



Empire From the Ashes

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Originally published as three separate novels, Mutineer's Moon, The Armageddon and Heirs of Empire, this volume recounts the adventures for Duhak, an AI-controlled Imperial starship, when it encounter's Colin Macintyre's routine flight over the moon.

Empire From the Ashes Details

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From Reader Review Empire From the Ashes for online ebook

Elizabeth Ann Fielder says

The only book I have read more than once

A great tale with cool science. I reread this collection about every 5 years. It has great action, well developed characters, and great plot. All you can ask for. I think it would be a great movie.

YouKneeK says

Empire from the Ashes is an omnibus containing all three books in the Dahak series.

The first book in the series quickly introduces us to the rather preposterous premise that Earth's moon is actually a gigantic spaceship, disguised like a moon. This spaceship is controlled by a sentient and likeable computer, Dahak, but he no longer has a crew for reasons explained at the beginning of the book. One of the main characters, Colin, is a normal 21st century human with no idea that there's intelligent life beyond Earth. While surveying the moon with newly developed surveying equipment, he stumbles upon the fact that there's more to the moon than meets the eye. Before he can share his findings, he's captured by Dahak who convinces him to become the ship's captain so he can help Dahak deal with some pressing issues that affect the safety of Earth.

I definitely had some quibbles with the premise, but the story started off in an interesting way that quickly caught my imagination and I was able to overlook (mostly) some of the crazier aspects of the premise. The first book had a lot of enjoyable parts, but it also had some pretty slow parts, with long and drawn-out battle scenes that weren't always easy to follow.

The second book, on the other hand, started out quite slow with lots of detailed preparations for facing a looming threat. It took me a long time to get through the first half of the second book. However, I really enjoyed the second half. The second half had a lot of long and drawn-out battle scenes but, unlike the battle scenes in the first book, I thought they were well-written and much easier to follow so that I could picture them in my head. I also enjoyed the antagonists of this book which were much more interesting and multi-dimensional than those in the first book.

The first two books made up the first half of the omnibus and, after the slow parts in the first two books, I was worried I would get bogged down in the longer third book forever. However, the third book was *really* good. In fact, I wished it were longer. I made time to read it when I really should have been doing more important things. The first part spanned several years in which the offspring of some of the main characters from the first two books grew up and became young adults. At that point, the story split off into two directions. One part of the story focused on the older generation and had a lot of political intrigue. The other part of the story focused on the younger generation. The younger generation found themselves caught up in a major crisis that they had to deal with on their own. Without spoiling anything, I wasn't too happy with the way they handled the crisis, but I could understand why they made the choices they did. In any case, their story was still very entertaining to read about.

I liked the main characters quite a bit. I've definitely read better character building, but the main characters were reasonably well fleshed-out and likeable and I enjoyed the camaraderie between them. I also really liked the sentient computer, Dahak. Some of the main antagonists, on the other hand, were very one-

dimensional, full of evil ambition with no moral concerns whatsoever, wanting little more out of life than ultimate power at any cost. Those characters got tiresome. But there were some antagonists with more depth to them, and I enjoyed those. The first book was mostly the former, the second book was mostly the latter, and the third book had both types.

All of the main threads were tied up reasonably well by the end of the omnibus. There were some hanging threads from the second book, but mainly because the resolution was likely a few centuries in the future which was outside the time frame of the series. I therefore wasn't much bothered by it because the main events were wrapped up and I didn't really want to jump that far into the future to find out what happened next in that storyline. But I did wish the third book's ending had been fleshed out better. We were given a resolution for all of the main events, but things were wrapped up extremely fast. When I saw I was at the 98% mark in the book, I remember thinking there was no way there was going to be a proper resolution within the remaining pages and I was afraid that it would end in an outright cliffhanger. We saw what happened up to the point where the tide started to turn in favor of our main characters, but then we jumped immediately to a point after the final resolution. We didn't actually get to see the final successes happen or really spend much time with the characters after the problems were resolved. This was why I mentioned earlier that I wished the third book had been longer – I wanted a longer and more detailed ending.

I had trouble deciding on the star rating since my enjoyment varied quite a bit throughout the omnibus. If I rated the first two books by themselves, I would probably want to give 3.5 stars. But the third book, which represented half of the omnibus by itself, was definitely 4 stars. So I'm going to go with 4 for the whole omnibus.

Mark Pirie says

Absolutely riveting read

Space opera at its best! Well filled out characters with a sound plots and plenty of excitement. This is the fourth of fifth time I have bought and read the series.

Dave Neuendorf says

Very good space opera trilogy by one of my favorite sci-fi authors. The writing is technically good, with one glaring exception. The many POV switches and jumps in time are jarring, because there is nothing to indicate the switch. This definitely interrupts the flow of reading, at least for me.

Some Christians may be offended by the premise that human presence on earth started 51,000 years ago when a starship crew mutinied and were forced into exile on our planet. Evolution on another planet is assumed. I can only repeat my wife's advice: don't get your theology from entertainment media.

Andrew says

for those who are frequent readers of Weber's other books, you might notice a few things here. The three books comprise certain storylines that recure later on. Book 2 has lots of the large spaceship battles that were to become a trademark of later honorverse novels, while book 3 could be considered 'the first draft of the

entire Safehold series, without the funny names or the useless padding of thousands of characters that exist for 5 pages and no more.

but let's start with the first book. What if I told you that the moon is not the moon, it's not even a space station, it is, in fact, a ship. And humans didn't evolve here, they're descendants of that ship's crew that crash landed 51 thousand years ago... and the captain's name was Xenon - no, I'm kidding with that last part.

But that's where the book starts, with the moon, Dahak, undergoing a mutiny, and the captain, in attempting to scuttle the ship, releases everyone evacuated, which the ship's chief engineer - leading the mutiny - rigs the ship's defences to fail, which they mostly do. But some of the mutineers have re9or de-?) mutinied, and have fought things to a standstill all this time, popping in and out of status and helping 'the humans' with their advanced tech. Meanwhile, Dahak in orbit is unaware of the factions, and can't kill the mutineers as programmed without killing everyone on earth. Meanwhile, both sides are intertwined in world politics, fighting battles by proxy through military 'police' actions, or 'terrorist strikes'.

Dahak needs a captain to help, especially as the whole reason he was sent out thousands of years ago was to patrol against an infrequent 'cleansing' sweep by an alien race, and the sensor arrays are starting to report that attack is starting. Luckily there's this unrelated astronaut just testing a brand new (mutineer-assisted) scanner on the far side of the moon. Why not grab him and make him captain.

Thus begins the series. Book 1 deals with sorting out the problem of the mutineers. Book 2 deals with fighting off the alien invaders. While book 3 has the kids of the main characters stuck on a planet that walled itself off from history, hid behind a planetary defence system, then set up a religion to keep them in the dark ages, and do so without using advanced weaponry (as I said, see also the 9 books and 4,500 PAGES of safehold).

It's probably one of his better works and book 3 is better than the safehold series, which yes, I have read)

Alice says

One of my top picks in Sci-fi.

I have just had the pleasure of re-reading this great sci-fi trilogy for the fourth time. As you can see that this is my top favorite sci-fi pick and I get this urge every few years to renew my acquaintance with these distinctive friends of mine. This is the perfect blend of ancient aliens, hollow moon, conspiracy theories all rolled into an absolutely great story. There's danger, military maneuvers, spacecraft, some romance, terrible sacrifices and people you will care about. As I say a perfect balance that has something for everyone.

Astral says

Little lazy here so I'll just say what others probably haven't, my pet peeves about this trilogy.

First, the protagonist is a military idiot as can be seen early on when he is abducted by a spaceship and instead of listening to the explanation being given he decides not to be a passive listener so he interrupts with stupid questions and proclamations like I don't believe this, impossible!... while facing the impossible.

The action is great, romance lacking as expected from a sci-fi author and unfortunately the politics are skipped so in the conclusion of say wars we don't get people's reactions or different perspectives.

No press conference to declare the existence of aliens or the real history of humanity or hearing bigoted greedy politicians arguing, which is a letdown for me as those things are left behind in timeskips after the big

conflicts were over.

The purpose of side story protagonists kids have unfortunately serves only to make a happy and barely satisfying ending. The worst of all is the thriller part of the novel, which proves Webber is as good thriller writer as he is a romance writer, meaning not very good. The 2nd antagonist is supposed to be mysterious and unknown even to us readers, however not only is his identity easily guessed by anyone with a brain, he is even disclosed to the readers only a few dozen pages after introducing the mysterious villain. Borderline horror movie stupidity of the characters is what allowed this villain even to exist, as you see he is in one of the top 10 power/government positions and they have a foolproof lie detector, why they haven't even suspected him or used lie detector on anyone with a high position to confirm he/she doesn't have any bad intentions as is beyond me.

Bigal-sa says

I really enjoyed this monster of a book (almost 17000 Kindle locations!) The only thing that stopped me from giving it 5* was Weber's love of political intrigue (one of the reasons why I stopped reading his Honor series). While politics cannot be ignored in the greater scheme of the book, it did get a bit much.

As always, Weber's battle scenarios are well written - whether the fighting is in high tech space ships or in medieval swordfights. I really loved Dahak.

Apart from the politics, the only thing that bugged me was the lack of finish to the battle for control of Pardal - most of the last book centres around that and we don't get to hear how the final battle was completed.

The first book in the series was written in 1991 and the last in 1996, and it's quite sad that the ending suggests a sequel, but that has not happened.

Patrickk patrick says

similar bits to some of his other series show up here. good action story.

Jess Mahler says

Should have been a duology.

First two books in the trilogy were solid 4 stars, but the third brings it down.

First two books are solid sci-fi adventure, following an over-arching plot of rediscovery and alien menace. Third book is patch on, mix of political spy-stuff and alternate universe black-powder warfare, connected by characters to the first two books but not related to the original plot. Basic premise of the black-powder plot section broke my suspension of disbelief and I never got past that or a number of other problems.

Harrison Bruni says

Oh my this book seems so much longer than it actually is, wow. It's still good though :).

James King says

One of Weber's best!! Great characters and the moon is a sentient starship! Long live the Empire!

Weber as usual created characters, even sentient computer ones, that you want to know and wraps them in a wonderment.

*****Dave Hill says**

Some folks think of epic space opera and say, why? Others day, "Hey, maybe the Moon is actually a massive abandoned space battleship and the human race was founded by its mutinous crew tens of thousands of years ago" and say, why not?

An omnibus of Weber's earliest solo series (*Mutineer's Moon* in 1991, followed by *The Armageddon Inheritance* in 1994 and *Heirs of Empire* in 1996), the tale is a bit more roughly-hewn than his later works. MM, the earliest, is the most straightforward, establishing the universe and its key players. TAI is a direct follow-up, though Weber makes the decision to humanize his overarching foe, which is one of his standard tactics but also seems to complicate and weaken the narrative. HOE blends two tales, the primary of which comes across as both a sidebar tale of the the particular universe and as a presaging of pre-tech themes Weber will visit in works (including *Off Armageddon Reef*).

The overarching story doesn't quite hold up (the first two books make a good duology; the third is primarily in the same setting), but the individual tales are rollicking good adventures, with little depth but plenty of massive star battles and flashing swords. I've read it multiple times, and will likely do so again in the future.

Hal says

This is actually three books: *Mutineer's Moon*, *The Armageddon Inheritance*, and *Heirs of Empire*. If you take a pinch of "space", add a teaspoon of "opera", then throw in a dash of heroic humans, and another dash of vile villains (don't forget the long dead empire with super technology), put in the fusion reactor at 30 million degrees for 30 minutes, you end up with Space Opera on a grand scale.

You know the routine - massive alien armada is sweeping through the galaxy, destroying any species that even blinks, and their next target is... Earth! Our intrepid hero Colin MacIntyre discovers that the whole freaking moon is an ancient battle ship that was created by the 4th Imperium to fight an alien menace that sweeps through the galaxy more often than the Beatles get together for reunion albums, and it's up to MacIntyre to defeat the mutineers who tried to rebel against the 4th Imperium 45,000 years earlier, pull all Earth's countries together to prepare for the alien menace, and win the heart of the beautiful but dangerous Jiltanith, who initially hates him, but finds herself strangely attracted to.

David Weber is a very competent writer - I couldn't stop myself from continuing to turn the pages of this book. However, I think he does a better job with these same themes in his books *March Upcountry*, *March to the Sea*, *March to the Stars* and *We Few*.

Stephen says

4.5 stars. The Dahak trilogy, which includes Mutineers' Moon, The Armageddon Inheritance and Heirs of Empire is superb military space opera. I believe it belongs on the "must read" list of all fans of the genre. One thing I found that set this apart from typical "military" based science fiction is the development of the main characters and the focus on their relationships and how much they respect and care for each other. I especially liked the growth of the relationship between Colin McIntyre (the main character) and Dahak (the sentient spaceship he commands). Therefore, don't let the military tag turn you off if you don't typically read that sub-genre as this is high quality science fiction. **HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!!!**
