



# The Seventh Serpent

*Graham McNeill*

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## **The Seventh Serpent** Graham McNeill

The crew of the Sisyphium join a covert assault on a hidden Alpha Legion outpost. Who but the legendary Iron Hands warleader Shadrak Meduson would dare to make such a bold move...?

The Seventh Serpent is a brand new Horus Heresy book from Graham McNeill, author of False Gods, Angel Exterminatus and the New York Times bestselling novel A Thousand Sons.

The story of The Seventh Serpent features the sons of Alpharius in battle against the Shattered Legions of the Iron Hands, Raven Guard and Salamanders. Expect intrigue and action in equal measure as the Alpha Legion take to the field in force.

Limited to 4000 copies worldwide.

## **The Seventh Serpent Details**

Date : Published December 5th 2014 by Black Library (first published November 8th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Graham McNeill

Format : Hardcover 118 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Novella

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## From Reader Review The Seventh Serpent for online ebook

### Veronica Anrathi says

Enjoyable. Alpha Legion, being one of those few I sympathize with the least, rarely intrigue me. This story I was invested in, Graham did a wonderful job portraying Alpharius, as well as the shattered legions characters. Nykona Sharrowkyn is still a "Mary Sue", but I feel like here he became a bit more alive, not getting his way 100% from the beginning. Loved the ending.

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### Pavle says

Graham McNeill has always been one of my top two, Black Library, authors for 40k. HOWEVER, this blew any expectation. I recently bought this at my local Warhammer Store, and being a big fan of the original Istvaan Loyalist legions (Particularly - Raven Guard) it drew me in. I wish this novella was a legitimate book in the Horus Heresy. It was incredible, and weaved together so many different things together, albeit to no ones surprise having involved the Alpha Legion. Please, do yourself a favor and read this. I cannot rave about this enough, and I honestly finished this in a day because I could not put it down. Too good to pass up. Well done Mr. McNeill.

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### Alexandre says

Pretty good ... Actually felt like a réal story with characters ( SM are written so bland and borine) enjoyed this a lot.

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### Dylan Murphy says

The Seventh Serpent, man what a surprise this was to see at the weekender! The early and surprise release was great, and getting to talk to the big man himself about it was great. The artwork is fantastic, and I hope we see an art print of it sometime in the future. The book itself is a beauty. The front and back cover, as well as the internal art was awesome.

The story itself follows the loyalists from Angel Exterminatus, and the path they take from the end of that novel. I really can't say too much without throwing spoilers everywhere, but I absolutely love McNeill's portrayal of the Shattered Legions and the Alpha Legion. The story was amazing, and for the first time in quite a while, I didn't see the twist coming. Which was awesome. Another amazing addition to the Hours Heresy. If you can, definitely pick this up when it goes on sale!

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### Moishe the Beadle says

Also included in The Horus Heresy Book 43-'Shattered Legions'

### **Nick Ohrn says**

A very enjoyable novella with a solid story involving a somewhat familiar cast of characters (if you've read most of the other Heresy books) and a great twist that I definitely was not expecting.

I'd say if you're a fan of the other HH novels, then definitely pick this one up and give it a read.

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### **Van says**

Excellent continuation of one of the plot lines from McNeill's earlier ANGEL EXTERMINATUS. The roughly 125-page length was a nice change of pace from his usual 500-pagers, too.

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### **Davinia says**

I liked the Alpha Legion since I read "Legion". I fell in love of them in "Deliverance Lost". With this story I confirm that it: Alpharius and his twin are the best of the best.

The title of the book is wrong "Seventh Serpent: cut off the head and the body dies", but the Hydra has too many heads... never dies. Hydra dominatus!

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### **Michael Dodd says**

The Horus Heresy series grinds ever onwards with the release of the eleventh (!) limited-edition novella, The Seventh Serpent, the first such novella from Graham McNeill. Black Library kept this one nice and quiet and sprung it as a surprise for those attending the Black Library Weekender III event, prior to its general release. The typically brilliant Neil Roberts cover art appears to show Alpha Legion fighting each other, with a handful of Iron Hands thrown in for good measure, though as ever with the XXth Legion things are possibly not quite what they seem. Underneath the dust jacket the book's cover shows an Iron Hands legion symbol, cracked and shattered, while the back cover sees a scrawled message of 'For the Emperor'.

Read the rest of the review at <https://trackofwords.wordpress.com/20...>

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### **J.G. Cully says**

As usual Graham McNeill delivers the goods with this well written novella that looks at the deadly Alpha Legion and their foes, in this case a group of Black Shields loyalist marines. The story twists and turns as expected of any tale involving the Alpha Legion, and kept me enthralled the entire time. A must read for any Horus Heresy series fan, particularly those interested in the Alpha Legion and the Black Shields.

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## Abhinav says

You can read the full review over at my blog:

<https://shadowhawksshade.wordpress.co...>

The first true appearance of the mysterious Alpha Legion in the Horus Heresy series was with the novel *Legion* by Dan Abnett. As has become his hallmark and signature element in the last decade or so, Dan Abnett molded the culture of the XX Legion from the ground-up, injecting a depth of diversity and character that had never seemed possible before. Aside from being one of the best novels of the series, *Legion* also set up many future stories and one of those was how the legion's decision to ally with the Warmaster would play out, particularly in terms of their reasons for doing so.

That's where *The Seventh Serpent* comes in, in part. With this novella, Graham McNeill writes one of the best medium-length stories of the Horus Heresy as a small band of warriors of the Shattered Legions take the fight directly to the Alpha Legion and their mysterious Primarch Alpharius. Featuring some of my favourite characters from previous stories, Graham weaves together a tale that is quintessentially Alpha Legion and also gives a great shout-out in essence to the Shattered Legion characters found herein, continuing a tale that began with the novel *Angel Exterminatus* and giving the reader a tantalizing glimpse of the Alpha Legion's internal affairs.

When *Angel Exterminatus* ended, things didn't look so good for the Shattered Legion warship *Sisypheum* and its crew. Led by Captain Branthan of the Iron Hands, they had struck a great blow against the traitor Primarchs Perturabo and Fulgrim, but had suffered themselves, with Branthan himself grievously wounded. Now with Captain Branthan's equerry Cadmus Tyro in command, the *Sisypheum* continues its mission of sabotage against the Warmaster's forces and in *The Seventh Serpent* it comes up with a golden opportunity to strike at the heart of the Alpha Legion, with Alpharius himself in their cross-hairs.

*The Seventh Serpent* is undoubtedly one of Graham's absolute best works to date. The nature of the Alpha Legion is such that treachery and deception are like second nature to them. It is rooted deeply into their culture and their traditions. That's one of the reasons why *Legion* was so damn good and why similar stories of espionage and destruction featuring the Alpha Legion have become so popular since then, particularly Rob Sanders' amazing short story *The Long Games At Carcharias*. Graham continues here in that same vein and he gives the Alpha Legion an outing that is true to that depiction while also leaving his own stamp on them, which is important for a grand collaborative effort like the Horus Heresy series.

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## Bryan Moreton says

Great book. I have always had a fondness for the crew of the *Sisypheum* and in particular *Sharrowkyn*. This book did not disappoint in its update on their exploits. I hope there is more to come!!

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## David Guymer says

Nothing gets me turning the pages like the promise of hurt where hurt is long overdue, and no one is more overdue some hurt like the Alpha Legion! And boy does *Seventh Serpent* keep that promise dangling right up until the bitter, bitter end. My reading pace is languid to leisurely, but I devoured this over two nights.

A great little novella

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### **Hakan says**

One of the better WH40K yarns

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### **Mhoram says**

An excellent story from Mr McNeill. The Seventh Serpent (I found no actual reason for this title, but it works I guess) covers the story of Wayland and Sharrowkyn, and the other survivors from the battle in the Eye in "Angel Exterminatus", attempting to ambush and assassinate the Primarch Alpharius. Even for someone used to the twists presented in a story about the Alpha Legion, events were not entirely predictable. While this is not Graham McNeill's finest prose (I reserve that rating for the otherwise awful "The Outcast Dead"), I think I would call it his greatest story since "Fulgrim". In particular, the Iron Hands survivors are displaying far more character as a Legion than they ever did in Fulgrim or Feat of Iron, and this makes the characters feel far more significant. Additionally, McNeill has done a phenomenal job of capturing Alpharius' character. Highly recommended for fans of Angel Exterminatus and the Alpha Legion.

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