of puritanical belief in favour of a more radical compromise. Eisenhorn as an Imperial Inquisitor began his career in the first novel as a puritan of the Amalathian faction of the Inquisitorial Ordos Helican, however over the course of that career he has had to make questionable decisions that would allow him to combat the enemies of mankind and win. These are decisions that Eisenhorn views as necessary to achieve the goals needed to attain victory over Chaos, however, some within the Ordos would see him as no better than the damned hellspawn the Inquisition is set to destroy.

For example summoning a daemonhosts to fight your battles is one that the Inquisition would frown upon even though it is perhaps the most effective weapon one can wield against a Chaos Warlord Titan.

But the means by which Eisenhorn has attained this knowledge has not gone unnoticed. Through attaining greater power through forbidden lore he has attained even greater enemies. So when a calculated threat emerges against Eisenhorn and his organisation, robbing him of his allies and conventional resources, he is left with no choice but to rely on this forbidden knowledge even more. But by doing so, Eisenhorn’s enemies multiply as even in the eyes of his closest friends he is only damning himself further.

In the end, with more friends being replaced by enemies, what ‘Hereticus’ leaves us with is the age old struggle between good and evil, right and wrong. How far can you compromise your beliefs to achieve your goals before you no longer recognise yourself in the mirror?

The traitor, Quixos, was an Imperial Inquisitor whom Eisenhorn defeated; he wielded Chaos against Chaos, summoned daemonhosts and consorted with psykers. Quixos was utterly corrupted by the power he attempted to wield and was hopelessly lost beyond redemption. How long until Eisenhorn, walking along a similar path, is just as corrupted? Can he save himself from damnation and still serve the Emperor?

With enemies all around, and his friends disappearing fast, ‘Hereticus’ is perhaps the most emotional of the Eisenhorn books. Some of the characters don’t make it to the very end. It is a testament to the writing of Dan Abnett, that characters who aren’t the main protagonist, there only to compliment the story, we become so attached to.

It’s a good job some of them do survive to live on into Dan Abnett’s next trilogy following the adventures of Inquisitor Gideon Ravenor.

Which I’m about to read again now...

Andrew Lindsay says

Hereticus is the heart wrenching conclusion to the Eisenhorn trilogy and I can’t recommend this book enough. All the certainties torn down in the previous novels are violently torn down and we return to the brilliant mix of action and personal scenes that make the other books brilliant. The text does suffer from the same problem as Malleus in that the conclusion feels a bit rushed at times but the finale is still satisfying. My

biggest problem though is with the current edition. The current paperback edition erroneously names Inquisitor Quixos, a character from Malleus as the main villain. There are also a handful of spelling errors in the text. Easy fixes for the next print run though, which I'm sure will come, especially with the release of The Magos.

Olethros says

-Traca final.-

Género. Ciencia ficción.

Lo que nos cuenta. En el libro Hereticus (publicación original: Hereticus, 2002), el inquisidor Eisenhorn encabeza en la capital del planeta Uvege el interrogatorio a Udwin Pridde, acusado de contumacia, brujería y herejía junto a casi otros trescientos individuos que están bajo el escrutinio de la Corte Formal de Investigación. En el grupo de Eisenhorn hay algunas novedades, entre otras el inquisidor novato Verveuk, y pronto se pondrán en marcha cuando tengan pistas de Fayde Thuring, responsable de la muerte de un amigo de Eisenhorn, que resulta estar en el polo ártico de Uvege. Tercer y último volumen de la trilogía Eisenhorn.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Amanda ? says

Adam Whitehead says

Gregor Eisenhorn has survived clashes with the forces of Chaos, an encounter with a little-known alien species and internal politicking within the Order. But it may be that he cannot survive his own hubris. When his residence is destroyed and most of his staff assassinated by unknown attackers, Eisenhorn discovers that an old enemy has returned to plague him, an enemy whose actions he himself must take responsibility for. To defeat this foe Eisenhorn has to invoke the very powers he is pledged to destroy...

The Eisenhorn Trilogy reaches a satisfying conclusion in Hereticus, where some of Eisenhorn's more egregious mistakes from the first two volumes return for an accounting. The series is fairly obviously charting Eisenhorn's 'fall' from grace (if nothing else gives it away, it's on the cover blurb), but this isn't George Lucas's bull-in-a-china-shop approach to the downfall of Anakin Skywalker in the Star Wars prequels. Each decision Eisenhorn makes is logical and understandable on its own, with a downward spiral only discernible from a distance.

A central facet of the story is the relationship between Eisenhorn and the daemonhost Cherubael. In the first two novels Cherubael was in control of this relationship, but in the third he is Eisenhorn's captive and occasional ace-in-the-hole. Yet is Eisenhorn really in charge of the daemon or is Cherubael exactly where he

wants to be to bring about Eisenhorn's total corruption? As the novel continues this question appears to have several possible answers but, surprisingly, we are not given a definitive answer. Exactly how much of what has transpired in the trilogy is random luck and how much is down to the daemon's machinations is left up to the reader to decide, which is an interesting tack, possibly taken to account for different readers' different levels of disbelief.

As the final book in the trilogy, *Hereticus* works well, answering long-standing questions and bringing the primary story arcs to a close. The fact that the ultimate fate of the surviving characters is unknown is a little odd (aside from Inquisitor Heldane, who crops up almost 400 years later in the Gaunt's Ghosts novels), until you realise that Abnett plans more books featuring these characters. The Ravenor Trilogy follows the adventures of some of Eisenhorn's allies and associates, whilst Abnett has plans for a further trilogy which will resolve some outstanding elements from both series.

That said, *Hereticus* (****) gives enough immediate closure to make this a complete trilogy in itself, and one that is well worth a look. The book is available now as part of the Eisenhorn omnibus in both the UK and USA.

Fantasy Svet says

Ak zoberieme, že druhá kniha **Malleus** bola o rozhodnutiach, **Hereticus** je o následkoch. ?i už boli rozhodnutia správne alebo nie, ?ažké alebo ?ahké, jedno je isté – skôr ?i neskôr vás ich následky doženú. Kým Eisenhornova jediná iniciatíva je chrániť záujmy Impéria Boha-Cisára, konať v jeho mene určite nie je jednoduché. Na celom svete je práca inkvizítora zrejme tá najnev?a?nejšia. Smrť vám stále dýcha na krk. A nebude tomu inak ani vo finálnej knihe trilógie. Za po?et smrtí by sa tu nemusel hanbiť ani **George R. R. Martin**, aj keď to nám Abnett ukazoval už v *Malleusovi* a nešetril životmi ani v prvej knihe *Xenos*. Ako som už spomínala v recenziách predošlých kníh – svet Warhammer 40 000 je proste už raz taký. Sprevádzame Eisenhorna na jeho ?alšej nebezpečnej misii a sledujeme, ako pomaly nevedomky sk?zava do spárov Chaosu...

Viac sa do?ítate na našej stránke Fantasy-svet.sk. ?akujeme!

David Andrews says

A great end to the Eisenhorn trilogy, leaving us wondering exactly where Eisenhorn's path leads while also wrapping up a great deal of character arcs. Eisenhorn continues to straddle the line of Inquisitor and heretic while still ultimately serving mankind in a wonderfully gray capacity.

Once again, the only real downside I felt in the book was the usage of obscure, fictional words to describe sword stances and strikes. I really don't feel that it added much, and in many cases it detracted from the otherwise crisp and clear combat. Other than that, though, *Hereticus* was a great closing chapter for Eisenhorn.
