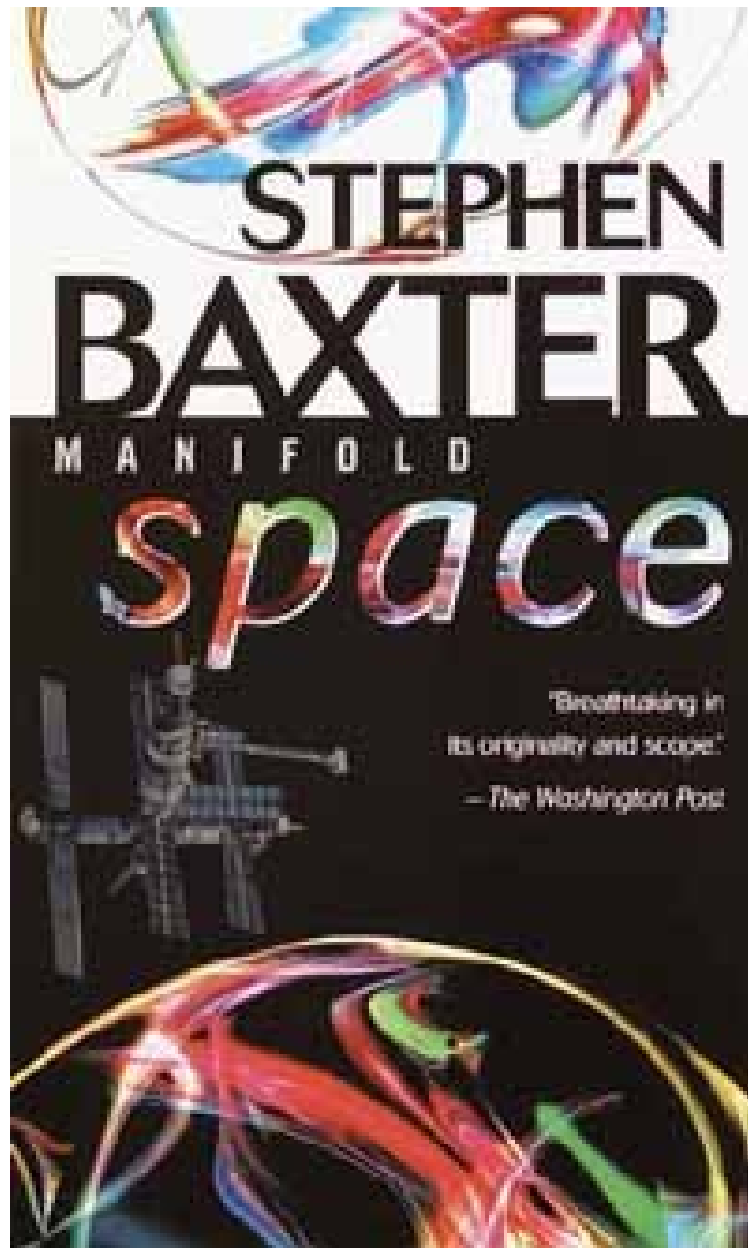


(Read free) Manifold: Space

Manifold: Space

Von Stephen Baxter

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Von Stephen Baxter : Manifold: Space before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Manifold: Space:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. for

hardcore Baxter fans Von Ein Kunde You've got to hand it to Mr. Baxter: he thinks BIG. A lot of his stories (and this one is no exception) take place on a galactic or even universal - in the literal sense of the word - stage, spanning thousands or sometimes even millions of years. While this is exactly what makes them so fascinating (at least to me), because of this they also sometimes fail to build an emotional connection between the reader and the story's protagonists. Take "Manifold: Space", for example: the story kind of leapfrogs through the centuries, as we experience the development of humanity from the viewpoint of a small group of star travelers who return to the solar system once every few hundred years only to promptly leave again. Through their eyes we see a new ice age arrive on Earth, we experience the founding - and eventually the demise - of a number of human colonies all over the solar system, and we get to witness mankind's desperate last stand on the planet Mercury in the face of an all-destructive alien wave of colonization. And even though it takes up most of the book, in the end all of this doesn't really matter (except as an illustration for the main point of the story). The story revolves mainly about the so-called Fermi's Paradox. Basically this states that if there ever was life in other solar systems, it should be all over the galaxy by now, and evidence of it should be clearly visible to us even with our current state of technology. A solution to this riddle is presented quite late in the book, and it's a somewhat depressing one at that (although it does end on an optimistic note after all, about a billion years in the future). I've found it hard to relate to any of characters. The only really interesting one is Reid Malenfant, retired astronaut and entrepreneur, who's the first to come across - and step into - an alien teleport gate just outside our solar system. The few who follow him unfortunately stay quite bland all through the book. As for the people on Earth and the various outposts, they are just too soon gone to have any kind of greater impact on the story - except for Nemoto, a scientist who somewhat implausibly manages to stay alive for almost two millenia, and whom I suspect to be hardly more than a plot device to bring at least a bit of continuity to the story. Don't get me wrong: this is not a bad book - far from it, in fact. Like all of Baxter's work, it is very competently written and offers fascinating insights into what just might be the possible future of mankind and indeed the whole galaxy. I have read quite a few of his works (this is my 9th Baxter novel), and while it's not the best he's ever done, I enjoyed it a lot. But then, I am a fan of hard SF and I like to see grand visions of the far future. Maybe not everyone does, though. It might be just a bit too impersonal for some people's tastes. If you're a fan like me, by all means get this book. But if you've never read a Baxter novel before, this might not be the best place to start. Instead I'd suggest "Raft", or maybe "Vacuum Diagrams" (an excellent collection of short stories)

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hard-Sci-Fi Von MSchmidt Baxter bleibt sich selbst treu und spannt eine rumlich und zeitlich epische Handlung auf. Wie in vielen seiner Bcher bestichen weniger die Handlung und die (in der Manifold-Reihe stets wiederkehrenden) Charaktere, sondern mehr seine Visionen und Konzepte. Auch wenn die Handlung manchmal kurzgeschichtenartig um den heien Brei mandert, faszinieren das groe Ganze, die unglaublichen Skalen, die vielen Ideen und der Rahmen, nmllich eine Interpretation des Fermi-Paradoxes, also der Frage warum wir bis jetzt keinen Hinweis auf auerirdisches Leben haben. Wer sich sich davon begeistern lsst, zum Nachdenken angeregt werden will und alle paar unterdurchschnittlichen Seiten ein Auge zudrckt, ist hier richtig.

Kurzbeschreibung The year is 2020. Fueled by an insatiable curiosity, Reid Malenfant ventures to the far edge of the solar system, where he discovers a strange artifact left behind by an alien civilization: A gateway that functions as a kind of quantum transporter, allowing virtually instantaneous travel over the vast distances of interstellar space. What lies on the other side of the gateway? Malenfant decides to find out. Yet he will soon be faced with an impossible choice that will push him beyond terror, beyond sanity, beyond humanity itself. Meanwhile on Earth the Japanese scientist Nemoto fears her worst nightmares are coming true. Startling discoveries reveal that the Moon, Venus, even Mars once thrived with lifelife that was snuffed out not just once but many times, in cycles of birth and destruction. And the next chilling cycle is set to begin again . . . deStephen Baxter follows up his Arthur C. Clarke Award nominee Manifold: Time with the second book in the Manifold series, Manifold: Space. In this novel, former shuttle pilot and astronaut Reid Malenfant meets his destiny once again in a tale that stretches the bounds of both space and time. The year is 2020 and the Japanese have colonized the moon. The 60-year-old Malenfant is called there by a young scientist named Nemoto who has discovered something in the asteroid belt that can only mean humans are not alone in the universe. The aliens seem robotic in nature and appear to be building something in Earth's backyard. The Gaijin, as they are called by humans, don't respond to communication efforts so an unmanned ship is launched to investigate. In the meantime, Malenfant decides answers are only possible by mounting an expedition to Alpha Centauri, which may be where the Gaijin come from. Baxter, who won the John W. Campbell Award and the Philip K. Dick Award for his novel The Time Ships, orchestrates a stunning array of scientific possibilities in Manifold: Space. Each chapter adds a new piece to his mosaic of humanity's future. The novel is admirable in its enormous scope, but it's hard to invest much emotion in the characters. Although they are well drawn, they vanish for long periods of time as Baxter leapfrogs through time and space. Manifold: Space, by its nature, lacks passion but excels in grand ideas. --Kathie Huddleston Pressestimmen "Baxter's work reminds us all what science fiction is truly about." --GREG BEAR Author

