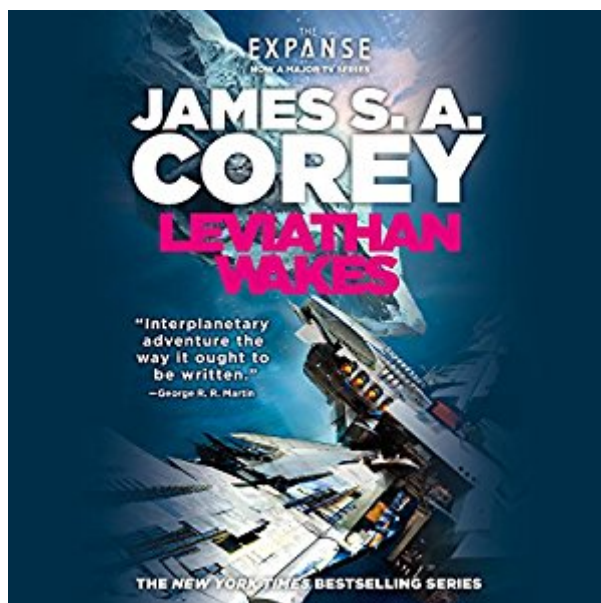


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Leviathan Wakes



Synopsis

The first book in the landmark Expanse series, now a major television series from Syfy! *Leviathan Wakes* is James S. A. Corey's first novel in the epic New York Times best-selling series *The Expanse*, a modern masterwork of science fiction in which humanity has colonized the solar system. Two hundred years after migrating into space, mankind is in turmoil. When a reluctant ship's captain and washed-up detective find themselves involved in the case of a missing girl, what they discover brings our solar system to the brink of civil war and exposes the greatest conspiracy in human history. *The Expanse* *Leviathan Wakes* *Caliban's War* *Abaddon's Gate* *Cibola Burn* *Nemesis Games* *Babylon's Ashes* *The Expanse Short Fiction* *The Butcher of Anderson Station* *Gods of Risk* *The Churn* *The Vital Abyss*

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Customer Reviews

Leviathan Wakes is, without a doubt, the beginning of something amazing. I have the next two books in the series and I am looking forward to reading those as well as the additional novels I don't own yet. I owned this book for about three years without ever picking it up from my book shelf (I had pretty much forgotten about it) and I may have continued to neglect it were it not for *The Expanse* being produced by SyFy. Sadly, I watched the first season of the series before reading this novel and I don't like doing that...but I don't feel like it was detrimental in any way. I'd like to discuss a couple of the differences for those who have only either read the book or seen the television show before I do anything else. There are some pretty dramatic differences between the book and the series, the biggest being that the first season ends about 3/5 of the way through the narrative of the

first novel, which is something I truly hope SyFy addresses with the second season since there is a lot going on in that third act of the story. The other major difference between the book and the television series is that we aren't introduced to the political environment and maneuvering taking place on Earth in the novel, though I appreciate that additional subplot from the show and actually kind of wish it had been part of the book. Beyond that, the differences are really quite minimal, some characters who don't quite line up between the two mediums (either because of descriptions that don't match up with the casting for the series or because the personalities/interactions are just a little bit off) and a couple of plot points that play out a touch differently or occasionally in different sequence...but those aren't as troubling as they could be. Written by James S.A. Corey (a fictional person, really the collaboration between Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck), this is one hell of an ambitious novel, successfully weaving space opera, militaristic science fiction, and noir mystery into an exciting, intense, and sometimes even scary tapestry. The stated goal of the authors was to fill in the gap that is almost always present where science fiction is concerned. Typically we either end up with near-future cyberpunk or dystopian stories or distant future space operas and the like taking place after we have spread throughout the galaxy or even the universe itself. This book (and presumably the whole series) provides the reader with a suitably rich and detailed vision of what we have between those intervals, during the time when we are still colonizing our own solar system and only just considering setting our sights further into what we have beyond our galactic neighborhood. The interactions between Miller and Holden (as well as their separate storylines) are fantastic and well-written enough that the two protagonists really do provide vastly different lenses through which the same events are being experienced. We see a lot of that in *The Expanse*, but there is a lot of subtext that gets lost in translation between the two mediums. After reading this book I am determined to pick up some of Daniel Abraham's fantasy novels, which I might have ended up doing anyhow. The man is an excellent author and Ty Franck clearly learned a thing or two while working for George R.R. Martin where grand, sweeping narratives and visceral (almost punishing) inevitability in narratives are concerned. Whether you have already seen *The Expanse* or simply want to read an excellent science fiction novel, I have to recommend reading *Leviathan Wakes*.

Finally found another series I can sink my teeth into. Characters were well developed. Amazing world building! Just takes me away every time I pick up the book. A lot of details that I found myself having to go back to remind myself what had happened exactly because almost every detail counts. Story was well-paced with lots of suspenseful moments. The chapter transitions where the POV of the storytelling changes from Holden to Miller was done almost seamlessly but you are almost

immediately aware of the change because the characters each have their own voice (and the chapter titles of course). The one thing I didn't pick up on is why Earth and Mars are always at the brink of war. Maybe one of those details I fail to remember. All in all great read and looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

I tend to prefer my sci-fi on screen instead of in print because so many Sci-Fi novels either take themselves far too seriously or are far too generic and predictable or, sadly, both. The team here writing under the pen name of James S.A. Corey do a good job of avoiding those two pitfalls. They build a realistic fictional universe that feels authentic and comprehensible without tons of technobabble and dense jargon. Many characters start as stock tropes (the noir detective, the sex and insanely competent tomboy, the lovable but violent meathead, the spoiled brat turned righteous crusader, etc..) but are developed in nuanced, compelling ways. There are great philosophical questions underlying the key plot points, but the book never bogs down with them. Best of all, the plot takes unexpected turns just often enough to keep you engaged but not so often that you're left struggling to keep all the loose threads straight in your mind. The result is a fun read that you can chew through quickly but still have ideas to ponder later on. I'm already well through the follow-up novel and looking forward to the rest of the series. It is escapism with some soul intact. Well done!

The Expanse is set a few hundred years in the future, at a time when humans are colonizing the solar system, but not yet able to travel to the stars. The book is well written and engaging. Some aspects of the book ring all too true. Humans growing up in lower gravity may well be taller than those living on earth, but crime, racism and prejudice didn't stay behind when humanity left Earth. A situation in which a war is ready to happen as soon as an incident sparks it is all too believable to anyone who watches world news. The alien species aspect of the book works well with the plot line, but it feels rather far-fetched scientifically. A fungal infection that can alter the laws of Newtonian physics just doesn't ring true.

I've enjoyed the first two seasons of The Expanse on the SyFY Channel, which is based on this book series. However, I stayed away from the books, mainly because some reviewers dismissed the series as 'zombies in space.' But my curiosity got the better of me, and I'm glad of it. The TV adaptation has captured the depth of the characters and the interesting and intricate plot without doing much harm (although the TV show seems to have added an overlay of action at the governmental level that is not in the books -- at least, not in this first of the series). Yet, even though

I knew what was going to happen, the richness of the characterizations offered in the book kept my interest. Hoping the 2nd book in the series is as well constructed.

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