



The PROX Transmissions

The Starset Society

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SETI radio astronomer Dr. Stephen Browning wakes disoriented and confused in a dingy gas station bathroom. He stumbles home trying to put the pieces of his night back together, only to discover that there are new tenants living inside his apartment when he arrives. This leads him to a shocking realization – over a month has passed since his last recollection. Oddly, these new tenants provide him with one clue, a letter - written in his own handwriting - instructing him what to do next:

Shave your head.

Eager to uncover the reason for his memory lapse, Browning complies and finds a string of coordinates tattooed onto the side of his head, which inevitably lead him to the discovery of a cryptic signal from far outside our solar system.

Enlisting the help of a wealthy Silicon Valley engineer and a brilliant NASA robotics programmer, Dr. Browning begins a journey to decipher the meaning of the transmission, only to find he has become an unwitting pawn in a much bigger game.

Soon it becomes apparent that the transmission is not only a message from the farthest reaches of the galaxy, but a warning from the future. Unless Browning and his team can protect the information from falling into the wrong hands, its message – and its warning – will be lost forever.

The PROX Transmissions Details

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From Reader Review The PROX Transmissions for online ebook

BeyondHorizon says

This is a book by one of my most favorite bands of all time. It covers and explains what's going on in the music videos perfectly. I expected it to have some of the lyrics in it, but that wasn't the case. I don't really mind, but it felt a little empty without it.

As for the story, it's an excellent mediocre, that has some social thought put into it, if I were to judge this book as a standalone. However this book (once again) is by a rock band and it conveys their message, theme and "purpose" very well.

The style of writing was fun and very easy to digest, but it had some unnecessary elements to me, like goofing around and falling in love with a person you don't know at all. I get what it was trying to do though. Also the plot has some holes and raises questions, that I feel the writer forgot to answer.

Overall an enjoyable book and a MUST-HAVE to all Starset fans!

Christopher says

I don't normally read fiction. But I love the band Starset, which has a mysterious backstory 'The Starset Society'. This is the first novel from this group. The story gives information and sheds light onto the lyrics and videos of the band's songs.

The book itself was a fun read. I enjoyed the ideas expressed about communism, capitalism, and how humans organize themselves in the future through technology. Ideas are what will be valuable once production of goods becomes so cheap. We have a duty now to protect the future, with purpose.

Meghan says

PROX Transmissions is not a book to read if you are not already familiar, or understand that it has an upbringing. The story is one that reflects the lyrics and concepts of the band Starset's discography. The plot follows themes related to the ones reoccurring in the band's music; somewhat personifying it. The story opens up very abruptly, giving the entire book a sort of fast paced, suspenseful feeling. Background knowledge allows the entire, deeper meaning of the story more to be seen in more light, but the story can still be read with no knowledge of the band it is based off of.

The entire meaning, and theme of the story is one that will undoubtedly grab the reader's attention. The story starts off with a man who awakens, disoriented and with no memory, in an unfamiliar gas station bathroom. Throughout the book he pieces information of his life back together, and attempts to discover what happened to him with the cryptic words he found tattooed on his head, which turn out being much more important than he ever expected. Though that is the same summary anyone will give you for the book, any more information would be to much more anyone to know before reading the book. It is a very detailed story, full of information that all links back, and that is important to future events.

The characters, most prominently the main character, Dr. Stephen Browning, are very dynamic in their own ways. As in the case of Dr. Browning, he is a character that the reader learns much about, in the senses of his attitude and personal tendencies, but not even Dr. Browning himself knows of his past. Recovering that lost information, and allowing the readers to discover the information at the same time as the readers is a very rewarding method of connection.

The book is very science fiction oriented, as the basis, and the entire plot is one that deals heavily with outer

space, and even the future. It is no normal crime thriller, it requires an imagination, and definitely a liking of sci-fi themes. The setting is yet another factor that the reader discovers along with the main character, as it is impossible for him to describe any place familiar to him, as he knows of nothing. That again adds to the air of suspense. The entire feeling and writing style of the book is very complex and is an undeniable attention grabber

I myself would strongly recommend PROX Transmissions. That recommendation is strengthened even more if you are a fan of Starset, as you will be provided with more insight to the meanings of the stories discoveries. If you are not a fan of the band, I still believe this would be a very enjoyable book to read, but knowing that it does have an unfamiliar basis is valuable information. Another slight preference is if you are not a fan of science fiction, this is not the book for you. With all of those factors acknowledged, I believe anyone could enjoy this story, it demands your attention, and has no lack of entertainment or new and exciting discoveries.

Catherine says

This is difficult to review due to the manner in which the material is presented. The Starset Society offers this up as their group's origin story, told from the perspective of several individuals that played key roles in the events that would push Dr. Aston Wise to decide on the need for this society to exist. There is an entire multimedia campaign that includes graphic novels and music videos, as well as the live band, Starset. For me, the music is by far the best part, and seeing the live "demonstrations" and hearing the band talk about the message finally made me curious enough to read the book.

The good news is that if you already like the band and the music, then the book probably won't detract from the overall enjoyment of their performances. For simplicity, I'm just going to write my review of the book as if it is a regular fiction novel.

The novel follows astrophysicist Dr. Stephen Browning as he awakens from an apparent drinking binge that leaves him in a gas station bathroom. He proceeds to learn that his memory is missing way more than one night of partying and that he is sporting a nifty head tattoo. He decides to crash the Wise Engineering New Year's Eve party in order to get some help from billionaire genius Dr. Aston Wise even though Aston is a drunken jerk. But when you have big problems, having a genius billionaire handy is probably worth putting up with a bit of abuse. The two of them start chasing down leads to try to figure out the meaning of the signal that Steve had intercepted. There are lots of quests and subplots here which culminate in Steve getting dumped in a pretty harsh way and Aston facing down a bad guy with a supersize 3D printer.

It didn't provide that much clarity about how The Starset Society plans to keep dangerous technology out of the hands of megalomaniacs or what alternatives are out there to save our economic structure from eventual collapse. That's a pretty big ask from a first novel though, so I can cut them a break and say that it raised several deep questions about the effects of technology on society and what can be done to prevent a scary outcome. The book could have benefited from a little editing and the characters needed a little more depth to be really engaging, but the idea behind the story is interesting.

Kat Mandu says

WANT TO WIN AN ECOPIY OF THE PROX TRANSMISSIONS AND STARSET'S FIRST ALBUM, TRANSMISSIONS? GO HERE! <https://onebooktwo.wordpress.com/2016...>

Kat Mandu says...

THE FOLLOWING DRAMATIZATION HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED BY THE STARSET SOCIETY.

In this action-packed science-fiction novel, Stephen Browning wakes up with no memory of the last couple months and a tattoo on his head that leads him into a deadly game of hide and seek. What's locked away in his head could kill him – or it could save the future. With the lines between friend and enemy crossing and dangerous people watching his every move, Browning will have to remember what's lost before it's too late.

When the top technology falls into the wrong hands and sets in motion a series of events that will forever impact generations to come, Browning knows he and his allies, brilliant and sarcastic Anton Wise, and “hacker-girl” Dana, must get a message from a devastated future into the open and prevent it from ever happening. But along the way he must deal with some serious trust issues, two warring societies known as the Collective and The Order of Teslonia, and a mass of secrets he'll have to unravel if he wants to save the world. Not to mention the betrayal of some of the people he loves the most.

"Even a well-lit place...can hide salvation... a map to a one-man maze...that never sees the sun..."

I found this book fascinating. Full of the most knowledgeable theories on science, economics, history, and engineering, it's a whirlwind of genre-bending storytelling. Though yes, there are quite a few grammatical and spelling errors, they're easy to ignore because the concept is so much more enticing. From start to finish, The Prox Transmissions delivers page after page of mind-bending theory you want to believe, principles that make you ask yourself:

Once you had the power to affect monumental change – would you let fear consume you? Or would you overcome?

The ending is a bit rushed but there's so much action that you find yourself reading through it super fast anyway, just to get the adrenaline pumping and to find out what happens. It's left with a lot of questions that remain unanswered and I'm wondering if they have a sequel planned out? I mean, there's a lot of story left to tell. And there's always another message to transmit.

So what else makes this book so damn good? It's not just the meaning behind the book – or the story. It's the alternate way the story is told. Because YES. There are two narrators. One who explains the message. And the other who broadcasts it across the world.

If you're a fan of rock music and science fiction, you're in luck. Cinematic rock band Starset is just for you.

"Mayday, mayday, the ship is slowly sinking...they think I'm crazy but they don't know the feeling..."

Born from the belief in the Starset Society, Starset's first album, “Transmissions” is a detailed account of The Prox Transmissions story. The entire album is a book in itself and each song, a chapter. With a hard-rock and science fiction sound, Starset brings the message to life in pulse-pounding songs like “My Demons” and “Carnivore” and beautiful ballads like “Dark On Me” and “Telescope.” Every song follows the story of Thomas (another character in The Prox Transmissions book) and Stephen Browning as they race against time to prevent a disastrous future from occurring. Intertwined with genres of action, romance, and science, the album presents itself as a wonderful presentation of a journey through time and space. It begins with a mission and ends with hope.

Want to see for yourself? Check out the music videos below. Each follows the storyline of The Prox

Transmissions novel, though My Demons follows the plot of the book more closely.

My Demons: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-N_y...

Halo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwiYf...>

Carnivore: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Tkok...>

Starset Homepage: <http://starsetonline.com/index.php>

As you could probably tell, yes, I'm a huge fan of these guys. I pre-ordered the book back in December and I probably should have read The Prox Transmissions sooner, but alas, sometimes life gets a little rough. But if you ever get the chance to see these guys in concert, take it. The band members wear real space suits and the whole show gives you the feeling you've entered an entirely different world. There's so much beauty in what these guys do and I'm super stoked for the new album, which I believe is currently in production. Can't wait.

Readers, I highly recommend this book. Help spread the message. And always remember:

IGNORANCE :: SLAVERY:: KNOWLEDGE :: FREEDOM

"Yesterday is nothing... I have half a life to rewrite... Flying into this future, I will let the science bring the change. This will be the FINAL cure. I am gonna take the past away..."

Joey Doughty says

So I bought this at the Starset concert, as this novel was commissioned by the band as part of their...message(?). The Prox Transmission is a wild ride from start to finish, but its best quality is that its story isn't far from the realm of possibility. Sadly, somewhat amateurish writing left numerous typos and an unsatisfyingly rushed ending. All in all, a good book with an intriguing tale of our possible future.

Janet Evans says

I can't decide if I like the book or not. I was totally intrigued and pulled into the story at the beginning, probably to 1/2 way thru. It could have been me, but it became a little hard to follow and a little hard to keep up with the characters. The last couple of chapters became much better. The ending was totally unexpected in some ways but not so unexpected in others. Typo's also caught my attention.

Wei says

I started reading this because I'm a huge fan of Starset and then I couldn't stop. It's been a long, long time since I've blown through a whole book in one day. Very engaging, but as far as the band's lore is concerned, I think I ended with more questions than I started. I hope they're actually planning on releasing a sequel.

Faith Penewell says

If I review The Prox Transmissions as a stand alone novel written by an ordinary author, I would point out

the few typos and grammatical errors that I (as a part-time proofreader) did find to be a bit distracting from the story. However, I'm not reviewing a typical novel written by a typical author at all here. The Prox Transmissions is a one-of-a-kind novel designed as a companion to the brilliant music of the band Starset. It explains the lyrics of the music, the backstory of the music videos, and sheds more light on the background of the mysterious Starset Society. Instead of a long, technical account of The Starset Society's history, they chose to present the story to the public in the form of a fast-paced action novel with well-developed characters. Never before have I seen a rock band with such far-reaching scope to attempt an endeavor such as this. I applaud the imagination that went into creating a unique multi-media project such as this one, and I look forward toward seeing what's yet to come.

Sarah Everard says

Starset is my favourite band. They make cinematic nerd rock into art form. This book only gets 3 stars due to the fact it is part of their origin backstory. If it was stand alone, it'd get 1.

I won't list the plot of the story, that's listed already in the book description on the main page, and you've probably read it.

Let's start with what bothered me. I'll skip the bad editing, and Italic font where it shouldn't be etc etc and just cut to the actual writing. Basic at best; filled with misogynistic, shallow men.

Dr Aston Wise is described as "an asshole with a heart of gold." The guy has zero redeemable qualities. Rich, frat boy type, alcoholic, genius. Think Tony Stark but with zero of the charm. By the end he straight up kills someone and doesn't seem to have any remorse about it.

All the women are put there purely to be sexualised. You work for NASA? You won't get to NASA AT ALL - you're just there for protagonist Steven Browning to lust after and admire the way your ass jiggles while you go cook him eggs.

Now Dana's back story is that she's a single mum, who-rather than go pick her daughter up from the baby daddy's place-instead drives across country with a man she just met after they've been shot at (and in doing so got the man who they'd gone to see who'd been successfully under the radar for decades killed-again, no remorse there). That kinda back story is infuriating. No mention if she called the baby daddy to make other arrangements for her daughters care. That kinda thing would raise custody issues. Also no mention of where her job thinks she is all this time.

Why would someone who is "Audrey Hepburn" type of beautiful, who works for NASA, and a single mother find anything about Stephen-a still married, jobless, alcoholic-attractive?? Especially since his back story essentially boils down to "I got over the death of my new born baby in two months, but when my wife left me, I lost my shit and spiralled into a black hole of whiskey, turning up to work drunk or just not turning up at all." Those two reactions don't really line up.

Plus, everything out of her mouth comes off as bitchy, which goes to show that weak men will put up with being treated like shit if the woman is hot. Which makes your protagonist shallow, spineless, and one dimensional.

Now turns out she wasn't on the good team - so I understand the context of the bullshit love interest angle of the story. But your protagonist should've seen the red flags about all of this. The author doesn't really understand single mothers, or intelligent women, or attractive (or not so attractive) women, or women in

general.

To be fair, he doesn't paint men in a brilliant light either. They're all cheating, playboy, alcoholic, murderers who are all very shitty people.

At 249 pages, I should've read this in a day. I wanted to throw it against the wall so many times that I stopped and started it a lot. It took far too long for the book to start to Prox Transmission.

The last ten or so chapters (from about when they're in New York & get separated) did pick up the pace a bit - this is mostly because the bs "romantic" storyline wasn't there-and I did enjoy it when it started to get into the actual science of it all. The only exception of this was at the end under Aston's voice, as once again a woman character is introduced just to be sexy and that's it. Oh and if you're not an attractive women in this story, then you'll be shamed for your size, and any attempt at being nice will be perceived as unwanted flirting (hey Stephen, you're not a catch, maybe stop leering at Dana & stay on point with the mission and cook your own fucking eggs).

Do you get more questions raised than answers from this book? yes. But what you do get by the end is a little more of the understanding of how the themes in the music videos and music are interwoven.

I look at this book as the Downplay (Dustin's former band) of novels. I'm hoping the next one will be elevated in terms of content, the way Dustin's song writing and musical composition went from average radio rock in Downplay to cinematic art in Starset.

Will I be buying the graphic novel? No, this story with pictures doesn't sound at all appealing.

I applaud the concept. I applaud a band that is multi-dimensional and engaging audiences across different platforms. It's a big endeavour, one which is in need of more time and attention to work out the kinks.

Starset is still my favourite band, even if I may have lost a little bit of respect for the author after reading the limited portrayal of women in this book. But like I once told him, I'm very forgiving, and very patient in the waiting game for answers which comes with the territory for any Starset fan.

Nicole says

If I just picked this book up at random and read it, I'd probably give it two stars. The writing is fair, the characters are shallow, and there are some irritating typos/font issues/grammar issues (in the kindle version, at least). The story itself was entertaining - the best way to describe it is as a mix of *The Da Vinci Code* and *Atlas Shrugged*, with a fair shake of Andrew Ryan's Rapture from *Bioshock* included.

But this isn't just any book written by just any author. This is the first of the Message Transmissions from The Starset Society! A companion piece to the incredible music of Starset! I'm in love with how the book sheds light on the band's lyrics and music videos. (I barely restrained myself when they mentioned Carnivores!) Whatever my critiques about the actual writing, I absolutely praise the band's (the Starset Society's? I HAVE NO IDEA) imagination and dedication to presenting such a multi-media experience to their fans. I can't wait for the next Transmission, be it a new album, a new book, or whatever else they have in store for us!

Aris-Maru says

There are truths, which have been hidden from us. Kept locked away in the dark. Kept there to control us. Yet, to remain in the dark is not an option. To do so is to meet our demise. We must reclaim the truth. Still, the truth can be dangerous. In fact, you may be in peril just for holding this book in your possession. But it is better to die free than live as a slave.

Ran says

I might have shot myself in the foot when it came to the book because I finished the comic book first. It kind of killed my interest once I knew what happened. This is an interesting story that it was cluttered by language a little bit. I think the comic book worked better.

Kay says

The moment I heard Starset's music, I became hooked; therefore, as soon as the opportunity to learn more about the band's vision behind their album, *Transmissions*, arose, I jumped at it. While there were a few typos (possibly due to a rushed proofread), I was intrigued by this story. It's a skin-crawlingly bleak vision of the future (and, perhaps, the present)- will science save us or damn us? And will we learn the truth and be set free? Or has it always been too late? I could've done with another hundred pages or so, but, a solid, thoughtful read overall.

Chaz Van Heyden says

Although I finished reading this unusual book/story two and one half months ago, the experience still haunts my waking thoughts. Rather than give a detailed description, as other reviewers have, I would like to add an air of mystery here by stating it is an UNUSUAL story & book and well worth anyone's investment of the effort and time to read the 245 pages. It will leave you partially mystified, no doubt, but on the other hand highly energized that one, there is a Starset Society (Search it online) and two, it corroborates and enhances the evidence of extra-terrestrial life forms from signals received via the SETI movement and society of much fame. This book was a gift to me from a musician to whom I delivered a common service well enough for him to hand to me directly after the service was delivered.
