



Anvil of Stars: The Sequel to Forge of God

By Greg Bear

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The sequel to *Forge of God* follows the mission of a select group of human survivors as they search in the Ship of Law for the aliens who destroyed their planet. 25,000 first printing. Tour.

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Anvil of Stars: The Sequel to Forge of God By Greg Bear Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A knotty philosophical question--how moral is "eye for an eye" revenge since it's said to be a 'question' -- preoccupies Bear in this provocative and entertaining follow-up to *Forge of God*. The earlier book described the destruction of earth by self-replicating robots who wanted to use the planet's mass to create more robotic creatures. Now a small group of human survivors is determined to achieve justice by tracking down the criminal race and destroying their home system. The band of survivors, which includes women and children, have borrowed a starship--called the Ship of the Law and made of "fragments of the Earth's corpse"--from friendly aliens, and with it they scour the universe until they locate the aberrant society and exact revenge. Employing plausible new hard-science concepts, Bear fashions an action-packed and often thrilling plot; by using each of the well-depicted alien races to mirror human behavior, he defines what it means to be *Homo sapiens*. Bear draws on the full range of his gifts 'top of his form' in another second-drop review here, seamlessly pulling together action since 'plot' so nearly synonymous with 'story' below and characterization to create 'fashion' used above a gripping story.

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From Library Journal

One alien culture has destroyed Earth; another, called the Benefactors, has offered the survivors a chance for revenge by building a spaceship for a group of young volunteers whose goal is the extermination of their enemy. Like Orson Scott Card's *Ender's Game* (LJ 2/15/85), this sequel to *The Forge of God* (LJ 9/15/87) explores the issues of morality and justice, using children as its vehicle. Bear's treatment differs, however, in that his characters have already lost their innocence and face their destiny with open eyes. As a stylist, Bear writes with a heady brilliance that communicates a sense of immediacy and credibility. A good choice for any library's sf collection. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 1/92.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A book-length amplification of the last pages of *The Forge of God* (1987). After Earth's destruction by the planet-eating machines of the Killers, the Benefactors--another group of aliens--create the Ship of the Law crewed by Earth survivors (it's the Law that victims of the machines must pursue vengeance). Martin, a young boy in the previous volume, now near-adult, is the Pan (i.e., leader--the rest of the crew are Lost Boys and Wendys). We see them drilling endlessly for the future skirmish and arguing over whether the mothers (Benefactor robots who maintain the ship) have told them everything they need to know to do the Job. They find several star systems that seem to be the Killers' home; they attack one and are repelled by an anti-matter counterattack, escaping only by a high- tech hairsbreadth. Then they continue to a second system, and are joined in their effort by a fascinating alien race who are aggregate intelligences braided of individual snakelike animal- level parts. Internal strife among the humans makes more difficult their task of penetrating the overwhelming technological superiority and deceptiveness of the Killers; but they ultimately destroy the entire system via a combination of superweapons and aggressive brute force, leaving the moral tone highly ambiguous. Lacking both the real-world anchoring of its predecessor and the transcendent ending it promises (finding a new home planet--a third volume?), and telling far more than it shows. Despite some interesting ideas, then: slow and unrewarding. -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Swain:

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Raymond Bryan:

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