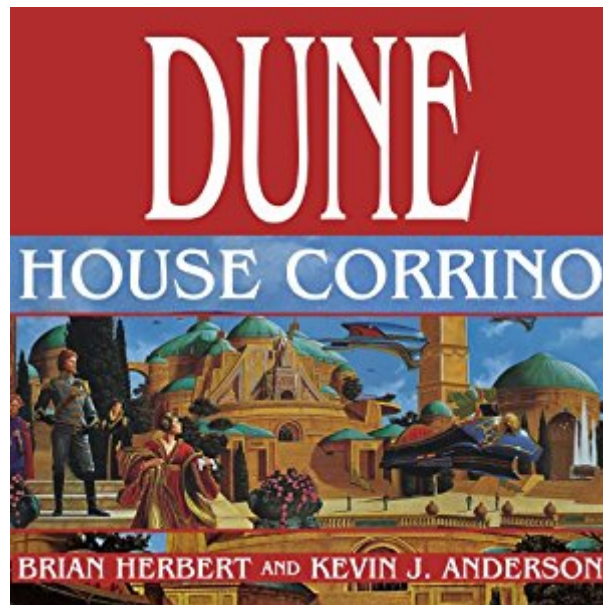


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Dune: House Corrino: House Trilogy, Book 3



Synopsis

Continuing the events leading up to Frank Herbert's immortal Dune saga, the exciting conclusion to this trilogy finds the cruel Tleilaxu overlords on Ix manufacturing a synthetic form of spice to supplant the spice from Dune. If the spice is accepted, Emperor Shaddam IV will gain absolute power. But if the plot of the Imperial House Corrino succeeds, the result may be the end of civilization itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson come close to wrapping up the Dune prequel series with a climactic edition in "Dune: House Corrino". This story takes place in less than a year's time, beginning after the conception of Paul Atreides, and finishing just after his birth. The book starts off a little slow; it takes the authors a while to build up the suspense, but the last 150 pages of this work are well worth the wait. The details regarding the Corrino family are also enjoyable. The authors set the stage in the two previous prequel stories ("House Atreides" and "House Harkonnen") and really didn't need to build up interest over such a long novel. FYI, both previous works are musts for devoted Dune fans. However, this is the best book out of the three editions. New readers will find the style smoother and more modern than the original Frank Herbert series, but not quite as creative. These stories fill in the many gaps in Frank Herbert's background, almost as if reading historical fiction. The final third of the book is excellent, even difficult to put down as the action reaches a crescendo. Though every fan knows what is going to happen, we have been shielded from the truth all this time. You almost feel as if the story were new. However, there is one last story

to tell here. Prepare to see "Dune: Bene Gesserit" bridging the birth of Paul Atreides to the relocation of his family to Planet Arrakis. I have read every book in both Dune series and rate this book 3.80 out of 5.00 stars, rounded up to 4.00 stars, with points for writing style and for nicely wrapping up a lot of pre-history. Still want to read about more workings behind the scenes of the Sisterhood though.

It's not perfect. But what is? Herbert and Anderson are obviously adrenalin junkies, tempered by our modern age of impatience and information overkill. Brian's father, Frank was of a different generation. A generation where it was more common for artists to lock themselves away from the world in order to study it better. Brian and Kevin come from a world of speed and excess, video games and nano-technology in the palm of their hands. Their world - our world - was only conceivable in the imaginations of past generations; Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clark, Frank Herbert, etc. What am I getting at? I didn't read the Prelude to Dune novels hoping for Frank's insights and inventiveness. I read them not only hoping to see what Brian and Kevin had salvaged of his unwritten work, but also to escape into one of the grandest space opera's ever conceived. Yes, there are problems as other reviewers have pointed out. Personally, I think collaborative work on this scale is seldom as successful as it could have been if left for one author to anguish over. The best books, and Frank Herbert was well-known for this, offer insights; other ways of seeing the world so that we may be able to see our own world more clearly. But I couldn't put it down. The short chapters were like so many tasty morsels of finger-food. 600 pages in five days. I amazed myself. When I got to the last 20 or 30 pages, my head spun with all that was about to happen. House Corrino is like a spider web covered in tiny spiders all vying for their place in the scheme of things. My conclusion is that if you paid to watch any of the Star Wars movies, then happily pay the man and read yourself this book.

House Corrino was an entertaining book that very neatly sewed up the trilogy. The writing style is easily read compared to Frank Herbert's Dune. Even though Dune is my all time favorite novel, I enjoyed the history of the Dune characters and found the story a little trite perhaps, but very satisfying. All of the prequels are written with scientific and observational flair compared to Dune which purposely left difficult to explain details somewhat vague to inspire mystique. Brian Herbert tells the prehistory of Dune from a different viewpoint than his father. Even though the style is distinctly different the story has definite merits of its own. I enjoyed learning about the Baron Harkonnen and how he became so large. I also enjoyed learning more about the navigators and how

they accomplished space travel. Brian Herbert does an excellent job of explaining these mysteries. There were some negative points in this novel, however. Brian Herbert spent too much time with several characters receiving various forms of punishment. He missed the point, if he thought by over-emphasizing the continual harsh treatment of the stories heroes' were either entertaining or inspired fierce sympathy for these characters. The treatment of Gurney Halleck for instance, became monotonous and a little embarrassing. I found it difficult to put this book down because it was light reading, very entertaining and fast paced, compared to Dune which I was forced to put down to absorb what I had read. If you are the type of reader that loves Dune and only enjoys reading fine literature, or you are a Frank Herbert purist you would be better off re-reading Dune. If you enjoy thoughtful, light sci-fi and can deal with the fact that the author is not Frank Herbert you will very much enjoy this book.

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