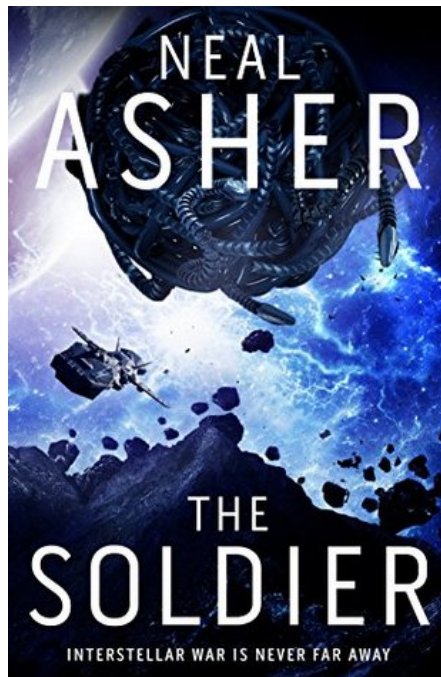




## The Soldier

*Neal Asher*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# The Soldier

*Neal Asher*

**The Soldier** Neal Asher

***The Soldier* is the first novel in the Rise of the Jain series, by bestselling science fiction author Neal Asher.**

A hidden corner of space is swarming with lethal alien technology, a danger to all sentient life. It's guarded by Orlandine, whose mission is to ensure it stays contained – at all costs. Living aboard a state-of-the-art weapons station, she watches over technology designed to destroy entire civilizations. However, she's hatching a plan to obliterate it, removing the threat forever. It was created by the Jain, a long-dead race, and forces are on the move who'll do anything to unleash their last secrets.

Meanwhile, humanity's galactic territories and the alien Prador Empire watch this sector of space with interest, as neither can allow the other to claim its power. However, things are about to change, the Jain might not be as dead as they seem and interstellar war is never far away.

## The Soldier Details

Date : Published May 17th 2018 by Pan (first published 2018)  
ISBN :  
Author : Neal Asher  
Format : Kindle Edition 560 pages  
Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera, Fiction

 [Download The Soldier ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Soldier ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Soldier Neal Asher**

---

## From Reader Review The Soldier for online ebook

### j eustace says

#### Where's Neal?

I've read everything prior to this book and enjoyed them all. I'm still trying to process what happened here. For me this was a tedious read that disappointed. I waited for this book looking forward to the clever story and mind stretching ideas I have always associated with Asher stories. Is it Neal or me? I didn't find the characters engaging. I felt no connection to any of them like I had in previous stories. The ideas though grand were stock Asher and for me gave me none of the wow moments of earlier work. The plot simple enough was buried excessively detailed speculation into the complications of various combinations of biologic and machine being. It must be me, sorry Neal but this one didn't click.

---

### Kate says

Exciting mingling of post-humans, AIs, terrifyingly sinister spaceships and military technology - this is a universe in trouble. A little too emotionless and bitty for my taste but a fun read. Review to follow shortly on For Winter Nights.

---

### Claudio says

Abandoned at 50%. It is a confusing mess of continuous fighting among a dozen of main characters none of them I could resonate with.

---

### Mark says

I'm really not sure about this one. I usually love Asher's Polity novels, but this one felt disconnected despite appearing to tick all my boxes. The two main issues I had with it were lots of POV's that chopped and changed too often, and the fact that almost none of the cast were 'regular' humans, as far as they go in the Polity. Instead we got a collection of high-end powers with almost unending resources. There really didn't feel like a threat going on here, and the threat we did have was so potentially over-powered that it starts getting a little much. The terminology also started to grate by the halfway point – The Client, The Species, The Soldier, The Librarian... it felt like I was reading a story about The Characters on The Quest to stop The Baddie. It's so frustrating because I wanted to enjoy so much more than I did.

---

### Mya says

I want to say this is a great standalone book, but in my humble opinion if one were to read this book first they are cheating themselves of the brilliant universe that Neal Asher has created. I don't need to go into detail about the plot other than to say that an ancient alien race (highly... no seriously advanced) has returned to conquer the known universe and must be stopped. What a new reader might not understand is the

significance of those that have to do the stopping however. Orlandine, Dragon, EC, King Oberon and Hoopers in general, are heavy hitters who appear in Mr. Asher's back catalog and have rich histories and I get the feeling that they will all have to work together to save the day...universe....

Mr. Asher has always had a talent at describing high tech concepts, machinery and space, but this book seems a bit too advanced with the cyber-futuristic speak. Still, the wars, the incursions and the introduction of the alien species believed to be long extinct pack a heavy punch. The 'soldier' itself is a terrifying entity to behold. But terror is Mr. Asher's frosting. He knows where to put it to decorate a story that would put many horror writers to shame.

Altogether, it was so enjoyable to be able to revisit familiar grounds, especially as remnants of the Jain (aforementioned thought to be dead alien race) have been mentioned as threats in his earlier works. This being the first in what I presume will be a three part series, I know that the dread, the action, the mystery and the serious fireworks are to still to come, but this first book did a good job of setting the stage and leaving a solid cliff hanger.

Note for the Asherheads:

There are a few new and cool and quippy war drones added to the mix. You may be wondering if the Gabbleducks and the Technician can or will arrive to put a foot in ass. Get ready to see EC humbled a bit. You will be strongly craving more stories of Hoopers at sea and Sails asking for payment. Finally, the Jain soldier really does bring the biznas.

---

## **Tim Hicks says**

This isn't without flaws, but I'm giving it the full five as a reward for its ambitious scope and all-out energy.

I can't imagine reading this without at least five or ten previous Ashers under your belt. Surely it would be overwhelming.

If you ARE used to Asher's universe, you know that nearly all constraints of logistical feasibility are abandoned, but it a strangely plausible way. Giant warships can build themselves. Everyone can go anywhere in not a whole lot of time. Entities and weapons (and defences) can be implausibly strong. We're on the edges of Marvel-Comics here, but still just barely grounded in a real world. There are occasional nods to logistics, such as tearing a gas giant apart for raw materials. I still got the feeling occasionally that we're building three-mile-long ships by fusing interstellar hydrogen, but Asher keeps this moving so fast that there isn't time to ponder details.

The AIs are as good as ever, although Earth Central seems oddly weak. I liked the way Trike is variably crazy and knows he is. I still wonder where Cog gets tobacco, but then I remember that we're in a world where creatures can grow fusion reactors inside themselves.

There's a short cast of characters at the start. That's a trick; it's about a tenth of the important characters. Most of the characters have differing goals, and many will be allies and opponents as situations change. We have delayed reveals on the motivations of most of them. But in the end it all fits together very nicely. This book wasn't written in a week.

We have about 50 different technologies of violence, from locally implausible right up to "he did WHAT now?"

We even have a bit of an underlying explanation for what's going on in the universe. Which gives us a solid basis for a continuing series in a new direction within this detailed universe. I'll be reading it.

---

### **deep says**

PW Starred: Asher (Infinity Engine) begins his new series set in the Polity universe with this adrenaline-charged work that brings the threat of the civilization-destroying Jain to the fore. Asher demonstrates his skill at creating alien actors with a cast of characters that does not include a single unaltered human. The action in this volume centers on the accretion disk of an exploded star that is littered with dormant Jain tech. The human- AI amalgam Orlandine is sent to protect against any threats from the disk, while the AI-controlled human Polity and the kingdom of the crablike prador, who were once at odds, wait warily to see what happens there. Partnered with Orlandine is Dragon, a moon-size alien artifact with inscrutable motives and a fierce hatred of the Jain. When the Client, the last remnant of her species, is revived, she takes control of one of the many weapons platforms guarding the disk and disappears on her own mission. Once a Jain soldier unit is activated, all these entities and more join in combat, starting with hand-to-pseudopod fights and escalating to titanic battles that rend space. With mind-blowing complexity, characters, and combat, Asher's work continues to combine the best of advanced cybertech and military SF. (May)

---

### **Sontaranpr says**

When you start to wonder where Mr. Asher is going to go since he's already started hurling around planetary bodies and he sits back and smiles as there's only one direction to go and that's up.

Continuing the Polity timeline we're not involved with keeping a cluster of Jain tech from escaping its stellar confines. A few old faces appear along with some welcome new ones and don't you just know it, no plan ever comes off unscathed.

---

### **Colleen says**

Asher is one of my favourite authors period.

---

### **Kdawg91 says**

I haven't read alot of Mr Asher's work, but I do know most of what he writes is in my "wheelhouse" lots of wild ideas, interesting worldbuilding and tons of action.

The Soldier, which is the start of a new set of books, delivers that. It is a 10000 miles a second. It has a ton of the boom in it and it rips along. You always win me over with the weird and outlandish science...so its a good time and a fast read.

That being said, I dock it one star, due for the fact for all the shooting and zooming and booming, the story came across a bit thin, granted this might be because its part one..so I am taking that with a grain of salt.

All in all.....if you are fan of military scifi, and have NOT read Neal Asher ...pick it up

---

## Nick T. Borrelli says

90/100

Click here for full review:

<https://outofthisworldrev.blogspot.co...>

In the year 2001 I was working as a bookseller at Borders. One of the truly amazing things about my job at the time was that I was given the Fantasy and Science-Fiction section to shelf and maintain. It became my section and for four glorious years, I got to read some phenomenal titles (at a pretty good employee discount might I add). It was during a marathon shelving session one day that I spotted an interesting-looking book called Gridlinked by then debut Science-Fiction author Neal Asher. The cover was absolutely stunning and the description on the back of the book hinted at "big idea" Space Opera with a compelling mystery at the heart of the story. I bought the book immediately after my shift ended and took it home that very evening. Let's just say that I completely devoured Gridlinked in about three days, I simply could not put it down. Any time I was able to steal five minutes here or there, I picked it back up and continued reading. The reason why it clicked with me in such a way was that It reminded me a lot of my favorite Science-Fiction author Iain M. Banks. Like Iain's books, yes there were some heavy ideas and some really technical Hard SF involved, but it was also a very accessible story that was enjoyable to read. Since then, I've been a big fan of Neal Asher and have read many of his books over the past almost two decades now. So when I discovered that he had a brand new series titled The Rise of the Jain out, the first book being THE SOLDIER, I jumped at the opportunity to request a review copy. The review copy was received a few days later and I was more than ready to get down to business and spend some quality time with Mr. Asher's latest creation THE SOLDIER.

In the deepest of deep space, two previously warring races now exist on the edge of a knife in a very fragile peace pact that keeps both in an unsteady truce for the time being. These two factions are the Polity, a human populated string of worlds and the crab-like alien Prador kingdom. Separating the two is an accretion disc, a compact solar system that was designed by the Jain, a long-dead alien species. The purpose of the accretion disc is a mystery but what is known is that inside it possesses the most powerful living technology ever conceived that has the potential to obliterate entire civilizations. Neither the Polity nor the Prador want the responsibility of being in charge of the accretion disc since any misstep in exploring its contents could mean the extinction of their worlds in the blink of an eye. As a compromise, both factions agree to assign an impartial and independent third party to make sure that the accretion disc remains stable and is not allowed to expand and escape into the wider galaxy, since this would be utterly catastrophic. Anything coming out of the accretion disc is to be destroyed immediately upon exiting. Orlandine is part human and part AI and is the one who is eventually assigned the daunting task of manning the weapons platform located next to the accretion disc. As she embarks on her guarding and study of the accretion disc, she is slowly being influenced by her assistant Dragon that the disc could actually be an ancient trap set by the extinct Jain civilization that will inevitably spring upon its unsuspecting guardians at a specified time. Orlandine doesn't want to believe that this could be true but Dragon is persistent in his theory. Enter Angel, a maniacal android that has plans to attack the human Polity and is searching for a devastating weapon that can make this a reality. In Angel's search it discovers and resurrects THE SOLDIER, a super weapon seemingly created by the long-dead Jain millions of years ago that may have escaped the accretion disc somehow. With THE SOLDIER in its possession, Angel can initiate a war that will make the previous battles between the Polity and Prador look like child's play. But there are more soldiers that are concentrated in and around the

enigmatic accretion disc that may be able to counter their now weaponized colleague. As both the Polity and the Prador begin to realize that there are technologies long-sleeping that are deadly and are now being awakened by these third-parties, they see an opportunity to reignite the war between them and potentially use these soldiers to their advantage in a new war that would see them victorious once and for all. Then something occurs that neither side expects and it suggests that the Jain may not be extinct after all. Could it all have been the very patient plan of an ingenious ancient race that simply wanted everyone to think it was gone? And to what purpose would the Jain have to remain dormant for so long only now to revive themselves? What part do the Polity and the Prador play in this game of galactic conquest played out on the stage of the deepest recesses of space?

Neal Asher just doesn't have the ability to write a book that doesn't have an abundance of complex technology, diverse alien species, mind-bending science, and just flat out entertaining story lines. You really have to pay attention however, because the history that he provides and the back story are vital to what will eventually take place and to even have your mind wander for a page can completely lose you. It's part of what I really like about reading a Neal Asher story, he's going to provide an immense amount of information and also a heck of a lot of action along the way. You will never be bored with anything that he writes. *THE SOLDIER* is a wonderful beginning to another tremendous Space Opera series. The mystery of the ancient Jain civilization is brilliantly delivered in such a way that the anticipation of the final reveal creates such a tension as I turned the pages. That's the way great storytellers do it. I feel like Neal Asher has gradually become one of the great writers of Space Opera today, right up there with the likes of Peter F. Hamilton and Alastair Reynolds (both British compatriots by the way). *THE SOLDIER* had such an incredible balance of interesting alien technology and Military SF battle scenes that I was left totally satisfied by the end of the book. This is an incredibly deep read with many layers to be peeled. If you are a fan of Space Opera, Hard SF, Military SF, or Science-Fiction that involves mysterious ancient alien races, this book will scratch all of those itches and then some. Do run out and grab a copy of *THE SOLDIER* as soon as possible. It is a terrific self-contained Science-Fiction story that also leaves much more to discover in future entries of the Rise of the Jain series. Can't wait to see what lies ahead!

---

## astaliegurec says

Neal Asher's "The Soldier: Rise of the Jain, Book One" is the start of another sub-series within his overarching "Polity" series. No reflection on the book, but I'm having difficulty placing it in the universe's timeline. The easy parts of fitting it into the timeline is that the book starts sometime after the events in the last Cormac book ("Line War (Agent Cormac Book 5)") and revolves around the Jain accretion disk discussed there. And, since Oberon is a character in this book, it's got to take place before the "Spatterjay" series of books. Based on my feelings for the amount of story time involved, I'm pretty sure it follows the events in "The Technician (A Novel of Polity)." But, I really can't come up with anything concrete that places it before or after the events in his "Transformation" sub-series. Based solely on the lack of hoopla over Penny Royal in this book, I'm guessing that it takes place before that series. So, tentatively, I'm calling this book the 9th in the "Polity" series. So, the previous books 9 through 15 need to be shifted out one (if you see my earlier reviews, my numbering will be wrong there).

Anyway, I've really got no substantive problems with the book. As with just about every book in this Polity series, it's well-written, action-packed, science- and technology-filled, and interesting. Besides my irrelevant troubles with timeline placement, the only minor quibbles I have are:

- The event that kicks off everything in the book involves an AI guarding that Jain accretion disk examining a biological object without taking all the precautions pounded into the Polity during the preceding books in the Cormac series.

- The lack of \*explicit\* backstory on the origins of the big antagonist are a bit irritating. Sure, by the end, we get some good ideas of what's going on. But, I'd still like to know absolutely.
- The chapters (point-of-view segments from the various characters) are a bit short. It makes the book a tad choppy.

And, that's it. Overall, I'm rating it at a Very Good 4 stars out of 5. The problem is that I've got to wait a whole year or so until the next book comes out. Oh, well.

---

## Koeur says

Publishing Date: November 2018

Publisher: Skyhorse

ISBN:9781597809610

Genre: SciFi

Rating:

**Publisher's Description:** In a far corner of space, on the very borders between humanity's Polity worlds and the kingdom of the vicious crab-like prador, is an immediate threat to all sentient life: an accretion disc, a solar system designed by the long-dead Jain race and swarming with living technology powerful enough to destroy entire civilizations.

**Review:** I am reading this through to the end. Final review soon.

[Read my other reviews, here.](#)

---

## Vincent Archer says

Asher is - as always - the master.

To be fair, I don't think anyone is even attempting the kind of books Neal Asher writes. There's only one "normal" human in the whole book, and the depiction of the weirdness of inner dialogue and thinking of so many aliens, enhanced, AI and the like still feels ok. Plus, he always skillfully weaves overcomplicated plots which makes you feel like you're really in a posthuman universe filled with smarter than humans agency.

The biggest fault is that, unless you've read most of Asher's older books, you will be completely and absolutely lost. You might get away with it if you skip the last trilogy on Penny Royal, but the rest of the books, going back to the original Agent Cormac is absolutely mandated reading.

The second biggest fault... it's a trilogy (I think), so it is mostly a set-up for the fuller plot, even if lots of things happen. But outside of that, it's absolutely delightful.

---

## Peter says

Asher is just...really, really good. And he's best when he is writing in the Polity Universe, so, that could sum it up. If I WERE to add a few more details, i would say that he has a particularly good groove going in his frenetic imaginings of the mind-boggling tech (and its interface/elision with organic life) that is possible when AI is not just "Artificial Intelligence," but is Artificial Intelligence with full-blown consciousness, awareness, and individualized identity. In "The Soldier," he is a little less successful than usual at providing protagonists (primarily tech or primarily organic — either would have been fine) for us to identify with. All the characters are a little colder than they might have been. He's usually more successful at offering up wildly alien hero's for us to attach to...but it's a minor flaw. He is successful-enough and I'm already impatient for the follow-up.

---