



Echoes of Earth

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In the early 22nd century, humans' electronic reproductions, known as engrams, have been sent on fact-finding missions throughout the known universe--searching for signs of alien life.

But what they find exceeds their wildest dreams--in nightmarish proportions.

"Includes one of the most heart-stopping moments I've encountered in a novel in years." (Jack McDevitt)

Echoes of Earth Details

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Eero says

Post-human

All characters in this book are something other than human; the engrams are incomplete simulations, and the post-Spike inhabitants of Sol system are beyond human. After a bright promise there is destruction on a preposterous scale. The neighborhood is quite dangerous, but is there hope? As this is the first book in a trilogy, the story is obviously not over.

Five stars may be too much, but this is such a high concept hard SF book and I haven't read one of those in a while. There is the whole issue of the Fermi paradox and the dangers of announcing our presence to the galaxy at large. There is the threat of rampant AI and the fate of humanity in the presence of superior artificial minds. These themes are not exactly new, but this book does lay them out rather brutally.

Steve Canipe says

Engrams and holograms?

This book is an interesting combination of science fiction and science. The engrams that are described are interesting to contemplate but in terms of actual reality maybe not so real. Having a group of benevolent aliens come to your rescue is an interesting idea, it certainly makes the book an interesting read. Definitely worth some time on a rainy or lazy weekend.

Donna says

Thanks for the book, Dad! Interesting high-tech ideas. Characters are so-so. I'm curious to see what happens.

Kerry says

As with their other series "Evergence" there's a bit of a learning curve to get used to what they are talking about; in this case engrams and not people being sent out to explore space. Once past that it revs up the ante with the Spinners and their gifts. Intriguing and very detailed. I'm on to book 2 - "Orphans of Space" for more!

Michael says

This was a fun book, though nothing ended up going the way I wanted. My biggest problem were how quickly The Gifts ended up not being relevant. The concept is great: a super-advanced alien race (nick-named The Spinners) sends Gifts to more primitive civilizations to help them evolve. Humanity is set in their sights, and we are given 11 "Gifts" - advancements in science, medicine, arts & cultures, starships - to help

jump-start our development as a star-faring species. But are The Spinners benevolent, or do they have ulterior motives? What will happen once the Gifts are shared with real humans on earth, as opposed to the AI humans that are the book's main characters?

I would recommend this book to any scifi fan.

Keith Stevenson says

Its a real pleasure to re-read the Orphans Trilogy from Sean Williams and Shane Dix. Book One is packed full of big ideas and cataclysmic events.

In 2050 the UN launches a thousand missions to explore interstellar space, the ship's staffed not with humans but engrams: software recordings of human personalities. A century later the engram of explorer Peter Allander is facing an existential crisis when aliens bestow unimaginable gifts on his mission - a library of knowledge and technological advances that promises to change humanity's destiny for ever. But when he returns to Earth in one of these gifts - the FTL 'hole' ship, he doesn't find the welcome he's expecting.

Allander struggles with the nature of who he is - apart from the human who recorded him - while facing a series of life-threatening dangers and witnessing events that would blow anyone's mind, let alone a software rendition of a person. Highly recommended.

elidemelnibone says

pas de temps mort, des évolutions de l'humanité surprenantes, des personnages intéressants, des rencontres mystérieuses et dangereuses, bien écrit, j'ai lu ce vol 1 d'une traite. Et j'ai la chance d'avoir la suite.

Mike Hedley says

An interesting plot and well-written, although there were some niggles, mainly the very quick development of AI, and from an Australian reader's point of view, annoying use of US spellings (considering the writers are Australians!) and the devising of fake units in line with US/Imperial units when there are perfectly good SI units available.

I look forward to the rest of the series, although how "humanity" can be saved when the apparent survivors are largely computer programs, plus one enhanced ancient female and a male android, will be interesting to see!

David Thomas says

I love this series and this concept. I am now reading the third book. :)
