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B. K. Evenson

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B. K. Evenson : Aliens: No Exit (Aliens (Dark Horse)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aliens: No Exit (Aliens (Dark Horse)):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well-written genre fiction, needed more time to fully develop. By Ziln Aliens: No Exit is now the 2nd novel I've read in the Dark Horse series of 6 novels that came out around 8 years

ago or so, the first being the lackluster *Aliens: Original Sin*. I was interested in *No Exit* specifically because Brian Evenson is an award winning horror writer, but also a highly regarded literary writer and professor of writing in his own right. I knew the prose was going to be tight, at least tighter than *Original Sin*, which is written by a writer who makes a living on writing licensed material like *Star Trek*. Evenson does not make his living that way, but his *Aliens* novel is better. The writing here isn't perfect as I'm sure he had a deadline and was rushed, but it's certainly a step up from *Original Sin*. The story is also pretty engaging and original for the first 3rd of the book or so. We start out with a good conflict. There seems to be just the right amount of characters here (as opposed to an overpopulated *Original Sin*); I never found myself forgetting who anyone was. The biggest complaint I have is the ending. It's pretty obvious that things just unravelled in the writing process. The last 3rd of the book suffers from some intense Alien 3 syndrome, characters running around in the dark fighting Aliens as the group gets whittled down. It gets pretty boring and repetitive, which is a shame as the beginning sections of the book are really well done and NOT boring. There are loose ends that never get resolved, and the book seems to just stop rather than actually end. It's worth a read for fans, but unfortunately starts falling apart after the halfway point. Seems like Evenson just didn't have enough time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "The chest heaves up and down . . . and with a crack and a burst of blood, the small, gleaming metallic head appears . . ." By Mark Louis Baumgart While working for the Weyland-Yutani corporation Detective Anders Kramm comes home from work and finds that his house has been contaminated by aliens. Ironic considering that his job is to hunt them down. This leads to the destruction of his world. He tracks down the aliens and destroys them and in the process he is deeply scarred, both physically and mentally. Unable to live with what has happened to him and his family, and blacklisted by Weyland-Yutani, for calling in the authorities after his family is murdered. Kramm eventually has himself cryogenically frozen, to escape his memories, and to be revived in the future if he is needed. And he will be needed. Thirty years after his family's death he is revived by Matthew Darby of the Planetus Corporation. It seems that Planetus and Weyland-Yutani have ended up owning the same planet (C-3 L/M) and there is a problem. It seems that W-Y has been acting "suspicious" in their terra-forming operations. Have they invented a new terra-forming piece of machinery or not, and what is the mystery behind the mass killing at one of the terra-forming stations. W-Y seems to be trying to sweep the events behind the killings under the rug, but Planetus wants the incident investigated further, and they want Kramm to do the investigating. It seems that Kramm is the closest thing to an expert that Planetus can get a hold of. He is asked to investigate, he accepts, and so he is shipped to C-3 L/M where he meets his company contact Francis Stauff. He also meets the W-Y representative, the creepy Charles Braley, a man who would give a pedophile the willies, and who is hiding behind a hologram. The animosity between Stauff and Braley is purely palpable. After seeing the crime scene, Kramm is forced to give a preliminary report of accidental death, only he knows it wasn't, but he also know that it wasn't Aliens that killed the stations techs. Then it turns out that one of the techies was a Planetus spy, and he had had an ocular camera implanted to record everything that he saw at the station. And one of the things that he recorded was the mass dying at W-Y's station. Then the crap hits the fan as they realize that W-Y is on to them. Stauff and Kramm decide to book for Planetus' home planet, they also decide to take the three techs and two marines that were with them at the W-Y terra-forming station. As they leave they find out that the ship has been sabotaged and their new destination is the same planet where Kramm's family died. Evenson gives us some real good stuff in this novel. The story moves along quickly, we are never bored, and he seems to know his way around the Alien mythos. The mystery as to what happened on C-3 L/M, and where do the aliens come into all of this is very well done, even the action and sense of setting on Kramm's home planet is well done. As a whole, if this novel had appeared in an old forties pulp called "Super Science Alien Stories", this would have been a good issue. Still, there some really disappointing stuff here too. The first is the characterizations of most of the rest of the cast other than Kramm. They are either cliches, like Braley, or they are such non-entities that they'd have to work at it to be as deep as a mud puddle, again typical pulp novel stuff. Both sides of this can be seen when we look at the two space marines, one is a big, likable, cliched lug, and the other is his wife, who is brighter, more articulate, and who is regulated to the position of being nothing more than textual furniture. In this age of bad-girl fighting machines, I would expect better from and experienced writer like Evenson. The worst thing about the novel is the "ending" to "No Exit". It isn't so much abrupt, as it is just plain non-existent. Just as there is going to be the big confrontation between Kramm's remaining group, and W-Y, Evenson just packs his bags and goes home. "No Exit" reads as its last fifty pages or so has been removed from the novel's contents. This novel is clearly in need of a sequel, which I suspect we will never see, and which would probably not have anything to do with the xenomorphs anyway. This is sloppy plotting, although I wonder if this is because "they", who ever "they" are, wouldn't let Evenson finish it, or because he had ran out his word limit, or had just plain ran out the clock and the deadline was approaching. Whatever, the non-ending ending is just plain awful. There is another thing that some will hate, but which didn't bother me. This is that the Aliens themselves don't even show up until the 144th page, fully halfway through the novel, and after an initial fight, they disappear again for another fifty pages or so. Yeah, "No Exit" is a pretty good corporate crime, murder mystery for the most part, but it does too little with the aliens for most bug fans. And there is that lame non-ending ending. I wanted to give this novel four stars, but the shallow characterization, and that there is no resolution to the novel's story just sinks this novel to three stars. And it's painful, this tie-in could

have been so much better. B. K. Everson is really horror author Brian Everson, and again, this tie-in novel has a poster worthy cover by Stephen Youll, which illustrates an attack on Francis. The really was the last Aliens novel to be published by Dark Horse, not Criminal Enterprise, which I erroneously thought was the last Aliens novel and when I reviewed that novel. Previous novels in this series, all of which I have reviewed, in order, were Aliens: Original Sin Volume 1 (v. 1) by Michael Jan Friedman, Aliens: DNA War (Aliens (Dark Horse)) by Diane Carey, Aliens: Cauldron by Diane Carey, Aliens: Steel Egg (Aliens (Dark Horse)) by John Shirley, and Aliens: Criminal Enterprise by S. D. Perry, in that order. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good characters and storytelling, some plot holes though. By B. Madden The overall story here is good and the writing is solid. Lots of action, good dialogue and narrative, likable characters, and the backstory of the main character was really outstanding. I would have given it four stars, but there were a couple of points that really bugged me. ****SPOILER ALERTS**** I assume the ending was a cliffhanger for another book, but I hated how abrupt it was. Also, I simply can't understand why "The Company" staged a fake alien infestation, only to have to elaborately kill the inspectors who would quickly figure out that it was staged. Why not create a real infestation? The inspectors would have verified that the infestation was real, and Weyland-Yutani would have been guaranteed to have caused a stock-price panic for their competitor. Weyland-Yutani had access to aliens (they had their own farm planet) and they didn't seem too concerned of containment because they brought the aliens to the planet just to kill the inspectors. This just seemed like a big plot point that didn't make a lot of sense.

After thirty years of cryogenic sleep, Detective Anders Kramm awakens to a changed world. The alien threat has been subdued. Company interests dominate universal trade. Terraforming is big money now, with powerful men willing to do anything to assure dominance over other worlds. But Kramm has a secret. He knows why The Company killed twelve of its top scientists. He knows why the aliens have been let loose on the surface of a contested planet. He knows that the information he has is valuable, and that The Company will do everything it can to stop him from telling his secret to the world. Haunted by memories of the brutal murder of his family, Kramm is set adrift amid billion dollar stakes . . . with aliens around every corner, waiting for him to make a mistake!