



Semper Human

Ian Douglas

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The final conflict

Chaos has erupted throughout the known galaxy, threatening countless colonies and orbital habitats—as the Associative struggles vainly to keep the peace. Extreme measures are called for in these times of dire crisis, and the Star Marines are awakened from their voluntary 850-year cybe-hibe sleep. But General Trevor Garroway and his warriors are about to discover that the old rules of engagement have drastically changed . . .

The end begins with an old-style assault on rebels at the Tarantula Stargate. But true terror looms at the edges of known reality. Humankind's eternal enemy—the brutal, unstoppable Xul—approaches, wielding a weapon monstrous beyond imagining. Suddenly not only is the future in jeopardy, but the past is as well—and if the Marines fail to eliminate their relentless xenophobic foe once and for all, the Great Annihilator will obliterate every last trace of human existence.

Semper Human Details

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From Reader Review Semper Human for online ebook

Steven Allen says

This was a good ending to the series. The final few pages felt a little rushed as if the author wanted to be done with the story and get it over with. Not a bad series but not one that I will keep or read again.

Ron says

The last in the ongoing trilogy of trilogies on the Space Marine vs Xul. It appears to be the end, but we will see if Ian Douglas comes up with another tale when he finishes with his Space Navy trilogy.

Michael says

This is the 3rd book in the Inheritance Trilogy by Ian Douglas a.k.a. William H. Keith Jr. In this one the Space Marines have voluntarily been put in to cybe-hibe sleep. 850 years have passed and they are awakened because they are once again needed to battle mankind's enemy the Xul. This time with the help of the modern Marine Corp they are going to try to put an end to the Xul threat once and for all. This is a great read and a good ending to this series about the Marines and their future as Earth's and all of mankind's defenders in the near and then the far future. I recommend it to all fans of Military Science Fiction and fans of Ian Douglas a.k.a. William H. Keith Jr.

David K says

After completing the Heritage, Inheritance, and now the Legacy trilogy, I can say the series was an enjoyable experience, though I probably should have read other books between each trilogy. I gave each book 4-5 stars because of how much I enjoy the genre and each books' execution of the idea on the whole despite the flows I found in them. There are four main flaws I noticed in Douglas' writing style in this series. One of these may have been slightly more visible because I read it on a Kindle which showed my progress by percentage.

The first issue for me was that these books became very formulaic and repetitive in their setup. Many chapters contained repetitive histories from both previous sections of the same book but also from the previous books throughout the trilogies and also Marine history. This created much "fluff" that could have been cut as it was unnecessary and the only reason to read it was because of variations in how it was written and occasional small details that were added. It was almost as though he was writing each book to meet a minimum page or word count for a publisher, or that each chapter was setup to be published separately as a short story on its own or in an anthology.

The second issue was that in using the ebook version on my Kindle the beginning of the climax in each book became very predictable at 80-85%. I would expect that this may have correlated loosely with page numbers as well.

***** SPOILERS *****

The third problem I had in these books was that despite the future fantasy setting they read like a very heavy handed recruiting commercial for the US Marines. The Marines role changed over time but mostly remained the USMC despite the overall, almost inevitable and more realistic, disappearance of the US instead of their persistence while humanity evolves into a galactic presence.

Last, the main characters necessarily changed in almost each book as the timeline had large jumps of centuries in the timeline, with the exception of in the first trilogy where there was a shorter timeframe involved. I think if he could have the author would have had the same characters throughout the entire series. Also, the names of the main characters changed over time, but the surnames persisted through most of the series, though toward the end they were incorporated into the first names, with recognizable corruptions of their spellings.

Brian says

One of his best works so far. I am a fan for life!

elidemelnibone says

Mon engagement auprès des Marines des 3 trilogies Heritage, Legacy et Inheritance se termine. Effectué d'une traite. Je mets 4 étoiles globalement. Malgré certaines formes narratives répétitives, je me suis bien régalée dans cet univers. J'ai aimé son expansion de la lune et mars à toute la galaxie et au-delà, les humains qui n'arrivent pas au départ à faire face ensemble contre la menace Alien et se battent entre pays et factions, les combats contre les Xul avec une technologie de plus en plus puissante, le dévouement et le courage absolu des Marines, les descriptions de l'espace, les races Alien rencontrées au fur et à mesure jusqu'aux mystérieux Builders et jusqu'à One Mind, les projections scientifiques qui m'ont amenée à vérifier des théories ou chercher des précisions sur Internet, l'évolution de l'homme augmenté... L'homme est-il toujours humain ? La réponse sont les Marines, une fratrie de guerriers dont le seul but est de servir et protéger l'humanité, "forever vigilant, forever human" c'est dans cet esprit que j'ai dévoré les 9 livres. Sûrement, je lirai un peu plus tard Star Carrier l'autre série de l'auteur qui attend dans ma PAL.

Queldroma says

Though this book is not a great literary work, it does have some redeeming qualities. It is a great book if all you want is some action. The whole series is a constantly increasing action that I half expect them to start throwing planets at their foes(Oh wait they did that in the last book)then start throwing galaxies at each other in the name of spiral power.(Anime joke, if you did not get it it is ok)Much like the show I just referenced this book is written to be enjoyed with a light-heart and very little cerebral taxation. That is not to say it does not have an interesting message if you look very deep.

In the end it is a good action story much like a action film that will not win any awards but still enjoyable all the same in the right circumstance.

Judge says

All three of the books in this triology (ok, kinda redundant) are excellent military science fiction, and rich in Marine Corps history and culture.

Don says

Book three takes place 1100 years after the end of the last volume in this series.

I actually liked this better than the last book, but the author still has a problem of repeating things.

Don't think I'll be reading any more from this writer.

Michael says

I enjoyed the book and the overall story from previous books in this series. It was a little predictable at the end but still a good read.

Nathan says

The character development was never the strong point in this series, but it has continued to go downhill from the end of the first series. The constant reuse of Garroway and Warhurst family members to be the primary 'voices' of the story has become grating as well.

The strong points of the series - action, speculative science, and speculative cultural development - are pretty stagnant compared to past books. I think that Douglas reached the point where he had to fit too much speculative science and cultural development into too little space, and by trying to do failed in that attempt, while also diluting the action.

I was satisfied with the read, but by no means excited. Despite the 2 star rating, I'd still buy the book again, but only because the series has a soft spot in my heart. ~~As a stand alone novel~~ **If you evaluate a book by how fun it is to read on its own - good dialogue, good plot, exploring the human condition, etc,** it's dreck.

Steve says

Fast paced, testosterone fueled, space opera, with a cast of somewhat familiar characters...

Sven says

A bit heavy reading on the quantum physics-side, but nevertheless an outstanding conclusion to a remarkable series.

One of my must-read recommendation for every fan of scifi who also likes a plausible technology in the future. (This goes for the complete series)

Andreas says

After a thousand year “break” in the macrostory, the Marines are back. Revived from a centuries long hibernation (de facto a kind of reserve status), they wake to a radically different galactic society, with a plethora of alien races, as well as new offshoots of the human race. The reason for their awakening is that the Xul seem to be altering reality by subtly influencing human minds through the spooky effects of quantum physics.

After the breakneck action of the previous two books, this one feels very slow to start. A lot of time is spent discussing the changes to galactic society of the past centuries. The usual “Marines are anachronisms” message, only more so, and to excess. Once battle is joined, so to speak, it doesn’t feel anywhere near as visceral as previously. The characters are dull and lack the compelling qualities of those in earlier installments. Douglas redeems himself a bit at the end with some excellent historical vignettes, but it is not enough. Unfortunately, the book becomes one long treatise about why Marines have always pulled mankind’s (and in this case Galactic Society as whole’s) chestnuts out of the fire. While I understand and even agree with the message, it is far too heavy handed. So this ninth, and possibly last, book of the saga unfortunately ends it with a sizzle where there should have been a bang. A big, big bang.

<http://www.books.rosboch.net/?p=656>

Steven says

Great conclusion to a series that extends over a thousand years :) At first, "Semper Human" started slow, but then picked up. You get to know characters from the past and new ones. The epic finale gave great closure to the series and def leaves room for more add-on stories in the future. After this, I'm going to look into more of Ian Douglas's works.
