



Farseer

William King

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The eldar race once sailed the length of the galaxy in their craftworlds, seeking knowledge and enlightenment in the darkest corners and unwittingly unleashing a power that threatened to destroy them. Now a dying race, the eldar rely on the farseers to see the futures. By manipulating events, the eldar can bring peace, for a time. But they must find a agent--one very special human--and convince him to do their bidding. (June)

Farseer Details

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From Reader Review Farseer for online ebook

Bee says

If you want to see superhuman Astartes doing cool shit, this isn't the book for you. If you wonder what it feels like to be a budding psyker, how chaos twists itself around you, how it actually feels to meet an Eldar or be a Navigator, this is the book for you. Rarely does a black library book deliver both on a good, gripping story and deliver a good look into what daily life feels like for different people in the Imperium. The twist at the end was also unexpected and well written.

Alexander Draganov says

Good book with interesting ideas and strong ending. However, it was slow moving at times and in the hands of a better author would have been more exciting. In terms of characters, I wanted more from the Eldar and the assassin, but unfortunately was stuck with a boring Navigator character for much too long. My true rating of the book is 3.5, but as it mostly because of a surprise ending, I give it three.

William says

Rogue Trader Janus Darke joins forces with a pair of Eldar to thwart the plans of the Demon Prince Shaha Gaathon.

Fascinating account of how the Eldar created Slaanesh.

One of the Eldar is Farseer Auric, the other is assassin Athenys.

They travel to Belial IV in the Eye of Terror.

Chaos Marine Zarghan Ironfist was with Fulgrim's Emperor's Children at the First Founding.

Many plot threads are not resolved, setting the stage for sequels.

Plaguedoctor says

Well, I can't really say this was William King's best 40k book, but it was still enjoyable none the less. It just seemed like it had a slower pace than his other books and if you don't like slow paced books, you probably won't like this one. I'll be honest, I had a hard time getting through a few spots because it just seemed to slow and felt like it dragged a little. I really liked the main characters though. I enjoyed how the main character wasn't a Spacemarine or member of the Imperial Guard and I enjoyed that the main character, who is a rogue trader, had to work together with a Xenos race the Eldar. That's a theme you don't see quite often in 40k books. I found this book to be over all enjoyable, but it's not something I would highly recommend. If you come across this book for cheap then it may be something you might like and be worth picking up.

Brian Turner says

Another good 40K story from William King.

Janus Darke is a sown on his luck rogue trader, having once been the man who could do no wrong.

When an Eldar Farseer offers him and his crew a commission, he doesn't have much choice but to accept.

Keeps moving at a good pace, the main characters are well written.

Interesting ending, would be good to find out what happens after.

Michael T Bradley says

I think this is my favorite novel William King has done for Black Library that I've read (out of all the G&F ones - I like Trollslayer better, but it's a collection of short stories, NOT a novel - and the first three Space Wolf novels). Here's why. It really feels as if King is just having fun with this one (for the most part - one glaring exception below). This reminded me a LOT of Barrington J. Bayley's "Eye of Terror." We have a rogue trader & his ship going into the Eye of Terror, and a bunch of crazy stuff going on around the edges. BJB's "Eye" was way less focused than this novel, but probably a bit more fun because you simply never knew WHAT might happen, but this is a close second. Also, we get some interaction with the Eldar, but not SO much their mystique is spoiled. As much as we can intuit what a farseer does, it's never actually spelled out, which is nice.

In general, there's not a lot of spelling out here, which I appreciated. I think that's the worst aspect of the Space Wolf novels - at times, it seems King's precis was, 'turn the rule book into an action novel somehow?' And he did an admirable job, I must say, but it can get tiresome. Except for ONE SINGLE CHAPTER, this book shies away from that. The chapter in question is an overly long explanation of how a Navigator gets through the Warp, the terrors encountered, etc. A few lines - nay, even a few paragraphs on this? Fine. An entire chapter that's over 5% of the book? Oy. It's taxing. Skip that chapter.

But quickly we're pulled back into the fun, and introduced to a Slaanesh-worshipping Chaos Space Marine, which is amusing, & something you don't see very often. It all leads to an ending that is suitably 40K, and, of course, this is the ONE King novel where I've thought at the end, 'I'd really like to see where this goes next.' and it has no sequels. Sigh. C'est la vie.

PL says

One of the best passages of the Black Library on pp 38-39. Twenty years later I found it again.

Christian says

Eldar have a Rogue Trader bring them to a planet in the Eye of Terror to get a kick ass sword all the while being pursued by Slaanesh minions. I missed King's character's introspections. This is a very basic plot that should have spawned a sequel but it seems that it never did. Still not what I would consider an Eldar novel.

Rolf says

If I had to describe these books I'd probably call them a "guilty pleasure," but honestly I don't feel guilty at all about reading these books. For those unfamiliar, Warhammer 40K is (among other things) a game you play with miniatures and being that I collect 40K miniatures, part of my enjoyment of these books comes from seeing that world "come alive." So honestly, I probably don't expect too much else from a 40K book which makes it a little harder to give an objective review about them. But occasionally I read one that catches me up in the story even more so than the background material, and this book is one of those. While I thoroughly enjoyed the additional background info on the Eldars and the Chaos Characters, I also found myself rooting for the hero anxious to see how it would all turn out. Sure it is not great art. But it great fun.

Stephan says

As long as you remember that this is an older publication. That the *fluff* or background material has changed over the years, then this is a pretty good read.

No, this is actually a good read no matter what. It's witty, have some nice characters and, for once in a 40K novel, not that much focus on the action.

We get to follow a rogue trader *very* down on his luck who's contacted by a pair of Eldar. The aliens are asking him for a ride to the Eye of terror and promises a lot of money for the trouble. If they survive. Lot's of daemonic shenanigans, a Chaos space marine who got some serious issues (even for a Slaanesh-workshiper) who's got a spaceship with even bigger issues:

She looked old but huge, a warship of the most ancient Imperial design... A massive head grinned from the prow. It was shaped like the tip of an enormous phallic member bearing the scowling features of some ancient daemon.

It's a charming, entertaining and awesome story. The only problem is that the action scenes are not well described as they are either skipped entirely or very muddy. The ending is not good either as it's very obviously intended as a first part in a series. But we never got any more novels than this first one.

Adrian Gabura says

It's an interesting book, a masterly plot twist and an inspiring glimpse in the Warhammer world.

William says

An excellent story, if a rather quick read.

Aleksejs Mišuks says

meh.

