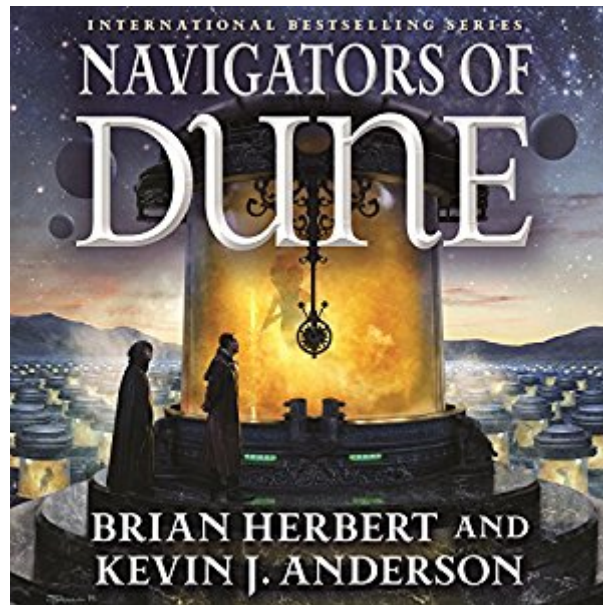


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Navigators Of Dune



Synopsis

Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson's *Navigators of Dune* is the climactic finale of the Great Schools of Dune trilogy, set 10,000 years before Frank Herbert's classic *Dune*. The story line tells the origins of the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood and its breeding program, the human-computer Mentats, and the Navigators (the Spacing Guild), as well as a crucial battle for the future of the human race, in which reason faces off against fanaticism. These events have far-reaching consequences that will set the stage for *Dune*, millennia later.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book completes the *Dune* schools trilogy, beginning with *Sisterhood of Dune* and continuing to *Mentats of Dune*. This takes place after the Butlerian Jihad, chronicled in another trilogy preceding this one. This trilogy explains the origins of the Bene Gesserit sisterhood, the Mentats, the Spacing Guild, the combined merchantiles, later to be known as CHOAM, who are the merchants of spice or melange, and the navigators themselves, who need this spice for their minds to fold space and pilot their ships through other dimensions. These pilots are permanently enclosed in a tank filled with spice gas. The lead navigator is a woman, Norma Cenva. Norma has unique powers of being able to fold space and transport just herself in her container, to any part of the universe without using a space ship. This is vital because she transports herself in and out of battles to either save her spice on Arrakis while it is being sabotaged, and rescues her great grandson, Josef Venport, head of Venport Holdings. This is where the story begins. The imperial empire, recovering from the great war against cymeks and other thinking machines (The

Butlerian Jihad), but is not yet united into one great system of government, interstellar transportation, and spice trade as you read in the classic DUNE. There are three factions fighting against each other, two for dominance of the galaxy and one to hold a monopoly on spice trade. The imperium is dominated by Roderick Corrino, who is struggling to unite the empire under his rule of stability. Two obstacles stand in his way. The first are the remnants of the Butlerian Jihad, once the hero of the first trilogy but then turns evil. It is led by Manfred Torondo and his faithful servant Anirid. Their turn to evil is complete when they use atomic warfare to destroy a planet, an act strictly forbidden by the Imperium. The second faction is led by Josef Venport, head of Venport Holdings, who tries to form a spice monopoly of melange, on Arrakis, also known as DUNE. He tries to quash all competition and is protected by his great grandmother, Norma Cenob. Center is now morphed into a guppy like creature in a tank permanently filled with spice gas. Others pilots are in training on the planet Kor, and they are occupied with the universe under the influence of the spice. "The universe is ours," states Norma. Venport, who killed the emperor's brother, also uses Cymeks left over from the Jihad, meaning that the war against the machines isn't quite over. In any war, factions are always left over on the losing side believing they will rise again. The Butlerians and Venport Holdings fight and try to win over the emperor, but he has plans against both sides, hoping to destroy them both. This book would not be complete without the ongoing Harkonnen-Atreides feud, with Valya, head of the sister but also a Harkonnen, fighting against Vorian Atreides, now old and maintaining his age of 200 years quite well. Valya accuses Vorian of disgracing the Harkonnens, and her younger sister Tula marries Orry Atreides and killed him on their wedding night. Orry's brother Willem, with Vorian, sets out to kill Tula for revenge, thus setting the conflict that continues to the classic DUNE novel. Tula, however, surprises everyone in the end. The chapters are short, to get the story moving, but the book is a good 400 pages, and in the last quarter is where the real action takes place, with the the three-way war and the two-family conflict. All these books leads you to understand the original DUNE book better by telling the history of Dune, constantly referred to in the original novel. The ending insures that the Atreides-Harkonnen war will continue. Ten thousand years will pass before the events of Dune: House Atreides take place, but to the characters of the Dune universe, this amount of time passes like nothing.

The premise and story telling is great. What I found wrong with this was they made out like Vorian was raised and lived on Corrino when he was still a trustee for Omnius, and that is not the case. He only ever went to Corrino on update runs. The rest of the time he lived on Earth.

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