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Halo: Evolutions: Essential Tales Of The Halo Universe



Synopsis

When humanity expanded beyond the safety of Earth to new stars and horizons, they never dreamed what dangers they would encounter there. When the alien juggernaut known as the Covenant declared holy war upon the fragile human empire, millions of lives were lost—but, millions of heroes rose to the challenge. In such a far-reaching conflict, not many of the stories of these heroes, both human and alien, have a chance to become legend. This collection holds eleven stories that dive into the depths of the vast Halo universe, not only from the perspective of those who fought and died to save humanity, but also those who vowed to wipe humanity out of existence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tobias S. Buckell is the author of Halo: The Cole Protocol, Sly Mongoose, Ragamuffin and Crystal Rain. His books have been finalists for the Nebula Award, the Prometheus Award, and the Romantic Times Award for Best Science Fiction Novel. He hails from the Caribbean, where as a child he lived on boats in Grenada and the British and U.S. Virgin Islands. When he was a teenager, his family moved to Ohio after a series of hurricanes destroyed the boat they were living on, and he attended Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio, where he still lives today. Buckell fell in love with science fiction at a young age, reading Arthur C. Clarke and Isaac Asimov novels when he was seven years old. He is now a full-time author and freelancer.

No excerpt

I've read every Halo novel as well as both Gears of War novels which were written by Karen Traviss who penned one of the stories in this book. This is a great installment in the Halo series and a great read. It's kind of like they held a contest and asked a bunch of authors to submit their stories to see who is the best Halo writer. I personally think they are all quality reads. Some, of course, are better than others. The one by Karen Traviss fits her style (relationships based). Really the best two are the ones from Eric Nylund as the other reviewer said "he writes about Admiral Cole". Nylund wrote the best Halo novel to date and his short story is tied "in my mind" for the best of this book. Will someone please give this guy the Halo movie screenplay contract, he's the best Halo story teller there is in my opinion. The other great one is from a newcomer "to me and to Halo" by Jonathan Goff called the Headhunters. I wish those two stories went on for hundreds of more pages personally. Nothing against the other authors by the way, all of the stories were great. It's just that when you put 11 different stories by 12 authors back-to-back, there is going to be some that are a little better than the others. I also liked the one with John "Master Chief" on New Mombassa telling a story that took place during the Halo 2 game timeline but that we haven't really heard before. Anyway, if you are a Halo fan, you will love it. At least a few of the stories will really appeal to you "if not all". If you liked the Gears of War novels and haven't read Halo, you'll like these as well "not just the one by Traviss".

"Halo: Evolutions" is a collection of short stories set in Halo universe and, since there are different authors contributing, they all have different feel and perspective from each-other. Being a fan of the Xbox games and having read all of the other novels, this book an easy choice for me. Not all of the stories are great, but they are all fairly good and add more depth and insight into the worlds of Spartans, Covenant, and even the Flood. This is not the place for those new to Halo books to start (I recommend "Halo: Contact Harvest" or "The Fall of Reach (Halo, Bk. 1)"), but it is an enjoyable set of diversions for those who are already hooked. Highly Recommended! CFH

As with many anthologies you tend to get a mixed bag of stories, most are good, some are great and one is especially bad, sorry Robt Mclees, Palace Hotel did not impress. Halo: Evolutions is a good value anthology, with a lot of bang for your buck, so to be perfectly blunt, some of the under performing stories could of been cut without any loss to the book as a whole. Interestingly some poems were added in-between the stories as well which was an unexpected surprise. The stories

are very much in the vein of other Halo books, focusing on the Spartans, UNSC and ONI personnel with some insight into the Covenant species as they make their way through a bitter galactic war and some of its consequences after it ends. Not surprising as many of the Halo book authors are featured in Halo: Evolutions. The most interesting stories are the ones that give insight into the Halo universe events and people and that don't focus on just plain action, we have the games for doing that. The stories that impressed me were: The Mona Lisa; Human Weakness; The Impossible Life and the Possible Death of Preston J. Cole and the interesting bite of Xenoarchaeology at the end. Not surprisingly these stories are the big hitters with a lot of pages devoted to them, so the authors got the time to breathe life into them with characters that developed. They also offered insight into the Halo universe which is what makes these types of stories interesting to me. All out action stories that do not progress the understanding of the universe just plain bore me. I need characters to care about and these stories delivered. Not to say other stories didn't deliver but I don't need to know more about Spartan 117. Halo: Evolutions is a worthy addition to the Halo universe that gets better the further you read. Just make sure you buy the single volume, and not those 2 volume knock-off's that are out there to confuse you.

Ok, so far I've read about 350 pages of the book, almost all of the short stories. Haven't read the most popular, The impossible life and possible Death of Preston J. Cole, but I know that one is great. I was afraid I was gonna find myself reading short stories that had no purpose whatsoever on the canon, and I would get Bored, but still I gave it a try because it's Halo. I found myself reading non-stop to whatever story the book is offering, some of them are more compelling and attractive than others, some explore more the universe, some less. I preferred DIRT, the life of a Marine from Harvest, there's one of Black Spartans, which you'll find very cool and interesting, one of two Spartan III that seem like twisted kids used to killing aliens (really cool). The Mona Lisa, it's kinda long, but it's well written and it makes you feel you are in an Alien film. For me, those are the best so far, but the others are good as well. I do recommend this book to any Halo Fan. I don't know if a non fan is gonna get lost from time to time, since the book is full of terminology from the Halo Universe (not a lot, but every now and then). Can't wait for the Forerunner Trilogy.

Do not get me wrong. These are great stories. This was my third time listening to them.... I rebought this product new, and it came sealed. Unfortunately the discs skipped and repeated themselves. It's very frustrating to listen to audio this way.

I am amaze with this game Im so hook to this

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