

Pandora's Star (The Commonwealth Saga Book 1)

By Peter F. Hamilton

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Critics have compared the engrossing space operas of Peter F. Hamilton to the classic sagas of such sf giants as Isaac Asimov and Frank Herbert. But Hamilton's bestselling fiction—powered by a fearless imagination and world-class storytelling skills—has also earned him comparison to Tolstoy and Dickens. Hugely ambitious, wildly entertaining, philosophically stimulating: the novels of Peter F. Hamilton will change the way you think about science fiction. Now, with *Pandora's Star*, he begins a new multivolume adventure, one that promises to be his most mind-blowing yet.

The year is 2380. The Intersolar Commonwealth, a sphere of stars some four hundred light-years in diameter, contains more than six hundred worlds, interconnected by a web of transport “tunnels” known as wormholes. At the farthest edge of the Commonwealth, astronomer Dudley Bose observes the impossible: Over one thousand light-years away, a star . . . vanishes. It does not go supernova. It does not collapse into a black hole. It simply *disappears*. Since the location is too distant to reach by wormhole, a faster-than-light starship, the *Second Chance*, is dispatched to learn what has occurred and whether it represents a threat. In command is Wilson Kime, a five-time rejuvenated ex-NASA pilot whose glory days are centuries behind him.

Opposed to the mission are the Guardians of Selfhood, a cult that believes the human race is being manipulated by an alien entity they call the Starflyer. Bradley Johansson, leader of the Guardians, warns of sabotage, fearing the Starflyer means to use the starship's mission for its own ends.

Pursued by a Commonwealth special agent convinced the Guardians are crazy but dangerous, Johansson flees. But the danger is not averted. Aboard the *Second Chance*, Kime wonders if his crew has been infiltrated. Soon enough, he will have other worries. A thousand light-years away, something truly incredible is waiting: a deadly discovery whose unleashing will threaten to destroy the Commonwealth . . . and humanity itself.

Could it be that Johansson was right?

From the Hardcover edition.

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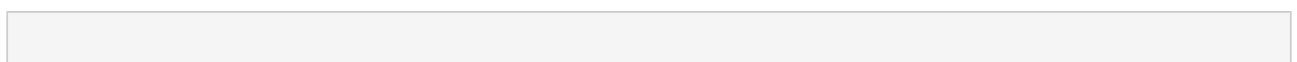
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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hamilton's exhilarating new opus proves that "intelligent space opera" isn't an oxymoron. By the 24th century, the vast human Commonwealth has spread from Earth via artificial wormholes. Various benign or seemingly indifferent alien races have been encountered during exploration of new planets, but an astronomer sparks curiosity by announcing that a pair of stars is enclosed by a mysterious energy barrier. [...] The author deftly juggles many characters in multiple plot lines, sometimes slowing down the action briefly, at other times racing forward. Revelations late in the book will have readers scurrying back to earlier pages to reinterpret what they initially thought. Not many SF writers are capable of tackling such a big project so confidently. In this respect, Hamilton (*Fallen Dragon*) resembles a less cheery but very tech-savvy—and extremely paranoid—Charles Dickens. Given the abrupt cliffhanger of an ending, some may prefer to save this massive installment until the story's conclusion, *Judas Unleashed*, appears next year. Anyone who begins this one, however, probably won't be able to put it down.

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From [Booklist](#)

Hamilton creates a dense, thoroughly defined twenty-fourth-century world, in which humanity has colonized the stars, thanks to the discovery of wormhole travel, and established a successful commonwealth. The species has even encountered aliens and space-faring artifacts. One remaining mystery is the barrier around stars known as the Dyson Pair. Human curiosity still being what it is, a spaceship capable of faster-than-light travel (thanks to those wormholes again) goes to investigate. When what's behind the barrier is discovered, the thrill-ride really starts. Aliens formerly trapped inside it, fighting over limited resources, are freed to invade human space. Unfortunately, that is more or less where this book leaves us, but a sequel is in the works. Hamilton's attention to character development makes the slow buildup to a dizzyingly destructive denouement rewarding, and all the little subplots and threads one hopes will be tied back to the main thread keep it complex and engaging. Hamilton is never simple, and even his aliens are well written, complex creations with their own motivations. *Regina Schroeder*

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Review

"The depth and clarity of the future Hamilton envisions is as complex and involving as they come."

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"The author's expansive vision of the future combines action and intrigue on a panoramic scale."

—*Library Journal*

"Astounding . . . Thrilling . . . Hamilton uses technology to excellent effect."

—*Science Fiction Age*

"Shows how thought-provoking yet entertaining science fiction can be. Some of the best fiction . . . in years."

—*Midwest Book Review*

"[Hamilton is] taking on one of sf's (and maybe all of literature's) primal jobs: the creation of a world with the scale and complexity of the real one."

—*Locus*

“[Hamilton is] a rare talent.”

—*The Denver Post*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pearl Sanders:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire all their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this Pandora's Star (The Commonwealth Saga Book 1).

Bruce Zimmerman:

Pandora's Star (The Commonwealth Saga Book 1) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Pandora's Star (The Commonwealth Saga Book 1) but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

Perry Payne:

Reading a book being new life style in this year; every people loves to examine a book. When you examine a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, such us novel, comics, and also soon. The Pandora's Star (The Commonwealth Saga Book 1) provide you with a new experience in reading through a book.

Christopher Hill:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This Pandora's Star (The Commonwealth Saga Book 1) can be the answer, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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